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Journal of One-Name Studies

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Around the world with Captain Harry Pidgeon

Book Review: The Surnames of Wales

Emigration to Canada

From the Chairman:
Recent Developments at the Guild

• Report from the Medieval & Early Modern Records Seminar
• Review of the Guild Constitution
• ONS Member Obligations
• Pros and Cons of Adding DNA to Your One-Name Study

...and more

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

Email: guild@one-name.org
Website: www.one-name.org
Registered as a charity in England and Wales No. 802048

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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. Copyright of the material is to the Editor and Publishers of the Journal of One-Name Studies and the author. No material may be reproduced in part or in whole without the prior permission of the publishers. The views expressed in the Journal are those of individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Committee of the Guild of One-Name Studies. The distribution list for this Journal is based on the information held in the Guild database on the first of the month preceding the issue date.
From the Chairman’s Keyboard…
By Corrinne Goodenough

Recent Developments at the Guild

Wikipedia quotes: ‘Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote goodness or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity can produce a feeling of self-worth and respect. There is no financial gain involved for the individual. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, socialization, and fun… It is helping, assisting, or serving another person or persons without pay.’

The Guild has many volunteers in various roles with a multitude of skills and we, as members, are all extremely grateful for the skills, time, and effort that they put in. Thank you all!

Some members may also combine a post with the role of Committee Member/Trustee of the Guild. A Committee Member/Trustee is concerned with the day-to-day running of the Guild, which in itself is time-consuming, without the additional responsibilities that these other roles place upon them.

It is very rewarding to serve the Guild in these capacities and all the elected Committee put ourselves forward to serve you when we stood for election. We each contribute in our own way to a wonderful organisation with a large member base that shares our beliefs, ideals, and love of genealogy — and one-name studies in particular.

In April the Committee came together as a new entity: a mixture of old and new, some members from the previous administration and some sitting on the Guild Committee for the first time; all as a consequence of the Committee ballot.

We didn’t come together as a committee of friends — although I am sure our relationships will develop into long and lasting friendships; indeed, some of us met each other for the first time at our May meeting. But our common purpose is that we are a band of people who all have the best interests of the Guild at heart.

One member recently commented that the Committee could be seen as a family, and some families do sometimes have ‘falling outs’. This happened recently when Colin Spencer resigned as Webmaster — I am not going into details as much has already been said on the subject. As a consequence, two of his fellow Committee members who had also served on the previous 2013-2014 Committee brought forward their plans to step down and this was viewed by some members as ‘mass Committee resignations’ — indicating there was a major fallout, which was incorrect.

It has been very disheartening and demoralising for the remaining Committee members to have been subjected to often quite vitriolic posts from some members on some of our media pages. Other members have been most supportive and encouraging, which gives us strength to continue at this time; we certainly don’t plan on adding to the list of leavers!

Most of you will have seen Newsflash Number 59, delivered by various methods, in order to get the news to you as soon as possible. To bring you up to date, as a consequence of my ‘cry for help’ we received a large number of very positive and helpful responses from members, offering all kinds of help and we have really appreciated this.

David Dexter of Oklahoma USA came forward to be our temporary editor and has produced this issue of JoONS. Tony Martin has volunteered to be the Mentor Coordinator following Steve Williams’ stepping down. Nigel Osborne of New Zealand has volunteered to be our new webmaster, and Cliff Kemball has offered to run Conference 2015, with a little help from his friends! Thank you everyone and welcome on board David, Nigel and Tony! Who says the Guild isn’t international?

But this is not all. Several members have also volunteered their skills in the editorial field and will, in time we hope, be joining an editorial team for the production of future issues of this magazine. The newly appointed webmaster will be forming a web team from the members who have volunteered their extensive IT knowledge and skills. They will all be brought together to maintain Phase I of our new website, and to plan, develop, and implement Phase II — with another core group keeping the old website up and running whilst this is all happening.

Where would we be without all this expertise and goodwill? All the poorer, no doubt! The well-known saying is ‘good things come to those who wait’, and I am sure that our wait for these things to happen will be to all our advantages in the end. In the meantime it is very much business as usual, with these critical roles in the Guild being filled by its volunteers so that the Guild can continue to function for the benefit of its members.
During a Marriage Challenge, the Challenger may find that one or more of the Anglican churches within the selected registration district have not deposited their records in the county record Office (CRO). Occasionally there is some investigating to do in order to identify the church. When the Challenge is nearly finished, it is usually possible to determine how many of the requested marriages would have taken place in each church where the records are missing.

Occasionally the registers have been lost, but more likely the registers will be found at the church, perhaps still in use. I have an example where a register that started in 1837 is still only half full after 175 years. And others where, although full, the Church is reluctant for various reasons to deposit them at the CRO. So the question arises: should a Challenger visit a church to extract marriage details?

The decision on this is usually financial. Generally all expenses incurred by a Challenger are recoverable from the Guild. The guidelines are that the average cost of all marriages found should not exceed 50p, and the cost of any particular marriage no more than £1.50 (recently increased from £1). If there are 12 marriages expected to be found in a church’s registers, the cost to the Guild to extract these 12 should be no more than £18.

In the Table of Parochial Fees issued by the Church of England, the standard fee for searching the registers is £21 an hour (rising to £27 in 2015). I have pleaded that the Guild is a registered charity and I am not searching for use. I have an example where a register that started in 1837 is still only half full after 175 years. And others where, although full, the Church is reluctant for various reasons to deposit them at the CRO. So the question arises: should a Challenger visit a church to extract marriage details?

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In the Table of Parochial Fees issued by the Church of England, the standard fee for searching the registers is £21 an hour (rising to £27 in 2015). I have pleaded that the Guild is a registered charity and I am not searching for information for myself but to supply a free service to our members. I have also tried to argue that the stated charge should apply when the incumbent does the search himself or herself and not when a visitor does the search. Usually the church has said that any donation to the church funds would be fine and that they would not apply the rate on the Table. It is important to clarify the charges before the visit is actually made.

Contacting the church to make an appointment is not always easy and I have found that speaking to one of the churchwardens is often better than speaking to the vicar. You can ask whether the entries may be photographed rather than transcribed. This would speed up the visit, but the request is often refused.

Visiting the church can be interesting. Sometimes you are given a little space at a poorly-lit table in the vestry; sometimes it is in the office in the vicarage. The registers are taken out of the “parish chest”; sometimes this is still a locked metal chest, sometimes a locked filing cabinet or cupboard, sometimes the registers are already arrayed out when you get there. When in the vestry, the vicar or church warden may leave you to it and carry out other activities in the church while you are working. Sometimes there are other activities going on; on one occasion there was a highly active child-care group in the church. Be prepared for the unexpected.

The Marriage Challenges beginning in the coming months are listed below. All members are encouraged to send their requests to the Challengers by e-mail. Send the listing extracted from the GRO marriage index (FreeBMD will give all of them) for the named registration district between the years given (year, quarter, surname, first names, full GRO reference). Challengers will search for and often find your marriages in the deposited church registers and then send you the full particulars.

The key in the last column is:

- A Requests must be sent using the standard “requests.xls” spreadsheet on the MC webpage (exceptions: those without computer or without MS Excel);
- B Requests using the standard Excel template much preferred, but willing to accept other formats;
- C Requests sent in any form accepted.

Being a Challenger is rewarding and enjoyable and you will be helping your fellow Guild members with their studies. You could share the task with a friend or another Guild member. If you think you could become a Challenger, I look forward to hearing from you. Contact me, the Marriage Challenge Co-ordinator, at marriage-challenge@one-name.org.
Adding DNA to your one-name study is an opportunity to make discoveries beyond the paper records. The foundation of your ONS is your research in various record sources. DNA is another source for research — one that can often clear up puzzling questions, generate surprising discoveries, help sort out multiple trees in the same location, or provide a direction for further research.

DNA seems too difficult and complex
When I first visited the Family Tree DNA website in 2000, that was exactly my conclusion, so I bookmarked the site, put it on my someday list, and moved on. It was only in 2001 — with the unexpected death of my brother, the last known male in my family tree — that I had to act, or there would be no point to ever having a project. My project turned out to be the most interesting aspect of my ONS, and I made discoveries that I could never have done from the paper records alone.

DNA testing for genealogy isn’t that difficult or complex, and you don’t need a science background. Learning about DNA testing is actually less difficult than figuring out some of the record sources we deal with.

Concern about the time required
DNA testing is like any other record source: you decide the time you want to invest. The most important aspect of getting a DNA project now is to get your registered surnames. Each month, as more people around the world who are not Guild members start projects, Guild-registered surnames are placed in projects. Your recourse then is for me to negotiate a role for you in the project, such as Co-Admin, or, if your surnames don’t fit with the other surnames in the project, to try to negotiate an extraction of your surnames.

Recruiting participants
The one aspect of a DNA project that seems to concern people the most is asking other persons to take a DNA test. The first one you ask is always the hardest, and after that it keeps getting easier. You do not need to pay for the test kits, though providing paid test kits makes recruiting easier. Usually for your tree you will provide paid test kits for two distant males. One way to offer paid test kits for other participants is to raise donations. Perhaps several people in a family tree will contribute to test one — or ideally two — males for the tree. Persons in migration destination countries, such as the USA, are an excellent source of funding to test persons in the UK. Some projects run by USA persons have thousands of dollars in donations, and they need to solve the issue of finding UK persons. No matter where you are located, your project is global and you can raise donations anywhere and test anywhere you find a willing participant who is relevant to your ONS.

The negative to raising donations through the Family Tree DNA donation system (which is very easy to use since it takes credit cards) is that currently these funds cannot be used to order discounted kits through the Guild. The option then is for the payee or multiple payees to pay the Guild directly. You simply initiate the order. Write Teresa Pask at: dna-kit-order@one-name.org.

Everyone is related
Perhaps there is the belief that everyone with the surname is related, so there is no point to DNA testing. Supporting your genealogical research with DNA testing would benefit your ONS and it could be very interesting and might lead to surprising discoveries.

Reason to act now
If you have any family trees with only one or a few surviving males, that makes the situation pretty urgent. If you don’t get someone tested for that tree while you have an opportunity, the opportunity could be gone forever.

Steps to a successful project
If you decide to take the plunge and add a DNA project to your ONS, it will be very easy. You first check if any of your registered surnames are in a project. Search the surnames at this link in the box that says ‘Project Search’ above it: https://www.familytreedna.com/surname-search-results.aspx?

Then write to the DNA Advisor, DNA@one-name.org. If your surnames aren’t in any projects, the following will happen:

1. The DNA Advisor requests your project.
2. Family Tree DNA establishes your project.
3. The DNA Advisor gets credentials and uses these to create a user ID and password for your project.
4. The DNA Advisor sets up your project. This includes using proven marketing text for the DNA project profile and DNA project website, as well as selecting standard options. You will be able to change anything. Your project is set up to meet Guild standards and the Guild logo at Family Tree DNA is turned on.
5. You will receive an easy 20-step ‘getting started’ email and your user ID and password. You can change DNA: continued on page 18
Most of us do not get enough time to do as much work on our one-name studies as we would wish. Despite this it would be most useful if you could all spend a little time to consider the Guild Constitution and how it might be improved.

Introduction
Since November 2013, a small team of Guild members, working independently but on behalf of the Committee, has been considering how the current Constitution could be improved. The team has received ideas from members and checked what has been suggested on the Bulletin Board and the Forum. We have debated the pros and cons of various ideas. In April, our main ideas were presented to a session at the Annual Conference and we received more ideas and feedback from the delegates. Our ideas were then submitted to the Guild Committee for their feedback.

