THE GUILD OF ONE NAME STUDIES

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Front cover - Shearmur Family Get Together 1996
From The Editor's Desk

This is the first of the new format Journal. I know that the size will not please everyone, but it will enable charts, maps and pictures to be included without loss of visual clarity. I hope that in the course of time all members will come to enjoy the new format Journal. What we need is more articles from you the members which includes photographs etc. We can now accept articles on disk in any format but would prefer Rich text Format (RTF). If send photographs, please remember to send an s.a.e. should require the photo to be returned. For members with scanners who wish to send a scan, please use TIFF format.

A Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Guild held at Dartford, Kent, at the request of thirty-two signatories under the provisions of Section 9b of the current Constitution of the Guild of One-Name Studies, resulted in less than ten of the signatories attending. This makes a mockery of the Constitution which gives members the right to request such a SGM with a minimum of twenty signatories. It has been alleged that the meeting at Dartford, was far away for the signatories to attend and yet over 75 members did attend, but there was no way that this meeting could have been combined with the SGM held at Tamworth to consider the proposals for the new Constitution, since the latter went on all day as had been previously anticipated.

Many of those at Dartford had come to receive information because they were clueless as to what it was all about. and no wonder! Letters and e-mail had been sent to certain members and not to others, while many of the recipients of these believing they had been sent to all members including the Executive Committee.

In my previous editorial published in the October 1996 issue, I stated that "any member believing that the election was unfair and/or illegal has had the opportunity for recourse to the Charity Commissioners. The fact that this course of action has not been taken, I believe speaks for itself".

In relation to this I publish below the relevant paragraphs of Section 4 of the 1992 Charities Act, namely, "Giving false information to the Commissioners", as I believe some members are unaware of these provisions and as the result of recent events may well find themselves in a position where they may be committing an offence.

4.1 The Commissioners rely upon information given to them by trustees and employees of charities, and by members of the public. It is extremely important that, where the Commissioners are given information which they will use when making a decision about a charity, this information should be accurate.

4.2 It will therefore be an offence, from September 1992, for any person (not just trustees) to give the Commissioners information which is false or misleading:

- if the person knows the information to be false or misleading;
- if the person does not care whether it is false or misleading and does not check it;

4.3 This applies whether or not the Commissioners have specifically asked for the information. The Commissioners will be putting reminders on some of their most important forms about the need to supply correct information.

The above has been taken from: "A Trustee's Guide to the Charities' Act 1992".

It is extremely regrettable that a small number of people would appear to be, for reasons best known to themselves, attempting to destroy the Guild, both in regard to its finances, namely in calling an SGM and then not attending, and by attempts to either destroy the reputation of individual members of the Executive Committee (the trustees under the above Act) and/or by subjecting them to stress by incessant correspondence, e-mail and solicitor's letters, to resign.

It is totally unfair to members that the Guild should bear the cost of a SGM brought by less than 2% of the membership on generalised, largely hearsay and unsubstantiated allegations, about which only a small number of members has been informed, but some of whom have mistakenly believed they were in receipt of information communicated to the total membership.

In view of the above I wish members to consider the following:-

That the conditions allowing members to call a SGM meeting shall be as follows;

1) A SGM will require the signatures of fifty members or at the instigation of the Executive Committee.

2) ALL members must receive a form for their signature which clearly gives specific reasons for the calling of an SGM.

3) If less than two thirds of the signatories attend the SGM, then the signatories will be liable for the expenses of calling the SGM.

I do not consider point 3 above to be undemocratic. Candidates running for Parliament forfeit their deposit if they...
receive a small number of votes. Let future SGMs be about serious business for which, to use a poker expression, those calling it are willing "to put their money where their mouth is".

The Chairman's Notes

In spite of two or three members orchestrating a call for a Special General Meeting (SGM), with the view to supplanting the current Executive Committee and replacing it with a "puppet" committee: their motion was resoundingly defeated at Dartford on the 30th November last, thereby permitting the original Constitutional SGM to go ahead unhindered the following weekend. At Dartford 87 actual members attended, where only 35 were at Tamworth to debate and vote on changes to the Constitution. This just goes to show the support and confidence members must have in the Committee and the efforts of the Constitutional Working Group in strengthening the Guild before entering the twenty-first Century.

With this Journal, as well as a copy of the New Constitution, is a nomination form as usual; but this year candidates for the new Committee will not be proposed for any position, all will stand for election for a Committee of fifteen persons maximum. The Committee will then elect from its number, a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Editor, Registrar, Secretary and Treasurer. I ended my Report to the Annual General Meeting last year at Oxford with the words, "... and I look forward with enthusiasm to serving just one more year". By the time of this year's AGM and Conference it will be five years since I started writing "The Chairman's Notes". The present Committee has only eleven members, so there should be ample room for both old and new faces.

The mention of the millennium reminds me I first raised "What will the Guild do to meet the new era?" in the January Journal 1995 and later that year the idea of Guild "premises" was considered. Due to the traumas of this year, to some extent the Committee has been unable to pursue this matter. I hope that now before it is too late something can be started by the in Guild in recognition of the YEAR 2000.

Peter Goodall

The Secretary's Notes

One aspect of the Guild Committee that I have found encouraging has been its willingness to examine its own effectiveness. Each member has a specific responsibility and all are engaged in the collective task of defining the role more clearly. Members are keen to streamline procedures such as dealing with new membership applications or arranging publicity for meetings. The Committee has agreed also that it needs to have some standing orders. As in any group of people, there is a range of views on most issues, but members usually manage to accommodate to these, with some give and take and a general commitment to moving the Guild forward. In addition to the events leading to an expulsion in September, there was cause for concern when thirty-two members called for a Special General Meeting to dismiss the Committee. The proposal was defeated overwhelmingly at a well attended meeting at Dartford, Kent, on 30th November. Only three members voted for the dismissal resolution.

The work of the Constitutional Working Group has now come to fruition with the Special General Meeting at Tamworth, Staffordshire, on 7th December. All the main resolutions were agreed with some useful amendments submitted by members. Election procedures are now more closely defined and postal ballots have been introduced as the method of deciding certain types of resolution, including further changes to the Constitution. The Constitution as it now stands is being sent to members with this Journal.

Other developments were listed in my letter to members in November. Many are designed to present the Guild as a thriving, international forward looking organisation.

Mike Spathaky

The Seminars Sub-Committee doesn't often get a mention in the Journal, but the Guild is very fortunate to have this group of hard working members to organise its successful series of One-Day Regional Seminars. You should be reading this in time to book a last minute place at the Dartford Seminar on Saturday 25th January and you should certainly take a look at the interesting programme Chris Swarbrook has organised for our Annual General Meeting and Conference at Northampton on 18th-20th April 1997. I hope to see you there!
The Five Hundredth Anniversary of Newfoundland

In 1997 Newfoundland is celebrating the 500th anniversary of the province's discovery by John Cabot. As many Newfoundlanders can trace their ancestry to the West Country of England, the Guild has assisted the organisers of the celebration by forwarding to them a list of local and family history societies in Hampshire, Gloucestershire, Cornwall, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Bristol and Avon.

The list contains details of 342 societies in these areas and if any member would like a copy please send an SAE to me.

The main symposium will take place in June 1997 and will include the following:

- Newfoundland and Labrador before European arrival.
- European Knowledge of the North Atlantic before 1492.
- The English Contact:
  - English Fisheries.
  - The Port of Bristol.
- Henry VII and the search for Asia.
- The Cabot Voyage
- The Matthew Replica
- Culture and Contact
- *Workshop on English West Country family roots
- The European Presence
- The Grotes Cave Tradition
- Cabot and Identity
- Ships, Navigation and Maps
- Cabot Folklore

* This session may be of interest to some Guild members with West Country roots.

More information relative to the celebrations can be obtained from Judith Gillingham, Newfoundland and Labrador Genealogical Society Inc. Colonial Building, Military Road, St Johns, Newfoundland, Canada A1C 2C9.

Keith Plant, Member No. 402, Overseas Liaison Officer.

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The Treasurer's Notes

Norwithstanding my notes with the October Journal and the notes on the renewal notice itself, a disappointing number of forms have been returned to the Registrar and myself. I will take the blame for the form design which has caused some members to think that they did not have to sign and date the form before returning it to us and others perhaps to assume that if they left the box unmarked in the line "I agree to my details appearing in the on-line version of the Register" then we would treat this as a "yes". However, for the protection of both the Guild and the individual member have not accepted this as an instruction for inclusion! If you still have the renewal notice sent with your October Journal, please deal with it immediately if you wish any changes (including e-mail addresses or fax numbers) to be included in the 1997 Register.

I intend, if time is available, to send subscription reminders out in January, but the circumstances even with the probable late mailing of the new style January Journal, will mean that once again we will not be able to hold back the Journal of the 1997 unpaid member. This is not a problem if those unpaid members all subsequently pay up (or return the package)!

On a more personal note, I do not intend to endorse any nomination of myself for election to the new committee. This decision has been made as I do not concur with the revision of the Constitution whereby there are no nominations for the positions of Officers of the Guild. It is now left to the newly elected committee to choose from amongst their number those who will fill each Officer position. I sincerely believe that this is a retrograde step because of the special skills involved in certain positions. These positions range down from the Registrar with decreasing degrees of relevance through the positions of Treasurer, Secretary and Editor. The positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman form special cases where I have mixed feelings.

If members wish to joining me in balloting members on this point I will be pleased to hear from you.

I would like to make it clear that I am not running away from a forthcoming subscription increase which must come on 1st January 1997. The clincher for an increase has been the unforeseen expense of the 1996 SGM at Dartford which cost the equivalent of 50p per member. In addition the Guild has
been living in part on the fat of covenant subscriptions, but 1996 will be the last year in which we have collected two years' claims in each year and again we are talking of 50p per member. Also the new format Journal will be more expensive to produce, but we hope that you will appreciate the difference, unfortunately the decision on the Journal was reached after the subscription for 1997 had been set, and the end of Volume 5 in October 1996 meant that a new format was not introduced a change would be delayed for a further three years.

AN APPRECIATION of DAVID CUTTEN by Ron Duckett

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you that the offer in the October 1996 Journal to transcribe names from the Probate Indexes is no longer available, due to David Cutten's untimely death on Wednesday 16th October 1996, aged 45. My wife and I attended his funeral at St. Editha's Church, Tamworth, not only as friends, but also as representatives of the Guild.

The only consolation is that he died peacefully in his sleep from a brain haemorrhage. This was in contrast to his life of pain, as he was invalided out of the Navy after contracting polio. This left him a cripple and later he had to take redundancy from the GPO when arthritis took over in his deformed joints.

David was an ardent researcher and although his main hobby (preoccupation) was family history, his other interests ranged from Treasurer of The Robert Peel Society to a member of The Titanic Society. My association with him goes back to the Guild's Local Midland Members Meeting, long before the County Representatives came in. At these he could always be relied on to have an interesting item from his latest research or travel to tell.

With David being a bachelor, his parents, who live in the South, are distributing his research material to the appropriate archives' offices. When this is completed, they will let me have a list of the locations.

The disposition of studies was often discussed at our local meetings. I can remember David's comments that he had already deposited copies of data at the Society of Genealogists, but they nor any of the other archive repositories will accept memorabilia. In his case, his family all have an interest in family history, the only irony of this is that his collection has now been split into different lines.

HOW USEFUL TO ONE-NAMERS ARE THE INDEXES TO PATENTS? Gillian Bedingfield

I knew that my father, Stan Thunder, had taken out a patent in the late 1960s which was why I decided to do a search for my Thunder one-name study. Much to my surprise and delight I found that my father's patent was not the only one taken out by a relative. Also some of the Irish Thunders, totally unrelated to the English Thunders, had been inventive.

