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# Journal

## of One-Name Studies

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publication of the

**Guild of  
One-Name  
Studies**

[www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org)

Volume 12 Issue 4 • October-December 2015

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## Review of Proposed Constitution Changes

*p20*

## The Shepherd Surname: An Unlikely Name for an ONS?

Photo of John Shepherd, from the T H Maddock Collection

All the latest Guild news and updates

Box G, 14 Charterhouse Buildings  
Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA  
Tel: 0800 011 2182 (UK)  
Tel: 1-800 647 4100 (North America)  
Tel: 1800 305 184 (Australia)

Email: [guild@one-name.org](mailto:guild@one-name.org)  
Website: [www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org)  
Registered as a charity in England and  
Wales No. 802048

## President

Derek A Palgrave MA MPhil FRHistS FSG MCG

## Vice-Presidents

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Iain Swinnerton TD. DL. JP MCG  
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## Guild Committee

The Committee consists of the four  
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## GUILD OFFICERS



**CHAIRMAN**  
Paul Howes  
106 Auburndale Dr  
Ponte Vedra  
Florida 32081  
USA  
+1 904 342 0881

[chairman@one-name.org](mailto:chairman@one-name.org)



**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
Corrinne  
Goodenough  
11 Wyndham Lane  
Allington, Salisbury  
Wiltshire, SP4 0BY  
UK  
01980 610835

[vice-chairman@one-name.org](mailto:vice-chairman@one-name.org)



**SECRETARY**  
Julie Goucher  
Anglers Rest  
Grove Crescent  
Teignmouth, Devon  
TQ14 9HP UK  
01626 772735

[secretary@one-name.org](mailto:secretary@one-name.org)



**TREASURER**  
Tracy Care  
10 Priest Avenue  
Canterbury  
Kent  
CT2 8PJ UK  
01227 456339

[treasurer@one-name.org](mailto:treasurer@one-name.org)



**REGISTRAR**  
Susan Hundleby  
The Old Smithy  
1 School Lane  
Lea Marston  
Sutton Coldfield  
B76 0BW UK

[registrar@one-name.org](mailto:registrar@one-name.org)



**INTERIM EDITOR**  
David Dexter  
2921 Misty Ridge Dr  
Norman  
Oklahoma 73071  
USA  
+1 405 565 5316

[editor@one-name.org](mailto:editor@one-name.org)



## Guild information

### Regional Representatives

The Guild has Regional Reps in many  
areas. If you are interested in becoming  
one, please contact the Regional Rep  
Coordinator, Gerald Cooke:

North Cottage  
Monmouth Road  
Longhope  
Gloucestershire  
GL17 0QF  
Tel: 01452 830672

Email:

[rep-coordinator@one-name.org](mailto:rep-coordinator@one-name.org)

### Mailing List

This online mailing list is open to any  
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To send a message to the forum send it  
in *plain text* to [goons@rootsweb.com](mailto:goons@rootsweb.com).

### 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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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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## From the Committee...

by Paul Howes, Chairman

Each issue, different members of your Committee use this page to report on our activities and on important issues faced by the Guild. Several other Committee members having pieces in this journal, it has fallen to me again to put pen to paper.

### Our Growing Membership

You may have seen recently that the Guild has just allocated member number 7,000, to Rosemary Potter of Bournemouth, Dorset, who is studying the name Wixey and variants. Congratulations to her and to everyone else who has joined us this year.



Paul Howes

It's too early to say for sure, but it does look like 2015 will be at least our second highest year for new members. To me, it's not the numbers which are important. It's more that they are an indication that we are doing some things right and attracting more people to our hobby. Or is that obsession?

So we are doing things well at the front end of people's membership, but later on things aren't quite so rosy. Statistics tell us that within four years, one-half of new members leave the Guild, which is a shame.

If you are new to the Guild and you don't feel like you are getting value from your subscription, please do let me know, or contact one of our many postholders. We are here to serve you and it helps to know how people feel.

### Contacting Other Members

This is just my own experience, but I share it in case it helps. I was a member for a year or so before registering my study names. I "lurked" on the Rootsweb mailing list for a few months before asking a question and, for me, that's when my membership first started paying off. I continue to be astounded by the range of knowledge of our members who are active on the Guild Mailing List and Guild Forum. It's through contacting them and responding to other members' questions that we share our knowledge and experience. To me, that's why one joins a group of like-minded people.

Some months later I attended my first Guild seminar, and then things really started to gel for me. I then went to a conference where I had some advice from a helpful member on how to set up my free web page, my study profile. By the way, it wasn't perfect and it isn't now. I go back to it every so often and get it closer to the way I think it ought

to be. Don't worry about perfection! Whose of our studies is perfect, after all?

And, even if you are just starting out, having a web page tells people you are there and perhaps generates some contact for you among members of the public. If you don't tell them about your study, even if you've just started on your quest, how will they know it's there? Once you have a page, search engines will find it and lead people to you and the Guild.

Having become chairman, too, contact with other members continues to be enriching. By the time you read this you will know that we have appointed the nucleus of a new web team. What was particularly heart-warming to me were the dozen or so email responses to my request for volunteers I had from members who were, for varying reasons, unable to help but wished the Guild good fortune in finding the right team. Many were from longer-term members of the Guild who had themselves served as postholders. There is a degree of fellow feeling among members which is quite precious.



Finally, I want to make one more call for a volunteer. The *Journal of One-Name Studies* is in need of a new editor. Dave Dexter from Oklahoma stepped in just over a year ago as a temporary fill-in, we all thought. He stepped in again at very short notice for the last issue of the *Journal* when the new editor we had appointed was unable to take up the position. He has indicated that he is willing to continue to serve for a couple more issues if necessary, which provides a terrific opportunity for a gradual transition.

Can you help, please? Send a note to Volunteers Coordinator Peter Hagger at [volunteers@one-name.org](mailto:volunteers@one-name.org).

— Paul Howes



## Marriage Challenge Update: Should I Visit a Church? (Part 2)

by Peter Copsey MCG  
(Marriage Challenge Coordinator, Member 1522)

In the “Marriage Challenge Update” a year ago (see *Journal* Volume 11, Issue 12: October-December 2014), I mentioned the possibility of visiting a church to examine marriage registers that had not yet been deposited at the record office. If a visit was undertaken, the church would expect a donation or ask for a fee to be paid. More information on this subject has come to light.

The Church of England table of parochial fees lists the fees that the Anglican Church should charge for various activities, which includes searches in registers. The list includes charges for the search for baptisms and burials for any period and for marriages prior to 1 July 1837. Marriages after this date are not on the list. The only possibly relevant mention is one of the notes which states “the fee for a more general search of a church register is negotiable.”

However, a further document titled *A Guide to Church of England Parochial Fees* dated 2015, has been kindly sent to me by a member. This document goes into further detail about the charges that the Church may make. Of relevance is clause 64, which states: “It should be noted that no fee at all may be charged for a ‘particular search’ for an entry in a marriage register after 30 June 1837.”

I have placed links to both church documents on the Guild Forum under the title “Should I Visit a Church.”

I have found that most Anglican Church incumbents and the church wardens are not fully aware of the rules regarding charges for searching registers. They will quote the standard rate for searches in registers – presently set at £28 per hour – without appreciating that this fee does not apply to marriage registers 1837 and onwards. It is hoped that future

and present challengers will think about visiting Anglican churches as part of their challenge. They should tactfully and carefully clarify the situation regarding the charging of fees and offer a suitable donation to the church for their help.

The marriage challenges beginning in the coming months are listed below. All members are encouraged to send their requests to the challenger 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 is 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 can 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](mailto:marriage-challenge@one-name.org). ■

REGISTRATION DISTRICT AND PERIOD	REQUEST DEADLINE	CHALLENGER	CHALLENGER'S EMAIL	KEY (SEE ABOVE)
Cookham 1837-1896	31 October 2015	Clive Killick	<a href="mailto:killick@one-name.org">killick@one-name.org</a>	B
Maidenhead 1896-1911	31 October 2015	Clive Killick	<a href="mailto:killick@one-name.org">killick@one-name.org</a>	B
Woburn 1837-1899	31 October 2015	Rose Norton	<a href="mailto:bierton@one-name.org">bierton@one-name.org</a>	B
Midhurst (Repeat) 1837-1911	8 November 2015	John Commins	<a href="mailto:commins@one-name.org">commins@one-name.org</a>	B
Aylesbury (Repeat) 1837-1951	1 December 2015	Brian Horridge	<a href="mailto:horridge@one-name.org">horridge@one-name.org</a>	B

### Your Yearly Subscription to the Guild is Due on 1 November

Please look at the renewal notice sent with this *Journal* and also look at the code against your membership number on the address label. The code tells you whether you have already paid, whether you have a standing order set up, or whether the Guild has received instructions to take your subscription from your credit card (an RTA). If your subscription is to be paid, please look at [www.one-name.org/members/MembershipRenewal.html](http://www.one-name.org/members/MembershipRenewal.html) for your payment options.



## DNA for your ONS: Helpful Hints

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

**B**ased on questions received over the last six months, here is some information which may help you with your DNA project.

### Privacy

Family Tree DNA has instituted another page of privacy settings. Below, the critical privacy and attribute selections for your participant's test kit are covered in detail.

When you log into a test kit, you land on the main page, called a personal page or a dashboard. To set attributes and privacy settings for the test kit, on the left you first click on "Manage Personal Information."

I always preset certain test kit attributes for my participants before their results come back from the lab, to make DNA testing a lot easier and simpler for them. They are also informed of these settings in layman language during the recruiting phase. For example, "your matches will be able to see your name, email address, and most distant ancestor, and you will be able to see the same for them."

Participants who are interested in learning more about Family Tree DNA options can click around their personal pages and explore, while most participants will prefer to leave the settings as established, and just click "Matches" to find their matches. This keeps the process very simple.

Once you click "Manage Personal Information" you will find six tabs across the top. You will land on the "Account Settings" tab, and there are three selections below this tab. They are:

- Personal Profile Settings
- Match and E-mail Settings
- Change Password

I leave the Personal Profile default as it stands as "Private," and click "Match and E-mail Settings."

### Match and Email Settings.

Down the page is a selection called "My Matches." The current default setting under "My Matches" is "All Matches." I change the participant's setting to "Only in My Projects."

I prefer this selection, and in their DNA report I send when their result comes back, I make them aware of how they are set for matching with a brief explanation of the reasoning behind the selection. They are also informed how to change the setting to see other surname matches, and are encouraged, after they take a look, to change the setting back to "Only in My Projects."

The DNA report I issue is a Word document that contains a lot

of standard text, such as explaining Y-DNA in layman's terms. It is upbeat and positive, with a theme of discovery. There is a section for me to fill in about their distant origin. And another section about their matches (or lack thereof) which I fill in depending on their situation. The final standard text section explains how to do basic tasks, such as reviewing privacy settings, with an explanation of the settings that have been selected for them.

The reasoning for setting their "My Matches" option to "Only in My Projects" is that in most cases matches with other surnames are not relevant. Secondly, matches with other surnames are often confusing to the participant, and if there are a lot of matches with other surnames, they may even miss seeing those matches with their own surname. Third, I avoid spending time explaining matches with other surnames beyond what is in their report. And fourth, I am not bothered with match emails about matches to other surnames. So I don't have to take the time to go look at matches each time I get an email to see if it is a relevant match. With the setting "Only in My Projects," all the match emails I get will be relevant.

At the time of surname adoption, many men had the same or close Y-DNA result. In most cases, they ended up with different surnames. On the high end, I have seen over 3,000 Y-DNA matches, with a long list of different surnames. As the database grows, everyone will have more matches with other surnames.

If you don't have a match yet with your surname — and have a match with another surname — it is easy to go down the path that this match must mean you are really an "XYZ" and not an "ABC." The real reason you don't have a match with your surname is most likely because only a small percentage of your surname has tested.

I recommend ignoring matches with other surnames, unless you know of an event such as illegitimacy where the male child took the mother's surname, or a voluntary name change, or until you have tested all the trees of your surname and still don't have a match.

There is one type of match with another surname that can have value if your tree has hit a brick wall, either in London or in Colonial America, and you don't know where the tree came from. If you have a match with a rare single-origin or limited-origin surname, that can give you clues as to where to look for research and where to test to find a DNA match.

It is your decision whether you set the participants in your project to "Matches only in My Projects" or leave them with the default of "All Matches."

## Privacy and Sharing

My next stop in setting the privacy attributes for a test kit is the “Privacy & Sharing” tab.

Under this tab, the first item I change is “Who can view my Most Distant Ancestor?” The default is only the participant, and I change this to “Share my Most Distant Ancestor with other people in projects that I’ve joined,” by checking the box and clicking “save.” The prior screen will now read “Who can view my Most Distant Ancestor? Project Members.”

The next item I check is “Who can view my DNA results in group projects?” Make sure it says “Anyone.” Otherwise, the person’s result will not appear on your public website for your DNA project. The default setting for new kit orders is “Project Members,” not “Anyone.”

Note that this display option is only applicable for Y-DNA and mtDNA HVR1 and HVR2 data, since mitochondrial DNA coding region and autosomal DNA results are never displayed publicly.

The rest of the defaults I leave as they are. The DNA report issued to participants explains the “Most Distant Ancestor” selection and that their DNA result is displayed with surname and most distant ancestor, and that their matches who are in the project can see their most distant ancestor on the match results page.

These are the critical settings. Please review all the other settings and options to have a good understanding of the settings and issues impacting participants. Here is an excellent blog post that covers all the privacy options in detail: <http://dna-explained.com/2015/07/27/family-tree-dna-new-privacy-settings/>.

## Most Distant Ancestor

The next step is to fill in their “Most Distant Ancestor.” Filling it in is often easier and takes less time for me to fill in, rather than educating the participant on how to fill it in. In addition, I have established a standard format for this field, to pack in as much information as possible. A standard format also makes it so much easier when I am reading down a page of Y-DNA results, especially after you get past 20 or so participants and they start getting hard to remember.

In the main tab bar we covered above, select “Genealogy,” and then “Most Distant Ancestor.”

