

# The Journal of One-Name Studies



*A portfolio of pictures at the AGM and Conference at Northampton*



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# The Guild of One-Name Studies



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The Committee consists of the Officers, together with Ernest Hamley, Sue Lawn, Geoff Riggs, Mary Rix, Roy Stockdill, Graham Tuley, Alan Tupman and John Witheridge.

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Contributions for the Journal should be sent to the Editor (address above).

## Guild Sales

As well as Guild publications, the Guild Sales Manager has a supply of Journal folders, ties, lapel badges and back issues of the Journal of One-Name Studies. His address is:

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## The Guild Forum

This discussion forum is open to any member with access to e-mail.  
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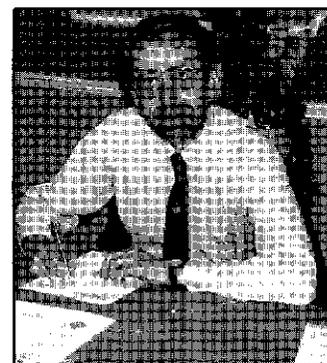
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Inside Back Cover

National Representatives  
County Representatives

## Cover Illustration



And your starter for 10 is...why is our chairman looking so glum at the AGM? Or is he just being pensive?

(Pictures by Doreen Heaton)

Journal layout: Roy Stockdill

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## —of One-Name Studies

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### From the Editor's Desk

Mary Rumsey

THE Guild's AGM and Conference was held on April 4th and 5th at The Limes, Northampton, as in 1997. It was a great success and was certainly the most well attended and enthusiastic AGM and Conference that I have attended and I, personally, believe that the Guild is making great steps forward.

I have drafted a short pamphlet giving guidelines for those who wish to submit material for publication in the Journal, be it an article, a letter or a piece of information; guidelines for the Journal's volunteer reviewers already exist. This new pamphlet has to go before the Guild's Publications Subcommittee for approval and possible amendment. However, in the mean time, if any member wishes to write an article or letter for the Journal, but is uncertain about this, please send me your ideas and I will help you.

Some very good news is that two members' research is going to be carried on by other members. First, Robert Chandler, Member No. 26, is going to have his research of the CHANDLER name continued by Dick Chandler, Member No. 2767, in addition to his registered name of HADDATH. Secondly, in my own case my editorial was shown to a non-member of the Guild, who is interested in the name RUMSEY. As a result, she contacted me and is in the process of joining the Guild with RUMSEY as her registered name. I will continue to co-operate with her and it is hoped that a number of other people may contribute research to form a group of interest, as a start to perhaps a future society. I urge all members who are unable to continue their research to try to find someone to take it over.

Recently, I sent an approximately 20-page pedigree of Agnes Giles, one of my paternal great-grandmothers, which has been extended up to the present day, to Mr. Peter W. Giles, Member No. 199. This has made me wonder how many of us who have registered names in our own family tree share them with the appropriate members. It might be a good idea if we all looked through the list of registered names to see if those of any of our ancestors appear.

Finally, a brief comment of interest regarding strange forenames and surnames used as forenames. Kezia seems to have been used quite frequently in the 19th century, although it is normally never used today. Thus a descendant of Kezia Windebank was so fascinated by her name that he came to my family history class to try to find out more about her. He certainly did, as I realised that in fact we shared 5x great-grandparents. Also in the question of surnames used as forenames, in Crickhowell, Breconshire in the 18th century, living at the same time, were Watkin RUMSEY and Rumsey WATKIN. ○

# Chairman's Notes

## Roger Lovegrove

responsible for doing all of the design/layout/typesetting work for the Journal and other Guild publications.

### ...and Hello

I would very much like to welcome our new Committee members, Sue Lawn, Mary Rix, Ernest Hamley, Roy Stockdill and Alan Tupman. Sue has taken on the brand new post of Publicity Manager and joins the Seminars Subcommittee. Mary becomes our FFHS representative. Ernest will be on the Seminars Subcommittee. Roy will take on the design/layout of the Journal. Alan is our new Web Site Manager. Roy and Alan both join the Publications Subcommittee. Alec Tritton has been elected as Chairman of the Publications Subcommittee and John Witheridge as Chairman of the Seminars Subcommittee.

### Change

It might interest members to know that because this year's AGM was a few weeks earlier than last year's, as at the end of the AGM (when the new Committee took office), nine out of the current 14 members had been on the Committee for less than one year; 10 out of 14 if we consider unbroken service. That, more than anything, demonstrates the recent influx of new blood onto the Committee.

At the time of writing, the new Committee has had only one full meeting. However, from that meeting, and from a weekend of private discussions over the Annual Conference, I am already getting the feeling of our having a superb Committee who are already coming up with some very exciting new ideas and – just as importantly – are beginning to question the way that we have done things in the past. This is the way that the Guild has to go if it is to survive and prosper. We must always be on the lookout for new ideas, for new things to do, and must not let the fear of occasional failure deter us from trying.

Last year's Committee consciously started introducing an atmosphere

of change into the Guild, a result of which is that we are now offering a package of membership benefits which gives superb value for money. As a consequence, the Guild is now attracting about five new members a week, about twice as fast as only a year ago. By the time you read this, membership should be at an all-time high and still growing.

We are now getting talked about – in a good way – at Family History Societies, and elsewhere, as being leaders in family history. We can actually see signs of others following where the Guild has already gone. I notice, for example, that the FFHS has just registered its own domain name, [ffhs.org.uk](http://ffhs.org.uk), and is starting a surname distribution project. These should be old hat to Guild members, since we ourselves started doing those last year.

The marvellous co-operation and team spirit that has existed between all of the Guild's volunteers and other members over the past year has been extremely good for the Guild. I, and the rest of the Committee, look forward to working with you for the next year.

### 1999 AGM

Unfortunately, it is sometimes necessary to make tough decisions. The increased levels of new membership, and the record high of members, do bring drawbacks in terms of Committee workload. The Committee have, therefore, had to decide that we shall next year have to hold simply the AGM. Of course, if any nice, kind person should come forward from amongst our more experienced members to volunteer to arrange a Conference, then we will be more than happy to reconsider; but I would need to be contacted almost immediately.

### FFHS Autumn Council

I know that some Guild members go along to Council meetings as voting representatives of other societies (not just one-name societies). If anyone will be doing this this Autumn, then I would be most grateful if you could let me know, please. ☺

### Annual Conference & AGM

I AM writing this in April, the big event of the month being, of course, our Annual Conference. The hotel was completely filled; they had to make use of overflow arrangements with another hotel, so some members found themselves being bussed from one to another (at the hotel's expense, of course). The Conference room would have burst at the seams if another half dozen people had tried to get into the AGM. I am almost sorry that we may have to go somewhere else next year, for the hotel was marvellous and the management and staff went out of their way to help us. But, then, the reason is the nicest possible one – we would have outgrown them. Of course, the AGM marks the changeover from one Committee to another. This usually means that there are changes, with some previous Committee members stepping down and new people taking their places.

### Farewell...

I would like to thank George Lashbrook, Keith Plant and Mike Spathaky for the work that they have put into the Guild over the years. George has been our Covenants Secretary, a position I am very pleased to say he will be continuing to fill, despite leaving the Committee. Keith has been our International Liaison Manager (ILM), a job he more or less wrote himself out of, with Graham Tuley's help, by combining the posts of ILM and County Co-ordinator as part of the new scheme of regional representation. Mike served with me on the Constitutional Working Group and was then the Guild's Secretary, Web Site Manager and also Publications Subcommittee Chairman. In the latter role, he was

## Treasurer's Notes

### David Abbott

THE Guild continues to grow, and this is a relief. Revisions to subscription rates were necessary last year, and your Committee approved larger increases than a number of you expected.

At the time there were worries that there would be a significant drop in membership. This has not happened, and I am pleased to tell you that the Guild has more members now than at any time in its history, with more than 1500 in total. This places us in a sound financial position, where we can continue to find ways to further promote the Guild, which in turn gives wider knowledge of the research that you are undertaking.

### Credit cards

For several years, enquiries have

been made by the Guild about accepting payments by credit card. We have been unable even to consider this before, as the charges quoted per year were many hundreds of pounds.

Now, I am pleased to announce that one of the clearing banks has been prepared to grant us concessionary terms, and the

**Membership now  
at highest point  
in the Guild's  
history**

Committee have agreed that we can enter into an agreement with them.

At the time of writing, we still await the contract for signature, so it is still possible that it will not be in place for October's renewals. As well as being available to members residing in the UK, this method of payment will be of particular benefit to those outside the UK who, if they

have to obtain a bankers draft, often pay double the cost of the annual subscription.

### Happy holiday research

It is the height of Summer here in the northern hemisphere, with many people thinking of holidays with sun, sea and sand. This is not so with some members, as time out from the normal weekly schedule means fêche, frustrations and follow-ups.

Having successfully engineered a "holiday" with other family members in a certain location, much time is then spent in local record repositories gleaning snippets to fill gaps in research.

The frustrating bit is that as soon as a missing gem is found, at least two more queries are found. For those of you for whom this rings true, I wish you forbearing companions and fruitful research. )

## Secretary's Notes

### Jim Isard

LIKE all good Guild members, I have searched all the births, marriages, and deaths indexes at St Catherine's, I have searched the wills at Somerset House and I have even been to Register House in Scotland and searched their births, marriages and deaths.

I belong to seven county family history societies and have entered my names in their interests page. I have registered my research names with the Big R twice and with the Genealogical Research Directory. Twice I have searched the phone books and then written to all the names found.

### Rules

I have done everything asked of me by the rules of the Guild, so why mention this? A colleague came up to me some while ago who was a member of a county FHS where not

one of my family had ever been found. He had seen someone who was interested in my name advertising for information. The person turned out to be a woman who through two generations had changed her name twice and moved well away from the established family areas.

So how far do we go in joining FH societies. Do we join them all? Do we advertise in everything? Looking back over the last year, my three best lines of research have come from the female line.

### Maiden name

I think we should all spend a lot more time on searching out some of these female lines. As Spencer Tracey said in the film, *Father of the Bride*: "A son is a son until he gets married, but a daughter is forever." So I say this to all female members of the Guild – look to see if anyone is researching your maiden name or your mother's maiden name and contact them to see if you can help. They may be forever grateful. )

## CLANS OF IRELAND

THE editor has received a letter from Dr. M. A. Tierney, the Chairperson of the Clans of Ireland, asking if it could be mentioned in the Journal as being of benefit to those who have Irish names.

Clans of Ireland is a voluntary organisation founded in 1989 and is currently applying for charity status, so all enquiries should be accompanied by IRCs. The organisation does not undertake genealogical research, as this is done by the individual clans.

The organisation has a website at [www.ClansAndNames.org](http://www.ClansAndNames.org) and its gatherings are publicised by the Irish Tourist Board on the Internet at [www.Ireland.travel.ie](http://www.Ireland.travel.ie) under the heading "Things to Do: Festivals and Shows" and search with the word "Clan". The Clans of Ireland's Registrar, Ms. Nuala Cassidy-White, can be contacted by E-mail at [Families.United@connect-2.co.uk](mailto:Families.United@connect-2.co.uk).

Dr. Tierney's address is Grange Clare, Kilmeague, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland. Tel: 045-860623. )

# Publicity Notes

## Sue Lawn

*SUE LAWN, the Guild's newly appointed Publicity Officer, is a busy working housewife and mother. She works as a sales representative for a designer children's clothes company in Sussex and is involved with voluntary community work with her local police, health authority, schools, university, housing department and other agencies. Here, she describes how she first became interested in family history.*

I STARTED researching my own ancestry about five years ago. I was visiting my parents when Mum suggested that we open up Nana's box. This was a box that my grandmother had kept all her private papers in. When she died in 1978, the box was taken back to my parents' house and put in the attic. Mum took Nan's death very badly. I was only six at the time but the unhappiness seems to have stuck in my mind.

Mum had never been able to bring herself around to opening the box until this particular day in 1993. It was like a treasure trove. Amongst other things were photos, certificates, obituary cuttings from the local papers, receipts for ground

purchased in the cemetery, even letters that my Mum had written during her pregnancy with me, discussing what she wanted to name the baby. As a child, Mum always said that one day she was going to St. Catherine's House in London to trace the family tree. She also said that so far she had not had the time.

Looking through Nan's things was moving. I realised how the most important things in her life were all neatly stored in this old ammunition box. I looked at my Mum and said: "I'm going to trace the family tree." I remember her replying: "Oh, Sue, don't be silly, love, you'll never have the time." At that time, my son Jamie was only two months old.

### Letters

However, once I had decided to do it, there was no stopping me! I didn't have a clue where to start, so I just wrote letter upon letter to distant aunts, uncles and cousins. Finally, I discovered a book in the local library – and that was it. I have researched my family quite intensely, taking the family back, forward and even round in circles. I now feel that the time is right for me to slow down a bit, in order to help others, I am only in my 20's so I have, hopefully, plenty of time ahead of me.

## RON SMALLSHAW

*IT was with great regret that I learnt of the death of Ron Smallshaw (Member No. 758) as a result of a tragic accident at his home last November. Due to age – to quote his own words, "I no longer travel well" – he did not attend the meetings I arranged in Berkshire.*

*However, he was quick to write and offer me his best wishes when I took up the role of County Representative. He was very proud of the fact that he was a member of the Guild and wore his Guild tie on the many occasions that he did attend.*

*He will be best known by most Guild members for his suggested method of Name Identification, known as the Smallshaw Number (See Vol. 5, No. 1, January 1994). This was intended to be a simple way to quantify how rare a surname*

*was and also the area in which it was the most common. He was very interested in the response that he received from members on this subject and wrote several articles giving the relevant statistics (See Vol. 5, Nos. 4, 8 and 11; Vol 6, No. 1). There were also some lively letters published in the Journal on the subject. For those members interested, the method was to take the number of births listed in the GRO indexes for the two years 1870 and 1970 and to divide by two, giving an average figure.*

*This is the Smallshaw Number and the higher it is the more common the surname. The county was arrived at by taking the county most often mentioned. Although subject to many objections, aired in the correspondence on the subject,*

*As well as being new on the Committee, I have also taken on a new position as Publicity Manager. I feel the Guild is moving forward very quickly, setting an example for other societies to follow. We are very well known in the world of family history and a leader in the use of computer technology and the Internet.*

*However, I feel we are lacking in our contacts with a lot of people who are quite new to family history. If their interest name is registered with the Guild, then this source of information will be invaluable to them. Initially, I would like to see posters in all the libraries and record offices, not only advertising the Guild but explaining the benefits of a One-Name Study.*

*I would also like to see more interest amongst people of my own age. I believe family history is now part of the national curriculum. If we could tap into the technical knowledge of the next generation, I believe it could be a great asset to an organization like ours. If you have any ideas to promote the Guild, please do not hesitate to contact me. ☺*

### The Author:

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E-mail: suel@clara.net

*this method has the advantage that it is very simple and does indeed give a relevant factor for comparison for the rarity of surnames.*

*Members will be pleased to know that Ron's widow and his three daughters, of whom he was also very proud, have retained his research on the name SMALLSHAW. They have promised that in the event they should no longer wish to retain it, they will consider depositing it with the Guild. Mrs Smallshaw is still receiving queries with regard to the Smallshaw Number, but perhaps the Guild might consider taking this project over as a fitting memorial to Ron?*

Polly Lawrence, Member No. 278,  
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# My four-year search for Copsey marriages in London

By Peter Copsey

In his book *My Ancestors were Londoners*<sup>1</sup> Cliff Webb suggested that it could be practical, albeit time-consuming, to search the deposited marriage registers of London to find entries which match the basic details extracted from the St. Catherine's House (now The Family Records Centre) indexes. For the past four years I have been undertaking such a systematic search for Copsey marriages that took place in London<sup>(1)</sup> after the start of registration in 1837. I have now completed this task and will describe the problems I encountered and the results of the project.

