

The world's leading publication for one-namers

Journal

of One-Name Studies

The quarterly
publication of the

**Guild of
One-Name
Studies**

www.one-name.org

Volume 12 Issue 3 • July-September 2015

p9

37th Guild Conference 2016 Preview

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Conference Report

and photos from the 36th
Guild Conference and AGM

All the latest Guild news and updates

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This online mailing list is open to any
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To send a message to the forum send it
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WebForum

The Guild's WebForum is open to any
member logged into our website. Simply
click on the word "Forums" in the menu
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*The Journal of One-Name Studies is
published quarterly by the Guild of One-
Name Studies and printed by Flexpress
Ltd, 6 Coal Cart Road, Interchange,
Birstall, Leicester, LE4 3BY.*

ISSN 0262-4842

© Journal of One-Name Studies

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ARTICLES, letters and other contributions are welcomed from members, especially accompanied by illustrations, and should be sent to the Editor. Publication dates will normally be the first day of January, April, July, and October.

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The distribution list for this Journal is based on the information held in the Guild database on the first of the month preceding the issue date.



From the Committee...

by Paul Howes, Chairman



Paul Howes

Each issue, different members of your Committee use this page to report on our activities and on important issues faced by the Guild.

It's funny how different experiences in one's life all seem to point in the same direction. When I was young, I used to love visiting my maternal grandfather's farm. I remember my grandfather saying that he never felt

like he really owned the farm; he was the current custodian whose job it was to improve the land for the benefit of future generations.

It wasn't until I joined a professional service firm 20 years later that I heard the same sentiment – the firm's partners saw their role as building the business for the sake of future partners and ran the business according to that approach, always looking to the long term. It was inspiring, and I'm proud to have worked for that firm for 25 years before I retired four years ago.

And now I have this new job and I feel the same way. After the shock wore off, I started reflecting upon what kind of organization this is. I actually find the Guild's success quite remarkable.

The world has changed...

When the Guild was founded 36 years ago the genealogy world was very different. Personal computers were just beginning to emerge and most everything was paper-based. (See Mike Spathaky's article: <http://one-name.org/journal/articles/vol12-1/12.1%20The%20Website%20IS%20the%20One-Name%20Study.pdf> for a fuller description of the evolution.)

A group of people came together whose studies were very different; their surnames started in different places at different times and grew at different rates in different parts of the world; their study sizes were different. All of these aspects caused them to go about their studies in very different ways. And yet, they had enough in common between them that there were things they could share with each other and the public. They organized as a charity to emphasize the sharing aspect.

Our environment has totally changed. We can do massive amounts of research from our armchairs with apparently inexhaustible supplies of data from large commercial organizations. We have the ability to converse face-to-face with people on the other side of the world. The need

for travel to a repository has not been eliminated but has diminished dramatically. An alien might conclude that there is no reason to actually meet or interact with others since everything is SO available.

...but we haven't

Our membership has grown strongly. Indeed, we've just had the best two-month period for new members in our history.

What is it about the Guild that makes such a difference? I think it's that spirit of sharing which binds us. We are an oasis of collaboration in an increasingly individualistic world. Moreover, we owe a huge debt to those who came before us and have a responsibility to preserve that spirit.

As I said in the press release for my appointment, "every day hundreds of Guild members go out of their way to help others," whether by sending a news clipping to another member, contributing to one of our many indexes, sharing your GED file in our eLibrary, or volunteering to help with running the Guild. That's an inspiring realization.

Can you help?

Do you have another member's study name in your data? How about writing to them to share what you know?

Could you make a spreadsheet with some of your marriage information and contribute it to an index, or take on a marriage challenge?

Could you give a talk about your one-name study to your local society or help run a stand or seminar?

Do you take a newspaper or could you look at one online? Can you check for other members' names and share what you find?

Could you be a part of our web team, or even its leader?

Do you have a relevant skill and some time available? Check out the "Situations Vacant" selection under the "Forums" tab in the menu bar at the top of the Guild home page (available to logged-in users) or talk with Peter Hagger at volunteers@one-name.org. You don't have to be in the UK and you don't need to be available right now. Neither do you have to take on something on your own. Talk with Peter about what you would like to do.

Got an idea, or some feedback for us, or me personally? Write me at chairman@one-name.org.

Hope you're having fun!

– Paul Howes





Marriage Challenge Update:

Which Registration District Should I Choose?

by Peter Copsey MCG

(Marriage Challenge Coordinator, Member 1522)

Those members who wish to become a challenger must decide which registration district to select for the challenge. Challenges usually involve visits to the nearest county record office, and so the district needs to be one where Anglican church registers are held in that office.

A district that has not been attempted in the past is best. On our web page, http://www.one-name.org/members/mchallenge_old.html, we give a list of the challenges that have been done before. The map at the bottom of the main MC web page also shows this information.

Repeat challenges are also satisfactory. The districts coloured pale blue on the map are those where a challenge was last done five or more years ago. It is not essential for the same challenger to undertake a repeat challenge (although it helps) and usually the original challenger is willing to give what information is helpful to the new challenger.

However, some districts are not suitable for challenges because full marriage information is already available and indexed.

Images of marriage register entries can be found on the internet for various areas of England and Wales. Ancestry has digitised and indexed the registers of most Anglican church registers in London (except Westminster), Surrey, West Yorkshire, Lancashire, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Dorset, and Gloucestershire. Findmypast has done Westminster, Staffordshire, Shropshire, some of Wales, and Cheshire. FamilySearch has digitised and has now indexed much of Norfolk.

“Online Parish Clerks” (OPC) has indexed entries for marriage registers for Cornwall and the collection is growing elsewhere (Dorset, Lincolnshire). Although no images of registers are available, full transcriptions are given.

UKBMD has indexed marriages for many areas of England but there is no full transcription or images of the registers. For these areas a challenge is still appropriate. The website will identify the Anglican churches for each marriage and the task becomes more of a look-up rather than a challenging search.

So a challenger has to be aware what information is already available on the Web. When fully digitised and indexed or fully transcribed information is available, a challenge is not appropriate. Where there is digitisation but no index, such as for Essex, a challenge is still appropriate because a marriage cannot be located except by searching through the images online.

A challenge is presently underway for two specific churches in Liverpool (see announcements in the previous Journal). This has come about because Ancestry has omitted to include in their Liverpool collection these two churches over specific periods. So no general rule can be made about which registration districts are not appropriate for a challenge; one needs to be aware of what is available on the Web.

The marriage challenges beginning in the coming months are listed below. All members are encouraged to send their requests to the challengers by email. Send the listing extracted from the GRO marriage index (FreeBMD will give all of them) for the named Registration District between the years given (year, quarter, surname, first names, full GRO reference). Challengers will search for and often find your marriages in the deposited church registers and then send you the full particulars.

The key in the last column is:

- A Requests must be sent using the standard “requests.xls” spreadsheet on the MC web page (exceptions – those without computer or without MS Excel);
- B Requests using the standard Excel template much preferred, but willing to accept other formats;
- C Requests sent in any form accepted.

Being a challenger is rewarding and enjoyable and you will be helping your fellow Guild members with their studies. You could share the task with a friend or another Guild member. If you think you could become a challenger, I look forward to hearing from you. Contact me, the Marriage Challenge Coordinator, on marriage-challenge@one-name.org. ■

REGISTRATION DISTRICT AND PERIOD	REQUEST DEADLINE	CHALLENGER	CHALLENGER'S EMAIL	KEY (SEE ABOVE)
Horsham (Repeat) 1837-1911	25 July 2015	John Commins	commins@one-name.org	B
Hollingbourne 1837-1939	31 July 2015	Nick Miskin	miskin@one-name.org	B
Belford (Repeat & Extended) 1837-1936	1 August 2015	Marion Turnbull	marion.turnbull@one-name.org	B



DNA for your ONS: A Recruiting Road Map

by Susan C Meates MCG (DNA Advisor, Member 3710)

The essential element of a DNA project is recruiting participants. Without participants, you will miss the exciting and interesting discoveries you can make with DNA.

Your Tree

The first two participants typically come from your tree. If you are male with the registered surname, the first participant is easy, since it is you. Then you just need to find a distant direct line male in your family tree. Ideally, they connect to the tree as far back as possible.

If you are female, or a male and researching a surname different than your own, then reviewing your family tree and past contacts is usually helpful in identifying the two males to contact. It is also helpful if you can find the two tests for your tree.

If you select persons with whom you've had contact or a relationship, that often makes the recruiting process easier.

If you need to approach males with whom you've never made contact, it helps to structure your correspondence to focus on your one-name study and what you have discovered from your research, and then lead into DNA and how they can help. Also cover how they will make discoveries about their family tree, their surname, and their distant origin.

Participants Needed

Once you've lined up the two participants for your tree, you are ready to move on to testing other trees for your registered surname(s). The approach you take will depend on a variety of factors:

- The population of the surname
- Whether or not you have constructed trees, and if so, how far are you in the process
- Your comfort level at different forms of contact

- The number of contacts you've made relating to your one-name study
- Your desire to raise donations to fund testing, making it usually easier to recruit participants
- If you know of any trees with limited or only one surviving male
- The speed at which you want your DNA project to grow
- Any existing communication vehicles, such as a newsletter, blog, social media presence, mailing list and so forth
- The time you have available

One effective approach is to make an announcement about the project — including the benefits of participating, as well as mentioning your need to raise donations — in any established communication vehicles, such as a newsletter for your ONS. This approach will typically skim off the prime prospects and turn them into participants.

The frequency of your surname and the readership of your communication vehicle will determine the quantity of participants. If you are recruiting in a pool of 300 name bearers, you will have a far different number of initial participants as compared to the Guild member recruiting in a pool of 5,000 name bearers. The same impact can be found by the size of the audience of your communication vehicle. Do you have 200 subscribers to your newsletter, or 2,000?

If you are studying a rare or low-frequency surname with a limited population, it may take more time to recruit representatives from each tree, since you have a limited prospect pool. On the other hand, you will be able to reach the point where most trees will have been tested more quickly, and get to the stage of drawing conclusions about the surname faster than a Guild member dealing with a population of 30,000 with the surname.

So the size of the population of your surname has both an upside and a downside.

Once you do your general announcement, set a schedule to revisit the DNA project via the communications vehicle(s) you are using. Your first communication is a general announcement. After this, future communication will be more effective if they focus on any discoveries made to date. You can then continue the discovery theme in each communication, coupled with a call for participants.

After the general announcement, it is time to focus on those trees with just one, or a limited number of males surviving. Any delay on these trees could result in being unable to ever test them, when there are no more surviving males. Raising donations may help you in recruiting males from these trees to test.

Going Forward

After you have taken care of the trees with one or limited surviving males, then you move on to the rest of the population of your surname.

If you have established contacts with persons in trees in your one-name study, they will be ideal contacts for recruiting, since you have established trust and rapport.

Once you have completed recruiting among your established contacts, then move on to the other trees for your registered surname.

If you have constructed most or all of the trees, you may want to take a targeted approach, and go tree by tree, to find one or two distant males, depending on the situation, and have them test.

If you don't have many trees constructed, or you have a surname with a larger current population, another approach is preferable. With this approach, your goal is to get the message out about the project to the population of your surname and encourage others to test,

and keep doing this on an ongoing basis, changing the message periodically, and using multiple communication vehicles.

Be sure to focus on the discoveries they can make. It is also helpful to use some tool to keep track of your progress in testing for your surname, such as marking off on the 1851 UK census households that are represented by a participant. For other countries, select an equivalent tool.

Which method you use to recruit participants – targeted or general, or even a combination of the two methods – depends on a variety of factors, such as whether trees are constructed, the frequency of your surname, the stage of your one-name study, and whether you have had past contacts with persons with your ONS surname.

More important than the approach is to keep recruiting.

Persistence and Patience

Recruiting is an ongoing process which requires persistence and patience.

The longest it's taken for me to get an answer from a letter is five years.

The longest it has taken for me to get an answer to an email is eight years.

Luckily, these are rare occurrences.

Much can happen during recruiting, and also after the testers have their test kit. Life events can distract the participant from the mission. Whether illness, family crisis, divorce, job loss – the list is endless – participants with the best intentions can get overwhelmed by life and not respond to contacts.

Persistence and patience are key. If you have an interested prospect or participant, it is helpful to wait out the problem. Most times the situation will get back on track. If you paid for the test kit, your investment is protected. At any time you can get a free replacement test kit.

Of course, you can also run into the situation where they get their test kit, and now have concerns. You will need to find out what they are and help them with the issue. A typical issue is privacy, and that is easy to overcome by explaining how matching works, what a participant can see, and what the general public can see. A simple explanation in most cases is sufficient to resolve their concern.

Patience and persistence pay off when the participant gets his result and is excited to have matches, discovers his

distant origin, and is proud to have contributed to the knowledge about the surname. You might even have developed a contact who can then help you recruit others.

Discoveries for Your One-Name Study

DNA provides an opportunity to make discoveries about the surnames in your one-name study. DNA provides information not in the paper records, and often leads to surprises. The subject matter is easy to learn, and not as difficult as some of the records we deal with in our research.

You can proceed at your own speed, and spend as much or as little time as you want. After a few participants, it all gets easier.

Want to Get Started?

When you are ready to add DNA to your one-name study, the DNA Advisor is here to help, including setting up your project with proven marketing material. Simply write: DNA@one-name.org. You will receive a completely setup project that you can modify, along with an easy-to-follow 20-step "Getting Started" email and a sample recruiting email and letter. ■

Discover Your Ancestors

Magazine



**Special
Guild member
price**

**£19.99
for 12 issues**

The Guild is delighted to announce it has negotiated a member discount for this high-quality digital magazine delivered to your personal online library every month. Packed full of stories, case studies, social history articles and research advice, this regular and affordable service is a must-have for anyone starting out in family history research, or for those with more experience but who have reached brick walls. Expert guidance and inspiration around historic themes merge to create an informative and educational guide through your journey of research. The product is created in both PDF and web-ready formats.

To take advantage of this member offer, log in on the Guild website, go to the members' room <http://one-name.org/members/promotional.html> and follow the *Discover Your Ancestors* link to sign up.

Members' Websites Project Trial Launches

The Members' Websites Project Team is pleased to announce the launch of the full Trial Stage of the project.

A major purpose of the Project is to enable the one-name website of each participating member to continue indefinitely as a live website (that is, one that is publicly accessible) after the member has died or ceased to be a member of the Guild. The project will also allow participants, while they remain members of the Guild, to continue to maintain and develop their websites. The team will create support facilities, mainly on a self-service basis, as aids to members in creating their one-name study websites or in transferring existing websites to Members' Websites.

