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## **The role, work, and careers of clerks and other non-political appointees in the Office of Ordnance - presentation**

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Cole, Gareth. 2019. "The Role, Work, and Careers of Clerks and Other Non-political Appointees in the Office of Ordnance - Presentation". figshare. <https://doi.org/10.17028/rd.lboro.7923470.v1>.

# The role, work, and careers of clerks and other non-political appointees in the Office of Ordnance

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# Datasets

- Establishment data: <https://doi.org/10.17028/rd.lboro.7235336>
- Employee data: <https://doi.org/10.17028/rd.lboro.7479887>

# What was the Office of Ordnance?

- Responsible for “warlike” stores and materials
- Took on responsibility for Barracks
- Master General was head of the RA and RE
- Board of Ordnance – 3 could form a quorum
- HQ at the Tower of London but...
  - ...increasingly international in nature



# Number of employees

Year	Persons employed at Tower and Pall Mall	Total persons employed	Percentage employed at Tower and Pall Mall
1797	117	293	40
1805	165	517	32
1810	224	665	34
1815	227	708	32
1819	189	560	34
1827	206	528	39

# Who were they?

- Non-political appointees
- Initial work seems to suggest they weren't aristocracy but professionals
- All were men
- Families served the Ordnance and/or other military service

# What roles did they have?

- Clerks – Established; Assistant; Extra
- Clerks of the Cheque
- Clerks of the Survey
- Storekeepers
- Paymasters
- Commissary



