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## The value of recent records, historical context, and genealogy in surname research

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Historical linguistic analysis is of great importance to the investigation of a surname's origin, because many surnames found in England today have developed in such a way that their etymological origins are not immediately obvious from their modern forms, and so it is often necessary to trace the linguistic development of a name from the time of its origin in order to uncover its etymology. In the introductory paragraphs to *The Origin of English Surnames*, Reaney (1967, 2) is careful to make this clear, stating that Bardsley, in 1875 and 1901:

was the first to lay down the essential principles on which the study of surnames must be based, the necessity for the collection of numerous early forms of the name, the earlier the better, and from these to deduce an etymology in the light of the known history of the language.

Unfortunately, this general approach is not always followed, with a number of popular works written by authors who lack the specialist knowledge required to arrive at accurate conclusions on surname etymology. Weekley (1916, 5) recognized this fact, commenting that surname study:

is a regular happy hunting-ground for the unauthorized amateur. Even men of learning, who should know how dangerous it is to stray from their own sphere of knowledge, occasionally trespass disastrously.

While Weekley and Reaney stressed the importance of a philological approach in the investigation of surname origins, a sole focus on the linguistic history of a name can lead to inaccurate conclusions. There are many factors involved in the history and development of English surnames, and a wide range of these must often be taken into account in order to tell the full story behind a name. This has been made clear by the *English*

*Surnames Series* (ESS), a collection of county-based surname surveys, which:

never lose sight of the special nature of naming, as distinct from common vocabulary, and so proceed consistently in terms of social status, of domicile and landholding, of migration-patterns, of economic activity, of gender and familial relationships, of types of milieu, and of ramification of individual clans (Clark 1995, 384).

Unfortunately, only seven volumes were produced (Redmonds 1973; McKinley 1975; 1977; 1981; 1988; Postles 1995; 1998), but the methods within these works showed clearly that linguistics alone did not always allow for a full explanation of surname history. More recently, Redmonds has continued and improved upon the methods of the ESS (see, for example, Redmonds 1997; 2015), and in the introduction to his *A Dictionary of Yorkshire Surnames*, he sets out the key parts of effective surname research:

[the dictionary] is meant to emphasise the significance of genealogy and all the topics that I have come to see as part of the new approach to English surname research; heredity and the nature of origins, ramification and extinction, linguistic development, social history, and above all historic distribution (Redmonds 2015, 4).

The importance of historical distribution was emphasised much earlier, by Guppy (1890), who showed that there is often a link between the modern-day distribution of a surname and its place of origin. However, it appears that the significance of his findings was not fully realised, with subsequent scholars often failing to take distribution into account in an investigation of a surname's origin. This is likely to have been, in part, due to an inaccessibility of large sets of distributional data. Guppy managed to obtain and analyse data from Kelly's directories, but his work was focused only on geographical distribution, so this would have been his primary data set, and he was therefore unlikely to be tempted away from these directories by other surname data sets. Others who investigated surname etymology may have considered distribution data to be less important than a collection of early surname forms, and so may have seen the process of searching manually through Kelly's directories for instances of a surname to be too laborious and beyond the remit of etymological surname research. Thankfully,

Archer's surname atlas software (2011) has made the task much easier, providing the user with distribution maps for all surnames in the 1881 census. Whatever the reasons, some explanations of surname origins continued to take little account of historic distribution, and as a result they were sometimes incorrect.

See, for example, the explanation for the surname *Longworth* in Reaney and Wilson's *A Dictionary of English Surnames* (1991), which states that it derives from either of two places called *Longworth* in Berkshire and Lancashire. The distribution of the surname suggests that the Berkshire place-name is a very unlikely origin. Archer's surname atlas shows that, in 1881, the surname was most common to Lancashire, which contained 86% of all bearers of the name, while there were no bearers at all in Berkshire. The possibility that some instances of the surname came from Longworth in Berkshire cannot be ruled out, but given also that the only early bearer evidence provided by Reaney and Wilson relates to people from Lancashire (or perhaps one person: Hugh *de Lungewurth*, *de Langewurth*, recorded in a Lancashire Assize Roll of 1246, and Hugh *de Lungewrthe*, recorded in a Lancashire Assize Roll of 1276), a Berkshire origin for the surname is very unlikely.

