

## **ON THE GEOGRAPHY OF ENGLISH FAMILY NAMES**

Wolfgang Viereck

University of Bamberg, Germany

wolfgang.viereck@uni-bamberg.de

### **Abstract**

The publications dealing with the distributional patterns of English family names in the United Kingdom are anything but numerous and comprehensive. For this task researchers used either different data sets to differing degrees and from different periods in the past or from different current periods. A concerted action in onomastic research is still lacking. A project on English surname geography, of which the first volume has recently appeared, is being carried out at the University of Bamberg. Its databases are briefly described and some examples of surnames with a recent or a long history are treated accordingly. The latter often developed variants of various kinds that mirrored changes in the common language that either survived or died out there. Also a quantificational surname approach is sketched to help identify historical cultural regions in England. Finally some aspects are mentioned that will be dealt with in the second volume.

### **Key words**

hereditary English surnames, diachronic and synchronic databases, surnames and dialects, cultural regions

## **1. Introductory remarks and earlier research**

The English of England, in fact of the United Kingdom, has repeatedly been put on maps. There are national linguistic atlases and regional ones, very detailed maps and simplified ones. Surprisingly perhaps, a comprehensive surname atlas does not yet exist.

The study of names is undoubtedly fascinating. It is an interdisciplinary activity, combining the interests of the genealogist, the human biologist, the historian and the philologist.

In England the introduction of hereditary surnames was connected with the enormous cultural change that followed the Norman Conquest in 1066. It is difficult to say when the family names became hereditary, but by about the mid 14th century very many people in southern and middle England had a hereditary surname. In northern England this process

took at least one hundred years longer and much longer in Scotland. Many Scottish names have been documented only since the 15th and 16th centuries, while on the Shetland Islands and in Wales the majority of the population only began to receive a hereditary surname as late as in the 18th century.

A family name could change over the course of a person's life or from generation to generation. Names could also change due to the practice of the scribes. To give an example: a man could first be called *Will Dickson*, later he could call himself *Will Potter* or *Will Smith*, following his profession and later still, should he move away from home, he could call himself in his new surroundings after his place of birth, for example *Will York* or *Will Chester*. It thus becomes apparent that someone could have been called *Potter* although he was no longer a potter or had never been one.

The publications dealing with the distributional patterns of selected family names in the United Kingdom – and this overview is restricted to these – are anything but numerous and comprehensive. An early book was published by Guppy already in 1890 under the title *Homes of Family Names in Great Britain*. His distributional data are based on counting surnames of peasants in late Victorian county address books. Unfortunately, his book does not contain any maps. The first person who studied the geography of a name, his own, was Leeson (1964) who started from 16th century Parish Register Records over General Register Office Indexes of 1841 – 1850 down to an analysis of a telephone directory of 1961. Leeson was well ahead of his time. Only twenty years later did such surname geographic publications become a little more numerous. Brett (1985), Porteous (1987), Ecclestone (1989) and Titterton (1990) deserve to be mentioned in this regard. Their contributions contain a few distributional surname maps. A first peak in this kind of research was reached with Colin Rogers' *The Surname Detective* (1995). Worth mentioning from the surname-geographic point of view are, finally, Steve Archer's *The British 19th Century Surname Atlas* (2003), mapping the 1881 Census results,<sup>1</sup> Hey (1997) and (2000) who, for one thing, used the telephone directories of the late 1980s and, for another, the Parish Death Registers of 1842 and 1846, and, again, Hey (1998) and (2003) who apart from providing a general overview also mapped the distribution of some rarer

---

<sup>1</sup> The CD-ROM contains coloured maps of over 400,000 surnames on a nationwide level! These can be generated and printed both on a county basis and on the considerably smaller Poor Law Union basis. A Poor Law Union was a unit used for local government in the United Kingdom from the 19th century until 1930. For Scotland, unfortunately, no data are available for the Poor Law Union. Despite the high number of surnames contained on this remarkable resource, the CD does not list all the existing surnames.

family names on the basis of the Census results of 1881.<sup>2</sup> In the contributions mentioned, a welcome methodological diversity becomes noticeable, as does the fact that quite different data records from quite different periods of time were drawn upon. What is lacking, is a concerted action. Hopefully, this will come about one day. This concerted action should also include the Bamberg surname project that I would now like to present briefly. In compiling our atlas, we have done what the available databases permitted us to do. Of course, we could not investigate the origin of the single surnames in Parish Registers or tax lists that are hidden in English county archives. This task must be left to researchers in England. One such study is Porteous (1988) who traced the origin of the *Mells* family.

## **2. Databases used in the Bamberg project and mapping procedures**

We rely on the following databases:

1. *The International Genealogical Index* (IGI) for the period between 1538 and 1850 and *The British Isles Vital Records Index* (VRI) for the period between 1538 and 1906. The IGI is a compilation of Parish Register Records (consisting of birth, baptism, marriage and death or burial records) made available by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, better known as Mormons. The Mormons' great interest in genealogy goes back to their belief that families stay together in the other world. Therefore members of this church seek their ancestors in order to prepare them for a "sealing of their families" that can only take place after all the ancestors have been discovered.<sup>3</sup> The IGI, of course, has weaknesses, such as the fact that the same persons were mentioned several times, or that a specific part of the population was not registered in most of the Parish Registers, namely those persons who did not belong to the Anglican Church. Records could also have been lost through fire and other catastrophes. The double listing of names in the IGI was largely removed in the VRI. This database was also made available by the

---

<sup>2</sup> The publications of the human biologists Lasker (1985), Lasker – Kaplan (1983), Lasker – Mascie-Taylor (1990) and Mascie-Taylor – Lasker (1990) pursued a different aim insofar as they selected some names whose bearers married during the first three months of 1975 in England and Wales. For population geneticists the adult breeding population is of greater interest than birth or death announcements.

<sup>3</sup> The Mormons, of course, made available such records also for other countries, not just for the British Isles.

Mormons; it consists of about 12.3 million records and is obtainable on two CD-ROMs, one of records of births and baptisms and the other of marriage records.

## 2. Census results

In Great Britain censuses have been carried out since 1801. Only since 1841 have they become more valuable, as since then they have contained statistical data. The Mormons published the census results of 1881 on CD-ROM. They are more exact than the IGI, but they are not flawless either. Occasionally one encounters orthographic mistakes. In those years about half the British population could either not read or write at all or only within narrow limits. The weaknesses of the database have, however, largely been corrected by genealogy experts. As the maps of the aforementioned *British 19th Century Surname Atlas* by Steve Archer are in colour, we had to do without them as their publication would have been too costly. A conversion into black and white maps also proved to be senseless as the various gradations were no longer distinguishable. As a consequence the census results of 1881 were presented in the form of tables.

3. With regard to the present-day geography of family names, telephone directories were used, the *UK-Info Disk 2004* to be more precise. Altogether 11.5 million entries were searched. People who did not want to be listed were disregarded, of course. But there were also those who were listed twice – with a private and a business number.

Several possibilities existed in mapping the data. They were either presented on area fill maps using the county level, on point maps or on pie charts whenever several names or variants were to be compared with each other. The circles vary in size thus indicating a greater versus a lower concentration of the surname and its variants.

Maps based on the IGI or the VRI data were first cleared of double listings with the program *LDS Companion* and then generated with the software *GenMap UK*. The telephone directory data were first converted into Excel data lists which were then generated into maps with the software *PCMap*. These maps show, in addition, the absolute number of occurrences of the surnames per county.

### 3. Some results

For presentation here a few surnames with a long history and one with a short history in England were selected. A family name with a short history in England is *Murphy*. It was not listed by Guppy in 1890 and must be presumed to have become common in England only after the large-scale immigration from Ireland since the potato famine in the mid-19th century. As Map 1a shows, *Murphy* is today a common family name in England, the density of which, however, is greatest in the historical Lancashire area. With the county reform of 1974 this large county was divided into several smaller units.<sup>4</sup> Next in *Murphy*-density is London. Map 2 reveals an especially strong correlation of both areas with Irish immigration. In Lancashire it was possible to prove linguistically even one century later that many Irish immigrants found work there. Map and legend (Maps 3a and 3b) taken from the linguistic atlas by Viereck & Ramisch (1991) attest Anglo-Irish *praties* in this area. Irish *préata*, *práta*, *fata* are originally borrowings from English *potato* that the Irish later brought back to England as *pratie(s)*. Another allusion to the Irish is to be seen in *murphies* ‘potatoes’ that in Orton’s *Survey of English Dialects* (1962-1971) shows up only once in the Southeast of England and, consequently, was not mapped in Viereck & Ramisch (1991). Half a century earlier Wright had attested *murphy* for a much greater area in England in his *English Dialect Dictionary* (1898-1905). Onions’ *Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology* (1966) notes “from the common Irish surname Murphy, with allusion to the potato being a staple article of food of the Irish peasant” (s.v. ‘murphy’). In Ireland the surname *Murphy* had, of course, nothing to do with potato, but derived from Irish *Ó Murchadha* ‘descendant of *Murchadh* ‘warrior at sea’ (Irish *muir* ‘sea’ and *chadh* ‘warrior’). The third strongest concentration of *Murphy* today is in Lanarkshire in Scotland. The industrialised area in and around the third largest city in Great Britain, Glasgow, attracted many Irish looking for work, which they apparently also found there. As was to be expected, the 1881 Census results already showed the three concentrations of *Murphy* in the United Kingdom quite clearly (see Map 1b).

In contrast to *Murphy*, variants of the next surname to be presented have already been at home in England for a long time. However, not all of them have survived. The name ultimately goes back to an early Latin loanword, *puteus*, which is attested in Old English

---

<sup>4</sup> See Maps A, B and C on pre- and post-1974 county divisions and their names.

as *pytt* ‘pit’. Old English <y> developed in Middle English to <e> in the Southeast, to <i> in the North and to <u> [ü] in the Southwest and the West Midlands. This development is mirrored in the said surname *Pytt*, *Pett*, *Pitt* and *Putt* ‘dweller at a pit’ or ‘(place at) the pit’ as well as in the place-name *Pett* in East Sussex (*Pette* 1195) (Mills 1998<sup>2</sup>). The telephone directories (*UK-Info Disk 2004*) list the following variants:

Very frequent -----					almost extinct	
Pitt	Pitts	Pitman	Pittman	Pitter	Pit	Pits
(9,303)	(4,274)	(4,149)	(1,059)	(390)	(11)	(1)
Petts	Pett	Pettman	Petter	Petman	Pets	Pet
(1,145)	(927)	(619)	(237)	(18)	(1)	(0)
Putt	Putman	Putter	Put	Puttman	Putts	Puts
(1,085)	(659)	(31)	(9)	(6)	(4)	(1)

Table 1. Variants of the surname *Pitt*.

The occurrence of the original form *Pytt* became regionally more and more restricted in the course of time, but survived surprisingly down to the early 19th century (Map 4). *Pytt* together with *Pett* and *Putt* belong to the sizeable group of English words fossilised in family names. In the common language these spellings had died out centuries ago. According to the *Oxford English Dictionary* (1989<sup>2</sup>) only <i> spellings are attested from the early 17th century, *pit* with one <t> – in contrast to the family names where <tt> predominate by far.

According to the above table, *Pett*, *Petts* and *Putt* occupy a middle position as far as the frequency of occurrence of all the variants is concerned. Map 5 displays the distribution of *Pett* and *Putt* in absolute numbers in comparison to each other and Map 6 shows the regional distribution of the variant *Petts*. The highest density of *Pett* and *Petts* is found in the Southeast of England, namely in Kent and the neighbouring counties, while of *Putt* it is the Southwest, especially Devon. The VRI and the 1881 Census confirm Kent in the Southeast and Devon in the Southwest as centres of the occurrence of *Pett* and *Putt* respectively. The origin of both variants must therefore be thought there. What, historically

speaking, no longer fits into the picture is the rather high occurrence of *Putt* in and around London. However, the capital is a special case as it has acted as a magnet for migrants during all the centuries since surnames were formed. It is, therefore, normal to find that some, probably many, people there possess a surname that is otherwise concentrated elsewhere. The distribution of the name in and around London can often be disregarded, unless, of course, all the other examples of the surname are from those parts.

The final *-s* as in *Petts* occurs in all surname categories, see *Williams* or *Margetts* (patronymics and metronymics), *Briggs* (topographical expressions), *Smiths* (occupational terms) or *Oulds* (nicknames). The ending can have different meanings. The *Williams*-type was first attested in the Domesday Book in 1086 – of course in Latin – as *Robertus filius Willelmi*, in English a *Thomas Williams* appeared in 1307. Here the final *-s* is a sign of the genitive ‘son of William’; it can also mark the possessive. For *Petts* and variants the first attestations are *Roger de Pettes* 1276, *John ater Puttes* 1296 and *Richard Pyts* 1395 (Reaney & Wilson 1976<sup>2</sup>). These are clearly plural forms.

Maps 4, 5 and 6 also show that the bearers of these names, in the overwhelming majority of cases, liked to stay where their ancestors had lived. Many English family names display a surprising distributional stability across the centuries. This can also be said of the following examples. Whereas *Pytt*, *Pett*, *Pitt* and *Putt* show special developments in phonology, *Oakes*, *Noakes* and *Roake* testify to the disintegration of old declensions. The name ultimately goes back to Old English *āc* ‘oak’. We are here exposed both to gender confusion – grammatical gender was abandoned in early Middle English – and the wrong separation of article and noun. Old English *āc* ‘oak’ was feminine which together with a local addition corresponded to the construction *æt þære āce* ‘at the oak’ in Old English. This developed to *atter ōke* /ɔ:/ in Middle English. However, Middle English documents also attest the type *atten ōke* /ɔ:/ as if an Old English *\*æt þām āce* had preceded. The noun would then have been either masculine or neuter. As soon as the forms *atter* and *atten* on their way to the indeclinable form of the definite article competed with the form *atte* (= *at the*), it could easily happen that the final consonants *-r* and *-n* were erroneously assumed to be the beginning of the noun. Thus the surnames *Roak* and *Noake* developed in addition to the normal *Oake*.

Maps 7 and 8 show the historical diffusion of *Oakes* and *Noakes* and Maps 9 and 10 the present distribution of *Oakes*, *Noakes* and *Roake*. Surprisingly, members of these

families have hardly ever migrated north of the Humber. From the Humber in the East to the rivers Lune and Ribble in the West an important linguistic divide made itself felt down to the middle of the 20th century (see line 1 on Map 11). North of it Old English /ā/, as in *āc*, remained unrounded, to the South it was rounded during the 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries to long open /ɔ:/ which was raised in the 16th and 17th centuries and then diphthongized in the 19th century to Modern English /əʊ/, as we find it today in the pronunciation of *Oake*, *Noake* and *Roake*. The first attestations of these names are all documented south of the Humber (see Reaney & Wilson 1976<sup>2</sup>, s. v.). The final -s in these surnames is a sign of the plural.

