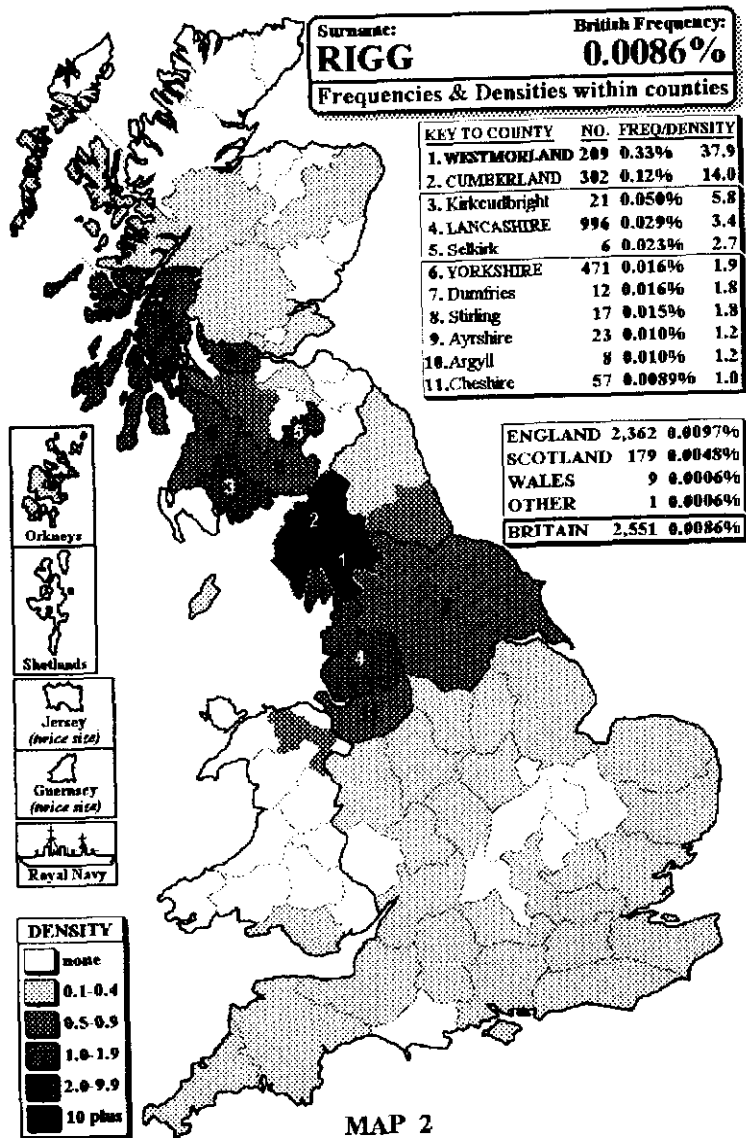


# The Journal of One-Name Studies



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# The Guild of One-Name Studies



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The Officers and Committee will serve until the end of the AGM on 4th April 1998.

Whilst enquiries specific to individual officers may be directed to them at their home addresses, all other correspondence should be sent to the Box G address above. Contributions for this Journal should be sent to the Editor (see page 68).

The Guild's County Representatives and the National Representatives in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of South Africa and USA are shown on the Inside Back Cover.

## Guild Committee

The Committee consists of the Officers together with George Lashbrook, Keith Plant, Geoff Riggs, Mike Spathaky, Chris Swarbrooke, Graham Tuley and John Witheridge.

## Other Appointments

**Journal Distributors** Roy Cox/Peter Prisma  
**Overseas Liaison** Keith Plant  
**Librarian** John Witheridge  
**Marriage Index** Kelvin Warth  
**County Reps Co-ordinator** Graham Tuley  
**Meetings Co-ordinator** Chris Swarbrooke  
**Covenants Secretary** George Lashbrook  
**Sales Manager** Ron Duckett  
**Web site Manager** Mike Spathaky

## Guild Sales

Ron Duckett is the Guild's Sales Officer. As well as Guild publications, Ron has a supply of ties, brooches and back issues of the Journal of One-Name Studies. His address is:

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Burton-on-Trent  
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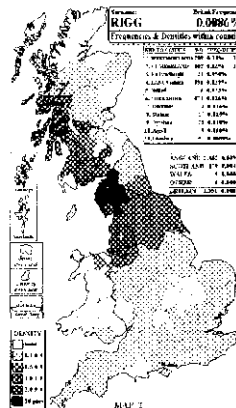
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Officers and Committee

### Inside Back Cover:

National Representatives  
County Representatives

## cover illustration



Distribution map for the surname RIGG in 1881. Geoff Riggs' article on page 55 launches a major collaborative project for the Guild and invites all members to collect and submit their surname data from the 1881 Census Index. Participating

members will receive a set of maps and tables.

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## From the Editor's Desk Mary Rumsey

There has been a wonderful response to my request for articles for the new style Journal. A big thank you to all the members who have sent in contributions. As stated in the April Journal, you may have to wait a little while to see your efforts in print, even with plans for a larger Journal. As editor this makes me feel very happy as I am sure you will agree it is better to have articles in hand than no articles at all.

In the last Journal I said that I would publish a list of medieval sources for those without a knowledge of Latin. Unfortunately I am temporarily unable to access this for technical reasons. In the mean time I will outline here the way to go about this line of research.

Many larger libraries and county record offices hold at least partial sets of catalogues of medieval and later documents, all relating to the administration of the central government of those days, such as Inquisitions Post Mortem, Fine Rolls, Plea Rolls, etc. The PRO has complete sets of all of them. They are normally very well indexed as to personal name and place which is ideal for one-name studies, but not too helpful for those wishing to compile their own family tree as it is often difficult to tie the information together. Another source is the Victoria County History, where it has been published for a county. The descent of manors is shown with references to a number of documents. However, beware - when these are studied carefully you will often find gaps in information which makes it impossible to compile a family tree. My late husband spent hours studying these sources with a view to assessing and enlarging the Romsey/Rumsey pedigree produced by Henry St John Rumsey which is now deposited in the National Library of Wales. Although he was able to construct pedigrees for two or three generations anything longer proved almost impossible. Nevertheless, some interesting details emerged, such as those of "John the Idiot", of whom, as heir to his father, the twelve testators had to give evidence as to his mental state at the inquisition post mortem. All agreed that John was perfectly normal from birth until the age of nine, when he fell out of a tree, since when he had not been the same! All this can be found in English and makes fascinating reading.

Hopefully the above should enable some of you to begin new avenues of research.

# Chairman's Notes

## Roger Lovegrove

LET NO-ONE SAY that the Guild is dull: the past year has been anything but. We have:-

- Introduced a new-style *Journal*;
- Set up a Publications Subcommittee;
- Reformed the Constitution;
- Gone online on the World Wide Web

Unfortunately, there was also something else. As members will know, the Committee had felt it necessary to expel a member under the provisions of the Constitution. That decision came up for appeal at the AGM on 19 April, where the Committee's decision was ratified by more than the required two-thirds majority.

The AGM weekend in April was far more luxurious than any AGM we have had before, at least throughout the time that I have been a member. The hotel and its staff received nothing but praise from the members: so much so that the Committee has already decided that we should hold next year's AGM there, as well: please make a note in your forward planner - the weekend of 4th April.

After the AGM, the Committee met to elect the Guild Officers. The results were as follows:-

<i>Chairman</i>	Roger Lovegrove
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	Alec Tritton
<i>Treasurer</i>	David Abbott
<i>Secretary</i>	Mike Spathaky
<i>Registrar</i>	Dominic Johnson
<i>Editor</i>	Mary Rumsey

Other (non-Officer) appointments are as listed inside the front cover of this *Journal*.

Mike Spathaky took on the post of Secretary only on a temporary basis and is now no longer in that post. *The Guild and the Committee are therefore in very urgent need of a Secretary.* Fortunately, there is the appropriate vacancy which we could co-opt into if necessary. If any member of the Guild - and the practicalities of being able to attend Committee Meetings obviously imply a UK member - would be interested in helping by taking the position on then please let me know. No guarantees can be offered: it is for the Committee, not me, to decide if and

whom to co-opt. But please do let me know if you might be willing.

Geoff Riggs - who is also the Guild's Representative for Wales - was co-opted on to the Committee, as a non-Officer, in May.

Also in May, the Committee were disturbed to receive a complaint about a Guild member passing to a commercial organisation details about a non-member who had contacted her with a routine research enquiry. That non-member subsequently received unsolicited material from the organisation concerned. Although it is in the nature of One-Name Studies that we do pass contact details on to fellow researchers, to mutual benefit, the Committee are of the clear view that such passing-on of details should be restricted to *bona fide* researchers and should not involve commercial organisations. Please do be very careful about this.

### A new flavour of committee

The current Committee has a new "flavour" to those which have gone before. Of the 12 current Committee members, 10 have been on the Committee for less than two years. We are also much more spread out, geographically, than before: from the south coast of England to Inverness, from Sussex to Wales. For I believe the first time ever, there is now only one Committee member - me - in London. I hope that the new perspective that this type of Committee must bring will be used to the benefit of the Guild.

In the long-run, however, having a Committee which is spread out over the UK is unlikely to be good enough. We shall need to turn our attention to how best to involve members from outside the UK: the Guild is an international society, and we need to reflect that in our structures if we are to grow and prosper. The new Constitution was a major step forward, here, in that it took the major decisions out of the hands of the AGM and placed them before the whole membership for postal ballot: you will see the effects of that with this mailing, for you are now being asked to vote by post - for the first time in the Guild's history - on a change to the wording of the Constitution. Please do vote: as the Chairman of the Constitutional Working Group which drafted the proposals for the new Constitution, I would not like to think of all that work and effort being wasted.

Later in the year, the Committee will need to turn its attention to the very fundamentals of the Guild itself. I shall be asking them to produce a *Vision for the Guild*, to give a sense of direction to guide us when developing the Guild. I would welcome your views on what you would turn the Guild into - in accordance with our Constitutional Objectives - if you could become our fairy godmother and wave your magic wand over us.

As the new Chairman, I am very conscious of the groundwork which was laid by my predecessor, Peter Goodall. I am sure that David Abbott, our new Treasurer, feels the same so far as the previous Treasurer, Peter Prismall, is concerned. Many thanks to them, and to the other previous Committee member who did not stand for re-election, Kelvin Warth, for the work they have put in on behalf of the Guild over the years.

## Secretary's Notes

### Mike Spathaky

By the time you read this I shall no longer be Guild Secretary. I decided not to stand for election to this position in order to devote more time to other interests, not least the Cree Family History Society, but also other aspects of Guild activities. I believe I have helped the Guild to achieve some of the things I wanted to see changed when I first stood (unsuccessfully) for election to the Committee in February 1996 and have also helped the Guild to make progress on some of the issues that arose out of that election.

I have helped the Guild to make much-needed changes to its Constitution, and perhaps more important, to see that the Constitution is regarded as the foundation on which the Guild rests, to be referred to at all times in managing Guild affairs, in resolving differences of opinion and in determining our future direction.

I believe I have demonstrated how important it is for the Committee to manage efficiently its own business, the calling of General Meetings and the conduct of elections.

Of course I have been involved in these development as one of a team. There is much still to be done. I believe that I can now help the Guild best in

other roles within that team. I sense now a greater determination by the Committee to move the Guild towards being a more welcoming, international and forward-looking organisation, serving its own members effectively and educating the wider genealogical community in the values of one-name studies.

The Committee has asked me to continue to manage the Guild's website. There is now an on-line edition of the Register of One-Name Studies. A parallel development pioneered by Alan Tupman and others is a lively Guild E-mail Forum, open to all Guild members who have an e-mail facility. To join in the fun, send an e-mail with your name and membership number as the header, with the single word **subscribe** as the content, to: **GOONS-L-request@rootsweb.com**

## Treasurer's Notes

### David Abbott

Not only do we have a new Government here in the UK, but there are many members elected to serve for the first time. One thing is certain, whoever is in power: interest rates will have been raised two or three times and ways will have been found to increase government revenue. I too am a first-time member of your committee, and they have felt it right to elect me as your Treasurer. Likewise, I also have had to consider increasing Guild income, as well as conducting an overall appraisal of Guild finances to conform to Charity Commission requirements. My heartfelt thanks go to Peter Prismall, whose well-kept books have made the changeover much less complicated than I expected.

