

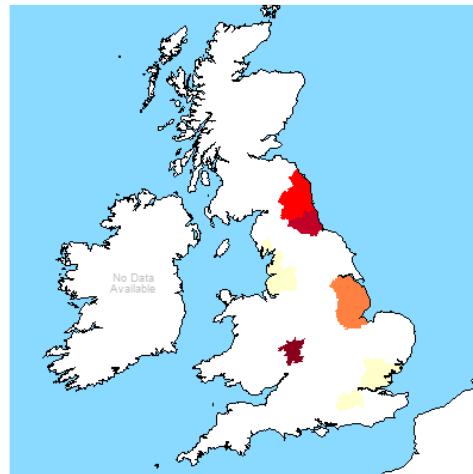
## WINLEY-OLIVER-FITCH-PALMER

### *Winley-Elson*

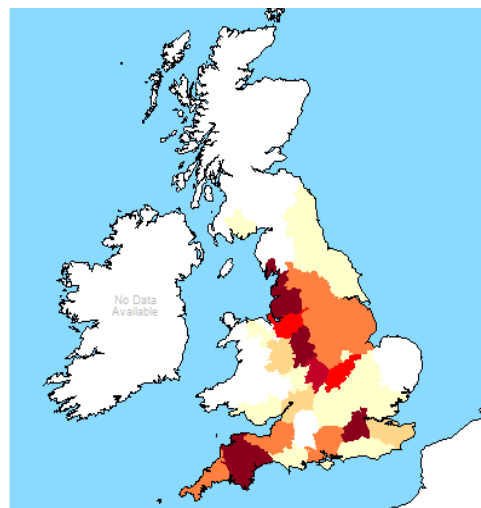
Winley is a very unusual surname with, by 1881, only 33 people bearing the name in Britain, a third of whom were in Worcestershire and only one in Essex.<sup>1</sup> Its meaning is obscure and it does not feature in standard surname dictionaries.<sup>2</sup> The Winley line begins when 7x great grandfather **John Winley** of Roxwell, Essex married **Elizabeth Elson** of neighbouring Writtle on 2 October 1688 in Writtle.<sup>3</sup> Although it was a more common name, Elsons too had largely deserted Essex by 1881; the clusters being in the West Midlands.<sup>4</sup> This sounds like a patronymic surname (son of El) but it is probably a corruption of Elston (El's ton, or settlement), so a locative surname from places in Nottinghamshire and Lancashire.<sup>5</sup>

John and Elizabeth Winley had nine children baptised in Roxwell.<sup>6</sup> Seven of them were boys, so they did their bit to perpetuate the name. The children were: John 12 April 1689; 6 x great grandfather **Thomas** 10 December 1690;<sup>7</sup> Richard 20 September 1692; Philip 5 August 1694; Robert 19 March 1695/6; Elizabeth 28 November 1697; Ralph 25 May 1701; Priscilla 7 November 1703 and Henry 16 June 1706.<sup>8</sup>

Thomas Winley's marriage to **Elizabeth** has not been found but they had three children baptised in Roxwell: Thomas 17 December 1721; Mary 7 September 1727<sup>9</sup> and **Esther** 28 December 1729.<sup>10</sup>



**Distribution for the Surname  
Winley**



**Distribution for the Surname  
Elson**

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- 1 *The Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).
  - 2 P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul (1958); Basil Cottle, *The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames* Penguin 2nd edition 1978; Mark Anthony Lower *A Dictionary of Surnames* Wordsworth editions Ltd. 1860.
  - 3 Marriage register for Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/1 image 43.
  - 4 *The Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).
  - 5 P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul (1958); Basil Cottle, *The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames* Penguin 2nd edition 1978; Mark Anthony Lower *A Dictionary of Surnames* Wordsworth editions Ltd. 1860.
  - 6 Baptism register for Roxwell, Essex D/P 288/1/2.
  - 7 Baptism register for Roxwell, Essex D/P 288/1/2 image 10.
  - 8 Baptism register for Roxwell, Essex D/P 288/1/2.
  - 9 Baptism register for Roxwell, Essex D/P 288/1/2.
  - 10 Baptism register for Roxwell, Essex D/P 288/1/2 image 21.