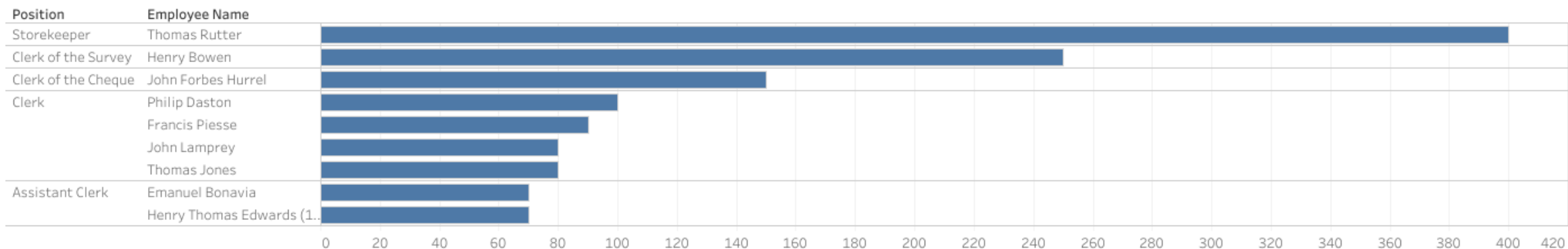
# Pay

- Main salary
- Allowances
- Gratuities for length of service

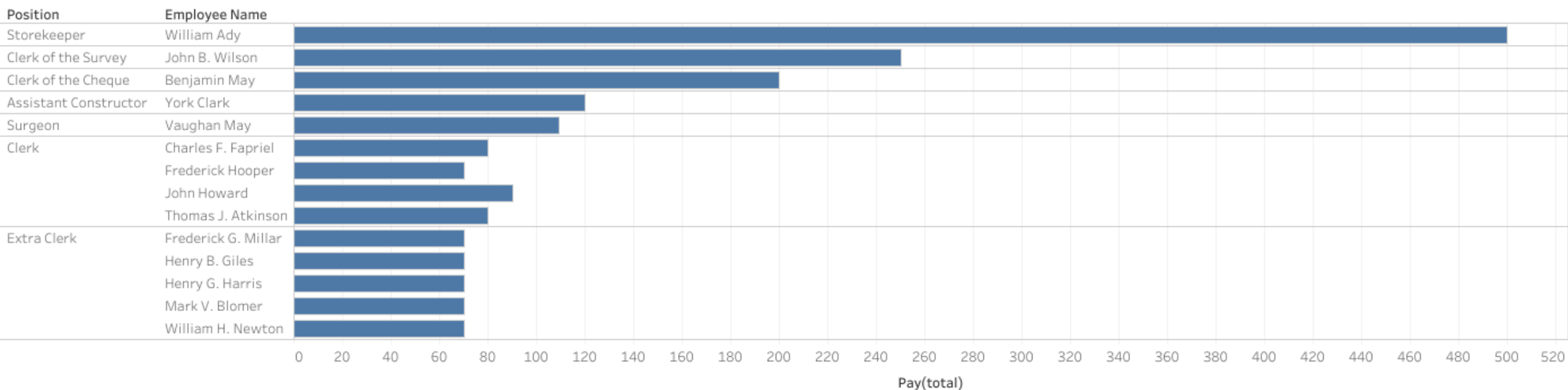


# Roles and pay scales, 1812

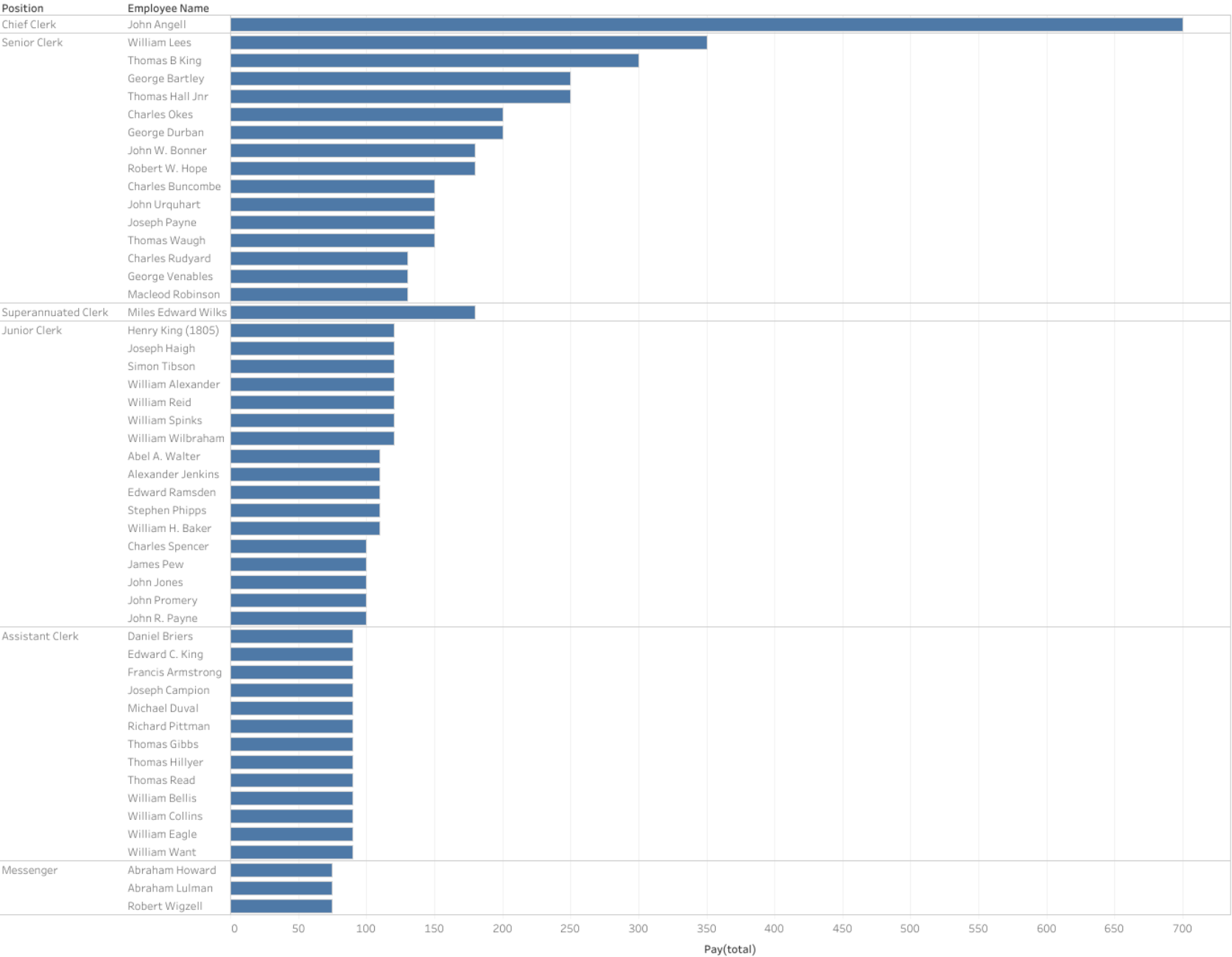