### Growth and Development

My first task was to take in an overview of the Guild's finances. From this I developed a change of emphasis which I put to your committee. In short it is growth and development, as only when these are happening can we give you more facilities and better focussed support - whether it be publications, seminars, projects, or maybe various other suggestions that have been made by some of you in the *Journal* and to the Committee. It is a fact that

the Guild costs more to run than many other family history societies, this is partly because we are international in nature and not county or locality based. Also, the last decade or so has seen the subscription remaining at a minimum breakeven figure, and this together with the exceptional costs of 1996 means that the Guild has been, and is now, financially restricted in taking up many valuable projects that would benefit you in your research. This has to change.

Even the value of the basic membership benefits provided at the moment may not be appreciated by some of you. Your committee has therefore decided that the *Journal* and *Register* will now have the retail selling price printed on the cover. These together with the *Family History News* and *Digest* would cost a non-member around £16. What good value membership is! Additionally, in appreciation of how important the *Journal* is to most of you, the number of pages is being increased this year to 24. Remember that these are the new bigger pages, equivalent to 48 of the old smaller size. We hope to increase still further the number of pages in the *Journal*, but that depends on you. So please keep Mary Rumsey happy by either providing lots more articles or pointing her attention to already published articles of interest.

### Subscriptions

For at least the last decade the subscription level has been, after inflation, below what it was in the Guild's early years. I therefore proposed that the basic subscription for next year be increased sufficiently, after indexing for inflation, to equate to that of the early years. Your committee has accepted my proposal, and so the subscription next year for current members will be £12. The registration fee per name is also increased to £8. These new prices will have been introduced for new and re-instated members as soon as revised forms have been received from the printers. We appreciate that these may be larger increases than expected. I make no apology for this: they are necessary if the Guild is to grow and serve you better.

To go some way to softening the increase, your committee has agreed a time limited concession for those of you willing to pay the next three years' subscriptions in advance. Providing that the renewal form and funds are received by Wednesday, 1 October

1997, you can pay a reduced sum of £30, saving you £6. You can also take advantage of this offer if you are one of our covenanting members.

I welcome any comments on what I have outlined, and I appreciate that a few members will not renew. All I can say is that your committee is serious about giving you more assistance in your one-name research through the Guild. Stay with us and you will not be disappointed.

## Forthcoming Events

27th - 28th September 1997. AGM of the Toseland Clan Society. (See p. 68)

3rd - 5th October 1997. Fifth Hodgson Family Gathering. (Details page 43 of April *Journal*)

18th October 1997. Guild Seminar, Needham Market, Suffolk. Details and form from Chris Swarbrook (address: inside front over.)

31st - 2nd November 1997 21st Anniversary of the Comish Family History Society. (See page 68 for details)

31st January 1998. Guild Seminar at Hastings, Sussex. Computers in Genealogy with Workshops.

### GUILD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

3rd-5th April 1998 is a weekend to enter in your diary now. It's the Guild Annual Conference which after this year's success will again be held at the Lime Trees Hotel, Northampton. The Annual General Meeting of the Guild will be on Saturday, 4th April 1998.

### BIG R 1997 Special Offer

The Guild is now taking orders for the British Isles Genealogical Register 1997. Due to a special offer by FFHS Publications we are able to offer this microfiche register of FFHS member societies' members' interests at a reduced price of £15.00 inc P&P for the whole BIG R (18 fiches, normally £20.00), or £1.80 per county section (normally £3.00). Orders with payment to the Guild Sales Officer, Ron Duckett, by 23rd August 1997 (see inside cover).

# An appreciation of Ted Wildy 1925 - 1997

Marianne Philson

**E**DWARD (TED) ADAMS WILDY was born 25 February 1925 at Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire. He died 27 April 1997 of asbestosis, in Takapuna, Auckland, New Zealand. In 1934 his family moved to Woking, Surrey, where they lived until he emigrated to New Zealand in 1970. He went to Allen House School and in 1938 to Marlborough College in Wiltshire. He then attended London University gaining a B.Sc. (Engineering), at the same time doing fire watching duties during air raids.

In 1945 he joined the Royal Navy as a Midshipman (E). Over the years he rose to the rank of Commander (E) and served in many ships and shore establishments. In 1959-1960 he was aboard HMS Leopard during an extensive tour, showing the flag in many out of the way places in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans including going 1,000 miles up the Amazon river.

In 1970 he emigrated with his mother, for family reasons, to New Zealand, where he was attached to the RNZ Navy until his retirement. He had built, before they arrived, a house in Browns Bay with a view of the sea and continued his interest in boating. He owned a yacht, "Gigi" in the UK in which he had many happy trips round the South Coast and across the Channel to French ports. He owned a trailer sailer in New Zealand, also named "Gigi".

He had many other interests including water safety, teaching children to swim. He built in his workshop a hundred spinning wheels and since 1976 he had an increasing interest in genealogy and computers. He was particularly keen on producing a one-name study of the name WILDY and its variants and also of his VAILE family.

However, what he will be most remembered for, worldwide, will be his UK Marriage Witness Index started in 1988. It now has over 50,000 entries and still growing. This will be continued in his memory by his good friend, Marianne PHILSON of 3/5 Chartwell Avenue, Glenfield, Auckland, New Zealand.

He will also be sadly missed in genealogical circles for his expertise in Royal Naval research which will also be carried on by Marianne to the best of her ability, with the help of his books.

A genial giant of a man, and a bachelor all his life, he had a wide circle of friends and will be sorely missed by all whose lives he touched.

Marianne Philson  
Member No. 511  
Auckland, New Zealand  
4 May 1997

## Characteristics of one-name studies

Ted Wildy

**T**HERE ARE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENCES in the manner that those researching one-name studies go about this when compared with conventional genealogists. The latter are taught to work from the known to the unknown and this means that generally speaking they are always searching for a particular individual record. "I am looking for my great-great-grandmother Mary Anne So-And-So, who was born in ..." is a frequent statement one hears. On the other hand the one-namer collects information about everyone who bears the specified surname.

### Differences in methods of one-namers

This has a marked effect upon the way the genealogist goes about researching records and recording data. For example, the one-namer extracts *all* entries for that name in the record he is searching and having done that he never wants to return to that source again, because there will be no more entries that interest him. Also the one-namer will search records even though he has no evidence that his "family" ever resided in that area. He does so because there is a chance that somebody with *his* name may be in the listings.

### Recording the data

For the one-namer there is no simple way of recording his data - no printed forms are published that are of any help.

I started by using 6'x 4' cards and arranging them alphabetically by christian name. Soon their number became unmanageable and a computer was required. The data was then recorded on a simple database program (PCFILE) with the aim in mind of using the computer to help find and solve relationship problems. Problems such as "Is there a WILDY married to Mary ... in Staffordshire circa 1850?". Clearly the card system could not provide the answer to that question. Also it was clear that none of the genealogy computer programs could do so. Thus a straight database was needed.

### Family Trees

The aim of course is to produce family trees of the people who have *your name(s)*. Therefore the database must be designed to assist this process. It must help identify persons who belong to a particular family and must enable the genealogist to slot these persons into their correct places in

the family tree. Also it must indicate which ancestors listed in the database still have to be linked to a family. I have constructed some sixty-eight WILDY family trees and there will be many more in due course. Over the years new information has enabled me to connect up some trees with others.

In the course of the one-name study, one makes contact with a considerable number of people of your name - genealogists who have a WILDY ancestor. This is most useful as they can often fill out the WILDY family tree and provide a great deal of information. You may wonder how to get in touch with the genealogists - the method is as follows:

You note that one of your WILDYs has married a SNODGRASS in Timbuktu, so you look in the GRD for an entry for SNODGRASS being researched in Timbuktu, and lo and behold, you find your genealogist with a WILDY ancestor. Of course this only works for rare names like SNODGRASS, but it works a fair treat.

### The limit of one's study

Like stamp or coin collecting, one must place a limit on what you are going to collect or the study gets out of hand. I decided long long ago that I would research only those persons who had WILDY or a variant as a surname, and the children of persons with that name. I further resolved that I would stop there. As regards variants of the name, even the best resolutions tend to get pushed aside, but one must be firm with oneself. The tendency to include WILDER and WILDE has to be resisted, but you will find that over the years more variants have to be accepted. This means going back to the St. Catherine's House Indexes a second time!

The genealogists that have WILDY ancestors, provide one with family trees of their lines including many with names that are strange to one. I accept these heaven sent loads of data and put them on the family trees, but I do not enter them on the database.

### The Database Format

There are two distinctly different ways of laying out a one-name study database: (a) event based records or (b) person based records.

#### (a) Event-based records

In this, each record concerns one event be it a birth, marriage, death or what have you. This means that for every 'ancestor' you may have a number of records on your database. If the one-name study has say 5,000 persons the database may run to 25,000 records.

The format of the database may look something like this:

Record Number	12345
Date of Event	25 Feb 1925
Type of Event	
Birth (coded B D M, etc.)	
Place of Event	Bishop Stortford HRT
Remarks	4 Windhill
Age	0
Surname	WILDY
First Name	Edward Adams
RIN No	0345

You may have additional fields for administrative purposes such as a field for the 'Entry Date', so that lists of new or amended records can be produced. Other fields may cover 'Sources', 'Occupations', etc.

The RIN number is the field that is filled in when the person has been identified to a particular family tree and his data has been entered into a PAF or other genealogy program.

Clearly you will see that you may have some problems with the multiple entries in this database particularly with common christian names like John or Mary. I have over 250 John WILDYs and they are a headache with my 'Person-based database'. An event-based database would have over 750 John WILDYs!

#### (b) Person-based database (abbreviated)

Each record in this format covers *all* the events for a particular person:

Record Number	12345
Christian Names	Edward Adams
Surname	WILDY
Birth Date	25 Feb 1925
Birth Place	Bishop Stortford HRT
Marriage Date	
Marriage Place	
Spouse Name	
Death Date	
Death Place	
Father	Harold Adams WILDY
Mother	Stephanie Vaile LITTLE
Occupation	Naval Officer
etc., etc.	
Family Tree	12

I actually have about 33 fields enabling me to enter all information that actually helps identify persons for relationship solving problems. They include BDM index references. I use the 'Birth' fields for both births and baptisms and the 'Death' fields for both deaths and burials. (Remember the database is for problem solving not printing out charts.)

The family tree number acts in exactly the same way as the RIN number does in the event based system - it tells the genealogist that this person *has* been identified to a family tree.

The 6"x 4" card system is retained as it is not possible to enter on database all the information that one collects - particularly doubtful, unchecked or suspect information - is best entered in pencil on the card.

### Entry format

Care must be taken to enter the information in the fields in a manner that facilitates the problem solving process. For example, it is best to enter dates YYYYMMDD so that sorting in chronological order is made easier. It just depends on the ability of your database program to do the necessary selection and calculation to meet your needs.

### Problem Solving

The most frequent problem that the computer is asked to solve goes something like this:

- (a) I have just found a John WILDY listed in ... as being a hatter in London in 1810 and probably living in Westminster. Which of the John WILDYs on the computer could be this man?  
or
- (b) There is a Charles WILDY listed as marrying a lady named SMITH in Birmingham around 1840. Which is he and do I have a record of offspring or parents for him?

### Peculiarities of my one-name study

- (a) For every marriage in my one-name study, one partner is a WILDY.
- (b) Once a source document has been searched then it can be discarded as one will never want to look at it again.
- (c) Most of the people one researches are of no known relationship to the genealogist.
- (d) I must have more than thirty genealogists with whom I correspond, who have WILDY ancestors, and only two or three of them are related to me.
- (e) The study takes on a very international aspect as one finds persons with the name in more and more countries. Mine are in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Germany, Barbados and probably many other countries besides.
- (f) If one's research brings to light an interesting event or person, such as a murderer or prime minister, one can legitimately pursue this line of research with confidence - whereas the conventional genealogist is plagued with the concern that they might NOT be related to them. (I once incurred the anger of a conventional genealogist, who on looking over my shoulder at an Open Day, asked me whether the record on my computer screen was that of a relative of mine, on learning he was *not*; she said, "How dare you research someone else's family!")
- (g) If you have some grandparents with ultra common surnames (I have Edith ADAMS and Fred LITTLE as grandparents), one can conveniently decline to research those lines and concentrate on the rarer surnames of your ancestry. I am pleased that I am never seeking the records for SMITH or WILLIAMS!

