Occupation, Origin and Age of a Sample of Single Women arriving in Wellington in 1874

To create this visualization I digitized the passenger lists of a third of all ships recorded on Family Search Archives as arriving in Wellington in 1874. This left me with five out of fourteen ships worth of data. I selected for the visualization only single women, defining this as women who arrived without the protection of a spouse or parent but including those accompanied by siblings or the family of a relation where the woman is of a similar age to the head of family.
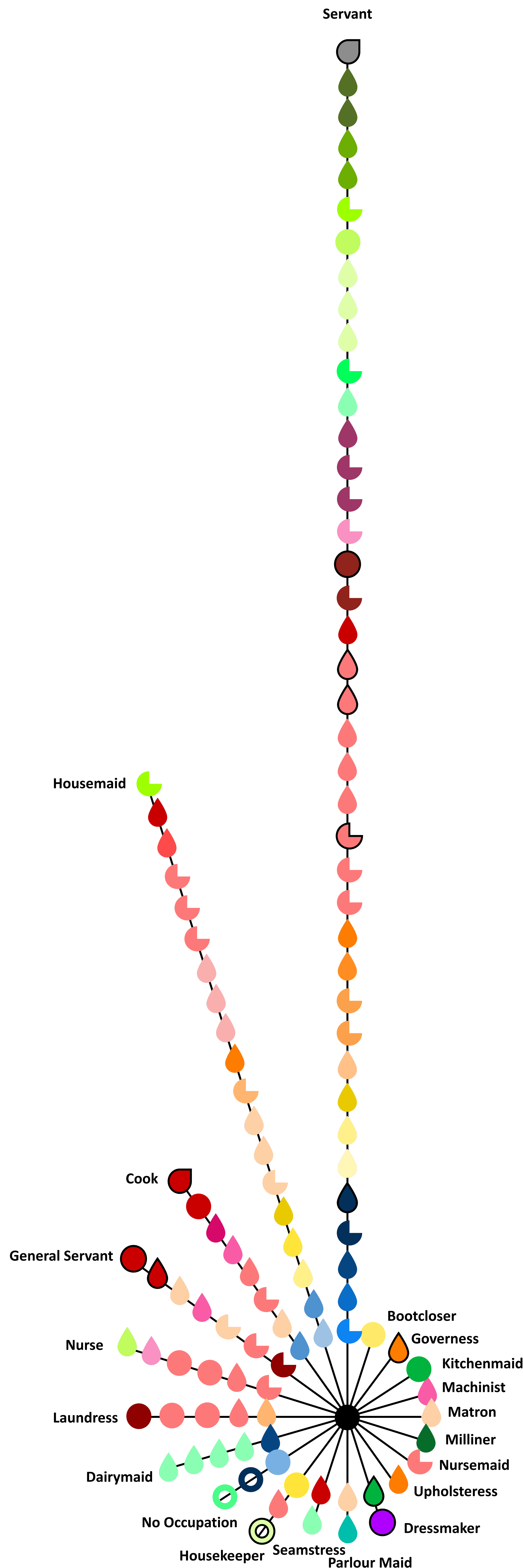
I coded them according to age (shape), origin (colour), occupation (spoke), and noted whether or not they were accompanied (outline). This allowed me to identify trends based on the areas in which I was primarily interested and for which data survives. Priority was given to the most interesting areas so occupation is most obvious, followed by origin.

The wheel is organized from least to most common occupation and demonstrates that occupations which had links to the middle or upper-middle class such as governess or dressmaker were rarer than less skilled occupations such as servant or housemaid. However, other unskilled employment also appears rare when it is a specific category within a broader range such as kitchen or parlour maid. The servant category is by far the most common.

Origin is made clear through colour, with the warm yellows, oranges, reds and pinks of England dominating the visualization. Immigrants from Middlesex are the most common and appear across a broad range of occupations. We see slight trends according to occupation such as the dairymaids from Tyrone, however this may be compromised by particular groups leaving from the same area and occupation at once. Each spoke is organized by colour, beginning closest to the centre with counties (named as they were at the time) from the top of Great Britain in order down to the bottom, then across to Wales. Closer to the end of the spokes are immigrants from outside of Great Britain in order of proximity, first Northern then Southern Ireland, Jersey and finally Germany.

Each collection of immigrants from a certain county are in order of age, from youngest at the bottom to oldest at the top. When looking at age we see that single females who emigrated were overwhelmingly between the ages of 15-29. When intersected with occupation, however, we see that categories such as no occupation or the slightly higher ranking laundress tend towards an older age range.

The vast majority of single females arrived unaccompanied (although it is difficult to determine whether they travelled in a group of friends). Those clearly accompanied were often, but not exclusively, 30 or older.

Scotland:
Sutherland
Aberdeen
Inverness
Stirling
Edinburgh
Lanark
Ayr

England:
York
Lancashire
Cheshire
Staffordshire
Norfolk
Warwickshire
Herefordshire
Oxfordshire
Buckinghamshire
Hertfordshire
Gloucestershire
Essex
Middlesex
Wiltshire
Surrey
Kent
Hampshire
Sussex
Devon
Isle of Wight
Cornwall

Wales:
Glamorgan

Ireland:
Tyrone
Down
Leitrim
Dublin
Kildare
Clare
Tipperary
Limerick
Kerry
Cork

Channel Islands:
Jersey

Europe:
Germany

Age:	Unaccompanied	Accompanied
15-19		
20-29		
30-39		
40-49		
50+		

Labels (spokes): Servant, Housemaid, Cook, General Servant, Nurse, Laundress, Dairymaid, No Occupation, Housekeeper, Seamstress, Parlour Maid, Dressmaker, Upholsteress, Nursemaid, Milliner, Matron, Machinist, Kitchenmaid, Governess, Bootcloser