

Derry - Ough - Dingle - Rickard - Roberts - Geach - Nicholls-Jenkin

The Derry Family

Very little is known about 8 x great grandfather, **Henry Derry**. He had two children baptised in St. Cleer, Cornwall¹ but this is not a common Cornish surname, with its main focus being in Staffordshire.² Reaney suggests that the name is French in origin, perhaps a corruption of Darree, and that it means 'penny-worth'.³ It is likely that Henry's baptism and marriage have been lost in the hiatus in the parish registers, caused by the Civil War. There appear to be at least two earlier generations of Henry Derrys in St. Cleer but 8 x great-grandfather Henry's ancestry is unproven.⁴

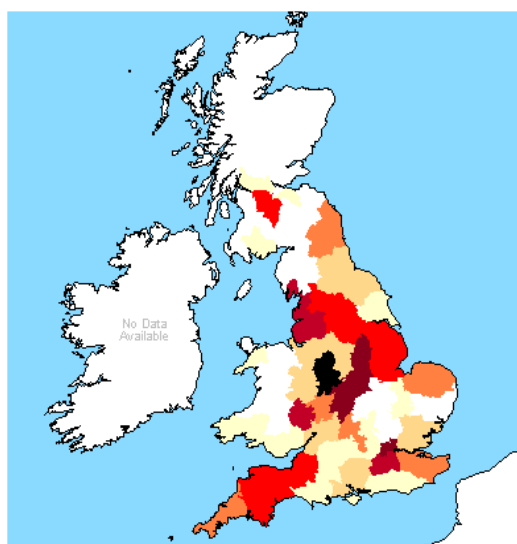
Henry's daughter, 7 x great grandmother, **Sara Derry**, was baptised in St. Cleer on the 16th of May 1663. On the 18th of September 1679 Henry's son, Henry, was baptised there.⁵ In the absence of marriage records it is not possible to know if these two children shared a mother, if they did, there were almost certainly other children in the sixteen year gap.

The Ough Family

On the 3rd of July 1687, Sara Derry married 7 x great grandfather, **Philip Ough**, at St. Cleer.⁶

It is not certain whether this name was pronounced 'oh', 'off', 'ogg' or 'ow', probably the latter. It is a very rare name, found almost exclusively in south-east Cornwall.⁷ Its pronunciation may influence the derivation but it is likely that it relates to a ridge or hill.⁸ Philip's ancestry has not been traced but a John Ough had a child baptised in St. Cleer in the 1660s and John may also have been Philip's father.⁹

Over the course of twenty years, Philip and Sara Ough had eight children baptised at St. Cleer. The eldest daughter, Margery, was baptised on the 25th of March 1688. She was followed by Joseph on the 3rd of January 1689/90. Next came 6 x great grandfather



Distribution of the Derry Surname in 1881

¹ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.

² *The British C19th Surname Atlas* Archer Software 2003.

³ P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul 1979.

⁴ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.

⁵ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.

⁶ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.

⁷ *The British C19th Surname Atlas* Archer Software 2003.

⁸ P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul 1979.

⁹ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.



St. Cleer

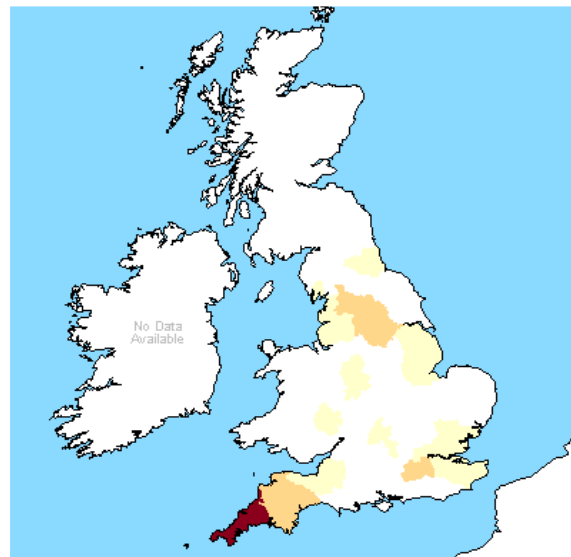
The Ough Family continued

William and Elizabeth Ough set up home in Callington, a larger settlement than St. Cleer, on the banks of the Tamar. They had six children baptised in Callington. Elenor was baptised on the 28th of January 1717/8, followed by Anne and Frances on the 8th of February 1719/20. Next, 5 x great grandfather **Joseph Ough**, together with a brother, Benjamin, were baptised on the 7th of June 1725. Joseph's age at burial and the gap between the children, suggest that Joseph may have been about three years old when he was baptised. The youngest