Compound surnames with Old English *āc* as a second element fit this distributional pattern nicely. To these belong *Brodok* ‘large oak’ (Old English *brād* + *āc*), first bearer *John del Brodeoke*, 1295 Salop; *Halyok* ‘holy oak’ (Old English *hālig* + *āc*), first bearer *Walter de Halyok*, 1255 Worcestershire; *Pykedok* ‘pointed oak’ (Old English *\*pīcede* + *āc*), first bearer *William de la Pykedok*, 1327 Gloucestershire; *Selliok* ‘flourishing oaktree’ (Old English *\*sēlig* + *āc*), first bearer *Robert del Selliok*, 1327 Derbyshire; *Vairoke* ‘fair oak’ (Old English *fæger* + *āc* with later southern voicing of initial F- to V-), first bearer *Robert atte Vairoke*, 1312 Gloucestershire and *Whitoke* ‘white oak’ (Old English *hwīt* + *āc*), first bearer *Alice atte Whitoke*, 1302-03 Cheshire (all examples from Kristensson 1970, s.v.).

Surnames with Old English *āc* ‘oak’ north of the Humber – Lune/Ribble line are listed in Reaney & Wilson 1976<sup>2</sup> only as the first element in compounds, namely *Aked*, *Akett*, *Akitt* and *Aikett*, all variants meaning ‘dweller by the oak-covered headland’ (Old English *āc* + *hēafod*), first bearer of the name *Richard de Aykeheved*, 1280 Yorkshire or *Ackroyd*, *Acroyd*, *Akeroyd*, *Akroyd*, *Aykroyd*, *Ackred*, *Akred* and *Ecroyd*, all variants meaning ‘dweller by the oak-clearing’ (Old English *āc* + *\*rod* ‘clearing’), first bearers *Hugo Aikroide*, 1612 York and *Henry Ackroyd*, 1645 York. The distribution of all these surnames is remarkably similar: their greatest density in 1881 was in Yorkshire or north of it (see Map 12 *Akitt* and Map 13, showing the distributions of *Ackroyd*, *Acroyd*, *Akroyd*, *Akeroyd*, *Eckroyd*, *Ecroyd* and *Ackred*). Thus with their surprising distributional stability the surnames with Old English *āc* precisely mirror diachronic phonological processes of English.



Not only do single surnames show a remarkable stability over long periods of time, this can also be said when endings are attached to patronymics and metronymics. With the following two maps we move from an analysis of single family names or very few family names to a stronger quantification. Map 14 shows that the *Williams*-type (patronymic plus genitival *-s*) is especially well-attested in Wales, the West Midlands and in southern England. Also the final *-s* in *Petts* shows a very similar distribution (cf. Map 6) insofar as it hardly occurs in the North of England. As already mentioned, the strong presence of *Petts* in the Southeast of England is due to the vowel <e>, or, to put it differently, the vowel is responsible for the striking absence of this surname in the West Midlands and in Wales. In contrast to the *Williams*-type, the ending *-son*, as for example in *Williamson*,<sup>5</sup> is strongest in the North of England and diminishes in strength further south (Map 15). Both maps show that the mapping of surname categories may well lead to clear regional contrasts. Overlappings of surnames in *-son* and *-s* are minimal. Maps 14 and 15 are Schürer's (2004) who attempts to identify historical cultural regions with the help of family names. His source is the Census of 1881. Schürer compared these results with those of taxlists, the Lay Subsidy Rolls of 500-600 years ago, and discovered astonishing correspondences in their distributions – another proof of the stability of these surnames across the centuries. It is interesting that important traditional dialect features of English reveal clear distributional correspondences with the patronymics mentioned. Haematological results are also of importance (see Map 16). This is true of the very clearly differentiated northern region as well as of the adjoining southern region.

The factors that traditionally have been considered in creating cultural regions in England were dialects, topography and politics, population density (see Map 16), the economy and commerce, as well as material culture, such as the architecture of houses. To these and to geographic haematology, a rather recent addition, family names, one must now add. For the Welsh-English border area this is, however, only a rediscovery. For this region, the research with regard to the diffusion of Welsh and English family names and their correlation with the distribution of blood groups go back already to the 1950s and 1960s. Significant differences between the distribution of blood groups, on the one hand, and of Welsh and English surnames, on the other, were noted then (Viereck 2007: 527ff.).

---

<sup>5</sup> The ending *-son* counts for both sexes. Surnames in *-daughter* are not attested today.

More recently I described a clear correlation between a special dialectal feature of English, the blood groups and family names in parts of England (Viereck 2007: 530ff.).<sup>6</sup>

#### 4. Further research

The identification of cultural regions with reference to family names has only just begun in England. Also DNA tests in a bid to search for separating families with the same surnames and to find the first bearer of a particular family name have only been used sparingly in England up to now. Further aspects to be pursued are the following: Which family names show the widest distribution and which ones are the most concentrated? Do they correlate with a specific surname type? Family names that go back to dialect words have also only been researched very unsatisfactorily up to now. In his *English Dialect Dictionary* (1898-1905) Wright attested *royd* ‘clearing’ in Yorkshire and Lancashire. With this second element a number of surnames are formed such as *Ackroyd* and variants – this family name was already mentioned above with regard to its first element denoting ‘dweller by the oak-clearing’ – according to Reaney & Wilson (1976<sup>2</sup>) “a Yorkshire name preserving the dialectal pronunciation *royd*” (for *road* ‘clearing’), *Boothroyd* “from *Boothroyd* ‘clearing with a booth or shed’ West Riding of Yorkshire”, *Oldroyd* ‘dweller at the old clearing’, *Murgatroyd* “from a lost Yorkshire place, ‘Margaret’s clearing’” and *Holroyd* and variants ‘dweller at the clearing in the hollow’ (Yorkshire).<sup>7</sup> According to Reaney & Wilson (1976<sup>2</sup>) the first bearers of the above names are *John del Botherode*, *Adam de Buderode* 1274, 1296, *Adam de Olderode* 1316, *John Mergetrode* 1379 and *Thomas*, *Andrew Holerode* 1296, *Gilbert de Holrode* 1327. The dialectal pronunciation

<sup>6</sup> In late Old English and at the beginning of the Middle English period originally voiceless fricatives in initial position became voiced. In contrast to the family names (for example *Fid(d)ler* – *Vidler*, *Fenn* – *Venn*) only very few remnants of this change were retained in the common language (see *fox* ‘male fox’ – *vixen* ‘female fox’ or *fain* ‘happy’ – *vane* ‘weathercock on a steeple’).

<sup>7</sup> All listed in Reaney & Wilson (1976<sup>2</sup>, s.v.). The examples listed only in Kristensson (1970) are *Hegherode* ‘high clearing’ (Old English *hēah+\*rod*), first bearer *Robert del Hegherode*, 1327 Lancashire; *Hengandrode* ‘steep clearing’ (Old Norse *hengjandi+\*rod*), first bearer *William del Hengandrode*, 1307 Yorkshire; *Langhrode* ‘long clearing’ (Old English *lang+\*rod*), first bearer *Amabilla del Langhrode*, 1330 Yorkshire; *Leghrode* ‘wood-clearing’ (Old English *lēah+\*rod*), first bearer *Thomas del Leghrode*, 1326 Yorkshire; *Wotherode* ‘hunting-clearing’ (Old English *wāþ+\*rod*), first bearer *John del Wotherode*, 1325 Yorkshire and *Okenrode* ‘oak clearing’ (Old English *ācen+\*rod*), first bearer *Thomas dil Okenrode*, 1323 Lancashire. The name is due to a later change as in the 13th century it was *Akenrode*, following proper historical considerations.

manifested itself in the spelling of these surnames only much later, namely in the 17th and the early 18th century.<sup>8</sup>

One of the weaknesses of Reaney & Wilson's dictionary of 1976<sup>2</sup> is that local surnames are often not listed. In addition to some of the surnames mentioned above with Old English *\*rod* as a second element this is apparent also in its dialectal form *-royd* and in the dialect vocabulary in general, as, for example, the family names *Bassenthwaite*, *Brocklehurst* (Map 17) and *Micklethwaite* show.<sup>9</sup> For more such examples both Kristensson's study of 1970 and Wright's *English Dialect Dictionary* (1898-1905) would have to be worked through. Wright's dictionary is now available in digitalized form, unfortunately this version has not yet been checked against the dictionary proper.<sup>10</sup>

What are the limits with respect to the selection of a family name when they became hereditary? Were there nouns that were used rarely or not at all as surnames? Animal names should be of interest in this connection. *Hound*, today reduced to the meaning of 'hunting dog', was attested only six times as a family name in the 17th and 18th centuries, eleven times in 1881 and today once only. An even more drastic decline as a surname is shown by *Dog*: from 95 occurrences in the 17th and 18th centuries to zero a century later and today. In view of the negative semantic development of both nouns this is no wonder. Ass and donkey left no traces in the diachronic corpora of English surnames, *Frog* occurred only three times and *Pig(g)* only four times in 1881. A seeming counterexample is *Hog(g)* with 10,906 occurrences in 1881. It does not only mean 'pig', but also 'lamb' and other young animals, a fact that no doubt increased its frequency of occurrence. *Bear* occurred 799 times as a surname, *Fox* 27,825 times and *Wolf(e)* 2,147 times (all figures refer to 1881). *Hog(g)*, bear, fox and wolf played an important role in superstition with positive and negative connotations. In English, their negative associations occurred at a time when they had already established themselves strongly as surnames.

---

<sup>8</sup> *Hugo Aikroide* 1612, *Henry Ackroyd* 1645 (both surnames were already mentioned above), *Henry Akeroyd* 1648, *Richard Buthroid* 1627, *Robert Ouldroyde* 1666, *Bryan Murgetroyde* 1647 and *George Holroyd* 1709 (see Reaney & Wilson 1976<sup>2</sup>).

<sup>9</sup> The omission of local surnames was largely corrected in the third edition of the dictionary (Reaney & Wilson 1991<sup>3</sup>, rev. edition 1997) with the inclusion of some 4,000 additional surnames. *Bassenthwaite*, *Brocklehurst* and *Okenrode*, mentioned earlier, are still missing from the dictionary.

<sup>10</sup> A further weakness of Reaney & Wilson's dictionary must be seen in the fact that genealogical methods are largely ignored. With quite a number of examples Redmonds shows that "without some sort of genealogical evidence it can be unwise to link modern surnames with those found in medieval sources" (1997: 11). Hey concludes: "It will be a long time before we have reliable, comprehensive dictionaries of all surnames in the land" (2003: 17).

In conclusion I would like to say that our grammar of English surnames will be in two parts. Part I deals with aspects of expression and Part II with aspects of content, that is the atlas proper. Up to now we have devoted special attention to a selection of those family names that have their origin in local names, either locative or topographical, occupational names and nicknames (cf. Barker/Spoerlein/Vetter/Viereck 2007). On some surnames derived from personal names cf. Viereck (2008). This surname category will be given more attention in the volume to come together with those aspects that were only marginally dealt with in the first volume. To these belong mainly maps on aspects of expression, such as graphemics, special developments in phonology, and, on the syntagmatic level, the disintegration of Old English declensions, peculiarities of word formation and family names in relation to the history of the vocabulary both English and foreign.

## 5. References

### *Databases*

*The British 19th Century Surname Atlas v1.04. Display and Print Maps for any Surname or Forename.* CD-ROM. Archer Software. April 2003.

*British Census 1881.* CD-ROM. 24 disks. Intellectual Reserve. June 1998.

*British Isles Vital Records Index.* 2nd edition CD-ROM. 16 disks. Intellectual Reserve. March 2002.

*International Genealogical Index v5.0.* 12 October 2001. Family Search Internet Genealogical Service. 01 May 2004. <http://www.familysearch.org>.

*UK-Info Professional V9 2004.* CD-ROM. I-CD Publishing. October 2003.

### *Software*

*GenMap UK ver 2.10.* CD-ROM. Archer Software. November 2003.

*LDS Companion v2.12.* CD-ROM. Archer Software. March 2003.

*PCMap 10.0.* CD-ROM. GISCAD Institute Germany. 1998.

### *Secondary Literature*

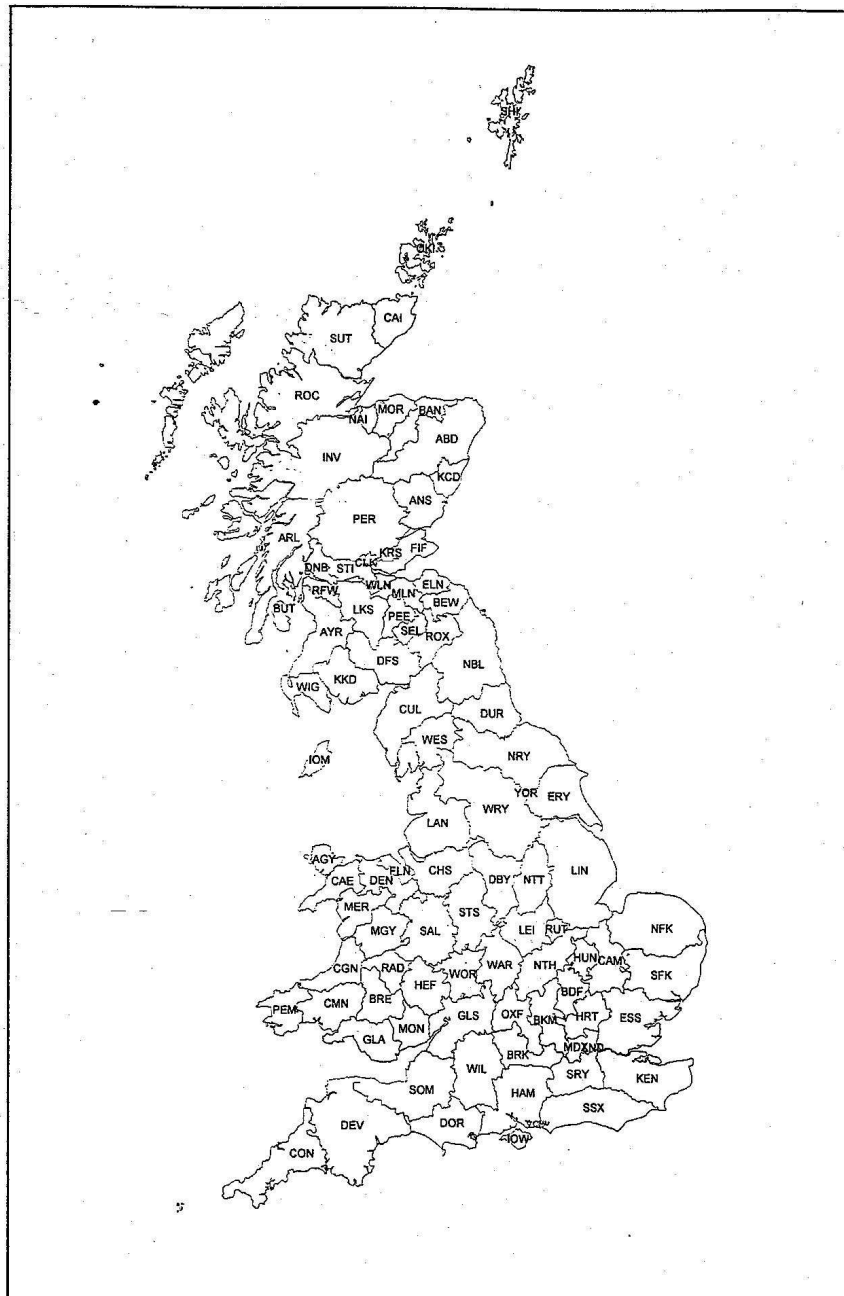
BARKER, Stephanie/Stefankai SPOERLEIN/Tobias VETTER & Wolfgang VIERECK (2007) *An Atlas of English Surnames*, Frankfurt: Peter Lang.

