

Journal

of One-Name Studies


www.one-name.org

Palgrave Society, One-Name Study, Genealogy, Heraldry & Biography

URL <http://www.ffhs.org.uk/members/palgrave.htm>

The Palgrave Society

Queries on genealogy, biography and heraldry of this name and its many variants are welcome. We are based in the United Kingdom, with a world-wide membership. Entries on birth, marriage and death indexes are among over 900 pages of data indexed and published on paper and on the web.

This web page has details of the Palgrave Society (in sterling or U.S. dollars); a list of all records that have been indexed; details of the origin and development of the surnames Pagrave, Peverell, Peverell, etc.; a list of variants; and details of how to join the Society.

membership applications	origin of names like Palgrave	variants like Palgrave	contact the Palgrave Society
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Membership

The Society answers queries from members and non-members. Its income is dependent on subscriptions and donations - we hope you will join. Members receive our quarterly journal, the Palgrave Chronicle.

The Society has been deeply involved in the conservation of North Barningham Church in Norfolk, England, with its 16th and 17th

**Researching
family history
from home
when you
are disabled**

**How studying
first names
can aid your
one-name
research**

**Innovative
Scots who
led the
industrial
advance**

Guild

of One-Name Studies



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Guild Forum

THIS discussion forum is open to any member with access to e-mail. You can join the list by sending a message with your membership number to:

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Regional Representatives

A LIST of Regional Representatives of the Guild in a number of UK counties, and overseas, can be found on the inside back cover of this Journal. If you are interested in becoming a regional rep, please contact the Regional Representatives Coordinator, Graham Tuley (address and phone number on the inside back cover).

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

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From the Editor's desk



ONE of the Guild's Regional Representatives set me thinking with an interesting e-mail message. At a meeting of members in her county, a straw poll revealed that the split between those who were computerised and on the Internet and those who were not was about 50/50. I would imagine this equation is probably true of most family history societies.

However, she made a good point in mentioning that even those who are non-computerised at home often have access to the Internet at their local library. Could not the Journal, she suggested, publish a list of websites useful to one-namers? In fact, I did ask in the January Journal that if anyone spotted any sites covering specialist areas of interest, such as occupational indexes, they could send them to me. I am repeating this request now and hope to publish a list in the next issue.

On the wider front, I am very conscious of the fact that many members still do not use computers. It is a constant concern to me in getting the balance of material in the Journal right. Inevitably, computer-orientated features will be appearing regularly – viz, the article in this issue on drawing attention to your web page – but I am determined that as long as the Journal remains the Guild's flagship it will serve the needs and interests both of computer users and those who stick to the more traditional methods of research.

We are going to have to face the fact that more and more people are going to be using computers as time goes on. However, I am against the policy so many family history journals seem to operate of publishing computer genealogy in a separate section, since I think that only encourages the dichotomy – and in my view family historians must not become divided into the "haves" and "have nots". That is to say, those who use computers and those who don't. Such a division would surely be a backward step for us all. ○

ROY STOCKDILL

Chairman's Notes

By Alec Tritton

A YEAR has gone by since your committee had the wherewithal to appoint me as Chairman. It has been a very busy year for both the Guild and me personally. My predecessor, Roger, didn't quite prepare me for the workload commitment that goes with the position!

Membership at the end of the year stands at an all-time high and at the time of writing resignations are also at an all time low. I don't think we will quite make the "2000 in 2000" but we should come close. This, of course, has not been possible without the support and efforts of members of the committee and all those members filling vital non-committee positions. I would like to express my thanks to all.

No election

This year there have once again not been enough nominations to cause an election and we are still not up to the full complement of committee members. I would, though, like to thank the retiring members David Abbott and Mary Rix for their past work for the Guild and to take this opportunity to welcome on your behalf the new committee members Ken Toll and Sandra Turner.



The Lambeth Seminar was extremely well attended and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Giving seminars a theme seems to be a very successful idea and, as a consequence, the next seminar in Warwickshire will be given over to computers. This will be fol-

"Membership stands at an all-time high"

lowed at some time in the future by one on occupations.

The AGM & Conference is being attended by higher numbers than the last two years and plans are now well under way for the 2002 Conference. We have invited representation from the local family history societies in the Coventry area as well as the Federation. All have responded positively and an inaugural sub-committee meeting was held in March where the foundations of what should be a memorable conference were laid.

My main concern at the

moment is to find someone to organise the 2001 conference. I would like to see it being held further north, so if you feel that you would like to be part of a team to assist with the organisation, then please let me know.

Register changes

The Sixteenth Register accompanies this journal and, as you will have probably noticed, it is now in A4 format. There will be some of you, I appreciate, who prefer the A5 version, but I am afraid we have become the victim of our own success. The costs of production in A5 are now more expensive than this A4 version.

We have also taken the opportunity to make some fundamental changes. Part 4 is now incorporated into Part 1 and as we are a Guild of individuals, Part 5 has been removed altogether. Costs are something that we are always trying to keep down but this year, from the figures I have seen, we have only just managed to keep our head above water.

The new committee will have to make some hard decisions about our future and if once again elected as Chairman I will let you know the results of those deliberations in the July journal. ○

Secretary's Notes

By Jim Isard

CAN I remind all members who have e-mail addresses to let us know when they change them? When you move house you always let everyone know your new address, but most people seem to forget about notifying changes in their e-mail address.

When I get enquiries about a name being researched, I always give the name and address of the member, plus their e-mail address



if they have one. I then send a test message to their e-mail address. More and more I am finding this bounces back as "address not known".

Guild address

You can, of course, take advantage of the Guild's one-name.org

address. It is free to do this and then you only have to notify one person of your change of address. If you want to take advantage of this facility check out our website at www.one-name.org on how to do this.

More and more family history is being conducted on the internet, so please let us have your change of e-mail address.

You may be missing out on potential new contacts if you don't. ○

• *THE retiring Treasurer David Abbott's farewell notes are on page 16.*

The Mary Rumsey Column



Agree clear guidelines when hiring a researcher

AS you read in the January edition of the *Journal*, I was collecting information with regard to researchers who took fees and then did not supply the client with either documents or research. However, the only complaint I received at that time did not involve a Guild member and it was decided by the Committee that on this basis we could not proceed.

It was subsequently decided that I, as Vice-Chairman of the Guild, would undertake to look into complaints from any family historian and these would be brought to the attention of the Federation of Family History Societies. This was posted on a number of county family history mailing lists.

Dissatisfied

I have received information from a number of dissatisfied clients, mainly by e-mail. What has emerged is that in several cases the fault lies in poor business practices, rather than any intention to defraud the client. A client has every right to make stipulations as to what he or she expects. Therefore, I suggest the following, taking into consideration that I was once a part-time professional genealogist:

1) Establish whether you wish to employ a record agent or a genealogist. A record agent will obtain documents or photocopies of documents which you specify, while a genealogist works to a much wider brief and normally acts more on his or her initiative.

2) Money paid in advance should be acknowledged promptly on receipt.

3) One should be clear how the researcher's fees are ascertained.

Is there an hourly fee for research in record offices? Is there a fee for transcription and writing up the report? Are travelling expenses and photocopies of documents charged at cost? If not, how are they charged? In the case of a record agent who only supplies copies of birth, marriage and death certificates, normally a scale of fees relate to obtaining each certificate. Make sure there are no hidden charges.

4) Make sure the researcher is given all relevant information and that it is accurate. I was once asked to search for a marriage and given a date prior to the birth of either party! Also make sure there is sufficient information to justify a search. Genealogists are not miracle workers and information such as: "George Smith, believed to be born in Surrey about 1830," is simply insufficient.

5) Tell the researcher you would like an interim report every six to eight weeks, even if it is negative, and that all sources searched are listed. This is very important, as later you may wish to employ another researcher and you need to know what has already been searched.

Also, your only check that the work is being done, and is not fictitious, is to know the sources. One could check by contacting a record office listed and asking for verification of a piece of information.

6) Ask for an itemised invoice to date with each interim report. You will then see where the money is going and it will help you to make a decision as to whether it is worthwhile continuing the search. A good genealogist may well make suggestions for future lines of research and it

is up to the client to decide whether or not to take this advice. This is not normally a scheme to make more money, but the genealogist using his or her expertise to point the way in the future.

7) A problem may arise if an overseas client with no sterling bank account decides to discontinue the search before all the original payment is spent. Personally, I do not think that a researcher should have to bear the cost of converting sterling into a foreign currency. Therefore, I would suggest not committing too large a sum initially until one sees how things are progressing.

Overseas caution

It is of particular importance that overseas clients exercise every caution, since the remedy of taking a researcher to the Small Claims Court and getting, if necessary, a county court judgement is not open to them as it is to a person living in the UK.

I have discussed options for clients living in the UK, where a researcher has taken money and has not submitted either documents and/or a report, with a representative of the Surrey Trading Standards, who stated that recourse should be to the Small Claims Court. In this regard, remember that a county court judgement, if not paid, will appear as an outstanding debt on credit references for a period of six years.

Also, you can obtain from the Citizens' Advice Bureau, the address for the office in Birmingham which supplies information on bankruptcies and the office in London supplying information on county court judgements. ○

Don't let disability be a barrier to your one-name research

By Viv Dunstan



UNDERTAKING family history research can be not only a time-consuming pastime but also a physically demanding one as well – all that travelling to record offices, foot-slogging round the shelves and humping books and files about. But special problems face those researchers who are disabled, not least in gaining access if they are in a wheelchair.

However, in this article Scottish Guild member VIV DUNSTAN describes how being largely housebound did not necessarily mean the end of her research. In particular, she emphasises the use the disabled can make of computerised online indexes. We hope Viv's experiences will encourage other members with similar difficulties.

FAMILY history research, never mind one-name study research, is often based upon extensive visits to record offices, libraries and LDS family history centres, etc. But what if you are restricted in your ability to make such visits, perhaps because of work patterns, family commitments, illness, disability or, as in some cases, geographical location? Is a one-name study feasible? What might some of the problems be, and how might they be overcome?

Because of illness I am mostly housebound now and virtually unable to visit archives. But I hope that I am still able to run a worthwhile one-name study. I wasn't always in this position and before my illness was able to carry out lots of extensive research myself, including the research that formed the basis for my future one-name study.

So in a strange way I can see both sides, and compare the situation I am in now with that I was in before. Equally, though, my situation is probably very different from someone who could not do the earlier research.

Accessibility problems

In this article I will discuss some of the problems I have encountered and some of the solutions – or alternative approaches – I have adopted in my one-name study of the surname CAVERS, a name with a Scottish origin but with migration and emigration taking bearers of the surname to elsewhere in the British Isles and overseas to places as far afield as Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand.

Accessibility to record offices is not just an issue for wheelchair users, of whom I am one from time to time, but can also affect people with other disabilities. If eyesight, balance and/or walking are

poor, then cramped archives and libraries may be too hazardous.

I've had particular difficulties in the past with family history society libraries which are often in small premises and at the same time packing in as many microfilm/fiche readers and other resources as possible, for understandable reasons.

