

Introduction:

This analysis uses birth place to determine surname distribution between 1840 and 1919.

The individuals included in the data set are those for whom family reconstruction has been completed, one of the surnames under study (Furmedge, Furmidge, Furmage etc.) assigned, and the individuals uploaded to the Furmedge One-Name Study website (www.furmedge.ventrix-consulting.com). This website is henceforth referred to as the “study website”.

The birth place information contained in the study website is from a combination of sources such as the General Register Office (GRO) Birth Index or other country vital data, birth certificate (where obtained), parish baptism register and / or census information. Source citations for this data can be reviewed for each individual in the study website.

To show changes in distribution over time the period 1840 to 1919 has been divided into four (4) twenty year periods: 1840 to 1859, 1860 to 1879, 1880 to 1899 and 1900 to 1919.

Geographical distribution is shown by country and for England only by county. Each surname is presented separately; a comparison has been included at the end of the results section.

Methodology:

The report function in the TNG software (used for the study website) was utilised to generate listings of individuals in the database matching criteria such as surname, birth year and birth place. The same report was updated with each new set of criteria and the count of individuals for each set of criteria was recorded in Microsoft Excel.

Example search criteria:

Last name contains Furmedge AND Birth Place contains England AND Year only from Birth Date >= 1840 AND Year only from Birth Date <= 1859.

Note: The reports used for the analysis have not been published to the study website.

Note: The numbers in the study are relatively small. For England & Wales the dataset is compared with the numbers registered in the GRO Birth Index for the relevant years as an indication of the completeness of the dataset. For all other countries the dataset reflects those individuals researched to date.

Results:

FURMEDGE

Table 1: Number of individuals with the Furmedge surname by birth country and birth year between 1840 and 1919.

Birth Place:	Birth Year:				Total
	1840-1859	1860-1879	1880-1899	1900-1919	
England	27	27	36	56	146
Australia	1	2	5	9	17
Channel Islands	2	3	3		8
Total (all countries)	30	32	44	65	171

Table 2: Number of individuals with the Furmedge surname by birth county in England and birth year between 1840 and 1919. Note: 100% of the births registered with the Furmedge surname in England and Wales between 1840 to 1919 are included in the study website.

Birth Place:	Birth Year:				Total
	1840-1859	1860-1879	1880-1899	1900-1919	
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	8	5	15	21	49
Dorset	14	9	4	1	28
Lancashire		3	8	17	28
London & Middlesex		6	4	5	15
Surrey		4	4	7	15
Cornwall	5				5
Hertfordshire				2	2
Wiltshire				2	2
Essex			1		1
Sussex				1	1
Total (England):	27	27	36	56	146

Figure 1: Distribution of Furredge births in England, 1840-1859.



Figure 2: Distribution of Furredge births in England, 1860-1879.

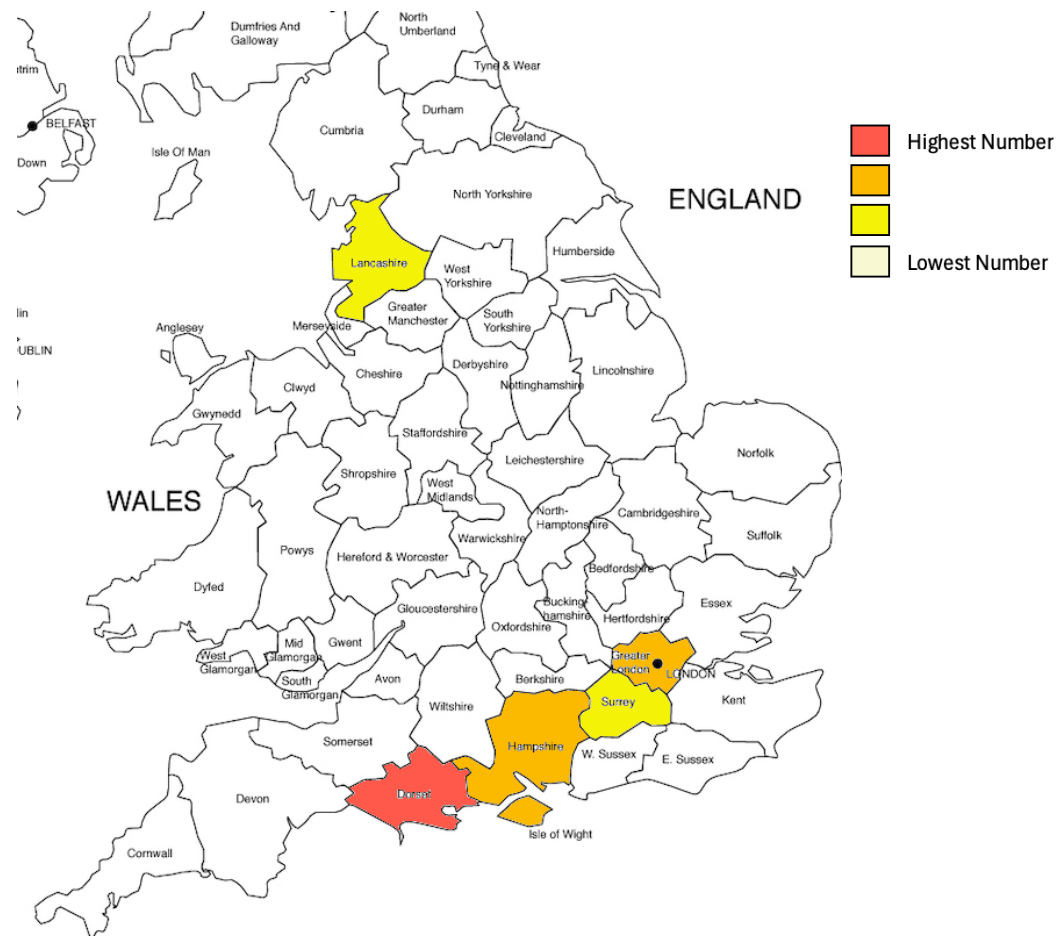


Figure 3: Distribution of Furredge births in England, 1880-1899.

