

Pomeroy Family Association



Research Report 2012

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This report dated 31st December 2012 is published by the Pomeroy Family Association (PFA) to explain the results to date of our collective research project which aims to understand the origins of the Pomeroy name by reconstructing the family trees of all living and historical bearers of all surnames thought to be related to it.

Our latest news will be found on our blog with a summary of our research status on our website, including the most recent version of this report. Given that this report is a 'work in progress' updated annually please do not to post this copy on the web.

Please email me with any questions you may have about the project or our findings.

Many thanks!

Chris Pomery
(Editor)

www.DNAandFamilyHistory.com

Where To Find The PFA

PFA Blog www.pomeroyfamilyhistory.org.uk
pomeroyfamilyhistory.wordpress.com

PFA Email pomeroy@one-name.org

PFA Website www.pomeroyfamilyhistory.com

PFA Research Report www.pomeroyfamilyhistory.com/downloads

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Facebook Group www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8003715718
Search in Groups for Pomeroy Family Association

Surname Project Profile www.one-name.org/profiles/pomeroy.html

DNA Results Map www.click2map.com/maps/PFA/PFA1

DNA Project Page www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?code=J47344&Group=Pomery

*Our US Research
Partner* www.americanpomeroy.org

The Project So Far: Key Milestones

To date we've:

1. transcribed all the key British national sets of genealogical data which are published online;
2. identified all the trees of UK-origin that have living descendants, and reconstructed those trees back to 1840;
3. linked a DNA result with almost every UK-origin tree that has a living descendant;
4. realised that variant surnames within our project are usually linked with specific geographical areas or are found only in a single tree; and
5. tracked down emigrants who have left the UK during the last four hundred years such that all Australian, New Zealand and South African name-bearers are already linked to a UK-origin tree.

Our Immediate Research Plan

The research programme is co-ordinated by Chris Pomery and Derek Iremonger.

After completing 'Phase 1' — the transcription of national UK genealogical record sets — we're currently defining and preparing 'Phase 2' — the systematic checking and recording of English parish records covering the period from roughly 1550-1850.

Two main tasks are in hand:

1. to check all the data that's been collected over the past 16 years and passed to the PFA since our first reunion in 1997; and to
2. check the records of parishes surrounding the parishes of origin of the trees that we've been able to research so far. Early targets are parishes around Totnes and Plymouth (Devon), Bridport (Dorset), and London.

Looking Forward

We expect that these two research activities will take at least a couple of years, and it may well take us three or more years to pull their results together and integrate them into our current understanding. That coincides neatly with a most interesting anniversary that is rapidly approaching — the 950th anniversary of the Norman Conquest led by Duke William of Normandy, which falls in 2016.

With that in mind, the PFA intends this year to explore the potential to organise a reunion in the UK for some time in 2016. While the Duke invaded in the month of September and the famous battle was fought on 14th October, after we've sampled members' opinions it may well be that we opt for an earlier time of year when we can hope that the weather will be pleasanter than in mid-autumn.

As well as moving our own project forward, it would be wonderful if our society could co-ordinate our research with those of other groups investigating other Norman-origin surnames.

Next Steps


















With that in mind, members can expect to hear before the end of year from the PFA as we try to work out the most useful set of plans and dates for 2016...and indeed to confirm that we collectively want to meet up again. Both our planned research and our proposed reunion will only be successful as and when members come forward to help us take them forward!























Our Trees

Table 1 lists the 55 trees with UK-origins that have living name-bearing descendants, listed in order of their currently documented year of formation with the oldest first. The origin year is determined by the earliest documented event associated with a male member in it; in some cases there are earlier records in the parish which remain unlinked. The ‘Genetic Family’ column indicates which trees are linked through their DNA results to each other (letters A-E). The letter ‘u’ indicates a DNA result unique within our project.

The fifth column lists the main countries where members of the tree emigrated to at some point, or quickly re-located to, by order of flag: Ireland, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa. The ‘+’ sign indicates an additional unlisted country, and the ‘*’ asterisk that no one in this tree is today living in the UK.