There are a number of reasons why we are proceeding cautiously. We think the most important is that it is your Guild and, therefore, all should have the opportunity to have a say as to how the Guild will be managed in the foreseeable future. This ethos is in keeping with the Guild Committee’s policy of openness in the decision-making process. Finally, the Constitution can only be changed by a majority vote in a ballot of all members. Such a ballot is time-consuming and, however it is carried out it, costs money. Therefore, we would like to give the proposed Constitution the best chance of being adopted.

This article is designed to communicate to all members our current thinking on how the revised Constitution will be different and why. You can then send feedback to the Team before we actually rewrite all the documentation and submit it to a ballot, probably in 2015.

Documentation Structure
At present, the Guild is managed according to the Constitution. Supporting this we have Rules & Procedures controlled by the Committee. In future we are proposing a slightly slimmer and simpler Constitution with two sets of documents supporting it. The first of these could be described as ‘Standing Orders’ which could only be set and amended at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Guild by a ballot of all members, using resolutions, in advance of the AGM. Once set, only a further ballot prior to an AGM could re-amend them by use of a new resolution. Below the Standing Orders would be Rules & Procedures, controlled by the Committee as now. However, we envisage some things moving from the Constitution and Rules & Procedures into Standing Orders. This would allow some things to be changed without a full rewrite of the Constitution and give more say to the membership on how the Guild is governed.

Review of the Guild Constitution
by Peter Hagger
(Manager of Constitutional Review, Member 4177)

Name and Purpose of the Guild
Two things we do not envisage changing are the name and the purpose of the Guild.

Answering Queries, Registering Surnames and Membership
The first area we are looking to simplify in the Constitution is taking out any detail regarding the answering of queries - we propose to retain a simple statement in the Constitution and invite the Committee to issue guidance or something under the Rules & Procedures which could be reviewed if there was a need.

The registering of surnames is a fundamental part of the Guild we propose to retain and outline in the Constitution, with the detail within Standing Orders.

Currently only one class of membership is allowed by the Constitution. We believe it would be useful to allow other classes to be introduced in the future by resolution, should they be required.

Management of the Guild
The biggest area of debate by far has been around what is called the ‘Management of the Guild’. The Team is proposing a number of changes in this area. The first is to abolish the Executive Committee, which has in the past not only acted as a finance committee but also had the power to make urgent decisions between Committee meetings. We believe with email voting now available, any decision could be made quickly as you only need a quorum of members to vote to get a decision. For email voting this is set as seven of the possible 15 members. However, the Committee should consider reducing the time allowed for e-voting. Currently it is set at two weeks.

We would retain a Finance Subcommittee being governed by the rules appertaining to subcommittees.

Currently the Committee has the maximum number of 15. The Team feels decision-making would be assisted by a smaller committee, particularly as in most years insufficient candidates stand for election so all are elected unopposed. We are agreed that the number should continue to be uneven. We feel an optimum size may well be 13 or even fewer.

Two terms that are used widely are ‘officer’ and ‘post holder’. The officers of the Guild are the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice Chairman who all have to be Committee members and are currently elected by the Committee. Although we had representations made to us that particularly the Chairman should be elected by the membership, we have not on balance been convinced there should be a change.
Post holders cover any other job – e.g. Editor or Regional Representative – and here the Team did not think any of these posts should be restricted to Committee members. The Committee does have the authority to invite post holders to attend Committee meetings when required and we would hope the Committee would do this more often than in the past.

The Team received very strong representations that the tenure of officers and Committee members be restricted. If this is done it could potentially give the Guild a problem if say a new Treasurer could not be found and the existing one had reached the end of his maximum tenure. However, on balance the Team feels there should be some restrictions and would propose a maximum of ten years on Committee and six years as an officer, with possibly some dispensation for the officer’s term where a post could not be filled — but this would need very tight controls.

A proposed change for subcommittees is that they would be free to elect their own chairmen rather than the Committee making an appointment. Although for any new subcommittee the Committee would need to appoint a convenor until a chairman could be elected.

Officers and post holders are appointed annually. Members can use a self-nomination form to volunteer, with existing post holders considered for re-appointment automatically unless they indicate they wish to stand down. A cut-off date for the receipt of these forms should be considered. However, there would need to be a clear procedure where no nominations for a post were received.

The Team felt that if a vacancy occurred mid year, then the post should be advertised before an appointment was made. This would also apply when there was a Committee vacancy at any time, where the Committee has the authority to co-opt.

Elections and Ballots
With regard to elections, the Team believe these should always be carried out in house and supervised by a returning officer appointed at the AGM, to remain in post until the following AGM with responsibility for supervising all elections and ballots except his own appointment. Currently some of the election procedures are in the Constitution, but the details are in Rules & Procedures. In the future they would be in the Constitution and Standing Orders. The returning officer would need a deputy or assistant. It is intended that all resolutions would be subject to a ballot of all members, with the results announced at the AGM.

Election of President and Vice Presidents
Currently, custom and practice is that the Committee nominate to the AGM a president and up to four vice presidents. The election is carried out by a show of hands of those present and has not normally been contested. In fact, the Constitution allows anybody to nominate someone for these posts so there could be an election at the AGM. No change is currently proposed here.

Resolutions to the AGM
Currently a resolution to the AGM can only be submitted if it has the support of 20 members or is proposed by the Committee. Members cannot advertise the fact that they are considering proposing a new resolution. The Team feels this should be changed in some way so it is easier for members to propose a resolution.

Feedback
We have tried to outline briefly the main changes envisaged, but there is a considerable amount of detailed work still to be done before we can present documentation to the membership. Before doing this we need your comments, suggestions and queries by email (hagger@one-name.org) or post (106 Hayling Avenue, Little Paxton, St Neots PE19 6HQ) by 15th November 2014.

Letter to the Editor
Re: The Challenger Calls the Shots
As a regular Marriage Challenger, I read Peter Copsey’s recent article, “The Challenger Calls the Shots” with great interest, and thank him for clarifying various points.

The right of a Challenger to limit the number of requests from members has recently become more relevant, due to the number of more common surnames being registered. A fellow Challenger was recently sent a list of 1900 marriages to be found, with the total requests from all other members only being about 750! If a Challenger can find and transcribe an average of about 40-50 marriages before the brain and fingers go numb, then finding the marriages for that one member would have taken about 150 hours, without other members getting a look-in.

So you see, there is good reason for Challengers limiting the number of requests.

It is also important that the requests are sent in the correct format and comply with the time frame set for the Challenge. As a Challenger, it is extremely irritating to receive a file where the sender has obviously made no effort to help you to help them. Doing Marriage Challenges soon becomes addictive, but when such files arrive, you start to think, “Why should I bother?”

I would also add that Challengers will send out the results in a format which suits them. Some people use laptops, and either send out spreadsheets or faux certificates. Call me a dinosaur, but I find it easier to use a pencil to transcribe directly onto pre-printed forms which are then scanned and emailed or posted. I don’t have the time (or inclination) to comply with requests for the information to be sent on a spreadsheet (presumably to save the recipient time), or to collect only specific information for a specific name. It is hard enough finding marriages for dozens of different names without having to remember that some people only want certain information.

My final plea is: please remember that it is a volunteer who is giving up their time to help you, so please graciously accept how the Challenger wishes to run their Challenge.

— Sue Horsman (Member 3446)
Hello, I am Susan Hundleby. I joined the Guild in 2006 and have recently taken on the role of Registrar. Stephen Daglish, the former Registrar, has done a wonderful job handing everything over to me. I have been impressed by the quality of the new member applications and I am looking forward to working with the Guild as it moves into the next chapter of its history. The new Chairman and Committee have been very supportive and I am confident that the Guild will continue to develop under their leadership. We need to take maximum advantage of new technologies, online databases and advances in DNA research, amongst other things, to remain a strong and vibrant organisation and to develop our studies even further.

Part of my responsibilities is to ensure that all members with registered one-name studies satisfy their Guild obligations. These rules are surprisingly simple, but our commitment to, and application of, our obligations is extremely important to the Guild.

When registering a one-name study we only have one formal obligation, which is to respond to all queries about our study in a timely fashion. The study owner is the Guild’s main point of contact with its customers. Therefore, we are all responsible for providing a public service and for enhancing and preserving the Guild’s brand and image. As one member recently wrote on the Forum: we should respond to these queries in the same way that we would like to receive a response – thoughtfully, helpfully and in a timely manner.

Many of our members provide an excellent service and I am interested to see that a number of new members are registering because of the favourable impressions they have formed of the Guild. Sadly, there are also a few people who have not received the same perfect service, which can be damaging to the Guild’s image. I would therefore like to encourage all unresolved complaints to be registered, so we can rectify any issues and improve overall.

Promptness and quality of response are the main reasons for complaint. These were covered in detail by Stephen Daglish (4509) and Paul Howes (4836) in their article about Membership Matters in the October-December 2013 Journal of One-Name Studies.

I think it is good to challenge oneself, and I have been considering recently how I can improve my own responses to enquiries received. For example: Did I reply as promptly as I could have done? Did I provide the enquirer with the best level of information I could? Did I research my response sufficiently? Am I developing my study in line with the Guild’s requirements? Did I succeed in developing a communication link with the enquirer so that I can share information in the future? If the answer to any of these questions is “No” then I know I have more work to do.

The receipt of an enquiry is a good opportunity to research the question in more detail and to use the enquiry to prioritise ongoing research. There will be times when we need extra time to do this. If so, the Committee recommends that we send an initial reply to acknowledge and thank the enquirer for their interest. Most people recognise that there might be a time delay in getting a more detailed reply. However, if we send a holding email we must make sure that we reply within the timescales we have promised. We are not expected to undertake additional research to help answer a query unless we want to. If we do not have any additional information to help the enquirer, then we should try to suggest areas of research that the enquirer might pursue.

There may be times when we have limited information and immediate research is not practical, for example, in a country that we have not yet had the opportunity to focus on. In such cases, it is recommended that we also explain in our response that, whilst our study is global, we have limited information about an area or country at this stage. The

**Study principles**

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<td>• it will include research within countries where the name is relatively significant and where sources of genealogical data are readily available</td>
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<td>• it will research and store data available in core genealogical datasets and transcriptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>• it stores and may research other data where the surname is mentioned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• the member will maintain an accurate description of the scope and progress of the study using the study codes shown on the member’s self-service registration page on the Guild website</td>
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**Responding to enquiries**

All members who have registered a surname are committed to respond to all enquiries made to them via email or reply-paid letter. It is important that this obligation is taken seriously, as any failure to respond reflects badly on the Guild as a whole, and may even impact on our charitable status, which requires us to provide benefits to the wider public.
Death Notices, Articles Concerning Deaths, Obituaries from the Forres Gazette, 1837-1855

by Doug Stewart, Moray & Nairn Family History Society

Unlike today, in 1837 there was no newspaper published in Forres and the people of the town had to content themselves with papers from other parts of Scotland and further afield.

Scottish newspapers that might just contain small snippets of news local to Forres were being printed in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and elsewhere. Local articles might also appear in newspapers published in Inverness and Aberdeen. Between Inverness and Aberdeen, though, the only local newspaper being published at that time seems to have been the Elgin Courant, which started in 1836.

