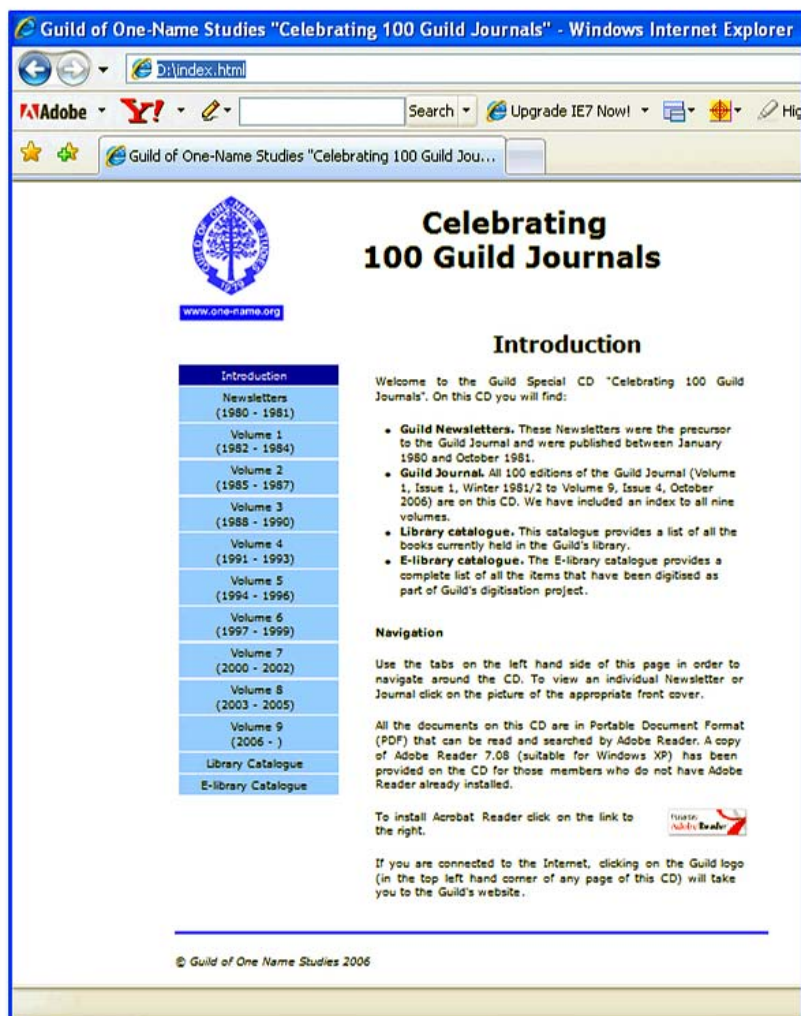


# Journal

## of One-Name Studies



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# Guild

## of One-Name Studies

Box G, 14 Charterhouse Buildings  
Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA  
Tel: 0800 011 2182  
E-mail: [guild@one-name.org](mailto:guild@one-name.org)  
Website: [www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org)  
Registered as a charity in England  
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### President

Derek A Palgrave MA FRHistS FSG

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## GUILD OFFICERS



**CHAIRMAN**  
Peter Walker  
24 Bacons Drive  
Cuffley  
Hertfordshire  
EN6 4DU  
01707 873778  
[chairman@one-name.org](mailto:chairman@one-name.org)



**VICE-CHAIRMAN**  
Paul Millington  
58 Belmont Street  
Worcester  
Worcestershire  
WR3 8NN  
01905 745217  
[vice-chairman@one-name.org](mailto:vice-chairman@one-name.org)



**SECRETARY**  
Kirsty Gray  
11 Brendon Close  
Tilehurst, Reading  
Berkshire RG30 6EA  
0118 941 4833  
[secretary@one-name.org](mailto:secretary@one-name.org)



**TREASURER**  
Cliff Kemball  
168 Green Lane  
Chislehurst  
Kent BR7 6AY  
0208 467 8865  
[treasurer@one-name.org](mailto:treasurer@one-name.org)

\* \* \* \* \*



**REGISTRAR**  
Roger Goacher  
Springwood  
Furze Field Road  
East Grinstead  
W Sussex RH19 2EF  
01342 326663  
[registrar@one-name.org](mailto:registrar@one-name.org)



**EDITOR**  
Roy Stockdill  
6 First Avenue  
Garston, Watford  
Herts WD25 9PZ  
01923 893735  
[editor@one-name.org](mailto:editor@one-name.org)



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

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

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## From the Chairman's keyboard . . .



By

PETER WALKER

# Guild Forum debates a controversial topic – should some public data be private?

**N**O DOUBT you will recall Ken Toll's review in the April Journal about the Surname Profiler website, where you can see distributions for many surnames in both 1881 and 1998. You may also recall that I had hoped to collaborate with the team that created the site, so that it might link with names being studied by Guild members and also allow visitors to add alternative views on the origins of the names.

But this was an academic research project and, sad to say, there is now no further funding to develop the site, so the ideas I had are now unlikely to happen. As many of you know, a similar fate has overtaken the wonderful Leicestershire University Historical Directories website. The site is still there for now, but no further additions are being made. We are used to the idea of archives holding material for centuries, but these modern creations seem likely to be much more transitory.

As last quarter, I have noticed how some topics frequently reappear on the Forum discussions and each time seem to generate a lot of controversy and passion on all sides. This time the issue embraces the linked topics of privacy, data protection and copyright. The common theme connecting these is data: are peoples' vital records private or public? Is sharing data on living people acceptable, even when the data is publicly available? Do you have any rights if people publish your research data on the web? Can you "own" this data?

Without doubt, this issue affects one-namers far more than traditional family historians. Data is the bread and butter of a one-name study and we are all encouraged to collect all data on

our respective names, including on living people. But the data does not relate to our relatives, but often to people completely unrelated to us. Not everyone will be comfortable with the idea that a complete stranger has so much information on them.

### Private or public

A range of views were expressed and members seem to have a variety of ways in which they choose to keep some data private and the rest public. Many felt it was important not to publish anything which might relate to living people, while others, notably championed by our Editor, Roy Stockdill, felt that any publicly available data should be capable of being published without limitation.

One perspective that perhaps wasn't developed in the debate is that the information we hold usually goes beyond the pure publicly available facts. When we link a birth to a marriage and thence to offspring we are creating a body of data which has greater information than the sum of the parts. I am reminded of the hierarchy of information that goes something like this:

Data > Information > Knowledge  
> Understanding > Wisdom

When we study our names we

go beyond the mere collection of data to create information on people and families, knowledge of how the name has developed and an understanding of the processes that made this happen. Whether we are any wiser for all this, I'll leave to others!

Two broad attitudes emerge in these debates. On the one side are those who are driven by principles, be it the principle of free

**What are the Data Protection Principles? The Data Protection Act states that anyone who processes personal information must comply with eight principles. These state that information must be:**

- Fairly and lawfully processed.
  - Processed for limited purposes.
  - Adequate, relevant and not excessive.
  - Accurate and up to date.
  - Not kept for longer than is necessary.
  - Processed in line with individuals' rights.
  - Secure.
  - Not transferred to other countries without adequate protection.
- "Processing" includes data capture, storage, performing operations on it (including combining it with other data), retrieval, disclosure, dissemination and erasure.

speech, the principle of the right to know, the principle of peoples' right of privacy, or the principle of "publish and be damned".

On the other side are those who seek a definitive truth and look to an analysis of the law to



provide answers. In their separate ways, both approaches are doomed to fail, because neither takes sufficient notice of the human, subjective aspects of the problem.

What I find acceptable may be quite different from someone else. Many people will be far less aware than we are of how much personal data is publicly available and how easy it can now be to link people together and draw conclusions. So your principles aren't their principles.

What of the law? Laws like the UK (European) Data Protection Law were originally designed to protect misuse of your personal details by big organisations, not other people. But, unfortunately, most laws are written to include both "legal" and "natural" persons. There are numerous let-outs for domestic use, education, research, journalism etc, which only add to the complexity of the law rather than provide greater clarity. Furthermore, there are no specific offences under this law; rather, actions are potentially deemed to breach certain data protection principles (see sidebar on the opposite page). So the current opinion of the Information Commissioner may be highly relevant and so will any applicable case law. But nothing is black and white, so ultimately the law does not provide the clarity of answer some would hope for.

Any advice the Information Commissioner's Office might give has no legal effect and will usually be provided with the warning: "Ultimately it would be for the courts to decide." Add to that the problem that one-namers are spread across the world in different jurisdictions with quite different laws and also that we share data across national boundaries and the problem becomes impossible to resolve through legal analysis. The USA, for example, is well known for giving greater emphasis to Freedom of Information than Data Protection.

Ultimately, laws will only be important if the likelihood of

*I was appalled to find that some of my own family ancestry had been placed on the IGI, presumably by someone who had acquired a GEDCOM file originating from me. I may have trusted the person I sent it to, but information does have a habit of getting passed on. When I recorded the death of Joseph Hollyer, my 3xgt-grandfather, in 1887, I filled in the place of death as 2 Crystal Palace Station Road, Penge. I omitted to state a county or a country because the death certificate didn't include this information and, in any event, I know where Penge is. When the Mormons processed my data file, the street address was removed but someone decided that Penge must mean the place in Transvaal, South Africa. This "fact" cannot be changed or removed. Never again will I share information in this way.*

prosecution is real. The Information Commissioner is unlikely to want to waste public money pursuing individual genealogists and even action against companies is only taken when there have been persistent breaches of the rules. The only people who might have the money and motivation to prosecute are certain public figures and celebrities who seem to think that, despite their high public profiles, they should have some special right of privacy.

It seems to me that there is a world of difference between someone knowing the names of your parents and having a long photographic lens prying into your home. But this hasn't stopped a proposed new law in Ireland which would seek to prevent information about people being published if the individual thought it breached their privacy, even if the facts were already publicly available. We have to keep vigilant about such bad law. Not only that, but we must watch out for existing laws incorrectly applied. Roy Stockdill reports that a certain record office removed all its historic collection of electoral rolls because the staff thought these contained private information. Thanks to a stout

defence, the Information Commissioner has now confirmed that historic electoral rolls are not covered by the recent changes of the law concerning current electoral rolls.

A related issue is the unwanted sharing of your information with others. It is often galling to see your work "stolen" by others (see sidebar) and during the Forum debate this raised the issue of what was subject to copyright, since facts cannot be the subject of copyright. Copyright is one of a group of Intellectual Property Rights, which also embraces Designs, Patents, Trademarks etc. Copyright protects creative and artistic works, so cannot cover facts, but can cover layouts used to publish a work, whether a book or a website. Furthermore, given the lack of precision amongst copyright laws across Europe, the EU countries adopted a Database Directive which gives protection to the assembly of data in a database, even if the individual data items cannot be copyright. So we do have rights. But what good are these if we don't have the financial means to prosecute? Also, there's a good chance that the information was "stolen" by someone in another country. Dick Eastman covered this same topic in his Online Genealogical Newsletter recently and concluded that if you don't want others to republish your information, then don't share it – with anyone!

My own conclusion on these topics is that given the diverse cultures our studies embrace, there will inevitably be a wide range of assumptions about privacy, so I can only emphasize the importance of putting your principles and the "letter of the law" to one side and focus instead on respecting the feelings of living people.

***And don't share all your information with others unless you are happy to have it (and its inevitable collection of errors and "work in progress") copied as "truth" for everyone to see. ○***

## What does it all mean?

# If we all waited to publish our one-name study until we felt we had found the ultimate answer, we would probably not publish at all

*WHAT does it all mean? What's the point? Why am I doing this and how long will it take me? These are surely questions just about every one-namer has asked themselves at some stage of their researches, especially when feeling overwhelmed with the sheer weight of the results! In this special article, Guild Chairman PETER WALKER asks himself the same questions – and tries to give the answers.*

*In February the Guild is holding a seminar on Publishing Your One-Name Study and we hope Peter's article of extended length and detail about his own study will give other members some idea of at least one approach to the topic.*

**I**F I WERE AN academic, I would have called this article something like *On the origins, distribution and growth of the Hollier name (and variants) in England 1275-1900*, but I make no great pretence for the depth of scholarly insight in what follows.

No one-name study is ever complete and mine is no exception. I dream of the day when some new tranche of data will magically make sense of the jumble of information found so far and I'll be able to impress everyone with the depth of my research.

As an alternative, I offer these "Notes on

work in progress", recognising that if we all waited to publish until we felt we had found the ultimate answer, we would probably not publish at all. If what follows is not particularly startling, I apologise in advance; but, on the other hand, perhaps it will encourage more of you to publish something about your studies.

### • How did I start?

While researching my Hollyer ancestry (my mother's maiden name), I found that a relation in Canada had accumulated a lot of research from several others who were researching the name in the 1950s and 1960s. They had collated their find-

ings and assembled some pedigrees, convinced that with a little more research they would prove that all the various Hollyer families were related. After all, given the fact that so many of the different families all seemed to have an artistic streak, surely there must be a connection?

