Tale of a one-name study and captured World War II airman

Reviews of LDS Church CD-ROMs

Civil Registration in Scotland

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The Guild of One-Name Studies

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From the Editor’s Desk
Mary Rumsey

First, to all members who are computer users, I would like to remind you to always back up your work on either Zip discs or floppies. Somehow, after my graduation from an Amstrad PCW to a computer with a hard disc, I acquired a certain belief in the infallibility of modern technology, so I was not unduly worried when I suddenly could not access any information at all. However, it happened to be my son's birthday, so when I phoned him I told him what had happened and he said it sounded as if the hard disc had gone.

Now, I knew his hard disc had gone, a very good friend's had gone, as well as several other people's, but no — this couldn't happen to me! After all, their computers were older and had seen more wear and tear. So, imagine my surprise when a few days later it transpired that, indeed, the hard disc was corrupted and had to be wiped. It was goodbye to all that non-backed up data. However, I immediately thought it was still all there in hard copy, which brings me to my next point.

Recently having gone on the internet, I have been very interested in some of the points raised on the Guild Forum. One of these was how best to keep information in a retrievable format, since the rapid advances in technology can make data inaccessible because there are no computers left which can access it. During this discussion, Michael Tedd, Member 329, suggested that hard copy was the best method of preservation, with which I would agree.

Data preservation

We are considering the preservation of processed data, not archival material such as birth, marriage and death certificates. Therefore, we are not trying to preserve the paper as such and if one buys a good quality paper and has a clear printout, and especially if it is kept out of the light, it should last at least 20 years, judging from some of my hard copy, which is over 25 years old. Incidentally, what has faded has been the old photocopies. Thus one can produce hard copy that will scan into a new computer when the old one is obsolete and the process can be repeated over again, giving the data an unlimited lifespan.

In relation to the preservation of data, at the Woking Seminar Mr Clive Essery, Member 881, renewed his generous offer to store backup discs for members, so that if one's house is burnt down, burgled, etc. all is not lost.

To continue in reference to the Internet, I would like to remind members not on the Internet that it

Continued on next page
Chairman's Notes
By Roger Lovegrove

With this edition, we see the end of yet another highly successful administrative year for the Guild. The growth and change that we have seen within the Guild over the past couple of years, but during the last year in particular, have been due to the committed efforts of the members of the Guild's organisation.

I would very much like to thank the following for their efforts over the year:

- **David Abbott**, Committee member; Treasurer.
- **Ron Dukett**, Sales Manager.
- **Peter Goodall**, Vice-President.
- **Ernest Hamley**, Committee member; Seminars Subcommittee.
- **John Hebden**, Vice-President.
- **Jim Isard**, Committee member; Secretary.
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- **George Lashbrook Covenants Secretary.**
- **Sue Lawn**, Committee member; Publicity Manager.
- **Polly Lawrence**, Seminars Subcommittee.
- **Karen Naylor**, Committee member; Web Site Manager (from September); Publications Subcommittee.
- **Derek Palgrave**, President.
- **Peter Prismall**, Non-UK Journal Distributor.
- **Geoff Riggs**, Committee member. 1881 Census project co-ordinator.
- **Mary Rix**, Committee member; FFHS representative.
- **Mary Rumsey**, Committee member; Editor.
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- **Ken Toll**, Working Group on Privacy.
- **Alec Tritton**, Committee member; Vice-Chairman; Chairman of the Publications Subcommittee; Membership Data Manager.
- **Alan Tupman**, Committee member, Web Site Manager (until June).
- **Graham Tuley**, Committee member; Regional Representatives Coordinator; Guild representative on SAFHS.
- **Kelvin Warth**, Marriage Index Co-ordinator.
- **John Witheridge**, Committee member; Librarian; Chairman of the Seminars Subcommittee.

As last year, I would like to give an all-encompassing thank you to all the Regional Representatives, who are too many to list here.