The format I use for this field starts with a tree label. Perhaps you have created a tree label for trees if you are constructing family trees for your one-name study. If not, you can set up a simple log and assign numbers as you get unique trees to participate. The size of your ONS and the frequency of your surname will determine how many trees you expect to encounter.

An example tree label is T042, where the zero is there since over 100 trees are expected.

The next item in my standard format for “Most Distant Ancestor” is the surname. If the tree progenitor used multiple different forms in his life, then perhaps you select the surname form used the most. Or the earliest form used would be another choice, which would also be valuable to see surname evolution, such as a Raggett participant who has a most distant ancestor with the surname form Riegate.

After the surname comes the first name. Then the earliest documented event and year is followed by location from largest entity to smallest entity.

Here are some examples:

T002 Ricketts, Robert d1737 HAM Basingstoke  
T004 Rickett, George bc1817 ENG d1887 CAN ONT  
T005 Ricketts, Barzilla bc1794 USA VA Augusta Co  
T006 Ricketts, George m1775 OXF Woodstock  
T018 Ricketts, Drewy/Drury b1796 USA NC Anson Co  
T028 Ricketts, David bc1853PA Liv1880 PA Cumberland  
T040 Ricketts, Richard d1757 WIL Great Chalfield

The information shown reflects the earliest documented information about the progenitor of the family tree. This is just one example of a format that you could implement. Use any format that you prefer.

## Authorizing a Test Kit

If you have purchased a test kit for yourself or for a participant, and if you authorize the test kit, you have easy access to all attributes of the test kit, and don’t have to log in and out of the test kit to access items that are restricted.

If you purchased a test kit, either from Family Tree DNA or the Guild, you received a kit number and password.

To authorize a kit, log into your project. In the menu bar, select “My Account,” and then “Kit Authorization.” Just enter the kit number and password and click submit.

## Y-DNA or Autosomal DNA

A Y-DNA test is for males only. It tests locations on the Y-chromosome, which is passed from father to son. In most cultures, this is also the path of the surname, which makes this test very valuable for a one-name study. Ideally, you test two distant males from each family tree, starting with your own tree. When possible, test the oldest male, such as the grandfather if he is living, instead of the son or grandson. Each generation is an opportunity for a random mutation, and by reducing the number of generations from the participant to the progenitor of the tree, you reduce the possible mutations you can run across. Another priority is trees with limited surviving males. Once they are gone, you will not have Y-DNA for this tree.

Your goal would be to Y-DNA test each tree of your surname, worldwide, to determine which trees are related, and to provide information to draw conclusion about your surname when used in conjunction with surname distribution maps and early records.

The Y-DNA test has a long history, having first been offered to consumers in 2000.

The newest test is an autosomal test. At Family Tree DNA this test is called Family Finder. An autosomal test looks at SNPs across your chromosomes. In the matching process, matching segments are reported. A segment could come from any ancestor, though segments from more recent ancestors is more likely. With each generation, ancestor segments are lost. Segments can also get cut down in size. Your chromosomes come half from your father and half from your mother. If you have siblings, you will share DNA with them, though they will get some parts of your father and mother that you didn’t receive.



Family Tree DNA states that the Family Finder test is useful about five generations back. With each generation, there is declining odds that you will share segments with another descendent from a shared ancestor. Family Tree DNA states: "For genealogists, it is best to use Family Finder to prove recent relationships (one to five generations). However, after testing, you may discover distant cousins."

Autosomal testing is fun and interesting for your family tree, and you might discover matches that help you overcome a brick wall. An autosomal test will have limited application for your one-name study for two reasons. First, in most cases you are able to find a male to take a Y-DNA test. Second, the further back the common ancestor, the lower the odds that two participants would have a matching autosomal segment. An example is my Meates ONS, where all the Meates trees that go back to Ireland match with Y-DNA and share a common ancestor after the progenitor of the surname, since we all share a mutation. Using autosomal testing, none of us share any matching segments with anyone who isn't in our documented tree. A documented tree represents more recent generations.

The Family Finder test uses approximately one vial of sample. So if you have a sample on file for deceased participants, you need to be aware that you may not have any sample left after running this test.

### Purchasing DNA Test Kits from the Guild

The Guild provides DNA test kits from Family Tree DNA. Here are the products available to members and their participants, year round, at a discounted price:

- Y-DNA 37 marker test kit
- Family Finder test kit
- Family Finder add-on to an existing test kit, of either Y-DNA or mtDNA

When you add on Family Finder, you don't get a new test kit, except if Family Tree DNA determines that there is not enough sample on file to run the test. In that case they will send the person a new test kit.

If you want to order both Y-DNA and Family Finder for yourself or a participant, order Y-DNA first, then order Family Finder and notify [dna-kit-order@one-name.org](mailto:dna-kit-order@one-name.org) that Family Finder is an add-on.

The prices from the Guild include postage anywhere in the world. When comparing to Family Tree DNA prices, add on to their price their shipping and handling of \$9.95 USD per kit.

The Guild now has a facility for you to initiate an order, and your participant to pay. There is a page at the Guild website that tells you about the DNA kits available from the Guild and how to order. This member benefit can save you money, and help you recruit participants. Please read <http://one-name.org/help/guild-wiki/dna-kits-available-from-the-guild>.

If you have any questions about ordering a test kit, please contact Teresa Pask at: [dna-kit-order@one-name.org](mailto:dna-kit-order@one-name.org). If you have any questions about DNA for genealogy, write to me at [DNA@one-name.org](mailto:DNA@one-name.org).

### Disclaimer:

The above information about Family Tree DNA was accurate at the time of submission of this article. It is subject to change at any time by Family Tree DNA.

### 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](mailto: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. ■

## Why I Became a Volunteer

by Sue Church (Member 6196)

The first day it was announced that I had taken over as the Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Group Area Rep, I was warmly welcomed by the Regional Rep coordinator Gerald Cooke and other Area Reps within the Guild of One-Name Studies. Thank you to everyone!

The very same day I was invited to attend the next meeting of the Derbyshire Area Group on Saturday, 16 May, by their Rep, Jenny Tudbury. I accepted without hesitation. So four days later, leaving home at 7:30 a.m., off I trundled to Breaston (by bus, train, and another bus), just outside Long Eaton in Derbyshire, on a bright sunny Saturday morning.

On arrival at Jenny's home I was warmly welcomed by Jenny and the other Derbyshire members and for me it was a pleasure to meet them all, too. It was a very well organised meeting, with both structure and content, with interesting talks and topics discussed from within the group membership. I got the overwhelming feeling of genuine friendship and support from all in attendance. Many thanks to Jenny and the Derbyshire members; I thoroughly enjoyed the day. Many



Members of the Derbyshire Area Group at their May meeting.

thanks, too, Jenny, for sorting my travel arrangements. Much appreciated.

I would thoroughly recommend volunteering your services on behalf of the Guild of One-Name studies, if you have the time and confidence. Personally, I wanted to become more involved, I wanted the opportunity to use my enthusiasm to encourage others from both within and from outside the Guild to explore their family histories further. I want to share my knowledge and experience, and learn and develop new skills. With just my son and myself at home with our three cats, I can spare ample time to devote to my new role and to continue with my own ONS. ■





# Internet Resources: Historical Newspaper Archives for Genealogical Research

by Rennison Vayro (Member 4374)

Whether we are just beginning our research in Family Ancestry or are one of the more mature members who may be considered as professional genealogists with several decades of research and discoveries behind their one-name study, I would imagine that historical newspaper records would be consulted at some point. Whilst it is important to search parish records, probate records, and census returns for dates and details of our ancestors, recently digitized newspaper archives are becoming increasingly important for providing information about historical events. Most are now freely searchable; others may be “pay per view” (PPV).

Here are a few sites I would recommend as worthy of your attention.

## Newspaper Archives for Northern England

If you happen to be researching ancestors who lived in Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, and Lancashire, then there are a range of individual links to present-day northern newspapers, including the *Darlington and Stockton Times*, *Hartlepool Mail*, *Northern Echo*. They can be found at <http://www.wrx.zen.co.uk/norpress.htm>. However, I would point out that this collection of URL links covers most of the UK. Also, you will find over 100 years of material held by the *Teesdale Mercury* newspaper archives at <http://www.teesdalemercury.co.uk>.

## Newspaper Archives for UK

The British Library site is <http://www.bl.uk/welcome/newspapers.html>. It now holds in excess of 750 million pages of newspaper material dating back to the early 1700s, including 52,000 local, regional, national and international titles. Its archive is one of the world's finest collections. An alternative source of information would be <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> which as its name implies covers a range of newspapers across the United Kingdom. <http://www.gazettes-online.co.uk> covers the historical archives of the London, Edinburgh, and Belfast gazettes. The *Guardian and Observer* newspaper present and past archives are at <http://archive.guardian.co.uk>, and *The Times* can be found at <http://www.timesonline.co.uk>. In its own words, <http://www.ukpressonline.co.uk> is “the best British archive on the Web.” The site covers “history as it happened” in newspapers from 1845 onwards, and has links directly to information on both world wars.



## Newspaper Resources for Ireland, Wales, and Scotland

See <http://www.irishnewsarchive.com> for information on Ireland from 1700 to the present day.

The site <http://www.llgc.org.uk/blog/?p=3499> will give members a direct link to the National Library of Wales that holds a comprehensive historical newspaper collection. There may well be others, but members should at least consider <http://www.archive.scotsman.com> for the *Scotsman*. There is an excellent website at <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/search/newspapers> (PPV), where their new collection contains historical newspapers for the period 1710-1950 from across England, Wales, and Scotland.

## Newspaper Archives for Canada

If you are tracing ancestors who emigrated at some point to Canada, then a website of interest is <http://www.obituaries.com/Obits.asp>. It is specifically for deaths recorded in Canadian newspapers. An alternative site, <http://www.collectionscanada.ca>, gives access to the main Canadian archives.

## Newspaper Archives for the United States

The site <http://www.newspapers.com> (PPV) provides links to 800 historical newspapers in America, from 1700 to 2000. This covers most of the USA, including the *New York Times*, and contains a collection of various newspapers. Colleagues can also find some Canadian newspapers on this site.

Other specific sites include <http://www.tinyurl.com/p9wkgac>, which leads directly to the *Eastern Argus* of Portland, Maine for 1803 to 1880; and <http://www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html> is a site dedicated to the *New York Press*.

## Newspaper Archives for Australia

By far the most useful site for Australia is the National Library of Australia, <http://www.trove.nla.gov.au>. It is far more than just access to newspapers: it includes images, maps, and other online resources.

Another resource for Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore is <http://www.elephind.com/>. It may well cover parts of the United States as well.

<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite> is also for Australia, the USA, as well as Great Britain and Ireland.

My suggestions are not meant to be fully inclusive or exclusive but I sincerely hope that members may find something of interest in these websites. ■



# Using First World War Records to Identify Family Groups in a One-Name Study

by Marilyn M Astle (Member 6497)

and Peter Astle (Member 4735)



(This article was originally published in "Relatively Speaking," the journal of the Alberta Genealogical Society.)

This case study draws on the example of the Astle One-Name Study to explore how First World War records from England, Canada, and the USA can help identify relationships among different families of the same surname or variations.

Many one-name studies have developed nominal rolls and biographies for those bearing the surname of interest who died in the First World War or for all those who served in the conflict. As we collaborated on such a project it became apparent that, in addition to honouring those who served, such an endeavour is also a valuable method of revealing links among various family groups with a particular surname or variation.

The Astle surname arose in England and on the 1881 census was found mainly in East Staffordshire and South Derbyshire with another large grouping in Cheshire and Lancashire. The name appears to have a Viking origin and both areas were settled by separate groups of invading Vikings in the 9<sup>th</sup> century.

After 20 years of researching his own Astle family, Peter registered the Astle One-Name Study with the Guild of One-Name Studies in 2007. The name variations registered were: Astell, Astill and Astles. One of the components of the website for the Astle study was First World War service records and biographies. Once Marilyn joined the project we worked together to add the war records from Canada and the United States and were always delighted when we could find links from particular individuals to their families of origin and to extended families.

Large Astle families traceable to particular settlers have developed in several places in North America, including the Gaspé region of Quebec, New Brunswick's Northumberland County and adjacent American states, and the states of Kansas and Utah. Using data collected during the First World War on soldiers or potential soldiers has allowed us to expand our knowledge of Astle families in the United Kingdom and North America.

## Phase 1: UK First World War Soldiers

Peter started by identifying Astle/Astles/Astell and Astill soldiers who had served in the British Army during the conflict from the following sources:



Photo courtesy of Theodoor Holtzheuser

War memorial in New Carlisle, Quebec, showing those who died and those who served.

- British Army medal index cards 1914-1920
- British Army service and pension records 1914-1920
- Register of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

The personal information obtained from these various records was then consolidated into a spreadsheet for analysis. Three hundred and seventy five soldiers were identified for further research and it has been possible to find approximately half of them in the 1911 UK census. For these soldiers we have been able to create short biographies drawing on the information available, (mainly from Findmypast, Ancestry, and FreeBMD).

For the great majority of the remainder, they are known solely from their entries on the medal card index, which carries their regimental number(s) but no other biographical information to assist with their identification. If the regimental number(s) could not be cross-referenced to a surviving pension or service record, or an entry in the CWGC register, only those few with particularly unusual names were identifiable in the 1911 census.

## Phase 2: The Canadian Expeditionary Force

The next step was to identify all the soldiers surnamed Astle or variations who had attestation papers on the web site of Library and Archives Canada. Two new spellings, unique to Quebec, emerged: Assells and Astels. We created another spreadsheet with slightly different categories as different information was provided than was available for the UK soldiers, e.g., the Canadian attestation papers included religion. Biographies were also developed for the Canadian soldiers. Library and Archives Canada's currently ongoing process of digitizing the complete files of the CEF soldiers is allowing us to update and expand the Canadian biographies.