William, who was baptised on the 17th of April 1692 and Elizabeth on the 12th of January 1695/6. Philip followed on the 31st of January 1702/3 and then Margaret was baptised on the 20th of August 1704. The youngest child, Mary, was baptised on the 24th of December 1708.¹⁰ Philip Ough was buried at St. Cleer on the 15th of October 1739 and his wife, Sara, was buried there on the 15th of January 1747/8.¹¹

The Dingle Family

William Ough married **Elizabeth Dingle** on the 13th of May 1716 at St. Mellion, Cornwall but both were described as being 'of Callington'.¹² Dingle is another west country surname¹³ meaning 'dweller in the deep hollow'.¹⁴



Distribution of the Ough Surname in 1881

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- ¹⁰ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
- ¹¹ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
- ¹² Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
- ¹³ *The British C19th Surname Atlas* Archer Software 2003.
- ¹⁴ P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul 1979.



St. Cleer

child, Thomas, was baptised on the 13th of October 1728.¹⁵ There is more than one possible burial entry for William but he almost certainly died in the 1760s. Elizabeth was buried at Callington on the 4th of December 1767.¹⁶

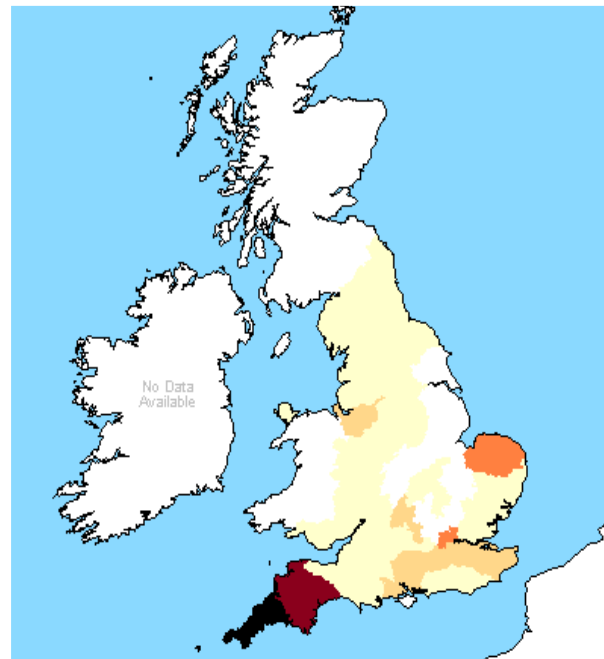
The Rickard Family

On the 4th of May 1750, Joseph Ough married **Mary Rickard** at St. Germans, Cornwall.¹⁷ Rickard is again a name found primarily in Cornwall.¹⁸ It is a patronymic surname, derived from the forename Richard.

The Ough Family continued

5 x great grandparents, Joseph and Mary Ough née Rickard, had eight children baptised at St. Germans. As in the preceding generation, a row of daughters was followed by the sons. Elizabeth was baptised on the 19th of April 1751, then Nancy on the 15th of December 1752. The youngest daughter was Ginny, who was baptised on the 19th of May 1754. The sons began with Benjamin, who was baptised on the 2nd of July 1756. Then came 4 x great grandfather, **Joseph**, who was baptised on the 8th of September. Richard was baptised on the 17th of July 1761, John on the 9th of September 1763 and finally William on the 30th of September 1764.¹⁹

At some point after the births of their children, Joseph and Mary, almost certainly accompanied by their young family, appear to have moved from St.



