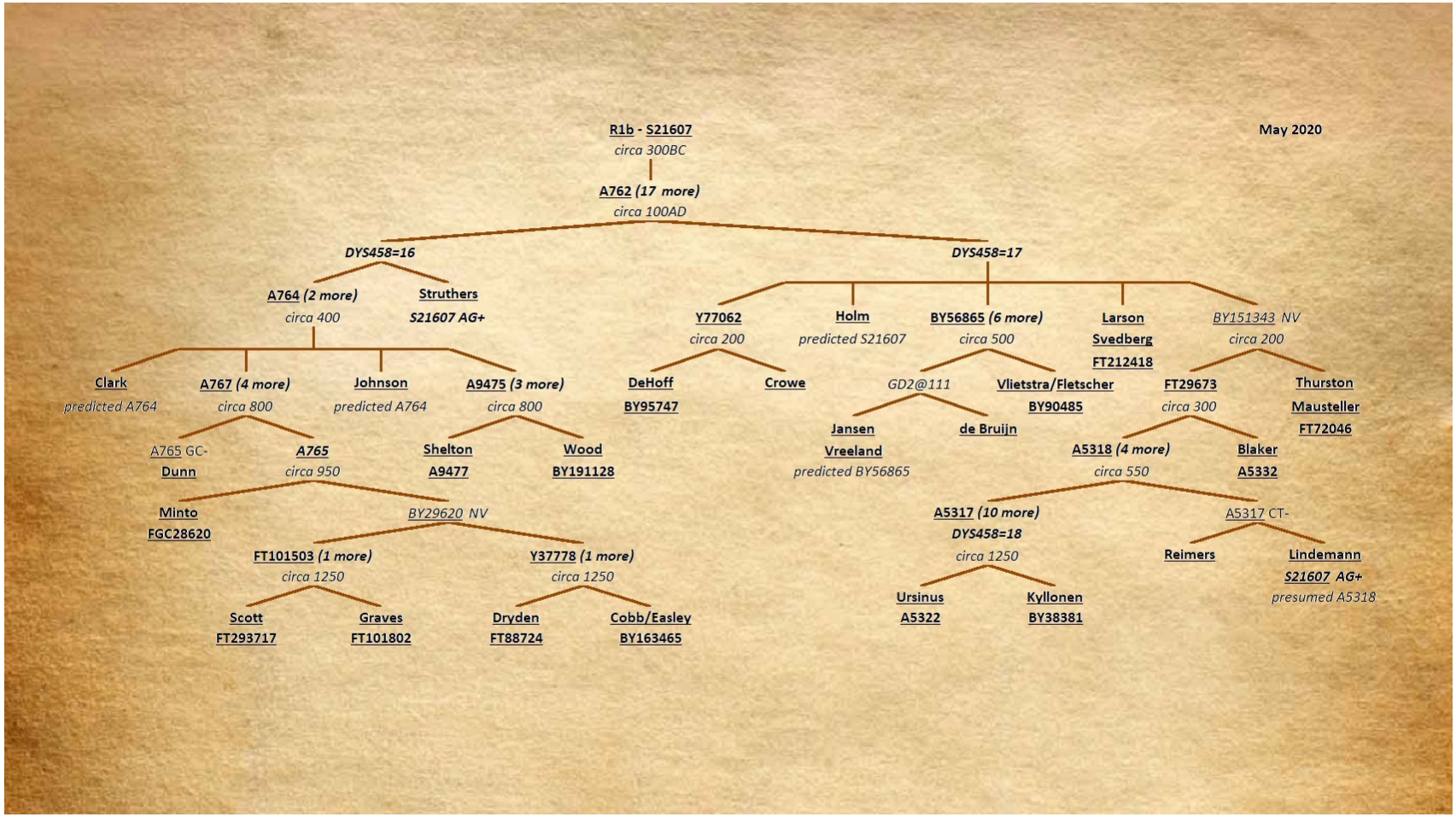
Paper Concerning S21607, Its Origins and Migrations by Roy Keys

I would like to add a few comments on the issue of S21607 structure and what it can tell us about the shared ancestry of Blaker, Dryden and Ursinus et al. The challenge is to correlate mutations (SNPs) and (sur)names in time and space so as to reveal the migrations that resulted in the present-day distribution of DNA and people. As Sarah rightly points out, historical populations inhabiting coastal areas would have been highly mobile. Perhaps the framework outlined below can lead to an understanding of S21607 and its migrations.



