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# Journal

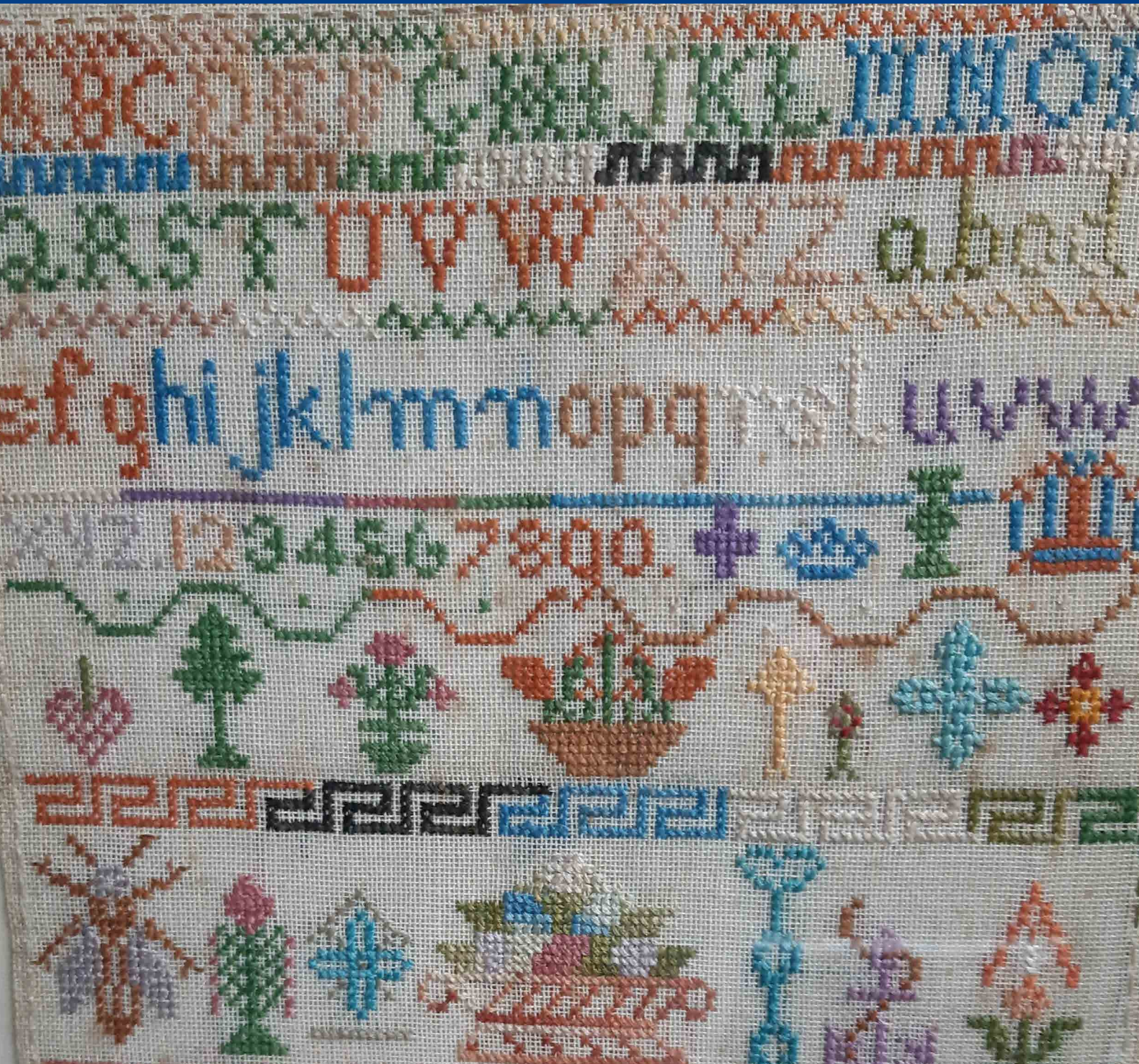
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# Extended One-Name Study

## R-A6093 North Mercia Project

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/r-a6093-north-mercia/>

*by Dr Joe Flood (4583)*

In late 2020, we began the R-A6093 North Mercia Project at Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) and introduced the idea of an extended one-name study or surname cluster project. The study members are men with the same or different surnames who are related on the paternal line. The different surnames mostly originate in England in the North Mercia district - Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

The common ancestor of most of the men lived in the period just before surnames formed, in the Warm Mediaeval Period of the 12th and 13th centuries when the English population was increasing rapidly, but common people had as yet no hereditary surnames. The paternal-line descendants of this progenitor took many different surnames.