Even if an archive is accessible in the sense of entering the building and getting around, lack of strength and/or stamina can pose problems, for example, in handling heavy volumes or repeatedly fetching microfiche or microfilm records.

In some cases staff at the archives may be able to help, but often they are very busy. Fortunately, my husband has accompanied me in the past, thus saving me trying to lift things I cannot manage and stopping me tiring too quickly. Even if an archive charges for access, they may admit a helper for a disabled person for free, as the General Register Office for Scotland has done for us.

Working from home

Over the last few years my record office visits have sharply declined, however, so that most of my research is now done from home.

Since my record office visits have declined, I have found other ways of gathering new information for my one-name study. Computerised data has been particularly helpful to me. Many indexes and other resources are available now on computer, providing new ways of searching records, and quickly gathering considerable quantities of information.

I cannot visit my local LDS family history centre, but have been lucky to have friends check the computer indexes for me. These indexes include the IGI – great for me because it includes Scottish births and marriages from civil registration certificates for 1855–1875; the "Scottish Church Records" index of pre-1855 Church of Scotland baptisms and marriages (also on computer at the GRO in Edinburgh and online at Scots Origins); and the 1881 British census index. All are just indexes: researchers must follow them to the original records. Yet by gathering index references I collect leads I can pass on to fellow Cavers researchers.

Online indexes

Some civil registration indexes are online now, either pay-per-view or free. I can use the Internet at home, but even if I could not, I might have a friend who could, or a fellow Cavers researcher. Through Scots Origins I have extracted Scottish civil registration index references for 1855–1898, extending the references I already had from the computerised

indexes in Edinburgh. Online indexes for some Canadian and Australian states have been useful too. Beyond civil registration, I have traced emigrants to Canada using the online 1871 Ontario census index and British Columbia and Ontario Cemetery Finders. In the Scottish context again, Scots Origins gives me access to the 1891 Scottish census index.

Not every index is computerised yet, and a major gap for me has been indexes to English and Welsh civil registration records. FreeBMD is a project to computerise the English and Welsh civil registration indexes, but it has a long way to go. In the meantime, I have been very lucky to have two very good friends who have kindly noted many references from the English and Welsh indexes for me, especially in the 19th century, allowing a good tie-in with the 1881 census index references.

With a bottomless fund of money it would be possible to hire researchers to follow up all appropriate sources and leads. But funds are tight for me, so I employ researchers very rarely, and only for very strategically-selected queries. For similar reasons, the volume of books I can purchase is limited,

though I try to maintain a good collection covering my home county and the originating county of the surname of my one-name study.

Fortunately, inter-library loans let me access many books of use in my research. Similarly, e-mail has allowed me to contact other Guild researchers offering to look up GOONS surnames in their reference collections. Thus I have checked Cavers references in many published census indexes, without leaving my home and at minimal cost to me. In return I offer to look up many of my Scottish Border reference books. Reciprocal research of any kind can be highly useful for a restricted one-name studier!

Computer contact

Apart from data gathering, computers have helped me contact fellow Cavers researchers. I place details of my Cavers research in many online county surname lists, and regularly send short announcements about my one-name study to relevant online mailing lists, leading to more contacts. Even when I advertise my one-name study in family history magazines I include my e-mail address so people can email me if they wish to, as many have done. E-mail correspondence is also easier for me: e-mail letters are generally less easy for me to lose (I misplace far too many things), and do not require a trip to the postbox to be sent.

As things stand, my one-name study is growing steadily. Already I have corresponded with dozens of

Cavers researchers, in many cases extending their family lines extensively, and putting them in touch with cousins (often myself!). If someone writes to me with a Scottish Cavers ancestor from the 19th century or earlier, I can usually quickly identify their forebear, together with an extensive family tree, both sideways and up-and-down in time.

Even if I cannot immediately connect their forebear, I should be able to point them towards sources that will take their line back in time (often giving them precise references from indexes to the sources), and invite them to write back to me when they have followed up the leads. Outside Scotland, my collection of references is growing – for example, in England and the United States of America, and also in Ontario in Canada, where a small number of Scots Cavers emigrants left many descendants.

Prior collection

When I started my one-name study I was lucky to already have an extensive collection of notes from Scottish parish registers, census returns and civil registration certificates. All concerned my own Cavers relatives, but, fortunately, my extended Cavers family tree seems to have accounted for most Cavers people in Scotland in the 19th century, and indeed worldwide then, as far as I can tell so far.

Because of my prior research I was aware of the rarity of the surname – 141 Cavers/Cavirs references in the 1881 British census – and its localised nature (45 of those are in Roxburghshire, another 46 in neighbouring counties). Yet even knowing that, I am not sure if I would have dared to undertake a one-name study without my existing pre-illness research notes, or dared registering a one-name study with the Guild. I knew that to do so would involve committing myself to a project researching the surname worldwide, not just branches of my family. Could I tackle this?

On reflection, I think that the answer is yes, in principle anyway, but I doubt that I will ever attain category A or B membership of the Guild. I think it would be unrealistic of me to expect to do so in the circumstances.

I am also now focussing mainly on the pre-1900 period, in order to make my task more manageable. I am all too aware of the limitations of my study, but am comforted by the fact that I am already dealing with a high degree of record linkage among pre-1900 Cavers families, making it a rewarding study for me, and one where I have been able to help fellow Cavers researchers immensely. ○

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Carpet cleaning to paint – innovative Scottish Orrs who led the way

By Brian Orr



TC. SMOUT, in his excellent *History of the Scottish Peoples 1560–1830*, tells us that it was the ability to adapt and improve machinery and processes that saw the change from linen to cotton manufacture in the Paisley and Glasgow areas during the 1800s. With this grew a strong competition in the market place for so long enjoyed by the Lancashire cotton manufacturers.

It was this competition that caused Samuel Oldknow, a Lancashire textile magnate, to utter the comment: "Scotch impudence and perseverance is beyond all." Concomitants of the industrial growth were more and better roads and canals for the carriage of raw materials for the new iron works. These developments meant more employment, urban growth, higher standards of living and a demand for the conveniences of life. The consumer society and service industries began to emerge.



GEORGE Marshall Orr, son of carpet cleaning pioneer Alexander Orr

As part of my Orr One-Name Study, I decided to look for Scottish Orrs who were innovative in some way and found the following examples...

It was against the background of a demand from the middle classes for the "elegancies of life" that a niche market for a carpet cleaning service was found and exploited by Alexander Orr (1839–1919) of Edinburgh. I am indebted to his grandson, Alexander C. Orr of Scone,

Perthshire, for the information on his ancestor and the business.

We tend to think of carpets merely as floor covering but in the 18th century it was commonly a thick woollen fabric used to cover tables and beds. The manufacture of hand-made carpets as floor coverings was brought from France and it was not until the 19th century that power looms were introduced. During the 19th century homes were carpeted with free-lying squares and when soiled were lifted and beaten with flails. Alexander Orr Senior was a cabinet maker and upholsterer who had premises in Pitt Street, Edinburgh. He started a carpet cleaning business and developed industrial machinery for the purpose which he patented in 1887.

Very simply, he improved the construction and

way the machine beat and cleaned carpets and the way the dust was collected. He produced his machines in three sizes, 15ft. 17ft. and 20ft. long, using Oregon pine for the casing. On his death the rights passed to his son, Thomas Orr (1864–1929) who had trained as an engineer and who continued production in Fettes Row, Edinburgh. These industrial machines were used by carpet cleaners, laundries, house furnishers and the like, with well over 100 in use throughout the UK and abroad.

The carpet cleaning side of the business was managed by another son, George Marshall Orr (1879–1939), who took over the manufacturing side in 1929. He continued manufacture and spent a deal of time travelling at home and abroad supervising assembly and installation. During this period a modern dust extraction unit was added. A further son, Richard (d. 1986), had an interest in the business and set up his own carpet cleaning business in Liberton, Edinburgh, which closed down in 1986.

In 1923 George Orr, now trading under his own name, moved from Fettes Row, firstly to Drum Brae Road, Corstorphine, and then to larger, more modern premises on the Glasgow Road, Corstorphine, where he ran the business until his death in 1939. All types of rugs, carpets and tapestries were received for cleaning while repairs and alterations were carried out on traditional and oriental carpets.

These services were carried out for the public and trade customers, as well as for insurance companies. A furnishing department offered an innovative Home Selection Service where pattern books were delivered to people's homes for leisurely selection. From 1939 until 1959 the family of George continued to run the business before it passed to his son, Alexander C. Orr.

Now well into the 20th century, the Orr Carpet Beating Machine was of sufficient significance to be included in the Design Review published by the Council of Industrial Design for the 1951 Festival of Britain.

Change was, however, catching up with the market place as general standards of living improved and the introduction of fitted carpets with *in situ* cleaning resulted in less lifting of carpets for cleaning. Sadly, the call for the machines became less and the last two were produced in the 1960s – a reconditioned machine for England and a final new machine with metal framework (another innovation) to South Africa. Regular orders were still executed for spares but continuation was not viable and the firm of George Orr (Machine Makers and Carpet Cleaners) ceased trading on June 21 1968.

The invention may not rank in the public mind

alongside those of other famous Scots – John Logie Baird (television), John Boyd Dunlop (car tyres) or John Paul Jones (the US Navy) to mention just a few – but it did bring to many a better quality of day-to-day life for the best part of 100 years. For that our grateful thanks.

Smout tells us it was the middle classes who provided the merchants, entrepreneurs and inventors of the first phase of the Industrial Revolution.

The Industrial Revolution in Scotland did not happen overnight but the Scots already had a reputation for the design of agricultural implements and the improvement of machinery, such as Small's new plough design (1763), Andrew Meikle's power-driven threshing machine (1786) and Patrick Bell's horse-drawn reaper (1826). In America Hugh Orr (1717–1798) of Lochwinnoch was responsible for the introduction of the first tilt hammer, new ploughing tools and guns for the American revolutionaries.

Following the American War of Independence, there was an impetus to the cotton industry in Scotland and the use of new technology from Lancashire. This saw the likes of Neil Snodgrass of Glasgow inventing the scutching machine used in wool preparation (1792), William Kelly of New Lanark who applied power to Compton's mule (1790) and Archibald Buchanan who built the first integrated cotton mill (1807). This expansion led to other demands in bleaching, dying and printing. Thus, the Vale of Leven enjoyed greater prosperity and saw the foundation of the St. Rollox chemical works, the biggest chemical works in the world in its day, making bleaching powder.

From my perambulations round the Internet I knew of the US Patent Office index and had noted some six patents held by Orrs, all in the field of industrial chemistry. I was, therefore, delighted when fellow member Tony Newman gave me information of a privately printed book "Orr's Zinc White – The First Fifty Years" printed by the Imperial Smelting Corporation in 1948 and the story of an innovative home-grown chemist, John Bryson Orr (1840–1933), born in Blantyre, Lanarkshire.