The S21607 tree divides into two parts, one formed by Dryden and other surnames characteristic of the north of England and south of Scotland, and the other comprising mainly continental surnames with a tight northern distribution, but including outliers in Finland, and finally, Blaker in the south of England.

The frequent appearance of forms Blakari and Blakkr (black) in runic inscriptions and placenames suggests that these were popular bynames among Scandinavian peoples. Consequently the likelihood of a genetic relation among persons bearing such names is low. Moreover, a modern name such as Blaker may derive from a different source form, such as Bleikr (pale). <https://www.vikinganswerlady.com/ONMensNames.shtml> Blaker is attested in Sussex from the 14th century and appears to have lineages descending unbroken down to the present in that county. Descent from the Ivarr Dynasty in Ireland (Blacaire mac Gofraid) seems unlikely given the absence of DNA links to either Ireland or the Isles, where Norse lineages would be expected to abound. Before the Conquest, a Blacre was lord of manors in the Hundred of Dic in Yorkshire, yet there is no evidence of a genetic relationship to modern Blackers with links to Yorkshire.

Ron informs us that Dryden is a locative name derived from the farm in Roxburghshire that appears first in 1265. A possible link to the Norman Comyn lineage is not supported by DNA, while the Comyns have a speculative maternal descent from Ursus of Denmark, believed by some to be related to the Viking Ivarr dynasty in Ireland.

Another possible avenue of research leads to the Roman era Caninefates, who were seated in the Rhine delta.

Below A762 the S21607 family splits into two distinct groups via alleles of marker STR DYS458. The variant containing Dryden is populated by surnames that are exclusively British, as follows:

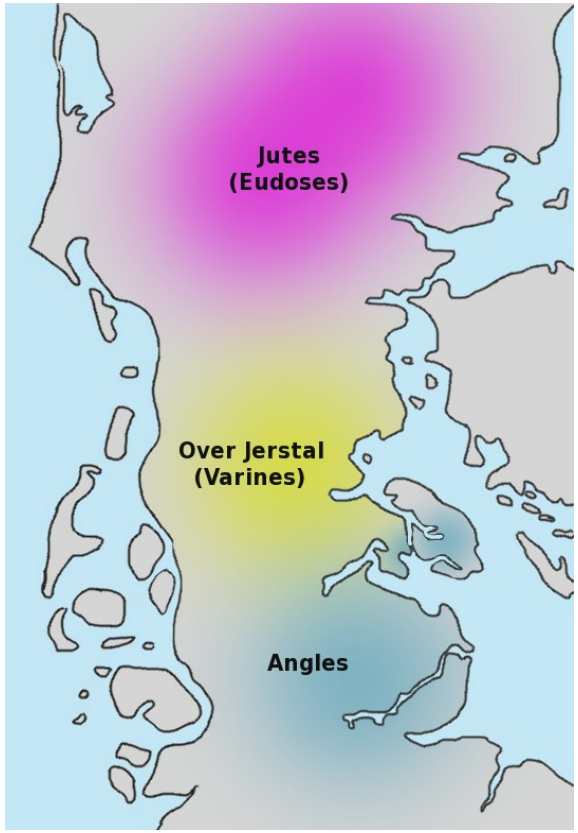
Struthers: family seat in Northumberland before Norman conquest at Wark on Tweed (near Jedburgh)
Clark: Anglo Saxon meaning a cleric. Appears in Rutland and Lincolnshire in 13th century

Dunn: possibly Anglo Saxon, meaning dark coloured. Migration from Scotland to Ulster
Johnson: Norman origin, first found in Lincolnshire
Shelton: locational name first found at Shelton parish, Norfolk
Wood: descended from Norman knight Ernald de Vosco, settled in Leicestershire; or Old English, possibly a forester or someone who lived by/in a wood. Appears in Yorkshire, Essex and Cambridgeshire in 1270s.

