

I1c-Isles Y- Chromosome Study Project Surname Distribution and Frequency in the British Isles 1881

Ian Carswell BHM

The use of Y-DNA for the purposes of genealogical research has been assisted by many different new technologies in the last few years, including the increasing use of the internet to provide information and data that would otherwise have been unavailable in years past. Also, it has become increasingly evident that previous conceptions of British history involving invasion, conflict and displacement have been somewhat erroneous and that the archaeological record has shown the occupation of the landscape to have been largely continuous and relatively undisturbed. The movements have been largely outward (with emigration to large cities and other countries such as the US, Canada and Australia) while the indigent population has remained.

With this in mind I decided to make use of an online Surname Profiler website created by University College London (UCL), available at <http://cetl2.geog.ucl.ac.uk/UCLnames/default.aspx>

This database includes data obtained from the British census of 1881. Here, maps were automatically produced which showed frequency distribution of surnames sorted into five colour coded rates of frequency for each county or shire in England and Scotland.

Using the family names from the FTDNA I1c Clan Study group which were either positively or probably M284+ , I divided these names into two groups which were titled 'Scottish origin' and 'English origin'. This mimicked the official differentiation of the I1c Isles M284+ group which was indicated by the DYS 393 result but which, for this study, was also selected by the apparent frequency distribution indicated by the UCL mapping data.

This separation of the group was done in order to test whether the families (of different names) followed similar distribution and if so, what the frequency of this distribution was. This would test issues of consanguinity and migration patterns, if any.

The method of analysis was as follows. Each geographical division of the UCL map, which equates to each county or shire in England and Scotland, was numbered. Then a list was made for each family name which had five divisions corresponding to the colour coding of the frequency of the surname occurrence within that county at the 1881 census. Purple was highest, through red, brown, orange then light yellow to white, which represented the lowest occurrence. See Diagram 1 below

Diagram. 1.



All occurrences of the family name in each (numbered) county was noted for each frequency (purple to light yellow). This information was then input into a database, aggregated, and a frequency distribution analysis performed using Epi-Info.

The family names were:

English:

Adams
Bowers
Brandon
Bradford
Byrne
Crumley
Daniels
Dawson
Hall
Henry
Higgins
Laughlin
Little
Pate
Perry
Robinson
Ward

Scottish:

Carswell
Carson
Diamond
Dimond
Edgar
Elder
Ferguson
Gillespie
Johnstone
Matheson
McAlpine
McCracken
McGuinness
McInerney
McLean
McManus
McNicoll
McReynolds
McWhirter
Mitchell

It will be noticed that there are some names from the I1c Clan missing. This is because there is no census data available for these families from UCL due to there being less than 100 names of this type on the 1881 census.

Each result from the analysis was then assessed for gradations of frequency. In all cases this was quite evident, although there were only four obvious ranges. The frequencies were then recompiled and colour coded according to these gradations.

The frequency distribution results were then mapped back onto the same maps using these codings.

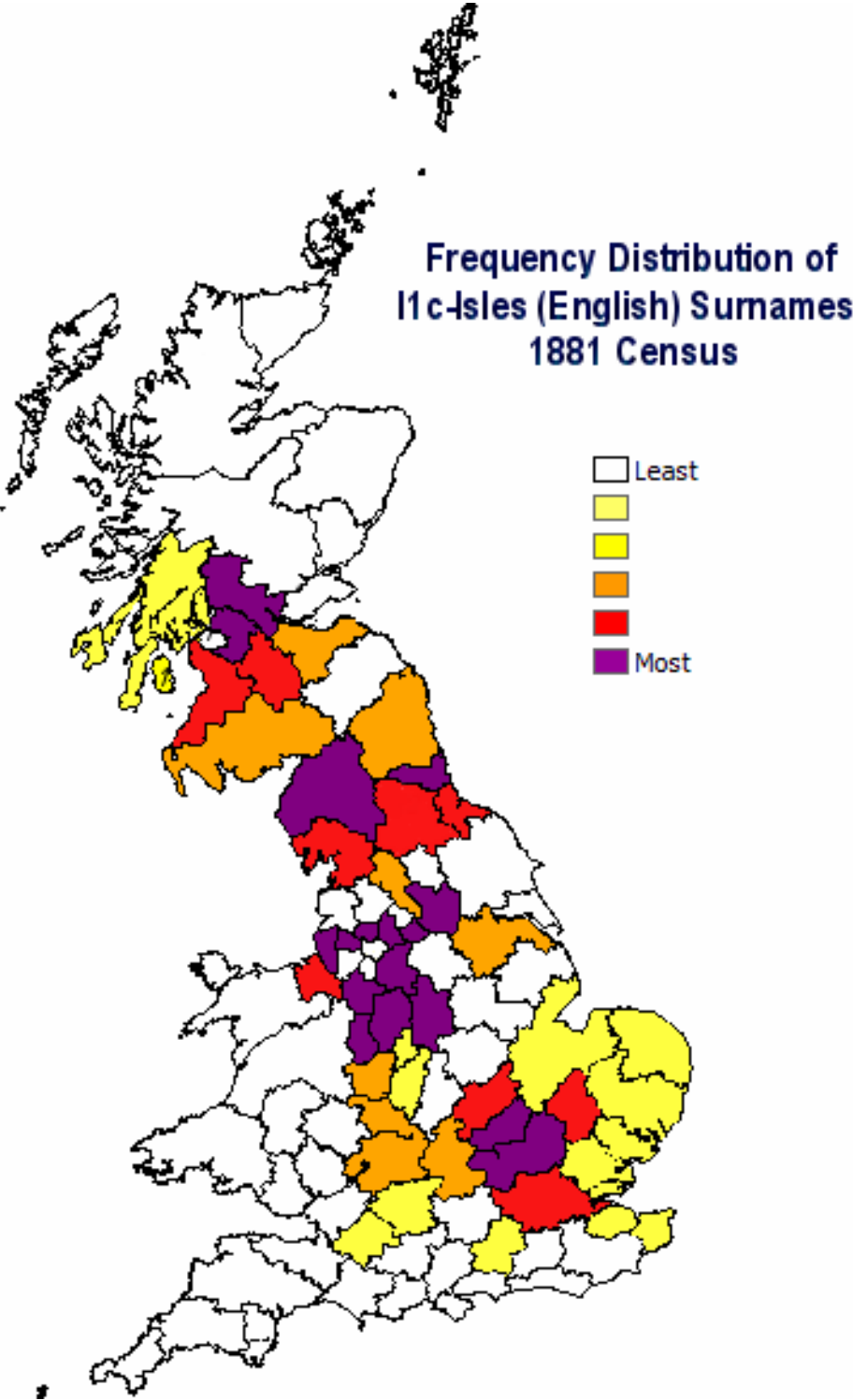
Notes:

1. In the Scottish map, Renfrewshire is marked very dark purple/black. This is the region with the most frequency of I1c-Isles for the Scottish families. Regression analysis seems to suggest a movement to here from Galloway via Ayr.

Although the English families are numerous in this same region, there is an interesting lack of frequency in Renfrewshire.

2. For the Scottish I1c-Isles, the London statistics have not been taken into account and the region left uncoloured as the analysis showed very patchy frequencies with no obvious pattern.

Results:



Frequency Distribution of 11 c-Isles (Scottish) Surnames 1881 Census