My father's patent for a board game may one day be of use to family historians as it names both my brothers and me, giving our relationship. However, his idea never took off, so we shall not be making our fortunes. Most modern patents are taken out by companies so there are relatively few individuals' names for the 20th century and particularly so after 1980. Having found an entry for the desired name, usually the only other useful information, from the genealogical point of view, is the inventor's address. This was useful for one or two of the Irish Thunders as it showed they were overseas.

The Patent Office at 25 Southampton Buildings, Holborn, London, if it has not moved since I visited in 1986, has name indexes to patents from 1617 to the 1880s. The first volume covers 1617 to 1832 and after that there is one book per year with the volumes increasing in size. Obviously, the time needed depends on how many entries are found and how many patents you wish to have copied. I spent a long afternoon there, paid for copies of two patents and wrote out details from the indexes for two others. Some of the descriptions, particularly of modern patents, were, however, beyond my understanding!

An application for a a patent "Improvements relating to Internal Combustion Engines" by James Augustus Thunder was made in 1913 and showed that he was working for an American company of Ohio. Another, by Andrew Thunder n 1868 for "Improvements in Stoves and Furnaces for Heating Air" was sent from Australia and gave Andrew's occupation as brewer. His application, however, said "my
invention is well adapted for the purpose of drying wool" so perhaps he was considering changing careers.

The two patents taken out by my distant relations were inventions by father and son. In 1805 Edward Thunder, gentleman of Brightwellstone, Sussex, applied for a patent on a system for keeping pianos in tune and he went on to sell his products. The best of all that I found, however, was Edward's father's invention of a washing machine. Edward Thunder, senior, a builder, also of Brightwellstone, invented in 1790 "a Machine of Machines for Mangleing and Washing any Article made of Linen, Wool, Silk, or Cotton that will bear washing... whereby those Articles will receive much less Damage than by any Method now in use". This was really up to date - it heated the water (a fire under the tub) and by turning a handle the washing could be agitated in the tub at the same time as some mangleing was done. I have been unable to find out if it was ever marketed, which I doubt very much, but perhaps one day I shall find someone willing to make a model from the detailed drawings and specifications.

The answer to the question: "How useful are the indexes to patents?" has to be, honestly "not very", but my relative's 18th century invention has produced much interest on several occasions.

Mrs G. M. Bodingfield, Member No. 873 [The Barn, 37 Silver Street, Congresbury, Bristol BS19 5EY]

Databases for One-Name Studies

I would like to comment on the article "To Every Purpose There Is A Program" (Vol.5, No.7). I agree with much that Mr. Lindfield writes, and particularly the desirability of using only one program for all purposes in a one-name study. However, I think it is an unattainable aim, and do not think he makes a convincing case that Brother's Keeper can be used for all purposes.

The criteria for membership of the Guild include the extraction of all instances of the registered surname(s) from the GRO Indexes, which generates lists of births, marriages and deaths. How do you store them on a computer? Surely not using a program like Brother's Keeper. Such a genealogical program is excellent once you can enter three John Tatchells, one to record the birth details, another for the marriage and a third for the death. Mr. Lindfield admits that you need to work hard to find the links between these entries and suggests writing them out on a large sheet of paper. I suggest that if the data are entered in a suitable database program they can be searched very effectively by using its powerful search and display facilities. Some facilities do exist in Brother's Keeper, but they are intended for a different job and are not flexible enough.

A greater difficulty is how to store census entries. A family found in a particular census could be entered straight into Brother's Keeper, but the subtleties of the entries would be lost unless lavish use was made of notes. Also the entries in the next census seldom agree exactly with the previous one. Ages, names, places of birth, often differ and one has to use judgement as to which piece of data is true. It is essential that the original entries are entered in the database, where they can be studied and compared.

I give as an example two census entries for the family of Simeon Tatchell, selected and printed directly from the MasterFile database described in my article "Helping A One Name Study With A computer". The ages are fairly consistent but the Christian names are not:

Bessie's birth was registered as Elizabeth in 1865, and Annie's birth as Rebecca Ann. So far so good, we then come to Nellie and Ella in the 1881 Census. A search shows that Ellen's birth was registered in 1869, quarter 4, and Ella's in 1871, quarter 1. Ellen appears in the 1871 Census as Ellen age 1, but Ella does not, although she was born by then. In the 1881 Census Nellie must be Ellen, and Ella is still called Ella, but who is the Ellen age 20 in the 1891 Census? By the age it is Ella who has changed her name.

We then come to Simeon, Junior, who seems to change his name to Reginald. My seven entries in the database tell us that his birth was registered as Simeon in 1878, quarter 3, there was a baptism in 1879 of Robert Simeon, who may have been he or his brother Robert. As we have seen he is in the 1881 Census as Simeon and in the 1891 Census as Reginald. However, at his marriage and death he was Reginald Simeon.

All this was only deduced because the data in the MasterFile database can be searched in any criterion and displayed in different ways to bring out the important facts. I cannot understand how this can be done with Brother's Keeper.

Jim Tatchell

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Mrs G. M. Bodingfield, Member No. 873 [The Barn, 37 Silver Street, Congresbury, Bristol BS19 5EY]
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To sum up - I feel it is essential to store the "raw" data in a conventional database, separate from the genealogy "family" database. It would be convenient if the two databases were included in the same package, but they need to be structured in different ways and only very loosely linked probably by reference number. I do not know of any program which does both jobs effectively. Brother's Keeper certainly does not, and I was disappointed to find no adequate facilities in Pedigree. I think the problem is that the writers of genealogy programs are obsessed with the recording and display of family trees and do not understand the problems of storing data for a one-name study. Someone who is researching his own family need only record the items of information that relate to family members, and these can probably be entered straight into the genealogy program as soon as they are found. A one-name study is entirely different. You collect masses of information "on spec" which you may not use for years, but which suddenly becomes important when someone writes to ask for information about an ancestor. It must be stored in its original form and be easily available when needed.

THE ORIGINS OF THE SPE(A)KE(N) NAME

All the available reference books point towards two sources for the name SPEAK and all its derivatives: one being a nick-name and the other a place name.

P. H. Reaney in his "Origins of the English Surnames" states "The woodpecker has given us a variety of names, probably due to its place in folklore. Pike and Pick are, at times, from Old English pic, Latin picus; from old English speoht or speht, and Mediaeval English speight. we have Speight, Spaight, and from Old French espèche(e), espèc, Speake, speck, Speek and Speke."

The origins of the place Speke in South Lancashire are much less clear. E. Elewalt in his book "The Place Names of Lancashire" suggests brushwood, twigs etc., without stating his reasons for this. Wyld and Hirst in "Place Names of Lancashire" suggest tentatively "swine pastures", and state "The Old English word spic means bacon, land etc. Kemble suggests this may refer to places where swine were fed. This is purely conjectural and does not seem probable.

A more recent source the "Dictionary of Place Names of the British Isles" by Adrian Room, Bloomsbury 1988 gives a more plausible derivation: Speke - "A distinct of Liverpool, whose name means "place by) Brushwood", from the Old English spæc (small branch, probably related to the modern "spoke' and 'spike".)
Variations of the Speake Name

It is clear from the derivations above that many variants of these names are valid: in addition to the common SPEAKE, SPEAK, SPEKE, SPEEK, SPEAKS and SPEAKES, we should also add SPEIGHT, SPEAKE, SPECK and even PECK and PEAK. To that list from my own research, I would add SPA(CK)(E), SPATE and SPOAPE.

In my experience name changes have been a constant factor in SPEAKE history. I have seen a SPEAKE alias SPEAKE PCC Will 184 (Devon). In Halifax, Yorkshire, SPEIGHT was modified to SPEAKE in the generation between 1538 and 1568; in Darlaston, Staffordshire, Shadrach SPAITE changed his name to SPEAKE as his social position improved. In Buckinghamshire, some members of a 19th century SPEAKS family changed their name to SPEAKS, while in North Shropshire, home of many SPEAKE families, due to dialect variations, the spelling was SPAKE in the 1500s, modifying to SPEAKE through the late 1800s, when it "standardised" as SPEAKE.

In the 1960s my maiden Aunt Olive SPEAKE officially changed her name by deed poll to SPEKE, as she was erroneously convinced that we were related to the Somerset family of John Hanham SPEKE, the Victorian explorer and it was because of this that I started researching my family history!

Speake Families Pre-1300

The Domesday Book of 1085 shows a William SPECH holding lands in Warden, Bedfordshire, and he is usually assumed to be the father of Walter ESPEC, founder of the Abbeys of Revaux and Kirkham in Yorkshire and also the Abbey at Warden circa 1135, suggesting a link between the two generations. Walter ESPEC's lands passed after his death to his sisters, and then by marriage to the De Ros family and subsequently to the Manners family, who today are the Dukes of Rutland, owners of Belvoir Castle in Lincolnshire and Hatton Hall in Derbyshire.

The earliest mention of the DE ESPEK family in the West Country is in 1154, when a Richard ESPEC held land from Robert FitzRege son of Henry II. After this date the family is mentioned regularly in official records and it is clear that this family increased its holdings of land by royal patronage and by marrying eligible heiresses! It has been assumed, without evidence, that this family is related to the William SPECH of 1085. In her "Genealogy of the Speke Family" Matilda Pine-Coffin acknowledges that "... it has been impossible before the early part of the fifteenth century to place the heads of the family in Genealogical order ..." It is however reasonable to conclude from her documentary evidence that this family is almost certainly of Norman French origin.

In the Speke district of South Lancashire, there is mention of the DE SPEKE family in deeds relating to the Norris family, who were Lords of the Manor from at least 1314, and who in Elizabethan times built Speke Hall which still stands today. The collection of Norris deeds pre-dates their possession of Speke, and so Gilbert DE SPEK is mentioned in 1240 and Robert son of Henry DE SPEK is mentioned in 1265. There are at least ten different DE SPEK persons mentioned living in this area prior to 1300. These people appear to have been named after the place they inhabited, they did not give their name to the place. Thus they are certainly not of known Norman French origin. However, it is apparent from the deeds that many of them used the DE SPEKE name as a hereditary surname.

Other mentions of the name in this early period are very sporadic, but include Alwyn SPEKE in Buckinghamshire 1130. William SPIK, son of Richard, in Leicester 1251 and William SPEIGHT in Cornwall 1297.

The Period 1300-1700

In the first half of this period, the only consistent occurrences of the name were found by a systematic search of printed sources in the Cambridge University Library are of the Devon/Somerset SPEKE family. They appear in numerous State documents and many were knighted in recognition of their services to the Crown.

For other branches of the family it is clear that their social status does not give a sufficiently large sample of data to be very useful. After 1550, with records available for all levels of society, it is possible to identify four main geographical groups.

1) There were SPEKE families established in Devon/Somerset and Cornwall from about 1152; this group is probably of Norman French origin. The main line of this family enjoyed wealth and favour from the Crown from the medieval period through to modern times.

2) There were SPEKE "of Speke" families in the South Lancashire area from at least 1240 onwards, but the last mention of this family there is in 1497, and by the start of the parish registers in 1538 onwards, there are no entries for the name. This group derives its name from the place, so they were probably of "English" stock. However, by the 1520s there were SPEKE families in the Ribble Valley in North East Lancashire and by the start of the parish registers they were well established and they continue to have a strong presence there today. There is some tentative evidence that the SPEKE family from Liverpool may be linked directly to the Ribble Valley
branch, Gilbert DE SPEK, well associated with Speke in the Norris Deeds, appears in the Cartulary of Whalley Abbey in North East Lancashire circa 1230.