This cluster is an extended one-name study because if the surname founders had been born a few hundred years later they would all probably have had the same surname.

The extended study has been possible because of the Big Y-700 test at FTDNA, which defines a haplotree of humanity encompassing all males. The haplotree is a male-only phylogenetic tree, dendrogram or family tree in which 'son' events occur every 2-3 generations rather than every generation. These 'son' events are defined by single nucleotide markers (SNPs), which are very rare mutations of a single binary DNA allele. SNP mutations are passed in the Y chromosome to all male-line descendants.

The main surnames in the study so far are Hyde, Blood, Coker, Ashfield, Willett, Cheatham and Jackson. A brief description of each of these surnames is in the Appendix.

There are also a large number of men with other surnames who match but have yet to take the Big Y-700 test. Some of these alternative surnames may be due to fairly recent non-parental events (NPEs) such as base births where the child takes the mother's surname, while others have hereditary surnames dating back to the Middle Ages.

### The beginning

Back in the early days of Y-DNA testing around 2007, when Y37 was the standard Y-DNA test, we noticed that men with a number of different surnames were close matches to our Bloods. Because Blood was a very old surname from the 1400s, we presumed that these surnames must be NPEs from Blood. Several hypotheses were put forward as to how this could have happened on such a scale.

The most colourful theory proposed that the 'scoundrel' Colonel Thomas Blood (1618-1680), thief of the Crown jewels, might have left a trail of illegitimate children during the period he was appointed as 'inspector of nonconformists' in the Manchester area. In support of this, it was recorded he had

been 'inspecting' a widow with one of the related surnames rather frequently.

As time went on and Y-testing became more accurate, some of the 'matching surnames' turned out not to match the Bloods at all. However, while the detail might be wrong, the original presumption was correct. A large cluster of related surnames emerged around the North Mercia district. Most of us had over 45 Y67 matches with men of different surnames. The common ancestors went back well before the time of the nefarious Colonel Blood, to the time of formation of surnames in the 1300s.

We knew from the beginning that the men in the cluster belonged to the broad Germanic haplogroup R-U106>Z159. There are several large, mostly Jewish branches of Z159 in Greater Poland, dating from about 150 BC, and these very distant cousins presented another puzzle. At one stage, Z159 was known as the Ivanhoe cluster (as in Sir Walter Scott's novel), because of its dual Scottish Border and Jewish affiliations.

As testing improved, we were able to define the cluster much more tightly down to the A6093 haplogroup, which dated from the time of the Polish split. We sought approval from FTDNA for a project that would cover everyone in the cluster. In late 2020, the R-A6093 North Mercia project was established for men carrying the (equivalent) Y-mutations A6093 or FGC17294.

North Mercia is an old district in the English Midlands where the ancestors of many of our members originated. Hyde has greatest concentration in Nottinghamshire but is spread throughout the Midlands and down to Wiltshire. Blood is from Derby/Nottinghamshire/Staffordshire, Highfield is from Staffordshire, while Cheatham, Meakin and Ashmore are from Derbyshire.

An interesting aspect of the cluster is that some men with these surnames were settlers in the Massachusetts Bay Colony from 1610 to 1640. While North Mercia has not been particularly associated with this colony till now, Puritanism in the Midlands at that time led many to emigrate and avoid persecution. Because Y-DNA has been tested more thoroughly in the USA, and surnames have survived better there than in England, quite a few of our members are descended from Colonial settler stock.

A6093 is a Germanic/English haplogroup which probably formed on the Continent near the North Sea, around Roman times. The split from the Polish line (FT178522) occurred at this time. The 'splits' are actually two sons of a father, each of whom has living paternal descendants.