J. B. Orr developed and patented a process for the manufacture of a paint pigment, "Orr's Zinc White" (Patent 517 of 1874), which had a novel manufacture as it included a calcining process (heat treatment) of the basic chemicals. His process led to a major change in the pigment and paint industry. Perhaps older members can recall, with me, the task of whitewashing or "liming" the walls of the detached toilet (closet, dry earth type) and the walls of the back yard because it brought a bright-

ness and sense of space to it. J. B. Orr was the creator of Duresco, the first washable distemper widely used on both internal and external walls.

J. B. Orr was the son of a dyer and was apprenticed to the firm of Lewis, McLellan and Co., oil and colourmen and drysalers in Glasgow, where he studied chemistry at the Andersonian College. He travelled widely and was in Europe on the outbreak of the Franco-German war, so he acted as an unofficial war correspondent for a Glasgow newspaper. He returned to Glasgow and in 1872 set up a factory for the manufacture of "lithopone" which meant merely a white mineral product prepared artificially rather than occurring naturally.

Black is white and vice versa

An amusing aspect of the earlier products was a chameleon-like behaviour in bright sunlight, rather like the silver compounds used in photographic film. There is the case of a policeman on point duty in a supposedly white rubber coat but which was, in fact, black on the sunny side and white on the shady. And that of the farmer whose freshly painted white gate turned black at noon but was white again when the puzzled painter was brought to the scene in the late afternoon.

J. B. Orr's invention produced a lightfast product and in time became the basic pigment for the paint industry. In 1930 the company was merged with the Imperial Smelting Corporation Ltd., of which he was a director until his death on September 23 1933.

The significance of the invention to the town of Widnes in Lancashire was great. Until 1898 J. B. Orr had devoted himself to the colour trade but in that year he expanded into industrial development at the Vine Works, Widnes. Workers of the area were long used to handling chemicals and with a good hinterland for raw materials,

Widnes was a prime location for the manufacture of a product that grew to over a quarter of a million tons annually. The works was a significant employer and one renowned and way ahead of its time for conferring benefits of pensions, welfare, forums for discussion and opportunities for job enhancement and advancement.

I would commend Professor Smout's book and also the companion volume, *A Century of the Scottish People 1830–1950*, to anyone interested in placing their ancestors into the context of their time.

Examining their contribution to the world, no matter how small, is interesting and J. B. Orr is now more than a single line entry in my database. ○

BRIAN J. ORR

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SCOTTISH-born chemist
John Bryson Orr, inventor
of Orr's Zinc White

How researching first names can aid your one-name study

By John Titterton



THE term, one-name study, is usually considered to apply to a surname. The study of the use of first names can also be informative and of assistance to family historians.

In a letter in the Journal in October 1998, I outlined how, following a marriage in 1733 of John Titterton to Jane Edensor, the name Edensor came to be used regularly as a first or second name for my own branch of the Titterton family up to the present day. This can be very useful because any Edensor Titterton, or relative thereof, must fit somehow onto their tree.

The names Penn and Tarratt have also been used repeatedly by two separate Titterton families. The Titterton-Penn and Titterton-Tarratt marriages have not been found yet and it may be that the names were not the maiden names of a Titterton bride but the maiden name of a Titterton mother-in-law!

Another unusual Titterton first name is Thomasin. Between 1794 and 1871 there were four Thomasin Tittertons christened. They were the daughter, grand-daughters and great grand-daughter of John Titterton and Jane Maria (nee Hancock). John and Jane Maria must have instilled a strong belief in perpetuating family names. They had three grandsons who used Edensor as a first or second name and a daughter who married a Foster christened a son and daughter Edensor and Thomasin Foster.

Origins of Thomasin

Because it is unusual, one can trace back the origin of the name Thomasin as a family name. Once again, the Titterton-Edensor marriage is responsible. John Titterton who married Jane Maria was the grandson of John Titterton and Jane Edensor, referred to previously. Jane Edensor's mother was Thomasin, nee Beresford. This Thomasin was just one of several Thomasin Beresfords who were descended from Richard Beresford and his wife

Thomasin Daykyn of Parwich in Derbyshire (living circa 1550). Other Thomasin descendants of Richard and his wife are to be found in the families of Roe and Daykyn.

Thus, the christian name can be seen to pass from the Daykyn family circa 1550, through the Beresford, Edensor and Titterton families to Thomasin Titterton born 1871. Further research may trace the name back another 150 years to 1386 and the christening of Thomasin Meynill, a Derbyshire co-heiress. From her marriage to Reginald Dethick and marriages of daughters in subsequent generations to Basset and Erdswick families she was ancestress of Richard Beresford who married Thomasin Daykyn. One might also surmise that Thomasin Meynill was an ancestress of the Daykyn family.

First-name significance

The continuous use of the name Thomasin through successive generations and through different families demonstrates clearly what all family historians know: there is some significance to the choice of first names in a family. Can one-name studies use this pattern to help produce hypotheses as to which main branches as yet "unattached" branches can be attached?

The table shows a count of the first name used by various branches of the Titterton One-Name Study. The various Titterton families seem to fall into two groups. One has a concentration of John, William and George with no Richards; and the other has a mixture of John, William and George with Thomas, and Richard in particular.

The Grindon family is the ancestor of the Edensor, Apesford, Kemberton and Butterson families and one can see a clear dominance of the names John, George and William to the exclusion of other names. Chronologically, there are two possible parent families for the Grindon family - either Cauldon or Alstonfield. Strong circumstantial evi-

	CHRISTIAN NAME												
TITTERTON FAMILY BRANCHES	NICHOLAS	HENRY	GEORGE	WILLIAM	JOHN	THOMAS	RICHARD	HUMPHREY	EDWARD	JOSEPH	SAMUEL	EDENSOR	OTHER
Alstonfield 1530-1700	4	6	6	2	3	4	7	2	4				8
Ashbourne 1600-1720	1		2	7	1	8	6	2	3				0
Wirksworth (Abigail)			4	6	3	1	2						1
Tarratt 1750-1850		1	1	1	3	1	3						0
Cauldon 1530-1600			1	3		1		1					1
Grindon 1650-1730			5	4	5	2				2			1
Edensor 1730-1850			7	9	9	2	2					5	4
Apesford 1700-1850			4	1	8	2				1			10
Butterson 1735-1850			4	6	3	5							1
Kemberton 1700-1850			8	7	4	3				2			4
Hartington 1760-1850			1	2	4								2
Joseph SLY 1700-1830			4	3	4					1			0
Misterton			4	4	3						3		0

dence suggests that it is the Cauldon family and, although the sample is small, the pattern of first naming tends to confirm this.

Likewise, the Ashbourne family could be a branch of either Cauldon or Alstonfield. Comparison of the first names of the Ashbourne and Alstonfield families shows a close correlation and suggests that the former is a branch of the latter. Strong circumstantial evidence suggests that the Wirksworth family is part of the Ashbourne family. This agrees with the christian naming pattern.

There are few clues to the background of the Hartington and Tarratt families, but first-name evidence suggests the former belongs to Grindon and the latter to Ashbourne. The Misterton family could also be of Grindon descent with the addition of Samuel being explained by the name of a father-in-law or another person of family significance. Such clues can be useful.

The above analysis has been based on the consist-

ent use of a group of particular first names. The use of completely alien first names can also be used to explain the background of a family. The Beresford family has consistent naming patterns but in one branch in which I was interested there was a Julius Beresford. He was the only Julius Beresford. His father was a Richard Beresford, but there were several candidates. One possible identity for Richard was as a brother to a Thomas Beresford of Exhall, Warwickshire.

To me, the conclusive proof that Richard and Thomas were brothers is not a piece of genealogical evidence. Thomas Beresford had a business partner named Julius Deedes of Kent. This is surely the origin of the first name of Richard's son.

People choose their children's names for a reason; it is not random selection. Whilst we may not know today what the precise reasoning was, we can still see the pattern and in some circumstances use it to assist our one-name study research. ○

Oh, what a load of (double-barrelled) Morgans!

ONCE upon a time, before they took my pension fund, I used to believe that MORGAN and MORGANS were exclusive, strong and very Welsh names from the valleys. Despite being number 30 in the list of most popular surnames (that TV writer was correct in doing a series for Smith and Jones), I took the plunge and became one of, I think, only six of those top names to register with the Guild.

Comments varied from "must be mad" to "about time somebody took an interest in us", so I helped to form The Morgan Society which now has kindred bodies in Australia, England and Wales, Ireland and Scotland, with links to Canada, New Zealand and the USA.

I was fine until I acquired a copy (free) of the 1999 Electoral Roll. It is not the full version (that would cost £149.99) but after a lot of manoeuvring I discovered a way of checking the Name Dictionary for Morgan/Morgans.

Unbelievably, in the UK alone there are an additional few names and I listed:

Double Names (unhyphenated)	31
Double Names (hyphenated)	243
Others (including foreign versions)	53
TOTAL	327

Once upon a time, when men were men and the women wore chastity belts, double names were a sign that the Archbishop's message had not been received by the peasants. Nowadays, I can only assume it is part of New Labour's snob policy in preparation for the abolishment of the House of Lords.

But what a selection to choose from! They start at MORGAN-ABEL and end at MORGAN-YORK. No

MORGAN-MORGAN has been discovered as yet but, then, that is a common first name/surname situation anyway and has been for centuries.

There are plenty of MORGAN-JONES, MORGAN-THOMAS and MORGAN-WILLIAMS from the other side of Offa's Dyke but as a sign of our new society what about MORGAN-AHIABA, MORGAN-ATUTU, MORGAN-BUSUTTILI, MORGAN-CRESCI, MORGAN-DE-BRUYN, MORGAN-LAUSARE, MORGAN-MANALANG MORGAN-PERSAD or MORGAN-TAMOSUNAS?

Celtic ring

There is a strong Celtic ring about MORGAN-CONNOR and MORGAN-MURPHY and, not to keep the English out of the scene, how about MORGAN-JONES and MORGAN JONES (no hyphen), MORGAN-BENNETT, MORGAN-BROWN, MORGAN-OXFORD and MORGAN-WINSDALE.

I am not too sure about MORGAN-SEN (Senior?) or MORGAN-REV'D (Reverend?) and MORGANA is followed by MORGANELLA, MORGANFIELD, MORGANI, MORGANL, MORGANN, and MORGANR, but there is absolutely no doubt about MORGANSON and MORGEN.

So I now need to ask two questions: have the Morgans got the largest number of unusual and double names, instead of just the original two, and do I have to register them all with the Guild? I only have four choices at present. ○

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Hidden data that draws readers to your web page

By David Hawgood



WHEN writing an article for the January Journal about the LDS Church FamilySearch website, I noticed that the titles and descriptions of some web pages are not informative or enticing. What I am talking about is the information seen by someone using a search engine, not the information seen by someone who has actually connected to a site.

Then in the Guild Forum (e-mail list) David Mowbray sent a puzzled enquiry. Someone told him that the title of his home page was just "Home Page". He thought he had cured it by changing the file name to "Mowbray Matters", but that didn't help.

The answer to both of these lies in title and description information held with the web page, but not visible when looking at the page. It is not even visible when editing the page unless you know how to look. I warn you now that the only way to explain this is to go into the HTML control codes for the page. But here's an even stronger warning – if you don't pay attention to the title and description, people may not find or look at your pages.