3) In Yorkshire, we find a wide distribution of the name SPEGH/T/SPEYGH/SPEIGHT from the east coast at Burton Fleming near Bridlington, across to Halifax in the West Riding, by the time of the surviving parish registers. By the mid 1500s this name sometimes modifies to SPEAKE. It would appear that the name here has its derivation from the Old English, and not from the Norman French "Espe" of Walter ESPEC.

4) In Shropshire, in spite of extensive research, there is no evidence of SPEAKE/SPAKE families living there before the Lay Subsidy of 1525 which records a William SPEKE of Westbury. The parish registers of the adjacent parish of Pontesbury indicate there were two families by 1550. A probate is recorded for this William SPEKE in 1552, but unfortunately the will itself has not survived. The Shropshire families became firmly established in the county and were later one of the largest groups in England.

Shropshire Families
In Lopplington, North Shropshire, there are references to SPA(C)KE(S), including a William SPAKE recorded in the 1524 Lay Subsidy, and the Lichfield probate of 1538 of William SPACKE is probably his. In 1538, Richard son of Richard SPAKES of Battlefield near Shrewsbury, was apprenticed in Bristol, but this branch appears to die out soon after.

Where had the Shropshire SPEAKES come from? One theory is that the SPEKE family moved to Westbury (on the Welsh border) at the time of the union of England and Wales in 1525, which tried to bring peace to these border areas. For centuries the Welsh had invaded this part of England, known as the Welsh Marches, and stolen cattle, burned houses and on occasion killed the inhabitants. In Westbury parish, the grazing grounds for cattle on the western (Welsh) side of the parish were unused in 1537 "...for that the country was then wild and many outlaws and thieves haunting among them, by whom their cattle were daily stolen and conveyed away off to the mountains".

Correspondence to the newly formed Council of the Marches, based at Ludlow in Shropshire, in 1537 speaks of "...thefts, murders, rebellions, wilful burning of houses and other scurrilous deeds and abominable malificacies...be so rooted and fixed in the same people, that they be not like to cease unless some sharp correction and punishment...be provided".

One possibility is that the Shropshire family migrated down from South Lancashire; they were at Burton Wood as late as 1479, and some were in Flint, North Wales, in the late 1540s. Also we know the name occurred further west in the Midlands in Coventry, so did these people migrate west to Shropshire? This latter proposition is not supported by any available evidence I have seen.

Another intriguing coincidence came to light this summer twenty-one years after I started this study! The Dukes of Rutland (Manners family) mentioned earlier as the inheritors of Walter ESPEC's lands, came to own Haddon Hall in Derbyshire by marriage with an heiress of the Vernon family. The Vernons also owned lands in Shropshire, where some of the family had lived from at least 1436. In 1520 Humphrey and Thomas Vernon, younger sons of Sir Henry Vernon, knight of Haddon, Derbyshire and Tong, Shropshire (1415-1515) bought the Manor of Westbury, Shropshire. It seems too much of a coincidence that this date and place corresponds with the first mention of the SPEKE/SPAKE family in Shropshire. This will be investigated further.

For several years I worked on the theory that the Shropshire SPEAKES could possibly have originated in Somerset, possibly through a younger son of the landed family, or a branch of it. The Shropshire SPEAKES were financially prosperous and literate from the earliest times in Shropshire. However, although the Somerset SPEKES are reasonably well documented in the period 1450-1525 for the eldest inheriting sons, the younger sons are infrequently mentioned. I have also looked for other landed families who might have had an interest in Somerset. Devon and Shropshire, who could have provided the link between the two places, as well as an opportunty for a younger son to better himself. This investigation is continuing.

The Shropshire SPEAKE family, from its first appearance at Westbury, was by the 1560s also established at Priestweston in the parish of Chirbury near the Welsh border. In the 1570s two cases of "riotous assembly" were brought against them in the Court of Star Chamber by more established families in the parish. By the early 17th century they had successfully integrated into the local society with some links by marriage and service into the local gentry, and at that time were most prosperous, having wills proved in both the PCC and the courts of the Diocese of Hereford, as well as sending their sons to Shrewsbury School then "the best School in England". This branch also migrated to Herefordshire, although this was a temporary sojourn.

One member of the Priestweston family, known as John SPEAKE of Mitton, moved at some time prior to 1591 to the parish of Fitz, near Shrewsbury. By the time the Chirbury branch had died out in the
During the Civil War, it would appear that many of the Shropshire SPEAKEs were Royalist in their sympathies. They did not join with the other Monford parishioners in signing the declaration for Parliament in 1646. There is some evidence that they spent the worst years of the war in adjoining parishes.

The old song "The Vicar of Bray" has a chorus at the end of each verse which boasts "That whatsoever king shall reign, I'll be the Vicar of Bray sir". This is a reference to the flexibility he showed in being able to adapt to the changes that each monarch had brought to religion in England. One clergyman, who seemed to be adaptable through the Civil War and the Act of Uniformity was the Reverend Joseph SPEAKE of Weshampton, Shropshire. He was a son of John of Mitton and incumbent there from at least 1636 to 1674. In a religious census made by order of Parliament in 1655, he is described as "... the present incumbent, an auntient preaching Minister his means with £5 per annum". (He was aged 51)

Another large group was founded in 1697 at Eaton under Heywood near Church Stretton, by Henry SPEAKE "of uncertain dwelling". He was probably a member of the Herefordshire branch. This group was centred in a group of parishes beneath Wenlock Edge, were to become numerically the most significant grouping of the Shropshire SPEAKE families in later years.

West Country Families

The Somerset SPEKE family suffered under the Commonwealth for their Royalist support in the Civil War, but were recompensed thereafter. A branch of this family settled at Hazelbury Manor in Wiltshire, circa 1601. One hundred and fifty years later, this branch died out when their was no male heir, leaving a dormant barony. This family had strong Catholic sympathies with two generations studying at the Catholic Seminary at Douai in Belgium.

In the reign of Charles II, anti-catholic hysteria was aroused by trouble makers who feared that Charles's brother James, a Catholic, would succeed to the throne. Much of the mis-information that was spread has been attributed to Hugh SPEKE of the Whellockington (Somerset) family, and his devious brother-in-law Sir John Trenchard - "capable of any villainy that was false enough". This mischief culminated in the infamous "Popish Plot" of 1678, when a rumoured imminent invasion by Irish Catholics was used as an excuse for wide scale damage to Catholic properties especially in London.

Hugh SPEAKE's trouble making had other tragic consequences. In 1685, he and his brother John had declared their support for the Duke of Monmouth's (Charles II's illegitimate son) bid for the throne and offered to raise 40,000 men for him. When the infamous Judge Jeffreys brought retribution to the West Country for its support of Monmouth. Hugh's eldest brother John escaped overseas, but Jeffreys was intent on revenge. Hugh's younger brother Charles, who was visiting Whiplockington from his home in London when Monmouth was entertained there, was singled out "... his family owe a life ... he shall die for his namesake" was Jeffreys' comment, and in due course Charles SPEAKE was hanged from an oak tree in Ilminster market place.

North Country Families

The North Country families as after about 1550 are concentrated in two main areas: (1) the North-East corner of Lancashire along the Ribble Valley, especially in the parishes of Downham, Whalley and Great Downham and also just over the border in Yorkshire at Gisburn, and (2) in the West Riding of Yorkshire, especially in the parishes of Halifax and Heptonstall.

Before 1700, I have found no evidence of any significant migrations of SPEAKE families from these two areas. The SPEAKEs in Shropshire and Lancashire appear to have been tenant famers rather than freeholders. In Yorkshire some SPEAKE families were associated with the woollen and cloth trades from about 1612, when William SPEAKE of Gisburn is recorded as "Tailor". Also in 1636, Abraham SPEAKE was a clothier at Heptonstall.

Post 1700 - The Effects of the Industrial Revolution
In 1709, Abraham Derby first made iron at Coalbrookdale in the valley of the River Severn in Shropshire. There had been an ironworks there from 1638, but it was Derby who revolutionised the process by using coke rather than charcoal as fuel. (Coalbrookdale was not the only place in Shropshire where experiments had been carried out with furnaces. John SPEAKE of Monford, Shropshire, was in 1664 occupying part of a site on the banks of the Severn, a few miles downstream from Coalbrookdale, called "Bromley's Forge" where secret experiments with iron making had been carried out in the 1630s. Iron ore, wood and coal were all readily available in Shropshire.)

These rapidly expanding activities in Coalbrookdale offered an alternative to work on the land for local people. Many SPEAKE families migrated to the rapidly growing parishes of Madeley, Brophey and Wellington to work in those new industries and by the 1750s Shropshire iron making skills had spread east to the Birmingham area. By 1800 the Coalbrookdale area was at the start of its long decline as the new "Black Country" of Wolverhampton/Birmingham became the industrial heartland of England. As this was only twenty miles from the border with Shropshire, SPEAKES made this move east.

**North Country Families**

Steam power was also finding application in the spinning and weaving trades of Lancashire and Yorkshire, transforming them from previous cottage industries to large scale factory products in the rapidly expanding towns of Bradford, Rochdale and Leeds, which saw a rapid rise of population as labour was drawn in from the surrounding country areas. By the late 19th century, members of the family are listed as "Worsted Manufacturer" of Bradford, "Weaver" of Heptonstall and "Woolcomber" of Keighley, showing migration to the industrial centres.

**West Country Families**

Somerset, ancestral home of the Whitelakelington SPEAKE family, never became industrialised. This family group was always numerically small but financially significant compared with the Midlands and Northern SPEAKE groups.

After 1800 with a rapidly growing population, improved transportation and increasing industrialisation, Shropshire SPEAKEs migrated to South Wales, where large scale coal mining and steel industries had developed. They also went north to the Liverpool area, which had been industrialised. The number of SPEAKE families moving to the industrial Midlands from Shropshire also accelerated.

**Overseas Emigration**

So far I have only found one SPEAKE convict transported to Australia on any one of the three initial "Fleets". He was Richard SPEAKE of Church Stretton, Shropshire, who was sentenced to death at the Assizes at Shrewsbury in 1798. The sentence was commuted to seven years transportation with hard labour. He was 31 years of age had a wife and four small children, who were left behind. His crime was stealing two calf skins and some pieces of leather. He arrived alive at Port Jackson as detailed in the indent, but his fate in Australia has not yet been discovered.

Several SPEAKEs were in the service of the East India Company which had sole trading rights in India. Many of them were in the Company's army and navy. This was no sinecure. In 1757, it is recorded that William SPEAKE, son of Henry SPEAKE, Esq., Captain of "HMS Kent", lost his leg and his life at the capture of Fort Orleans in Bengal. A Samuel SPEAKE of the Bombay Marine "married" circa 1785 an Indian lady, Fatima, who was subsequently known as Anna. They had three children, whose descendants today live in Tasmania and have inherited her defective eyesight and dark complexion. John Hannis SPEAKE, the explorer, also served in the Company's Bengal Army, where he is recorded as having enrolled as a cadet in 1843/4.

There seems to have been several SPEAKE and SPEIGHT emigrants to Barbados and two were recorded in 1638. The second largest town in Barbados is called Speightstown.

In the 1850s there was a gold rush in Victoria State, Australia, and two Shropshire SPEAKE brothers, sons of a successful china painter in the famous Coalport china works, sought their fortunes there. In a photograph of 1869, one of the brothers is shown surrounded by his family, looking prosperous. He was a supervisor in one of the mines, but after a fall in 1874 he died of gangrene poisoning and his wife died of tuberculosis shortly after. His family was brought up by relatives, and their descendants are still in Australia today. Another group of SPEAKE settlers of the mid 19th century were SPEAKEs from Yorkshire, who settled near Perth in Western Australia and are still there today.