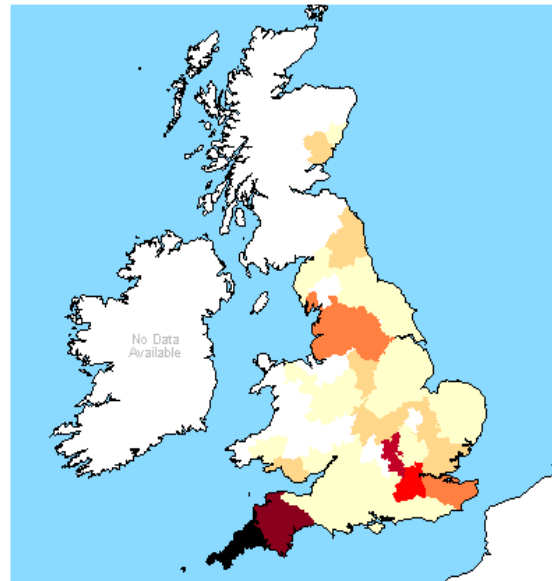
Distribution of the Dingle Surname in 1881

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- ¹⁵ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
- ¹⁶ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
- ¹⁷ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
- ¹⁸ *The British C19th Surname Atlas* Archer Software 2003.
- ¹⁹ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.

Germans to Landrake, Cornwall.²⁰ Mary was buried in Landrake on the 2nd of January 1808. On the 22nd of December 1815 Joseph was also buried at Landrake. He was said to be of 'Landrake Town' and his age was given as 93.²¹

The Roberts Family

On the 15th of December 1785, at St. Michael's Landrake, Cornwall, 4 x great grandfather, Joseph Ough, married **Mary Roberts**,²² creating a second generation of Joseph and Marys. Roberts is of course a much more common surname than the others that occur in this branch of the family. There were a reasonable number in Cornwall but most originated from north Wales and Lancashire.²³ Like, Rickard, it is a patronymic.



**Distribution of the Rickard Surname
in 1881**



St. Germans

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- ²⁰ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
- ²¹ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
- ²² Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
- ²³ *The British C19th Surname Atlas* Archer Software 2003.

Mary was the daughter of **Spry** and **Anne Roberts** and had been baptised at Landrake on the 9th of April 1765.²⁴ No marriage has been found for 5 x great grandparents, Spry and Anne.²⁵ They had eight children, including Mary, all baptised in Landrake. Frances was baptised on the 11th of August 1754, Anne on the 26th of February 1756, Peter Geach on the 27th December 1757, Elizabeth on the 25th of November 1760 and Spry on the 11th of April 1763.²⁶ Then came Mary, followed by Samuel, who was baptised on the 28th September 1767 and John who was baptised on the 15th July 1773.²⁷ Spry Roberts was buried at Landrake on the 24th of August 1792, at the age of sixty five. His wife, Anne, was probably buried there three years later.²⁸



St. Germans

The Roberts line begins when 6 x great grandmother, **Frances Geach Roberts**, had her base son, Spry Roberts, baptised in Botus Fleming, Cornwall on the 4th of March 1728/9.²⁹

It seems however that Frances' surname was actually Geach, as another illegitimate child, Mary, had been baptised to a **Spry Roberts** and Frances Geach on the 24th March 1725/6 at St. Mellion.³⁰ As a result, Spry Roberts, of St. Stephen's, Saltash, was tried in the Archdeacon's Court for fornication, on the 9th of July 1726.³¹ This obviously did not prove to be much of a deterrent as he repeated the offence two years later, when 5 x great grandfather Spry Roberts was born. No



Landrake

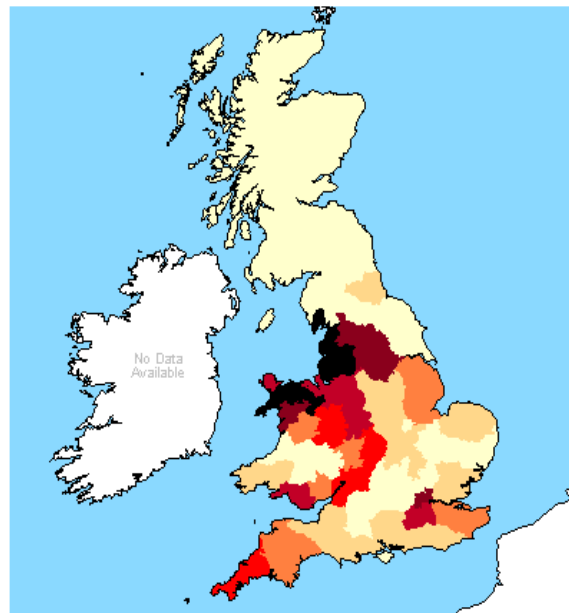
²⁴ Parish Registers of Landrake, Cornwall, held at Cornwall County Record Office.
²⁵ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
²⁶ Parish Registers of Landrake, Cornwall, held at Cornwall County Record Office.
²⁷ Parish Registers of Landrake, Cornwall, held at Cornwall County Record Office.
²⁸ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
²⁹ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
³⁰ www.familysearch.org.
³¹ <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a>.

marriage or burial can be confirmed for Frances Geach, his partner in crime.³² The Geachs and the Roberts appear to have held their own land so would have had some prominence in the area.³³ It is impossible to guess why Spry and Frances did not marry.

