

GROUP EXERCISE

Course: Introduction to One-Name Studies

Tutor: Helen Osborn

Exercise Date: 10-23 July 2010

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Exercise:

Choose a rare, but not too rare surname, it might be surname of a group member. How many occurrences of the surname (ie numbers of individuals) can you find and from where in the next two weeks – use any and all indexes, anywhere on the web. You MUST record all results with the correct website url and record series or document that has been indexed, as well as date collected. There may be other things you wish to record about the results as well.

Finally, bring the results together and present them in a table. Do not bother with detailing the first names of individuals, this is a list of where and in what frequency the surname exists within available indexes and databases. The task must be completed as a Word document and uploaded to the Forum by Friday 23 July.

Surname: We selected the surname **EASTLAKE**, including the variant **EASTLACK** and other variant names as identified during the exercise. According to ancestry.com, this is an English surname from Cornwall and Devon. It originated as a habitational name from Eastlake in Devon, named in Old English as *east lacu* the ‘eastern stream’.

THE HEADLINES

Number of Occurrences Found	
EASTLAKE	49,499
EASTLACK	13,680
Other Variants	34,125
Total Occurrences	97,304

We found **97,304** occurrences of the surname, as detailed in the attached *Eastlake-Eastlack Research Log*. The surname occurred in **585** references. We’re overwhelmed with what can be found by a small team in two weeks.

OUR APPROACH

Our approach was reasonably straightforward:

- Decide who would lead the exercise
- Decide on a name to research
- Decide we would also search for variants
 - However, the handling of variants emerged once we started collecting data
- Get some basic guidance (Sue’s research notes)
- Decide how we collect the information (Google docs, Kim’s Research Log)
- Decide how to divide the research
 - We divided by country
- Do the research and put results into group spreadsheet
- Keep team informed on progress and problems
- Do the final report

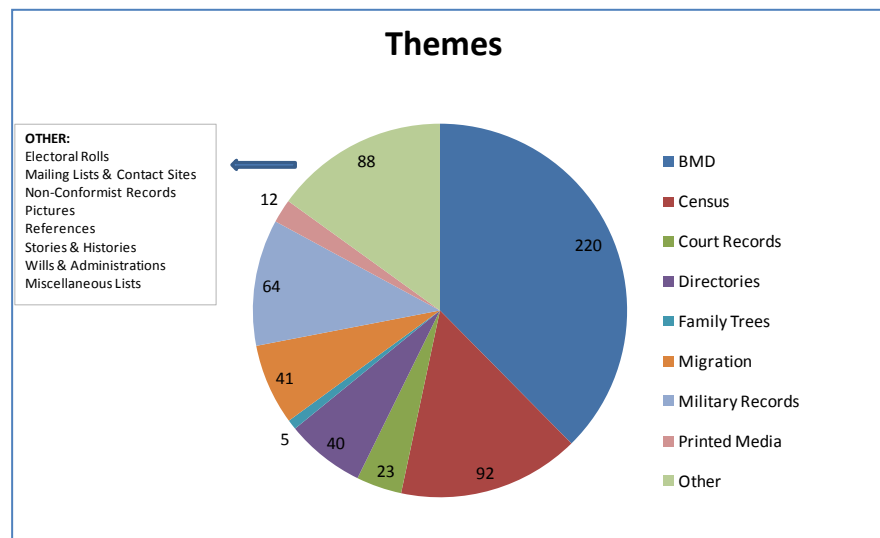
This approach led to results that we're quite happy with. As one team member said, 'We have done brilliantly. Most geographical areas have been covered adequately and some comprehensively'.

As with any group effort though, there are some things we might do differently in future collaborations:

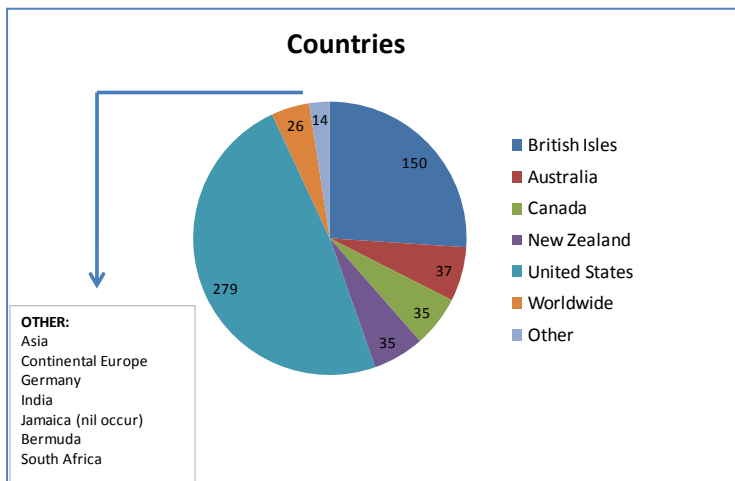
- In the circumstances, it was never going to be possible to delegate tasks at the outset, as we had no idea how much time or enthusiasm different course members had for the project. Certainly we should have defined clear tasks at the outset and invited individuals to pick what they were prepared to do. Also we should have asked the group to be much more specific about what resources (e.g. websites) that they could access.
- Google Docs enabled us to share our research log which did away with the burden of one person trying to capture everyone's progress. In addition, it made our progress visible at all times which was motivating in itself and it enabled us to spot key gaps in our research. It isn't clear though if everyone was comfortable with using Google Docs or what was expected in all the fields in the research log. In the future, it's important to ensure that everyone is comfortable with the technology being used. As for the research log, it could be improved by:
 - Using data validation features to specify an allowable set of values in each field. Key fields like category/theme and country need to be consistent in order to allow sorting, counting and summing for data analysis
 - Providing separate columns to hold the locations where detailed indices and/or images have been stored for any of the individual collections. Currently, this information is in the Notes column along with other information. Many of the detailed indices were saved into spreadsheets during this exercise, which will be of immense help when the study is taken forward.

REFERENCES

This chart shows the types of references we used. Of the 585 total references, over half of them were either Birth, Marriage, Death (BMD) or Census listings. However, we found the surname and its variants in a wide variety of sources.



For the Printed Media theme, we did not count each newspaper as an individual reference. Rather, we generally counted all the newspapers of a given country as one reference. Otherwise, newspapers would have accounted for the vast majority of our references. For example, ancestry.com identifies 480 U.S. newspapers that contain the Eastlake surname or its variants.



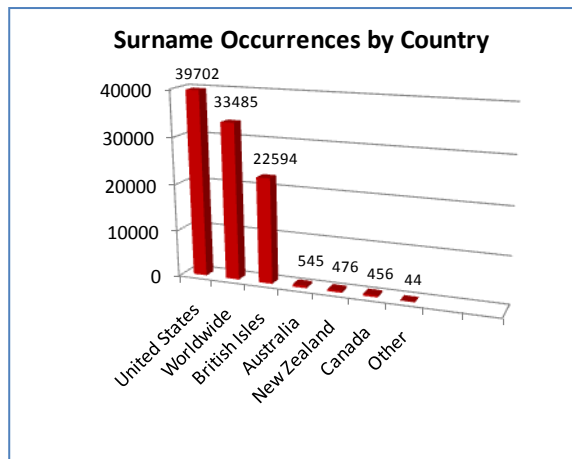
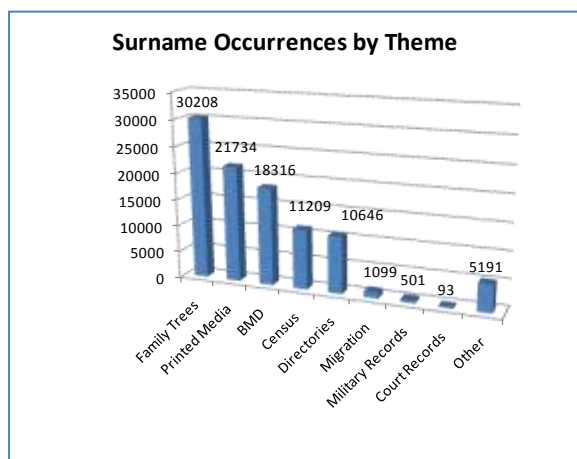
We sought a worldwide investigation of references as shown in this chart. Many search engines filter the 'nil' results, so we mostly only reviewed references that contained the surname or its variants. Most references were for the British Isles and the United States, but we also found significant numbers of references in other former British colonies. There are also many sources now that cover worldwide references.