A Hannah SPEAKE, born in Church Stretton, Shropshire, in 1855, emigrated to Australia shortly after father remarried in 1877, and soon after her arrival married a fellow passenger from Shropshire, William STOKES. Hannah lived until 1948 and her descendants still live today in the house built by her husband in Bowral, New South Wales.

I have found one Shropshire family, who went to New Zealand in the same period, who today are still farming the land bought by their ancestors.

Another Shropshire SPEAKE family moved to Staffordshire and Birmingham before emigrating to
Canada in the early 1990s and I know of another family who moved from Shropshire via South Lancashire to the USA in the 1950s. The movement of SPEAKE families away from agriculture to industry and other occupations can be clearly seen by comparing the 1881 census returns for Shropshire with the 1995 phone book. In 1881 the number of SPEAKE family units was 73 with 18 of those in industrial occupations. All the others were still living and working in the countryside, with, for example, 12 families in the Eaton under Heywood, Cardington, Rushbury, Church Stretton district where they had lived for more than three hundred years.

Today there are 64 entries in the Shropshire phone book, a similar number of households, with 60% living in Shrewsbury and only 3 entries for the Church Stretton area. However, the agricultural activities of the SPEAKE families are not completely ended, since there are still 6 families living in the Westbury area, some working as farmers, an activity unbroken from at least 1525.

SPEAKE Surname Distribution

Today

Although the 20th century has seen the break up of closely knit family groups which characterised the previous centuries, it is surprising that even today in the UK that the old distributions remain largely unaltered. It came as a surprise to me that in the UK how regional are the variations of the name spelling. 66% of all SPEAK families are located in North East Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, but only 5% occur in Shropshire, Wales and the West Midlands. For SPEAKE the situation is reversed only 12% in North East Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire with 38% in Shropshire, Wales and the West Midlands. For SPEKE the figures are more pronounced with 7% and 36% respectively.

In the USA a similar analysis is also possible from the phone book, where there are 1,690 SPEAK(E)(S) entries representing a probable total of 7,000. One striking difference between the UK and the USA is how uncommon the variation SPEAK(E)(S) is in the UK, and how often it appears in the USA. It has only just come to my notice that in fact SPEAK(E)S is a patronymic of SPEAK meaning "son of SPEAK".

The phone disc for Australia shows just 34 entries, giving an estimated total SPEAKE population of about 120, approximately half of these are in Western Australia and the others fairly equally distributed between Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales.

For the UK it is possible from the information on file to make a statistical analysis for the SPEAKE families. This estimates the current UK population of SPEAK(E)(S) as 2,788 with an annual birth rate of 37. Therefore a SPEAK(E)(S) family member today is 1 in 19,000 people of the total population. For SPEAK(E)S per million in the UK. The number of SPEAK(E)S and SPEAK(E)S(E) people today in the UK is about the same as SPEAK(E)(S).

For the period 1541 to 1991, the total number persons of the name, who ever lived in England, is estimated as about 10,000, so my one-name study may not be so impossible after all!

Mr J. D. Speake, Member No. 1818 [211 Wilton Road. Cambridge CB4 1XG.]

DUGDALE, HARLEIAN, SURTEES, ETC.

Camden, Chetham, Dugdale, Harleian, Thorold, Thoroton and William Salt, do these names mean anything to you? You may have met some of them in Pauline Saul's "Enquire Within" but they were deliberately not included in Brian Christmas's "Sources for One-Name Studies and for other Family Historians". They are nearly all the names of local societies whose objectives are to publish original documents relating to a specific local area. Many were founded a long time ago, but are still publishing volumes that are of particular interest to genealogists and family historians. They generally try to publish one volume a year, although with costs of publishing handback volumes being what they are, this is not always possible.

The Camden Society can be contacted through the Royal Historical Society.

The Chetham Society, is named after Humphrey Chetham, a prosperous Manchester merchant and landowner, who in his will of 1653 left the bulk of his fortune for charitable endowments, one of which was the establishment of a "librarie within the town of Manchester for the use of scholars and others". The Society was founded in 1843 for the publication of remains historical and literary connected with the Palatine Counties of Lancaster and Chester, although since the 1870s the literary
element has been dropped. The Chetham Society can be contacted through the Hon. Sec. at Chetham's Library, Long Millgate, Manchester.

The Dugdale Society, named after Warwickshire's distinguished antiquary, Sir William Dugdale (1605-1686), was founded in 1920 with the object of publishing original documents relating to the history of the County of Warwick, fostering interest in historical records and their preservation and generally encouraging the study of local history. The Society publishes, as frequently as its resources and circumstances permit, volumes of original documents relating to the County of Warwick, together with Occasional Papers based on records relating to Warwickshire. Sir William Dugdale was educated at the Free Grammar School, Coventry, from 1615 to 1620. His work Antiquities of Warwickshire was published in 1656. The Dugdale Society can be contacted through The Shakespeare Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon.

The Harleian Society was founded in 1867 for the publishing of manuscripts of heraldic visitations of the counties of England and Wales and unpublished manuscripts relating to genealogy, armoury and heraldry in the widest sense. Its volumes have always proved to be of great value to genealogists and those interested in family history. Volumes have been published in two sections. The Visitation Section and the Register Section, but in 1979 both sections were amalgamated as Harleian Society New Series. The Harleian Society can be contacted through the College of Arms, London.

The Selden Society was founded in 1881 to encourage the study and advance the knowledge of the History of English Law. It publishes an annual series, now running to over 120 volumes, most of which contain records or reports (printed in the original Latin or French, with translations) of proceedings in many different kinds of court. Each individual volume is fully indexed.

The Surtees Society was formed in 1834 to publish documents of historical and genealogical significance pertaining to the Durham and Northumberland region. The Surtees Society's secretary can be contacted at 5 The College, Durham.

The Thoresby Society was established to promote interest in the history of Leicestershire and its neighbourhood, to collect and make available books, documents and other material for this purpose and to publish relevant papers and documents. To date the Society has published fifty-nine volumes since 1891 in two series: The Thoresby Society has its headquarters at Claremont, Leeds, where it shares premises with the Yorkshire Archaeological society. The Thoroton Society, founded in 1897 and named after Robert Thoroton, the renowned antiquary of Nottinghamshire is the county's principal historical society. Through lectures, excursions and publications, it seeks to promote the study of the history, archaeology and antiquities of Nottinghamshire. Contact with the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire, to give it its full name, is via Nottinghamshire Archives, County House, Nottingham.

The Williarn Salt Archaeological Society, now The Staffordshire Record Society, was formed in memory of William Salt. William Salt was born in London in 1808. He was a member of the Stafford banking family whose local home was at Weeping Cross. He was interested in any material that shed light on Staffordshire's past and he built up a vast collection of printed books, pamphlets, original manuscripts, transcripts of documents and maps, prints and engravings during his lifetime. He and people working for him, carried out a great deal of work on central government records relating to Staffordshire and he commissioned people to transcribe large sections of the Public Records and holdings of the British Museum relating to the county. William Salt died in 1863. The Society named after him subsequently became The Staffordshire Record Society and to this day continues to publish books under the banner Collections for a History of Staffordshire. The Society is based at The William Salt Library, Eastgate Street, Stafford.

### SUMMARY

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Area</th>
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<td>Durham</td>
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<td>Camden</td>
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The Guild of One Name Studies

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ISSN: 0262-4842

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The volumes published by the above organisations should be found at any major reference library, or university having a History Faculty. For example, I have found them in Birmingham Central Reference Library and as an external member of the University of Birmingham Library I have been able to access them there on open shelves. Now I am living in Scotland I expect to find them in the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, and the Mitchell Library in Glasgow.


Mr John Hitchon, Member No. 488 [Tomatin Cottage, 52 Lonemore, Gairloch, Ross-shire, IV21 2DB. Tel: 01445-7123355]

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**HOW BIG IS THE ELDRED FAMILY?**

Graham Fidler’s interesting contribution @How Big Is Your One-Name Study?@ (Vol.5, No.9 page 278) reminds me of an exercise I undertook from 1981 to 1983 on the frequency and distribution of the Eldred name in England and Wales, details of which were included with papers deposited in the Library of the Norfolk and Norwich Genealogical Society in December 1994.

The first exercise, akin to Graham Fidler’s, involved measuring, for each phone book area the column length occupied by the family name and expressing it as a percentage of total column length. That indicated that there were, on average, 2.4 Eldreds per 100,000 of the population in England and Wales (ie: about 1150 of the in total in 1981/2) and, after conversion from phone book areas to 1981/2 counties, revealed that there were thirteen counties, predominantly in the eastern half of England, in which the concentration was above the national average. In the great urban melting pots of London and Birmingham the concentrations were exactly the national average. Selecting only people with telephones is, of course, a notoriously misleading method of population sampling for many purposes and the exercise could be justified only by assuming that the family had, on average, prospered no better and no worse than the population as a whole, as Graham Fidler has assumed for his family.

Vernon W. Eldred  

Over several years prior to that, I had made notes at St Catherine’s House and Alexandra House of all the Eldred births and deaths in England and Wales between July 1837 and December 1851. In that period 252 births and 146 deaths were registered. From birth and death rates estimated approximately for the middle of that period (1844) from the graph reproduced on page 342 of G. M. Trevelyan’s English Social History (1944), it was deduced that there were around 525 members of the family in England and Wales at that time. Interpolation between the population figures for 1841 and
1851 given in Whitaker's Almanack (1982) provided an estimated of 16.5 million for the population in 1844, indicating that there were about 3.2 Eldreds per 100,000 of the population. Analysis of the information in terms of counties highlighted above average concentrations in nine counties around 1844: all of them in the eastern half of England.

Those estimates obtained from totally unrelated sources of information over 120 years apart (about 3.2 per 100,000 from 1837-1851 registration data and 2.4 per 100,000 from phone books in 1981/2) were close enough to give some confidence that they were about right. In view of their rather rough and ready nature, I did not attribute any significance to the difference between them (perhaps being reluctant to accept that Eldreds might have been less successful at getting telephones than others), but have tended to accept that the telephone estimates were the more accurate using 2.5 per 100,000 as a working figure.

Thanks to Graham Fidler, I can, by assuming that the Fidler/Eldred ration has been constant at 4.1, now estimate that there were around 2200 Eldred births and 520 Eldred marriages between 1544 and 1881.

A full answer to the question posed requires, of course, an estimate of numbers worldwide, past and present. If any members has fully tackled that more difficult question for a particular family, the conclusions may be of value to many with names that are long established and not too rare.

Dr Vernon W. Eldred, Member No. 2556 [Fell Gate, Santon Bridge, Holmrook, Cumbria CA19 1UY.]

The Guild's New Constitution

INTRODUCTION

Members will know that the Constitutional Working Group (CWG), which was formed in April 1996, was given the task of rewriting the Guild's Constitution and presenting recommendations to a Special General Meeting (SGM) to be held before the start of the 1997 AGM and election process. That SGM, held on 7 December, accepted, with some minor amendments, CWG's proposals.

In outline, the deadlines and other important dates involved in the formation of the new Constitution were as follows:-

- March 1996: Committee decides in principle to set up CWG
- April: AGM, CWG formed
- mid July: Questionnaire circulated
- late August: Charity Commissioners approached for approval of alterations to Sections 2.11.12
- early September: Draft proposals presented to the Committee for comment
- mid September: Draft Document finalised
- early October: Draft Document circulated
- mid November: Amendments received
- 7 December 1996: SGM

The SGM needed to consider the eight substantive resolutions contained in the D.D. and 13 amendments. The major substantive differences which members may notice between the new and the old Constitution are relatively few:-

- Changes to the Constitution, appeals against expulsion and proposals to wind the Guild up will now be decided by a postal ballot of all members. 20 signatories are needed to place Constitutional changes before the membership.
- Timescales for ballots have been substantially increased to give overseas members adequate opportunity for returning their votes.
- Officers will be elected by the Committee.