## Malta 1812



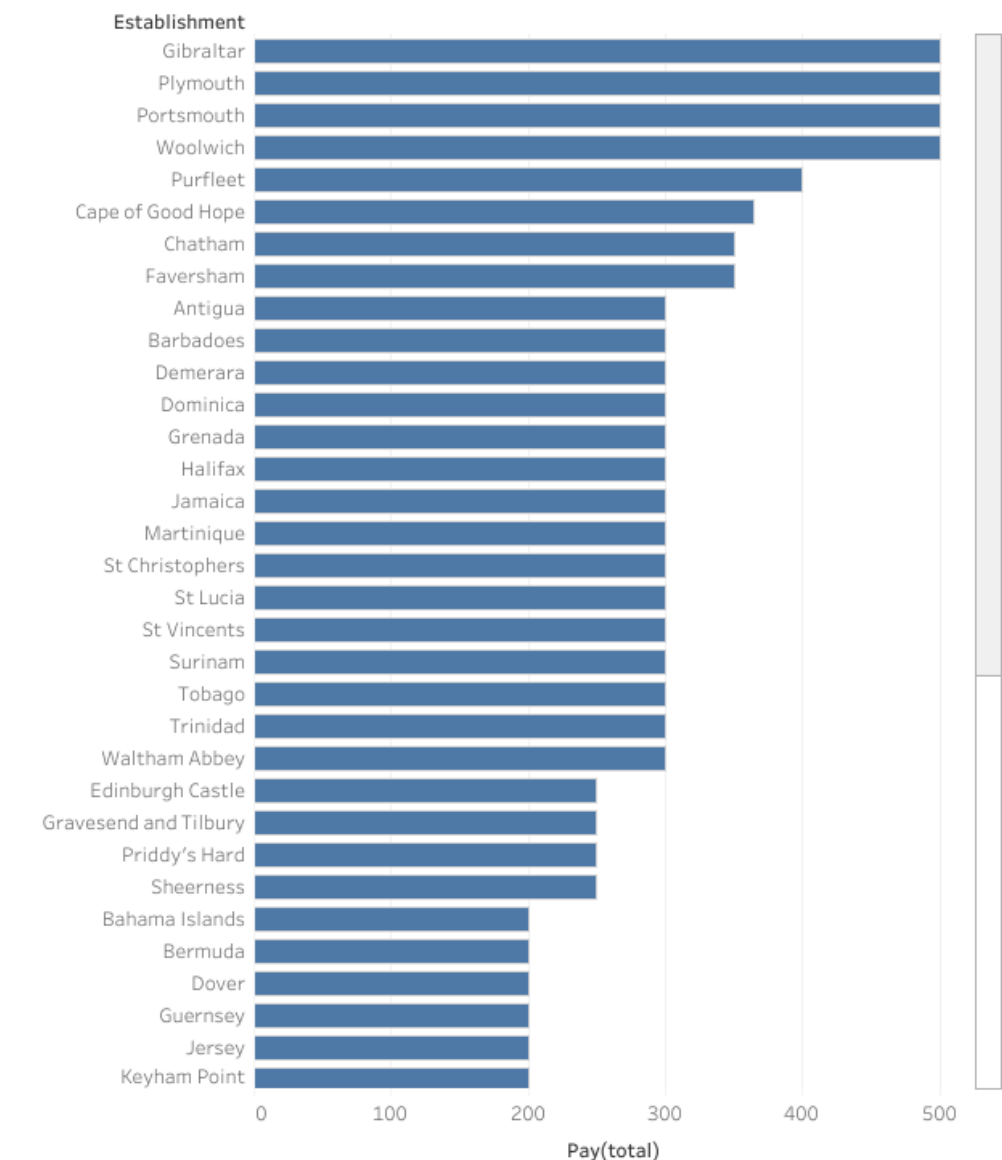
## Plymouth 1812



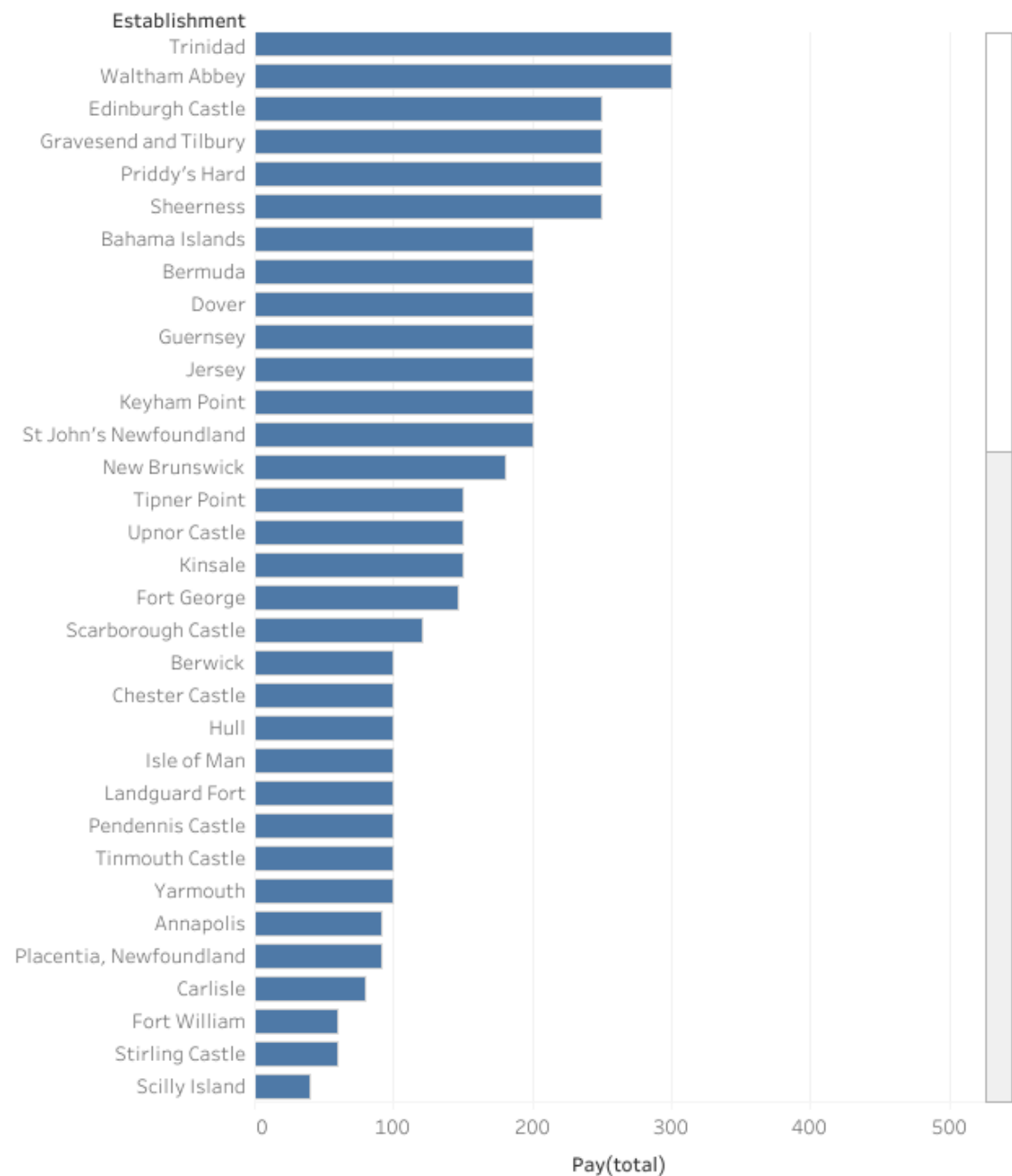
Surveyor General’s Office 1812



Storekeeper pay - 1801



Storekeeper pay - 1801

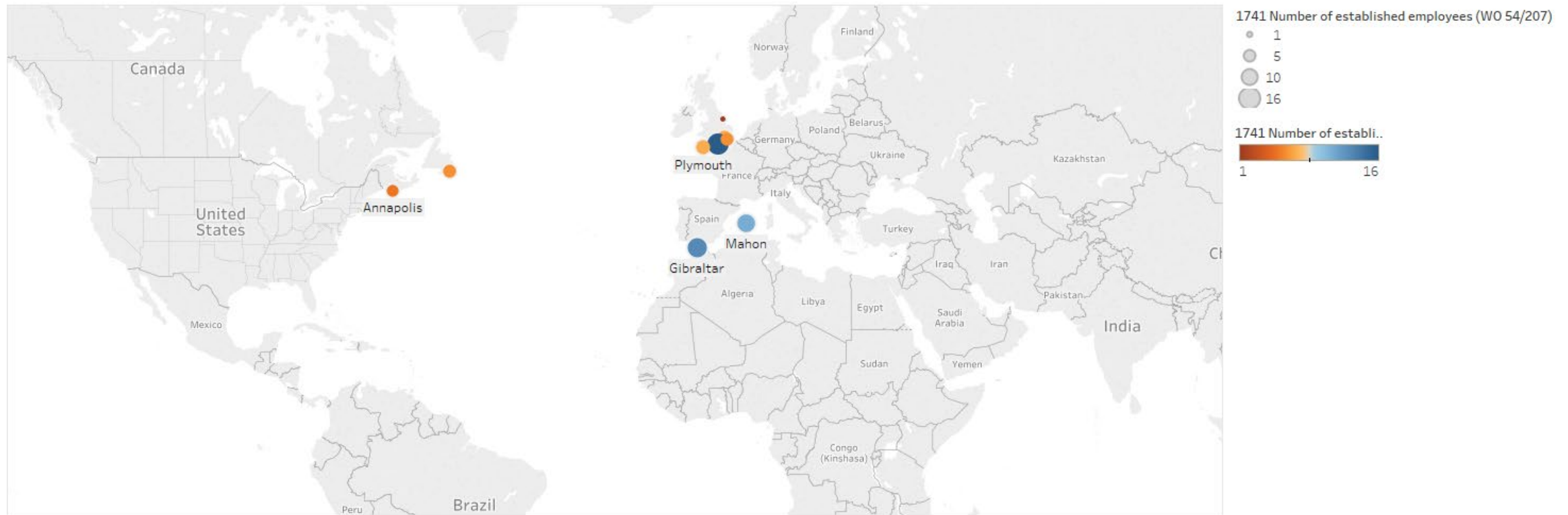


# Where did they work?

- Internationally and didn't stay in one place.
- Grew or contracted as the Empire grew or contracted
  - Needed to support other British (later UK) forces overseas e.g. Army and Navy

