Mapping Mathesons

Showing how families moved within Great Britain helps to illustrate the massive social changes of the 19th and 20th centuries.

A new body of research links to both historical census information and recent consumer databases, and maps how family groups have moved within the country over the past 170 years.

In 1851 Mathesons were concentrated in a swathe across the Highlands, and on the Isle of Lewis. Migration to the large urban areas of Edinburgh and Glasgow had already begun. Mathesons start to feature in London a decade later.

By the end of the 20th century, concentration in urban areas was almost complete.

Mathiesons were concentrated in urban areas much earlier.

The site also maps trends in forenames, and identifies the parishes and local government areas where surnames are concentrated. You can check it out here.





Distribution of Mathesons in 1851 (left) and 1998 (right)



Distribution of Mathiesons in 1851