### The family trees

I construct the family tree sheets using a word processor, as I like to be able to put in details against certain individuals that no genealogy program could provide. Furthermore some individuals on the trees are well researched and more interesting characters than others and deserve more space devoted to them. The conventional drop line charts are so cumbersome being very long, while the indented type descendants charts produced by computer are not to my liking, as the eldest and youngest children of a marriage can be separated by many pages devoted to the descendants of other children of the marriage.

### Supporting records

I use a filing cabinet with folders numbered for each of the 68 family trees and supporting documents relating to each tree are filed in the relevant folder, together with all corre-

spondence. I have a series of miscellaneous folders devoted to particular subjects such as, wills, photographs, BMDs, etc. All my birth, marriage and death certificates are filed in a series of plastic foolscap folders in order of computer reference number.

I have a pile of rough notebooks used when researching at repositories. Each book is given an identifying letter, the pages being numbered and a list of contents being compiled in the front of each book.

Research data gathered and entered in a rough notebook is transferred to the computer and the 6'x 4" cards. Each entry is annotated with the computer reference number and family tree if appropriate.

### Large sources

Some research sources are large (e.g. St. Catherine's House Indexes, or the London Times Newspaper) and take several months to search thoroughly. I keep a separate recording sheet to show how the search of each of these is proceeding, marking off the years as the research proceeds and providing a cross reference to the rough notebooks. The important point here is that one needs to be able to go back to the entry in the rough notebook in the event of any query arising about the data.

### Other sources of data

One rather surprising source of simply wonderful data has come via e-mail by means of the Fidonet Bulletin Board system which is worldwide. The Fidonet system has a well organised network of e-mail message areas which are received by genealogists in many countries. After a few weeks of using the system one gets to be known and other genealogists learn that you are doing a one-name study and keep an eye out for information for you. I have been amazed at the willingness of other genealogists to search their records and send a message when they find information that they think might be of use.

If you are stuck in your research the Fidonet system permits messages addressed to 'ALL' - and these will be seen and read by hundred of genealogists. Nearly every message produces a reply from someone who has an answer. I can strongly recommend fellow Guild members with computers to install a modem and get logged on to their nearest Fidonet bulletin board. To those readers who may think that I am writing about the Internet, let me assure readers that Fidonet is an amateur organisation with minimal costs to the user. (My costs are approximately £10.00 per year plus a local telephone call lasting about 3 minutes three times a week.)

In conclusion I would be pleased to help any reader who requires assistance with getting on to Fidonet, if they write to me.

*[The last paragraph has been left unedited as an illustration of Ted Wildy's generosity in helping other family historians. All readers will share our sadness that he is no longer there to help. The Editor.]*

#### The Author:

The late E. A. Wildy  
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New Zealand.



# The 1881 Project - British Surname Distribution

## Geoff Riggs

An edited and updated version of a paper submitted to the Guild Committee

**A**FTER YOU'VE FINISHED EXTRACTING YOUR DATA from the British 1881 Census Index, Jack Blencowe's letter in the October 1996 *Journal* posed the question *What comes next?* He said that high on his list would be a map showing geographical distribution, and asked whether the Guild might consider a project to draw together members' studies. Eric Banwell in the January 1997 *Journal* fully supported that view and proposed that the Guild should create a forum for discussion on the topic - as he rightly said, if we all used the *Journal* to state our views, that would only result in further correspondence and alternative suggestions.

I therefore wrote my original paper as a catalyst, to cut out lengthy debate by crystalising what is needed and achievable through the methods which it identified. These methods are meaningful but simple to understand and employ. So all members who can extract the relevant data will be able to take part in what I believe will be the most exciting project the Guild has ever undertaken.

I proposed to the Committee that there was an urgent need:

- to agree on standard formulae as definitive bench-marks so that members can derive, from the 1881 census data, measurements of the scale, frequency and distribution within Great Britain of the surname(s) being studied;
- to agree how a member's data should be presented graphically in a standard way so that it can be compared easily with data from other members;
- to make the results available for members and other researchers in a special Guild publication with a title such as *British Surname Distribution in 1881*

Such a publication would effectively supersede the current *Atlas of British Surnames*, by Lasker and Mascie-Taylor. This broke new ground when published in 1990, but has since been eclipsed by *The Surname Detective* by Colin Rogers (which reflects input from Eric Banwell) and *The Surnames of Wales* by John & Sheila Rowlands, both being superb for one-namers.

I have volunteered to co-ordinate and input the data, format the resultant output and edit the constituent pages. I'm pleased to say that, after considering my original paper, the Committee have endorsed the Project, co-opted me to the Committee as Project Leader, and agreed to establish a Project Group to supervise its implementation. All we now need to realise our ambition is the support of you, our fellow members, in submitting the results of your research, for us to combine and publish as a prestige work in tribute to that research and to the Guild itself.

## A: COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

### 1. Counties or Registration Districts?

As far back as Guppy's original analysis of surnames, published in 1890<sup>1</sup>, their distribution has normally been described in terms of the counties in which they are mainly found. The Guild's benchmarks for distribution are similarly based on the pre-1974 geographical counties of Britain (treating Yorkshire as one county, to remain consistent with the 1881 indexes, and not splitting it into its three Ridings). If you have extracted your 1881 data, you may have already established your count on this same basis.

In fact, as I will demonstrate later in Section D, analysis by Registration Districts (R.D.s) gives a much more accurate picture of a surname's distribution. But we must be realistic: a significant number of members may find the work involved in breaking down their data into R.D.s too onerous, especially if they are studying a high/medium frequency surname. There are additional reasons why the Project has adopted a county basis:-

1. Distribution patterns can be simplified (and are therefore more easily recognisable) in terms of the 90 British "counties" rather than 660 English & Welsh R.D.s
2. The areas of the counties are much larger on a map than the areas of R.D.s, making it easier to see the values depicted.
3. The public at large will be more familiar with counties and can identify them more readily than R.D.s.
4. It is consistent with the way in which the sections of the underlying 1881 indexes were issued.

### 2. Collection from members and central analysis

The 1881 Census Indexes for England, Wales and Scotland should be available on microfiche at your nearest LDS Family History Centre (the 1881 Census returns for Ireland were burnt in 1922 during the Civil War there). Having extracted the data for the surname you are studying, you will merely need to complete a form by entering the number of people with that surname in each of the 90 "counties" (this number includes off-shore islands, Royal Navy and Miscellaneous). *This form will be distributed with the October Journal.*

I have designed a computer spreadsheet (using Lotus 1-2-3) containing all the relevant formulae and with the 1881 county populations inserted as constants (in absolute terms and as percentages of the total). The spreadsheet will calculate automatically, from the number of surnames within a county on the input form, all the appropriate benchmark statistics. These are described in detail in Section B and in-

<sup>1</sup> Guppy H P *The Homes of Family Names in Great Britain* (1890)

clude for each county the percentage, frequency and density of a surname. Other formulae calculate automatically the equivalent values for each country (England, Wales and Scotland) and calculate the Total Occurrences and the Overall Frequency for Britain.

### 3. Consistency: Duplication of entries

I have found at least one instance of entries being included in the indexes twice, under two different counties, the number of entries involved being almost 18,000 (certain folios for Deptford St Paul indexed in both Kent and Surrey, for which I recorded all occurrences of the names RIGG and RIGGS as part of Surrey, but omitted them from Kent). There may be other instances of duplicated entries (possibly where a parish is part of a Registration District of another county). This is why it is dangerous to do merely a count of surnames without regard to the underlying details.

If you copy *all* the entry details, you should detect any instances of duplication that affect you - please let me know if you come across any further examples, so that we can confirm that the occurrences have been included in the correct county. The existing sections are being consolidated into the nationally sorted index to be published later this year, which should result in duplicated entries being detected. Even if you have already extracted your data, you may wish to wait for the output from the national sort to check that it is complete before submitting it.

### 4. Consistency: Transcription errors

There are also errors in the accuracy of the surnames transcribed from the census, which is understandable given the scale of the project and the quality of some of the returns. Of the 1,041 entries I have extracted relating to RIGGS, for example, you will only find 991 in the indexes with that surname - most of the others are wrongly transcribed or enumerated as RIGG or BIGGS (but one family of RIGGS was enumerated as RAGGS and the error compounded by being transcribed as BAGGS). I may detect further errors as part of my ongoing process of comparing the relevant entries to the microfilms of the returns.

It is advisable with any index to use it only as a finding aid for the original entries. In this case I believe it's essential, given the significant level of errors (over 5% for my own surname), but I realise it may be impractical for the larger one-name studies. You may have detected errors yourself if you've attempted to correlate your entries to those in other census years, or to your civil registration birth data, through record linkage (that's how I detected the errors that I've found).

Where you do detect errors, you should correct your data to reflect the true occurrences, rather than rigidly reflecting the transcriptions of the enumerated occurrences. Only in this way can a true picture of the surname's distribution be built up. There are two provisos to this

1. You must be able to justify (i.e. prove the validity of) the correction in every case;
2. You should advise details to me, as Project Leader, so that I in turn can advise Mrs Susan Lumas, the 1881 Project Team contact person at the P.R.O.

She has agreed that I can act as a focal point on behalf of the Guild to advise her of any transcription errors affecting surname or birthplace. In this way, they can be included in the 'list of submitted errors' to be published from time to

time, as referred to in her article in the April 1997 *Family History News & Digest*.

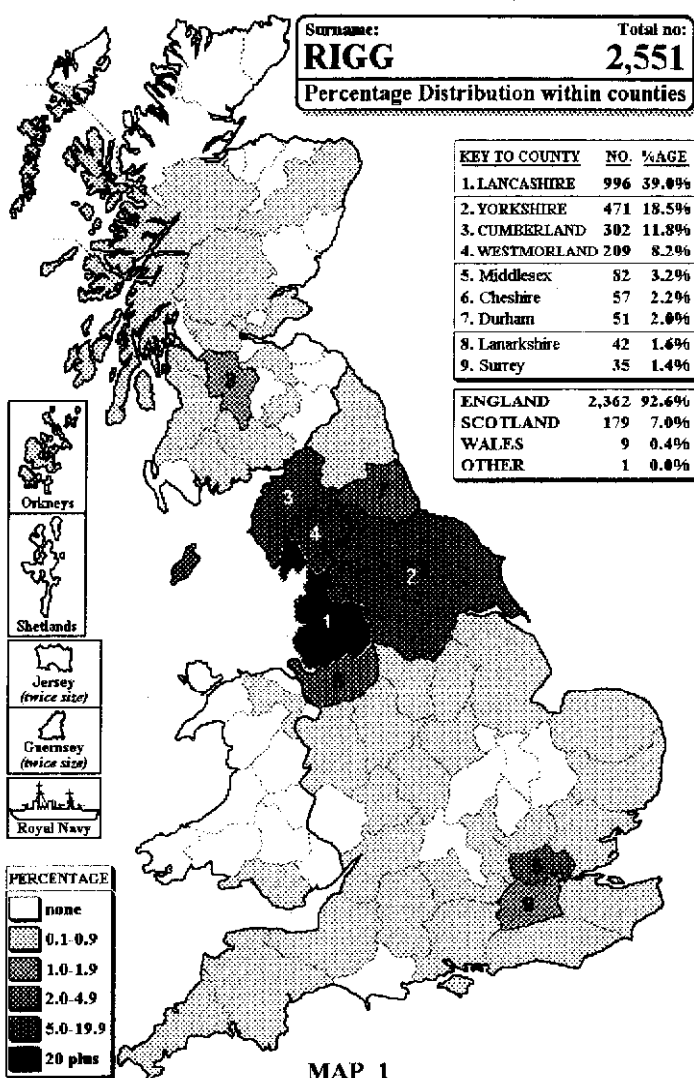
## B: SCALE & DISTRIBUTION BENCHMARKS

It is emphasised that, although the Project Group will use computers to analyse the data, members do not need to have a computer to take part. The data to be submitted by participating members is simply the number of occurrences in the 1881 Census Indexes of their registered surnames in each county of Britain. This will be submitted on a form and in return members will receive the printed maps and tables described in this article.

### 1. Total Occurrences & Overall Frequency

The first scale benchmark is the *Total Occurrences* in Britain of a surname in absolute terms, e.g. 54,290.