## Background to the Copsey Family

First, a little background to the Copsey family. During the 16th, 17th and 18th Centuries Copseys were predominantly found in East Anglia, with a high concentration in the Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds area of Suffolk. Copseys principally worked on the land: the familiar "ag. lab" in the census returns. A few ventured into trade, becoming blacksmiths, shoemakers, publicans and the like, or joined the armed forces. One branch living in Brightlingsea, Essex, was seafaring. Copseys had little or no wealth. There are only 16 Copsey wills or administrations with a value over £50 out of 304 deaths registered in the 25 years between 1858 and 1882, and only three over £1000.

The population of Copseys in England at the beginning of the 19th Century is estimated at 650, distributed by county as shown in Table 1:

Suffolk	52%
Essex	24%
Norfolk	14%
London	7%
Elsewhere	3%

Table 1 – Distribution of Copseys in 1800

The exodus from the country to the towns and cities began in earnest in the early 19th century. By 1850 the proportion of Copseys marrying in London had reached a maximum, remaining relatively steady until 1920 when numbers began to decline (see Table 2).

Over the period 1837 to 1990, a total of 414 Copseys were married in London. In fact, there were only 413 marriages, as there was one marriage where Copsey married Copsey, a marriage of second cousins.

The principal repository for church records for London is the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), previously the Greater London Records Office, at Northampton Road, Clerkenwell. The Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, holds the church records of churches within the City,

plus a few on the outskirts, in particular St Leonard's, Shoreditch. Westminster Public Records Library at St Ann's Street holds the church records for the Westminster churches south of Oxford Street (St George, Hanover Square, Strand, Soho and St Martin Registration Districts). To complete the search it was also necessary to visit the Local Studies Centre at Lewisham Central Library, Greenwich Local History Library, Hammersmith and Fulham Archives and Local History Centre, and Essex Records Centre at Chelmsford, for North Woolwich Churches.

Period	London marr.	England marr.	% in London
1837-40	5	23	22
1841-50	20	67	30
1851-60	25	80	31
1861-70	29	92	32
1871-80	24	98	24
1881-90	31	109	28
1891-00	31	111	28
1901-10	48	154	31
1911-20	50	159	31
1921-30	40	177	23
1931-40	43	186	23
1941-50	23	157	15
1951-60	22	166	13
1961-70	12	171	7
1971-80	10	178	6
1981-90	1	201	0.5

Table 2 – Number of Copseys married in London and England

## The Search of Registers

The Westminster Public Records Library is open weekday evenings until 7.0 p.m. The LMA is open in the evenings until 7.30 p.m. only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As I work in London, I was able to take advantage of these evening opening times. The Guildhall Library is not open evenings, but is open on Saturdays.

The LMA is not the easiest record office to reach by public transport. It is equi-distant between the Angel and Farringdon Underground Stations, about 10 minutes' walk from either, or five minutes' walk from bus stops on Farringdon Road.

Armed with the index of Copsey marriages abstracted from the Family Records Centre (FRC), my task was to search through all the relevant deposited registers to find the actual marriage entries. In all, I estimate that it has taken me about 300 hours of searching, excluding

(1) Registration Districts 1a, 1b, 1c and 1d after 1864.

travelling time, to find 231 entries. Generally, I did not bother to search for marriages after 1945, although if the microfilm was loaded or the book ordered, I would continue until the film or book ended.

The amount of time needed to search for a marriage varied considerably. Searching for a marriage registered in Bermondsey in 1837 amounted to the examination of only two registers. Searching for a marriage registered in Wandsworth in 1920 (the district with the most churches) amounted to examination of up to 48 registers. About 95% of my time was spent at the LMA. It may be useful to give a brief description of my activities there, in case any other one-namer considers a similar project to mine to be worthwhile.

Firstly, I prepared a spreadsheet for each registration district (RD), with all the churches across the top, marriages and dates down the side. This allowed me to mark quickly when each marriage had been checked. West London Family History Society publications<sup>2 3</sup> helped considerably in identifying churches in each RD and the

LMA records provide information also catalogued by RD. Despite these aids to research, some confusion remained. One example is the district of Paddington, formed, according to the LMA, in 1845 out of the district of Kensington. However, it seems that the formation of Paddington district was in stages, since I have two marriages that took place in All Saints' Church, Paddington in 1869 and another at Christ Church, Paddington, in 1877, that were registered in Kensington. Cliff Webb in his book<sup>2</sup> notes this anomaly.

Using an index of churches, the LMA code for each church can be found. This code directs you to the listing of deposited records from which the reference of the marriage register or the microfilm can be determined. Microfilms are freely accessible (no slips to fill in, no empty marker boxes to insert when a film is removed) and there is an ample, but rather cramped, array of microfilm readers. In all my visits to the LMA I have never witnessed a time when all the machines were in use.

District	Anglican		Non-Conformist		Roman Catholic		Register Office		Total	
	Tot.	ND	Tot.	ND	Tot.	ND	Tot.	ND	Tot.	ND
Bermondsey (1)	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	7	1
Bethnal Green	16	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	17	1
Camberwell	9	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	11	2
Chelsea	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	7	1
City of London	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1
Fulham (2)	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
Greenwich	6	3	1	1	0	0	1	1	8	5
Hackney	12	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	15	3
Hampstead	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Holborn (3)	10	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	11	4
Islington	8	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	11	3
Kensington	16	2	0	0	0	0	5	5	21	7
Lambeth	9	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	11	2
Lewisham	7	2	1	0	0	0	2	2	10	4
Marylebone	9	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	11	2
Paddington	9	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	10	3
Poplar	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	4	2
St. Pancras	19	0	2	2	0	0	4	4	25	6
Shoreditch	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	9	1
Southwark (4)	12	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	13	1
Stepney	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1
Wandsworth (5)	11	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	12	3
Westminster (6)	13	2	0	0	2	2	5	5	20	9
Whitechapel (7)	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Woolwich	3	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	9	7
Total	209	19	12	11	5	5	36	36	262	71

Table 3 – Distribution of Copsey marriages by district

Tot = Total number of Copsey marriages

ND = Copsey marriage in register not deposited or available

(1) includes St. Olave

(2) includes Hammersmith

(3) includes St. Giles, St. Luke and Clerkenwell

(4) includes St. Saviour and Newington

(5) includes Clapham and Battersea

(6) includes St. Geo. Hanover Sq., Soho,

(7) includes St. George in the East and Mile End

St. Martin and Strand

Document ordering is, by nature, more time-consuming. Order slips need to be completed, one for each register. For evening viewing, the order should be made in advance, either earlier in the day before 4.0 p.m. or at a previous evening session. Regulations limit your order to 10 registers. During the day there are five set ordering times when a maximum of five registers may be ordered. Registers are provided one at a time for examination in a separate document reading room.

It is important that ordering and viewing of original registers keep pace with the viewing of the microfilms. The latter activity is best fitted in between completing the viewing of one batch of registers and the arrival of the next batch. If priority is not given to the original registers, all the microfilming will be completed and there will be periods of inactivity waiting for original records.

Success rate decreased for the more recent marriages for several apparent reasons. Fewer registers have been deposited and, in particular, more register office marriages.

Having completed a district, I gave thought to finding any missing entries. The choices were to visit the churches whose records have not been deposited, to visit the local registration district office and undertake a search there or to purchase the certificate from the FRC.

After making enquiries of various local registration offices in London, I decided not to visit their offices. A

typical charge of £5 per hour is imposed to search the indexes and a further £5 is demanded for a copy of each certificate. There appears to be no advantage in acquiring information this way. Unless you expect considerable success, a similar statement can be made for visiting churches. Here, a search fee of at least £10 per hour can be levied.

In the end I purchased the missing certificates from the FRC, but only for the period 1837 to 1920 – a costly affair, but one spread out over four years. After 1920, my information on London marriages remains incomplete for the time being. Hopefully, in time, correspondence with other Copseys will help to fill in the missing details and resolve the remaining mysteries. It needs to be remembered that after 1912 the surname of the spouse can be extracted from the FRC indexes.

## Results

With complete information for 1837 to 1920, I am able to analyse the results. Table 3 shows, district by district, the type of service and whether the register had been deposited. There were 262 marriages between 1837 and 1920 and I managed to find 188 of them, a success rate of 72%. I missed three that were there to be found, the two marriages in Paddington that I mentioned earlier and one marriage at St Paul's, Clapham, which I can only put down to my own carelessness.

The same information can be presented by decade (see Table 4). Two interesting results:

- The number of Copsey non-conformist marriages in London is small, only 5%.
- The number of marriages that took place in a register office is 14%, almost half occurring in the last 10 years (1911 to 1920) of the survey.

Period	Anglican		Non-Conformist		Roman Catholic		Register Office		Total	
	Tot	ND	Tot	ND	Tot	ND	Tot	ND	Tot	ND
1837–1840	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
1841–1850	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0
1851–1860	23	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	25	2
1861–1870	27	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	29	2
1871–1880	23	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	24	2
1881–1890	26	5	1	1	0	0	4	4	31	10
1891–1900	21	4	2	2	2	2	6	6	31	14
1901–1910	33	3	5	4	2	2	8	8	48	17
1911–1920	31	5	0	0	1	1	17	17	49	23
Total	209	18	12	11	5	5	36	36	262	71

Table 4 – Distribution of Copsey marriages by decade

From my complete set of marriages, I have found only one error in the FRC indexes. One marriage is for a CAPSEY, not COPSEY. Admittedly, the writing of the groom's name is not clear on the original, but his signature and that of one of the witnesses is clearly CAPSEY. There is one case where the bride's name is shown as Louisa Mary Copsey on the marriage register,

Occupation	1837–1860	1861–1890	1891–1920
Labourer (labourer, porter, watchman, etc.)	14	17	16
Tradesman (butcher, baker, tailor, etc.)	7	15	24
Artisan (bricklayer, carpenter, joiner, etc.)	5	14	22
Craftsman (cabinet maker, engraver, etc.)	3	9	6
Clerical	2	4	13
Transport (carman, coachman, cab driver)	1	5	9
Manufacturing	6	2	6
Public Service (policeman, postman, etc.)	2	4	3
Domestic Service (valet, groom, etc.)	4	5	6
Armed Forces	1	3	12
Merchant Navy	1	3	5
Managerial	1	0	6
Professional	0	2	1
Gentleman	1	1	0
Unknown/unreadable	2	0	0

Table 5 – Occupation of groom

but with a signature, Laura Mary Copsey. The FRC index shows the name correctly as Laura Mary Copsey.

Social history researchers may be interested in examining the occupation of the grooms (including the grooms of the Copsey brides) to see whether there has been an improvement in social level from the ag. labs of 1800 over three generations. This information is given in Table 5. And the professional in the last column of Table 5, who was he? He was Thomas Harold Shelley who married Harriet Selina Copsey on May 3 1909 at St Leonard's, Streatham. Thomas's occupation was given as "genealogist". ☺

## References

- 1) *My Ancestors Were Londoners* by Cliff Webb, Society of Genealogists 1996.
- 2) *Genealogical Research in Victorian London* by Cliff Webb, West Surrey Family History Society, Research Aids 6, 6th Edition 1993.
- 3) *Genealogical Research in Late Victorian and Edwardian London* by Cliff Webb, West Surrey Family History Society, Research Aids 15, 3rd Edition 1993.

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# My Millennium Joy – or a remarkable tale of 2,362,000 Smiths

By Graham Fidler

**A**S I gaze out of the flaps of the tent, as the sun rises on this, the first day of the new Millennium, I thought I'd like to share with you my sense of joy, fulfilment and complete satisfaction with my world and my achievements. I feel on top of the world, full of the joys of Spring on the first day of January. Why? I've just finished my One-Name Study.

Now, some people thought that I was taking on too much when I registered the name, Smith, and all the common and uncommon variants. Determined to prove these Doubting Thomas's wrong – and, incidentally, I found 64,678 Thomas Smiths/Smythes/Smithetts/Smithies/Smithsons/Smythers/Smithursts etc. in my study – I calculated that I could afford to take early retirement to devote the time to a thorough study of my surname. So, I started by doing the telephone directory study to see where the centre of the surname was. Luckily, my local library had a full set of phone books and it only took me 13 weeks to count all the 265,377 Smiths listed in the UK books.

Perhaps now is the time to own up to my first "crime" and risk being thrown out of the Guild. I cheated and ignored all the foreign Smiths: the Schmidts from Germany, the Hererros from Spain, Kovacs from Hungary, Lefevres from France and so on. Having risked expulsion from the Guild, I had better continue with my story and hope that the lessons learnt will be sufficient to expunge my "crimes."

## An early setback

The phone survey brought the first of many disappointments. I could see no logical centre of the Smiths; rather, there seemed to be centres in all the large – and small – towns in England. I had read Reaney and other authorities on surnames, and followed with interest many letters pointing out flaws in these works, so I hoped they were wrong and that I could find the one Smith that started the line.

Nothing daunted by this setback, I decided to take advantage of the latest technology and download the IGI Smith entries from the Mormon's computer. Helpful people at the local Family History Centre showed me the way to do it and I sat down at their computer for the first of what turned out to be a marathon. As, quite correctly, they didn't want me to hog their machine, I was limited to one hour a day. So, what with holidays, it took me just over a year to achieve the 214 sessions needed to completely download all the baptisms and marriage information. Also, buying the 310 floppy disks required from the Mormons gave me an inkling of the financial problems that were to arise later. The Mormons, understandably, worry about virus infection from foreign

floppies, so you have to use theirs.

