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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

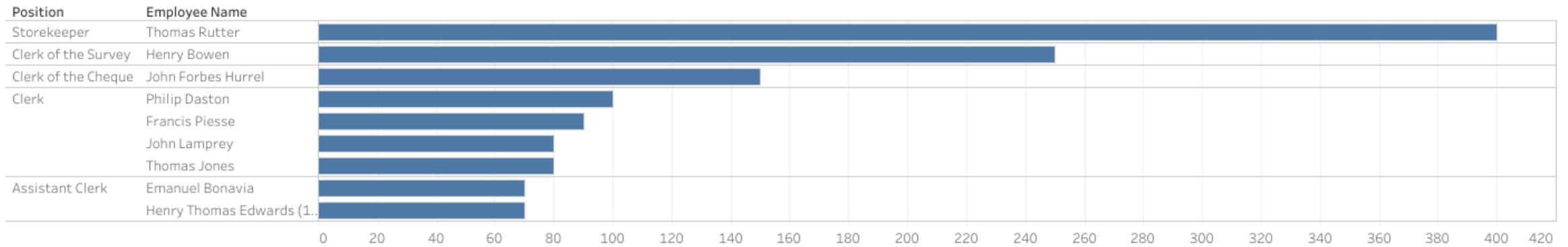


Pay

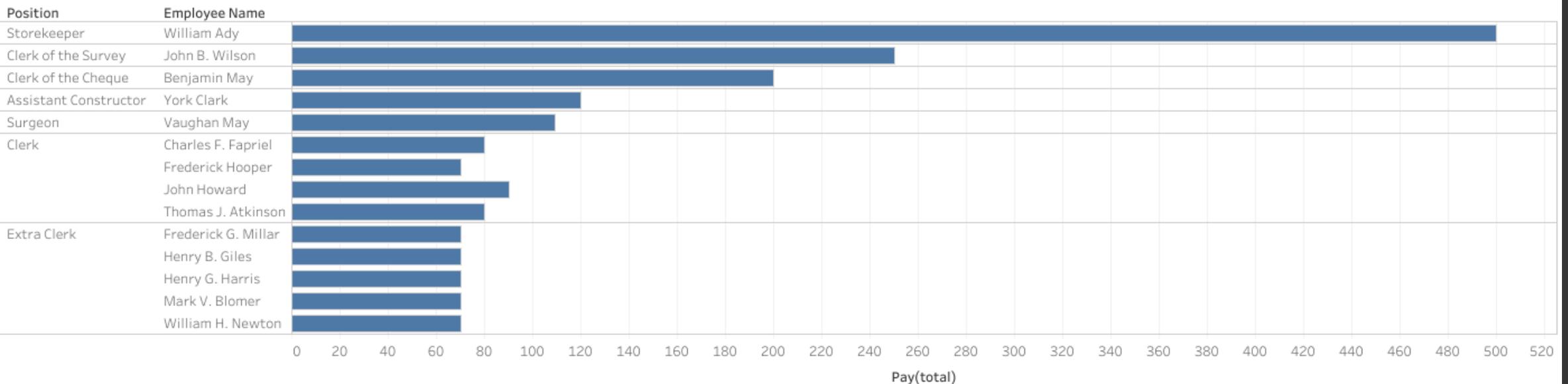
- Main salary
- Allowances
- Gratuities for length of service