I asked everyone in the cluster to consider taking the Big Y-700 test, to provide an accurate A6093 phylotree showing how and possibly when the different surnames might be related. A total of 18 men took the test.

A family tree of related surnames

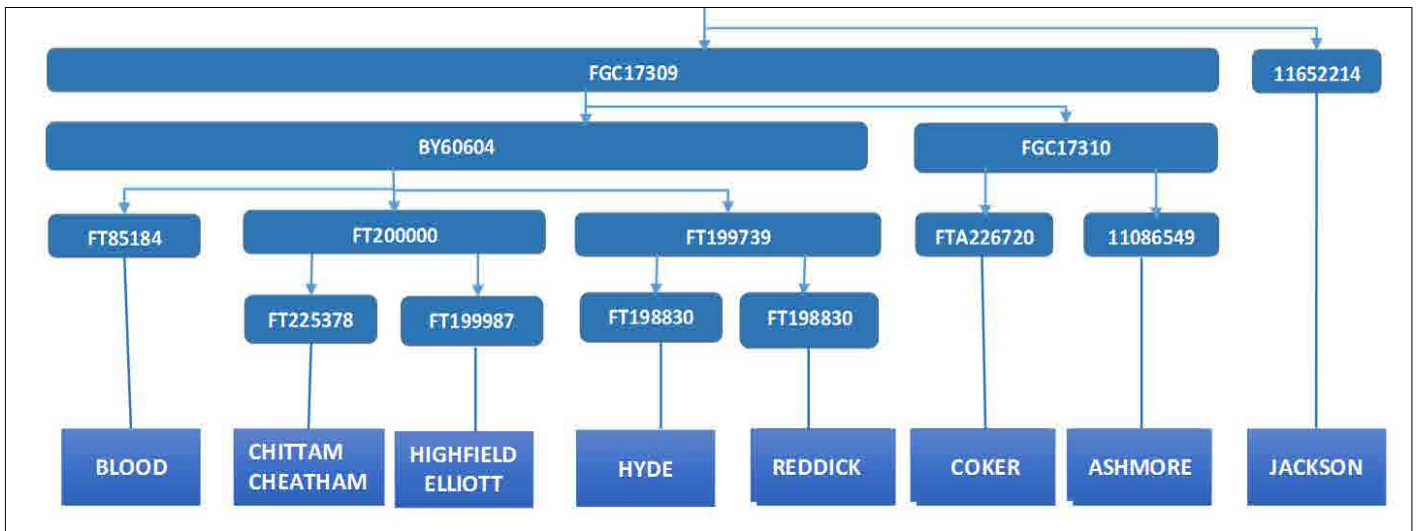


Figure 1. Haplotree of main surnames in the R-A6093 haplogroup

Figure 1 shows the A6093 haplotree with SNP branches defining eight surname groups. These surnames are described in the Appendix. Table 1 gives the approximate timing of the main branches.

The first branch to leave the main stem of the A6093 haplotree was Jackson, about 550 AD. The line is still found in Staffordshire, so A6053 ancestors had probably settled in North Mercia by that time.

Table 1. Main splits in the R-A6093 haplogroup

Split	Approx date*
Formation, Polish split (FT178522/A6093)	150 AD
Jackson line (FGC17309)	550 AD
Ashmore-Coker line (FGC17310)	950 AD
Ashmore and Coker split (FTA22672)	1200 AD
Hyde/Blood split (FT85184, FT200000, FT198830)	1150 AD
Blood Nottingham/Derby (FT124365, FT85084)	1400 AD
Highfield/Chittam-Elliott split (FT199987)	1200 AD
Derby/Nottingham Hydes (FT198853)	1400 AD

Note \* From FTDNA Discover

About 400 years later the FGC17310 line split off, which later divided to Coker and Ashmore. Ashmore is an old Derbyshire surname, while Coker is probably a Virginia variant of the Derbyshire surname Corker.

Around 1150 AD there was a further three-way split in the main line. One was Blood, which further split into the Nottingham and Derby lines in the early 1400s. The other two lines are both HYDE and related branches.