Table 1: Trees Originating In The UK & Ireland

<u>County</u>	<u>Tree Name & Year</u>	<u># Tree Members</u>	<u>Genetic Family</u>	<u>Emigrant Countries</u>
FRA	Normandy 1066	(e) 400	u	
CON	St Neot 1575	626	A	
CON	Linkinhorne 1577	1125	u	
DOR	Beaminster 1617	(e) 11,000	B	* 
CON	St Gluvias 1663	89		* 
DEV	St Sidwell 1668	155	C	
DEV	Holsworthy 1688	813	u	
CON	St Neot 1707	167	u	* 
DOR	Netherbury 1709	606	u	
WIL	Wilton 1710	910	B	
LON	Whitechapel 1710	85	B	
CON	Gorran Haven 1717	1093	A	+ 
DEV	Exeter 1719	288	u	
CON	Lewannick 1720	423	B	
DEV	Rattery 1724	92	u	
CON	Lezant 1725	130	u	
LON	City of London 1725	366	u	
CON	Poughill 1727	55	u	
LON	Cheshunt 1727	205	u	
DEV	Stoke Gabriel 1728	95		* 
DEV	Ashburton 1736	56		

DEV	Lydford 1738	481	D	+ 
SOM	Clevedon 1740	379	B	
DOR	Allington 1746	341	E	
CON	Bodmin 1747	341	A	
DOR	Beaminster 1747	139	A	
DEV	Farway 1754	549	C	
DEV	Membury 1756	151	C	
DEV	East Stonehouse 1773	47		
DOR	Symondsburry 1773	416		
DOR	Chideock 1777	147	E	
DEV	Brixham 1781	121	B	* 
CON	St Mellion 1790	86		
CON	Luxulyan 1798	89	u	
IRLD	Millstreet 1798	135	B	
DOR	Broadwindsor 1804	353	E	
DEV	Plymouth 1808	108	A	* 
DEV	Stoke Damerel 1808	68	D	
LON	Lambeth 1810	138	u	
SOM	Iminster 1812	205	E	
DEV	Bere Ferrers 1816	60		* 
DEV	Bradworthy 1826	160	u	
CON	Gorran Haven 1828	114		
CON	Polruan 1828	71	u	
DEV	East Allington 1828	27		* 
SOM	Staplegrave 1829	102		
DEV	East Stonehouse 1837	59		
DEV	Rattery 1837	252	u	
DEV	Devonport 1841	93	u	
IRLD	Millstreet 1841	102	B	
DEV	- 1847	241	u	
LON	Pancras 1854	110	A	
IRLD	Kanturk 1872	26		
HAM	Portsmouth 1900	32	u	
IRLD	- c.1924	16	B	

What is striking about Table 1 is not only that almost all of the trees have one or more emigrants associated with them, but that 8 of the 55 trees no longer have any descendants living in the UK but survive now only because of those emigrating forebears.

Many of these 55 trees currently appear to originate within a very short distance of one or more other trees listed, and we are confident that these groups will eventually come to be documented as part of a single tree. The presence of a unique DNA result doesn't necessarily mean that a particular tree is not related to any other one, only that the male-line genetic heritage that we can test in the present day is different. This dislocation can happen for any of several reasons, the most common being an illegitimate birth somewhere along the male line.

The trees listed in Table 1 share two characteristics: all of them have their origins in the UK and each of them has name-bearers living in the UK or abroad.

Within the overall research project there are three other sets of trees that we are pursuing:

1. those of UK origin but where all the male lines have died out and where there are no living descendants anywhere at all;
2. those with living name-bearers in the UK, but with origins that are clearly outside it;
3. those currently only traced back to an origin outside the UK.

Trees Not (Yet) Of UK Origin

We are very fortunate, and very grateful, that we can collaborate with the American Pomeroy Historical & Genealogical Association (APHGA) which is doing a magnificent job in tackling that huge task. You can read about them here — www.americanypomeroys.org — where you'll find a link to their blog.

