

The Attfield surname, its origin and history

(Revised in December 2008)

by John Attfield

Why are some people called Attfield? And why are they relatively few in number? These questions, intriguing at least for anyone connected with the name, can be investigated from different angles. Firstly, early forms of the surname can be traced in order to determine its original meaning. Secondly, genealogical records (now available on the internet in abundance) can be collated in order to map the name's distribution and history. This essay adopts both approaches, and hopefully also sheds some interesting light on wider aspects of surname history.¹

In the Royal Society's obituary to John Attfield (1835 – 1911), Professor of Practical Chemistry to the Pharmaceutical Society and editor of the British Pharmacopoeia, his surname's origin is described as follows:

*"The name – originally At-the-fields, and later Atte Felde or Atefeld – is purely English, and it is therefore easy to trace the descent of John Attfield from the John Atefeld who flourished in 'the Ville of Staundon' (now Standon, eight miles north-east of Hertford) as far back as 1361."*²

That this cannot be the last word on the subject is shown by the fact – of which the professor, himself an enthusiastic genealogist, was certainly aware – that John Attfield's own family did not settle in Barnet, on the borders of Hertfordshire and Middlesex, until two generations previously, and the family's earlier origins – like most other Attfield families – were not in Hertfordshire but in Surrey.

The meaning of the Attfield surname

The etymological meaning of the name Attfield, "... 'at the field' from residence thereby"³ or "dweller by the open field",⁴ is relatively clear. The derivation of the surname is identical with that of "Field" and comes from the Old English word 'felde', dweller by the field, a piece of land used for tillage or pasture. Local names usually denoted where a man held land, and indicated where he actually lived. There are many recorded instances of early variations of this name dating at least to the first half of the 13th century, or even the 12th,⁵ but unfortunately these are of limited use to us in tracing the origins of modern-day Attfield families.

In the Winchester Pipe Rolls relating to the parish of Headley in Hampshire, 1210 – 1670, transcribed and put on the internet by Philip Brooks,⁶ the following early name variants are found among others:

1224	Henry de Felde
1226	Mabel of the field
1284	Nicholas at the felde

1292 John atte felde
 1296 Cristina ate Felde
 1349 William atte Felde

Further early examples – among many that could be cited from different counties – include, in London: Simon atte Feld 1325, *coszour* of London 1324-5 (*Coszour* means horse-dealer);⁷ in Wiltshire: William atte Feld 1327, probable owner of Rowde Field Farm;⁸ in Sussex: Richard atte Feld of Wernham (Warnham?) and John son of Richard atte Feld of Slyndefold (Slinfold?), mentioned in Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1351;⁹ and in Berkshire: John atte Feld, witness recorded in Coroner's Roll of 1379 in Bucklebury.¹⁰

The above examples are from the mediaeval period during which hereditary surnames were becoming established in England. They show some of the steps in the early evolution of this type of surname, e.g. from 'de' to 'atte', which also took place with other topographical names; other examples from the above source include "atte Knowle", "atte Church", "at the Brook", and many others. Anthony Adolph describes the process as follows. Topographical surnames "arose from a geographical feature that distinguished the person's home. Originally they were often prepositioned 'atte' or 'at', so Clement who lived in or by a meadow would have been Clement atte Lee. The prepositions were usually shed by the 14th century but, where they were not, surnames such as Atlee arose."¹¹

According to Ron Collins, this type of surname had an even earlier origin.

*"Such names were employed in France at an early date ... and were introduced into England by the Normans, many of whom were known by the titles of their estates. The surnames adopted by nobility were chiefly of this type, being used with the particles 'de', 'de la' or 'del' (meaning 'of' or 'of the'). The Saxon equivalent was the word 'atte' ('at the'), found in names such as John atte Brook, Edmund atte Lane, Godwin atte Brigg, and William Atwood, John Atwell and Atwater; in other cases the Norman 'de' was substituted; and in still others, such as Wood, Briggs, and Lane, the particle was dropped."*¹²

Thus, in mediaeval times, topographical and local names with the prefix "atte" were common. In the transition to modern times, in the great majority of cases the prefix was either dropped entirely or transformed, for example to the possessive ending "s" (e.g. "atte Brigg" to "Briggs") or "er" (e.g. "atte Crouch" to "Croucher").¹³ This shortening process may well have taken place in the spoken language some time before it occurred in formal written documents such as the Pipe Rolls. Undoubtedly the same process occurred with "Field", so that while names like "atte Feld", etc, were common in mediaeval times, in the majority of cases they became shortened to "Field" and the modern surnames "Attfield" and "Atfield" are relatively rare.

Modern Attfield surname distribution

Turning to an examination of the modern At(t)field surname, in contrast to records from the mediaeval period the most striking features are (a) its relative rarity, and (b) its geographical concentration. That the modern name is not common can be seen from a count

of At(t)field households and individuals in the period for which census data is available, as shown below:

Number of At(t)fields (England & Wales censuses, 1841 - 1901)¹⁴

Census	Individuals	Households
1841	457	94
1851	529	100
1861	576	120
1871	655	141
1881	640	139
1891	701	151
1901	982	213

By comparison, the 1841 census recorded over 8,000 individuals called “Field”, over 3,000 “Fielding”, over 1,000 “Fields” and over 1,000 “Felder”.

It should be noted that, for much of the 19th century, the spellings Attfield and Atfield were somewhat interchangeable, also of course depending on the whims of the census enumerators. The 1841 census recorded half as many Atfield as Attfield households, but by 1901 Attfield outnumbered Atfield by about four to one. In the 17th and 18th centuries various other archaic spellings also existed which disappeared later, e.g. Atfeild, Attfeilde, Atfeld or Atfylde.

The extreme geographical concentration of the surname in earlier times is clear from an analysis of nearly 700 pre-1837 At(t)field baptismal records contained in the International Genealogical Index (IGI) which, although far from comprehensive, is the most detailed and readily accessible source of information on vital records in England and Wales before the national birth, marriage and death registration system was introduced in 1837.

Pre-1837 county distribution of At(t)field baptisms from IGI¹⁵

County	No	%
Surrey	540	77.6
London/Middlesex	64	9.2
Hampshire	43	6.2
Sussex	24	3.4
Hertfordshire	9	1.3
Leicestershire	4	0.6
Berkshire	3	0.4
All other counties	9	1.3
	696	100.0

By the time of the 1841 census – the first in which the names of individuals were systematically recorded – the name’s geographical pattern remained little changed. 56% of individuals and 58% of households resided in Surrey, with a further 14% of households in the neighbouring counties of Berkshire, Hampshire and Sussex, and 16% in London and Middlesex. Only 12% of households resided outside this area.