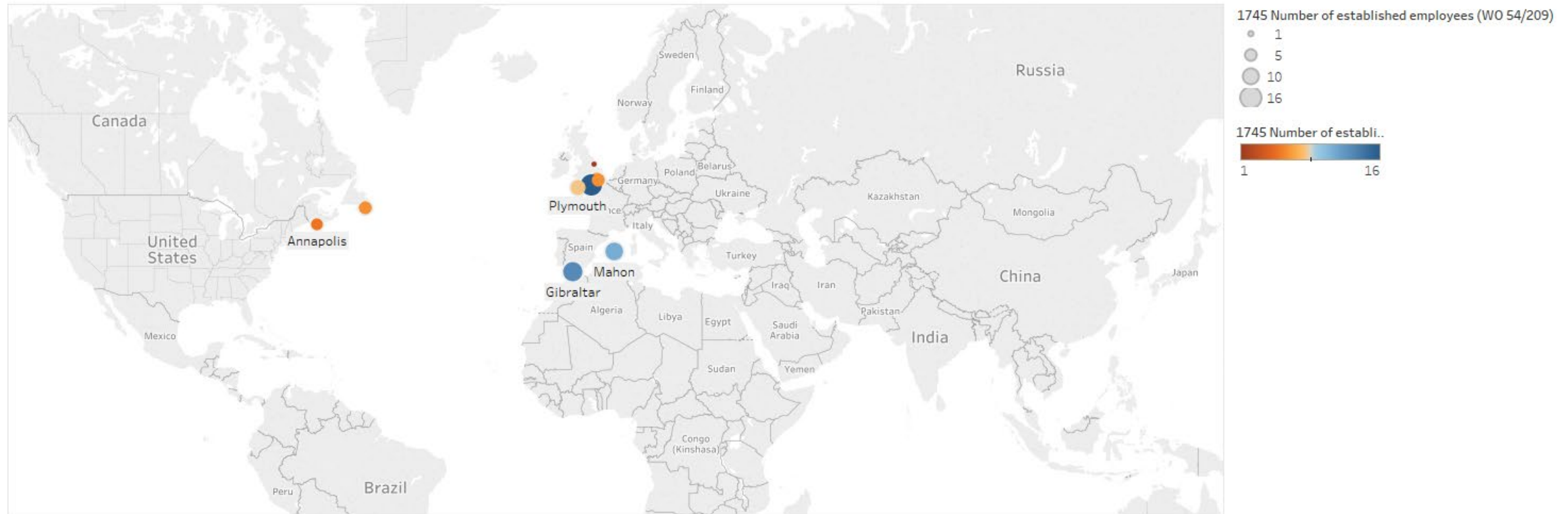
# 1741

Sheet 1



# 1748

Sheet 1



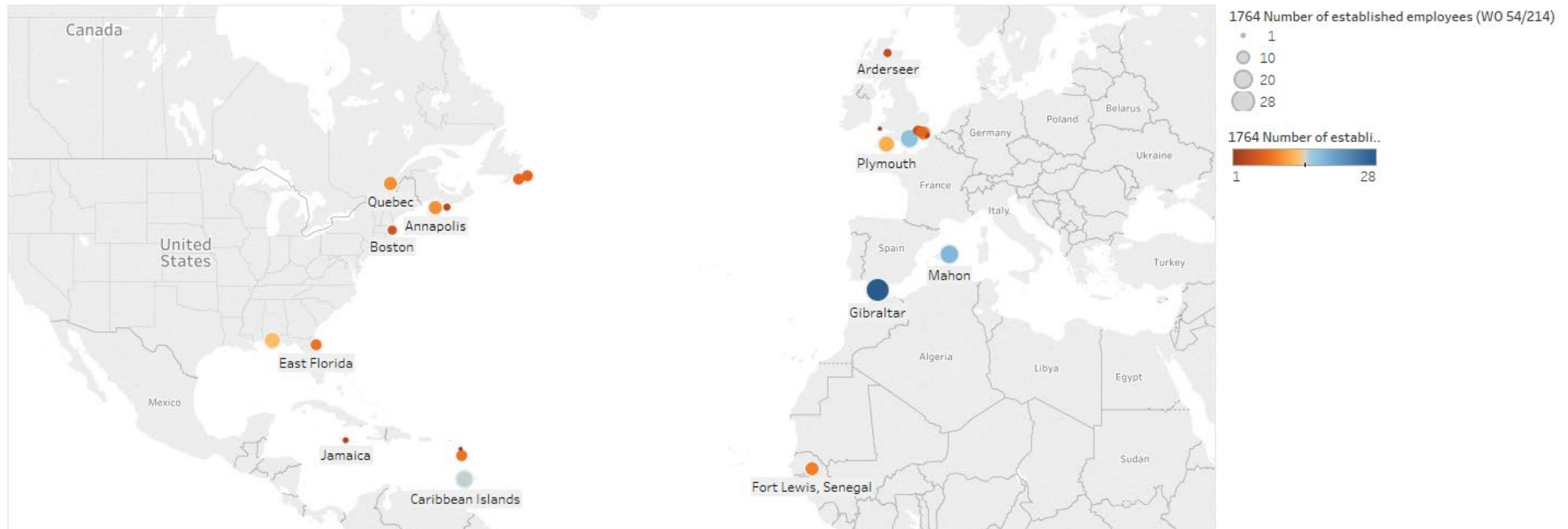
# 1760

Sheet 1