During this period I had the mornings free, so I started to abstract the 1881 census information. I started by copying out the information from the fiche on to paper and in the evenings entering the data into the computer. This was a slow process, as I could transcribe only three census entries a minute and it took me the same time to enter them on the computer. So in my three hours every morning and three hours every evening, I could only transcribe 540 entries per day. In one of my infrequent coffee breaks, I did a quick calculation and realised that at the rate I was going, it was going to take me almost three years to extract the 1881 entries.

## Bank manager gets interested

So I speeded up the operation by buying printouts of the census from my local FHS research room at 50 pence per sheet. I only wish that I had done the sums before I embarked on this task, as the 9,000-plus photocopies cost over £4,500, and, coupled with the travelling costs, led to the first phone call from the bank manager. Never mind, it speeded up the process, and I was determined to proceed to Stage 2, contacting all the other people researching the Smith name. I had planned to write to all the 4,786,350 persons in the world who are named Smith or a variation of it – 2,180,960 in the USA alone! But common sense prevailed; even I balked at the cost, which I estimated as well over £1,000,000.

The kind folk at the Big R did a special run for me and sent me a list of the 2,937 people who had shown an interest in "my" surname, and to that I added the 740 people listed in the GRD. Not wanting to make too much work for myself, I postponed writing to them until I had the results of my first advertisement in Family Tree Magazine. This only generated a further 1,200 interested parties, and so I composed my introductory letter and sent out 3,374 copies. I don't think it was the cost of this mailing that caused the second call from the bank manager, rather it was the cost of buying the first batch of 20 filing cabinets to hold the information that was beginning to flood in.

About this time I had my first nagging doubts. Perhaps I'd taken on too much in starting the St Catherine's Index abstraction at the same time as the 1881 census abstractions and the downloading from the IGI? I toyed with the idea of emulating Boyd (of Boyd's Marriage Index fame) and for a few weeks I employed a couple of YTS youngsters to do the abstracting, but soon found their work unsatisfactory as well as expensive, as another phone call from the bank manager pointed out.

So I took drastic action – and here I'll own up to my second crime – which was to end the study in 1881. Frankly, I wasn't up to extending the St Catherine's Index

abstraction up to the present day. Call me old-fashioned if you like, but I believe that anybody with more than a passing interest in genealogy should be able to get back to 1881. The other reason was practical – there were over 400,000 St Catherine’s births from 1837 to 1881 and I calculated that going up to the present day would bring this to well over a million. Couple that with the 250,000 marriages and the 325,000 deaths in the period 1837–1881 and I still had almost a million St Cath’s entries to extract!

The second action I took was to delegate some of the work, as suggested by somebody at the Guild. I wrote to the 10,274 people I was now corresponding with – amazing how the numbers just kept on growing when my Study became common knowledge – and requested regional helpers. I worked out that I needed two per English county, 24 for America and Canada, but only 12 for Australia and New Zealand. I quickly found the 127 people willing to take on the role of Regional Assistants, but, as is the way of the world, their quality and dedication varied. Some were models, almost clones, of myself, but others I never heard from again. Yet others just demanded copies of all my work to date and contributed nothing, so I ended up being able to delegate less than 10% of my workload!

## Obsessed – who, me?

The costs of my mailings were by now getting to the bank manager, so I went to see him to discuss “my situation”, as he euphemistically called it. I decided to take my wife with me, as she is so much better with money than I am, but I couldn’t find her. However, under the second of that day’s mailbags I found a letter explaining that she felt I was obsessed – I still can’t understand that – and was leaving me. The bank manager and I had a good chat and I didn’t have to spend too long on my knees before he agreed to bankroll me whilst I traded my house in for a cheaper bungalow, which was a good thing really, as the weight of the 65 filing cabinets had already brought down the ceiling joists in the second bedroom.

By now my Study was really “cooking with gas”, as one of my many correspondents used to say. I had downloaded details of 763,000 baptisms and a further 238,000 marriages from the IGI, I had my 361,000 1881 census entries, and was a good way through my one million Civil Registrations. I then made what, in retrospect, were the two major financial mistakes that broke the camel’s back. I should have stopped the FONS searches before the bill got to the size it did, and I should have thought twice before embarking on an abstraction of the 1851 census. The cost of the books, surname indexes and so forth was reasonable, a mere £1,000 or so. However, the true costs of the 1851 census were the visits to Record Offices all over the country to extract the data from the indexes I’d bought.

I thought everything was under control, but events overtook me. By this time my computer was getting far too small, so I was lucky in being able to buy an IBM mainframe computer second-hand from a local

company. This allowed me to handle all the data and I thought the cost was reasonable, but this view was not shared by my bank manager. After yet another painful session on my knees, he agreed to provide bridging finance whilst I sold the bungalow. Here I had my greatest stroke of luck by courtesy of the European Community, not an organisation usually associated with genealogy. The reason is called “set-aside”. With so many acres of farmland “set-aside”, there are hundreds of disused barns available and I was able to rent one for a very reasonable sum. It held all my 637 filing cabinets, my computer system, my 60 square metres of desk space, as well my camp bed and a Primus stove.

## So Reaney was right

So now I was ready to really get down to work. I had my extracted data and my network of correspondents and I settled down to link all the Smiths together, the object of the Study. You can imagine my disappointment when it slowly became clear that there was not just one source of the surname, but 385! It seems Reaney et al were right after all, and that when the clerics were dishing out surnames in the 13th and 14th centuries they gave MY surname to any Tom, Dick or Harry who happened to wield a hammer. It took me some time to get over that, but with stiff-upper lip, traditional English phlegm, I persevered, and I finished it as far as I could, with 385 main trees, 6,439 unattached branches, and only about 38,450 people with no connection to anybody else. As if to thank me for my work, then came the last stroke of luck. I just had enough money to hire a fleet of trucks to ship the entire printed collection of records down to the Society of Genealogy (with a copy to the Mormons in Salt Lake City). With excellent timing, the bailiffs came yesterday and were most polite and kind enough to leave me this tent to live in.

So, as I see the sun rising on this glorious day, the first day of the fourth millennium, 1st January 3001, I reflect back on my achievements over the last 1,002 years with a great sense of pride. I’d done it – solved the Smiths!

□ 1st Serious Note: I estimate that my Fidler study is almost exactly 100 times smaller than any study of the Smiths would be, hence I’ve just factored everything up. I leave you to draw your own conclusions from this ‘reducto ad absurdio’ argument. For my part, I’ve “proved” that there were at least four (if not five) different origins of the F(V)idler name. Perhaps we should seriously consider allowing multiple registrations where it is demonstrable that there were multiple origins of a surname?

□ 2nd Serious Note: Luckily, my wife still regards my ONS as a harmless eccentricity and my bank manager still sends me Christmas cards. ○

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# The Salvins of Nottinghamshire, their origins and subsequent history

By Sydney Smith

**I**N the early years of this century, a visit to the county town from a rural village was both a treat and an adventure. Country folk had to be wary, if they were not to be taken advantage of by the "townies", and on one of these occasions my father was persuaded to purchase a book by a market salesman.

On his return home, to his horror, he was soon to learn that in that period when one had to respect authority and be, at best, subservient to one's "betters", that the book entitled *Our Old Nobility* by Howard Evans, the editor of the *Morning Leader*, was considered to be scurrilous and subversive. A tirade against the House of Lords, the aristocracy and the landed gentry, it was regarded much as a direct seditious attack against the Queen would be today, so he kept his purchase secret. It only came to light some 50 years later when I was clearing his effects – and even then it was put on one side.

However, when recent talk about the coming Millennium occasioned a query as to whether any of our titled families could boast a thousand years' recorded ancestry, only then did it occur to me to scrutinise the contents. I knew from the index that it listed over 100 members of the aristocracy living at the turn of the century, giving their houses, the acreage of their holdings and, more controversially, how they came by their vast domains.

Amongst the 100-plus, some eighteen were classified as having pre-Conquest antecedents of either Norman or Saxon origin. This led to a discussion amongst my colleagues as to how far back we family history enthusiasts could individually trace our ancestors. While I could not make any claims to pre-Conquest ancestry, I have been singularly fortunate, due to my mother's insistence during her lifetime that she was of a family with a long pedigree, which claim meant nothing to me until I had the sad chore of collating her many historical papers, wills and documents, together with newspaper cuttings, all pertaining to the SALVINS.

## Antique watch

Most of these were bundled together and it was not until after retirement, when I was endeavouring to ascertain the original ownership of an antique pocket watch made specially for a Nottinghamshire farmer, which had been among my mother's effects, that I was propelled into the world of genealogy. Previously, this was a subject which I knew little about and, after making a few tentative contacts with those who were experts in the field, I soon realised how fortunate I was. Much of the family history had already been recorded by eminent historians and my immediate problem was where to begin in order to record and collate the various sources.

How I started and where my investigations led I recount here, together with some of the interesting and unusual circumstances in which unexpected discoveries confirmed that my mother's assertions were no idle boast.

Our local librarian suggested that I consulted the *Dictionary of National Biography* in the reference department. This was an inspired suggestion, as on page 714 was the initial information I was seeking, including a bibliographical reference to Surtees' *History of Durham*, which I ordered through the County Library's Reserve Book Scheme.

In the *Dictionary of National Biography* I found under the heading SALVIN the information that the family claimed descent from Joceous le Flamangh. Therefore, my first task was to ascertain who was this Joceous, where did he originate and in what period? When the Surtees book arrived, after a wait of a few weeks, this same information was also stated. Then it occurred to me that perhaps I was going about this the wrong way. I had been given to understand that most family historians were initially motivated by the desire to discover their immediate ancestors and that after their initial success decided to delve deeper into the past. However, I was attempting the reverse, working down through the centuries to the present day.

## Domesday Book

Nevertheless, now being in possession of the relevant information, I have been able to collate along with the information in my own family papers enough material to compile a record of the Salvins from the Domesday Book to, hopefully, the Millennium, the youngest Salvin to date being just one year old.

This story commences with the award of one third of a knight's fee to Joceous le Flamangh in the north Nottinghamshire township of Cuckney in the reign of William I. What he was awarded this for is not clear, as the historians who extracted this information from medieval sources merely quoted that "he came with the Conqueror" and did not elaborate. The fact that the award was in an obscure rural area, far from the centres of administration and being land not even confiscated from a Saxon baron but which was conveniently vacant due to the death without heirs of an old Dreng (one who remained neutral during and after the Conquest), it is obvious that he was not among the top echelons of William's forces or advisors. However, once established, Joceous soon began to make his influence felt locally, so much so that one of his sons married into the aristocracy and a grandson became the Sheriff of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

In the fullness of time Joceous's first son, Richard of

Cuckney, married and had two sons, the first being Richard of Cuckney, like his father, and the second, Ralph of Sylvan, who was heir to the nearby Manor of Woodhouse, "silva" or "sylvan", meaning a woodland. After the elder Richard's wife died, he married again, his second wife being the cousin of the Earl of Derby. To obtain the Earl's consent, he had to provide her with a dowry which consisted of two ploughlands which he had received from the King. By her, he had another son named Thomas.

Thomas, perhaps influenced by his grandfather's French origin, obtained ownership of nearby Welbeckhouse and in the reign of Henry II established the order of Premonstratensians, or White Canons, at Welbeck, which now became Welbeck Abbey, his half brothers Richard and Ralph both becoming benefactors.

## Gerard dynasty

The Salvins continued to hold sway in the Cuckney, Norton Woodhouse and Welbeck areas of Nottinghamshire and then extended into south Yorkshire to the village of Thorpe – still shown on maps as Thorpe Salvin – continuing living in these areas until 1402. Then a member of the Gerard dynasty, the seventh of that forename, married an heiress of County Durham, Agnes, Lady of Croxdale, and, disposing of his local holdings, resided at the Croxdale estate at Sunderland Bridge, County Durham. There, they and their descendants (including 14 more Gerards) remained in an unbroken line until the present day. No mean feat during the turbulent and often intolerant intervening centuries, especially as they were, and still are, Roman Catholics. They managed to do this by, so far as possible, keeping a relatively low profile through the reigns of several monarchs – one reason perhaps why the name Salvin is not as familiar as other national families.

With this departure to County Durham, the other members of the family gradually began to disperse from the border area to central Nottinghamshire, there being records of their marriages in that area throughout the sixteenth century. My mother's own forebears settled in

Gedling and Stoke Bardolf, where Thomas Salvin (born 1729) married Elizabeth Paletthorpe in 1750. The Salvins continued to live and work in and around Stoke Bardolf until another Thomas (born 1799) married Frances Mabbott of Cropwell Bishop, Nottinghamshire, and left Stoke to live and work in the village of his wife and in-laws, a well respected Cropwell family.

This marriage resulted in the birth of three daughters, but only one son, David Salvin (born 1830), who married Sarah Maul in 1853. They, in turn, had six daughters, one of whom Frances was my maternal grandmother, but again had only one son, David Leavis Salvin (born 1871), who in 1902 married Edith Bevan, their only child being a daughter. Thus, with her marriage, the only indication today apart from the family headstones in the village churchyard, an engraved stone in the churchyard retaining wall and several locally renowned buildings, including the village school, is the modern road sign erected in their memory by the local council, Salvin Close.

Nottinghamshire, however, still has ten Salvins listed in the phone book, and so claims an association today with the family, which includes Osbert Salvin, Sheriff of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, 1131–1154, for a period of some 900 years. Also, some tangible reminders of the family besides Welbeck, are found in the existence of some fine country houses, including Thoresby, Perlethorpe, Harlaxton Manor and St John's Church, Grantham, designed by Anthony Salvin. He was tutored by Nash and was at one time Vice-President of the R.I.B.A., as well as being in charge of additions and alterations at Belvoir Castle, Kelham Hall, Newark Castle and numerous other properties.

Croxdale, too, retains 500 years' association, with three prominent family members still residing on this same estate. So there are good grounds to expect that the Salvins will still be around at the Millennium. ○

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# A surname distribution in fine detail – how local to Ogden are Ogdens?

By Trevor Ogden

**L**ike many other people, I was very surprised when I first plotted the distribution of my surname. In the places where I had lived, it was an uncommon name, and I had assumed that migration would long ago have smoothed out any big peaks anywhere. It was a shock to find that in north-east Manchester Ogdens comprised over a quarter per cent of the population. I had used telephone directories to look at the distribution and it raised the question of how big and how localised was the peak within the Manchester North-East directory area. I began a project

to plot the Ordnance Survey grid reference of Ogdens from the directory and to compare them with the locations of a random selection of other people from the same area.