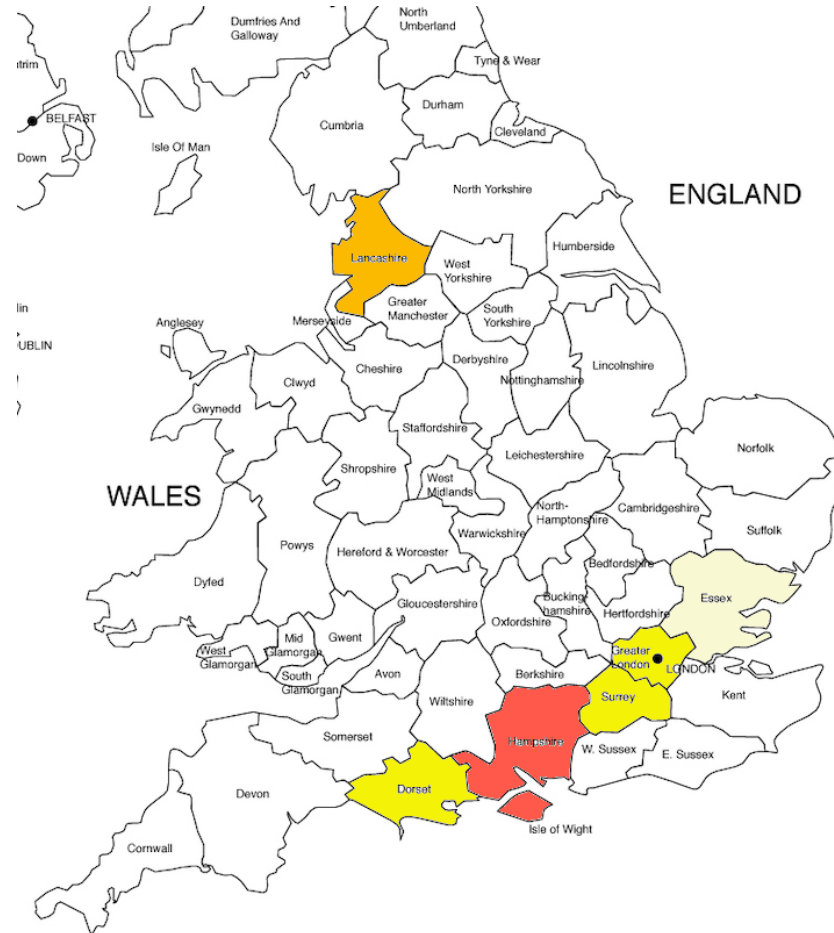
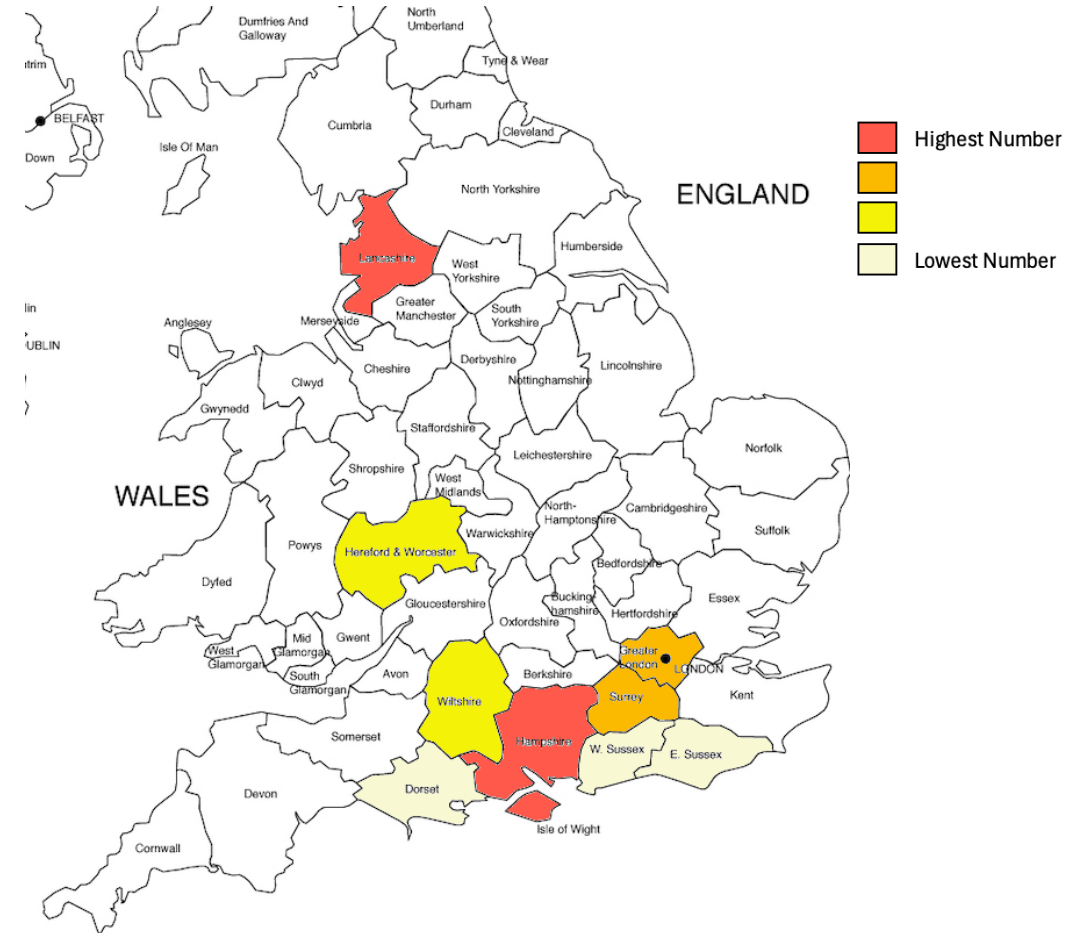


Figure 4: Distribution of Furredge births in England, 1900-1919.



FURMIDGE

Table 3: Number of individuals with the Furnidge surname by birth country and birth year between 1840 and 1919.