# 1764

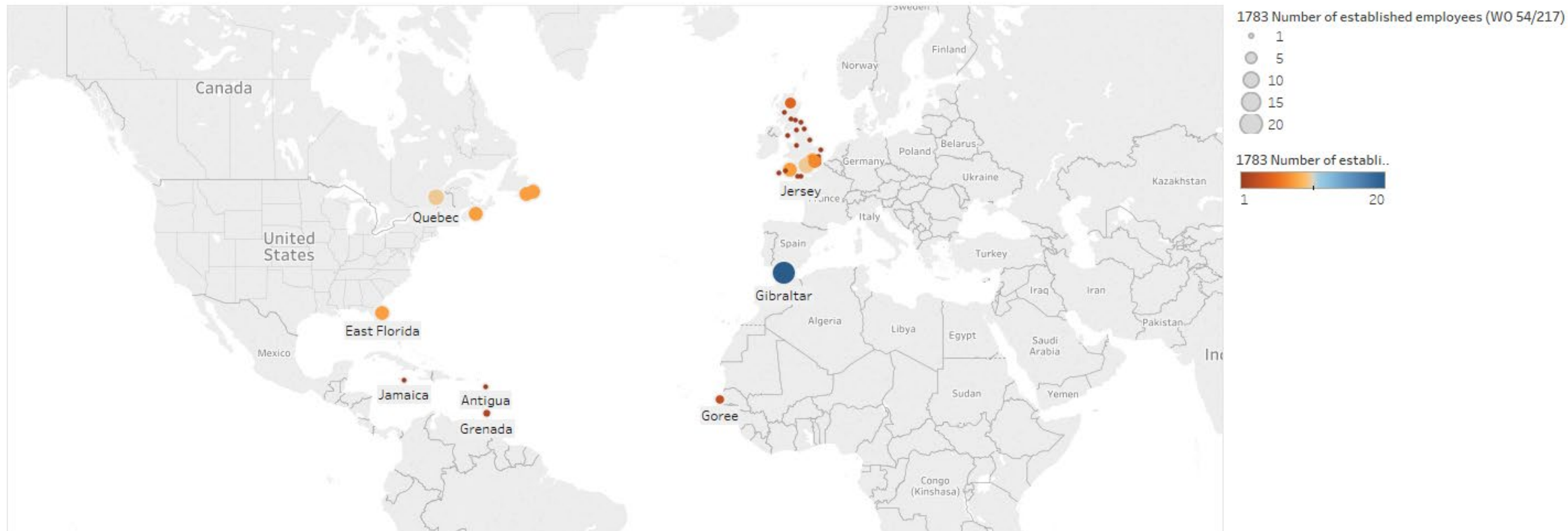
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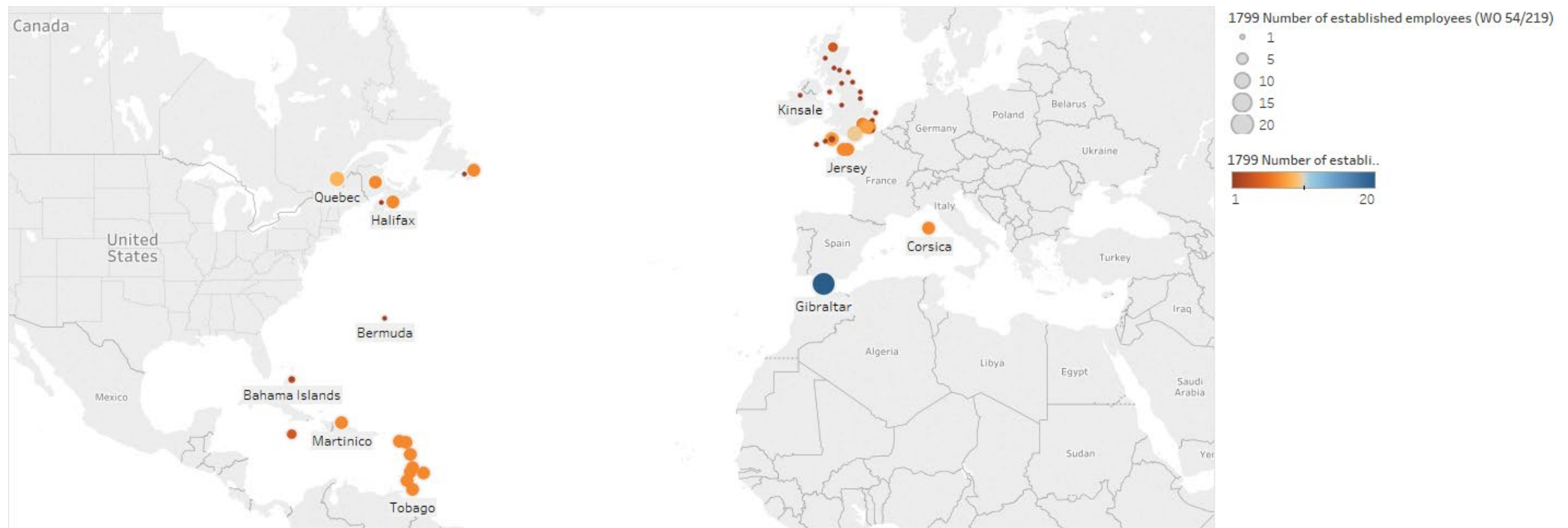
# 1783