In some web editing programs there is provision for seeing and editing the hidden information. But it may be quite obscure. In FrontPage Express I go to the file menu, then "page properties", then "Custom", then "User Variables" and choose "Add". At this stage I have to know the correct name and the format needed. I find it easier to edit the HTML code – although it looks horrendous at first. HTML stands for HyperText Markup Language.

If you "view source" for the page, the hidden information is in the <head> of the document. Some of it is in lines that start <meta. These are called

meta tags. Meta information is information about the page which is not displayed to the reader. The <head> of the Palgrave Society page is shown in Figure 1. The page is at...

www.ffhs.org.uk/members/palgrave.htm.

Derek Palgrave accepted an offer from the Federation to provide member societies with simple web pages. I designed these pages.

I will first explain how the various elements are used by search engines. Then I will explain how you can add them or alter them in your web page.

Search Engines

Search engines like AltaVista, Lycos and Google index substantial parts of the text on millions of web pages. If you submit your site to a search engine and it is accepted, the search engine follows links within your site and looks at your links to other sites. It also looks to see who else is linking to your site. Someone does a search, let's say for "yourname" AND "genealogy". It may find thousands of pages with both "yourname" and "genealogy" in the text, so it has to rate them. First of all should be a site with title Yourname Genealogy. Then others with both words in the title.

After this, different search engines have different procedures. Some will put next pages with both words in the description. Others will put next pages where the words occur frequently in the keywords and text. Words appearing in headings may also get higher ranking. If you want to read about this, look at <http://searchenginewatch.com/> (recommended on the Guild Forum by Barrie Minney). This site has been my source for details about search engines.

So the search engine finds your page – what does

```
<html>
<head>
  <meta http-equiv="Content-Type"
content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1">
  <meta name="keywords"
content="One-Name Study, family history, genealogy, biography, heraldry, Palgrave, Pgrave,
Pelgrave, Polgrave">
  <meta name="description"
content="One-name study of Palgrave and similar surnames (e.g. Pgrave, Pelgrave, Polgrave).
Queries welcome on genealogy, biography and heraldry. U.K. based, members world-wide">
  <meta name="GENERATOR" content="Microsoft FrontPage Express 2.0">
  <title>PALGRAVE SOCIETY</title>
</head>
```

Figure 1: Beginning of HTML code for Palgrave Society web page

it display? Most display the title as one line, then either the beginning of the description, or strings together parts from the first heading and first paragraphs of text. So when David Mowbray got comments that he did not have a meaningful title, the display from a search engine would probably have been:

Home Page

MOWBRAY family history. This is the website for history of the families with surnames of Mowbray/Mowberry/Moubay and the many other variants that have. . .

"Home Page" is the **title**. "Mowbray family history" is the first **heading** on the web page; note that the first (visible) heading on the page may be different from the (hidden) title. The rest is from the first paragraph. The amount displayed is usually the complete title (up to 60 or 70 characters), then anything from 150 characters (AltaVista) to 395 (Web Crawler, Excite), with most search engines displaying 170 to 250 characters. Some search engines have an option to display title only – so David Mowbray's informative site would just appear in their lists as "Home Page" which wouldn't entice anyone.

After David Mowbray posed his question on the Guild Forum, there was a particularly helpful response from Polly Lawrence. She said why her site always comes top of searches for her Rowberry name (see her pages at <http://www.newbury.net/rowberry/index.html>). This is because she has made sure the title, description and keywords are informative and have her interest names in them. After taking her advice, David Mowbray has a site <http://www.mowfam.freemove.co.uk> which would display in Alta Vista as:

MOWBRAY One-Name Study

The MOWBRAY One-Name Study, also including the surnames MOUBRAY, MOWBERRY, MOWBREY, MOOBRA, MOOBERRY, MOBAY, MOBERRY, MOBRY and any similar sounding var . . .

In the display above, "Mowbray One-Name Study" is the **title**, and all the other text is the **description**. (I don't guarantee the truncation of "variant" is quite at the right place, but it gives the idea.) None of this display comes from the text visible on the web page. But do note that some search engines (e.g. Google, Lycos, Northern Light) ignore the description and do use the visible headings and text. You need to make both of them inviting and informative.

If you don't believe this is important, try a search for "One-Name Study" in your favourite search engine. For some sites you will be told how often they have been visited, others that they are best viewed with a particular browser, and quite often

you are not told they are about genealogy or family history – and you may even not be told what surname is being researched.

HTML and Tags

An HTML file contains in one text file both the text of the web page, formatting instructions, links and information for search engines and similar. I am writing this article as a web page. In the source, the heading of this section appears as:

```
<h3>HTML and Tags</h3>
```

The <> brackets show it is a tag, not text to display. <h3> specifies that "HTML and Tags" is a third level heading. A slash shows the end of the control of that tag, so </h3> is the end of a third level heading. I use a first level heading for the headline at the top of the page, third level headings for most others. There are six levels of heading available.

The line in the previous section which just has "Home page" has the web address of David Mowbray's page hidden within it. The HTML appears as:

```
<a href="http://www.mowfam.freemove.co.uk">
<b>Home Page</b></a>
```

(NOTE: the above line was one continuous line of HTML code, but it would not fit on a single line in the column – Editor).

This is the "hypertext" part of HTML. Any piece of text (here "Home Page") can be marked as a link to another piece of text or another document, on the same or a different computer. <a starts an anchor tag, followed by the reference – in this case a web address. The and around "Home Page" make it bold. says this is the end of the underlined hotspot of text, the link you click on.

<head> section of HTML source

Before you start editing HTML, make a backup copy of your web page. It is a good idea to practise on a small page you make just for this purpose. You don't need to publish the test page on your web site, just keep it on your own computer.

Figure 1 shows the beginning of the Palgrave Society web page. If you look at your own web page in your browser or web editor you will be able to see something similar. For example, in Internet Explorer 5 go to the "view" menu of your browser and choose "source".

In FrontPage Express, go to the "view" menu and choose "HTML". The part we are interested in lies between a line starting <head> and a later line starting </head>.

It does not matter if you put extra blank spaces or lines between the elements of the HTML, so when editing you can put in some space, then type into it.

Title

I think you will find there is a line starting <title> and ending </title> – even if there is nothing between them. On my system this always gets put as the last element before </head>. It does not mind

whereabouts in the <head> section I enter it, but decides for itself where to store it. If you haven't got a <title> tag in your web page source, type:

```
<title>One-Name Study</title>
```

Then put your own name before One-Name Study. If you prefer a different title that's fine – you may prefer to add "genealogy" or "family" in the title. Think about people using search engines: if the words in your title are the ones in their search, your site goes to the top of the list. If they are only looking at titles, it's all they see in deciding whether to look at your site. Sixty characters or so of the title are displayed by search engines; you may be able to add what you think of as a "sub-title". Maybe put "Myname One-Name Study – Genealogy of anyone with this name". Or you might want to put in "world-wide". Think about it – you have 60 characters, starting now!

Just to re-iterate, this "title" can be different from the first visible heading on the web page.

Description

On most search engines, the first 150 or so characters of the **description** are displayed. This description is your shop window, your magazine cover. You might want to mention "all U.K. GRO entries", "active members world-wide", "Sussex and Australia" – features which will make people look at your site rather than that of someone whose seventh cousin's wife might have had the same surname as yours. I think it is important to be welcoming. That is what we do in the Guild of One-Name Studies – we welcome enquiries (don't we?).

It is quite likely that there is no description in your HTML source if you have not put one there. While viewing the source, move the cursor anywhere before </head> and just after a > (right hand angle bracket), press the Return (newline) key a few times to make some space, and type:

```
<meta name="description"
```

```
content="Queries on genealogy of this name and  
its variants are welcome.">
```

I suggest you save it at this stage, and make sure everything is still OK. Then "view source" again, and make further changes. Edit the part between the quotation marks after **content=** to be whatever you want. Make the first 150 characters contain the most important part, then continue with extra summaries of your study at least up to 250 characters which several search engines will display, maybe even to 395 which a few display.

Keywords

Keywords are used by search engines in indexing, but are never displayed. If you mainly refer to "one-name study", it is worth putting "genealogy" and "family history" as keywords. It gives them the same status as if they were in the text of the page, so far as the search engine is concerned. The idea of keywords is that they can be used on a page which is mainly graphics, and does not actually have the

words which describe the pictures. So if you have a keyword "ship" and there is a picture of a ship, the customer will not wonder why your page has been found. But if you put keywords and nothing on the page about that word, the customer will be perplexed and annoyed. The person viewing a page may use the browser facility "find within this page" to look for the word of interest – but won't expect to have to look at any other pages in your web site to find it.

To add keywords, start in the same way as for description – editing the source, insert a few blank lines after a > symbol at the end of a line. Then type:

```
<meta name="keywords"
```

```
content="One-Name Study, family history,  
genealogy">
```

You can add more, just separating the keywords by commas. If you start being clever, putting "family, families, family history, history" you may just be doing something which the search engine does anyway, so just put in the main synonyms.

Announce your presence

Now you have modified your web page, you need to remind people it exists. The changes you have made should get it considered by more search engines, and more directories.

First, you need to get it into relevant lists and directories, starting with the Guild web site. You have to look at the web site for each list, and find out the procedure for having a link to your page added. Second, you need to make sure that search engines find it. One way is to visit the web site of each search engine, and find the form for submitting details of your site. The other is to go to a web site which automates the process of submitting your details to different search engines.

You will find links to them from Peter Christian's web site for readers of his book *Web Publishing for Genealogy* at <http://www.walrus.dircon.co.uk/wpg/>. He suggests the use of **Submit It** but lists others. He also has links to useful on-line tutorials. I hope that as well as using his website, you will also become a reader of the book. It has further explanation of technical terms used in this article. I must declare an interest, as I publish it, but I have also found it a constant help myself. The Guild has the first edition available at half price – e-mail sales@one-name.org for details of either the first or second editions.

Well, now I've learnt all that, I'd better go and put a description and title in www.hawgood.co.uk/ons.htm ○

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REPORTS • NEWS • EVENTS

Your guide to what's happening in the Guild world...

Good response to loan offer on one-name newsletters

By John Colloff, Guild Librarian



MY article in the January Journal produced some interesting, gratifying and surprising results. Let me deal with the last first by answering the queries I received about the receipt of ONS newsletters.

Send Me Your Newsletters

Since my appointment after the last AGM, in April 1999, ONS newsletters for the library should be sent to me at the address given inside the cover of the Journal, along with loan requests. I have now listed all of the newsletters in the library and where I can see a clear, continuous run of issues with odd gaps, I am writing to the registered members to see if they would like to fill them. I believe that one of the functions of the Guild library should be to provide this accessible archive of these newsletters, carrying as they do updates and news specific to each ONS.

The Internet

I have asked the editor to leave this heading in so that non-computer users can skip this and save being bored – dare I say yet again – by geek's computer-speak unto geek! The gratifying result for me was that my proposal to lend newsletters electronically was welcomed by many members and all the authors I approached freely waived their copyright to the material to allow this to be done, asking, naturally, only that their authorship was acknowledged when I did so. And from this I got several interesting spin-offs.