Thank you, too, to Mike Spathaky for helping us out of a hole when we were without a Web Site Manager for a while. Also to Barbara Harvey and Maurice Hemingway for helping to transport material for Guild displays, and to Frank Scott for being the independent examiner of the Guild’s accounts.

Could I ask anyone who may need to contact a Committee member by email during the next few months to please use an “official” Guild email address such as chairman@one-name.org, if possible, rather than the person’s personal address. This will ensure that your message will get through correctly even though postholders may have changed as a result of the election and the subsequent appointments.

Farewell as Chairman

I am writing this in early January, and so do not yet know whether or not there will be a contested Committee election, although you will know by the time that you read this, since you would have been balloted if one should have been necessary.

After four years on the Committee, I am now stepping down. I hope that there have been some nice changes introduced over my time as Chairman, but – if there have been – then that is due to the commitment and hard work of my fellow Guild workers.

I wish the new Committee, its new Chairman and the Guild generally the best of fortune for the forthcoming year.

*From The Editor's Desk, continued from previous page*

can be accessed in a number of places including the larger public libraries. However, when accessing information one must ask, how accurate is it? Also in this issue we have an article by Bob Cathcart, Member No 2969, on the rather extraordinary conflicting data that can be acquired in this way.

A case in point is that for many years it was believed that a certain William Windebank from Alton, Hampshire, who was transported to Australia, was the same man as the son of John Newman Windebank, who was born in the village of Bentworth.

I began to question this and soon found out that, while the William who was transported managed to get a ticket of leave to marry in 1837, the William born in Bentworth was still living there, had married and was busy increasing the village population.

Now, imagine if this error had appeared on the Internet – think of how many people could have accessed it and proliferated it. So I suggest that data accessed from the Internet is treated with extreme caution and should always be personally verified.

But, of course, that applies to any data that you have not personally gleaned yourself.
Treasurer’s Notes
By David Abbott

As the saying goes, there is good and bad. First, the good news. Guild membership continues to grow. Like the previous year, this year will again show an increase in membership. As far as bad news goes, there is none at present. Though whether this will remain the case depends on you, the members.

Despite the revision to the membership subscription under two years ago, your Committee has a difficult dilemma to consider. The subscription level was set with the unwritten objective that no increase would be considered this side of the millennium. The costings and projections I provided were based on current and previous spending patterns, with some adjustments. Unfortunately, we are now faced with unplanned expenditure that may well approach £2,000 a year.

Volunteers

As most of you will know, with very few exceptions nothing gets done within the Guild unless it is done by a volunteer. This may have to change as nobody has come forward in response to the request in January’s Journal for a new UK Journal Distributor. If nobody is willing to undertake this role, we will have to pay a commercial organisation to stuff the quarterly mailing. Either that or nothing will get sent to you. If the Guild has to pay for this service, it will again be in a loss-making situation and is something that I will resist strongly.

Subscription increase?

Assuming that we do have to pay for stuffing, there are only two solutions, as I see it. The first will be to increase the subscription by at least £2 to cover the stuffing of the journal and other items you are sent. The second will be to omit or cut back on items that you normally expect to receive. Have a look at the last set of accounts (in the middle of the July 1998 Journal), note 4, and consider where we could make this saving.

Alternatively, maybe you could spare a day or so, four times a year, and really help the Guild. For more details, see the panel alongside.

Bank Errors

I have always thought that banks are fairly inefficient organisations. However, since becoming Treasurer I have come to the conclusion that they are also inept. Although some members have made errors, it is mostly banks that have created more than 60 duplicated subscriptions. I am writing this in February, so hope to be resolving these by the time you read this. I do urge all of you to be vigilant in examining statements.

Keep a close watch on both direct debits and standing orders, as these seem to be prone to the most errors.

Secretary’s Notes
By Jim Isard

Each week I receive approximately 50 letters through Box G. About 35 of these relate to enquiries about names that are being researched. These letters may ask about one surname or 20 names.