Roles and pay scales, 1812

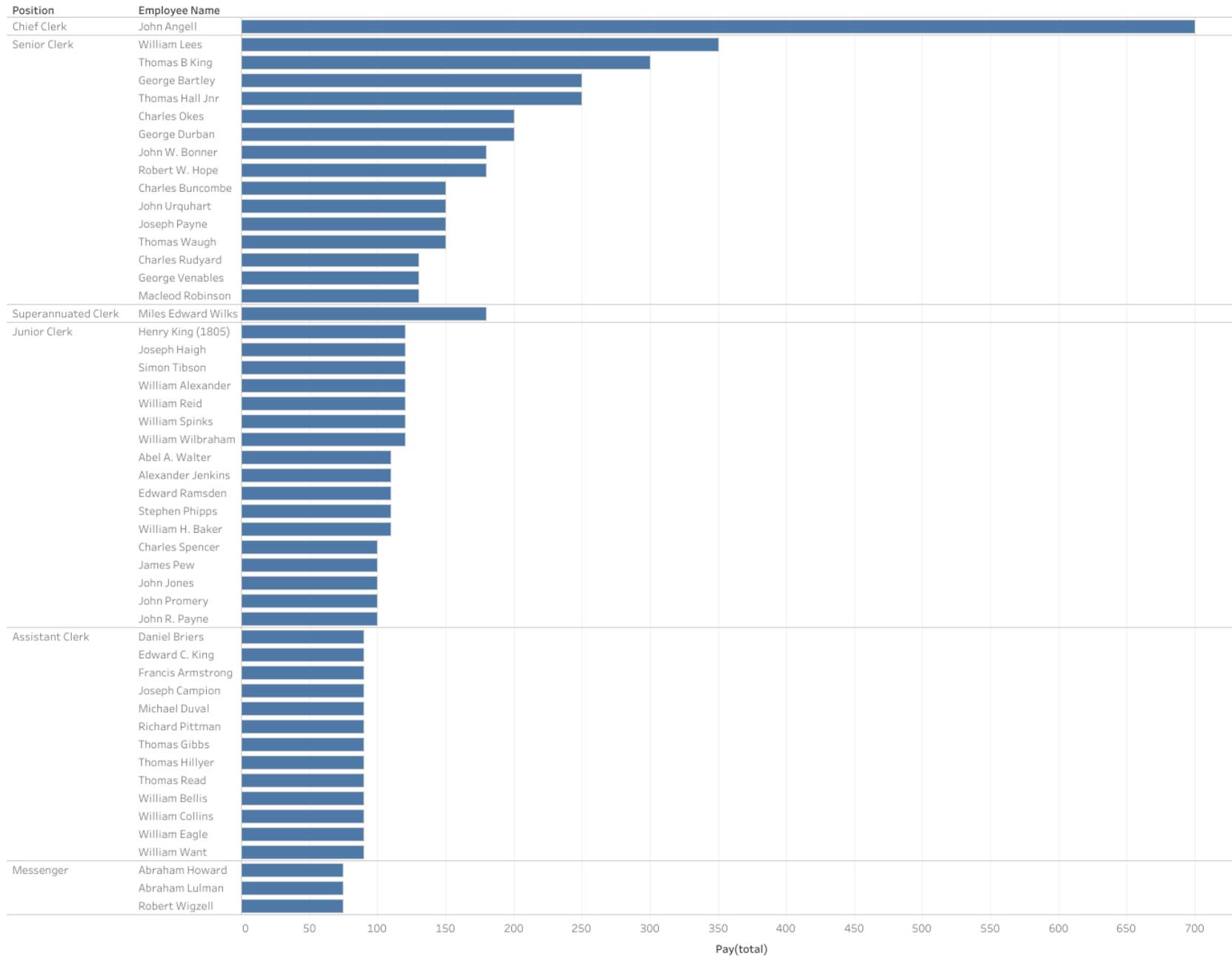
Malta 1812



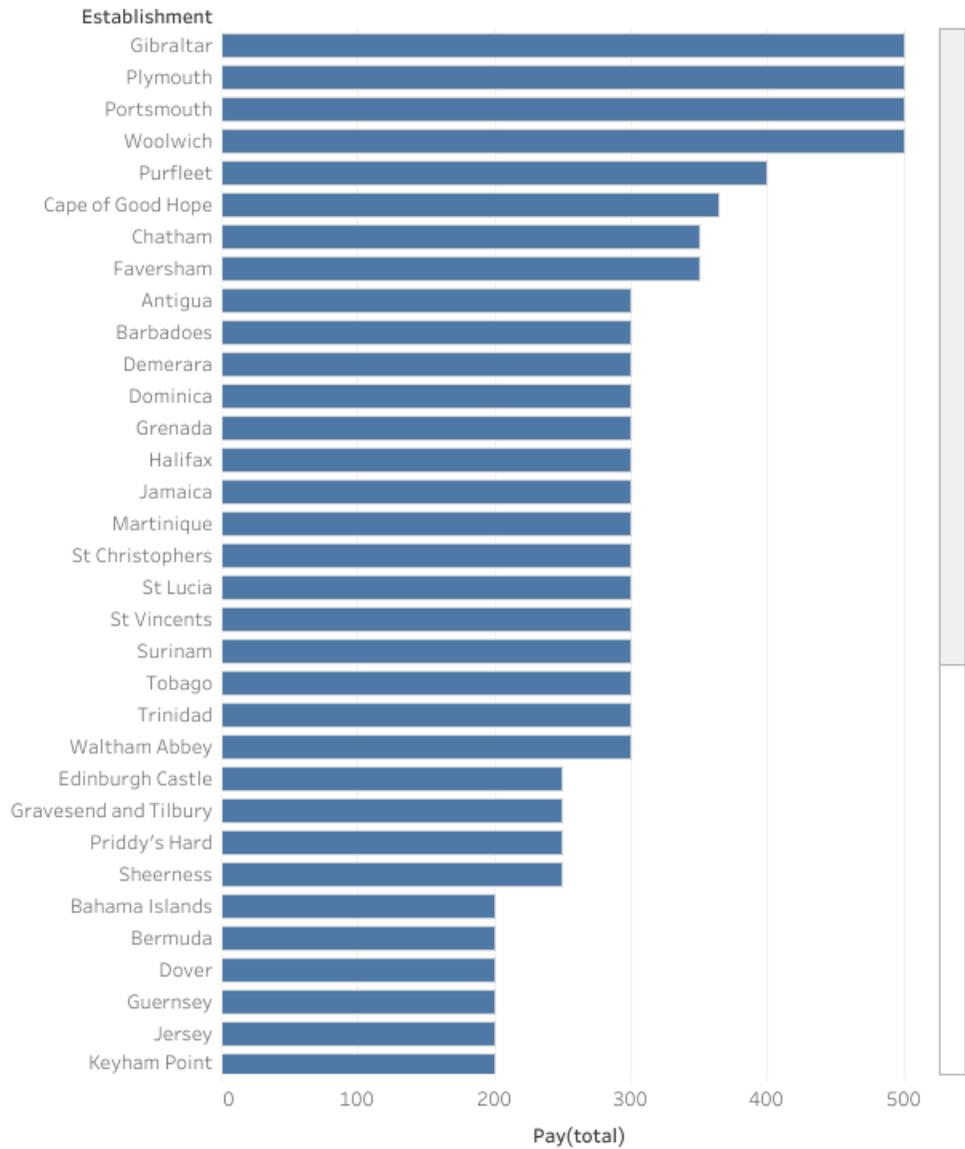
