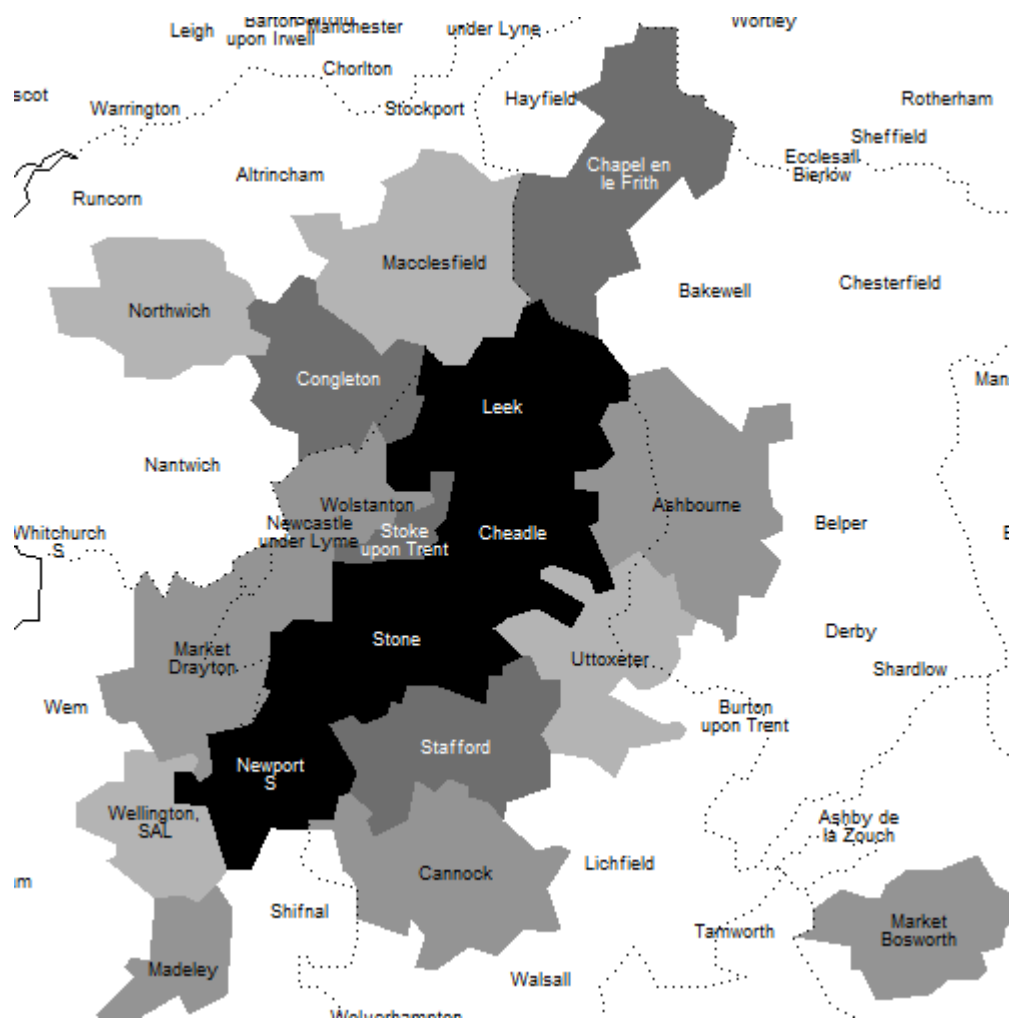


Plant surname distribution in the 1881 UK Census

Produced by Dr John S Plant from Steve Archer's 1881 Surname Atlas software

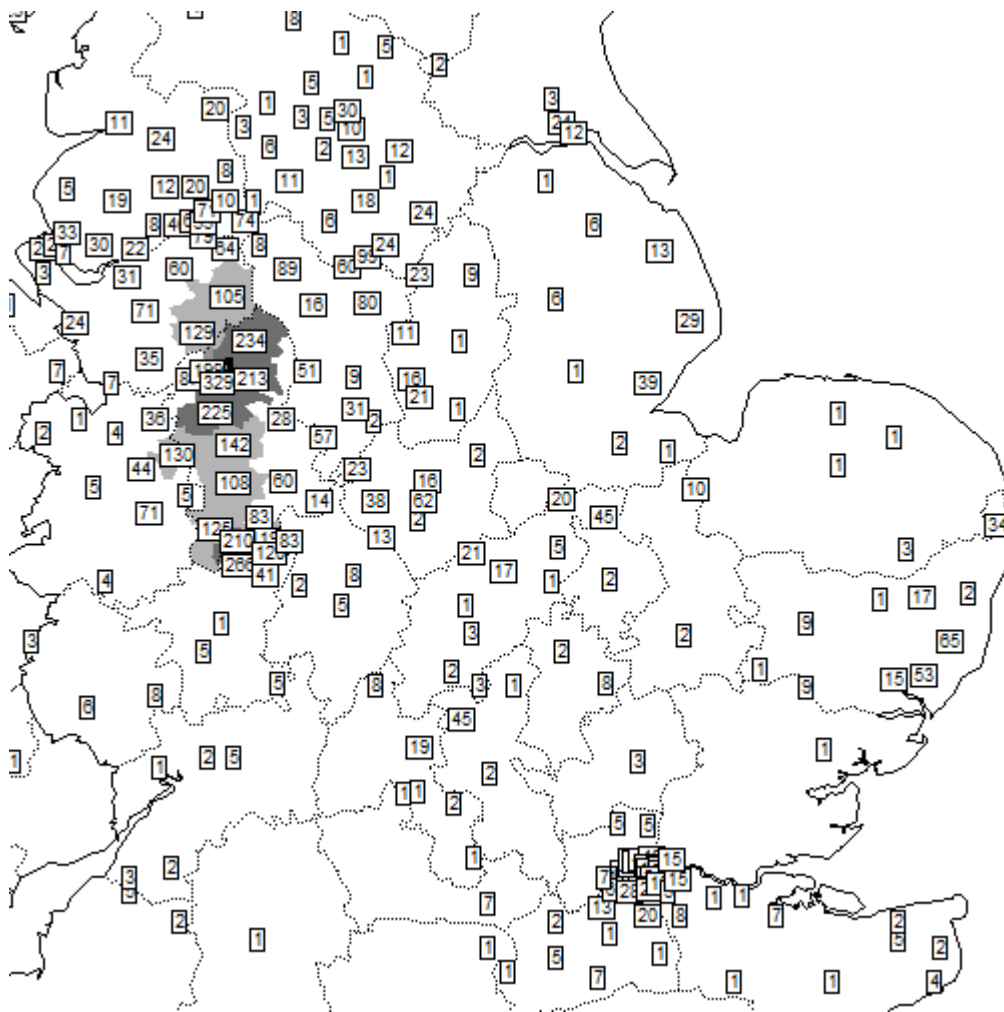
The following maps show the situation for the distribution of the Plant surname by 1881. The boundaries in these maps are those of Poor Law Unions.

Late fourteenth-century records show early traces of the Plant name (spelled Plonte) around Macclesfield and Leek. These locations are included in the map below. The following 1881 map shows that Plants were spread around this so-called main homeland, with more found particularly south-westwards through Cheadle, Stoke-upon-Trent, Stone and Newport, in the county of Staffordshire.



The preceding map shows the fractional number of Plants in each Poor Law Union district, around the so-called main Plant homeland. By mapping fractional populations, this emphasises how Plants had spread through sparsely populated areas, as well as densely populated ones. For example, Stoke-upon-Trent had the highest population of Plants but this is not shaded as darkly as some less populated areas, in the preceding map.

Further to the south, there was another concentration around Dudley and Stourbridge, which was a densely populated area near Birmingham. This is omitted from the preceding map but it shows up in the following map, which shows the absolute numbers of Plants in each area throughout a wider region.



