

**Analysis
of
Distribution
of
Muncy Family Events
in
Cambridgeshire Communities
as
Recorded By Parish Registers
1538 - 1700**

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Summary

In this analysis, a “Muncy Family Event” consists of a birth, marriage or burial as recorded in the parish register of the community. This is highly dependent on the accuracy of the parish register. Pages may be lost, become unreadable or burn in a fire. Fortunately, parishes ministers were required to send a copy to their Bishop each month (known as Bishops Transcripts) and these are invaluable in filling in gaps in the parish registers. Unfortunately, there were often errors in copying and some parishes were less than diligent in providing the monthly copy. In addition, there may be gaps for the years between 1649 to 1660 during the period of the Commonwealth when many registers were not kept or hidden away and Bishops Transcripts were not required during this period. Parish registers and Bishops Transcripts are not perfect sources of information, but they are what they are..... the only available information on family events during this time period.

Table 1 shows a listing of town/villages in Cambridgeshire from the period of 1538 to 1700 in which more than one Muncy family event occurred. Those towns in which a single event over the more than 150 years covered were ignored.

It is interesting to note that some communities were a center of family activities for a period of time, only to fade away and lose all Muncy presence during a later period. For example, Cherry Hinton was a hotbed of Muncy family activity from the 1500's up to 1625, but after that later period no activity was recorded at all. Chesterton was a major center of family activity in the late 1500's and continued a family presence until 1700 except for the period of 1601-1625 in which no activity was recorded. Ickleton was a hotbed of activity from the 1500's until 1650 when Muncy family activity faded to nothing. Histon proved to be the most consistent with family activity in all of the time periods recorded.

Table 1

	Bet 1600	1600 - 1625	1626 - 1650	1651 - 1675	1676 - 1700	TOTAL
Abington Pigotts					6	6
Balsam		6	13	2		21
Bassingbourn					9	9
Bottisham	5					5
Cambridge		10	18	7	35	70
Cherry Hinton	17	22				39
Chesterton	24		3	6	9	42
Cottenham	1	1	2	1	1	6
Croxtan					3	3
Doddington					5	5
Dry Dayton		1	2			3
Foxtan			15	8		23
Great Abington		3		3		6
Haddenham	9	9	9	3		30
Hildensham			5			5
Hinxton	1		6	3	1	11
Hilton	1	21	12	8	4	46
Ickleton	26	13	10			49
Kingston	3					3
Landbeach	9			1	1	11
Linton	1			1	1	3
Melbourn		12	15	11	6	44
Meldreth		2	8			10
Soham	4	3	1			8
Sutton	3					3
Swaffham Bulbeck		1		10	11	22
Swaffham Prior	3					3
Waterbeach			9	10	11	30
Willingham	9	6	10	1		26
TOTAL	116	110	138	75	103	542

Table 2 shows the total number of towns representing family events during the time period.