Indeed, my Hollyers were signwriters, artists on glass and the more traditional artists on canvas. The other large group of Hollyers were engravers and photographers. It occurred to me that these researchers – all from the USA and Canada – had not done any basic collection of BMDs, since they were working on the other side of the Atlantic with no easy way to acquire the information stored away at that time in Somerset House.

Too much of their output was speculation, but the family stories and collected memorabilia was fascinating and stimulating. Not long after this, I discovered that a Harry Holyer was researching the names HOLYER, HOLLYER and HOLLIER through the Guild and he was able to tell me a good deal about my own Hollyer line and how it connected to his Holyer family from Woodchurch in Kent. It turned out we were 5th cousins, once removed. He was able to assist me with some of the other Hollyer lines and it quickly became clear it was highly unlikely that the various families were related.

In 1997, Harry Holyer died and I joined the Guild and took over the study of the three name variants. I found that a lot of the basic data had not been collected or was missing, so I had to embark on much work to get the study on a sound footing.

### • Where did the name originate from?

The evidence bequeathed to me included quotes from surname dictionaries and sundry speculative sources. It's worth looking at some of these sources, though some of the smaller books on surnames make no mention at all of the Hollier name or its variants. It can be helpful to do so in chronological order, for it must be the case that authors have surveyed earlier works when compiling their own.

The earliest surname dictionary mentioning the Hollier name is *Patronimica Britannica: a Dictionary of the family names of the United Kingdom*, published by Mark Anthony Lower in 1860. All he has to say is that Hollier is a mispronunciation of Hellyer, but at least he correctly identifies the latter name as a West Country name, meaning a thatcher or tiler. The mistake of believing that there is a connection



**By PETER  
WALKER**

between Hollier and Hellier lives on to this day in sundry Internet sites selling “family coats of arms”.

To be told that the heart of the Hollier name is in Devon is such obvious nonsense that their assumption of its connection with Hellier (which is a Devon name) is soon discovered. Such sites peddling phoney arms are not above providing phoney facts as well, as long as they make money.

Mind you, I note that John Titford, in his 2002 book *Searching for Surnames*, quotes the Hellier name as being Cornish, rather than from Devon, and despite the fact that the evidence points more towards Devon, it has always seemed to me to sound Cornish, perhaps thinking of places like Helston.

## Overlap

In the other direction, the Hellier name does overlap into Somerset and there's still an outside possibility that the Somerset Holliers that seem to

Now here's an item of trivia! The word Holyer is a word in the Cornish language, which apparently means “follower” or “partisan”. There is a competition for works written in Cornish called *Holyer an Gof*, which is said to mean “Voice of the Smith”, which leaves me no wiser as to what precisely *holyer* means.

emerge in the mid 18th century might be connected with a variation from Hellier.

A rather obscure early source is the 1864 work by Robert Ferguson entitled *The Teutonic name system of France, Germany and England*. Ferguson analyses the Anglo-Saxon word *hold*, meaning faithful or friendly, and draws links to the words *hulths* in Gothic, *holt* in Old High German and *holtr* in Old Norse. He suggests that this is the origin of the surnames Holder, Holter and Holler in English, Hollier in French and Holder in Modern German. Obscure it may be, but I suspect that this is the reason behind the Church of Latter Day Saint's decision to group Hollier along with Holder and Holler etc in their well-known FamilySearch website.

The Rev. Charles Wareing Bardsley was another of the early researchers into surname origins. In his 1873 work *English Surnames*, he discusses locative names and says that there are many cases where a place-word is suffixed by a word equally signifying residence, these being *er* and *man*. He then gives examples of people who might have lived by a particular tree, such as Beecher, Asher, Oker, Hollier or Holleyman. In the index, he does give one early reference to the name, a William Holyer as mentioned in Broomfield's *History of Norfolk*.

Bardsley's *A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames* was published posthumously in 1901. Bardsley was neither a linguist nor a philologist. While he was well intentioned, he was not perhaps as rigorous as later writers. He did not seek out the earliest references to the name and like others after

him, there is much inaccurate speculation in his work. But his dictionary goes slightly further than his earlier one by saying:

*Hollyer, Hollier (1) Baptised 'the son of Oliver', from the modified Ollier, q.v. Aspirates present no difficulty, as will be seen from a perusal of letter 'H'. (2) Local, 'the hollyer', one who dwelt by the holly-bushes; cf Bridger or Holmer. Of course, Hillier (q.v.) may be the parent.*

My research and that of others studying the name Ollier does not support the idea of a link between the surnames; the distribution is quite different and, curiously, Ollier only seems to appear in the 17th century, in Cheshire, so this might indicate French immigration. However, some Olliers did change their name to Hollier in the 19th century. I will return to the Ollier / Hollier link later.

While not strictly a dictionary, the work of H. B. Guppy called *The Homes of Family Names in Great Britain* is of interest. Published in 1890, it attempts to list where common family names were found in the 19th century, often using farmers as a group of people who are likely to have stayed near their roots. But all he comes up with is a reference from Nichol's work, *Leicestershire*, where he quotes that “James Hollier was a landowner in Hinckley at the commencement of this century”. Indeed he was, but this rather ignores the many other Hollier (and variant) families living in Warwickshire, Somerset, Hampshire and Kent.

Ernest Weekly published his book *Surnames* in 1916. He says:

*First it must be noted that many surnames [ending] in -er, suggesting an occupation or habit, do not belong to this class at all. Some of them are Anglo-Saxon personals e.g. Asker, Asher, Asser from the Anglo-Saxon Æschere, Fricker from the AS Frithugar, Hollier, Hullyer from the AS Holdgar.*

He quotes as an example a William f. Holdeger in the Pipe Rolls.

The next work of note is William Dodgson Bowman's 1931 publication, *The Story of Surnames*. In discussing the Anglicisation of French names, in particular Huguenot ones, he quotes the names Olier and D'Olyer as being “now Hollyer”. As is so often the case with surname books, he offers no evidence and I'm confident that there are no Hollyers who have any connection with the D'Olier family.

The D'Olier family originally used the name Olier when they were resident in France and added the “D” prefix when, like so many other Huguenots, they escaped to Holland, but wanted to emphasize their French origins. A descendant of this family, Isaac D'Olier, came over with William of Orange and fought in Ireland. He was part of the group encouraged to settle in Dublin to increase the Protestant community.

But many of the firms who sell instant family histories, especially those in Ireland, repeat the

supposed D'Olier-Hollyer connection as fact. The D'Olier family became quite prominent in Dublin and there is a street called D'Olier Street just south of the famous O'Connell Bridge in the centre of the city. The locals pronounce it as "Doll-ear" Street.

Gustav Fransson in his book *Middle English Surnames of Occupation 1100-1350, with an excursion on toponymical surnames* (1935) mentions that names ending in -ere or -iere denote someone who lives by a particular topographical feature, e.g. Bechere denotes someone who lives by a beech tree. He cites four examples of early names as follows:-

- Adam le Holyer, 1319, Subsidy Roll, Essex
- Adam Holier, 1332, Subsidy Roll, Essex
- Robert le Holare, 1275, Subsidy Roll, Worcs
- John Holere, 1295, Gaol Delivery Roll, Norfolk

and explains that these names mean "dweller by the hole, cavity or hollow place". I am grateful to Peter McClure for this information. He told me that names of this form are actually most frequent in Sussex and the adjoining counties. They are also found in Somerset and Worcestershire and occasionally in the East Midlands.

## Respected

The best known and probably most respected surname dictionary is that produced in 1958 by P. H. Reaney and revised over many years, including by R. M. Wilson, up to 1997. He says:

*Hollier, Hollyer, Hullyer*

*Robert le Holyere 1309 Lay Subsidy Beds.*

*Adam Holiere 1327 Lay Subsidy Essex*

*Old French: holier, huler, a variant of horier, hurier*

*Middle English: holer, holyer, huller*

*'whoremonger, debauchee'.*

Penguin produced a *Dictionary of Surnames* in 1967, authored by Basil Cottle. He treads familiar ground by referencing the name as an occupational name meaning "whoremonger" from Old French or a locative name meaning "dweller in the hollies" from Old English.

1969 saw the publication of Henry Harrison's *Surnames of the United Kingdom*. He correctly identifies the three variants as being Hollier, Hollyer and Holyer and opts for the locative explanation "dweller by the Holly Tree(s)", quoting the Middle English *holie* and *holin* and the Old English *hole(g)n*.

Sir William Addison, in his 1978 book *Understanding English Surnames*, says "Few, for example, will know that Hollyer is said to be derived from the Old French word for whoremonger or fornicator" – more or less quoting from Reaney.

In 1989, another major dictionary was published by Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges, called *A Dic-*

*tionary of Surnames*. They opt for the occupational explanation meaning brothel-keeper:

*Middle English and Old French hol(l)ier (a dissimilated variant of horier, agent noun from hore, hure, a whore, of Germanic origin). It may also have been used as an abusive nickname. Variants: Hollyer, Hullyer, Hollister (originally a feminine form; cf Baxter).*

Moving forward to more recent times, the flow of books doesn't cease. A *History of British Surnames* by R.A. McKinley (1990) says: "Some occupational names, including some quite common ones, exist in pairs; examples are Baker and Baxter, Brewer and Brewster, Deemer and Dempster/Hollier and Hollister". He goes on to explain that the considered view is that the second names are feminine forms of the occupation terms.

So what are we to make of all this? We have to accept much of the evidence of the expert philologists and I've no doubt that Hollier may well have meant a person living close to either a holly tree or a hollow. It seems harder to accept when a surname became hereditary that anyone would be happy to carry on the byname or nickname of their father if it meant a brother-keeper! But then, I suppose you could say the same of names like Cruikshank (bent leg). Perhaps when names became hereditary, the individuals themselves didn't actually have a free choice.

Now both George Redmonds and David Hey caution against accepting the evidence from these surname dictionaries, however scholarly they may be. The more modern approach asks us to interpret the work of philologists alongside the genealogical evidence. The early names quoted by Reaney may perhaps be just bynames and not hereditary, but in any event, even if they were hereditary, they may have died out and not be the source of the surname in more recent times.

## • What of the evidence?

So how does the evidence stack up from the work I've done on the names? Firstly, the names Hollier, Hillier, Hellier and Hullier are quite distinct. Only with Hallier is there a question mark. Hillier is focussed on Wiltshire, Hellier in Devon (though the overlap in Somerset cannot be ignored) and Hullier is very strongly based in Cambridgeshire. Hullyer / Hullier is so focussed on northern Cambridgeshire that I am prepared to accept the explanation that it is a Dutch name brought over to England by the dyke builders of the 17th century, who did so much to drain the Fens. Hallier, when not a transcription error for Hollier, is almost entirely associated with Wickwar in Gloucestershire, at least when using the

**Can my one-name surname really mean a whoremonger or a brothel keeper?**

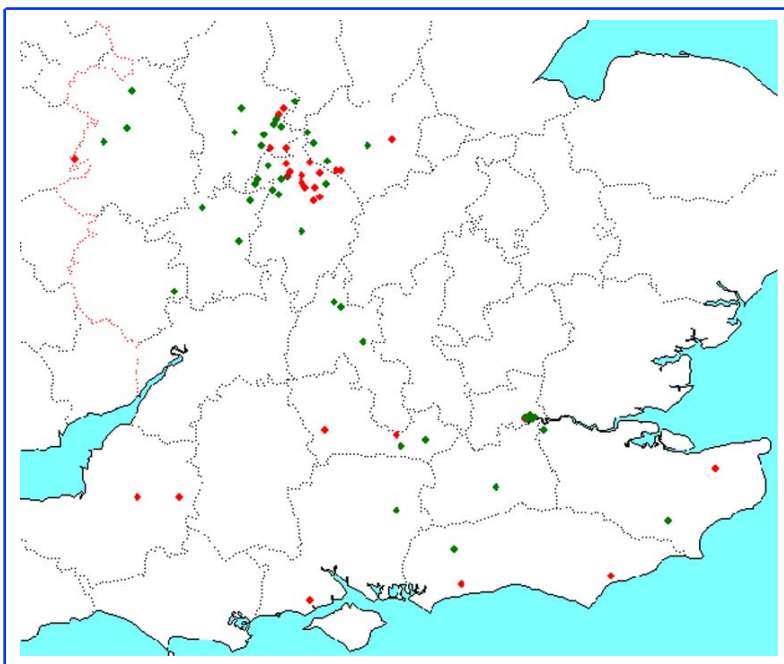


IGI as a source. Given the lack of Holliers in Gloucestershire, it seemed these were separate names. But then I noticed that the name Hollister (said to be a feminine form of Hollier, you'll recall) is, from the IGI data, also strongly focussed in the Wickwar area of Gloucestershire. Even the 1881 Surname Atlas CD shows this fairly well. So far, I haven't been able to figure out whether this is a coincidence or if it may be significant to the origins of the name.

Both Reaney and Fransson quote a number of early records of what they consider might be ancestors of today's Hollier families. The problem is that all the distribution evidence suggests that Essex, Bedfordshire and Norfolk cannot be the source of the name as it developed from the late Middle Ages. The name is almost unknown in these counties. Yes, I have found some other early records from these counties, but both the Bedfordshire and Norfolk ones seem to be Hullyer, rather than Hollier, though spelling is hardly stable in these early times.