Details of the project are posted on the Project website at www.one-name.net (note the .net) and you can join by filling in the application form there. Although members' websites themselves are available for public viewing, access to the site is for Guild members only. The entry codes are on the Members' Room front page at www.one-name.org/members/. Entry to the project will be staged so that the team members can ensure an orderly process of induction for all participants.

— Mike Spathaky, Members' Websites Team Leader
members-websites@one-name.org



Probate Index Update: Where We Are and Where We're Going

by Derrick Watson
(Probate Index Coordinator, Member 5020)

It's been a couple of years since the last update on the Guild Probate Index, so it's probably past time for one. I'm very pleased to say that over the last couple of years the index has steadily grown, and at the time of writing has a very creditable 108,000 entries. So first of all, a big thank you to all of you contributors who have helped us achieve this great result.

Contributions typically vary from just a couple of names from people with small studies and few wills, to entries in the thousands from those of your who have decided that it was time to gather all your wills information and submit it, to entries in the tens of thousands from a couple of people who go out of their way to seek out wills in order to abstract the names from them for our database. I do need to single out Ros Dunning and say a special public thank you to her for the 44,000+ entries that she has submitted. Her contributions alone are bigger than the whole database was when I took it over.

This is great, but I'm greedy and want more. The bigger the database, the more hits we will each get on our own names of interest (which means the more hits I will get on my names too). So, whenever I've been to Guild events I have developed the habit of picking out a few people and finding out from them why they haven't submitted names to the database – not in order to criticise, but to see if there are ways that I can make it easier to get the information that they have in their collections available to all of us.

I have had the occasional "I didn't know there was a Guild probate index," so if you fall into that category, here is a very brief explanation. We just gather together the names of all the people who are mentioned in a will – whatever roles they had in it – and put them into an easily searchable database. So if Arthur Onename happened to be a witness, or a beneficiary, or someone who owed money in one of my Kingsman wills, then you'll find Arthur Onename in the database along with a link back to me (as the submitter) who will be delighted to get an e-mail from you and will provide you with everything I know (sometimes nothing, sometimes a chunk of biography) about Arthur and his relationship to my Kingsmans. The database is easy to use and is located under the "Services" tab of the Guild website.

The most common response I get relates to time and effort involved. The database itself needs the data submitted in the right format. Many of the people I've quizzed have the wills information, but it is in differently formatted Excel spreadsheets, or it's a Word document, or it's an Access database, or it's a PDF, or it's on paper, etc.

A good example of this is the Weaving one-name study. Not a Guild name, but the person who has been doing this study

has amassed over a hundred Weaving wills and has donated copies of them to us. A wonderful gift and many thanks to Geoff Weaving for giving them to us. This represents the far end of the spectrum, as it lands quite a bit of extra work on my desk – not that I'm complaining, they just won't get processed as fast as I'd like (unless one of you out there cares to volunteer to help).

But this did get me thinking, why not?

So after discussion with the Committee, I've got a few proposals to put to you in order to further grow this unique database.

Top of the list, of course is a call for volunteers who could give a little time to help. If you can, please let me or Guild Volunteers Coordinator Peter Hagger know.

The second is a call for your wills. I am not going to be fussy about how you send me the information except to say that the closer it is to the Excel format that the database requires, the quicker I can get the information into the database and shared with everyone. Of course, if you send it to me on a 3.5 inch floppy disk it will go straight in the bin, and if you send a copy of the original will in secretary hand it will go onto the "round tuit" pile.

The third thing is that I am aware of a growing number of on-line collections of will transcriptions which are typically indexed by testator only, and need to be individually read in order to abstract the names. If you know of any of these, or perhaps already have your own collection on your own web pages, please let me know about them. I will sort out getting permission from the site owner, and (with help from a small army of volunteers – see point one above) set about abstracting the names.

I should point out that all of this is experimental, and is not at the moment a permanent change in the requirements as set out on the Probate Index pages of the Guild website. If it doesn't work, then it will be back to plan A.

So, if you have wills or know of published wills, or if you can spare some time to abstract some names, please get in touch with me at probate-index@one-name.org, and if you use the database and get a good result, why not write a small article for the *Journal* to let people know how useful it can be.

My Example of How the Database Can Perhaps be of Benefit to You:

The great thing about this database is that it can give you connections that simply do not exist anywhere else, so here's an example from my own ONS – actually from my own family tree – which is an even bigger plus:

I have long been intrigued by how my great (x7) grand-uncle Thomas Kingsman became established as a vintner in London and amassed a fair-sized fortune in his relatively short life (he died aged 34). He was one of seven children of a vicar in Hampshire, none of whom showed any signs of significant wealth. From the normal range of searches I knew of his apprenticeship to a vintner in London when he was 14 years old, and then nothing about him until a marriage licence to Ann Long in 1709, when he was described as being a widower aged about 30.

The Long family at the time was quite prominent in the public houses in London – descendants of William and Mary Long who ran the very successful Rose Tavern in Covent Garden – so Ann was quite a catch for an up-and-coming vintner. The puzzle was, what did Thomas bring to the wedding party and who was his previous wife?

Trawling through the usual databases showed nothing conclusive, so this puzzle went on the back burner and probably would have stayed there except that someone (thanks, Ros) abstracted the names from the will of one William Clinch, citizen and haberdasher of London, and submitted them to our database. This will (proved in 1706) had a Katherine Kinsman in it as a “named person” – not a beneficiary, but worth looking at further.

Within his will, William Clinch (an obviously very wealthy

man) said “...my eldest daughter Katherine Kinsman having already received her portion and being already by me fully advanced in marriage.” So whichever Kinsman (or perhaps Kingsman) Catherine had married was fairly well set up by virtue of Catherine’s portion.

I already knew of a marriage in the right time frame of a Thomas Kingsman to a Catherine (26 Nov 1704 at All Hallows the Great) but this Catherine had the surname Rutter.

A quick look on Family Search showed that Catherine Clinch had married William Rutter at St Marylebone in 1691

...which made it worth looking for a will of William Rutter

...which showed that William (vintner and citizen of London) left everything – which included an interest in the Cross Keys Tavern in Covent Garden – to his wife, Catherine, when he died in 1701.

...which I think is a pretty good clue as to why Thomas Kingsman’s marriage was good for both him and for the Long family.

None of this would I have found – or even looked for – if not for the initial clue, courtesy of our unique resource.

Similar finds could be there now, just waiting for you... ■

Preview: The 37th Guild Conference & AGM ‘Three in One!’

1-3 April 2016 in Birmingham

by Chris Braund, 2016 Conference Organiser

The 37th Guild Conference will take place from late afternoon Friday 1 April to late afternoon Sunday 3 April 2016, with the AGM on Saturday the 2nd at 09:00. The venue will be the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, West Midlands, B40 1PP <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/hilton-birmingham-metropole-BHXMETW/index.html>.

The hotel has been chosen because it:

- Provides easy access – It is within one mile of Birmingham International Train Station and Airport and is situated off the M42 and close to the M6, M1, and M5 motorways
- Has 790 rooms, including standard, deluxe, and executive bedrooms and suites
- Has 33 meeting rooms, accommodating up to 2,000 delegates
- Has a shuttle service to and from the train station
- Is providing free Wifi and free parking for Guild delegates

We have secured a good rate at this four-star luxury hotel. Delegates will be able to relax in the hotel’s heated swimming

pool, tone up in the LivingWell fitness centre, or treat themselves to a relaxing massage at The Ocean Rooms Spa.

Our date and venue had already been arranged when *Who Do You Think You Are? Live* announced that their 2016 show would be at The National Exhibition Centre (NEC), Birmingham, from 7-9 April. These venues are on the same site. In fact, the Hilton car park is nearer to the NEC than the NEC’s own parking! This seemed too good an opportunity to miss and we are negotiating with the venue to allow for those who wish to extend their stay to cover both events to do so. We have also decided to plan visits to places of interest for the three days between the conference and *Who Do You Think You Are? Live*, giving you a third reason to join us. We already have a provisional booking for The Black Country Museum www.bclm.co.uk. We hope that this combination of events will make the journey to Birmingham really worthwhile and will tempt members who live outside the UK to attend.

At the time of writing, I am only one month into my role as co-ordinator of the conference organising team, but plans for the programme are already underway. We hope to provide sessions with a broad appeal and an international flavour.

For further details, keep an eye on the Members’ Room on the website. Booking forms will be available in the October 2015 edition of JoONS.



Herbert Alfred Vayro: A Soldier in Two Regiments

by Rennison Vayro (Member 4374)

In November 2014, Findmypast had a special event for the centennial of the First World War. So taking advantage of this, always keen to save money, I did some searching of their databases and extracted many Vayro individuals who had served in both the Great War and the Second World War.

These were checked against some others already extracted from Ancestry.com, and I was able to make a list of 28 named Vayro relatives who served.

In the middle of the list there were two entries which were a little confusing, for what appeared to be two Vayro soldiers, both born in Leeds in 1885.

I had discovered two records that could be the same individual. It appeared that he had joined two different regiments in the First World War. So the question I raised was: "How could one person be in two regiments at the same time, and with two distinct army numbers?"

HERBERT VAYRO	4244	Born 1885
DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S WEST RIDING REGIMENT		
3/5 th Battalion	Aged 30 in 1915	LEEDS

HERBERT VAYRO	4895	Born 1885
NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS		
2/4 th Battalion	Aged 31	LEEDS

As usual, I raised the issue with colleagues on the Upper Dales Family History Group and Guild of One-Name Studies forums, asking if anyone could confirm – one way or the other – if these two records were for the same individual, and if so, hazard a guess at the circumstances behind Herbert's "joining up" twice.

One theory put forward was that *"It might be that he was rejected after his first signing on as unfit for military service? Then re-applied and was accepted a second time but to a different regiment."*

It turns out that that suggestion may not be far from the truth. Another colleague posted back an alternative after examining Herbert's service records: *"The first record is when he served in the West Riding regiment and evidence shows that he was discharged after 61 days as being medically unfit and unlikely to make an efficient soldier. Herbert's character was marked as only fair, which suggests he must have been a naughty boy, and probably on several occasions. The other gradings being used would be Exemplary (which would have meant that there were no entries on his company or regimental conduct sheet and he had served for more than six years), Very Good, Good, and Poor."*

"It is quite likely that he sought to re-enlist in 1916, either because of peer pressure or perhaps the medical problem abated. He should have declared his previous service on re-enlistment." As colleagues know a lot of our research is "guesstimation," it is very useful when a colleague who has much more military knowledge can confirm some details directly from military records.

Extra material was found that helped resolve the issue. *"Looking at <http://www.findmypast.com> these items seem to be for a Herbert Alfred Vayro 1885-1918 and I note that these are territorial forces discharges. The 1915 discharge as medically unfit after 61 days service was in September 1915. It also says that he was not likely to become an efficient soldier. Discharged Huddersfield, his discharge address is shown as Hunslet, which is in Leeds. The 1916 discharge as medically unfit (no longer physically fit for war service) after 162 days service was on 9 February 1917. On this second occasion he was shown as discharged in York and his discharge address is shown as Leeds."*

Taking this into consideration and with his death recorded July to September quarter in 1918 at age 33 suggests that he was not a well man and it may not be a coincidence that re-enlistment was almost exactly one year later."

All this information added to the dossier that I had on Herbert Alfred Vayro, with much assistance from members of Goons and UDFHG. Interestingly enough, I suspected that Herbert had a middle name, and I have three records for other Alfred Vayros, but all with different service numbers to Herbert. Another piece of the jigsaw picture regarding Herbert is now in place, or at least coming into focus, and it would appear that Herbert Alfred Vayro was probably seriously ill before he joined up in July 1915. Or certainly he was taken ill very shortly after his attestation papers were signed.

When history shows that thousands of British soldiers were slaughtered in the early years of the First World War, perhaps it is possible that in desperation, the services were prepared to accept anybody, even those not fully fit.

Herbert is shown as serving periods of 61 days and 162 days, but much of that time he was on "home leave" or in hospital. There is also no mention in his records of actually serving any time in France or Belgium. What I also find interesting is that his age is shown on enlistment, but nowhere could I find his date of birth on his official service records, though I know this to be 1885.

So digging a little further, I found that his father was William Vayro, and there was also a William Squires Vayro and Mary Anne Kettlewell who had a son called Herbert in 1885.

No. 2343						
1885		William		Temple		
February 3	Herbert	Mary	Vayro	House	Labourer	G. M. Platt
No. 2344	Alfred	Ann		Cottage		

Baptism entry for Whitkirk St Mary's for Herbert Alfred Vayro, 3 February 1885. Parents William Vayro and Mary Ann.

— William I.	60	Cardiff	11 a	509
Vaughan-Jones, Harriet	64	Hendon	3 a	295
Vaughton, Thomas A.	59	Tamworth	6 b	445
Vause, Mary A.	67	Hull	9 d	333
Vaux, William E.	53	Hampstead	1 a	577
Vayro, Herbert A.	33	Leeds	9 b	396
Veach, William	72	W. Derby	8 b	675
Veal, Bessie B.	29	Bristol	6 a	31
— George V.	0	Southampton	2 c	75

Central Record Office entry for the death of Herbert A Vayro

William Squires was the son of William Vayro and Elizabeth Berry. So Herbert's ancestry can be linked to my own, in that William Vayro and Elizabeth Berry were my great-great grandparents.

I have two other Herbert Vayros on my database:
 1864, son of Abraham Vayro & Elizabeth Bright, Sedgefield
 1882, son of John Varo and Hannah Harker of Leeds

But I feel absolutely certain that Herbert Alfred Vayro (baptised 3 Feb 1885 at Whitkirk) is the correct Herbert and was the son of William Squires Vayro and Mary Anne Kettlewell, who lived in Hunslet near Leeds.

Apart from the evidence from the 1911 census — where Herbert is shown as aged 26 and living with his parents — it also shows him as NOT MARRIED on the second set of attestation papers when he joined the Northumberland Fusiliers. Another fact is that Herbert's grandfather, William, is known to have died in Hunslet Leeds in January 1907 but was actually buried at East Witton on 30 January 1907.

Delving into Findmypast, there is a record of a marriage for Herbert Alfred Varo to Alice Ann Norman on 1 June 1903, but this turned out to be the son of John and Hannah born 1882, mentioned above. Their marriage took place in Burmantofts, St Stephens, in Leeds.

There is also a 1911 census sheet for this family: Herbert Alfred Varo aged 29, his wife Alice aged 29, and children Alice aged 7 and John Alfred aged 5, at Sutherland Terrace in Leeds.