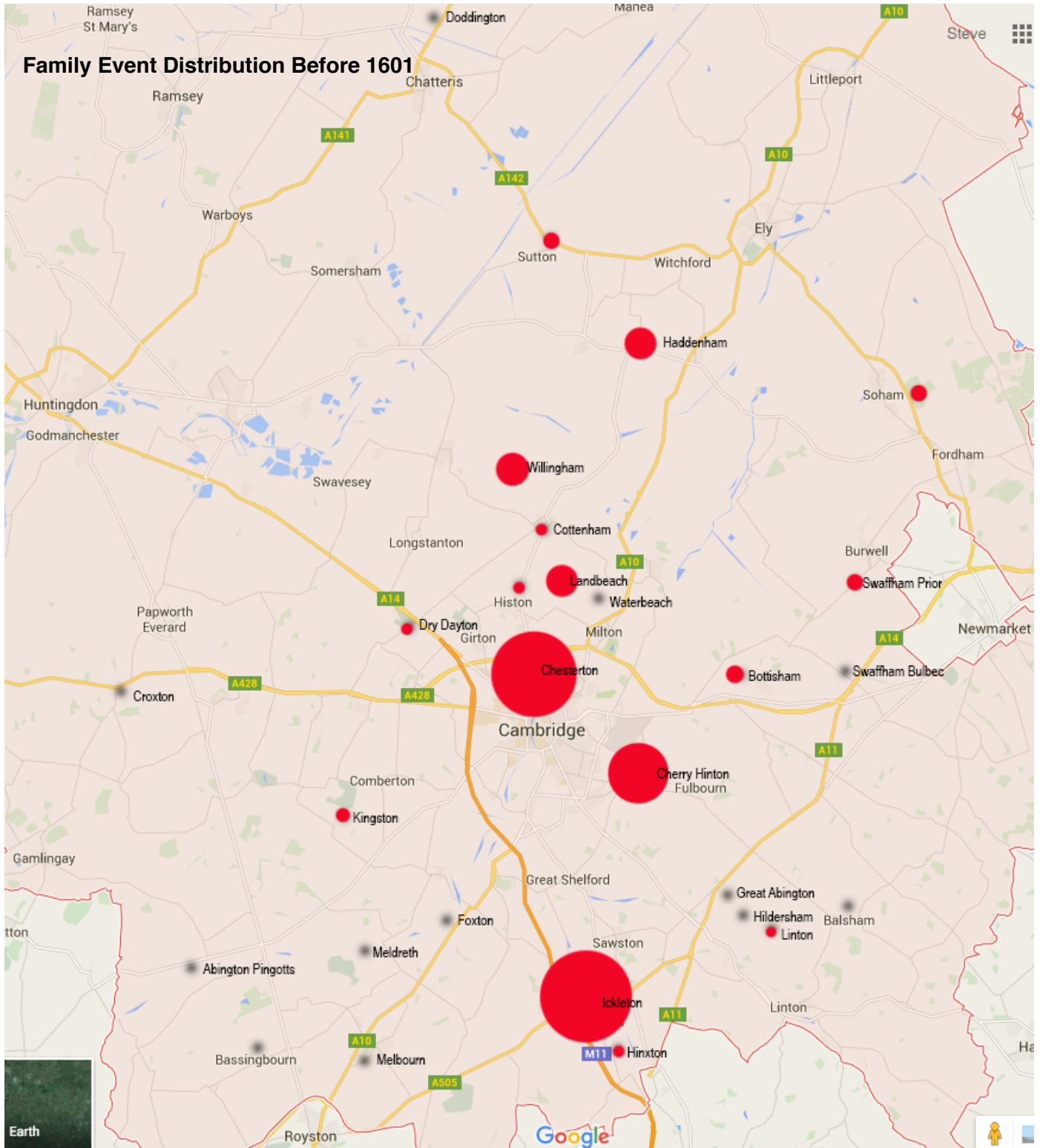
Table 2

	Bet 1600	1600 - 1625	1626 - 1650	1651 - 1675	1676 - 1700
Towns Represented	15	14	16	15	14

