

# Maps of the Changing Distribution of the Plant name in England from 1601 to 1881

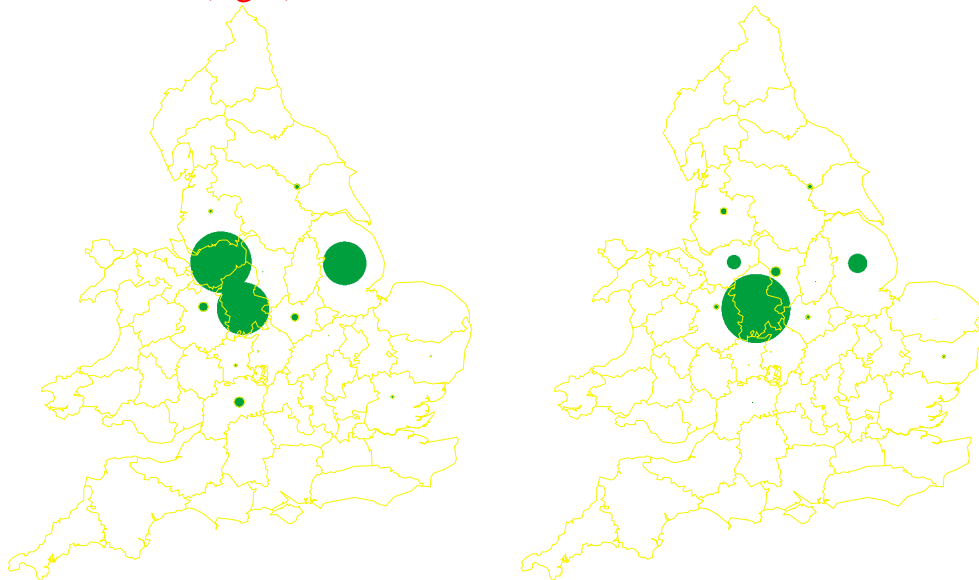
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**T**he distribution of Plants in England has changed somewhat throughout the last several centuries and this can be illustrated by distribution maps.

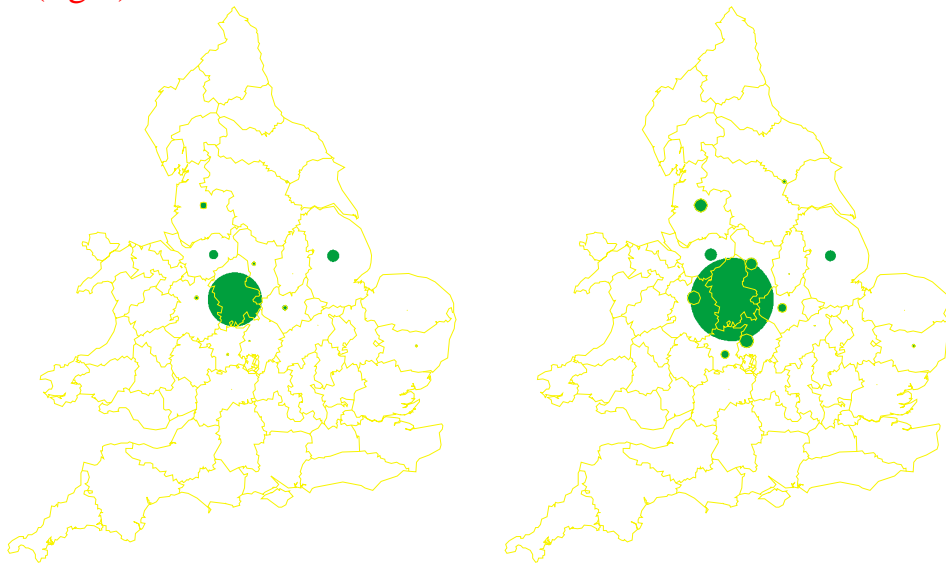
The 17th century evidence has to be viewed with some caution, as there may have been pockets of Plant population that do not appear in the available data. It is informative, even so, to consider the evidence for these early times and the distribution of Plant records in the IGI (see appendix) is as follows for 1601-50 (left) and 1651-1700 (right).



This indicates a primary cluster of Plants mainly in Cheshire seemingly shifted, by the second half of the century, mainly into Staffordshire to Cheshire's south. There is also a secondary cluster for the Plant population away to the east in Lincolnshire.

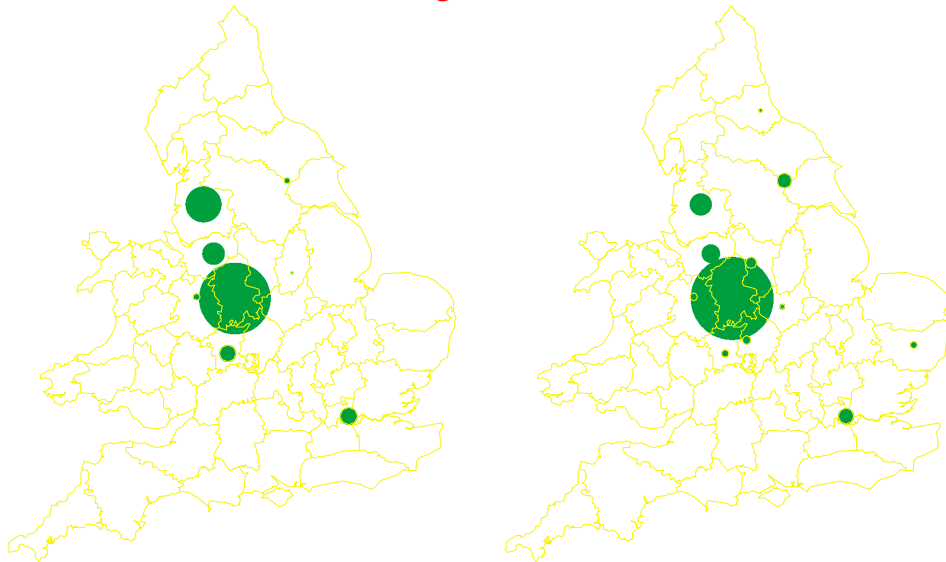
The results based on the IGI data can be considered to be rather more reliable

by the 18th century and these give the following results for 1701-50 (left) and 1751-1800 (right).