Plymouth 1812



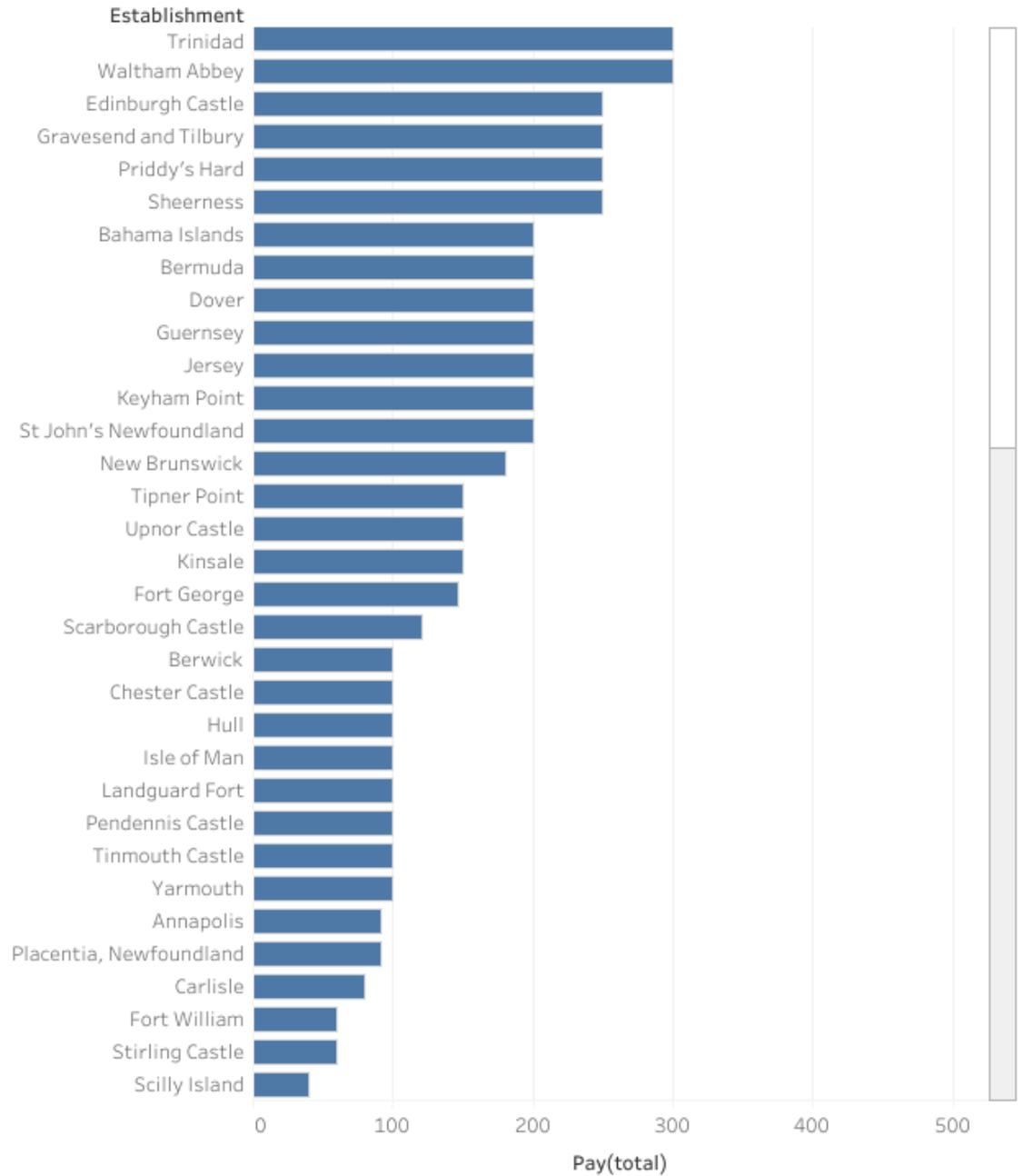
Surveyor General's Office 1812