The first was when one member said that his newsletters were all on his web page and relaying this to the member requesting the loan was sufficient to satisfy him as he was happy to visit the web pages the next time he was surfing the Internet. Which brings me to tip Number One – when wanting to look at some newsletters, check the member's web page first, as you may find what you want is there already. These are given in the register of members, and perhaps some time in the future the register entry might indicate by an asterisk or so if the pages contain ONS material.

Another member commented on the size of the file needed for his newsletter and suggested the use of Adobe Acrobat to compactly encode such

material and make it universally readable. I am very grateful for this suggestion which I hope will be exploited fully in the future. I am currently checking out using HTML files for this purpose, where appropriate.

Here endeth the Computer-speak!

SoG Archivist

I was very pleased to receive communications from Simon Fowler, professional archivist of the Society of Genealogists, and am looking forward to meeting him soon. He speaks with authority from an organisation with well-established premises, aiming to achieve the best possible conditions. Whilst he is looking forward to improved facilities when their new premises materialise, I admit that we envy what they have already and accept that in comparison we are a "kitchen table" organisation. Nevertheless, I believe that I should encourage you to consider how to index and archive your work and try to help where I can, even if it is only to point out problems and difficulties.

Certainly I agree with Simon when he asks his acolytes: "Will somebody else in the future have to do what you have done all over again, or are you going to leave a good enough record to avoid that?"

FHS newsletters

I have asked the editor to include in this issue a list of the family history society newsletters that are in the library and available on loan with the same conditions as before. However I have made it clear to your committee that I am not trying to build up an archive of these, as this is already being done by both the SoG, FFHS and the societies themselves. My list shows the magazines we received during 1999 and which I try to make available for inspection at Guild events.

I will add the year 2000 accessions to it as they occur and then intend to drop the 1999 issues from the list in 2001. We are the Guild of One-Name Studies and I think that that is where our main efforts should lie. Let me know if you disagree and we can always reconsider. ○

• *The list of FHS newsletters and journals held by the librarian is on the next page.*

Family history journals and newsletters in the Guild Library

Location, region or county	Title of publication
Borders	Borders FHS Magazine
Botany Bay, Australia	Endeavour, Botany Bay FHS
Bristol & Avon	Bristol & Avon FHS Journal
Calderdale	Scrivener, Calderdale FHS Journal
Catholic FHS	Catholic Ancestor
Dumfries & Galloway	Dumfries & Galloway FHS Newsletter
Federation of F.H.S.	News and Digest of the Federation of Family Hist.Socs
Glamorgan	Glamorgan FHS, anniversary edition
Glasgow	Glasgow & W. Scotland FHS, publications
Huntingdon	HUNTSMAN, Huntingdonshire FHS Journal
India	Journal of the Families in British India Society
International	International Society of British Genealogy & FH
Largs & North Ayrshire	Largs & North Ayrshire FHS
Lothians	Lothians FHS Newsletter
Newcastle, NSW	Newcastle FHS, Members' Interests supplement
Norway	Genealogen: Norsk Slektshistorisk Forening
Orkney	Sib Folk News, Newsletter of the Orkney FHS
Peterborough	Peterborough & District FHS Journal
Tay Valley	Tay Valley Family Historian
Tunbridge Wells	Tunbridge Wells FHS
Wiltshire	Wiltshire FHS Newsletter
	<i>Total of 46 documents from 21 societies</i>

TO borrow any item from the list, send £1 (£2 for non-UK residents) to cover postage and packing, either as a cheque/PO in Sterling, payable to the Guild, or in UK postage stamps or the equivalent in IRCs, to the Guild Librarian, John Colloff, 3 Milford Gardens, Appleton, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 5EF. You will, of course, also be responsible for paying the return postage.

If you wish to contribute a journal or newsletter to the library, please send it also to the above address. ○

Treasurer's Notes By David Abbott

AS I intimated in the last Journal, it has become necessary for me to retire as Treasurer. Thus, my term of office will have ceased on April 1. I have only been in the post for three years, and my original intention was to be available for a longer period. However, personal circumstances change and I now find insufficient time to devote to this, the most crucial role in any voluntary organisation.

Another person will be appointed to guide the Guild's committee in financial matters, and as only the fourth person to hold the post, I wish them well in this task.

In my time as Treasurer I hope I have given at least a foundation of good financial practice. One of my first tasks to assist your committee was to introduce a

document outlining financial procedures, as one had not existed previously. This was approved and part of it included a common format claim form for any expenses that both members of committee or any other post holder could complete.

Financial review

I also completed a review of the Guild's financial position, incorporating information gathered since its inception in 1979, which enabled the committee to see more than just a solitary year in question. I like to think that this, in turn, helped and helps every committee member be aware of where the Guild needs to grow.

Even if it is not the prerogative of retiring officers to finish with a few words to stir the emotions, it should be! So members will find me saying at the Annual General Meeting in April that the net worth of the Guild is still under £7,000, or in other words £4.12

per member. At the very least, to return to the level of 1985, it should be well over £20,000 or £12 per member. Yet with the Guild never having had a surplus much over £2,000, then at current rates it will take many years to achieve this. Until it does, your committee will continue to be hampered by the need to maintain capital and even more so if membership continues to grow.

Neither the replacing of our ageing publications – which badly need attention now – nor consideration of new services that might incur start-up costs can be considered without serious regard to cash flow.

Now that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is relaxing rules about Gift Aid, I would urge all UK members paying income tax at 40% (and those outside!) to make this year, the run up to what many regard as the proper millennium, a bumper year for donations to the Guild. ○

Guild reports and news

Guild adopts new standards for sound research

By Geoff Riggs, Committee member

How often have you seen information that is obviously wrong or blindly repeats inaccurate facts quoted elsewhere? I've seen it a lot, particularly on web pages, because genealogy on the Internet is in danger, unfortunately, of being devalued.

Data is being published by less-experienced family historians and the way in which the world-wide-web is being hyped leads new recruits to believe they can get "instant answers" and a readily-obtainable pedigree by bedtime. It's almost a case of "Never mind the quality, feel the width"!

Closer to home, and embracing also the silent minority of non-Internet users, most of us soon became aware of the large number of mistakes there are in the IGI (mainly entries submitted by individuals) and the 1881 Census Index.

Because of my frustrations, I drew our Executive Committee's attention to the National Genealogical Society (of the USA) Standards for Sound Genealogical Research. As a result, the Guild now formally endorses these standards and has adopted them. It strongly recommends to all of us that we should uphold these standards and attempt to observe them at all times, in order to maximise the quality and reliability of our research:-

Truth quest

Remembering always that they are engaged in a quest for truth, family history researchers should consistently:

1. Record the source for each item of information they collect.
2. Test every hypothesis or theory against credible evidence,

and reject those that are not supported by the evidence.

3. Seek original records, or reproduced images of them when there is reasonable assurance they have not been altered, as the basis for their research conclusions.

4. Use compilations, communications and published works, whether paper or electronic, primarily for their value as guides to locating the original records.

5. State something as a fact only when it is supported by convincing evidence, and identify the evidence when communicating the fact to others.

6. Limit with words like "probable" or "possible" any statement that is based on less than convincing evidence, and state the reasons for concluding that it is probable or possible.

7. Avoid misleading other researchers by either intentionally or carelessly distributing or publishing inaccurate information.

8. State carefully and honestly the results of their own research, and acknowledge all use of other researchers' work.

9. Recognize the collegial nature of genealogical research by making their work available to others through publication, or by placing copies in appropriate libraries or repositories, and by welcoming critical comment.

10. Consider with open minds new evidence or the comments of others on their work and the conclusions they have reached.

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Latest on 1881 Project

JUST as the assembly line was moving smoothly and I'd started to produce more spreadsheets and distribution maps, the gremlins had their final fling. They went for my PC, so that it became more and more unreliable. As I'd bought it new at the start of the project, I tried to get it repaired. But the consensus of opinions was that it had come to the end of its life-expectancy. So I was forced to replace it.

There was further delay while I reviewed models, chose a package and waited for delivery. I also faced a longer than anticipated bedding-down period, getting used to the newer programs like Windows 98 and the Lotus Millennium spreadsheet and WP. It may come as little surprise to some of you that, despite supposed backwards compatibility, Lotus Release 9 won't import Lotus 5 spreadsheets correctly. Neither will the latest Lotus Word-Pro import the previous Lotus Ami-Pro formats.

I back up my data regularly but, even so, I faced the mammoth task of recreating my files on the new PC and reclaiming more recent data where I could from the old PC, without being able to use any of the bells and whistles on the old one (including Zip drive or printer or any resolution higher than 640x480).

On top of everything, my widowed mother passed away, which meant I've had to sort out her estate; my younger daughter left home and moved into a flat which involved me in 60-mile journeys back and forth to help her get things straight; and – surprise, surprise – I've had a flurry of enquiries on my own one-name study.

In case the gremlins are still eavesdropping, I won't make any categorical forecasts, but the assembly line is now back in action. My thanks to all who submitted data for being so patient. ○

GEOFF RIGGS

London Regional Seminar on newspapers is voted a hit

The Guild's London Regional Seminar at the Lambeth Mission Hall on Saturday, February 19, saw one of the largest attendances we have ever had at one of these events, with around 80 people present.

The theme – newspapers as a source for one-name studies and family history – was apparently a popular one, but what also drew members' keen attention was the opportunity to consult various indexes on CD-ROM in the lunch recess.

The Biography Database CDs, which the Guild owns, and the

1881 Census were available, but a special bonus was the loan of Palmer's Index to The Times 1790–1905 by arrangement with the publishers, Chadwyck-Healey Ltd. This proved very popular indeed, with lots of members downloading their surname interests.

Speakers

There were four speakers on the theme of researching from newspapers. Roy Stockdill, Editor of the Journal of One-Name Studies, opening the seminar with a mostly light-hearted talk on the press, entitled "The Sec-

ond Oldest Profession", in which he related some of his own experiences in over 40 years working in newspapers.

He was followed by Dr. Christopher Skelton-Ford of the British Library's Newspaper Library at Colindale, North London, who described the extensive resources available for researchers there.

The after-lunch speakers were Audrey Collins on "Reading for Pleasure and Profit" and Jeanne Bunting who spoke on "Reading Between the Lines". Both gave many examples of how to use newspapers and specialist journals as excellent sources for research.

All in all, there was general agreement that the London Seminar was one of the most successful the Guild has ever held. ○

Biography database CDs available to all for look-ups

THE Biography Database CDs, referred to in the London Seminar report above, are available to all members for look-ups. These are held by our Oxfordshire Regional Representative, Dr. Wendy Archer, who writes...

Two CDs have been issued so far and these have been purchased by the Guild, with a licence for use for members. The Biography Database is commercially produced in association with the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Its intent is to make accessible sources containing biographical information that were unavailable before, very difficult to locate or difficult to search.

The Database contains five categories of data: directories; book subscription lists; biographical entries in magazines of the period; society membership lists; and material contributed by individual scholars.