The 1841 distribution of At(t)field individuals and households by county shows the surname's pattern of geographical concentration:

Distribution of At(t)fields by county (England & Wales, 1841)¹⁶

County	Attfield	Atfield	Total	Households
Surrey	179	76	255	55
Middlesex (incl. London)	55	14	69	15
Berkshire	1	31	32	6
Hampshire	13	7	20	4
Sussex	8	10	18	3
Somerset	2	8	10	1
Northamptonshire	--	9	9	1
Worcestershire	6	2	8	2
Dorset	6	1	7	1
Lincolnshire	2	5	7	2
Warwickshire	1	5	6	2
Kent	--	5	5	1
Other counties	3	8	11	1
Total	276	181	457	94

These counts are based on the spellings used by the census enumerators, even in cases where this is known to have been wrong. It should be noted that several of the “strays” found in isolated counties – such those recorded in Somerset, Northamptonshire, Dorset and Lincolnshire – are known to have migrated from Surrey within the previous 1-2 generations.

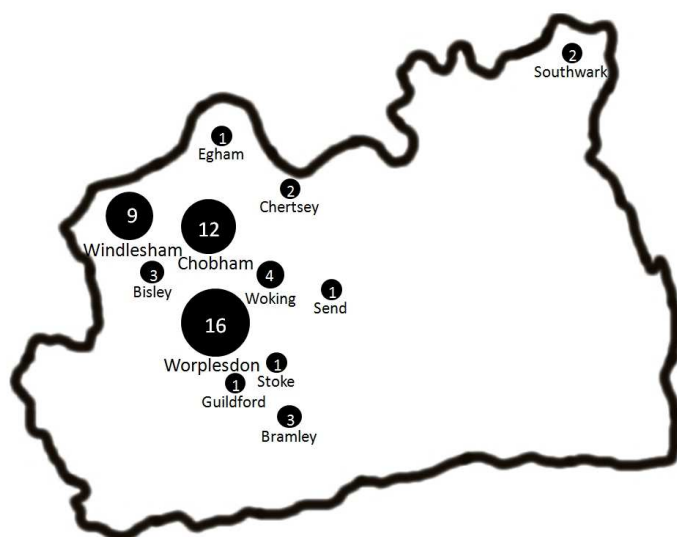
The Attfield surname in Surrey

In mediaeval times, early forms of the name occur in many different parts of Surrey. At Rotherhithe c.1300, “Hamo atte Felde ... clerk, granted to William de Rokesle and his wife Sarah a curtilage which he had bought of Adam de Aldeham”.¹⁷ In 40 Edw III (1367) “Richard de Burstow granted to Sir Nicholas de Louvain and Henry Attefeld his Manor of Burstowe, with all his lands in the Village of Burstow, and in the parishes of Horne, Horle and Wivelsfield”.¹⁸ In 1418 the Manor of Apps, Walton on Thames, “was held under the Croysers by John Pegays and William atte Field, probably feoffees”.¹⁹

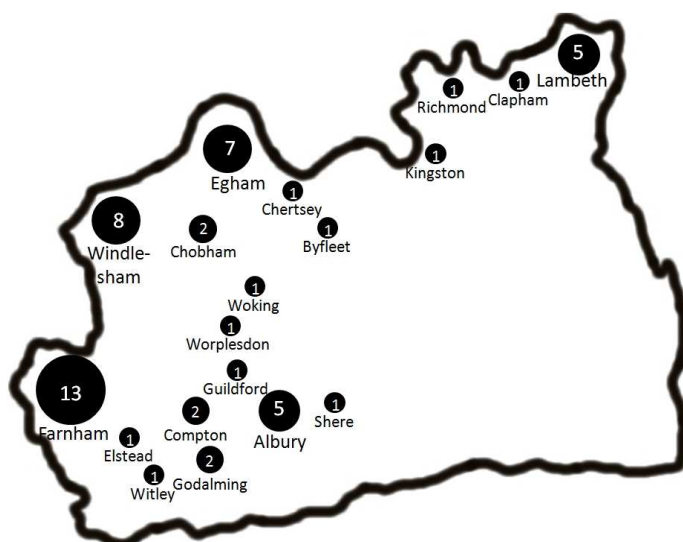
In the early modern period, the earliest Attfield baptisms in Surrey recorded in the IGI start in 1576; the first such records are in the parish of Worplesdon, situated between Woking and Guildford, with a family known as “Attfield alias Ripley” (this alias is discussed further below). The first burial listed there is also dated 1576.²⁰ Locations of other early Attfield baptisms in Surrey include Egham (1597), Cranleigh (1625), Guildford (1638), Bramley (1676), Pyrford (1708) and Godalming (1709). Early burial records are at Bisley (1571), West Clandon (1609), Guildford (1639), Chobham (1656), Pirbright (1667), Send (1681), Egham (1690) and Woking (1692). Of course this data is dependent on the survival and availability of early parish registers, and their transcription into the IGI, which is by no means complete.

The two maps below illustrate the geographical concentration of the Attfield surname within Surrey. The first is based on the analysis of 55 Attfield wills in the Surrey Wills collection covering the period from 1531 (the earliest) until 1800. The second map shows the distribution of the 55 Attfield or Atfield households in Surrey at the time of the 1841 census (the recurrence of the number 55 is convenient but coincidental!):

Map 1) Distribution of Attfield wills in Surrey, 1531-1800²¹



Map 2) Distribution of Attfield households in Surrey in the 1841 census²²

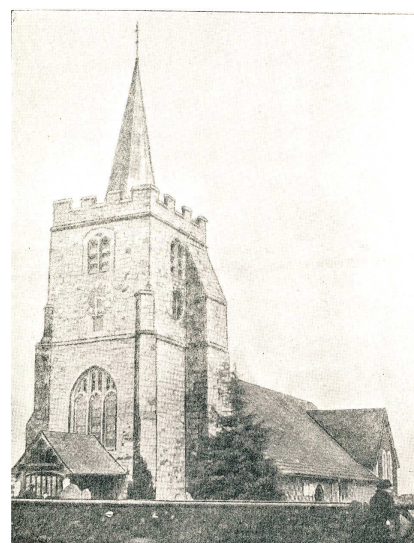


These maps clearly illustrate how the Attfield surname was concentrated in a few parishes in West Surrey in early records. Even by 1841, the distribution had barely started to spread away from its original base. The following section discusses the incidence of the surname in the various parishes of West Surrey where, judging from the distributions shown above, the modern name may be supposed to originate.