- BRETT, Donald (1985) "The use of telephone directories in surname studies", *The Local Historian*, 16, 392-404.
- DARBY, Henry C. (ed.) (1973) *A New Historical Geography of England*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- ECCELESTONE, Martin (1989) "The diffusion of English surnames", *The Local Historian*, 19, 63-70.
- GUPPY, Henry Brougham (1890, repr. 1968) *Homes of Family Names in Great Britain*. London: Harrison, repr. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company.
- HEY, David (1997) "Locating the home of a family name", in P. H. Reaney & R.M. Wilson, *A Dictionary of English Surnames*. Rev. third ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 511-520.
- HEY, David (1998) "The local history of family names", *The Local Historian*, 27/4, I-XX.
- HEY, David (2000) *Family Names and Family History*, London: Hambledon.
- HEY, David (2003) "Recent advances in the study of surnames", *The Historian*, 80, 13-17.
- KRISTENSSON, Gillis (1970) *Studies on Middle English Topographical Terms*, Lund: Gleerup.
- KURATH, Hans (1972) *Studies in Area Linguistics*, Bloomington/London: Indiana University Press.
- LASKER, Gabriel Ward (1985) *Surnames and Genetic Structure*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- LASKER, Gabriel Ward & Bernice A. KAPLAN (1983) "English place-name surnames tend to cluster near the place named", *Names*, 31, 167-177.
- LASKER, Gabriel Ward & C. G. N. MASCIE-TAYLOR (1990) *Atlas of British Surnames: With 154 Maps of Selected Surnames*, Detroit: Wayne State University Press.
- LEESON, Francis (1964) "The study of single surnames and their distribution", *The Genealogists' Magazine*, 14, no. 2.
- MASCIE-TAYLOR, C. G. N. & Gabriel Ward LASKER (1990) "The distribution of surnames in England and Wales: A model for genetic distribution", *Man*, N.S. 25, 521-530.
- MILLS, A. D. (1998<sup>2</sup>) *A Dictionary of English Place-Names*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- ONIONS, Charles T. (1966) *The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*, Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- ORTON, Harold/Michael V. BARRY/W. J. HALLIDAY/Philip M. TILLING & Martyn F. WAKELIN (1962-1971, repr. 1998) *Survey of English Dialects: Introduction and the Basic Material*, 4 vols., each in 3 parts, Leeds: E. J. Arnold, repr. London: Routledge.
- PORTEOUS, J. Douglas (1987) "Locating the place of origin of a surname", *The Local Historian*, 18, 391-395.
- PORTEOUS, J. Douglas (1988) *The Mells: Surname Geography, Family History*, Saturnalia, B. C., Canada: Saturnia Island Thinktank Press.
- REANEY, P. H. & R. M. WILSON (1976<sup>2</sup>) *A Dictionary of British Surnames*, 2nd ed. London: Routledge/Kegan Paul.

- REANEY, P. H. & R. M. WILSON (1991<sup>3</sup>, rev. 1997) *A Dictionary of English Surnames*, third ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- REDMONDS, George (1997) *Surnames and Genealogy: A New Approach*, Boston: New England Genealogical Society.
- ROGERS, Colin D. (1995) *The Surname Detective. Investigating Surname Distribution in England, 1086 – Present Day*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- SCHÜRER, Kevin (2004) “Surnames and the search for regions”, *Local Population Studies*, 72, 50-76.
- SIMPSON, John A. & Edmund S. C. WEINER (1989<sup>2</sup>) *The Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- TITTERTON, John (1990) “Pinpointing the origin of a surname”, *The Local Historian*, 20, no.1.
- VIERECK, Wolfgang (2007) “Some remarks on the identification of cultural regions in England”, in BARKER, Stephanie/Stefankai SPOERLEIN/Tobias VETTER & Wolfgang VIERECK (2007) *An Atlas of English Surnames*, Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 527-538.
- VIERECK, Wolfgang (2008) “Language on the map: On the historical and geographic diffusion of English family names”, *Revue Roumaine de Linguistique*, 52, 47-77.
- VIERECK, Wolfgang in collaboration with Heinrich RAMISCH (1991) *The Computer Developed Linguistic Atlas of England*, Vol. 1, Tübingen: Max Niemeyer.
- VIERECK, Wolfgang/Karin VIERECK & Heinrich RAMISCH (2002) *dtv-Atlas Englische Sprache*, München: Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag.
- WAKELIN, Martyn F. (1983) “The stability of English dialect boundaries”, *English World-Wide*, 4, 1-15.
- WRIGHT, Joseph (1898-1905) *The English Dialect Dictionary*, London: Henry Frowde.

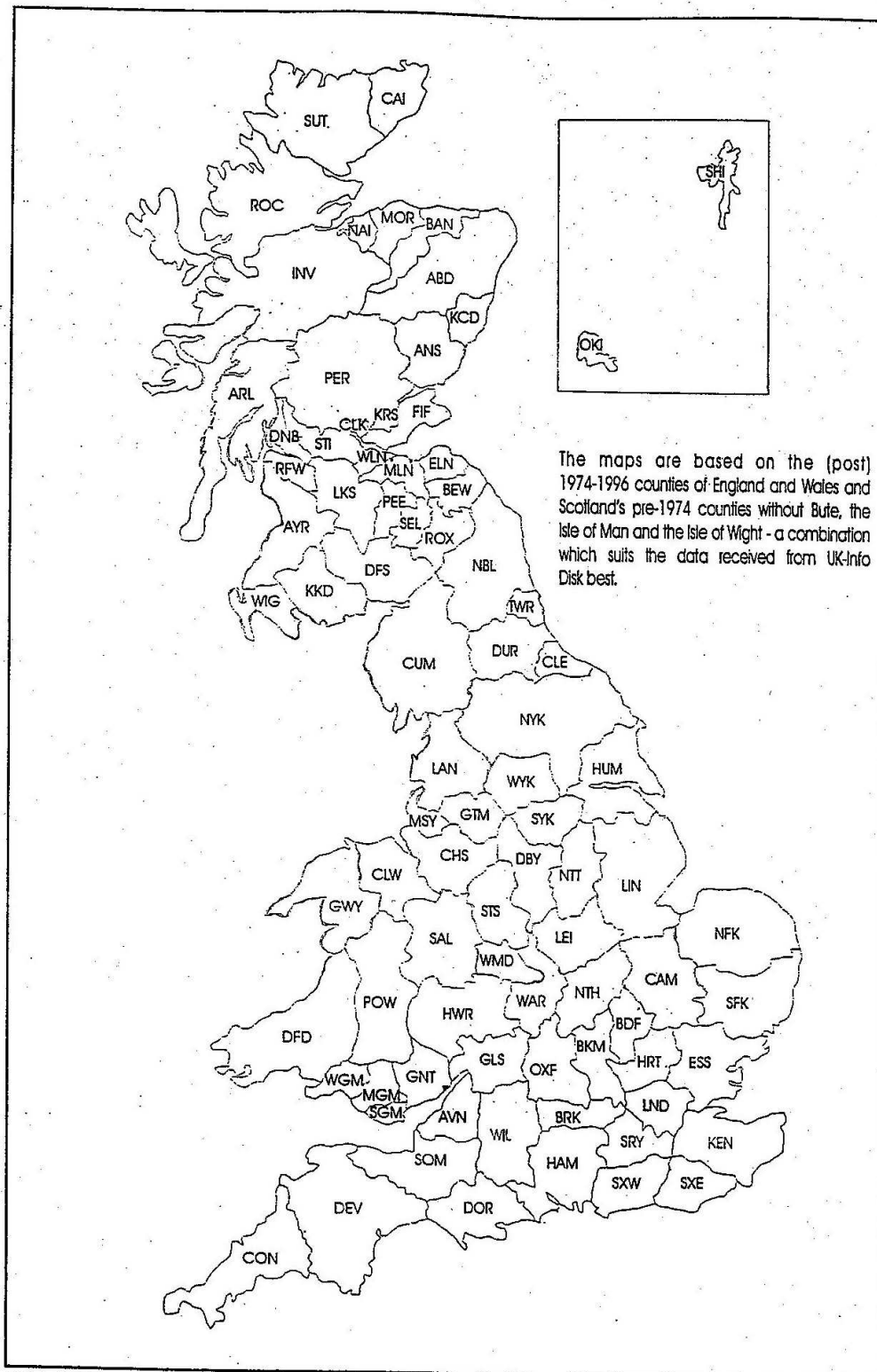
## Maps

IGI, VRI and Census 1881 Map



The IGI, VRI and Census maps are generated directly with the software GenMap UK and display the pre-1974 county borders. They very closely resemble the borders used in the UK-Info maps generated with PCMap.

Map A



UK-Info 2004: County Codes Reference Map

Map B



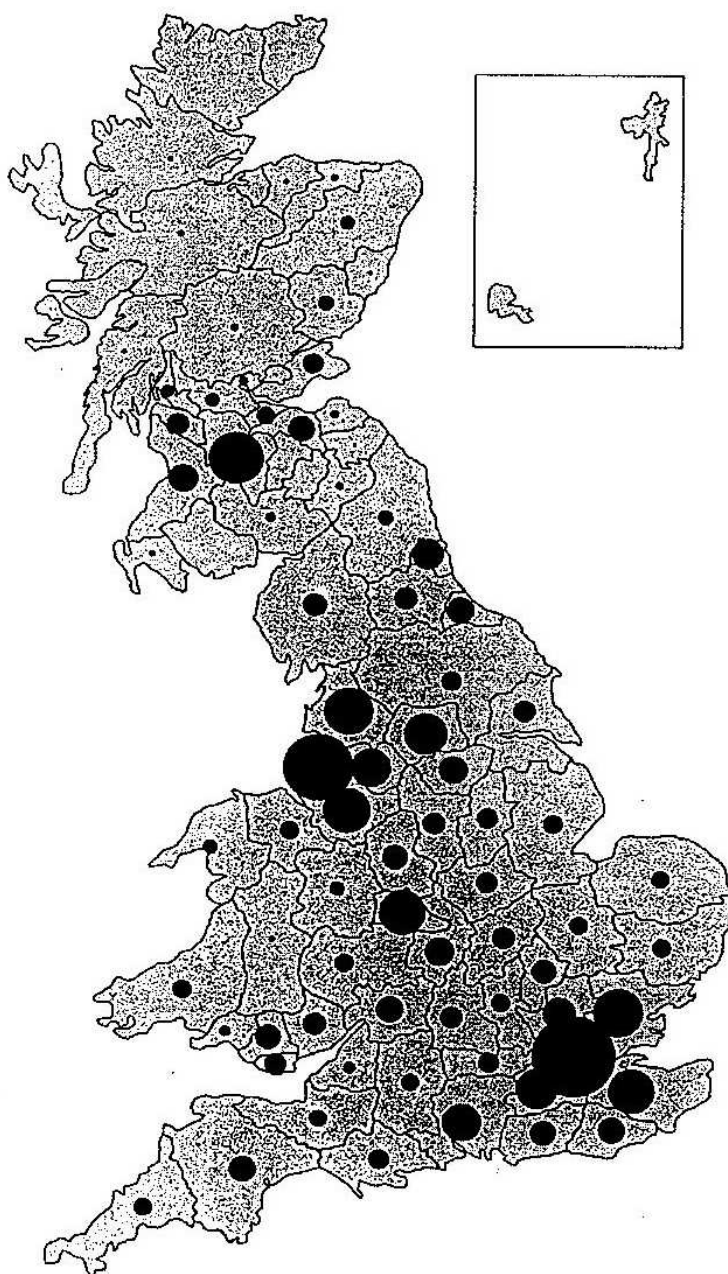
Table of County Abbreviations (based on "Chapman Codes")

Abbreviation	County	Abbreviation	County
ABD	Aberdeenshire	SYK	South Yorkshire
ANS	Angus	STS	Staffordshire
ARL	Argyllshire	STI	Stirlingshire
AVN	Avon	SFK	Suffolk
AYR	Ayrshire	SRY	Surrey
BAN	Banffshire	SUT	Sutherland
BDF	Bedfordshire	TWR	Tine and Wear
BRK	Berkshire	WAR	Warwickshire
BEW	Berwickshire	WGM	West Glamorgan
BKM	Buckinghamshire	WMD	West Midland
CAI	Caithness	SXW	West Sussex
CAM	Cambridgeshire	WYK	West Yorkshire
CHS	Cheshire	WLN	Westlothian
CLK	Clackmannanshire	WIG	Wigtownshire
CLE	Cleveland	WIL	Wiltshire
CLW	Clwyd*	<b>VRI and Census maps only</b>	
CON	Cornwall	AGY	Anglesey
CUM	Cumbria	BRE	Brecknockshire
DBY	Derbyshire	BUT	Buteshire
DEV	Devon	CAE	Caernarfonshire
DOR	Dorset	CGN	Cardiganshire
DFS	Dumfriesshire	CMN	Carmarthenshire
DNB	Dumbarton	CUL	Cumberland
DUR	County Durham	DEN	Denbighshire
DFD	Dyfed	ERY	East Riding Yorkshire
ELN	East Lothian	FLN	Flintshire
SXE	East Sussex	GLA	Glamorgan
ESS	Essex	HEF	Herefordshire
FIF	Fife	HUN	Huntingdonshire
GLS	Gloucestershire	IOM	Isle of Man
LND	Greater London	IOW	Isle of Wight
GTM	Greater Manchester	MDX	Middlesex
GNT	Gwent	MER	Merioneth
GWY	Gwynedd	MGY	Montgomeryshire
HAM	Hampshire	MON	Monmouthshire
HWR	Hereford and Worcester	NRV	North Riding Yorkshire
HUM	Humberside	PEM	Pembrokeshire
INV	Inverness-shire	RAD	Radnorshire
KEN	Kent	RUT	Rutland
KCD	Kincardineshire	SSX	Sussex
KRS	Kinross-shire	WES	Westmorland
KKD	Kircudbrightshire	WOR	Worcestershire
LKS	Lanarkshire	WRY	West Riding Yorkshire
LAN	Lancashire	YOR	York
LEI	Leicestershire	<b>Conversion Table</b>	
LIN	Lincolnshire	<b>VRI and Census counties into UK-Info Disk counties</b>	
MSY	Merseyside	Abbreviation	County
MGM	Mid Glamorgan	AGY	Not included
MLN	Midlothian	BRE+MGY+RAD	POW
MOR	Morayshire	BUT	Not included
NAI	Nairnshire	CAE+MER	GWY
NFK	Norfolk	CGN+CMN+PEM	DFD
NYK	North Yorkshire	CUL+WES	CUM
NTH	Northamptonshire	DEN+FLN	CLW
NBL	Northumberland	ERY	HUM (Part of)
NTT	Nottinghamshire	GLA	MGM+SGM+WGM
OKI	Orkney	HEF+WOR	HWR
OXF	Oxfordshire	HUN	CAM (Part of)
PEE	Peeblesshire	IOM	Not included
PER	Perthshire	IOW	Not included
POW	Powys	LAN	LAN+GTM+MSY
RFW	Renfrewshire	MDX	LND
ROC	Ross-shire and Cromartysire	MON	GNT
ROX	Roxburghshire	NRV+YOR	NYK
SAL	Shropshire	RUT	LEI (Part of)
SEL	Selkirkshire	DUR	DUR+CLE+TWR
SHI	Shetland Islands	SSX	SXE+SXW
SOM	Somerset	WRY	WYK+SYK
SGM	South Glamorgan		

\*County Clwyd resembles the UK-Info data for Flintshire County. This seems to disregard the fact that the no longer existing county Clwyd consisted of Denbighshire and Wrexham as well as of Flintshire County. Yet, Denbighshire and Wrexham are searchable in a subfolder of Flintshire County and thus part of the data received for Flintshire County, i.e. Clwyd.