I have been at this in bursts for 13 or 14 years. In that time the subject of surname distributions has been transformed by the book *The Surname Detective*<sup>1</sup> by Colin Rogers and, of course, by the current Guild project to plot distributions from the 1881 census, described in the Journal last year by Geoff Riggs<sup>2</sup>, but the results of this detailed study of a local distribution are still

interesting. The study also illustrates the problems of plotting distributions when surname numbers are small – and one way of tackling this. However, more people will be interested in the results than the technique, so I will discuss the outcome first.

Figure 1 illustrates the contours of the proportion of 1982 telephone subscribers with the surname Ogden in the Manchester area. The exact position of the contours is rough, for reasons that will be described, but I think that the following features are reliable:

(1) There is a peak area where Ogdens exceed 300 per 100,000 of the population (0.3%).

(2) This peak area is only about 20 km by 5 km. Within 10 km in any direction, the concentration has fallen by a factor of three. Within 30 km to the south, the concentration has fallen to a tenth of the peak.

(3) There are three or four settlements in the north of England called Ogden, but the distribution strongly suggests that our homeland is the hamlet of Ogden

three lived within a day's walk of the name's origin.

Now something about technique. One can, of course, simply count the number of instances of a surname in each area, but, as explained in Geoff Riggs' articles, this gives misleading results because there tends naturally to be more of each surname in heavily populated areas. In some ways, one learns more about the origin and spread by working with surnames as a proportion of the population (the surname density).

## Plotting distributions

The 1881 project is working with percentages, although I have used the number of Ogdens per 100,000 of the population because it gives convenient numbers. Whichever of these measures is used, it is easy to calculate the Ogden density in a telephone area by dividing the number of occurrences of the name in the directory by the total number of personal entries,

estimated from the number of pages and the average number of personal entries per page. Some of the resulting area Ogden densities are shown in Fig 2.

Within the Manchester North-East area, I allocated each of the 485 Ogdens to a 5km by 5 km National Grid square, using their addresses and a street directory. I then did the same for 679 random other people as a control group, one from each page of the directory. This process gave between 0 and 73 Ogdens and between 0 and 82 controls in each 5 km by 5 km square. Each member of the control group represented 370 people, the average number of private subscribers per page. If the number of Ogdens in a square is N, and the number of controls is C, then the Ogdens per 100,000 telephone subscribers in the square is:

$$(N/C) \times (100,000/370).$$

Plotting in this fine detail means that the number of Ogdens or controls in a square can be very small, and random fluctuations can become very important. Taking an extreme case, if one plotted street by street, one might find three Ogdens in one street and none in the next just by chance. Showing one street as having three times the density of the next without any smoothing would give a confusing picture which might disguise any large-scale patterns. Anyone who

has tried to plot name distributions will have come across this problem when the numbers are small – Geoff Riggs discussed it in the first of his two articles.

In my case, I used simple statistical theory to estimate the likely range of each value of Ogden density that would be expected from this kind of random fluctuation, and to show this as a ± figure attached to each Ogden density for a 5 km x 5 km square. The results are shown

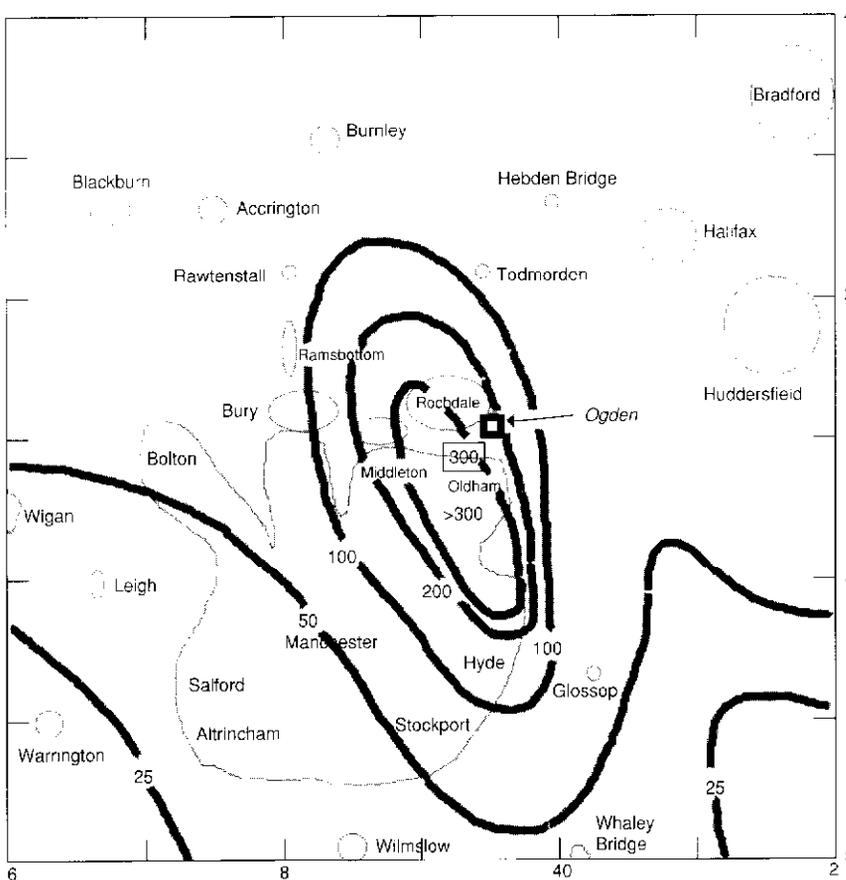


Fig 1. Contours of the number of Ogdens per 100,000 telephone subscribers in 1982 directories in relation to present population centres and the supposed place of origin of the name at Ogden, south-east of Rochdale. The contours were sketched using the data shown in Fig. 2. The marginal marks are the edges of National Grid 10 km squares.

south-east of Rochdale. The present peak is about 5 km south-west of this settlement.

The Ogdens are clearly a stay-at home lot. There were about 2,950 Ogdens in the 1982 telephone directories of England and Wales. Seventeen per cent of them lived within 15 km of the peak and about 30% within 30 km. After the 25 generations or so since surnames became hereditary in this part of the world, about one Ogden in



### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 1997

The Committee presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31 October 1997. The accounts have been subject to independent examination, and a statement by the examiner has been included on page 4.

#### The Nature of the Guild

The Guild of One-Name Studies is an unincorporated association registered in England and Wales as a Charity, registration number 802048. The Guild's governing document is its Constitution, as agreed and amended from time to time by the Guild's members.

The objectives of the Guild, as stated in Section 2 of the Constitution, may be summarised as being

- (i) to advance the education of the public in One-Name Studies and
- (ii) to promote the preservation and publication of the resultant data.

The Guild has no salaried staff, all activities and services being dependent upon unpaid voluntary effort by its members.

#### Responsibilities of the Committee

It is a requirement of the law that the Guild shall each year prepare a revenue account which deals with the affairs of the Guild for that year. The Committee is responsible for ensuring that every revenue account and every balance sheet published shows a true and fair view.

In preparing these financial statements the committee is therefore required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Guild will continue as a charitable organisation.

The Guild is obliged to keep proper books and records and to establish and maintain a satisfactory system of control of its books of account, its cash holdings and its receipts and remittances. Holders of any position in the Guild are accountable to the Guild for any moneys or property in their charge.

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND REVIEW OF THE YEAR

#### Reporting year

Following the changes to the Constitution approved at the Special General Meeting of 7 December 1996, the year under report was the first Financial Year to end on 31 October, previous financial years having ended on 31 December. As a consequence, this year was 10 months long, covering the period from **1 January 1997 to 31 October 1997** inclusive. This shortened year is a purely transitional effect, the normal length of 12 months being restored in future.

#### Membership as at 31 October 1997

	AUS	CAN	NZ	UK	USA	Other	Total
Members	49	41	28	1297	51	23	1489
%	3.3	2.8	1.9	87.1	3.4	1.5	

(Total membership as reported for the end of the previous year had been 1431.)

#### General meetings

The 1997 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Guild was held at Northampton on 19 April. There were no Special General Meetings during the year.

#### Committee

The Committee is elected annually in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution then in force. Membership of the Committee during the year was as follows. Unless stated otherwise, membership was for the whole of the year (ie. retired and re-elected as at the 19 April AGM). Officers as at 31 October 1997 were as indicated.

David Abbott	elected 19 April 1997	Treasurer
Peter Goodall	retired 19 April 1997	
James Isard	coopted 26 July 1997	Secretary
Dominic Johnson		Registrar

George Lashbrook

Roger Lovegrove

Keith Plant

Peter Prismall retired 19 April 1997

Geoff Riggs coopted 10 May 1997

Mary Rumsey

Mike Spathaky

Chris Swarbrooke

Alec Tritton

Graham Tuley elected 19 April 1997

Kelvin Warth retired 19 April 1997

John Witheridge elected 19 April 1997

Chairman

Editor

Vice Chairman

#### Subcommittees

The following Subcommittees were formed by the Committee during the year. The indicated people were members of the Subcommittees at some time during the year, but not necessarily for the whole of the year. The Guild's Constitution requires that all Officers be members of each Subcommittee.

*Executive Subcommittee*

Officers only

*Seminars Subcommittee*

Officers, Bob Cobbing, Ernest Hamley, Richard Moore, Derek Palgrave, Chris Swarbrooke, John Witheridge

*Publications Subcommittee*

Officers, Mike Spathaky, Chris Swarbrooke

*21st-anniversary Subcommittee*

Officers, Chris Swarbrooke.

#### Postal ballots

One postal ballot was held during the year. The Resolution, which was carried by 310 votes to 81, was

*That the initial words "Each registration will be accepted" of the second sentence of Clause 4.1 of the Constitution be replaced by the words "Subject to any restrictions appearing elsewhere in this Constitution, each registration will be*

accepted" and the following sentence be added to the end of Clause 4.2: "No person may register an already-registered surname or variant."

### Meetings

A Seminars Subcommittee was formed by the Committee, with the purpose

"to organise seminars to advance the education of the public in One-Name Studies as allowed by the Constitution."

The chairman of this Subcommittee was Alec Tritton.

Seminars were arranged at Dartford, York and Needham Market.

### Guild Representation

The Guild has been represented at meetings of the Federation of Family History Societies, The Scottish Association of Family History Societies and the British Genealogical Record Users Committee.

### Publications

Publications Subcommittee was formed by the Committee, with the purpose

"to organise and produce those Guild publications, and associated items, which are intended to be read by members generally or by the general public."

The chairman of this Subcommittee was Mike Spathaky.

*Journal* To coincide with the start of Volume 6, the format of the Journal was changed from A5 to A4. Four editions were published during year (January, April, July, October), the number of pages being increased to 24 with effect from the

October edition. The October edition was subsequently submitted for the 1997 Elizabeth Simpson award.

*Register* The thirteenth edition of the Register of One-Name Studies was published together with two supplements (a third supplement being published after the end of the Financial Year).

*Web site* The Guild continued to maintain and expand its web site, which was listed by Family Tree Magazine as one of the top-ten genealogical sites.

### Financial Position

The 1997 accounts show a loss which was similar in size to that in 1996. The previous exceptional expenditure of ballots and two Special General Meetings did not recur but there was a counteracting increase in the cost of members' copies of the Journal etc. (rising from £6.80 to £7.85 per member), other expenses either rising at a more modest rate or falling.

Steps were taken during the 1997 to reverse this situation and bring about a surplus for 1998. The annual subscription and registration fees were increased to £12 and £8 respectively. These changes have partially affected the 1997 accounts as new members joining in the latter part of the year paid at the new rates: this accounted for most of the increases under these income headings.

Additionally, during the Summer, members were able to pay three years' subscriptions in advance at the rate of £10 pa. Just over 300 members took up this offer, allowing us to place an extra £6,000 on deposit. The extra interest received will help will offset the loss in revenue this concession creates. On the balance sheet, these advanced payments are reflected in the increased current assets and current liabilities.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 1997

	note	1996	1997
<b>INCOME</b>			
Subscriptions received		11,396	12,104
Registration fees		672	1,040
Sale of publications, badges &c.		1,839	2,235
Conference and meeting receipts	2	4,614	4,036
Donations/tax refunds on covenanted subscriptions	3	1,939	1,473
Deposit interest		669	491
		£21,129	£21,379
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Cost of members' copies of Journals, Register & FHND	4	9,727	11,890
Guild operating expenses	5	5,612	5,489
Cost of publications including sales costs		1,150	1,494
Conference and Meeting costs	2	3,747	4,183
Ballot, AGM and SGM expenses	6	2,552	54
Depreciation	8	432	492
		£23,220	£23,602
(DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		(2,091)	(2,223)
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		5,712	3,621
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	7	£3,621	£1,398

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 1997

RESERVES	7	£6,621	£4,398
<i>represented by</i>			
FIXED ASSETS	8	1,224	972
CURRENT ASSETS	9	9,965	17,247
CURRENT LIABILITIES	10	4,568	13,821
NET CURRENT ASSETS		5,397	3,426
NET ASSETS		£6,621	£4,398

Approved by the Committee on 24 January 1998

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**1. Accounting Policies**

- a. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention and applicable accounting standards.  
 b. Depreciation has been provided on all assets, using the straight line system, at 25% per annum.