## Distribution

The true distribution of the name can be found from the early records in the IGI. I plotted these in Steve Archer's Genmap and, to remove the impact of any single transcription errors, only plotted parishes with two or more records before 1700. The plot is based on the 1992 version of the IGI, so does not include any Holliers in the Isle of Wight, but



**Figure 1 – distribution of Holliers from the IGI, plotted with Genmap**

equally does not feature the more recent influx of patron submissions. The result is shown in Figure 1.

What it shows is very interesting, though not as dramatically focussed as those which David Hey has published in his books to show how families tended to stay close to their origins. There are a number of features of the distribution that are of note:

- The name is almost unknown in Scotland,

Wales, the North of England and East Anglia.

- There is a focussed group that starts from a single point in North Warwickshire and expands out over time.

- Across much of Southern England, there is a spread of locations where the name is found, with no particular pattern or focus

The Warwickshire group seems to be a single family origin. An early reference is from 1325 and mentions an Adam de Holyer being witness to a land deed at Canley in Stoneleigh. The focus of the family seems to be Shustoke, where there is a record from 1373 of a John Holyer, bailiff of John de Clynton, knight, in his manor of Shustoke, Warwickshire. In 1433 there is a record of a Roger Holyer holding property in the nearby parish of Arley.

By the time parish registers started in 1538, there are frequent records of Hollyers at Shustoke and surrounding parishes in North Warwickshire. However, the name had also by that time spread out to the neighbouring counties of Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and Oxfordshire. Families in Worcestershire may also be part of this expansion. The fact that this group almost certainly has a single family origin, does not mean that the name in this case is locative. As David Hey has shown, names with an occupational origin may become hereditary just once. However, landowners and bailiffs don't sound like candidates to have been brothel keepers!

In contrast, the pattern in the Southern counties may suggest several independent origins, consistent with the idea of the name being locative. That said, several of the locations are quite close to the coast, so migration by sea is a possibility. Early settlements include:

- Berkshire, mainly around Reading.
- Hampshire, in the New Forest area and the Isle of Wight.
- Sussex, at Hooe.
- Kent, in the Romney Marsh area

In the manuscripts of the Corporation of New Romney there is a reference from 1399 of a Robert Holier being paid to ride to Sandwich, London and along the coast "to obtain news as to the arrival of the present King" [Henry IV]. There was also a Holyer family owning land at Hooe in East Sussex with an earliest known reference from 1440. A record of 1444 suggests that the landowner at Hooe was "John Holyer of Canterbury", so suggesting a link back to Kent. The Hooe community thrived for a

long time, but disappeared in the 18th century. Equally, the Berkshire group dwindled in the 19th century and no modern families descend from these groups.

If some groups died out, others suddenly expanded. Several instances can be found where expansion originates with a single "portal couple". Other early lines die out (at least the male ones

carrying the surname), while all later families descend from this single couple. There are a handful of records of the Holyer name in Kent, starting with the 1399 event mentioned above. But it was when John Holyer married Elizabeth Gregory in 1737 in Canterbury Cathedral and settled in Woodchurch, to the north of the Romney Marsh area, that the extensive Holyer and Hollyer families from Kent expanded to be the dominant group that persists to this day. My own line is from this family, as are all modern day Holyers, and they all descend from this one couple.

A similar situation occurs in Somerset. A tiny handful of early records have been found, though those at Nunney and Wells are likely to be transcription errors for Hellier, a name which is found principally in Devon, but crossing over into Somerset. But then Samuel Hollier married Grace Plumbly in Burrington in 1749 and the first two generations of their descendants produced plenty of males who produced big families and by the 19th century the Somerset Holliers, concentrated in a handful of villages in the Axbridge Registration District, had become the largest group of Holliers, even overtaking the Warwickshire and Leicestershire groups.

## Mutation?

Aside from a single record from 1722 in the neighbouring village of Wrington, there are no other reliable earlier Hollier records from that area that I have found so far. Almost all of that part of Somerset is not included in the IGI. Had the family moved from elsewhere? Or had there been a single name mutation from Hellier which gave rise to the Holliers in this part of the country?

Another example concerns the Holliers in Northamptonshire – not featuring in the IGI, but research in parish registers has shown a line starting around 1660 in Weedon (Edward Hollyard) that continues in that part of the country even today. But in the early generations virtually only one family in any generation existed. They seemed to produce too many girls for the name to expand and it hung on a thread. But then John Hollier and Sarah Leatherland, who married in 1786 in Lower Heyford, managed to produce enough boys for the line to start to expand. So again, we have a “portal couple” through which all modern day descendants have their ancestry.

Hampshire provides a similar interesting pattern. The earliest reference to the Hollier name in Hampshire is from 1493, when a John Hollier was recorded as owning land at Sway. Early parish register entries from the mid-16th century show Holliers at Boldre, Milford and Brockenhurst in the New Forest area. It seems likely that the Holliers in the Isle of Wight descend from this group, as the earliest references there are in Freshwater, to the west of the island.

However, by the 19th century all the mainland families except one seem to have disappeared. It is only from the town of Fordingbridge, where

Hollyer/Holliers were well established by the beginning of the surviving parish registers in 1642, that all the 19th century Hollyer and Hollier families in the Portsea district originate and all these from just one couple who married in 1776.

What’s so special about the concept of a “portal couple”? Within every family group there must be a single couple who were the progenitors of that line, the ancestors of all known modern members of that family. What is surprising to me is that of the four cases described above, in three (Kent, Somerset and Hampshire) the “portal couple” are also the earliest proven ancestors I have found in that line.

In *Family Names and Family History*, David Hey has analysed the distribution of many surnames and shown how many names, despite spreading far and wide, still tend to focus around their point of origin. To keep his research within reasonable bounds, he only collected and plotted deaths in the period 1842–1846, as this would represent individuals probably still living close to their roots. As one-namers we tend to have more complete data on vital records, but I thought it might be instructive to copy David’s approach to see whether the pattern matched the older distributions (see Figure 2).



**Figure 2 – Hollier distribution based on 1842–1846 deaths**

The results are mixed. Essentially, because the Hollier name and variants is fairly uncommon and not focussed on a single place, the number of deaths in any given registration district is usually only one or two. Only Birmingham and Axbridge manage five deaths in the period 1842–1846. The presence of stray entries in Durham, Lancashire and Wiltshire distract from the underlying picture, which does at least show the groupings in the West Midlands, Oxfordshire, Somerset and Kent. But on its own, the technique doesn’t deliver good results.

What this should mean is that academic researchers can gain benefit from drawing on the larger bodies of data collected by one-namers.

### • The Huguenot problem

I have already noted that some sources quote the Hollier name as being derived from the Huguenot Isaac D'Olier, who came over with William of Orange and settled in Dublin, being admitted as a burgess of the city in 1697. Clearly, he would not be the source of families recorded in Warwickshire from 1325. Yet the idea of a Huguenot link persists. It is probably due to the rather similar name Ollier, which is principally found in a very focussed area in Cheshire and North Staffordshire. Indeed, not only is it focussed even in relatively recent times, but there seem to be no records prior to the mid 17th century.

Stella Walker (no relation) who has researched the line, suggests that "it is probably French or Huguenot and it seems possible two or three brothers came to Cheshire in the 17th century and probably most of the Olliers in England are descended from them". Lawrence Ollier has also researched this name and concludes that perhaps their origin was slightly earlier in the 16th century but probably not before this. Supporting the idea of French immigrants, he finds the frequent early use of spellings like Oleheyer. Say that phonetically and its French origin is clear. Of interest is a will of 1705 of William Oleheyer who signs as William Ollier.

### Surgeon

John Blandy, a respected retired urologist, wrote a paper about Thomas Hollier, Samuel Pepys's surgeon, and postulated the idea that Hollier was successful as a lithotomist because he used a secret operation to remove bladder stones known only to the Huguenots. And, he said, Thomas Hollier was a Huguenot. When I challenged this, knowing Thomas Hollier, the surgeon, came from a lowly family of cobblers in Coventry, he said he was told this by the Huguenot Society. So it seems the Huguenot Society believes that Hollier and Ollier are the same name but, based on my studies, I would refute this.

And yet there are some intriguing coincidences. Some of the 18th century Hollyers in Coventry were in the silk ribbon making business for which Coventry was then renowned, an industry created by the immigrant Huguenots. Could some Huguenots have changed their name to that of Hollier / Hollyer, a name already in wide use in Warwickshire? Well, further analysis shows these silkmen to have been descended from wine merchants and although I cannot positively trace this line back before a marriage in 1687, there is a quite credible possible ancestry that can be found without invoking any Huguenot factors.

But let us return to the Ollier / Hollier issue. We know some people with the separate Cheshire / North Staffordshire name of Ollier became Holliers in the 19th century. But was there any other connec-

tion between the names? There is much stronger evidence that Ollier may be a Huguenot name and as noted above, it seems that the Huguenot Society have opined that Ollier and Hollier are the same name. In his 2004 book *The Distinctive Surnames of North Staffordshire*, Edgar Tooth states:

*Hollier is usually construed as a nickname for a lecher, whereas Ollier is a maker or seller of oil. Yet these two surnames occur side by side during the 1500s in the Penkridge parish registers; Thomas Hollyer buried on June 5th 1573, and Margaret Ollier baptised on April 5th 1579. The loss or addition of the initial "H" is almost universal in local dialects, so there is no problem here on that score, so the likelihood remains that the two names are simply variants of each other and are toponymics for a dweller by a holly bush.*

I choose to disagree. To reach such a firm conclusion based on just one baptism and one burial is poor analysis. The fact that neither Ollier nor Hollyer seem to feature again in Penkridge is ignored. The facts seem to suggest both these people are either strays from the more common territories of their respective surnames, or one is simply a transcription error by the parish clerk. Only if there was continuous co-existence of the name variants over several generations would it be safe to assume that the spellings were interchangeable, as is the case for Hollyer and Hollier in Warwickshire. It is sad to see such poor research in such an important book.

### • Origins elsewhere

As our studies are worldwide, I need to say something about the origins of the name elsewhere. Occurrences of the the name as found in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India have all been traced back to emigrants from England. Several US families also originate from England, but the notable exception is the Hollier name in Louisiana and nearby southern states of the USA. There the name is known to descend from three brothers who came from Nantes, France. in the early 18th century. Even today, the Holliers in southern USA pronounce their name the French way (Ol-yeah, but sometimes now pronouncing the H as well).

The US censuses also record families from Germany and indeed the IGI and Vital Records Index do show a few, but on the whole it is France where the name is found in large numbers. Of interest is that the name Hollier has a distinctively different distribution in France from the name Ollier. The other factor influencing the name in the USA is the impact of Anglicisation of names as immigrants came through Ellis Island. So a Swedish Holger family became Holyer and a Ukrainian Holiat (meaning Goliath) became Hollyer.

### • Name variants

As one-namers, we are familiar with the concept

of name variants. Derek Palgrave coined the term “deviants” to distinguish between true variant names, those people themselves used, and spellings that parish clerks, census enumerators and other record takers used. We don’t often get to see what names our forebears actually used. Evidence may come from signatures or MIs, but many folk left little written evidence. We know that John Holyer, the “portal individual” of the Kent Holyers, signed his name as Holyer on his marriage bond of 1737 and on his will of 1772. But the Canterbury Cathedral registers recorded his marriage as Hollier.

The sheer variation in deviant spellings within a single parish register can sometimes be surprising. Here is the sequence of baptism records from St Martin-in-the-Fields for the family of John and Elizabeth Hollier:

1630 John Hollier  
 1632 Thomas Holliard (later buried as Hollyer)  
 1633 Matthew Hollier  
 1636 Samuel Hollier  
 1638 Elizabeth Hallier  
 1639 Susanna Hollyard  
 1642 Maria Hollyer  
 1644 Symon Hollier (who is thought to have emigrated to Virginia and started a dynasty of six generations called Simon Hollier)  
 1646 Edward Holliard

The addition of the final “d” is found elsewhere in London in the 17th century. Samuel Pepys’s surgeon, Thomas Hollier, was often referred to in the great man’s diary as Hollyard and his children’s baptisms were variously recorded as Hollier, Hollyer, Hollyar, Holliar and Hollyard. The extra “d” doesn’t sound like something a modern London accent might append, so it’s hard to know exactly how the name might then have been pronounced. The final “d” is not found in the North Warwickshire heartland of the Hollier name, but has been recorded in Shropshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Sussex. However, the extra “d” is almost unknown after the 17th century.

One interesting document is the PCC will of John Hollier of 1697, who was a Mercer from Shrewsbury. He was admitted as a burgess of the city in 1664 and was Mayor in 1692. We can assume he was literate, but when his will was drawn up it was in the name of John Hollyer, but at the end of the document he is referred to as John Hollier. Even in legal documents, the variation of spelling seems to have been considered of no importance. All the evidence I have collected suggests the only genuine variants are Hollier, Hollyer and Holyer. However, one can draw up a chart to show all the permutations of deviant spellings that have been found (Figure 3).