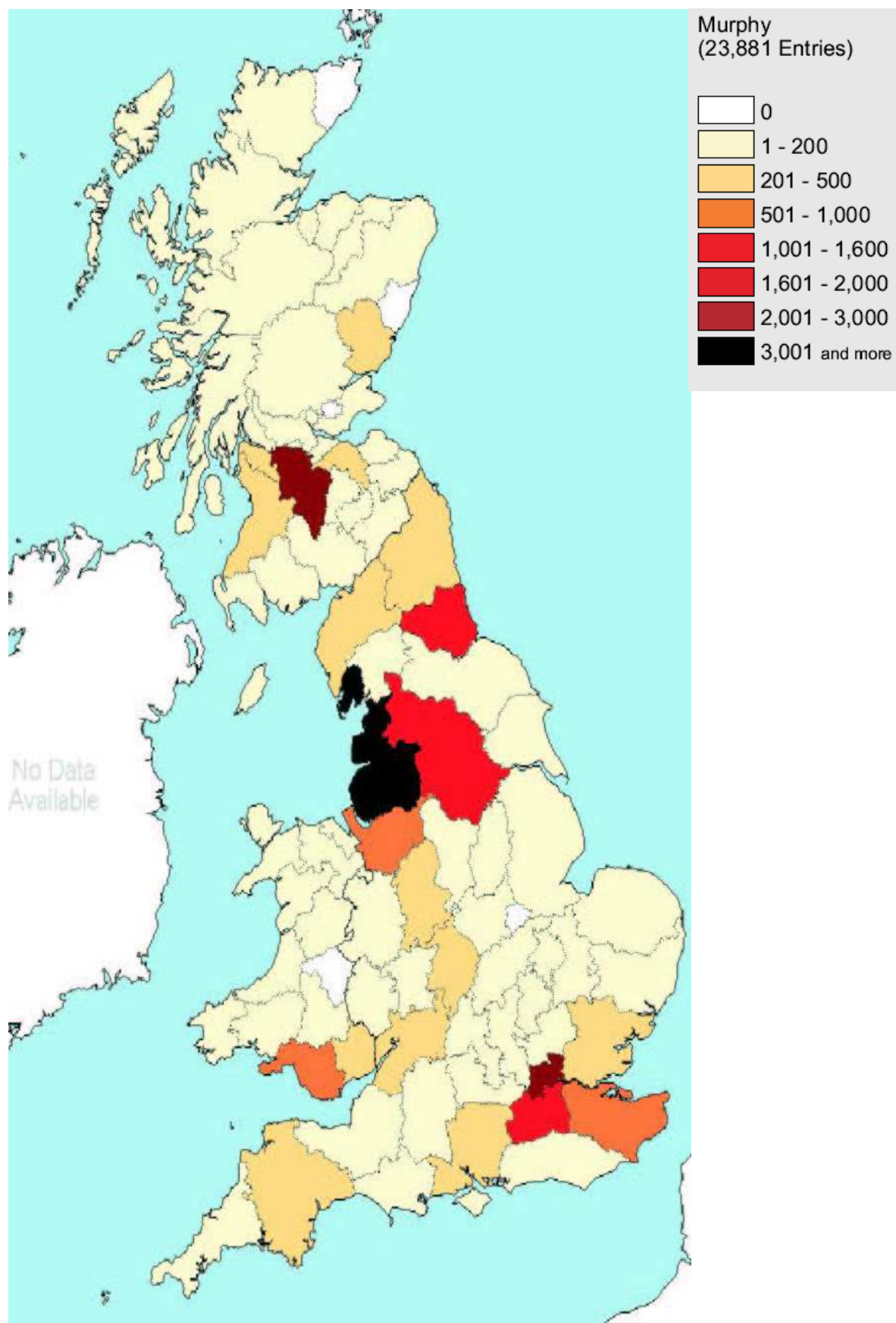
## Murphy

UK-Info 2004: Absolute Distribution (Point Map)

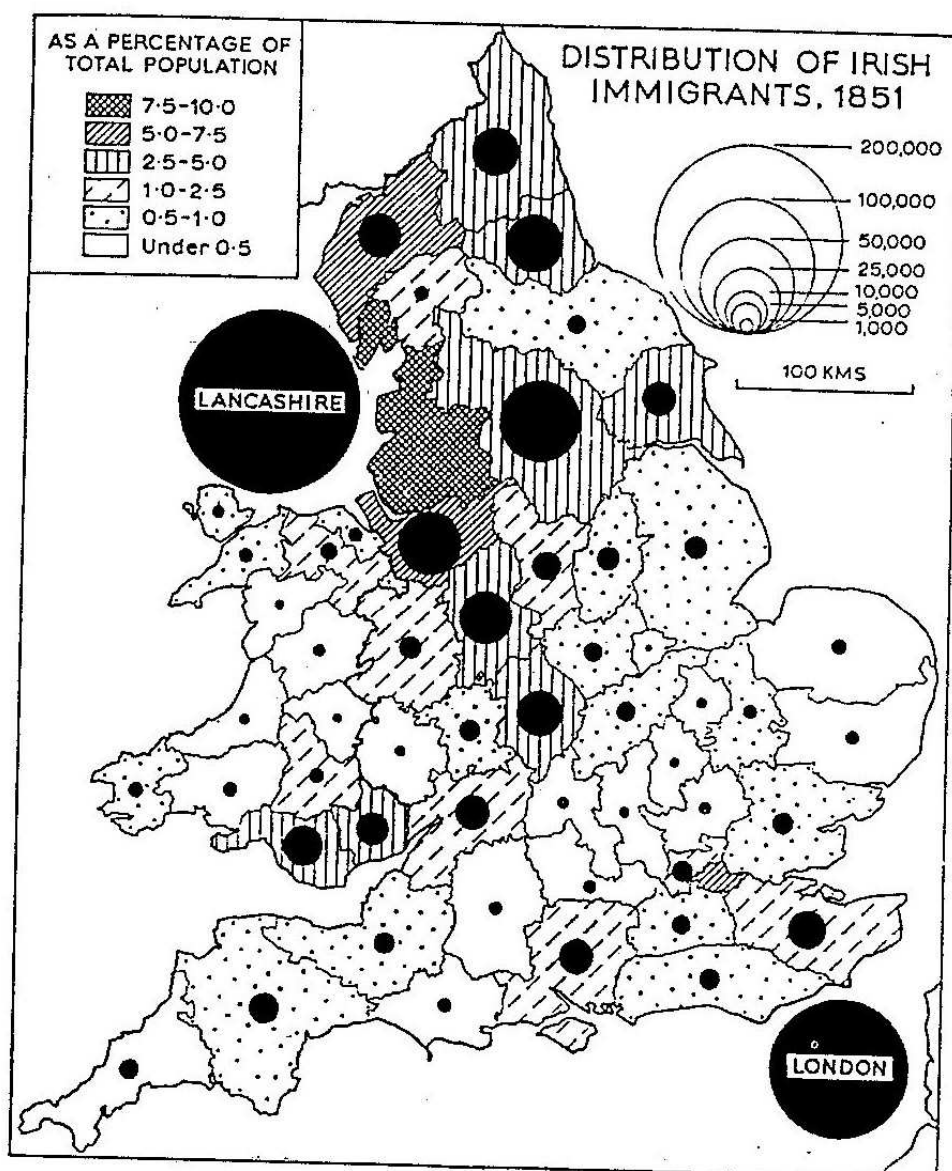


County	Names
LND	7544
MSY	5113
LKS	3139
ESS	2631
LAN	2528
CHS	2368
KEN	2283
WMD	2278
WYK	1952
SRY	1882
GTM	1697
HAM	1642
HRT	1191
TWR	1058
AYR	921
WAR	919
SYK	885
CLE	836
DEV	783
SXE	783
GLS	781
MLN	752
SKW	714
MGM	702
STS	690
BDF	635
CUM	595
GNT	583
DUR	555
DBY	553
NTH	552
RFW	533
HUM	531
OXF	528
SGM	515
LEI	505
NTT	491
FIF	472
BRK	470
DOR	459
NYK	427
LIN	426
CLW	399
DFD	393
SFK	389
BKM	378
VLN	377
HWR	375
CAM	374
CON	359
NFK	357
WIL	338
SOM	337
NBL	271
ANS	261
SAL	230
ABD	223
GWY	221
STI	208
DNB	183
AVN	155
WGM	128
DFS	109
CLK	88
ELN	83
ROX	72
PER	63
BAN	62
INV	50
WIG	49
POW	46
MOR	40
ARL	33
ROC	32
KCD	22
CAI	18
BEW	11
PEE	11
SEL	7
KKD	6
NAI	6
OKI	6
KRS	5
SHI	0
SUT	0

Map 1a

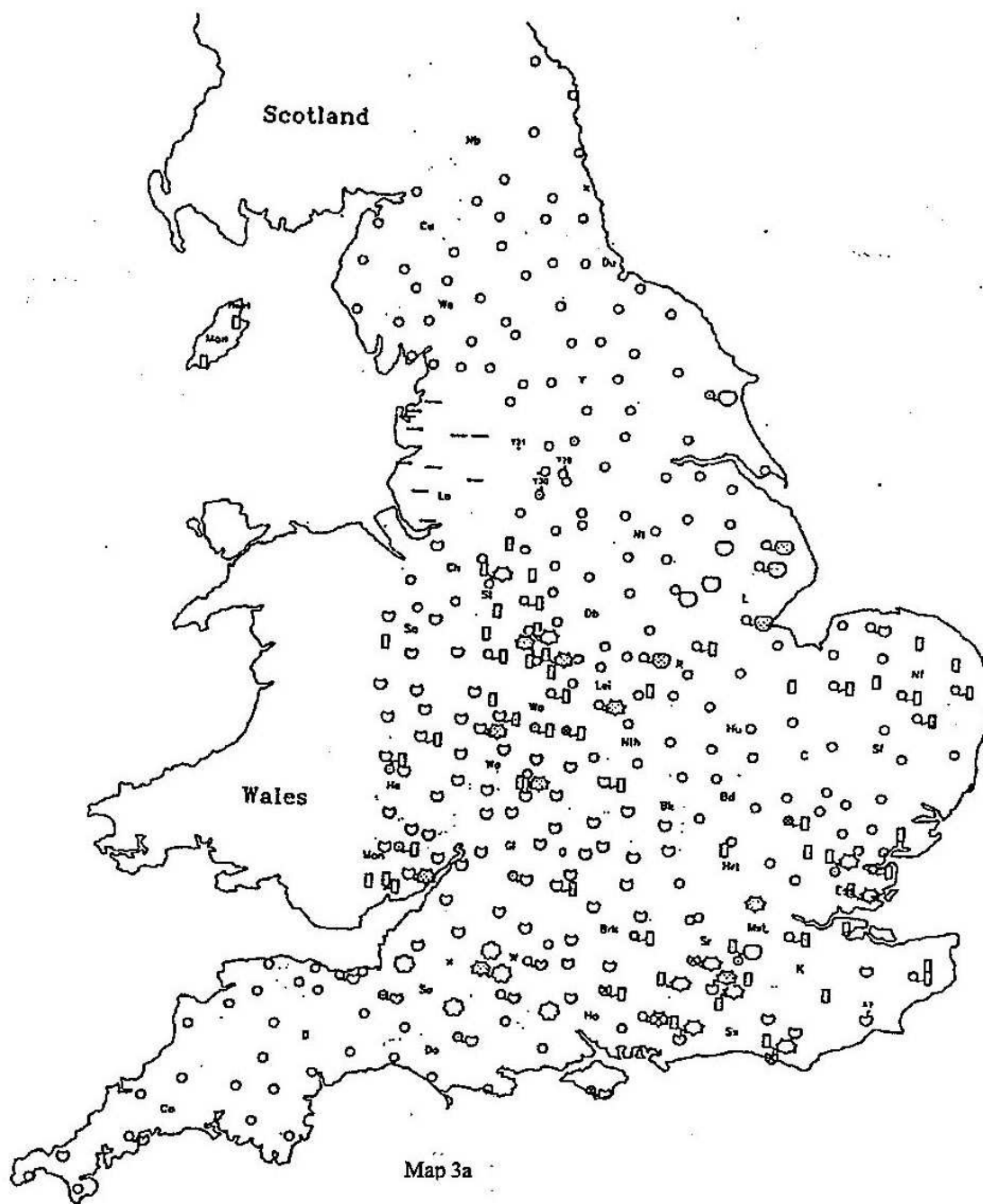


Map 1b. British Census 1881: Actual Distribution of Murphy (County Level)



Distribution of Irish immigrants, 1851  
 Based on *Census of 1851: Population Tables, II*, vol. 1, pp. ccxc-ccxcvi  
 (P.P. 1852-3, lxxxviii, pt 1).  
 (From Darby 1973: 171)