This makes Spry Roberts senior of Saltash a 6 x great grandfather. He is believed to be the Spry, son of John and Anne Roberts, who was baptised at Botus Fleming on the 25th of November 1692.³⁴ On the 28th of November Spry married Ann Dobbin or Dawbyn in St. Stephen's, Saltash.³⁵ On



St. Mary's, Botus Fleming



**Distribution of the Roberts Surname
in 1881**

the 3rd of August 1746, presumably in poor health, Spry, describing himself as a yeoman of St. Stephen's, Saltash, made a will. In it he mentions his wife and various nieces and nephews but not Frances or his two illegitimate children.³⁶ Leases survive showing that Spry held an interest in Notter Mills, on the River Lynher at Landrake, at the time of his death. He appears to have taken over the mill in 1728, when he is described as a miller.³⁷ Spry was buried at Botus Fleming on the 25th of August 1746.³⁸

The Geach Family

Geach is yet another surname found almost exclusively in Cornwall, predominantly in the area around Falmouth.³⁹ The name may derive from 'geek', a term that originally meant 'simple'.⁴⁰ Frances Geach, 6 x great grandmother and the mother of Spry

³² Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.

³³ <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a>.

³⁴ www.familysearch.org.

³⁵ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.

³⁶ The Will of Spry Roberts proved 1746, held at Cornwall County Record Office.

³⁷ <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a>.

³⁸ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.

³⁹ *The British C19th Surname Atlas* Archer Software 2003.

⁴⁰ <http://www.surnamedb.com>.

Roberts senior's two illegitimate children was baptised at St. Dominick, Cornwall on the 9th of April 1703.⁴¹ Her parents were **Peter** and **Anne Geach** née **White**⁴² who had married at St. Mellion on the 23rd of April 1698.⁴³ They had three sons, also baptised at St. Dominick, Peter on the 16th of April 1699, Samuel on the 21st of March 1704/5 and Thomas on the 27th of December 1708.⁴⁴ Peter and Anne's burials have not been confirmed.⁴⁵



Notter Mill

Peter Geach was baptised on the 7th of October 1675 in St. Mellion and his parents were **Peter** and **Frances Geach** née **Addams**,⁴⁶ who thus become 8 x great grandparents.⁴⁷ Peter and Frances married in St. Mellion on the 1st of May 1674.⁴⁸ They also had a daughter, Mary, who was baptised in St. Mellion on the 3rd of December 1681. Both children are mentioned in a lease for lives, that Peter senior, a husbandman, took out in 1687 for Forse Field, Viverdon Common. St Mellion was associated with the Corytons of Pentillie Estate. It seems that the family moved to St. Germans as Frances was buried there on the 5th of March 1727/8.⁴⁹ There is also

⁴¹ www.familysearch.org.

⁴² According to *The British C19th Surname Atlas* Archer Software 2003, White is a very common surname, spread throughout England, although with far fewer in Scotland and Wales. It is normally considered to be a name that derives from physical characteristics.

⁴³ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.

⁴⁴ www.familysearch.org.

⁴⁵ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.

⁴⁶ According to *The British C19th Surname Atlas* Archer Software 2003, Adams is a very common surname, with no real regional focus. The variant 'Addams' is more prominent in the West Country. It is a patronymic surname.

⁴⁷ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.

⁴⁸ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.

⁴⁹ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.

possible burial for Peter in St. Germans in 1689.⁵⁰ There are earlier generations of Geachs, including Peters, in St. Mellion but once again the links are broken by the 'Commonwealth Gap' in parish register entries.⁵¹

The Ough Family continued

To return to the Ough line.

