

## CHAPTER SEVEN

# Westward ho!

### Introduction

We have looked in some detail at the story of Badham distribution in south-east Wales and the southern March and have recognised the existence of the enclave in Pembrokeshire. Here I will attempt to give the south-west Wales context the more detailed attention it deserves, although our information is limited.

### Nineteenth-century basics

In Chapter 1, Map 1 shows the 30 Badhams recorded as present on 1881 census night, but this data, although helpful, is surprisingly misleading when you burrow beneath the surface. Map 9 (p. 91) is based on the same database,<sup>1</sup> but on this occasion the map focuses on south Wales. The colouring indicates the relative densities using all the three variants and the 's' derivatives shown in Table 8. By adding in these surname variations the 30 becomes 54 in Pembrokeshire and it is noticeable that the proportion in the population is high. The Poor Law Union of Narberth is listed as belonging to Carmarthenshire but this is another example of how classifying data can be misleading. Firstly, this is because the Poor Law Union overlaps substantially into Pembrokeshire and, secondly, the distribution within the area is such that not one of our Badham individuals was in Carmarthenshire. As can be seen on Table 8, even on the basis of this data the Narberth density is the third highest in England and Wales. If adjustments could be made to account for just the Pembrokeshire part of the Narberth Poor Law Union, it would come even nearer the top two in the table.

### Variants over time

The way in which the standardisation of the spelling of the name has developed in the 50 years from 1841 can be seen in Table 9. There are two things to be noted about the spelling changes. Firstly, Badham and Baddam seem to interchange and, secondly, it is important to be aware that if you search earlier censuses without using obvious variants you are much more likely to miss the individuals you are seeking. Searching Badham alone in the Wales' censuses would give you only a 66 per cent chance of finding individuals in 1841, whereas by 1891 it would rise to 98 per cent, which is nearly a 50 per cent increased chance of finding the family you are seeking.

<sup>1</sup> Archer Software's Surname Atlas.

## DISPERSION

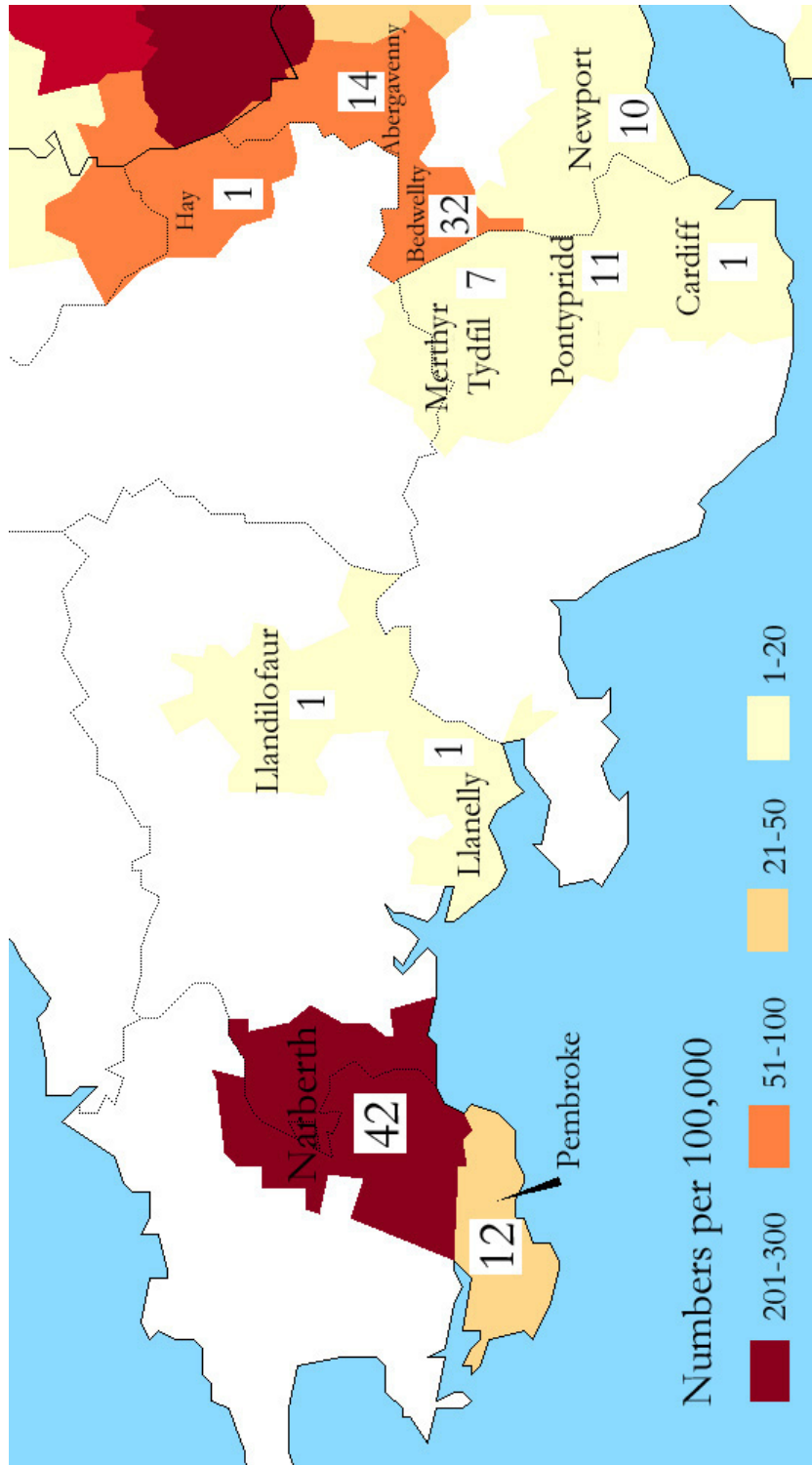
**Table 8 Top ten Poor Law Unions by density of variants:  
Badham(s), Baddam(s) and Badam(s), 1881**

County of	Poor Law Union	Actual	per 100,000
<b>Hereford</b>	Ledbury	49	391
<b>Hereford</b>	Bromyard	35	316
<b>Carmarthen</b>	Narberth	42	215
<b>Gloucester</b>	Newent	23	214
<b>Hereford</b>	Hereford	88	204
<b>Hereford</b>	Weobley	14	171
<b>Hereford</b>	Ross	23	141
<b>Worcester</b>	Worcester	44	136
<b>Worcester</b>	Tenbury	10	132
<b>Gloucester</b>	Gloucester	50	107
<b>Pembroke</b>	Pembroke	12	40

This process of standardising to Badham is interesting too. Why not settle on Baddam or Badam? It seems there was some folk memory or specific knowledge that led to this choice. This must have been more than, simply, a knowledge of ab Adam derivation, since logically this would have standardised on Badam.

**Table 9 Wales census numbers and percentage by variant and year**

Variant	1841		1851		1861		1871		1881		1891	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
<b>Badam</b>	4	6	20	29	2	2	13	14	1	1	2	1
<b>Baddam</b>	13	20	2	3	14	15			28	19	1	.6
<b>Badham</b>	43	66	43	62	78	83	81	86	119	80	176	98
<b>Badhams</b>	5	8	4	6							1	.6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>65</b>		<b>69</b>		<b>94</b>		<b>94</b>		<b>148</b>		<b>180</b>	



**Map 9** 1881 Distribution of Badham and variants by proportion of population in Poor Law Union Areas  
Colours show density. Numbers are actuals