Further deviant spellings are found in the census and in their modern indexes. Nineteenth century handwriting can be hard to read and if the indexer is not native to the UK, this can add further problems. The following have been found: Hollyee, Holler, Hollger, Holger, Hallier, Holier, Hollier,

Holliger, Hollin, Hollow, Holles, Hollien, Hollies, Hollyar, Holyar, Hoblyn, Halyer, Helier, Hellier, Helliard, Oliver, Ollier and Olliar.

The reverse problem also occurs. The separate surnames Hallier, Hullier, Hillier, Hellier and Ollier can end up transcribed as Hollier. I have spent many an hour pitting my wits with census indexes to find “missing” members of the families. Although we all

H	O	L	L	I	E	R	-
	A	L	Y	A			D
				O			

Figure 3 – chart of deviant spelling permutations

dislike the poor quality of some census indexes, there’s a certain intellectual satisfaction in tracking down mis-indexed persons – and an equal frustration when you fail!

Of the three main variants, since the 19th century, it fair to say that Hollier dominates and is five times the frequency of Hollyer, while Holyer is almost entirely confined to the Kent family that stemmed from Woodchurch. Most of the West Midlands families used the Hollier spelling. The Somerset and Oxfordshire families also used Hollier alone. However, the further one goes back, more cases can be found where both Hollyer and Hollier are found together, in places such as Berkshire, Sussex and Hampshire (including the Isle of Wight). The main changes during the 19th century were the gradual adoption of the Hollyer spelling by some of the Kent Holyers (but both co-exist today) and a few of the Cheshire Olliers that adopted the Hollier name.

### • Prominent people

The joy of a one-name study is that you often come across some notable people with interesting lives and connections. The Hollyer painters in my own family are interesting, if not household names, and I am pleased to have three examples of their original work as well as prints and many other images on my website. My own 2x gt-grandfather, George Hollyer, is said to have done the etched glass work for the famous Angel pub in Islington – which, in a curious reversal of present day trends, was closed and converted to a bank!

Amongst the many interesting individuals found during research are:

#### Thomas Hollier 1609–1690

Already referred to, Thomas was born in Coventry in 1609 and from 1629 trained in London as a surgeon, or chirurgeon as it was often then called. He worked at both Barts and St Thomas’s Hospitals, the latter for 53 years. He is famous for operating on Samuel Pepys for the removal of a large bladder stone in 1658. This was in the days when such surgery without anaesthetics or antiseptics often led





to death. In 1662 Thomas did 30 consecutive stone operations without losing a single patient. He became a close friend of Samuel Pepys and Robert Boyle. His portrait (left) hangs at the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

#### **Frederick Hollyer 1837–1933**

Frederick came from a family of engravers. In 1869 he produced a couple of mezzo-tint engravings of Landseer paintings, but in the 1870s became a renowned photographer. He excelled in the technique of high quality platinum prints. After photographing the works of Frederic Leighton, he was introduced to the Pre-Raphaelite painters and did work for Edward Burne-Jones, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and G. F. Watts, thereby bringing these artists and their work to a wider audience. He was friendly with many of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, including the designer William Morris. He was also in demand for his studio portraits and his sitters encompassed the aristocracy and leading figures in politics, the arts and sciences.



#### **Richard Hollyer 1728–1778**

Richard was the “father” of what I call the ‘City Hollyers’. He was born in Coventry, the son of Joseph Hollyer (1691–1734). At 14, in 1742, he went to London and was apprenticed to a Mr J. Blakey, a blacksmith trading as a glazier in the City. Blakey died and Richard was transferred to Matthew Jarman to complete his apprenticeship. Matthew Jarman was very prominent in the trade being Master of the Glazier’s Company in 1746. On completing his apprenticeship, he became a Freeman of the City of London in 1750. Later the same year he married Matthew’s daughter Sarah. He was admitted to livery in the Glazier’s Company on September 7 1753 and eventually followed in his father-in-law’s steps by becoming Master in 1775. During his year as Master, he admitted his son Matthew to the Company. Towards the end of his life, with Matthew, he carried out essential repairs to St Paul’s Cathedral.



#### **Henry Hollier c1755–1830**

Henry was born in India, but his ancestors were from the extensive Hollier family of Barton under Needwood in Staffs. He became a civil servant in India, but ill-health forced his move to England in 1784. Soon after, he married and moved to Cardiff, where his two children, Fanny and Henry, were born. Henry had been appointed as Steward to the 1st Marquess of Bute (Lord Cardiff), who was not-

able for restoring Cardiff Castle from ruins. Henry went on to hold a string of public posts in Cardiff in addition to looking after the Marquess’s affairs. He was admitted a Burgess in 1783, became the Town Clerk of Cardiff (1786–1789), Bailiff (1786–1814), Clerk of the Peace (1795–1797), Clerk of the General Meeting (1802), Collector of Customs (1797), and Alderman of Cardiff.

#### **Henry Hollier 1792–1856**

Son of Henry Hollier of Cardiff, above, Henry junior, became Receiver General [of Taxes] of the County in 1813 and followed his father by being admitted a Burgess in 1815. However, Henry appears to have embezzled the taxes and in 1818 his extensive estates were seized by the Crown and sold off to repay his debts. The famous bankers Coutts & Co have surviving correspondence with Henry and his father and it appears he was always giving excuses for being in debt. In 1823, Henry married Mary Ann Babbage, the sister of Charles Babbage, the mathematician famous for his work on early mechanical computing. Henry and Mary Ann had six children and all the Holliers today in the Llanelly area descend from Henry.

#### **William Perring Hollyer 1834–1922**

A noted 19th century painter of animals, especially Scottish scenes. This was a popular genre of painting, probably made so by Queen Victoria’s love of everything Scottish. Five of William’s children also became artists. Despite his love of Scottish scenes, there is no evidence he actually went there.



But he did move around the country, bringing up some of his family in London and some in Liverpool. At the time of the 1881 census, he was at Bettws-y-Coed in North Wales. After returning to London, he moved to Huntingdonshire and finally retired to Faringdon in Oxfordshire. Three of William’s brothers,

including my own great-great grandfather George Hollyer, followed in their father’s trade of Herald Painting. But by the mid-1850s, this had developed into the trade of “Artist on Glass”, using acid to etch glass, widely used in public houses for windows and screens.

As I said at the beginning of this article, no one-name study is ever complete, so in that sense, there can be no conclusion. Research continues to try to link more family groups together, especially those in the Isle of Wight. Some progress is being made in reconstructing and linking the families in Oxfordshire, but any link to the families in Warwickshire to the north remains undiscovered. I try to document as much as I can on my website at [www.hollyer.name](http://www.hollyer.name) and record interesting snippets on the associated Blog.

*I would encourage all members to write up what they know about their “name” – because there may not ever be a better time than now. ○*

# How Great Sheffield Flood of 1864 washed away a family's aitch



By STEVE TANNER

**F**ELLOW GOONS will be familiar with one of the more painstaking, mundane aspects of a one-name study – ploughing through successive quarters of the General Register Office Indexes and noting down all the BMDs of our chosen name.

I recently completed my listing of all the entries for HEMPSALL and the variants HEMPSHALL, HEMPSHELL, HEMPSELL and HEMSHALL. I was fortunate in that, in most cases, these are all on the same page or, at least, adjacent pages.

However, I had come across several instances of aitch-dropping in various censuses, the IGI and parish registers, resulting in spellings such as EMPSALL and EMSELL etc., especially in Yorkshire.

These I had tended to dismiss as scribal errors, influenced by the local dialect's dropping of the "H" in uneducated speech. I had assumed that such mistakes had become increasingly rare since the start of mass education, roughly post-1870. I knew that there was one case of EMSELL in the 1901 census which appeared to arise from someone previously spelt as HEM(P)SALL, but I was reluctant to start a completely new trawl through the GRO, the more so as no living person called EMSELL had contacted me about possible links.

I did, however, put a brief mention in my Guild Profile of the possibility of one or more Sheffield EMSELL families being linked to HEMPSALLs.

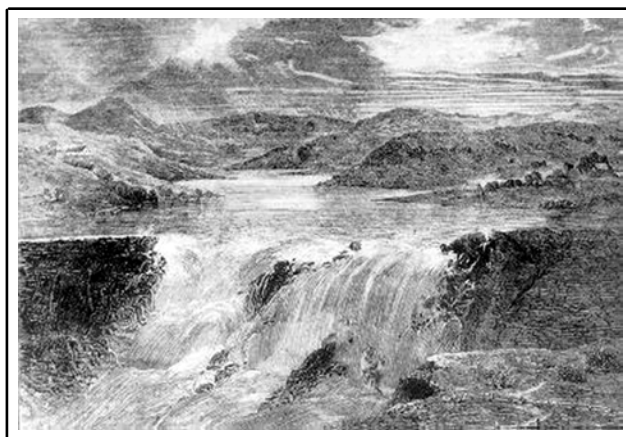
## Surprise

I was in for a surprise when Sue Emsell of Sheffield "Googled" into my profile page with search terms "Emsell-family-Sheffield". Sue had met a brick wall with her husband's family tree. She found that their name – EMSELL – is a very rare one, seemingly confined to her husband's known family around Sheffield, plus a few others in West Yorkshire who seemed to have no connection with the Sheffield family.

After going back as far as her husband Arthur's great-grandfather, William Emsell, Sue had met a brick wall and there was no trace of any EMSELL ancestor further back. She was amazed when I suggested that they were not really EMSELLs at all, but a little lost tribe of HEMPSALLs!

I had already become interested in this particular family who settled in Bradfield, just outside Sheffield, in the 1850s. Joseph HEMSALL and his family were tenants of a small farm called Annet House. The Hemsalls lost most of their possessions in the

Dale Dyke Flood disaster of March 11 1864, when a dam burst, killing 250 people when 650 million gallons of water suddenly poured down the valley into Sheffield, sweeping away everything in its path. See the Sheffield Flood Claim Archive at <http://extra.shu.ac.uk/sfca/> for a full account.



*An artist's impression of the dam bursting*

Thanks to the work of staff of Sheffield University, eye-witness accounts of that frightful night recently went online and I was amazed to find that Joseph Hemsall and his family had a miraculous escape, as quoted in the following account (which has the name wrong):

"The first human abode which the flood reached was the small farmstead of Mr. John Empsall, called Annett House. It was situated quite in the valley, and near the course of the river. It is swept away so completely that no could tell that its site had even been occupied by an erection of any description. House, out-buildings, and garden are all entirely gone. The inhabitants happily escaped, in the following manner, as narrated to us by Mr. Empsall himself. The following is his own statement:—

*'About seven o'clock Friday evening I went to the dam, as I had been told there was a crack in the bank. The people there said there was no danger – it was a frost crack, and I came away. My wife, my three boys, and a lodger named William Rose, who works for the Water Company, went to bed. I sat up, because I had promised to wait for another lodger who works for the Company, and he did not come. A little before twelve at night, Thomas Fish, a labourer, who also works for the Company, came running down, and shouted "It's coming! It's coming!" He said Mr. Gunson had sent him. I called up my wife, my three children, and the lodger, and got*

them out. They had not time to put their clothes, but they carried them on their heads, and put them on when they got to the road. The night was dark, very windy, and very cold. I had a cow and two calves, which I got out. The pig would not come out in time, but it and the donkey were found safe the next morning the bank side, where they had been carried by the flood. We had not been out of the house five minutes when the flood came, and swept everything entirely away. My wife slipped down and hurt her knee. I saw my house going with everything in it. Mr. Gunson came just then, and said: "The house is going! The house is going."<sup>1</sup>

Those further away from the dam – and, therefore, too far away to be warned – were less fortunate. Bodies were washed up as far down the river Don as Doncaster.

Was it possible, I wondered, that the trauma of the experience, plus the destruction of whatever written documents the family may have possessed, may have actually caused the loss of the "H" in this family's name?

Joseph put in a claim for compensation and received £60 – not a lot for the loss of his home and livelihood (see the image below). Most of it would have gone on maintaining his family while they found alternative accommodation. By the 1871 census, Joseph had been forced to give up farming and was working as a labourer.

After Joseph's death in 1875, his son William worked as a stone-breaker on the roads. In the censuses, when asked by an official who called at his house what his name was, William would probably have replied: "'Ems'll" – and this would have been interpreted by the census enumerator as Emsell, a name which did, in fact, already exist among a few people in the Dewsbury area, although from a quite different source, the village of South Elmsall.