Distributional information is not just useful for investigating the origins of toponymic surnames. It can be used on a linguistic basis too, to support or to discount an explanation which is based on dialect lexis or phonology. See, for example, Reaney and Wilson's explanation of the surname *Baney*, which appears to imply a derivation from a northern Middle English *\*bāni* 'boney', corresponding to the attested Middle English *bōni* 'boney'. The suggestion that this name comes from a northern dialect form is unlikely on distributional grounds, with most bearers in 1881 being found in Norfolk and Essex. This is, of course, not evidence in itself that the surname *Baney* does not derive from Middle English *\*bāni*, as it may be that the name originated in the north of England before the majority of its bearers migrated to Norfolk and Essex. However, the fact that the earliest known medieval bearers are recorded in Buckinghamshire (John *Bani*, William *Bani*, in Hundred Rolls in 1279) reduces the probability of a derivation from a northern Middle English form.

Within these two examples is an additional important point. That is, that the relatively recent distribution of a surname is not firm evidence on its own, but when considered alongside other evidence (in these cases, locations of medieval bearers), it can be a useful tool in surname research to help to rule out formally possible etymological explanations. This fits in with the ‘new approach’ put forward by Redmonds (outlined above), which combines a number of different aspects of surname history in order to reach full and reliable explanations of their origins. A collection of historical forms will rarely tell the whole story, and it is only possible to be certain of a surname’s origin once a number of sources have been studied. The kind of work done by genealogists, involving investigation of the histories of individuals and their families, should be seen as a vital part of surname research, as it can lead to more complete and reliable explanations of surname origins than would be possible from linguistic analysis alone.

The aim of this paper is to further justify a multidisciplinary approach to surname research, by presenting a number of case studies, in addition to *Longworth* and *Baney*, which have come to light during research for the Family Names of the United Kingdom research project (FaNUK) at the University of the West of England. All of the examples will show that an exclusively linguistic approach is not sufficient to fully explain the origin of the surname in question, and that there are advantages in the consideration of a number of sources of information in order to arrive at an accurate and full account of a surname’s origin. While it is widely accepted that linguistic investigation alone is not always appropriate for surname research, some of the examples presented in this paper are intended to serve as a warning to researchers that there are certain surname developments which do not fit in with established linguistic rules, and so there should be greater reliance on other types of evidence. Examples will also show that, while historical data appears to be preferred in surname research (see again Reaney (1967, 2),



‘the earlier the better’, as quoted above), recent records can provide a different and valuable insight into the history of certain surnames.<sup>1</sup>

### **Haastrup**

One particularly surprising case, discovered during research for the FaNUK project, is the history of the surname *Haastrup* in England. From the form of the name alone, it appears to be locative in origin, with the ending *-strup* perhaps having developed from the Old Scandinavian place-name element *þorp* ‘secondary settlement, dependent farmstead’. The modern form of a surname should not be the basis for a conclusion on its origin, but it can be a useful starting point, in this case prompting further research into a possible locative origin for *Haastrup*. Frequency data used in the FaNUK project (supplied by Professor Richard Webber of King’s College, London) also show that the surname, as found in England, had 0 bearers in 1881 and 109 in 2011, strongly suggesting that the name was brought to the country by foreign bearers at some point after 1881, though at this stage in the research process we cannot rule out the possibility that *Haastrup* is a late variant of a surname of English origin.

Given the name’s increase in frequency between 1881 and 2011, and also considering that the form of the name raises the possibility of a Scandinavian origin, an investigation of relatively recent, rather than medieval, records seems a sensible approach in order to find out more information on bearers of the name in England. In the 1871 Census, there is a person whose surname has been transcribed as *Haastrup* on the “Findmypast” website <findmypast.co.uk>, but this is an error, with the original record showing this person’s name to be *Halestrap*. Once this particular bearer has been discounted, the nineteenth-century census records