Of the 33 men in our study who attested for the CEF, 14 (and likely a 15<sup>th</sup>) were descendants of James Astles and Sarah Flowers. Sarah's father and James were discharged British soldiers from the American Revolutionary War. They travelled with a fleet of Loyalist refugees who landed on the Gaspé Peninsula in 1784 and founded several new communities along the Bay of Chaleur in present-day Quebec. Three of the soldiers were descendants of another, related James Astles who arrived at the same time on the Gaspé with his wife, Elizabeth McLane, whom he had married in Schenectady, New York in 1770, and their children. This family soon moved on to New Brunswick. Neither of these Astles families has been definitively linked back to England.



Second cousins Thomas and Herman Astles served with the CEF. They were descendants of New Carlisle, Quebec settlers James Astles and Sarah Flowers. Herman (grave at left) died 6 Nov 1917 and is buried at Paschendale New British Cemetery. Thomas survived the war and died in Alberta in 1962. (*Herman's gravestone photo courtesy of Theodoor Holtzheuser.*)

Albert Astle, born in Dawsonville, Restigouche County, New Brunswick was one of the CEF fatalities. He arrived in France mid-September 1915 and his file reveals some of the heart-rending comments that are interspersed among the thicket of abbreviations in the soldiers' files. In early December of that year Albert was punished for "straggling on way to trenches." Less than a year later, on 25 November, he was "killed by trench mortar."

Many of the men who attested for the CEF were recent immigrants from the United Kingdom and can be found in the 1901 and/or 1911 census in England. Thirteen of the 33 men in our study who attested for the CEF were born in the UK. Brothers Charles, James, and Joseph Astles were born in Garston, Liverpool, England and immigrated with their parents and other siblings to Canada in 1911. When the brothers enlisted the family was living in London, Ontario.

George Esmunde Astle, born in Northwich, Cheshire, was one of the 4 men in the Astle study who enlisted in Canada and did not survive the war. George's brother, Norman, had served in the Royal Navy for over five years when he died on 15 July 1915 when the trawler *Agamemnon II* was lost.

### Phase 3: American Draft Registrations

The third phase of the project was to identify men who registered for the American draft in the First World War. Names were obtained from the Ancestry.com database, US World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. More than 24 million men born between circa 1872 and 1900 were enumerated during the registration. Many, if not most, of these men never served in the military, but the records created provide what is essentially another census.

Again, since different information was collected than in the UK and Canada, a third spreadsheet was created and once more we set out to learn all we could on individuals, including tracing their ancestry as far as possible while spending as little money as possible. This spreadsheet contained 128 names, once we eliminated two erroneously transcribed as Astell who were actually named Axtell. There are six men

named Astel, a new spelling variation. One of these men was from New Brunswick, four were born in Austria, and the father of the other one was born in Germany – which raises the issue of defining membership for a one-name study. For the present at least, these men remain in our study.

To facilitate the search for relationships, the American names were divided into 20 groups, clustering together those with common places of birth or registration, before delving into census and vital statistics records. Sorting by registration state showed the greatest concentrations in Kansas and Maine, each with 16 men. Place of birth was not recorded for all the men and in some cases was not found with further research; 21 had no place of birth stated on the draft registration forms and 30 were said to be native-born, which was found to be untrue in one case. Illinois was the most commonly cited birth state, with 11 mentions. The research and creation of biographies for each of the 128 men is continuing.

Not surprisingly, a number of the registrants have been connected back to families in Canada and England. We also found men who registered in various locations across the USA who were related to families in Utah and Kansas.

We identified five men as descendants of Quebec settlers James Astles and Sarah Flowers, including John Hughes (or Hustus) Astles, a farmer in Nashville, Georgia; and William Ross Astell, a poultry farmer in Grays Harbour, Washington. William's younger brother, George, attested for the CEF but was not sent overseas due to being underage.

Five of the seven sons of Moses Astle(s) and Jane Vanderbilt (Robert, Duncan, Clinton, George, and Weldon) registered in Millinocket, Maine for the draft. The family, descendants of James Astles and Elizabeth McLane, had moved from New Brunswick around 1900. Weldon is also listed on the Library and Archives Canada database, "Soldiers of the First World War," with an attestation form from May 1916.

Another man who is in both the Canadian and American databases is George Astill, who was born 11 September 1887 in Leicester, England. George registered for the draft in Brockton, Massachusetts on 5 June 1917 and for some reason ended up in the CEF, his attestation being dated 28 January 1918 with a Brockton address. He sailed from Canada to Liverpool and served in both France and England, including two weeks in hospital recovering from influenza. George returned to Canada in May 1919 and apparently lived the rest of his life in the USA. One of his discharge documents gives his father's full name as John Blackwell Astill, opening up the possibility of tracing the family further back. John Blackwell Astill, whose birth was registered in 1858 in Leicester, bears further investigation.

Several clusters of brothers and cousins were identified. Frances Astle, aged 70 in the 1880 US census, and his wife, Felicia, both born in England, were the grandparents of nine men who registered, four of them born in Idaho and five in Wyoming. From Illinois there were five grandsons of William Astell and his wife, Mary Russell, who arrived from England in 1854. Five sons of Thomas A Astle and his wife, Eliza Cooper, registered in Pennsylvania, the family having emigrated from Staffordshire, England. Their son, William Weston, who had remained in England, enlisted in the British army.



## What have we learned?

Utilizing First World War military records in our one-name study is highlighting Astle settlement locations and migration patterns as well as revealing links among family groups in England, Canada, and the USA. We have discovered several new spelling variations and two unexpected countries of origin, challenging us to clarify the boundaries of this one-name study.

We have learned that military records are a potentially rich source of information about not only the individual soldiers but also their nearest relatives. Sadly, it was often the records of those who died which contained the most information about their relatives. For example, in order to arrange the distribution of a memorial plaque and scroll to the next of kin of soldiers who died in the war, Army Form W 5080 was sent out to the named next of kin in the deceased soldier's service record. That person was required to return the form listing all the living blood relatives of the deceased soldier. Where the returned forms have survived in the soldier's service records they often provide family relationships which would be difficult



*Image courtesy of The National Archives, Kew, UK*

A page of the record of Charles Edward Astle, who was killed in the war. It is an example of how detailed the family information can be in these cases, including the mention of close relatives.

to identify through conventional research methods. In the case of Charles Edward Astle of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers who died in 1917, we learn that he was survived by his mother, Sarah Sophia, four sisters, five nieces and nephews, and an aunt and an uncle. Age and address are provided for each relative.

## What next?

More relationships among family groups are likely to be discovered as the project is continued and new resources become available. The release of the complete personnel files for the CEF has prompted us to start updating the Canadian biographies. Unfortunately for us, the index of the recently released medical records for the British army does not contain the names of any soldiers relevant to our study, but this does demonstrate that other military records may yet become available to assist us. Old newspapers online are a potential source of information for expanding the biographies and identifying more family links. Ideally we will be contacted by others researching Astle families who will provide more data. ■



## The Nottingham Gravestone Project: What Is This All About?

by Sue Church (Member 6196)

Last year I posted a message on the Guild Forum offering to carry out gravestone look-ups in the Nottingham area, I had a few takers and went off and did my searches. Recently I've carried this on whilst I've been out and about delivering our Guild library poster to local libraries. If I was near to a churchyard I would pop in take some photos of as many of the headstones as I could. I would then log and edit them and look up Guild members surnames and email them a copy.

When my copy of the Guild *Register* was delivered along with the latest *JoONS* magazine, I decided to do a bit more of this type of work and look up the surnames for any of the Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire area group, as I'd now taken over as their Area Rep. But then I got to thinking why not look out for which ever name was registered with the Guild and do the same for them too.

Initially I would take the photos, come home, edit and log them, then post on our Facebook and email forum the surnames I'd found, even non-study names I will send on. Just lately I have been adding my posts to the Web forum as well trying to reach a wider audience, as I know not everyone chooses to use these methods of communication. So The Nottingham Gravestone Project was born!!!

I had in the past visited Gedling, Redhill, and Carlton cemeteries, and the churchyards of St John the Baptist in

Beeston and St Mary's in Clifton. So I was already building up a group of different places I had visited. At the moment I am "working" Northern Cemetery in Bulwell, seeing as it's just opposite where I live – and being between jobs at the moment, I have plenty of time. In the future I will visit more cemeteries and graveyards in the Nottingham area and these will be added to the project in time.

So I have taken another look at the way I'm managing this project and I have decided that the way forward with this project is now to start The Nottingham Gravestone Project on Flickr (<https://www.flickr.com/groups/2837378@N21/>).

This will be a much more efficient way to manage sending on the photos of the headstones I find. The settings will be made public and anyone will be able to see them and download the photos, leave a comment, or even request a look-out for their name. Yes there are the BillionGraves and Find A Grave sites, but I'm having trouble working with these and thought that this would be a better way for me personally.

So this is my plan now. I will continue to add my posts in the usual way to let people know when I have added new photos to the project and if anyone doesn't use any of these methods to communicate, they can just periodically look at the site on Flickr and see if I've added any of their names. ■



# More on Jacobus Stanier

by Ron Gray, Member of the Stonehewer to Stanier Society  
with an introduction by Michael Stonehewer MCG, Member 3407)

*You are probably aware of our earlier article, "A Facial Survey" in the Journal Vol. 11, No. 11, July-Sept 2014. The donation of an etching of Jacobus Stanier had led to me asking our Stonehewer to Stanier members if they had any relatives who looked like Jacobus. This in turn led to fellow member Ron Gray running a facial survey project. The facial survey received mixed observations: enthusiasm from those who were thinking of doing the same on their own one-name studies, and the odd negative comment, including one stating that they had doubts that articles from non-members were being included in JOONS and hence should not be considered.*

*As founder of the Stonehewer to Stanier Society, I am no doubt biased, but I believe that this series of articles illustrates how useful it is to have your own one-name society where fellow members such as Ron Gray can add so much by their research to our one-name study database. Moving on, and proving the point, Ron has been carrying out some detailed research into this engraving and has sent in a series of three short intriguing articles. Enjoy!*

— Michael Stonehewer

## Part 1: Jacobus and Wenceslas Hollar

Those of you who have read the earlier article on the Facial Survey Project will probably be familiar with the early and unique etching of Jacobus Stanier, but who exactly was the artist responsible?

Wenceslas Hollar was probably the most influential topographical artist and engraver of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. He was born in Prague in 1607 where he resided until 1636, then he came to London where he settled in Arundel House on the Strand overlooking the Thames. He was an energetic artist who took inspiration from his surroundings and was well appreciated by the connoisseur Thomas Howard, the Earl of Arundel, who had met the young Hollar in Cologne before taking him under his wing.



Wenceslas Hollar

In his lifetime, he produced more than 3,000 etchings on a wide variety of subjects: portraits, ships, buildings, and landscapes, etc. His London studies are of great historical importance. His accuracy blended with a keen sensitivity made him an outstanding artist of his time.

I did question why an influential figure such as Hollar would have done an etching of the merchant, Jacobus, although we do know that he, too, was of some eminence. I think the following quote gives us a clue: "The artistic possibility of recording the rich diversity of English and foreign merchants pursuing their business within the walls of London were first realised by Hollar in many of his early works."



Jacobus Stanier  
1643

## A Selection of His Works

Other than the Stanier portraits, his major works include: *A Panoramic View of Greenwich* (his first major production in 1637), followed by *Earl Of Strafford's Execution* (1641); *The Four Seasons* (1643); *The Royal Exchange* (1644); *Natural History Selection* (1646); *Bankside* (1647); *The Great Fire Of London (Before & After)* (1647); *Tower of London* (1647); *Southwark Cathedral* (1647); *Covent Garden Piazza* (1657); and *St Paul's Cathedral* (1658).

The decisive growth of London, beyond the City, occurred largely between 1630 and 1650, with the extensive building of many celebrated buildings and monuments. This enabled Hollar to capture for posterity so much of London's early growth.

Some of Hollar's panoramic views are accepted as being quite outstanding, his scenes of London before and after the great fire being a case in point. We owe much of our detailed knowledge of 17<sup>th</sup> century London to his artistic skill.

He married Margaret Tracy in 1641, who died in 1653. He then married Honora Roberts in 1656 and they had four children. He died in 1677, aged 70, and is buried at St Margaret's Church, Westminster, London.

## Part 2: Jacobus and Family

Following on from my initial article on Wenceslas Hollar, I can now reveal the identity of the mysterious Jacobus Stanier. My research suggests that he was of Italian origin. He came to the city around 1630 during the period when many scholars, artists, craftsmen, and merchants were migrating from Italy to London – a tradition which was strengthened when Palladian villas became fashionable among the wealthy architects and merchants, of which Jacobus became eminent. James or Jacobus (a Latin variation) married Thomasine Meade in 1638 at St Mary Woolnough, London. They settled in St Mary Axe, which became very much a flourishing Italian quarter of London. He was by trade a master cloth mercer, and throughout the medieval period the guild held great power and influence in the capital. It is still ranked third in precedence of the great 12 livery companies of the City of London.

An earlier Hollar portrait of James has now been found. This one was etched four years earlier in 1639 and shows him looking much younger! I have discovered a detailed will left by James, largely in Latin but clearly showing the names of two sons and three daughters: David, Samuel, Thomasine, Jane, and Rebecca. Further study reveals that Samuel (later to be Lord Mayor of London)



Jacobus Stanier  
1639

**STANIER** continued on page 15



# What's in a (Mewburn) Name?

by Dr Ian G MacDonald (Member 6027)

This is a cautionary tale. There is a clear premise in a one-name study that there is a name to focus on. OK, there may be many variants, so the focus can be blurred. That is part of the fun of it during any investigation and we learn to take it in our stride and appreciate that spelling is a modern phenomenon forced on us by administrators.

What then do we do if it turns out the name is not what we think; if it has been made up, or adopted?

## Mewburn Origins?

Little has been published about the Mewburns. The first of only two articles appeared in 1900 in an obscure journal called the *Ontarian Genealogist*. The British Library has no copy and there appear to be only two in the UK. As its name suggests, it was published in Canada. Authorship of its articles is not acknowledged.

The paper is essentially a descendant report for the Mewburns in Canada. The source of the information was most probably Sydney Chilton Mewburn (1863-1956), a Canadian barrister and soldier, later to become a politician and businessman. He, as Major-General Mewburn, became the Minister for Militia and Defence during the First World War and was in charge of the deployment of Canadian forces in support of the British war effort. He is known to have accumulated a significant collection of family historical documents, now in the keeping of Archives of Ontario. He was a man to take seriously.