Minto: placename in Scottish borders, Ancestry in Jedburgh

Scott: from Uchtredus Filius Scoti, or (in English borders) a Scot
Graves: occupational name, steward. First appears in Medieval Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire
Dryden: placename, Midlothian, Scotland
Cobb: from Old Norse Kobbi in eastern counties: large, well built man.
Easley: possibly from Eastleigh near Southampton

Given the broad distribution of surnames in this branch, an early immigration is a distinct possibility. The most likely source of the migration would be the Anglian region of the continent, since the majority of surnames appear to be linked to Anglian settlement north and south of the Humber. For a detailed discussion of the homeland of the Angles on the continent and the Anglian kingdoms formed by migration to England, see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angles>.



The surnames on the other side of the genetic divide may provide clues as to the origin of this migration.

In FInland the surnames Ursinus and Kyllonen, whose ancestry is traced to the port city of Viipuri (Vyborg) on the Gulf of Finland and the border town Kuhmo farther north in the 17th century, when the region was under Swedish rule. The situation of Ursinus and Kyllonen on a branch of the S21607 tree separate geographically from other surnames suggests a migration from the region where the other surnames cluster. Trade between nearby Borg (Porvoo) and Germanic peoples (Swedes, Danes, Germans?) was established in the early middle ages. The Vyborg area was colonized by Sweden from the 12th century until it was lost to Russia in 1710. The fortress was built in 1293, and would have formed the nucleus of the town, which became a centre for the spread of Christianity as well as a busy seaport.

The surname Ursinus may therefore have been attached to a personage connected to the missionary activity or maritime trade or the military garrison. A link to the 16th century German reformed theologian Zacharias (Ursinus) Baer has been suggested. The Lutheran church in Vyborg probably dates from the 17th century, and may have attracted followers of the Protestant reform, eager to convert the heathen population.

For Kyllonen I find only this etymology: "Kyllonen derives from the old Finnish personal name Kyll(i)ä, Kyllö, + the common surname suffix -nen. This name occurs chiefly in eastern and central Finland (Savo), where it has been recorded since the 16th century."

DeHoff: possibly Flanders
Crowe: an Anglo Saxon name that first appeared in Norfolk and Suffolk
Holm: has ancestry in Norway
Larson: Swedish, son of Lars, Laurentius
Svedberg: a placename, hamlet on the southwest coast of Sweden

Jansen: patronymic (son of John) from Schleswig-Holstein
Vreeland: placename in Holland, 70 miles from Blaker
De Bruijn: Dutch, brown
Vlietstra: probably Frisian

Thurston: either a Norse name Thorstein, or a placename in Suffolk, Anglo Saxon Thurstuna.
Mausteller: Marsteller appears to be an old Leicestershire name