These results are broadly similar to those for the 17th century but with a continuing migration from rural east Cheshire and rural south Lincolnshire, where the primary and secondary Plant clusters were earlier in evidence.

The distributions of Plant records are shown below, in turn, for 1842-6 deaths (left) and for the 1881 Census data (right).



These 19th century results show a shift from Cheshire not only further into Staffordshire to its south but also into Lancashire to its north and then to (the three ridings of) Yorkshire to Lancashire's east. There is also a spot of population further south in the east around London.

## APPENDIX. Plant data used for the Distribution Maps

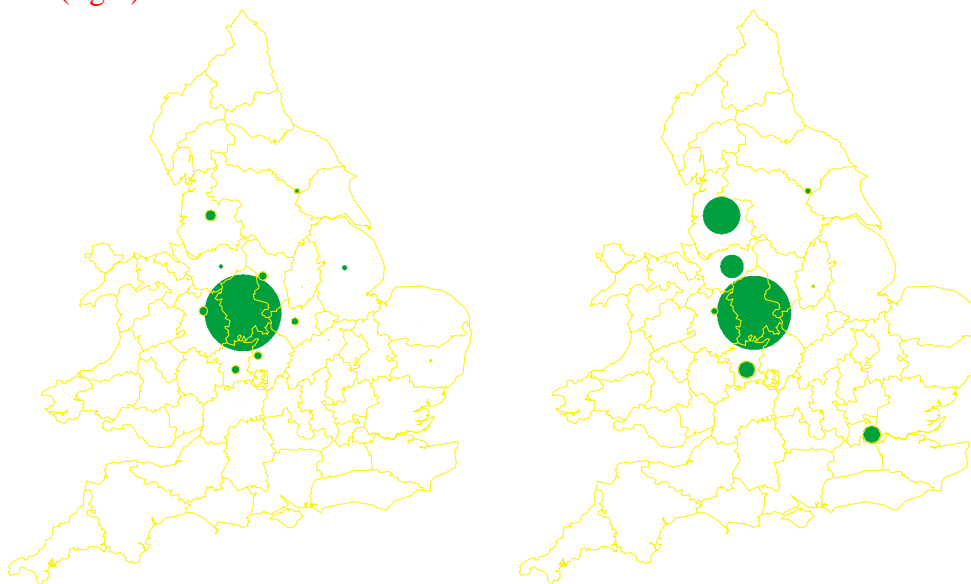
Plants are found mainly in England and, given estimates for the total population of the United Kingdom (UK of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland), it has been estimated that 1 person in every 3668 in the UK is called Plant.

The estimate that Plants form 1 in 3668 of the the total UK population gives rise to estimates of their changing number, as the UK population grew (W Keith Plant, 1990, Roots and Branches, Issue Number 1). This variation can be compared with the changing number of Plant records (mainly baptisms) in the 1984 version of the IGI (International Genealogical Index) (John S Plant, 1999, Roots and Branches, Issue Number 17).

Number of IGI Plant records in particular 50 year intervals		Estimated UK Plant population in particular years	
1601-50	229	1630	1526
1651-1700	412	1670	1573
1701-50	1223	1700	1648
1751-1800	2192	1750	1776
1801-50	4196	1801	2423

It is clear from the above table that the number of Plant records in the IGI between 1601 and 1750, for example, changed markedly, though the Plant population can be expected to have grown only slowly over these years. This suggests that there is a substantial undercount of Plant baptisms in the IGI, in the 17th century, though the IGI data becomes more complete by the 18th century. By the mid 19th century, the geographical distribution of Plants, as deduced from the IGI, can be compared with potentially more reliable evidence taken from Civil Registration records and, with still more certainty, from Victorian Census data.

The IGI results for 1801-50 can be compared with a map based on David Hey's figures for Plant deaths in 1842-6 taken from the Civil Registration deaths index (David Hey, 1998, Staffordshire Studies, Volume 10, pps 1-28.). The results below are for the 1801-50 IGI data (left) and the 1842-6 Plant deaths (right).



The two sets of results show only a limited agreement between the distribution of baptisms (and

some marriages) for 1801-50 and the distribution of deaths towards the end of this 50 year interval. The discrepancies might arise partly from such considerations as..

- the significant migrations that were taking place around these times of the Industrial Revolution;
- the possibilities of an untypical outbreak of deaths in a particular locality in the five years considered (1842-6); or,
- the reporting of deaths in an area where baptisms and marriages had not been recorded in a way that is preserved in the 1984 IGI.

A count of Plants in the 1881 Census has been carried out by W Keith Plant, 2001, Roots and Branches, Issue Number 21 and this was used for the 1881 Census data map. Further detailed study of 19th century Civil Registration data for births, marriages, and deaths along with counts of people called Plant in other Census years could help to give a more detailed picture of Plant migrations during these relatively mobile times.