So my theory is that the original Herbert Alfred Vayro, who had enlisted twice in different regiments in the First World War, died in Leeds in 1918 and was 33, as shown previously.

Meanwhile, another Herbert Alfred Varo (note the missing Y) had been born three years earlier, married, and had two children, and I think died in 1955.

After receiving several images extracted from ancestry.com for Herbert's First World War service records, there is a mass of evidence showing his very poor state of health, which in turn led to his premature death in 1918.

Part of his attestation papers, army form E501, shows a Herbert Vayro, army number 4244, joining the Fifth West Riding Regiment. He enlisted on 10 July 1915 at Huddersfield, and was living at 20 Roylton Place, Hunslet, in Leeds. His attestation was witnessed by A Richardson.

Another army form (discharge form B268a) for the Territorial Force, shows a Private H Vayro of the 3/5th West Riding Regiment A Company, discharged at age 30 years 4 months. A few personal details were: Height 5'7", 34 1/2" chest, dark complexion, brown eyes, and dark hair. His profession was farmer of 20 Royston Place, Hunslet, Leeds. Discharged "Being medically unfit and not likely to become an efficient soldier" under King's Regs. Para 392-3c. The record did show he had completed only 61 days of service, signed by H Lowther, Lt Colonel 3/5th Battalion and witnessed by S Dugdale.

To support this medical history, Form B178(1) showed Herbert Vayro as part of the 2/4 Northumberland Fusiliers with Herbert at home from 10 July 1915 to 8 September 1915, a total of 61 days.

Army form B2513, part of his second set of attestation papers labelled "Record of Service," showed Herbert Vayro, army number 4895, joining the Second/Fourth Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. Signed up for a second time on 12 September 1916, aged 31 years 9 months, labourer, and NOT MARRIED. This time the attestation was witnessed by Dixon Hall.

A "Report on Joining" for Herbert Vayro (4895) of the Second/Fourth Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers showed William Vayro as father and next of kin. Home campaign 12 September 1916 to 9 February 1917, Herbert is deemed to

[illegible]

West Riding Regiment attestation

have enlisted 2 March 1916, and served 162 days total. He was called up for service and posted 12 September 1916, stamped Territorial Force York, discharged 9 February 1917, "being no longer physically fit for war service."

A report from Ripon Hospital dated 13 November 1916 to 27 December 1916 for Herbert Vayro identified “FIBROMA of the neck.” Notes received from Leeds show that part of the tumour was removed there on 9 August 1915. Pathologically, it was found to be a hard fibroma, too extensive, and at that time bled freely. There was also an entry for 27 November: “Ether and considerable piece of impenetrating fibroma removed, free bleeding.”

Bath War Hospital report dated 8 January to 23 January 1917 for Herbert Vayro showed “CARCENOMA of the neck” and “Invalided as permanently unfit.” Coupled with this, a medical history form B178(2) recorded “Marks indicating congenital deformities show gland in neck and slight glue Valfusion” on 12 September 1915 and stamped B1, dated 27 January 1917.

There is no indication that the fibroma in his neck was caused by an accident in army drill exercises or actual war combat, (if indeed Herbert ever left England), or even during farming work prior to enlistment, and these reports suggest that the tumour was very extensive. He obviously tried very hard to “do his bit for the country,” but within a year of this final hospital report, Herbert had passed away.

This all turned out to be an interesting piece of research, but I think this is probably as far as I shall take Herbert's particular branch of the Vayro or Varo ancestry. However, whilst doing the research I have confirmed from my own searches that my grandfather, Thomas, had definitely enlisted in 1908. But whilst most Vayro individuals serving in The Great War – including my Grandfather Thomas – were

[illegible]

Northumberland Fusiliers attestation

born in the 1880s, there were two persons named James Vayro from the list of 28 whose attestation papers showed 1896 and 1895, both aged 18.

James Vayro (S/N 3818), who had joined the 3rd Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, was born 1878 at Gilling, Richmond, Yorkshire, and turned out to be my grandfather's brother, whose attestation papers show 4 August 1896, aged 18.

James Vayro (S/N 5739) of the Third Battalion Manchester Regiment, was born in Hulme, Manchester, and his attestation papers show 20 September 1895, aged 18. I can only assume both had joined the regular army rather than one of the territorial regiments. There were also three other James Vayros in the records that I felt worthy of note: James Vayro (S/N 96081 AIR 79/871) is shown in the Royal Air Force muster rolls for 1918. He had enlisted on 14 September 1917, aged 47 (born 1870), and other details showed he was in the Royal Flying Corps as Air Mechanic Third Class and Third Acting Major. He was discharged 2 April 1918 and was awarded the Silver War Badge no. 346689 for 1914-1918.

James William Vayro (S/N 5807/295494), who was born 1891 in Wattlefield, Norfolk, was a gunner in the 149th Heavy Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery. He had enlisted on 30 October 1915, aged 24, and was discharged 27 July 1917 under Para 392 (xvi) Kings Regs – Sickness, but mentioned in the Silver War Badge Rolls 1914-1918, granted 18 July 1917.

The final James Vayro (S/N 48227) had joined the Northumberland Fusiliers – in particular, the 27th Battalion Tyneside Irish. He was born in 1882 and died in the Western European Theatre of War in April 1917, aged 35. He is buried at the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais. There is a memorial for him in the local church at Thornton Watlass, in lower Wensleydale. ■

The 36th Guild Conference & AGM

‘Collaboration, Cooperation, and Communication’

27-29 March 2015 in Broughton, Lincolnshire

by Sonia Turner (Member 4661)

Out came the sun to brighten our journey north towards the beautiful county of Lincolnshire. Despite the vagaries of our notorious motorways that extended our travel by a number of hours, we finally arrived at our destination!



Sonia Turner

The Forest Pines Hotel & Golf Resort at Brigg was all that we had been promised. Set in extensive grounds that sported a large golf course with numerous facilities in and around the hotel, it was the perfect setting for the 36th Annual Conference and AGM for our Guild of One-Name Studies. The rooms were really comfortable, the food delicious, and the staff friendly, courteous, and extremely helpful.

The theme was “Collaboration, Cooperation and Communication,” and that was certainly achieved. It was great to see so many first-time attendees, identified by their red name tags, and they were quickly absorbed by all around them. I do hope that they enjoyed the experience!

We were incredibly lucky to have most of our talks, workshops, and lectures conducted by our very own “in-house” experts. The Guild is positively bursting with talent and their generosity in sharing this with us.

The first session followed registration, when Debbie Kennett hosted an informal meeting on DNA. It was incredibly well attended, as the interest in this subject is certainly growing. The room was totally FULL and it was standing room only as people introduced themselves and the discussion went back and forth. Debbie needs no introduction as she is regarded as a positive expert in this field.



Conference
co-organiser
Cliff Kembell

Supper was absolutely delicious and a great opportunity to catch up with friends, old and new. I have to confess to really enjoying the social aspect of our conferences and seminars. It is always a pleasure to join others, including new attendees, for a coffee, a meal, or even a glass of wine as the conversation flows. I can highly recommend their New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc!

A talk followed when Peter Hagger gave us an update on the Constitutional Review.



Conference
co-organiser
Peter Hagger



The winning quiz team included (L to R) Michael Fidgett, Susan Curd, Maurice Gleeson, Debbie Cruwys Kennett, Brian Picton Swann, and Martin Holtby.

In the same room we then dissolved into teams to take part in the “fun” that our resident Quiz Master, Alan Moorhouse, always provides. Alan really knows how to set some obscure questions! One round concerned the local area, but we got through it relatively unscathed. At one time our team was running second, which was quite amazing. However, following a gruelling couple of hours and lots of interaction, a winning team emerged in the form of the DNA experts Debbie Kennett, Maurice Gleeson, Brian Swann, and their compatriots, aptly named the “Genies.”

They were called forward for a photograph and to receive their prizes. We all treasure our vintage photos, I am sure, so in a few years’ time, the great-great-grandchildren of our triumphant few can relish these images of their ancestors clutching their chocolate Easter eggs! In a marked contrast to actual vintage ephemera, they were at least smiling.

Saturday dawned and the AGM was upon us. Our President, Derek Palgrave, opened the event and the meeting was not only very smooth but passed quite quickly, as there was only one question from the floor. This enabled us to make for the coffee and biscuits... and more chat!

We then all enjoyed the keynote talk by Laurence Harris. Laurence is Head of Genealogy (UK) for MyHeritage, which I am sure many of you are familiar with, and also a former



Keynote speaker Laurence Harris of MyHeritage addresses the audience Saturday morning.



Tessa Keough joins the software panel live from the USA, with other panel members (L to R) Ken Toll, Paul Howes, and Jim Benedict in the background.

Chairman of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain (JGSGB). He has researched a number of personalities for the BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* series.

Laurence talked about whether we should share our trees and the benefits of collaboration and its potential to break down "brick walls." It was a thoroughly interesting and thought-provoking subject!

This was followed by a panel session on "Which Software Do I Use?" Paul Howes, Jim Benedict, Bob Cumberbatch, and – with the wonders of modern science – Tessa Keough by video from the USA. They started by telling us how their studies had come about.

They talked of the likes of Legacy, TNG, OneNote, Evernote, Office 365, and Apps and more. All the panellists seemed to make an argument in favour of Facebook as a way of communicating with people who might be willing to share.

Jim amused us with his prediction that he might actually be *finished* in 40 years, so he is hoping to reach the ripe old age of... 110!

Paul related how he had greatly benefitted from the Guild's Marriage Challenges, to the tune of some £10,000. Well, Paul does have a LOT of trees, 96,000 if I am not mistaken.

The overall feeling was that they all found it a lot of fun.

We then began to break away to attend the "Tools and Techniques" talks of our choice, so I will now report on those that I personally was lucky enough to attend. So just a quick mention of those that I did not.

"Globalising Your Study" with Paul Howes, "Getting Started



Paul Howes leads an interactive session on "Globalising Your Study."

with DNA – Starting a Project" with Maurice Gleeson, "Blogs – What Are Available? Should I Create My Own?" with Debbie Kennett, "Using Wordpress for Blogs & Websites" with Alec Tritton, "Leveraging Your Contacts" with Paul Howes, "Communication from the Hereafter" with Jim Benedict and Mike Spathaky, and "Using Blogger for Blogs" with Julie Goucher.

However, my first foray was into "Webinars – What is Available and How Do I Participate?"

Tessa Keough brought "Webinars" to the fore in a comprehensive way. As the screen beamed Tessa from her home, I simply HAD to ask what time it was there. Well, it was 7 o'clock in the morning! Tessa, if you had been here in England, I would have made you a nice pot of tea...

Also, Tessa stressed the importance of being organised in this sense. Tessa suggested that it was a good idea to make a plan as to how you wanted your ONS to progress. Take a look at the opportunity to attend Webinars and the like and decide which courses would suit you NOW. Make a log of your learning experiences and perhaps each month make time for eight hours of education, both online and off. Do not forget "Tessa's 20s" – short bursts of inspiration in a video available online. However, Tessa mentioned a huge amount of possibilities, including Pharos online courses and many more. Plenty of food for thought.

As we relished afternoon tea, the new Committee members were announced. Our new Chairman was to be Paul Howes. Well, judging by the cheers and the outbreak of spontaneous applause, it was a popular choice! We can now look forward to the future under Paul's leadership.



Alan Moorhouse

I then enjoyed Alan Moorhouse's "How to Set Up a Facebook Group."

Alan is very enthusiastic about this, informing us that one in five of the population have a presence on Facebook, great for an ONS; and what's more, it's FREE! We learned how to create a page, adjust privacy settings, and many more details on how to get the best out of this type of social media.

It was a very well-attended workshop, illustrating the growing interest in communication for furthering our studies.



Bob Cumberbatch talking on the give and take of collaboration.

Bob Cumberbatch then delivered "Collaboration – The Give and Take of Your ONS."

Bob talked of "strategies for giving" and other techniques and tools. He asked us what our audience was looking for. Raw data alone was not of much interest: we needed stories, biographies, galleries, artefacts, origins, meanings, and distribution. Plenty to think about here!



Mike Spathaky (left) and Jim Benedict discussing the Guild Members' Website Project. During the talk, Mike demonstrated building a website in 15 minutes!

Today's lectures over, it was time to dress up and fill the tables for supper with fellow members for delicious food, fine wine, sparkling conversation, and fun! Time to unwind, renew acquaintances, and develop new friends. For those with sufficient energy and a desire to dance, music followed from Grove Disco.

Sunday began with the opportunity to join the ecumenical service; however, our esteemed organiser, Cliff Kemball, had overlooked one vital ingredient. Cliff had forgotten to bring the keyboard to accompany the singing. Was our congregation about to sing a *cappella*? Undeterred, Cliff sought out our trusty hotel representative who saw no problem, he could rectify the situation immediately. Dashing away he was back minutes later with a keyboard alright... a COMPUTER keyboard! (*Actually, Cliff, what was the outcome?*)

Cliff managed to redeem himself by recruiting a new member for the Guild from one of the hotel guests, so I guess it was one all.

That excitement over we were ready for the day and another packed selection of interactive sessions.

Janet Few, as always, gave a very interesting presentation. We considered "From One-Name Study to One-Name Story." We shared ideas on our individual tables. Janet encouraged us to write about our study at some time, perhaps a book, website, Guild profile, article, newsletter, blog, talk, or display. Let's face it, these are available to all of us and any could be considered "publication."



Janet Few



Maurice Gleeson

"Managing Your DNA Project & Interpreting Results" was delivered by Maurice Gleeson and very entertaining it was, in addition to being informative!

Maurice pointed out that we were celebrating the first day of British summer time and we might prefer to be gardening! No, Maurice, we would rather be listening to you and the enormous amount of information that you imparted.

It went at Maurice's promised "cracking pace" and we covered surnames, genetic distance, relationships and numbers of markers, genetic results, and much more. A jam-packed session reflecting the growing interest in this current topic, and it was a very amusing talk!

A third session was on offer after that, also with a choice. I attended Jackie Depelle's "What is Available and How Do I Participate?"



Jackie Depelle

We mainly gave thought to forums and mailing lists in order to establish their importance to us and what we expected from a forum.

After a packed morning, I tell you I was ready for my Sunday lunch!

Next I sought out "Succession Proofing Your One-Name Study," in the capable hands of Jim Benedict all the way from Calgary. The room was full with enthusiastic participants ready for Jim's PowerPoint presentation that was quite hilarious at times. Jim made it such fun as he talked about the various ways that we store our files and information. He discussed the dangers of passing, leaving no passwords that would give access to all our hard work. As Jim irreverently warned us "The gravedigger is waiting for you and your stuff!"