Birth Year:					
Birth Place:	1840-1859	1860-1879	1880-1899	1900-1919	Total
England	26	53	55	66	200
South Africa	5	3	16		24
Canada	5	5			10
USA				8	8
Ireland			2		2
Total (all countries)	36	61	73	74	244

Table 4: Number of individuals with the Furnidge surname by birth county in England and birth year between 1840 and 1919. Note: 96% of the births registered with the Furnidge surname in England and Wales between 1840 to 1919 are included in the study website.

Birth Year:					
Birth Place:	1840-1859	1860-1879	1880-1899	1900-1919	Total
Leicestershire	16	22	9	15	62
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	4	10	16	19	49
Nottinghamshire	1	10	14	13	38
Yorkshire		7	10	8	25
Derbyshire		1		10	11
Lancashire		1	4		5
Lincolnshire	3	2			5
Cambridgeshire			1		1
Devon	1				1
Dorset	1				1
Essex				1	1
Kent			1		1
Total (England):	26	53	55	66	200

Figure 5: Distribution of Furmidge births in England, 1840-1859.

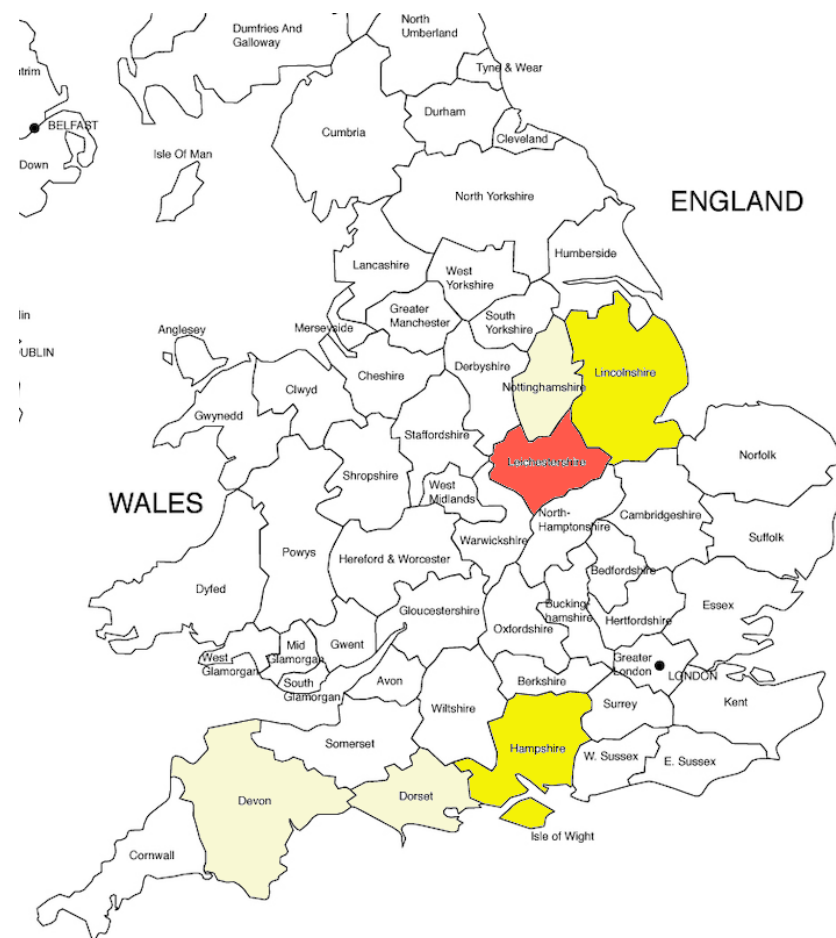


Figure 6: Distribution of Furmidge births in England, 1860-1879.

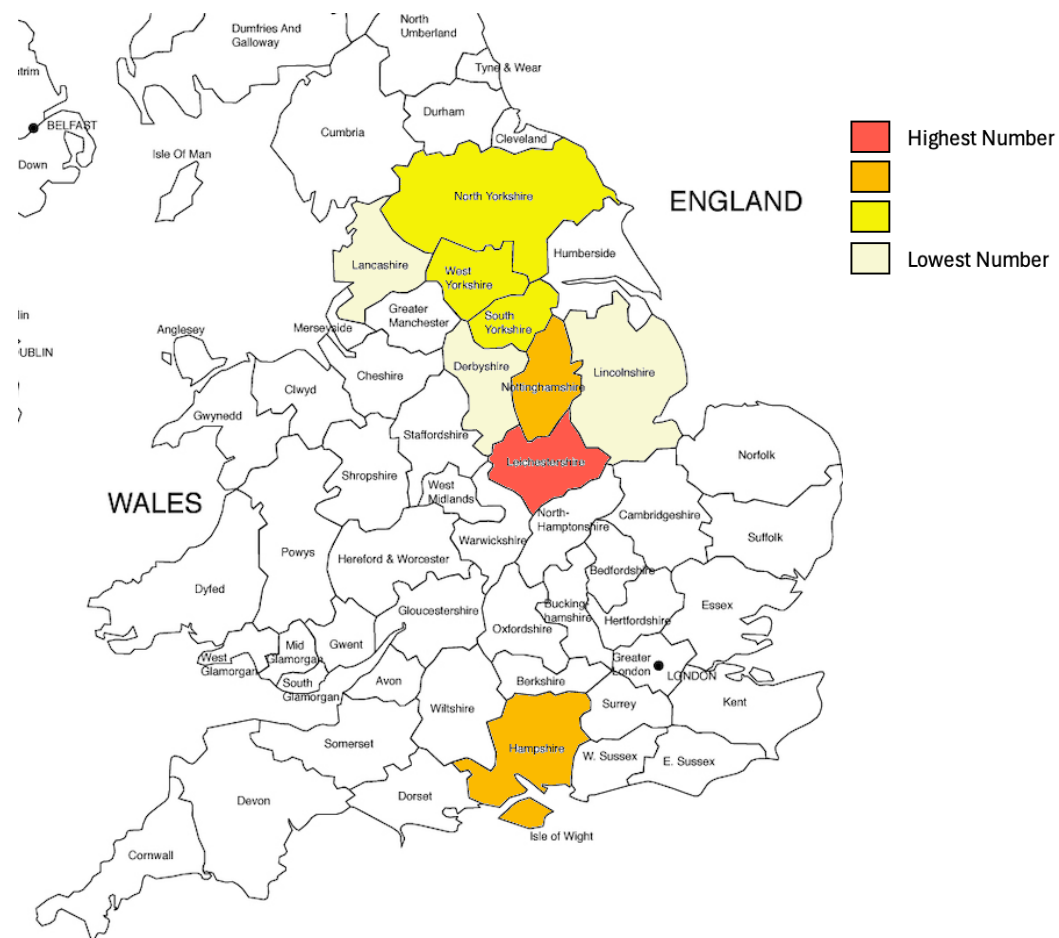


Figure 7: Distribution of Furmidge births in England, 1880-1899.