Map 2



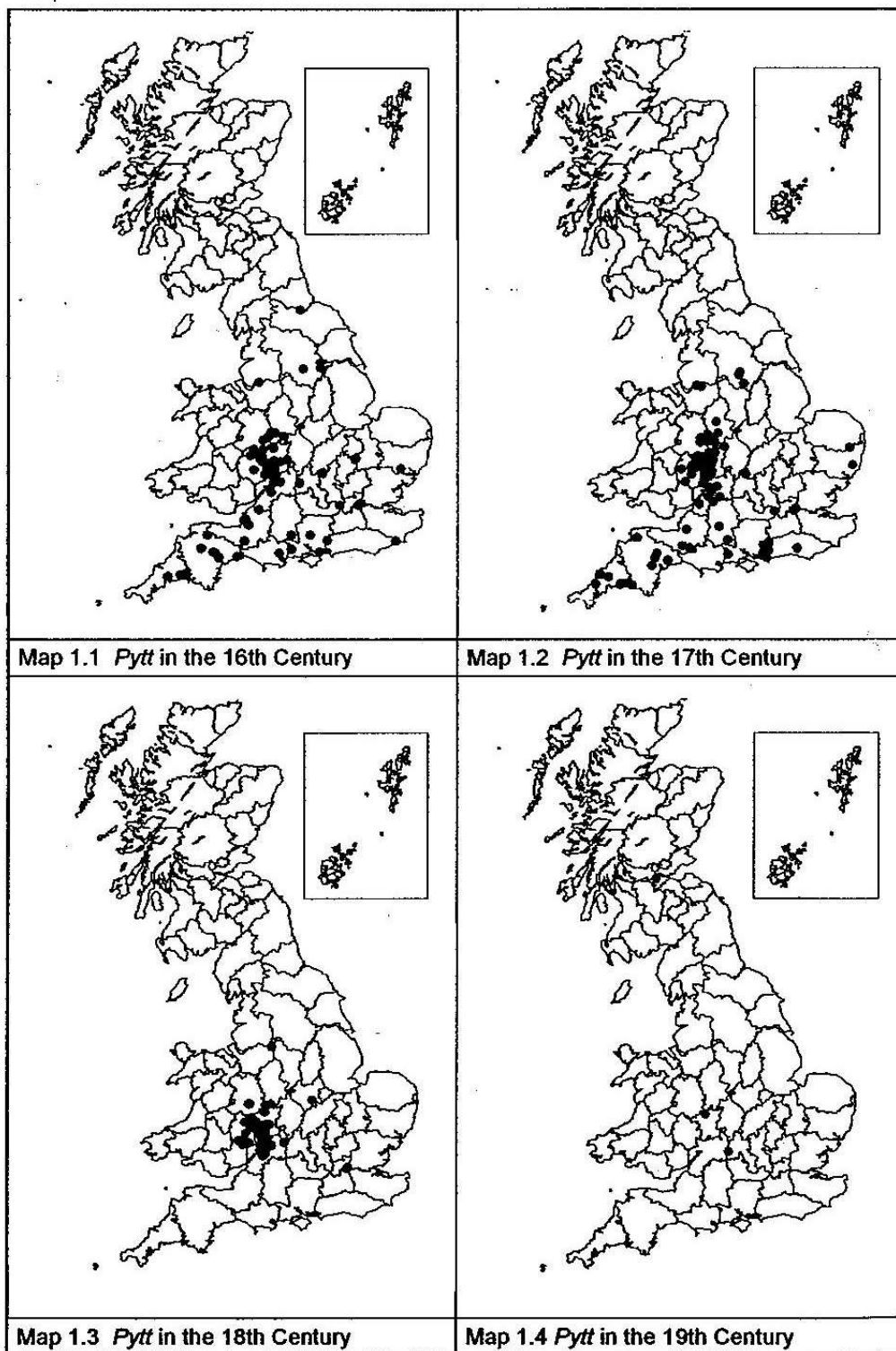
## L 25: II.4.1.1 Potatoes

What root-crops do you grow?

<p>o tates: Nb1,Nb2,Nb3,Nb4 Nb5,Nb7,Nb8,Nb9 Cu1,Cu2,Cu3,Cu4,Cu5 Cu6 Du1,Du2,Du3,Du4,Du5 Du6 We1,We2,We3,We4 La1,La2,La3 Y1,Y2,Y3,Y4,Y5,Y6 Y7,Y8,Y9,Y10,Y11,Y13 Y14,Y15,Y16,Y17,Y18 Y19,Y20,Y22,Y23 Y24,Y25,Y26,Y27,Y28 Y29,Y31,Y32,Y33,Y34 Ch3,Ch4,Ch5,Ch6 Db1,Db2,Db3,Db4 Db5,Db6,Db7 Ni1,Ni2,Ni3,Ni4 L1,L2,L3,L4,L5,L7 LB,L10,L12,L13,L14 L15 Si2,Si3,Si6,Si7 Si8 Lei1,Lei2,Lei3,Lei4 Lei5,Lei6,Lei7,Lei9 Lei10 R1,R2 He7 Wo7 Wa1,Wa2,Wa3 Wa4 Nih1,Nih3,Nih4 Hut1,Hut2 C1,C2 Nf1,Nf2,Nf4,Nf5 Nf8,Nf10,Nf11 Nf12,Nf13 Sf1,Sf2,Sf3,Sf4,Sf5 Mon3 Bk5,Bk6 Bd2,Bd3 Hrt1,Hrt2 Ess1,Ess2,Ess3,Ess4 Ess5,Ess6,Ess9,Ess10 Ess11,Ess12,Ess13 Ess14 MxL1 So5,So6,So7,So8 So9,So10,So12 So13 W1,W4,W6,W8 Brk5 Sr1 K2,K5 Co1,Co2,Co3,Co4 Co6,Co7 D1,D2,D3,D4,D5,D6</p>	<p>D7,D8,D9,D10,D11 Do1,Do2,Do3,Do4 Do5 Ha5,Ha6,Ha7 Sx2 o tate: Y12,Y30 Nih2 Bd1 o taters: Ch1 Sa1,Sa2,Sa4,Sa5 Sa6,Sa7,Sa8,Sa9,Sa10 Sa11 He1,He2,He3,He4 He5,He6,He7 Wo1,Wo2,Wo3,Wo4 Wo5,Wo7 Wa5,Wa6,Wa7 Nih5 Nf2 Mon1,Mon2,Mon5 G1,G2,G3,G4,G5 G6,G7 O1,O2,O3,O4,O5,O6 Bk1,Bk2,Bk3,Bk4 So1,So2,So7,So10 W1,W2,W3,W6,W8 Brk1,Brk2,Brk3,Brk4 Sr2,Sr3 K4,K7 Co4,Co5 Do2 Ha1,Ha2,Ha3,Ha4 Ha7 Sx3,Sx4,Sx5 o later: Sx6 o potatoes: Ch2 L13 Sa3 Si1,Si2,Si3,Si4,Si5 Si6,Si7,Si8,Si9,Si10 Si11 Lei8 He1,He7 Wo1,Wo6 Wa1,Wa2,Wa3 Nih5 Nf3,Nf6,Nf7,Nf8,Nf9 Nf10,Nf11,Nf12 Mon3,Mon4,Mon5 Mon7 Hr13 Ess4,Ess7,Ess8,Ess12 Ess13,Ess15 Brk2,Brk5</p>	<p>Sr1,Sr4,Sr5 K1,K2,K3,K5,K6 Ha4 Sx1,Sx3,Sx6 Man1,Man2 o spuds: Si2,Si6,Si7,Si9 Lei10 Wo2,Wo7 Mon6 Ess12,Ess15 MxL2 W7 Sr2,Sr3,Sr5 Sx1,Sx2,Sx3,Sx6 - prattles: La4,La5,La6,La7 La8,La9,La10,La11 La12,La13,La14 o tates: Y20 L6,L7,L8,L9,L11 L12 Lei6 Sr1 o chitties: So3,So11 W5,W7,W9 priddhas: Man1 potatoes: Y21,Y26,Y30 murphies: K7</p>	<p>1 <input type="radio"/> usually, familiarly 2 <input type="radio"/> rare, occasionally, less common 3 <input type="radio"/> older, obsolete 4 <input type="radio"/> modern, newer 5 <input type="radio"/> (strong) pressure, suggested form/word 6 <input checked="" type="radio"/> preferred 7 <input type="radio"/> excerpted from incidental material 8 <input type="radio"/> same symbol for more than one response x <input type="checkbox"/> no response # <input type="checkbox"/> irrelevant response 9 <input type="checkbox"/> unwanted response</p>
---	---	--	---

- ☐ tates (194)  
☐ taters (78)  
☐ potatoes (58)  
☒ spuds (19)  
☐ prattles (11)  
☐ tates (9)  
☐ chitties (5)

Map 3b

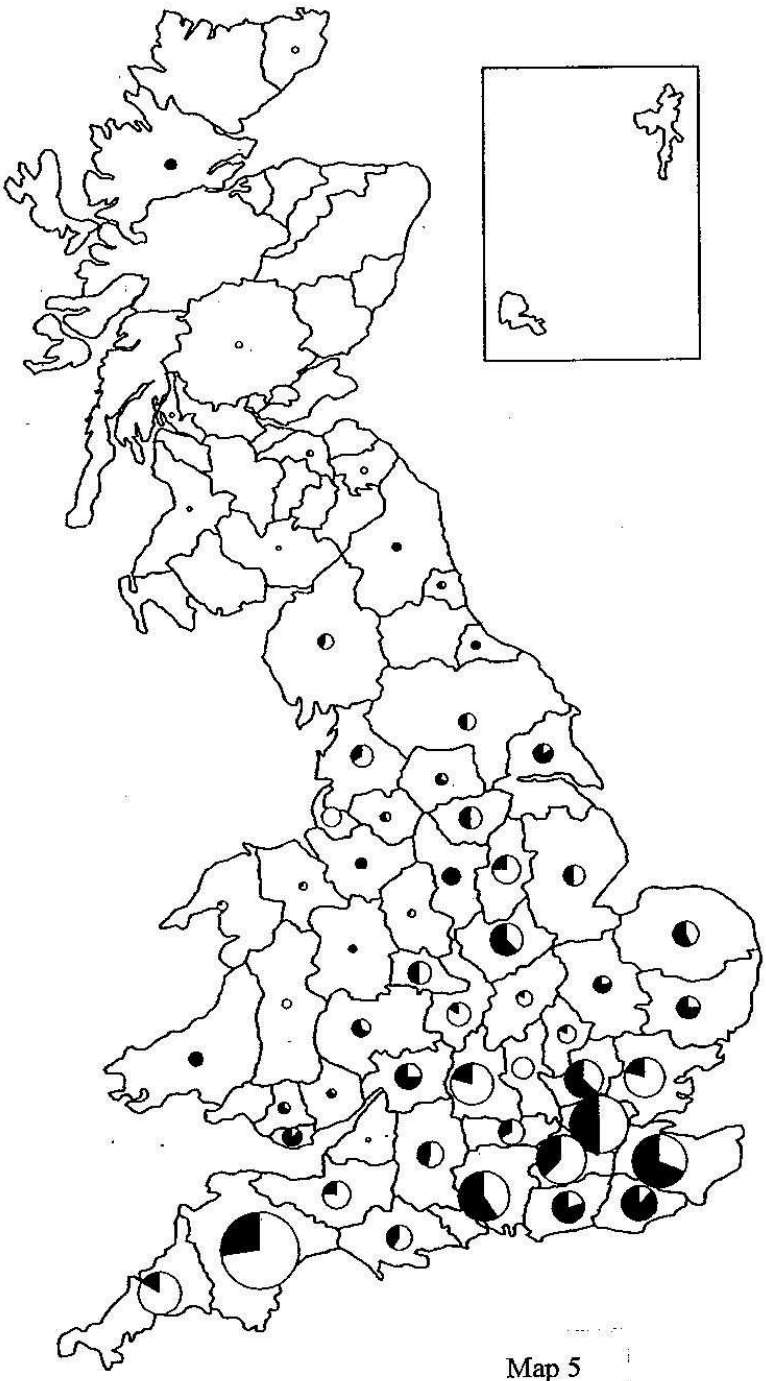


Map 4



Pett/Putt Comparison  
UK-Info 2004: Absolute Distribution (Pie Chart)

● Pett  
○ Putt

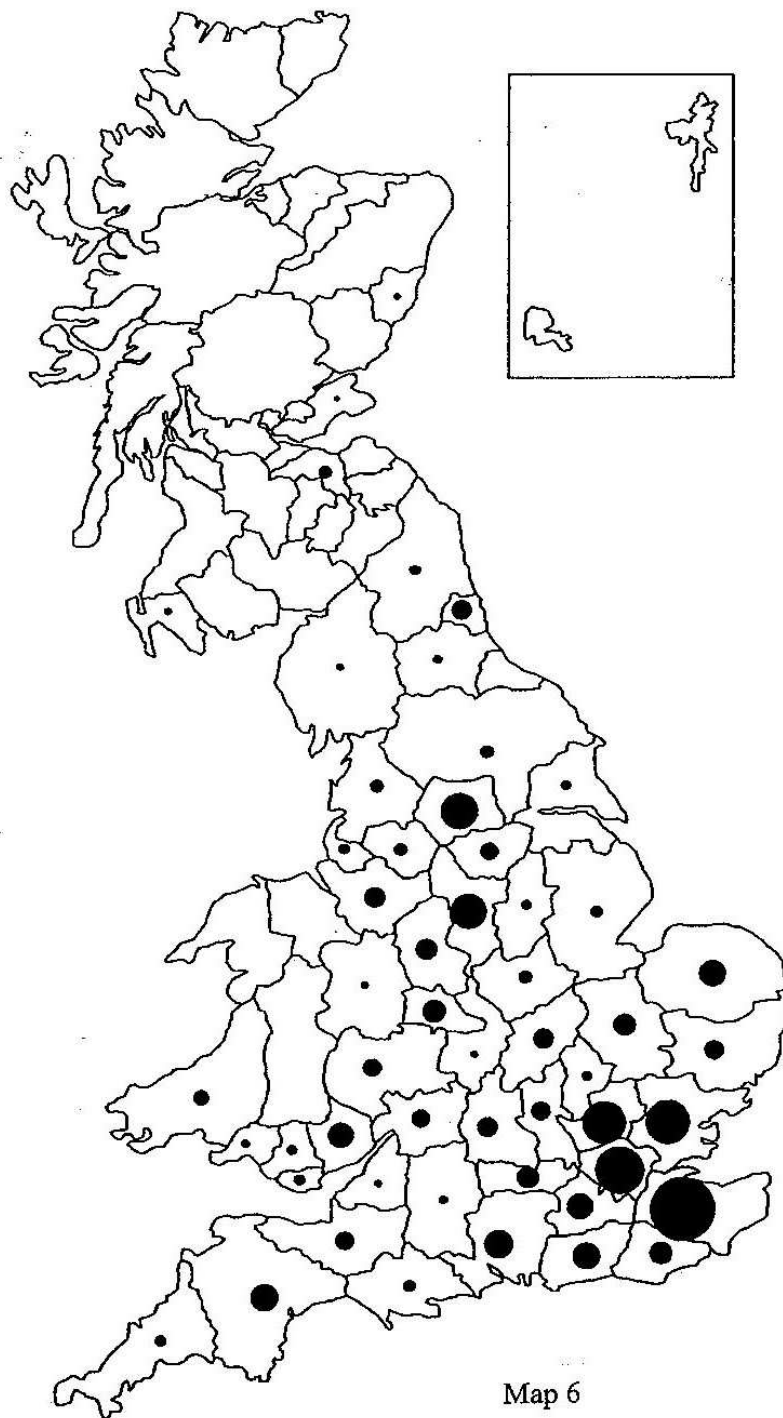


County	Pett	Putt
ABD	0	0
ANS	0	0
ARL	0	0
AVN	0	1
AYR	0	1
BAN	0	0
BDF	3	13
BRK	11	21
BEW	0	2
BKM	0	23
CAI	0	2
CAM	12	3
CHS	6	0
CLK	0	0
CLE	4	0
CLW	1	2
CON	16	74
CUM	5	7
DBY	16	0
DEV	80	216
DOR	13	19
DFS	0	1
DNB	0	1
DUR	0	0
DFD	10	0
ELN	0	0
SXE	54	9
ESS	18	63
FIF	0	0
FIF	0	8
GLS	26	83
LND	87	83
GTM	3	2
GNT	3	1
GWY	1	4
HAM	74	53
HWR	11	5
HRT	45	27
HUM	16	3
INV	0	0
KEN	100	46
KCD	0	0
KRS	0	0
KKD	0	0
LKS	0	0
LAN	8	16
LEI	33	19
LIN	11	11
MSY	0	18
MGM	5	2
MLN	1	1
MOR	0	0
NAI	0	0
NFK	18	14
NYK	7	7
NTH	2	10
NBL	4	0
NTT	10	29
OKI	0	0
OXF	17	71
PEE	0	0
PER	0	2
POW	0	4
RFW	0	0
ROC	6	0
ROX	0	0
SAL	3	0
SEL	0	0
SHI	0	0
SOM	10	28
SGM	16	2
SYK	12	13
STS	1	2
STI	0	0
SFK	20	6
SRY	47	74
SUT	0	0
TWR	2	1
WAR	5	22
WGM	0	0
WMD	13	13
SKW	41	10
WYK	5	2
WLN	0	0
WGS	0	0
WIL	15	18