Storekeeper pay - 1801



Storekeeper pay - 1801

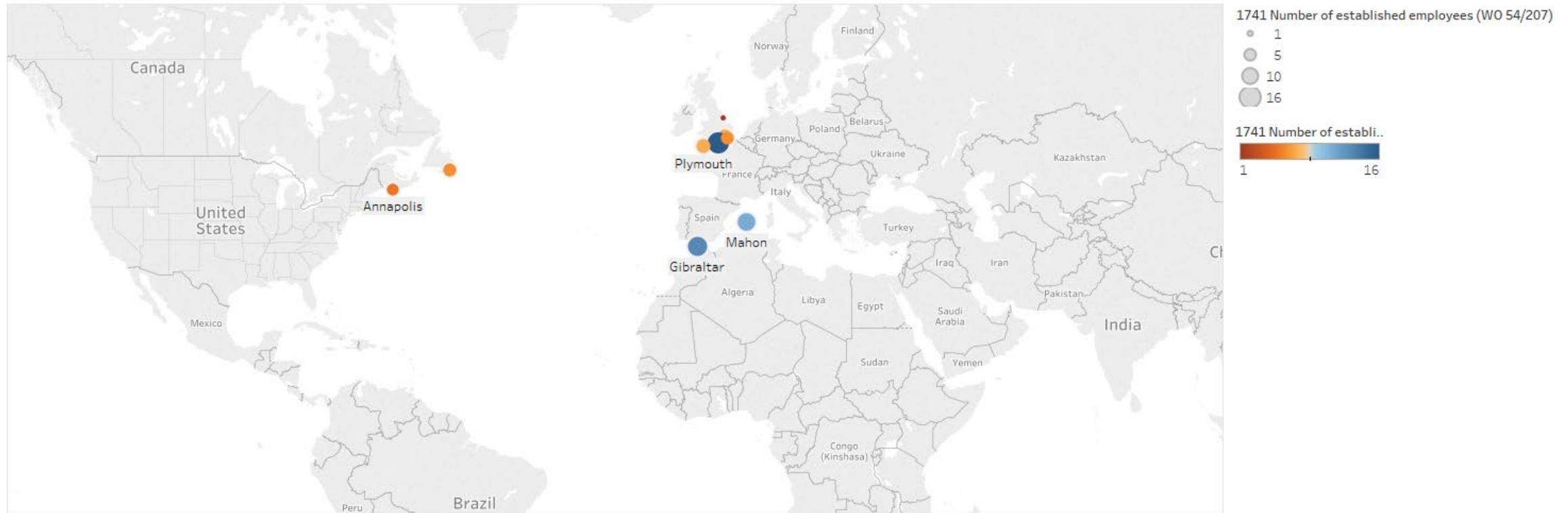


Where did they work?