The second is the *Overall Frequency*, referred to by John and Sheila Rowlands as the 'percentage incidence'. This



expresses the Total Occurrences as a percentage of the total British population in 1881. It is quoted to 2 significant figures of decimals and a maximum of 4 places, e.g. 0.0034% - our brains can cope more easily with such a percentage than a number of up to 6 digits. In this way it caters for surnames at both extremes of the frequency range, from high to very low:

SMITH	414,523	1.37% of population
DAVIES	188,274	0.62%
CARTER	54,290	0.18%
JUDD	5,448	0.018%
RIGG	2,551	0.0086%
BLANKINSOP	23	0.0001%

(the figures for JUDD and BLANKINSOP are fictitious)

## 2. Numbers & Percentages by County

When analysing the distribution of a surname by county, we must be able to make comparisons with the distribution patterns of other surnames and again cater for surnames at both extremes of the frequency range.

To make this possible, the county distribution must be quoted not only in absolute terms (the number in that county) but also as *Percentages of the Total Occurrences* for Britain for the surname concerned (in other words, whether a county has 0.2% of the total, or 2%, or 20%). We can then compare names of all frequencies in a consistent way.

Map 1 is an example of a Percentage Distribution Within Counties map, using the surname RIGG.

## 3. County Frequencies & Densities

The Percentage Distribution map is useful to show the spread of a surname, but it won't necessarily identify a surname's true epicentre, or epicentres if it has more than one source location. To do that, you need to express a surname's county distribution in terms of its *relative density* within the county concerned, by relating the number of occurrences within a county to that county's population (in 1881). You can then establish whether the number count is greater or less than would be the case if the surname had been distributed evenly across the country.

The way to calculate a figure for the density of a surname for an area, irrespective of the size of its population, was originally proposed by Eric Banwell and published in Colin Rogers' book *The Surname Detective*. It can be restated as follows:-

- Firstly, you calculate the ratio of the number of people with the surname in that area to the total number of people with that surname in Britain;
- Secondly, you calculate the ratio of the population of that same area to the Total population of Britain;
- Dividing the first ratio by the second gives you the density.

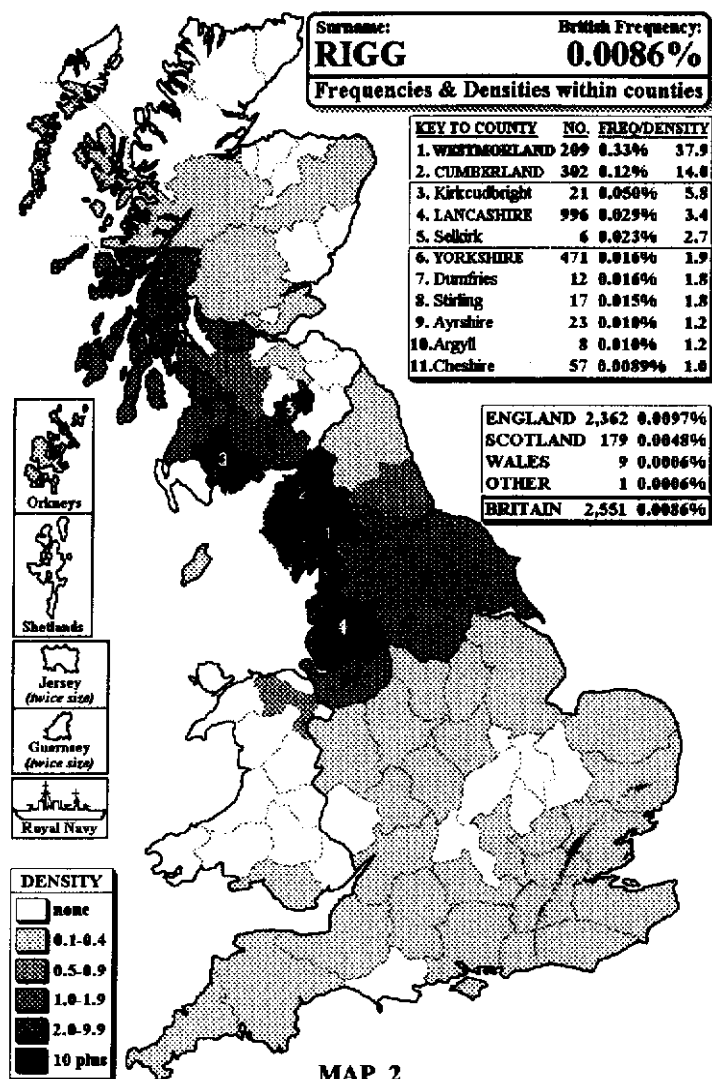
(But don't worry - the spreadsheet will do all this for you!)

For example, Middlesex had a population of some 3,000,000 (9.8% of the population of Britain) but only 82 people sumamed RIGG (3.2% of the 2,551 Total Occurrences), so its Density was 0.3. Put another way, if the surname were evenly distributed (Density = 1), Middlesex should have had 9.8% of the 2,551 people named RIGG, i.e. 250, and only had 82, one third of the expected figure. Conversely, Kirkcudbright with a mere 42,000 inhabitants (0.14% of the total population) should have had 3 or 4 people named RIGG, but its actual total of 21 is almost 6 times the expected amount (Density = 5.8). So, although it only had a quarter of the number of RIGG that Middlesex had, it had almost 20 times as many when related to population sizes.

Once again, we must also use comparative benchmarks for a surname's distribution, by expressing county distribu-

tion in terms of *Frequencies*, or percentage incidences (comparable to the Overall Frequency at national level).

Map 2 is an example of a *Frequencies and Densities Within Counties* map, using the same surname RIGG. The table of "top counties" in Map 2 shows that, for each county, its *Frequency* is directly proportional to its *Density*. This is because, if for example the number of people with the same surname in a county is twice as much as it would have been if the surname was evenly distributed (Density = 2), then its Frequency for that county must be twice as much as its Overall Frequency for Britain as a whole



Tables, such as the top 50 surnames within a county, are usually expressed in terms of each surname's percentage incidence; so this calculation will also help you to evaluate the surname you are studying in the context of these tables at county level. For example, the surname RIGG with a Frequency of 0.33% in Westmorland is ranked 42 in the top 50 names for that county in 1881.

## 4. National Frequencies and Densities

The work of John and Sheila Rowlands and of others has already established the extent by which percentage incidences of surnames differ between England and Wales, and the differing variances for surnames in Scotland has also been proven without question. But, because significant "cross-migration" had already occurred prior to the 1881

census, it might be misleading to show separate distribution maps for each country.

It is sufficient to quote the benchmark figures for the individual countries in addition to the overall figures for Britain. If a surname has its possible epicentre in Wales or Scotland, then this will be evident from the *Frequencies & Densities within Counties* map, and from the correspondingly high benchmark figures for the county or counties concerned.

## 5. High/Medium/Low Frequencies and Rare

A definition of the benchmarks that should be used to categorize a surname by its *Frequency* (i.e. as high, medium, or low frequency, or rare) can only be finally agreed by the Project Group after evaluating the *Overall Frequency* data for a number of surnames. But they can be defined initially very simply (bearing in mind that all the top 50 surnames for England & Wales in 1853 had an Overall Frequency of 0.18% or higher):

High Frequency	0.10% or greater (30,001+ people)
Medium Frequency	0.010%-0.099% (3,000-30,000);
Low Frequency	0.0010%-0.0099% (300-3000);
Rare	0.0001%-0.0009% (1-300)

## 6. Main Counties for a Surname

The distribution of the surname RIGG, as illustrated by Maps 1 and 2, demonstrates the fact that the "Main Counties" in terms of number/percentage need not be the main counties in terms of frequency/density. What's more, you can get potentially misleading benchmark figures for the *Density* where the population of an area is very small. With my One-Name Study name of RIGGS:

1. in Clackmannanshire (which had a population of 25,700), a mere 3 occurrences are enough to produce a density of 3.4;
2. only 4 occurrences in the Royal Navy (with a 'population' of 29,700) are enough to produce a density of 3.9;
3. and in Ross and Cromarty (population 78,500) 6 occurrences produce a density of 2.2.

All three are "high" density counties, yet their percentages of Total Occurrences are only 0.3%, 0.4% and 0.6%. To cater for this, a county must qualify under both sets of criteria to be defined as a Main County for a surname, i.e., it should normally have both a high density and a high percentage incidence or frequency. The Main County with the highest density is referred to as the Primary County for the surname and the other Main Counties are referred to as Secondary Counties.

To be able to apply the definition consistently to all ranges of surnames, we must stipulate the qualifying levels as a percentage of total and as a density value, not as an overall total or frequency value. What should the qualifying levels be set at? A Main County must certainly have a Density of at least 1 since the numbers present cannot be less than average, and I proposed it should be set initially at 2, and that the level for Percentage of total (which is not so obvious) should be set at 5%. However, by the Project Group can only confirm the precise levels after analysing a number of surnames with sufficient variety in the spread of their

distribution. Even with just the two surnames RIGG and RIGGS, there are marked differences in the 'shape' of the spread of values. Indeed, with RIGG there is also inconsistency between the leaders in the two tables (for densities and for percentages), as we can see if we look at them again:

MAIN COUNTIES FOR RIGG	DENSITY		PERCENTAGE	
	Rank	Value	Rank	Value
<b>WESTMORLAND</b>	<b>1.</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>4.</b>	<b>8.2%</b>
<b>Cumberland</b>	<b>2.</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>3.</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
<b>Lancashire</b>	<b>4.</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>1.</b>	<b>39.0%</b>
Yorkshire (see below)	6.	1.9	2.	18.5%
Cheshire	11.	1.0	6.	2.2%
<i>Kircudbright</i>	3.	5.8	-	0.8%
<i>Selkirk</i>	5.	2.7	-	0.2%
<i>Dumfries</i>	7.	1.8	-	0.5%
<i>Stirling</i>	8.	1.8	-	0.7%
<i>Ayrshire</i>	9.	1.2	-	0.9%
<i>Argyll</i>	10.	1.2	-	0.3%
<i>Middlesex</i>	-	0.3	5.	3.2%
<i>Durham</i>	-	0.7	7.	2.0%
<i>Lanarkshire</i>	-	0.5	8.	1.6%
<i>Surrey</i>	-	0.3	9.	1.4%

In these tables, the Primary County is shown in **BOLD CAPITALS**. Secondary Counties are shown in **bold type** (those whose density is 2 or more and whose percentage is 5 or more, assuming the proposed criteria prove viable). The counties in *italics* are ranked amongst the top counties in one of the tables, but cannot qualify as Main Counties because their value in the other is less than either a density of 1 or a percentage of 1%.

If we set the Density breakpoint at 2, this would eliminate Yorkshire from the RIGG Main Counties because its Density is 1.9. Yet it is ranked 2nd in the Percentage table with 18.5% (471 people) and, if it had been split into its three Ridings, the West Riding would have qualified as a Main 'County' with a percentage of 15.1% and a density value of 2.1, so it's justifiable for Yorkshire to be included as a Main County.

The Project Group will therefore exercise its discretion, when assessing whether a county is to be termed a Main County, if its density is border-line (value of 2) but its percentage is a very high value, and it otherwise seems justifiable. This should only arise in the case of the counties with the largest populations: Lancashire, Yorkshire, Middlesex and possibly Surrey, Kent or Staffordshire.

Part 2 of this article will describe how the Project Group will produce the distribution maps from members' data and the format of the resultant publication. It will also cover other ways to analyse 1881 Census Index data down to Registration District and even parish level. The forms for submission of data for the Project will be distributed with the October *Journal*.

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# Trials and Tribulations of a County Representative

## Chris Swarbrooke

IT WAS AT THE 1995 AGM in Nottingham that I volunteered to be a County Representative for the Guild, and, as I lived in Hastings in East Sussex, this seemed a logical place to be the representative - but two years later I now have my doubts.

Sussex is approximately 90 miles wide by 35 miles deep (and I do say these figures are approximate) and is divided into East and West, making it a very difficult county in which to arrange meetings - especially as you have to finance them from money raised within the county membership.

Being dead keen, I immediately wrote to all 57 members within the county, asking them for their views and opinions on how they thought I should function on their behalf, and what could I do if anything to help them with their research. Also I asked them to please reply to my enquiry enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, so that I could inform them of the resulting opinions.