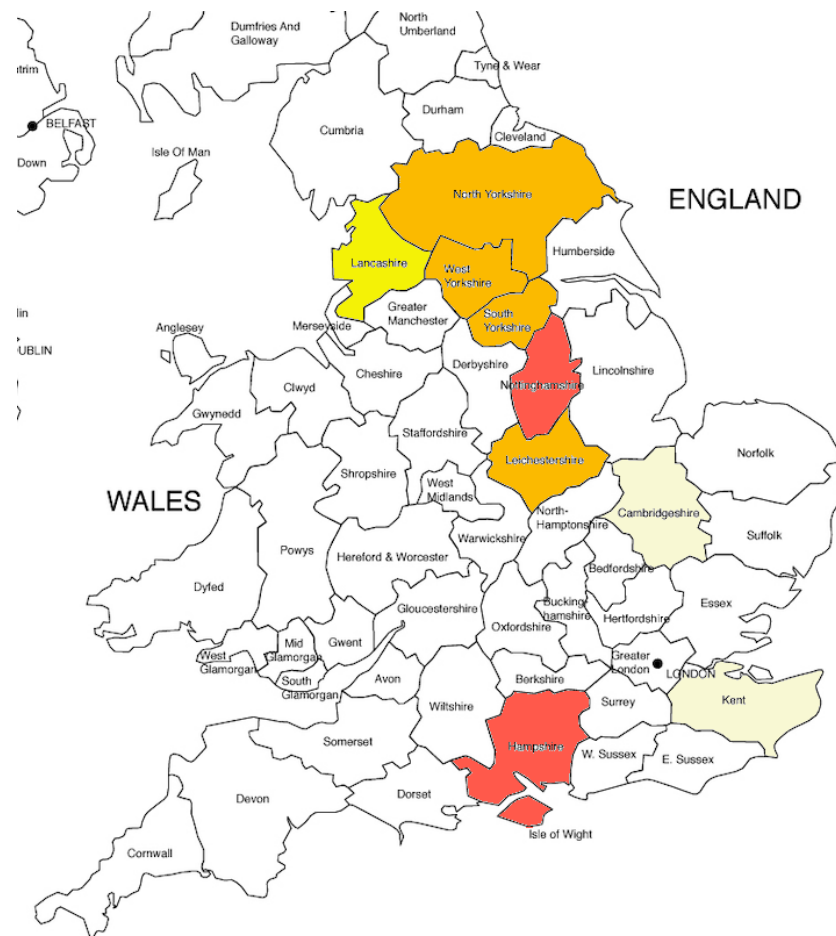
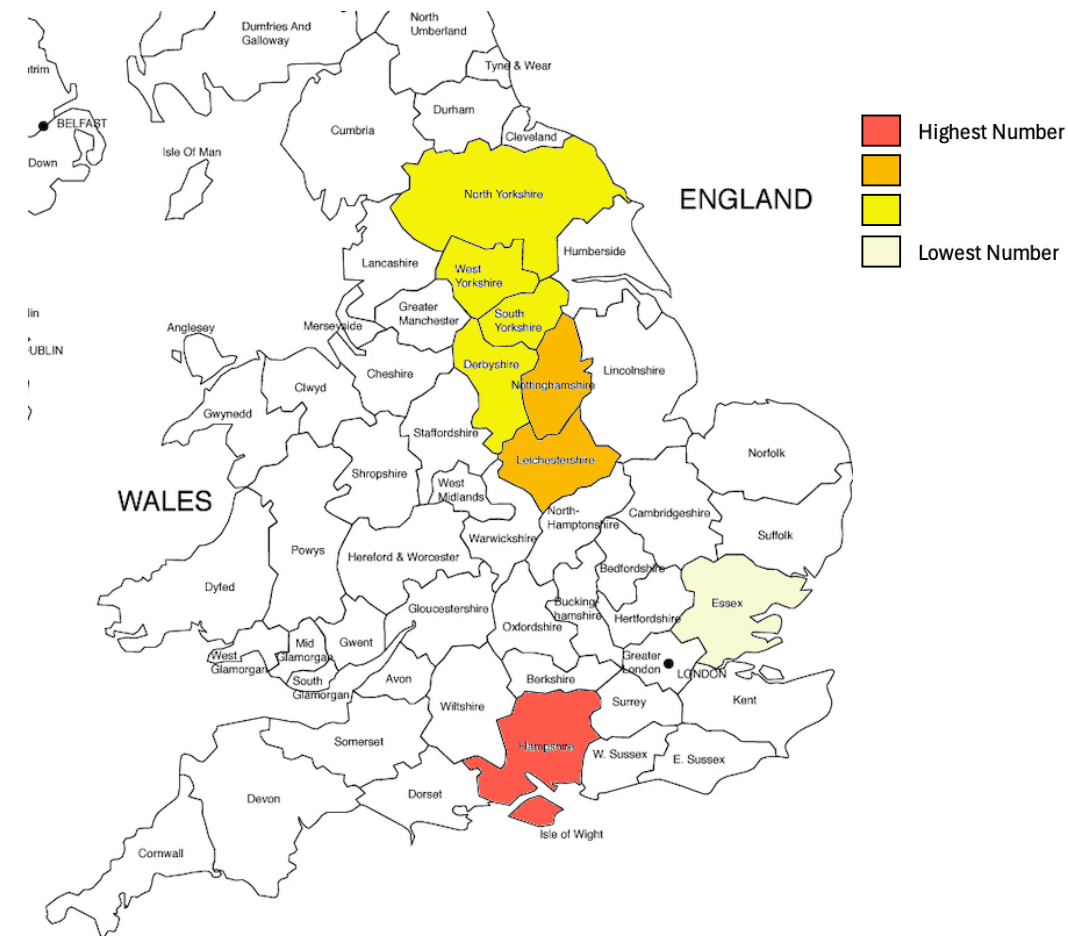


Figure 8: Distribution of Furmidge births in England, 1900-1919.