- 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

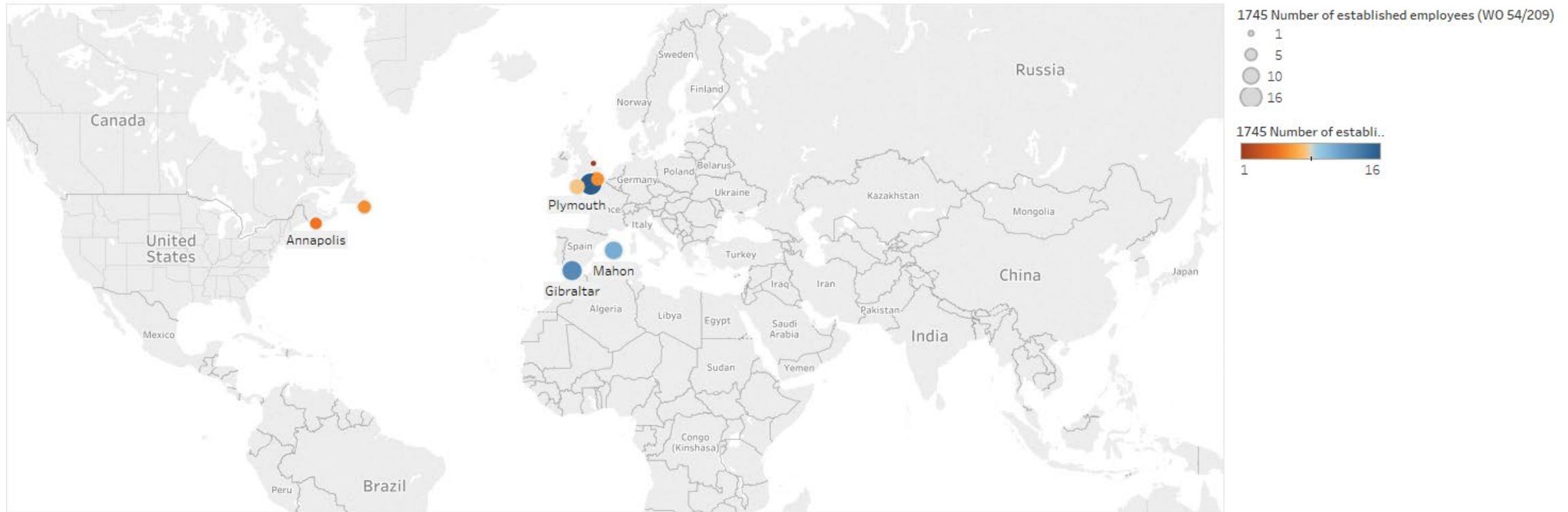
1741

Sheet 1



1748

Sheet 1



1760

Sheet 1



1764

Sheet 1



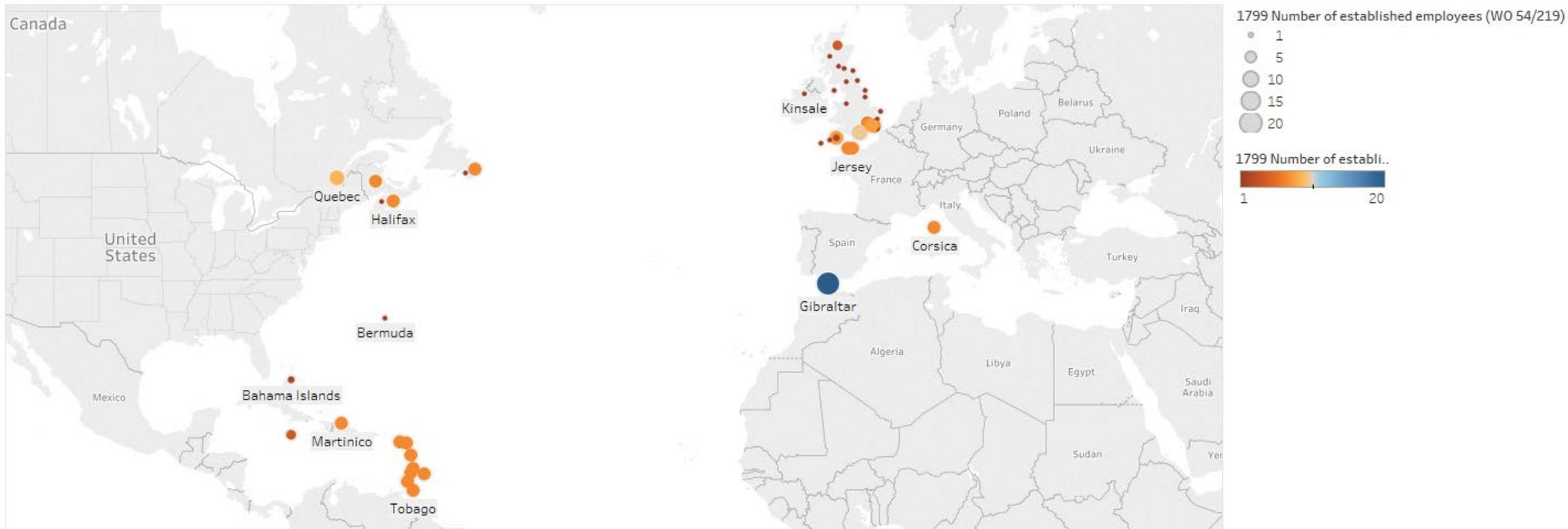
1783