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this paper, ‘recent records’ are defined as those which have been created since 1800. This choice of date is to some extent arbitrary, but ensures that the records are of a type that has not been analysed in great detail in previous work on surname etymology and history, thus allowing for new methods and conclusions to be formed. Previous research has tended to focus on older documents; see, for example, McKinley’s Oxfordshire surnames survey (1977), which does not make use of records produced after the seventeenth century.

available through Findmypast show no evidence of the surname *Haastrup* in England, lending further support to the idea that the name was established recently in the country. The earliest genuine bearer in English census records seems to be an Oscar *Haastrup*, a Danish national who is recorded in the 1911 census for Lambeth in London. Oscar's birthplace appears to be given as *Hoidbjerg*,<sup>2</sup> which I have been unable to identify, but it may well be a Danish place-name (compare *-bjerg* with Old Scandinavian *bjarg* 'rock, precipice', Danish *bjerg* 'hill, mountain'). It seems possible, therefore, that the surname *Haastrup* derives from a place-name in Denmark. There are two places in Denmark called *Håstrup*, one near Follerup on the Jutland peninsula, and the other near Faaborg on the island of Funen. Either of these are plausible origins for the surname.

At this point in the research process, it would be reasonable to assume that the origin of the surname *Haastrup* had been discovered, and to end the investigation. However, while a probable etymological origin of the surname can be suggested, there is no firm historical evidence to support it, with only a single bearer found in census records from 1841–1911. It would therefore be ideal if further evidence for the Danish origin of the name could be uncovered, in order to confirm the suggested etymology; while there is no reason to dispute the Danish origin, a single bearer does not constitute reliable and representative evidence. It is very unlikely that a search of early English records will be productive, given that there were no bearers of the surname in nineteenth-century census records. Therefore, the logical approach is to examine more recent records for further evidence of Danish bearers.

Using the 'Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records' catalogue on the Findmypast website, a search for bearers of the surname *Haastrup* in British records made since 1950 returns surprising results. The majority of the bearers have typically Nigerian forenames, mostly of Yoruba origin, including Ayomide, Olufemi, and Yetunde. A small number of the bearers

<sup>2</sup> There is some uncertainty in this reading. While it looks most like *Hoidbjerg*, it is possible that it could be *Hvidbjerg* or *Højbjerg*, both identifiable Danish place-names. There are places called *Hvidbjerg* near Blåvand and Thyholm, and there is a place called *Højbjerg* near Århus.

have Muslim names, such as Mahameed Musa and Raheemah Hameedah, but this does not necessarily mean they are not Nigerian, as they may be from the Hausa community, who are mainly concentrated in Nigeria and Niger, and whose predominant religion is Islam. It is not immediately obvious how or why a surname which appears to have a Danish etymology would be borne by Nigerians, but research into Yoruba history provides the answer.

There was a member of the ruling house of Bilaro (popularly known as the *Oro* ruling house), one of the four ruling houses of the historic kingdom of Ijeshaland in south-western Nigeria, who was born in about 1820 and came to be known as Frederick Kumokun Adedeji Haastrup (often known simply as Kumokun). He appears to be responsible for establishing the etymologically Danish surname *Haastrup* in Nigeria, as summarised by Familusi (2004, 9–10) in an autobiography of Kumokun's grandson, Sir Adedokun Abiodun Haastrup:

At the age of fourteen, [Kumokun] was kidnapped while on an errand and sold into slavery. He passed from hand to hand, and from one slave market to another until he was taken to the coast after about five months. He was marched with other slaves into a waiting slave transporting ship. It was a Danish ship flying the Union Jack – the British flag. The Danish ship ran into the British Man-o-War patrol ship. She was arrested and escorted to Freetown and detained. The slaves were released into the safe hands of the Welfare Team already stationed there to take care of and settle freed slaves. Immediately Kumokun entered the Danish ship, his comeliness attracted the attention of the captain who took Kumokun to his cabin and took special care of him. The name of the captain was HAASTRUP. As was the practice in Freetown, all in-coming freed slaves were rehabilitated so that they would not be a burden on the settlement for too long. Younger ones were either adopted or put in camps for proper education. Kumokun's intelligence soon manifested itself and his ability in technical education became glaring. He soon passed all his trade tests in Town Planning and Architecture and was registered as a licenced Town Planner and an Architect. When Kumokun became settled, he adopted the name of his benefactor and when he was baptized in Wesleyan Church in Freetown, he became Frederick Kumokun Adedeji Haastrup. He left instruction to his descendants to adopt the name HAASTRUP as the family name.