We believe that we achieved reasonably representative coverage of the available references. Key omissions include:

- The number of United States references on ancestry.com was so high that we didn't have time to investigate the many other sources of US genealogical data.
- We didn't have time to check out the sources identified on *Cyndi's List*, which contains over 270,000 links to genealogical websites.
- We didn't have time to do *Google* searches on the surnames, which would have no doubt turned up a wide variety of additional sources. This type of open-ended search is especially difficult with a surname such as Eastlake, which also occurs as a placename.
- We've only got one reference for Asia and none for South America. We've analysed the IGI holdings and we don't believe there are any significant populations of Eastlake or variants on these continents. However, it would be worthwhile to better understand the sources available for these locations.

SURNAME OCCURRENCES

When we look at the actual occurrences of the surname, we get a different distribution to that seen in the references. We can see from the chart below that the highest volume of occurrences came from Family Trees, followed by Printed Media (mainly newspapers). The newspaper occurrences



have not been analysed to determine if the name Eastlake is being used for a placename rather than a surname, so the Printed Media figure can be expected to reduce significantly following analysis.

The volume of occurrences says nothing about the usefulness of the information. In the case of Family Trees and Printed Media, it is generally difficult to extract a list of the individual surnames to use in analysis. In addition, the quality of Family Tree information varies greatly. Because of the high volume and these other difficulties, we recommend that the other types of indexed sources be tackled first when trying to investigate a surname.

VARIANTS

One of the trickier parts was to decide how to handle variants. We knew of the Eastlack variant, but otherwise we did not know what forms the Eastlake surname might take. One of the team members (Sue) did significant early analysis on the variants and made recommendations to the rest of the team on how to search for them using wildcards (where the search engines permitted). Preliminary (quick) visual analysis of the 5600 US *International Genealogical Index* (IGI) and 1170 British IGI entries, catalogued by Sue using wildcard searches, yields the following possibilities for variants and deviants. Although the table shows derivations from Eastlake, Eastlack or Es*I*k*, it seems likely that the original name was Eastlake or Estlake, from which Eastlack and Es*I*k* all derived, based on the dates of earliest appearance.

IGI United States			IGI British Isles		
Derived from	Variant	Deviant	Derived from	Variant	Deviant
Eastlake		Estlake	Eastlake	Eslake	Easlake
				Estlake	Eaistlake
					Esclake
					Eslake
Eastlack	Estlack	Eastlach	Eastlack	Estlack	Easlacke
	Easlack	Eslack		Estlacke	Eastlach
		Estlacke			Eastlacke
					Eastlaike
Es*I*k*	Easlick	Easlich	Es*I*k*	Eastlick	Easlick
	Eastlick	Eastlich		Eslick	Eastleck
	Eslick	Eastlock (v?)		Estlick	Eastlicke
	Estlick	Eastluck			Eastlike
	Esleeck (d?)	Eislick			Eastlock
		Eslich			Eselicke
		Estlich			Eslech
		Estlock			Esleck
		Estluck			Eslic
					Eslicke
					Eslick
					Eslock
					Estlock
					Estleck
					Estleik
					Estlicke

SURNAME DISTRIBUTION: WORLDWIDE

Time doesn't permit a good analysis of the distribution of our results, especially complicated by the fact that many occurrences of the surname Eastlake are likely to be placenames rather than the surname. However, as a preliminary view, we observe the following:

Location	Surname Occurrences
British Isles	Predominantly Eastlake , but also many occurrences of Es*I*k*
United States	Predominantly Eastlake , but also many occurrences of Eastlack and Es*I*k*
Australia	Predominantly Eastlake , but also many occurrences of Es*I*k*
Bermuda	Eastlack
Asia	Eastlake
Canada	Eastlake
Germany	Eastlake
India	Eastlake
Ireland	Eastlake
New Zealand	Eastlake

Bermuda is the anomalous country, where Francis Eastlake (or Estlake) sailed to from Plymouth in about 1660 as a Quaker minister. He and his family then emigrated to the United States in about 1680 and are thought to have started the Eastlack family. Sources say he was outspoken, which helps to explain how many sources capture his very short stay in Bermuda.

These very early results support the view that migration was early to the United States and Australia. In Canada and New Zealand, where sample size is sufficiently large for some analysis, numbers of deaths significantly exceed births. Is this due to the availability of records or is it possibly related to migration? Sample size for all other countries is very small and might indicate temporary stays by individuals.