Sheet 1



1799

Sheet 1



1809

Sheet 1



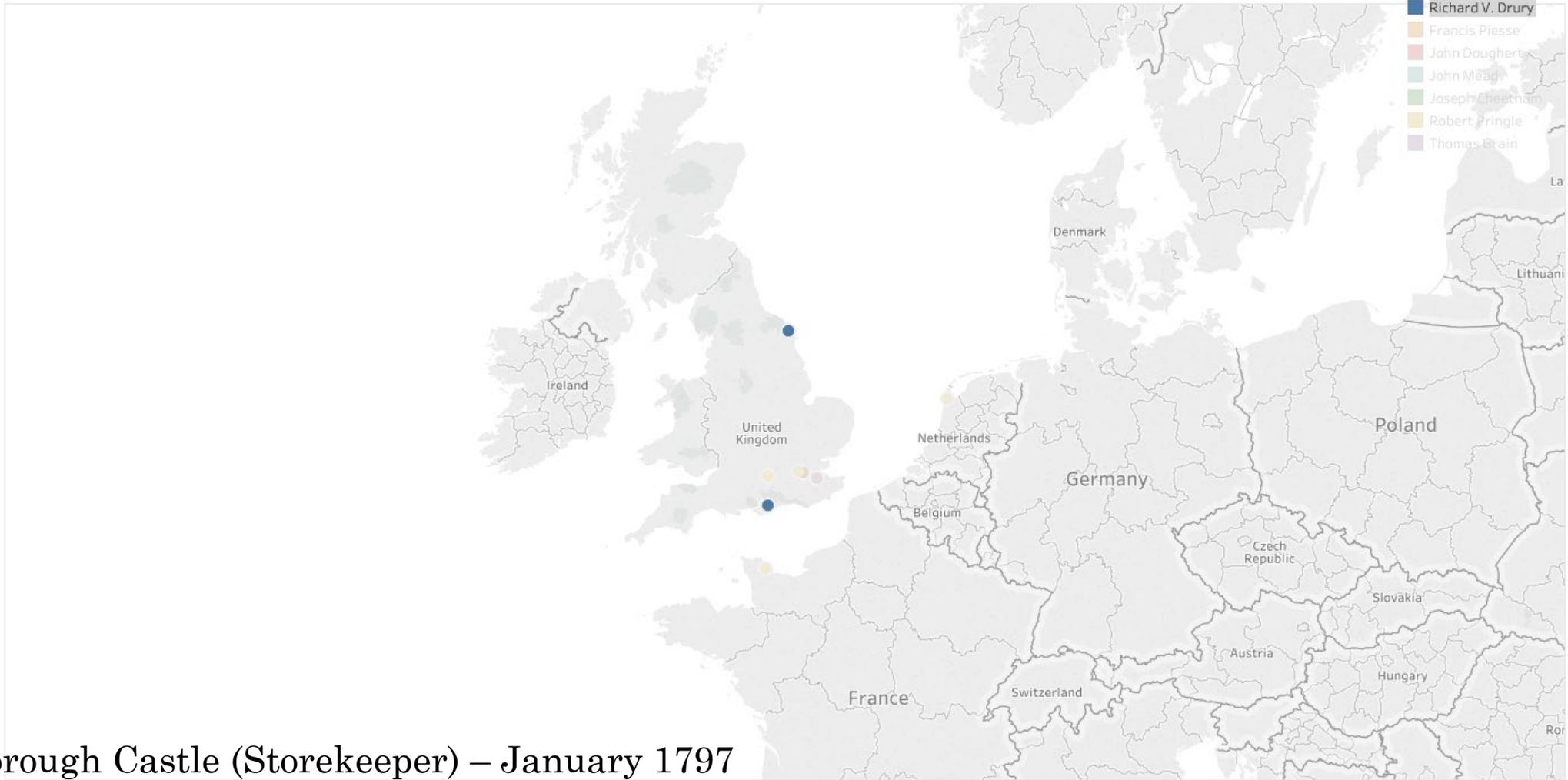
1818

Sheet 1



Richard Drury

Place of Service

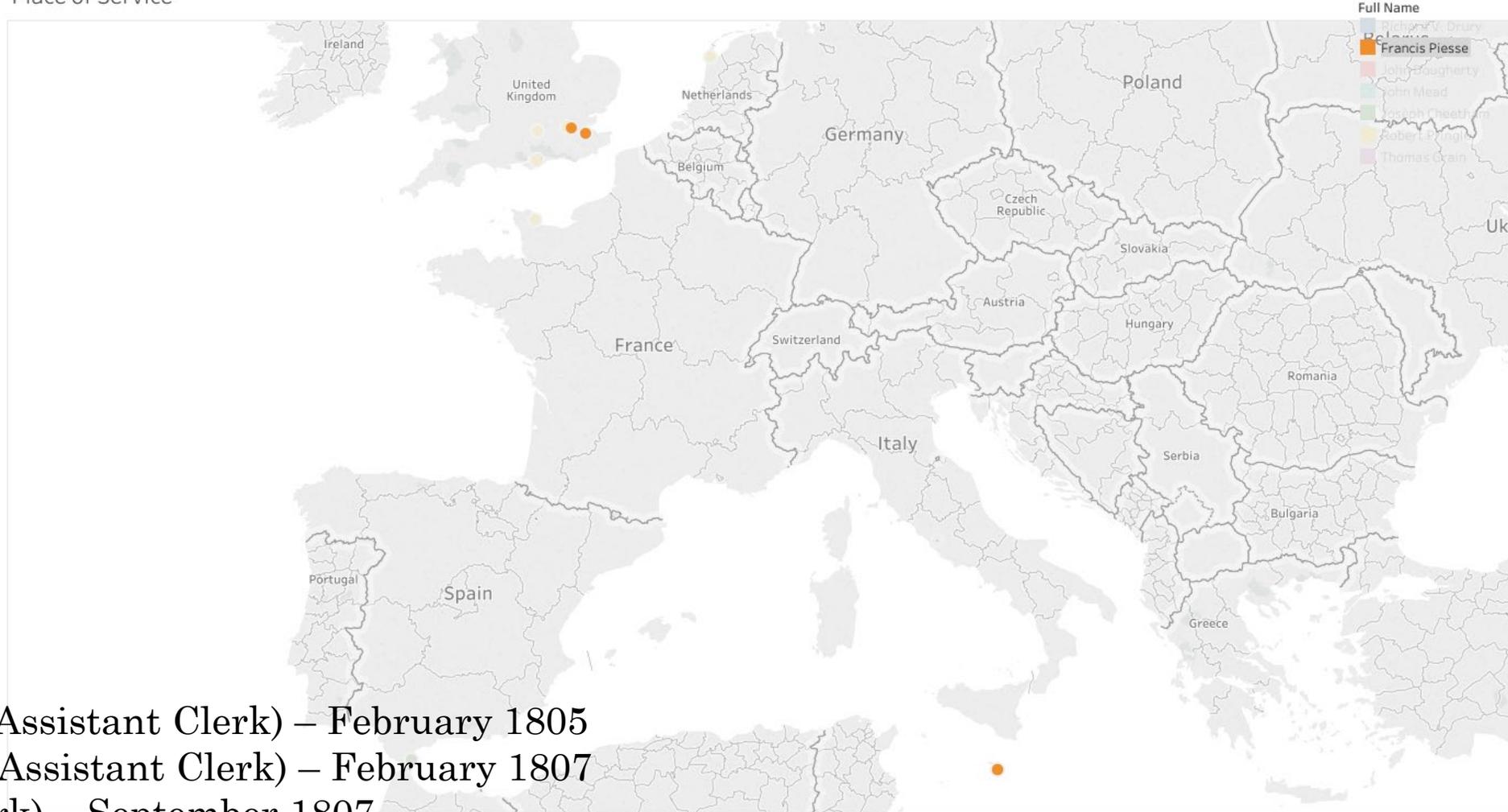


Scarborough Castle (Storekeeper) – January 1797