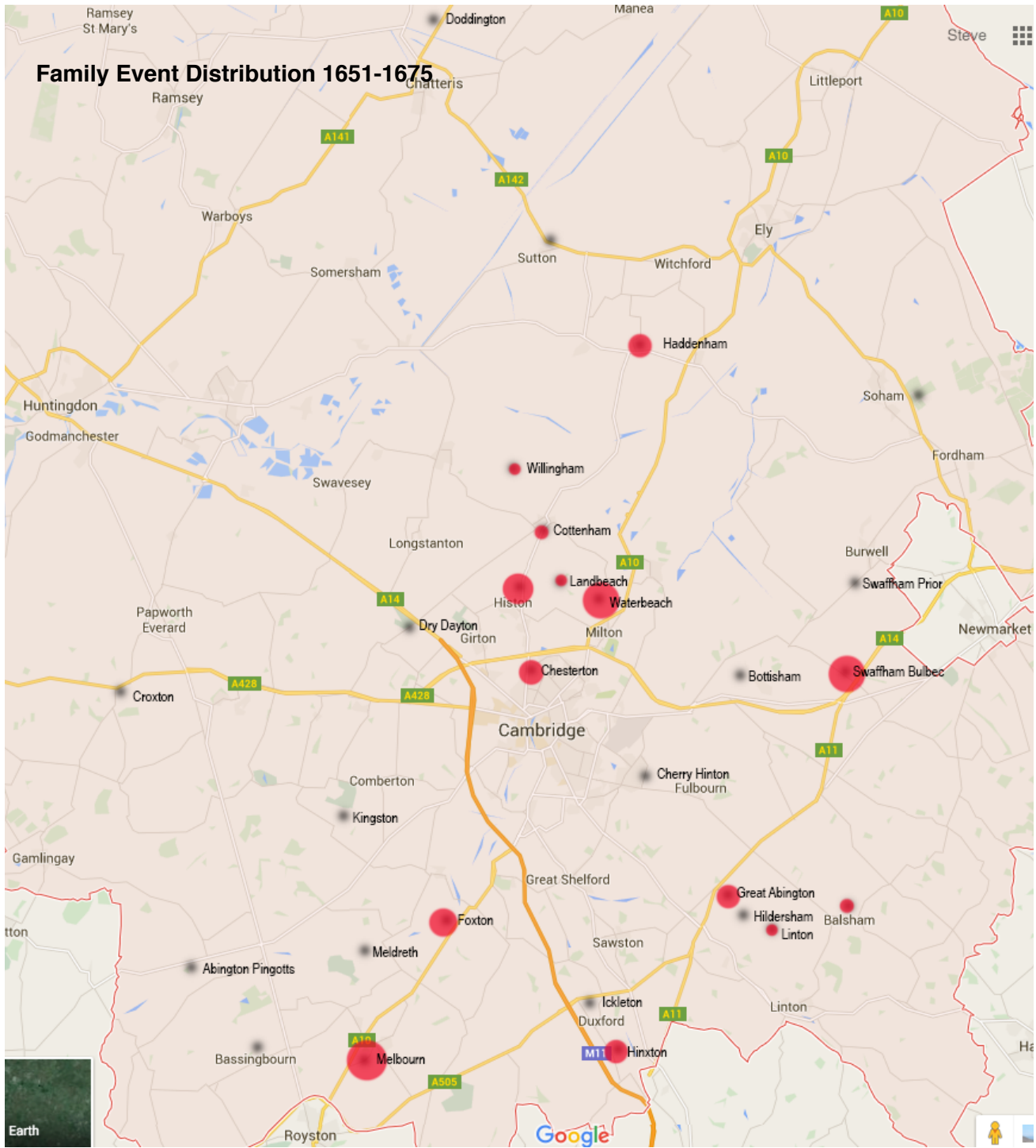
It is striking that over this 150-year period the number of towns representing Muncy family events was almost the same. While there was definite movement between towns, the number of towns in which Muncy family events were occurring did not increase. What did change, however, was the number of events recorded in those communities and showing an increase in events in Cambridge. In the period of 1601-1625, only ten percent of the events occurred in Cambridge. In the 1676-1700 time period, more than thirty-five percent of the events were recorded in Cambridge. (The period of 1651-1675 showed a significant drop in Cambridge, but this is almost certainly the result of failures to record events in the parish register during the tumultuous Commonwealth period.) These numbers represent a trend toward abandonment of the more rural communities to live and work in the larger town of Cambridge.

Maps for each time period are shown with red markers indicating the locations Muncy family during that period. The larger the marker, the more activity was recorded.

Family Event Distribution Before 1601



Family Event Distribution 1651-1675



Family Event Distribution 1676-1700