John Miller, a son of Elgin clothier and draper Lachlan Miller, left the town in 1837 when he chose to move to Forres to open a printing establishment. In June that year, posters left the town in 1837 when he chose to move to Forres to open a printing establishment. In June that year, posters were displayed announcing the publication of a new newspaper, the Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette, still going strong in the town today as the Forres Gazette. Starting as a monthly publication of only four pages, it was not until 1851 that it was published fortnightly and only weekly from April 1855.

The notices cover deaths in Forres, the near neighbourhood, the rest of the county, throughout the country, and even overseas. Examples can be found of notices from Australia, Canada, India, and other parts of what was to become the British Empire; and also from the United States and more unexpected places such as Paris, Buenos Aires, Gambia etc.

There are announcements of the death of the illustrious, the well-known, and the humble. The shortest announcement may be one from December 1838 which simply states, ‘Died, at Elgin, last month, James Hay, Porter.’ The longest announcement and obituary is probably that of the Rev Thomas Stark, whose death is announced in the issue of February 1849 and whose obituary occupies many columns of the next issue in March 1849.

The series, in three parts, around 100pp each, is available from Moray & Nairn FHS – the cost of each part only £6, p&p extra. Email publications@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk, or write to the Society at c/o 39a Park Street, Nairn IV12 4PP.

The notices cover deaths in Forres, the near neighbourhood, the rest of the county, throughout the country, and even overseas. Examples can be found of notices from Australia, Canada, India, and other parts of what was to become the British Empire; and also from the United States and more unexpected places such as Paris, Buenos Aires, Gambia etc.

Some members might be in the early stages of data collection and some studies can be quite challenging, so we also need to be supportive of other members. If you are a member making an enquiry about another member’s study, please remember that their study may not be as advanced as your own, and you may be able to help them in some way.

The Guild places no limitation on the size of the study, although members registering medium to large studies may be challenged by the Guild on the extent of their existing study, and their capacity for researching the study further and responding to enquiries. Medium to large studies may require different research methods from those used for smaller studies. Similarly, the research into locative names, for example, may require different techniques than if studying occupational or patronymic names. The Guild offers guidance about how advanced a study needs to be when it is registered, but places no obligation on those registering a name to follow any specific regime of research, nor to concentrate on any specific aspect of their study. In particular, there are no time constraints or deadlines placed on the members’ research objectives, and members are free to conduct their one-name projects as they see fit. That said, the Guild does believe that a well-run one-name study will cover the above “Seven Pillars of Wisdom.”

I wish you the very best of luck with your research, whatever stage you have reached, and I welcome your queries and comments about Guild membership and the registration of one-name studies. I am looking forward to supporting the Guild and the Committee positively and proactively in my capacity as Registrar.

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Judy Stubbs (née Elkington)

Judy Stubbs, who researched the ELKINGTON name, died peacefully on 10th May at Bakewell Cottage Nursing Home, Derbyshire. She was 77. Details are at http://announce.jpress.co.uk/38222360-obituary, where you can leave a virtual candle if you wish.

Judy was a long-standing Guild and Forum member, and was active in running her own ELKINGTON list and website, www.elkingtonfamily.com/, in which she took great pride.

http://www.one-name.org/onsrung.html

The “Seven Pillars of Wisdom”

- Data collection
- Analysis
- Synthesis
- Publicising the study
- Responding to enquiries
- Publication of results
- Preserving the study

http://www.one-name.org/onsrung.html
It was a dark and stormy night in the LDS Family History Center (actually it was a sunny afternoon) — my friends were in the dark room spinning the wheels on their readers and I was in the main computer room reading a will obtained from the National Archives. Suddenly I realized Bishop Samuel Peploe had had another brother, Jonathan Peploe, and it was his will I was reading!

How did I end up here — shrieking about a will from 1710 London in the Family History Center in New Albany, Indiana?

It had started harmlessly. My grandmother was Florence Pepler, born in 1890. My husband’s grandmother was her sister, Ellen Pepler, born 1888, and we shared an adorable Boy Scouting Uncle Bert (Albert Andrew Pepler). Their parents, William Andrew Pepler and Georgina Mary Mercy Milne, were first cousins. In 1920 the family broke up. Florence and her husband emigrated to Canada. The third sister, Mabel, sailed around the Horn to New Zealand to marry her Andrew and the siblings never saw each other again. This was obviously a family name I was interested in.

My husband and I married in the early 1970s and settled in Corsham, Wiltshire, England. Ellen and Bert, together at Christmas for the first time in over 15 years, sat down and gave me the names, pictures, births, marriages, deaths, and burials of their siblings, parents, grandparents, and a multitude of cousins. They even knew their grandmother, Lucy Groom. This took the family back to 1800 very quickly. I recorded all this, sent a copy to New Zealand, and then put it aside to raise children.

When the children had grown enough, I got back to the family tree, and by 2003 decided to go online with Tribal Pages. The earliest Pepler I had at this point was Richard Pepler, born 1772. Since I have a numbers-based mind, I quickly realized that there were not many Peelers; and with the computer, it was feasible to collect them all, build the families, and the unclaimed Richard would be mine. According to Family Search at this time, using the 1880 and 1881 censuses, I was looking at less than 2,000 people worldwide for that year. I started a second Tribal Pages site in April 2004 just for the Pepler surname. One day I was contacted by Vel (Arvilla), who asked if I was also doing the name Peploe. Since the only 1772 Richard I had found was a Peploe, not a Pepler, the demons were released.

Vel came from a line of Peploes who felt they were related to Samuel Peploe, Bishop of Chester, and entitled to be considered for his estate. This was based on a set of old letters that had been copied and recopied through the years. They claimed that Samuel had a brother, Richard, who was the ancestor of the Peploe family of coachbuilders and drivers in south London. Vel also had a family tree of the Peplow family of Shrewsbury, Shropshire area. According to her the two families were connected somehow. So we started trying to ‘prove’ the letters — especially concerning Richard Peploe, the supposed nephew of the Bishop — and find the connection to Shropshire. The letters are difficult, as they have been recopied several times with extra lines inserted. Identifying the original voice is tough.

From Vel’s letters:

The letters are difficult, as they have been recopied several times with extra lines inserted. Identifying the original voice is tough.

From the Welsh:

Richard Peploe, nephew of the Bishop of Chester, was married at Newburn, Coxfordshire 1723 Dec 23, in 1745 he married to Mary Bridget (my mother) daughter of Malagram in Berkshire where I was born Aug 3 1750 was baptized and registered. In 1709 or 1710 he estates have been sold out of Charsley near Wimbleton Warrington near Irel. He married Jane Tyrrell in 1727.

Richard Peploe, with Sarah Harrison, was married at the Church of St Mary, Bloomsbury Aug 25, 1722 in the presence of Jane Gototh and John Hardman by Henry Frederick (priest)

Vel’s Samuel Peploe, Bishop of Chester, died 1786 Aug 23, 1789. His will of Samuel Peploe, Esq. of Granada, Castle Herefordshire.
Excerpt 2

I was rather hoping to find my Richard here, as Vel’s family had far more Richards than any other family line I had uncovered. So with the registers for Shrewsbury, Shawbury, Great Stanmore, Chaddesley Corbet, and Bromsgrove on permanent loan at the Family History Center, I started reading, recording, and building the family lines. Vel had a subscription to Ancestry, so she dug through their files.

During this period I also established contact with Sarah Riley — whose father had prepared the Peplow tree Vel had — and Rupert Peplow, a direct descendant of the Bishop. Sarah also knew of the supposed connection between the two lines but had no idea where it might be found. She was and is a great help in sorting out which of our finds were her family as she still has her father’s papers.

Rupert had already been in contact with Vel and had told her that the connection to the Bishop was not possible, as he personally knew the Bishop had only had two brothers, Nathan and Paul. In fact he had written a book about the family and sent a copy to Salt Lake City. He also had the wills of the Bishop, the Bishop’s father and grandfather, and numerous other historic materials.

Thus started a four-way email marathon that lasted well over a year. I kept the master file in Roots Magic and updated the website every time we had changes so that we could all see them. We put together the families in the different parishes and discovered there were two hubs for the name — Shrewsbury and Chaddesley Corbet. Hew Peplowe and An Jordeine in Chaddesley had three sons: Hugh, John, and Humphrey.

Chaddesley Corbet parish register.

Hugh went to Great Stanmore and did very well, leaving a reasonable estate and starting my line. John went to Bromsgrove and multiplied (Lesley Peplow has done fantastic work on the line). Humphrey went to the northwest Shropshire area and got involved in good marriages and land deals. He had been a bit rowdy when hanging around the Bromsgrove area, getting into pub fights and such, so there was probably a good incentive for leaving.

Humphrey turned out to be the Bishop’s grandfather. As we uncovered each new individual and fact, we presented them to the others to test our conclusions. Nothing was added to the database without complete agreement. I was careful to take digital images of the Peplow events in the various registers when I found them. They are displayed on my website www.pepler.tribalpages.com if anyone wants to check. Transcriptions of the various wills and family letters are also there.

However, we still had the problem of Richard, nephew of the Bishop. Then in October I read Jonathan’s will. I immediately sent it off to Rupert, Vel, Sarah, and Lesley. The Bishop had had more brothers than the family knew about, so it was very likely there was a fifth brother, Richard. In Oxford there had been a Richard who had died in 1707 (before Jonathan) and his grandson had married a Mary Guy in Walgrave 4 November 1748, with a second marriage in Remenham. This was Vel’s line. Then Rupert’s mother died. In her effects was a silver snuffbox that came from the Webb side of the family. (Daniel Webb — see picture — married the daughter who had assumed the Peploe name inherited when the male line dried up.) That snuffbox led us to the marriage of Richard Peploe and Ann Gillman in 1691 in Newington. This would be the brother’s line.

At this point we still needed to find the baptisms of Nathan, Jonathan, and Richard in the mid 1600s, as well as that of their father, Podmore. There is a suspicion that Richard and Jonathan may have had a different mother from the other boys. We need Podmore’s marriage lines and Hew Peplowe’s parents. We also need to find out if Jonathan’s son, William, had any children, and who he married.

But we can draw some conclusions. We have identified some conflicts with the popular biographies. First is that Samuel had more than two brothers. His background was a bit more elevated than could be described as ‘humble means’. His father’s name was Podmore (after his mother’s maiden name) not Palmore or Pedmore. Nor does it seem likely that Samuel was born at Blenheim and then baptized in Dawley Magna.

We know that Jonathan was the Bishop’s brother and that he was a master swordmaker in London and left a considerable estate.

We know that the Hugh who came to Great Stanmore also had considerable means and servants. So the Bishop, although not nobility, did not start out poor.

We have pushed the antecedents of Podmore Peploe back at least three generations for all his descendants, which includes the present Queen.

Statistically, out of 2,500 carriers of the Peploe name before 1900 in our database, Shrewsbury Peplows account for nearly 300. The descendants of Hew Peploe and An Jordeine account for another 700.

DNA tests show that there should be a connection between the Shropshire Peplows and those that started in Chaddesley Corbet. We have tests for a Shropshire Peploe, a descendant of the Great Stanmore group, and a descendant of the Bromsgrove bunch. On paper their closest common ancestor is 16 generations back. The
tests give a variation of one degree on two to four markers out of 37. This looks pretty good. We still need a test from Podmore’s descendants.

Coupled with the statistics, it appears that these two lines account for nearly half of the Peplows and Peploes in the British Isles — and they may be one line. We are inviting males of other lines to test also for matches to this “main” line and will not be surprised if at least some do match.