**2. Income and Expenditure of Annual Conference and Seminars**

	1996	1997
Conference, net gain or loss	989	(413)
SoG May Fair	(148)	-
Seminars, net gain or loss	27	267
	<u>£867</u>	<u>£146</u>

**3. Donations and refunds of income tax on covenanted Subscriptions**

Donations, including duplicated subscriptions	555	547
Tax recovered on 1996 (1995 & 1994) covenanted subscriptions	1,384	926
	<u>£1,939</u>	<u>£1,473</u>

**4. Cost of publications received by members (members' copies only)**

Journal cost (members' copies)	2,218	3,415
Register of One-Name Studies (13th) (members' copies)	1,338	1,246
Family History News & Digest	2,883	2,890
Dispatch costs of Journal, Register & FHND	3,288	4,339
	<u>£9,727</u>	<u>£11,890</u>

**5. Guild operating expenses**

Post and telephone	1,477	1,042
Printing and stationery	1,744	2,117
Subscriptions	302	313
Insurance	122	112
Committee travelling expenses	954	765
Room hire for committee meetings	303	32
Representation at other Societies	25	244
County representatives' expenses	71	12
Subcommittees' expenses	168	257
Computer software	135	58
Independent examiner's (audit) fee	75	75
Sundry expenses	236	462
	<u>£5,612</u>	<u>£5,489</u>

**6. Expenses of Ballot and Special General Meetings**

Election of Committee (ballot in March 1996)	1,416	0
Legal expenses	260	0
Expenses re Special General Meeting at Dartford	557	0
Expenses re Special General Meeting at Tamworth	319	0
Ballot for Constitution Amendment	0	54
	<u>£2,552</u>	<u>£54</u>

**7. Reserves**

ACCUMULATED FUND	3,621	1,398
GENERAL RESERVE FUND at 1st January 1997	3,000	3,000
	<u>£6,621</u>	<u>£4,398</u>

**8. Fixed Assets - comprising computers, printers and other items**

Written down value as at start of Year	72	1,224
Add Purchases in year (fiche reader & zip-drive)	1,584	240
Less Depreciation at 25% per annum	(432)	(492)
Written down value as at end of Year	<u>£1,224</u>	<u>£972</u>

**9. Current Assets**

Stock of publications &c	1,524	1,869
Debtors and prepayments	712	1,035
COIF Charities Deposit Account	7,603	14,000
Bank balances	123	342
Cash balances	3	1
	<u>£9,965</u>	<u>£17,247</u>

**10. Current Liabilities**

Creditors	1,038	2,737
Subscriptions received in advance	3,530	11,084
	<u>£4,568</u>	<u>£13,821</u>

End of the Committee's Report

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
31 OCTOBER 1997

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES

I report on the financial statements of the Guild for the period ending 31 October 1997, which are set out on pages 2 and 3.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

As the charity's Trustees, the Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts; it considers that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Guild and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning these matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting procedures of the Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(signed)

15 Sunnyfield  
Mill Hill  
LONDON  
NW7 4RD

23rd March 1998

F W Scott  
*Chartered Accountant*  
*Registered Auditor*

in Fig. 2. For example,  $234 \pm 89$  means that the "best estimate" of the Ogdens in that square is 234 Ogdens per 100,000. This might not be exactly right, but for contour-drawing purposes the figure was likely to fall between  $234 - 89 (= 145)$  and  $234 + 89 (= 323)$ . Using these results, I sketched the contours in Fig 1, using the Draw facility in Microsoft Word v.7.

## Technical data

For those interested, the likely range was calculated as follows. The number of Ogdens  $N$  in a square will follow a Poisson distribution, and the best estimate of the standard deviation of  $N$  is therefore the square root of this,  $\sqrt{N}$ . The relative standard deviation is then  $\sqrt{N}/N = 1/\sqrt{N}$ . The same reasoning applies to the number of controls  $C$  in a square, which therefore has a relative standard deviation of  $1/\sqrt{C}$ . We are interested in the relative standard deviation of the quotient  $N/C$ , because this is used in calculating the Ogdens per 100,000 (see above). The relative standard deviation of  $N/C$  is the square root of the sum of the squares of the relative standard deviations of  $N$  and  $C$ , that is  $\sqrt{1/N + 1/C}$ . This is multiplied by the Ogdens per 100,000 for that 5 km by 5 km square to give the standard deviation, shown as the  $\pm$  figure in Fig 2. The likely range calculated in this way will not necessarily include the "true" value, but it probably will. For the telephone area values, the likely ranges calculated in this way are negligible, and are not shown.

## Were your relatives stay-at-homes, too?

Names originating at particular places are frequently still found concentrated in that neighbourhood. It is not usually possible to say how far from the place of origin the present peak lies, or how widespread or intense it is, as we now can for Ogdens. It is a giant leap to generalise from one name in one locality to the whole English population, but if Ogdens are typical, the implication is that about a third of males in England are living within a day's walk of the home of our male-line ancestor 25 generations ago.

I am not sure that I recommend other Guild members to undertake this very laborious kind of mapping by hand from telephone directories, as I have. In any case, modern Phone Books more often have overlapping boundaries, which is a considerable complication, and the much higher proportion of ex-directory subscribers today than in 1982 introduces another uncertainty. It may be that the registration districts, discussed by Geoff

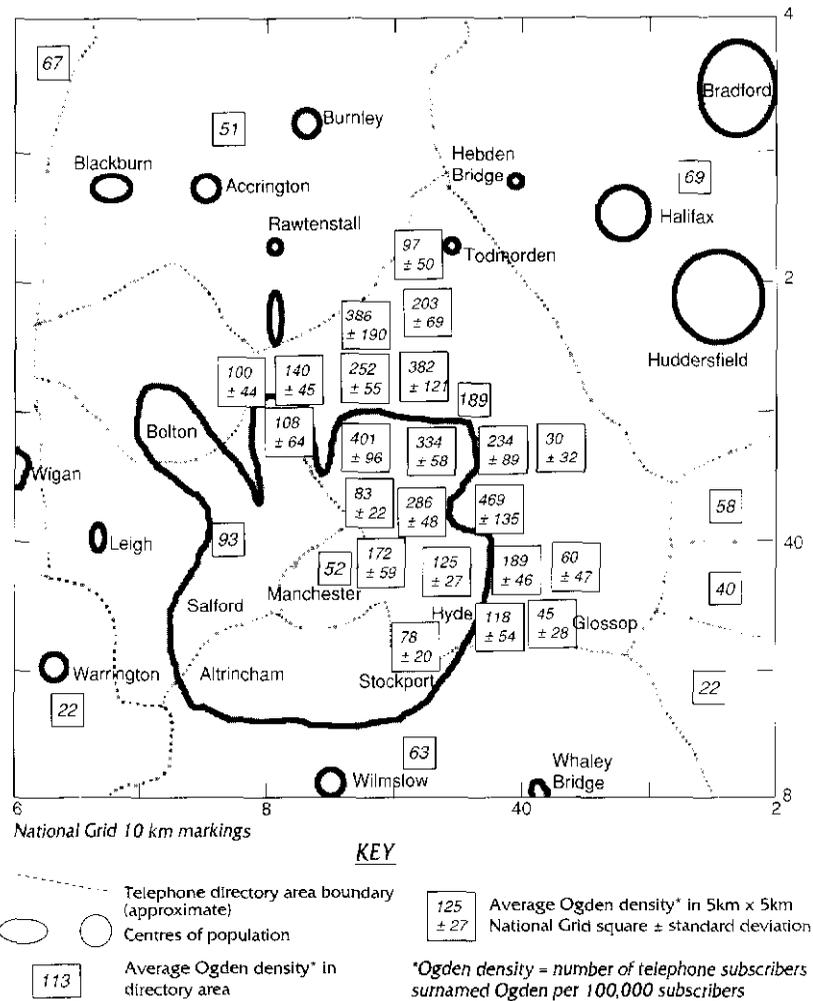


Fig. 2. Data for the number of Ogdens per 100,000 telephone subscribers in 1982 directories. The 5km by 5km values are shown in boxes placed close to the centre of the relevant grid squares, but sometimes displaced slightly so as not to obscure other features. In the east of the Manchester North-East area, low population meant that there were sometimes only one or two Ogdens or controls per grid square, and the Ogdens density was in these cases not calculated.

Riggs for the 1881 project, would provide sufficient detail, or that plotting by postcode area from a CD list (if a suitable one is available) would work. It would certainly be interesting to see other detailed plots of this type, to see if the conclusion of 30% within 30 km of origin is really a general feature. ○

## References

- 1) C. D. Rogers, *The Surname Detective* (Manchester University Press 1995) ISBN 0 7190 4048 5
- 2) Geoff Riggs, *The 1881 Project – British surname distribution*. Part 1: *Journal of One-Name Studies* Vol 6 pp 55–58. Part 2: *What happens to the data?* *Journal of One-Name Studies* Vol 6, pp76–79.

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# The McTurks and their dispersion from ancient Galloway

By Iain Kerr

**M**y immediate paternal Kerr and Dempsie ancestors came from Ayrshire in Scotland. I realised that I could not embark on a one-name study of Kerr because of the size of the task. I happened on the McTurk surname in my paternal ancestry, found it intriguing and decided it worthy of a one-name study. This article tells something of the name, its dispersion and gives examples of the human stories I have encountered in tracing the McTurks from their origins in ancient Galloway.

My paternal great-great-great-grandmother was Susanna McTurk (1781–1840) of New Cumnock in Ayrshire, the daughter of David McTurk and Marrison McCrone. Many of the 100-plus McTurk family lines that I have recorded emanate from Ayrshire and neighbouring counties. McTurk or MacTurk, and many other variants, proved to be from the ancient Scottish district of Galloway. As a truly Lowland name, McTurk is not a “clan” but a “name”. Contemporary Scottish McTurks are concentrated in Ayrshire, Dumfries, Lanark and Renfrew. Clusters are found in Yorkshire, Cheshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Lancashire, East Anglia, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and Dorset in England; in Brecon and Anglesey in Wales; and in the Isle of Man. Over the past 200 years a number of McTurk families have emigrated to Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand and Guyana.

## Migratory influences

The population of south-west Scotland suffered a wide variety of migratory influences over the centuries, from the enforced movements arising from military action such as Henry VIII’s “rough wooing” of the Scottish borders to the more subtle attractions of new frontiers or new business. The 16th to 18th centuries saw McTurk movements between Scotland and Ireland, with the establishment of several McTurk families in Co. Antrim, and into English seaports and industrial towns. From the early 19th century there was considerable movement of McTurks around southern Scotland, as families followed the work found in the new industries of iron, coal, steel and ship-building in Scotland’s Industrial Revolution.

A common influence in the dispersion of McTurks, which links the early members of Scottish lines, was sheep and the woollen trade. Initially, the McTurks were Scottish shepherds who spent their winter days weaving home-spun cloth. As they succeeded, they became sheep farmers and employed others. Their sons spent some of their youth as packmen, or “travelling Scotchmen” as they were called, selling high quality woollen goods to the population of industrial cities in northern England. Some moved their operations to Wales and became recognised for their efficiency. The next generation saw McTurks moving to English wool

towns to establish themselves as merchants and stuff manufacturers. Subsequent generations were fully educated and entered the professions, like medicine, the law, church and colonial service.

A second influence on McTurk dispersion was the development of the railways. It is my theory that those men who knew the drove paths across the hills in south-west Scotland found easy employment with the railway constructors and railway companies. The developing railways of the mid-19th century encouraged dispersion to communication centres such as Glasgow, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and York. The Scottish Industrial Revolution offered work and housing in the iron and coal mining industries and in the mills and factories which arose in Lanark and Renfrew in the 19th century. All these drew McTurks away from their rural, agricultural life.

Lines in Great Britain that I have recorded emanate from:

\* The Cumnock area of Ayrshire.

\* The Carsphairn area of Kirkcudbright, not more than 25 miles from Cumnock, which has given rise to Yorkshire lines and the Cnewr McTurks in Brecon, Wales.

\* Dumfries, again not far from Cumnock, including families still living there, with mid-20th century movements following the evolution of coal mining from Scotland’s closed pits to those in Durham, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire.

\* A number of Yorkshire McTurks, whose Scottish origins I have yet to clarify.

\* Two families in Manchester, which link to Liverpool and into Cheshire.

\* An earlier 18th century McTurk settlement in Cheshire, possibly based on the sea.

\* Several families who appear in mid-19th century Birmingham and Greater Manchester.

\* A small line in Cornwall which appears to have died out.

\* Enterprising McTurks who left Galloway to set up as farmers, Royal Marines or in businesses in East Anglia and elsewhere in England.

\* A major McTurk line in Northern Ireland with links into the United States and Canada.

The Old and New Cumnock parishes of Ayrshire have been the source of several McTurk lines, including those outlined here.

**The South Cave MacTurks** – William McTurk (1720?–1790?) of Polquhortor, a small farm in Cumnock, and Jean Hair produced several sons who established a substantial Yorkshire line. Their 11 children included twins George and William. George McTurk (1750–1845) moved to Yorkshire with Scots compatriots in the 1770s, including his brothers James and William. George made his initial wealth from the digging of the Market Weighton Canal in the East Riding. He settled in the new

village of Market Weighton built on the site of old Wallingfen. George became a substantial tenant farmer in South Cave and went on to develop a business as a woollen merchant. He married Ann Grasby of South Cave and they had ten children.

George's second son Thomas (1792–1857), baptised in the Independent Chapel, by 1817 had altered the spelling of his surname to MacTurk and apparently adopted the Anglican faith. He became established as a wool merchant, Thomas MacTurk and Co., of Hull. Thomas developed lucrative business connections in Bradford, allowing him to settle in South Cave as a landed gentleman. He was connected with the digging of the Market Weighton Canal, which was taken over by the York and North Midland Railway in 1847, and with the take-over of the Hull and Selby Railway in 1844. He built Ryeland Hill, a substantial residence in South Cave, and later acquired Springfield Place in Bradford.

Thomas's younger brother William MacTurk MD (1795–1872) was baptised in the Independent Chapel at South Cave. He returned to Scotland to study at Glasgow University, being awarded an MD in 1823. He continued his studies in Edinburgh and practised in Scarborough before moving to Bradford in 1824. William joined the Bradford Dispensary and Infirmary with which he remained connected until his retirement in 1869. He married his first wife, Catherine Rutherford, in 1825. William was closely involved in the fight to limit the number of hours worked by children in factories. He was also involved in establishing a new church, St Jude's, Manningham, and was a Governor of Bradford Grammar School. In 1851, he was living at Manor Row, West End, with his second wife, Beatrice Rishton MacDougall.

## Attended Charlotte Bronte

Dr William attended Charlotte Bronte (1816–1855) in her final illness (and possible pregnancy) at Haworth Rectory. After the local doctor failed to help, "She yielded to her husband's demands that she should see a 2nd doctor and on 29 January sent to Bradford for Dr. MacTurk." Dr. MacTurk came the next day and, according to Mrs Gaskell, "assigned a natural cause for her miserable disposition – a little patience and all would go right." But Charlotte got steadily worse and died on March 31 1855. Dr William is also reported to have treated Branwell Bronte for his alcoholism.