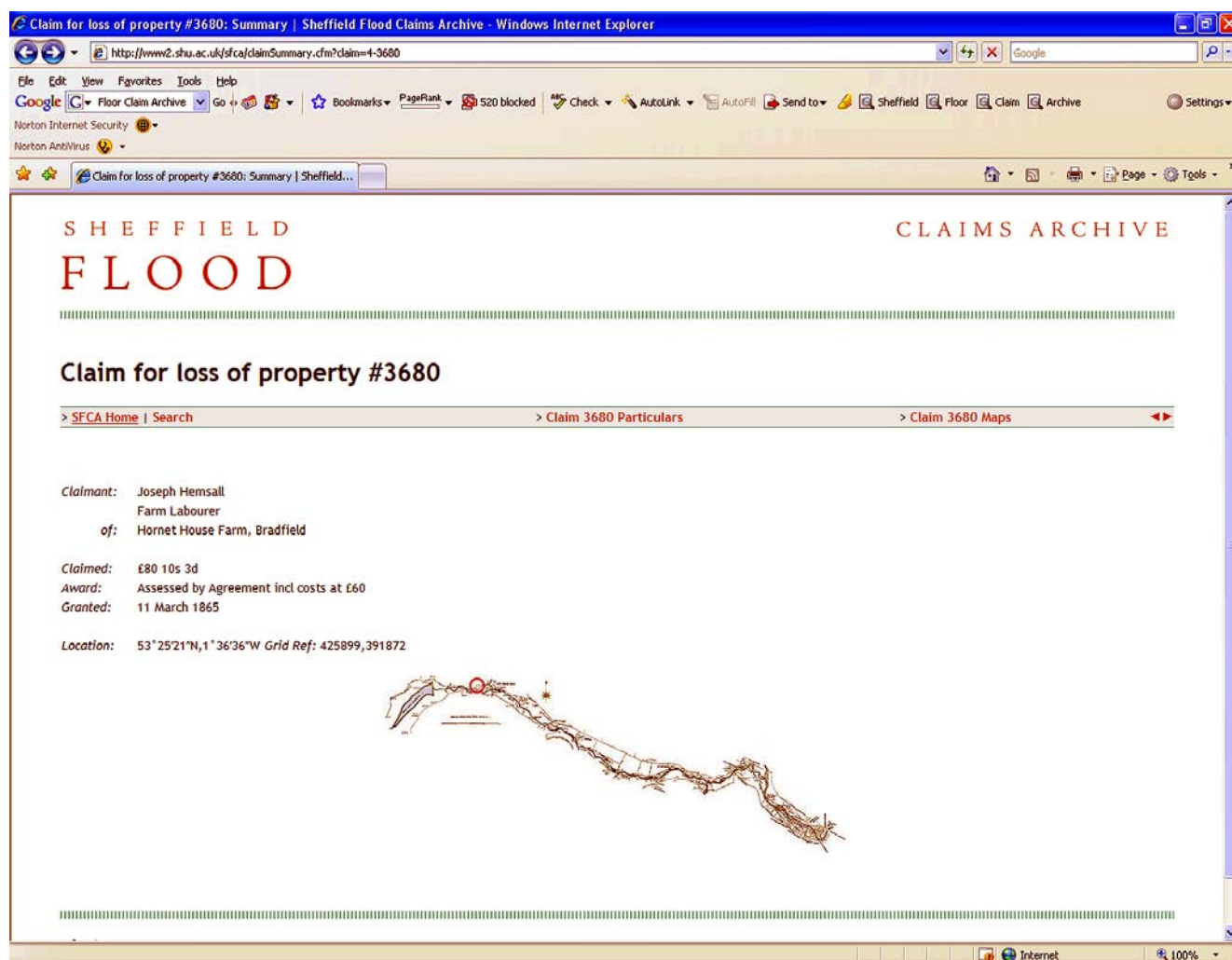
William, whose birth certificate may have been washed away along with the rest of the family's belongings, may have vaguely recalled that the name had sometimes been pronounced with an H, but would have been unable to prove it.

Sue Emsell, who makes dolls and dolls' clothing for dolls' houses says: "I was surprised to find that we should really be Hemsall, but I don't think we'll be changing the spelling – we're too used to it.

**"We're happy to be Emsells, and also now proud of Arthur's great-great grandfather who survived the Great Sheffield Flood, just as later members of the family survived the Blitz."** ○

STEVE TANNER  
Member 4001

1. From: <http://mick-armitage.staff.shef.ac.uk/sheffield/book/w-page4.html>).





# I'm not convinced DNA tests are the answer to all our genealogical problems

*WHILE more and more family historians – especially many one-namers – are becoming enthusiastic about DNA testing as a means of solving genealogical problems and linking family groups, not everyone is yet convinced that DNA tests are the Holy Grail of genealogy. As the Journal has published a number of major articles on the topic, in the interests of editorial balance we are also publishing this one by a sceptic. ELSE CHURCHILL is the full-time Genealogy Officer at the Society of Genealogists and her article first appeared in the November 2006 issue of Your Family Tree.*

By ELSE CHURCHILL

**M**ANY JOURNALISTS ask me whether family historians should bother using documents and sources for their research because genetic advances will ultimately prove all we need to know.

Well, I've had quite a few discussions with geneticists and genealogists about DNA tests and I'm not convinced. Often the results seem to me to confirm what either common sense or historical evidence suggests already.

The much-publicised study of the origins of the name Sykes suggested that nearly 50 per cent of those tested had common ancestry whereas the others presumably had varied and unrelated origins. A locative or topographical name such as Sykes (meaning a ditch or stream of water) might well suggest that the name should have occurred in several different geographical areas where local dialect used the Old English term.

We are meant to be surprised that so many of those tested were apparently related but equally we see that the other 50 per cent are not. The half that are connected may well come from a more virile or fertile progenitor. Or more probably there may be less people related in this group than has been suggested because the particular DNA test that was used was unsophisticated and tested very few STR markers, making no distinction as to which haplogroups or clade the individuals belonged to.

The more sophisticated and expensive tests that look at more markers and other rare genetic mutations which would suggest a more accurate analysis of relationships aren't yet being offered on the general market for genealogists.

DNA tests can prove that we're definitely not related paternally or that two men probably are.

But these tests don't resolve the huge grey area in between. Firstly, they don't take into account the effects of illegitimacy.

Yes, a study of the Y chromosome might show that some surnames do share a common ancestor. However, this success implies a high degree of faithfulness between husbands and wives. But there are high levels of unrecorded illegitimacy.

This non-paternity can arise from sex outside marriage, adoption or simply by taking a different surname from their father (to obtain an inheritance, for instance). Estimates vary but in about five per cent to 30 per cent of recorded births or baptisms the recorded father is not the genetic father. The observed non-paternity rate for the Sykes was 1.3 per cent, and while this is low, it is sufficient for only half the Sykes to be genetically linked.

If the more sophisticated tests show that two men with the same surname have the same STR pattern at many markers sites and within the same clade, then they are likely to be closely related within the past 30 generations since the name became hereditary. But that supposed closeness of relationship is over such a long time in history that it obviously can't show where the genealogical or family connection might appear.

Similarly, Mitochondrial DNA tests seem to me to be of very limited genealogical help. I'm not convinced that having a guide to one's far distant ethnicity really gets us very far. True, most people have trouble finding ancestors born before 1800 and DNA can reveal more distant ancestors, but what it cannot give us is their names and nor can it tell us what occurred to individual ancestors in the intervening generations out of Africa.

Despite all the media hype at the time and the *Guinness Book of Records'* claims, a local school-teacher is not actually a descendant of the caveman found in Cheddar Gorge. Their common maternal ancestor lived about 3,000 years before Cheddar man met his violent death around 7000 BC. The fact that Cheddar man and Adrian Targett are related very, very distantly tells us nothing about the school-teacher's family history.

***By all means continue interesting surname genetic studies; they are as relevant as conventional one-name studies. But until the sample groups are significantly larger and the tests more statistically relevant to genealogists, I reserve my judgement. ○***



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## Celebrating 100 issues of the Guild Journal – how to use your cover CD

By Cliff Kemball

**Y**OU WILL have found with this issue of the Journal a copy of the first-ever cover CD supplied by the Guild of One-Name Studies.

This disc should autoload and provide you with an index page of the contents in your web browser. If it does not, simply use Windows Explorer to view the contents of the CD and then double-click on the file, **index.html**. The introduction page of the CD will then be opened in your browser.

Use the tabs on the left-hand side of this page in order to navigate. All the documents on this CD are in Portable Document Format (PDF) that can be read

and searched by Adobe Reader. A copy of Adobe Reader 7 (compatible with Windows XP and Windows 2000) has been included on the CD for those who do not already have it. To install Adobe Acrobat Reader 7 click on the link near the bottom on the Introduction page.

For members who need to install an earlier version of Acrobat Reader, a copy of Acrobat Reader 6 has also been placed on the CD. Use Windows Explorer to view the contents and then double-click on the file, **AdbRd60\_DLM\_enu\_full**.

### Journals

All 100 editions of the Guild of One-Name Studies' Journals (Volume 1, Issue 1, Winter 1981/2 to Volume 9, Issue 4, October 2006) are on this CD. There are well over 500 main articles and numerous reviews of books and CDs, as well as letters from Guild members providing their views on issues in the one-name world. Members will be able to search and/or read all the interesting one-name study articles produced over the last 25 years.

To view an individual Journal click on the image of the front cover. Much of the advice and guidance provided in some of the Guild's earlier Journals are just as valid today as when they were first

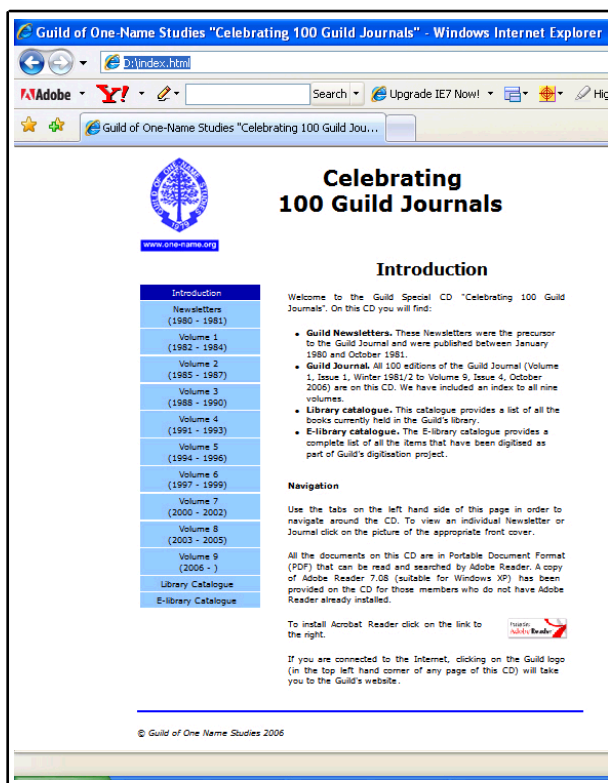
published. Search, read and enjoy! To assist you in finding the articles you may be interested in, we have included an index to all nine volumes.

With Acrobat Reader 7 it is possible to search the entire PDF files on the Guild CD. After you have loaded one of the PDF files on the disc click "edit" and then "search". This will provide you with the Acrobat Reader 7 search facility where you type in the word or phrase that you want to search for.

Click on the box for "All the documents in" and then enter whichever is your CD drive from the drop-down menu, and then press "search". You will be given a list of all the search results. Clicking on any of the results will then bring you to the relevant PDF document and page and the word or phrased that has been searched is highlighted. This is an excellent way of finding out whether your one-name surname is mentioned in any of the Guild Journals.

### Guild Newsletters

Eight Newsletters were the precursors to the Journal and were published between January 1980 and October 1981. The Newsletters played a vital role in the early days of the Guild and Derek Palgrave, our President, wrote an article about them in the 100th edition of the Journal (Volume 9, Issue 4), describing the contents and paying tribute to the early Guild pioneers who produced and wrote articles for them. Read them and I am sure you will get an understanding of the excitement and energy that our founding members put into



Introduction page

setting up the Guild of One-Name Studies.

## Library Catalogue

The Library Catalogue provides a list of all the books currently held in the Guild's Library. Against each book title is an indicator as to whether the book can be loaned out, searched by the Guild Librarian for any specific

**GUILD President DEREK PALGRAVE comments on this latest initiative by the Guild:**

*"Keeping our records, in a conveniently accessible form, is an important essential for all of us who are involved in any aspect of research. It is especially noteworthy to see the Guild of One-Name Studies taking a lead in conserving copies of its own records on CD-ROM. It means that every member will be able to refer not only to all our early Newsletters and the complete run of Journals up to No 100, but also a listing of the contents of the Guild's Library, including both books and digitised data."*

*"It is a source of pride to know that our organisation is setting the pace for the growing number of specialists who are engaged in applying modern information technology to the management of recorded data, its maintenance and ease of retrieval."*

surname or is available for reference purposes to enable answers to be given to any queries raised by members. This service is only available to Guild Members.

Currently there are 500 items in the Guild Library. The library catalogue excludes all the material previously held in the Guild Library which has since been digitised. Details of this material are included in the Guild's E-library catalogue. To view the E-library catalogue, click on the box marked "E-library catalogue" on the left hand side of the Guild Library page.

Items identified as available for loan can on request be lent to Guild members on a trust basis. Members may apply to the librarian – [librarian@one-name.org](mailto:librarian@one-name.org) – for the loan of material on the understanding that when they return the material at their own expense they will also reimburse the Guild for the cost of any outgoing postage costs incurred on their behalf.