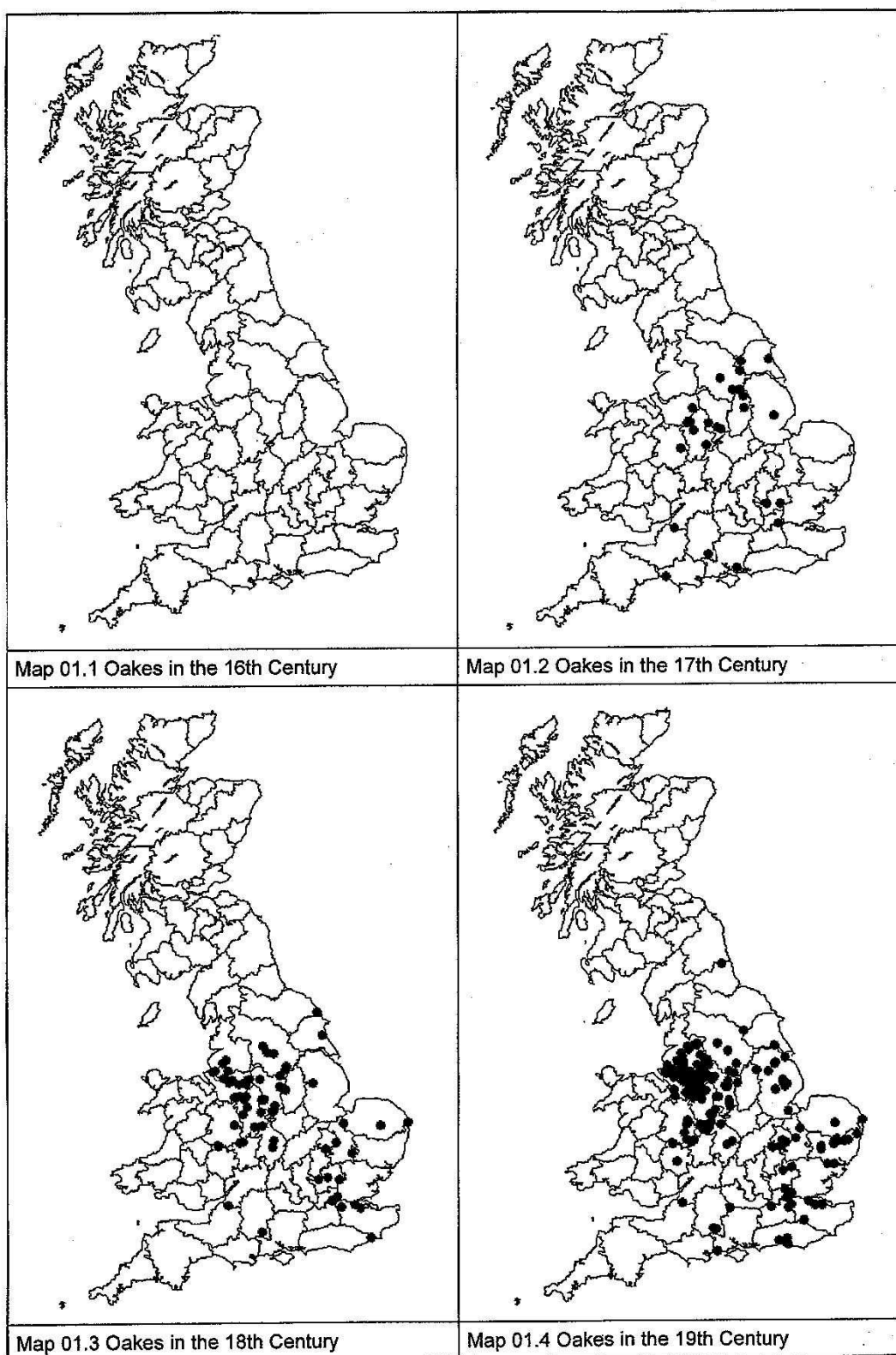
# Petts

UK-Info 2004: Absolute Distribution (Point Map)

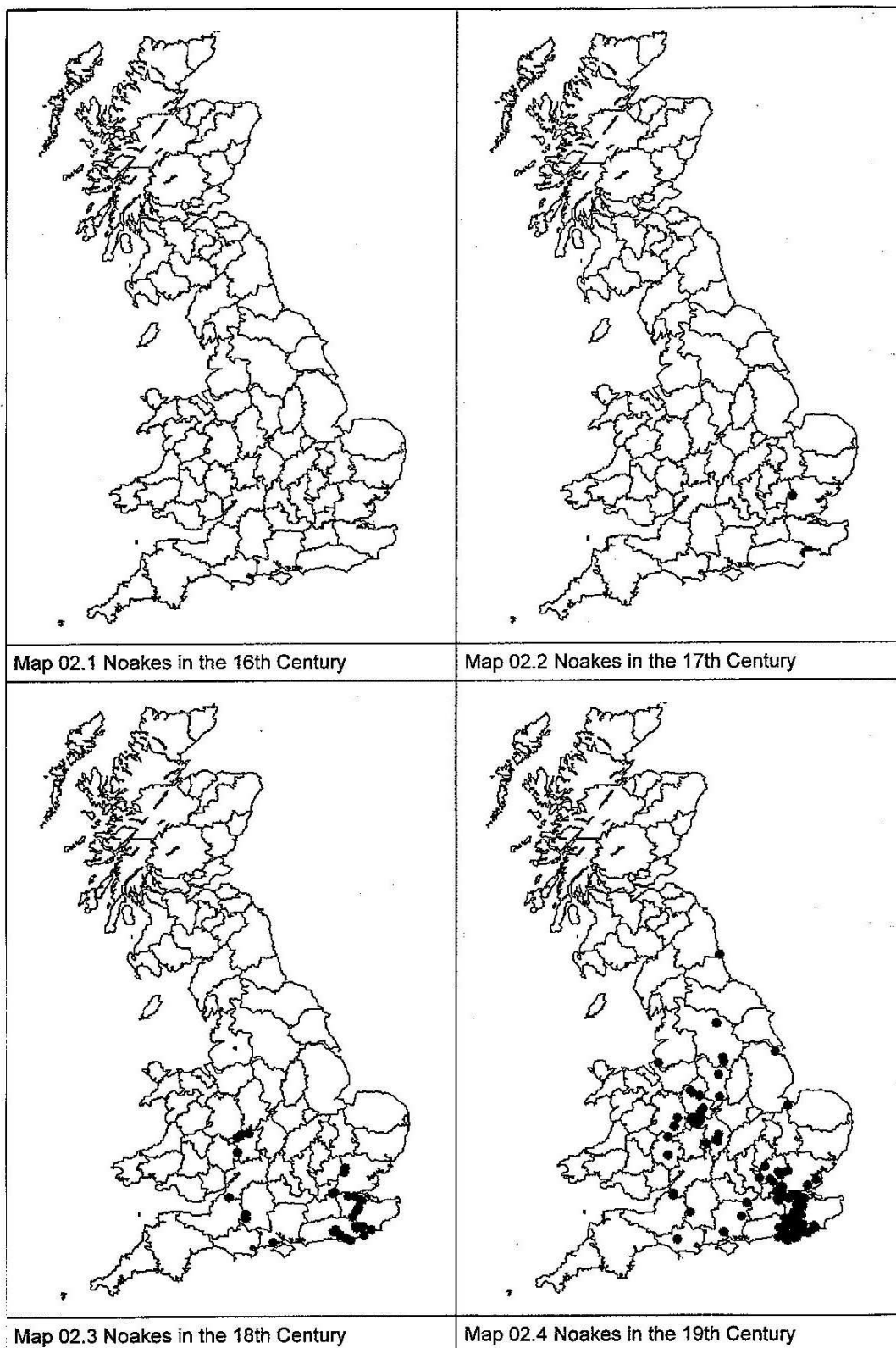


County	Names
KEN	187
LND	104
ESS	87
HRT	82
WYK	59
DBY	56
HAM	36
DEV	33
SKW	32
NFK	31
SRV	30
GNT	28
WMO	23
SXE	22
BRK	21
CAM	21
STS	20
CHS	19
NTH	18
OXF	17
TWR	17
SFK	16
BKM	15
SOM	15
GLS	14
HWR	14
SYK	13
DFD	10
GTM	7
LAN	7
LEI	7
MLN	7
NYK	7
DOR	6
LIN	6
CON	5
MSY	5
NBL	5
SGM	5
BDF	4
HUM	4
MGM	4
NTT	4
DUR	3
WGM	3
WIL	3
AVN	2
CUM	2
KCD	2
SAL	2
WAR	2
WIG	2
FIF	1
ABD	0
ANS	0
ARL	0
AYR	0
BAN	0
BEW	0
CAI	0
CLK	0
CLE	0
CLW	0
DFS	0
DNB	0
ELN	0
GWY	0
INV	0
KRS	0
KKD	0
LKS	0
MOR	0
NAI	0
OKI	0
PEE	0
PER	0
POW	0
RFW	0
ROC	0
ROX	0
SEL	0
SHI	0
STI	0
SUT	0
WLN	0