The star of the next generation was George Gladstone MacTurk (1831–1911), a wool merchant and Bradford solicitor. Like his father, George had a close interest in the railways and was Chairman of the South Cave and Wallingfen Local Board, promoting a scheme for road improvements. As owner of South Cave waterworks, he was responsible for a plan to supply householders with fresh spring water. George was married to Ellen Busfeild of Keighley and they had 15 children. Despite their attachment to South Cave and Ryeland Hill, he seems to have taken up residence in Brantingham. Their sons included George William Busfeild MacTurk (1861–1925), an unmarried civil engineer; Kenneth Thomas (1864–1942), a solicitor in South Cave; Douglas

(1873–1943), in the wool trade in Hull; and Malcolm Hugh Townend MacTurk (1876–1923), a solicitor in Somerset House. Hector George (1867–1948) read for an MA at Cambridge and was ordained in the Church of England, becoming Rector of Silk Willoughby, Lincolnshire, for many years before retiring to Bradford. Hector married Ella MacKay of Huddersfield in 1892 and they had eight children who showed wanderlust, their sons and daughters emigrating to the USA and Canada

**The Guyana McTurks** – the descendants of William MacTurk (1740–1795) and Jean McCrone include a line which has remained connected with British Guiana (latterly Guyana). Sir Michael MacTurk KB (1785–1844) was born in New Cumnock and matriculated in 1807 at Glasgow University. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1810. Life in the Colonial Service attracted him and he spent 34 years as a doctor in British Guiana, latterly as Principal Medical Officer. As a Major in the 2nd Battalion Guyana Militia, Michael took part in the suppression of the East Coast Insurrection of 1823.

## Freed slaves

As a Member of the Court of Policy, on July 4 1838 Michael moved his motion for the freedom of all slaves in the colony. Eight days later the Bill was finally passed, and a salute of 19 guns from the Fort announced the joyful news to the slaves. The emancipated slaves expressed their gratitude to their champion, presenting him with a silver salver "as a slight testimonial of their gratitude for his exertions in shortening the period of their apprenticeship." He was knighted by Queen Victoria on September 7 1839 for his efforts.

His grandson Michael MacTurk CMG (1843–1915), born in West Derby, Liverpool, and educated in England and British Guiana, entered government service in 1872 as Surveyor for the County of Essequibo, British Guiana. He served as Commissioner of Taxation, Superintendent of Crown Lands and Forests, Special Magistrate and Superintendent of Gold Industry. In 1878, he acted as guide to an expedition to climb Mount Roraima, a tabletop mountain 8,000 feet high in the high savannah of British Guiana. Michael was noted for his ability to converse with Indian tribes and his knowledge of the local flora and fauna. Later, he was Senior Commissioner for demarcation of the boundary line between Venezuela and British Guiana and then District Commissioner and Protector of Aboriginal Indians. Michael was awarded the CMG in 1897 for his services to the government of British Guiana.

Michael's grandchildren included Edward "Tiny" MacTurk (1897–1972), a notable guide and explorer in Guyana who guided David Attenborough on a zoological expedition to British Guiana in 1955. "Tiny" passed into local legend as the white boss-man who, when blown upon by the baleful breath of the neighbourhood witch doctor, blew right back and gained control. "Tiny" is also reputed to have never worn shoes, but to have walked Kung-Fu style among five varieties of poisonous snakes without ever being bitten!

His elder brother "Mick" MacTurk (1896–1932) ran

freight and worked gold claims at the family station at Kangaruma on an island in the Potaro branch of the Essequibo River. He was very friendly with the Indians, since his father had been Indian Protector. He traded in balata and timber and reportedly died in the jungle of British Guiana. Mick's wife, Violet, was born in Barbados and lived with him at Kangaruma, 168 miles into the jungle. She was widowed at 23 but then built up a business guiding parties of scientists, film-makers and sightseers who wanted to see the Kaieteur Fall, up the Potaro River. She featured in romantic British and New York newspaper stories highlighting her enterprise.

## Protector of otters

Tiny's daughter, Diane, is believed to be the only McTurk still in Guyana. She runs the family station at Kangaruma, where she cares for some of the forest Indians and is widely regarded for her efforts to protect giant otters, which are an endangered species and almost extinct in the Amazon. She featured in an Anglia TV *Survival* programme in 1989. Diane continues to run Karanambo as a guest house for hardy travellers.

**McTurks from the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright** – the Carsphairn area of Kirkcudbright, not more than 25 miles from Cumnock, has given rise to several Kirkcudbright lines with branches in Yorkshire and Leicestershire and the Cnewr McTurks in Wales. John McTurk (1809–1867) born in Knocksting, Carsphairn, decided to branch out from his highly successful sheep-rearing operations in the Dumfries uplands to the hills of the Brecon Beacons. He leased land around Cnewr, originally a staging post

on the wooden tramway from Penwyllt to Sennybridge.

John's son Robert (1833–1916) has the credit for fully developing the Cnewr operation. Having learned his business with his father's herds in Ullloch, he moved lock, stock and barrel to Cnewr with his brothers Thomas and Hugh. In 1881 Robert was recorded as a sheep farmer employing eight shepherds and three labourers, resident with his wife Jane and seven children, his two brothers, a governess and nine staff. He is credited, with younger brother Thomas, with introducing the methods of husbandry which gave rise to the reputation of the Cnewr sheep and "Section A" Welsh mountain ponies.

All the children were educated in Scotland. Up to the Great War, Robert recruited his shepherds from Scotland, creating a local legend that Cnewr was a McTurk village. The family initially worshipped at their own independent chapel, but transferred to Cray Church, close by the Cnewr farmstead, when it was built about 1890. The estate built up by Robert, his brothers and sons has been described as the "Rolls-Royce of sheep-breeding".

Robert's son, also Robert, (1871–1942) inherited the estate, was an equally successful farmer and estate owner and served as the High Sheriff of Breconshire in 1926. The family has maintained the business and taken up other professions including medicine and the law. ☺

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# Reviews

Our round-up of  
some interesting  
genealogical  
publications

**STUDIES IN PEERAGE AND FAMILY HISTORY** by J. Horace Round M.A., A5 Softback 496 pages, ISBN 0-8063-0426-X. Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number 72-124475. Clearfield Company, Incorporated by Genealogical Publishing Company, Incorporated, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Originally published London 1901. Reprinted 1996. No price given.

It is always interesting to have books of this calibre reprinted and made available to a new generation of reader. The print is of a good size, making it easy to read. The book has both a list of contents and an index. With the information that had become available by 1910, Mr

Round reassessed the genealogy of many great families. I wonder what he would think of the information that has become available today! The history of the peerage is explained and examples given of how families obtained their titles. Of the families studied, Mr Round explained step by step how he came to his conclusions and where the information was obtained.

**Jane Morson**

**THE REGISTERS, MONUMENTS AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS OF ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, OLD CATTON, NORFOLK** by Dr. George A. Goulty M.A., M.Sc., M.Phil., M.Litt., PH.D. Hard Cover, 255 pages, ISBN 0 902544 55 1. Published October

1997 by Dr. George A. Goulty, Stonecroft, 7A Fenbridge Road, Werrington, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE4 6RD. Price £13.50, inclusive of postage and packing.

It is a delight to review a book such as this. The quality of production is excellent. This is the first edition of which there are only 200 numbered copies. On the front cover is a sketch of St. Margaret's Church, which has been drawn by Dr Goulty. The contents of this book are the transcription of seven registers of St Margaret's Church. These have been cross referenced with the Bishop's Transcripts to ensure that the registers are as accurate as the records permit. The registers that have been

transcribed are:

Register No. 1: Baptisms 1688–1812,  
Burials 1691–1812, Marriages  
1695–1752.

Register No. 2: Baptisms 1813–1854.

Register No. 4: Marriages 1754–1812,  
Banns of Marriage 1754–1812.

Register No. 5: Marriages 1813–1837.

Register No. 6: Marriages 1837–1929.

Register No. 12: Burials 1813–1867.

Register No. 15: Banns of Marriage  
1823–1879.

Also transcribed: Memorials in St Margaret's Church, Old Catton War Memorial and the Memorial Plaque in Church Street.

For ease to the reader, there are three separate indexes for names, places and occupations. This book will be invaluable to both genealogist and historian. I feel that Dr. Goulty has achieved what he set out to accomplish: "An attempt to preserve, within the limitations of modern printing, the distinctive quality and character of the registers with the style and idiosyncrasies of writing of many of the Incumbents."

**Jane Morson**

**THE HISTORY OF ONE OF THE MANY HAWKES FAMILIES 1667–1997** by Anthony Bryan Hawkes. A5, Hardback, 96 pages. ISBN 0 9631585 0 0. A Bryan Hawkes, 22 Guardian Court, Thursley Road, Elstead, Godalming, Surrey, GUB 6EW. Published 1997. Price £8.75 plus postage.

THE inside cover both front and back contain the Hawkes family tree, starting with a John Hawkins born about 1660. The first few pages contain a background history to this family, but basically this is the story of the children of Cecil Frederick Hawkes born 1889. Family photographs have been included. This book is an interesting record of the Hawkes children's lives. Family members and future generations should find it very informative.

**Jane Morson**

**DIRECTORY OF FAMILY ASSOCIATIONS, 3rd edition, 1996. A4 format, 355 pages. Compiled by Elizabeth Petty Bentley, The Village Bookstore, 45 Southwick Road, Westfield,**

**MA1085, USA. Tel: (413) 562-7332; E-mail: wvbs@vgernet.net. Published by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.**

ELIZABETH Petty Bentley has done an excellent job of compiling this directory which lists all the family associations, reunion committees, one-name societies, surname exchanges, family newsletters, surname databases, etc. that she has discovered relating to the USA only. As she points out, "The book can only be a snapshot of work which is perpetually in progress."

As might be expected of surname research in the USA, there is a high proportion of European surnames, reflecting the multi-national roots of its people. The Clan Irwin Association lists in excess of 250 variants of the name, whilst the Clan MacLaclan Association of North America has over 300 variants. Could that be a

record? There are many family associations who specialise in the descendants of a particular person or persons, names cross referencing to other connected associations.

**J. A. Jephcott**

### A correction

*The editor has received letters from Mr David Gore, Member No 1014, the author of A Cornish Inheritance, and Mrs Sheila Weston, pointing out an error which occurred on page 133 of the April 1998 Journal.*

*In the review of A Cornish Inheritance it was stated that Group Captain Cheshire was at one time engaged to Princess Margaret. This in fact should have read Group Captain Townsend. Also, to the best of the editor's knowledge they were never actually engaged, Princess Margaret making a public statement which put an end to all speculation in the matter. ☺*



### STRANGE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING ALREDS

I HAVE followed with interest the articles on the distribution of surnames and the statistical methods involved in analysis data. I attempted to relate this to my name of interest, ALRED.

I began this study, as so many do, as research into a family tree and was convinced that the name was a variant of Holroyd, a local name, or Aldred or Alfred, less common but still known. However, having traced the name back to 1691 with no variants, I am no longer sure. At that time, three Alred families moved to Bradford from Atherton in Lancashire. A local historian wrote that there were so many of them in that area using the same Christian names that they were known by nicknames. The IGI has 29 pages of them. By

1975 there were none in the telephone directory and the 1881 Census lists none either, but over 1600 Aldreds. Where did they go? Surely not all of the families suddenly changed the spelling of their name in one county, Lancashire, but not in another, Yorkshire? I attempted to trace the reduction of the frequency of the name in Lancashire using the IGI and began tallying names, dates and parishes, but soon came to the conclusion that it was impossible to do this with any accuracy because:

1) Some of these entries were for dates before parish registers began and were not verifiable as they had been submitted by "a relative" before 1970 and no source information was available. Perhaps wills or other documents but...

2) There appear to be as many as five or six entries for some events,

some submitted by "a relative", some from both parishes for a marriage, from mother church and a chapel of ease, some with Christian names given, others not. With the Alred practice of giving even sisters the same name (perhaps after the death of the elder, the younger being named after her), it is not possible to discount an entry which may be a duplicate.

Much has been written about statistical evaluation and the validity of the methods chosen to analyse the data. I am having great difficulty validating the basic data. Am I the only one? Also I have difficulty with the concept that all the Alreds listed on the 29 pages of the IGI suddenly changed their name to become the 1600 Aldreds living in Lancashire in 1881. There were some Alreds in Lancashire in the 1830s. Has anyone else come across such a sudden and inexplicable change in frequency? Was there a one-family Black Death in Lancashire in the middle of the 19th century?

Mrs. Kathleen Alred, Member No. 2756, Low Stock Ing, 41 Wilmer Drive, Heaton, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD9 4AS. Tel. 01274 493106

## SURNAMES USED AS FORENAMES

I READ with interest Alan Whitworth's letter in the Journal (Vol. 6, No. 5) about surnames as forenames, having recently trawled through the US Social Services Death Index 1937-1995 to find some 10,000 Orrs. A wide range of forenames have been used which have tended to follow the fashion of the day. Gertrude and Gladys were not much used after 1930, while Beulah, Joseph and Josephine were favourites between 1880 and 1920.

There was, too, the vogue for different, pretentious, pseudo classical and often bizarre names from about 1880 to 1920. For example King, Queen, Admiral, Marquis, Baron, Altus, Amplis, Birdella, Cephus, Collos, Ethyle, Hildreth, Jessamine, Kaino, Precious, Retus, Syvoid, Szyfra, Vasteen and Verble. At the risk of upsetting Telly Tubby fans, there was a "Lalla" Orr born 26

September 1884 in Texas. However, each was a mother's loved one, none the less.

Closer to home, the use of a surname as a second forename was very common in Northern Ireland, particularly amongst the Scottish-Irish Presbyterians through the 18th and 19th centuries. It can be viewed as a bonding process rooted in the system of sept loyalty to the clan. It was the custom and practice to use the spouse's maiden name as a second forename.

For example, James Orr Frame, son of Jane Orr and Anthony Frame. On occasion there is also the use of the grandmother's maiden name such as Ann Orr Malcomson, daughter of Dorothy Dunwoody and Samuel Malcomson, granddaughter on the maternal side of William Dunwoody and Ann Orr. The practice continues today with traditionalists, both there and in the USA.

Mr. Brian Orr, Member No. 2896, 47 Heatherways, Formby, Merseyside L37 7HL.

## COMMENTS ON THE APRIL EDITORIAL

HOW refreshing to read your notes in the last Journal with regard to information collected and then made available to other researchers. The information we have is not ours, we have only collated it. Admittedly, we have had to spend time and money to get this information but, as you rightly say it is all in the public domain.

Too many family historians regard their research as their own property and not to be shared with anyone. Why do we develop this attitude? Is it a competition to see who can collect the most data or the largest tree, or to be the only one with this item of information in the records.

So far I have spent nine years collecting all my information, I have enjoyed every minutes of it and if I was to work out the cost I would probably think why ever did I start this, and what I could have spent the money on. But that said, I would never consider it my property. I am only looking after it for others.

So let us share all our knowledge

and make our hobby renowned for its friendliness and help towards other researchers.