During his lifetime, Kumokun became 'very rich, popular and influential' (Familusi 2004, 10), and was Owa Obokun (ruler) of Ilesa from 1896 to

1901. As ruler, he chose to be known as Ajimoko I, a form of the nickname *Ajimoko bi Oyinbo* ‘one who steered a ship like a white man’, which he gained after steering a ship to safety when the captain lost control during a storm.

The Bilaro family have borne the name *Haastrup* since Kumokun’s reign, and the descendants and relatives of this family are likely to account for the vast majority of people named *Haastrup* found in England today. It is not necessarily the case that, in England, all bearers of the surname *Haastrup* are Nigerian descendants, as the surname does still exist in Denmark, and could have been brought to England by Danes in relatively small numbers. However, an investigation of recent records has shown that the name in England is predominantly borne by people of Nigerian origin.

Analysis of recent records has shown that, when found in England, there is more to the history of the surname *Haastrup* than it first seemed. Surname research should not, therefore, finish when a linguistic origin has been uncovered, as further research using more recent records can generate new findings. The investigation of the surname *Haastrup* shows that a comparison of first names and surnames in recent records can provide information on the ethnicity or original nationality of a surname’s bearers. In this particular case, the apparent ethnicity is surprising, and could not have been discovered from a purely etymological investigation of the surname. Future research might therefore benefit from the systematic consideration of recent records, and the comparison of first names and surnames, in case there is some unanticipated and unpredictable aspect to a surname’s history which has yet to be discovered.

### **Tellick**

Further support for the value of recent records in surname research can be seen through FaNUK’s investigation of the surname *Tellick*. In this case, comparison of first names and surnames did not help to uncover the origin of the name, but recent records still hold key information on its earlier geographical distribution. The form of the name alone does not provide any clear indication of a possible origin, so an etymology cannot be suggested. The dates of the bearers, first appearing in English parish registers in the early nineteenth century, suggest that *Tellick* is a late variant form of some

other surname, and as 71% of its bearers in 1881 were found in Sussex, it is possible that *Tellick* is a variant of a surname which is also concentrated in Sussex. However, no candidates can be found in Sussex or its neighbouring counties. Given the lack of early evidence for the name *Tellick*, and the absence of any linguistically similar names in the same area, it could be argued that further investigation of the surname's origin is unlikely to be worthwhile. However, further analysis of recent records raises the possibility of an alternative geographical origin for the surname.

As has been established, the 1881 Census data shows that *Tellick* was concentrated in Sussex, and a further investigation of these records shows that many of its bearers were born in Sussex or other south-eastern counties. However, earlier census records suggest that the establishment of the name in south-eastern England may have occurred relatively recently. The 1851 census has only 14 bearers of the name *Tellick*, and ten of them were recorded in Sussex. The other four were recorded in Devon and, along with the single Devon bearer in the 1881 census, this may suggest that the name's origin has some sort of link with south-west England (such a suggestion is made tentatively, as the small number of bearers does not constitute reliable evidence, but when investigating the origin of a name with such a low frequency, it is important to follow any lead, no matter how unlikely). Indeed, from a more detailed analysis of the 1851 census records, it seems that the name may have been associated with Cornwall. The four bearers recorded in Devon in 1851 are members of the same family; the head of the family is George *Tellick*, who was born in Cawsand in Cornwall. The ten bearers recorded in Sussex can be separated into three families, and the heads of two of these families were from Cornwall; one head is a George *Tellick*, recorded in Broadwater in Sussex, who was born in Lambourne in Cornwall, and another head is a Philip *Tellick*, also recorded in Broadwater, who was born in Penzance in Cornwall. Given this clear association with Cornwall, an exploration of the possibility that the Sussex surname *Tellick* could be a late variant of a Cornish surname is justifiable. A search for Cornish surnames beginning *T-* and ending *-ck* leads to only one name that has a similar form: *Tallack* (the earliest forms of this surname are written *Talek*, which makes a derivation from the Middle Cornish nickname \**Talek* 'foreheaded (one)', 'with a (remarkable) forehead' likely).