The family details are immaculately presented, and it corresponds in most details to what I had found in original sources, but in its introduction (shown in the box above) there is a bombshell.

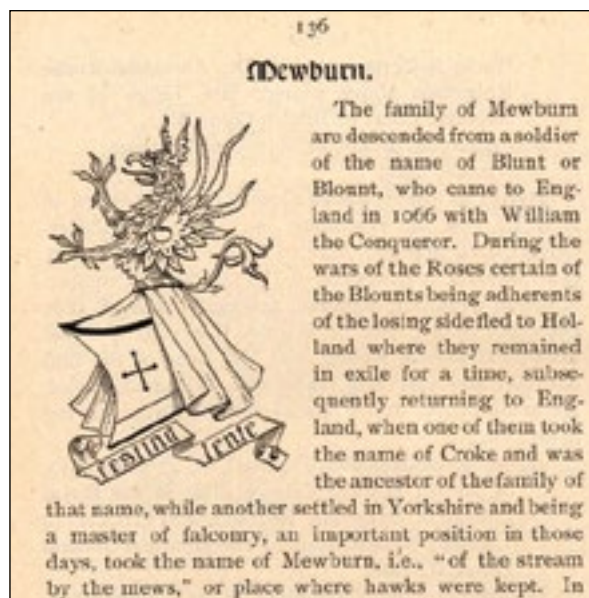
A story is told of early times, being on the wrong side in a conflict, fleeing abroad, then returning later under an assumed name — Mewburn. It suggests that the Mewburns were not Mewburns at all, but Blounts.

## Unpicking the Legend

Before we look at the story, the image is eye-catching. It is not a coat of arms and is not ancient; the shield and achievement is missing. However the demigriiffin crest and the motto are

taken from arms granted first to Francis Mewburn (1785-1867) of Darlington, a highly successful north-east lawyer (and great uncle to S C Mewburn). Francis wrote the parliamentary bill that enabled the Stockton to Darlington railway to be built and later in life became the last chief bailiff of Darlington. His arms have nothing to do with any Blount origins.

There were several prosperous Mewburns in the north-east, but they were at best minor gentry. They did not even appear in *Burke's Landed Gentry* until William Richmond Mewburn, a wealthy banker, made sure of his place in 1906. Burke, though, makes no mention of any Blount origin in that Mewburn entry.



Mewburn origins from the *Ontarian Genealogist* (with thanks to the University of Cambridge).

So what does Burke say about Blounts and Crokes? There were le Blounts with William the Conqueror: two brothers, Sir Robert and Sir William, the former being in charge of the fleet that brought the invading army over. Later, there were descendants who were barons of Ixworth, though that title became extinct with the death of the sixth baron, Sir William, at the battle of Lewes in 1264. Another line became barons of Mountjoy during the Wars of the Roses. Then, according to Burke, a Sir Robert of Belton, in Rutland, had two sons: "Sir Ralph Blount,

(from whom derived the extinct Lords Blount of Belton), and Nicholas le Blount, who took the name of Croke, ancestor of the Crokes of Studley Priory."

The Croke family appears in *Burke's Landed Gentry* and there we get a little more colour with "Nicholas le Blount, who changed his name to Croke to avoid state persecution."

The Crokes also benefit from a monumental history written in 1823 by Sir Alexander Croke of Studley. He tells in detail how Sir Thomas Blount of Belton plotted against Henry IV to put Richard II back on the throne. His cousin, Nicholas le Blount, was part of this movement. The insurrection failed and Sir Thomas was hanged, drawn, and quartered. Nicholas and a few others fled to France, then offered their services to the Duke of Milan for wars in Italy. Success brought wealth, but in 1404, with changes in the local political climate, they decided to return to England, via France and Holland. In France they heard of Henry's continuing harsh treatment of opponents, so



they took new names — in le Blount's case, Croke. They lived in concealment until the death of Henry in 1413 when they were able to buy lands with their Italian-won wealth.

In none of this is there ever any mention of more than one le Blount or of anyone taking the name Mewburn, so nothing supports the claim in the *Ontarian Genealogist*.

Even the suggestion of the falconry origin of the Mewburn name is doubtful. A more likely origin is locative and associated with Maulds Meaburn in Westmorland. In any case, there are traces of Meburn, Meaburn, and Mewburn names in use in the 14<sup>th</sup> century before any unpleasantness with the Wars of the Roses. The name was already present and did not need to be invented.

Of course, if some Blount/Croke/Mewburn did return to England after the Wars he might have turned up listed as a foreigner in such records of the time as the alien subsidy returns or letters of denization. The *England's Immigrants 1330-1550* database containing these has, however, no Mewburns or variants throughout that period. There are a few Blounts, but they evidently were not disguising themselves; there is even, at Kingston upon Hull, a Thomas Croke who paid tax in 1465 — but then he was a Croke, so that is no support to the myth.

### A Product of its Time

The *Ontarian* paper was written while Victoria was still alive. It may have been written by Sydney Mewburn or by the editor using material provided by Sydney. Mewburn was a product of Victorian thinking and concerns. He was conscious of his family's English origins and proud of them. He was possibly uncertain of their social status back then, yet keen to position it favourably to help cement his credentials in Canadian society. He was also a highly principled man, one who turned down the offer of a knighthood at the end of the First World War on the grounds that he had just been doing his duty. Could he have written the introduction, or was it Chadwick, the editor, determined to have an eye-catching story?

It was common for successful Victorian businessmen, the new money, to commission family trees from professional genealogists. The aim was to demonstrate a significant pedigree. Skilled genealogists could engineer a sideways shuffle from distant branches into the nobility and even royalty. Once that was achieved the tree could go anywhere. On open-days, the Society of Genealogists displays trees where wonderful feats of sleight-of-hand have been achieved and where European royalty passes down ancient lines and into biblical begats, ending with (naturally) Adam and Eve under the eye of a benevolent God.

In a more modest way, the paper was following in that tradition. The introduction is skilfully structured. The crest and motto establish an air of ancient achievement. Immediate mention of 1066 strikes a chord and hints at inviolable status; the Wars of the Roses (a leap of a mere 400 years) were the greatest conflict in English history and especially poignant for a northern family. All of it is sufficiently far off to be almost unchallengeable. But is it believable?

There is not a shred of evidence to support the claim to a Blount origin, so in this more pragmatic time belief must be suspended. What we have is a fine example of Victorian wishful thinking.

### Lessons

Challenge is a key process in genealogy. Broad assertions must be closely scrutinised; claims without citations must be treated with caution; supporting evidence must evince a logical context if conclusions are to be drawn from it. Don't let your one-name be hijacked by family myth-making. Even the work of a great man (or his editor) can be challenged. ■

*This article with complete citations can be found at [http://one-name.org/members/journal/articles/vol12-1\\_MacDonald](http://one-name.org/members/journal/articles/vol12-1_MacDonald).*

## STANIER *continued from page 13*

also left a will which indicated he was unmarried and had an estate at Wanstead in Essex. Daughter Thomasine married Daniel Porten, a merchant. Jane was married in 1679 to Edward Fane, the fifth son of Sir Francis Fane.

It does appear that the London merchants were a close-knit group and that the London Staniers moved in rather high circles. To complete my findings so far, I have proven that James had at least two siblings: Robert and Elizabeth. There is strong evidence that James' father was David Stanier, who had come from Cologne in the last years of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and died of the plague in 1625; his wife is believed to be Abigail (mother of James). James died in 1663 and Thomasine, his wife, died in 1676. They are buried along with their children at St Helen's Church, Bishopsgate, London.

### Part 3: Jacobus' Third Son, Sir Samuel Stanier

Samuel Stanier, the third son of James (Jacobus) Stanier, started his rise to prominence by becoming an apprentice to a master draper within the well-connected Porten family. Apprenticeship to a master draper was the usual means of gaining the freedom of the City of London, which can claim a succession of mayors, politicians, and even some royalty.

*Stype's Survey of London* calculated that between 1531 and 1714, 53 London mayors were either drapers or mercers.

Like his father before him, Samuel continued to live in St Mary Axe in the heart of the city. He quickly made a name for himself, first as a livery man, from which he was promoted in 1705 to drapers company master. He was knighted in the same year. He then became alderman of Aldgate and sheriff of London. He also achieved the title of Colonel of the Red Regiment of London Militia.

On 1 August 1714 Queen Anne died, and so ended the direct line of the Stuarts. When George I was crowned, the city fountains ran with wine, and the lord mayor, Sir Samuel Stanier, the son of an Italian merchant, led the procession clad in a crimson velvet gown.

After his term of mayoralty, Sir Samuel Stanier continued as an alderman for a while before retiring to his large estate in Wanstead, Essex, where he saw out his days.

He rewrote his will in 1714 and left his estate to his cousin, Francis Porten, and most of his other worldly goods — including the "crimson velvet gown" to another cousin, James Porten. He died on 28 August 1724 and is buried alongside his siblings, parents, and grandparents. ■

# One-Name Studies

## *The 37th Guild Conference*

### The Programme

The 37<sup>th</sup> Guild Conference will take place from late afternoon Friday, 1 April, to late afternoon Sunday, 3 April 2016, with the AGM on Saturday, 2 April, at 09:00. We are pleased to announce that we have been able to once again offer a 10 percent discount to those attending for the first time. We paid careful attention to comments made by last year's conference attendees and by those who didn't attend, when devising the programme; we hope that there will be something for everyone. There is a wealth of talent amongst our members and a number of them are lecturers of international renown; we have made good use of this pool of expertise. The plan was to give the weekend an international feel, with presentations on research in Europe, India, and the Caribbean. The provisional programme is on the facing page.

### The Venue

The venue, 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>) is centrally placed, being within one mile of Birmingham International Airport and railway station. The hotel offers a shuttle service from the train station. For those arriving by car, it is situated off the M42 and close to the M6, M1, and M5 motorways. If you can tear yourself away from the family history, there is a heated swimming pool, fitness centre, and spa.

### The Added Extras

We hope that the proximity of our conference to *Who Do You Think You Are? Live*, both in terms of the calendar and geography, will make a journey to Birmingham doubly worthwhile next April. There will be an opportunity to visit places of historical interest on the three days between the conference and *Who Do You Think You Are? Live*. Unfortunately, many potential attractions have not, at the time of writing, set their 2016 prices or opened their 2016 diaries for bookings. If you think you may be interested in joining in one or all of the outings, please indicate on the booking form and we will be in touch when the firm arrangements have been made.



Amongst other places, we will be visiting The Black Country Museum [www.bclm.co.uk](http://www.bclm.co.uk). Their website describes this attraction: "The story of the Black Country is distinctive because of the scale, drama, intensity and multiplicity of the industrial might that was unleashed. It first emerged in the 1830s, creating the first industrial landscape anywhere in the world. It is this that we rejoice in and want to share with you. Our award-winning corner of the West Midlands is now one of the finest and largest open-air museums in the United Kingdom. After very humble beginnings, a bright idea and 40 years of inspiration, this is twenty six acres worth exploring. Amazing as it may seem, we have created a 'place' – a real and lively place, where once there was nothing and nobody. With a village and charismatic residents to chat with. Trams to ride. Games to play. Things being made. Stories to hear. People – their triumphs to admire and troubles to be thankful that are not ours. Time to be well spent."

We hope you will want to join us.

*Chris Braund, conference organiser*

# — Home and Away

## Conference and AGM 2016

### One-Name Studies — Home and Away

#### FRIDAY

- 16:00 *DNA Discussion* with Debbie Kennett
- 17:00 Regional Reps meeting
- 20:00 Quiz

#### SATURDAY

- 07:30 - 09:00 Breakfast
- 09:00 AGM
- 11:00 - 12:00 **Derek R Harris — *Up the Cut***  
An amusing and informative look at the canals of England and Wales. This is a talk with a twist, don't miss it.
- 12:00 - 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 - 14:30 **Peter Bailey — *Researching Ancestors Who Lived in British India, 1600-1947***  
Many families had members who lived and worked in British India; come and learn how to find out more about them.
- 14:45 - 15:45 **Paul Brooks from Twile — *Twiling Your One-Name Study***  
A demonstration of this fast-developing method of presenting your family history and an opportunity to consider how this might be adapted to one-name studies.
- 16:00 - 17:00 **Julie Goucher — *Tracing your One-Name in Europe***  
Julie's own "one-name" has strong roots in Italy and she is author of *Discovering your European Ancestors*, so she is well placed to give us ideas about how we can track down individuals on continental Europe.
- 19:00 Reception followed by conference dinner

#### SUNDAY

- 07:45 - 09:30 Breakfast
- 08:45 - 09:15 Ecumenical Church Service
- 09:30 - 10:30 **Kim Baldacchino — *Tracking My One-Name All Over the World: The Eastlake Family***  
A case study from Kim's one-name study, with plenty of suggestions as to how your findings can be illustrated.
- 11:00 - 12:00 **Panel — *One-Name Studies 'Round the World***  
Suggestions of key sources for one-namers in a variety of non-UK countries. With contributions from Peter Towey, Julie Goucher, and others.
- 12:00 - 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 - 14:30 **Bob Cumberbatch — *Caribbean and Slavery Ancestry***  
Were holders of your one-name slaves or slave owners? Find out how to track your family in this part of the world.
- 15:00 - 16:00 **Janet Few — *Following One-Name Around the World: Tracking Emigrants and Immigrants***  
Examples of sources that can be used to track down those who leave the UK for other parts of the English-speaking world and case studies illustrating what can be discovered.





## CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION...

# The Proposed New Guild Constitution

by Peter Hagger

Manager of Constitutional Review, Member 4374)

A small team of Guild members has been working on reviewing the Guild constitution for just under two years and has completed a document that we will now be voting on.

### Introduction

The process has involved regularly reporting to members the Team's work and listening to and discussing feedback. Apart from the exchange of many emails, there have been sessions at the last two conferences where members were updated and also able to give feedback. Of course, not all of the views could be incorporated, but all have been listened to.