As shown in the Appendix, men with about 25 other surnames appear to fall into the project, but as they have not yet taken Big Y-700, they cannot be placed within Figure 1. Davis and Willett in particular appear to be very early, significant branches.

Phylotree for the HYDE surname

Ever since public Y-testing became available, researchers have tried to construct family trees using STRs, but have been stymied by parallel mutations, reversals and testing errors. Now, NextGen testing has made it possible to construct consistent phylogenetic trees for related men with the same or different surnames.

The repetitive count measures found in Y37 and Y111 tests, know as STRs, may also add further detail. Placing STR mutations as well as SNPs into the phylotree adds extra markers, which improves the level of discrimination and may increase the number of branches. If STRs are included, it may be possible to estimate the correct position of men with limited testing (e.g. Y111, or even fewer markers) by seeing if they have the appropriate STRs. The SAPP tool (www.jdvsite.com) can construct trees using both SNPs and STRs, though SNPs are the most accurate markers.

Surprisingly, two of the distinct surname groups in Figure 1 include the Hyde surname. The phylotree for the FT199739 group is shown in Figure 2. This family is defined by two SNPs, and also by several STR values. The SNPs are in blue boxes, the STRs are next to the links. The red font is for STRs in the 68-111 block, which require the Y111 test to observe.

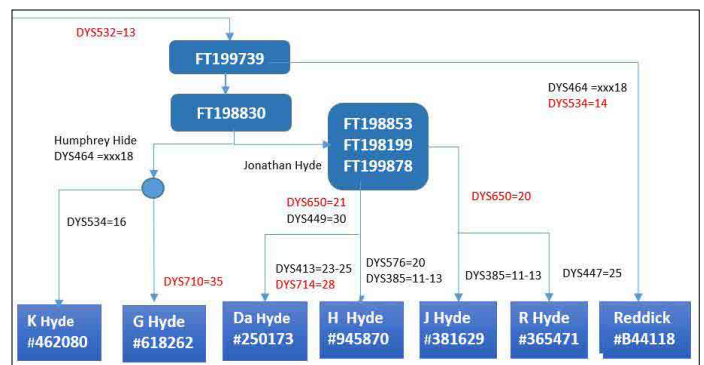


Figure 2. Main Hyde phylotree

The Reddick line split off around the time the Hyde surname formed. Until this study, Reddick was originally thought to be a fairly recent NPE of Hyde or Blood, but it turns out to be an old surname in its own right, with its own SNP.

The Hydes who have tested are all from the United States. They are mostly descended from two Puritan settlers in Massachusetts, Jonathan Hyde (of Nottinghamshire) and Humphrey Hides (thought to be from Derbyshire). These two lines are clearly separated by SNPs. However, as with the Bloods, more recent branches are so far only separated by STRs.

Initially, we tried to create the Hyde phylotree in Figure 2 using only two Big Y results and the STRs, but the tree came out wrong due to parallel STR mutations. We therefore asked for more Big Y participants, from which we produced a correct phylotree that matched our genealogical knowledge.

Nevertheless, we still have several 'triangulation problems' or logical inconsistencies in the Hyde tree, due to parallel mutations or testing errors in STRs.

## Second phylotree - Hyde and associates

Figure 3 shows the second branch of A6093 that contains HYDEs, as well as other surnames. The branch is clearly marked by the FT200000 mutation and several STRs. It is associated with the Virginia colony.

It is hard to understand how men with the Hyde surname could fall into two different closely related haplogroups. One possibility is what I have called surname convergence. This happens when two men with similar names go to a foreign place. They meet, presume they must be related and adopt the same surname or variant. So a Highfield may have gone to Virginia and adopted the abbreviation Hyde.

The branch begins with the breakaway of Cheatham/ Chittam. Like Reddick this was originally thought to be an NPE of Blood, but it is strongly marked by SNPs and five STRs, and must be an original English surname in its own right.

Soon afterwards we have a definite example of surname convergence with the American surname Hite, originally from the German Heydt. Hydes from our cluster in Virginia adopted this variant for their descendants, probably in the 1700s.

