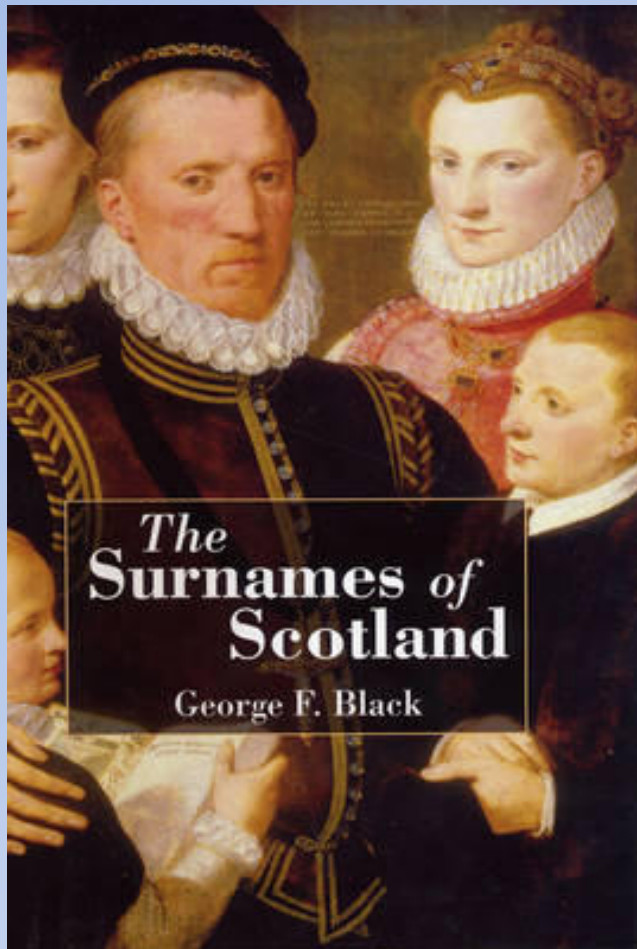


# Black's *Surnames of Scotland* and the FaNUK database



Patrick Hanks and Matthew  
Hammond

SNaSBI conference  
Glasgow 2013

# Family Names of the United Kingdom:

## Bristol Centre for Linguistics, UWE

- Richard Coates, principal investigator
- Patrick Hanks, lead researcher
- Paul Cullen, Simon Draper, Duncan Probert, research associates
- Kate Hardcastle, Deborah Cole
- Consultants include:
  - Peter McClure (chief etymologist, English names)
  - Kay Muhr, Liam Ó hAisibéil (Irish names)
  - Matthew Hammond (Scottish names)
  - Prys Morgan (Welsh names)
  - Horace Chen (Chinese names)
  - James Hodsdon (Arabic and Muslim names)
- *Technical support:* Adam Rambousek, NLP, Masaryk University, Brno

# Project goals

- To explain the linguistic origins, history, and geographical distribution of 45,000 surnames in the UK
  - All names with more 100 bearers in the UK in 1997
  - Many rarer names of historical or linguistic interest
- Publication plans: online database (OUP 2015), with a multi-volume print edition

# Scottish surnames in FaNUK

- Currently 45,000+ surnames in FaNUK
  - 4087 described as 'Scottish' (9% of UK surnames)
- George F. Black, *The Surnames of Scotland: Their Origin, Meaning, and History* (New York, 1946)
  - About 6780-7000 headforms in Black

# Who was George Fraser Black?

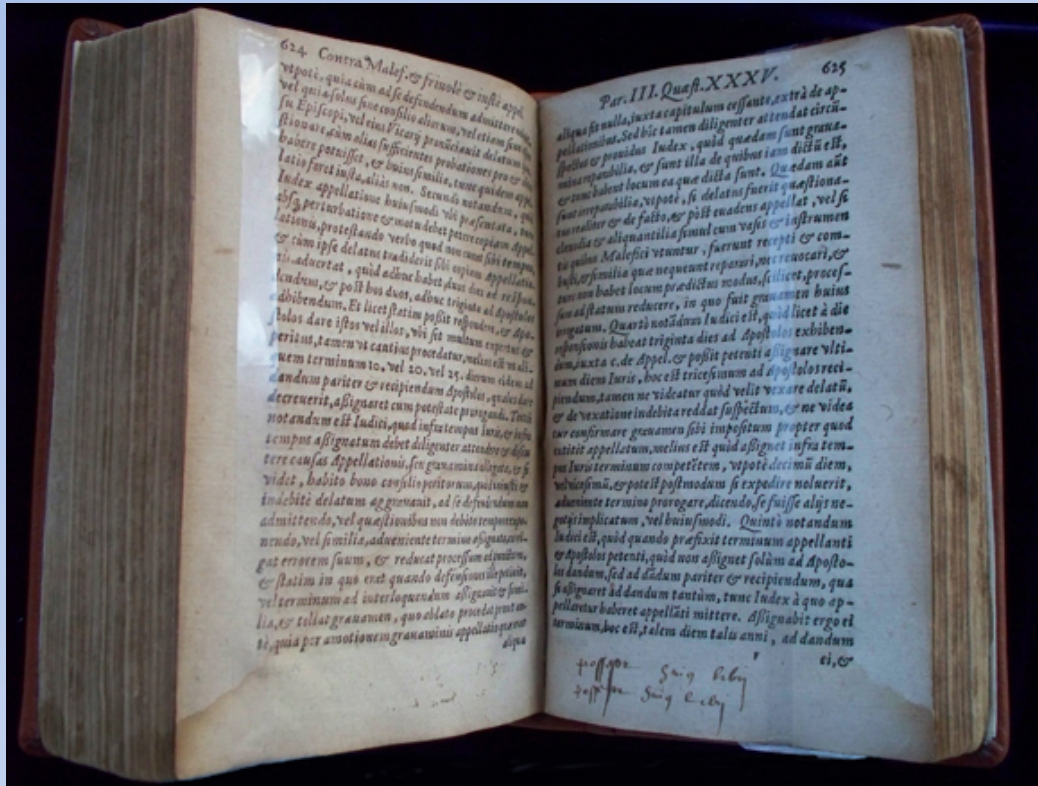
- born Stirling, 1865
- Attended University of Edinburgh
- 'Assistant in the Museum', Scottish National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh
- Worked at New York Public Library, 1896-1931
- Died 1948





# George Fraser Black Collection on Witchcraft

- Drew University, Madison New Jersey



# DR. GEORGE BLACK, HISTORIAN, IS DEAD

Member of New York Library  
Staff From 1896 to 1931 Was  
Expert on Scot Lineage

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LYNDHURST, N. J., Sept. 7—Dr. George Fraser Black, historian, librarian and linguist, who was on the staff of the New York Public Library from 1896 to 1931, died here today in his home at 325 Watson Avenue after a long illness. His age was 83.