### Documentation

We are only being asked to vote on the constitution. However, much of the detailed operating procedures now are within the rules and procedures (R&Ps) which are set by the Committee. However, it will be easier for members to change these R&Ps by a resolution at the annual general meeting (AGM) or even a general meeting.

Within the constitution, the most important things – the name and objectives of the Guild – have not changed. The changes are designed to improve the governance of the Guild and to allow minor changes to take place without a re-writing of the constitution.

A section has been added on definitions, where a number of terms have been defined to prevent misunderstanding.

Let us now look at the main changes, roughly in the order they appear in the constitution.

- References to the UK have been minimised, to emphasise that the Guild is a worldwide organisation.
- Some of the detail on how we should respond to enquiries regarding our studies has been removed and replaced by guidance from the Committee. This makes it easier to change as technology and communications methods develop.
- With regard to membership, provision has been made to allow the Committee to introduce an associate class of membership with no voting rights.
- The registration of surnames is a fundamental part of the Guild, and whilst it is retained within the constitution, the details are now in the R&Ps. The *Register* will continue to be produced, but will just be of the registered studies and not a full list of all members. This is partly because of the UK data protection legislation.
- The size of the Committee is to be reduced from 15 to nine elected members, with those members having the power to co-opt up to two further members to fill any particular skills shortage. There is now extensive research to show that committees and boards of less than about 10 function and achieve the best results.
- There will now be a 10-year limit on the length of time a member can serve on the Committee, which will, of course, also limit the tenure as an officer.
- The section on delegation has been strengthened and all the detail on subcommittees and postholders moved to the R&Ps.
- There is now no mention of an executive committee, as with a smaller Committee and email voting available, this is not thought necessary. However, the Committee may, if it wishes, introduce a finance subcommittee.
- Much of the detail on how elections take place is now in the R&Ps. However, a key change in the constitution is the election of a "returning officer" at the AGM who will oversee the complete election process. It is envisaged that all elections will be managed within the Guild.
- It will now be easier to table a resolution at the AGM or a general meeting, with only 15 members needed to support one for it to be tabled. There is also no ban on canvassing support. Proxy voting will be introduced on resolutions, overseen by the returning officer, allowing all members – not just those at the AGM – to have a say.
- The president and vice-presidents will in the future be elected for a term of five years, with no restriction on being appointed for a future term.
- The final appeal of those members going through the expulsion process would be heard by three people rather than just one person.

The new constitution and examples of the likely R&Ps and guidance on responding to enquiries can be found on the Guild website at: <http://one-name.org/members/ConstitutionalReview.html>.

Finally, I urge you to support this revised constitution and vote in favour. ■

**SEE FURTHER INFORMATION ON NEXT PAGE**

## CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION...

# Committee Endorsement and Recommendation

In the two years and more since the committee commissioned the effort, the Constitution Review Team has worked diligently and thoughtfully. They have reported regularly to the Committee and to members both in the *Journal* and in person to those attending our annual conferences. Peter Hagger has chaired the team through most of the process and has summarized the main points of the changes. Our thanks go to him and the entire team.

Main point: we are not changing our goals, merely improving how we go about achieving them.

Thanks in advance to member Richard Baguley, who has agreed to act as the “Returning Officer” (in advance of there being a formal position) and oversee the process to ensure it is fair and above board.

The Committee is pleased to endorse the work of the Review Team and recommend acceptance of the new documents.

— Paul Howes, chairman

## CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION...

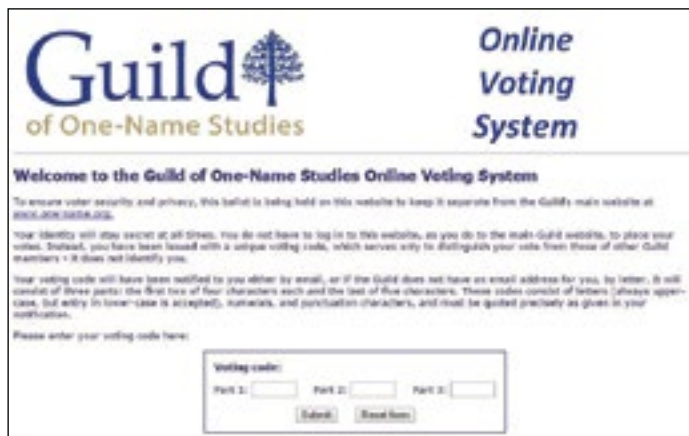
# Making Your Views Known

I’ve been asked to act as the “Returning Officer” for this important vote on our constitution and I’m pleased to introduce Guild members to the online voting system that’s been created to make the process of approving (or not) the revised constitution as easy as possible, if you’re online. And, even if you’re not an online member, there’s no reason why you can’t take part and every reason why you should. So — please vote!

To begin... During October, each member will be issued with a unique voting code to ensure the integrity of the system and to prevent duplication. The code will be notified to you either by email or, if the Guild doesn’t have an email address for you, by letter. Even if you receive a letter, you may vote online.

I stress that while that code is unique to you, it cannot be used to identify you.

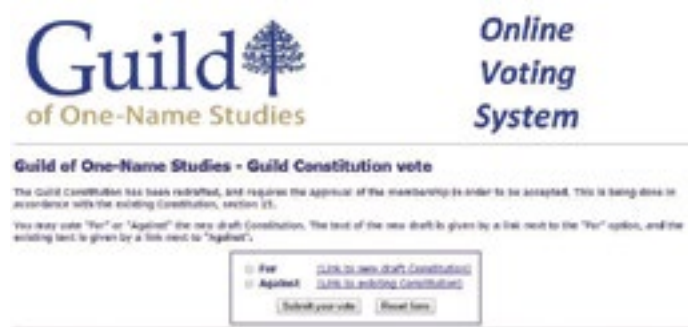
Once you’ve read the proposed constitution and you’re ready to cast your vote, please visit this website: [www.guildvote.org](http://www.guildvote.org). There, you will see a page that will look like this:



Please enter the details of your voting code **exactly**, making sure that any punctuation marks that appear in your voting code are entered exactly as given. For example, make sure you don’t confuse an “I” (that’s a capital “i”) with a “1” (“one”);

or a “0” (zero) with an “O” (that’s “oh”). We’ve tried hard to eliminate confusions like that, but the encryption formula, designed to prevent duplicate entries, may still sometimes generate them. Using email, I find the best way is to simply “copy and paste” from the email text. And, once your code is entered, click on “Submit.”

That should take you to another page. If not, you’ll be directed back to try again. Here’s a screenshot of the all-important following page, where you can make your views known:



You can click on the links to take a final look at both the old and new constitutions and, once you’ve made up your mind, select “For” or “Against.” If you select the wrong button, just click on “Reset form” to try again. Once you’re sure, click on “Submit your vote.”

That’s all there is to it. In the background, your vote will be counted and you’ll be unable to cast your vote a second time. By the way, neither I nor anyone else will know how you’ve cast your vote. It will be my task to add the postal votes (they’re governed by the same controls), and once the ballot is closed, to make the results known.

I hope that explains the process clearly but, if you have queries you can contact me by email at: [baguley@one-name.org](mailto:baguley@one-name.org).

— Richard Baguley, “Returning Officer”  
(member 7001)



# The Shephard Surname: An Unlikely Name for an ONS?

by Wayne Shephard (Member 6744)

**A**t first blush, our surname is probably part of a group that may be too common and numerous to make a suitable candidate for a one-name study. In this article, I will review some particulars about our unique spelling that may, in fact, indicate a case can be made for such a project – at least for my own specific spelling variation.

We have what many consider as an unusually-spelled surname. We don't think so, of course; we think Shephard, with the double vowel, is quite normal. Over the centuries, clerks, vicars, and civil servants, among many others, have recorded members of the family under a great variety of spellings. Many people and organizations persist even today in trying to spell our name wrongly. Overall we have resisted the temptation to conform to what these erudite persons have believed our surname should be.

Basic questions I have asked myself are, "Is the name Shephard unique?" and "Is it locative?" The answers may give more definitive information about the origins of our family.

I have confidently traced my own direct paternal line as far back as the early 1600s, to Cornwood Parish in Devon, England. The earliest year for which there are register records in that parish is 1685. That was the year when the churchwarden's house burned down, taking with it all of the parish documents. The last year a member of my Shephard family was born in Cornwood was 1906, a female who had moved away by the time she was three.

As a general observation about my ancestors in Cornwood: where individuals could read and write, they invariably wrote their name as Shephard. People who were not literate often accepted whatever form the clerk or vicar used in the baptism and/or marriage registers; they and their descendants then used it for the rest of their lives. There are many examples of quite different spellings shown in parish and other records for the same individual at different times of their lives. It can be a challenge to sort out these individuals and place them accurately in the family tree.

The Cornwood church registers are the primary source of information for many of my paternal ancestors prior to 1837 (Table 1). Matching post-1837 parish register entries to civil birth, marriage, and death indexes allows a better summary to be made of the true surname spellings of the particular individuals.

It is clear there are two main variants of our name in the Cornwood parish records – that is, spelling variations that family members went on to use on a regular basis: they are Shephard and Shepherd. I am able to show that all the individuals related to me who lived in Cornwood but who did not spell their name as Shephard, descend from or are directly related to individuals who used that name. I like to say the Shepherds in the area

Spelling Variation	Cornwood, Devon Parish Registers			
	Baptism Register (1685-1906)	Marriage Register (1685-1907)		Burial Register (1685-1945)
		Groom	Bride	
Shepard	1		1	5 (-1)
Shepeard				1
Shephard	15 (-1)			1 (-1)
Shephard	5 (+19)	8 (8)	15 (12)	5 (+8)
Shepherd	65 (-18)	3	7 (3)	49 (-6)
Sheppard	24			5
Shepperd				1
Sheppherd				2
Shipperd				3

**Table 1** – Variations in spelling of Shephard surname for author's family in Cornwood Parish. Numbers outside parentheses from parish baptism, marriage and burial registers; numbers inside parentheses represent spelling as Shephard: (1) from actual signatures in the parish registers of individuals involved; (2) as shown on civil registration indexes, events registered from 1837 onward; and (3) on actual birth, marriage and death certificates obtained from General Record Office.

were people born with the "a" and buried without it! The other, minor variations used can be put down simply to errors made by those recording the information.

It is possible to identify when certain families changed from using Shephard to Shepherd by examining the entries in parish registers. Families who adopted the Shepherd spelling, though, were also not always consistent in its application.

A first cousin 5x removed, John Shephard, is one of the best examples I have found for the adoption of a different surname spelling. He was baptized in 1815 in Cornwood, with the surname of Shephard. Both his father and grandfather were literate and signed their names as Shephard. Young John, however, never learned to read and write and appears to have used whatever name was recorded for him. On his marriage record he is shown as Shephard.

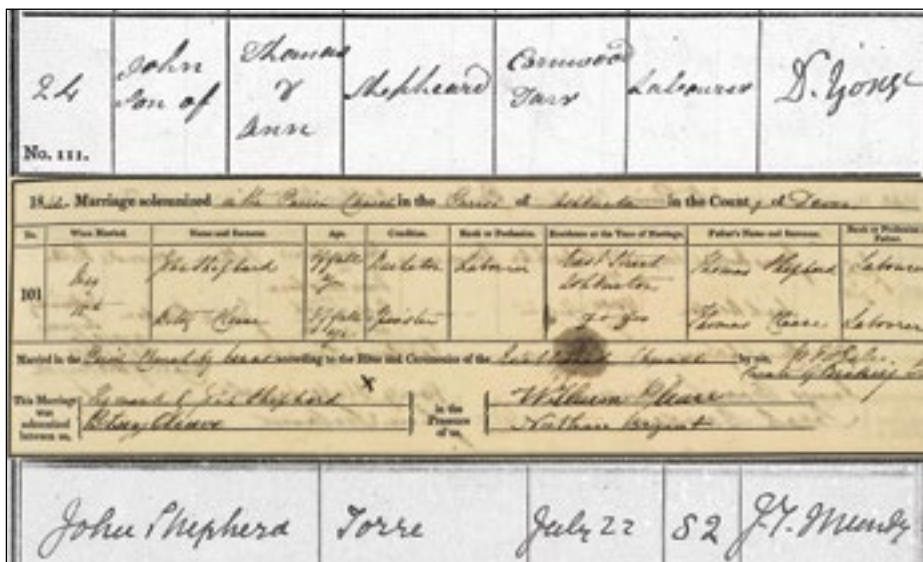


Photo from the T H Maddock collection

John Shephard

The Cornwood parish burial register shows him as Shepherd, as does the civil death index. His children were recorded on various parish BMD documents with all three spellings, just to confuse the matter further – but where I have found their signatures, such as on marriage records, they used Shephard.





1815 baptism, 1842 marriage, and 1898 burial entries for John Shephard of Cornwood, Devon. He was born with the “a” in his surname and buried without it. (Images courtesy of the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office.)

That spelling can also be found on the civil registration indexes of their births.

The telling examples of the way our name should be spelled are in records where individuals’ own signatures appear, as was the case for John Shephard’s father and grandfather. Most instances of actual signatures are on church marriage records after 1794 and/or certificates issued by the General Record Office from 1837 onward. Other sources include wills signed by a testator or property leases signed by lessors and lessees.

In pre-1837 registers, the eight grooms recorded as Shephard all signed with that name. Two were recorded as Shepherd; however one of them, who made his mark, married a cousin with the same surname. She signed as Shephard,

suggesting his name was really Shephard as well. In post-1837 registers, there were no Shepherd grooms in Cornwood. Two men named Shepherd were married; one signed using that name and one made his mark.

Twelve women in the family with the name Shephard were recorded in the pre-1837 parish marriage registers, although one was a widow. Nine of them signed using that name while three made their mark. Two women were shown as Shepherd; one of them made her mark but there is no signature for the other. In the post-1837 registers, there were three women named Shephard married, all of whom signed that way. Five others were recorded as Shepherd; three signed with that name and two made their mark.