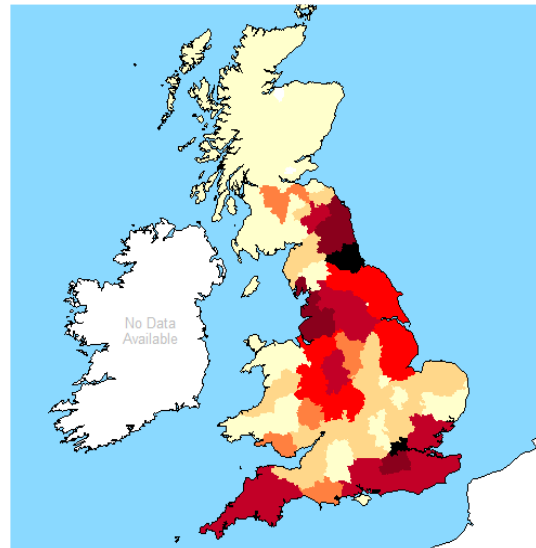
## Oliver

**H(e)sther Winley** married **Robert Oliver** on 18 September 1753 in Roxwell, Essex.<sup>11</sup> They had ten children baptised in Writtle,<sup>12</sup> five of whom died as infants or children: Robert 12 August 1754, buried 6 May 1764;<sup>13</sup> James 29 June 1755, buried 8 September 1755;<sup>14</sup> Esther 25 July 1756; Elizabeth 1 March 1758, buried 27 September 1763;<sup>15</sup> Richard 10 February 1760; Robert April 1764, buried 6 May 1764;<sup>16</sup> John 9 June 1765; 4 x great grandfather **James** who was baptised 21 February 1768; Mary 17 September 1769 and Sarah 17 March 1771, buried 6 October 1771.<sup>17</sup>

Robert Oliver was buried in Writtle on 10 July 1785.<sup>18</sup> Esther was buried on 10 July 1801 also in Writtle.<sup>19</sup>



**All Saints, Writtle**



**Distribution for the Surname  
Oliver**

Oliver is a surname that is predominantly found in Northumberland.<sup>20</sup> Possibly, the name derived from the personal name, that is French in origin, or it may have associations with an olive branch.<sup>21</sup>

James Oliver and **Elizabeth Fitch** were married on the 20<sup>th</sup> of 1794 at Writtle, Essex.<sup>22</sup> The banns had been called on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of January<sup>23</sup> and the witnesses were Edward Fitch, who was Elizabeth's brother, and Richard Grove. Neither the bride nor groom could sign the register and both were described as being 'of Writtle'.<sup>24</sup>

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- 11 Marriage register of Roxwell, Essex 18 September 1753 D/P 288/1/2 image 44.
  - 12 Baptism register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/2.
  - 13 Burial register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/2.
  - 14 Burial register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/2.
  - 15 Burial register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/2.
  - 16 Burial register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/2.
  - 17 Burial register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/2.
  - 18 Burial register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/2 image 95.
  - 19 Burial register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/3 image 59.
  - 20 *The Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).
  - 21 P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul (1958); Basil Cottle, *The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames* Penguin 2nd edition 1978; Mark Anthony Lower *A Dictionary of Surnames* Wordsworth editions Ltd. 1860.
  - 22 Marriage register for Writtle Essex D/P 50/1/5 image 73.
  - 23 Banns register for Writtle Essex D/P 50/1/5 image 22.
  - 24 Marriage register for Writtle Essex D/P 50/1/5 image 73.

Writtle is a large parish, with the village green and church at its centre. At the time of the Domesday Book its recorded population of one hundred and sixty four far exceeded that of the hamlet at nearby Chelmer's Ford (modern day Chelmsford), where only four villagers are listed.<sup>25</sup> By the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, when the Olivers were there, Writtle was a large village, depending substantially on agriculture.