One of the participants identified that Passenger Lists to the United States were overwhelmingly Eastlake rather than Eastlack. This could be explained by how early the Eastlack name took root in the United States.

SURNAME DISTRIBUTION: BRITISH ISLES

Based on our present knowledge, the earliest persistent recorded uses of the Eastlake surname were all in Cornwall/Devon. The Eastlake surname came first in 1558, Eastlack shortly thereafter in 1558 and **ES*L*K*** not appearing until 1653. Whilst the first two may be the result of which parishes were included on IGI, we believe that it is significant that the third didn't arrive until nearly a century later.

Using county breakdowns available from The Genealogist website, Sue has prepared an analysis of the distribution of the Eastlake and Estlick surnames in England and Wales through the census years. Estlick was chosen as a representative **ES*L*K*** variant. The results are summarised in the tables and distribution maps shown in Annex 1.

The evidence strongly supports the hypothesis that the Eastlake surname originated in Cornwall or Devon, mostly likely in the Bodmin area. It is interesting that ancestry.com identifies it as a

habitational name from a place called Eastlake in Devon and it would be worthwhile to understand their basis for identifying the originating location as being in Devon rather than Cornwall.

Similar to other surnames that the group has studied, such as Adamthwaite and Estall, the Eastlake surname appears to have originated in one location with migration slowly occurring to major cities and eventually to spreading across England. Also similar to these other surnames, the Eastlake surname appears to be extremely scarce in other parts of the British Isles. Not unexpectedly, overseas migration is dominated by former colonies of the British Empire.

The Estlick distribution maps clearly show that it also originated in Cornwall or Devon. It then follows a migration pattern analogous to Eastlake and other surnames that we are currently studying.

EASTLAKES OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

We've already discovered several noteworthy Eastlake's in our research:

- **Roger Eslak (1400s):** An intriguing mention of Roger is made in the Medieval Soldier database, identifying him as a man-at-arms in service to Sir Thomas Kyrielle and John Beaufort, Duke of Somerset. He is recorded on an expedition to France in 1443. This is the earliest recorded use of the name that we have found.
- **Francis Eastlake/Eastlack (born circa 1635):** Francis was the Quaker minister who emigrated to the United States from Plymouth and started the Eastlack family. He and his wife Margaret suffered much persecution in England and Bermuda before settling in New Jersey. He wrote a book on his religious beliefs while in Bermuda.
- **Charles Locke Eastlake (1836-1901):** From Wikipedia, we know that Charles was a British architect and furniture designer. He started the Eastlake Movement, a design reform movement where he 'posited that furniture and decor in people's homes should be made by hand or machine workers who took personal pride in their work.' We have found many references to Charles and his Eastlake Movement.
- **Alfred Eastlack Driscoll (1902-1975):** Alfred was a US politician, a member of the Republican Party. He first served as a Senator for New Jersey and then became Governor of New Jersey from 1947 to 1954. It seems fitting that he served the state in which the Eastlack family originated in the 1600s.
- **Harry Raymond Eastlack (1933-1973):** According to Wikipedia, Harry 'died from fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva (FOP), a rare and poorly understood disease in which the bone repair mechanism runs out of control, turning other tissue like muscles and tendons into bone. Eastlack permitted his skeleton to be preserved for scientific research, and it is today on display at the Mutter Museum of the The College of Physicians of Philadelphia. His skeleton is one of the few existing in the world and a valuable asset to the study of the disease.'

THE VALUE OF THE EXERCISE

Participants found the exercise valuable for the following reasons:

- **Applying the Lesson on Organising Your Study:** The volume of information, the time constraints and the need to work with a group forced us to organise the exercise and the data we collected. Making use of a shared Research Log was particularly valuable.
- **Finding Out about many New Sources:** Capturing the URL's makes it possible to use our results in any one-name study.
- **Learning Techniques for Saving Information:** Several team members got the opportunity to store the detailed indices behind the summary numbers. In this case, practice makes perfect and we can now capture large volumes of data far more efficiently. In addition, the data is being captured in a manner that makes subsequent analysis easier.
- **Finding Value in Collaboration:** The amount of information that the group could assemble in two weeks far exceeds what any individual could have done. In addition, each team member brought their own unique experience to bear on identifying sources. Collaborative techniques can be applied to any one-name study, even rare surnames.