Sheet 1



# 1799

Sheet 1



# 1809

Sheet 1



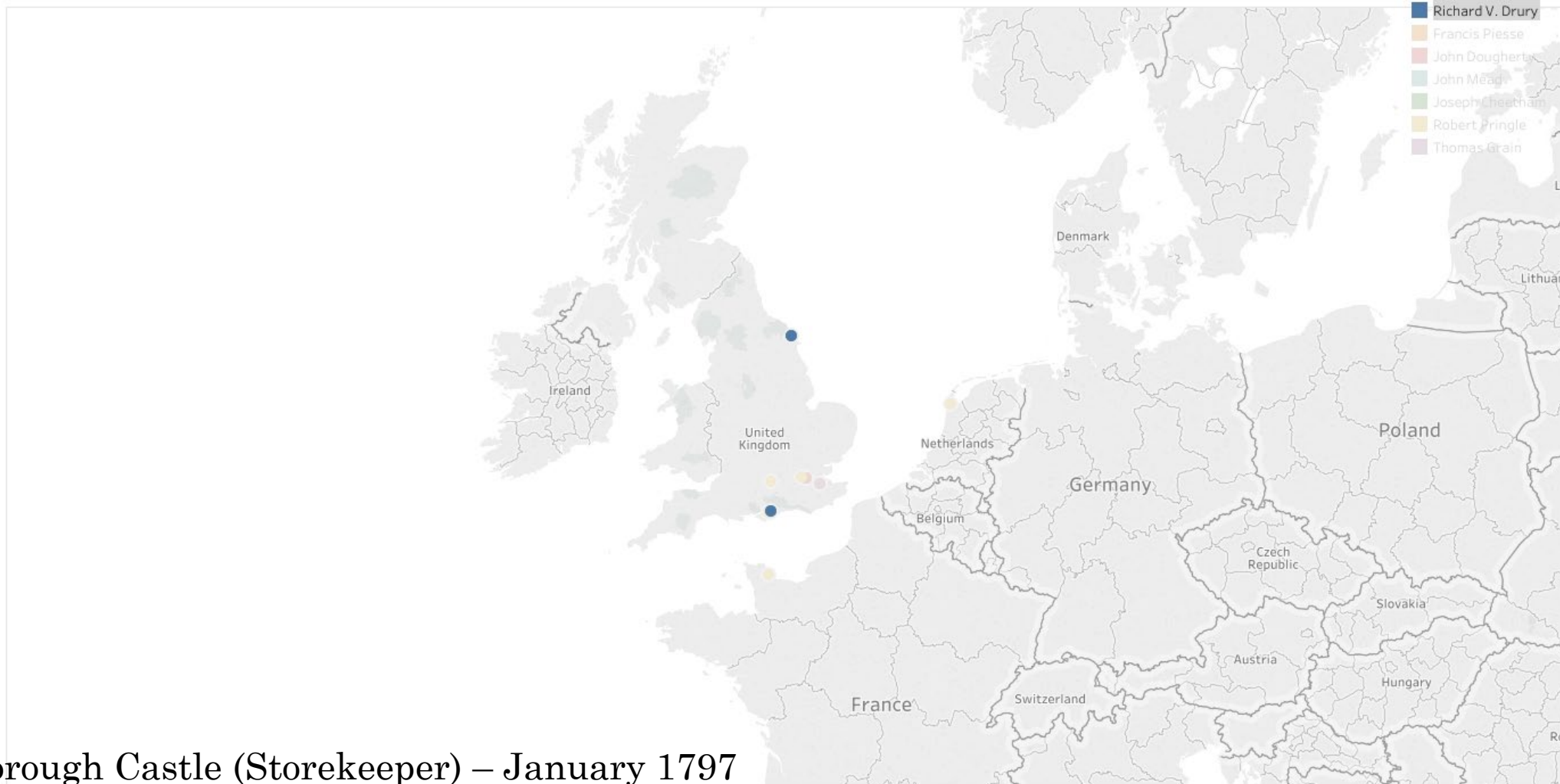
# 1818

Sheet 1



# Richard Drury

Place of Service



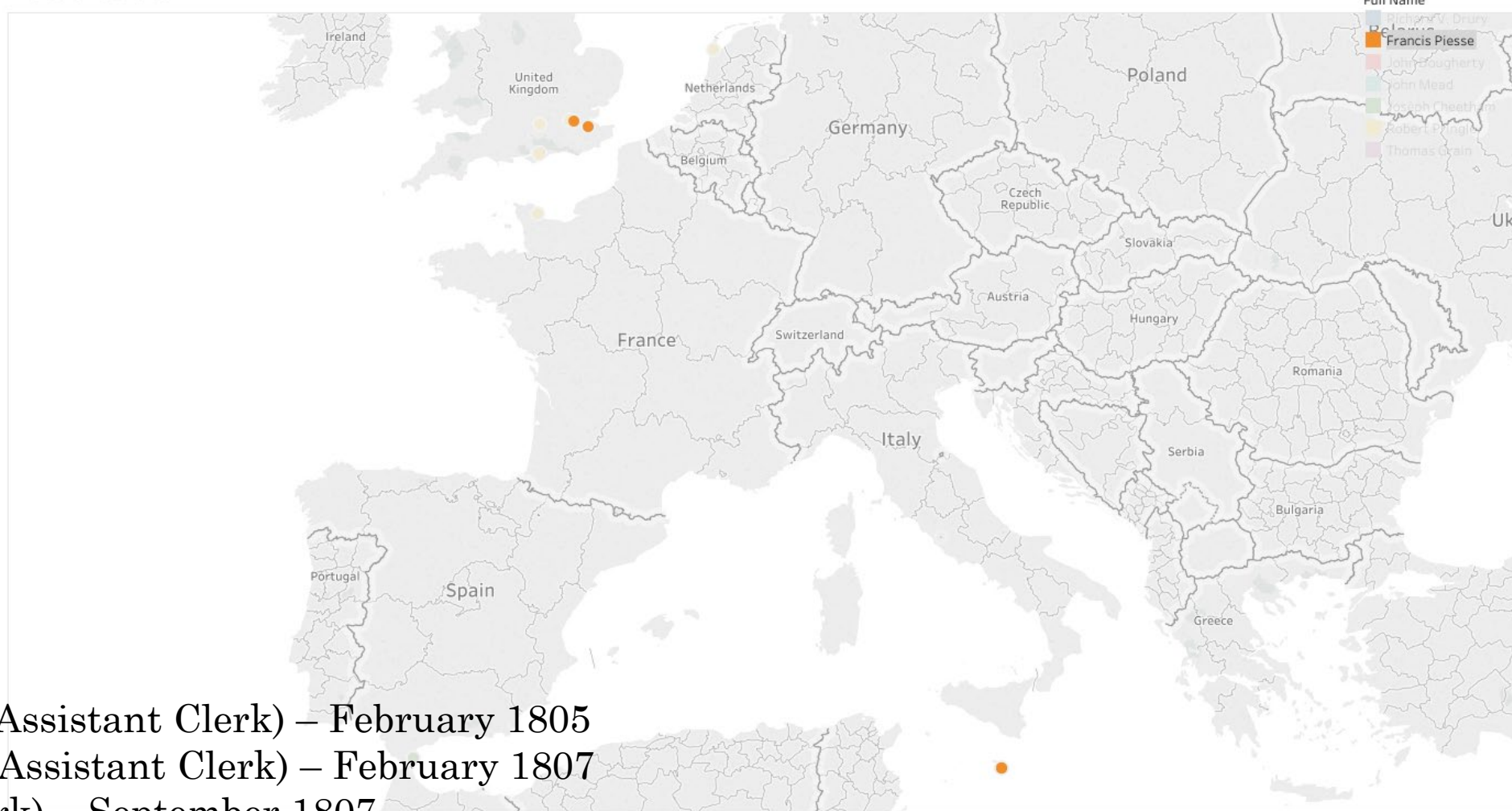
Scarborough Castle (Storekeeper) – January 1797