We still have some major questions to answer, such as: Who was Andreas Pepler and how did he become the Bishop of Estonia in 1460? Are the South African family Peplers related to the German Pepler lines or the English ones? Are the Ruegan Peplows related to the mainland Peplers? Where did the Russian line come from? And, of course, what is the name and its origin?

That year of squabbling emails was a baptism under fire but it tempered the final product. My view did not always carry the day, but when it did I was sure it had been tested. None of my collaborators are interested in running the one-name study, but they are all willing to let their views be known. I can’t imagine doing a one-name study without having a backup squad that calls me out and makes me prove everything. I also learnt a tremendous amount about finding 16th century British information.

I have since had several other online collaborations and they all have been equally beneficial. We follow simple rules:

- Everyone’s opinion has merit.
- All items are open to question until documentary proof is found.
- Details on individuals in the database can and will be changed when evidence proves it warranted.
- We don’t believe anyone’s family stories without collaborating proof.

My Christmas wish is to collaborate with the Queen’s genealogy team!

For an overview of ‘Early Pepl[xx]s’ versus time, the following chart shows German and mid-European in Green, London and West Country in yellow, unconnected Midlands in blue, and the proven forebears of the two main lines in orange. These are all individuals between 1270 and 1570.
One of my grandfather’s brothers — a certain George Vayro — was known to have emigrated to Canada early in the 20th century, so when I was contacted by one of his living relatives, Sophie Vayro from Toronto, we set about trying to find out further details.

Firstly I used http://www.familysearch.org, which for anyone starting out in family ancestry research is one of the best sources of information. This website is organised by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons). They have a huge database, mainly on births, deaths and marriages. More importantly, access to their database is free. Unfortunately, dates are sometimes inaccurate, but they can be used as a starting point for the places where the births, deaths, or marriages took place, allowing you to double-check the details.

This I did and found that George Vayro was born in Aldbrough St John, North Yorkshire on 8th August 1885, two years after my Grandfather Thomas, and he was the seventh of nine children. I then looked at the 1891 Census, on a CD program called ENOCH, available at Teesside reference libraries. George was shown as six years old, living with his parents, James and Elizabeth, at Low Coalsgarth in Aske, near Easby, North Yorkshire.

On the 1901 census, George and brother Thomas were lodging at Wesley Street, Willington, County Durham with his sister-in-law, Hannah, as well as two of Hannah’s daughters. At that time George and Thomas were working at Brancepeth Colliery, while William — their elder brother who was married to Hannah — was boarding at 50 Mary Street, Stanley, and working at Stanley Pit.

George was married in St Paul’s Methodist Chapel in Hunwick, to Ruth Carr on 1st April 1907. On 14th March 1908 they sailed from Liverpool on the RMS Corsican and docked at Montreal 23rd May. Ruth’s father, John Carr, and six others of the family had also decided to emigrate to Canada under a ‘British Bonus Allowance Scheme’ that gave them assisted passage to a new life.

Using a variety of websites for Canadian Records I managed to find out more about his life in Canada including his service records for the First World War. Examples are http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml which has transcribed passenger lists for Canada and the USA. Alternatively, http://www.theshipslist.com has shipping lists with journeys, cargoes, shipwrecks, and worldwide passenger lists. It also has newspapers reports in ports of arrival for Canada and the USA.

George is known to have worked for a while in the brickyards at Calgary and Diamond City, and also in the coal mines at Taber, Alberta.

He enlisted in the 50th Battalion Canadian Mounted Rifles (CMR) on 11th January 1915 at Medicine Hat, and served throughout the remainder of the 1914-1918 war. One of the distinguishing features shown on his enlistment papers was “He has considerable hair on his chest” which obviously impressed Lieutenant Colonel T O Sissons.

George served overseas in the 3rd, 12th and 13th CMR regiments after being promoted to corporal and eventually retiring as sergeant major in 1918. His full war details were on a slip of paper in my ‘old tin box’ of mementoes showing:

Lance Corporal George Vayro, Reg. No 108598, B Squad; 3rd Canadian Mounted Rifles, 1st Brigade Canadian Mounted Rifles; C.O.E.F. (Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force), 2nd Contingent, Thornecliffe training camp, Kent.


Emigration to Canada: George Vayro (1885-1957); The Canadian Relatives

by Rennison Vayro (Member 4347)
I managed to locate George’s WW1 war service records on another site, http://tinyurl.com/mafsl9y. Full details of the Canadian Expeditionary Force can be found at http://tinyurl.com/ojvd8ml.

When he left the army, George joined the police force in Canada where he worked until he retired in 1951. Unfortunately, his wife Ruth had died in 1947 and George died ten years later, in January 1957. They had three children: John George Albert, Gordon Henry, and Ruth Vayro. In turn, Sophie Vayro, who I mentioned earlier, has been the main contact for information about the Canadian side of our family and is George’s great-granddaughter.

Further websites of interest for members with Canadian Ancestors are http://www.obituaries.com/Obits.asp for obituaries recorded in Canadian newspapers. Alternatively, http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx is part of the Canadian Collection of Archives in Ottawa, and there is also a list of Canadian genealogical societies on http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/ which also includes scanned images of all the records of Canadian service personnel.

In the early stages of my research on George I was really fortunate when I was contacted by Sophie Vayro, which has helped tremendously to put together this information. She lives in Toronto with her partner and two young children. However, it is not always that easy to contact living individuals. I am presently exploring a Thomas Vayro, landlord of the Lora Grey in Ellingstring, Wensleydale, who emigrated not to Canada but to the USA in 1868 with his wife and two small children. Despite having some 30 pages of research findings on four subsequent generations, all in the Indian Head area of southern Maryland, I have yet to find a living contact in the USA.
For a wide range of surnames, we will outline a quantitative assessment of plural origins and emigration. This follows on from our earlier surname analyses (JoONS 11(7) pp 10-11, and 11(9) pp 14-16). First, however, we briefly digress on a minority view, that large surnames are single origin.

Family historian George Redmonds, peering through the mists obscuring medieval origins, offered guidance: given the almost unlimited choice of a name, re-using one was unlikely, implying surnames with only one origin.

The geneticist Bryan Sykes used some early DNA data to concur that the Sykes surname is single-origin. However, if the Sykes name were ascribed only once, there are difficulties in explaining its large living population unless we allow, for example, that it could have been allocated to a few people, its once being at a single place.

Plant, also, might have been locational — its dominant family is found first near a newly planted vaccary. However, for a single beginning, much medieval migration would have been needed between distantly separated records of the name.

We could accept Richard Coates’ view that a peasant did not choose his own surname — we can imagine a scribe who chose to use, in his records of the manorial court’s proceedings, a succinct single surname for a small group of men. Such men could have shared local ancestry which would explain why DNA-matching populations are large in some common English surnames. However, this version of events relies not least on a hazy view of a scribe’s predilections.

More traditionally, the belief is that prolific surnames such as Smith have plural origins which arose in different places. We will assess this quantitatively below, to the extent that we consider that very common surnames, with UK populations over 10,000 or so, need to have had more than one 14th century forefather.

Earlier, we examined some geographical distribution data and also made some predictions from our computer simulations. Either method suggested that it might be rare for a single-family population to exceed around 10,000 people in the UK. By a single family, we here mean a separate-origin descent from a single 14th century progenitor, experiencing observed overall growth conditions that no doubt reflect plagues such as the Black Death, conflicts, and regional economic differences.

Using regional growth factors that neglect the possible effects of migration, our computer predictions reflect, in particular, random fortuity at each generation in the bearing of fertile sons who survive to father their own children. A particular prediction from the simulations is that a large observed DNA cluster does not necessarily mean that a surname had just one male progenitor: the simulations predict that most descents from other origins would have died out or grown relatively little, with a large-descent family standing out from the rest.

Turning to some observed data for real surnames, their populations are represented by the blue diamonds in Figure 1. These populations range from 148 (Feakins) to 775,645 (Smith). This Figure also indicates the size of the largest biological cluster, which can be taken to represent a descent family that contributes towards the surname’s whole living population. Most of the underlying DNA data, for the red squares, comes from a study by the geneticists Dr Turi King and Prof Mark Jobling (K&J), though they themselves did not use their data in this way.

Most of the surnames in Figure 1 have populations below our predicted limit, which we estimated as 10,000 for a very large single family in the UK. It is hence quite to be expected that some of the smaller surnames could be single-origin and contain just one small or moderately sized descent family. On the other hand, the whole population of the very common surname King, for example, exceeds this single-family limit, implying that it should have many other separate-origin descent families besides its largest.

Mostly, this is confirmed by the evidence in Figure 1. Many of the red squares for the smallest surnames leave little
room for other small families besides the largest, especially after allowing for the effects of non-paternity events (NPEs). This is less true for some larger surnames, such as Jefferson. For King, its red square suggests that it has a largest biological descent family of around ten thousand, leaving room for many other families. However, the red square for Smith suggests a single family size of around a hundred thousand, far exceeding our predicted limit, though room still remains for many other families. We will proceed to offer an explanation for the Smiths’ high red square and the absence of an observed matching cluster for Bray.

It is important to bear in mind some practicalities of the DNA determinations. The red square for the largest descent family, for King or Smith, is derived from a small DNA cluster: a cluster of two in a sample of 24 in the case of King; and, a cluster of nine for Smith. Small clusters are sensitive to statistical bias and sampling error. For Smith, its observed 15½ per cent DNA statistical bias and sampling error. For

of King; and, a cluster of nine for

of two in a sample of 24 in the case

from a small DNA cluster: a cluster

family, for King or Smith, is derived from its simplest assumptions.

Another practicality arises in connection with the gap in Figure 1 for the fourth surname, Bray. It indicates that KBJ found no observed DNA cluster in their sample of 29 men. This observation implies a limit of 7 per cent on the fraction that would match hypothetically in a larger random sample of this surname’s UK population. This is similar to the 9 per cent fraction found for a larger sample of the smaller surname Jefferson.

We should add that it is not generally reported whether hobbyists’ DNA samples are biased to over-represent particular families. Our analyses assume a random sample of the surname’s whole population in a region, in particular for men living in the UK. The KBJ data were obtained from a truly random sample, but other surname data are almost never obtained this way. Instead, to

use the statistical term, the data are obtained ‘haphazardly’. This does not cause a serious problem provided that data values are obtained independently of each other. One-name researchers often target particular families in a surname, or sometimes deliberately target at least two in each genealogical family, regardless of each family’s size. This can produce a statistical bias that is significantly misleading for our purposes.

Practical problems promote an approach of validating our computer model simulations, at least with its simplest assumptions.

Moving on to Figure 2(b), this shows that the largest UK descent family in a moderately common surname is likely to have around 500 reproductively-active men, if it experiences only the average growth conditions in England. This corresponds to the tallest blue bar. However, for the high-growth region of the orange bars, a single-origin descent family might grow as large as 1,500 or more such men, though the shorter bars indicate that this has a lower chance of arising.

In other words, Figure 2(b) predicts that the size of the largest descent family in a moderately common surname will generally be below three-quarters of the surname’s population. This corresponds to a DNA matching fraction of below 0.45, provided that we assume a non-paternity event (NPE) rate of 2 per cent per generation. If the NPE rate were assumed to be lower, the predicted matching limit would be lowered less from 0.75.