Then it was breakout time. Each table was invited to choose a different level, pre-determined by Jim, that was available for keeping our studies. This ranged from pencil and paper to the Cloud. The latter topic arrived on our table and generated a lively discussion with a great deal of enthusiasm for this method, plus spontaneous demonstrations on various iPhones!

After about 15 minutes we came together again to relate our findings and share our opinions with the whole room, and a lively discussion rounded off a really fun talk.

Afternoon tea ensued, followed by our final talk with popular keynote speaker Mark Bayley from S&N Genealogy, always a pleasure to listen to.



Mark Bayley

Mark took us through "Breaking Down Brick Walls in Your Family History" using their unique tools and data, and very comprehensive it was, too. Mark had uncovered some hilarious entries in the 1911 census returns which people had written, and the hour just flew by.

Derek Palgrave, our President, brought a very successful and packed weekend and Conference to an end. It had been a lively and friendly weekend. Time to say our "goodbyes" for another year and look forward to the next.

Cliff Kemball and Peter Hagger did a great job and I will leave you with another quote from Jim Benedict, which I cannot disagree with: that we have "quite a FANTASTIC hobby!" ■



At the Guild Bookstall (L to R): Chad Hanna, Gillian Stevens, Jeremy Wilkes, Peter Copsey.



Saturday night dancers: Tracy Care, Jo Fitz-Henry, Jackie Depelle, Rowan Tanner.

Keynot

IMAGES the 36th AGM & Co at Brou Lincol March



"Question Master"
Alan Moorhouse.

Conference
banquet Saturday
evening.



Recipients of the Guild Award for Excellence with the President. L to R: Anne Leonard, Mike Spathaky, Paul Howes, President Derek Palgrave, Debbie Kennett, Tracy Care.



Alec Tritton speaks on using Wordp
blogs and websites.



Speaker Laurence Harris of MyHeritage addresses the audience.



Retiring Guild Chairman Corrinne Goodenough reports to the AGM.

FROM th Guild Conference ghton, nshire 2015



The membership at the AGM Saturday morning.

President Derek Palgrave presents Jan Cooper with her Master Craftsman certificate.



The Regional Reps present at the meeting (from L to R): Chris Braund, Cliff Kemball, Jacqueline Reid, Ken Toll, Susan Thornton-Grimes, Gerald Cooke, Jean Gordon Adshead, Julie Goucher, Paul Featherstone, Peter Hagger, Jim Benedict, Toll, Barbara Griffiths, Martin Watson, David Burgess.

Photos by Peter Hagger and Alan Moorhouse.



Surname Simulations, DNA, and Large-Descent Families

by **Dr John S Plant (Member 4890)**
and **Prof Richard E Plant (Member 6100)**



Our progress with surname simulations has been outlined in JoONS articles,^{[1][2][3]} on the Guild website^{[4][5]} and elsewhere.^[6] In this article, we consider some corroborating Y-DNA evidence and address some difficulties in unraveling descent lines, especially for large families in large surnames.

A Brief Summary of Our Simulations

We have developed a computer model for the simulation of English surnames. Large surnames are more regular than are rare surnames in terms of patterns of emigration and population growth overseas and in the UK. Our simulations predict that, for common surnames, the overseas population will generally be around four times that in the UK, with a spread of uncertainty that arises from random chance. The predictions of our simulations are largely borne out by the available documentary and DNA evidence.^[5]

Chance is a main factor in determining whether a “descent-family” dies out in the male line, remains small, or grows large.^{[1][4]} By a descent-family, we mean the descendants down male lines from a single male progenitor in (say) 14th century England. The largest predicted size for a descent-family in the UK can be affected by other factors besides random chance. These include the possibility, for example, of the first men having several successive wives who together produce more than the usual number offspring; this increases the chances that a subsequent descent-family will survive and thrive. Also, there is an effect from how much the general population in a region has increased.^{[2][4]}

We have input known historical population data into our model and found, for example, that past conditions favour large descent-families in the county of Staffordshire more than for England as a whole. There are also indications of particularly high surname growths in parts of south-east Lancashire and West

Yorkshire.^[4] Some of this is illustrated in Figure 1 and fuller details are given elsewhere.^{[4][5]}

Our simulations predict that there may be many more origins to a surname than the number whose male lines survive.^[1] Note that by a single-origin surname, we mean one whose *living* population had just one origin to the name; there could have been other origins whose descents died out.

The case of a single-origin surname is represented at the extreme right of Figure 1. This corresponds to the label 1 on the x-axis, meaning that there is just one surviving descent-family in the surname. The largest predicted size in the UK, under Staffordshire growth conditions, is then represented by the right-most blue triangle (labeled Staffs High). This particular blue triangle has a y-axis value of just over 10,000 people. However, this is an extreme event and a single-origin surname is more likely to be much smaller. For example, in 90 percent of cases, assuming Staffordshire growth conditions, the largest descent-family size is predicted to be below 10,000 people (right-most brown triangle, labeled Staffs 90pc).

Rare Surnames

As an example of a rare surname, we can consider one with a UK population of 100 people. This corresponds to the

value 100 on the y-axis of Figure 1. Under English growth conditions, such a surname is predicted to contain three or fewer descent-families. This limit is represented by the result that, at 3 on the x-axis, the blue square (labeled England Low) has a y-axis value of about 100. This means that, in English growth conditions, three surviving descent-families can be expected to have a combined population as low as 100, but this is a statistically unlikely event involving three unusually small descent-families.

Statistically extreme results are omitted from Figure 1 by ignoring the blue squares and blue triangles. The right-most brown diamond (England 10pc) has a value of about 100 on the y-axis. This signifies that only 10 percent of single-origin surnames are predicted to be smaller than this.

Further simulations (not shown here) do not rule out that a surname sized 100 could conceivably, as a rare event, contain more than three descent-families. This might arise in a place where lower growth factors pertain, such as in the county of Wiltshire.^{[4][6]}

A possible shortcoming of these simulations is that we are neglecting that a surname might have been adopted, or found its way to England, relatively recently. That would provide

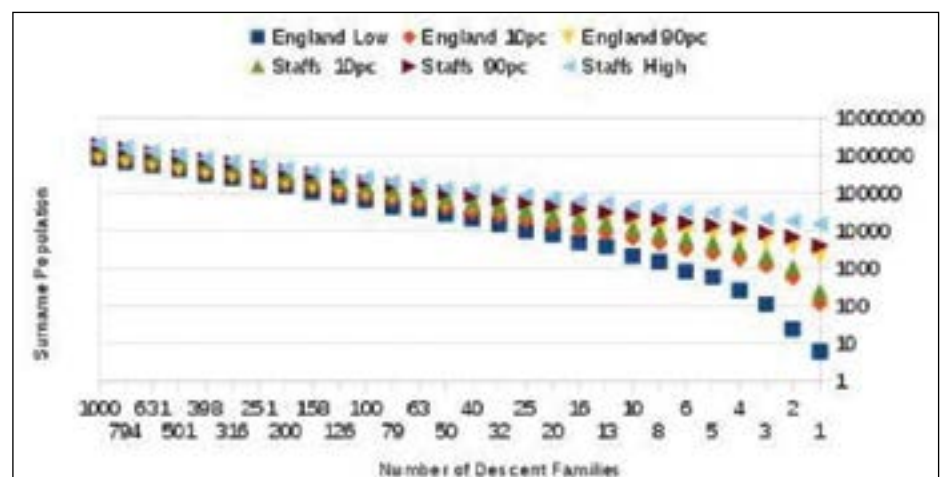


Figure 1: Predicted UK populations of surnames containing various numbers of surviving descent-families. As well as upper and lower limits, 10th and 90th percentiles are shown.

an alternative explanation for the low population of a surname that is rare in the UK. For a large descent-family, we can be more confident that it originated early, allowing more time for it to grow large fortuitously in the UK.

Limits of DNA Corroboration

We can compare the predicted descent-family sizes from our simulations with some observed results for real surnames. Estimates of real descent-family sizes can be obtained by Y-DNA testing though the process is not without problems. We here consider some data for the Smith surname and illustrate a particular difficulty that arises for estimating large descent-family sizes in prolific and very common surnames.

First, it is important to stress that the men selected for this type of DNA test need to be a random sample of the surname. Otherwise, the findings will not typify the surname as a whole. In practice, random samples are rarely obtained though some suitable DNA results are given in a 2008 research paper by King and Jobling (K&J) for variously sized surnames.^[7]

In analysing the Y-DNA results, one starts by identifying a descent cluster of closely matching men in a random sample of the surname. This then needs to be augmented by adding others who do not even nearly match – how many more depends on an assumed rate of non-paternity events (NPEs).^[5]

K&J used some *ad hoc* rules to assess that there was a “true descent cluster” (*sic*) of nine nearly matching men for Smith. Depending on how they are interpreted, these rules may correspond to as much as 15.5 percent of their random sample which amounts to a UK descent family size of around 100,000 people. This very large number exceeds our simulations’ predicted upper limit of around 10,000 people in a single family.

However, the rather arbitrary nature of a deduced cluster size is illustrated in Figure 2. This shows a so-called phylogenetic tree which we have obtained by applying MEGA6 software^[8] to the raw K&J DNA data for Smith.^[7] Near the top of Figure 2, there are three exactly matching men, denoted Sm42, Sm43 and Sm41. Around this core, K&J’s *ad hoc* rules deemed that there was an agglomeration of a further six close matches. Such a biological cluster is not readily apparent in Figure 2.

There is also, in fact, some similar clustering in K&J’s control sample of

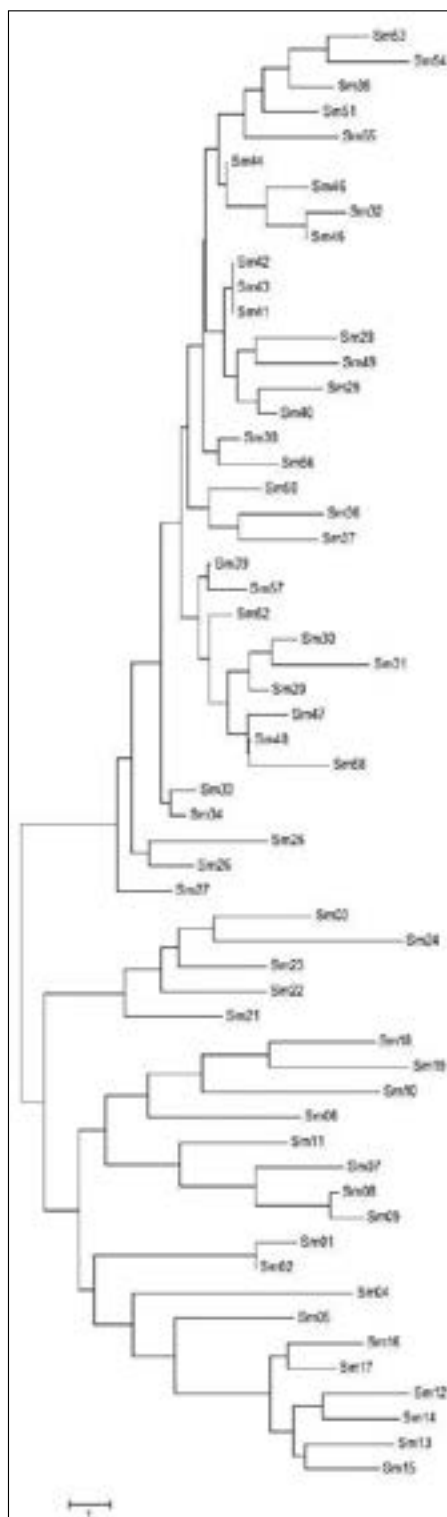


Figure 2: MEGA6 phylogenetic tree of K&J’s DNA data for Smith.

110 men, whom they selected randomly from the general population of England. Their control sample has three adjacent pairs of exactly matching men and these could be taken together as a “split core” for a cluster.^[6] This clustering adjoins the Western Atlantic Modal Haplotype (WAMH) and near here, in particular, such clustering is well known *not* to correspond necessarily to a “true descent cluster” within a surname. Indeed, each man in the control sample has a different surname. The cluster that

K&J identified for Smith was similar to that in the control sample and also near the WAMH.

K&J were well aware of this phenomenon, but they went on to couch their explanation in technical detail that might well not be meaningful to a non-statistician. Briefly, they computed a set of statistics denoted h , F_{ST} , and R_{ST} . Each of these is a measure of the genetic structure (roughly speaking, the amount of relatedness) in each surname. They also plotted analyses of the F_{ST} and R_{ST} statistics and they denoted, in a graph, that the overall genetic structure of the Smith sample was not significantly different from that of their control sample. They found the same lack of statistical significance for other large surnames.

In short, K&J’s *ad hoc* rules for identifying “true descent clusters” give a result that apparently discredits our computer simulations in the case of Smith. However, following their further analyses, K&J concluded that their Y-DNA findings provide no statistically significant evidence of UK descent-families that are larger than 10,000 people. With this eventual qualification, K&J’s findings are consistent with our simulations.

Clustering Rules

K&J’s *ad hoc* rules were designed for a case where 17 Y-STR markers are measured for each man, together with a few known Y-SNPs for each. As some readers will already know, in a descending line of fathers and sons, a Y-STR will typically mutate much more often than a Y-SNP. We refer the reader to other texts for a more detailed description of these mutations to the Y-chromosome, which are passed down male lines of descent.^[9]

K&J used Y-SNPs to allocate their tested men into some known common Y-DNA haplogroups (*aka* clades). A haplogroup groups together those descended from the same putative forefather, traditionally in prehistoric times. For those men who were found to belong to either one of two specific haplogroups (R1b1 or I), K&J’s rules required that there need to be at least three men with an exactly matching set of Y-STRs. Only then would they allow it, in the case of these two particular haplogroups, to qualify as a core for a true cluster.

When more Y-STR markers are measured, such a core of exact matches will typically split apart. For example, for a haphazard sample of men bearing our own common surname Plant, we

have a core of *exact* Y-STR matches at the 12-marker level; but, this is resolved into *nearly* matching men, when the number of measured Y-STRs is increased from 12 to 37.^[10] Elsewhere,^[5] we accordingly describe different considerations from those of K&J for identifying a DNA descent cluster for a single-descent-family.