Table 2: Non UK-Origin Trees

<u>Country</u>	<u>Tree Name & Year</u>	<u># Tree Members</u>	<u>Genetic Family</u>	<u>Potential Originating Location</u>
USA	Maine 1697	700	C	DEV
USA	Pennsylvania 1709	950	x	-
CAN	Newfoundland 1781	86	u	DOR, DEV, Channel Isles
USA	Maine 1780	58		-
USA	North Carolina 1785	344	u	-
USA	Virginia 1792	235	B	Ireland
CAN	Ontario 1833	89	u	DEV
USA	Kansas 1839	14	u	-
CAN	Ontario 1890	9	u	-
CAN	Newfoundland 1900	20		-

The list in Table 2 represents only a proportion of the number of trees we suspect exist outside the UK. (Another way of thinking about it would be to say that this table is at an earlier stage of research than Table 1.)

Tree Clusters' Hypothesis

The list of trees in Table 1 is difficult to interpret without an intimate knowledge of the parishes of the counties of the West Country, so this third section is designed to organise that data in ways that make it easier to appreciate the connections between the trees. In doing so it begins to describe how we think the list of trees may turn out to be connected with each other. In other words, it represents our current hypothesis as to how our trees, and hence our surnames, originated.

Clustering trees like this is clearly an exercise in hypothetical imagining, but it creates the basis of a working hypothesis to show how the trees described in Tables 1 & 2 could plausibly end up linking together. The process combines information from the DNA results with suggestions garnered from the documentary research, and mixes those insights with some simple assumptions — notably that trees originating close to each other in place and time are more likely to be related to each other than they would be to any other tree.

A Framework For Our Speculations

Several key points can be made here as an introduction to the next few pages of speculation:

1. There is generally a very close correlation between the eleventh-century land and feudal holdings of the Norman Pomeroy family and the origins of the trees as we've already been able to reconstruct them.
2. After DNA testing a descendant in virtually every tree of UK origin, by this well-developed stage of the project we're left with only five incomplete sets of trees — 'genetic families' — that each remain to be reconstructed into a single tree, three of which exist within tight localised geographical bounds.
3. The places of origin that it is hardest to associate trees within a clustering process are the two urban centres of London and Plymouth. We have multiple trees currently originating in each location, and given that these cities function as a magnet within widespread and complex hinterlands it's hard to define how these trees will link to others except through further research.
4. About 40% of the individuals within our UK-origin trees are associated with the two clusters that are built around our two largest genetic families. Were we in future to be able to link those two genetic families together, for example by showing that there was a documentary connection between the two sets of trees, we'd then have reconstructed the outlines of a single massive tree whose head could plausibly be described as the original Pomeroy genetic ancestor.
5. If we could then show a connection between that composite tree and the noble family we would have shown that we are members of a single family tree.

While we recognise that it will take some years to reconstruct our trees in detail back to the period of the beginning of English parish records, the framework above shows that if we can find a few key bits of linkage evidence then the overall picture could change dramatically. Until then, here's a descriptive — as well as speculative! — account of how our trees may well link together.