Chobham

Numerous early references to the Attfield surname can be found in the parish of Chobham. The 14th century Chertsey Cartulary Records and Chobham Court Rolls, transcripts of which are available on the internet, contain many instances of the name “atte Felde”.²³ Another early Chobham reference, on the occasion of Henry VIII’s visit to the town in 1545, records: “Dewe to Thomas Atfelde of Chobham for two lodes 14 feet of Tymber, three lodes of joysts taken at his house & his labour for lodyng of the said tymber, £1 14s. 6d.”²⁴ The excellent Surrey Wills collection contains more than a dozen Field or Attfield wills from Chobham in the 16th century, the earliest example dating from 1521. In 1559 Robert Atfelde of Chobham, evidently a substantial yeoman, left legacies to his widow and four children along with a bequest for mending the church bells.²⁵

In his book “A History of Chobham”, published in 1989, author Robert Schueller bravely attempted to trace the early history of the Attfield family in Chobham over several centuries. His earliest reference is to a will witnessed by John Felde in 1488, after which he identifies three principal 16th century yeoman families of which one owned Pentecost or Millwards Farm, the second one farmed at the adjoining Velley or Fellow Green, while the third owned a property called Hedgelands, all in Chobham. Schueller notes references to several Attfield families in the Chobham Park work report of 1545, the Queen’s Lottery of 1567, the Lay Subsidy list of 1571, and other sources.²⁶ Schueller succeeds in tracing the three main Chobham families for several generations although, as he notes, the names Attfield and Field were used interchangeably, and “in many an old document and in the Register Books it was never clear whether an entry under the surname ‘Field’ does or does not refer to an ‘Attfield’.”²⁷



St Lawrence Church, Chobham (from Lucy Wheeler: *Chertsey Abbey, An Existence of the Past*, published in 1905)

The owners of Millwards evidently enjoyed a high standing in Chobham for a period of several generations. In the 17th century, the antiquary John Aubrey noted an inscription in Chobham parish church, “on a stone in the south aisle (now obliterated or hid by a pew): ‘Hic jacet corpus Johannis Attfield de Millards, qui obit 12 Junii 1675, aet 65. Nec non hic jacet corpus Constantiae Attfield uxor praedicti Johannis Attfield, quae ob. 7 Nov 1667, aet suae 35’.” And on another stone: “Here lies buried the body of Walter Attfield, who dyed Dec 21, 1656, aged 43 years”.²⁸ The surname also occurs there in the 18th century, e.g. Sarah Attfield of Chobham, spinster, left a will in 1772 containing a legacy to her nephew Henry John Attfield, also of Chobham.²⁹

The Chobham records cited above provide us with the earliest available examples of the modern Attfield surname in any genealogical source. While these numerous Chobham references over several centuries provide strong evidence of a continuity of the surname there, despite Schueller’s efforts the lack of unbroken records unfortunately makes any linkage from these Chobham families to later Attfields a somewhat speculative exercise. However, evidence of Attfield migrations from Chobham to other Surrey parishes such as Windlesham, Woking and Bramley is discussed below.

Windlesham

At Chobham's neighbouring parish of Windlesham, the family of "Field or Attfield" was said to be "very ancient".³⁰ Attfields appear there as an important yeoman family by the middle of the 16th century. The earliest records of the name at Windlesham are in 1558 and 1559 when John Attfield witnessed three Windlesham wills.³¹ In 1561 William Molyneux released a moiety in the manor of Freemantle to John Attefield.³² In 1573, John Attfield was presented at the attachment court of the Bailiwick of Bagshot for enclosing two acres of land without warrant.³³ In 1588 John Attfield, yeoman, presented a rector to the church as patron,³⁴ and in the Lay Subsidy return of 1593-4, John Attfield – presumably the same one – was the highest valued taxpayer with £8 in goods.³⁵

In the 17th century the Attfield family held land in all the manors of Windlesham. In his will dated 1626, John "Atfeild also Feild the elder", yeoman of Windlesham, left his house "in Bagshot called Holy Hull with all the lands belonging to it" to his eldest son John. "Holy Hull" is believed to be the substantial property later known as Hall Grove, which was owned by the Attfield family until 1690 and later came into the possession of Charles Rackett, half-brother of the poet Alexander Pope.³⁶ The Attfield family also owned property in the manor of Freemantle which seems to have passed out of the family in the early 18th century, and from that time onwards the representatives of the Attfield family in Windlesham "were of rather lower status".³⁷

Whether there were Attfields in Windlesham before the 1550s, or whether they migrated there from elsewhere, is not known. But the will of Joan Stokes of Windlesham, dated 1581, indicates an early connection to Chobham. Joan, the mother of the above-mentioned "John Atfeild the elder", had evidently become widowed and had re-married Henry Stokes, yeoman, sometime before 1576, and the will of Henry's father Richard tells us that the Stokes family came from Chobham.³⁸ Moreover, John Atfeild's son Robert Field subsequently became the Vicar of Chobham. Secondly, in a will dated 1596, Henry Hedge of Bagshot, yeoman, who evidently owned properties in both Windlesham and Chobham, and who Schueller identifies with Henry Field or Attfield of Hedgelands, left legacies to the family of "Nicholas Atfeild my son-in-law".³⁹ This Nicholas had a son named Hedge Attfield who moved to Woking and died there in 1667, and subsequent generations of this family – identifiable by their persistent use of the name Nathaniel – have been traced to Farnham and Chertsey.⁴⁰



An Attfield gravestone in the churchyard of St John the Baptist, Windlesham.

As is the case with Chobham, the fragmentary nature of the Windlesham parish records means that with the exception of Hedge it is not possible to reliably track the 16th and 17th century families into later generations. The earliest Attfield lineages in Windlesham that can be plausibly traced into the 20th century date from the early 18th century.⁴¹

Chertsey

Nathaniel Atfeild the Elder, brewer and Nathaniel Atfeild the Younger, draper (who died in 1733), believed to be descendants of the above-mentioned Hedge Attfield, signed a

property lease at Chertsey in 1728.⁴² This branch of the family – which, with a bit of imagination, is traceable into the 20th century – evidently moved to Chertsey from Woking sometime in the early 18th century. Earlier, a Henry Attfield alias Field, bargemaster of Chertsey, who may or may not be related to the Chobham or Windlesham families discussed above, signed a marriage licence in 1715. This family, and their heirs and successors the Brown family, operated a wharf at Chertsey Bridge from c.1690 until late in the 18th century.⁴³ But there are few Attfield records in Chertsey pre-dating this.

Farnham

In the 1841 census, a large cluster of Attfield families was living at Farnham, on the western extremity of Surrey bordering Hampshire. As mentioned above, a convincing continuous Farnham lineage into the 20th century has been traced by Roger White and Merion Burt from Nicholas Attfeild or Feild and his son Hedge who lived in the early 17th century.⁴⁴ As their research shows, a branch of this family

evidently moved from Chobham to Woking and then to Farnham, the first arrival there being Nicholas's great-grandson Nathaniel at the turn of the 18th century. Later generations also settled in neighbouring parishes such as Ash or Aldershot (Hampshire). Although the Farnham parish registers go back to the early 16th century, the earliest recorded baptism there is of Nathaniel's son James "Field" in 1700, and the first Attfield burial is in 1714. This suggests that the ancestors of the numerous later Attfield families at Farnham did not arrive there until around this time.



Attfield Close, Ash, recalls the family's associations with the locality.