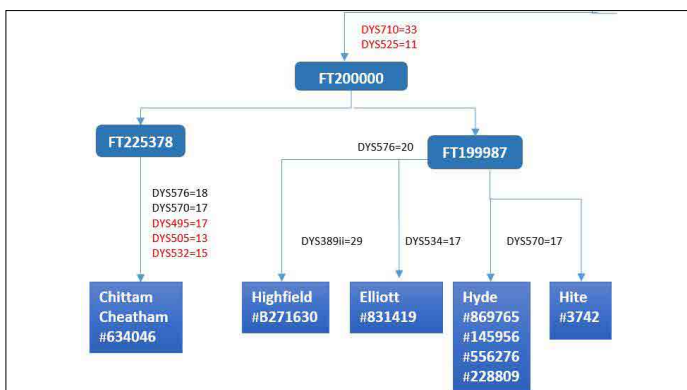


Figure 3. Hyde - Highfield - Hite - Cheatham - Elliott branch

The Hite member appears to have no Y111 STR mutations at all, and must have an identical Y111 profile to the FT200000 founder, who probably lived around 1200 AD.

Elliott and one Hyde have tested with BigY, but they have not replied to correspondence and are not in the project. Three more Hydes have the correct STRs for this branch, but have not tested with BigY.

When more data become available, we may be able to improve this phylotree.

## Conclusions

The Big Y-700 test has permitted us to construct a consistent haplotree schematic for a large cluster of surnames originating in the central Midlands. This was not possible using only STRs, which are the markers used in earlier tests such as Y111. More than eight surnames have been accurately placed but about 25 more remain to be included when more testing is undertaken.

By including STR markers in the diagrams, we may be able to define extra more recent branches, and to place men accurately who have so far only taken a Y111 test or even fewer markers. However, the inclusion of STRs leads to inconsistencies which may be from parallel mutations, reverse mutations, or sometimes from testing errors.

The number of men testing in each surname is too small at present to provide very much in the way of analysis for the period after the 1600s when one-name or surname studies usually begin. However, the haplotree provides a meaningful framework on which to hang future more detailed studies. More Big Y testing will reveal much more structure and detail.

For the surname Hyde, the descendants of several fairly distantly related colonial settlers have been laid out in two dendrograms. One of these contains considerable diversity, including variants such as Hite; and several other surname lines that probably date from the Middle Ages in Britain.

As testing expands, it is expected that the methods used in this paper will be employed widely in establishing the structure of complex surnames and will be of great value for one-name studies.

## Appendix. The major surnames

In descending order of surname population size, the North Mercia cluster consists of men within the R-A6093 haplogroup having surnames within the Hyde complex, Blood, Willett, Ashmore, Cheatham, Coker, Meakin, Jackson and Davis, and about 25 other singletons who are yet to join the project. All so far except Willett are connected to the North Mercia region of the Midlands.

Many men from this region emigrated to the new North American colonies in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, especially New England. Several of these surnames have substantial populations there today. There is much misleading material online about the genealogy and origins of these Colonial families.

## Hyde - Highfield - Hite

There are around 65,000 Hydes/Hides globally, in a large number of unrelated lines. In England there were around 12,000 Hydes in 1901, spread most strongly through the Midlands and down the west side of England to Wiltshire. Numbers have increased to around 19,000 Hydes there today.

The surname Hyde is usually considered to derive from an old unit of land, the hide. This was regarded as the amount to produce a pound of income in a year, enough to support one family or around 30 acres (120 old acres). Five hides were taxed by the Saxons to support one soldier, while the old 'hundred' region measure was 100 hides.

An alternative derivation of the surname is from a family of gentry, the Barons of Norbury Hall, associated with the manors of Hyde and Haughton near Manchester. Two British monarchs descend from another line of noble Hydes, the Earls of Clarendon in Dinton, Wiltshire. The Y-DNA of these two lines of gentry is unknown - but there are fairly high densities of Hydes near these places. The highest density of Hyde is however in Nottinghamshire.

In America many Hydes are descended from four men born between 1610 and 1625 - Jonathan Hyde and his brother Samuel, of Massachusetts, and Humphrey Hides and William Hyde of Connecticut. Robert Hyde of Virginia is another prominent settler with many descendants.