Joseph and Mary Ough née Roberts had six children baptised in Landrake. The eldest, Ann, was baptised on the 29th of October 1786. Next was Jennifer, who was baptised on the 14th of December 1788, followed by Mary on the 2nd of 1792. 3 x great grandmother **Elizabeth Ough** was baptised on the 13th of March 1796, her brother Joseph was baptised on the 27th of January 1799 and the youngest child, Eleanor was baptised on the 8th of October 1803.⁵² Joseph was almost certainly buried in Landrake shortly after the birth of his youngest child.⁵³ It appears that, after this, the family moved to St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall where Mary was buried on the 23rd August 1832.⁵⁴ On the 4th of April 1824 Elizabeth Ough married 3 x great grandfather, **John Nicholls**, at St. Stephen's, Saltash.⁵⁵

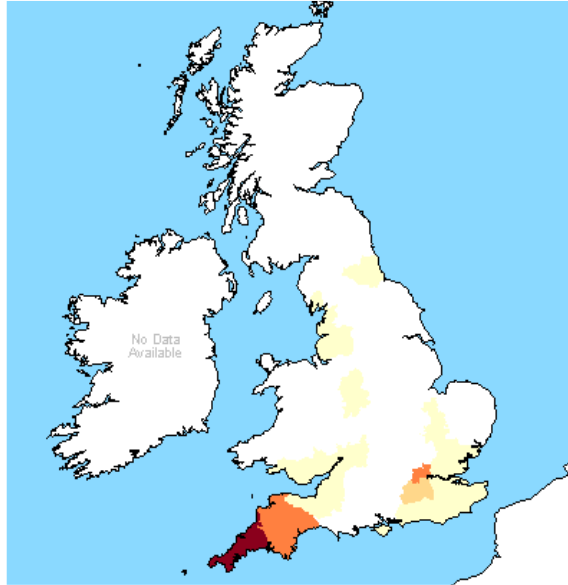


St. Dominick

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- ⁵⁰ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
- ⁵¹ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
- ⁵² Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
- ⁵³ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
- ⁵⁴ Parish Registers of St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall DDP 214/1/32, held at Cornwall County Record Office.
- ⁵⁵ Parish Registers of St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall, held at Cornwall County Record Office.

The Nicholls Family

Nicholls and its variants, Nichols, Nicolls and Nicholas, is another patronymic surname. Cornwall is the main home of both Nicholls and Nicholas. The Nicholls line begins with 4 x great grandfather **Christopher Nicholls**. His burial record suggests that he was born about 1747.⁵⁶ No baptism has been confirmed for Christopher but it may have taken place in St. Ive,⁵⁷ Cornwall in 1741.⁵⁸ On the 25th April 1785 Christopher married **Honour Jenkin** in Landrake. Both made their mark and the witnesses were John Littleton and John Panter.⁵⁹



The Jenkin Family

Honour was the daughter of **Walter Jenkin** and **Dorothy Pascoe**, who married at St. Stephens, Saltash on the 15th of June 1761. The lines of 5 x great grandparents, Walter and Dorothy, cannot be taken any further back. Both surnames are Cornish in origin.⁶⁰ Jenkin is a patronymic whilst Pascoe derives from Saint Pascall and means 'peace'.⁶¹

Distribution of the Geach Surname

Walter and Dorothy Jenkin had six children baptised in St. Stephen's, Saltash, the first, William, arriving only four months after the wedding; he was baptised on the 16th of October 1761.⁶² Honour, the eldest daughter, was baptised on the 31st of October 1763. She was followed by Elizabeth who was baptised on the 30th of January 1766, Thomas on the 2nd of May 1768 and Grace on the 3rd of July 1770.⁶³ The youngest, Walter, was baptised on the 29th of September 1772.⁶⁴

Walter and Dorothy's burials have not been traced.⁶⁵

The Nicholls Family continued

Christopher and Honour Nicholls née Jenkin had six children baptised in St. Stephens, Saltash but no more than two survived to adulthood. There is a four and a

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- ⁵⁶ Parish Registers of St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall, held at Cornwall County Record Office.
⁵⁷ Not to be confused with St. Ives. St. Ive is in eastern Cornwall, between Callington and St. Cleer.
⁵⁸ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
⁵⁹ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
⁶⁰ *The British C19th Surname Atlas* Archer Software 2003.
⁶¹ P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of Surnames* Routledge and Kegan Paul 1979.
⁶² Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
⁶³ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.
⁶⁴ www.familysearch.org.
⁶⁵ Cornwall online parish clerks' database <http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>.