Roger Lovegrove, CWG Chairman

The Draft Document (D.D.) which resulted from CWG's work had been circulated to members with the October Journal. It was this that formed the basis for the new Constitution and which was voted upon at the SGM. The D.D. was based upon a questionnaire previously circulated to members, which in turn was based on earlier informal discussions both within CWG and with members.

The overall objective was that the new Constitution should open up the decision-making process within the Guild and help to resolve some of the arguments and disagreements which have taken place over the past year.
Some 280 questionnaires were returned, representing 18% of the UK membership and also 18% of the non-UK membership.

MAXIMUM LENGTH OF ELECTION STATEMENTS

Members were asked two questions: what would they ideally like to see as the maximum permissible length, and what range of maximum permissible lengths would they find acceptable?

CWG's intention was to base its recommendation on the ideal length which received the greatest support from members. Since CWG realised that there was the real possibility of a tie, the second question (about acceptable lengths) was asked, to act as a tie-breaker if necessary.

There was almost a tie between 100 & 200 words, but 200 was slightly in the lead. Since the acceptable values also peaked at 200 words and since the mean of the ideal lengths also happened to be very close to 200 words, CWG had no hesitation in recommending this.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON OVERLENGTH STATEMENTS

Here, members were asked to choose between two specific options: do not publish; truncate. They were also asked an open-ended question requesting an alternative in case neither of those specific options was liked.

The clear choice was for truncation.

So far as the alternative suggestions are concerned, there was no substantial support for any other choice. The commonest-requested was that overlength statements be edited. However, since this had in effect been the major cause of the disagreements during the last elections, would almost certainly not be acceptable to a substantial number of candidates, and since it was suggested by only a very few members indeed, this was not followed up. Other, also not well-supported, suggestions included disbaring the candidate from the elections, charging for any excess words.
ALLOWANCE FOR POSTAL DELIVERY TIMES

Here, members were asked for the minimum time to be allowed between posting ballot papers in the UK and the deadline for their receipt back in the UK. CWG's criterion was to select the smallest convenient time which had the support of at least two thirds of the UK and also of the non-UK respondents.

![Graph showing allowance for postal times - UK](image)

**Figure 1**

There is surprisingly little qualitative difference between the replies from the UK and non-UK members. Both indicated calendar month as being the 2/3 value. Of course, there is nothing special about ballot papers as such, so the same minimum criterion applies whenever something needs to be sent out and replied to: for example, CWG were able to allow 1 calendar month + 1 week for the return of Amendments after the D.D. was circulated.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Members were asked to choose between three options: direct election by postal ballot (i.e. the method then in existence); election by the Committee from amongst their own number; election by the AGM from amongst the newly-elected Committee.

Surprisingly, about 50% of the respondents preferred to leave this to the Committee. Where reasons were given, these were usually along the lines that the members felt they could not have adequate knowledge of the candidates to be able to make a sensible choice. Slightly fewer than one third were in favour of retaining the old method.

If a candidate should want to enhance his/her chances of election by drawing attention to specialist skills which might be appropriate to one of the Offices, or by implying or stating an interest in a specific Office, then the non-guaranteed election statement can be used to do so.
The replies to the two questions about whether or not to have postal votes were virtually identical. Although there were minor differences of detail, these tended to cancel out to give the same nett proportions.

Approximately 94% of respondents were in favour of having postal voting on changes to the Constitution, on ratification of expulsions and on Winding the Guild up.

The majority were against postal voting on other ("Ordinary") items.

The same proportion, 94%, were in favour of having postal voting on those items at any time.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

On behalf of CWG, I would like to thank all of those members who took the time and trouble to respond to the questionnaire. Without your help, it would not have been possible for CWG to carry out its work at all.

Personally, I would very much like to thank my CWG colleagues Mike Spathaky and Graham Tuley for the immense effort that they had to put in. I suspect that the amount of work they needed to do will never really become known to the membership as a whole. The various deadlines which needed to be met along the way placed them under intense pressure. It is to their personal credit that CWG managed to meet all of those deadlines and produce a superb Constitution which should not only place the Guild on a firmer foundation for the future but also act as a model for other international societies to follow.

Finally, I should like to thank those members who braved a cold and very foggy morning to travel to Tamworth for the SGM. The meeting was enjoyable and good natured throughout, and showed the Guild at its very best, with members putting different points of view and expressing different wishes in a non-contentious, constructive and very friendly way.

Its task having been completed, CWG is now formally disbanded. But the process of Constitutional change is not completed: this should be a continuing process if the Guild is to adapt to ever-altering needs and membership-wishes.

Roger Lovegrove, CWG Chairman
11 Marlborough Road, Bowes Park, LONDON N22 4NB
GUILD SEMINAR AT KELSO, ROXBURGHSHIRE

The Guild is a member of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies and it was a pleasure to be represented there on two days in September.

On Saturday 14th September 1996 there was a well supported stand at the SAFHS conference attended by some 250 with not only Guild goods for sale, but also our Marriage Index for scrutiny which proved a popular attraction.

On Sunday 15th the Guild held a seminar which had 31 members discussing a wide range of topics.

Audrey Mitchell, the Chairman of the Borders FHS gave a really enthusiastic description of what to visit in Kelso, followed by the first session on Basic Sources led by Sheila Spiers and Graham Tuley. The second session was led by Dorcan Heaton on holding gatherings including her attendance at a Witheridge event. After lunch with more conversation and using the bookstalls provided by the Society of Genealogists, SAFHS, Aberdeen and North East Scotland FHS and the Guild, we returned to a session on communication led by Essie Jephcott covering newspapers and publicity generally. We completed the day with general debate of several matters of interest to those present. It was really an exciting day with almost everybody present contributing to the discussions. We trust that everyone went home having benefited from their attendance and having enjoyed their time in Kelso.

We look forward to a good turnout at Dartford on Saturday, 25th January 1997, when a similar programme will be offered in the South of England.

THE THIRD UPDATE TO "NAME IDENTIFICATION" by Ronald Smallshaw

This is my third update concerning my idea of "Name Identification". The findings now show:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Identification</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Number &amp; Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALPH</td>
<td>5 Norfolk</td>
<td>Mr C.A. Ulph</td>
<td>0501B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANWELL</td>
<td>14 Somerset</td>
<td>Mr Eric Banwell</td>
<td>0981B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAREW</td>
<td>21 London</td>
<td>Mrs J.A.C. Richardson</td>
<td>1217B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHOECE</td>
<td>4 Leicestershire</td>
<td>Mrs B.C. Sheehan</td>
<td>0192B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HERITAGE</td>
<td>36 Warwickshire</td>
<td>Mr John Heritage</td>
<td>0067B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSERY</td>
<td>13 Devon</td>
<td>Mr Clive Essery</td>
<td>0881C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOUILTY</td>
<td>5 Norfolk</td>
<td>Dr G.A. Goulty</td>
<td>0059B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HACKWOOD</td>
<td>4 Staffordshire</td>
<td>T.E. Kelvin</td>
<td>0387B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISARD</td>
<td>4 Surrey</td>
<td>Mr J.W. Isard</td>
<td>1803B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KENDRICK</td>
<td>102 Staffordshire</td>
<td>Mr Edward Kendrick</td>
<td>2272B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KENWRIGHT</td>
<td>12 Lancashire</td>
<td>Mr Edward Kendrick</td>
<td>2272B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINTER</td>
<td>3 Hampshire</td>
<td>Mr Graham J. Linter</td>
<td>1692B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARRIAGE</td>
<td>8 Essex</td>
<td>Mr H.M. Knight</td>
<td>1750B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MULCOCK</td>
<td>8 Gloucestershire</td>
<td>Mrs H.J. Gardener</td>
<td>0963B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATTENDEN</td>
<td>26 Sussex</td>
<td>Mrs K.C. Tayler</td>
<td>1001B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLUCKNETT</td>
<td>2 Somerset</td>
<td>Mrs S.M. Merrett</td>
<td>2189C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POOL</td>
<td>28 Devon</td>
<td>Mrs M.J. Spiller</td>
<td>1204C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMALLSHAW</td>
<td>8 Lancashire</td>
<td>Mr R. Smallshaw</td>
<td>0758B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPIKINS</td>
<td>8 Yorkshire</td>
<td>Mr Geoff Spikins</td>
<td>2586C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STOTT</td>
<td>228 Lancashire</td>
<td>Mr W.T. Stott</td>
<td>0125B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOMPSTONE</td>
<td>5 Cheshire</td>
<td>Ann Laver</td>
<td>1109B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUPMAN</td>
<td>7 Lancashire</td>
<td>Mr A. Tupman</td>
<td>2013C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ULPH</td>
<td>6 Norfolk</td>
<td>Mr G.A. Ulph</td>
<td>0501B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICARY</td>
<td>25 Devon</td>
<td>Mr Ian S. Vicary</td>
<td>2185C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAGSTAFFE</td>
<td>112 Yorkshire</td>
<td>Mrs B. Kent</td>
<td>1062B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITEHOUSE</td>
<td>267 Worcestershire</td>
<td>Mr Keith Percy</td>
<td>1032B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WYARD</td>
<td>13 Suffolk</td>
<td>Mr C. White</td>
<td>1259B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I submit the following excerpts from correspondence for the interest of members.

John Heritage: "In medieval times the preponderance was always in Warwickshire ... Some years ago, I calculated the population of male Heritage in the year 1881 - this being the year when ages at death are first published in the GRO death index ... I have often wondered how many individuals there must be for the clan to be sure of avoiding its extinction. More recently I have begun to compute the total population by counting the 1881 Census references. This cannot be completed of course until I have all of the 1881 returns but so far I have found a good agreement between the two methods and it has been reassuring to find that your method supports my own deductions ... I look forward to reading the results of other people's returns. Please accept my thanks for your efforts on behalf of the GOUNS membership and adding another interesting dimension to my hobby."

Graham J. Linton: "The number sounds about right to me but I would suggest the only way to do this exercise accurately would be to include all entries for, say the first 100 years from 1837. However, I do appreciate this would be difficult for some members to carry out. My own view is that the findings should be published but with an added note for each entry giving the contributor's thoughts i.e: 'I am happy with this result or 'This is misleading as there were very few Linton births in the target years compared with the years either side etc.'"

Keith Percy: "I have worked out the 'epicentre' for WHITEHOUSE by another method. This consists of adding up GRO birth, marriage and death registrations for 1853 and calculating a frequency of WHITEHOUSE registrations as a fraction of the total registrations. This is done for all of England and Wales and then for the most frequent registration districts. Since figures have been produced for the total registrations for the 50 commonest surnames using this method, a comparator is available ... I believe that the 1853 BMD method is best for those with names of medium high frequency, while for rare surnames a much greater number of years is required to produce a result which is reasonably accurate. What is needed is a combination of such methods and the assistance of members with names of medium frequency to use both. This would enable the two methods to be 'joined together'. Although I have calculated my "Smallshaw Number", I do not see that it has any other use than as a frequency indicator, which, in my view, is inferior to the 1853 method for those with common surnames and too inaccurate to be useful for those with very rare names. However, I do applaud your initiative because you have launched a debate. This is valuable. It is helpful for our correspondents to understand how frequent a name is."