Cluster 1

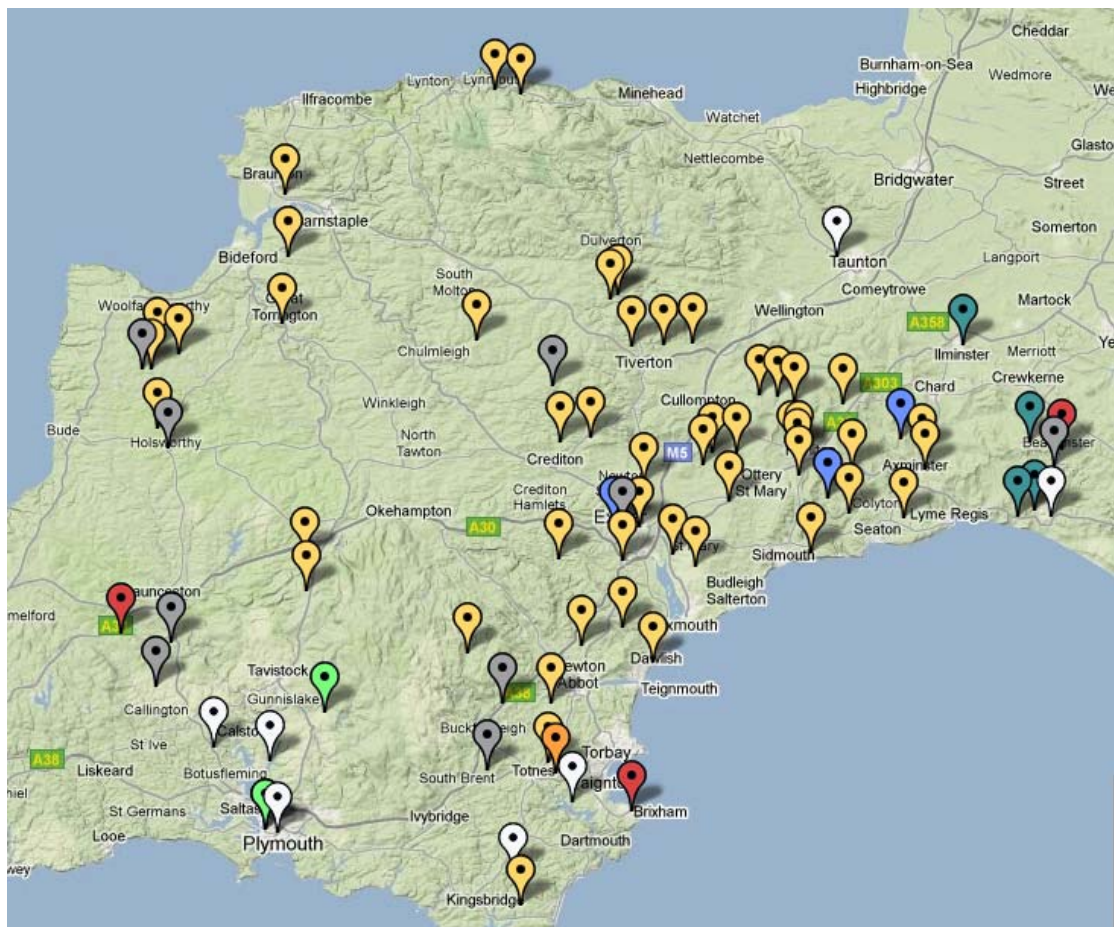
Normandy 1066

Our starting point has to be the original noble Pomeroy family with its seat at Berry Pomeroy near Totnes. A descendant has a DNA result unique within our project to date.

Map 1 below gives an indication of the noble family's land holdings across east Cornwall, Devon and west Dorset, the heartland of the Pomeroy family. Berry Pomeroy castle (tagged in orange) and the majority of the manors recorded as belonging to the family in the Domesday Book of 1086 (tagged in yellow), are spread across much of Devon.

What stands out is that many of our trees originate on the edges of the area defined by the manors rather than within it.

Map 1: Domesday Manors & Devon Trees



Key to marker pins

yellow	Manors of the Pomeroy family, recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086
dark orange	Berry Pomeroy castle, ancestral home of the Pomeroy family (as Cluster 1)
bright red	Genetic family B (in Cluster 3)
blue	Genetic family C (in Cluster 5)
dark green	Genetic family E (in Cluster 6)
bright green	Genetic family D (in Cluster 7)
dark grey	Unique DNA results each one associated with a single tree in the project
white	A tree where no one has yet been identified who is willing to DNA test

Cluster 2

- **St Neot 1575** (linked geographically to **St Neot 1707**)
- **Gorran Haven 1717** (linked geographically to **Gorran Haven 1828**)
- **Bodmin 1747** (linked geographically to **Luxulyan 1798** and **Polruan 1828**)
- **Beaminster 1747**
- **Plymouth 1808**
- **Pancras 1854**

This group is built around 'Genetic Family A' which is prevalent in central Cornwall (note that these markers are not shown on Map 1). It then includes all the trees originating in west and mid-Cornwall by geographical proximity. The surname Pomery is prevalent within these trees, and apart from a few bearers in Dorset this variant spelling can generally be seen as indicative of a Cornish origin.