FURMAGE

Analysis of the Furmage surname includes some individuals whose surname has been recorded as Firmedge or Furmadge in the study website. Whilst mis-transcribed or mis-recorded surnames are corrected in the study website to the appropriate surname, in these cases it was determined that the surname spelling had ‘officially’ changed and was consistently used across multiple individuals within the family and/or passed down to the next generation.

Individuals with the surnames Furmage, Firmedge and Furmadge are collectively referred to as Furmage unless otherwise indicated.

Table 5: Number of individuals with the Furmage surname by birth country and birth year between 1840 and 1919.

Birth Place:	Birth Year:				Total
	1840-1859	1860-1879	1880-1899	1900-1919	
England¹	46	58	62	32	198
Scotland²	3	10	1	8	22
Wales			8	9	17
USA	1	6	2	4	13
Australia	1	2	4	3	10
Turkey		5			5
Ireland				4	4
South Africa				2	2
Total (all countries)	51	81	77	62	271

¹ Includes 11 individuals recorded as Furmadge in the study website; 2 in 1860-1879, 6 in 1880-1899 and 3 in 1900-1919.

² Includes 4 individuals recorded as Firmedge in the study website; 1 in 1840-1859 and 3 in 1860-1879.

Table 6: Number of individuals with the Furname surname by birth county in England and birth year between 1840 and 1919. Note: 95.4% of the births registered with either the Furname or Furname surname in England and Wales between 1840 to 1919 are included in the study website.

Birth Place:	Birth Year:				Total
	1840-1859	1860-1879	1880-1899	1900-1919	
Dorset³	27	26	31	10	94
Hampshire⁴	8	10	3	4	25
Surrey		10	10		20
London & Middlesex	1	7	7	4	19
Somerset			5	6	11
Sussex	4	1	1	1	7
Lancashire		1		4	5
Wiltshire	4	1			5
Oxfordshire			3	1	4
Essex⁵		1		2	3
Berkshire	1				1
Devon		1			1
Lincolnshire			1		1
Norfolk	1				1
Yorkshire			1		1
Total (England):	46	58	62	32	198

³ Includes 8 individuals recorded as Furname in the study website; 2 in 1860-1879 and 6 in 1880-1899.

⁴ Includes 1 individual recorded as Furname in the study website, in 1900-1919.

⁵ Includes 2 individuals recorded as Furname in the study website, both in 1900-1919.

Figure 9: Distribution of Furname births in England, 1840-1859.

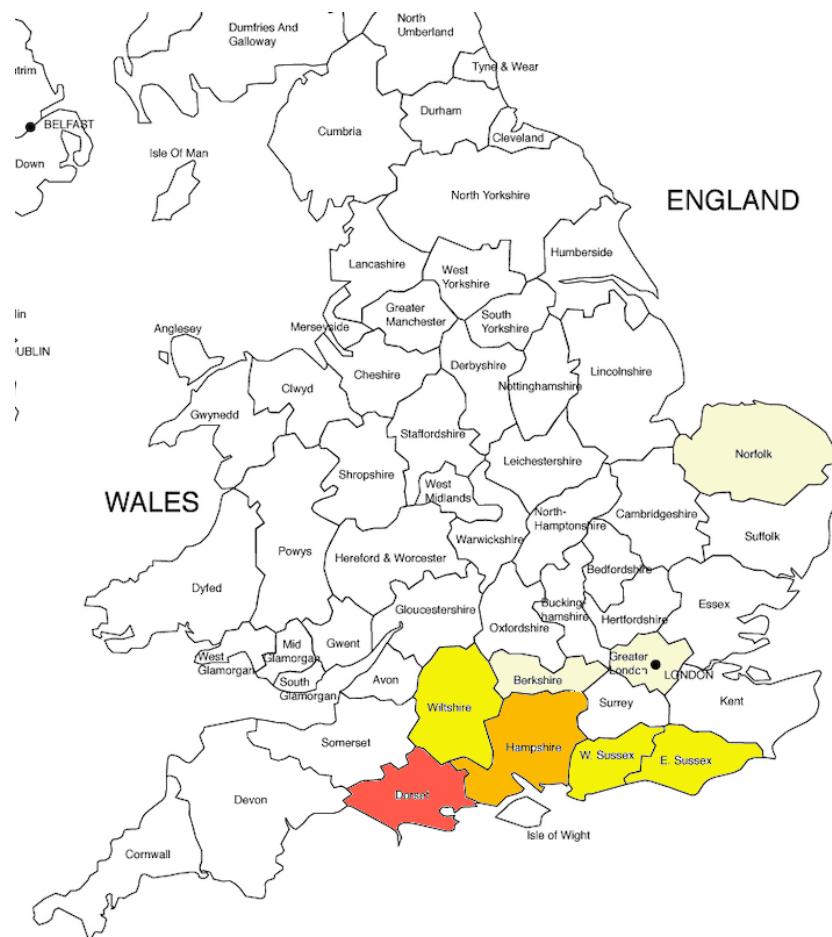


Figure 10: Distribution of Furname births in England, 1860-1879.