Worplesdon

A family styling itself "Attfield alias Ripley" (as well as a variety of earlier transitional forms such as "Ripley alias Fylde", "At Fylde alias Rypley", etc.) existed from at least the 1540s until the end of the 18th century, occupying property at Burpham in the parish of Worplesdon for a period of many generations.⁴⁵ The origin of this remarkably persistent alias is obscure, but it was clearly from a very early date. The Surrey Wills collection contains over a dozen "Attfield alias Ripley" wills; "Attfield/Ripley" baptisms were still taking place at Worplesdon in the mid 18th century, after which the use of the alias petered out, although "Attfield/Ripley" burials took place at Farnham as late as 1783 and 1784.⁴⁶

Subsequently the family moved away from Worplesdon, and later generations – mostly having dropped "Ripley", although in some cases "Attfield" was dropped – are to be found at Farnham, Guildford, Stoke Next Guildford and other places in the early 19th century, sometimes playing a prominent role in local society. One descendant of this line, William Attfield, left £125 in his will in 1828 to be invested for the upkeep of the Parish Sunday School at Stoke Next Guildford, as well as further bequests of £100 to the British and Foreign Bible Society, and £100 to the Church Missionary Society.⁴⁷

Albury

A large group of At(t)fields living today traces its ancestry from a James Attfield or "Ad-field", born c.1755, who married Ann Harris at Albury, near Guildford, in 1776. His sons all had large families, so that – just two generations later – James and Ann had no fewer

than fifty direct descendants! By the mid 19th century, descendants of this family were also living in Wonersh, Shere, Shalford, Guildford, and various other neighbouring parishes. The original James's origin still remains a mystery, but since Albury is only a few miles away from several other parishes with close Attfield connections, it is reasonable to assume that he descended from one or other of the earlier Surrey families, possibly from Chobham or Worplesdon.⁴⁸

Other Surrey parishes

In the parish of Egham, which borders on Chobham and Chertsey, Attfields existed at an early date. Baptism records date back at least to the 16th century, and an Edward Attfeld of Egham wrote a will in 1559.⁴⁹ But the longest unbroken lineage that can be traced into the 20th century originates from a John Attfield and his wife Mary, of unknown antecedence, whose first child, Henry, was baptised at Egham in 1755.

At Guildford a Henry Atfeld witnessed a will in 1535, and in 1539 a Henry Atfeld was among those nominated to provide harnesses "for serving the King in his wars".⁵⁰ A Henry "Hatfield" married Agnes Martin at Holy Trinity, Guildford, in 1592. After this, a handful of Attfield baptisms, marriages and burials are recorded at Guildford in the 17th century, but it has not proved possible to connect any of these with known families.

A cluster of Attfield families residing in Godalming, Compton and adjoining parishes in the early 19th century descended from Christopher Field or Attfield who married Ann Stevens at Wonersh in 1628. Thereafter, several generations of Christophers worked successively as wheelwrights at Bramley, while other descendants settled in Godalming, where another Christopher Attfield – great-grandson of the original Christopher – was a paper-maker in the 1750s. Although this family's origins are not known for certain, a will of 1679 refers to "my cousins Christopher Field of Bramley and William Atfeild of Chobham", indicating that the original Christopher must have been related to the Chobham Attfields and probably came from there.⁵¹

Occurrences in other counties

Middlesex (including London)

When examining the name's incidence in Middlesex, a distinction needs to be made between London itself – always a giant magnet for migrants from elsewhere in the country – the districts of West Middlesex bordering on Surrey and with a substantial spill-over population from there, and the rest of non-metropolitan Middlesex to the north of London.

Of the 69 At(t)fields recorded in Middlesex (including London) in 1841, 14 were in West Middlesex parishes close to the Surrey border (e.g. Isleworth, Teddington, Shepperton, Brentford/Ealing, etc), often working as servants, and can doubtless be counted as belonging to the Surrey branches. Earlier families in West Middlesex include those of Ralph Atfeild of Staines, gardener, who died in 1615, and of James Atfield, clockmaker of Old Brentford, who was active in the period around 1708-1725.⁵² In both cases the families' earlier history is unknown, but Ralph's family evidently owned property at Egham in Surrey and may therefore have come from there.

Other London and Middlesex residents are known to have migrated to there in the recent past. For example the Attfield families in Barnet and Hadley, North Middlesex, originated from Windlesham, and the family of Henry Attfield, butcher of Aldgate, migrated from Farnham, while that of William Attfield, currier of St Pancras, originally came from Aldershot in Hampshire. Only a handful of the At(t)field heads of household in London in 1841 were actually born in Middlesex, indicating that the great majority of the Attfields living in London were recent settlers.⁵³ Some earlier individual occurrences of the surname in London can definitely be traced back to Surrey, such as Nicholas Atfeild, blacksmith of St Brides, who died in 1648 and whose family lived in Chobham. Often, such individuals came to London to follow an apprenticeship.⁵⁴

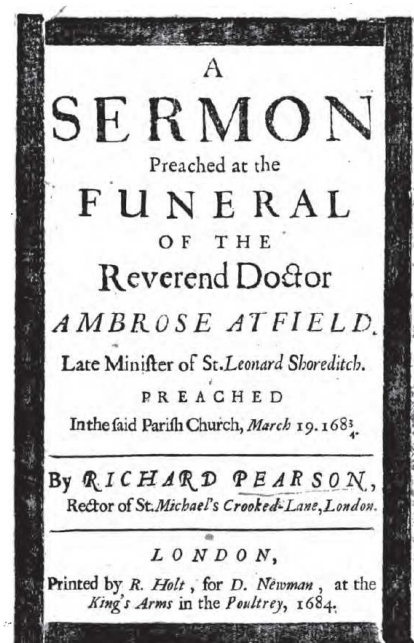
Berkshire

Its proximity to Surrey leads one to suspect that the ancestors of all or most later Berkshire families must have originated in Surrey. The lineages of a number of At(t)field families in Winkfield, just over the border from Windlesham, can be traced back from the 20th century to a single marriage between Joseph Attfield and Anne Gilbert in 1748. Joseph or his immediate forebears were almost certainly recent migrants from Surrey – possibly from Windlesham. In the Surrey Poll Book of 1775 a John Attfield residing at Winkfield owned freehold property at Windlesham, and a lease dated 1787 refers to “John Atfield, late of Winkfield, Berks, but now of Windlesham, farmer”.⁵⁵ Some of these Winkfield families later adopted the name “Hatfield”.

Earlier, in the 17th century, a number of wills refer to an Atfeild family living at Newbury and surrounding Berkshire parishes, including Hugh Atfeild of Newbury, dyer, in 1635, John Atfeild of Newbury, basket maker in 1646, and Francis Atfeild of Speenhamland, linen draper, in 1685.⁵⁶ Evidence from these wills indicates that these individuals were related to the Attfield family of Kingsclere, Hampshire (see below), but their later history is not known.

Hampshire

Turning to Hampshire, there are records of a substantial Attfield family in the parish of Kingsclere in the 16th and 17th centuries.⁵⁷ There were three “Atfelde” or “Atfylde” burials at Kingsclere in the 1540s, but the family’s earlier origins are unknown. In 1665, Mr John Attfield was assessed at Lordship Tithing, Kingsclere, with a property with 10 hearths.⁵⁸ His will, dated 29.4.1689, leaves substantial bequests including £5 to “the poor of Kingsclere”, and also mentions his “kinsmen” John Atfield of London, Doctor in Physick and Fellow of the College of Physicians, and Ambrose Atfield, Doctor of Divinity, Vicar of St Leonard Shoreditch and Prebendary of St Pauls, who had died in 1684.⁵⁹ Ambrose Atfield’s second wife Elizabeth was the daughter of Michael Pyke, Rector of Cranleigh, providing us with at least a tenuous Surrey connection for this family. Ambrose had three daughters, all unmarried, the last of whom died by 1745. The later history of the other Kingsclere branches still remains to be researched.