I reply to each letter and probably about 15 of these letters refer to names that are being researched. I send these enquirers the name and address of the member of the Guild who is doing the research.

If the member has an e-mail address I give them this as well. I suggest they write to the researcher and ask them to give the researcher my name.

So, how many of you have been contacted where they have given my name as a reference? I can hear some of you say: "No-one has ever written to me.” Well you are in the same boat as me, but our day will come! Some members get regular enquiries.

Just so I know how the system is working, I would be interested to hear from those of you who are online. I get enough letters to open and it is easier to read e-mails.

So please send me an e-mail if you have received an enquiry and the enquirer mentions my name. I will then have some idea of how the system is working.
I held a trump card in my search for family roots
By Peter Amsden

WHEN do you start family history? I suppose that I began when I was around 10 years old, although at that time I was completely unaware of the fact. For some inexplicable reason I was given a card relating to my grandfather and admonished to "look after it". A rather grubby 4½ x 3 inch piece of card soliciting the votes of the Governors to The New Asylum for Fatherless Children in Reedham, Surrey for John Amsden, aged two years, it was dated June 1859 and appeared to have originated from five people belonging to various professions.

Why I should have been the recipient of this gem I have never fathomed. There were plenty of other children in the family and some much older than myself. Perhaps it was because someone recognised that I hoarded things. An indulgent grandfather had already let me make considerable inroads into his cigarette card collection, although where they came from is a mystery in itself, since he never smoked. Like the dutiful child I must have been, the card was secreted away inside one of my favourite children's books, Block Beauty, never to see the light of day again for many years.

My hoarding instinct somehow prevented me from ditching the book and I must have been about 26 when the card came to light once more, since I was now in the business of reading bedtime stories to my children and it fell into my lap. I still paid scant attention to it, and it was tucked away in some drawer or other where it remained for some more years. It finally surfaced again during a move to another house. I had now reached the age of 45 and could find more time to devote to unravelling its meaning.

By this time, grandfather, father and a few uncles who could have been useful, had departed this world. I was left with the card and a few odd rumours that I remembered from childhood. The family had been doctors; chemists; had run a shoe business and had a trade mark of an American Indian's head with feathered head dress; there was a big business in the city; they had been poor; they had been rich; and inevitably there was the mysterious family secret, something to do with money.

I had absolutely no knowledge of genealogy, apart from the fact that somewhere births, marriages and deaths were recorded. From my schooldays I remembered this as being Somerset House. Since the card related to an orphanage in Reedham, Croydon, and I knew that my grandfather had been there, the logical first step was to write to the Surrey Record Office and ask if there were any records available. The reply that came back put the brakes on my initial efforts. I discovered that all of the records had been transferred to London and lost in the Blitz during the war.

Amsden doctors
With a degree of persistence I decided to tackle the medical angle and wrote to the Royal Society of Medicine to ask if any Amsdens had been doctors. Here I was in luck, for there had been three registered over the years, John, George and Walter. John and Walter had been surgeons and George the Resident Medical Superintendent of the Essex Lunatic Asylum. All very interesting, but where on earth did these people fit into my family history? At least I knew from the information supplied that both John and George had lived in Hoxton, London, so it seemed logical to scour some of the London records and the only ones that I could think of were in the Guildhall Library.

I had no idea that the Guildhall was not the best place to search for those who had lived in Hoxton, but the choice was fortuitous because here was found the record of another John who had been a chemist and druggist in the City of London back in the mid-1700s. There had to be a connection here, somewhere.

I needed to know more about the family in general, and turned to the telephone directories for the entire UK. I found about 20 Amsdens, some I knew, but most I had no idea about, so I wrote to all of them. It was rather like opening the flood gates. I was suddenly inundated with so much information that it took many months for it to make any logical sense. The two most important replies came from a second cousin, who I didn't know existed, and another family member, both of whom had been doing their own research into the family history for some time.