Eight children have been found for James and Elizabeth Oliver née Fitch, all baptised at Writtle. John was baptised on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 1794. Sarah was baptised on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 1795. James was baptised on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 1798 **Ann** was baptised on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 1799.<sup>26</sup> Mary was baptised on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 1802. William was baptised on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 1805. Rebekah was baptised on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1807 and Robert on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 1809.<sup>27</sup> An incident that the Oliver family would have witnessed was the falling of All Saints church' tower at Writtle, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 1800.<sup>28</sup>

On 11 March 1821 an illegitimate daughter of Ann Oliver was baptised in Norton Mandeville.<sup>29</sup> She was giving the unusual forenames of Baker Elizabeth, which almost certainly give a clue to her father's name. When Ann Oliver married John Bowyer at Norton Mandeville on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December 1822, he was said to be 'of Chipping Ongar', Essex and she was 'of Norton Mandeville'.<sup>30</sup> It seems that the Olivers may have moved to Norton Mandeville, Essex as a family as there is no evidence of any of Ann's siblings remaining in Writtle<sup>31</sup> and her parents, James and Elizabeth are found at Norton Backs, Norton Mandeville in 1841 where James was working as a shoemaker.<sup>32</sup> Unlike her parents, both Ann and her groom could sign the register. The witnesses to the marriage were Rebecca and Thomas Oliver.<sup>33</sup> Rebecca was presumably Ann's sister but Thomas remains unidentified. Ann's story continues under Bowyer.<sup>34</sup>

James Oliver died on 5 May 1848. He had had disease of the prostate for thirty years but the immediate cause of death was 'a haemorrhage in the bladder following an operation for tapping two weeks ago'. The death was registered by James' son, James junior of Willingale Doe, Essex.<sup>35</sup> James was buried in Norton Mandeville on 10 May.<sup>36</sup>



**St. Mary's, High Ongar**

In 1851, Elizabeth was living with

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- 25 Platt, Stuart, *All Saints, Writtle* Writtle Parochial Church Council 1992 p. 3.
  - 26 Baptism register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/3 image 17.
  - 27 Index to the parish registers of Writtle, Essex - from the Writtle Archives.
  - 28 Platt, Stuart, *All Saints, Writtle* Writtle Parochial Church Council 1992 p. 5.
  - 29 Marriage register of Norton Mandeville, Essex D/P 267/1/4 image 8
  - 30 Marriage register of Norton Mandeville, Essex D/P 267/1/4 image 5.
  - 31 Parish registers of Writtle, Essex - extracted by Writtle Archives.
  - 32 1841 census for Norton Backs, Norton Mandeville, Essex HO107 336/13 folio 2.
  - 33 Marriage register of Norton Mandeville, Essex D/P 267/1/4.
  - 34 See Bowyer paper.
  - 35 Death certificate (pdf) of James Oliver 1848 from the General Register Office.
  - 36 Burial register of Norton Mandeville, Essex D/P 267/1/9 image 14.

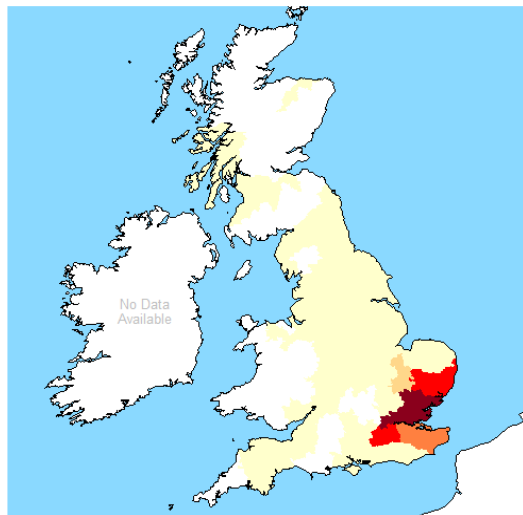
her married daughter, Rebecca Groves, at Roadside Cottage, High Ongar, Essex.<sup>37</sup> Ten years later Rebecca had a different husband, William Holt, and they were living at High House Cottage, Blackmore, Essex; ninety two year old Elizabeth was still with them.<sup>38</sup> Elizabeth died in Blackmore on 21 September 1863 at the age of ninety five, from senile decay and gastroenteritis irritation, which she had had for a year. The death was registered by her daughter, Rebecca.<sup>39</sup> Elizabeth was buried in Norton Mandeville on 27 September.<sup>40</sup>