Some More Recent Y-DNA Developments

It is common in one-name studies to measure 37 Y-STRs for each man at the testing company Family Tree DNA (FTDNA): this is called a Y-DNA37 test. Moreover, FTDNA provide as many as 111 Y-STRs as a standard test called Y-DNA111. Beyond that, it has recently become more affordable to carry out comprehensive testing for novel Y-SNPs, using Next Generation Sequencing (NGS). FTDNA's so-called BigY test of Y-SNPs can determine further haplogroups by NGS and this test now costs less than twice that of a Y-DNA111 test of Y-STRs.

To illustrate some recent advances that have resulted from NGS determinations, Figure 3 shows a Network diagram^[11] based on Y-DNA37 data for men that have been found to be in the rare haplogroup R-L617.^[12] This haplogroup is a sub-clade of a parent clade R-DF27, which is part of R-P312, which is part of R-M269, which is part of R1b1, which then accounts for a substantial fraction of all men in Western Europe. By determining more Y-SNPs for a man, it is possible to identify more tightly his haplogroup (*i.e.* a more recent sub-clade) in the so-called human haplotree of male-line descent. Each descending sub-clade has arisen at a later time and progressively contains less of the world population.^[13]

Though it is not a hard and fast rule, the more widely separated are the circles in Figure 3, the more likely their descent lines have diverged at a time near the earliest era of their haplogroup: around four millennia ago in this case of R-L617. It can be seen that the Plant cluster (individuals prefixed P) is well isolated from the other known individuals; this remains true when others not in this haplogroup are also considered^[14]. On the other hand, those in the circles prefixed T have various surnames (Tyndal, Teague, Marsh, Spink and Westmoreland) and they nearly match with the Marsh descent cluster (individuals prefixed M). It is uncertain whether, for example, (a) these differently surnamed individuals might have arisen through undisclosed Marsh paternities producing offspring in these other surnames, or (b) they all could

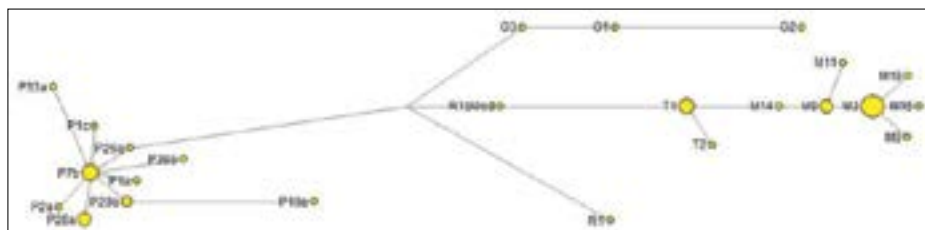


Figure 3: Living individuals belonging to the R1b-L617 haplogroup (R1bMod is the modal signature of a parent haplogroup R1b).

have shared a male-line ancestor in the millennia that have passed between the formation of the R-L617 haplogroup and the development of English surnames.

Large Descent-Families

Large surnames typically have many ambiguities of forename (e.g. many called William or John) in the documentary evidence. Our computer simulations also reveal the complications of how common surnames can contain very large as well as smaller descent-families.

For a very large descent-family, particular problems arise. Many bearers of the same surname are typically found near the large family's ancestral homeland. Even for those who are elsewhere, there are uncertainties about whether there are other descent-families of the surname in that neighbourhood, or whether more than one branch of the very large family has migrated there. Each descent-family can usually be distinguished relatively readily by straightforward Y-DNA testing, though this is complicated by NPEs. However, small Y-STR differences between different branches of a large descent-family are generally much more difficult to identify and interpret.

For a single-descent-family to have grown abnormally large, some branching in the family can be expected to have occurred in the centuries soon after the family's medieval origin. We cannot rely on Y-STR markers to characterise the different branches. That is because these markers are typically fast changing, some more so than others. The same Y-STR mutation can have occurred down different branches of a descent family (parallel mutations); also, a fast-changing marker can mutate back to an earlier value (back mutation). There are accordingly ambiguities about the order in which the observed Y-STR mutations have occurred, making it difficult to ascribe one to a particular time in a particular branch. For example, a mutation might have occurred early in a particular branch followed in a sub-branch by a different marker mutation which, however, has also occurred as a parallel mutation early in a different branch.

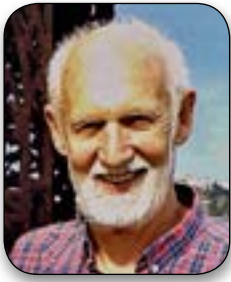
More promisingly, not only are Y-SNP mutations much more stable, there are very many different ones that can arise. Unlike the Y-STR, it is very unlikely that there will be parallel or back mutations of a stable Y-SNP within the timescale of a surname. An NGS test can determine different Y-SNPs down different descent lines of a family, revealing perhaps half a dozen Y-SNPs that characterise each line.

We can hence much more safely identify an early Y-SNP mutation in a descent-family, by seeking mutations that are shared by many of the family's men. This can identify a major branch of the family. Subsequent Y-SNP mutations, shared by fewer, can then characterise subsequent sub-branching within the branch. Upon reaching the times when adequate documentary evidence is available, we can combine Y-SNP, Y-STR and documentary evidence to identify still further sub-branching down to the multitudinous twigs of a large family's individual men.

We describe elsewhere^[10] a case study where we identify four major branches of a large descent-family, using just Y-STR data alone. This process can be expected to become simpler, more assured, and produce more detail with the growing availability of affordable and comprehensive Y-SNP data.^[12] ■

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Origin of Hollow... Via Holla Via Place Name?

by Colin Hollow (Member 3056)

The name Hollow is recognized as a Cornish name. Henry Brougham Guppy, in his 1890 book *Homes of Family Names in Great Britain*, listed it as in the peculiar group, i.e. names found mainly in one county. Guppy's work has had its critics, but the recognition that Hollow is Cornish has lived on.

There are two explanations of the origin of Hollow found in surname textbooks; most surname texts do not mention it at all. The origin given in one commonly quoted text, Reaney and Wilson's *A Dictionary of English Surnames*, is that Hollow comes from the old English word "holh," meaning hollow or sunken, and thus the name for someone who lived in or by a hollow.

The second explanation is from Cornish historian George Pawley White's book *A Handbook of Cornish Names*, and his explanation has a more local flavour. He believed that Hollow is derived from the word "hallow," meaning moor, so a dweller of or by the moor. Sometimes it is explained as a contraction of the name Penhallow, which means from the head or end of the moor. The Penhallow family had an estate in Philliegh on the Roseland Peninsula in mid-Cornwall, but Penhallow has disappeared as a surname in Cornwall.

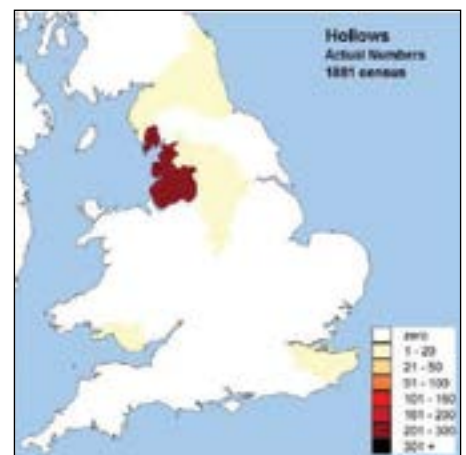
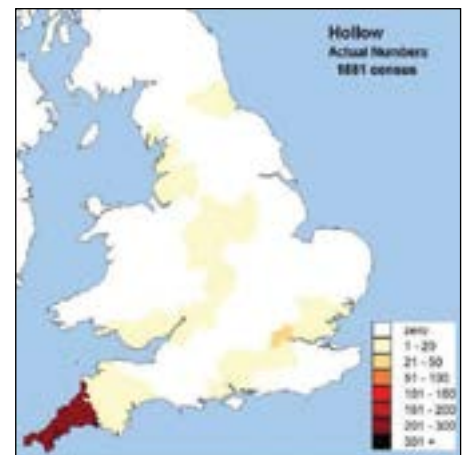
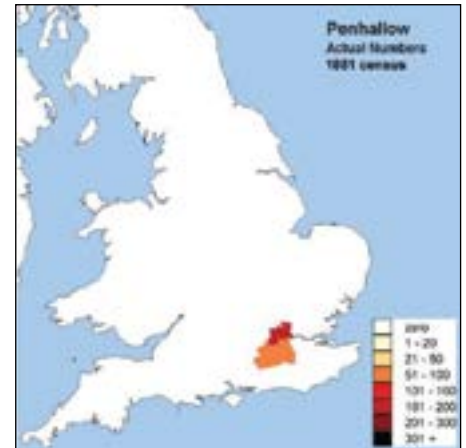
Both these explanations are suggesting that Hollow is what is called a topographical surname: e.g. Hill, Wood, Downs, Ford. I have never been happy with these explanations of the name origin. Moors are defined as broad areas of open land that are not good for farming. Moors are known all over England, but Hollow is a name that is very much a Cornish name, and more than that, it is almost confined to the pointy end of Cornwall, the West Penwith region. This area does not have areas described as moors as far as I am aware. Cornwall's best-known moor is Bodmin Moor, and it is not and never has been a Hollow stronghold. The only Hollow residents have been inmates of the Bodmin gaol.

The same argument applies to the name being explained as someone who lived by a hollow. The Hollow name would be even more common across the country than Moor or Moore.

A similar origin is given for the name Hollows, but it is a localized name too. Most Hollows were centred on Lancashire; it was not a common name of Cornwall. It would be logical, given the number of moors and hollows, that the name would also be found in other counties. The name Holloway is more widely used and it would seem that surname is more likely to be associated with moors or hollows. The distribution patterns of Hollow, Hollows, and Holloway from the 1881 census highlight the localized distribution of Hollow and Hollows and the more general distribution of Holloway. Mapping of the Hollow and Hollows (and variants) records in the IGI also shows the clustering of Hollow in Cornwall and Hollows in Lancashire.

What I have found in studying and recording early Cornish records is that the name was recorded mostly as Holla. In the subsidy rolls of 1549 and the muster rolls of 1569, Holla is used. The first parish records found of Holla are a marriage in Madron in 1578, and a Christening, also in Madron, of 1593. The first time the name Hollow was used in a parish record was in the 1600s, but it wasn't common.

It is not uncommon to find Holla and Hollow used in the same family. As time went on the name Hollow was more frequently used. In the 1841 census in Cornwall there were 274 Hollow records and 22 Holla records, but by the 1851 census there were 334 Hollow records and only four Holla records (from one family in Sancreed). In the 1861 census there were no Holla names but there were seven records – one family – with the Hallo name. When traced back, this family had been recorded as Hollow and Holla but had used Hallo or Hallow for some time and seemed to favour Hallo.



The name is still used by the family; there are Hallo descendents in Australia today.

My thought is that the surname Hollow is a transformation of the surname



Holla and that we should concentrate on finding the origin of Holla. My feeling is that it may be a locational name, that is, a name derived from a place name. Many British surnames derive from the village or manor or property where people worked or lived. The British National Archives has an online catalogue and a search for "Holla" throws up mostly people with that surname or the surname Hollas, but there are three records that indicate it was a place name too. I must mention that the Hollas surname is very much concentrated in the Yorkshire west riding in the 1881 census, which is the county adjacent to the Hollows stronghold.

Back to the main argument. The first Holla record is from 1506/7. It is held by the Devon Heritage Centre. The record's description (in the text box to the right) shows that this family derived rents from a place called Holla.

The second record, found at the Cornwall Records Office and dated 1546, is the "Rent roll of Travanion property." The Trevanions were landed gentry with extensive lands in Cornwall. The roll consists of a list of nine manors, each followed by a names of properties that are part of that manor. These would be farms or other rent-generating properties. One manor, Grogoth Manor in the centre of Cornwall near Probus, has a list of 27 properties belonging to it, one of which is Holla.

The third reference refers to the same place and is also held in the Cornwall Record Office. The record is from 1677 and is a lease document of Trevanion lands, in St Michael Caerhays, Gorran,

Veryan, Kenwyn – all parishes in the centre of Cornwall. Listed in this reference is "Holla alias Lamellyn." This apparent name change might explain why Holla is no longer to be found as a property in this district. There still is a Lamellyn Farmhouse near Probus. It is a grade II listed 17th and 18th century farmhouse with a 20th century wing.

The three references to a place called Holla are more than likely referring to two places, one in Devon and one in Cornwall. The Arundell and the Trevanion families were linked by marriage. To link these place names with the surname Holla, which is centred on the very western part of Cornwall, requires some explanation. People did take their surname from the name of the property they worked on. Which begs the question, why isn't the Holla surname common in the area where the place Holla existed?

The British Archives also contain the earliest record of a person called Holla. In a record within the period 1486 to 1515, and another in the period 1493 to 1500, a John Holla is mentioned in relation to the ownership of a messuage in Penzance, Cornwall. A messuage is a term used in conveyancing, and refers to a dwelling house and all the buildings attached or belonging to it, its garden and orchard. This record is about 50 to 70 years before the first muster, subsidy, and parish records of a Holla, and it is in Penzance.

If the name Holla is linked to a property in the middle of Cornwall how do

Grant of wardship and marriage

d. Johanna Arundell, widow of Edmund Arundell, knight, and Elizabeth Radclyff, her daughter.

Thomas Upcott.

Wardship and marriage of John Wey son and heir of William Wey, who held the lands and *rents of Holla* and Underclyff by grant of Edmund Arundell and held by knight service of the manor of Huwyssh.

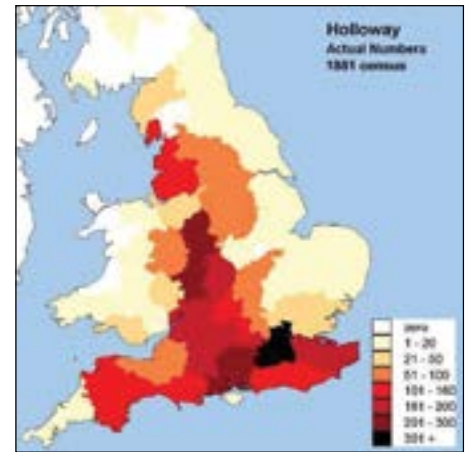
Warranty against Edmund Arundell's executor.

2 Tag seals and signatures.

Date: 9 Jan 1506 [/7]

Held by: Devon Heritage Centre (South West Heritage Trust),

Language: English



we explain the surname being used predominantly in the west of Cornwall?

A possible explanation could be that the Holla family or families moved from one Trevanion holding to others. The Trevanion manors are found over a wide area of Cornwall. In the west they were found in the parishes of St. Buryan, Ludgvan, Morvah, Sennen, Zennor, Gulval, and St. Just in Penwith. These are the areas that the Holla and Hollow families predominately lived.