half year gap between their marriage and the baptism of their first known child and another gap between 1789 and 1796, so it may be that there were other children in these gaps, who have yet to be discovered. Thomas, the eldest known child, was baptised on the 5th of October 1789 but was buried at St. Stephens on the 12th of May 1803.⁶⁶ He was followed by short-lived twin sons, Walter and John who were baptised on the 9th of October 1796 and buried at St. Stephens on the 21st and 25th October respectively.⁶⁷ They were followed by 3 x great grandfather, John, who was baptised on the 22nd of September 1799.⁶⁸ Finally two daughters were baptised, Mary on the 18th of September 1803 and Charlotte on the 15th of March 1807. Charlotte was buried on the 20th of April 1808 at St. Stephens.⁶⁹ Honour was buried there on the 27th of August 1827 and Christopher on the 23rd of November 1831, both were said to be of Trehan, Saltash at the time.⁷⁰ Trehan is a hamlet up a very steep hill about a mile to the west of Saltash.

3 x great grandparents, John and Elizabeth Nicholls née Ough, had nine children. The three eldest were born in Quethiock, Cornwall,⁷¹ so the family presumably lived there for a few years. The only clue to the existence of the eldest child, Mary Jenkin Nicholls, who was born about 1824, is the appearance of her daughter as a grandchild of John and Elizabeth Nicholls in the 1851 census.⁷² The next child, John, was born in about 1827.⁷³ There is a baptism for a John, son of John and Fanny Nicholls in Quethiock on the 17th of August 1827 and this is almost certainly an error for Elizabeth as the father's occupation is shoemaker.⁷⁴ The baptism of John and Elizabeth's next child, also Elizabeth, took place in Quethiock on the 30th of August 1829.⁷⁵ By 1831, the family were back in Saltash and the remaining children were all baptised there. William was baptised on the 24th of July 1831, Honour on the 24th of February 1833, George on the 16th of November 1834 and Ann on the 10th of September 1836.⁷⁶ Charles was baptised on the 8th of September 1839 and was buried at St. Stephens on the 28th of December 1839.⁷⁷ John and Elizabeth's youngest child, 2 x great grandmother **Isabella Jane Nicholls**, known as Jane,⁷⁸ was born on the 14th of December 1840 at Trehan, Saltash.⁷⁹

In 1841, the family were living in Trehan and John was working as an agricultural labourer,⁸⁰ although on the Saltash baptism records of his children, he was recorded as a cordwainer, or shoemaker.⁸¹ The eldest two children had left home by 1841.⁸² By 1851, John was listed as a stonecutter's labourer and only the three youngest surviving children were at home. With the family was a granddaughter, Elizabeth Ann Hocking, who was the daughter of Mary Jenkin Hocking née Nicholls.⁸³ On the 6th of

⁶⁶ Parish Registers of St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall, held at Cornwall County Record Office.

⁶⁷ Parish Registers of St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall, held at Cornwall County Record Office.

⁶⁸ Parish Registers of St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall, held at Cornwall County Record Office.

⁶⁹ Parish Registers of St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall, held at Cornwall County Record Office.

⁷⁰ Parish Registers of St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall, held at Cornwall County Record Office.

⁷¹ 1851 census for Trehan, St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall HO107 1900 folio 420.

⁷² 1851 census for Trehan, St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall HO107 1900 folio 420.

⁷³ 1851 census for Trehan, St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall HO107 1900 folio 420.

⁷⁴ www.familysearch.org; Peter Smith Quethiock Online Parish Clerk..

⁷⁵ www.familysearch.org.

⁷⁶ Parish Registers of St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall, held at Cornwall County Record Office.

⁷⁷ Parish Registers of St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall, held at Cornwall County Record Office.

⁷⁸ The marriage certificate of William Braund and 'Jane' Nicholls 1863 from the local Register Office.