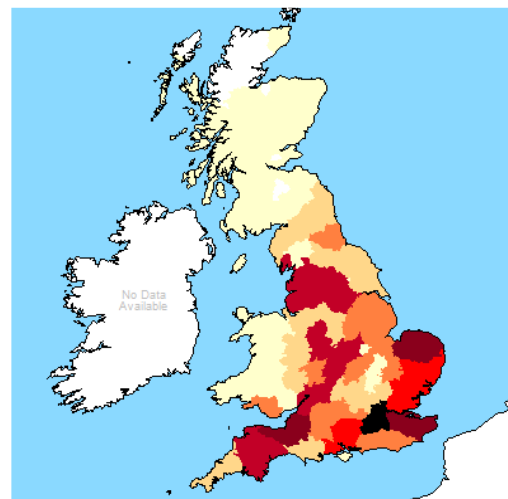
### ***Fitch-Palmer***

### **St. Lawrence's, Blackmore**

This line can be taken back to 5 x great grandparents **Cornelius (or Cornel) Fitch** and his wife **Ann Palmer** who were married At All Saints, Writtle, Essex on 14 November 1764. The witnesses were James Crooks and Thomas Palmer.<sup>41</sup> Ann Palmer was the daughter of **Thomas** and **Sarah Palmer** née **Cooper**, who married in Writtle 2 October 1739.<sup>42</sup> Ann was baptised the on 18 September 1747.<sup>43</sup>



**Distribution for the Surname Fitch**



**Distribution for the Surname Palmer**

A fitch was a pointed implement such as a lance or spear; the earlier belief that the surname means 'polecat', has been discredited.<sup>44</sup> Fitch is a name that is centred in

<sup>37</sup> 1851 census for Roadside Cottage, High Ongar, Essex.

<sup>38</sup> 1861 census for High House Cottage, Blackmore, Essex RG9 1066 folio 154.

<sup>39</sup> Death certificate (pdf) of Elizabeth Oliver 1863 from the General Register Office.

<sup>40</sup> Burial register of Norton Mandeville, Essex D/P 267/1/9 image 17.

<sup>41</sup> Marriage register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/4 image 19.

<sup>42</sup> Marriage register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/2 image 104.

<sup>43</sup> Baptism register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/2 image 27.

<sup>44</sup> P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul (1958); Basil Cottle, *The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames* Penguin 2nd edition 1978; Mark Anthony Lower *A Dictionary of Surnames* Wordsworth editions Ltd. 1860.

Suffolk and Essex.<sup>45</sup> Palmer is a much more common and widespread name meaning 'pilgrim', or one who carried a palm branch.<sup>46</sup> Despite its occurrence throughout England (although rare in Scotland and Wales), the name does favour the counties along the south east coast.<sup>47</sup>

Cornelius and Ann had twelve children baptised in Writtle: Sarah 21 July 1765, buried 9 October 1765;<sup>48</sup> Mary 29 March 1767; 4 x great grandmother **Elizabeth** 1 November 1768; Edward 22 March 1772; Samuel 5 June 1774; George 12 January 1777; John 9 May 1779; Rebecca 22 July 1781; William 8 February 1784; James 21 July 1786; Sally 9 February 1789 and Thomas 26 January 1793.<sup>49</sup>

Ann was buried in Writtle 2 August 1815 as 'of Hoxton, Middlesex, late of this parish'.<sup>50</sup> Cornelius was also buried in Writtle, on 23 June 1816 'clerk'.<sup>51</sup>

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45 *The Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).

46 P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul (1958); Basil Cottle, *The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames* Penguin 2nd edition 1978; Mark Anthony Lower *A Dictionary of Surnames* Wordsworth editions Ltd. 1860.

47 *The Surname Atlas* Archer Software (2003).

48 Burial register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/2.

49 Baptism register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/2.

50 Burial register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/11 image 10.

51 Burial register of Writtle, Essex D/P 50/1/11 image 12.