## E-Library

The E-Library catalogue provides a complete list of all the items that have been digitised as part of Guild's digitisation project. The catalogue, which has nearly 4,400 items, has been split into two sections. The first section identifies all the images that

can be provided to Guild members on request (or searched by the Guild e-librarian, if preferred). Secondly, it identifies images for which the Guild e-librarian is currently waiting for "release" authority from the originators of the material to enable the images to be provided to Guild members, or where such authority has been refused.

Items identified as "released" can be made available to Guild members either as an e-mail attachment or be sent out on a CD for a nominal cost. Where the material being supplied to members relates to an existing registered name the relevant Guild member will be informed of your interest in the name, so they can contact you to provide additional information where appropriate.

Some of the originators of the material "awaiting release" are likely to provide release authority in due course. If you are interested in any digitised material that is currently shown as copyright, please contact the e-librarian – [elibrarian@one-name.org](mailto:elibrarian@one-name.org) – to see if the status has changed.

*I hope you will find this CD yet another valuable addition to the Guild's services and that its availability will increase members' use of the Guild Library and the Guild E-Library in the future. ○*

Title of Book	Date	Author	Topic or Area	Availability
A memorable 20th of July - the occurrence of giant hailstones at Northampton in 190	1975 reprint	Michael G Glazebrook	Genealogy	Loan
Ancestral Anomalies	1996	Southwick, Michael	Witty Quotes from Genealogy	Loan
Annals of the Blo(olr(e) Families	2005 (Decemb	Ian Bloor	ONS magazine	Loan
Annals of the Blo(olr(e) Families	2005 (June)	Joyce Settle	ONS magazine	Loan
Annals of the Blo(olr(e) Families	2005 (March)	Joyce Settle	ONS newsletter	Loan
Annals of the Blo(olr(e) Families	2005 (Septem	Joyce Settle	ONS newsletter	Loan
Annals of the Blo(olr(e) Families	2006 (June)	Ian Bloor	ONS magazine	Loan
Annals of the Blo(olr(e) Families	2006 (March)	Ian Bloor	ONS magazine	Loan
Annals of the Blo(olr(e) Families	2006 (Septem	Ian Bloor	ONS magazine	Loan
Armagh Families	2003	Thomas Stothers	Genealogy	Search
Army records, WWI More Sources	1986	Holding, Norman	More Sources	Reference
Army records, Location of WWI Sources	1987	Holding, Norman	Location of WWI Sources,	Reference
Army records, Location of WWI Sources, 1st ed.	1984	Holding, Norman		Reference
Army records, Locn of WWI Sources, 2nd ed.	1984	Holding, Norman		Reference
Association Manager	1999		Management	Reference

Library Catalogue page

# Hounslow Computer Seminar focused on keeping records in various programs

By Bob Golder

**T**HE GUILD'S regional seminars are a way for members to meet and exchange ideas. The emphasis of the Computer Seminar at Hounslow last November was how four one-namers keep their records in various computer programs. The members present included a cross section of beginners and experienced users of computers, using a variety of different programs.

Jeanne Bunting started the day with a Welcome and Overview presentation of the different ways in which computers can be used by one-namers. Even experienced computer users picked up some tips from this presentation. How many people remember to back up or take copies of key data before importing gedcom files into their databases? Jeanne reminded everyone of the problems if you do not.

Sue Turner did the first of the four main presentations on *Using General Purpose Programs*, in this case a combination of standard word processor, spreadsheet and database packages, rather than dedicated genealogy programs. It was clear Sue had spent considerable time developing various custom reports for her ONS. I noted one report that she had developed to show the different census references for each person included in her one-name study – to show at a glance which references (or census) were missing.

Brian Horridge gave the next presentation on *Custodian*. In this case he based his presentation on the latest version, *Custodian 3*. I am a user of the earlier version, *Custodian 2* – purchased willingly from the Guild's Bookstall without my arm being twisted – and I was interested to know what are the advantages of using the latest version.

*Custodian* is not a genealogy program for drawing family trees but it is useful for storing one-

name data from a variety of different sources. Brian outlined the improvements made by the latest version – e.g., importing data is now easier and more reliable. I will be upgrading to the new version in the New Year.

As a user of *Pedigree* (a DOS program) who has only recently upgraded to the windows-based version *PediTree*, I was interested in the presentations after lunch.

Teresa Pask gave an excellent demonstration of the program *The Master Genealogist*, showing examples of the various reports and trees produced by this package. She also explained there was a user group program that provided additional support to individual users. Teresa also explained how she found the program useful in transferring data direct to her website and made the task of keeping her website up-to-date easier.

John Hanson gave the final presentation on the program, *Family Historian*. He emphasised that this was a UK-based program rather than an adaptation of a program developed in the USA, such as *Family Tree Maker*.

John also showed the various reports available as standard and how he used the program in his one-name study. He also indicated that the program was capable of exporting data to update a website in a straightforward manner. John's enthusiasm for the program clearly came over in his presentation.

Over the years I have attended a number of regional seminars and I have found it is often the question and answer sessions at the end of the day that are so helpful. I certainly picked up some new ideas from these sessions on the day. Both John Hanson and Teresa Park indicated their respective software programs were complicated, but if one spent time learning them in detail they were capable of help-

ing a one-name study in a variety of ways.

*On a personal note thanks should go to all the people who gave their time to organise and take part in the seminar, running the bookstall and not forgetting those who did the washing up for the tea and coffee. It contributed to an excellent day. ○*

BOB GOLDER  
Member 949

## Guild Conference

BOOKINGS are going extremely well for the 2007 Guild Conference and AGM at Hampshire Centre Court in Basingstoke next April – so don't delay, book today! There is a booking form in this Journal mailing and bookings close at the end of January. Half the accommodation is already taken. Don't miss out on speakers such as Kathy Chater, Nick Barrett, Pamela Horn, Maggie Bird and many others speaking on a variety of topics on *Lesser Known Sources*.

There is just one consideration which you need to be aware of when booking for this year's conference. Unfortunately, there are some engineering works going on around the Basingstoke train lines, so all lines to Basingstoke are closed completely from Friday, April 6 to Monday, April 17. The trains from London will terminate at Winchfield with onward bus service; trains from Southampton will go no further than Micheldever; and from the Salisbury direction buses will meet trains at Andover. There will be no service between Reading and Basingstoke and there is currently no mention of any buses being provided.

I am sorry to be the bearer of this disappointing news, but at least you are forewarned and hopefully forearmed, so you can determine for yourselves how best to approach Basingstoke by public transport. Look forward to seeing you there! ○

KIRSTY GRAY  
Conference Organiser





## Thanks to members for Guild Gift Aid success

**WOULD LIKE to give a big "thank you" to all those Guild members who responded to my campaign to get more members to sign a Gift Aid Declaration.**

As a direct result, the Guild has increased its revenue from Gift Aid from around £3,500 in the 2004–05 financial year to over £8,600 in the 2005–06 financial year. Prior to the start of the campaign, the percentage of UK members who had signed Gift Aid Declarations stood at 49 per cent.

The campaign involved sending out 668 emails and 188 letters to Guild members who at that time had not completed a Gift Aid Declaration. The percentage of members who have now signed a Gift Aid Declaration has increased to 61 per cent.

As at December 1, 953 UK members had signed GADs, 100 UK members had previously signed a deed of covenant, while a further 91 had stated that they were ineligible to sign a GAD. Only a handful of members have replied to say that they did not want to sign a GAD.

### Success

Whilst the Gift Aid campaign has clearly been a success, there are still a number of Guild members who did not respond to my request for them to sign a GAD or did not let me know that they were ineligible to sign a Gift Aid Declaration.

There are appropriately 600 UK members in this category and I plan to e-mail or write to them again later this year as part of a follow-up Gift Aid

campaign. The additional money received as a result of these campaigns will continue to assist the Guild in financing its various activities and prolong the date when the Guild may need to increase its subscription rate. Do not forget that signing a Gift Aid Declaration does not cost you anything, other than a minute of your time.

I would also like to thank those Guild members who have donated money to the Guild during the 2005–06 financial year. Many of these donations were provided as a thank-you from members for the Marriage Challenge certificates they had received.

Donations during the financial year exceeded £1,000, of which nearly 50 per cent was in response to the Guild Marriage Challenge.

### Challenge

As many of you will realise, the Guild Marriage Challenge has been a huge success and the number of Guild members undertaking a marriage challenge continues to increase and the number of members benefiting from the results of the challenges also continues to increase.

If you have been the recipient of a number of Guild Marriage Challenge certificates and would like to donate money to the Guild in appreciation, please send you cheque to: The Guild Treasurer, 168 Green Lane, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 6AY.

***Every single donation is fully appreciated by the Guild and will be used to help finance the expenses incurred in undertaking the marriage challenges. ○***

## Marriage Challenge – latest update...

WHAT DOES it take to be a Challenger?

Firstly, the Challenger needs to be able to easily get to a County Records Office or other repository where parish records or microform copies are kept. The Guild will pay all reasonable expenses including travel (limit of £15 per day) subject to certain conditions. Some of us have free travel passes on buses which can come in useful.

Secondly, the Challenger must be able to organise data. Many requests will be received and these will need to be sorted into date order. A spreadsheet in Excel is a common method, or possibly the use of a database in Works, for instance.

Third, the Challenger needs to be methodical and careful. A record must be kept of church registers that have been searched and when a marriage entry is found, it must be carefully recorded. I am finding this is easier said than done and although giving each find a quick check I am still making the occasional mistake.

So do you fit the bill? If you think you do and would like to give Marriage Challenge a try or would like to know more, please contact me at [marriage-challenge@one-name.org](mailto:marriage-challenge@one-name.org).

The sheer volume of requests that sometimes are received, particularly for the larger registration districts, may well put off those of you who know a little about the effort put in by Challengers. There is a cure to this which several Challengers are adopting. This is to restrict the period of the Challenge. Make the Challenge 1837 to 1850 for instance, see how it goes and perhaps consider a second stage 1851 to 1871 later. There is certainly no need to go for the full period 1837 to 1911.

Marriage Challenges commencing in the coming months are given in the Table. If you would like to request a search for



# Seminars update. .

**PUBLISHING YOUR ONE-NAME STUDY SEMINAR**, February 17 2007. Venue: Bletchley Park, Wilton Avenue, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

Following the success of the Computer Seminar at Bletchley Park in 2005, we are returning to the famous wartime code-breaking centre on February 17 2007. This time the theme is Publishing Your One-Name Study. Once again we will be departing from the normal seminar format by having only three lectures and a short question-and-answer session.

## Park tour

This will enable you to go on a tour of the Park – and if you did it last time it will almost certainly not be the same, as no two guides are alike.

The day should be another action-packed one with three eminent Guild speakers to entertain you. Maurice Hemingway has won several Guild Awards for his Journal and will be talking about producing a Newsletter; Teresa Pask has won several Guild awards for her website and will look at all aspects of producing a one-name website; finally, Colin

Ulph will be talking about putting all that information you accumulate into a book.

The day will include a buffet lunch within the £20 price. There is a limit of 100 tickets available, so book early to avoid disappointment.

**JOHN HANSON**  
Seminar organiser

**DNA SEMINAR**, May 19. Venue: The Nuthall Temple Community Centre, Nottingham Road, Nuthall, Nottingham.

We are attempting to obtain the services of Guild members who have undertaken DNA studies to speak at this seminar and inform us of their progress.

**SERVICE RECORDS SEMINAR**, August 18. Venue: The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey.

We have obtained the services of two specialist TNA speakers and two non-TNA speakers. There will also be opportunities to undertake a behind-the-scenes tour of The National Archives. Overseas members might wish to note this event for their summer visit!

**COMPUTER SEMINAR**, November 17. Venue: Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford.

**NAMES SEMINAR**, February 2008. Venue: Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Station Approach, Solihull.

**PALAEOGRAPHY SEMINAR**, May 2008. Venue: TBA. We are still looking for a record office or library with good natural lighting in order to carry out this seminar – can anyone assist please?

**PRACTICAL COMPUTER SEMINAR**, August 2008. Venue: TBA. Owing to the difficulty of finding a university of college with a computer suite available in the summer holidays, we may use a venue with up to five computers, each running a separate FH program with a tutor on hand – can anyone assist please?

**PRE 19th CENTURY ONE-NAME STUDIES**, November 2008. Venue: TBA

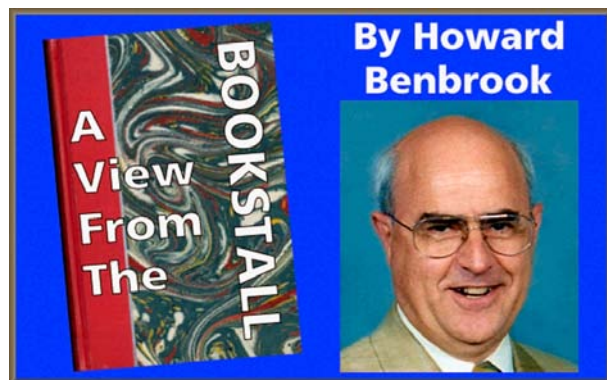
**ROD CLAYBURN**  
Secretary  
Seminar Subcommittee

your marriages (registered names only) send to the Challenger the details from the GRO index for the period stated either by e-mail or to the Challenger's postal address given in the Guild Register. Also, keep a watch on the Guild web page for Marriage Challenge as further Challenges are announced. I am now updating the web page regularly early in each month.