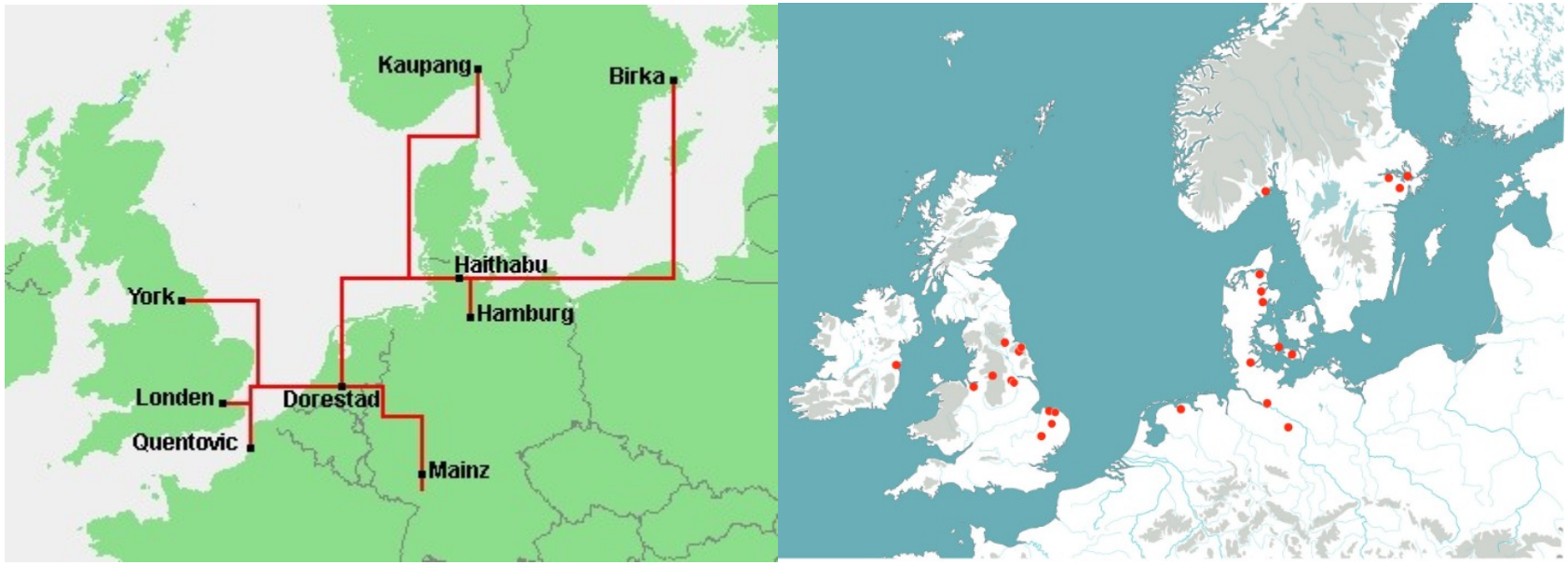
Blaker

Since the closest members of the S21607 family to the Finnish branch are Reimers and Lindemann, it will be useful to situate these surnames on the historical map.

Lindemann: from Tellingstedt, Schleswig-Holstein
Reimers: first recorded in Bremen, from Germanic Reginmar, gives rise to Ramirez in Spanish (via Visigothic)
An early bearer of the latter surname was Nicolaus Reimers Baer (2 February 1551 – 16 October 1600), also Reimarus Ursus, Nicolaus Reimers Bär or Nicolaus Reymers Baer, an astronomer and imperial mathematician to Emperor Rudolf II. Baer was born in the town of Hennstedt, which is 11 km away from Tellingstedt, where the Lindemann cousin's ancestry lies. Note too that the name Reimers survives in the given name of one of the Ursinus S21607 cousins, Raimo Kakriainan.

Given their geographical distribution in the region of Anglian settlement, it is likely that Thurston, Mausteller and Crowe are attached somehow to the earlier migration. Holm, Larson, Svedberg and Jansen form a group with a strong south Scandinavian presence, while Lindemann and Reimers suggest a tie to the Anglian homeland in Schleswig. DeHoff, Vreeland, De Bruijnm and Vlietstra form a group linked to modern Holland and Belgium.

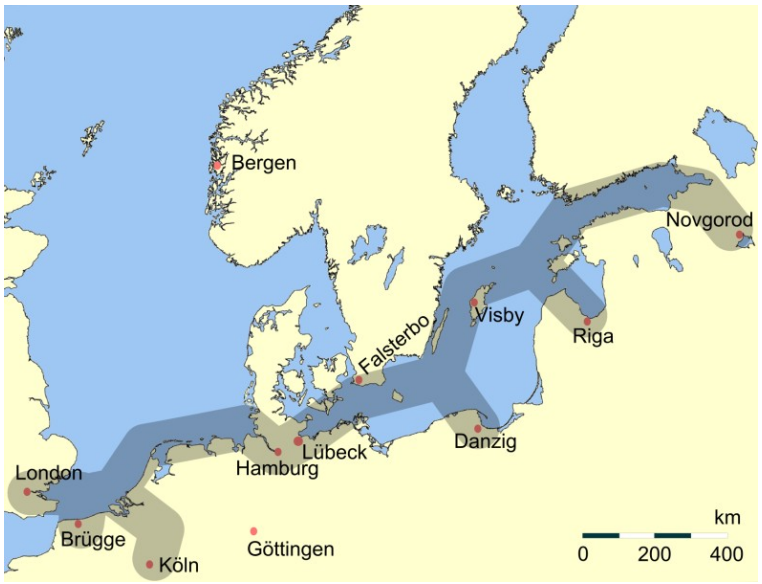
Insights into the movements of peoples may be gained from an understanding of the movement of goods, i.e., trade. During the interval between the Anglo-Saxon migrations to Britain in the 5th and 6th centuries and the onset of the Viking period in the 9th century. The map below illustrates the main nodes in the trading network that linked the North Sea and Western Europe with the Baltic and Scandinavia in the 8th century.

