



## Australian Population Association

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13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference

### Population Policy and Australia's Destiny

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#### ***Inbreeding in 19th Century Wiltshire***

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An understanding of inbreeding in a population is important in understanding gene flow and past population structure. This paper examines the extent of inbreeding in an agricultural community in Wiltshire, England in the 19th century. The focus is on the parish of Stourton, near the borders with Dorset and Somerset. Pedigrees have been created for thousands of individuals resident in and around Stourton. This paper will briefly cover what is known about inbreeding in England, and then discuss the findings for Stourton. The rate of cousin-marriage will be discussed, the effect of topography on mate choice and the link between illegitimacy and consanguinity.