Mr. Jim Isard, Member No. 1803, 74 Thornton Place, Horley, Surrey RH6 8RN.

## THE UK MARRIAGE WITNESSES' INDEX

I AM writing as the chief holder and compiler of the late Ted Wildy's UK Marriage Witness Index (UKMWI).

I refer to the letter on page 135 of the April 1998 Journal (Vol. 6, No. 6) from Gerald J. Gracey-Cox about "The Marriage Index" article in the January 1998 issue of the Journal. He mentions the help Ted's UKMWI has been in finding relatives from the witnesses, which was Ted's whole point in starting his index in 1988. Many people have benefited worldwide from it.

Mrs. Marianne Philson, Member No. 511, 3/5 Chartwell Avenue, Glenfield, Auckland, New Zealand.

*• Editor's Note: The UKMWI contains not only the names of marriage witnesses, but also the bride and bridegroom's full names and include the date and place of marriage.*

## HELP REQUESTED WITH GEDCOM

I REQUIRE help from someone with knowledge of Gedcom import-export files. I have been delving into the Christison name since the birth of my son in 1970. As the information grew and the time spent redrawing trees became enormous with each new find, I invested in a BBC B with its heady 32K of memory and the Family History System. That became an A3000 with the upgraded Family History System and, with the aid of a serial link, all programmes safely moved.

Now there are two trees, one with over a thousand people, the other six hundred, plus many unlinked families like the Christison clan at Aberlady. Last year I took the plunge and moved to Windows 95 and the PC world. I also became self employed, so that research went into the background.

As this is the quiet time of the year, I decided to move the family history on to the new computer. Dead simple, thought I, Gedcom export will do it at a stroke, a couple of hours at most! Forget it, thought the new computer. The names of people are being imported all right, but the dates miss out the year and all the marriages and family links disappear. The original files from the Archimedes are run through a Gedcom export file, written in or around 1988, then converted to DOS with the use of a PC Emulator. The files are then Gedcom-imported to Personal Roots. I also have GSP's Family Tree but the files fail to import, with a message that they are not Gedcom files. The files when loaded into Word differ from the newer versions of Gedcom.

1 NAME Patrick/Christison/  
1 SEX M  
1 BIRT  
2 DATE 16450000  
1 NOTE b.Aberlady  
0 @INI7@INDI  
1 SIBL  
2 OLD @INI6@  
1 PARE  
2 RFN @INI3@  
1 FAMI  
2 RFN @INI12@  
1 NAME Margaret/Christison/  
1 SEX F  
0 @INI8@INDI

I could with the information that does come across rework the birth, death and marriage dates and link all the families together, but this would be a long and tedious task. Hopefully someone else has had this problem and solved it. If not, is there an expert who can help?

Mr Alex Christison, Member No. 2409, Homestead, Cleeve Road, Middle Littleton, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 5JR. Tel: 01386 830367.

## ACCESS TO RECORDS IN IRELAND

I HAVE been a member of the Guild for some years and also the Irish Genealogical Research Society, London. My family name MARNELL is somewhat rare and is found mostly in the counties of Tipperary and

Kilkenny. There were only 19 Marnells in the whole of Great Britain at the time of the 1881 Census.

During the course of my research I have made contact with many Marnells in Australia and the USA, whose ancestors emigrated during the famine years. We are piecing together the results of our research and hope, eventually, to be able to complete the extended family tree.

About two years ago I visited the National Library in Dublin and was able to find many births, deaths and marriages from the microfilms of the parish registers for County Kilkenny. However, when I asked for the films relating to the parishes of County Tipperary, I was told that the Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, Dr Dermot Clifford, had taken out copyright on the films and they were not allowed to let anyone view them. Anyone wanting information from these registers must have the research carried out by the Tipperary Heritage Unit which the Archbishop has set up to provide work for unemployed young people.

I used this service on two occasions following this visit. The first request cost £20 and took four months for a reply. The second request cost £30 and took seven months to get a reply. Also, the Archbishop will only allow a search to be made for immediate family relatives and I am now told that the cost has increased to £45 for each search.

I am due to visit Ireland again in May, so I wrote to the Archbishop asking if I could have permission to look at the microfilms. I enclose a copy of the reply I received, despite the fact that I had informed him of the poor service offered by the Tipperary Heritage Unit.

Since my ancestors were based in County Tipperary from the 12th century until 1654, when they were dispossessed by Cromwell, it is essential that I obtain access to the microfilmed parish registers for that county, otherwise it looks as though my One-Name Study will come to a full stop.

I have never come across this ruling before, having carried out research in many libraries here, in Ireland and the USA, always at no

cost and with advice freely given. I would have thought that if microfilming had been carried out by the National Library of Ireland, then the films would be the property of the Library. Can an individual take out the copyright on registers which do not belong to him personally?

Can the Guild offer any advice as to how I can get over this obstacle, and is this a sign of things to come in Ireland? Whilst I appreciate the need to find employment for young people, it does leave me with the impression that the Archbishop has found a way of making easy money out of family history researchers. I believe that we have a right to access this information and question his right to deny this.

The enclosed letter reads as follows:

*Dear Marie*

*I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter seeking permission to access the microfilm of registers of the Archdiocese of Cashel & Emly at the National Library.*

*As these records are protected under copyright and are therefore no longer accessible to enquirers at the National Library, your enquiry has been directed to Mrs. Anne Moloney, Project Co-Ordinator, Tipperary Heritage Unit, The Bridewell, Tipperary town, (Tel. and Fax No. 062-52725), who will be very happy to attend to your letter.*

*Tipperary Heritage Unit was set up in 1985 to provide training and employment for young people under the age of 25 years. Today, the Unit is giving full-time employment to fourteen young people and is therefore able to provide a continuous and competent service to the public.*

*With all good wishes,*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Colin Bergin  
Diocesan Secretary*

Mrs Marie E. Booth, Member No. 1144, 112 County Drive, Fazeley, Tamworth, Staffordshire BT8 3XF.

## ARISING FROM TREVOR OGDEN'S ARTICLE

I READ Trevor Ogden's article in the April Journal with increasing admiration and understood every word. Do you suppose that he could now be persuaded to tell us what it means?

Does it mean that my own surname, which as currently spelt has four representatives in the UK, myself, my wife and my two children, is rarer than Smith my wife's maiden name, in the UK, or Campbell, my mother's maiden name, in Scotland? Also, does it mean my registered name of Brougham, with approximately 250 families in the UK, is as common as either Smith or Campbell – or Brown, for that matter?

In a small community, such as a suburban street, does it mean that one is unlikely to find more than one family of any one surname? If this is the correct interpretation, then I can accept it. There are 14 families, each with a different surname, living in Burnham Close where I live. These 14 surnames do not include Smith, Campbell or Brown and, using the residential section of the Warrington Phone Book, I established the following frequencies of these names:

- 3 appear only once
- 3 appear 4 times
- 1 appears 5 times
- 1 appears 11 times
- 1 appears 17 times
- 1 appears 33 times
- 1 appears 66 times
- 2 appears > 200 < 400 times
- 1 appears > 400 times

Incidentally, Brougham, my name of interest, appears only once.

I estimate that there are some 10,000 surnames in the Warrington Phone Book, which to me indicates that in this area seven of the of the 14 surnames are comparatively rare, while two are comparatively common, two are common and one is very common. How this analysis would stack up against a broader picture, for example, all of England, I do not know and do not have the necessary time to find out.

I suspect that for most researchers, the rarity of a surname depends on how many times it can

be found in a community, usually a county or perhaps a country, at any given time. My own surname with its current spelling dates back over 300 years via Australia, Co. Kildare and Armagh and there are no persons with this name left in Ireland today. Similarly, Brougham, which originated in Westmoreland, has no representatives of the name in Cumbria now.

I am sure that I am not alone in asking for a little elucidation from Trevor Ogden.

Mr P. B. Wyly, Member No. 997,  
8 Burnham Close, Culcheth,  
Cheshire WA3 4LJ.

WHAT a marvellous article from Trevor Ogden, and what a wonderful waste of time! I thought about it, having read it on the train, and then thought – rubbish, it couldn't apply to One-Name Studies as they are far from random samples of names. After all, you leave out all names that aren't related to your study. How more selective can you be?

I, therefore, spent a couple of days with a printout of my references which give a surname related to DOWDING or DOWDEN. This proved to be 3,636 out of 26,000 names. The rest give no relation or are James=Mary, who were very close relations. The results showed that I was both wrong and right. Wrong because my version of the number of surnames occurring a number of times showed a very similar curve to Trevor's, and right

because one-name studies are not random selections.

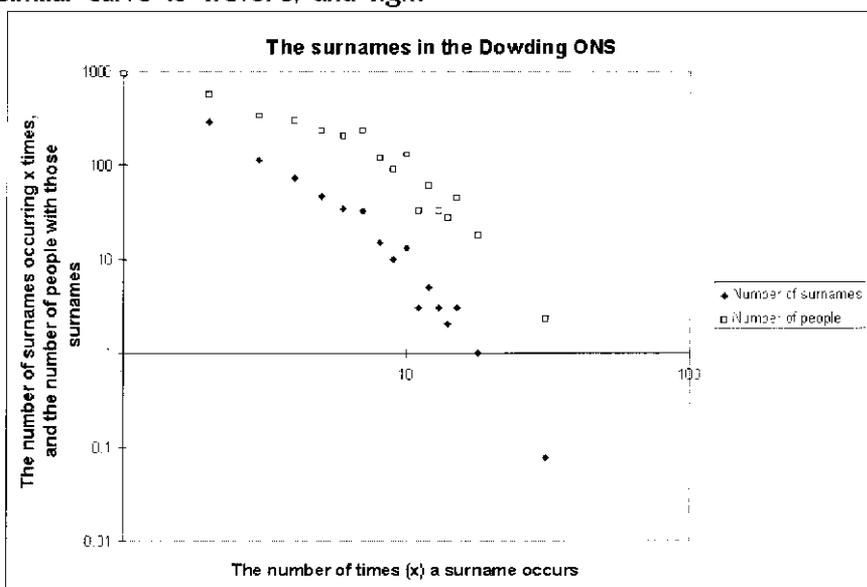
Thus, a curve for the total number of people having a surname occurring a certain number of times is very erratic. This presumably is because those with your registered name chose a relatively small number of people to marry and then had a reasonable number of children. Also, as far as my database is concerned, the maiden name of the mother shows up in the registration of each of the children in later years.

There is one main difference between a one-name study and a random population study, namely, you see quite "uncommon" names occurring more frequently than well known "common" ones. This is because those with your registered surname lived in a community where that name was not rare and several of them may have married others of that name, rather than the Browns or the Evans.

One particular aspect of this is seen in the name which DOWDINGS married into more than any other. It is DOWDING – all those marriages of cousins. In my database, there were 61 DOWDINGS compared with 53 Smiths, 38 Jones and 31 Whites.

All great fun, but these statistics will be changed completely when I add my next batch from the GRO registrations! But thank you, Trevor.

Mr John Dowding, Member No.  
2239, 300 Rickstones Road, Rivenhall, Witham, Essex CM8 3HQ.



Curves in the Dowding One-Name Study

## Trevor's reply — a lot more rare names than we thought

I AM glad about any pleasure – and sorry about any frustration – caused by the article! What it means is that there are a lot more rare names than most of us ever thought, that more people have very rare names than have common or moderately common names, and that all this is tied together by a logical mathematical pattern which gives a framework for thinking further about it if you want to.

Both of these letters touch on the problem of sampling. John Dowding was kind enough to send me his figures, and the attached Figure shows them plotted in the same way as the ones in the original article. As John says, one would not expect a sample like his to behave as if it were random, but the graph does look like the ones in the article.

Of course, if you just have a very small group all

names are likely to be different. How large does a sample have to be before a pattern starts to emerge if the sample is random? I have had a couple of letters direct about this. One member, Philip Soper, has started work on a computer simulation of what happens at different sample sizes. From his preliminary results, it does look as if samples of the size I was quoting in the article might lead to a large over-estimate of the total number of surnames, so my speculation about there being several million surnames looks wrong. We hope that this will lead to a future article, if readers' pleasure outweighs their frustration!

Trevor Ogden, Member No. 2807,  
40 Wilsham Road, Abingdon,  
Oxfordshire OX14 5LE.

## Reports...news...forthcoming events

### Annual Conference 1998 – a personal report By Mike Spathaky

**T**he Guild Annual Conference at Northampton this year was the third I had attended and much the most enjoyable for me. It was in 1994 that I first became involved in Guild affairs, speaking at a Guild Seminar in Lichfield about the benefits for all members that could follow from the Guild's involvement in the new on-line technologies. Our President publicly encouraged me to write an article for the Journal but the Committee at that time seemed unmoved by my modest proposals. To find out why there was this blockage I decided to stand for election. This opened a new can of worms.

By the time it came to the AGM in 1996 I was pre-occupied with electoral and constitutional issues. Further disharmony developed and on becoming Guild Secretary I was at the centre of this. It got very unpleasant for many Committee members but with the support of many Guild members we weathered the storm, the final act being played

out at the 1997 AGM.

This year I arrived early on the Friday to give a demonstration of the Guild's website. This stimulated some lively discussion which continued over more than a few pints into the small hours. The AGM was a more relaxed affair this year. Good humour positively oozed. Even David Abbott managed to elicit applause for his illustrated mini-lecture on the Guild's finances – a rare feat for a Treasurer. Yes, the Guild (at least that part which came to the AGM) is in good heart.

### Leading the way

It was with some relief that I heard the President close the meeting, for it marked the formal end of my Committee membership. Most of what I had wanted to achieve for the Guild in the field of technology and the use of computers has come to fruition. The Guild has led the way in many areas: the new-look styling of the Journal and other publications, the Guild website and the online edition of the Register of One-Name Studies.

Enquiries from non-members mushroomed to peak at 50 a day, but now that only a handful of members (about 20) have opted out of having their addresses published, most enquirers can find the contact

enquiry. With a Committee now fully involved in the use of computers and e-mail and committed to a vision of the Guild's role in the international genealogical community, it was time for me to bow out of close involvement and enjoy the Annual Conference as an ordinary member.

Our first lecturer was Dr. Ron Cox who claimed to be well qualified from his personal ancestry to talk about our Conference themes of poverty, homelessness and illegitimacy. He started by pointing out that most English records on this subject had traditionally been kept in parish chests and were now in County Records Offices.

Answering his own question – Who were the Poor? – Dr. Cox instanced the 1,000 Wiltshire peasants who in 1826 gathered "bravely, secretly and ill-advisedly" to discuss their predicament. He quoted from contemporary accounts of a Croydon, Surrey, lodging house in 1890 which, while harrowing in the extreme, managed to combine humour with genuine empathy towards the occupants.