The observed largest DNA descent clusters (red squares) in Figure 1, for moderately common surnames, largely confirm this prediction of DNA matching values below 0.45. For Sykes, Bray, Plant, Stead, Clare, Wadsworth, Butterfield and Jefferson, the fractions are 0.44, <0.07, 0.50, 0.28, 0.24, 0.33, 0.33 and 0.09 respectively. For the

Figure 2: Predicted probabilities of (a) the number of separate-origin male-line families in a surname with 2,000 reproductively-active males; and, (b) largest family in hundreds of reproductively-active males.
high value for Plant, it should be added that there is a 0.12 standard error of statistical uncertainty arising from the limited sample size. It would seem that all of these surnames are plural origin though some evidently have a dominant family that accounts for a large fraction, perhaps around three-quarters, of this surname’s whole UK population.

We have also extended our computer model to include emigration. For this we have derived, from published data, some historical rates of emigration, assuming that it occurs randomly. However, it seems that there might have been a small non-random component to the way in which some surnames migrate. Non-random emigration could have arisen, for example, as follows: A surname’s largest family in the UK might have grown abnormally and we can conjecture that this would have placed pressure on inherited land. Hence smaller, widely spread English families might be expected to have had lower historical rates of migration than a large family experiencing land shortages.

DNA evidence suggests that there could have been non-random emigration of small and large families for the illustrative example of the plural-origin surname Plant. For this surname, the observed DNA matching fraction is 0.50 for a sample of 16 men living in the UK, as against 0.71 for 21 men living overseas. Though this noticeable difference is not statistically significant at the 95 per cent confidence level, it does not rule out non-random emigration. There could be several small-descent families, lowering the DNA matching fraction in the UK. It could then be that the dominant descent family has emigrated disproportionately more, leading to a higher DNA matching fraction in the diaspora. Such non-random migration might show up in other ways.

For a wide range of surname sizes, Figure 3 presents some results from our computer simulations, which here assume purely random emigration. The simulated populations (grey circles) show that the overseas populations of the surnames increase roughly in line with their UK population. The superimposed coloured circles are for a few moderately common real surnames (UK populations around 10,000). These surnames tend to lie towards the lower edge of the grey circles, indicating relatively low emigration rates. On the other hand, the triangles are for very common surnames (UK population around 100,000) which tend to reach more often towards the upper edge of the grey circles. This observed trend has been found for many real surnames. It might relate partly to our aforementioned comments on non-random emigration.

We give some further details at http://www.one-name.org/ESDE-Guild-June2014.pdf on the Guild website.

Figure 3: Simulated relationship between UK and diaspora populations, with some data for real surnames superimposed

DNA

continued from page 6

the password if you so desire. Just do the 20 steps, which include education, and you are on your way to success. If you are pressed for time, do one step a day or one step a week. Once you have protected your registered surnames you proceed at your own speed. Ideally, after you do your ‘getting started’ email, your first priority is to recruit males for those trees with only one or a few surviving males, as well as to test two distant males in your own tree.

6. You learn as you go and encounter different situations. This includes how to interpret results. In addition, the DNA Advisor is available for questions and consultation, and the Forum is available to post questions.

If any or all of your surnames are in an existing DNA project, also write to the DNA Advisor. The existing project will be investigated, to determine the best course of action. If an extraction of your surnames is the best course of action, you will be asked to write a short document or brief on your surnames. This is to provide information to be used in negotiations as to why your surnames aren’t variants of the other surnames in the existing project. I have received many excellent briefs from Guild members, and it makes the extraction negotiations fast, easy, and most importantly, successful.

If extraction is not an option, then a role is negotiated for you with the project. You decide what you want, and the DNA Advisor negotiates to achieve this outcome. Perhaps you only want to recruit UK persons, or you don’t have time now, and want a role and access to the data in the project, and will provide suggestions or leads from your research to help the project administrator recruit.

Or do it on your own

You also always have the option of going forth on your own, whether it is setting up a project or negotiating a role in an existing project, or negotiating a surname extraction.
The Surnames of Wales
Updated & Expanded
by John & Sheila Rowlands
323 pages,
Gomer Press with the National Library of Wales, 2013

The 1996 edition of The Surnames of Wales has long been an invaluable tool for anyone with an interest in the social and family history of Wales. This updated and expanded edition of John and Sheila Rowlands’ earlier work reflects the extensive research into Welsh surnames which they have continued to pursue since the publication of the 1996 edition. The authors’ significant contribution to surname research was recognised by the Guild in 2013 when Sheila Rowlands, a long-standing member, was appointed Master Craftsman of the Guild.

In the mid-19th century, the ten most common surnames in Wales were held by over 55 per cent of the population. The authors explore the origins and distribution not only of those very common surnames but also of other much rarer ones, which can often be traced to one locality. As they point out in their preface to the new edition, the authors have focused in particular on introducing new material relating to the transition from patronymic naming to the use of surnames in Wales. They also consider the distribution of given names in relation to that of patronymic surnames.

The first three chapters are largely unchanged from the original publication. After an introductory chapter comes a historical overview of Welsh names, looking at both patronymic and other origins of surnames, before considering early surnames in use in Wales. A series of case studies demonstrates that the transition was far from uniform, surnames becoming established at different times in different areas of Wales.

Those researching family history in Wales need to know in which period they can expect to find the patronymic system still in use, which could be as early as 1600 in some areas and as late as the mid-19th century in others. In Chapter 4, the authors therefore present fascinating new insights into this gradual and uneven transition to surnames, drawn mainly from an extensive study of wills. The authors recognise that there remains scope for further research into the extent to which married women retained their maiden names.

Chapters 5 to 7, with minor revisions from the first edition, introduce a surname survey, based on marriage records 1813-1837, which examines the distribution of selected surnames across the administrative hundreds of Wales, followed by a review of other surname research and an extremely valuable extensive glossary of surnames, giving guidance as to the origins of the names and details of their distribution during the period 1813-1837.

Chapters 8 and 9 are completely new, presenting the authors’ survey and glossary of given names, which, like surnames, have an uneven and sometimes very localised distribution in Wales. Such information could provide a further useful indicator of the possible origin of migrant families.

Chapter 10, with some revisions from the first edition, deals with further uses of the surveys, providing fascinating insights into how the distribution of the most common names (both surnames and given names), biblical names, “ap” prefixes, and adjectival names might be used to predict the original home of the name-bearers. The final chapter briefly considers the occurrence of Welsh surnames outside of Wales through migration and emigration.

The book includes tables and many full-colour distribution maps which present selected elements of the authors’ findings in a clear and attractive manner. Informative appendices and an extensive bibliography further enhance the value of this meticulously-researched work, which, like its predecessor, will be a fascinating and helpful resource for anyone with an interest in the surnames — and indeed the given names — of Wales.
I recently received a letter from Michael Alonzo Pidgeon in Victoria, Australia thanking me for a copy of my family newsletter, the Pidgeon Post. Michael doesn’t have a computer, so he writes to me in the old fashioned way, and on this occasion he brought to my attention a rather remarkable Pidgeon of whom I had previously never heard.

With his letter Michael enclosed photocopies of four pages from The National Geographic Magazine of February 1928. These showed that the first article, ‘Around the World in the “Islander”’, was written by Capt Harry Pidgeon. It was 63 pages long, with 77 illustrations, mostly photographs taken by Captain Harry himself. Naturally, I had to see the whole article, and I eventually managed to acquire — over the internet — a bound volume containing the February to June issues of the 1928 National Geographic.

Harry the Boat Builder

Harry was born in 1869 on a farm in Iowa, USA, and didn’t see salt water until he went to California at the age of 18. He spent several years on a Californian ranch before heading north for Alaska in 1895. There he learned how to saw out boards from trees on the shore and make small boats. He had many adventures hunting and sailing around the rivers and lakes of Alaska, and taking photos of the rivers and mountains.

Eventually he returned to California and became a professional photographer amongst the tall trees of the Sierras, until one day he came across the plan of a boat. It looked very seaworthy, but also looked simple enough for one man to both build and sail. In 1917 he left the mountains, and set himself up on the seashore of Los Angeles harbour. Taking a year and a half, and costing $1,000 for materials, he built a 34-foot long yawl, almost entirely with his own hands. It had a 12-foot cabin and a watertight cockpit which was self-bailing. For mainly financial reasons it had no motor, but had a nine-foot long skiff for a tender, which he could haul up and lash against the cabin when at sea.

He named his boat Islander and painted the name on the stern board. To begin with, Harry sailed his new boat around the nearby islands, sometimes with friends, but mostly alone. He taught himself navigation and gradually learned to care for and handle the boat in all kinds of weather. When he felt confident enough, he started to prepare for an overseas voyage.

He was able to store sufficient provisions on the boat to last for several months — beans, peas, brown rice, dried fruits, sugar, bacon, and tins of salmon, sardines, milk, tomatoes, peaches, and figs. He ground his own wheat and corn to make bread. Of perishable foods such as potatoes, onions, vegetables, and fruit, he took only what he could consume before they went off, but would replenish his supplies of fruit and vegetables whenever and wherever he landed. He carried 100 gallons of fresh water, using about half a gallon a day. For washing and bathing he used sea water.

His first trip was to the Hawaiian Islands. He sailed there alone, but returned with a friend who came along for the adventure. On the outward voyage he learned how to set the sails so that the Islander would sail on a steady course during the night while he slept. On the return, the weather was stormy with almost continual headwinds, so he was fortunate to have the help of his friend. This trip gave him more confidence that he could sail alone on a long voyage, and he began to plan a voyage to the South Seas. At first he planned to sail only to the Marquesas, Society, and Samoan islands before returning to California, although if things went well he thought he might continue further.

Off to the South Seas

He left Los Angeles at noon on 18th November 1921. After three days he passed Guadeloupe Island and continued south-eastward until he hit the doldrums. Eventually he met the southeast trade winds and crossed the equator. After another ten days he awoke one morning to see Ua Huka Island of the Marquesas straight ahead. After 42 days alone at sea, during which time he saw neither another sail nor the smoke of a passing steamer, he dropped anchor in Taiohae Bay on the south side of Nuku Hiva Island. He was welcomed by the French commissioner, who invited him on shore to have dinner.

After several days exploring the island and another two cleaning the bottom of the Islander, Harry set off again, now sailing from island to island until he reached Tahiti. During
this part of his voyage he passed many other boats plying between the islands, and when he sailed into Papeete harbour he was met by a crowd of people who were there to welcome him, news of his coming having preceded him. Amongst the crowd were Americans and other English-speaking residents.

He had intended spending a month on Tahiti, but found the island so fascinating that he stayed for two months before setting off again to the west. He called in at nearby Moorea, spent a few days on Bora Bora, and then sailed west for 11 days before arriving at Pago Pago, on Tutuila Island in American Samoa. This was as far as he had originally intended to travel, but now that he had arrived he decided to continue further west. He left Pago Pago on 23rd October 1922 on a course for Fiji. After six days he spotted the light of Wailangila Island, a small reef with a few coconut trees and a lighthouse. It lies at the north-eastern extremity of the 250 or so islands of all sizes which make up the Fiji group of islands. Many of these are mere reefs, often marked by a wreck. Harry sailed very carefully through these waters until he arrived at Suva, the capital of Fiji, on the largest island of Viti Levu.

New Hebrides
He spent several months in Fiji, eventually leaving the following April for Port Vila in the New Hebrides. He arrived there 10 days later, but after only a short stay sailed north to the small island of Atchin, near the north end of Melekula Island. Here the natives lived and kept their pigs on the island, but crossed over to the Melekula mainland every day to farm their fields.