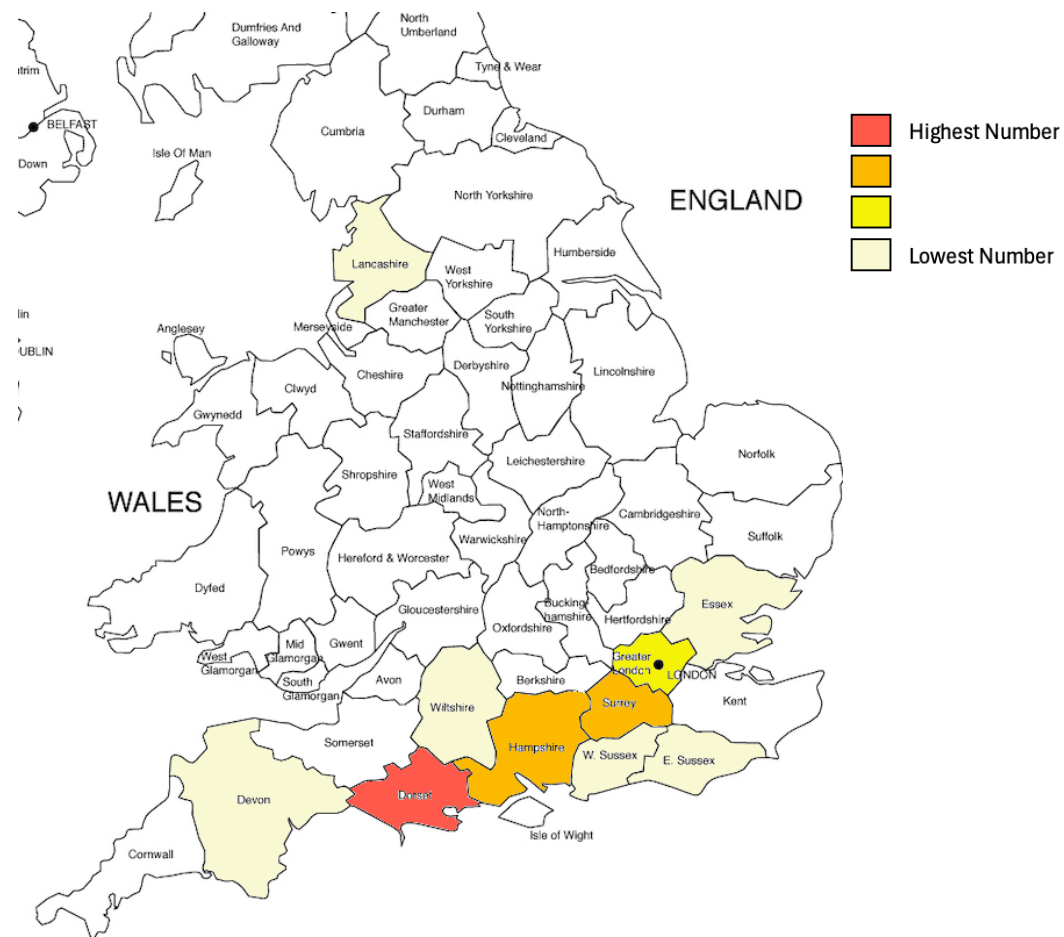


Figure 11: Distribution of Furname births in England, 1880-1899.

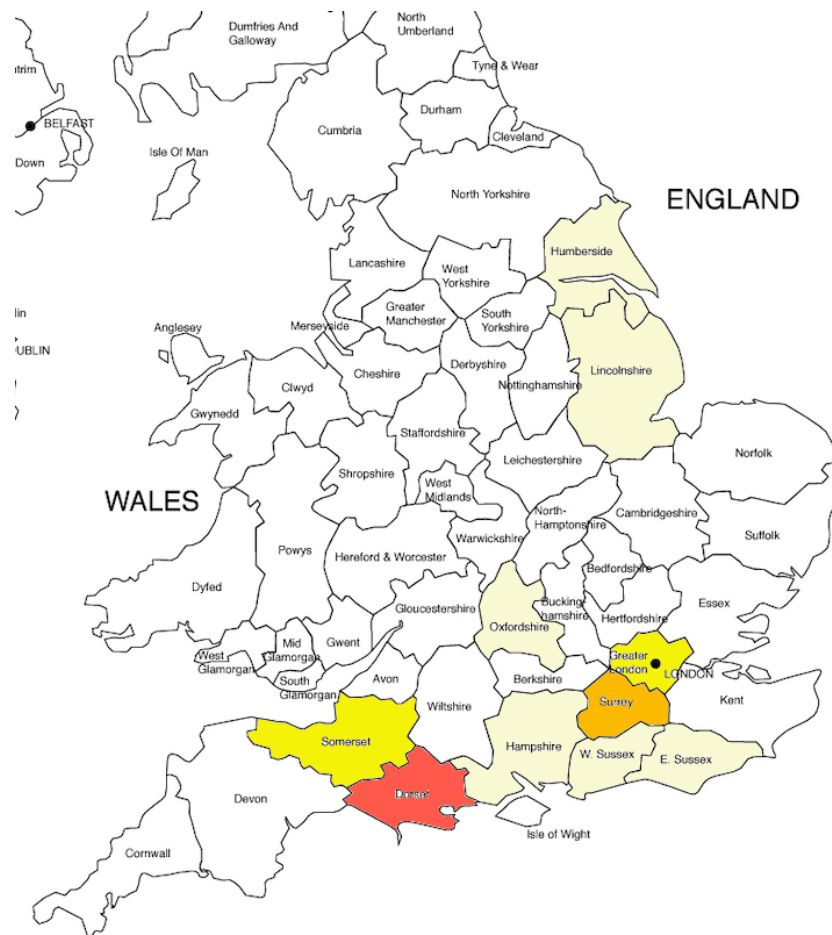
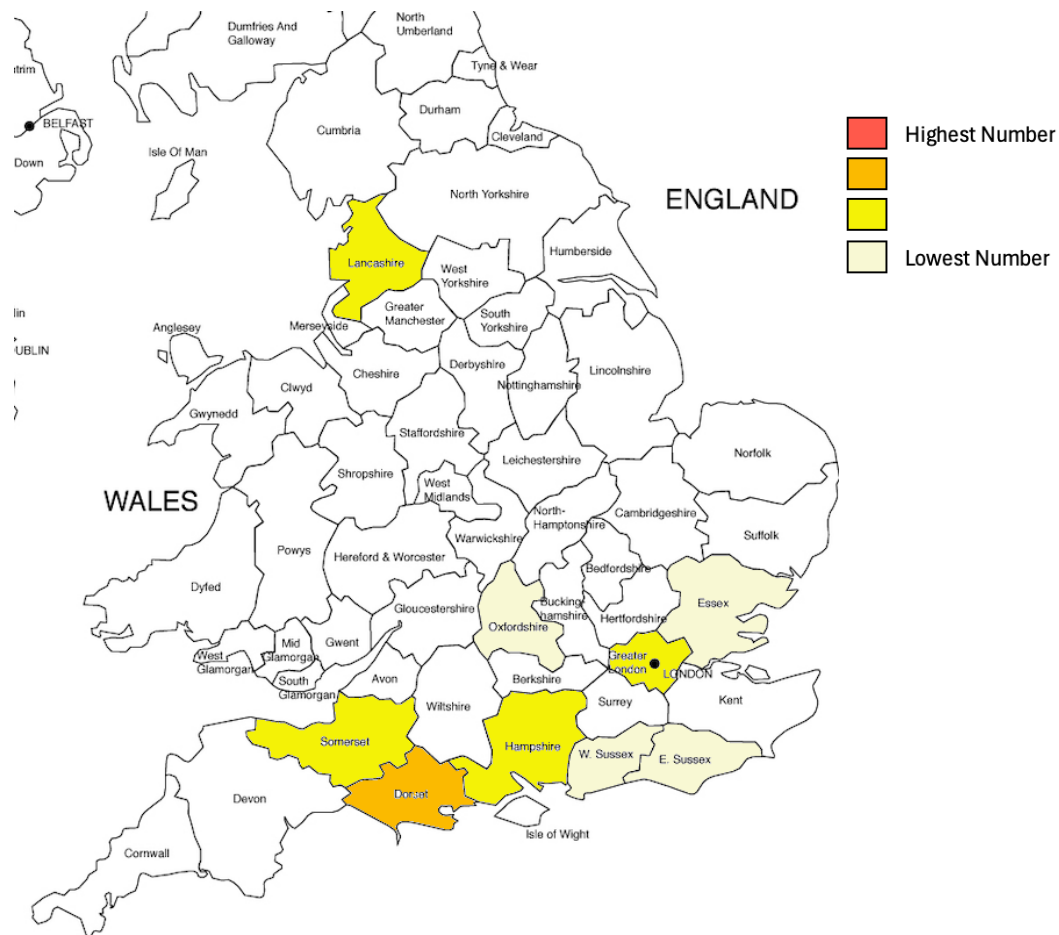