Hilary J. Gardener (nee Mulcock): "We seem to be extinguishing fast. Various methods of calculation suggest there are between 250 and 350 people with the name Mulcock living in the UK now, from a total of 2155 individuals on file altogether worldwide."

Edward Kendrick researching KENDRICK/KENRIC/KENWRK etc: "In determining these numbers I had to make a number of decisions as to what constituted a variant for this purpose, and I decided to ignore many of the various suggested in standard textbooks, for example KERRICK, COURAGE, etc. I also ignored the MachENRY, MacKENDRY, MacKENDRICK and similar variants which may have a common origin if one went back far enough ... The variants I have accepted include only minor difference such as ending with an 'e', 'e', or 'es', or including and 'e' as in KENDRICK. I have also included 'ich' endings."

Geoff Spikins: "The name I am researching is my own but I have included the variants SPIKIN, SPIKNING, SPIKINS. Average for all variants = 7.5. Average for SPIKINS only = 2.5."

Clive Essery called on me in person. He was to show me his very large computer printouts of his family research and was to give me sound advice as to the Pentium computer I intend to buy to replace my old (but beloved) Amstrad. He designs software and, having read his letter in the October Journal, I am sure he will prove a very valuable member of the Guild.

I have much enjoyed the letters I have received from Guild members and have happily replied to all. They hold intelligent and positive opinions, and make me realise that if I am to find agreement with the opinions of the majority of members, more and more members need to involve themselves in the idea of Name Identification, which is presently but a novel experiment yet has potential for the future. The deep searching mathematicians determined to ensure the accuracy of the number, and the resolution of the "place of origin" seekers are of significant importance to the future well being of the Guild, but let us start on a simple basis of "Name Identification" understood by all members.

I was particularly pleased to receive a letter from Eric Banwell. Readers may recall that when my idea was first published in the January 1994 Journal my conclusion was "With the help of all members, such numbers would perhaps help find Eric Banwell's long sought 'Mr Average'." In his article in the October Journal Eric explains his consideration as to the frequency of surnames and writes. "This forces me to conclude that the Guild needs to develop some objective
definition of the rarity of a registered name that can be simply used by a member. Perhaps as more returns are submitted for the recently initiated Smallshaw Name Identification Number we will be able to give guidance on frequency identification.

More returns? Here's the rub! To date 27 members have provided their Name Identification Numbers out of a total membership of over 1500. I remind members that they only have to count the births of the name being researched plus variants in the years 1870 and 1970 and divide the total by 2, so finding the average (counting a half as one) which will give the "Identification Number", and the county most often mentioned in these two years will give the "Identification Place". I shall keep my lists open for more update. Should I be flooded by a thousand replies or more. I shall in submitting Update 4 to the editor, leave the future possibilities of my idea to those more capable than myself.

Mr R. Smallshaw, Member No. 758 [5 Heathacre, Old Bath Road, Colnbrook, Slough, Berkshire SL3 0HX. Tel: 01753 682081]

A SHEARMUR FAMILY GET-TOGETHER - 28th September 1996  Mary Mather

Our family originated in Gloucestershire and is a branch of the great SHEARMAN/SHEARMANNE/SHERMAN/SHERMER clan that can be traced to Berkeley circa 1560. John Shermer of North Nibley, born 1751, had three sons who gradually adopted the spelling SHEARMUR. Samuel born 1777, James born 1785 and Timothy born 1787 in Alderley, were forfathers of those on my family tree. I have been researching the surname SHEARMUR since 1988 and so far have not found anyone of that name that I cannot "almost link" into the family. With the help of relatives I now have an extensive set of interlinked charts and we are in touch via an annual "Shearmur News" with families in England, Switzerland, Canada and Australia.

In May my cousin David, his wife Nancy, Aunt Marjorie and myself decided to plan a family get-together in Wanstead, East London for late September and avidly read the book "Planning A One Name Gathering". Aunt Marjorie very kindly booked her church hall. David agreed to be MC. Nancy undertook the catering arrangements and I produced family tree charts and toys for the children. We sent an invitation and "letter to guests" to everyone on our mailing list. It outlined the programme for the day and included a map with bus and train details of how to get there and requested a reply on a tear off form which asked for names of those in their party and contribution of £2 per adult to help with expenses. Lunch was on a bring and share basis (those born January to June providing a savoury dish and those born July to December a dessert) - enough for all their party, plus ... extra, so that our "senior" family members could be our guests. On the day, the advance party (cousins David and Nancy, Aunt Marjorie, nephew William and patient husband Christopher) arrived at 1000 to arrange clothes and flowers on the tables, "rev up" the tea urn, switch on background music, lay the floor rug and spread out toys, put a notice on the street door to welcome everyone, and set out charts and family photos. As guests arrived at 1100, they were greeted with a cup of tea, a list of others attending and a colour coded name tag to help them find their way around the family tree. Many had never met before and others had not seen each other since childhood! After an hour and a half of mingling, chattering and looking at displays, David called us to be seated and hear greetings from those who could not join us. At 1300 we enjoyed our buffet lunch and at 1400 posed for a group photo I us, taken with some seated and others standing facing the stage on to which climbed a succession of willing camera men. There was then an opportunity to look around the church, pause for prayer and take a moment to listen to the music of the visiting orchestra. Before our final cup of tea and farewells at 1600, I was able to update some of my charts, glean clues for finding lost relatives and be lent precious old family photos to fuse scan for the archives. This family gathering has given us a delightful sense of "belonging" - a value to be treasured. We shall enjoy remembering our get-together thinking of each other - and those who have gone before. "Long Live Family History and all who make it possible."

Mrs Mary Mather. Member No. 1416 [13 Horsell Park Close, Woking, Surrey GU21 4LZ]

Deaths

BENNY, Kathleen 1982 - 1996
CLAXTON, John 1986 - 1996
CUTTEN, David 1989 - 1996
CRACK, Kenneth 1993 - 1996

JACOB, Trevor 1979 - 1996
LOCKE, Charles 1993 - 1996
ORTON, Peter 1992 - 1996
PARTRIDGE, Barrie 1994 - 1996
Letters to the Editor

High Frequency Name Studies

Since publication of "High Frequency Name Studies" in the October 1996 Journal, my mail has been varied and interesting. The one extreme is "The next step should be to have a proper workshop weekend devoted to the subject ...." This was actually asking, should the "Smallshaw number" be a pilot for creating a better standard? The other extreme was a polite comment which I really took to say, - does it matter a damn anyway, don't waste my time! In Between are a number of interesting suggestions. Phone book counts still feature as a base although I abandoned them as a reliable frequency source over three years ago.

The general view is that the 1881 Census could form a universal base for both overall frequency and distribution of a name. There were a variety of views on how frequency be presented. A refinement of 1881 Census use was proposed by Jack Blencowe in the same Journal as my article with suggestions on how extracts be tabulated.

All this suggests that the 1881 Census should be our base case for comparison. When the Lancashire index became available at the end of August 1996 we had for the first time a 100% sample base for the whole of Great Britain that could be used. A county count of a specific surname could be made in an hour or two. Despite having given the "Smallshaw number" some support only three ago, call me fickle if you like but I now personally have abandoned it in favour of the 1881 Census data comparison. That also goes for the Registrar General report of 1856 for very high frequency name studies and Guppy 1890 for distribution studies. Those together with Phone Books have been my sacred cow until now. I would also say abandon Phone Books for frequency studies but they are still a useful tool for one-name contacts and more particularly distribution if you have a 20th century immigrant surname interest.

Another sacred cow that I am abandoning is treating England and Wales as an entity because England with Wales, Scotland and Ireland have been the three areas of civil registration since. 1837, 1855 and 1864 respectively. Most of us have been brainwashed into accepting England with Wales as one. We were aware of some names we accepted as of Welsh origin, but I personally had not seen this so clearly demonstrated until I read the introduction in the excellent book "The Surnames of Wales" by John and Sheila Rowlands, published by FFHS 1996. That lists the "Top Ten" names of England and Wales separately. Based on their study of the early to mid 19th century Welsh records with the 1856 report I have taken the top ten surnames from the 1856 report and split them based on 1881 Census data. Figures represent % of population compared with the respective country as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>England &amp; Wales 1853</th>
<th>England 1881</th>
<th>Wales 1881</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SMITH</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JONES</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>12.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILLIAMS</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>6.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAYLOR</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVIES</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>6.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROWN</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOMAS</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>4.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVANS</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>4.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROBERTS</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>2.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOHNSON</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I suggest the above table demonstrates why it is sensible to separate England and Wales for the first level of frequency and Distribution studies. Where do we go from here. First I hope all Guild members are collecting the names and numbers from the 1881 index. I could state my views on how they should present the frequency and distribution of their study names, but that would only result in further correspondence and suggestions for alternatives and refinement. There are numerous other ways that the census data can be used such as a scientific approach to determine the possible "epicentre" of a name or studies of migration. Jack Blencowe is suggesting that the Guild consider a project drawing together similar studies. I fully support this view and would go further. The Guild should create a forum where
Eric Banwell in his interesting article asked organisers of societies with high frequency surnames to outline how they manage and I would like to attempt this.

When I started the Wagstaff Society in 1987 I certainly did not realise how common the name was, but I did realise I could not manage with card indexes as I had done for just my own branch. My husband is very interested in computer programming, so that the start of the Society coincided with the purchase of a home computer and his designing programmes for me. Since then I have amassed an index of over 43,000 entries. I do have all the IGI, all the 1881 Census (except Lancashire) and am attempting to get the GRO entries. I am concentrating on the earlier ones of course, and doubt if I shall ever complete the post 1900 ones. I have purchased Wagstaff extracts from numerous indexes held by both societies and individuals and have examined all the indexes published by the Harleian society, Index Library, etc.

Also I am collecting details of the post 1858 wills and am hoping in due course to study the medieval documents which have been published by the PRO.

I am not collecting phone book entries as I do not feel this is worth the effort. Writing to Wagstaffs "out of the blue" has not been very productive in gaining new members, but genealogical directories, the GOONS themselves, word of mouth and local press publicity at meeting times, have all brought in members, numbering about 120.

A Newsletter starting with one page and now with eight pages has been sent out every quarter. Get-togethers have been held approximately annually. With a high frequency name there is not a single "home base" so meetings have been at various places, each with some connection with the name. However, the numbers attending have been too small to consider having a Constitution or forming a Committee. Some members are very helpful with research, items for the Newsletter and organising meetings, but I have no help with the correspondence, subscriptions, etc.

I do not think the frequency of the name is related to the number of helpers one gets, as it is likely that the more rare one's name is the more likely one is to take up family history. To date I have not seen this point commented on at all.

It is hard work running the Society but I enjoy it and I have not only learned more on my personal line, but made many friends and learned a lot more about family history in general.

Mrs Barbara Kent, Member No. 1062 [17 Red Hill, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 1NA]

**St. Catherine's House**

I appear to have a problem. Whether or not others have or have had the same problem I don't know, but I would be pleased if someone could give me an answer.

Having collected all the references to my name at St. Catherine's House, I thought that it would be a reasonably simple task to match a person's date of birth with his death, and hopefully to fit in his marriage somewhere. I have had the following results.

Considering men only from the March Quarter 1866 to the June Quarter 1969 when ages at death were given, but excluding all who were born before the September Quarter 1837, the number of deaths total 619. Out of these 233 births were connected representing only 37.7%.

From the June Quarter 1969 to 1992 where birth dates are given, the number of deaths total 151, of these 75 births were found representing 49.7%.

In total 308 births were connected to 770 deaths giving exactly 40%.