We decided to combine our efforts, and an interesting meeting took place where many of the issues were discussed. What became rapidly apparent was that whilst my second cousin clearly belonged to my branch of the family, the other member came from quite a different one. We discovered that surgeon John was the son of the chemist and druggist John, and that surgeon George and Walter were surgeon John's brothers.

At least the rumours relating to doctors and chemists was bearing some fruit, and it transpired that the other
family member belonged to a branch of the family associated with the important haberdashery firm of Olney-Amsden & Son in the City of London. So the mystery of the big business in the City was also cleared up. It also pointed to wealth at some time. The poverty part I had been familiar with, but I was interested to find out what happened to turn one into the other. And where had the Amsdens of Olney-Amsden come from, since there was no obvious connection between the two branches, either in direct family connections or locality?

It was at this point in time that I discovered the now familiar IGI, but, since I lived in Cumbria, the nearest LDS Family History Centre I could find with these records was in Huddersfield. I spent some days there, noting down every Amsden I could find. There was no printout facility at this time and writing down everything in longhand at a time. Suddenly there were a great many counties in England, but I was determined to wade through every single one and went home with armfuls of paper. I now had Amsdens dating from the 1560s all the way up to the late 1800s. It looked interesting, but turning it into anything that made sense was another matter. At that time I didn’t even own a computer, so the end result was simply to add to the mass of paper I had already acquired. In my innocence, I firmly believed that if I could unravel the tangle, then everyone would fall nicely into place and I would have a neat family tree stretching back to medieval England. I hadn’t realised at this time that the IGI is not a factual record of everyone that had ever been born or married. Why were there so many gaps?

Poverty

When I finally discovered the truth, the whole thing made more sense. Rather than starting at 1500 and trying to work forwards, I tried it the other way round. It was then that I discovered, hidden in this mass of paper, names that actually started to mean something. Like the person who was clearly my grandfather and, in turn, his father and grandfather. They still needed to be checked, but it emerged that surgeon John had a son called Theophilus who became a chemist and druggist. It was he who had died young with the result that my grandfather ended up in the orphanage. It had reduced my great-grandmother to a state of poverty and I began to see where the rumours relating to cash flow came from.

Why had the presumably well-off brothers of my great-grandfather allowed his widowed wife and family to fall into this state? To this question I have never found an answer, but it is easy to see how a possibly mean attitude became changed into a long lasting feeling of bitterness in the family. There was possibly good reason, but it is difficult now to go back and ask questions.

A rather extraordinary coincidence occurred during this early search for family information. My wife was engaged on some private research in the archives at Kendal in Cumbria. She spent quite a lot of time there, so she became well known to the archivist. One of her visits happened to coincide with the archivist sorting through some documents. She asked my wife if there had ever been any doctors in the family, since she had just turned up a marriage certificate relating to a Septimus St. George Amsden marrying an Elizabeth Turton in Staveley in 1853. The father of Septimus had been none other than surgeon John and the address of Septimus was given as Hoxton in London, the same area where it was rumoured that my grandfather came from. Elizabeth was the daughter of a mill owner and how she came to meet the son of a London surgeon is one of those mysteries yet to be solved.

Five family branches

After more diligent research into family records, it transpired that there were five branches of the Amsden family: my own, originating in the City of London; the Amsdens associated with Olney-Amsden, originating with a William in Wandsworth, London; another group in Leyburn, Yorkshire, who came originally from Tring in Hertfordshire; and two smaller branches, one that stemmed from a toothbrush maker called Richard in London and another from three orphaned brothers. Eventually, it was possible to show that the Wandsworth Amsdens and Leyburn Amsdens had common ancestors, but where the two smaller branches fit into the picture remains a mystery still being investigated.

I have a shrewd suspicion that somewhere back in time the Wandsworth William and the City of London John could have been brothers, but we are now back into the 1750s, the great black hole of genealogy. To make matters more complicated, it appears that both William and John were Baptists, and although every effort has been made to find references to them it has so far proved to be a vain search. No one seems to know where the Wandsworth Baptist records have vanished to and, again, the London Blitz has been blamed for their demise. Those for the City of London are scant indeed; many may never have existed at all.