A late change from *-ack* to *-ick* can be easily explained, as vowel changes in unstressed syllables are not unusual in post-medieval records. A change from *Tal-* to *Tel-* is not quite so easy to explain, though it may reflect a phonological development of Middle English /a/ noted by Orton, Sanderson, and Widdowson (1978, Introduction, s.v. 'ME a'; also s.v. Ph1–Ph5), appearing as /æ/ in the South West, East Anglia, and the Home Counties, and /ɛ/ in the words *apples* and *carrots* in Kent. It is also possible that, if the change in the final syllable occurred first, the high vowel of the *-ick* ending may have had some influence on the initial vowel, raising it from /a/ to /ɛ/. While a possible linguistic relationship between *Tallack* and *Tellick* can be suggested, and it can be shown that both surnames had an association with Cornwall, this is not clear proof that the two surnames are related. However, there is further evidence that *Tellick* is a variant of *Tallack*, again in relatively recent records, with bearers of both surnames found in the same Cornish parish; compare John *Tallick* and Nich. *Tellick*, recorded in 1800 and 1820 respectively in parish registers for Feock in Cornwall. This, along with the possible linguistic relationship and the birthplace evidence, makes it likely that *Tellick* is a late variant of *Tallack*.

As with the investigation into the origin of *Haastrup*, only with a detailed analysis of recent records can a likely origin of the surname *Tellick* be identified. It is the places of birth of the bearers of the name in the 1851 census which guide the analysis in the right direction, and the comparison of bearers from the same parish which supports the suggestion that *Tellick* is a variant of *Tallack*; a linguistic analysis of the surname form alone is not sufficient. This lends support to a surname research framework which draws on a wide range of sources, not just linguistic data and historical records.

### **Angear**

An investigation of the name *Angear* provides further evidence for there being value in the consideration and comparison of multiple types of data sources in surname research. Previously, in Reaney and Wilson (1991), this surname has been explained as a variant of *Anger*, which derives from the Old French and Middle English personal name *Aunger*, *Anger* (either from *An(s)ger*, a Norman French form of Old Scandinavian *Ásgeirr*, or a derivative of Old French *Ang(i)er*, from the cognate Continental Germanic

personal name *Ansger*). Based on form alone, there is no reason to believe that the surname *Angear* is not a variant of *Anger*, and Reaney's decision to link the two names is understandable, but a comparison of their geographical distributions suggests that they are unrelated. *Anger* is mainly concentrated in London, Berkshire and Wiltshire in 1881, while 30 of the 50 bearers of *Angear* are recorded in Cornwall. The heavy concentration in Cornwall is noteworthy, because many names of Cornish origin have tended to remain within the county, and so the distribution of *Angear* suggests that it is a Cornish name, and not related to *Anger*, supported by the fact that this particular form has long been established in Cornwall (see, for example, John *Angear*, recorded in a parish register of Camborne, Cornwall, in 1674). It is much more likely that *Angear* is a locative surname from any of various places in the west of Cornwall named with Middle Cornish *an* 'the' + *\*ker* 'fort', such as *Angear* in Gwennap (see Padel 1985, 243).<sup>3</sup>

As with the other surnames already discussed, the form of the name alone is not adequate evidence for a conclusion on its origin. The early bearer evidence is also inconclusive, as it is not possible to be sure of whether, for example, John *Anger* alias Williams, recorded in an Inquisition post mortem document for Cornwall in 1620–1, takes his name from a Cornish place, or from the Middle English personal name *Aunger*, *Anger*. He appears in a Cornish record, which perhaps makes it more likely that he has the Cornish locative surname, but the relationship name cannot be ruled out. However, the recent distribution of the name increases the likelihood that the surname *Angear* is a Cornish locative name, rather than a relationship name. The distribution does not in itself make it clear that the name is Cornish, but when all the available evidence is considered together, a Cornish origin is the most likely: based on its form, *Angear* could derive from a Cornish place or from the Middle English personal name *Aunger*,

<sup>3</sup> It is possible that, in some areas, the surname *Angear* represents a form of *Angell* with vocalization of the final consonant, as appears to be the case in William *Angell* alias *Angeer*, recorded in Terrington in the North Riding of Yorkshire in 1597 (cited in Redmonds 1997, 127). However, this development from *Angell* to *Angeer* appears to be rare, and as this single example found by Redmonds is from a Yorkshire record, it is probably not relevant to the Cornwall surname *Angear*.