Dr. Black's monumental work, "Surnames of Scotland," an 838-page, four-and-one-half-pound volume, compiling nearly 7,000 names and giving data about them, was published by the library in 1946, after it had appeared serially in the library's bulletin. The work has sold for \$10 a volume in many



DR. GEORGE FRASER BLACK

# ‘Hugh de Brothirstane’?

Carta Daudid Olyfard de traua bladi de omnibus carucis fuis.

2. **D**audid Olifard omnibus amicis fuis clericis et laicis presentibus et futuris salutem · Sciatis me dedisse concessisse et hac presenti carta mea confirmasse pro me et heredibus meis Deo et domui Sancte Trinitatis de Soltre et fratribus ibidem Deo feruientibus de vnaquaque caruca in dominiis meis vnam thravam de blado in autumpno annuatim percipiendam · Quare volo quod homines mei de me tenentes de fingulis carucis fuis vnam thravam de blado donent predictis fratribus de Soltre in autumpno · Et vt hec donacio mea rata fit et inconcussa in posterum huic carte mee figillum meum appofui · hiis testibus Patricio de Maleris magistro Hugone de Brothirstane Wilhelmo de Smalham Henrico clerico Henrico de Befyngham Wilhelmo pictore Wilhelmo de Bennothine Alano filio Walteri et multis aliis · [*Testibus in altera copia eiusdem carte* Patricio de Mailvile magistro Hugone de Brechyne Johanne de Smalham fratre Wilhelmo de Smalham Henrico clerico Henrico de Befyngham Wilhelmo pictore Wilhelmo de Benathyne Alano filio Walteri et multis aliis.]



# Campbell?

- from Gaelic *caimbeul* ‘wry or crooked mouth’
- According to S. Boardman, first appearance of anglicised spelling ‘Campbell’ dates to 1450s
- Black includes the following:
  - *Nigellus filius Colini Campbell (Cambus.,70)*
  - *Duncan Campbell dominus de Gaunan (Levenax, p. 77)*
- Lennox earldom cartulary (15<sup>th</sup> century)
- Cambuskenneth abbey cartulary (1535)

# ‘Baileyhef’?

- Black has this as a headname form
- Accepts Joseph Bain’s interpretation
- *Henricus de Baileyhef*, chamberlain of Scotland, c.1233-1245
- Just a few pages away, under BALIOL:
  - *Henry de Baylloyl, camerarius domini regis ...*  
appeared in 1225
- Of course, this person is Henry de Balliol and there is no such name as Baileyhef.

# Gilbert *de Lakenheued*, 1296

- AIKENHEAD: ‘from the old barony of Aikenhead in Lanarkshire’
- LOCHHEAD: ‘common in the shires of Lanark, Renfrew, and Dumfries’
- Same person from 1296 Ragman Roll, Gilbert *de Lakenheued*, used as evidence for both names without acknowledgement

# Is Black dated?

- What has happened since 1948?
  - A great deal of research in anthroponymy
  - new editions of primary sources, esp. royal charters.
  - new practices within the field of Scottish Studies, esp. common set of abbreviations.
  - new research, esp. on place-names.
  - new research tools, esp. digital

# *SHR* abbreviations list 1963

- CAB
- LAC
- RD
- RMP
- RPSA
- *Aberdeen-Banff Coll. (A.B. Coll.)*
- *Lindores Chartulary (Lind. Cart.)*
- *Dunfermline Registrum (Dunf. Reg.)*
- *Paisley Registrum (Pais. Reg.)*
- *St Andrews Liber (St A. Lib.)*

# Place-Names

- Nicolaisen, *Scottish Place-Names* (1976)
- Scottish Place-Name Society (1996-)
- Taylor (ed.), *The Uses of Place-Names* (1997)
- *Journal of Scottish Name Studies* (2007-)
- *The Place-Names of Fife*, ed. S. Taylor with G. Márkus, 5 vols (2006-13)
- *The Place-Names of Bute*, ed. G. Márkus



# Cram & Crambie

- Cram, Cramb
  - Black: ‘shortened forms of Crambie’
- Crambie, Crammy
  - Black: ‘From Crambeth the old spelling of Crombie, a village ... in Fife’
- Error in place identification:
  - Crambeth now Dowhill, Cleish ph. KNR, nothing to do with Crombie FIF (result of new research *PNF*)
- Error in earliest bearer:
  - William *de Cram*’, a. 1198 actually William of Ramsey (Ramsay)
  - Result of newer editions of problematic primary sources

# New online research tools

- Records of the Parliaments of Scotland to 1707 (supersedes APS)
  - <http://www.rps.ac.uk/>
- National Archives of Scotland, National Archives (Kew) online search
- The People of Medieval Scotland 1093-1314
  - [www.poms.ac.uk](http://www.poms.ac.uk)
  - Prosopographical database
  - Over 8000 documents

# Errors in early bearers: wrong date

- FORRESTER
  - Black: 'Archebaldus Forestar', a. 1144
  - PoMS: *Kelso Liber*, no. 187/ early 13<sup>th</sup> century
- FORTUNE
  - Black: 'John de Fortun ... c. 1200'
  - PoMS: *Kelso Liber*, no. 148/ 1247x51
- FOULIS
  - Black: 'Thor de Foulis ... a. 1260'
  - PoMS: *St A. Lib.*, 264-5/ 1165x70



# PEOPLE OF MEDIEVAL SCOTLAND

## 1093-1314

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CITATION

HISTORY



John of Fortune, serviens of the abbot of Kelso

FLORUITS

1247 × 1251

Total number of associated factoids: 3

[Relationship factoids \(1\):](#) [Title factoids \(1\):](#) [Witnesses factoids \(1\):](#)

Listing items 1 to 1, page 1 of 1

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DATE

SHORT SUMMARY

SOURCE

14 Jan. 1247 X 21 Nov. 1251

Serviens (servant/sergeant) of Unknown, abbot of Kelso (Employment relationship)