Humphrey Hides was among the first Puritan settlers. He was born in Yorkshire of a family from Everton, Nottinghamshire.

Sergt. Jonathan Hyde, was born probably in England about 1626, and died intestate at Newton, Mass. on 5 October 1711, aged 85. In April 1639, he embarked on the ship Jonathan, bound from London for Boston. His elder brother Samuel crossed the Atlantic in the same ship with him. In 1647 Jonathan settled at Cambridge Village (now Newton), Mass. He is remarkable for having up to 27 children by two wives.

Highfield is an obvious place name. There are 1,630 Highfields in the UK, concentrated in Staffordshire. There is an Irish branch of Highfield.

In a classic example of 'surname convergence' in colonial Virginia (where similar sounding surnames adopt a single variant), there are at least 20 unrelated lines of the American surname Hite, one line of which is in our A6093 cluster. The surname is originally an Anglicisation of the German Heydt.

## Blood

The origin of the Blood surname is not known, but it may refer to a blood relative. It is mostly found in Derbyshire and Staffordshire. There was a strong early presence in Nottinghamshire, with branches in Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. There has been an Irish branch of distinction, descended from a soldier Edmund Blood, born around 1570 in Derbyshire.

There are about 8,000 Bloods globally, of which 2,100 are in the UK and 5,600 in the USA. Almost all Bloods are paternal cousins belonging to the A6093 cluster.

In the USA, four relatives James, Richard, Robert and John Blood emigrated from Nottingham to Massachusetts during 1625-35 and became substantial landowners around Groton and Concord. Most Bloods worldwide are descended from Richard or Robert. About 3,000 Bloods lived in New England in 1900.

The Derbyshire Bloods are mostly found in Britain and Australia, and include the author.

## Willet

Willet has diverse origins: derived from either 'little William'; from the place name 'Wiltshire'; or in America from the French name Ouellette. There are approximately 17,000 Willet(t)s globally, mostly in the USA. There were 2,300 in England in 1881, generally in two separate locations: SE England, and the Midlands, especially Staffordshire. The A6093 Willetts in our cluster are all claimed to be descended from Edward Willett of Maryland Colony.

## Cheatham

Cheetam is a village near Manchester. There are 12,500 of these in the USA, but only about 70 in Britain, now mostly in Birmingham but formerly in Derbyshire.

## Ashmore

The name refers to a place or tree by the lake. There were about 1400 families in Britain in 1891, concentrated in Derby. Today there are 4700 Ashmores in Britain.

## Coker

This surname is commonest in the USA, where it is the result of 'surname convergence' in Virginia, incorporating various surnames. The Cokers in this cluster may be originally Corker, a Cheshire occupational name spread through the Midlands. There are about 1,500 Corkers in the UK.

## Meakin

The surname is a diminutive of Matthew. It is primarily from Derbyshire. One family owned potteries in Stoke, Staffordshire. There are about 5,700 Meakins in the UK.

Jackson is a very common patronymic surname with multiple sources. This rare old line is from Staffordshire. There is a branch in the USA.

Davis is a rare Staffordshire branch of a common patronymic. It is not yet Big Y tested.

Men with other surnames and which match our members on Y67 include:

Stethem	Hackney	Lee
Tomlinson	Sanders	Summers
Whited	Butler	Cooper
Norton	Crampton	Anglin
Fenton	Haydon	Leonard
Floyd	Martin	Brown
Vowels	Glenny	Lewis
Smiley	Snow	Claude

The source for numbers having each surname is <https://britishsurnames.co.uk/>.

Joe is studying the surname Coad with variants Coade, Code, Cood, Coode, and the surname Blood and can be contacted at [coad@one-name.org](mailto:coad@one-name.org). Joe has a blog at [coadcoode.blogspot.com](http://coadcoode.blogspot.com) and his DNA project websites can be found at [www.familytreedna.com/public/coadcoode](http://www.familytreedna.com/public/coadcoode) and [www.familytreedna.com/public/blood](http://www.familytreedna.com/public/blood).