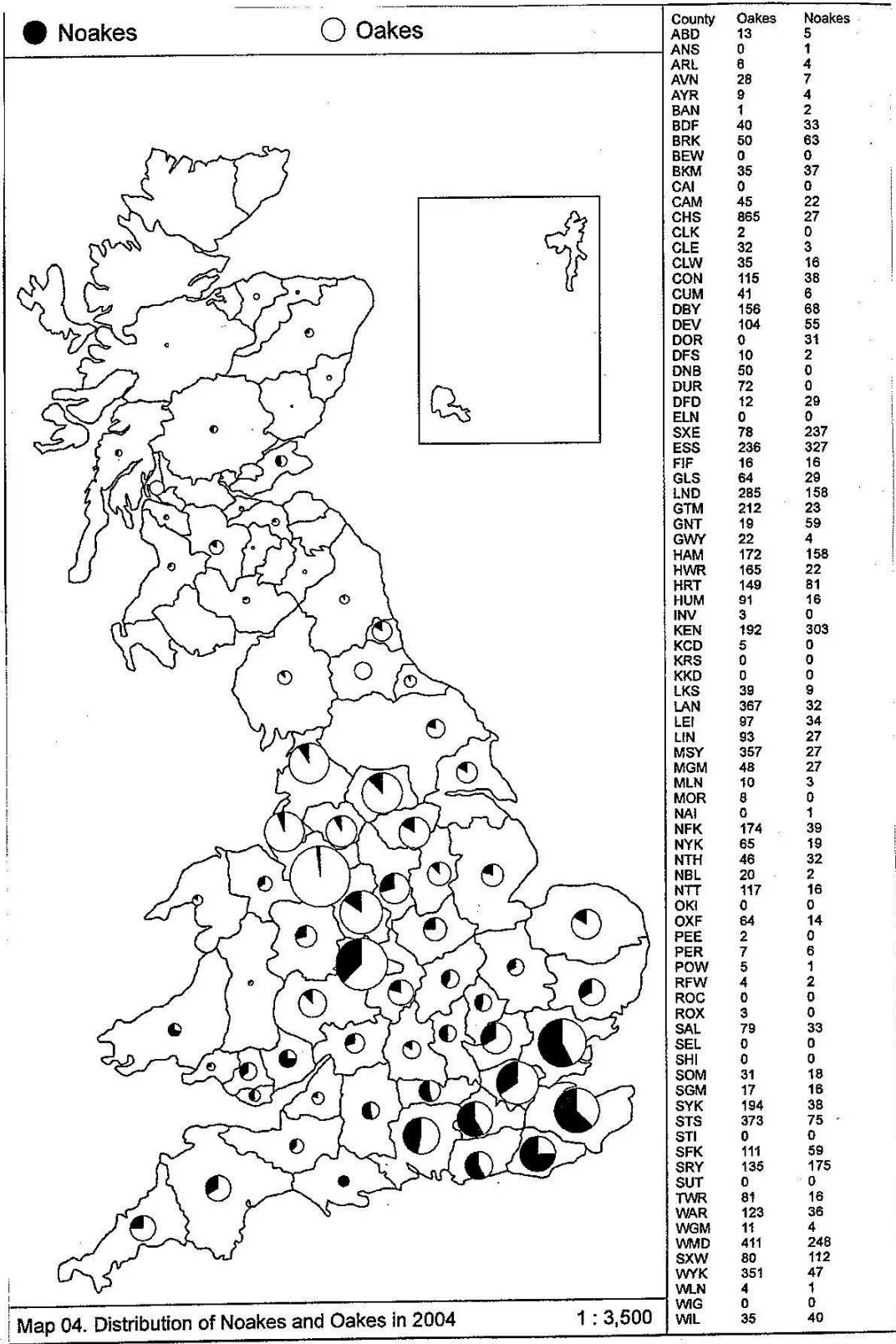
Map 6



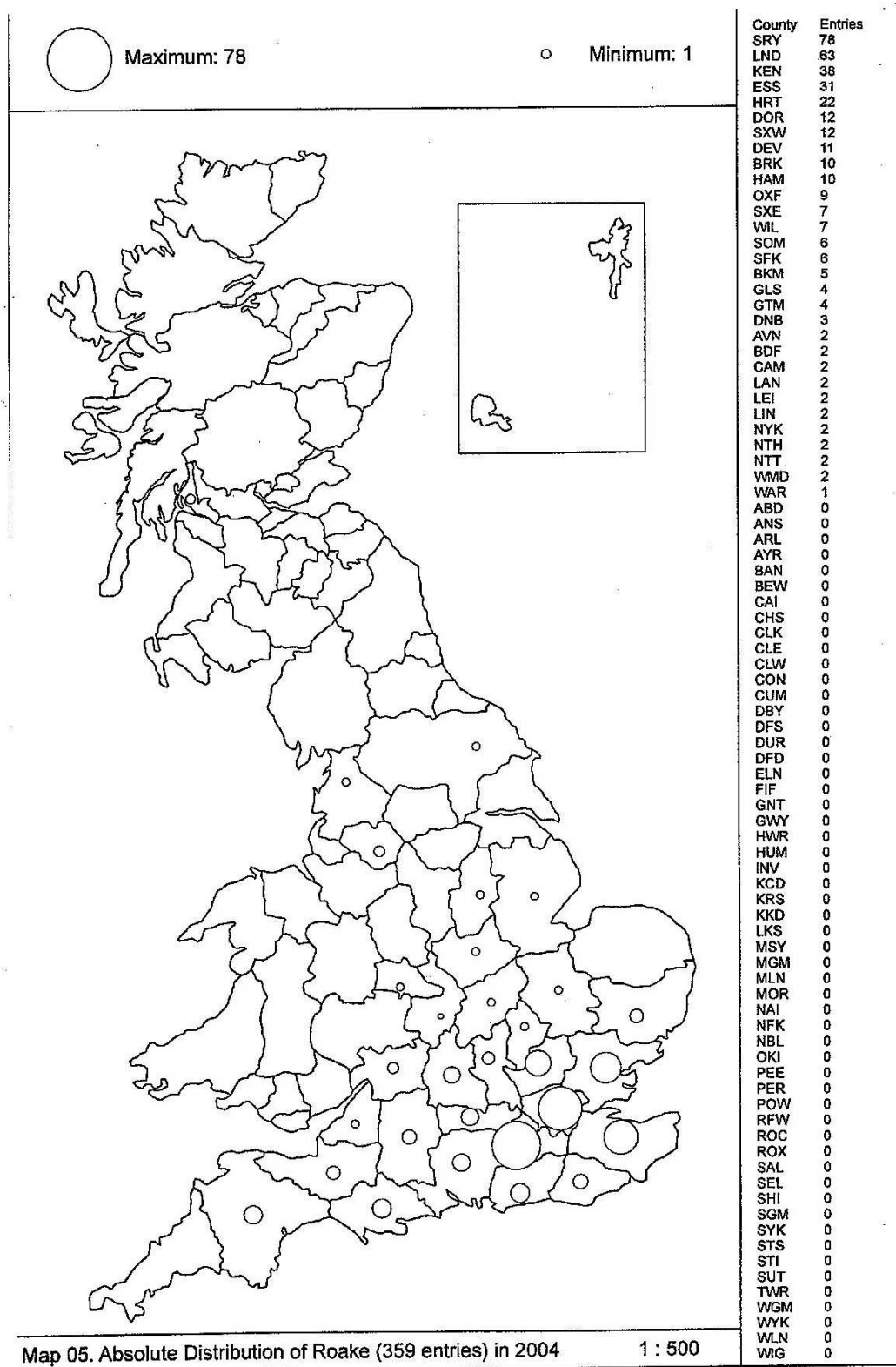
Map 7



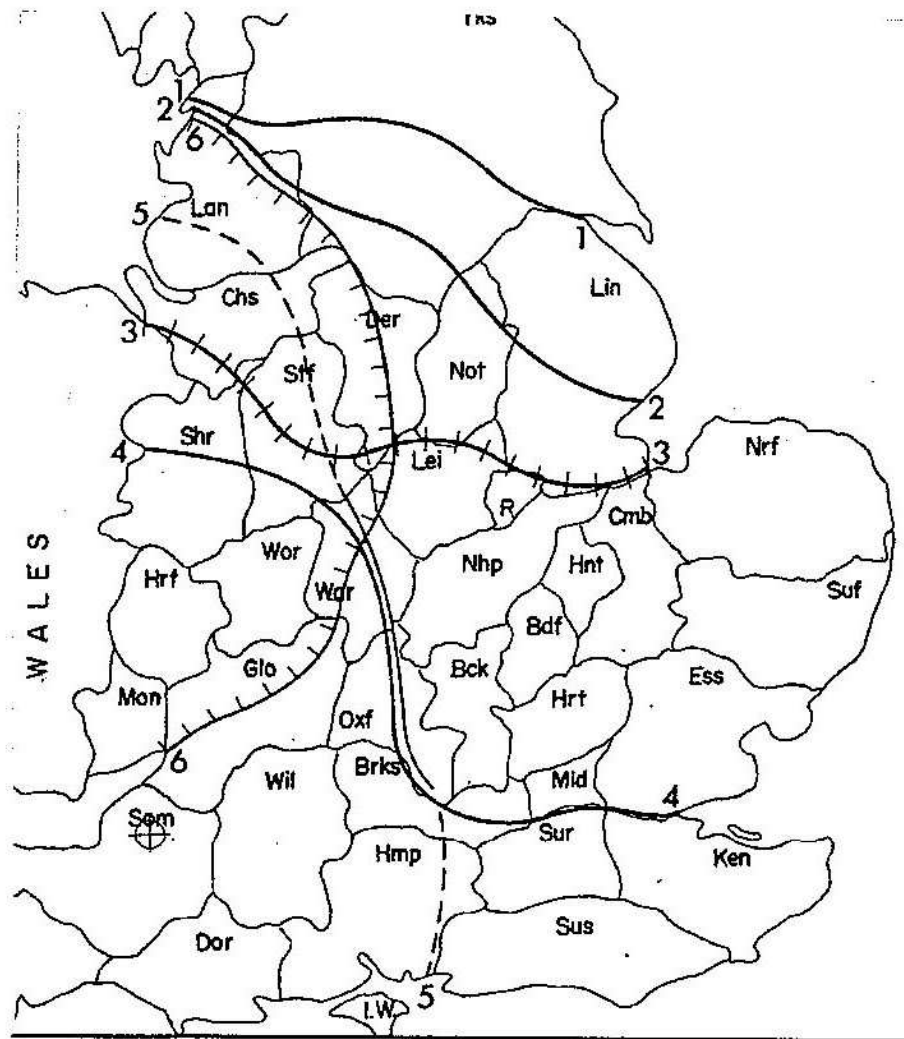
Map 8



Map 9



Map 10

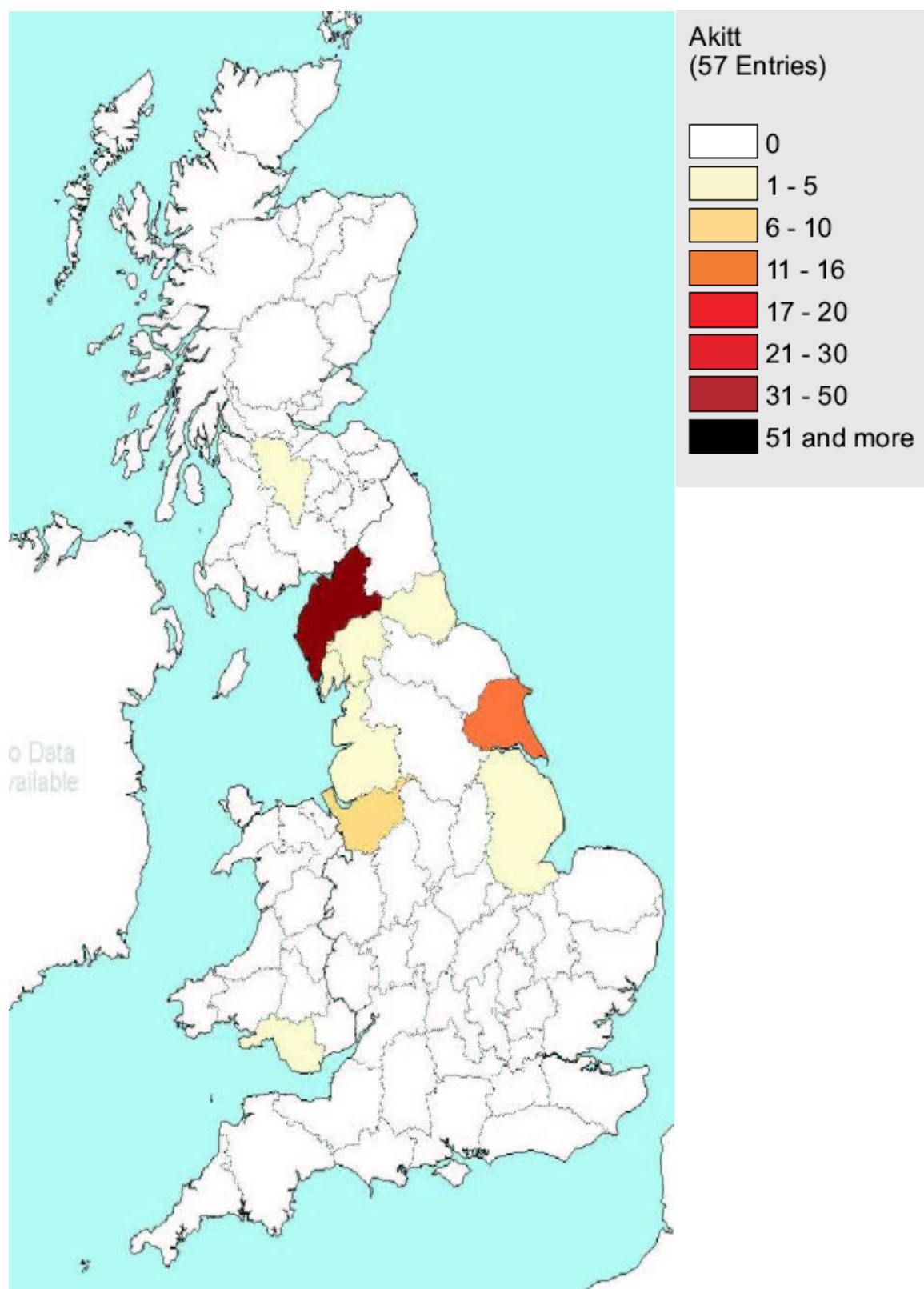


Middle English Heteroglosses.

1. The vowel in "stone": N /  $\bar{a}$  /  $\neq$  S /  $\bar{o}_2$  / (OE  $\bar{a}$ )

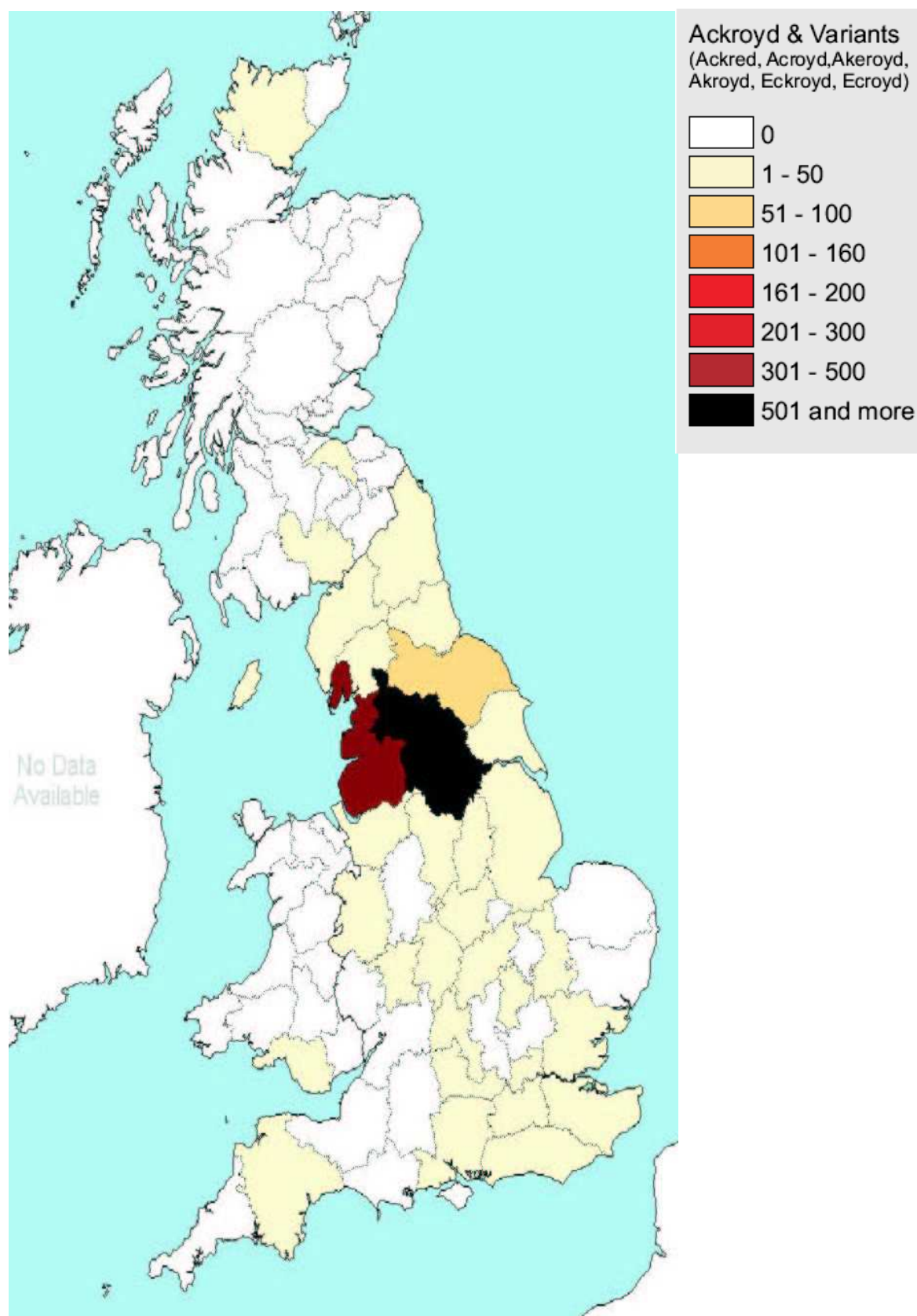
(Kurath 1972: 81)

**Map 11**



Map 12. British Census 1881: Actual Distribution of Akitt (County Level).