Of course, the surname may have originated much earlier, when the property called Holla was owned by the Arundell family. The National Archives reference to John Holla and his messuage in Penzance in the late 1400s or early 1500s suggests he could be the first of the Holla line, perhaps granted a messuage for services to the Trevanion family or to the Arundell family. He could have taken on or been given the surname Holla when he lived and worked on the property name Holla. The Arundells also owned manors in the Penwith region, the western tip of Cornwall.

More must be done before this theory of the origin of Holla could be confidently embraced. Researchers into surname origins are more and more questioning surname origin explanations that have been included in references such as Reaney and Wilson. A study by the researchers at the University of Western England, Bristol, is beginning to revisit and reinterpret commonly held ideas of surname origins. I have contacted this group and the name Hollow is included in their study. So far though they appear to be going with: "Locative name: from Middle English *holgh*, *holwe*, *holouz* 'hole, hollow, burrow' (Old English *holh*), for someone who lived in or by a hollow." Disappointing, but they are looking at my argument, the one you

have just read. It is too late to have it included in their published work but they have taken note of it.

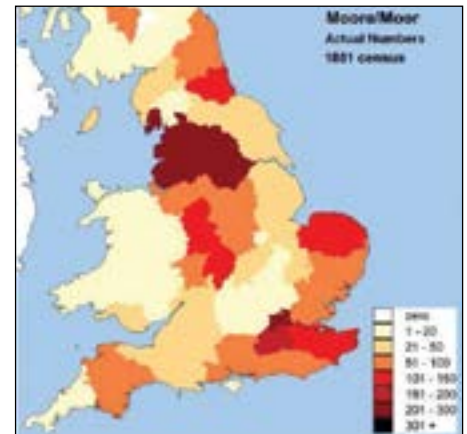
I don't think I am breaking new ground here in the one-name community: what I have found reiterates what people before me have said. A study of name origins has to look at all evidence and not rely so heavily on language etymology and linking names to occurrences in historic documents. Reaney and Wilson list two holders of similar names with the Hollow entry, Peter De Holwe 1279 Cambridgeshire and Thomas De Hollowe 1327 Worcestershire. Was there any attempt to trace their families forward?

What is their link to living by a hollow? Did they finish up in Cornwall?

What I have hoped to show is that one-namers and family historians can provide valuable evidence of a surname's origin and development.

Postscript

Just for interest, I built a map of the 1881 distribution of the surnames Moor and Moore. A dweller by the moor seems a more likely explanation of this surname. Moore/Moor is the 32nd most common name in England according to Wikipedia. The Hollow surname is not listed on Wikipedia. ■



"Dweller by the moor" is a more likely source for the surname Moore/Moor than it is for Hollow.

Bringing a Family History Writeup to Life

by John Speake (Member 1819)

For the last few winters I have been writing up the history of the Speake family in Shropshire. They first appear at Westbury in the 1525 Lay subsidy, and by the 1560s they had also migrated further west to a township of Priestweston, in the parish of Chirbury, adjacent to the Welsh border.

In the 1570s I found that two cases of riotous assembly had been brought against them in the Court of the Star Chamber. The usual court for settling such local matters would have been the Court of the Council of the Marches of Wales at Ludlow, but it appears that richer plaintiffs would take their cases to the Court of the Star Chamber at Westminster, London in order to cause the greatest inconvenience to the accused. (London was some 150 miles from Priestweston.)

The first case, in 1574, involved the landlord of the Speake family taking wood from a field he had leased to them in Priestweston, which was not allowed under the terms of the lease. I was able to find the scene of the dispute by consulting the 1845 tithe redemption map, which showed two of the three field names mentioned in the case documents. In the plaintiff's statement, it was alleged that Thomas Speake threatened Thomas Middleton with his pitchfork saying "If thou stir, I will thrust this pitchfork to thy heart."

The second case — only four months later — involved the recovery of cattle which had been stolen from the Speakes and then sold to a third party at a market some miles away. The cattle were then conveyed some 20 miles from Priestweston by their purchasers. It must have been very difficult for the Speakes to have tracked them down so far from home.

I assume that they then approached the new "owners" and appealed to them to release the cattle. When this failed, they went to the constable of Chirbury to obtain a warrant for the release of their cattle.

It seems that the Speakes thought it would be better to spirit away their cattle before dawn, rather than face a daytime confrontation. The plaintiff's statement relates that "dyvers of the neighbours adjoining as well weoman as men did soddenly ryse out of there bedds and did come in ayde of your said constable and would have apprehended the said

Malefactor and ryotus persons and takn frome them the said cattells with adoe Albe it there willinges yett the said deffendantes were so weapened and desperatly bent and so many in number that they withstood and did ryotously contend with your said subject and constable and the said quyet neighbours that came in ayde as aforesaid and so did beate and wound them and yvell intreat the said weoman that most of them were greatly wounded maymehed and with violens the said ryotous persons pulled the heare of the said weomens heddes and trodd them under their feete in the diert."

It seemed to me that it would be a great enhancement to my history if I could capture these events visually. I am no artist, and spent some time looking for an illustrator to take on the commission.

I then heard about James Gray, who had undertaken similar work, although not at such an early date. He was enthusiastic about the project, and first produced an artwork for the first case. This was so successful I asked him to try and capture the confrontation of the second.

He can be contacted through his website <http://www.jamesgrayarts.com/home>. The prices for my two artworks were very reasonable. ■



This is James Gray's depiction of the recovery of cattle.



A Very Merry Widow?

by Tony Harris (Member 5904)

While following up the Australian newspapers in <http://trove.nla.gov.au> for sightings of any PHILO's (for which I got 55,265 hits), and after trying to dispose of the many familiar unwanted references to philosophy, philosopher, letters to the editor from Philo-something or other, the forenames Philo and Philomena and the author Philo Vance, I was still left with the local Australian problems of Mr. Philo (an Australian racehorse) and Burns Philp & Co., a major Australian shipping line. Eventually I did manage to start looking at a few genuine Philo references.

The one that really caught my eye was an article in *The Perth Daily News* which I later found was first published in the UK paper *The Sunday Post* of 26 February 1922. The text is below:

The Sunday Post, 26 Feb 1922

A Bride for the Seventh Time

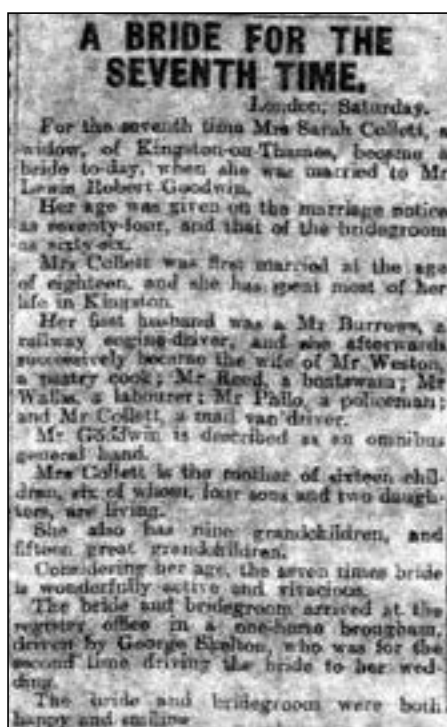
For the seventh time Mrs Sarah Collett, a widow, of Kingston-on-Thames, became a bride today, when she was married to Mr. Lewis Robert Goodwin.

Her age was given on the marriage notice as seventy-four, and that of the bridegroom as sixty-six.

Mrs Collett was first married at the age of eighteen, and she has spent most of her life in Kingston.

Her first husband was a Mr. Burrows, a railway engine-driver, and she afterwards successively became the wife of Mr. Weston, a pastry cook; Mr Reed, a boatswain; Mr Wallis, a labourer; Mr Philo, a policeman; and Mr Collett, a mail van driver.

Mr Goodwin is described as an omnibus general hand.



The Sunday Post of 26 February, 1922 announces the wedding of Sarah Collett.

Mrs Collett is the mother of sixteen children, six of whom, four sons and two daughters, are living.

She also has nine grandchildren, and fifteen great grandchildren.

Considering her age, the seven times bride is wonderfully active and vivacious.

The bride and bridegroom arrived at the register office in a one-horse brougham, driven by George Skelton, who was for the second time driving the bride to her wedding.

The bride and bridegroom were both happy and smiling.

I had known about the marriage of Sarah Wallace to Robert Henry Philo in 1902, but not all of her previous and subsequent marriages.

Sarah Goodwin died in 1929 and was buried in Kingston upon Thames Cemetery as were her husbands Walter Wallace, Robert Philo, John Collett, and Lewis Robert Goodwin.

The story of Robert Henry Philo and Sarah Goodwin (nee Gates) is worth expanding, as it shows how complicated life was for some families. Robert Henry Philo was born in the last quarter of 1852 in Dovercourt, Essex, the eldest of four children. In the 1871 census he is described as aged 18 years and a gentleman's servant but is still living at home in Dovercourt. Sometime after this he must have enrolled in the army, as in 1878 when he married Sarah Emma Saunders at Upper Hale, Farnham, Surrey on 16 November he was a soldier, probably based at nearby Aldershot. On his marriage certificate Robert says his father, Robert, was deceased; in fact his father was James Philo and was still alive and living in Dovercourt.

Robert left the army and joined the Metropolitan Police in London on 14 April 1879 and he stayed with the police force until September 1889. During his time in the police, Robert and his family lived in Hampton Hill, Richmond, Middlesex, and Teddington, Middlesex. In the 1881 census Robert Henry and Sarah Emma are living in Hampton Hill with Florence Maud Philo, age 4 years, and Robert James Philo, age 1 year. Florence Maud was born as Florence Maud Saunders in Colchester in 1877, I do not have her birth certificate so I do not know if a father is mentioned, but Colchester is a garrison town and Robert Henry could have been based there if he joined the army in Essex before moving to Surrey.

Four other children were born to Robert and Sarah: Edward Henry Andrew in 1883, Naomi Maria in 1886, and twins Marian Esther and William Arthur Harold in 1888. Marian died in 1889, aged 1 year. When Robert left the police force the family moved back to Surrey and in the 1891 census the



Photo by Jeanne Bunting

Afghan Cottage in Farnham, Surrey, where Robert Henry Philo lived for a time with his wife, Sarah.

family are living in Afghan Cottage, Upper Hale, Farnham, Surrey, where Robert, age 38 years, is a footman and under butler. Their daughter, Florence Maud — now called Saunders — was attending Peckham Park School, an industrial school in London. She was a boarder in Camberwell, London.

There must have been some problems with the family, as on 2 April 1900 Robert Henry Philo, age 45 years and who claimed to be single, joined the 3rd Battalion Hampshire Regiment for four

years. He was immediately promoted to sergeant, probably because of his previous service (he had completed a period of limited engagement with the 51st Regiment in July 1883). In the 1901 census Robert Henry, Sarah Emma, and Edward are living in Afghan Cottage but their son Robert James, age 21 years, was a drapers porter living in St Marylebone, London. Naomi, age 14 years, was described as a waif and was learning domestic work in an industrial home in Fareham, Hampshire. William, age 12 years, was an inmate at Flints, a Diocesan Home in Frome, Somerset. I cannot find Florence Maud as either Philo or Saunders in the 1901 census.

William H Philo, age 13 years, sailed from Liverpool to Quebec, Canada on 29 May 1902 in the *SS TUNISIAN*, along with many other young children. I think this was part of the scheme to resettle orphans and poor children in a new life in the rapidly expanding Canada. In the 1910 United States census, William A H Philo, age 21 years, was a keeper in a restaurant in Seattle, Washington. He subsequently married Catherine Windred in 1916 and had two children: Martha Phela and Florence. William died in Seattle in 1940.

On 20 September 1902, Robert Henry Philo, age 49 years, a sergeant in the Hampshire Regiment and claiming to be a widower, married Sarah Wallace, nee Gates, at St Lukes, Kingston upon Thames. Meanwhile his wife, Sarah

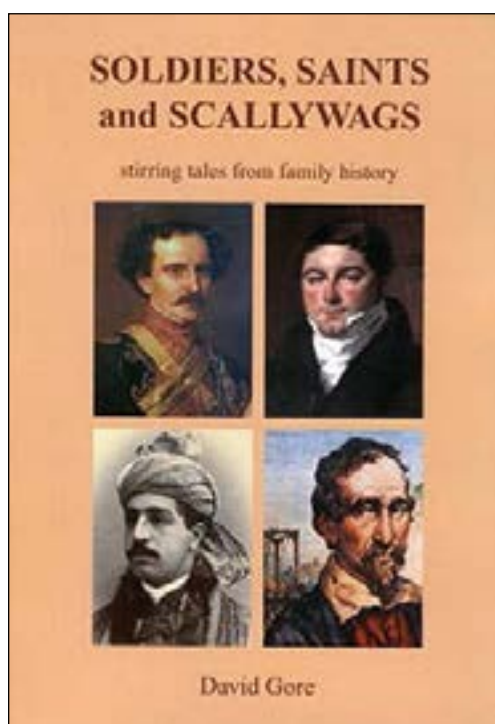
Emma, was still living at Afghan Cottage with her son, Edward.

Naomi Maria married Robert John Fowler in 1908 in Aldershot parish church. They had one child and Naomi died in Surrey in 1980.

In the 1911 census Robert Henry was in the Kingston Union Workhouse Infirmary (and died there on 20 November 1912), while his new “wife,” Sarah Philo nee Gates, was staying with her son from a previous marriage, William H Weston, and his family in Kingston upon Thames. Sarah Emma Philo and her son, Edward, were living in Afghan Cottage, Farnham. Florence Maud Philo (not Saunders now) was a general domestic in Walton-on-Thames. Naomi Maria Fowler was with her husband and family in Wakefield. He was working as a horse shunter for a railway company.

Robert John Philo is not seen after the 1901 census. I cannot find a marriage or death for him. Perhaps he emigrated, but he is not mentioned in Sarah Emma’s will in 1921, when her assets were divided between Florence Maud, Naomi Maria, and William A H.

Robert Henry Philo was buried on 28 November 1912 in Kingston Cemetery and Sarah Philo nee Gates married John Collett in October 1914 at the parish church of St Paul, Kingston Hill, Middlesex. ■



E-Version of ‘Scallywags’ Book Now Available

Long-time Guild member David Gore (Member 1014) writes that he is an “old timer” to ONS, having been doing the MAYNE ONS with pencil and paper long before he joined the Guild. Six years ago he wrote a book which was a product of his ONS. It was titled *Soldiers, Saints and Scallywags – stirring tales from family history*.