In addition, the results of this exercise are highly likely to be used in a one-name study of the Eastlake surname in the future. It is unlikely that such a study would have been considered without the foundation that this exercise offers. While the Eastlack name has been studied by family members in the United States, to the best of our knowledge no one has undertaken a one-name study of the name to date.

ANNEX 1: Distribution maps for EASTLAKE and ES(T)LICK in Census Years 1841-1901 – Eng & Wales

(source: [The Genealogist](#), accessed July 2010)

Number of matches:

KEY:



EASTLAKE



Print this map

1841



Print this map

1851

ES(T)LICK



Print this map

1841



Print this map

1851



Print this map

1861



Print this map

1861



Print this map

1871



Print this map

1871



Print this map



1881



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1881



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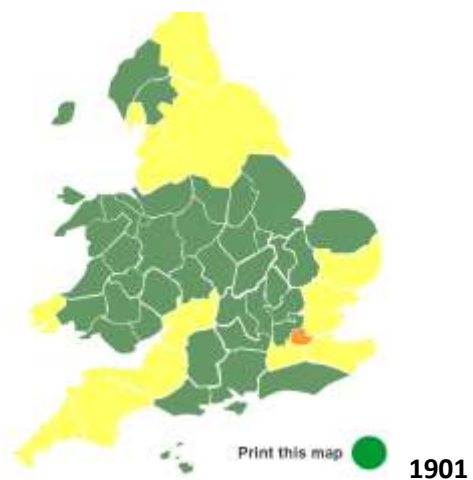
1891



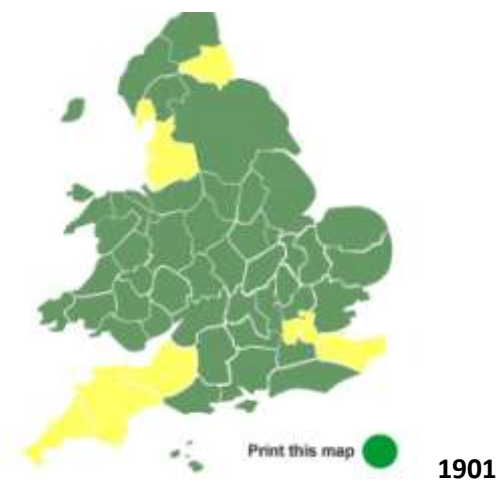
Print this map



1891



1901



1901

Distribution of surname EASTLAKE in census years 1841 - 1901 in England and Wales
(source *The Genealogist* accessed 10 jul 2010)

census year	Berkshire	Channel I.	Cheshire	Cornwall	Devon	Durham	Essex	Gloucs	Hampshire	Kent	Lancs	London	Middx	Northants	Northumbs	Pembrokes	Somerset	Staffs	Suffolk	Surrey	Sussex	Westm'land	Worcs	Yorks	Crew Lists	TOTAL E&W
1841				11	43							8				10	1				7			2		82
1851				21	51							18				7	2									99
1861	1			30	42							22				11	2				8		2			118
1871				13	35				1			60	2	5	11	3							5	1		136
1881				9	54	10			1			60	6		11	4										155
1891		8	9	28	43	1		1		1	13	73	4	2	3	7	5	4		3		1		1		207
1901				29	40	7	2	8		2	1	68			40	11	5		1	4				5	1	224
all years	1	8	9	141	308	18	2	9	2	3	14	309	12	7	65	53	15	4	1	7	15	1	7	9	1	1021

Distribution of surname ES(T)LICK in census years 1841 – 1901 in England and Wales

(source *The Genealogist*, accessed 21 jul 2010)

census year	Channel I.	Cardiganshire	Cornwall	Cumberland	Derbyshire	Devon	Durham	Glamorgan	Kent	Lancs	London	Middx	Somerset	Suffolk	Surrey	Yorks	TOTAL E&W
1841			31			6					4						41
1851	2		84			5		4			10						105
1861			92			8		5			4	1					110
1871		7	106			10					13						136
1881			53	9		12	23			12	15	1		2	1	2	130
1891			50		1	17	10			8	1	2					89
1901			54			9	17		6	23	6	1	1				117
all years	2	7	470	9	1	67	50	9	6	43	53	5	1	2	1	2	728

There were no occurrences of the variant EASTLACK in The Genealogist censuses 1841-1901