Tipner Point (Storekeeper) – November 1810

Francis Piesse

Place of Service



Chatham (Assistant Clerk) – February 1805

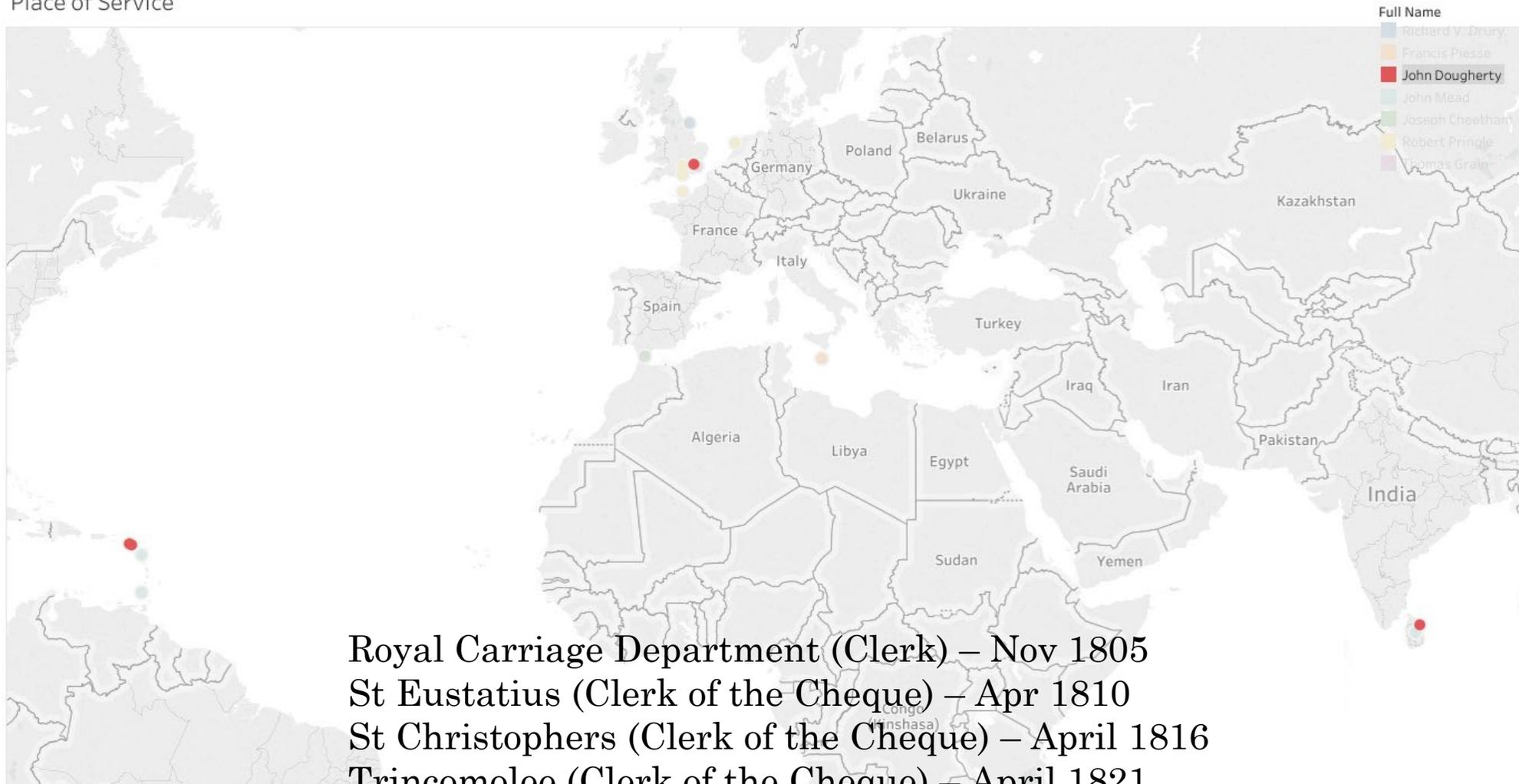
Woolwich (Assistant Clerk) – February 1807