The initial mailing in May 1995 resulted in some 26 replies but only 20 included a SAE, - which supposedly meant that my next mailing should only be to those 20. Those replies ranged from the very short and to the point *"Thank you for your letter, I have no suggestions, I offer a stamp but I do not expect a reply"* to the little more informative *"Thank you for your initiative in writing to me, an old member in years and length of membership, but I have nothing of importance to say. A sae is enclosed; don't waste it to apologise for not spelling my name correctly, save it till you have something more important to tell me"* to the even more informative that were two or three pages long and full of questions like - How do I write a newsletter?, what should I put in it?, what is the proper way to lay out a pedigree?, what are the opening times of various Record Offices etc., etc., and topics for discussion if we ever got round to holding a meeting. I also received an invitation to attend an informal gathering of GOONs at a member's house in Worthing which I was happy to accept and this eventually led to our first county gathering.

### First meeting

Thanks to the generosity of Member No 2216, Richard Chilvers, and his good lady, who kindly offered their house in West Sussex as the venue for the first County Meeting in September 1995 (110 mile round trip for myself). A second letter went out in August to all the 57 members informing them of the proposed meeting. Twelve members attended and were able to discuss various topics over a cup of tea and a biscuit, and, as I drove home I was thinking "Few in numbers but not in enthusiasm" and "So far so good."

The second mailing in August contained many points raised at the earlier informal meeting, and was sent out, mostly at my own expense, to all the Sussex Membership, not just the 20 who sent s.a.e.'s, and resulted in 23 replies but only 14 more s.a.e.'s - Should I have seen the light and stopped at this point? No, I was too geared up to let a little thing like self addressed envelopes stop me.

Of the twelve members who attended that first meeting, only one was researching in Sussex, so it was obvious that

some kind of co-operation in information/archive sharing was needed and the idea of a County Newsletter was thought to be the best way to inform the others of the kind of archives/information that were held personally and how this could be made available to others.

The beginning of 1996 saw the first edition of "Sussex Signpost" the County Magazine of the Sussex GOONs, written and published in A5 format, and sent to all members in Sussex, whose number had grown to 60, regardless of whether there was a SAE or not. The response was excellent with several small donations and extra stamps being sent to help finance the same, but, when all these were added they did not cover the cost of production (20p per copy) and postage - Oh yes I nearly forgot, there were only about a dozen SAEs this time.

A number of hard copy lists of members personal archives were included for future issues of the *Journal*, and indeed a second edition was written, edited and published (70 copies now) in May 1996 - but to date (January 1997) they still sit in a box on my library shelf exactly as they came from the printer because I just can not afford to send them.

### Finances

The way that I see my position as a County Representative is that I represent every member within my designated county on behalf of the Guild, irrespective of how many SAE's I get - and to do this properly each County Rep should be given an amount pro rata on the number of members he/she represents, say £1 per head per year. How can I be a *true* County Rep when I am only replying to those who send SAE's?

Breaking down the figures of the Sussex Membership in 1995 - 1996, "A" members accounted for 6, "B" was 27 and "C" was 22, and 2 listed without a category

Looking at the replies to the initial mailing in May 1995, the notification of the first meeting in August 1995 and the posting of that first issue of the county magazine in January 1996, no less than 22 (38%) have *never* replied to any of them, 23 (40%) replied to one of them and only 12 (22%) replied to them all.

When examining the above figures against the length of membership within the Guild, it would appear that the longer you have been a member, the less likely you are to reply, as of the above 22 who did not reply to any letter, no less than 15 (68%) joined before 1989, but on the other hand, Five (42%) of the 12 who did reply to all mailings came from within that same period and 14 (61%) of the 23 who replied to only one of the mailings also joined the Guild, prior to 1989.

So, where do I go from here, and what must I do to encourage more members to respond to internal communications? Perhaps the more learned and experienced amongst the readers of this *Journal* will advise me.

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# Metherell

Beryl D. Metherell

**T**HE NAME AND ITS VARIANTS originated over seven hundred years ago within the counties of Devon and Cornwall in the Southwest of England, both as a place name and a personal name.

Emigrants have carried the personal name to many countries, although it remains uncommon. The spelling variations of today have evolved over the centuries. The earliest references I have found were both in 1298, where *MEDERHELLE* was the name of a tenement within the Manor of Sparkwell, Staverton, Devon, and *MEDDELHULLE* appeared in the Accounts of the Earldom of Cornwall. Many of the earlier mentions that I have come across are recorded in the English Place-Name Society's published works covering Devon and Cornwall, transcribed by their members from ancient documents. The society considers the derivation of the name to be from the Old English *MIDDEL HYLL* for the modern *MIDDLE HILL*, a geographical location for a settlement, some of whose inhabitants thus becoming, for example, *John de MIDDELHYLL*. Other books on place names suggest a derivation from Old Norse for a similar location but, strangely and unfortunately for us, only one of the standard works on personal names includes *METHERELL*, probably due to lack of space for a family that has seldom been of significant political or social importance, or existed in large numbers in any country. The exception is the third edition of *A Dictionary of English Surnames* by P. H. Reaney and R. M. Wilson, published by the Oxford University Press, in 1995.

There are three sites in Devon and one in Cornwall that are particularly relevant when examining the history of the name and it is interesting to see the changes in spelling that have taken place.

- Site I Neolithic hut circles on a Dartmoor farm near Chagford, Devon - *MEDDERHULL* 1327, *MIDDELHULL* 1330, *MIDDERHULL* 1333, *METHERELL* 1840, *METHERAL* 1912 and *METHERALL* on the current Ordnance Survey map. In addition to the buildings on the site of the farm of *METHERALL*, several features shown on large scale walking maps of the area bear the name, including *METHERAL(L)* Down, Tor, Brook, Marsh, Ford, Hole and Gate.
- Site II Several farms near Bratton Clovelly, Devon - *MIDDELHULL(E)* 1302, 1333, 1351, *MIDDLEHILL* 1377-1461, *METHERELL* 1722 and today.
- Site III A tenement near Staverton, Devon - *MEDERHELLE* 1298, "a close called *MYDDELHYLL*", 1552, *METHERALL* 1806, *METHERELL* Meadow 1973.
- Site IV A village near Callington, Cornwall - *MIDDYLHILLE* 1327, five variations recorded in the Caption of Seisin of the Duchy of Cornwall in 1337, i.e. *MIDDELHILL*, *MIDDELHULL*, *MIDDEHILL*, *MIDDULHULL*, and *MIDDELHILLE*. *MIDDELHILL* in 1338 and *METHERALL* by 1826. The census enumerator used both *METHERALL* and *METHERILL* in 1861. Today it is called *METHERELL*. The

*MEDDELHULLE* that I mentioned in the first paragraph is almost certainly Site IV, which was part of the Manor of Calstock, one of the seventeen ancient manors of the Duchy of Cornwall.

By 1327 a Julianna *MIDDYLHILLE* had taken her personal name from her Cornish home and the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1332 for Devon had recorded Robert de *MIDDELHULLE* of Bratton Clovelly, Richard and John *MIDDERHULL* of Sparkwell, Staverton, and Alice de *MIDDERHULL* of South Tawton being assessed for tax. Robert *METHERHILL* held land in Staverton, Devon, in 1475, John *METHERELL* is named in the Lay Subsidy Rolls of 1524 for Staverton, Devon, and Richard *METHERELL* is in the same Roll for Brixham, Devon. These are the earliest records of which I know that show one of the modern spelling variations, however, it is possible that the change was made by a transcriber. I have not been able to see the original manuscripts.

The more common variants today are *METHEREL(L)*, *MEATHEREL(L)* AND *MEATHREL(L)*, any of these having the last "E" substituted by an "A" and, rarely, *METHREL(L)*. However, connections have not been found with *MITHERALL* or *MOTHERALL*, these appearing to have originated from Continental Europe and Ireland, or with *WETHERALL*, and its variants starting with "W", which are said to have originated from Wetheral, a village in the north of England in the county of Cumberland. Reaney and Wilson give *MITHERALL* as a variant of *METHERELL*, but I have only found it associated with our family name as an occasional mis-spelling rather than as a permanent variant. Today's *MEATHERELLS* and *METHERALLS* have a common heritage with *METHERELLS* and the other variants; their earlier vital records, such as baptisms, marriages and burials, were often written down by priests and parish clerks who were only semi-literate, and signed with an "x" by completely illiterate working men and women. Census takers, immigration officers and other officials tried to decipher names and rough accents, with which they were unfamiliar in many cases, and then wrote down what they thought was the correct spelling for people who were unable to check what was written. As examples, I have found seven variations in spelling for one family in a single parish register in England, including changes within one page, and two different spellings for a husband and wife on the opposite sides of the same gravestone in a Canadian churchyard.

There are records of people bearing the name living, working, going to law, paying taxes and mustering for war throughout the years from the 14th century in England. Usually the men have been farmers or farm labourers, blacksmiths and millers, with miners becoming more numerous as agricultural conditions changed. This reflected the basic economy of the south-western peninsula of England, which was predominantly agricultural in the lush green lowland, with mining of metallic ores for tin, copper, silver, etc. in the ancient rock of the high moors. There was fishing around the rugged coastline, but the sea did not seem to attract our forbears to any great extent.

The early and middle 1800s saw an exodus of some *ME-*

THERELLs to Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and South Africa, as well as a more extensive dispersal to other parts of England. This was the result of poor wages and working conditions in the traditional jobs and they joined other emigrants from impoverished areas in search of a better life. Many that remained, were, by then, the tenants or owners of prosperous farms or businesses and thus it was the miners, labourers and artisans that tended to leave, or the younger sons and daughters who would not inherit land.

My interest derived from my having married Gerald (Gerry) Llewellyn METHERELL and becoming absorbed in what was then an uncommon surname to me. His family originated from Devon and, during my researches over forty years, I have found very few METHERELLs whose family tree does not have its roots in Devon or Cornwall.

My early efforts were confined to Gerry's ancestors, whom

I have since verified through the direct male line to about 1541, beyond which point it seems unlikely that I will ever uncover provable relationships. During this research period many other METHERELLs were noted in case they would subsequently fit into our history. I now have many thousands of references on file, the collection continuing to grow with certificates, photographs, wills, trees and ephemera from correspondents throughout the countries to which the METHERELL clan has scattered.

Our retirement has taken me away from the record offices of our home country, but my personal files, upon which my hobby is based, remain with me and I am almost always able to assist other people with their researches.

*Mrs Beryl D. Metherell, Member No. 332  
22918 Jenny Drive, Sugar Land,  
TX 77479-1613, USA*

## Chapman Codes R.I.P. 1987

David Abbott

IT IS ONE OF THE LEAST KNOWN FACTS in British genealogy that the Chapman Codes are obsolete. They are extinct, passed over, defunct, and have been for almost a decade. Who says this? Only the British Standards Institution by publishing BS6879:1987 "British Standard specification for Codes for the representation of counties and similar areas". Until this Standard was issued, there was no nationally agreed system of county or region abbreviations, even though shorter versions were colloquially used, and no doubt were since place names were first recorded in manuscripts.

Even in earliest times there would always have been a need to differentiate between two or more identically named places; Ashford, Hatfield and Newport are just a few that spring to mind. Also, many scribes would shorten any word to avoid a few extra pen strokes. For example, looking at first names, when so little is gained by writing Thos. instead of Thomas, I would hardly expect either Caernarvonshire or Carmarthenshire to be written in full.

Of course the Industrial Revolution caused a certain amount of standardisation in the 19th century, if only from increased mobility, but this was not nationally agreed. The Post Office developed a county abbreviation system; Registrars used what they thought was a system, but not centrally organised (with a significant number preferring single initials where possible); Census Enumerators on the returns just did what they thought best; the Civil Service used a mixture of Post Office abbreviations and minimum lettering and the general public used all or none of the above.

So we come to more modern times and the need for a universal standardised coding system; a common format demanded by the increasing use of computers. By the 1980s, apart from the Post Office, two systems were in general use: three-letter Chapman County Codes and the four-digit codes produced by the Department of the Environment. These were to form the basis for the new standard. As usual, a committee was set up. It was called Technical Committee DOT/11. Surprisingly, amongst those invited to be part of this committee were people who knew what they

were talking about. Of relevance to us, they included the English Place Name Society, the Federation of Family History Societies and the Society of Genealogists.

Three principles were foremost. Firstly, to give a visual or phonetic association with the name; secondly, to avoid the letters I and O as the third alpha digit where possible in order to prevent confusion with postcodes (which do not follow county boundaries); and lastly, with the new two-alpha codes (which most of us will not be concerned with - they only cover current counties) to avoid confusion by not using identical letter combinations as postcodes. The outcome was the British Standard that is to be part of an international standard under the ISO.