Census research has also shown that there were Amsdens in the shoe trade, some having a manufacturing business. The American Indian? Well, so far not connected with the shoe trade, but there are arms attributed to some Amsden in the past that do have wings. So the feathers are there somewhere. There may be more to these family rumours than meets the eye.

Sadly, my second cousin died two years ago, but with two published editions of the family history I still carry on, trying to make sense of it all and gleaning more snippets along the way. How it fell that I should be the one to attempt the task of assembling all this information I have never been quite sure. Perhaps it is because I am a sucker for volunteering. On the other hand it may have been because I held a trump card.

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My one-name study and the remarkable tale of a World War II airman

By Keith Reedman

During the six years of my Guild membership I have only received one enquiry. This has not given me any cause for concern because I have always had plenty to occupy my time, particularly with local history enquiries relating to the families of other people.

The big day when I did get an enquiry about my registered name was in February 1998 when I received an e-mail from our Secretary, James Isard, asking for my help with an enquiry he had received from a lady in Had who was trying to find a David F. Readman. This was not good news. I had never attempted any research on spelling variants of my registered name Reedman, but to help a lady overseas I agreed to do some work and asked James to send copies of the correspondence to me.

Lieuwe Boonstra, who lives in Heerenveen in the province of Friesland, North Netherlands, is writing about the local history of the district. In 1942 a Handley Page Halifax bomber which was returning from an air raid of Bremen in Germany became unflyable over Holland and the crew of seven baled out in the vicinity of Heerenveen.

Prisoners

The plane crashed harmlessly in pasture land. The crew landed safely but were captured by the occupying German forces and were sent to Stalag VIII B prisoner of war camp until the end of the war in 1945. Lieuwe wishes to publish an account of the plane and the men who flew it because of the relevance to the local history of Heerenveen during the Second World War.

I corresponded with Lieuwe to discover the extent of current knowledge. One of the first things which I learnt was that Lieuwe is not a woman but a young man who has already published a book detailing the events surrounding the loss near Heerenveen of a Lancaster bomber which, on the same night, crashed killing all the crew. He had been researching the Halifax crew for five years and had located six of them.

The seventh, Sergeant David Fozzard Readman, the wireless operator, was his stumbling block. Some progress had been made. Lieuwe had found the record of David's 1948 marriage in Scarborough to Jean May McGregor as well as the record of his birth in Middlesborough in 1915. He found no record of them having any children.

To begin with I started on telephone directories and did a fair amount of fruitless telephoning. However, I did learn two interesting things. Firstly, that in the north-east where Readman is the more common spelling, the name is pronounced "Redman"; secondly, in Scarborough, the name Fozzard (which is quite rare anywhere) is pronounced Fo-zard, with the emphasis on the 'z'. Not once did I encounter rebuff or incivility – but there was no progress.

Lieuwe, meanwhile, was not sitting back. He was writing to newspapers in Yorkshire and the north-east and one letter to a Leeds paper produced a response. The occupier of a house formerly owned by David and his wife was able to tell Lieuwe that David had died and that his widow had remarried.

So, on my next visit to London I called at the new Family History Centre for the first time and was able to obtain a copy of David’s death certificate. What I could not find was any record of Jean's remarriage and this left me wondering what to do next. Without a name, things looked difficult. I planned to visit the FHC again to see if I could find any record of either Jean or David having any siblings which might give a lead.

Info CD ROM

Eventual success came on a plate – well, a disc, actually. The seventh, Sergeant David Fozzard Readman, the wireless operator, was his stumbling block. Some progress had been made. Lieuwe had found the record of David’s 1948 marriage in Scarborough to Jean May McGregor as well as the record of his birth in Middlesborough in 1915. He found no record of them having any children.