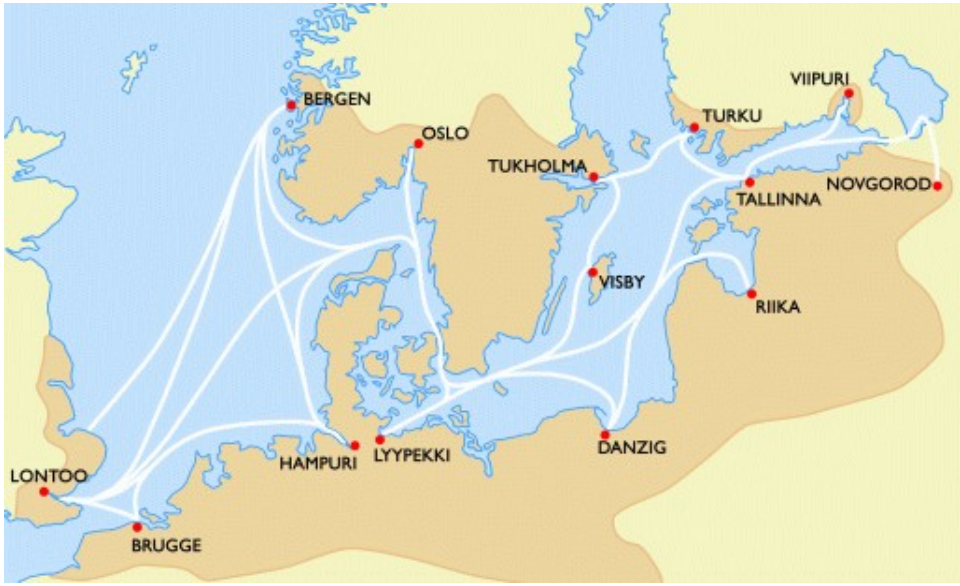


In the figure on the left it can readily be seen that these trading emporia (Dorestad in Holland, York in England, Haithabu near the city of Schleswig, and Kaupang, in the south of Norway) reflect in a schematic way the distribution of persons in the S21607 family, possibly in the period around the 8th century. See the Wikipedia articles for detailed information on the locations identified on the map. The map is reproduced from the article on Dorestad. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorestad>

A similar pattern is evidenced by the distribution of 10th century Jansson Type 1 A1 brooches, shown in the figure on the right. Figure copied from <https://tinyurl.com/y5shbkqt>

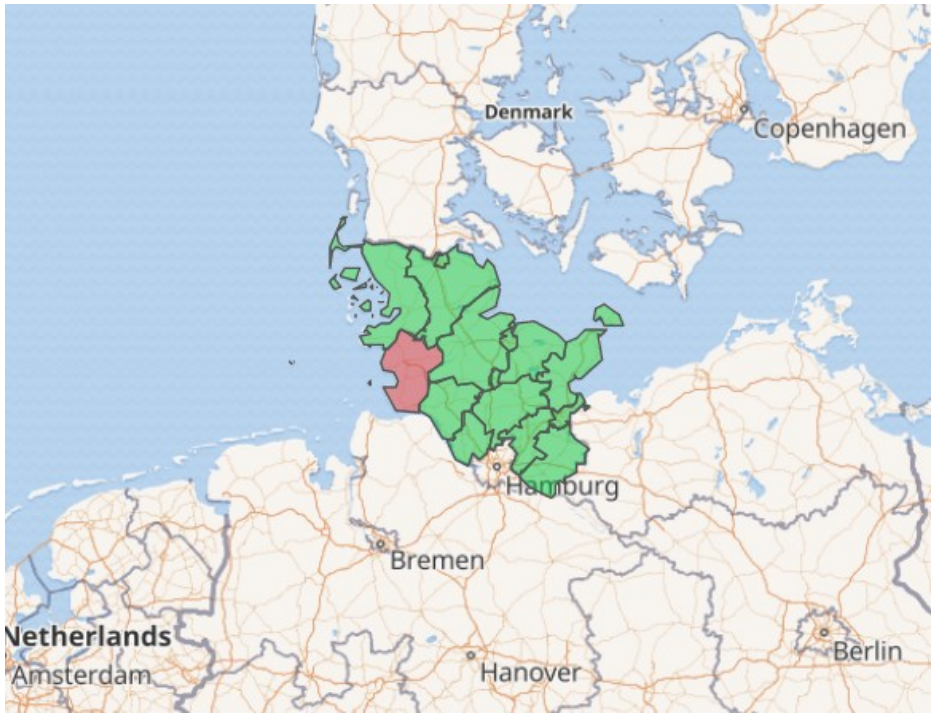
The successor to this early Medieval trading network was the Hanseatic League, which dominated trade in Northern Europe from the 12th to 15th centuries. Its main routes are illustrated in the figure on the left, while the map on the right indicates its wider connections with Vyborg and the Livonian coast (Estonia) in the East, and with eastern coast of Britain in the West.