For more information on Marriage Challenge, what it comprises and how it works, see the article in the Journal of October–December 2005.

**PETER COPSEY**  
Marriage Challenge  
Coordinator

Registration District and Period	Deadline for Requests	Challenger	Challenger's e-mail
Whitechapel 1837 - 1860	21 January	Howard Benbrook	howard@benbrook.org.uk
Halifax 1852-1871	21 January	Pat Lord	patricia@jervaulx.demon.co.uk
Huddersfield 1852-1871	21 January	Pat Lord	patricia@jervaulx.demon.co.uk
Exeter 1881 - 1911	22 January	Des Gander	gander@one-name.org
Royston 1837 - 1911	30 January	Peter Hagger	peter@hagger.org
Wangford 1837 - 1911	1 February	Bernie Guymer	guymer@one-name.org
Liverpool 1852-1911	14 February	Susan Atkins	scotchmer@one-name.org
Guiltcross 1837 - 1911	1 April	John Pepperdine	john@robertpepperdine.freese rve.co.uk
Wisbech 1837 - 1911	1 April	John Pepperdine	john@robertpepperdine.freese rve.co.uk



# Welcome to the heritage market, with family history set to rival gardening and antiques

**W**ELL, I TOLD you the heat was on – now someone's turned up the gas still further. With the significant role now played by television and supported by professional marketing events (see below), it looks like the cosy world of family history will be changed forever.

Welcome to the heritage market, something that's set to rival the worlds of gardening and antiques in the relentless pursuit of your disposable income.

The online providers have been hard at work and 1837online have now completed their transition to their new brand as **findmypast.com**. That's not a cheap exercise, by the way, so you can see they mean business.

However, the web pages all perform in the same way and the eagle-eyed among you will recognise that they've retained their blue and lime colour scheme. They're pushing harder with their subscriptions, too, with an annual price tag of £65 for access to all the BMD and census records. That's cheaper than Ancestry but Ancestry have more census records on offer. Mind you, that's likely to change over the coming months.

One unique line **findmypast** have introduced is their Subscription Vouchers, which means you can buy an annual subscription without the need to submit your credit card details online. They work in the same way as a £5 (50 unit) voucher, but once you've signed in you have access for a year. Needless to say, members can buy one from the Guild Bookstall with a 10% discount – and

they come in their own little gift wallet, so they make great presents!

Ancestry are galloping ahead as predicted, presumably because they're able to make more investments now that there is secure revenue from the subscription income. We can expect more online records once they strike agreements with the owners of the data. As I write this, they've just added the Scottish census records for 1851 and 1861 to the existing 1841 census.

## Turmoil

But what's happened to Genes Reunited? Their owners, ITV, are still in turmoil and I imagine there's confusion everywhere. I'm writing this in mid-December, so there may be changes by the time you read this but, for me, they need to offer a wider range of records and their overly simple search page for the 1851 and 1901 censuses misses the point – you're required to use both surname and forename.

Of course, they have a strong track record of bringing people together, and their annual fee for under £10 is well worth the trouble, but they're stumbling with their adventure into online records, especially if they don't drop the price.

There's plenty of room for all of these suppliers – what we don't want is dominance by just a few. But sales of their vouchers have been disappointing and I'm likely to withdraw my support, so buy now at a significant discount, if you want to take advantage.

As you will see elsewhere in this Journal, the SoG Fair over the UK May Day Holiday weekend is

to be absorbed into a very different event, *Who Do You Think You Are? LIVE*, taking place at Olympia. This is something like four times the size of its forerunner, promises to be a major national event (think Chelsea Flower Show) and likely to attract huge crowds. It carries the secondary title of *The National History Show*, to give you some idea. Needless to say, we can't not be there and I've taken the decision to book space for all three days, so if you fancy helping out behind the Bookstall, let me know (hint: although you have to work, it's likely to save you money).

## What's new, what's big?

Well, they're not big exactly, but I've recently increased the range of those neat little books from Shire Publications. These titles give a brief introduction to historical topics and can be very helpful to get an initial insight into a subject and point you to where you might find out more.



They're all inexpensive, too, most under £5.00. I've given them their own section in the latest Bookstall Price List, so take a look if you want the complete story, but the new titles in the Victorian/Edwardian series are *The Vic-*

torian Clergyman, *The Victorian Chemist & Druggist* (just what was the street price of laudanum?), *The Victorian Ironmonger*, *Victorian Photographers at Work* and *The Edwardian Home*.

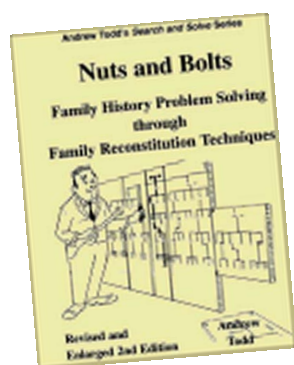
I also decided I didn't have many titles of military significance. Puzzled by that medal you found in Grandad's attic? Maybe *British Campaign Medals, 1815–1914* or *British Campaign Medals, 1914–2005* may help? Or maybe *British Gallantry Awards* or *British Orders & Decorations* would be more appropriate? Two other titles that I feel will give



you some military background are: *Discovering English County Regiments* and *Military Barracks*.

Somewhere else in this Journal you will read my review of *Genealogy Online for Dummies*. I hope you will feel it's fair and balanced and not just a sneaky way of selling you more books. I hate the idea I might be selling things that are useless; I'd give up first. The book is not for everyone, but it does have some merit, so if you feel it would be useful to you, it's there on the Bookstall Price List.

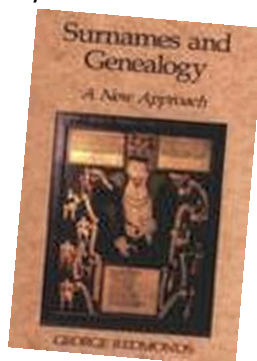
And here's a title that's not new, but it's arguably different



and could be very helpful. *Nuts & Bolts* by Andrew Todd received a

significant support on the Forum just a few weeks ago when the call went out for holiday reading recommendations. The book's not much to look at: a rather pallid cover and the content is devoid of fancy graphics, but the advice is golden. I think I'd characterise it with phrases like "guidance on lateral thinking", or maybe "thinking outside the box".

I thought I was being clever a little while back when I managed to get a good deal on a bulk purchase on George Redmonds' book, *Surnames & Genealogy - A New Approach*. Trouble is, I forgot to mention the 25% discount I was able to offer to Guild members as a consequence. It's time to buy now, while stocks last!



## Challenge of marriage

In case you missed my announcement on the Forum, I'm issuing another Marriage Challenge with this article. Not content with my modest takeover of Stepney and Mile End and my subsequent incursion into St Giles in the East, I've now decided to annex Whitechapel. They offered little resistance. If you'd like the details of a marriage bearing your registered name that took place in the Whitechapel Registration District between 1837 and 1911, then I may be able to help!

To ensure I remain married, I'm going to take it in three stages, so please send me the full GRO Index references for those marriages between 1837 and 1860. I'll have to impose a deadline, but you've got until January 21 to get the information to me.

## Where we're going

Full of good intentions I set off to the Hastings & Rother FHS Fair

as planned, only to get frustrated by a front wheel puncture on the motorway. Not a pleasant experience, but all is safe.

However, the Guild did get representation at Coventry FHS Fair, Eastleigh FH Fair, Oxon FHS Research Open Day, Cheltenham FH Fair, Doncaster FHS Open Day, Scarsdale FH Fair, (both of these with the Northern Bookstall), Aintree FH Fair (thanks, Susan!), West Surrey FHS Open Day, the Guild's Computer Seminar at Hounslow, and the Wimborne FH Fair.

So, that's it for 2006, then. And what about 2007? Well, here's how it begins...

- East of London FHS FH Fair, Barking, Essex, Saturday, January 20
- Bracknell FH Fair, Bracknell, Berks, Sunday, January 28
- Crawley FH Fair, Crawley, Sussex, Sunday, February 11
- Guild Publications Seminar, Bletchley, Bucks, Saturday, February 17
- Oxon & Bucks FH Fair, Kidlington, Oxon, Sunday, February 25
- Dorset FHS Open Day, Poole, Dorset, Sunday, March 11

Will I see you there? I hope so. You might even snap up a bargain!

## Huge thanks

Come on! You know I don't do this on my own...I'm just the front man. These are the people whose efforts you should really appreciate: Trish Bliss, Sheila Rahr Weston, Ian and Anne Shankland, Michael Bliss, Karen Herringham, Rowan Tanner, Paul Millington, Ken Grubb, Ron and Gwen Woodhouse, Barbara Harvey, Susan Atkins, Jan Cooper, Michael Walker, Martin Gegg, Lyn Horridge and Kirsty Gray. Thank you, thank you, all of you! And thank you, too, to anyone I've missed!

**If you'd like to contact Howard about any of the items he holds on the Bookstall or to volunteer to help, you can write to him at [guild.bookstall@one-name.org](mailto:guild.bookstall@one-name.org), or 7 Amber Hill, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1EB, UK.**





# It's membership subscription time again and Renewals Secretary is awaiting your money!

**A**T THIS time of the year we are starting to plan the 2007 Register, which will be issued with the April mailing.

If you haven't already paid your membership subscription, which was due on November 1, please send it quickly to the Renewals Secretary, Rod Clayburn, not to me.

After the end of January we shall be removing all non-paid members from the database.

Please look at your entry in the Guild database online if you can and see that the details displayed for you are accurate. It will help us greatly if you can inform us early of any necessary changes.

We are likely to produce the new paper Register with the information in the database at 1 March, so any amendments notified after that date will have to wait for the next supplement.

## Sad

One sad result of the renewals process is that we learn of members who have died during the year, but whose relatives or executors have not informed us of their death before. It is always sad to lose members, but it is doubly so when we suspect that their research has not been preserved.

The Guild Secretary sends a letter of condolence whenever we learn of a member's death. She also gently offers Guild help if the family doesn't know what to do with the member's One-Name Study material.

However, when we receive a letter in November saying: "My

husband / brother / father died in June, please remove him from your records," it is usually too late. If the member hasn't already made arrangements to preserve their material a life-time's work has often ended up in a landfill site.

In the last Journal I wrote about depositing copies of your ONS material with the Guild to guard against such a situation. I said that I was going to send an interim backup of my data to the Guild E-Librarian, Colin Pat-trick. Did I? "Yes", he answers smugly! It took me less than an hour.

## Text file

I wrote a simple ReadMe file – a plain text file giving brief details of what was on the disc, why I was depositing it and in what circumstances the Guild could release the material.

I then copied this file onto a disc with all my family tree files and the documents containing my Births, Marriages and Deaths GRO index entries. The disc was then put into a protective cover – one of those we all get with freebie discs – into an envelope and off to the Guild E-Librarian.

Of course the disc is already out-of-date! I have added additional data to some of the family trees, positively identified more of the BMDs and found new sources of information. Also, the disc doesn't contain copies of all the certificates purchased over the years or miscellaneous correspondence and notes.

However I can provide an updated disc to Colin whenever

I want. And I take some comfort from knowing that, should I shuffle off this mortal coil early, another researcher would not have to start from scratch. Basic information is lodged with an organisation that will know what to do with it.

Guidance on depositing ONS material with the Guild can be found in the Members' Room at [www.one-name.org/members/donating.html](http://www.one-name.org/members/donating.html)

I did have a couple of responses from members after my last article indicating that they would like to deposit a back-up disc with the Guild. However, they were worried because they used proprietary software for storing their data, and this was either an outdated version or soon might be.

## Format

Don't worry about the format of your data or the software you use. If you hold your data, or some of it, electronically and want to deposit a copy with the Guild, do so. So long as you describe the format of the data in the ReadMe file, Colin Patrick will consider how to handle the information to ensure that it is preserved for the future.

If you do have any particular concerns about depositing a disc with the Guild or the format of your data, please contact Colin – [patrick@one-name.org](mailto:patrick@one-name.org) – or myself and we will try to help.