In June 1923 he left the Pacific Ocean behind as he sailed along the southern coast of New Guinea, eventually arriving at Port Moresby. One evening, after spending the evening ashore with friends, he set off to return to the Islander, only to find that she was no longer there. She had gone off on a cruise by herself, leaving Harry on the beach with only a book of photographs he had been showing his friends. The following morning he found her with the broken anchor caught on a reef. The offshore wind the previous evening had blown her there after the anchor had broken.

From New Guinea, Harry sailed to Thursday Island, off the coast of Cape York, Queensland. Here he had arranged for letters to be sent for him, but he had a torrid time getting there, becoming lost in poor weather amongst reefs and small island in the Torres Strait. He arrived eventually, and then decided that he would return to California via the Cape of Good Hope and the Panama Canal. But first, the Islander needed repairs and paint. In a quiet cove in the lee of Prince of Wales Island, he beached her on the spring tide and went to work.

He left Thursday Island on 7th August 1923 and sailed east to Timor, where he spent two days sailing along the southern coast before anchoring at the Dutch port of Kupang, near the island’s western tip. Here, he rested for a week. He laid in supplies of fruits and vegetables, then set sail for Christmas Island, 600 miles to the west.

Islander meets Islander
It was on trips such as this, out on the open sea, that he most felt the monotony of being alone. On this occasion, the monotony was broken by a visit from a huge whale, which suddenly rose alongside him and spouted. When he arrived at Christmas Island there was a steamship at the pier of Flying Fish Cove, decorated with bunting from stem to stern. The name of the steamship was the Islander, the same as Harry’s small boat. It was owned by the company working the phosphate deposits on the island. A party was in full swing, and Harry was invited on board just in time for dinner.

He spent five happy days on Christmas Island, and then sailed on to the Cocos Islands, another 650 miles to the west. These are a group of about 20 small islands scattered along a horseshoe-shaped coral rim. They were important because there was a telegraph cable station on one of the islands, relaying messages across the Indian Ocean. And it was across this ocean that Harry now set sail.

For a week the weather was stormy, with a rough sea, and he did not feel well. With only a light sail he allowed the boat to sail on day after day, while he remained below out of the wet. Once again he felt the solitude. Eventually the weather eased up, until one day he was astonished by a school of small squid. They shot out of the water as if fired from a gun, like flying fish, though not so graceful. Many collided with his sails and rigging, some knocking their heads off in the process.
Three weeks and about 2,500 miles after leaving the Cocos Islands he reached Rodrigues Island, another small island whose importance lay in its telegraph station. A further four days to the west lay Mauritius, and it was on this leg of his journey that Harry passed the half-way point on his voyage around the world from California.

He spent a very pleasant month on Mauritius, before setting off once more on 4th December 1923. Three days later he passed the island of Reunion, which towers over the ocean to a height of 10,000 feet. He longed to go ashore there, but the hurricane season was approaching, so he drifted by. As he approached Madagascar, the easterly trade winds which had carried him across the Indian Ocean died down, and a storm blew up from the south. For two days he battled on under a vast black cloud, eventually passing Cape St Marie at the southern tip of Madagascar.

A week later he had his first view of Africa, but he had to endure another stormy night before he was able to sail into the harbour of Durban. The people here found Harry and his voyage of great interest. He had a continual stream of visitors, and at least 20 of them offered to sail with him. Once again he stayed longer than he had planned, and it was the end of February 1924 before he set off again en route to Cape Town.

He spent many days fighting against westerly gales before he was able to round the Cape of Good Hope, but once under the shelter of the land he was able to relax. In Cape Town he had many more visitors, some from the Royal Cape Yacht Club, and many more applications for the position of mate — not all from males, either — but by now he had resolved to sail home single-handed.

Beached

On 3rd June, 1924 he left Cape Town, sailing north along the coast towards St Helena. The southeast wind was light and he made slow progress, too close to the land to be able to sleep at night. On the third night, however, he was further from the coast and decided to sleep. He awoke when the boat bumped on to a sandy beach. The wind had swung round to the northwest, and blown him onto the only sandy beach along a 25-mile stretch of rocks between Saldanha Bay and Paternoster. Nearby was a large estate belonging to a resident of Cape Town. With the help of its manager, who provided a crew and a tugboat, the Islander was eventually dragged back into the water. She was not damaged, but Harry sailed back to Cape Town and spent three days checking her over.

By now, winter was setting in and northwest gales were frequent, so Harry decided to wait for spring. Time passed quickly, and on 22nd September he set sail once again for St Helena. This time the winds were friendly, and he passed the place of his disaster without further incident. But he had day after day of constant cloud, with hardly a sight of the sun necessary for him to determine his position in the ocean. He was worried that he might miss the island, not knowing exactly where he was. Nearly three weeks out of Cape Town the cloud lifted sufficiently for him to calculate his position — about 60 miles east of St Helena — and the following day he was able to land there.

After a short stay on St Helena he continued northwest, and eight days later came to Ascension Island. The only people living here were the employees of a guano company and another telegraph station. He left Ascension on 15th December on course for the West Indies. Shortly after midnight in mid-January, Harry was awoken from a sound sleep, when the Islander crashed into the oil tanker San Quirino, bound from Los Angeles to Buenos Aires. The tanker had seen the Islander, and thinking she was a ship’s boat lost at sea, had come alongside to rescue any passengers. After convincing the crew that he did not want to be rescued, the two craft continued on their respective ways. Harry quickly effected a few temporary but necessary repairs, and 10 days later crept into Port of Spain, Trinidad “like a bird with a broken wing”.

Through the Panama Canal

The Port of Spain customs officials allowed Harry to berth at the customhouse wharf while he visited the sights of the island and repaired his boat. Three months later he sailed on, passing to the north of all the islands off the north coast of South America until he eventually drifted into the port of Cristóbal on 2nd May 1925 at the Atlantic, or north-western, end of the Panama Canal. Here the Islander was turned into a motor-boat by the temporary addition of an outboard motor, lent by a photographer friend, for its passage through the canal.

The Islander was rated at five tons, and Harry had to pay $5 for measuring and a $3.75 canal toll. With the photographer on board as engineer, the Islander chugged into the locks along with the steamer Orinoco, where they were lifted up into Lake Gatun. On the lake Harry lay at anchor for a few days, watching the procession of ships passing through the canal. He then sailed around the islands of the lake until he reached Gamboa, where he regained his engineer who coaxed the motor back into life for the run down through the canal and the locks to the Pacific end of the canal. Before he left the canal the boat was again beached, examined, and its bottom painted, ready for the long final leg of the voyage.

On 7th August 1925 the Islander sailed out into the Pacific Ocean. At first sailing south, he passed Cape Mala on the second day, and here left the stream of steam traffic passing through the canal and sailed away to the southwest. He sailed west for about 1,800 miles, then northwest for another 1,500 miles, before turning east for the 600 miles to the Californian coast. This was probably the most difficult part of his voyage, having to sail again through the doldrums and against adverse winds. It took him 85 days, a long time to be alone at sea, but he bore it well. For more than a month he was accompanied by a vast school of albacore tuna and dolphins. In calm weather he encountered turtles floating...
lazily on the surface, also flying fish escaping from the tuna and dolphins, and more leaping squid similar to those he had seen in the Indian Ocean.

**Home at Last**

Finally, on 31st October 1925 he cast anchor in the harbour of Los Angeles, after an absence of 3 years, 11 months and 13 days, having cruised about 27,000 miles around the world.

This description of Captain Harry Pidgeon’s voyage is a very short abstract of the 66-page article he wrote for *The National Geographic Magazine*. Missing are his vivid descriptions of the places he visited and the people he met. There are photographs of the people and places, and photographs of the *Islander* in different places and different conditions. Many photographs show Harry himself, and some of these he took, operating the shutter remotely using a piece of string. In 1932 he published a fuller description in his book *Around the World Single-Handed*.

After publishing his book, Captain Harry Pidgeon set off again in the *Islander*, travelling around the world a second time on his own. This time he took five years before returning to Los Angeles in 1937, at the age of 67. He had been the second person ever to circumnavigate the world alone, after Joshua Slocum had done it in 1895-98, but now he became the first person to do it twice.

**Married Life**

Harry had never married. Whether he was put off marriage as a young lad, looking after his younger brothers and sisters, or whether he simply didn’t have the time for it, isn’t known. But in the early 1940s he was known to have said, ‘I have never been married, but now that I am 72 years old, I consider myself sufficiently ripe to give it a try.’ In 1944 he married Margaret Dexter Gardner, whom he had met while sailing in Connecticut. She was the daughter of his ocean-going sea captain friend Blanchard Gardner, and was born aboard her father’s employer’s yacht the *J H Dexter*.

In 1947, Harry and his wife, Margaret, set sail once more in the *Islander*, intending to sail around the world for a third time. This time he only got as far as Espiritu Santo, the large island just north of Malekula in the New Hebrides, which he had visited on his first trip. While moored in Hog Harbour, the *Islander* was caught in a typhoon. Harry wanted to sail away and outrun the storm, but Margaret refused to board her until the storm had passed. Without her captain to protect her, the *Islander* was blown onto rocks and wrecked.

Harry died in 1954 at the age of 85. After falling ill on a new boat he had built for Margaret and himself to live on, he was unwillingly removed from it to the San Pedro Community Hospital in Los Angeles, where he died of pneumonia.

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**Yorkshire Family History Fair**

by John Coldwell (Member 2172)

The Yorkshire Family History Fair, one of the largest to be held in the UK, was held at the Knavesmire Suite at the York racecourse on Saturday, 28 June 2014.

The Guild stand was set up and manned by Committee member Rodney Brackstone from Rochdale, who was later joined by John Coldwell, Committee member, from London.

The stand attracted a steady flow of visitors often keen to find out if their ‘name was in our list’ and to see the British geographical distribution in 1881 using the excellent Surname Atlas program. Several visitors were already doing one-name studies and went away to consider joining the Guild.

Despite reasonable attendance at the Guild stand, the total number of visitors to the fair was significantly down from previous years. Several contacts with regional family history societies indicated that membership was in decline and this was put down to the growth of data available from the internet and the consequent decline in data required from the societies. My view is that Guild membership is more complex and is not driven by the need for data (although the Guild does provide some unique databases), but rather by the benefits of being able to share research techniques and problem solving with fellow expert genealogists.
Turning Data Into Families

by Gordon Tuff (Member 4184)

Looking at Sheet 2 of the workbook, the data has been sorted by census county and by family groups within each county. The code for each family group is inserted in column B.

Sheet 3: ‘1891’. Laid out similarly to Sheet 2.

Sheets 4, 5 & 6: ‘Births 81 to 91,’ ‘Marriages 81 to 91’ and ‘Deaths 81 to 91’. Extracts from GRO registers for the ONS surname, for the decade between the two census years, sorted by forename alphabetically.

Sheet 7: ‘Correlation’. This is the main focus of the project. Looking first at the structure of the sheet, there are four sets of columns as follows:

**Earlier Census Year (1881)**

Four columns of data transcribed from Sheet 2:
- Column B, Family Group Code.
- Column C, Name. This can be forename only if surname variants are processed in a separate workbook, but if variants are to be incorporated in the same workbook, then this column should include both forename and surname.
- Column D, Birth Year.
- Column E, Birthplace.