Are there many changes? Not really, CHI becomes CHA; LEI, LEC; LEX, LAS; OKI, ORK; SAL, SHR; SHI, ZET; the Isles of Scilly added as IOS, and Forfarshire separated from Angus as FOR.

Is the Standard widely used? Not when you start looking. For example, the Genealogical Research Directory provides a list of approved codes for input - the old Chapman ones. Even the Federation of Family History Societies on its British Isles Genealogical Register 1997 gives the old codes (stating "Use No Others") - and they were represented on the committee that drew up the Standard!

Being a trained engineer, the importance of standards, especially international ones, is close to my heart, thus I can do no other than use the new (ten year old) standard. I might be one of the few, but hopefully others will catch on to it in the future.

If any members want a copy of these codes, I will send (on receipt of a s.a.e.) a paper printout of the BS codes, or a comma delimited (CSV) and DBF file if a 3 1/2" disk is supplied. Alternatively e-mail me and I can send the CSV/DBF file that way (*E-mail: 100014,2373@Compuserve.com*).

*Mr David A. P. Abbott, Member No. 2005  
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Bedfordshire LU5 5JG*



# Letters

## Palmer's Index to "The Times"

Perhaps I am a little slow with modern technology, but did I miss someone telling me that Palmer's Index to *The Times* had been put on CD-ROM, copyright 1994? I've never found the original Index of any practical value as, being arranged in yearly quarters and then indexed for an immense amount of subjects before names begin to appear, it has been difficult to access successfully. I've only ever found information when I know where to look specifically, or I had a reasonable chance of success in a limited search. However, a CD-ROM does it all for you. The Index covers the period 1790-1905 and all you have to do is to type in the key search word, in my case SHRIMPTON and printout the entries which occur in this period under date, page, column, heading and name. If only everything was this easy. Most of my entries came under headings such as Civil Actions (10), Bankruptcies (21), Criminal Trials (10), Police (13), and Letters to *The Times* (5). I've enjoyed following up the 70 entries at the British Library Newspaper section at Colindale, although since *The Times* is on microfilm, it should be possible to track it down in other places, as should the CD-ROM, which I used in the Bodleian Library.

### 5th November 1872

**Drowned** - During the past week several fatal accidents occurred on the Thames owing principally to the rough weather. The most serious one happened last Thursday morning. A large barge laden with baulks of mahogany, which it had brought from Rotherhithe, had preceded up the river as far as Battersea Reach and, when nearing the Pimlico-pier was caught in a heavy squall. She was low in the water, and the waves washed over her. The captain of a Citizen steamer saw the danger the barge was in, but before he could get along-side and take off two men in her she sank. A police galley came up, and its occupants succeeded in rescuing one man: but the other poor fellow, James Shrimpton, aged 58, of Rotherhithe, was drowned. His body has not yet been recovered.

Most of the entries were quite short, stuck in the later pages in insignificant columns, but carrying exceedingly useful information that I hadn't previously gleaned.

If the Thames ever gave up James' body, then it went as unidentified in the registration index, because no death was registered for him. With this snippet of information from *The Times* and others that went with it, new avenues of research were opened up, mainly of the criminal variety, and some small mysteries solved. All this for the few seconds it took me to search and printout from the CD-ROM (ignoring the three days it has taken me to work my way through the entries in *The Times* at the British Library, but that was far from a thankless task, since success was assured.

I have also recently purchased the first of five CD-ROM discs in the series *Biography Database 1680-1830* published by Avero Publications, 20 Great North Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The price is steep at £91.38 but it contains 900,000 personal names and information from UK directories, book subscription lists, the Gentleman's Magazine 1730-1750, apprenticeship lists of the Stationers' Company 1701-1800, etc. Perhaps anyone who has knowledge of other useful material on CD-ROM might like to tell us about it.

*Ms Valda Shrimpton*

*Member No. 1533*

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Epsom Downs, Surrey KT18 6JF*

## Some thoughts on computers

May I contribute some thoughts to the debate on computers for one-name studies?

I started researching my family some four years ago and was lucky enough to have a major part of a family tree already available to me. Therefore I set myself the preliminary task of compiling all that I knew from existing records into a database. This database was to be merely a repository for information and whilst not expanding the number of fields completely at will, I ended up with a fair number.

Meanwhile, my primary objective was to put everyone I knew of into a

family tree, the sort with boxes and lines joining father to son.

Then there was a category of information that would not fit into the database and was not relevant to the above type of family tree. This category included some tombstone information and some census information. This increased further with random information from people who very kindly wrote to me about relatives. So I created a "card file" for this.

These three files were all on my computer - a database file containing data about people, a graphics file containing the family tree and a card file containing other largely uncategorised information. These served me well for quite a long time, but I grew restless and wanted to streamline my data entry, for I was then entering data into the database and on to the family tree, making a double data entry with double the risk of error. Also often some of the information was also going into a card file creating a treble risk of error. So I thought I needed a family tree package that would reduce the entry tasks to one or, at the most, two and decided to buy Family Tree Maker (FTM) which no doubt is a very good package. However, it was not long before I realised its limitations for a one-namer.

I had not realised before how much I used the database as a searching tool. To search in FTM is realistically not possible, so it was not long before I was beginning to update my database again, in order that I could use it to interrogate. Beside which, FTM would not print out my tree as it is too big. Therefore, before I took any more wrong turns, I took stock of my requirements and the computing power necessary to satisfy them.

As a one-namer, my main requirement is to make connections, that is, to search. My second aim is to learn about my relatives (the old card file) and last and by no means least is my wish to create a visual family tree. Indeed, the first two requirements are of similar importance to me now and I think I have found a solution to automating the recording of this data.

My daughter was telling me about the latest database packages and casually mentioned their capabilities to include not only lengthy texts but also pictures, so here was a single com-



puter package that would not only allow me to search, but also would enable me to keep all the information about an individual together in a single file. A file that could be sorted so that it could be interrogated every way I wished. This resulted in my purchase of Lotus Approach which has enabled me to create a screen for each person documenting his or her name, dates, locations, etc., from my personal information database. This section includes any textual information I may have which can be extended to a whole page on its own, but with additional windows on the screen will also display other information from the same or other databases. For example I have one window that displays the person's children, be they one or ten in number, while another window lists wives and another siblings. A final window lists all the miscellaneous pieces of information I have gathered about the person, from the IGI, censuses, parish registers and the St Catherine's House Indices. Thus in one screen I can see all the information I have about a person. How that helps me when I am trying to identify yet another John Whittlestone!

The information on the main screen and the various windows relating to offspring, siblings and spouses is all contained in a single database which has only one record per person. The other window comes from a second database that I have created with as many records for each person as I have pieces of information. This screen also includes a picture where I have one, so it makes an attractive printed page as well.

I did at one point print out my whole family tree but it went right round my room with some to spare. Now I have now reduced it using GSP's Family Tree. This is not a suitable tool for searching, but is very flexible for printing out trees. I combine spouses in one box and only include people who perpetuated the family name; eventually I shall show everyone in separate sub-trees for family units.

So I have come full circle. I started with an elementary database and a simple card file and have ended up with the same but in one package. This has reduced data entry to a minimum and I can display all the information on any one person on a single page. Also I can readily search all references to a name in one location and jump to view other data about each mention. This is an ideal system for a one-namer.

*Mr David J. Whittlestone  
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## Popular months for dying?

Ask any genealogist which the most popular month in which to die and the reply will usually be January. So recently I set myself the task of supporting this theory with statistics covering the last 160 years from the Greenwood's in my collection.

I have now discovered that the most popular months in descending order are January, December and November. 5% of those who die in January die on New Year's Day and 6% of those who die in December die on Christmas Day.

Perhaps naturally, I found that August is the month in which one is least likely to die.

*Mr A Alexander Greenwood  
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NanOOSE Bay, B.C., VOR 2R0, Canada*

## Mr Smallshaw's name identification

As a consequence of Mr Smallshaw's list in the January 1997 *Journal*, I have re-read the original letter and subsequent correspondence. I must say I have similar misgivings and reservations on the methods adopted as have other correspondents.

It seems to me that first one needs to specify the objectives of the exercise and then to validate the method of achieving them. As I see it an attempt is being made to produce a figure for a family which could be placed in conjunction with others to indicate, by comparison, which are the most/least numerous. Additionally by association of the name of the county which features most often in the data used to produce this figure, the main county of location of a family can be identified.

So far as the figure produced by Mr Smallshaw's method is concerned, it represents a crude sampling of the total population respecting a family. There are rules for sampling methods, and the size of samples depends upon the percentage accuracy that is required. It is further required that like be compared/associated with like to obtain realistic results.

In absolute terms, I cannot accept that a straight average of two widely separated years can provide that degree of realism or accuracy. It is also a fact that in this case, like is not being associated with like, in that in a year towards the end of the 19th century families would have been at their largest with progress of the industrial revolution and its attendant opportunities. One hundred years, improved communications, family planning and two world wars later, families were reduced in numbers and dispersed throughout the world. An average of births in the two years would not be representative of either year.

As regards the listing of the county most often to be found in the data used for the calculation, I fail to see what relevance this has, as it cannot be related to either of the years or any year in between. I would prefer any reference to county to be linked to the situation towards the end of the 19th century and go along with the suggestion of taking a ten year period and drawing conclusions from the county most recorded then.

In comparative terms, the statistic produced by Mr Smallshaw's method has more going for it. I have known rule of thumb indices to be as useful as more mathematically contrived statistics in determination of a "yardstick". On the assumption that all families have been equally affected by the changes over the years, a figure derived in this manner is as good as any other for comparing families on a size basis. This accepts the imperfection of the "average", and I believe it to be the objective intended to be achieved.

I would rather it had been derived from the 1870 year alone, or an average of a number of years around that time.

As for the county identified, I should also prefer to see births during the period from the beginning of the records of a family up to 1800. This would surely be more meaningful as, in most cases, it should show the county of origin of a particular family.

In the one-name study with which I am associated - Fewings, with seven exceptions, the whole of the births in that period were in Devon, virtually 100%. In 1870 the figure was 70% and in 1970 0%. The total births in 1870 were 20 and in 1970 it was 1. In view of this, I submit *Fewings 11 Devon* for inclusion in the table.

Having said all this, I commend Mr Smallshaw for his initiative in bringing

up the subject and starting the ball rolling, and support him to the extent that the figures are used comparatively and subject to any preferred improvements which can be agreed.

*Mr A. D. W. Atkins*  
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## Name identification - the need for a statistical model

I would like to comment on three letters in the January 1997 *Journal*.

Ronald Smallshaw is still urging members to send him details for "Name Identification" hoping to be "flooded by a thousand replies or more". Perhaps a large number of members have not submitted figures because they are as meaningless as mine:-

*Grut 1 London (more properly half)*

If I move the exercise ten years in either direction the answer is exactly the same because one Grutt family (and I have never found a record that shows this is really a variant of Grut) produced children in London from 1860 to 1880.

Carrying out the same exercise on the birth records for Guernsey I get the same result. Whichever hundred year gap I choose, I get *1 St Peter Port*. However, this is a much more significant figure, since the population of Guernsey is so much smaller than that of England and Wales.

I can also calculate a figure for Victoria, Australia, and New Zealand.

If someone would care to work out:- 1) the relative accuracy of the different records for each of the countries in which members are researching, 2) a calculation to equalise the records by their various populations, then we might have a model for name identification!

Referring to another letter I should like to raise an objection to making the 1881 Census Index into a new "sacred cow". I spent hours writing transcriptions myself, so I know the amount of hard work that went into it, but the transcription can only be as good as the original. With a surname as universally unknown as Grut it is easily transcribed incorrectly, but how a Gent family was transcribed as Grut in a Nottinghamshire village full of other Gent Families I do not understand.

I have extracted all references to Grut(t) - altogether there were ten recorded as Grut of whom three were really Gent, five were Grut, two were unmatched from the GRO Indexes, etc. (no expected Gruts were missing). There were 15 recorded Grutts of whom one was a Grutt, the remaining 17 being unmatched and one definite Grutt was recorded as Grouth. (At least 8 expected Grutts were missing, presumably wrongly recorded or illegible.)

Maurice Lauder described a problem I have had, but in the opposite direction. In general, for all surnames I am interested in, both at St Catherine's House and in parish registers, I have found more family members being born than dying. My study of the Grut family gives a ratio of 10 births to 7 deaths (the male/female ratio being 50:50). Did they all emigrate or just change their name to Lauder?