Each CD has about a million entries. Searches on different GOONS names have produced a wide variety of results, from 200+ entries to just a few, to none for some folk like myself.

I can supply output of searches for specific names and e-mail the results as text files. The charge is

£2 per name and variants per CD, payable to the Guild of One-Name Studies. I can run searches on names and let members know the number of entries, then they can decide whether or not they'd like the output. Payment by sterling cheque can follow my sending the files.

If you want a printout, I can supply up to four A4 pages, but please add 30p for postage. Output can also be supplied on disc at 50p per disc, plus 70p postage and packing.

[Wendy's address is on the inside back cover of this Journal under Oxfordshire.]

Typical output from some of the categories is shown below...

Directories

Name: Deakin, Joseph (Male)
Address: 4, New street, Birmingham, Date: 1800
Occupation(s): gingerbread baker, food/drink(m)
Listed in Chapman's Birmingham Directory [for 1800], 1800, CHAPMAN. Birmingham. Printed by T. Chapman, No.76, in Bull-street.

Book subscription lists

Name: Deakin, Francis (Male)
Address: Knowle, Date: 1769

Subscribed to The Beauties of Nature Displayed in a Sentimental Ramble through her Luxuriant Fields; with a Retrospective View of Her, and that great Almighty Being who gave her Birth. To which is added, A Choice Collection of Thoughts: Concluded with Poems on Various Occasions. By W. Jackson, of Lichfield Close, 1769, JACKSON, W.. Birmingham & Lichfield. Printed by J. Baskerville, for the Author, by whom it is Sold, and M. Morgan, Bookseller, in Lichfield. MDCCLXIX

Biographical entries in magazines of the period

Andrews, John (Male)
Title: Esq
Date of death: 8th. July, 1747.
Place of death: Yarmouth
Aged: 72
Date: July, 1747
Occupation(s): merchant, commerce(s)
Occupation(s): red herring
A batchelor, aged 72, the greatest red herring merchant in Europe, very rich; he left his book keeper 20,000 pounds for his faithful service, and other considerable legacies to his servants.
Gentleman's Magazine, July, 1747

Warwickshire Seminar to be on computer genealogy

THE Warwickshire Seminar in May will have a computer theme, with speakers on using computers for family history and a number of demonstrations of genealogy programs.

The seminar will be held at Whitacre Heath Village Hall, Whitacre Heath, near Coleshill, Birmingham, on Saturday, May 13, from 10.0 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. You will find a flyer and booking form for the event with this Journal.

Speakers will be: Simon Naylor on computer basics; Jeanne Bunting on scanning and retouching old photographs; and Polly Lawrence on family history on the Internet.

During the day there will also be six workshop demonstrations, as follows: Custodian, John Hanson; Reunion on the Mac, Paul Millington; The Master Genealogist, Jill Dixon; Excel trees, Polly Lawrence; Family Tree Maker, Karen Naylor; Family Origins, Jeanne Bunting. ○

Family Bible finds a home through our website

A DELIGHTED Guild member from West Sussex has been reunited with a long-lost family Bible dating from the 1860s, thanks to the Guild's website on the Internet.

John Sagar, of Horsham, was contacted by a library in Bargoed, South Wales, after a local man handed it in when clearing out his shed. He had found it dumped in a bag while walking his dog in 1987 and kept it until last summer. Library staff turned detective to try and track down descendants of the original owners of the Bible, Seth and Elizabeth Sagar. After failing to find them in the 1881 and 1891 censuses, they decided to try the Guild's Internet website and found John Sagar – who just happens to be a distant relative of the couple.

John made the long trip to South Wales to collect the Bible. The Sagars originated in Lancashire and how it got to Bargoed is unknown. But John says: "This was out of the blue and a wonderful surprise. I am trying to arrange a family get-together and it will have pride of place."

A story in the Bargoed local paper, the Rhymney Valley Express, gave the Guild some useful publicity. ○

Some forthcoming events...

SOCIETY of Genealogists Family History Fair, May 6 and 7, RHS New Hall and Conference Centre, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1. Admission £6 at the door, advance tickets (before April 14) £4 with s.a.e. from the SoG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA.

MORGAN Millennium Muster, May 26–29, Marriott Hotel, Swansea, Glamorgan. Details from Derek Morgan on 01792 776204, or David Morgan, 01564 774020. e-mail: morgansociety@tesco.net

SUSSEX Family History Group, "An Ancestral Adventure",

Sunday, June 11, Assembly Halls, Stoke Abbott Road, Worthing, 10.0 am to 5.0 pm. Largest family history event on the south coast. Lectures and stalls. Tickets £2 on the day, £1.50 in advance. Details: Rosemary Lea, 4 Eleanor Gardens, Felpham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 6BP.

POWYS Family History Society, Local & Family History Fair 10.0 am–4.0 pm, Saturday August 5 at the Pavilion Conference Centre, Llandrindod Wells, Powys. Details Mike Hall, Pleasant View, Erwood, BUILTH WELLS, Powys LD2 3EJ. Tel: 01982 560676. Email: micronic@hallmark.kc3ltd.co.uk

First Herts meeting

HAVING volunteered to be the Regional Representative for Hertfordshire, I went through a period of wondering what I had let myself in for. A questionnaire seemed a good idea to help me get a general feeling of what members in the county wanted. They were slow to come back, but those that did were reasonably encouraging. However, my confidence took a knock when I received a phone call asking me what it was all about and what was the point; there had never been any local meetings and surely they were a waste of time.

But I went ahead and organised a first meeting at my house. As the positive responses came in, I began to wonder where I was going to find enough seats, but in the end I did not have to resort to the garden furniture. Sixteen people, nearly one-third of the county's membership, came and there was only one familiar face amongst them! I had worried about selecting a topic, but decided it would be best to discuss plans for the future. Then I worried about what we should do for the rest of the evening.

Have you ever seen a group of like-minded people who normally work alone? It was like a spring being released – you couldn't get a word in edgewise! When it came to discussing whether we should have another meeting, out came the diaries and a date was fixed there and then. If that does not indicate keenness, I do not know what does. So we are all looking forward to our next meeting, when the agreed theme will be "An unusual source that assisted my ONS research". I shall not worry about how to fill the rest of the time. I am more likely to be like the pub landlord and cry: "Time ladies and gentlemen, please!"

BARBARA HARVEY
Member 2616



Reviews

Our round-up of
some interesting
new genealogical
publications

By Jane Morson

THE GENEALOGICAL SERVICES DIRECTORY 2000 with **BRITISH LOCAL HISTORY**, edited & compiled by Robert Blatchford and Geoffrey Heslop. 168mm by 248mm soft back, 360 pages, ISBN 0 9530297 3 5. ISSN 1368 9150. Published by GR Specialist Information Services, 33 Nursery Road, Nether Poppleton, York, YO26 6NN. Tel 01904 799301 and 01937 833716. E-mail: editors@genealogical.co.uk. Web site: www.genealogical.co.uk. Price £4.95 plus UK postage & packing £2.05 (Please ask for other countries).

WHAT a wonderful start to the new millennium this worldwide guide will bring to local and family historians, genealogists and researchers alike. This new, fourth edition has been fully revised and updated and includes over 3,500 organisations with some 5,000 essential addresses. This edition has been produced in association with the British Association for Local History and includes local history sources and societies. The guide is divided into 14 informative sections.

There is included a wide range of interesting articles from prominent researchers, historians and genealogists, which should enable most readers to find some item of interest. This is a very professional publication at a very affordable price. It is bursting with information that is vital for any reader with an interest in this subject and an absolute must for any bookcase.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONS AND THEIR ARCHIVES, by Peter C. Amsden. A5 stapled soft back, 48 pages, ISBN 0 9535019 1 4. Published by ASAT Productions, Dunstaffnage Mains Farm, Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1PZ. Tel

& Fax: 01631 567192. E-mail: amsden@btinternet.com. Price £4.05 inc. UK postage & packing.

If you are trying to locate records for the medical profession, then this is just the book you require. There is a very brief history on the profession to enable the researcher to identify their area of interest and the bibliography suggests some excellent publications for further research. The author (a Guild member) gives a basic comparison between medicine in the USA and the UK and lists medical qualifications, so that the researcher can find at a glance the correct records and their location. The last section lists the institutions and organisations, with addresses and, where known, the information each archive holds, any fees charged and when access is possible.

WE introduce a new feature of the reviews pages – publications by a guest society, starting with the Aberdeen & North East Scotland Family History Society, 164 King Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5BD Scotland. Tel 01224 646323. Fax 01224 639096. E-mail: anesfhs@rsc.co.uk. The society website: www.rsc.co.uk/anesfhs. Jean Shirer, publications representative, kindly sent us the following books for review. They can be purchased from Jean at the above address, with details of postage and packing for each.

PITTYVAICH: THE HISTORY OF AN OLD MORTLACH FARM, by Stuart Mitchell. A4 soft back, 66 pages, ISBN 1-900173-00X. Price £4.50 plus p&p.

THIS is an excellent example of how to compile a professional and invaluable history of a property and the various families that

occupied it over many centuries. The author initially compiled the history to assist the former Moray District Council to oppose an application by United Distillers for consent to demolish the listed building.

The oldest part of Pittyvaich Farm is the B-Listed farmhouse, which dates from the early 17th century and is likely to have been a small, plain 3-storey tower. It was truncated and extended to its present 2-storey layout about 1724. In 1997 the house had been unoccupied for a decade and was under threat of demolition. The farm is the successor to an 8th century farmstead which overlooked the Celtic Monastery of Mortlach. For the next 800 years it was ecclesiastical property.

During the mid-16th century it became part of the Atoll lordship of Balvenie. It then passed through Innes and Sutherland families and then onto Alexander Duff in 1660. For over three-and-a-half centuries this property had been associated with a succession of Stewart/Stuart families. In 1892 John Symon purchased Pittyvaich and then in the 1950s Arthur Bell & Sons bought it. Parts one and two of this publication covers the ancient farmstead and Pittyvaich Farmhouse. Part three deals with the owners and occupiers. The author has done some wonderful research into these families and has included a variety of family trees. Also included are illustrations, photographs, genealogical tables, maps and plans.

GREGOR WILLOX THE WARLOCK, by Richard E. McGregor. A4 stapled soft back, 68 pages, ISBN 0-947659-33-1. Price £5.00 plus p&p.

THIS is the story of Gregor Willox Macgregor 1757–1833, of Wester

Gaulrig in Kirkmichael, Strathavon, Banffshire, Scotland. At the height of his career "Willock the Warlock" was receiving visitors from all over the North of Scotland, anxious to consult him on all sorts of matters, from sick cows to sterile wives.

I found this book very interesting. It also proves that not all family skeletons are unpleasant and that it could be possible to uncover a warlock or two! The author has done a wonderful job trying to sort out fact from fiction and he takes us, step by step, through the process of finding out about the making of a wizard to his eventual unfrocking. His family history, past and to the present day, is researched. The author also takes on the difficult task of trying to trace today's whereabouts of the artefacts that the Kelpie foolishly lost to Willock all those years ago.