*Anger*; however, the concentration of the name in Cornwall increases the probability that the surname derives from a Cornish place, and the existence of early bearers in Cornwall increases this probability further still. As with the investigations of *Haastrup* and *Tellick*, the most likely origin of *Angear* can only be discovered from a consideration of multiple types of data, and in this particular case, the available evidence shows that a previously suggested etymology, which is linguistically plausible, is probably incorrect.

### **Abeles**

The same is true for the surname *Abeles*. A clear possibility, considering the form of the name, is that it derives from the Middle English personal name *Abel* with a genitive or post-medieval excrescent *-s* (as is implied in Reaney and Wilson (1991)). The early bearer evidence makes it unlikely that the surname derives from a medieval formation with genitive *-s*, as no medieval *-s* forms have been found, but there are post-medieval examples (see William *Abels*, in a baptismal register for Saint Andrew Hubbard, London in 1600; Robert *Ables*, in a baptismal register for Derby, Derbyshire in 1786), and so on this basis it is possible that the surname *Abeles* is a post-medieval variant of the surname *Abel* with excrescent *-s*. However, the 1881 frequency of the name is 0, and there were only seventeen bearers in 2011. Given also that no pre-nineteenth-century bearers of the form *Abeles* have been found in UK records, it is possible that the surname has a non-UK origin, and was established in the country as a result of immigration. This suggestion is confirmed by analysis of census records, which include Michael *Abeles*, born in Austria, and the head of a family of thirteen others, in the 1901 Census for Stoke Newington. From this evidence, the origin of the name is still not clear, though investigation of more recent records (in the ‘Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records’ catalogue on the Findmypast website) suggests that it is Jewish. There is a *Yeshayahu* Abeles, married in Hackney in 2005, a *Uriel Noam* Abeles, born in Barnet (Middlesex) in 1999, and a *Simon Eytan* Abeles, born in Saint Pancras in 1970, all of whom, among others appearing in these records, have typically Jewish forenames. It seems likely, therefore, that *Abeles* does not have an English origin, but is from the name *Abele*, a pet form of the Yiddish personal name *Abe* (a short



form of *Abraham*), with Yiddish genitival *-s* (as suggested in Hanks and Hodges 1988, s.n. *Abelson*).

In this particular case, if frequency data were not available to the surname researcher, it would be reasonable to suggest that *Abeles* is from English *Abel* with post-medieval excrescent *-s*, especially considering that there is post-medieval evidence for such a name in English parish registers (though only in the forms *Ables* and *Abels*). However, frequency data shows that the name is probably not English, prompting further research leading to the identification of its Jewish origin. If an investigation of the origin of the surname *Abeles* only considered historical English records, an incorrect English origin could be suggested, but by drawing on multiple types of data (parish registers, census records, and frequencies), especially recent records, it has been possible to arrive at a much more likely explanation.

### **Buzzo**

Further support for an analysis of recent records in surname research can be seen through an investigation of the origin of the name *Buzzo*. Its origin is not immediately obvious, and its form is fairly unusual, so it is difficult to decide on how to begin research into its origin. In such uncertain cases, a justifiable starting point is to compare the name with others of a similar form, which may lead to the conclusion that the names share the same origin, or may provide analogical evidence for a relevant linguistic development. There are not many names in the UK which begin *Buz-*, and the only one which shares a similar form with *Buzzo* is *Buzza*.

The names do not appear to be related. *Buzza* is heavily concentrated in Cornwall, where 105 bearers out of a total of 157 were found in 1881. *Buzzo* is much less frequent, with a total of eighteen bearers in the 1881 census, but thirteen of them were found on the Isle of Man. Based on their different distributions, it seems unlikely that *Buzza* and *Buzzo* share the same origin. It is plausible, on linguistic grounds, that the two names are related, as the name *Buzza* derives from Bussow in Towednack (in Cornwall), which could also give rise to the surname form *Buzzo*, as permitted by the probable etymology of the place-name, from the plural form of Old Cornish *\*bod* ‘dwelling’ (see Padel 1985, 249), and supported by the surname form of the medieval bearer Luke *de Bosow*, recorded in a Cornish Assize Roll of 1284.