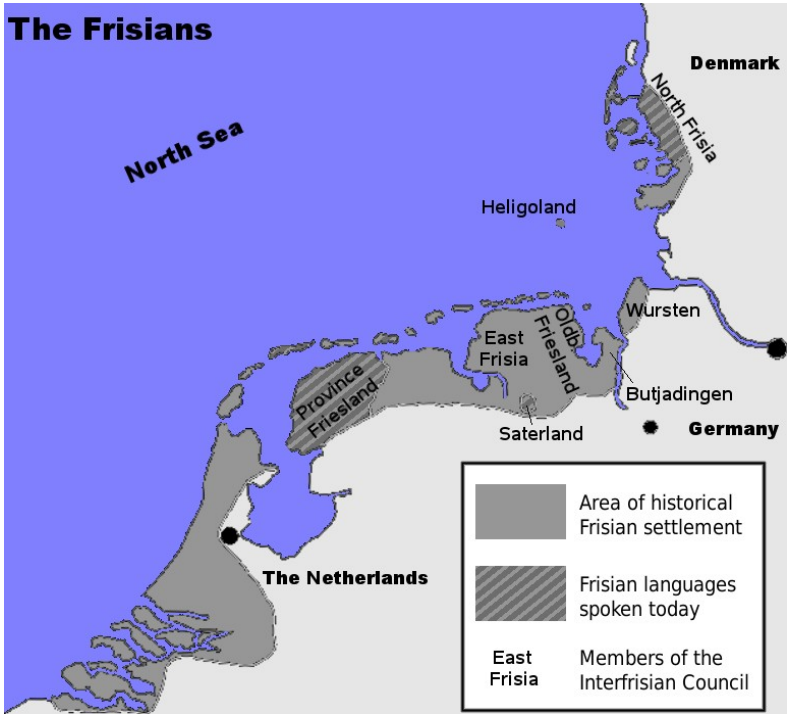




For a full historical account of the Hanseatic League, see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanseatic_League>

As we have already noted, the Lindemann and Reimers/Ursus surnames can be traced to the Dithmarschen region of modern-day Schleswig-Holstein. At the height of the Hanseatic League's dominance of Baltic trade, the Dithmarschen region entered an alliance with the Hansa city of Luebeck in order to protect their trading rights and fend off encroachments by feudal powers. In the 15th century, Dithmarsians engaged in trade with Livonia and neighbouring Baltic destinations, among them undoubtedly Vyborg. It is possible that one or more carriers of S21607 landed in Vyborg as a consequence of Dithmarschen trading connections. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dithmarschen>





Summary: The most plausible explanation for the presence of S21607 lineages in Northern England/Southern Scotland would appear to be the Anglo-Saxon colonization of these areas during the Germanic Migrations. Dutch and Flemish lineages of S21607 may have been planted through early Mediaeval commercial exchanges between Dorested in Holland and Haithabu in the old Anglian homeland of Schleswig, while the Norwegian lineage might have followed the sea route from Haithabu in Schleswig to Kaupang near Oslo. The arrival of a Blaker in the south of England before the Conquest might similarly be linked to the early Mediaeval trading relations between London and Dorestad in Holland, or conceivably the later Hanseatic network via Bruges in Flanders.

But the most puzzling fact is the presence of a Blaker family in Vyborg in the 18th century parish records. Possibly a waylaid mercenary from Holland?

There is a remote chance that S21607 migrated first from Frisia into Britain and Schleswig as well as South Holland and Flanders.

- Roy Keys