3/421/13 (*Kel. Lib.*, no. 148)

# Superseded by Research: 'Anglo-Norman' families

- Lewis C. Loyd, *The Origins of Some Anglo-Norman Families* (1951)
- Geoffrey W.S. Barrow, 'Les familles normandes d'Ecosse' (1965); *The Anglo-Norman Era in Scottish History* (1980)
- New work being conducted by Prof Keith Stringer (Lancaster)
- Keats-Rohan, *Domesday Descendants*
- **Quincy** family from Cuinchy in Pas-de-Calais, not Quinçay, Maine.
- **Sinclair** family from Saint-Clair-sur-Elle (La Manche), not Saint-Clair-l'Evêque (Calvados).
- **Haig** family from La Hague, Cotentin, not OE *haga* (an enclosure)
- **Hay** family from La Haye-Bellefond, not La Haye-du-Puits

# Scotticizations of French surnames

- CARVEL

- Black: ‘from Carville in Normandy’
- Barrow: from La Carneille, *arr.* Argentan, *dép.* Orne

- GRANDTULLY

- Black: ‘perhaps from the lands of Grantully in the parish of Dull, Perthshire’
- Barrow: from Carantilly, *arr.* St Lô, *dép.* Manche



# Scottish names from English places

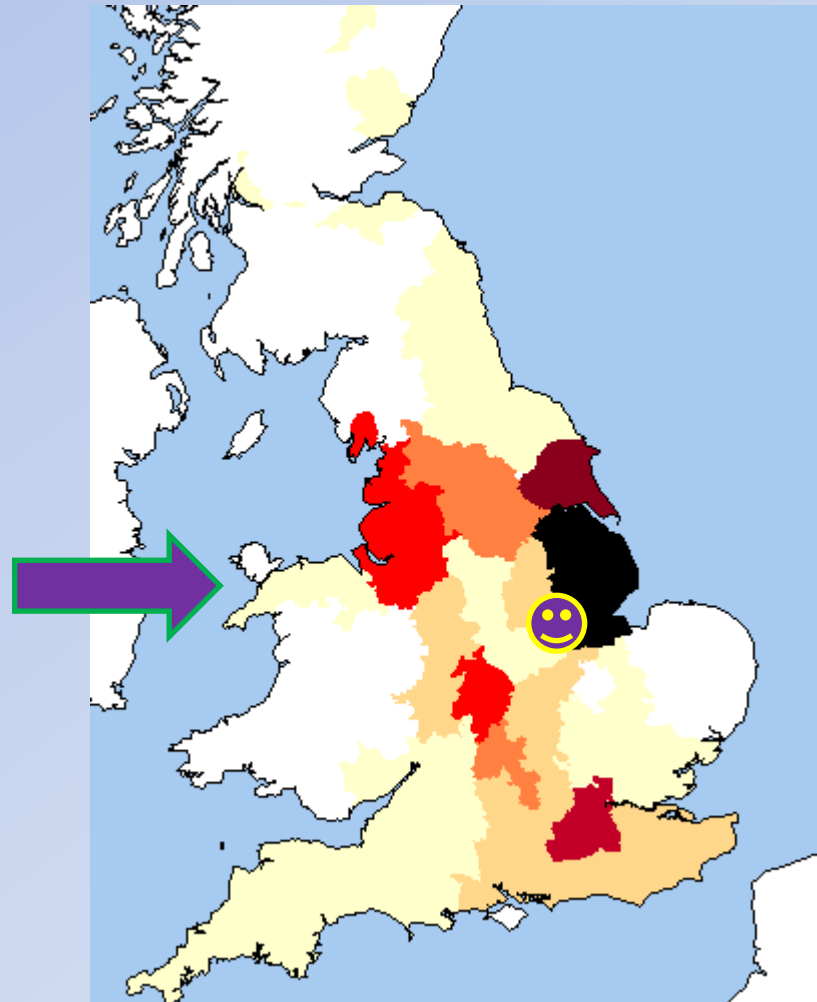
- Primarily due to 12<sup>th</sup>- & 13<sup>th</sup>-century immigration
- RAMSAY – Ramsey (Hunts)
- LINDSAY – Lindsey (Lincs)
- BARCLAY – Berkley (Somerset), not Berkeley Castle, Gloucs
- AINSLIE – Annesley (Notts)
- **But** LESLIE from Leslie (Aberdeens)

# Scottish locatives – Flemish immigrants

- Flemish immigrant families tended to take Scottish locatives because they were still using patronymics at the time of migration
  - Douglas, Innes, Leslie, Murray (Moray)
- Most 'European' families who already had locative surnames – whether continental or English places – kept them rather than adopting Scottish locatives