*Ms V. J. Robinson*  
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## How common is your surname?

The article by Jess Jephcott, whilst flawed because of a comparison of GRO records (1838-1851) with Phone Books (1992), must surely become the subject of a major discussion amongst Guild members.

I seem to recall that Eric Banwell produced the "Top 50" as listed in 1853 for the 16th Annual Report of the Registrar General, which gave the same names in a slightly different order.

Believe it or not, the ONS (Office of National Statistics) have no such modern list, nor have they anything in the research pipeline, although they have completed a forenames list.

There are now FIVE of the "Top 50" surnames registered with the Guild:

21. THOMPSON
25. HILL
33. MARTIN
36. MORGAN
37. KING

and it seems certain that this special category will increase in number, with its own special problems.

Only the MARTINs and the MORGANs seem to have formed one-name societies, which is the only way such a

vast project can even be attempted under the conditions imposed.

This begs the question whether the "Top 50" should be placed in a special Guild Category. Most registered names are for very small groups or are variants of much larger names.

Having been a member of the Guild since 1993, I can recall only six applications for information, which surely indicates that the Guild has failed to deliver objective No. 6 "to secure the widest possible public awareness of one-name studies". Can we not persuade our Treasurer to spend money on advertising the registered names - Internet is not enough.

*Mr David Morgan, Chairman of the Morgan Society International*  
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## What is expected of a one-namer?

In the *Journal* of April 1997 I read with interest the letters from Peter Gillard (*I did it my way*) and Dr E. J. Wilson (*What is expected of the one-namer?*)

Each appears to have developed a research system to suit his particular interests within normal domestic constraints and that in my opinion is what we should all do, and no more should be expected of us, since family research is a hobby and not a life sentence unless one chooses to make it so.

My experience has been similar. Since I started family research after my retirement twenty years ago, I have been fascinated by the construction of Grier and connected surname family groups presented in the form of drop-line charts, since I find these are the clearest and most concise way to record vital data for a family group. All my charts are on A4 paper for convenience of printing and filing. Each chart is headed with a surname and number and can be connected to any other chart necessary to expand a family group by noting and referring to the chart numbers. The charts are filed in surname then in geographical groups to assist finding the right place to add new data to existing charts or to connect new to existing charts. The system is open ended and may be extended indefinitely.

To aid the construction of family groups from vital data a database is

used. A sample is shown of part of one made from the 1984 IGI for the county of Kirkcudbright, with the given names of the Father/Husband entered in alphabetical order. The information can readily be sorted on computer in many different ways to reveal possible relationships. Census and other data can be entered and used similarly.

I use Personal Ancestral File software and find it excellent, easy to use and almost foolproof for entering data, with automatic allocation of personal identification numbers to individuals, so it is almost impossible to accidentally enter in error the same individual a second time. Unfortunately, it does not produce drop-line charts and I am going to try Pafmate which gives Ancestors' and Descendants' charts using the existing PAF data files. To obtain the more elegant drop-line charts it would be necessary to use different software which would require the re-entry of all vital data with possibly a new set of personal identification numbers and I doubt if I have that much time left to me.

I guess I am like most family researchers; I know quite a lot about a few male forbears, a lot less about a few female forbears, and practically nothing about all the others. If I am spared I hope to preserve what I know of our family history in a way similar to that used by Hugh Disney in his splendid book *The Disneys of Staban-non* which is a fine example of how a family history may be recorded in a clear and entertaining manner.

Mr J. C. Grier

Member No. 504

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Dunfermline KY12 8NZ.

## Examples of a registered name found outside of documents

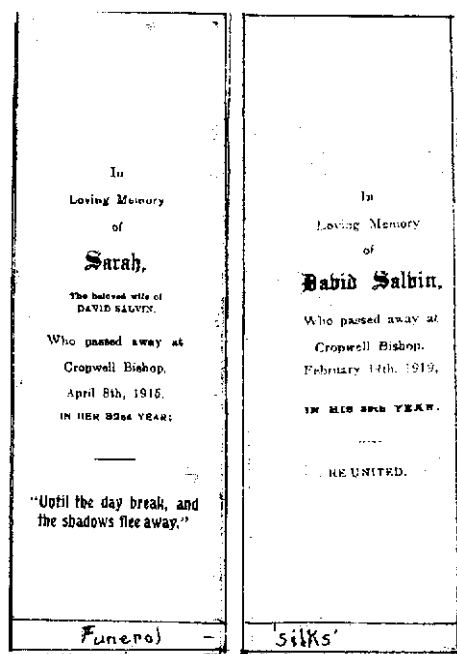
Although as Guild members we are required to collect *all* references to our registered names whether or not they are used as a personal surname, there have been few references to this in the *Journal*. Also most articles refer to specific documents and rarely are other

sources, for example street names, memorial cards (in this case "funeral silks") mentioned. I hope in this letter to redress this situation.

My first example of a non-documentary reference to the SALVIN name is an extract from an article that I wrote for a local paper.

At the north end of Main Street, Cropwell Bishop, Nottinghamshire, is an area of modern housing with the name Salvin Close. This replaced an area of terraced cottages called Salvin Row. In the early days of this century, my mother used to collect rents from the occupants of these cottages for her grandfather, David Salvin, who had an enviable reputation as a local builder.

David Salvin, born 1830, married Sarah (nee Maule) in 1853 - they celebrated their diamond wedding in 1913. His mother, Frances Salvin was 95 when she died, and was reported, in the local newspaper at the time, as Cropwell's oldest inhabitant "hale and hearty until the day of her death"



The last Salvin to be associated with Cropwell Bishop was Jack Salvin, one of David's sons, who once owned a shop in Lenton and farms, including Manor Farm at the east end of the village. He and his wife were buried in the local churchyard.

Also a relative saw a Salvins Cottage in Alston Cumbria. Later I found out that twin brothers, Hugh and Jef-

frey Salvin had lived there and are commemorated on tablets in the church. Hugh, the vicar at Alston died September 28th 1852 aged 79, and Jeffrey, one time a captain in the 4th Regiment Infantry Indian Army, died November 29th, 1850, aged 77.

A further non-documentary source is that of "funeral silks", the illustration being of the funeral silks of David Salvin and his wife Sarah, mentioned above.

Funeral silks were distributed after the committal of a family member or close relative to those who had sent black edged cards and/or wreaths, as a way of thanking the sympathisers, who then treasured them as a more permanent way of remembrance. They were often framed and hung on cottage walls in the "best room" parlours. Many hung in this way faded, but fortunately my mother wrapped hers in tissue paper and so the purple colour is still intact. This custom seems to have been local to some villages in the East Midlands and lasted for a fairly short time in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Mr Sidney Smith, Member No. 2354  
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Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire FY6 0DR

## What the...?

The ancestors of one of my Tupmans were impossible to trace until I wrote to him and discovered that he was the illegitimate son of a young Irish girl, who had come to London, had the baby, and left it in an orphanage. Those in charge at the orphanage named their babies by selecting at random from books in their library. In this case they chose Pickwick Papers, and the child was named after Tracy Tupman, one of the main characters.

Dickens had originally named his character after one of our family, so I guess this completed the circle.

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# Reports of One-Name Meetings

1500

*John Metier and Elizabeth Olding were married 1 May 1500*

*Extract from Eling PR. Reproduced with permission of Hants Record Office.*

## Celebrating four hundred years of ancestry

ON MAY 3rd 1596 my 10 x great-grandparents, John Metier/Metyer and Elizabeth Olding were married at Eling, Hampshire, and four hundred years later a group of their descendants gathered to mark the occasion. Mostly second or third cousins who had not met before, we spent a most enjoyable day together, exchanging notes, photographs and ideas. After the initial welcome at the church, everyone left armed with old maps and census copies to work out for themselves where various 19th century ancestors lived. Later we visited a farrier's where at least three generations of 18th century ancestors were blacksmiths. We departed after a cream tea with many hopes that we all keep in touch.

My research began in 1990 when my grandmother died (why do we so often leave it too late?). Relatives at the funeral asked me what I knew about where our Mettyers came from and I could only shrug. Keen to rectify things I made an enthusiastic start, with many hours spent in record offices and neglected home and children (sound familiar?). Later I had a database of over 1,000 entries and was ready to launch the one-name study just in time for the 400th anniversary of where it all started, for almost every name in the collection descends from this one couple. I know nothing about them, they are as most 16th century ancestors, should we be lucky enough to get that far, merely barely legible names in a faded register. Neither the Metyer nor Olding families are apparent before 1596, but that does not mean I am drawing the ancestral line.

Spellings have varied considerably over the years; the Eling line retained the near original which was consolidated as Metyer for most of the 17th century but strangely it seems that every branch that moved away took up the spelling Meacher. Locally the variants are now well defined - Mettyear at Lee, Mettyer at Romsey, Metcher at Southampton and Meatcher in the New Forest. Few reside north of the

proverbial Watford Gap and better still I have cousins in Eling to carry the name into the next millennium.

Finally, a little secret. For two third cousins who had not met before, that day was more than just an ancestral anniversary. They plan to return to Eling church later this year to make more family history!

*Mrs. J. Priestley, Member No. 2490  
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Berkshire RG45 6QJ*

## A Blencowe Event

WE HAD A MEMORABLE EVENING at Marston St Lawrence [near Banbury] on 6th May attended by many Blencowes.

It all started in 1993 when I organised the biennial Blencowe Families Association reunion, the first time outside the States. We spent a week in and around Oxford and a week touring up north, including the ancestral village of Blencow near Penrith. The southern branch of the family had settled in Marston in the 14th Century and there are many memorials in the church. I arranged a family service there.

A couple of years later they wrote from Marston asking if the Association would care to contribute to a fund aimed at raising £20,000 to re-hang and re-tune the five bells. That very day I had received a transcription of a will of Thomas Blencowe who in 1540 had bought the manor of Marston after the Dissolution of the Monasteries for £180; in the will he left 20 shillings to "hang the new bell". I wrote to our Secretary in California suggesting that as one of the bells was actually called Thomas we should try to raise £4,000 to re-furbish it. This proved a bit ambitious, but we did raise nearly £1,000 - more from outside UK than within. However, at the next biennial reunion, in Colorado, three of our more affluent members agreed to put up another \$6,000.

Needless to say, this has made us very popular at Marston and when we had a visit there by British Blencowes

last May, they rang a peal in our honour.

Anyway, the work has at last been done and that Tuesday evening the bells were re-dedicated by the Bishop of Brixworth. At the impressive service Mick Scott, parish councillor, leader of the bell ringers, and "Captain of the Tower" gave an address in which he made special mention of the Blencowes. He told how, when the re-tuned bells were brought back, half the village turned out at the church to welcome them. Then followed the engineering work of re-hanging. Charles Morland, one of the prime movers in the Bells Appeal, is quite severely disabled, but was determined to see the bells back in place. Those of us who, in May 1996, struggled up tower will never forget the extremely narrow spiral staircase. We can only marvel at the courage and determination of him and his friends that got him up there - and safely back down - in his wheelchair! After the Bishop had blessed the bells a celebratory peal was rung. About three dozen of the clan joined the villagers at the service and at the village hall afterwards. There they had provided an impressive spread of food and a surprisingly large supply of wine.

## A world-wide family

There were nine Blencos from Pennsylvania and W Virginia and two Flournoys from California who were descendants of James Blincoe who arrived in the Americas c.1670. There are a number of Blencowes in UK, USA and Australia who can trace their line right back to the 14thC Adam de Blencow - by chance the only one able to be present was young Jarrad Stevenson (his mother a Blencowe) who is here from Ammidale NSW and enjoying a Youth Hostel holiday. Oldest present was Emie Blencowe, born in Banbury in 1915, who is a veteran of the Airborne Division and who - I suspect - would jump again tomorrow if he had the chance!

Walter Blenko jnr, from Pittsburgh, met the retired Rector of Marston St Lawrence who recalled a visit by Walter Blenko snr some fifty years ago.

It's events like this that bring my one-name study to life.

*(Dr) Jack Blencowe, Member No. 2010  
24 Dale Close, Oxford OX1 1TV  
Email: 100660.2030@compuserve.com*

# Reviews

## The Clifford Association Newsletter

**Volume 3, Number 3, December 1996. A5 format, 28 pages. Editor D. J. H. Clifford, "Keewaydin", Selsfield Road, West Hoathly, West Sussex RH19 4QN.**

Lots of interesting information in this newsletter, a mugging in 1802, a description of the latest Clifford gathering in 1996, and entries from Boyd's Marriage Index. It is nice to see included contributions by a number of different people. I found particularly interesting the article about Lady Anne's Dole in which the income for a field was bequeathed by Lady Anne Clifford to the poor of the parish. This had died out over the years, but some clever detective work and persistence by a member of the family, some money was discovered to still remain in the fund and the custom was reinstated. This makes one wonder how much money, from similar bequests is lying forgotten in a bank account.