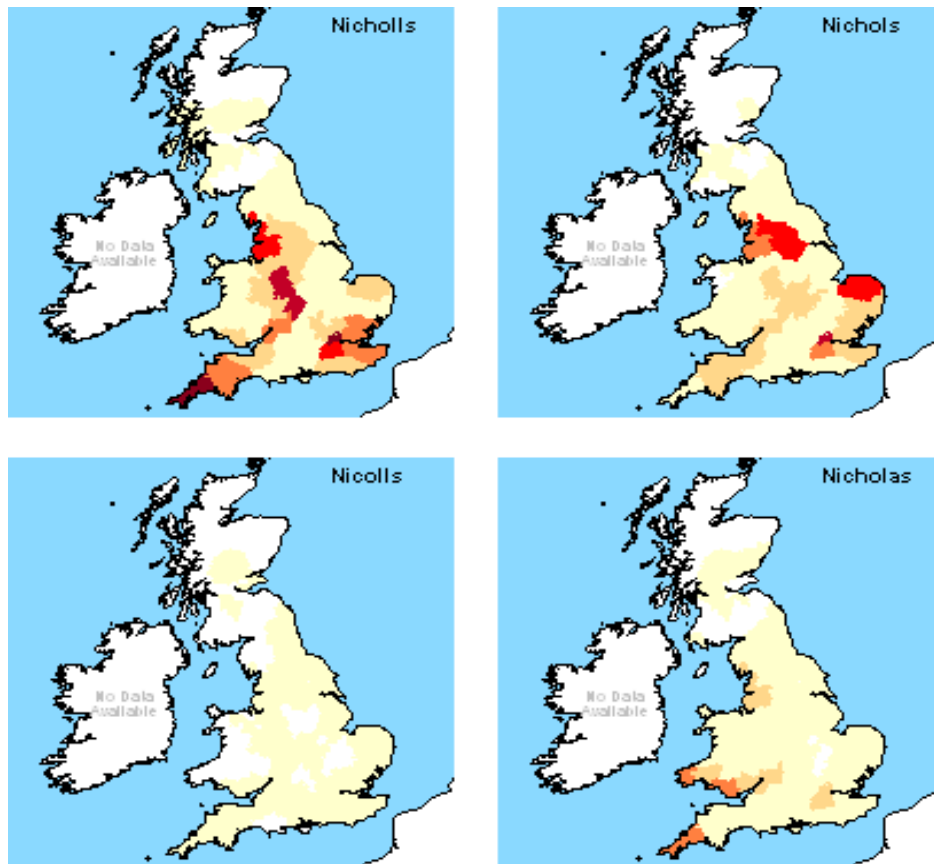
⁷⁹ The birth certificate of Isabella Jane Nicholls 1840, from the local Register Office.

⁸⁰ 1841 census for Trehan, St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall HO107 135/12 folio 25;.

⁸¹ Parish Registers of St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall, held at Cornwall County Record Office.

⁸² 1841 census for Trehan, St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall HO107 135/12 folio 25;.

⁸³ 1851 census for Trehan, St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall HO107 1900 folio 420;.



Distribution of the Nicholls Surname and variants in 1881

October 1860, Elizabeth Nicholls died of valvular disease of the heart and dropsy at Trehan. Her neighbour,⁸⁴ Rebecca Abbott, was in attendance at the time of the death.⁸⁵

The 1861 census finds the widower John, a labourer in a slate and brick store, sharing his home with his youngest daughter, 'Jane', who is acting as a housekeeper. Also in the household is a visitor, Anne Doidge and a granddaughter, Jane, or possibly Jesse, A L Nicholls, aged 2.⁸⁶ Unfortunately it has not been possible to track down this grandchild. She would be of particular interest if she were an illegitimate daughter of Isabella. On the 21st of January 1863 Isabella Jane, calling herself Jane, married **William Braund** at St. Germans register office; she was unable to write her name.⁸⁷ Her story continues under Braund.⁸⁸ John Nicholls' death has not been confirmed but there are possible death registrations in 1862 and 1864 and he does not appear in the 1871 census.⁸⁹

Acknowledgements

Kitty Hayes, Peter Smith.

www.freebmd.rootsweb.com.

⁸⁴ 1851 census for Trehan, St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall HO107 1900 folio 420.

⁸⁵ The death certificate of Elizabeth Nicholls 1860, from the General Register Office.

⁸⁶ 1861 census for Trehan, St. Stephen's, Saltash, Cornwall RG 9 1525 folio 155.

⁸⁷ The marriage certificate of William Braund and 'Jane' Nicholls 1863 from the local Register Office.

⁸⁸ See Few, Janet *The Cargreen Odyssey* The Braund Society (2006).

⁸⁹ www.freebmd.rootsweb.com; www.findmypast.co.uk.