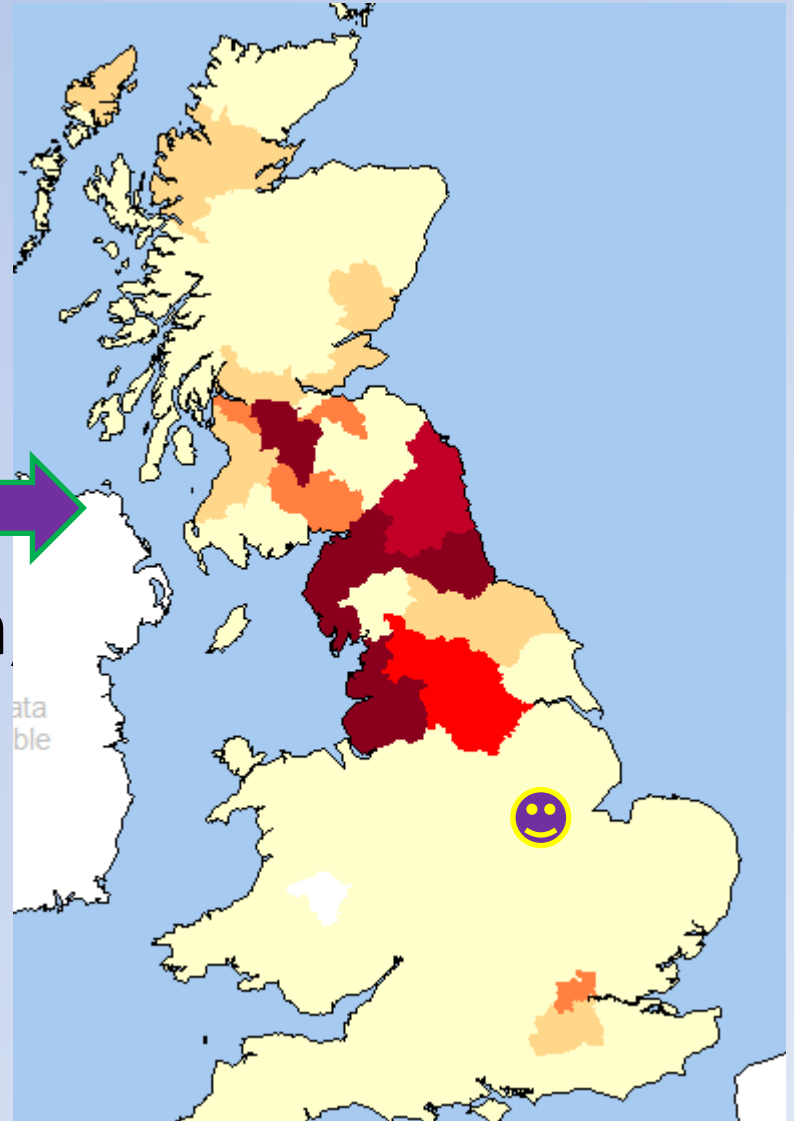
# Same place – different surnames

- Grantham (Lincs)
- Surname  
GRANTHAM:
- 2764 bearers (1997)
- 1835 bearers (1881)
- Lincs, ER Yorks



# Same place – different surnames

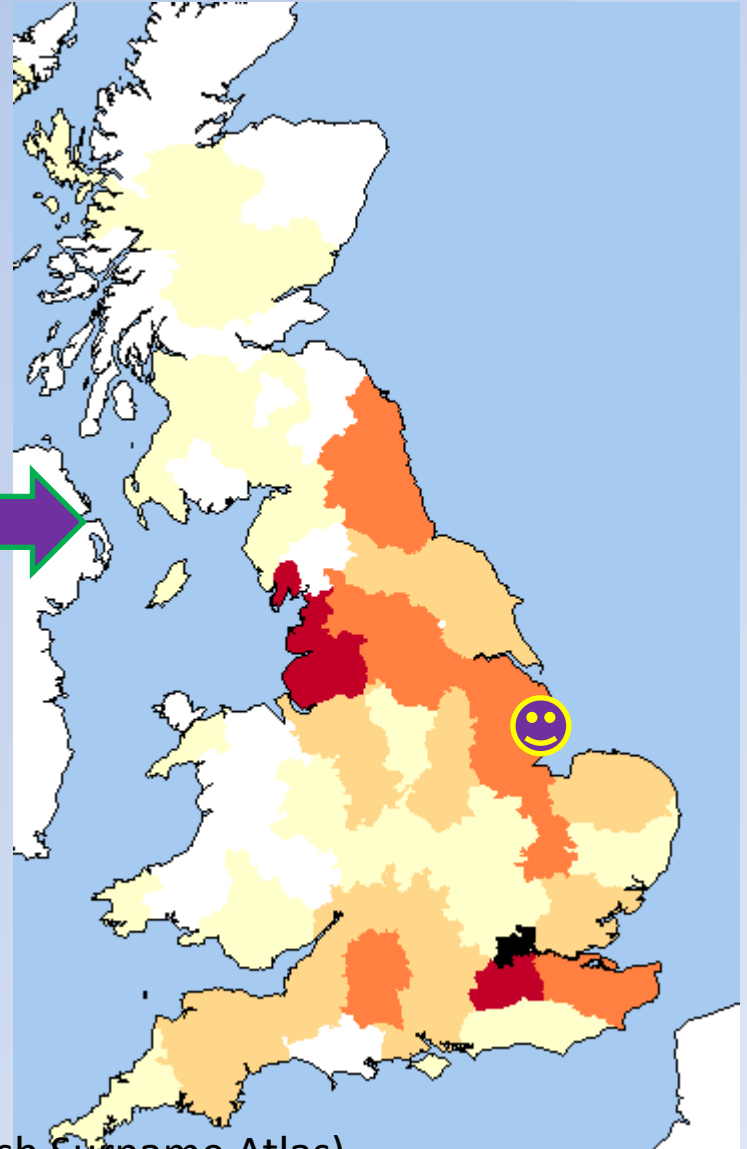
- Grantham (Lincs)
- Surname GRAHAM:
- 56469 bearers (1997)
- 34255 bearers (1881)
- Cumb, Lancs, Co. Durham and Northumb; Lanarks



1881 distributions (Steve Archer's British Surname Atlas)

# Same place – different spellings

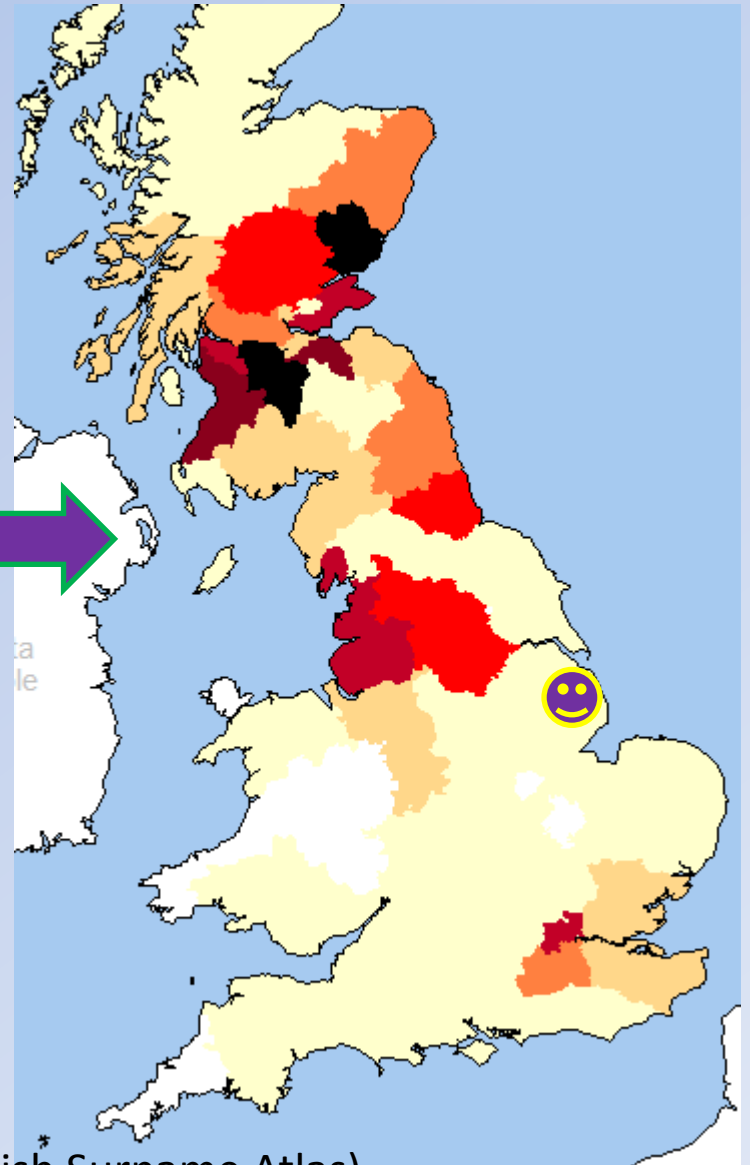
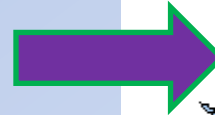
- Lindsey (Lincs)
- Surname LINDSEY
- 1868 bearers (1997)
- 1518 bearers (1881)
- widespread in England:  
esp. London; Lancs