Even making allowances for people having come across the border to live and die in England or Wales, this seems to me to be a very low figure, or am I wrong? What is the reason for this?

One explanation could be that some names were entered as Lauder not Lauder because a script 'U' can look very much like an 'N'. I often have correspondence addressed to Lander on account of this confusion. Does this mean that I have to consider Lander as a variant? Surely not, this is a name in its own right isn't it? However, if I did, then how would I sort out one from which?

I would appreciate help from one of our members who has met a similar difficulty.

Mr Maurice Lauder, Member No. 2352 [78 Arthur Road, Rainham, Gillingham. Kent ME8 9BX]
News from a New member

Hello from California! As a new member of GOONS, I have read with much interest the "Letters" section in the Journals for this past year. It appears that the recent contested election, and the process of rewriting our Constitution, has created what I would call a "Crisis of Identity". It has caused me to ponder my reasons for joining the Guild, examining what I feel I have to offer the Guild and what in return membership offers me.

My foremost motivation was to have a forum to "advertise" and make contact with other who share my interest in the Spruce surname. Alas, I have not received one letter from a researcher stating "I saw your name in the Journal". I would enthusiastically welcome "the incessant drizzle of enquiries" so disparaged by one letter writer! I consider no Spruce enquiry irrelevant to my research, unattangling other branches helps me to understand the scope of my own in the Midlands. I take great pleasure in hearing from others; it enables me to share the data I have so laboriously collected through the years and see it of use to other researchers. The very process or organizing my records for membership and advertising my new society to various local family history societies has been of tremendous help. I have made many new contacts, and look forward to many more.

As a Guild member, I have made the conscious commitment to amass data to the best of my ability. I have been lucky to find correspondents who generously share their research efforts as well. This includes St. Catherine's records, 1818 Census index data, IGI records, census information, and whatever else concerns the Spruce name. While I will probably be unable to collect ALL records due to my geographic and time limitations, I do feel that what we have amassed will be of help to others. It seems to me that Guild membership should not be limited to complete studies or required categories; we must all begin somewhere. As a librarian, I was taught that we go to school not to learn everything, but to learn how to find out what we need to know. Similarly, I view the function of a One name Study registrant as not necessarily someone with all the answers (such "experts" would be difficult to find), but someone who creates a network which is able to help others find answers. I view myself as a "central exchange", sharing any pertinent information that I may have while keeping careful track of my Spruce contacts so that I can help to connect those with similar interests. I feel the "courteous helpful reply" so well described by Mr. Banwell, Member No. 981, should be the goal of all Guild members.

Mrs Kathy Compagno, Member No. 2544 1467 Rifle Range Road, El Cerrito, California 94530, USA.

1881 Census

On behalf of all one-namers, I acknowledge all the hard work put into the 1881 Census Index. Our thanks go out to one and all. In addition to extracting all references to my registered name and variants of SAGAR, I have extracted all variants of SAWYER which include SEAGAR(S), SEGGER(S), SAVER(S) and SAYER(S). None of these names are currently registered with the Guild. In all there are 16,000 plus names and these have been rearranged into family groups. A full listing has been deposited with the Society of Genealogists (SOG).

For researchers of the SAGAR/SAGER/SEGAR names, an extended listing with all names of others in households and institutions is being prepared. An estimated twenty families known to exist in 1871 and 1891 are currently being sought, possibly mis-transcribed. A copy will be deposited with the SOG.

Can I finally add my support to the comments of Nicholas Fogg (Vol.11. No.12. October 1996) in that I believe the census to be most important source for one-namers. The 1881 Census Index, in particular, should be a requirement - it has already "solved" many outstanding queries.

Mr. John H. Sagar, Member No. 595 [8 Morrell Avenue, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 4DD.]

Ideas Sort

In the course of my one-name studies for both the name Cumberland and Shacklock, I compile from the IGI, St Catherine's House Indexes and parish registers chronological lists of births and marriages. These lists are invaluable tools. While working on the Cumberland marriage list from the IGI I noticed that THOMAS CUMBERLAND has an unusual preference for marrying CHARLOTTE.

WILKINSON. These marriages took place on the 14th of February 1762 at Brassington in Derbyshire, Tyseee in Warwickshire and Tittleshall in Norfolk. On 14th of January 1779 at Swallowfield in Berkshire, on the
17th of January 1790 at St Paul's Bedford, and on the 17th of June 1802 at Thurlaston, Leicestershire and Shawbury, Shropshire. I have not been able to check the original registers, but there seems to be no logical explanation and according to the IGI there is no issue from any of these marriages. Normally I did regard entries in the IGI emanating from relatives.

Pat Wood, Member No. 2483 [2 Bedwardine House, 56A Henwick Road, Worcester WR2 5NT]

This is a request for advice, comment or information from fellow members:

The earliest member of the Blencowe family of whom much is known, is Adam de Blencow, who took his name from the village of Blencow in Cumbria, not far from Penrith. Adam was a vassal of William, Baron Greystoke, who by a warrant dated 29 February 30 Edward III (1356/7), awarded him and his heirs the right to bear the Greystoke arms - an escutcheon sable with a bend closed argent and azure, with three chaplets gules - apocryphally as a reward for his services as king's standard bearer at the Battle of Crecy. There is reason to believe that this was an "augmentation" to the arms borne earlier by Adam or his family-gules, a quarter argent - simplicity of the latter coat implies that it would have been the more ancient, and it was subsequently borne by the junior branch of the family that moved south to the village of Marston St Lawrence in the 15th century.

At the time of the Lay Subsidies of one-tenth and one-fifteenth levied in 6 Edward III (1322) Adam de Blencow was not living in Blencow, he was in Greystoke, and was the richest man in the village: "has in goods £4 19s". In nearby Skelton, William de Blencow "has in goods 19s" and Adam de Blencow (probably the same Adam) "has in goods 16s 4d". In Johnby, John de Blencow "has in goods 15s 6d". One of my collaborators has written: "Twenty-two persons paid the tax in the hamlet of Blencow, none of them name Blencow". However, another has pointed out that some of those listed there bore no family name: John gentilman, John son of William, John prepositus. Gilbert son of John, William son of Robert, John son of Henry, William son of Thomas and Thomas son of Ivorie. She suggests that all these would have been "de Blencow" but not listed as such because they were actually living in the village.

My first question is, has anyone an example from this period where known family members have been listed without being given the "de so-and-so" surname? The second question is whether it is reasonable to suggest that John labelled "gentilman" was armigerous? The village of Blencow was/is so tiny that it is highly unlikely that more than one gentle family held land there of the Greystokes. As a footnote to the Crecy story: it is recorded that Greystoke did not join the army before Calais until after the Battle of Neville's Cross and Adam was mentioned as being at the siege of that city. So, he could not have been at Crecy, but he received a pardon in 1348 "for his good services in Gascony in company of Henry Earl of Lancaster, the King's suit for all felonies and trespasses in Cumberland, before the passage of the Earl to the said parts, whereof he is appealed, and of any subsequent outlawries". As for the standard bearer story, is the Battle of Poitiers in September 1356 a more likely reason for the award to Adam of the Greystoke arms?

Mr. Jack Blencowe, Member No. 2010. [24 Dale Close, Oxford OX1 1TU]

Largest Pedigree

Having read Mr Savin's letter in the January 1996 journal, querying the largest number of names to appear on a family tree, and having read follow up letters which would appear to take his question seriously, I feel that I must write to put things into context. An individual one-namer can expect to spend many years putting together an impressive family tree. However, these individual one-namers must appreciate that they are in a different league entirely from the league of the One-Name Societies who have many researchers to pool resources.

In the early 1970s the Beresford family's Master Pedigree, which commenced in Norman Times, had in the region of 3,000 names included on it. Since the foundation of the Society at the end of the 70s decade, this number has mushroomed, partly with research adding whole branches previously unattached and partly because of the great annual birthrate around the world which adds new names every year.

It stands to reason, therefore, that every one of our family members who can currently attach himself or herself to the Master Pedigree would have the same extensive pedigree which, if he wished to write it out or place it on a computer, would produce a result which is heading for 10,000 linked names at a rate of knots!

This letter in NOT intended to encourage a section on genealogy in The Guinness Book of Records. It is simply intended to save space in the Journal by reducing the stream of
letters which appeared to be arriving with family trees which do not yet reach the 1.00 name mark. Please let the general membership realise that one-naming is VERY BIG BUSINESS these days, and the families who take it seriously have teams of researchers beavering away continuously.

Mr Douglas Beresford, Member No. 230. ["Rozel", 13 Downsway, Alderley Edge, Cheshire SK9 7XB.]

County Representatives
Having just attended Ron Ducket’s open workshop at his home in Burton on Trent, I would like to thank the Guild for the idea of county representatives. They do enable contacts locally with other one-namers. It is a great pity that Ron only had about a 10% response to his letters, but on generated follow up telephone calls.

I have been a member of the Guild for eight years and only had two enquiries regarding my name generated by membership. The Guild does help however, in giving me the opportunity to broaden my experience of one name studies through conferences, local meetings and the Journal and I do appreciate all the effort put into these.

Mr Roy R. Dunnicliffe, Member No. 1281 [15 Hillsway, Chellaston, Derby DE73 1RN.]

Food for Thought
You ask for views on the content of the restyled Journal. I have long felt that the Journal should aim to lead by example in promoting good one-name studies and techniques. This means that a good proportion of each issue should be given over to well written “case studies”, ideally combining intrinsic interest and a model for novices. A similar thought prompted my earlier suggestion for a Guild “anniversary volume” in the year 2000. Clearly, the editorial scope of any publication is conditioned by what contributors send in, but at present, I find the Journal’s correspondence content is too high. Many of the letters, and indeed much of the “Guild admin” content, would be far better published in a more ephemeral vehicle, say a newsletter: a journal ought really to be mainly for material worthy of preservation for the record. I would see such material falling mostly under three broad headings: completed results; sources; and techniques. I suspect that part of our problem is that many of the better articles by the better organised researchers currently end up in individual one-name society publications. That should not stop us reprinting in the Journal if such articles are of wide appeal and merit. Those active in the centre of the Guild should have a reasonable overview of the available material, and could select good articles to get us going. If we are to adjust the balance of the Journal, I feel it would be quite in order for the editor to commission specific articles, and apply a ruthless blue pencil to any offerings which miss the mark. We ought to have a Guild journal that is regarded as the vehicle of first resort for members’ best output.

Dr James Hodsdon, Member No. 72 [32 King’s Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 6BG.]

Book Reviews

Note from the Editor
I would like to hear members’ views on book reviews particularly pertaining to commercial books being reviewed in the Journal. If so do members wish prices and sources to be included?

THE NEVITT HISTORIAN
Issue 1. Spring 1996, A5 format, 17 pages. Edited by June Parkins, 133 Benares Road, Plumstead, London SE18 1HU.

Given that this is the first issue of the Nevitt Historian I was pleasantly surprised by the standard and clear layout of the journal. It was excellent to find a first issue with more than one contributor. Particularly pleasing was the “potted” biography of each of the writers and the reason for their interest in the name, which is not always as straight forward as we think.

There are one or two points that I think might improve the publication, the first being the addition of a table of contents. However, my main criticism, not only of this, but many other one-name journals, is that they are written by enthusiasts, who tend to forget that not all their readers share this enthusiasm, but have only a vague interest in the name. A good
example in this journal is an entry from a marriage register, where no headings are given. I assume that not everyone reading this will be familiar with such a register, and parts could cause confusion, especially the father's name and father's occupation, which because of lack of space have been printed on a separate line without any indication as to who they are. However, this is only my view of how I would like to see a one-name journal and others may well disagree. Overall, I enjoyed this journal. Each article has been clearly and entertainingly written and should be enjoyed by everyone who has a copy. Keeping this in mind, I feel that the Journal has a strong future and I look forward to reviewing a further copy in say ten years time!