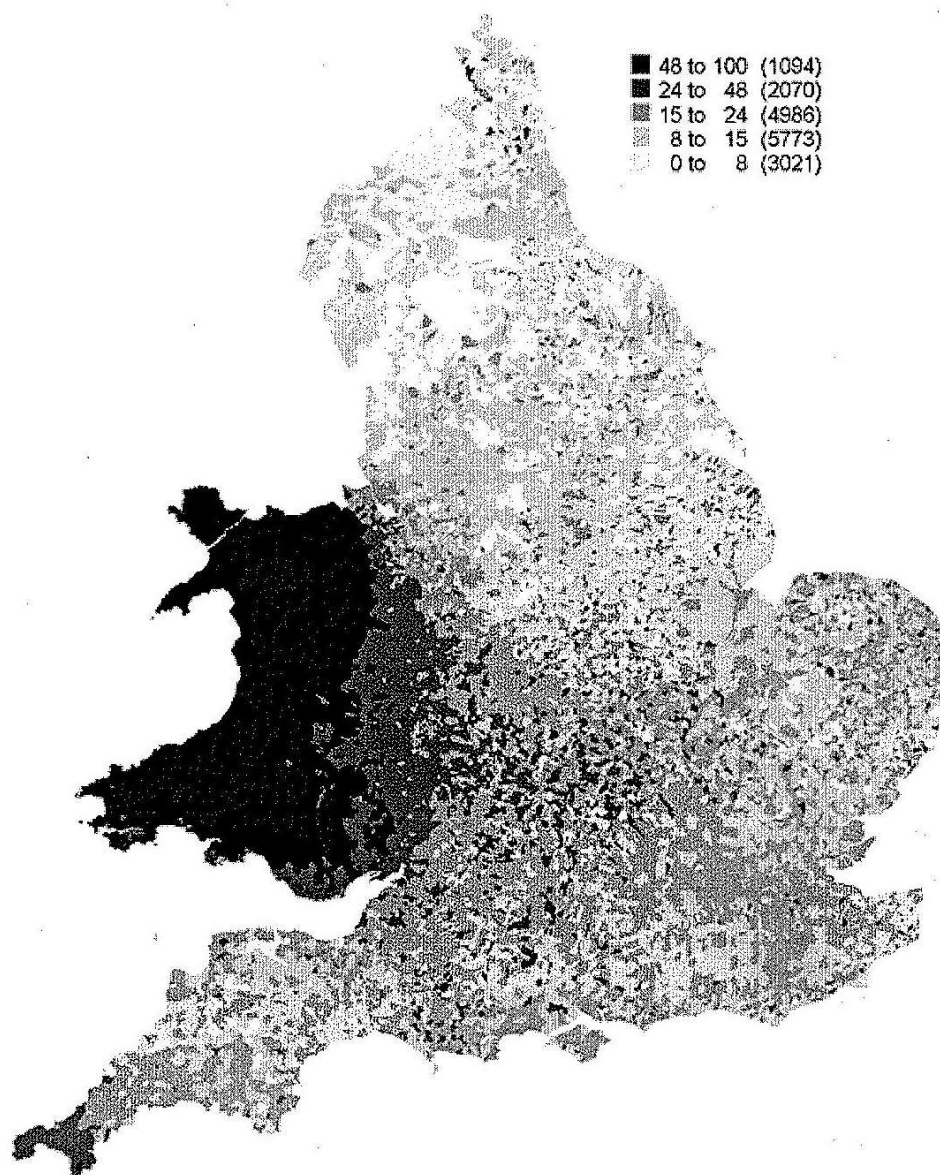




Map 13. British Census 1881: Actual Distribution of Ackroyd & Variants (County Level).



**Figure 3** Distribution of patronymic and metronymic surnames ending with a genitival -s, by parish, 1881.

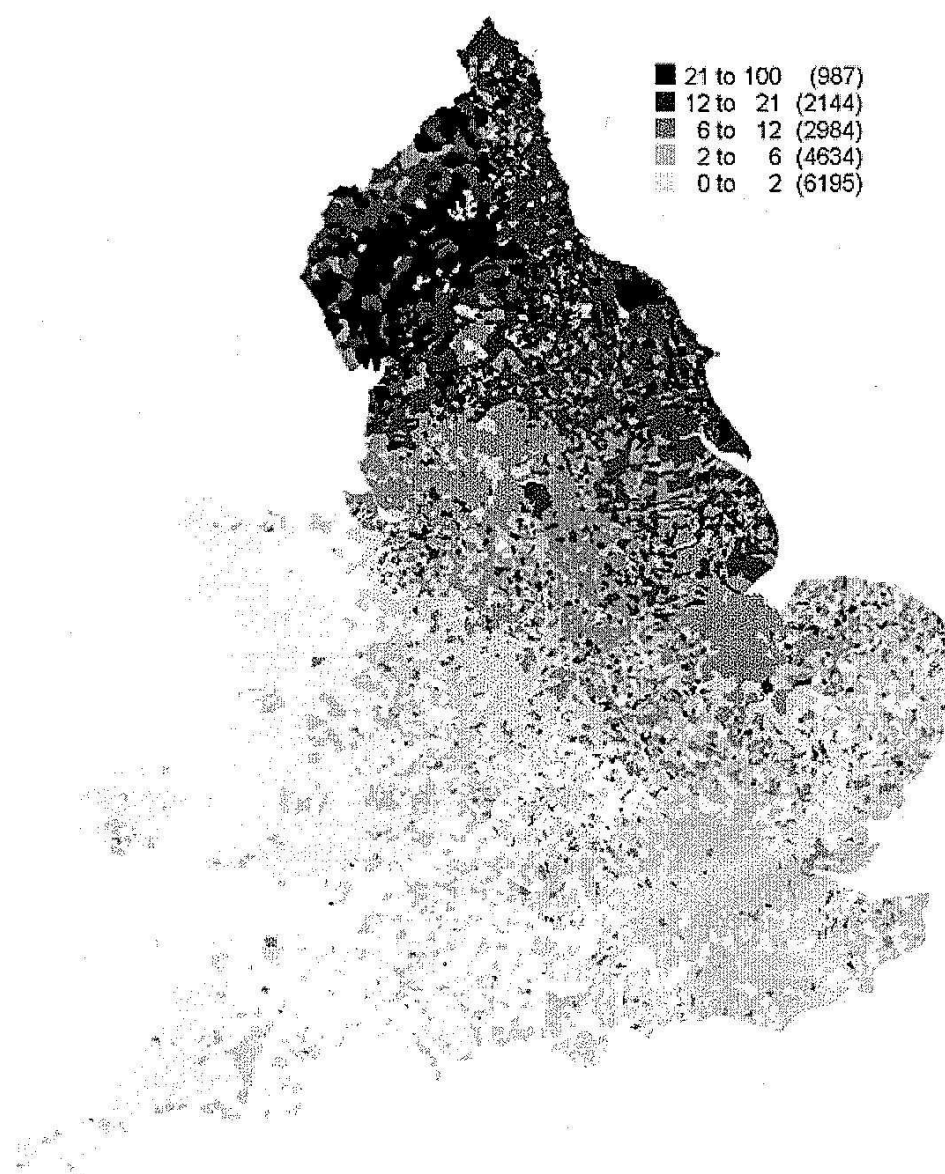


**Notes:** The key denotes the percentage of the population in each parish with patronymic and metronymic surnames ending with a genitival -s. The number in brackets indicates the number of parishes within the given category.

**Source:** 1881 CEBs (Schürer 2004)

Map 14

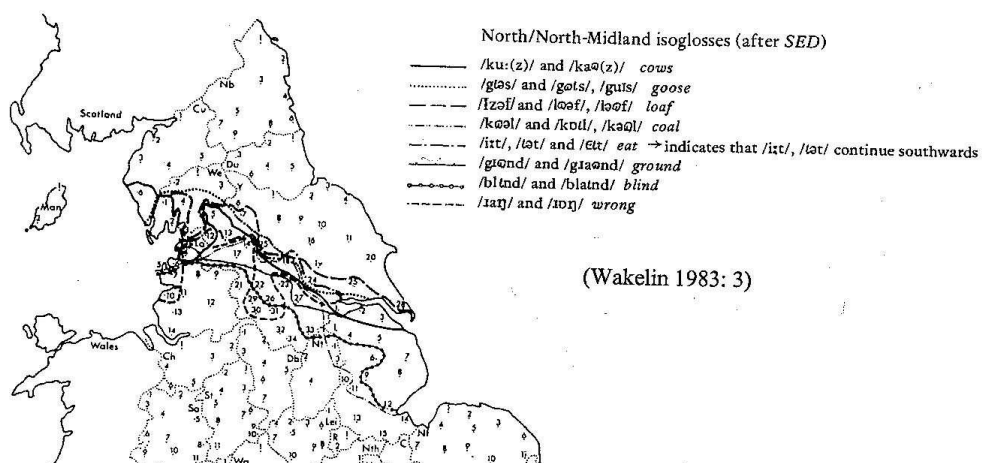
**Figure 2** Distribution of patronymic and metronymic surnames by parish, 1881.



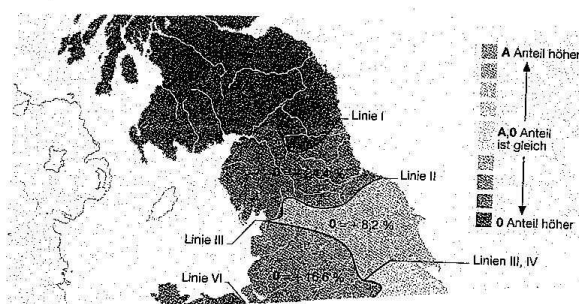
**Notes:** The key denotes the percentage of the population in each parish with patronymic and metronymic surnames ending in -son. The number in brackets indicates the number of parishes within the given category.

**Source:** 1881 CEBs (Schürer 2004)

Map 15

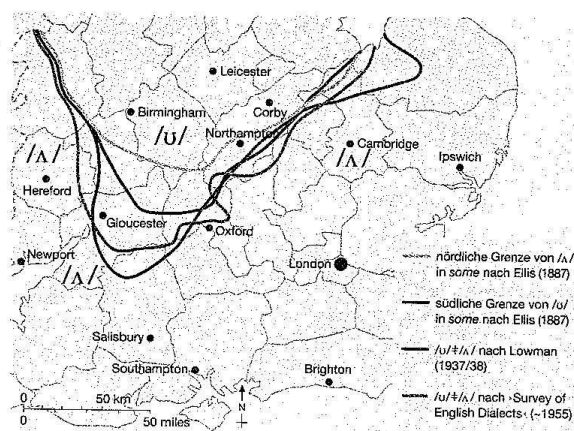


(Wakelin 1983: 3)

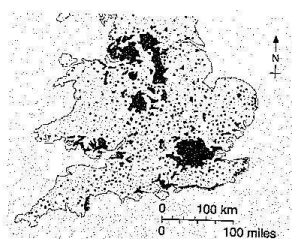


Relative frequency of blood groups A and O

(Viereck, Viereck, Ramisch 2002: 92)

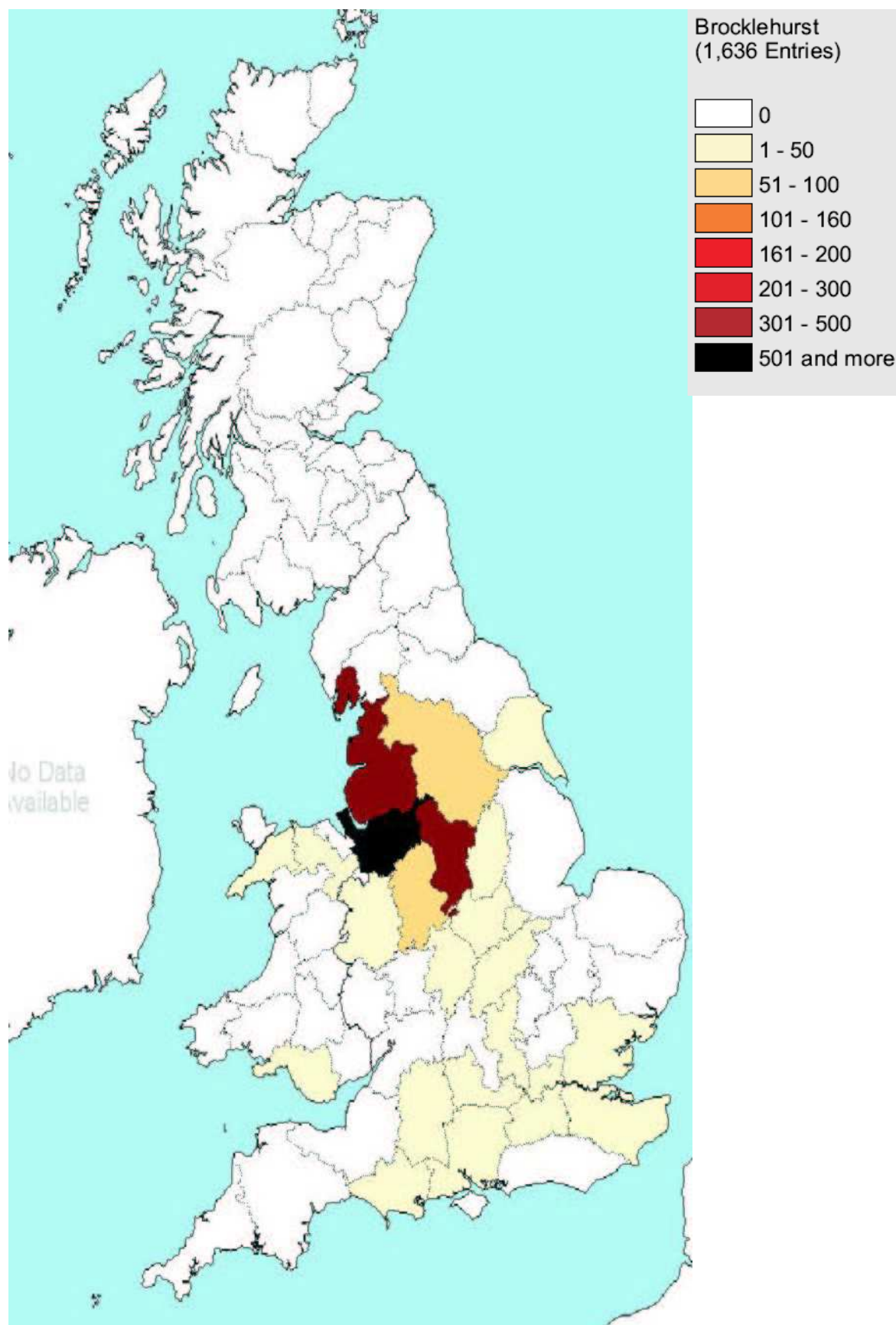


(Viereck, Viereck, Ramisch 2002: 78)



Urbanised areas 1951 (over 400 pers./mile²)

Map 16



Map 17. British Census 1881: Actual Distribution of Brocklehurst (County Level).