MY BUCHAN HERITAGE: ALEXANDER, MASSIE, CRUICKSHANK, GREIG, ROBERTSON – A FAMILY HISTORY, by Susan Flora Robertson. A4 stapled soft back, 46 pages, ISBN 1-900173-13-1. Price £3.75 plus p&p.

THIS is a delightful family history that the author was inspired to write when her quest to trace her ancestry began after reading "A Scots Quair", a trilogy by Lewis Grassie Gibbon. In 1994 Susan had set off on a holiday to Scotland, armed with a piece of paper that an aunt had given her mother years before. It contained her grandfather's birth and his parents' names and occupations.

After this brief introduction, her appetite for family history was whetted, so there followed a six-month sabbatical staying in a former hind's cottage on Hayhilllock Farm, just north of Ellon, Aberdeenshire, and very close to Cookston where her great-grandmother, Mary Greig, had lived 130 years before. Susan now had not only the time, but also the local atmosphere and maybe her ancestor's spirits, for she was to discover during her research that

one of Mary's many brothers had lived and worked on Hayhilllock Farm in 1873.

Using information obtained from Aberdeen Registry Office, Ellon local library, the LDS, plus the invaluable help that was given by helpers at the Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS and other sources, Susan has managed to bring her family history to life. The reader can get a taste of life in a rural Scottish community. Numerous black-and-white photographs are used throughout the publication along with maps and a couple of family charts.

A MELVIN FAMILY STORY 1750–1900s, by Ken Melvin. A4 soft back, 62 pages, ISBN 0-947659-99-4. Price £5.40 plus p&p.

THIS publication is yet a further approach to producing a family history. The author has used an abundance of family photographs, along with text, to create an illuminating history of the Melvin family of Ellon, Bourtie and Keithhall, Scotland. At the back of the book is a fold-out pictorial family tree, a wonderful little treasure for anyone with an interest in this family.

The author has been researching on and off for the last 40 years. With the aid of his main hobby, photography, he has recorded the story of his research. The seed was sown in 1949 when a cousin, William James Melvin, requiring information on the family, asked the author's father, Charles T. Melvin, for the rough tree that he had drawn up in 1904. Willie already had another family tree that had been made in about 1930 by another cousin. He wanted to prepare a new tree, so he contacted all known relatives asking for information. It was this updated version of the Melvin tree that became the basis for the subsequent research.

In 1950 the author accompanied his father on his visits to his cousin Mary Jane, who was at this time in her 80's. She was able to give more valuable information and showed them her

photographs. The author (using a pencil, note!) made notes on the backs of these photographs, giving names and approximate dates of those depicted. Thirty years later these notes became invaluable. Let this be a lesson to us all!

This book was a pleasure to read and the photographs are delightful. The author has used the wealth of information and the research he has done over the years to its best advantage and produced a wonderful Melvin family heirloom.

THE SHAW FAMILY HISTORY, by Charles Seaman. A4 stapled soft back, 46 pages, ISBN 1-900173-18-2. Price £3.75 plus p&p.

THE Shaw family is the maternal grandmother's side of the author's wife's family, which he started researching in 1994. The book opens with the Shaw family descendant's tree, starting with a William Shaw who married in 1796 in Banffshire and continued through six generations to the children of today. There is also an index which lists the head of each family in the Shaw context.

Each generation is then covered in the main body of the book. The author includes with each individual the information that confirms their place on the Shaw tree. Parish records, Catholic records, MI's, certificates, census's, newspapers, directories and photographs are just some of research tools that are used.

This book is of good quality and interesting to read – a very simple way for anyone to produce his or her own family history. I look forward to reviewing any books the author produces on the other branches of his family.

WALKING BACKWARDS IN RHYNIE, by R. G. Troup. A4 soft back, 96 pages, ISBN 1-900173-12-3. Price £4.50 plus p&p.

IF you have a connection to the area of Rhynie, the families who resided there or simply an interest in village history, then this

publication is just the little pearl that you could be looking for. The author has written a wonderful book on "the memories of the village and of the folk who lived there in days gone by". There is no index, but I enjoyed reading about the village and its inhabitants.

Over the years the author had collected all sorts of information about Rhynie and its inhabitants. So he set out not only to recall Rhynie as it was in the days of his childhood in the 1930s but also to provide a record of the village's history and information about the people who lived in the parish for the past three centuries up to about 1950. I hope that this book will give other people the inspiration to record their own memories before their recollections are lost with time.

WALTER MACFARLANE – CLAN CHIEF & ANTIQUARY, by Donald Whyte. A5 stapled soft back, 70 pages. ISBN 0 947659 51 X. Price £2.25 plus p&p.

If you are researching into this clan, then this might be a welcome addition to your bookcase. Although the text is not the easiest to read, the author gives the reader a wealth of information and a helpful note and reference section is provided towards the back of the book.

THE GOLDEN NEEDLE: THE BIOGRAPHY OF FREDERICK STEWART (1836–1889), by Gillian Bickley. A5 paperback, 308 pages. ISBN 9628027085 Published by David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University, 34 Renfrew Road, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong. Price £13.50 plus p&p.

FREDERICK Stewart was born on October 17 1836 at Rathen, Aberdeenshire. His father was James Stewart, who was one of nine children and son of a highlander also called James Stewart. Frederick's father was a crofter tailor and elder of the local Kirk, who farmed seven acres of arable

land. His mother, Jane Brown, whose father was a farmer, was the oldest of seven children and 10 years older than her husband. Frederick had two younger siblings, a sister Catherine and a brother, William. From these humble but hard-working beginnings, Frederick became known by his contemporaries as the founder of Hong Kong Education.

The author takes us on a journey through Frederick's life from his early education at Rathen Parish School onto Aberdeen Grammar school then to life at University at King's College, Aberdeen. We are then taken through the next stages of his life and onto how he became the first headmaster of the Government-funded Central School, now Queen's College, Hong Kong. Frederick's policy was to educate pupils in Western knowledge, while preserving their Chinese identity. He insisted on equal time for both Chinese and English studies. Frederick eventually became Colonial Secretary in charge of the Colony's Civil Service and occasionally Acting Governor.

This is a very well-produced book that is the culmination of eight years of global research. Over 400 institutions and individuals have participated in the quest for information about Frederick Stewart. The book is beautifully written and so superbly laid out that information is easily located.

LEAVES OF A TREE – in 3 volumes by William A. S. Aitken. Vol 1, A5 stapled soft back, 54 pages. ISBN 0 947659 77 3. Price £2.25 plus p&p. Vol 2, A5 stapled soft back, ? pages (not numbered). Published privately. Price £3.30 plus p&p. Vol 3, A5 stapled soft back, 64 pages. Price £4.50 plus p&p.

VOLUME 1 of this trilogy was the winner of the Bruce Henderson Award. It traces the author's family from the 18th century to today's relations. The text is not easy to read and parts of it are

rather faint. There is also no index, only a basic list of contents.

Volume 2 deals mainly with the author's life, from his early years through to joining the Merchant Navy. Life in the 1920s in a semi-rural Cumberland village and its surrounding area will delight many a family historian. Although the text has greatly improved in this volume, the pages are not numbered and there is neither a contents or an index. Volume 3 covers the author's wartime and post-war years. From 1939 until his discharge in 1945 we are treated to life in the Merchant Navy during World War II. The book then takes us through the rest of the author's life. This volume is very clear to read and the pages are numbered although there is no contents or index.

This author wrote a history for others to find and on his death in 1987 he left behind a wonderful legacy for future family historians.

ASPECTS OF ALDFORD, ABERDEENSHIRE, by Kay Needham-Hurst. A5 soft back, 92 pages, published privately by the author. Price £4.50 plus p&p.

THE two main families involved in this book are the Reids and the Mintos, who are the ancestors of the author. There is an abundance of information on both of these families and on the many other inhabitants who lived in Aldford. The author has a great love of the area, so has produced a warm account of the village and has livened up the text with numerous black-and-white photographs. Any researcher who has an interest in this area will find this book a very useful addition to their bookcase.

FAMILY history and one-name societies are invited to send their publications for review. Address them to: Jane A. Morson, Upperneatham Mill, Upperneatham Lane, Holybourn, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4EP. ○



Letters

Your views on issues in the one-name world

More oddities on 1881 discs

IN his article on spelling oddities in the 1881 Census discs, Peter Langford lists 63 surnames which contain a zero where there should be an alphabetic O. I would like to add a further 21 surnames in this category.

Where an entry in the index contains two surnames, e.g. RILEY (HOLME), the surnames do not necessarily appear in the surname synonyms table which is held as a Microsoft Access database on each disc. A search for the string *O* on each of the regional discs produces the following additional names: BOWCOCK, FOLEY, GOIGGS, GORDON, GREGSON, HOLME, JONES, JOHNSTON, LUCOS, MC MACHON, MUTTON, NICHOLSON, PATULLO, ROSS, ROW., ROWLANDS, RYORT330, SYMONS, THOMSON and WATSON.

A further entry (MC MORRANO) presumably results from the mistyping of the final bracket.

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There WAS an Easey Pease!

A SNIPPET from the 1881 census of Old Ship Lane, Rochford, Essex, regarding the name of a labourer, EASEY PEASE, seems to have been interpreted as an aside upon the naivety of the enumerator by considering this name purely as an invention by the householder [January Journal].

It is obvious why this apparently comical return has been seen as such. Examples of levity in the census books are not uncommon – the householder has

“gone to the land of the Brave and the Free”, the baby’s occupation was “bawler and squealer”, etc. Believe it or not, both the forename Easey and the surname Pease have been long established and I contend that this was a complete and real name.

Easey or Easy was, and is, a rare surname occurring mainly in East Anglia. The nature of the name has made it susceptible to punning and joking. The more frequently used version has grown to be Easey, which may be attempting to avoid the ambiguity of the shorter version. However, the shorter one continues and its use can often indicate families from certain areas. Easey and Easy are also found as forenames and other examples of this are known.

Concerning the surname Pease, a brief, and incomplete, examination of the 1881 census for Essex showed persons of the surname there, their birth places being Rochford (1), Colchester (1), Foulness (1) and Wickford (2), showing a presence in that county since 1807. A notable northern Pease is listed in the Dictionary of National Biography. This is Edward Pease (1767–1858), projector of the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

Among the above Essex-born Peases in 1881 was another person with the name, Easy Pease, this one with the shorter spelling of his forename. He was 74 years of age, a widower born at Colchester and an inmate of the Union Workhouse at Great Burstead, Essex. Was he an ancestor of Easey Pease, 22 years, unmarried, the labourer of Rochford and the original subject of this note? Having such similar and unusual names makes a close relationship seem quite likely.

It is regrettable that no-one

yet has a one-name study for Pease, who might have stood up for their good name – this Easey researcher is pleased to do so.

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Hands off those records!

I VERY much enjoyed the latest Journal, Vol 7, Issue 1, especially the item by Julie Mansfield, Somerset Record Office. However, I noticed the sentence in large print: “Every time an item is consulted, however careful we are, unavoidable wear and tear arises.” I was, therefore, very concerned at the cover photo showing three children apparently leaning on a record book!