The JoONS editor at the time, Keith Bage, reviewed the book. He called it “a fascinating read for anyone interested in family history, local history, social history, or simply history in general. So many tales, thoroughly researched

by the author, of controversial or otherwise interesting characters of widely varying occupations: soldiers, sailors, missionaries, lawyers, an artist, a saint... some highly eccentric, some more upright citizens, and some downright ‘scallywags’! ...I can only aspire to write a book of this calibre.”

The paperback book is long out of print, but David has now produced an E-Book version, available on Amazon.com for the Kindle or devices using the free Kindle App. The cost for the E-Book is £1.52 in the UK; \$2.30 in the USA. ■



Skyrme: From a Family History to a One-Name Study

by David Skyrme (Member 6232)

Perhaps in common with many readers, I started my one-name study because I have an unusual name and people kept asking “where is it from?” “Pembrokeshire” I would say, because that’s where my father was born. Some 20 years ago I constructed an embryonic family tree using information from our family bible that took me back to 1780. So initially, like many people, I was just working on my own family history. This article tells about the transition into a one-name study and the lessons learned.

Beginnings

My interest in the surname was piqued when, on a family visit to Hereford Cathedral, my wife came out of the toilet, looked down at the tombstone at her feet and shrieked “it’s mine!” It had her name – Jane Skyrme – though it did say “died March 17, 1778.” That’s when I realised that the name was not confined to Pembrokeshire. A visit to a local record office yielded a set of photocopies of IGI indexes which showed many Skirm, Skyrme, and Skyrme entries in Herefordshire, notably Lugwardine, going back to 1552.

I launched the Skyrme family website (www.skyrme.info) on St. David’s Day (1 March) 1996, thinking that one day I might research Skyrmes – other than my ancestors – in the future. Having an unusual name and a website for it has the advantage of attracting others who have interest in the name. This has resulted in much useful information being volunteered by email.

One significant contribution was from Clive Pinch, who in the early 1990s had transcribed parish records across Pembrokeshire of instances of certain surnames in his ancestry, including Skyrme. Another correspondent referred me to Ian Skyrme of Tenbury Wells who “had a lot of information on Skyrmes.” Unbeknown to me, Ian had registered the study of Skyrme and its variants with the Guild, an organisation that I was unaware of at the time.

Family Histories

My family history research started in earnest in 2010. By this time a wealth of information was now on the internet. FreeBMD, Ancestry, and FamilySearch provided my core resources. At this stage I was adopting a typical family historian’s approach – researching an individual on censuses, baptism records, etc., tracing their ancestors and descendants and hence constructing family trees.

Once I had compiled my family tree, including all the collateral lines from my earliest ancestor (John Skyrme, born 1749), I found all I could about them and wrote up their story in an online publication. During this research I kept coming across records for many other Skyrmes and filed them away on my hard drive for future research.

After completing my own family I started researching the cluster of Skyrmes around Llangwm on the Cleddau river. It was while doing this that I first came across the Guild and realised, unwittingly, that by exploring the different Skyrme clusters in turn I was effectively doing something akin to a one-name study (ONS). Although the surname Skyrme was already registered (as a variant of Skyrme), my maternal grandmother’s name of Yardy was not. Surprisingly, although it sounds more common than Skyrme it is actually three times rarer. So in February 2013 I joined the Guild and started to undertake the ONS for Yardy and its variants (Yarday, Yardey and Yeardye).

The ONS Learning Curve

So how different is a one-name study from constructing family trees? Using the Guild’s *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* book as a guide, it is clear that family tree construction is only one aspect (part of pillar 2 – analysis) of a one-name study. However, my family history was more than just trees. I had put them in context with stories, analyses, local and historical context.

For example, my grandfather was one of the few survivors of *HMHS Rohilla*, wrecked off Whitby during the First World War. A family bible entry had merely said “James was in the sea for over 36 hours before being rescued.” This was an understatement! It turns out that disaster of the *Rohilla* was a seminal event in the history of the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) and that my grandfather was one of the last survivors to be brought ashore, some 50 hours after the ship ran aground.

Genealogy and an ONS have much in common: for example, cross-checking and rigorously recording sources, protecting the privacy of living individuals, constructing family trees. The main things that I now do differently or additionally are:

- Recording all references to a Skyrme that I find, even if it is not immediately relevant
- “Scraping” results of searches on databases and putting them into an Excel spreadsheet
- Seeking the origins of the name and noting carefully when and where variants are used
- Searching a wider range of sources, such as international newspaper archives
- Tabulating and mapping distribution, frequency, dispersion and migration patterns, such as the abbreviated example below for the Skyrme cluster from Manorbier:

	1791	1821	1841	1861	1881	1901
Manorbier	1	2	5	4	3	
Penally		4	5	3		
Pembroke/Monkton				2	5	6
Pembrokeshire (other)				1	4	3
Carmarthenshire				1	2	
Cardiff					2	1
Glamorgan					1	6
Wales (other)						1
Portsmouth					2	5
England (other)					2	5

Number of households with a Skyrme, illustrating migration in the late 19th century away from their original roots in Manorbier and Penally to more industrial areas (the dockyards and coalfields).

Perhaps the biggest change is that since I am no longer working on researching one discrete cluster at a time, I am multi-tasking, rotating my time throughout the week between different activities on typically four of the seven pillars – data collection, analysis, synthesis, writing. The overall approach I use is as follows:

- A structured set of folders on my PC. They are in three categories:
 - Original sources – mostly .jpg images in different folders for BMDs, censuses (by county), wills and probate, immigration records, military records, newspaper articles, emails, photos of archives, etc.
 - Transcripts and indexes – for example, one spreadsheet has BMD data plus baptisms and burials; another has passenger information; to each worksheet I have added three columns for each individual: ID (from the master database), family tree (e.g. VC01-Vowchurch tree no. 1), and family group F4.1, F4.2 etc. (4th generation from the tree's progenitor, eldest son's family etc.)
 - Derived information – trees, syntheses (such as an expanded version of the table above)
- A similar set of “to process” folders as raw data is collected, currently with over 2,000 files
- As the source material is processed, it is added to my master database, and the relevant indexes updated; the source data file is then moved into its logical source folder with a link being added from the master database entry.

A word now about my master database. Having used RootsMagic for over a decade for my family history, I spent significant time considering what was best for an ONS. I downloaded trial versions of all the major genealogical programs. I wanted something that would allow easy recording of data and had plenty of customisation and flexibility, especially in terms of reporting and exporting files for publication, website creation or to spreadsheets. The Master Genealogist seemed to fit the bill, and in conjunction with Second Site can generate highly detailed websites. However, its underlying database is old technology and I could never install it properly on my Windows 8 PC.

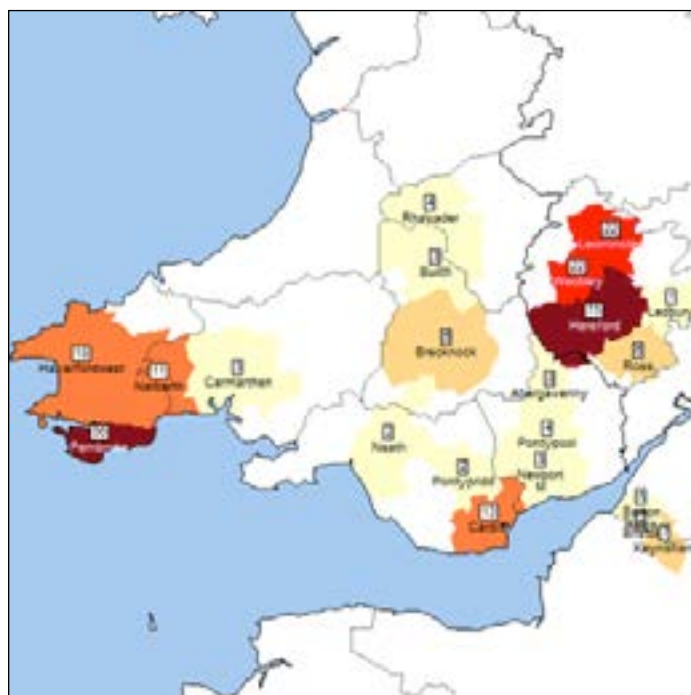
I also seriously evaluated Custodian 4 when it was launched. It has good templates for data entry and uses relational database technology, good for bringing together different facets of an individual's life. However, its GEDCOM import is very rudimentary, and since I had over 10,000 facts or events on over 2,000 individuals on RootsMagic from my earlier research it was a non-starter. In the end I found that Family Historian 5 has the flexibility I need, with an ability to write custom queries and reports.

So with the sources, software, and approach described above there is an ongoing rhythm to my one-name study. Also, by taking the Advanced One-Name Study online course by Pharos Tutors, I am able to apply the best techniques and put my ONSs into their wider context. The next section describes some of the progress made to date on the Skyrme One-Name Study, for which I am now the registered holder.

Family Folklore Versus the Experts

Being a rare name, Skyrme does not feature in any of the well known surname dictionaries. Family folklore always held that the name was Norse in origin and came to Wales with the Viking raids in the 9th or 10th century. They cite the name of an island off Pembrokeshire (Skomer) as evidence of this. Another Skyrme researcher cites similar folklore in her family, saying that they came via Skye, hence Skyeman. Although such explanations may seem reasonable, we do know that the Skyrmes of Pembrokeshire were the result of one Thomas Skirm, a lawyer, moving there from Ludlow in Shropshire, hardly on the route of Viking raids!

One online source lists the name Skirme as being derived from the medieval French *eskirmer*, a fencing master. Skrimshire, Skermer, Skirmer are given as alternative spellings. While the link to a “fencing master” seems a bit far-fetched, it is not too far removed from what seems a more credible source, the *Internet Surname Database*, compiled by Michael Brook. Here it states that it derives from the Middle English “skirme(n)” meaning “to fight,” “to defend.” He cites instances of Skurmere, Skirmer, Skerme from the late 13th century.



Distribution of Skyrme and variants in 1881 census, using Surname Atlas.

While Skirme does tie up with early instances of the name in Herefordshire (Lugwardine christenings 1552) none of the instances cited by Brook are near any of the clusters of Skyrme and its variants in the 17th century. Skyrme is also mentioned by Guppy (1890) as one of the names “peculiar” to Herefordshire (i.e. much higher than average frequency): “SKYRME is also an ancient English surname. The Skyrmes of Herefordshire may find ancestors in the Skermes of Oxfordshire in the reign of Edward I” (1239-1307). The matter is only likely to be resolved, if ever, by a more thorough search of medieval records, and perhaps DNA research.

How Do You Spell That?

I know from personal experience how often my own surname is misspelt. What certainly hasn't helped is how often it is misspelt in indices and on the major genealogical sites by transcribers unfamiliar with the name. This has meant searching page by page through censuses to discover Skyrmes who I was certain lived at a particular place. The variants Skirm, Skirme, Skerme, Skyrme, Skym all sound the same when spoken. My initial analysis of variants shows:

The data for the charts below and to the right was taken from census data at Ancestry.com and Ancestry.co.uk, filtering by year and variant. Because of transcription errors, the numbers should be taken as a guide rather than definitive.

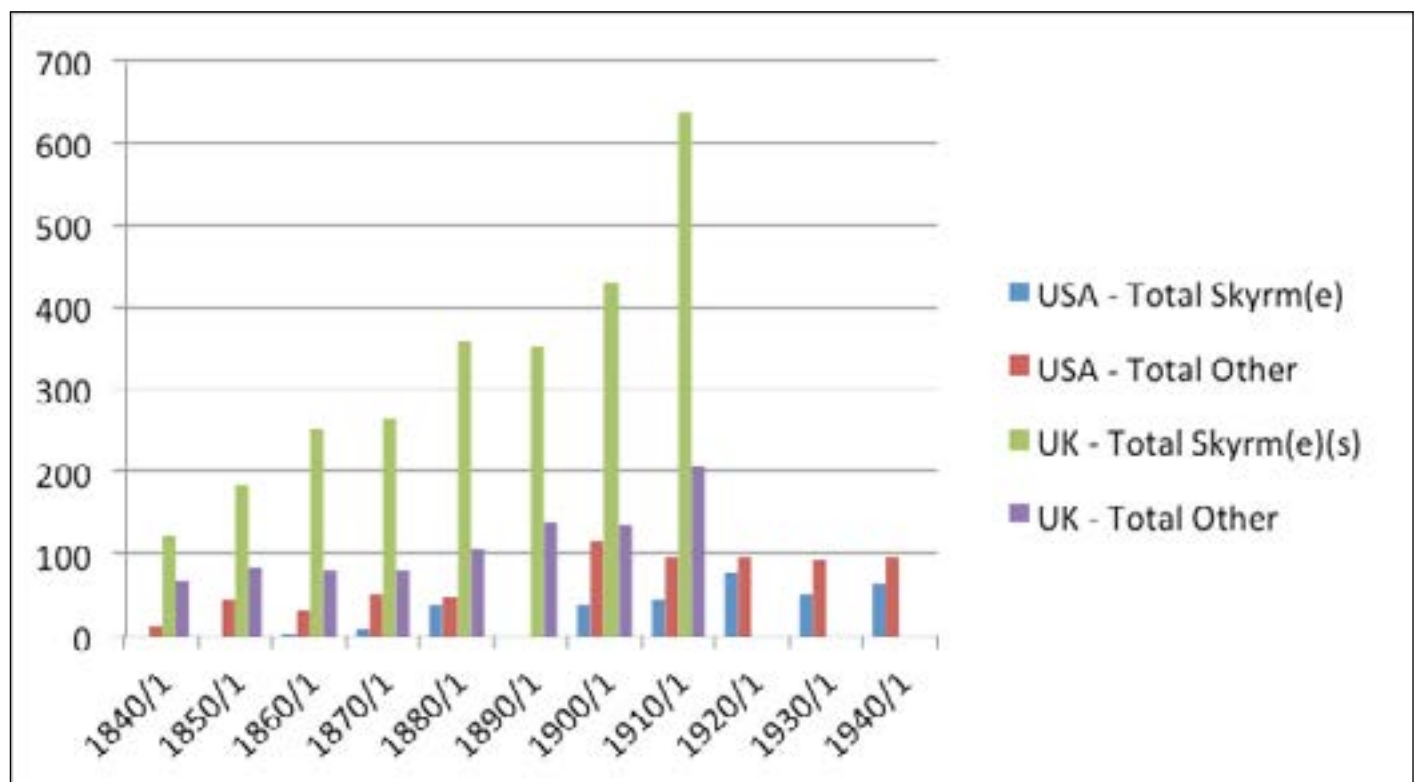
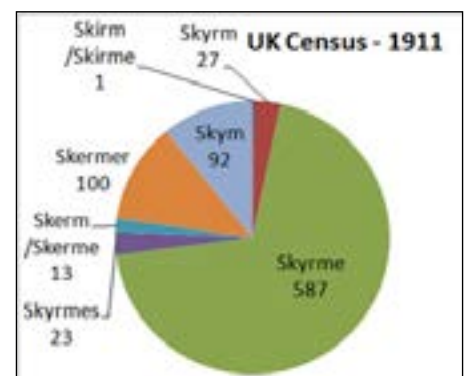
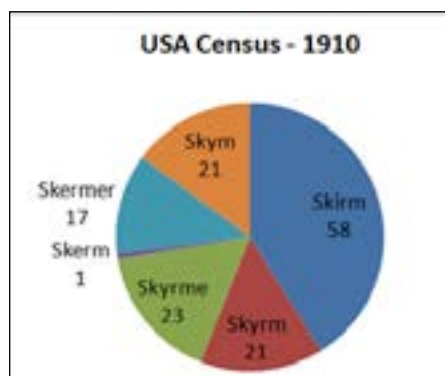
- Skirm or Skirme is evident as an early variant in Herefordshire, most notably at Lugwardine, and is found in the 17th century in Pembrokeshire and also by early settlers in New England. Today it survives only in the USA.
- Skyrme was found in the 17th century in both Herefordshire and Pembrokeshire, and also London.
- Skyrmes was sometimes found in Pembrokeshire but (as in the case of some of my own ancestors), was a spelling that quite often appeared in official records, but towards the end of the 19th century was mostly standardised as Skyrme.
- Skym was unique to Herefordshire and is also found today in the USA, Canada, and Australia to where some 19th century Herefordshire people emigrated.