Dr. Cox reviewed the concepts of Settlement and Removal that dominated the lives of the poor in England for many centuries. Before 1662 anyone able to work was free to move, but from that year everyone had to have a legal place of

settlement. In general, a person inherited the place of settlement of their father, occasionally of their mother, but could gain a new place of settlement by satisfying one of several qualifying conditions. These included paying rent of £10 or more per year, gaining an apprenticeship, paying the parish rate, or completing a year in service. Those born illegitimately took their place of birth as their settlement, but marriage of the parents within a month of the birth made it legitimate.

## Professional vagrants

Contemporaries divided vagrants into those unemployed who were diligently searching for work and "professional" vagrants, many of whom had "done a runner" following some minor or major misdemeanour in their home parish. There was widespread concern about vagrancy, and those who wished to establish a place of settlement were best advised to fade into the background and endeavour to establish their right by stealth. Because of the burden that the birth of an illegitimate child imposed on the parish, there was every incentive for parish officers to get single pregnant mothers out of the parish as soon as possible.

Dr. Cox then outlined the establishment of the workhouse system following Gilbert's Act of 1782, emphasising that most of the able-bodied who fell upon difficult times were provided with "out-relief". The grouping of parishes into Poor Law Unions under Boards of Guardians became the basis of the 1841 Census Registration Districts.

The danger of falling into poverty was ever present for most people, whether through illness or accident. Dr. Cox gave some amusing and some harrowing examples, including the relief of Anne Mitchell over a period of 37 years at Oxted, Surrey, and the extended marital problems of J. T. Kite. Eric Banwell echoed the feelings of all in commending Dr. Cox's lucid introduction to our Conference theme.

Colin Chapman started his talk on Poor Law records by classifying them by the organisations giving

assistance to the poor – parishes, trades guilds and friendly societies. He pointed out that legislation for the poor, homeless and illegitimate went back a long way – before the reign of Elizabeth I – and that the vocabulary used, even the word "poor", had changed its meaning over the centuries.

He identified two strands in the legislation, the relief of poverty and the curbing of vagrancy and its ill effects. Some Acts kept these separate and others mixed them up, with consequent difficulties of interpretation. Moreover, Dr. Chapman pointed out that Dickensian propaganda had distorted our view, for example, of workhouses, some of which were run on very humanitarian lines comparable to sheltered accommodation today.

The idea of having a "settled place" goes back at least to 1285. Racial tensions that existed before

## Poverty theme of the conference

the 13th Century had disappeared by the 1331 Act against "night walkers" and the 1350 Statute of Labourers. By 1406 local authorities could apprentice under-12s under some conditions.

## Apprentices

Rural families sent their children as apprentices in towns with the expectation of them becoming freemen. The 1495 Act against vagabonds and beggars resulted in severe overcrowding in the prisons, but vagabonds, idle and suspect persons could also be put in the stocks for three days with only bread and water. People were returned to the hundred from which they came, or where they were best known or were born.

In 1535 a distinction was made between those who could not work (the impotent or deserving poor) and those who would not work (the idle poor). Dr. Chapman pointed out that it was in 1547 that the idea of

removal of idle vagabonds to their own parish originated. They could be put to work as slaves for two years. An Act of 1551/2 required a census of the poor and it was from this time that the names of the poor were first written down and alms collectors identified. Dr. Chapman showed one of the early Collection of the Poor documents that resulted from this Act.

Sunday morning found us listening to a very different lecturing style as Jane Cox, former Head of Research at the PRO (and no relation to our first speaker), described her researches into the poor of London's East End. Her research was specifically about the three square miles now known as Tower Hamlets and containing such parishes as Stepney and Bethnal Green.

It was, she said, a pretty dreadful place from the end of the 17th Century, inhabited by a brutalised dog-eat-dog society. As late as 1910, Poor Law records showed the people of Whitechapel dying of starvation.

## London's back yard

As "London's back yard" the East End was subject to wave upon wave of immigration, both from overseas and from other parts of Britain, each wave contributing in turn to the intolerance of further incomers. As Jane Cox freely admitted, her own family was steeped in an anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic, anti-authority culture, yet interspersed their conversation with dozens of Yiddish words and expressions.

She mined a rich vein of documentary sources to illustrate her points. She quoted an early 17th Century squabble in court where one prostitute said of another: "You lie with a Fleming for a shilling but you charge your own countryman two shillings and sixpence." And later that century she found a Shropshire ditcher who, by scouring the leats of St. Katherine's Mills, accumulated enough wealth for his estate to be litigated at his death.

The record of this and other court cases provided a glimpse of East End life where people ate on the hoof because their homes were too

small to cook in, a practice that continued into modern times.

Our second Sunday morning speaker was Michael Gandy who told us about poor Catholics, both English and the immigrant Irish. He pointed out that most ordinary English parishioners followed the established church into Anglicanism at the Reformation. Not until 1580 did people have to come off the fence and it was a few gentry in a few areas only that stuck to their Catholic faith.

In East Anglia there were virtually no Catholics, in the South very few – 50 per cent of those in Sussex lived on Montagu estates. By the reign of James I, surviving Catholics had had their sinews stiffened by the demonisation of their faith but were able to buy their continuing adherence by payment of fines. Poor Catholics were left alone. There was no point in pursuing them for fines.

## Recusants

Before the English Civil War the word, recusant, always meant Catholic; afterwards it could include the non-conformist sects, but they were uniformly, if thinly, spread whereas Catholics were concentrated in certain counties and certain parishes.

Persecution diminished in the 19th Century industrial towns where the Church of England never got organised. Catholics, Methodists, Baptists and Mormons recruited well. The one million Irish who migrated to England in 1841–51 settled mainly in the industrial towns and by 1861 seven per cent of the population of England gave their birthplace as Ireland. The Irish swamped the Catholic priesthood, but after a generation, most families were lost to their parents' faith.

## Catholic records

Burials and marriages were generally recorded in the Anglican registers but not baptisms. However there are substantial Catholic records, including the 74 volumes of the Catholic Record Society. From the 19th Century any ordinary Catholic parish has numerous

records – baptisms (with mother's maiden surname), marriages (with a fair number mentioning impediments such as second cousinship), confirmation lists and sick call books. Records of confraternities have many lists of names.

The problem with a conference theme such as poverty is that, over a weekend, some of the speakers will cover the same ground. Speaking last, Peter Park might have received the (unjustified) criticism for this, yet his lively approach gave us a different slant on the concepts of Settlement and Removal and a useful summary of what other speakers had introduced. His research into the parish records of Mitcham in Surrey, which contain over 4,000 Settlement examination records, gave further insight into the nature of migration, showing it to be often over short distances and frequently related to particular skilled occupations.

What aroused the interest, even the indignation, of Guild members

## Stafford Regional Seminar May 23 1998

ON a rainy morning up "north", over 50 delegates attended the Regional Seminar in Stafford. The conference had been well organised by John Witheridge and all delegates received a welcome delegate pack with various information about the Guild and the locality.

Unfortunately, one of the main speakers, Geoff Mowlam, was unable to attend due to a church commitment which he was unable to cancel. John, therefore, very kindly stepped into the breach and led a session on content of One-Name Study newsletters. After coffee, Roy Stockdill gave us the benefit of his journalistic experiences in producing and presenting newsletters, with ideas and tips on the use of colour and formats, leading up to one of the most important sessions – lunch!

After lunch was the day's highlight, when Thea Randall gave a

were Mr Park's detailed account of the Removal of Ann Kirkby from Bermondsey, Surrey, to Ulverston, Lancashire, where she was legally settled as a consequence of her late husband's Settlement there. She was removed in about 20 stages. The constable of the parish where she entered each county on her journey had to take on the responsibility of removing poor Ann across that county and into the next, where another parish constable would take over. Each constable signed the Removal Order and handed that over too, thus creating the record by which we can trace Ann Kirkby's journey to a parish which she may never have seen in her life.

As I drove home over just one county boundary, I reflected on an excellent and well-attended Conference. The organisers are to be congratulated on presenting a smoothly run event with excellent speakers in a most hospitable location. ☺

presentation on The William Salt library. Personally, I have no (known) ancestry in Staffordshire but did not realise what a wealth of material is held in this library, not just relating to Staffordshire but to the whole of the UK. It has one of the best collections of Civil War documents in the country and as soon as I can find the time I will be giving it a visit. Thea stayed for the last session, led by myself when together with members present we discussed many of the aspects of the Guild that I hope members found interesting. Thea joined in the conversation to such an extent that we coerced her into writing an article as a guest archivist for the journal.

One thought-provoking fact came out of the discussion on which I would be interested to hear members' views. Many members felt that having categories was detrimental to the Guild and that it actually put off many potential members. Anyone with any thoughts on this should send your letter to our Editor for publication, not to me. Swindon next – look forward to seeing you all there. ☺

**Alec Tritton**

## SoG Computer Day for One-Name Studies

A SPECIAL one-day meeting on aspects of using computers for One-Name Studies is being held at the Society of Genealogists, Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1, on Saturday, August 1.

Different methods of storing and understanding the records created by a One-Name Study will be discussed and there will be presentations on actual studies. The course will last from 10.30 a.m. until 5.0 p.m. Presentations will include:

- An overview of One-Name Studies on computer, by David Hawgood.
- Collecting and storing information, by Mary Rix, a member of the Guild's Committee.
- Disseminating the information, by Jeanne Bunting.

The day will end with a question and answer session. The fee is £10, or £8 to SoG members (non-refundable unless the course is cancelled).

For further details contact the SoG on 0171 251 8799, or e-mail [sales@sog.org.uk](mailto:sales@sog.org.uk).

*THE Sussex Family History Group is holding a one-day computer conference on Saturday, October 3. For details contact Murray Hayes, 31 Poulters Lane, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7SS.*

### Swindon Seminar

THE Guild's Wiltshire Regional Seminar will be held at the Croft Leisure Centre, Marlborough Lane, Swindon, on Saturday, October 17, starting with registration at 10.0 a.m.

Speakers will be Richard Moore on Non-Conformist Research for One-Name Studies, Roy Stockdill on Publishing for One-Name Studies and Geoff Riggs on the 1881 Surname Distribution Project.

The fee is £5 per head and non-members are welcome. A booking form accompanies this issue of The Journal. ○

## Wiltshire police appointments, 1839-1870, search offered

BRIAN Johnson, Member No. 1160, writes: "I have recently acquired a copy of Wiltshire Policemen Appointments 1839-1870, which contains references to many registered names, much of this information not being available from other sources. Besides giving year of birth, birthplace and appointment/promotion record, it gives in most cases, complexion, colour of hair and eyes, height, previous employment, marital status and wife's birthplace."

"I am prepared to search this book and send the information to any member who sends me an SAE and a note of the name to be searched."

The registered names are: ABBOTT, AYERS, BELL, BLAIR, BUNTING, CAVE, CHANDLER, COOLE, COX, CROCKER, CUFFE, CULVERHOUSE, DANGERFIELD, DAWSON, DAY, DEW, DOWDING, EATWELL, EMMERY, EWENS, FELTHAM, FERRETT, FIT, FOOT, FRICKER, GARLICK, GERRISH, GILES, GODDARD, GUMBLETON, HADDRELL, HARDWICK, HERBERT, HERITAGE, HILL, HOBBS, HULL, JUPPE, KENNY, KING, LAWES, LUSH, MARSHALL, MARTIN, MASLEN, MAY, MEADEN, MERRETT, MORGAN, NEALE, NEWBURY, NEWMAN, ORMAN, PALMER, PARDY, PERKINS, PERRETT, PIPER, PIPKINS, PRIEST, REBBECK, ROSE, SCOTT, SCRIVEN, SCULL, SHRIMPTON, SIMMONDS, SINGLETON, SPRINGFORD, STARKY, STRIGNELL, THOMPSON, TIBBLE, TITCHENER, VINCENT, WATTS, WEBB, WELLS, WHEATLY, WHITEHOUSE, WOOLLEY, YEO.

Send your requests (not forgetting an SAE) to: Mr Brian Johnson, Hawthorns, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3AR. ○

## Lively debates on Guild E-mail Forum

THE Guild E Mail Forum appears to be growing steadily and provoking a good deal of lively comment and debate. However, not all members appear to be in complete agreement as to its exact purpose!

For instance, there have been a spate of messages recently suggesting some of the matters discussed on the forum are "off topic" — meaning they bear little relation to One-Name Studies or, indeed, to genealogy. However, this tends to be a feature common to all Internet forums, news groups and mailing lists, and our list is better than most.

### Interesting and helpful

It is difficult to lay down hard and fast rules. Some people take the view that all matters discussed should be strictly relevant to the purpose of the forum, whilst others feel the occasional meander down conversational byways is permissible. But don't let this put you off joining. The list is very interesting and a great source of helpful advice.

Forum manager Brian Teece

(Member No. 909) keeps a paternal eye on things and keeps order where necessary. The forum is open to any Guild member with access to e-mail. To join, just ask Brian ([brian.teece@one-name.org](mailto:brian.teece@one-name.org)) to add your name to the mailing list, making sure that you include your Guild membership number. ○

### A technical plea

THE Journal is now being produced on an Acorn Risc PC computer with a professional DTP program, Impression Publisher Plus, and from film created by an imagesetting bureau. As the computer is a dual platform machine, Acorn and PC, I can handle text and graphics files in virtually all formats.

However, I have problems importing and converting diagrams and maps, etc., created in Microsoft Word. Could I, therefore, appeal to contributors when sending diagrams, maps and charts to originate them, if possible, in a program such as CorelDraw, which my bureau can convert files from? ○

Roy Stockdill

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as at June 1 1998

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# The Journal of One-Name Studies

## Contributions to the Journal

ARTICLES, letters and other contributions to the Journal are welcomed from Guild members, especially if they are accompanied by illustrations such as photographs, line drawings, charts or photocopies of original documents. Contributions should be sent to the Editor, from whom a leaflet of *Guidance to Contributors* is available.

Publication dates will normally be the first day of January, April, July and October. The corresponding deadlines are the first day of November, February, May and August.

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

The views expressed in the Journal are those of individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Committee of the Guild of One-Name Studies.



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## Reps wanted!

AS you can see from the above list, we are in urgent need of county reps for many areas. They are: Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Devon (South & North), Dorset, Durham, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Lancashire, Leicestershire, London, Middlesex, Northamptonshire, Shropshire, Suffolk, Surrey (East), Sussex, Worcestershire and Yorkshire (North). How about volunteering?

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