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

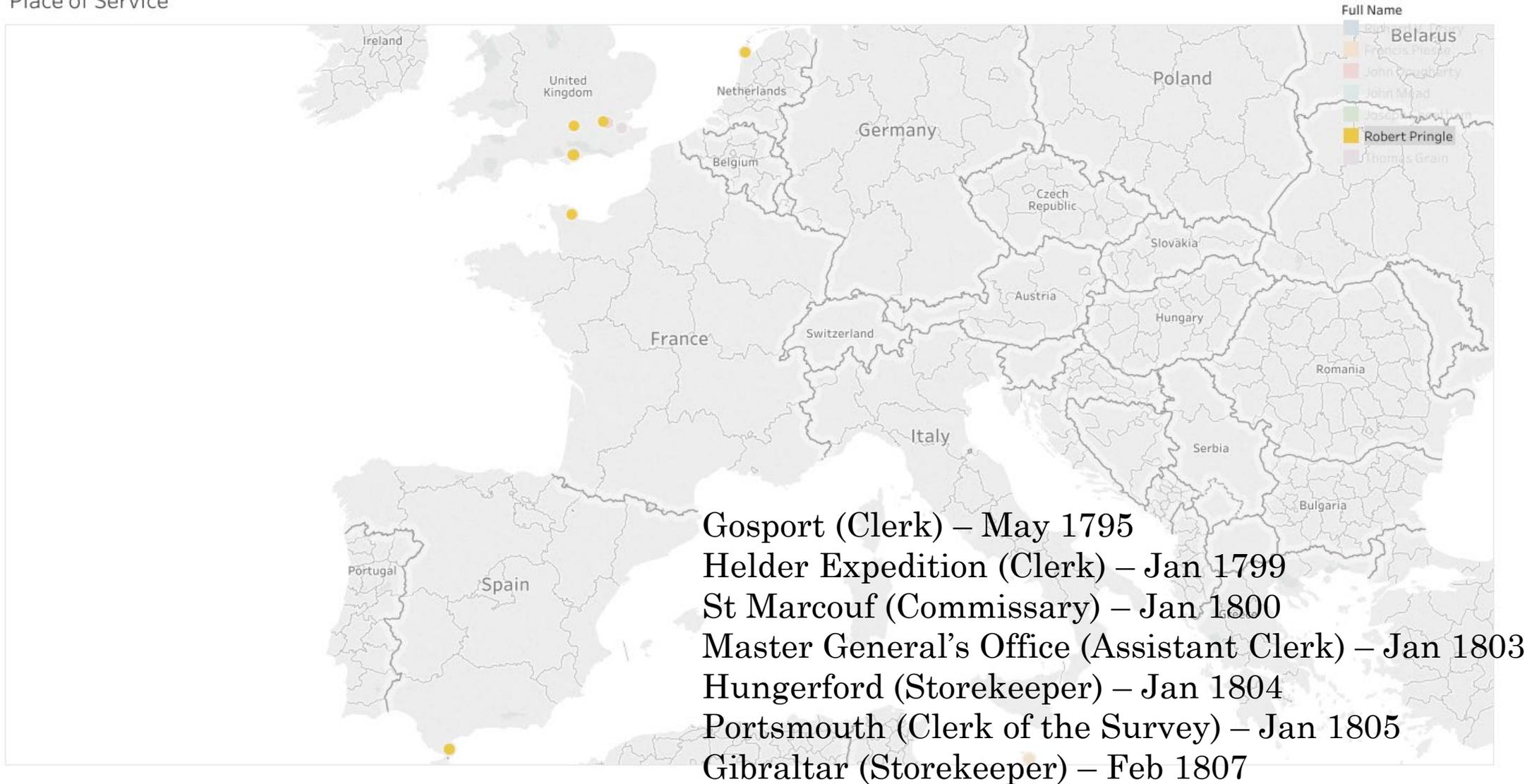
Place of Service

- 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



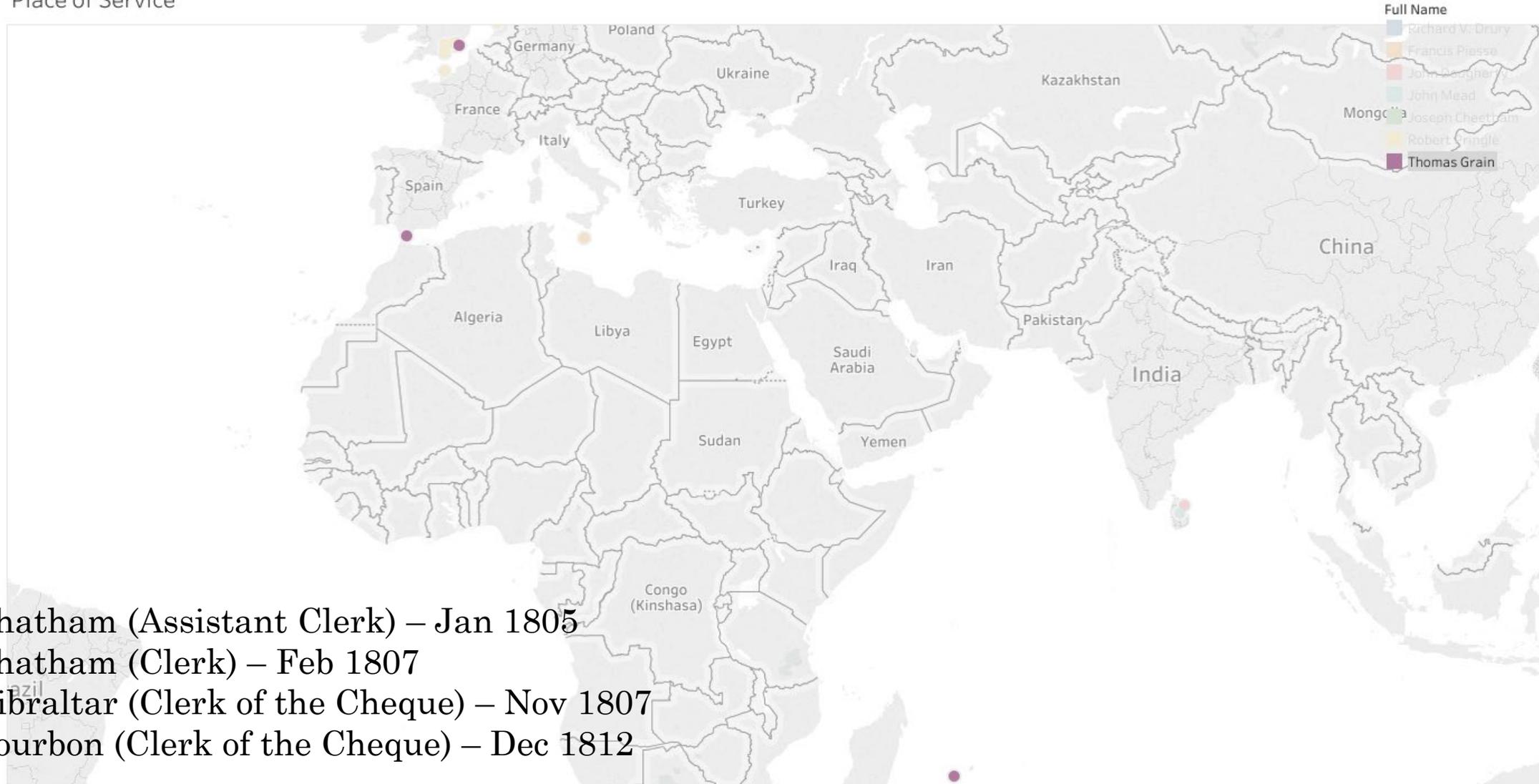
Robert Pringle

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.