However, the 1881 distribution evidence strongly suggests that *Buzzo* is not a Cornish name, and so is probably not related to *Buzza*.

In this case, then, the linguistic evidence suggests that *Buzzo* could have the same origin as Cornish *Buzza*, but the distribution tells another story. This conflicting evidence makes it difficult to arrive at a conclusion and so further investigation is required. It is, again, an analysis of post-medieval records and genealogical evidence which clarify the origin of *Buzzo*. A search of parish registers for the surname *Buzzo* shows that it had an earlier presence in Cornwall, from the beginning of the eighteenth century; see, for example, Walter *Buzzo*, who was married in Kenwyn in Cornwall in 1718. It appears that the name was not present in the Isle of Man until the mid-nineteenth century; see, for example, Mary Ellen *Buzzo*, baptized in the parish of Patrick in the Isle of Man in 1860. This lends further support to the possibility that *Buzzo* has the same origin as *Buzza*, assuming that *Buzzo* originated in Cornwall before one or more bearers migrated to the Isle of Man. It is not proof, as the emergence of *Buzzo* in the Isle of Man may be due to a late variation of some other, unidentified surname, but it is sufficient to justify further research on the nineteenth-century bearers of *Buzzo*.

Considering that the surname *Buzzo* begins to appear in the Isle of Man from the mid-nineteenth century, a study of nineteenth-century census records is likely to be worthwhile. Each census entry usually includes the person's place of birth, and so census records from the Isle of Man may show that *Buzzo* is connected to Cornwall through the birthplace of one of its bearers. If there is no evidence for this, the possibility that the Isle of Man surname *Buzzo* has the same origin as the Cornwall surname *Buzza* can be ruled out, and an alternative explanation can be sought.

The Isle of Man census records show that a nineteenth-century bearer of the surname *Buzzo* was born in Cornwall, making it likely that the Isle of Man surname *Buzzo* has the same origin as Cornish *Buzza*, from Bussow in Towednack. Thomas *Buzzo*, whose birthplace is given as 'England Cornwall', is recorded in the 1861 census for the parish of Patrick, Isle of Man; his occupation is listed as 'Lead Miner', and it is possible that a Thomas *Buzzo*, recorded in the 1851 census of Perranuthnoe, Cornwall, with the occupation 'Cop[per] Miner', is the same person. In the 1861 census for Patrick, Isle of Man, Thomas was the only person with the name *Buzzo* who

was born in Cornwall, and so he is probably solely responsible for the establishment of the name on the island. Such a migration pathway, from Cornwall to the Isle of Man, is not as unlikely as it may first seem, considering Thomas Buzzo's occupation as a miner. It is known that a number of Cornish metal miners migrated 'in the last part of the nineteenth century' (Burt and Kippen 2001, 46) in a search for higher wages, and while they usually looked for employment further afield, Thomas *Buzzo*'s decision to work in the Isle of Man is not a complete surprise, given the success of its mines in Foxdale and Laxey, which 'brought great prosperity to the industry, with promise of more to come' (Winterbottom 2000, 216), between 1830 and 1863.

It is, therefore, highly likely that the Isle of Man surname *Buzzo* derives from Bussow in the Cornish parish of Towednack. Without the birthplace and occupational information of the nineteenth-century census records, a plausible Cornish origin could still be offered, but a clear genealogical link to Cornwall could not be proved, and the Manx distribution pattern in 1881 could have been seen as sufficient reason to assume that the surname *Buzzo* is not Cornish. Only through an analysis of recent records, along with information on regional economy and migration, has it been possible to suggest with any real confidence that the Isle of Man surname *Buzzo* has a Cornish origin. This case study therefore shows that analysis of recent records, bearers' birthplaces, and local history, as well as linguistic data, may be required for a reliable explanation of a surname's origin.