The St Neot family was well-established at the point when parish records began. Members had landholdings in the parish; members of the Bodmin tree were also well placed in their community, so I suspect we'll one day find a land record confirming their connection. The Gorran family was by the C18th mainly fishermen, and the Luxulyan family also was poorer and less secure, but my best guess is that this group of trees are in fact one.

We might speculate that this is perhaps a cadet branch of the noble family, or one characterised by an illegitimacy very early in the line. The oldest tree has been reconstructed almost back to the beginning of parish records in the mid-1500s, but it's worth remembering that that is only half of the way back in time to the era of the Domesday Book and the earliest generation when the Pomeroy family could have been granted lands in Cornwall.

Map 2: Cornish-origin trees in Cluster 2





Cluster 3

- **Beaminster 1617**
- **Wilton 1710**
- **Whitechapel 1710**
- **Lewannick 1720** (linked geographically to **Lezant 1725**, possibly to **Linkinhorne 1577**)
- **Clevedon 1740**
- **Brixham 1781** (potentially documented as linked to **Devonport 1841**)
- **Millstreet 1798 & Millstreet 1841 & IRELAND 1924** (linked geographically to **Kanturk 1872** and by oral tradition to **VIRGINIA 1792**)

This group of trees is built around a set of trees linked by their common DNA as 'Genetic Family B' (three of these trees are marked in **bright red** in Map 1). This group has the widest geographical spread of any of our genetic families and clusters, which suggests that it likely originated a long time ago compared to other groups in the project.

The currently documented origins of trees in this cluster stretch from east Cornwall, to Wiltshire, the Bristol area and on to Ireland. Interestingly there is only one tree which is geographically close to the seat of the noble family. This originates just a few miles away from Berry Pomeroy in the port of Brixham, one-third of which was owned by the noble family. The earliest parish records in Brixham — which are not currently incorporated into the known tree — date back to the 1500s, so it is tempting to see this as the originating point for this entire cluster of trees.

The remaining trees, as they currently stand, suggest early dispersals from Devon to eastern Cornwall (by the 1500s), to Dorset (by the 1600s) and to Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and London (by the 1700s). We can speculate that they all stem from a line present in Brixham before the mid-1550s, and their distinctive 'genetic signature' could be accounted for as resulting from an illegitimate descent, possibly from the noble family, or due to some other name-changing reason.

Interestingly, the Irish trees originate from the area near Cork, an area where members linked to the noble family once settled. Secondly, the DNA results connect the Dorset emigrant family of Eltweed Pomeroy (labelled as **Beaminster 1617**) who emigrated to Massachusetts in the 1640s and whose descendants now number many thousands.



Cluster 4

- **Rattery 1724** (linked geographically to **Rattery 1837**)
- **Stoke Gabriel 1728**
- **Ashburton 1736**
- **East Allington 1828**

All the trees in this cluster are either genetically untested or have returned a unique DNA result which does not link them to any other tree. However, they together comprise a set of trees currently originating in parishes very close to the noble seat of Berry Pomeroy.

They therefore potentially — individually or as a group — most likely link to the **Brixham 1781** tree in Cluster 3 or to the **Normandy 1066** tree of Cluster 1, so perhaps Cluster 4 can best be thought of as either Cluster 3a or Cluster 1a, we just don't as yet know which.