Tipner Point (Storekeeper) – November 1810



# Francis Piesse

Place of Service



Chatham (Assistant Clerk) – February 1805

Woolwich (Assistant Clerk) – February 1807

Malta (Clerk) – September 1807

Malta (Clerk of the Cheque) – June 1818

# John Dougherty

Place of Service



# John Mead

Place of Service



Bahamas (Extra Clerk) – December 1788

Grenada (Clerk of the Works) – Feb 1792

Grenada (Clerk of the Cheque) – August 1795

Guadeloupe (Storekeeper) – Nov 1812

Ceylon (Storekeeper) – Jan 1815



# Joseph Cheetham

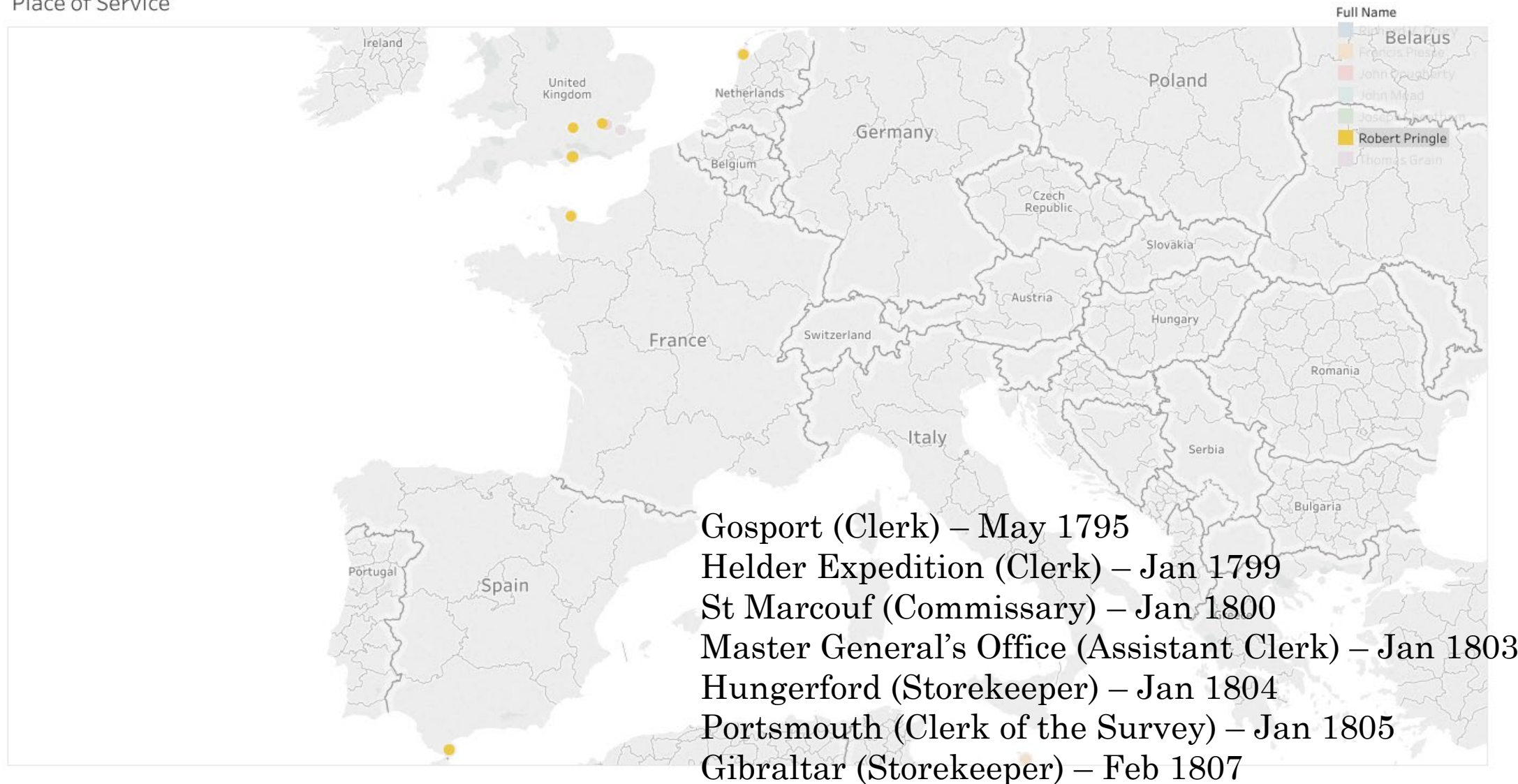
## Place of Service

Gibraltar (Extra Clerk) – Oct 1798  
Gibraltar (Clerk) – Apr 1798  
St Christopher's (Clerk of the Cheque) – Sep 1805  
Woolwich (Clerk of the Cheque) – Mar 1807  
Woolwich (Deputy Storekeeper) – Jan 1822  
Woolwich (Clerk of the Survey) – Oct 1826  
Gibraltar (Storekeeper) – Apr 1827



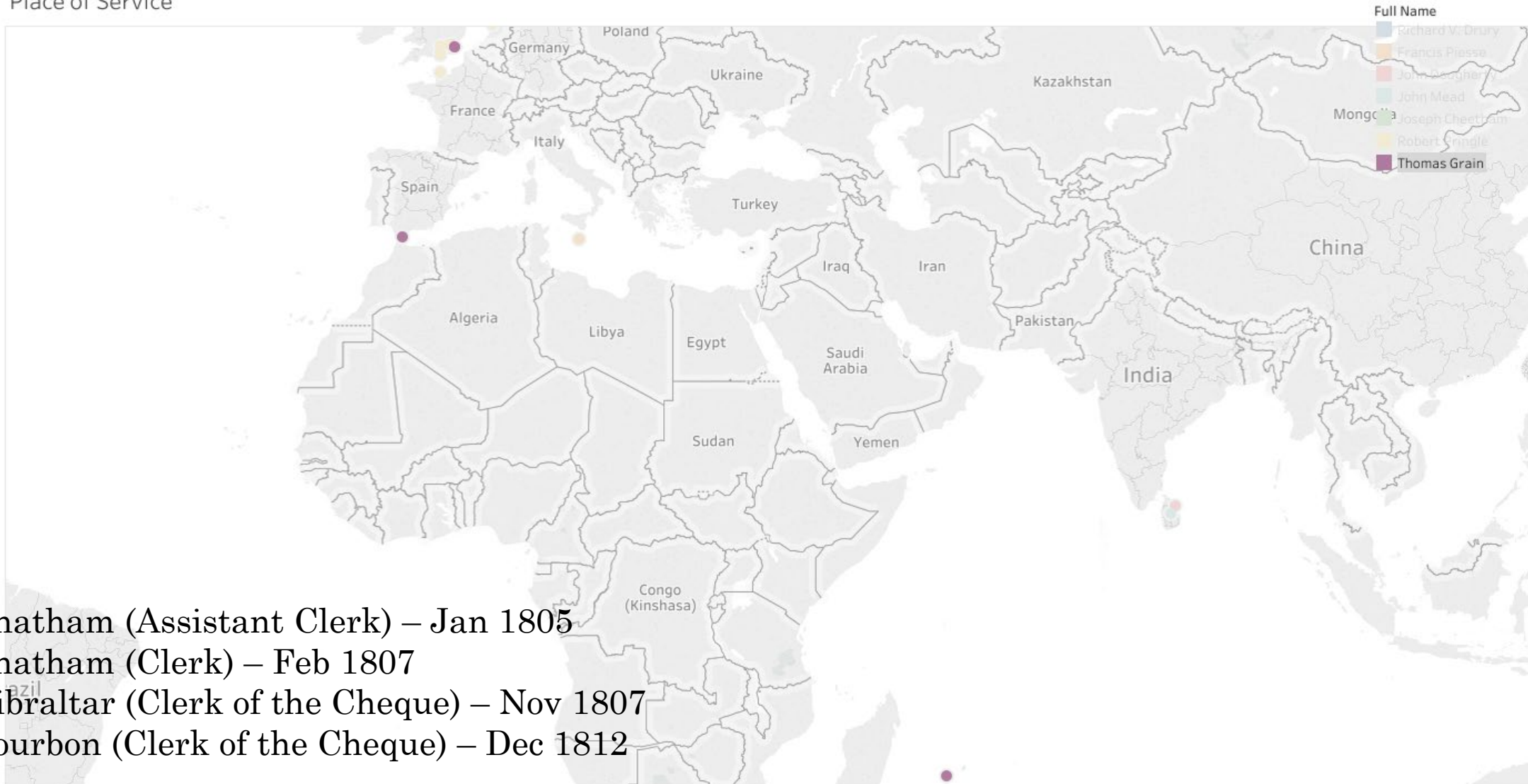
# Robert Pringle

Place of Service



# Thomas Grain

Place of Service





# What happened after they left Ordnance employ?

- Many died in service
  - Widows and dependents supported by the Ordnance in a lot of cases
    - Widows etc. needed to apply and be granted the pension or charity list payments
- Many retired
  - Set rules by this period on how much they got – linked to final salary and length of service. Needed to have served at least 10 years. Didn't have to be continuous.
- Also had half pay by the end of the period
  - Same as e.g. the Navy who put Officers on half-pay when not on active service.

# Conclusion

- Initial work so far
- How representative was the Ordnance vs e.g. the Navy and other branches of the military
- How representative was the Ordnance re. other branches of the central bureaucracy
  - Salary scales?; who became a clerk? Etc.