***A Happy New Year to all our members and please make one more resolution – this year I will deposit a back-up of my ONS data with the Guild. ○***



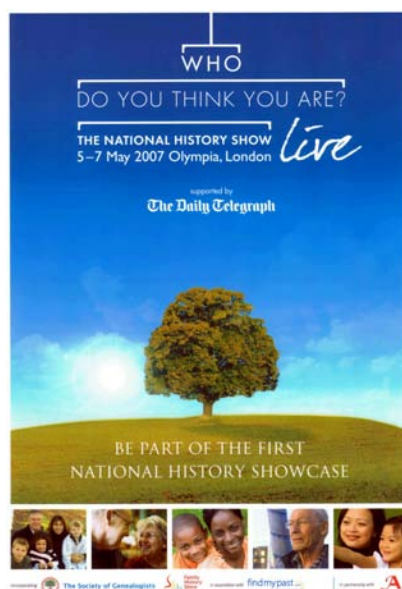
# Guild NewsXtra

## Family history embarks on a brave new world

THE ONWARD march of the commercialisation of genealogy and family history, and its promotion from an amateur hobby to being sold to a mass market audience, is reaching extraordinary new heights.

The Society of Genealogists' annual *Family History Fair* will be taking place next May as usual – but with a major new development and focus. Instead of being at the Royal Horticultural Hall, London, where it has been held for the last 14 years, the fair will be held at National Hall, Olympia, and will be part of a much bigger national history event to be called *Who Do You Think You Are? LIVE*, riding on the name and success of the BBC TV series that pulled in millions of newcomers to family history.

The show will take in family history, military and social history, travel and lifestyle, with workshops, entertainments, big-name speakers and some of the celebrities whose family history stories featured in the series.



### Three days

The show is being held over three days instead of just one day and will take place over the Bank Holiday weekend, May 5–7 2007. The organisers, Brand Events, a specialist company of show and exhibition organisers, have linked up with Wall to Wall, the makers of the BBC TV series, the Daily Telegraph newspaper, the National Archives, and the SoG and its sponsor, *findmypast.com*, to put on this major new event that is hoped will take family history into a new dimension. The organisers are anticipating 15,000 people through the doors over the three days and hope to reach out to the many more enthusiasts in the growing history market. ○

### SoG holds Marjorie Moore Memorial Lecture

THE LATE Marjorie Moore, FSG, one of the most celebrated names in family history, who was killed while on a safari trip in South Africa in 2006, is to have a memorial lecture named after her.

This is being organised by the Society of Genealogists and will be held at the Westminster Room, the Old Sessions House, Clerkenwell Green, London, on Friday, February 23. The lecture will be given by Sir Bernard Ingham, former press secretary to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, head of the Government Information Service from 1989–90, author of six books and a newspaper columnist and broadcaster. His theme will be *Communication and Spin: Danger, Governments at Work*.

Marjorie Moore was a prominent member of the Guild and a former Registrar, as well as being closely associated with family history societies in Wiltshire and a former chairman of the SoG Executive Committee.

## Scottish family history societies meet in Inverness

THE SCOTTISH Association of Family History Societies' 18th Annual Conference will be hosted by the Highland Family History Society at Culloden Academy Community Complex, Inverness, on Saturday, April 21.

The conference will be opened by Roddy Balfour, Chairman of Inverness Area Education Committee and a Chieftain of the Gaelic Society of Inverness. The theme for the conference is *Emigration – From Poverty To Prosperity?*

Speakers will be: Dr Marjory Harper, Senior Lecturer in History at the School of Divinity, History & Philosophy at Aberdeen; Professor Jim Hunter, Head of Department at the University of Highlands and Islands Centre for History; David Stenhouse, Journalist and Senior Producer at BBC Radio Scotland; Professor Ted Cowan, Professor of History at Glasgow University.

Full details and an application form can be found at:

[www.highlandfhs.org.uk/HFHSConference.asp](http://www.highlandfhs.org.uk/HFHSConference.asp)

GRAHAM TULEY

## Regional Reps

DUE to lack of space, the details of Regional Representatives have been omitted from this issue. However, they were published over two pages in the October–December 2006 Journal and it was recommended then that members photocopy those pages or retain that issue.

Full details are in the Members' Room on the Guild website or can be obtained from the Regional Representative Co-ordinator: Mrs Sandra Turner, 2 St Annes Close, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 4LQ, tel 01962 840388, e-mail: [rep-coordinator@one-name.org](mailto:rep-coordinator@one-name.org)

# Reviews Reviews Reviews

## New genealogy books and CDs

### Story of the Olby family – a book for those considering writing one themselves

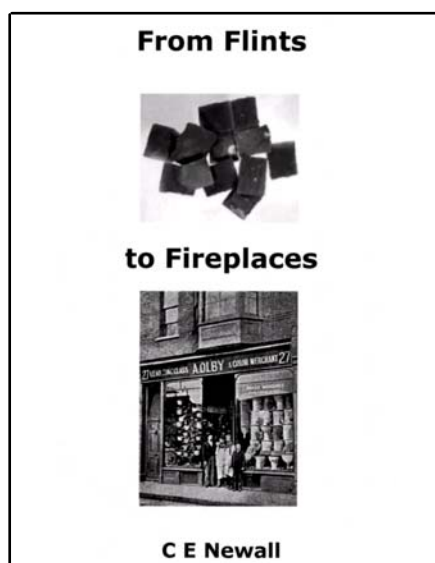
**FROM FLINTS TO FIREPLACES**, by Chris Newall (Guild member 4276). Softback, 69 pages, ISBN 0-9552046-0-7, price £8.00. Published by the author as Wild Oat Books, 33 Elm Grove Road, Ealing, London W5 3JH. E-mail: [olby@one-name.org](mailto:olby@one-name.org)

THIS book gives the story of the Olby Family through the 19th and 20th centuries and traces the history of some of the descendants of Robert Olby and Frances Overed from humble beginnings as gunflint makers in Brandon, Suffolk, to their eventual success as builder's merchants in Ramsgate, Penge, Bognor Regis and Lewisham.

The book starts with an introduction of Brandon and the history of the rapid growth of the gunflint industry, which dominated the town by 1790. The book then divides into nine main chapters with each chapter covering a specific generation of the Olby family, starting with Robert Olby 1769–1820 and Frances Overed 1766–1844 and their seven children.

A few years ago Chris Newall began to suspect that most, if not all, the Olby birth, marriage and death registrations in England and Wales might be of descendants of Robert Olby and Frances Overed, who married at St Andrew and St Peter, Blofield, Norfolk on March 8 1790. He decided to embark on a one-name study to test this hypothesis and registered with the Guild.

Each chapter provides a sum-



mary family tree which makes it easy to identify the members of the Olby family the chapter refers to. At the end of each chapter are references to the sources.

#### Branches

Chapter 7 deals with other branches of the Olby family, which includes the family of John Olby, second son of Robert and Frances Olby. The 1841 census shows this family living in Thetford, including a 70-year-old Frances Olby who could have been the wife of the above-mentioned Robert.

However, page 8 of Chris Newall's book states that "Frances Olby lived in Brandon until shortly before her death, the 1841 census records her as a widow aged 70 years living in the same household in Thetford Road, Brandon, as her son-in-law". The similarity of these two 1841 census entries is what makes

genealogy and one-name studies so interesting.

Since the early 19th century many members of the Olby family had become Primitive Methodists or members of the Plymouth Brethren. Appendix 1 provides a useful summary of the history of these two movements, including pictures of the founders of Primitive Methodism (Hugh Bourne and William Clowes) and the Plymouth Brethren (Edward Cronin and John Nelson Darby).

The other appendices provide a list of the Olby family christenings, marriages and burials at St Peter's, Brandon, from 1801 to 1846, and a table showing the totals of Olby births, marriages and deaths by decade in England and Wales. One of the more interesting diagrams shows the dispersal of the Olby family from Brandon between 1850 and 1975.

This book provides a good example of how to document the history of a particular family over a number of generations. It is interspersed with a number of relevant photographs, either of individuals or locations and contains a useful index.

I found this book particularly interesting from a personal point of view because of its many references to Brandon and the Talbot family and to Sarah Spurdens marrying John Talbot. A Reverend William Kemball was the Curate of Brandon from 1729 to his death in 1770 and five or six of his children were born in Brandon. Two Kemball brothers married Talbot women in 1721 and 1724 and a William Kemball married a Rhoda Spurgens in 1807. A bit more research may find a link with the Olby family.

My only disappointment was the lack of any real detail or comment on the hypothesis that most, if not all, of the members of the Olby family in England may be descended from Robert Olby and Frances Overed. It would have been useful if the book attempted to identify the distribution and size of the Olby surname worldwide or at least the distribution of the name in

the UK censuses.

The 1881 census shows 31 Olbys while the ONS Names database [www.taliesin-arleyn.net/names/search.php](http://www.taliesin-arleyn.net/names/search.php) has 75 Olbys in its 2002 database, ranking the surname joint 39,660th. I feel it would have been a useful indication of the size of the Olby ONS and to include a table showing the relative number of Olbys in each of the UK censuses from 1841 to 1901.

***These comments should not, however, distract from the enjoyment I had in reading this book. It is a book that I can recommend to anyone considering writing a similar book themselves.***

CLIFF KEMBALL

**GENEALOGY ONLINE FOR DUMMIES (UK Edition)** by Jenny Thomas, Matthew L Helm, April Leigh Helm, and Nick Barratt. ISBN 0 7645 7061 7. Price £15.99, published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd., The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 8SQ.

I'M already familiar with this famous series of books from Wiley, which were originally introduced to address computer technology subjects (who remembers DOS for Dummies?). Since then, the formula has expanded enormously and now includes titles like *Cooking Basics for Dummies* and *House Selling for Dummies*, etc. I must admit I've always had an ambivalent reaction to them. While I recognise that they're unashamedly aimed at beginners and presume almost nothing about the reader's background, I just find the titles slightly uncomfortable – how could I buy a book for my wife that was intended “for dummies”?

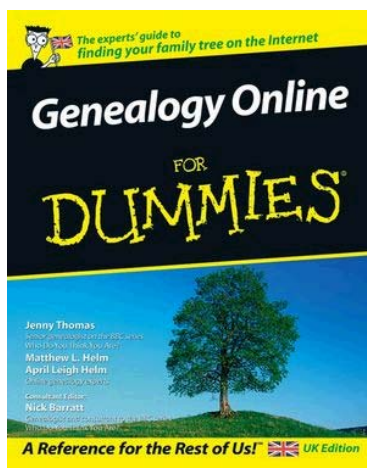
On the other hand, I'd never actually read one, so I was pleasantly surprised when I opened this book by its plain, no-nonsense organisation. By the time I'd reached the end, I was captivated.

On opening the cover, the first

page is a “cheat sheet” on light card containing some useful websites and some genealogy abbreviations. I'm delighted to report the Guild's website is featured before page 1.

I liked the written style; it's chatty, with loads of homely advice which just manages to steer clear of seeming patronising. And I can assure technophobes that there is no geeky jargon. In fact, it talks genealogy first, technology second; there's hardly a mention of a website in the first three chapters, for instance.

In the early chapters, there are helpful hints on getting yourself organised, including down-to-earth advice on what to take to a



record office. I liked the cautions about rushing ahead too quickly, and comments like: “Not all indexes were created equal”. And there's a warning that not everything is online, including the whole of Chapter 8: *Starting Offline: Basic Genealogical Sources in the UK*

I really liked the deceptively simple diagram in Chapter 2, which illustrates that research work is really cyclic – to use their terms, this means the stages of: Planning, Collecting, Researching, Consolidating, Distilling. Funnily enough, this sounds distinctly like the terms used in the Guild Knowledge Store in the Member's Room on the Guild website.

Originally, this is a US book and this one is billed as the UK Edition, with contributions from Nick Barratt, in which case I was keen to ensure its “Britishness”. It

certainly passed my rigorous test, but is it too insular to ask for a £ sign rather than a \$ sign as a symbol to warn about charges?

Chapter 4, entitled *What's in a Name*, gives early exposure to the Guild's website and also mentions the one-name sites for the names WILLINGALE and ROWBERRY. Later, there is helpful advice on using Internet resources other than websites by seeking advice from other researchers.

At the end you'll find the inevitable chapter on how to put all this on a web page. but I still worry about even mentioning that there are things called HTML tags to total novices.

Do I have any reservations? Well, a couple. I'm worried about the subject matter getting out of date, for a start. Although addresses in cyberspace have now stabilised considerably, websites are still prone to move home without leaving a forwarding address; others spring up after publication. This book's primary competitor in the UK, *The Genealogist's Internet* by Peter Christian, comes with a companion website run by Peter himself, to keep you up to date with changes to his book.

Other shortcomings are less obvious, but may be a reflection of the authors' own experience. I couldn't find a mention of 1837online, for instance (and just to confuse things, already renamed to findmypast), and here's a straight quote about Genes Reunited: “The site currently contains over 70 million names. You need to register to use the site, but registration is free” – failing to mention the £9.95 it costs to be able to contact other members.

***On the whole, though, if you've done the basic groundwork in genealogy, you're familiar with computer basics and the Internet, and you're now at the point where you want to explore the full scope of online genealogy, I can heartily recommend this book.***

HOWARD BENBROOK



# Hounslow Computer Seminar



Vol 9 Issue 5 January–March 2007

*SCENES from the Guild's Computer Seminar at Hounslow in November. Above is the panel of speakers, from left to right: Teresa Pask, Brian Horridge, Sue Turner, John Hanson and Jeanne Bunting; below: some of the audience. A report is on page 19.*

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