Cluster 5

- **St Sidwell 1668** (geographically linked to **Exeter 1719** & **Poughill 1727**)
- **Farway 1754**
- **Membury 1756**
- **MAINE 1697** (geographically linked to **MAINE 1780**)

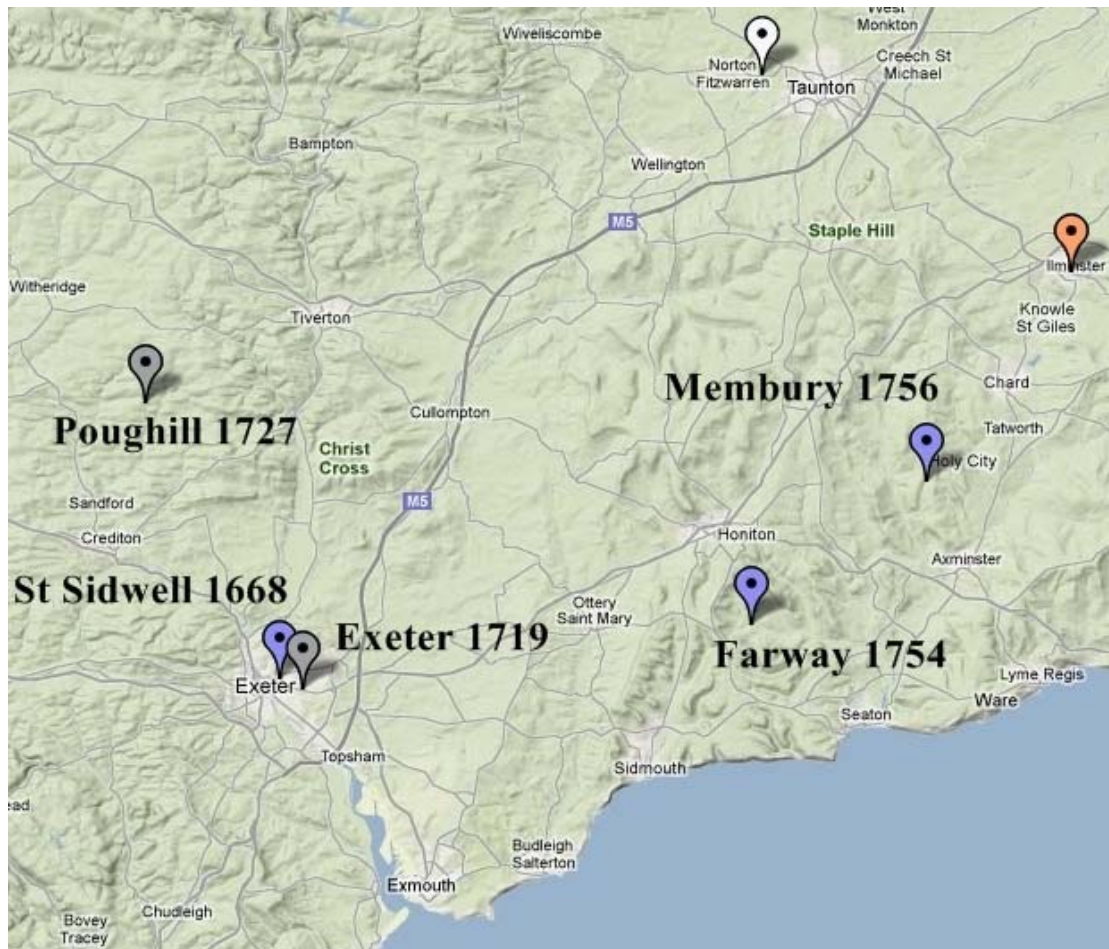
Built around a set of three trees comprising 'Genetic Family C' (shown in **blue** in Map 1), all of which are found within a journey by horse of each other in west Devon.

The currently oldest-documented tree in this cluster originates in Exeter, where the noble family had property holdings, but it includes — on the basis of the closest geographical proximity — a tree originating in Poughill, a village between Tiverton and Crediton some five miles from the parish of Stockleigh Pomeroy and some Pomeroy landholdings at Sandford.

DNA results link into this genetic family a very early tree founded in the US east coast state of Maine. It is not known whether the emigrant Pomeroy went for religious reasons or was simply a seafarer who never came home, but unlike the Cornish trees the descendants of these trees did not generally go to sea.

As with the other clusters, if these trees are in fact part of a single family tree then their unique DNA signature could result from an early illegitimacy or from a legal name change at some point.