Of other potential variants — Skym is found in parts of South Wales and may be indeed be a true variant. Skermer, however, was originally clustered around the Midlands. So although it may have the same derivation, further research is needed to confirm whether it is a true variant. All these variants and their distribution over time are shown in the charts below.

A Sense of Time and Place

For me an ONS is about getting behind the data and looking at the clusters of Skyrmes in their historical and social context. Reading local and social history helps explain several factors in the dispersion and migration of Skyrmes, such as:

- The shift from agricultural labourers in villages to trades in the Royal Naval Dockyard at Pembroke, which became a major employer in the area, particularly during and after the Crimean War.



- The late 19th century migration to the prosperous coal-fields of the Rhondda and neighbouring valleys.
- The extent and importance of oyster fishing in Milford Haven, and its careful regulation, with some of the catch being regularly transported to London.

There are other more personal insights that would not have come from data alone, but from reading newspaper reports and archives, and visiting the locations involved:

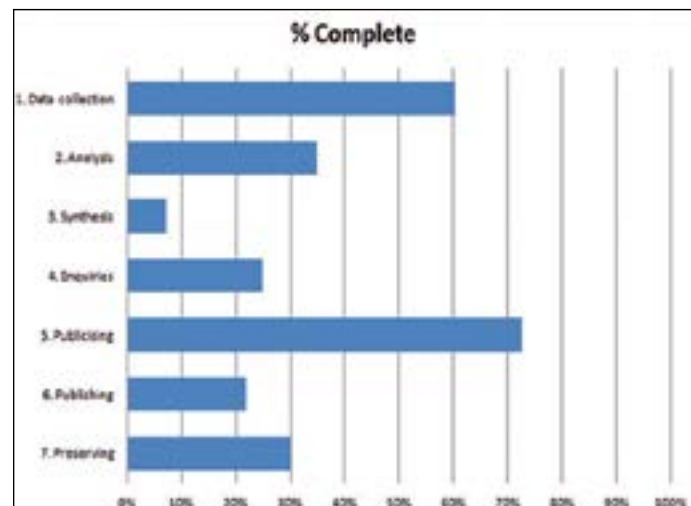
- Did the shipwright Skyrmes from Burton, over four miles north of Pembroke Dockyard, walk there every day? Yes they did – you can travel their route today and see the location of the ferry they took; and they did this six days a week; there is a newspaper report of a John Skyrme walking early one Saturday morning with two colleagues to work, when they got caught in a thunderstorm. John witnessed a lightning strike kill his friend at his side.
- Thomas Skyrme, according to one correspondent, “was killed by a pedigree black bull.” Further research revealed a newspaper story of a seven-hour lingering death after being crushed by a threshing machine that overturned. A visit to the Pembrokeshire record office produced estate and solicitor’s papers that covered the insurance and correspondence with the widow over compensation.
- The migration of several Herefordshire Skyrms to Canada and the USA. Mostly they were farmers and cattlemen. Several were “distinguished pioneers” in furthering the Herefordshire breed and carried on in the same vein in America. Later newspaper reports showed how they became pillars of their young and growing communities in the New World.
- How come one Ellen Skyrme of Pembroke came to marry a policeman from London, when girls mostly married people in their direct neighbourhood? The answer is found in the Metropolitan Police Act 1860, which gave them responsibility for policing all royal naval dockyards.
- Ronald Skyrme, who lived in Cardiff, married a bigamist, probably unwittingly. This only came to light after he died when his 29-year-old widow who had married again (for the third time) claimed maintenance from her third husband who had left her. In his defence, her first husband (whom she had married before Ronald) was brought to court to prove that her subsequent marriages were null and void. Further reading of social history at the time indicates that bigamy was much more common than the 100 or so cases brought to court each year.

As I dig behind the data I find many more such interesting facts that add context to the data. I publish a regular flow of these in the “snippets” section of the Skyrme.info website.

Progress

Like many one-namers, I realise that my “study” is never ending. However many questions you answer, you will ask yourself more, even if your enquirers don’t (most are only interested in their own ancestors). Nevertheless, I feel it important to gauge the overall scale of the task.

As a small study on a rare name, it is somewhat easier to do this. I have listed the different tasks for each of the Guild’s seven pillars on a separate Excel worksheet and estimated progress. For example, for task 1.14 (England & Wales census) I’ve estimated that I have processed 850 of 1,250 records, and for task 6.2 (publish a chapter on a cluster) I estimate 10 chapters in total, of which I have published two and started a third. The result of the summations at the bottom of each worksheet is the overview chart below.



While this gives a sense of satisfaction when another task nears completion, does it tell the whole story? No! The goal posts keep changing and the study expands for two main reasons: 1) more sources of data are coming online all the time; and 2) I will continue to explore questions behind the data leading to more in-depth study, including visits to record offices and carrying out different analyses.

The progress chart also reflects tasks that have been added or grown in importance since shifting from charting family histories to an ONS. One key challenge is seeking definitive links between some 10 distinctive clusters – three in Pembrokeshire, six in Herefordshire and one in the USA (the 17th century Skirm settlers). This requires looking for pre-18th century records such as hearth tax and poll records. Hopefully, this might help address another key research question – the origin of the surname. Why were the first significant clusters in Herefordshire, yet early references to now obsolete variants appear in Sussex and Oxfordshire?

Conclusion

My transition from a family historian to a one-namer has shown me how each approach can enrich the other. The family historian can learn from the one-namer to broaden their searches to all people sharing the name. This can help connect orphaned branches and also understand the distribution and migration of their ancestors. Conversely, family historians can help one-namers see beyond the mass of data and explore the context and fascinating stories of particular individuals and families. ■

This article was originally written as part of a Pharos Teaching & Tutoring Advanced ONS Course. It appears here in its entirety.

Seminar Report

‘Hatches, Matches & Despatches’

Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire

Saturday 16 May 2015

by Maggie Bennett, Barnsley FHS

Looking for a genealogy event closer to home than the NEC, I found the Guild of One-Name Studies’ seminar at Preston, just up the road from me! It was on a Saturday and started at a reasonable time, nobody expected us to be there before 9 a.m., and lunch was provided! Very good value for £16.00 I thought, and filled in the form including the bit that asked about special dietary requirements. I’m gluten intolerant so I can’t eat anything containing wheat. I added this information to the form, though without much hope of anyone taking note of it.

Well in advance of the day, I received detailed directions to the venue by email, including a photo of the approach to the final turning from the main road onto the side road leading to the venue. Very useful if you don’t know the area! Once at the church hall I found plenty of parking and went inside to register my arrival. They were a very welcoming bunch of people, chatting and happy to listen or explain some of the charts and posters on show. Coffee next, and I was amazed to see that in fact there were wheat-free biscuits and cake! I couldn’t believe my luck, even though I’d taken my own food in case I needed it. Finally everyone settled down and I was interested to see that there was a pretty wide age range in the audience, from the early 20s up to the 80s.

The seminar was called “Hatches, Matches and Dispatches” – where all the genealogy starts and ends, really! First up was Ian Hartas, prime mover in the free website UKBMD. Using a live computer link he took us through the site and explained how it works and what is available. The site relies on the interest of individual registrars in different areas. Sadly, the Barnsley registrars



During the seminar, Committee member Peter Copsey (right) presented Guild Award of Excellence and Guild Master Craftsman certificates to Michael Stonehewer.

have decided that it’s not a good idea to join with most of the rest of Britain and share these historic records. There are armies of volunteer “transcriptors” all over the country beavering away at these records, though no Barnsley records are available as yet. The site is comprehensive though, with links to other sites including the GRO, in case we can’t find what we want. It’s a good site with a lot of information that is easy to access, and most importantly – it’s free! www.UKBMD.org.uk.

Next up was Dr Andrew Millard with a session on identifying marriages from several sources. For me this was fascinating, as most of my families weren’t very imaginative when it came to names. Three cousins, all the same age, all the same village, two marriages listed in the same church records, one away. Look for the parish of the wife, if known, and there’s the third marriage.

It was more complex than this of course but again, a worthwhile session even for those of us who’ve been doing this for years. Have a look at www.marriage-locator.co.uk.

Lunch next, and a full wheat-free lunch with cold chicken and salad. I’d brought my own lunch but ignored it, preferring the spread provided by the ladies of the Guild!

If, like me, you look at your family death certificates and wonder what on earth they mean by “Integumentary System” in the cause of death column, this part of the seminar was great! Elizabeth Green has made a deep study of the causes of death within her families and came up with some fascinating information. How would death be caused by “Uncertain or Variable Seat”? Who knows these days! And finally, one found on one of my

own family certificates, “Visitation of God.” On a more serious note, there were genuine reasons for trying to standardise causes of death back in the 1840s. Elizabeth gave an informative and entertaining talk that kept us all laughing, but we came away with a lot of solid information.

Tea break, followed by Alan Moorhouse’s tour of the history of memorials inside churches and the gravestones in churchyards around the country. There was a question-and-answer session to follow. As we left I decided that I might attend a few more of these seminar days. This one had focussed my attention back onto the “lost” BMDs in my family tree, and I intend to return to them and find them, once and for all!

It really was good value for money, and I met some interesting people with some well-researched information. ■

Forthcoming Seminars

24 October 2015

Manorial and Older Records Seminar

We've once again booked this convenient venue close to Taunton and the M5 motorway and selected an earlier date in the hope that travel there will be easier. The programme will include the Manorial Documents Register, with a specialist from the National Archives, Devon Manorial Documents Register, Plymouth Black Book, and Bratton Clovelly Manor.

Venue: Ruishton Village Hall,
Ruishton, Taunton.
Somerset TA3 5JN

13 February 2016

The 20th Century is Now History

We will be looking at the records of the 20th century, including school records, historical electoral rolls, adoption and divorce, 20th century archives, and how to write up a one-name study.

Venue: Colonel Dane Memorial Hall, Church Street, Alwalton, Cambridgeshire PE7 3UU

13 August 2016

DNA

We return to NSC for a long overdue DNA seminar and with many DNA experts within the Guild are considering offering some parallel streams and round-table discussions. Suggested potential subjects include the identification of Richard III, getting started, choosing a DNA testing company, the role of autosomal DNA, beyond Y-DNA-37, Big Y, SNP testing, and multi-origin surname projects.

Venue:
National Star College
Ullenwood, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire GL53 9QU

Cornucopia Seminar

Littleton Millennium
Memorial Hall, The Hall Way
Littleton, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 6QL

09:30 am for 10:00 am, Saturday 15 August 2015

Returning south, this seminar will include older records at Hampshire Record Office as a subject for visitors from outside the area. For those who have missed our computer seminars we have added a couple of lectures on computer programs suitable for a one-name study, and then aim to answer software queries in breakout groups.

Programme

09:30 - 10:00	Registration and Coffee
10:00 - 10:10	Welcome to the Seminar — Rod Clayburn
10:10 - 11:10	Old Hampshire Records — Les Mitchinson (LMentary Family History)
11:10 - 11:15	Comfort Break
11:15 - 12:15	Family Historian for One-Name Studies — Jane Taubman
12:15 - 13:15	Lunch Break
13:15 - 14:15	Custodian — Richard Scantlebury
14:15 - 14:20	Comfort Break
14:20 - 15:05	Breakout Session 1
15:05 - 15:30	Tea Break
15:30 - 16:16	Breakout Session 2
16:15 - 16:45	Final Questions & Answers
16:45	Close of Seminar

Breakout sessions are planned to include advanced Family Historian, further Custodian, Excel, life after TMG; upon booking, delegates will be contacted for feedback on their preferences.

If you will be travelling by train please contact us for help in finding a lift from Winchester station.

Seminar cost, including refreshments and buffet lunch, is £16.00. Bookings close on 2 August 2015. All bookings will be confirmed by email, with full joining instructions, on or before this date. To book and pay online see http://www.one-name.org/seminar_2015aug_winchester.

We would like to ensure that disabled delegates can participate fully in this event. Anyone with any special requirements should telephone the Guild Help Desk on 0800 011 2182 or email seminar-booking@one-name.org.

For more information look under the Events tab at www.one-name.org or from the Guild Help Desk Tel: 0800 011 2182.

Pictures from the 'Hatches, Matches & Despatches' Seminar

Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire
Saturday 16 May 2015

Vol 12 Issue 3 • July-September 2015



TOP: Delegates settling down for the start of the 16 May "Hatches, Matches & Despatches" seminar in Preston. BOTTOM LEFT: Friday dinner — Gordon Adshead, Judy Adshead, Jean Toll, Jim Wem. BOTTOM RIGHT: Friday dinner — Dominic Johnson, Elizabeth Green, John Hitchon, Margaret King, Andrew Millard.

Journal of One-Name Studies
Quarterly publication of the
Guild of One-Name Studies
ISSN 0262-4842
£2.00 when sold to non-members