## **Conclusion**

While all of the case studies described above show that there are advantages in drawing on multiple data sources for the study of surname origins, and that recent records can be particularly valuable, the research process was slightly different for each name. This methodological variation is not considered problematic, but is a key aspect of surname research. There are so many different factors which could influence name change that the research method must be flexible, and guided by the available evidence. However, there are some general approaches that can be established in light of the case studies presented in this paper, as follows.

- Recent frequency and/or distribution should be considered.

In every example, the recent frequency or distribution of the name guided the analysis in some way; if a surname had a frequency of 0 in 1881, but there were some bearers in 2011, this was taken as an indication that the name may have had a foreign origin (as there is a relatively low probability that spelling variants of native names will emerge in the modern period), encouraging comparison of forenames and surnames in recent records in an effort to uncover the nationality of the bearers; if a surname had bearers in 1881, its distribution was taken as an indication of where to focus the next stage of the research.

- Recent records should be searched for a variety of non-linguistic evidence.

In every example, a study of parish registers, nineteenth- and twentieth-century censuses, the ‘Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records’ catalogue on the Findmypast website, or any combination of these, also guided the analysis; in some cases, birthplaces of bearers could help to show that a name may not have originated in the region where it is commonly found today; in other cases, a connection between two surnames could be suggested if they were found in the same parish at a similar date.

- Research on economic, social and national history should be consulted in uncertain cases.

Investigations into the origins of *Buzzo* and *Haastrup* were aided by a consideration of relevant historical research, lending support to questionable explanations.

In light of the examples given above, it is hoped that future research into the origins of individual surnames will give greater attention to recent records. This approach is especially worthwhile when it is not possible to make a confident suggestion on a surname’s origin following analysis of medieval data, but can also produce new and unexpected findings when a plausible etymology has already been offered. Two methods which were particularly

useful for the FaNUK project, and which have been demonstrated in this paper, are the analysis of the birthplaces of people in the nineteenth- and twentieth-century census records when there is a suspicion that their surname may not have originated in the region in which it is found, and the analysis of the forenames of people in recent records when there is a suspicion that their surname may have a foreign origin (the latter method does not necessarily require an in-depth knowledge of the world's forenames, as a number of online search engines and resources can help to find out the countries in which a particular forename is commonly used).

While it is not possible to establish a fixed methodology for research into surname origins, because the individual history and development of each name require individual treatment, systematic analyses of surname distribution, census bearers' birthplaces, and the forenames of recent bearers may help to uncover the origins of surnames which have eluded explanation, and to disprove explanations which have been offered in previous works. The analysis of recent records should, therefore, be considered a fundamental part of surname research. Recent records should not be seen as a source of data that may be studied as a last resort, and should certainly not be seen as inferior to historical information. Surnames can arrive or develop at different periods, and therefore recent records hold important information on certain surname forms that will never be gained from an analysis of medieval records.

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Some of the surnames discussed in this paper, namely *Abeles* and *Angear*, have their own entries in *FaNBI*. However, *Haastrup*, *Tellick*, and *Buzzo* are not

in *FaNBI*, as they did not meet the frequency criteria required for inclusion in this edition of the dictionary (though the forms *Tallack* and *Buzza*, also mentioned in this paper, do appear). *Haastrup*, *Tellick*, and *Buzzo* were researched for FaNUK2, and it is expected that they will appear in a planned second edition of the dictionary.

Work on the FaNUK project was collaborative, and so some of the information presented in this paper is the result of research carried out by a number of FaNUK team members. I would therefore like to acknowledge the contribution that the FaNUK team has made to this paper, by thanking Richard Coates, Paul Cullen, Simon Draper, Patrick Hanks, Kate Hardcastle, Peter McClure, and the late Duncan Probert, as well as the many consultants who were involved in the project. In this paper, the discussion of *Abeles* and *Angear* reflects the research carried out by the FaNUK team as a whole, though I assume responsibility for the way in which it is presented in this paper. The research behind the names *Haastrup*, *Tellick*, and *Buzzo* is my own. For more details on the FaNUK project, see the *Family Names of the United Kingdom* project report in *Nomina* 38, 116–30.

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