Sermon at the funeral of Dr Ambrose Atfield, 1684, title page. Ambrose Atfield’s family came from Kingsclere, Hampshire (from Google Books)

In the 1841 census we find the family of the merchant William Atfield of Cosham House, near Portsmouth, who left substantial legacies to his “five dear daughters” in 1846,⁶⁰ and who was the last male of a lineage that had lived since the early 18th century at Portsea, where several of his forebears were ropemakers. It is not known whether these Hampshire Atfield families were originally native to the county or had migrated there from Surrey or elsewhere at an early date. The majority of Attfields recorded in Hampshire in the 1841 census (12 individuals) were living at Aldershot, where they or their immediate ancestors had moved from Farnham, just across the Surrey border.

Sussex

The only other county with significant numbers of At(t)fields in 1841 is Sussex, where the At(t)field surname has existed since at least the middle of the 18th century. Some 10 At(t)field or “Adfield” marriages are recorded at Pulborough and neighbouring parishes in the period from 1759 to 1835, and a William Atfield of Stedham, near Midhurst, was a cement maker at Arundel in the 1860s and 70s, but the origins of this cluster of families are not known.

In the 1841 census there were three At(t)field households and 18 individuals, mostly born in the county, the oldest individual being born c.1776. A generation or so later, in the 1871 census, there were 11 At(t)field households in Sussex with a total of 66 individuals. After that the picture was affected by migration into south coast towns such as Brighton and Eastbourne.

Nearly half of the Sussex At(t)fields in 1841 were living in the Chichester area. All of these 19th century Chichester Attfields descended from a single marriage, between James Attfield (origin unknown) and Elizabeth Lambert at Oving in 1811. A further group of Sussex Attfields, mostly living in the Eastbourne area at the turn of the 20th century, descended from an Edward “Hatfield” born at Buxted in 1842, who for reasons unknown later adopted the name “Attfield” (see below).

At(t)field families in other counties in 1841

A brief glance at the handful of other counties with At(t)field families at the time of the 1841 census shows that in almost all cases the families originated in Surrey:

Somerset: one family, descendents of William Attfield, coal merchant, who moved to Bath from Surrey around 1789 and died in 1828.⁶¹



Northamptonshire: one family, descendents of India William Attfield, born at Chertsey, Surrey in 1776, whose family settled at Cold Ashby, Northamptonshire.

The signature of William Attfield (1750-1828), coal merchant, who moved to Bath from Surrey around 1789.

Shropshire: the family of George Attfield (written as “John Allfield” by the 1841 census enumerator), inland revenue officer, born at Farnham, Surrey, in 1805, who moved to the Midlands c.1830.

Dorset: the family of George Swain Attfield, son of Henry Attfield of Windlesham, Surrey (1722-1793), living at Melcombe Regis, Weymouth.

Lincolnshire: the families of Nathaniel Attfield from Farnham, Surrey, mail guard, living at Skirbeck, and of James “Atfield”, groom, living at Worlaby, not traced but believed to be a transcription error, correctly “Hatfield”.

Warwickshire: two “Atfield” families in the Birmingham area, not traced but assumed to be correctly “Hatfield”.

Possible origins of the modern surname

As discussed above, early genealogical evidence of the At(t)field surname indicates that it was heavily concentrated in a small cluster of parishes in West Surrey. This, together with the name’s comparative rarity, points strongly to the modern surname having originated in that locality, and quite possibly from a single family. Of course it is possible that the name also emerged independently elsewhere, but migration from this single original source would seem to be more likely.

These same two factors, the relative rarity of the modern At(t)field surname and its extreme geographical concentration, can also be taken as evidence of a possible single-family origin. In other words, despite the relative frequency of the mediaeval “atte Feld” form – and the name’s apparently rather commonplace meaning – it is probable that the modern form arose only once or at most on just a handful of occasions.

That the possibility of a single-family origin cannot be ruled out even for a name with such a seemingly commonplace topographical meaning is shown by the example of the surname Atwater, discussed by David Hey:

*“Atwater is another topographical surname from the south of England which is uncommon enough and sufficiently concentrated in its distribution to suggest a single-family origin. Only twenty-five At(t)water(s) were registered in 1842-46, ten of them in two adjacent Kentish districts of Milton and Medway, five in Horsham (Sussex), at the other side of the Weald, one in Alton (Hampshire) and nine in four London boroughs. Atwell, on the other hand, must have had more than one point of origin, for the sixty-three Atwells and Attwells were spread across south-western England and eighteen had died in London.”*⁶²

“At(t)-” surnames are indeed far less common than one might suppose, as shown below:

At(t)- surnames: number of households (England & Wales 1851)⁶³

Atwood/Attwood	462
Atwell/Attwell/Attewell	184
Atfield/Attfield	100
Atwater/Attwater	28
Atlee/Attlee	21
Athill/Atthill	10

Other possible topographical “At(t)-” surnames which might theoretically be expected to exist somewhere among the population, e.g. Atford, Atchurch, Atlane or Atmill, were not recorded at all in the 1851 census. These names had either already become extinct or had never existed in modern times. In any case such names cannot have arisen on more than a handful of occasions, if at all, although mediaeval names like “atte Church” or “atte Lane” certainly existed. By contrast, modern surnames like Ford, Church, Lane, Mill and so on, are of course quite common.

Following David Hey’s argument,⁶⁴ and accepting that the surname At(t)field only arose rarely at most, the assumption must also be that it originated in one place. Given the relative immobility of pre-20th century society, it is reasonable to take the earliest available geographical distribution – in this case the 1841 census – as evidence of the name’s original location. A high concentration in one single county and its immediate neighbours, as in the case of At(t)field in Surrey, is clear enough evidence that the name was historically rooted in Surrey and almost certainly originated there.

So how did the modern Attfield surname arise? I can see two possibilities:

- 1) One or more families retained the mediaeval “atte Feld” form for longer than others for some reason, so that it eventually became fixed as such while the great majority of other families shortened their name to Field, etc.
- 2) One or more families, perhaps previously named Field, chose to “re-invent” the name Atfield or Attfield, possibly as a distinguishing mark.

It is conceivable that both these eventualities occurred in different families at different times and places.

Evidence for retention or re-adoption

In the Winchester Pipe Rolls from Headley, mentioned above, it is noticeable that names like “Henry de felde” (1224), “John of the field” (1248), etc, did not simply relate to any old field, but sometimes referred to a particular piece of property. The transcriber, Philip Brooks, notes that: “the field in this entry is preserved in the name of Field House at Wishanger, Headley. ... John may have been living at or about Field House or the name may be derived from an ancestor who had once lived there”.⁶⁵ A later entry from 1416 refers explicitly to “land called 'atte Felde' (Field House, Headley)”. Thus it may be that the name “Attfield” could have been retained as a way of designating a form of possession or occupancy.