Map 3: Trees in Cluster 5



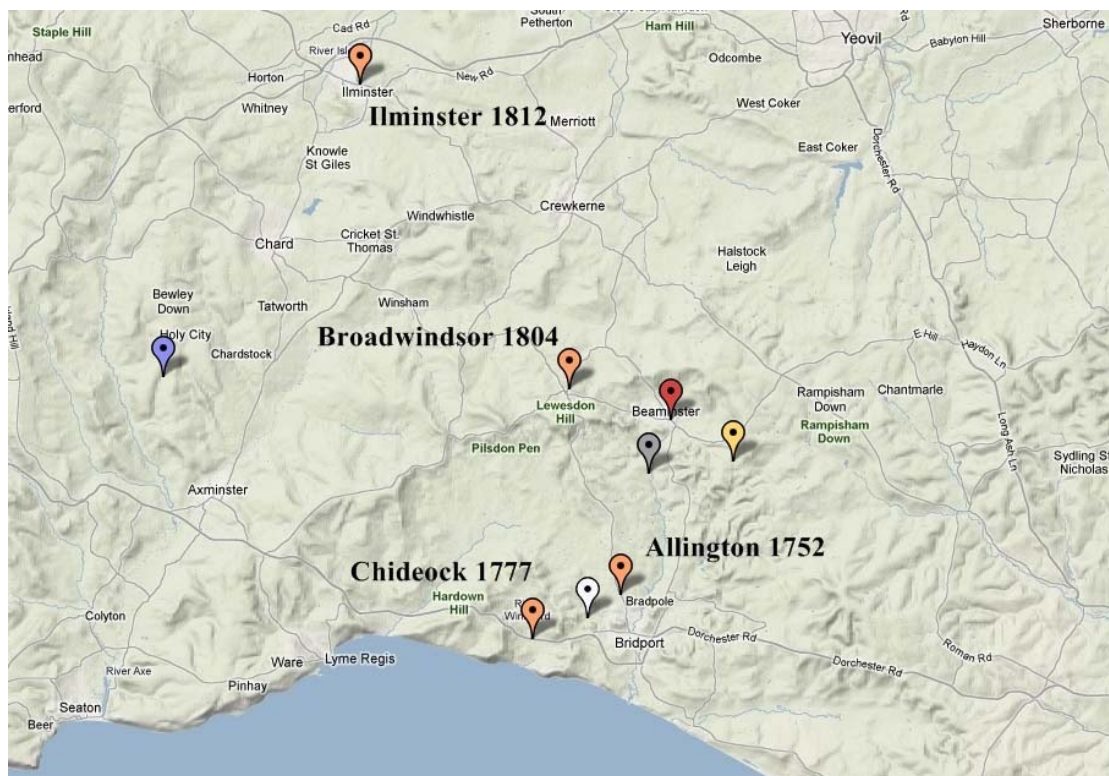
Cluster 6

- **Allington 1746**
- **Chideock 1777**
- **Broadwinsor 1804**
- **Iminster 1812**

This cluster comprises a set of genetically related trees originating in west Dorset and Somerset (labelled as 'Genetic Family E' and shown in **dark green** in Map 1 but with **orange** pins below).

We can say for certain, based on that evidence alone, that they comprise a single tree and will one day be documented as such. What is more complicated and uncertain is how they connect with other lines and clusters. In close vicinity are the origins of two trees which link to different genetic families and different clusters: cluster 2 is represented by the **Beaminster 1747** tree (shown in yellow in Map 4), and Cluster 3 is represented by the **Beaminster 1617** tree (shown in red below). Even the **Membury 1756** tree in Cluster 5 (shown in blue) is within travelling distance. Of these three, the **Beaminster 1617** tree has no known members in the UK after the 1630s and the **Beaminster 1747** tree is an outlier within its own cluster which makes me consider that the tree might not be reconstructed accurately at present.

Map 4: Trees in Cluster 6 & Nearby Trees



Cluster 7

- **Lydford 1738**
- **Stoke Damerel 1808**

This small cluster comprises two trees genetically related to each other in west Devon as 'Genetic Family D', shown in **bright green** on Map 1.

Appendix: PFA Posts & Committee Members

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