1881 distributions (Steve Archer's British Surname Atlas)

# Same place – different spellings

- Lindsey (Lincs)
- Surname LINDSAY
- 14166 bearers (1997)
- 9621 bearers (1881)
- widespread in Scotland (esp. Lanarks, Ayr, Angus, and Fife) and N England

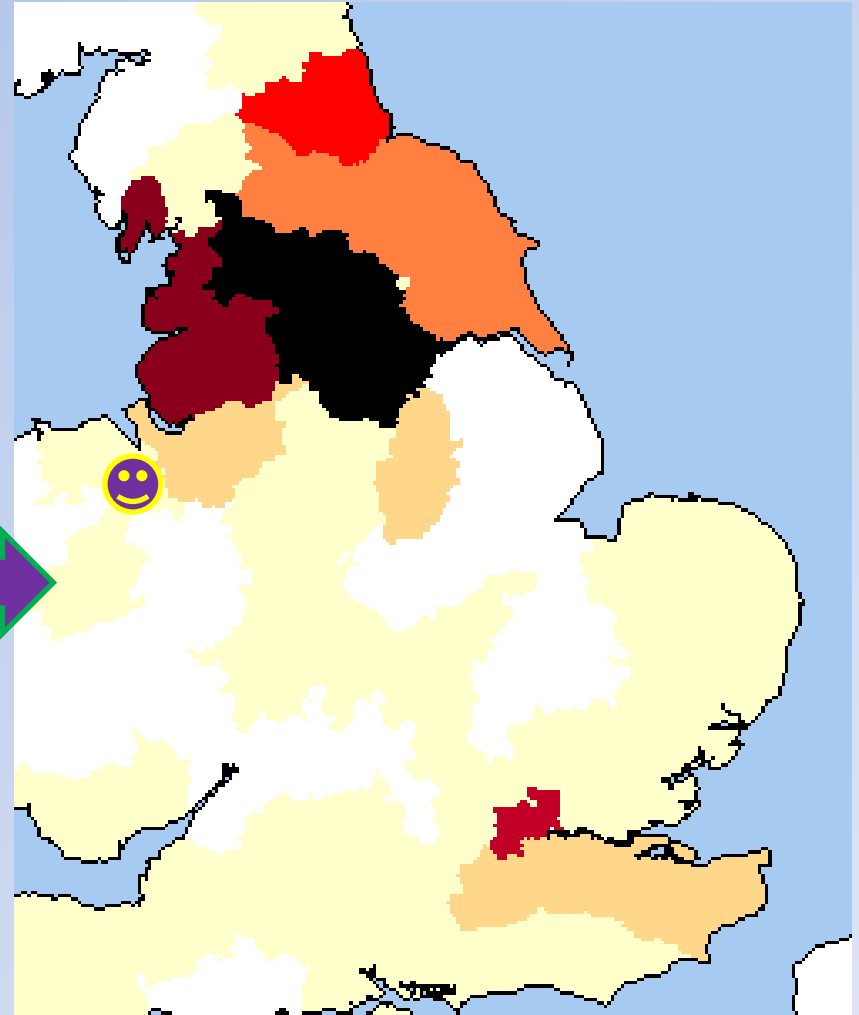


1881 distributions (Steve Archer's British Surname Atlas)