Figure 12: Distribution of Furname births in England, 1900-1919.



FURMEDGE One-Name Study
Analysis of Birth Place: 1840 to 1919 inclusive.

Author: Kathryn Lee, 27 September 2026

COMPARISONS

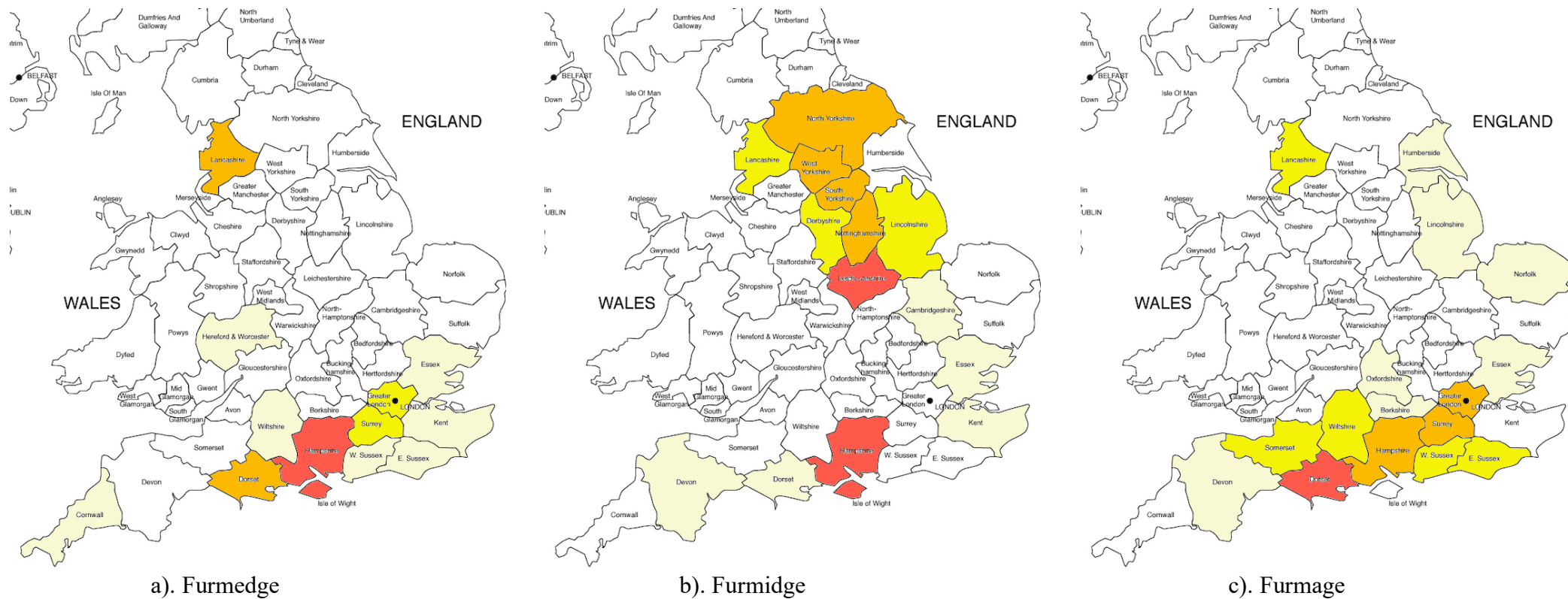
Table 7: Comparison of the total number of individuals born between 1840 and 1919 with each surname by birth country.

	Surname at Birth:			
Birth Place:	Furmedge	Furmidge	Furmage	Total
England	146	200	198	544
Australia	17		10	27
South Africa		24	2	26
Scotland			22	22
USA		8	13	21
Wales			17	17
Canada		10		10
Channel Islands	8			8
Ireland		2	4	6
Turkey			5	5
Total (all countries)	171	244	271	686

Table 8: Comparison of the total number of individuals born between 1840 and 1919 with each surname by birth county in England.