The case for re-adoption is discussed below using the examples of two very long-lived Surrey aliases: “Attfield alias Ripley” and “Attfield alias Field”.

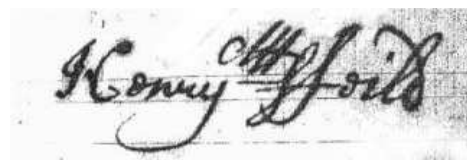
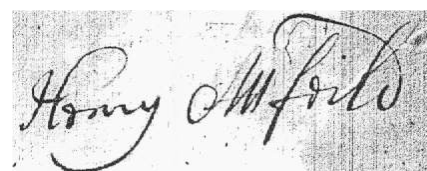
Attfield alias Ripley

As described above, the earliest Attfield family in the Surrey parish of Worplesdon used the name “Attfield alias Ripley”, and this alias remained in use for over two centuries

from at least the 1540s until the 1780s. Although the reason for this exceptionally long-lived alias has been lost to history, the fact that it persisted over so many generations indicates that the family attached value to retaining the alternative names. One possible explanation is that one of the surnames was adopted as a condition of inheritance; another is a desire to preserve traces of a relationship to a wealthy or prominent family, in much the same way that middle names were sometimes used in the 19th century. If this was what happened, there is unfortunately no way of knowing whether a family of Ripleys adopted the name Attfield or vice versa, but in any case it seems to be evidence of a valued family connection. The village of Ripley is near Worplesdon, and several Ripleys were still living in the neighbourhood in 1841, so it is possible that the Attfield alias was adopted by a family called Ripley that originated from there. But this is conjecture. In any case, by the time of the 1841 census the alias had fallen out of use.

Attfield or Field

Many of the earliest Attfield references at Windlesham and Chobham refer to the family as “Attfield or Field”, and indeed these names appear to have been interchangeable locally over a period of centuries (whereas the “Attfield/Ripley” family, by contrast, appears only rarely to have used the name “Field”). There are many 16th and 17th century examples, including “John Atfeild or Feild” who held a moiety in the manor of Freemantle in the 1580s, and “John Atfeild also Feild” who wrote his will in 1626. This individual was evidently a prominent citizen, being buried in the church chancel and leaving a bequest to “the poor of Windlesham”.⁶⁶ The Henry Attfield who played cricket for Chertsey and Surrey in the 1770s and 1780s was often referred to as “Field”,⁶⁷ and a “John Attfield alias John Field” made a will in 1828.⁶⁸ The last Windlesham resident styling himself “Attfield otherwise Field” died as recently as 1887.⁶⁹ Here again, this persistent use of the alternative names suggests that the name “Attfield” may have been deliberately retained – or “re-invented” – because it was seen as a desirable distinguishing cachet, especially since the family evidently played a prominent role in local society at one time.

Two signatures, believed to be the same individual, illustrating a transition from an older “ffeild” form with “Att” prefix (1704, top) to a more modern “Attfeild” style (1715, bottom).

Further evidence for this is provided by another local family. John Atfield Taylor was baptised at Windlesham in 1754, son of Edward Taylor and Ann Field. John’s son, John Attfield Taylor, was baptised at Windlesham in 1790. This early use of the middle name – a practice which was relatively rare in the 18th century but became more common in the 19th – can be seen as evidence that (a) one or more Field families liked to use the name Attfield, and (b) the name was significant enough locally for the Taylor family to choose to use it persistently across several generations.

Attfield or Hatfield

Finally, there are a number of cases of crossover – in both directions – between the etymologically very different surnames of Attfield and Hatfield. One example will suffice here. Ann Hatfield, born c.1821 at Hartfield, Sussex, daughter of Mark Hatfield and Jane Neller, had an illegitimate son in 1842 baptised (at Buxted, Sussex) as “Edward Edwards Hatfield”. For some unknown reason, by the time of his marriage in 1863 Edward had adopted the surname Attfield. His sons George and Percy became farmers near Eastbourne, where their name is perpetuated in the street name “Attfield Walk”. Mark Hatfield’s antecedents cannot be traced with any certainty, but they seem unlikely to have had any direct connection with the Surrey Attfields.

Conclusion

There are two accepted approaches to researching the history of surnames: etymological and genealogical. In the Attfield case, the etymological approach – searching for and interpreting early occurrences of the name – is interesting but unfortunately provides few definite clues to the history of the modern surname. The genealogical approach – with its emphasis on name distribution and lineages – provides a closer link to the modern evolution of the name, but does not take us far enough back into the past to give definitive answers regarding the modern name’s origins. The ideal case – finding an unbroken lineage from an original “atte Feld” to a modern-day Attfield – would be wonderful but hardly realistic. Therefore the origins of the modern name must remain speculative.

The mediaeval “atte Feld” name was evidently quite common. The modern surnames Attfield and Atfield, by contrast, are relatively rare because in most cases “atte Feld” became shortened to “Field” at some point in history. The question, therefore, is how and why the “At(t)-” element was preserved in a minority of cases.

Although conclusive evidence is lacking, the extremely concentrated geographical distribution of the surname in 1841 and earlier is evidence of a possible origin in a single family, or (perhaps more likely) a small handful of families. The concentration in Surrey – especially West Surrey – and neighbouring counties is strong evidence that the modern name’s origin and history are essentially Surrey-based. It is possible that the name also emerged independently in other places, but migration from a single point of origin would seem to be a more likely explanation.

Although no direct line can be traced from “atte Feld” to “Attfield”, it is hard to imagine that the mediaeval and modern versions are entirely unconnected. Therefore, as discussed above, I can see two possible explanations for the origin of the modern Attfield surname:

- Retention of the mediaeval “atte Feld” form by one or more families for longer than others for some reason, so that it eventually became fixed as such.
- Re-adoption or “re-invention” of the name Attfield, possibly as a distinguishing mark, for example by one or more families otherwise known as Field.

The very persistent “Attfield alias Ripley” (16th to 18th centuries) and “Attfield otherwise Field” (16th to 19th centuries) examples mentioned above, as well as the later Hatfield case, are evidence for possible occurrences of the second alternative. They seem to indicate that some families (a) wanted to use the name Attfield, and (b) believed that it carried a local significance. Certainly, the “Attfield otherwise Field” family was locally prominent at Windlesham over a long period. Of course it is quite likely that these early Attfields did in fact come from families which were called “atte Feld” in mediaeval times, or at least believed that they did.

Clear evidence for the first alternative is harder to pinpoint, but the 16th and 17th century occurrences of the surname at Kingsclere, Hampshire, may conceivably point to a survival of the mediaeval form. A variety of transitional forms from “At Fylde” to “Attfield” are also be found at Worplesdon in the same period. The fact remains that “atte Feld” became shortened to Field in the great majority of cases, and its survival into modern times – if at all – was very rare. It is suggested here that one possible reason for its survival in a handful of cases may have been as a means of designating a form of possession or occupancy. But this is purely speculative.

This essay has been based on a study of the literature on surname history, and references to the Attfield surname in early documents and other sources, as well as detailed genealogical research into a range of Attfield lineages and correspondence with other Attfield researchers. It is in no way definitive, and I would be most grateful for any feedback, corrections, or pointers to further research.