There are for example 329 Plants in Stoke-upon-Trent and, at the southern tip of the main shaded cluster, 210 Plants in Dudley and 266 in Stourbridge, though rather fewer (120) in Birmingham itself. The map also shows the tight cluster of Poor Law Unions around London, towards the bottom right of the map, on the River Thames inlet.

Following the east coast on the map, up towards the curve of East Anglia, there is a small cluster of Plants in the County of Suffolk, with 53 Plants in Woodbridge and 65 in Plomesgate.

Further north still up this east coast on the preceding map, above the broad inlet of The Wash, there are 39 Plants in Boston and 29 in Spilsby, both in south-east Lincolnshire. These are of interest in so far as they correspond with the location of the first evidence yet known in England that the Plant name was hereditary. The Plante name had apparently been hereditary for three generations by 1279. There is DNA evidence for two Plants whose lines trace back to here around 1800; and these do not match with the DNA signature of main English Plant family. However, it is not known that the ancestral lines of these two Plants reach right back intact to the Plante name here in 1279.

Returning to the Suffolk cluster of Plants in the preceding map, there are similar numbers of the Pallant surname in the same location. This gives rise to speculation as to whether there might have been some confusion between the pronunciation of Pallant and Plant.

The next map, for Pallant, shows that the main concentration of this name (103 Pallants) is in Plomesgate, where the previous map showed that the number was high also for Plant (65).