Surname at Birth:				
Birth Place:	Furmedge	Furmidge	Furmage	Total
Dorset	28	1	94	123
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	49	49	25	123
Leicestershire		62		62
Lancashire	28	5	5	38
Nottinghamshire		38		38
Surrey	15		20	35
London & Middlesex	15		19	34
Yorkshire		25	1	26
Derbyshire		11		11
Somerset			11	11
Wiltshire	2		5	7
Sussex			7	7
Lincolnshire		5	1	6
Cornwall	5			5
Essex	1	1	3	5
Oxfordshire			4	4
Devon		1	1	2
Hertfordshire	2			2
Berkshire			1	1
Cambridgeshire		1		1
Kent		1		1
Norfolk			1	1
Sussex	1			1
Total (England):	146	200	198	544

Figure 13: Distribution of births in England, 1840-1919, by surname.



Conclusion:

This analysis reviewed birth place data as a means of determining surname distribution. The criteria for including individuals were: to have been added to the study website, have a birth surname of Furmedge, Furmidge or Furmage⁶, and be born between 1840 and 1919.

The analysis data for England and Wales when compared with the GRO Birth Index for 1840 to 1919 was:

- 100% complete for Furmedge;
- 96% complete for Furmidge;
- 95.4% complete for Furmage and Furmidge⁷.

It should be noted that whilst the study data corrected for any mis-recorded or mis-transcribed surnames the data in the GRO Birth Index does not. For example, an individual registered in the GRO Birth Index with the surname Furmedge may have been determined to belong to a Furmidge or Furmage family and been entered into the study website with this 'corrected' surname. The comparison with the GRO Birth Index is given to provide an idea of the completeness of the overall analysis data (all surnames) rather than for each surname separately.

There is no similar comparison for individuals born outside of England and Wales. To date these primarily belong to a family, or individual from a family, who has migrated from England or Wales to another country and has then been followed for one or more generations to complete family reconstruction. A comprehensive assessment of the study surnames in each of these countries has yet to be performed.

It is also accepted that the year ranges selected for analysis are somewhat arbitrary. Data from a specific census year is often used to provide a snapshot for surname distribution but is not always corrected for mis-recorded and mis-transcribed surnames, potentially providing a false picture. Birth data was considered easier to assess and more reliable for this analysis in part because any mis-recorded or mis-transcribed surnames had been corrected as part of prior analysis.

With these caveats the following conclusions and comparisons are drawn:

Furmedge: Between 1840 and 1919 individuals born with the Furmedge surname have primarily remained in the south of England with hotspots in Dorset and Hampshire (including the Isle of Wight). One family migrated from Hampshire to Liverpool, Lancashire to form a second hotspot from the 1860 onwards.

Furmedge families have migrated to both the Channel Islands (Jersey) and Australia (New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria). The family who migrated to the Channel Islands originated in Dorset. The two families migrating to Australia originated in the Isle of Wight (Hampshire) and Essex (although the previous generation was from Dorset).

Furmidge: Between 1840 and 1919 individuals born with the Furmidge surname have primarily remained in the north of England with hotspots initially in Leicestershire expanding

⁶ For the Furmage analysis, 15 individuals with a surname of Firmedge or Furmidge recorded in the study website were also included.

⁷ Individuals with the Firmedge surname were identified in Scotland. The GRO Birth Index for England and Wales is therefore not relevant.

to neighbouring counties. A second hotspot appears in Hampshire (including the Isle of Wight), especially from 1860 onwards, and is the main point of geographical overlap between the Furmidge and the Furmedge and Furmage surnames.

Furmidge families have migrated to Ireland, South Africa, Canada (Ontario) and USA (Illinois). The father of the two individuals born in Ireland was in the Coast Guard service and was posted in Ireland for a period of time; the family originated from the Isle of Wight (Hampshire). The family who migrated to South Africa (in the 1840s) also originated from the Isle of Wight (Hampshire). The family who migrated to Canada originated from Leicestershire; it was one of the children of this family who subsequently migrated to the USA.

Furmage: Between 1840 and 1919 individuals born with the Furmage surname have primarily remained in the south of England with a strong presence in Dorset throughout the period. With the exception of a slightly wider geographical spread the distribution of the Furmage surname is very similar to the Furmedge surname.

Individuals with the Furmage surname were also born in Wales and Scotland between 1840 and 1919. The family who migrated to Wales originated from Dorset. Three independent family groups had children born in Scotland. In all three cases it is suspected, but not proven, that the originating father moved to Scotland from England. Further analysis is required to confirm this.

Furmage families have migrated to Ireland, Turkey, Australia, South Africa and USA. The father of the four individuals born in Ireland was in the Coast Guard service and was posted to Ireland between 1900 and 1905; the family originated from Dorset. The father of the five individuals born in Turkey originated from Wiltshire.

Two separate families migrated to Australia, one from Dorset to Victoria in the 1850s and the second from Surrey to Tasmania in the late 1880s. The family who migrated to South Africa originated from Scotland; a member of this family also migrated to Australia but had no children. The family who migrated to USA (District of Columbia) originated from Scotland.

Firmedge: In this analysis the surname Firmedge was identified in Scotland. Individuals from this family migrated to USA (Utah, Minnesota and Wyoming) where the surname spelling changes to Firmage.

Furmadge: In this analysis the surname Furmadge was identified in Dorset. Individuals from this family migrated to Hampshire and Essex. The originator of this family had the surname spelling Furmage and is suspected, but not proven, to be the same originator of the Firmedge family in Scotland.

These differences in surname spelling in the context of migration may have been the result of regional accents or dialects and different levels of literacy however a deliberate decision to change the spelling can't be ruled out.

In comparing the geographical distribution of Furmedge, Furmidge and Furmage in England a tentative conclusion is that the Furmedge and Furmage surnames are closely related, whilst the Furmidge surname is unrelated to either of these surnames. The term related is used here in the sense that the surnames are likely to have a common origin.