B.W.

THE HOGWOOD FAMILY NEWSLETTER
Volume 1, Issue 3, September 1996. A4 format, 8 pages. Contact: Paul Hogwood, 15 Northdown Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent CT9 2NL. Tel: 01843-221726 or Gerald Gracey-Cox, "Bethangers", 64 Mill Street, Kidlington, Oxfordshire OX5 2EF. Tel: 01865-375933.

This is only the third Newsletter published, the first being in May 1993. It is well edited, easy to read, and the reproduction is of good quality. Although a small Newsletter it is packed with information for both experienced family historian and novice alike. There is a genuine feeling of warmth and friendship permeating the pages. Records are encouraged to be a part of the Newsletter and readers are asked to keep a "look out" for all references to the Hogwood family name.

MAINE GAZETTE

This Gazette has been published for seven years and consists of material copied in its original format. Included in this edition is an interesting article on John Thomas Mayne (1792-1843) entitled "A Mild Case of Genealogical Deception". It would be interesting to see this Gazette in a more reader friendly format.

B.U.Z.Z.A.S OF THE WORLD or 900 YEARS OF THE BUZZAs WORLDWIDE

Jack BUZZA of Truro in Cornwall, has just completed worldwide research into the surname BUZZA. For most people, it is a formidable task to just trace their own family lineage. However, Jack has spent the last ten years tracing and tracking the movements of every known family of BUZZO/BUZZA, which is a very ancient locative surname from the hamlets of Higher and Lower BUSSOW in the parish of Towendnack, St Ives, West Penwith, Cornwall.

Although the name BUSOW is first mentioned in the Assize Plea Rolls of 1284, Jack is of the opinion that it goes back even further than this, in fact to 1124 in Genova, Italy, where the name BUZZO appears. This is an Italian occupational name from the word BUZZACARNINA the name given to a shipbuilder. Although no records now exist, Jack's researches have led him to the place of origin as a small village called FRANCOFORTE near Simecusa on the island of Sicily. One day perhaps further proof will come to light, but most of the early records were destroyed by the Germans in the war, 1939-1945.

As centuries ago, the Italians traded with the Cornish for tin. Jack believes that some of these traders stayed behind in Cornwall and married into the early families, whose ancestors had been there since time...
immemorial. They set up home on Rosewell Hill, a prolific tin streaming area since the Bronze Age and they called the place BUSSOW. There has always been a mutation of the double "Ss" and the "zz" as with the "O" and the "U" in the old Cornish documents, why is not yet known.

Today, around the word in twenty-three countries, Jack has found only two true surnames whose roots can be traced back to Cornwall, those being BUZZA and BUZZO.

Jack has charted about twenty thousand BUZAAs in a massive family tree. Along the way he has collected many exploits and stories of the "clan" and they are entered in a massive book he is writing entitled: THE BUZA SAGA.

If you have any additional information to add or would like any information on the BUZZA "clan", please write in the first instance enclosing a SAE or IRCs to: Jack Buzz, Member No. 2313, 86 Cornish Crescent, Malabar, Truro Cornwall TR1 3PE, UK.

Adrian James Webb, of 6 Rosebery Street, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 6NF, England, has sent in the following two items of interest to members.

West Somerset Estates 1834

In the "Act for exonerating Estates ... comprised in the Marriage settlement of Sir John Palmer Acland, Baronet, deceased, from the Inheritance or Restric
tion hereby, limited to Dame Sarah Maria Palmer Acland, his widow ... 27th June 1834" is a list of all the properties concerned in the parishes of Steogursey, Kilson, Lilstock, Strington and Nether Stowey. The properties listed include details of the lessee, name of the field/property acreage and the annual rent or value. Some of the leases recite the age of the lessee, for example, Elizabeth Thorne aged 76, Richard Alford aged 45, and many of the property names clearly originate from ownership by local families, for example, Bawdrip's Mead, Burton's Close, Blake's Long Cross, etc.

A list of all the surnames mentioned in the Act is as follows:

ACRAMAN, ALFORD, ALLEN, BEARDES, BEER, BESE, BISHOP, BOOTH, BOWLES, BREWER, BROWNING, BRYANT, BUCKLAND, BULLAR, BURLAND, CAINES, CHILCOTT, COLES, CROCKER, CROSS, DAVIS, DENNIS, EVERED, EVILL, FAHIE, FELLOWES, GIBBES, GORE, GROVE, HAYMAN, HEMBURY, HEXT, HOARE, HOOD, JENKINS, KNIGHT, KNIFE, LEADER, LEGG, LEVERSHADE, LOFT, LUTTRELL, MANNINGS, MANT, MARTIN, MASTERMAN, MEAD, MILLARD, MOORE, NEEVE, NORMAN, PARROTT, PAYNE, PERRETT, PINN, POOLE, RAWLINS, RIDLE, ROWE, SEALY, SELWICK, SHEDDARD, SHOREY, STACEY, STOCKMAN, STODDEN, SULLEY, SWEETING, THISTLE, THOMAS, THORNE, THORNTON, TREVILLYAN, TRIPP, VENN, VICKERY, WATTS, WELLS, WELCHMAN, WESCOUR, WHITEFIELD, WILCOX, WROTH.

If anyone is interested in any of the above names, Mr Webb has a microfiche of the Act (37 pages) available at £1.60 post free in the UK. add £1.00 for areas outside Europe.

Teignmouth Churches 1815

An Act of Parliament "For Enlarging and repairing the Parish Churches of East and West Teignmouth ... and for authorising the sale of divers Hereditaments in East and West Teignmouth, Ilfracombe and Highweek given Royal assent in 1815, contains a six page list of the premises concerned. The list of properties are described in detail under the following headings: Description of Premises, Grantors, Grantham or Lessees, Date of Lease, Reserved Rents and Conventionary Rents, Heriots, Term and Names of Lives in the Leases. The earliest lease mentioned in the schedule is dated 1740 and there is an indenture of feoffment of 1701 recited in the Act.

A list of all surnames mentioned in the Act is as follows:

ADAMS, ARSCHOTT, BABB, BARTLETT, BICKFORD, BLACKSTONE, BRADDOCK, BRADLEY, BREWER, BRODERS, BULLY, BURGESS, CALCOTT, CARTER, CLAPP, CLOSET, COMYNS, COURTIS, COVE, COWSE, COYSH, DAVY, DEARINGE, DOWNES, DUNN, DURINGE, EDWARDS, ELLARD, ELLIS, ERNEST, ESCOTT, EVANS, GAUNT, GLASS, GODFREY, GOSS, GRUNDY, HALL, HAM, HARPER, HIRTZELL, HOLE, HUBBARD, HURLE, JORDAN, KINGDON, LAMACRAFT, LANGLEY, LOCKE, LOWE, MANWARING, MARGARY, MARTIN, MATTHEWS, MILFORD, MOTTON, NANCE, NEWBERRY, NOLDE, NORRISH, PARDON, PENNEWELL, PENSOM, PERIMAN, PIDSLEY, PITMAN, PITTS, PRAED, PROWS, PUDICOMBE, RENDALL, RENDLE, RISDEN, ROSE, SHORT, SMITH, SQUAY, TAPPLEY, TAYLOR, TEMPLER, TILLEY, TOWILL, TUCKER, UNDERHILL, VICARY, WATERS, WELLS, WHITBORNE, WIDCOUR, WIDEWORTH, WILKINGE, WILLS, WOOD, WRIGHT.
If anyone is interested in any of the above names, Mr Webb has a microfiche of the Act (32 pages) available at £1.60, postage as above.

The editor has received a letter announcing a new commercial publication to help researchers find Canadian ancestors. Originally started to give researchers with families in Canada a 'doorway' for enhanced communications with other researchers in Canada, Family History News has grown with each issue since it began as an eight-page newsletter in November 1995 and had already increased to twenty pages for the second quarterly issue in 1996. The newsletter has informative articles on researching Canadian ancestry and Classified Ads for specific name researchers. Published quarterly by Parr's Publishing in Oshawa, Ontario, a year's subscription for four issues is $18.00 for Canada, $25.00 for orders from outside Canada (please send Canadian drafts or money orders) and $20.00 for the USA. US dollars will be accepted. Payments should be made out to Parr's Publishing and mailed to: 525 Ritson Road N., Oshawa, ON L1G 5R4 Canada.

CHANGES TO THE REGISTER

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2633 MR GORDON GRANT
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Forthcoming Events

1-6 April "Sussex by the Sea". The Federation of Family History Societies' Conference, AGM and Council Meeting hosted by the Sussex History Group in its 25th Anniversary Year at Bishop Otter College, College Lane, Chichester, West Sussex. Send an SAE for booking form and further details to: Mrs Doreen Hayes, 31 Poulter's Lane, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7SS.

19 April 1997 Wagstaff Society Meeting to celebrate the Society's Tenth Anniversary. Details from Mrs B. Kent, 17 Red Hill, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 1NA.

29 May 1997 Ulph Families Gathering at Great Yarmouth from 10.30am to 5.00pm. Details from Colin Ulph, Member No. 501, 1281 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex BN43 6BB.

DEADLINES

The deadline for the April 1997 issue is Monday, 3 February 1997 and for the July 1997 issue, Monday, 5 May 1997. Remember, please send lots of articles with lots of photographs etc! Please no photocopies as these do not reproduce at all well.

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

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THE GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES was formed in September 1979 to encourage the exchange of ideas and co-operative liaison between the growing number of family historians who concentrate their research on all references to a single surname including proven variants.

In the majority of cases this activity is carried on by an individual working alone and not as a member of a One-Name Society, although many such societies have been established and admitted to the Federation of Family History Societies as formally constituted organisations. Such a group, whether or not formally constituted, may become associated with the Guild through an individual member. Anyone with a genuine interest in this type of research is welcome to join, membership not being restricted to those who register specific surnames.

The Aims and Objectives of the GUILD are:

(a) To advance the education of the public in the study of genealogy and family history of persons with the same name and its variants.

(b) To promote the preservation and publication of the resultant data, and to maximise its accessibility to interested members of the public.

In furtherance of these aims the Guild:

(i) Provides a forum for individuals and groups of people engaged in the collection of ALL references and occurrences of a single name and its variants worldwide.

(ii) Arranges conferences, meetings and similar gatherings for Guild members and others interested.

(iii) Encourages one-name research, particularly from original documents, and publishes or assists in the publication of the useful results of such research.

(iv) Produces a Journal and other literature, helpful to One-Name Studies.

(v) Maintains and publishes a Register of the surnames being researched and of the places where members have deposited the result of their researches, and through close association with the Federation of Family History Societies, the Society of Genealogists, the Association of Scottish Family History Societies and similar organisations worldwide secures the greatest possible awareness of One-Name research. By means of the Register each member becomes the publicised contact and expert in the name(s) he or she has registered.

(vi) Encourages and ensures by a written undertaking, that members deal with all reply-paid enquiries, which relate to their registered names. This undertaking is a primary requirement and should not be given lightly, particularly with the more common names.

New applicants for membership of the Guild should send a stamped addressed envelope to the Registrar, requesting a Registration Form. Overseas applicants should send three International Reply Coupons. The Registration Fee is £4.00 for each name registered; each registration may include up to five variants. The Annual Subscription, payable 1st January, is £8.00, and covers four issues of this Journal and two issues of Family History News and Digest. On joining members receive a copy of the current edition of the REGISTER OF ONE-NAME STUDIES and supplements and new editions as they are issued.