On the negative side I did find that some of the type had not been pro-

duced correctly and made the reading somewhat difficult in places. I also feel it would help if the pages were numbered and cross referenced with the table of contents. However these are minor details and on the whole I considered this was a well produced and informative publication.

Bernard Welchman

## The Stockdill News

**Issues 1 and 2, (Spring 1996 and Winter 1996) each A4 format, 12 pages. Edited by Roy Stockdill, 6 First Avenue, Garston, Watford, Hertfordshire WD2 6PZ.**

Superb is the only way to describe this first issue of the Stockdill Family History Society newsletter. I feel that this is probably the best journal that I have ever had the pleasure to review. The layout is excellent with each page crammed with interesting information appertaining to this family name. There are numerous pictures, drawings, trees and maps. Some of the pictures did

not reproduce very well but this may well be a problem with the copy I have. However, this small problem did not distract from the pleasing effect. Most will know that the layout of a page is almost as important as the contents in keeping a reader interested and in this respect I can only give this journal ten out of ten..

The articles range from "How We Got Our Name" which not only explains the origins of the surname (the first reference being in 1379), but also the social conditions that surrounded the family at times; to a few pointers in tracing your family history..

The second issue has kept up the same high standard with the bonus of colour being added to some pages. There is only one criticism that I have of this issue which is that on the front cover there is a heading "In This Issue", obviously describing the contents. However, in most cases the headings in this list do not correspond with the headings of the articles they refer to. A tiny niggle but one I feel ought to be given some consideration.

Bernard Welchman

# News and Items of Interest

## Ripon Minster Registers

John Hebden a former Chairman of the Guild writes that, having recently, under another hat, published on microfiche the Registers of Ripon Minster, now the Cathedral, he checked for Guild members' registered names. The list below gives all those with entries varying from a dozen or so up to several pages unless marked "(few)".

It was easy to do, as a friend put them all in *strict* alphabetical order with a computer programme. The printout is over 2,000 pages and there is an index to marriage witnesses. Dates, with some unfillable gaps are C1572-1855, B1574-1881, M1576-Jun 1837. Price £6.00 including post UK, £6.50 over-

seas though we have placed copies in the Society of Genealogists and the North Yorkshire County Record Office. Cheques are payable to Ripon Historical Society.

Abbot  
Alderson  
Armitage  
Bell  
Blanchard  
Boyce  
Burgess  
Burrell  
Carlile  
Chandler  
Conyers  
Dennison  
Farmery  
Greaves

Aislabie/Essleby  
Appleby  
Ash  
Binns  
Bogg  
Britain  
Burneston  
Buttery  
Carlin  
Clifford  
Cowgill  
Doe  
Famel  
Halliday

Hardwick (few)  
Hodgson  
Hullah  
King  
Lawson  
Lickley  
Marsden  
Martin  
Messenger  
Milburn  
Moorby  
Oddy  
Piper  
Preston  
Riggs  
Sagar (few)  
Scope  
Scruton  
Singleton  
Slack (few)

Hobson (few)  
Holyday  
Kendrew  
Kipling  
Leaf  
Lumley  
Marston  
Mawson  
Metcalf  
Miller/Milner  
Nailer  
Paley  
Prest  
Ridsdale  
Rose  
Saville  
Scott  
Simmons  
Skipsey  
Smelt

Smirthwaite	Sowter (few)
Stead	Stirk (few)
Stott	Stubbs
Swain	Swyer
Tennant	Thompson
Thorp	Tunstall
Ullithorn	Wade
Ware (few)	Warwick
Webb	Weeles
Wetherill	Wheatley
Whitlock	Whitfield
Wilkes	Wrigglesworth

*Mr John Hebden, Member No. 247  
Aldergarth, Galphay, Ripon,  
North Yorkshire HG4 3NJ*

## Baughan tour of North Oxfordshire

Mr Cliff Baughen, Member No. 379, is organising a tour of North Oxfordshire for people interested in the name Baughan and its variants (Baughen, Baugham, Baughn, Bauffin, Baffin and Boffin). This will take place on August 10th, 1997, starting at 10am from Horse Fair, Banbury. There will be no charge, but individuals will have to provide their own transport and refreshments, etc. There will be some walking involved as well.

Anyone interested should contact me at "Rollright", 4 Harewood Close, Reigate, Surrey, England, RH2 0HE, or on e-mail: cliff@baughen.demon.co.uk.

## Toseland Clan Society AGM

September 27th - 28th 1997 will be the third Annual General Meeting for the Toseland Clan Society. Once again it is to be held at the Village Hall, Little Harrowden, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. Doors open at 10am to 6pm both days. Anyone wishing to bring documents and photographs for the Society is very welcome to do so. Tea, coffee and sandwiches will be available all day, or lunch can be ordered in advance. The entrance fee is £1.00 per adult. Equipment available for use will be a wordprocessor, fiche reader (1/2 hour per person), photocopier and computer..

Contact for further details: *Mrs F. Jennings, 40 Moresdale Lane, Seacroft, Leeds LS14 6SY. Tel: 01132 259954.*

## The 21st Anniversary of the Cornwall FHS

The Cornwall Family History Society is celebrating its 21st Anniversary in 1997 and will be holding its AGM as part of a Weekend Conference during the weekend 31 October - 2 November 1997. The event will be held at the Edgcombe Hotel, Newquay, Cornwall.

There will be a series of interesting talks, opportunities to browse the various stands, and to access the Society's computer database of names. All of this with traditional Cornish entertain-

ment, excellent hospitality and food at a "Four Crown" hotel.

Details can be obtained from: AGM Co-ordinator, Cornwall Family History Society, 5 Victoria Square, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2RS.

## Journal Deadlines

The deadline for the October 1997 issue is Monday 4 August 1997 and for the January 1998 issue is Monday 3 November 1997.

## Illustrations

Will all authors give some thought to possible illustrations for their articles - photographs, drawings, maps, photocopies of original documents, etc. - and enclose details (but not necessarily the originals at that stage)?

## Copyright

Copyright of material is to the Editor of the *Journal of One-Name Studies* and the author.

The views expressed in this *Journal* are not necessarily those of the Committee of the Guild unless expressly stated or implied as in reports to members by the Committee.

# The Guild of One-Name Studies

The objectives of the Guild are:

- a) to advance the education of the public in one-name studies, this being defined for purpose of this Constitution as research into the genealogy and family history of all persons with the same surname and its variants,
- b) to promote the preservation and publication of the resultant data, and to maximise its accessibility to interested members of the public.

In furtherance of the above objectives but not further or otherwise the Guild shall have the following powers:

- 1 To provide a forum for individuals and groups of people who are engaged in one-name studies
- 2 To promote lectures, courses, discussions, meetings, and similar activi-

ties for Guild members and other interested persons.

- 3 To promote research on topics relevant to one-name studies and to publish or assist in the publication of the useful results of such research.
- 4 To provide and support library services for the use of Guild members and other interested persons.

- 5 To prepare, produce and publish and sell or otherwise distribute in any appropriate format a Journal and other literature relevant to one-name studies.
- 6 To maintain and publish a Register of the one-name studies registered by members and through close association with the Federation of Family History Societies, the Society of Genealogists\* and similar organisations in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, to secure the widest possible public awareness of one-name studies. (\*The Guild is also a member society of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies)

- 7 To ensure, by encouragement and the use of a written undertaking, that members will deal with all reply-paid enquiries about their registered surnames.
- 8 To do such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said objectives.

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- 21 To ensure, by encouragement and the use of a written undertaking, that members will deal with all reply-paid enquiries about their registered surnames.
- 22 To do such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said objectives.

New applicants for membership of the Guild should send a reply-paid envelope (or two International Reply Coupons) to the Registrar, requesting an Application Form. The Registration Fee is £8 for each name registered (together with up to five variants).

The Annual Subscription, payable 1st November, is £12 and covers four issues of this Journal and two issues of Family History News and Digest. Members receive a copy of the current edition of the Register of One-Name Studies on joining, and updates and new editions as they are published.



## SPECIAL OFFER RENEWAL OR DATA UPDATE

Please return this form (together with forms B & C if used) to -  
David ABBOTT, Hon. Treasurer, Guild of One-Name Studies  
57 Leaf Road, Houghton Regis, DUNSTABLE, Beds. LU5 5JG

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PLEASE COMPLETE ALL THE APPLICABLE SECTIONS ABOVE

Please write to the Registrar directly if you do not wish to remain in membership - writing 'I resign' above is enough, but we would like to know if you think that there is something in particular that we are not doing right.

You only need to send in this half page with your remittance (if appropriate).

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Your annual subscription is now £12, and due two months earlier on 1st November, 1997. Your Committee has decided that for a limited period, you can partly offset this increase by taking advantage of a time limited special offer. Provided that you renew early, and also pay for three years' membership at once, this is available for the total sum of £30, which saves you £6. You will need to do this before Wednesday 1st October, which is the cut-off date.

For those of you who are UK taxpayers, and are going to take up the special offer, I strongly urge you to help the Guild by completing a Deed of Covenant (this must be before you send in your £30) as three of the minimum four years will have been completed. Please contact me without delay for the relevant form, which has attached the simple completion instructions. Just send it back and we will do the necessary administration with the Inland Revenue.

Our records show that the following members have already paid amounts in advance, most are below £30 and will need to add to the amount held to take advantage of this offer. Those with an asterisk (\*) have already paid £30 or more and can ignore this offer, as they have automatically been included: -

0970, 1278\*, 1319, 1437\*, 1727\*, 1786, 1917, and 1961.

If you wish to continue paying annually, why not make use of form A anyway - and send in your subscription early!

--ooOoo--

If you normally pay your subscription by standing order, and are taking up this offer YOU **MUST WRITE TO YOUR BANK AND CANCEL YOUR MANDATE** A new mandate form will be produced on the October Renewal Notice. There will also be a list of all members who paid their 1997 subscriptions by Standing Order or by Giro Transfer and members who have since advised the Treasurer that an order has been set up. If you are not sure, then wait and check for your number in the October Notice, or write to your bank in any case.

--ooOoo--

For those of you who have signed a Deed of Covenant, whereby we are able to claim additional revenue from UK taxpayers through the Inland Revenue, this offer is available to you also. The amount then claimed would be the tax on £10 not £12. Thus, if you can afford it, please consider continuing to pay annually, as this will benefit the Guild even more.

--ooOoo--

If your details have changed and you do not have a remittance to send to the Treasurer, please send Form A direct to the Registrar at her address which appears overleaf. (The undelivered Journal address)

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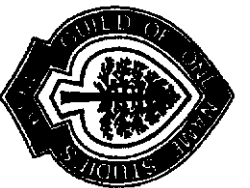
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Great care is taken with membership details, and our aim is to make the Register error free. Nevertheless, you are requested to check your entry and details in each newly published Register. If you find an error or if an amendment needs to be made, please use form A. This should be sent to the Registrar if this is the only item, or to the Treasurer if you are enclosing a payment with form A. A new registered name will cost £8 otherwise there is no charge. Each year you should consider the category you have allocated to each registered name against the conditions, and check if this remains the most apt. (If you now wish to register as an 'A' society you will need to forward a copy of your constitution to us).

Additionally, in the Register you can now have (if you use them) either your facsimile or e-mail address included, as well as your postal address. There is also an on-line version on the Guild's web site to complement the present paper and microfiche versions. Your details only appear on this at present if you have given your written permission. Again, you may use form A to do this.

REMEMBER ONLY your POLYLOPE (the plastic envelope) can go STRAIGHT into your WASTE BIN!



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## The Guild of One-Name Studies

was formed in September 1979 to encourage the exchange of ideas and co-operative liaison between the growing number of family historians who concentrate their research on all references to a single surname.

In the majority of cases this activity is carried on by one individual, in some cases by a number of people working as a team and in others by a group of people who may be formally constituted as a one-name society. A one-name group may become associated with the Guild through an individual member. Anyone with an interest in this type of research is welcome to join, membership not being restricted to those who register specific surnames.



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