County	Results of Searches for Shephard by Census Year							
	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
DEV	119	143	95	140	110	148	114	135
MDX + LND	44	94	73	124	138	193	191	167
LAN	38	33	33	18	23	37	15	18
YKS	32	41	35	17	16	49	41	19
SFK	15	2	8	8	4	4	4	3
NTH	14	10	10	3	5	7	4	4
NFK	13	20	14	25	62	54	44	44
ESS	10	11	1	3	9	5	38	33
Top 8 Totals	285	354	269	338	367	497	451	423
All others	115	261	202	248	262	266	319	390

Table 2 – Shephard surname on Ancestry transcriptions for England censuses, arranged by county population (sorted by top eight as of 1841 plus all others combined).

It seems clear that when reaching adulthood and marrying, most family members preferred using Shephard.

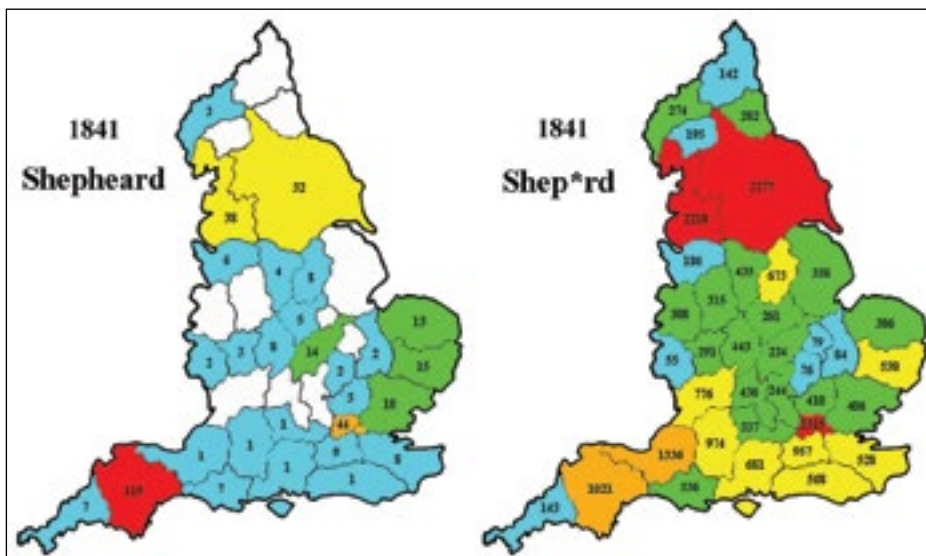
For those individuals for whom I have actual birth certificates or have found on the civil birth index, 19 of those shown as other than Shephard in the Cornwood parish baptism register were actually registered as Shephard. Of the 49 individuals recorded in the parish burial register without the “a” in their name, I have death certificates or found entries on the death index for eight of them that have the “a”.

In order to see if there was a geographic bias in England to the occurrence of my surname, I did a complete search of the UK censuses from 1841 to 1911 on Ancestry.com. I knew that many of the names would have been wrongly recorded or transcribed – and many were – but I hoped there would still be enough good data to show any groupings of my surname that might offer some ideas as to its origin or concentration over the decades. Overall, I thought I might be able to make some general observations about whether there were areas where our particular name was concentrated. From there it would be necessary eventually to trace the individual families and see if they changed their name over time.

Two search sets for Shephard and Shep\*rd were done for each census, the latter including all variants, to catch names not spelled like mine. I set the spelling parameters to 100 percent in the search filter for each spelling so that there would be no confusion with similar-sounding surnames.

County	Results of Searches for Shep*rd by Census Year							
	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
MDX + LND	2,271	2,832	3,048	4,715	6,944	7,615	8,056	8,420
YKS	2,245	2,541	2,862	3,258	3,877	4,254	4,812	5,218
LAN	2,180	2,715	3,109	3,641	4,468	5,009	5,443	5,554
SOM	1,335	1,324	1,305	1,300	1,328	1,278	1,047	1,427
WIL	973	1,052	1,048	1,036	1,093	1,151	1,174	1,188
SRY	948	1,059	1,360	1,032	681	856	1,032	1,563
DEV	902	940	928	897	937	956	996	983
GLS	776	851	894	1,063	1,220	1,344	1,585	1,456
Top 8 Totals	11,630	13,314	14,554	16,942	20,548	22,463	24,145	25,809
All others	9,392	10,413	11,526	12,794	14,334	15,510	17,235	19,010

Table 3 – Shep\*rd surname (all variants in spelling except Shephard) on Ancestry transcriptions for England censuses, arranged by county population (sorted by top eight as of 1841 plus all others combined).



Maps of England illustrating the numbers of individuals transcribed with the surname of Shepherd and Shep\*rd (all variants of the name including Shepherd) on the 1841 census.

The name Shepherd and all of its variations made up only about 0.14 percent of all people in England, according to the censuses. Specifically, Shepherd made up only about 1.6 percent of all variants; so the population of my specific name is small – as I always suspected it might be (about 0.002 percent of the total population recorded in all of the censuses).

I further broke down the results by county, again setting each county at 100 percent in the search parameters, in order to find the actual number of individuals who lived in each region. Table 2 (on the previous page) shows the counties with the largest populations of those with the Shepherd surname and Table 3 shows the counties with the numbers of all other variants, according to transcriptions on Ancestry.

The strict spelling of Shepherd is, and has been concentrated primarily in Devon, with Middlesex (including London) as a secondary location in terms of total number. They are the only two regions to ever have over 100 people recorded on any census with the name. Devon had over 100 individuals with the Shepherd surname in all censuses except 1861.

For Shep\*rd (all variants excluding Shepherd), four regions – of 38 tabulated in the censuses – counted in excess of 1,000 individuals in 1841: Lancashire, Middlesex/London, Somerset, and Yorkshire. By 1911, 15 counties had more than 1,000 people with some variation of the surname recorded.

Devon stayed relatively constant at just over 1,000 Shep\*rd people (all variants) over the decades. The total in Middlesex/London rose from 2,315 in 1841 to 8,587 by 1911, still a relatively small group. Of those 8,587, though, only 167 were shown as Shepherd. Yorkshire also had many individuals, with all variants of the name: 2,277 in 1841, rising to 5,237 in 1911 (19 as Shepherd). The third most populated county for Shep\*rd was Lancashire, which had 2,218 people with variations of the name in 1841 and 5,572 by 1911. The proportion with Shepherd in Lancashire was even smaller, though, at only 18 by 1911. Somerset started with 1,336 in 1841 and ended with just 1,429 in 1911 (two as Shepherd).

Notwithstanding the larger numbers of individuals with the name Shepherd in 1841, in such areas as Middlesex/London (44), Lancashire (38), or Yorkshire (32), the percentage of that name in the total Shep\*rd group was less than 2 percent in each of them. A few counties went to have more than 5 percent of the Shep\*rd group having the Shepherd name. Norfolk, in particular, reached over 17 percent by 1891; the numbers were still small, however, with only 54 individuals by that year named Shepherd, compared to 148 in Devon.

Devon had the highest ratio, with over 32 percent of the Shep\*rd group having the name Shepherd in 1841. The proportion remained high for all censuses. And we already know that, at least in Cornwood parish where almost 52 percent were Shepards, many of those listed as other variants were errors.

In Devon, almost 90 percent of those with the Shepherd name were born in the county throughout the time period of the censuses. In Middlesex/London, the numbers of those named Shepherd who were born in that region decreased over time, from 80 percent in 1841 to 20 percent in 1911. Just over 5 percent, on average, of those living in Middlesex/London were born in Devon.

For my own family, a review of the earliest records with our name has been instructive. I know that over the years many of those persons in charge of records, particularly in Cornwood parish, have taken it upon themselves to spell the name in whatever manner they thought right. But, as has been pointed out, family members themselves have been quite consistent in spelling it the same way as we do today.

The earliest register entry I have found in Cornwood is a 1633 baptism, for my 7<sup>th</sup> great-grand-uncle, John Shepherd, son of Nicolas Shepherd. There is no mistaking the spelling in this case or in the 1838 entry for his brother, William, both found in the bishop's transcripts.

The 1657 probate document of the will of their father, Nicholas, also spelled their surname as Shepherd, further substantiating that was the correct way. A 1627 reference to an inquisition post-mortem concerning the estate of Nicholas' father, William, gentleman of Cornwood, also shows their surname as Shepherd.

The Shepherd spelling has been common since the 17<sup>th</sup> century in many types of records – parish registers, property leases, wills, court records, and tax lists. I have dozens of examples of records in Cornwood and other Devon parishes which illustrate its legitimacy.

My conclusion is that I believe a Shepherd one-name study is viable if I concentrate on that exact spelling. Other variants could be included if it can be demonstrated that individuals with those different names had ancestors or a significant number of other family members who spelled their name as Shepherd. My analysis of the census data indicates that the highest percentage of individuals with the name Shepherd resided in Devon over the entire time period spanned by the censuses. That strongly suggests the name is locative to that region and that a one-name study would best be centred there to begin with. ■







entry in CWGC records for a John missing, presumed killed. The card shows his regimental number as 15127 in the Royal West Surrey Regiment, and the date he disappeared. The “negatif envoyé” 22/10/17 means they wrote to the next of kin to say they have found no information about him. The next of kin is shown as his mother, Mrs A Gotts, of 113 Star Lane, Canning Town, London E 16. She had probably written to them asking if they had any details, as he had been presumed dead, but this has filled in the information on relatives missing from CWGC.

Another source of records has helped: Now we have the “soldier’s effects” record on Ancestry. We have one for John, which confirms his mother, Ann, as the recipient of £3/4/5d followed by war gratuity of £9/10/-. So with his mother’s forename we have now confirmed him as John George, though this second name only appears in the birth index. So from the scant information on the CWGC register we know who John was.

It is worth checking the ICRC records if you have someone who died in the First World War. I have an entry for a George Gotts who appears on a “Totenliste” where he is shown as “found dead.”

### Problem Soldiers

I have checked several battalion diaries in TNA but a couple of problems emerged. Frederick Gotts died in England in the training reserve and was buried in Hull cemetery. TNA advises that the army rationalised its record-keeping and only produced battalion diaries for those units at war. Since the training reserve were not at war there is no war diary. There may be other records showing why he died, but it looks like the death certificate will be the main source.

The other tricky area is where soldiers went to hospital first. There are limited hospital records available. Bertie George Gotts is buried in the cemetery at Lijssenthoek, near Poperinge, but there no records for which hospital he was in. His “Soldiers Effects” record shows he was at “3 Can CC Stn France.” The website [www.1914-1918.net](http://www.1914-1918.net) shows that Casualty Clearing Station 3 was at Lozinghem in January 1918, some 50 km away near Bethune in France, which seems a long way from Poperinge.

So the only way is to work back from the date of death through the battalion diaries to see if there was some action and report of casualties.

Similarly, Sidney Gotts died at Étaples hospital, with no records of how he got there. Again, the only recourse is to check for action in his battalion back from that day.

Sidney’s soldier’s will is one of the few that can be bought from the probate office (<https://www.gov.uk/probate-search>). Like another Gotts will, it is wrongly identified, this one as Stanley instead of Sidney, registered as dying on 16/04/1917.

### Matthew Gotts, Tunneller, Died 8 Feb 1916

The “Soldiers’ Effects” entry shows Matthew as sapper 102869 in the 178<sup>th</sup> Company of the Royal Engineers. He died 8 Feb 1916 in action. He had over £48 in his pay account, a huge amount in those days. This was passed on to his widow, Lydia. This sparked me to investigate him further. Through [www.1914-1918.net](http://www.1914-1918.net) I realised that 178<sup>th</sup> Company was a tunnelling company attached to 7<sup>th</sup> Division.

On formation, 178<sup>th</sup> moved to the Fricourt sector of the Somme, and then moved up to try to mine enemy positions in High Wood

as the advance progressed in July 1916. This stacks up with Matthew’s death in 1916.

### ‘Everybody Damns the Tunneller’ (E Synton, 1918)

Tunnellers seemed to have their own status and lack of respect for authority of other military rank. He would have been paid 6 shillings for every day in France as a tunneller, so this is probably the source of the £48. This was for two days working and the rest of the week off. However, this is about 40 weeks’ pay, so it is interesting that he hadn’t sent it all home!

This website gives a very good account of the origins of the tunnellers, and their way of cutting the tunnels which was much quieter than the German approach of pick and shovel. See <http://www.tunnellersmemorial.com/tunnelling-companies/>.

The battalion diary shows the different status of tunnellers: every casualty is named. It shows that Matthew was digging in the tunnel with two others when the Germans exploded their own mine at Tambour Duclos, causing the tunnels to collapse, burying three of them. Two died (Gotts, Wilty) and Luke was wounded, though the two that died were dug out and buried nearby at Becort-Becordel Cemetery.

To actually work out where they died takes a bit of effort. The battalion diary shows the place as MEAULTE, but this was the battalion headquarters and not where the tunnel was being dug. By reading back in the diary it identifies that a three-mile telephone wire had been laid from the mines to HQ, and it seems that they were working on tunnels for mines at Fricourt, around the Tambour Duclos area.

### Conclusions and Lessons Learned

Some of the lessons I have learned investigating my First World War Gottses:

- Finding the service number and battalion is key, and matching these across records can confirm you are looking at the correct records. Sometimes the details of the battalion are only in one record, and not necessarily the medal record or the CWGC record, so the service number becomes the key link.
- “Soldiers Effects” records often have a closer indication of where a soldier died, and usually something much better than the “Died in France and Flanders” statement in CWGC records.
- ICRC records cover more than names of prisoners, and have extra documents which can build up the picture of what life was like.
- Battalion records are well worth looking at. The Northumberland Fusilier one I bought had the full orders for 1 July 1916, and showed exactly where my great uncle mustered, attacked, and died. Many are online as well.
- [www.1914-1918.net](http://www.1914-1918.net) is invaluable in understanding the battalion structures and what they were doing.

There are many other websites describing what battalions were doing at different times, also forums to help with your problem. Just get Googling.