**Data-matching**

Four columns which will be filled during the correlation process:
- Column F, ‘seek 1891 match’. Cells in this column will be entered to show links to data in the later census.
- Column G, ‘M or D out’. Marriage or death references will be entered into this column where data is available, to explain the absence of matching family members in the later census.
- Column H, ‘B or M in’ will contain birth or marriage references for new family members who appear in the later census but not in the earlier one.
- Column I, ‘Inter-census link’. This complements data in the ‘Seek 1891 match’ Column F.

**Later Census Year (1891)**

Two columns of data transcribed from Sheet 3:
- Column J, Family Group Reference Codes for Column K.
- Column K, Families in the later census year.

**Correlation**

Lastly, four more columns to be filled during the correlation process:
- Columns L, M & N. Data to show the degree of certainty in the attributed match.
- Column O. Notes of information relevant to data in that row.

Once data has been collected into spreadsheets, the one-name researcher is faced with the challenge of reconfiguring the information to construct the family trees that lie behind the data. This article describes a systematic process for correlating the data from successive census years to identify the underlying family trees.

**Using the Power of Spreadsheets**

The Guild Wiki contains copious tips and techniques for organising one-name study data. These include reports from Guild seminars on data capture held in Durham in August 2008 and on computing held in Epsom in August 2010. Reprints of John Coldwell’s articles ‘Computing for Beginners’ (JoONS Vol 10, Issues 2 and 3) provide practical advice on the use of spreadsheets to extract and record data from various sources, such as Free BMD, census returns, and IGI records.

**Preparing a Correlation Workbook**

After one-name data has been extracted from consecutive census years, the next step is to construct a set of spreadsheets within an Excel workbook or equivalent to identify potential family links between two chosen sets of data. A Correlation Workbook based on 1881 and 1891 census data for the surname TUFF can be viewed on the Guild’s website at [http://one-name.org/members/journal/articles/vol11-12_Tuff-Data.pdf](http://one-name.org/members/journal/articles/vol11-12_Tuff-Data.pdf). It consists of a Contents Sheet followed by nine other sheets. Please view the example on the website as you read through the rest of this article.

**Correlation Workbook Contents**

Before looking in detail at the workbook, the concept of a ‘Family Group Code’ is introduced. This is in the format YYCCCN; where YY is the final two digits of the census year, CCC is the Chapman Code for the county in which the census occurred, NN is a sequential number allocated to each discovered family group in turn.

Although such a code could be extended to distinguish each individual within a family, it is clearer to begin by identifying the relationship between family groups. The term “family group” is chosen to reflect the fact that as well as the usual parent-with-children families, there may be families living under the roof of a landlord or employer, single family members, members living in bigger households or institutions as well as those living on their own.

Sheet 2: ‘1881’. This contains the census data for the one-name study extracted from available web-site sources (such as Find My Past or Ancestry) using the methods described in the Guild Wiki.
The Correlation Process
With the structure of the Correlation Worksheet established, the correlation process is carried out in the following steps:

1. At the outset, a decision has to be taken as to whether to include surname variants in the same spreadsheets as the primary one-name surname. My own view is that unless there is prior evidence of frequent changes from one name version to another, it is clearer to treat the variations in separate spreadsheets.

2. Data from the earlier census year — 1881 in this example — is copied from Sheet 2 and set out in columns B to E of Sheet 7 in county blocks.

3. The correlation process proceeds by county and one row at a time, using the forename and date of birth in Sheet 3 to identify a likely match for each person within an 1881 Family Group in the 1891 census.

4. Where a probable match is identified, the appropriate Family Group Code and individual names are entered into the corresponding rows of Columns J and K. (e.g., 91CUL01; Hannah in row 22).

5. The word ‘link’ is written into the relevant cell in Column F and ‘link from YYCCCN’ is entered into the relevant cell of Column I, giving the Family Group Code from the earlier census (in this case: ‘link from 81CUL01’).

6. Where no credible match can be found between the two census years ‘not found in 1891’ is entered in Column F (see rows 20 and 21) or ‘not in 1881’ entered in Column I (see row 31).

7. The process continues until all the Family Groups in the 1881 census for that county have been examined. Finally any 1891 entries for that county that have not been linked from 1881 data are grouped together at the end of that county block, and annotated by ‘FG not found in 1881’ under column I. (See rows 5 to 15 where there are no families in the 1881 census for those counties, or more typically, rows 122 to 133 at the end of the Essex data).

In straight-forward cases, where most of the family members are still living together in both censuses, the data can be made to align on the same row. Thus in rows 24 to 31, Hannah, Jane, John and Mary H occupy the same rows in 1881 and 1891.

Death — or in the case of females, marriage — are two obvious reasons why a person may not appear in the later census whilst other members of the same family appear in both census records. For example, in row 24 Thomas dies before the 1891 census; or in row 31, William is born after 1881 to join the family in the 1891 census. In such cases data can be displaced allowing the horizontal correspondence between the earlier and later families to be maintained clearly. The FG Code in Column J is extended down through any blank cells created by such displacement (rows 26 and 30).

Where the death or marriage can be found amongst the data in Sheets 5 or 6 this can be indicated by entering, for example, D_3Q_1882 (row 24, column G) or M_1Q_1890 (row 26, column G). By similar logic, marriages or births can be referenced in Column H for new family members appearing in the later census (rows 36 and 37).

The horizontal linking of data for a given family cannot always be achieved. For example when sons marry and start their own families during the period between censuses. In such cases, the data for the 1891 family has to be placed further down the sheet, and ‘link to 91CCCNN’ and ‘link from 81CCCNN’ pointers placed in the appropriate cells in Columns F and I (see George, rows 97 and 100). Similarly, 1881 family members may move to a different county by 1891 (see Ann and Elizabeth, rows 17 and 18). Colour can be used to clarify the process (green for moves within the same county, blue for moves between counties).

Where no relevant families in 1881 link to 1891 families within a county, a county code 81CCC without any family number can be placed in column B to maintain the clarity of the spreadsheet layout (rows 5 to 14).

1891 census families unmatched by 1881 entries, are shown by the words ‘FG not found in 1881’ in column I, with associated data tinted in yellow.

Information entered in columns L, M, and N indicates the evidence that families in the two census years are linked.

Column L, Name and Birthplace
When forenames are sufficiently uncommon, their occurrence in both census records is a good indicator for a certain match. The same birthplace is a further confirmation even with more frequently occurring names.

2 is entered in the relevant cell to indicate a good match on both counts.
1 indicates some uncertainty in either the name or birthplace.
0 indicates that there is significant mismatch in one or both factors.

Column M, Year of Birth
2 indicates the identical birth year found in both census returns.
1 indicates a reasonable discrepancy of one or two years.
0 shows that the claimed birth years are more than two years apart.

Column N, Family members
If a number of forenames are identical between two matched families, this gives a high level of certainty. This is a major benefit from working with Family Groups rather than single individuals.

2 shows that three or more names correspond in the two census years.
1 shows that at least two names correspond.
0 shows a lack of such evidence (inevitable if someone lives on their own).

Further refinements are possible; for example, hyperlinks can be created between, say, a Birth, Marriage or Death reference cell in the Correlation Sheet to the relevant entry in the referenced data (e.g., D_3Q_1885 in, row 20). This could help if there is a frequent need to retrace the origins...
of the correlation data, or in very large sets of data but could usually be omitted.

Remaining Sheets

Sheet 8 ‘Summary’ A list of pairs of Family Groups that are linked in both censuses by at least one family member.

Sheet 9 ‘Statistics’ The number of linked Family Groups and missing forward and backward citations for each county. This provides a measure of the extent to which it has been possible to correlate the two sets of data.

Sheet 10 ‘Cumulative Summary’ This sheet accumulates data as successive correlations are carried out and would normally be filed separately; however for this article it has been included as an additional sheet at the end of the example workbook. As further pairs of census data are processed, the resulting summaries can be combined to show links between Family Groups in successive sets of data to indicate a series of family trees.

Conclusion

The process described above, and especially the resulting Summary Sheet, is a powerful tool for generating a succinct picture of family continuity from one census to the next. Meanwhile the family group codes provide an unambiguous route back to the underlying census data and also to the basis of the conclusions reached in the ‘matchmaking’ columns (L, M, N) of the Correlation Sheet.

The major benefit of the method, however, is that as the process is repeated for subsequent pairs of census records, the Cumulative Summary Sheet can be extended to accumulate all the family correlations obtained.

The Family Group Code system can easily be adapted to incorporate data sets other than census records. The YY component of the code is initially limited to represent the census years 41, 51, 61, 71, 81, 91, 11, but values outside this set can be allocated to indicate, for example, parish records or post-1912 GRO records.

The process described above is purely manual and may appear laborious at times. However, the methodical approach pays off when dealing with large amounts of data by enabling one to keep the bigger picture in view. The process can easily be simplified (or elaborated!) to suit individual requirements.

This is an abridged version of Gordon Tuff’s article. The full version, including all illustrations, is available at http://one-name.org/members/journal/articles/vol11-12_Tuff-Data.pdf.
Sermon and Variants: A DNA Study

by John S Sermon (Member 197)

I have been involved in family history for over 57 years. When I first started, it was because I was interested to find the original meaning of what I then considered a rather unusual surname. From the very beginning, by accident, I made a decision which has proved invaluable: to record every reference or mention of anyone bearing the surname, irrespective of how it was spelt.

Over the years I have created an enormous archive of people alive and mainly dead with the same-sounding surname, but spelt in at least six different ways. The method of recording was and is still quite simple: firstly by county, chronologically; and then by location, be it parish, town, city and country.

The earliest mention I have found is in 1150 in Languedoc in southwest France, with a Bernard Sermon as a Lord of Albedun at the Château of Le Bezu, about 30 miles south of Carcassonne — but stress that I make no claim to be a direct descendant of that man, though it would be a pleasure if I could.

Since 1995, when we formed the Surman Family History Society, the research has been developed by a solid core of researchers collecting and disseminating the material, which has resulted in an archive made up of the following families in England and Wales:

- The Severn Valley family from 1460 in Eldersfield, Worcestershire, near Tewkesbury
- The Thames Valley family from 1500 in Buckland near Faringdon
- The Chilterns family, with records back to Berkhamsted in the 14th century
- The Solent and Somerset, with records back to the 16th century
- London and the south-east of England since the middle of the 16th century
- North Oxfordshire since the 12th century
- Belgium, mainly around Brussels, from the 18th century
- West Germany from the 17th century
- Eastern Europe from the 16th century

I now have records for a number of branches in England, with earliest records back into the 12th century. I have thoroughly researched and produced individual pedigrees going back to that period. I have researched my own family and can prove my direct descent from a William Surman who took a lease of a meadow in the village of Eldersfield, in Worcestershire, on St George’s Day, 23rd April 1460. All those descended from the family in Eldersfield are known as the Severn Valley family.

I well remember at a family gathering in about 1999 being asked whether all those with the same name were related. At the time there was no answer. We had paper records going back to early times, but nothing to show that we were all related. We had, figuratively speaking, reached the end of the road.

Shortly afterwards we were approached by members in the USA explaining that they had taken part in a DNA study using FT DNA, which had shown they were all related and descended from an Edward (or Edmund) Sermon who had arrived in Maryland in 1644, aged 10, from Bristol. There was a traditional story that Edward, or Edmund, had come from Tewkesbury, and were we interested in taking part in the same DNA study?

It was a tantalising invitation, and after some discussion with family members from the Severn Valley, we agreed. Five of us took the plunge. After some weeks of nail biting, the results came back to show that we were in fact from the same family, some having only minor mutations but all complying with the same haplotype — which we have since extended to 67 markers, further confirming that we are all related.