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Buchholz, Germany
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¹ This is a substantially revised version of an essay first posted in October 2006. I am most grateful to my fellow Attfield researchers, Merion Burt, Harry Dutton and Roger White, for their valuable information, comments and feedback.

² Obituary to Professor John Attfield, FRS, in *Proc Royal Soc Series A* 1911-1912 Vol 86 pp xlv-xlvi. Thanks to Harry Dutton for drawing it to my attention. For information about John Feld or atte Feld of Stan-don, alderman of London, see URL: <http://www.trytel.com/~tristan/towns/florilegium/poppoli09.html> (an excellent Mediaeval English Towns website).

³ Ancestry.com. English and Welsh Surname Dictionary [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2003. Original data: Charles Wareing Bardsley, *A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames With Special American Instances*. Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing, 1967. Originally published London, 1901.

⁴ P.H. Reaney & R.M. Wilson, *Oxford Dictionary of English Surnames*. Oxford University Press, 2005 edition.

⁵ 12th century records of the name include Robert de Feld, 1185 in Gloucestershire, and Hugo atte Feld, 1188 in Bedfordshire. James atte Felde, was documented in the year 1327 in the County of Surrey. John in the Field, was recorded in County Somerset, during the reign of Edward III (1327-1377). Stephen atte Feld of

Yorkshire, was listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. URL: <http://www.4crests.com/field-coat-of-arms.html>

⁶ Extracts from Winchester Pipe Rolls 1210–1670 relating to Headley, by Philip Brooks. URL: <http://www.johnowensmith.co.uk/headley/piperoll.htm>

⁷ Subsidy Roll 1319: Farringdon ward extra, Eilbert Ekwall, *Two Early London Subsidy Rolls* (1951), pp. 305–314. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=31948>

⁸ Wiltshire County Council, Wiltshire and Swindon Sites and Monument Record Information, URL: <http://history.wiltshire.gov.uk/smr/getsmr.php?id=4791>

⁹ URL: <http://sdrclib.uiowa.edu/patentrolls/e3v9/body/Edward3vol9page0112.pdf>

¹⁰ Herridge name website, URL: <http://www.herridge.name/index.html>

¹¹ Anthony Adolph: “Tracing your family history”, Collins, London 2004, p.287

¹² The Origins of Family Names, by Ron Collins (URL: <http://www.earwaker.co.uk/origins.html>)

¹³ This example is taken from a Croucher surname website: URL: <http://www.croucherconsult.co.uk/genealogy/Croucher.htm>

¹⁴ Source: ancestry.co.uk census indexes. Alternative index sources, e.g. Origins Network or 1837online, yield slightly different results. “Households” are based on a count of persons recorded as head of household. For 1841 this was done by individually examining each entry.

¹⁵ Data compiled by the author from the International Genealogical Index, <http://www.familysearch.org>, an official website of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

¹⁶ Source: ancestry.co.uk, q.v. These figures were compiled by the author in 2006, since which time they may have changed slightly on account of corrections submitted by users, but the overall picture remains valid.

¹⁷ Victoria County History of Surrey: Volume 4 (1912), pp.91–2. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43036>

¹⁸ Owen Manning: History and Antiquities of Surrey, Vol.2, 1809, p.279.

¹⁹ Victoria County History of Surrey: Volume 3 (1911), pp. 467–75. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43009>

²⁰ West Surrey Burial Index, published on CD-ROM by the West Surrey Family History Society, 2003.

²¹ Map compiled from the Surrey Wills collection, for “Attfield” and similar spellings only. “Field” wills have been excluded. The Surrey Wills collection is held at the Surrey History Centre, Woking, and is available online at The Origins Network, URL: <http://www.originsnetwork.com/>

²² Map compiled from 1841 census data at ancestry.co.uk, q.v.

²³ For example in 1330: “Admission of Walter atte Felde to 1/2 rood of purpresture next Hokeslane”, and in 1346: Admission of Walter atte Mulle to place of land and pasture called le Mulleparrok, next Chabeham-mulle, surrendered by Ralph in le Lane ... Pledge : William atte Felde”. see URL: http://www.chobham.info/mills_in_cartulary.htm

²⁴ Robert Schueller: A History of Chobham, Phillimore & Co., Chichester, 1989, p.12.

²⁵ Will of Robert Atfelde of Chobham [DW/PA/7/6 ff.110v-111v; DW/PA/5/1559/49], proved 16.6.1559. The earliest relevant will in the Surrey Wills collection is that of Walter Feld of Chobham, dated 6.11.1521 [DW/PA/7/2 ff.157v-158r], one of whose properties was called Field Place.

²⁶ Schueller, *op.cit.*, pp. 73-75.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, p.73. It should be noted, however, that evidently the writing of “Field” or “Attfield” was not simply the arbitrary choice of the parish scribe. In the Chobham parish registers – which are extant from c.1650 – many of the early entries are written as “ffield” or “ffeild”, but with a mark or flourish above the “ff”, presumably intended to indicate that the name was to be read as “Attfield”.

²⁸ Owen Manning, Vol.3, *op.cit.* In 1667 John Attfeild was a churchwarden at Chobham, see Surrey Quarter Sessions Roll XXIX, Reigate, 31st March 1668, m.94 (transcript printed by Surrey County Council, 1951).

²⁹ Will of Sarah Attfield of Chobham, spinster, Prerogative Court of Canterbury, PROB 11/983, proved 2.12.1772.

³⁰ William Urmston Searle Glanville-Richards: The registers of Windlesham, Surrey, from 1677 to 1783: with biographical notices of some past and present families now residing in the parish, privately printed, London 1881, p.55 (available online at ancestry.com).

³¹ Wills of Thomas Mylton of Windlesham, 26.8.1558 [DW/PA/7/6 f.257v], of Richard Mydleton of Windlesham, 15.1.1558/59 [DW/PA/7/6 f.256r], and of William Banaster of Windlesham, 2.11.1559 [DW/PA/7/6 f.203v].

³² Victoria County History of Surrey: Volume 3 (1911), pp. 376-78. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=42990>

³³ Marie Eedle: A History of Bagshot and Windlesham, Phillimore & Co, Chichester, 1977, p.13.

³⁴ Owen Manning: History and Antiquities of Surrey, Vol.3, 1814, p.87-88.

³⁵ Eedle, *op.cit.*, p.77.

³⁶ Eedle, *op.cit.*, pp.73-74 and p.77. Will of John Atfeild the elder of Windlesham, yeoman, Prerogative Court of Canterbury, PROB 11/151, proved 6.2.1627. Pope’s brother-in-law Charles Rackett, a controversial figure, was outlawed for killing deer during the “Waltham Blacks” unrest in the 1720s. For a detailed account of this, see E.P. Thompson: Whigs and Hunters, Penguin, Harmondsworth, 1977, pp.278-287.

³⁷ Eedle, *op.cit.*, p.77-78.