New material comes on line all the time. Keep looking! ■



# Thomas Vayro and Elizabeth Croft: 1869 Emigrants from Yorkshire to USA

by Rennison Vayro (Member 4374)

In the past I have discussed various members of the Vayro ancestry, including the discovery of George and his wife, Ruth (Carr), who had emigrated to Canada in 1908; and James and his wife, Frances (Fawbert), who had moved to Australia in 1909. In both cases they had left Durham and North Yorkshire and decided to take advantage of a “British Bonus Allowance Scheme” that gave them assisted passage to a new life. Fortunately, I am now in contact with descendants of both of these families.

Having made several attempts to locate any Vayro in the United States without much success, in October 2014 I spotted a familiar surname on a social networking site. Since then, a lot of the information that I now have was unearthed by colleagues in the Guild of One-Name Studies, and the Upper Dales Family History Group. My task has been to trace the descendants of yet another Thomas Vayro and Elizabeth (nee Croft) from the 1830s to the present day, and I now have details of seven generations of Vayro families in the USA, mostly in the Indian Head and Newport areas of Maryland.

Corinne Curtis provided me with over 30 pages of material extracted from a variety of sources and records for the USA, and without her assistance I would not have made the progress I have on my USA families. Also, Beverley Croft, a contact from 2004, has helped resolve a few other issues.



US Geological Survey map

Indian Head, Maryland, is located on the Potomac River, about 25 miles downstream from Washington, DC.

## Thomas Vayro (Generation 1)

Thomas was the son of James Vayro and Mary Walker of Angram Cote Farm in Ellingstring, Wensleydale. He was baptised 25 Dec. 1833 at East Witton, St John the Evangelist. Thomas was the youngest of eight children: Mary 1, Mary 2, Dorothy, James, William, Esther, and John. His father, James, is my ggg-grandfather and his brother, William, is my gg-grandfather, so our ancestries are directly linked. Elizabeth's parents were Thomas Croft and Eleanor Falshaw, and grandparents were John Croft and Mary Dixon.

Thomas married Elizabeth at East Witton on 25 Oct. 1856 whilst he was still living with his parents at Angram Cote. Elizabeth was from Sowden Beck, born 17 Jan. 1832. Their first child, John Walker Vayro, was baptised 15 Aug. 1858 at East Witton, and a daughter, Ellen Vayro, was baptised 6 June 1860 at Healey.

On the 1861 census, Thomas (age 27) is shown as the innkeeper of the Lora Grey in Ellingstring, with wife Elizabeth (age 29) and children John Walker (age 3), and Ellen (age 1 month – 7 months if baptism is correct). As an interesting aside, George Metcalfe (age 64) was a visitor at the Lora Grey Inn and shown as a “castrator” by the recorder, which of course even today is a profession in the farming community, tuppung the lambs and gelding the cattle. Another daughter, Mary, was baptised 8 October 1865 at East Witton, but Mary may possibly have been buried at Healey (age 3) on 8 June 1867. Their son, Robert Francis Vayro, was baptised 25 Dec. 1865 at East Witton before they left the UK. An additional daughter, Mary Elizabeth, was born 28 July 1870 in Rhode Island, two years after arriving in the USA.

Thomas' father, James, had died 2 July 1863, and in his will (written in April 1863 and proved in London in January 1864) he left everything to his wife, Mary. According to the terms set out, if Mary died, Thomas and his sister, Esther, would inherit. Both were named as executors, but there is no mention of his brothers William, James, or John; or Thomas' other sisters, Mary and Dorothy.

History shows that in 1867, Thomas' younger brother, William (my gg-grandfather), had moved to Angram Cote Farm to help run and maintain the tenancy of the farm owned by the Jervaulx Estates. At this point, Thomas and Elizabeth may have decided to emigrate to the USA, landing in Boston, Massachusetts in 1869, but Thomas' mother, Mary, retained Angram Cote Farm in her own name until she died in 1879, when William finally took over the tenancy. Why Thomas decided to emigrate is impossible to know, but it is interesting that his wife Elizabeth's brothers, Robert Francis Croft and Thomas Croft, had already moved to New Zealand in 1862 and 1865. To date, the ship's lists are not yet available for all three.



## Immigration Records and Census Returns

Shown on the US Naturalisation Index are:

VAYRO, Thomas, Newport Rhode Island, born Yorkshire England 1833, arrived in Boston Massachusetts 1869, and naturalised 19 May 1890.

VAYRO, John Walker, Newport Rhode Island, born Yorkshire England 1857, arrived in Boston Massachusetts 15 March 1863, and naturalised 16 March 1885 (NB: 1863 doesn't match with other records, and at 6 years old, John Walker would not have travelled on his own).

VAYRO, Frank (Francis) Robert, Newport Rhode Island, born 1863 England, arrived in Boston Massachusetts on 12 March 1869, and naturalised 21 March 1890. Curiously, there is no sign of naturalisation records for Elizabeth or their daughters.

From the 1880, 1885, and 1900 censuses, Thomas, Elizabeth, Frank, and Mary E can be found at Coggeshall Avenue in Newport, Rhode Island. (NB: the enumerator recorded the family as *Vagro* and *Vaughan*). Thomas is shown as a farmer or labourer, and son Frank as a gardener.

On the Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries Transcription Project Index (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rigenweb/cemetery/cemetery368.html>) I found details of two burials for Newport. Elizabeth Vayro (Croft), 12 May 1902 (age 71 – parents Thomas and Mary Croft); and Thomas Vayro, 7 Sept 1910 (age 77 – parents James and Mary Vayro). These were also found on <http://www.familysearch.com>.

### Francis (Frank) Robert Vayro (Generation 2)

Frank, the younger son, was shown on the 1910 census still living with his widowed father, but as a gardener on a private estate; it is worth exploring that a little further.

An article in the *Washington Times*, 15 Oct 1903, titled “An Intruder Asleep in the Mills’ Villa,” stated

*In Newport, Rhode Island October 15<sup>th</sup>, soundly asleep in the luxuriously furnished villa of Ogden Mills, Frank Vayro was rudely awakened by a policeman at 3 o'clock yesterday morning. An hour later he was snoring on a rough plank in a cell at the police station. Vayro just “wandered in” he explained but as the Mills family had vacated Ocean View on September 15<sup>th</sup> and a window was prised open, the sleeper was charged with burglary and will be held until Mr Mills or his representative arrives and it is learned if anything has been stolen from the house.*

Interestingly enough, and with some consolation, it turns out that Ogden Mills was a millionaire, and according to a shorter report in the *Evening World* of 14 October:

*Frank Vayro, son of a police officer, was captured in the Mills’ stable. From his appearance Vayro had evidently taken up his residence for the winter.*

It turns out that Frank's brother, John, was probably the policeman, and the question is whether or not John was trying to teach Frank a lesson; or perhaps something went wrong when trying to cover up the truth. It could, of course, be the *Washington Times* reporter using artistic licence, simply

embellishing the story to impress the editor. Sleeping in an outhouse is not as serious as being caught in the master suite bedroom, particularly if you are employed as a gardener on the estate.

The 1915, 1925, and 1930 state census records for Newport show Frank as a lodger and boarder, but the ages don't always tally. Various trade directories show Frank as assistant gardener through to 1931, but on the 1935 census (age 70) he is shown as an inmate of a mental hospital in Cranston, Providence.

On <http://www.familysearch.com> there is an entry for Frank Vayro, born 1865, died 20 June 1941 (age 76), in Howard, Cranston, Providence, Rhode Island. As far as records show, Frank was never married and had no children.

### John Walker Vayro (Generation 2)

John Walker was the eldest son of Thomas and Elizabeth. He married Jane Fox, daughter of Henry Fox and Euphemia Irving, on 9 Nov. 1879 in Newport. Jane was born in December 1857 in England and died on 7 Oct. 1922, also in Rhode Island. They had two children: Henry Irving Vayro and Thomas Croft Vayro.

On the 1880 census, John Walker Vayro was living with in-laws in Rutland, Vermont, whilst on the 1890 census they had moved to Newport, and in 1900 John had moved again to Middlesex, Massachusetts. At this point he may have left his wife for an Elizabeth T Murphy. He is recorded as single and she as a housekeeper/widow. Then, according to town records, John Walker Vayro of Natick married Julia Francis Cobb (nee Perry) on 26 Aug. 1906 at Dennisport. There is something strange about this: John's parents are given as Thomas and Jane Smith, Julia's as Canada Perry and Charity Rogers (matches other names on burial record and headstone for John W). It was the second marriage for both, and both were widowed. (Later city directories show them at 1401a Washington W N, Newton, Massachusetts until at least 1925.)



illustration courtesy of the Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division  
[Bird's-eye view of Newport, Rhode Island in 1878.](#)



Unlike his brother, John Walker had several occupations – 1880: farmer; 1886: hoseman of Engine Company No. 7; 1895: motorman on the L & BRRR, Chelsea, Massachusetts; 1899: lineman for the Commonwealth Avenue Street Railway Company in Newton, Massachusetts; 1906: foreman of the local lime works; and, of course, as policeman in 1903.

A record on <http://www.findagrave.com> shows that John died on 15 Aug. 1927 in Dennis Port, and was buried in Swan Lake Cemetery, Dennis Port, Barnstable, Massachusetts. His first wife, Jane, seems to have prospered after leaving John, though I have not yet found a date for divorce.

On the 1900 US census for Newport, Rhode Island, Jane (shown as age 39) is living with her parents, Henry and Febbe (Phoebe?) Fox, married, with her two children: Henry Irving Vayro (20) and Thomas Croft Vayro (15). In 1910, Jane is again shown as married, and a shopkeeper and haberdasher; by 1915 Jane owned a “variety store” and was “of own income.” Finally, on the 1920 census (age 62), she is the proprietor of a candy and cigar store, but still married! Perhaps, if they were never divorced, John Walker could have been accused of bigamy.

### Henry Irving Vayro (Generation 3)

Henry Irving, eldest son of John Walker Vayro, was born on 18 Aug. 1880 in Rhode Island. He died at age 68 on 14 Oct. 1948 in Butler Hospital, Providence, Rhode Island, and was buried on 18 Oct. 1948 in the Braman Cemetery, Newport, Rhode Island. Henry married Mabel Kruger Mayer, daughter of Joseph Mayer and Matilda Vickers, in November 1904 at the Zahriskie Memorial Church of St John the Evangelist, Newport. Mabel was born on 12 Nov. 1882 in Rhode Island, and died on 22 Jan. 1964 in Congdon Street, Providence, and was buried in Rhode Island Cemetery. They had two children, Edith Irving Vayro and Marion Mayer Vayro.

On the US First World War draft cards, Henry, of 72 Spring Road, Newport, was recorded as a post office clerk at Newport post office.

Henry was employed in the local post office for 30 years, but he managed the famed Naval Reserve basketball and Trojan baseball teams. Henry rowed with the Naval Reserve crew in a number of races. He was also one of the few wrestling officials in Newport, and a member of the Royal Arcanum and the Odd Fellows Society.

### Thomas Croft Vayro (Generation 3)

Thomas Croft, youngest son of John Walker Vayro, was born on 10 Jan. 1885 in Rhode Island, died on 4 June 1951 in 36 Dearborn St, Newport, Rhode Island, and was buried on 8 June 1951 in Braman Cemetery, Newport. Thomas married Esther Bly Peckham, daughter of Herman F Peckham and Esther Ann Sweet, in 1909 in Rhode Island. Esther was born on 15 Sept. 1890 in Rhode Island and died on 25 Dec. 1970 in Brigham, Utah. They had two children: Grace Irving Vayro and Henry Peckham Vayro.

Thomas Croft was living with his grandparents on both the 1885 and 1900 census returns for Newport. On the 1910 and 1915 censuses he was shown as a steam fitter, but on each of the five censuses between 1920 and 1940, he was a fireman for the city of Newport. On the First World War draft

registration card (serial number U/192) Thomas, age 33, of Hall Street, Newport, was employed as a fireman in Young Street fire station. A brief description was given: “brown eyes, grey hair, sallow complexion, height 6 ft ½ in, weight 178 lb, with an appendix scar on abdomen.”

### Henry Peckham Vayro (Generation 4)

Henry was born on 29 July 1918 in Rhode Island and died in June 1977 at Bryans Road, Charles, Maryland. Henry was often shown as Harry P Vayro. He married Ann Veronica Rogers, daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Rogers, in 1942 in St Joseph’s Church, Newport, Rhode Island. The marriage ended in divorce in March 1944. Henry later married Hope Virginia Gardner in February 1946 in Providence. Hope was born in Providence. They had two children: Thomas Gardner Vayro and Holly Grace Vayro.

### Thomas Gardner Vayro (Generation 5)

Like many of the previous generations Thomas Gardner, son of Henry Peckham Vayro, was born in Indian Head, Maryland. He married Janet, who was also born there. They had two children: Casey C Vayro and Jacqueline L Vayro.

### Casey C Vayro and Jacqueline L Vayro (Generation 6)

Casey and Jacqueline were also both born in Indian Head, and these are the two new contacts made on the social networking website. Both are married and with children of their own, so with a great deal of help from colleagues I am now able to put together a seven-generation ancestry, starting with my great-great grandfather William’s brother, Thomas, who left Wensleydale in North Yorkshire, and leading to present day “distant cousins” whose family foundations were laid down in 1870 in Indian Head and Newport USA and have remained there ever since. ■



Casey Vayro and family

## Your Yearly Subscription to the Guild is Due on 1 November

Please look at the renewal notice sent with this *Journal* and also look at the code against your membership number on the address label. The code tells you whether you have already paid, whether you have a standing order set up, or whether the Guild has received instructions to take your subscription from your credit card (an RTA). If your subscription is to be paid, please look at [www.one-name.org/members/MembershipRenewal.html](http://www.one-name.org/members/MembershipRenewal.html) for your payment options.



*You never know what you might find in odd places...*

## The Poisonous Lovie Affair

by Estella Pryor (Member 2984)

*The recent article by Ian Gotts ("What Information Would You Share... and Who Would You Share It With?" - JoONS Volume 12, Issue 2, April-June 2015) made me think of what I had on John Lovie.*

**T**he *Black Kalender of Aberdeen* was first published in 1854 by James Daniel & Sons of Castle Street, Aberdeen. There were a number of editions. The book gave a brief account of criminals from 1746 until 1878.

In 1827, John Lovie, of Futteretden, near Fraserburgh, was tried for the murder of his servant Margaret McKessar but the verdict was "not proven" (see box below).