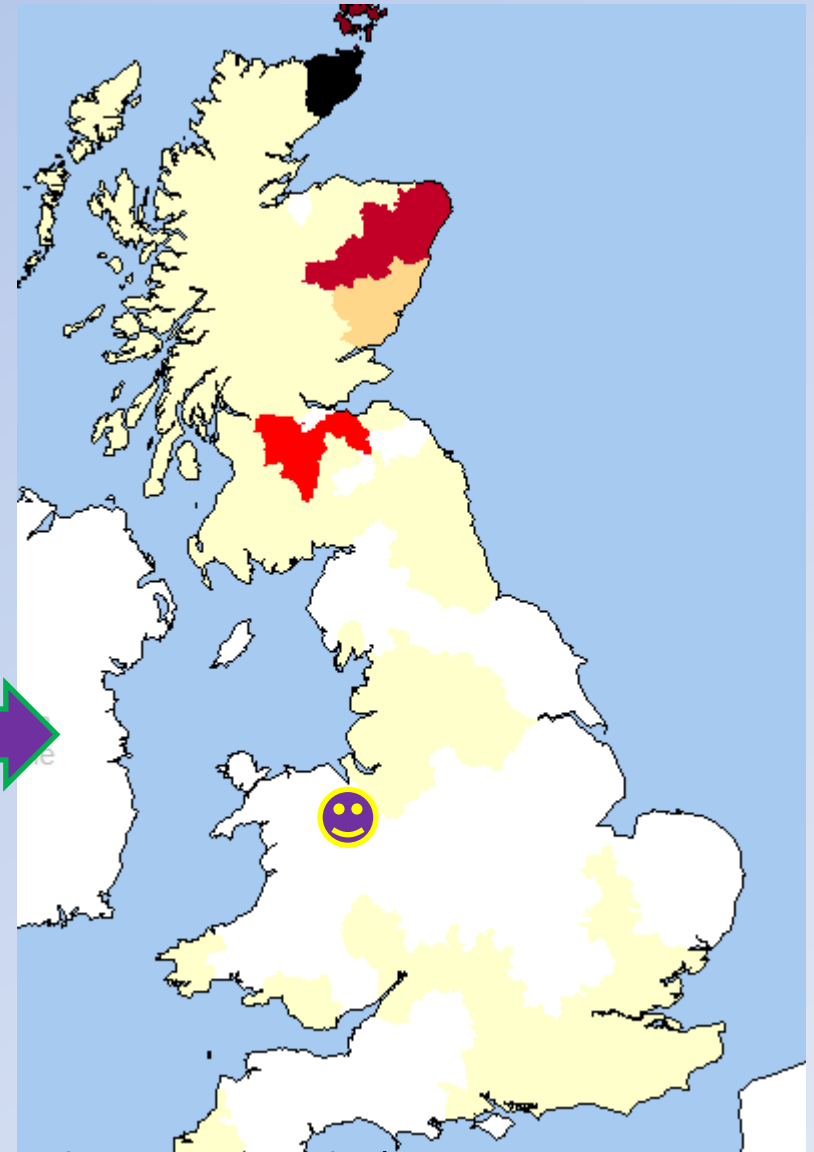
# Same place – different surnames

- Mold (Flints)
- From French *mont haut*, whence *de Muhaut*
- Surname MAUDE
- 1249 bearers (1997)
- 1131 bearers (1881)
- Yorks, Lancs
- Also sometimes a variant of Mould
- Mahood, Mawhood



# Same place – different surnames

- Mold (Flints)
- From French *mont haut*, whence *de Muhaut*
- Surname MOWAT
- 1739 bearers (1997)
- 2024 bearers (1881)
- Caithness and Orkney

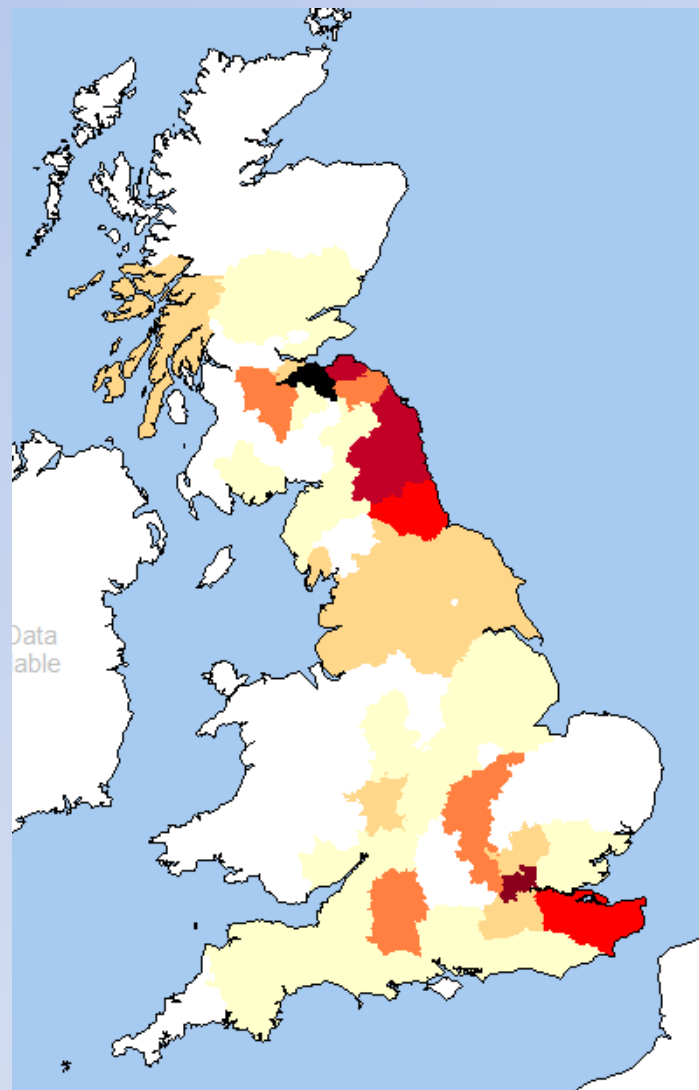
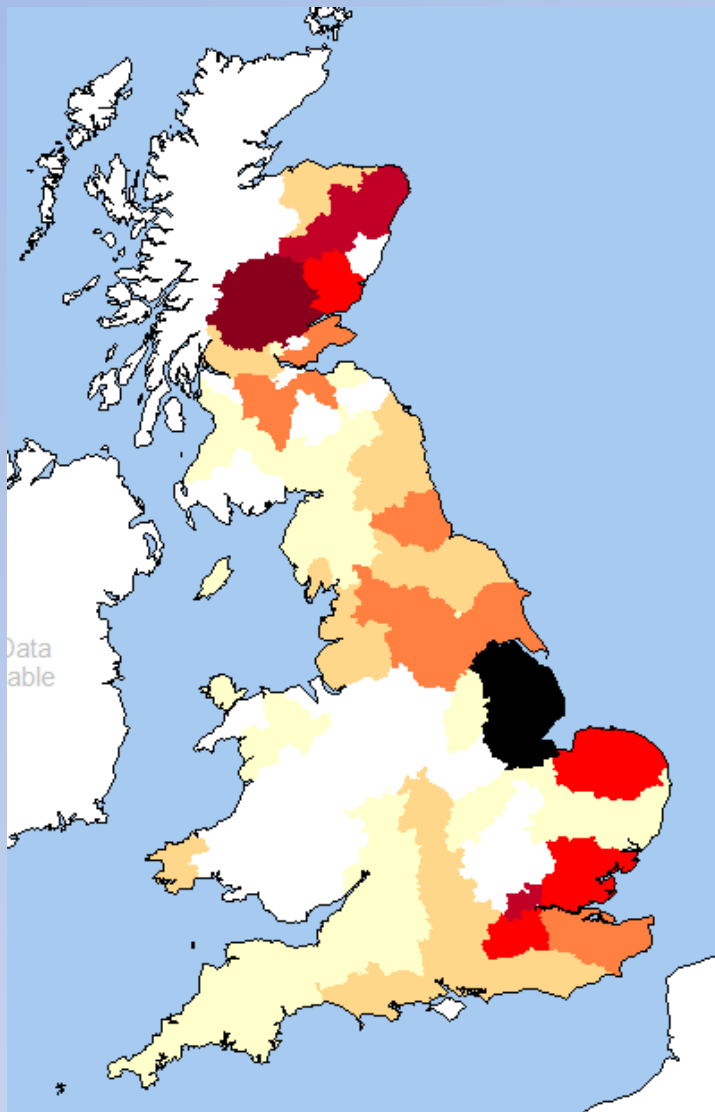