Elated with the results, we then encouraged those with ancestry in the Thames Valley to also take the test. Seven took the test, and to our surprise they came back with an entirely different haplotype, all the same without any mutations.

From there we convinced other members to take the test — though in general there was some reluctance — but the results showed that each of the families in this country have differing DNAs though we all share the same surname. At the same time we were approached by a Surman in the USA whose family originated from eastern Germany and who had already taken a DNA test, which was totally different from any of the others.

We still need to get some in Belgium to take the tests, because just one is meaningless without collaborative results. But what it has shown is that people with the same surname are not necessarily from the same family, even though they may live, relatively speaking, in the same geographical location. I recently went to a meeting where a professor from Leicester University made just this assumption in her talk, and I just sat there and quietly shook my head.

DNA has brought my study to a really remarkable climax. I know, to some extent, my origins and also where further back my family may have come from. Unfortunately, after all those years of study I still do not know the origin of the surname, though I have heard various suggestions from some ‘experts’, none of which has proved conclusive. I have some theories, which at the moment I intend to keep to myself, but I am pretty sure it is not ecclesiastical.

At 82 I am still as involved as I ever was, though now it is more likely to be helping others fit their little bit of the family, or families, into the bigger picture.
The Medieval and Early Modern Records Seminar sponsored by the Guild of One-Name Studies at Fulneck school in the Fulneck Moravian Settlement near Leeds was an attractive anchor for a summer trip to England and Denmark with my husband, John. The focus on medieval records promised to broaden my perspectives on family history gained through decades of research and a GOONS membership over the past few years.

As soon as we said a few words, the other attendees knew that we were from America and would immediately ask whether we had made the trip ‘just for this meeting’. They seemed relieved when we explained that we were en route to Denmark to visit family and professional friends of some 50 years standing, then coming back to England for research in Wiltshire. Nevertheless, our first GOONS seminar was certainly one of the high points of the trip and definitely was worth including in our European travel agenda.

Owing to his expertise on Yorkshire, it was fitting that the keynote speaker was Dr George Redmonds. We had heard him before at meetings in Boston and England and were delighted to have him at the top of the program. His lecture, ‘The Way Forward in Surname Studies’, presented his study of surnames, particularly those of Yorkshire. His extensive work and publication list spans several decades, and a new A Dictionary of Yorkshire Surnames will appear later in 2014. He commented that ‘there is no good time to finish a dictionary of surnames.’ Dr. Redmonds also cautioned the audience to be careful in studying the evolution of surnames: ‘You cannot be a happy guesser.’

His emphasis is on the early origins of surnames, origins that are not always immediately obvious, and often involve bynames. For example, “hagg” was an early English word for wood, and someone who managed a woodland became known as Hagger. I have found his book, Surnames and Genealogy, A New Approach (Boston: NEHGS, 1997) both extremely interesting and helpful.

Dr Bart Lambert of the University of York introduced the initiative that he and his colleagues are developing in conjunction with the National Archives and the Humanities Research Institute at the University of Sheffield. Titled ‘England’s Immigrants’, the study covers the period 1330-1550 and will ultimately include an online searchable database. Although immigrants of the higher status (nobles, clergy, merchants, and artisans) have been documented, it is apparent that there was additionally an influx of individuals of lesser rank from Scotland, Ireland, the Low Countries, and the rest of Europe.

Among the more important research sources are Letters of Denization from the 1290s onwards – giving name, origin, occupation, and the length of stay in England – which provided a type of naturalization. Some of these are published. Additional significant sources are the Alien Subsidies (a tax on aliens established in 1440) and subsequent Tudor taxes on resident aliens. This is an ongoing project, details of which may be viewed at www.englandsimmigrants.com.

In describing the genealogical value of the Wakefield Court Rolls, Sylvia Thomas, President of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society (YAS: www.yas.org.uk) which currently holds the rolls, pointed out that they cover the period 1274-1925, and pertain to a significant percentage of the land in the area of Wakefield and Halifax. Of the 670 rolls, the YAS has produced 16 volumes, the earliest of which are in translation; the most recent volume in the series covers 1812-13.

The rolls include significant information about family relationships and include wills, the settlement of family disputes, and the inheritance of land. In cases where there was no will, the heirs came to court to settle their affairs. Courts for tenants were held every three weeks at Wakefield.

Derbyshire Regional Meeting Report

Saturday 31 May dawned dry and fine for the 10th meeting of the Derbyshire Guild members, which was held at the home of our Regional Representative, Jenny Tudbury. Eleven Guild members attended, an excellent turnout considering there are only 22 Derbyshire members in total.

The meeting started at 10 am, with Jenny welcoming members, many of whom had attended previous meetings and some who were new. Jenny then sadly announced the death of John Horsman (Sue’s father). It was John’s early researches into his ancestry which, whilst boring Sue when she was a teenager, were the forerunners of the Horsman One-Name Study. What a lot he has to answer for! For the benefit of the newcomers, we then had a quick introduction from each member, and then Jenny kept us up to date with recent Guild events, including the Annual Conference.

The introduction was followed by Roy Dunicliffe telling us about ‘The Next Generation’ seminar, which he had recently attended at Telford. Sue Horsman then gave a presentation on criminals, describing several web sites which contain useful information on our miscreant ‘names’.

Jenny told us about the ‘Poor Law Boards Records’ held at the National Archives, which she is helping to transcribe. This information will ultimately be available on a FOC basis via their website.

It was time then for lunch. We retired to the garden for an excellent meal in the sunshine. This enabled everyone to chat, talk about their one-name studies, and share ideas. Too soon it was time to return indoors, although everyone willingly helped to clear up.

The afternoon session was ‘free format’, when we discussed topics which had been brought up during the morning session.

As always, we had a very informative meeting with lots of new information to check out when we got home. I’m sure all attendees would like to join me in thanking Jenny for her hospitality.
The highs & lows of organising a local meeting

With the encouragement and support of Rodney Brackstone (Committee member and Guild member from Lancashire) I started planning a local meeting for Guild members in September 2013.

1) Venue/Date: I was offered a date of 21st June 2014 by Friends of Old Christ Church Committee (which includes my partner & son). Old Christ Church is a disused church situated in Waterloo near Liverpool and it is used for a lot of community events, so I was very lucky to be offered the use of the Church.

2) Presentations: I have two friends — Kathy & Brenda — who I know through Liverpool & SW Lancashire Family History Society. They both very kindly agreed to do talks for me at the Guild meeting. I also had a presentation I could do.

3) Attendees: I emailed all my Lancashire members and the Cheshire Rep very kindly agreed to email all his members for me. Initially there were about 20 positive responses and several from people who were doing something else on the specified date. I eventually emailed those who said ‘Yes’ with a provisional programme plus directions to the venue. Additional members declined for various reasons.

We ended up with 10 members (plus Rodney & myself) as positive responses. I also spoke to several members of Friends of Old Christ Church and they promised that they would support me as well, so the total number of attendees a week before the meeting was 16.

4) Setup/Refreshments: With the help of Tony (my partner) we set up the church the night before the meeting and acquired supplies of tea, coffee and milk for during the meeting. I also compiled a list of attendees, which was now down to nine. Name badges were sorted.

5) Day of the Meeting: Final check of the church, signs outside, badges on reception table. All that was then needed was Rodney with the Guild screen and projector, plus the attendees. Rodney arrived with all the equipment and was helped to set up by Tony and our son, Richard. Five Guild members arrived prior to the specified start time of 10:15. None of the Friends of Old Christ Church turned up. Eventually everything was ready at 10:30.

6) Presentations: My presentation was about the 1939 ID Card Registers. Find My Past is digitizing them, although they will restrict access. Kathy spoke about letters home during WW1 using extracts from local newspapers. Kathy also did lookups for Guild members in her WW1 casualty list database and found information for two of the attendees.

Brenda talked about famous 19th century residents of Seaforth (next-door district to Waterloo), the most famous resident being William Gladstone. All three talks were very well received and the fact that there were only seven of us meant that there were lively discussions during the breaks and lunchtime.

7) Finale: The final session of the day was a general discussion about future meetings/topics. All the attendees agreed that the venue was very easy to find by road.

8) Observation: Did I enjoy the meeting? Yes, although it was hard work.

9) Feedback: The feedback from all who attended has been very positive. It was a bit disappointing that the numbers were not higher but, being midsummer, many people were away on holiday or had prior commitments. One Guild member did email me afterwards to say his car broke down on the way.

10) Future: Will there be another local meeting? Hopefully yes, as we have learnt a lot in the planning/publicity/running of the meeting.
Forthcoming Seminars

One-Name Studies: The Next Stage Seminar

Martlets Hall, Civic Way, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 9NN
09:30 am for 10:00 am, Saturday 8th November 2014

The Guild visits Sussex to focus on those Pillars of Wisdom beyond data collection. Helen Osborn of Pharos Tutors will open the seminar by considering what we can discover from our one-name research. Sherry Irvine, author and recipient of the Smallwood Award of Merit, will show us techniques for investigating the context of our studies. Dr Eilidh Garrett, from The Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, will explore how demography can contribute to our understanding. Kevin Hurley, undertaking a one-name study of the surname Peapell, will help to demystify the analysis pillar and Sue Mastel, recipient of the Guild Award of Excellence, will share her experience of publishing one-name studies on the web. We hope that attendees will discover ways to improve their study.

Programme

09:30 – 10:00  Arrival: Registration and Coffee
10:00 – 10:15 Welcome to the Seminar — Kim Baldacchino
10:15 – 11:00 What’s the Point of a One-Name Study? — Helen Osborn, Managing Director of Pharos Tutors and author
11:00 – 11:15 Comfort Break
11:15 – 12:00 Context and Your Study: Threads of Reference — Sherry Irvine, teacher and author
12:00 – 13:00 Lunch and opportunity to view displays
13:45-14:30 Useful Analyses Anyone Can Do — Kevin Hurley, Peapell One-Name Study
14:30-15:00 Tea Break
150:0-15:45 What Makes a Good ONS Website? — Sue Mastel, Adamthwaite and Appleby One-Name Studies
15:45-16:00 Questions and Close of Seminar

Applications to attend are welcome from Guild members, family historians, genealogists, and members of the general public having an interest in the subject matter. To book online see http://one-name.org/bh.

Seminar cost, including lunch and refreshments is £15.00. Day parking is £6 but we have secured 15 free spaces available to the first 15 people to book and request these.

To make the day more interactive, everyone is invited to bring along details of their studies for display and sharing. Pin boards will be available on request for your use.

We would like to ensure that disabled delegates can participate fully in this event. Anyone with any special requirements should telephone the Guild Help Desk on 0800 011 2182 or email seminar-booking@one-name.org.
Your Seminar Subcommittee Needs YOU!

Have you previously attended a Guild seminar or, for whatever reason, not been able to? Would you like to help shape the programme of future seminars? Do you have new ideas for subjects and themes? The Seminar Subcommittee would like to increase their numbers and are seeking new volunteers to join us. We meet face-to-face four times a year, currently in the Oxford area (but this could be flexible), two or three weeks before the date of each upcoming seminar.

To find out more please contact “SemSub Secretary” semsub@one-name.org.

Main photo: School at the Fulneck Moravian Settlement in West Yorkshire, where the seminar was held. Above left: Seminar Subcommittee secretary Rod Clayburn and Elizabeth Dutton discuss the program. Above right: Jackie Depelle introduces speaker George Redmonds.