I had a Mary Lovie, the daughter of George Lovie and Margaret Watson, who was born in 1788 and died on 7 Oct. 1862, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire. Mary married about 1806 to George Yule, a farmer, of 34 acres at Smiddlyhill Farm, Fraserburgh. I was not sure if there was a connection but what I found confirmed it and much more.

In the autumn of 1827, John Lovie was tried before Lord Pitmilny and Alloway, for the murder of his servant, Margaret McKessar. During the trial the following information was admitted into the court records:

John Lovie had gone into Fraserburgh and asked the chemist about different poisons, as he had some sick cows. He later went back and bought some arsenic for a rat problem he was having on the farm. On 14 August, Margaret McKessar



Percyhorner Farm

came down for breakfast and seemed fine. Soon after she had eaten, she began to vomit. Mrs Lovie, his mother, sent his man-servant out to the field where John was working to tell him about Margaret. Lovie went back for his breakfast but did not seem interested in Margaret's condition. Mrs McKessar was nearby, but John never mentioned to her that her daughter was ill. About 1 pm Margaret asked to see her sisters or her mother, but neither was sent for until she was dead. Lovie objected strongly about having an autopsy or disinterment of the body. The funeral took place on the Thursday at Kirkton Cemetery, Fraserburgh.

"On the evening of the Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> August, Dr. Couttes and Dr. Jamieson of Fraserburgh, went out to the cemetery and disinterred the body and carried it into an outhouse part of the farm premises situated close beside the church yard. With the help of Thomas Bissett, William Clark and Robert Slessor,

### 'Not Proven'

"Not proven" is a verdict available to a court in Scotland. As with other judicial systems, the burden to prove guilt rests with the prosecution.

Under Scots law, a criminal trial may end in one of three verdicts: one of conviction ("guilty") and two of acquittal ("not proven" and "not guilty").

Historically, the two verdicts available to Scots juries were that the case had been "proven" or "not proven". However in a dramatic case in 1728, the jury asserted "its ancient right" to bring in a "not guilty" verdict even when the facts of the case were proven ("jury nullification"). As the "not guilty" verdict gained wide acceptance amongst Scots juries, Scots began to use "not guilty" in cases where the jury felt the "not proven" verdict did not adequately express the innocence of the person on trial. Shrewd defence then further encouraged this interpretation in order to persuade

juries unwilling to bring in a "not guilty" verdict that the "not proven" could be brought in as a lesser or "third verdict."

The result is the modern perception that the "not proven" verdict is an acquittal used when the judge or jury does not have enough evidence to convict but is not sufficiently convinced of the accused person's innocence to bring in a "not guilty" verdict. Essentially, the judge or jury is unconvinced that the suspect is innocent, but has insufficient evidence to the contrary. In popular parlance, this verdict is sometimes jokingly referred to as "not guilty and don't do it again."

Out of the country, the "not proven" verdict may be referred to as the Scottish verdict, and in Scotland itself it may be referred to colloquially as the bastard verdict, which was a term coined by Sir Walter Scott, who was sheriff in the court of Selkirk.

their apprentices, they opened the body and took out part of the stomach and uterus. Having first tied up the stomach at both ends to preserve its contents, the stomach and uterus was then immediately put into a basin and covered with a cloth. All five of the medical party went from the outhouse into the dwelling house at Kirkton, not more than thirty yards from said outhouse, till a crowd which had collected at the disinterment should disperse. Dr Coutts remained in the dwelling taking charge of the basin and its contents until dusk came on and Dr Coutts and the three apprentices went home. Soon after, the basin and its contents were carried into the farmhouse by Dr Coutts. When dusk arrived, Dr Coutts, accompanied by Mr Milne, the farmer, at Broadsea Farm, took the basin and contents to Dr Coutts own house, where he locked them up in a chest and kept the key himself. The said Mr Milne carried the basin and its contents part of the way but always close beside Dr Coutts."

"On the Sunday, Dr Blaikie and Mr Simpson, public fiscal, came out from Aberdeen, and having repaired to Dr Coutts house. Dr Coutts took out of the chest the basin and its said contents and produced them to Drs Blaikie and Jamieson & Mr Simpson and immediately commenced the proceedings detailed in the report dated 9 August 1827. As on the Saturday, Drs Jamieson and Coutts had not minutely inspected the body in order to ascertain if or not there appeared in it any natural disease which could account for the death. Mr Simpson directed Dr Blaikie, Coutts and Jamieson to examine the whole of the body which was disinterred on the Sunday afternoon. After they examined the contents of the body and the basin, it was agreed that Margaret had died from arsenic poisoning and she was six month pregnant."

At the trial, George Yule testified that he was a farmer at Percyhorner Farm, at the Mains of Phingarth, and he was married to the sister of John Lovie. He said that John had mentioned to him that he had bought arsenic from Mr Oliver in Fraserburgh for the rat problem on the farm. But two days after the funeral at his house, John Lovie denied buying

arsenic from Mr. Oliver, but no other person was witness to his conversation. John Yule testified that he was the son of George Yule, and was seven years old. He had been herding cattle for his uncle for two or three months. He said none of the cows were unwell enough to have anything rubbed on them. There was one black cow, for two or three days had a sore belly but nothing rumbled in her and had been given a drink of oil and had seemed much better. John Yule testified that he slept in the kitchen and had heard a noise one night. Thinking it was mice or a rat he mentioned it to Mrs Lovie. She said she would set some traps but she never did.

The jury deliberated for half an hour and returned the verdict of NOT PROVEN. The court felt they were lead astray by the eloquence of his lawyer, Mr Cockburn, with his emphasis that they could not prove that John Lovie had actually given the arsenic to Margaret McKessar.

There are two local rhymes about Lovie, both anonymous:

"He pishoned the mother with the child in her womb  
He sent them both together to death's silent tomb  
A most horris murder, against him stands  
With blood o' them both he embrued his hands."

"It took fourteen idiots and an ass  
To hang Gillespie and let Lovie pass."

*(Gillespie was a forger who was tried on the same day as Lovie.)*

I was never able to find any further information of John Lovie. George Lovie and Margaret Watson had four children: Jean born 1785 and died 28 March 1864, married to Alexander Milne; Mary born 1788 and died 7 October 1862, married to George Yule; Elspet born 1795 and died 3 June 1879, married to William Scott, John born about 1800; and James baptized on 27 September 1803, Longside, married to Agnes Brebner. George Yule and Mary Lovie had eight children. ■

## Progress Report on the Members' Websites Project

The full-scale trial stage of the Members' Websites Project was launched on 22 June and immediately the project team were busy dealing with the applications, contacting the members concerned, and helping them to upload their one-name study websites to the project's web server.

We just about kept abreast of applications during the first rush and they have settled down to a steady stream now. As at 16 August we've had 75 applications. More than 50 members have already uploaded one-name study websites to the project website and we are thrilled by the quality and the diversity of these websites. They can all be seen via the Index page at <http://www.onename.net/home/websites.htm>. They really are a source of inspiration to all one-namers.

Twenty-two of the websites consist of free-standing HTML pages, 13 use content management systems (all except one using WordPress), and 40 applications were for sites created by uploading GEDCOM files using the online software package TNG (The Next Generation). But don't worry about the jargon

— all is made clear on the project's support pages at <http://www.onename.net>. These are for Guild members only and the password for access is given on the front page of the Members' Room on the main Guild website at <http://one-name.org/members/>.

The HTML sites include those of the late Judy Stubbs (Elkington ONS) and the late Michael Debenham (Debenham ONS), which will be retained indefinitely at the request of their families.

If you have a one-name study website you wish to have preserved indefinitely, or just want to get your one-name study published on the web, find out all about the Members' Websites Project at <http://www.one-name.net>. The project team will welcome your application.

We could also do with more members volunteering their skills and time, especially those with expertise in WordPress and in HTML coding.

— Mike Spathaky, project manager  
[members-websites@one-name.org](mailto:members-websites@one-name.org)





# Cornucopia Seminar Report

Littleton, Winchester, Hampshire  
Saturday, 15 August 2015

by Sylvia McQuire (Member 4022)

I first became a Guild member in 1985 (number 800) soon after I started researching my family history in 1980. There was a lapse in membership until I re-joined in 2002. Also, being a latecomer to computers, all my records are still on paper. I viewed the Cornucopia Seminar as an opportunity to decide whether or not to transfer my one-name study to computer using Family Historian and Custodian. I also have Hampshire interests, the venue was reasonably close to home, and a friend (not a GOON) who has some experience with Family Historian was interested in accompanying me.

Littleton Millennium Memorial Hall was a very pleasant venue with plenty of parking, comfortable padded seating, and good ambience. The welcome was friendly, with everyone given a double-sided name badge – usefully colour coded – to denote committee, ordinary members, and visitors. Rod Clayburn chaired the meeting and after the usual notices introduced several committee members with us for the day.

The first speaker was Les Mitchinson, who has no Hampshire ancestors but spent 33 years in the Royal Navy and now lives, studies, and teaches family history in Hampshire. He began with an interesting explanation of the Hampshire Coat of Arms, then gave details of record offices in the county, including the Isle of Wight, naval and army museums, their venues and opening hours. There followed a very comprehensive rundown of the records held, mainly in the Hampshire Record Office in Winchester, ranging from the usual parish registers, wills, tax records, quarter and other sessions to manorial records. Hampshire now has very good finding aids, name indexes and published guides. Some records for Hampshire are also held in Surrey History Centre in Woking. His talk certainly inspired us to revisit Hampshire record offices.



Les Mitchinson

After a short comfort break, Jane Taubman gave a presentation on using Family Historian for a one-name study. This seemed to us a quick but comprehensive demonstration of the versatility of version 6, and was obviously very interesting for experienced users of this program. As a complete beginner I found it difficult to follow but my friend, who has minimal experience of the program, did find some of it useful.

Following lunch, Jane's workshop was at a slower pace and a little easier to follow. She dealt with members' more advanced questions and emphasised making use of "how to" help and support forums. Family Historian has easy Gedcom import and



Jane Taubman



Many seminar attendees enjoyed lunch outdoors in the grounds of the Littleton Millennium Memorial Hall.

export; property box for individuals gives a quick overview and version 6 allows witnesses. Tree charts can show as much as or as little as one wishes, can be colour coded, and in any formation.

Richard Scantlebury, who was the final speaker, has been involved with Custodian from the very early days in 1990. He gave a quick illustrated overview of version 4 using his surname, found mainly in Cornwall and Devon. Input can be by keyboard or downloads. He demonstrated downloading from BMD, by using text file, not csv, removing top and bottom headings, and transferring to Excel where it can be manipulated to individual requirements. It is important to double check names and dates before finally transferring to Custodian. He has successfully downloaded Great Western Railway records, Royal Navy seamans' records, Coast Guard records, and Canadian census and railway records. Other techniques were demonstrated in his afternoon workshop and a few questions were discussed by the speaker and audience.



Richard Scantlebury

Neither of us attended the Excel workshop so unable to comment. Hopefully once the sessions are available on the GOONS website we will both be able to follow the talks and workshops at a slower pace more suited to our expertise and needs. Time did not allow for the final Question and Answer session so we were unable to ask if the programs work with Windows 10!

Overall the seminar was well organised and the venue and catering were very good. ■

# Forthcoming Seminars

**13 February 2016**

## The 20th Century is Now History

We will be looking at the records of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that may be utilised in a one name study; 20<sup>th</sup> Century Archives: Their Potential and Problems, school records, adoption, divorce, and voter's lists are among the topics we have found specialist speakers on and there will be a session on writing up your one-name study in order that it appeals to all.

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

**13 August 2016**

## DNA

Last visited in February 2013, we return to NSC for a long overdue DNA seminar and with many DNA experts within the Guild are considering offering some parallel introductory streams and round-table discussions. There is plenty of scope for an update on the latest DNA techniques and 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

**5 November 2016**

## Care and Consideration

Care and Consideration subjects will include Children's Homes, Copyright, Mental Health Records, The British Library. There will be an opportunity to visit The Search Engine railway archive and library at NRM over the lunch period and an optional visit on Friday to The Borthwick Institute for Archives, University of York, Heslington, York YO10 5DD.

**Venue:** National Railway Museum Leeman Road, York YO26 4XJ

## Manorial and Older Records Seminar

Ruishton Village Hall,

Ruishton, Taunton, Somerset TA3 5JN

9:30 am for 10:00 am, Saturday, 24 October 2015

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 includes manorial documents, with a specialist from The National Archives on what is available nationally, and local specialists on local records of interest.



### Programme

09:30 - 10:00	Registration and Coffee
10:00 - 10:10	Welcome to the Seminar — Rod Clayburn
10:10 - 11:20	<i>It's All There in Black &amp; White: Plymouth Black &amp; White Books</i> — Louisa Bright (Plymouth Arts and Heritage Service)
11:20 - 11:25	Comfort Break
11:25 - 12:35	<i>National Manorial Documents Register Projects</i> — Liz Hart (TNA Senior Archivist)
12:35 - 13:35	Lunch Break
13:35 - 14:45	<i>Somerset and Devon Manorial Documents Register Projects</i> — Scott Pettitt (South West Heritage Trust)
14:45 - 15:15	Tea Break
15:15 - 16:25	<i>Bratton Manor from Medieval to Modern Times</i> — Kim Baldacchino (Society for One-Place Studies)
16:25 - 16:30	<i>Final Questions &amp; Answers</i>
16:30	Close of Seminar

Seminar cost, including refreshments and buffet lunch, is £16.00. Bookings close on 11 October 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\\_2015oct\\_taunton](http://www.one-name.org/seminar_2015oct_taunton).

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](mailto:seminar-booking@one-name.org).

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



# Pictures from the Cornucopia Seminar

Littleton Millennium Memorial Hall

Littleton, Winchester, Hampshire

Saturday, 15 August 2015

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TOP: Attendees at the 15 August "Cornucopia" seminar in Winchester. BOTTOM LEFT: Teresa Pask (left) discusses the Guild DNA kit service with Rosey Eggar. BOTTOM RIGHT: Friday evening gathering.

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