³⁸ Wills of Joan Stokes of Windlesham, widow, 6.9.1581 [DW/PA/5/1581/59], and of Richard Stoykes of Chobham 26.9.1557 [DW/PA/5/1557/94].

³⁹ Schueller, *op.cit.*, pp.74-75. Will of Henrye Hedge of Bagshot in the parish of Windlesham, yeoman, 14.6.1596 [DW/PA/7/7 fo. 83]. His son-in-law is referred to in this will as both “Nicholas Feild” and “Nicholas Attfeild”.

⁴⁰ Will of Hedge Atfeild of Woking, victualler, 12.1.1665/6 [DW/PA/7/14 Q.40; DW/PA/5/1666/4], and private correspondence with Merion Burt and Roger White.

⁴¹ See the family tree of “Henry Attfield of Chertsey”, 1722-1793, at URL: <http://www.familytree.john-attfield.com>.

⁴² Lease and release for a messuage and half-acre of land in Chertsey (a house and orchard in Goose Pool Lane) dated 26 - 27.7.1728 and for the same property dated 2 - 3.8.1728, Surrey History Centre, Ref: 6200/136.

⁴³ Henry Attfield and Elizabeth Boxall, formerly Creswell, marriage licence, Vicar General, 17.11.1715. See also Bernard Pardoe: *Bygone Chertsey*, Chertsey Museum, 2006, p.6. Henry's daughter Elizabeth married John Brown of Chertsey in 1733.

⁴⁴ Private correspondence with Merion Burt and Roger White.

⁴⁵ The earliest recorded examples of this name are Henry Ripley alias Fylde, 1546, noted in Guildford Free-men's Books 1655-1933, published by Guildford Corporation, 1963, p.10, and the will of Henry Atfeild alias Rypley of Burpham, Worplesdon, yeoman, 4.9.1572 [DW/PA/5/1578/87]. The earliest baptism recorded in the IGI, Daniel son of Harry Atfield or Ripplye, was at Worplesdon in 1576, and Harry Atfyld alias Rippley (or Rippley alias Atfyld) was buried at Worplesdon also in 1576. It should be noted that the Worplesdon parish registers have only been preserved from 1570.

⁴⁶ John Atfield alias Ripley on 3.4.1783, and [wife] Atfield alias Ripley on 12.12.1784. Source: National Burial Index.

⁴⁷ Lyn Clark: *Stoke Next Guildford, A Stort History*, Phillimore & Co, Chichester, 1999, p.66. Will of William Attfield, Prerogative Court of Canterbury, PROB 11/1752, proved 24.3.1829.

⁴⁸ At the time of writing, a group of descendants of James Attfield and Ann Harris is actively researching the family's origins and it is to be hoped that light will be shed on this branch in the near future.

⁴⁹ Will of Edward Attfeld of Egham, 25.3.1559 [DW/PA/7/6 f.58r; DW/PA/5/1559/50]. Also John Atfyld of Egham mentioned in will of Richard Burchatt of Chobham, 7.1.1558/59 [DW/PA/7/6 ff.64r-64v; DW/PA/5/1559/39].

⁵⁰ Will of Thomas Jones of Holy Trinity Guildford, 8.6.1535 [DW/PA/7/4 ff.165r-165v]; Owen Manning: *History and Antiquities of Surrey*, Vol.1, 1804, p.31.

⁵¹ Will of William Steavens of Wonersh, husbandman, 20.3.1678/79 [DW/PC/7/1 Q32; DW/PC/5/1681/59].

⁵² Will of Ralph Atfeild, Prerogative Court of Canterbury, PROB 11/126, proved 26.8.1615. James Atfield is listed in Brian Loomes: *Watchmakers and Clockmakers of the World*, 2006. See also "James Atfield of Old Brentford Middlesex clockmaker and John Atfield of the same place clockmaker only son of the said James and Jane his late wife", Ealing Manor Court Roll, 9.6.1736, London Metropolitan Archive, ACC/0276/112.

⁵³ "London had always been a powerful magnet for young people from all over the country ... The astonishing growth of the capital city's population can be accounted for only by a continuous inflow of immigrants. This is why distribution maps of surnames that usually show a concentration near the name's point of origin also mark significant numbers in and around London." David Hey: *Family Names and Family History*, Hambledon & London, London 2000, p.83.

⁵⁴ Will of Nicholas Atfeild, Prerogative Court of Canterbury, PROB 11/204, proved 20.5.1648. "Nicholas Attfield son of Alan, Chobham, Surrey, husbandman to Ralph Harwood 10 Dec 1610, Blacksmiths' Company", London Apprenticeship Abstracts, The Origins Network, URL: <http://www.originsnetwork.com/>

⁵⁵ Surrey Poll Book 1775, West Surrey Family History Society Record Series, Vo. XV, 1992, published on microfiche. Lease and release for property called Woodcroft in Windlesham, Surrey History Centre, Item ref: 7014/1/14-15, 1-2.1.1787.

⁵⁶ Wills at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury: Hugh Atfeild of Newbury, PROB 11/170, proved 3.2.1635/36; John Atfeild of Newbury, PROB 11/197, proved 26.9.1646; Francis Atfeild of Speenhamland, PROB 11/381, proved 2.11.1685.

⁵⁷ “Peter, son and heir of Thomas, Fauconer , by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of John Atfield” was baptised in 1510, see “Kingsclere, its Heritage and Genealogy”, at URL: <http://www.kingsclere.org.uk>; “John Atfield or Atfelde, Yeoman of Woodlands” wrote a will in 1618, and in 1658 “Wm. Atfield left for the poor 20s. a year out of Old Farm”, William White, History, Gazetteer, and Directory of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, 1859, pp.472-6.

⁵⁸ “The Hearth Tax Assessment of 1665”, at URL: <http://www.kingsclere.org.uk>

⁵⁹ Will of John Atfield of Kingsclere, gentleman, Prerogative Court of Canterbury PROB 11/417, proved 4.11.1693.

⁶⁰ Will of William Atfield of Portsea, Prerogative Court of Canterbury, PROB 11/2033, proved 17.4.1846.

⁶¹ For the history of this family see URL: http://www.familytree.john-attfield.com/Attfield_Family_of_Bath-rev1.pdf

⁶² David Hey, op.cit, p.152

⁶³ Source: ancestry.co.uk, figures based on heads of household.

⁶⁴ See for example David Hey: “Locating the Home of a Family Name”, in Reaney & Wilson, op.cit, pp.511-520.

⁶⁵ Winchester Pipe Rolls, q.v.

⁶⁶ Will of John Atfeild the elder of Windlesham, yeoman, Prerogative Court of Canterbury, PROB 11/151, proved 6.2.1627.

⁶⁷ “He seems to have been known as ‘Field’ and this often appeared on old scorecards”, Wikipedia, URL: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Attfield

⁶⁸ Will of John Attfield alias John Field of Windlesham, yeoman, snr., 9.12.1828 [DW/PC/7/8; DW/PC/5/1839/1], proved 25.5.1839.

⁶⁹ Will of George Attfield otherwise Field of Windlesham, Probate Register (London), 18.6.1887, folio 484.