1881 distributions (Steve Archer's British Surname Atlas)

# Panton & Ponton

- **Ponton**, Lincs (Great and Little)
- DB 1086 spellings: *Pamptune*, *Pamtone*, *Pantone*
- **Panton**, Lincs
- DB 1086 spelling: *Pantone*

# Panton & Ponton



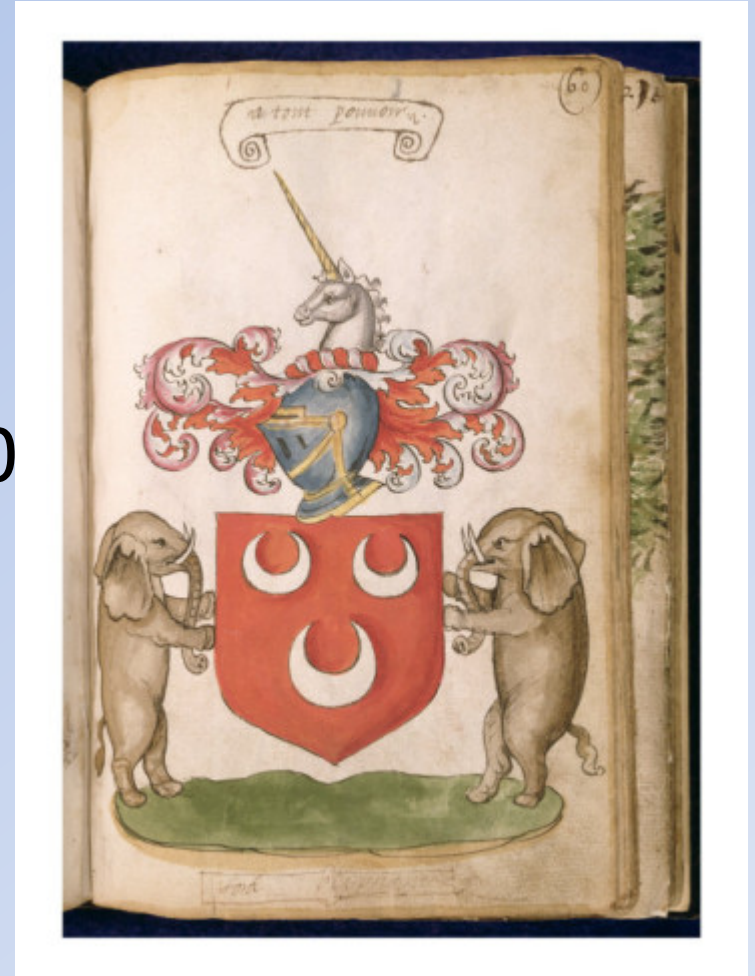
1881 distributions (Steve Archer's British Surname Atlas)

# Panton & Ponton

- *B. de Paunton*
  - 1232x37; Lindores Abbey (*Lind. Cart.*)
  - Earl John of Huntingdon/ Chester; Garioch ABD
  - B. possibly a mistranscription for...
- *Hugone de Panton*
  - 1232-37; Lindores Abbey (*Lind. Cart.*)
  - Earl John again; Garioch ABD; Dundee ANG
- *Alisaundre de Paunton* (co. Lanark)
  - 1296 Ragman Roll
- Graham or Lindsay connections?

# Influence of heraldry

- OLIPHANT
- David *Olifard*, mid-12<sup>th</sup> century
- William *Olyfard*, 1266-70
- William *Olyfar*, 1305
- William *Olifaunt*, 1317
- Walter *Olyfaunt*, 1364
- Thomas *Oliphant*, 1468

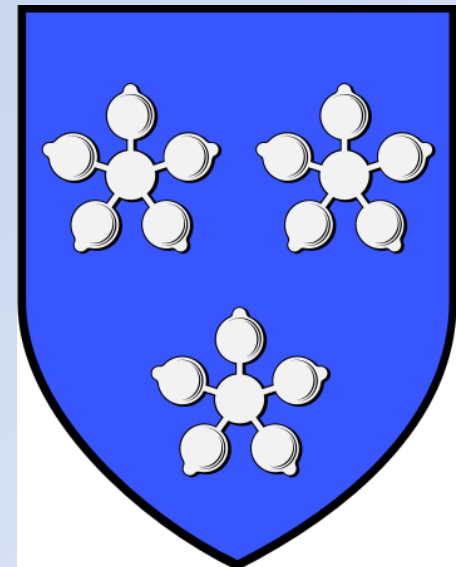
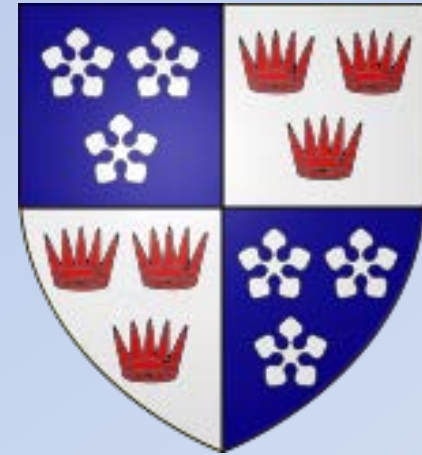