Surely this is not the way to indicate how such volumes should be treated? I felt I must write to you about my concern and I wonder whether any other members felt that it was unfortunate? I have visited several Record Offices in my time and still find it exciting to come across a family record connected with my research. It doesn’t happen often now!

Patricia Blackett
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One or two people commented on the photograph of children handling a document (it was a large map, actually). I should mention that the photos were supplied by the author of the article and Somerset RO. But the writer of the above letter has a good point! – Editor.

Sentenced to the 1901 census?

WHILE we all welcome the PRO initiative to make the 1901 census more widely available online, there is a disturbing aspect of the contract with DERA which I hope Dominic Johnson, as our representative on the Census Advisory Group, will raise. That is the proposal to use HM prison inmates to transcribe the census returns for an online index!

While I have no objection to prisoners being used for data input, I do object to them being used for the skilled task of reading and transcribing the returns. How many of them will have the required literacy and interest in what they are doing? Why is the FH community not being involved in this task, as it was in the 1881 census? I cannot see how prisoners can produce an accurate index by January 2000. If you agree with my views please send your comments to Anne Crawford at the PRO, e-mail: 1901census@pro.gov.uk

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SoG says "No" to index reproduction

MEMBERS may be interested in the following correspondence between myself, as editor of the *Blanc/shard FHS* newsletter, and the Society of Genealogists. Permission was sought – and refused – to reproduce some 30 entries from the SoG's *Vicar General Marriage Licence Index*.

Dear Librarian,

I am the newsletter editor of the *Blanc/shard FHS*. One of our members has extracted all the *Blanc/shard* occurrences from the above [*Vicar General Marriage Licence Index*] and I would like to publish these in both our newsletter and on an archive CD

which we are creating.

I am uncertain as to the exact copyright position but am hopeful that the Society (of which I am a member) can grant formal release on publication of a suitable acknowledgment.

Would you please clarify the Society's position and either let me have clearance (with any acknowledgement wording), or let me know who I need to contact to take this further.

John Blanchard

Dear Mr Blanchard,

I am sorry to be a while formally confirming the decision of our Publications Committee – and also that the decision is not what you seek.

The copyright in the *Index* is owned by the Society. Whilst the committee is sympathetic to the case you make – and seeks to assist local and one-name societies – it cannot agree to your request.

The *Index* has been created through a substantial effort of the Society's volunteers as an addition to the finding aids held in our library. The Society remains solvent (and in existence) only by preserving and enhancing its collections from which its income is derived. Although your request, alone, would not significantly undermine the value of our collection, equivalent requests over the years would do so. Hence, we must refuse.

I appreciate this decision will be disappointing, but I trust you can understand the reason.

Regards

Rob Gordon, Director

Dear Mr Gordon,

The content of your note is indeed disappointing. The *Blanc/shard FHS* takes copyright issues seriously, and in fact this represents the very first copyright release request that the *Blanc/shard FHS* has had refused. I must admit to being a little taken aback by this decision, it does not appear consistent with an ethos of promoting genealogical research and knowledge. I and a

few of the *Blanc/shard FHS* members are members of the SoG and have good geographical access to SoG material – others regrettably do not. The article that had been written brought together the SoG material and that of the *Harleian Society* with link material based on that provided by David Squire. Copyright issues had been cleared with both those parties.

John Blanchard

This was the first refusal we have experienced, following negotiation with the: LDS (IGI); LDS and HMSO (1881 and 1851 census); HMSO (wills indexes and GRO indexes to 1899); various learned societies including the Thoroton, Surtees and Harleian; Naval and Military Press (Soldiers Died in the Great War); Commonwealth War Graves Commission and others.

JOHN BLANCHARD
Member 3426
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He just liked the name!

FURTHER to Richard Sandham's problems with sources for his surname [January Journal], I have heard of someone in Hull, Yorkshire, called Fergus – one of my Guild-registered names – because he "liked the name". His previous name was Smith!

Sheila Weston
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Does Soundex work for us?

LAST year there was an exchange of e-mail on the Guild Forum regarding the use of the Soundex system as a means of checking variants on a family name.

The use of this system was advocated by one subscriber but, from my limited reading, it

appears that Soundex was developed in the 1920s in the USA as a means of filing information whereby all names sounding alike, regardless of spelling differences of errors, would be inter-filed.

I may be missing the obvious but does the use of Soundex really give the family historian guidance as to what constitutes a genuine variant on his or her name? What limits are acceptable? I ask the question, since reading matter on Soundex and its application to genealogy appears to be somewhat limited.

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Why not become a Rootsweb Sponsor?

AS a new member of the Guild, who joined in the hope of developing contacts with other researchers in my chosen field (BIDGOOD, BEDGOOD, BEDGOOD and variants), I was rather dismayed to read in the the April 1999 issue of the Journal an article by Keith Reedman in which he states: "During the six years of my Guild membership I have only received one enquiry....".

If this is typical, it suggests that the Guild is not well known as a useful source of genealogical information and that it may be necessary to be more active in seeking contacts with other researchers.

The Internet has opened up many new possibilities. By far the most effective has been the use of "Rootsweb" a well organized, expanding genealogical web site at: www.rootsweb.com. There is a vast amount of data available, including a surname database and the rapidly expanding World Connect Project, which now has over 20 million names in GEDCOM submissions.

Although most of "Rootsweb" is available without charge, it is

well worth becoming a Sponsor for about ten pounds for the use of the Personalized Mailing List Program. I have it set up to notify me of any e-mail correspondence on Rootsweb which contains my interests. This has resulted in my receiving about two "hits" a day.

The notification includes a copy of the original e-mail which I scan and, if it warrants, send a reply indicating my interests and resources. I have been able to make contact with researchers in Australia, USA, UK and South Africa, who have been invaluable in sharing their data, while at the same time I have been able to help with specific enquiries.

I feel that all members who have Internet access will want to investigate this very effective way of furthering their own work and the objectives of the Guild.

Don Bidgood
Member 3321
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Enjoyable Seminar

I WANT to thank the organisers of the London Seminar on Newspapers. The day was very enjoyable, with nicely varied talks from four excellent speakers. They were all concerned about not treading on each other's "patch" but need not have worried as each took a different approach to the subject. I came home with lots of new avenues to explore.

A bonus was having the indexes on computer to look at. Palmer's Index to the Times came up trumps and, thanks to the Guild making disks available for downloads, I can investigate the entries at my leisure.

Events like this make membership of the Guild very worthwhile. Roll on the next one!

Christine Colbourne
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Comments on Journal changes

WE have received several letters commenting on the changes to the Journal, introduced in January. Here is a brief selection...

Informative

I HAVE just finished reading the Jan 2000 Journal. I wish to compliment you on producing this latest edition, it was much better than usual. I found it to be full of interesting and informative articles. Well done.

Shirley Merrett
Member 2189
23 Bush Spring
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Improved fonts

I THINK the new fonts are an improvement, particularly the one used for the journal title on the cover. I didn't like the old one at all.

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More readable

CONGRATULATIONS on a far more readable magazine.

Norma Neill
Member 849
Rep for Lincolnshire
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Excellent

WELL done! I like the look and the improved lay-out. Excellent piece of work.

Peter Amsden
Member 1053
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Soldier left church with his bride tucked under his arm

WHEN I was researching an ancestor who was a drummer in the 53rd Regiment of Foot and who married at Nantwich, Cheshire, in 1814, a correspondent sent me a report of an amusing incident in connection with another soldier's wedding at Nantwich a few years earlier. The story was told in the Chester Chronicle dated Friday, December 7, 1804...

"Monday last at Nantwich, Mr. Scholfield, sergeant of the Army of Reserve, to Miss Betty Hallwood of Beam Bridge. This marriage being against the consent of the lady's friends, the brother of the bride actually stript to fight the parson in the church for marrying them, who was obliged to procure constables to keep the peace during the nuptial ceremony; after which the bride was borne off in triumph by the bridegroom under one arm, and a corporal of the same regiment under the other, to the no small gratification of a large concourse of spectators."

It must have been an interesting wedding!

Roy Stockdill
Member 2534

What a lucky chap!

THE following appeared in the Deaths column of The Scotsman newspaper on November 20 1839...

"In Italy, a woman, at the advanced age of 143 years, after having eight husbands, the last of whom, lucky fellow! survived her."

I cannot help wondering what sentiments the phrase "lucky fellow!" represents.

Viv Dunstan
Member 2847

It's a funny old genealogical world

A celebration of the comic and curious



A boy "Eminent for Cursing and Swearing" killed by lightning

SOME clergymen were much more colourful and imaginative in their comments in the parish registers than others. The parish of Dauntsey, Wiltshire, had one such incumbent, as evidenced by these entries in a burial register...

1703 February 10 – "Henry Ady a very virtuous youn Man."

1706 April 20 – "John Son of Richard Hayward killed with Lightning at Brinkworth April 19th & buried the 20th. Ever a Boy about 14 or 15 Years of Age Eminent for Cursing & Swearing, his Mother used to Devote her Children to the Devil in Oaths and Imprecations."

1708 October 19 – Samuel Cary Junr a Noted Fidler who having two Bastard Sons at a Birth, with Grief and a Fever ended his Days & was buried."

1712 – "Four Sundays together a Dead Corps Buried." [notable because at that time there were normally only about 12 burials a year in the parish.]

1719 August 9 – "John Batten Aged 34 or 35. They saye a little before his Death he gave 10 shillings to a Conjurer to Cure him."

1724 January 24 – "Sarah

Daughter of John Bishop Aged 16 or 17. A very Godly Maid much addicted to Reading, Pray Father said she let us go Home, meaning to Heaven." [which demonstrates very clearly the dangers of reading!]

Tony Woodward
Member 3049

Wong way to do it

THE Calender of Confirmations and Inventories for Scotland 1925 contains this confusing entry...

"Tin, Wong Chin, alias Wong Chin Teng, alias Bon Tjin Tin, also known as Wong Choon Teng, Vong Chin Tin and Wong Yee On, 324 North Bridge Road, Singapore, died 2 May 1924 at Singapore, testate. Confirmation Edinburgh, 18 April, to Chong Yat Njiong, his widow, and Wong Poon Loy, alias Wong Shau Tin, also known as Wong Siew Teng, Merchant, his son, both of 324 North Bridge Road aforesaid, Executors. Will dated 4 November 1911 recorded with another writ Edinburgh 17 April 1925. Value of Estate, £21 : 10 : 9."

Graham Tuley
Member 437

Buried unknown, claimed next day

TWO consecutive entries from the parish registers of Friskney in Lincolnshire, at the mouth of The Wash, reveal a curious tale of a burial one day and exhumation the next.

Sep 17 1841 – "A young man, name unknown, supposed to have been drowned whilst bathing. found upon the coast at Friskney.

"This body was claimed the day after interment, identified as that of Robert Scott aged 21 (kinsman to John Ostler of Norfolk, King's Lynn) who was drowned whilst bathing in company with three others, Sep 1st, and was removed by the said John Ostler to be reinterred at Lynn."

David Mowbray
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