Seton Armorial, 1591



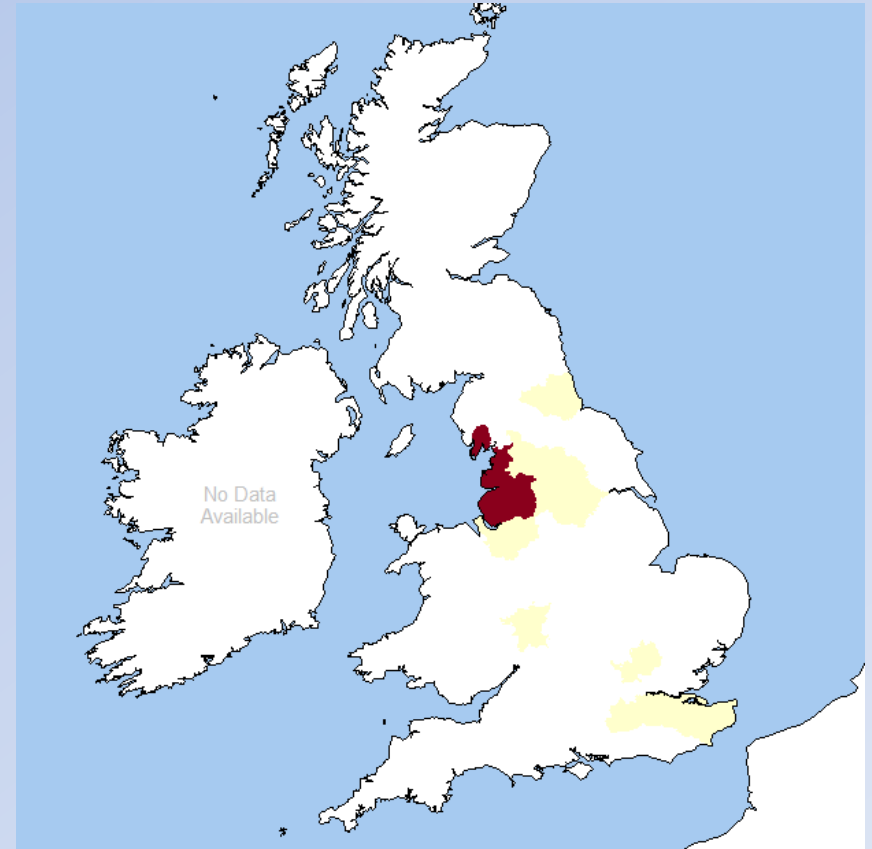
# Influence of heraldry

- FRASER
- Cinquefoils or strawberry flowers (*fraises*)
- Gilbert *Frasier* (1166);  
*Fraser* (1182x99)
- *Bernardus Fryselle filius*  
*[...] Alexandri Fryselle*  
(1295)



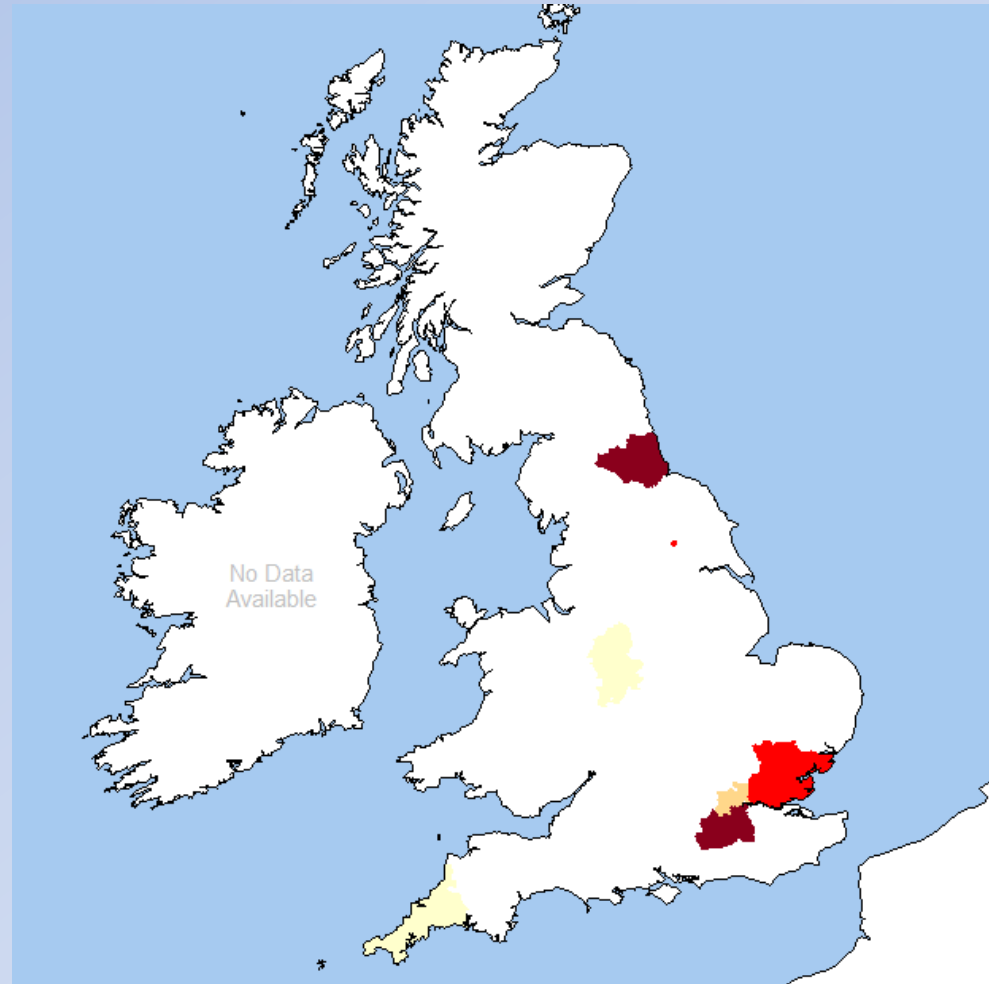
# Eddleston

- Eddleston, Peebles
- 682 bearers (1997)
- 575 bearers (1881), 530 of which in Lancs



# Enderwick

- Innerwick, E Lothian
- 48 bearers (1997)
- 39 bearers (1881)
- Co. Durham; London



# Baffling names

- Argo
  - Aberdeenshire name
- Baptie
  - supposedly Badby
- Barland
- Bathie
- Bews
  - supposedly Bayeux
- Bonthrone
  - Fife name
- Borrie
- Cowe
- Diack
  - Danish connection?
- Drever
  - Orkney name
- Espie, Espy, etc
  - From Gillespie?
- Fairless
- Fisken/ Fiskin
- Forson
- Fourie
  - Fouré?