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The breakthrough came with Version 3, which I obtained in November 1998. Promoted as containing 42 million UK residents, the big advantage to me was that...
as well as the first forename in full, it also gives the initial of a second forename. After the first installation of the disc, just for curiosity I carried out a search for Jean M. Readman. She should not have been there, having remarried, but nevertheless I was curious.

The search produced two matches: one in Bedford, the other in Leeds. Guess which one I phoned first? Yes, just one phone call and Jean May Readman was discovered. My next call was to The Netherlands — no, my next was to international directory enquiries, then The Netherlands. Lieuwe was delighted and there was certainly a euphoric atmosphere in my house.

**Surprise**

Jean was naturally very surprised to find herself to have been the subject of a long search. She was astounded, though not upset, at the amount of information which we had gathered about her and her family. Happily, Jean has photographs of David when he was in the RAF as well as other material which will be useful to Lieuwe for his book.

Following my phone call to Jean I wrote to her giving an account of what I knew. She has shown the letter to several of her friends who have been quite thrilled at the apparently exciting events.

More things which I have learnt: both Jean and David were only children and it was confirmed that they had none of their own — and in Jean’s words “reports of my remarriage were greatly exaggerated.” Lieuwe will keep in contact with Jean but he has recently had the disappointment of his publisher pulling out.

But knowing his tenacity I’m sure he will eventually succeed and I not only look forward to having my own copy of the book, but also to meeting Jean. ☺

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**We’re Camin – but from where?**

WORKING in the City of London in the 1950s in a building on the corner of Cannon Street and Martin Lane, I used to look out of my second floor window at the clock sticking out from what looked like a church tower. It wasn’t actually, but it did mark the site of the ancient St Martin Orgar Church, now no longer there. It fascinated me.

Forty years later and retired, I was poking into the records of the Huguenot Society of London, in the Guildhall Library, for details of the Berens family, who lived in Sidcup in the 18th century. They were there and further along in the index was a Camin! A Huguenot? My paternal grandfather had come from Germany in the 1890s. This was a Catherine Camin married to Anselme Pigou, whose first child was baptised at L’Eglise de Londres in Threadneedle Street in 1710. The baby was given the name Crommelin, and the witnesses were Jean Camin, Jacob Crommelin and Marie Pigou. The Crommelin family, when compelled to leave France in 1698, had settled in Ireland, at the invitation of William III, to organise the manufacture of fine linen.

Catherine had 13 more children in the period 1712 to 1730. Twelve were baptised at St Martin Orgar, which had been given over to the Huguenots. Just over a couple of centuries later Len Camin was there! Are we related? Dunno! I’m just reminded that my original curiosity as to why my grandad had a Latin-shaped family name seems to be answered by the later discovery that Camins were once numerous in the South of France.

When the Huguenots were pushed out, a lot went to Germany and another lot came to England, in fact anywhere sympathetic to their Protestant beliefs. It is possible that descendants of some of those who went to Germany came to England in the 19th century when economic conditions triggered off a minor invasion from that country. I thought I had tied things up, but I’ve now found a load of Camins in the town of Trento in northern Italy. You may have noticed that most countries in Europe use the word Camin, with variations of spelling, to mean chimney or fireplace. I ask myself if the word was introduced by the Romans and, if it was, then I have to look to Italy for our origins, don’t I? ☺

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Orrs at war – a thematic approach to a one-name study
By Brian Orr

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains the graves of the known dead and the memorials to those with no known grave for both World Wars. Many of the smaller graveyards that were scattered throughout the war zones have been consolidated and now also contain the dead of World War II.

It speaks volumes that our soldiers gave their lives in two wars at or near the same places such that they can lie together in a foreign field. The opening of the CWGC web site afforded many members the opportunity to search for relatives who, hitherto, had been just “Uncle Fred, died in WWI”. The recent addition of Soldiers of the Great War CD to the Guild’s resources gave additional information.

This wealth of information for my already large ONS prompted me to adopt a thematic approach – the Orrs at war, which could be both a factual record of persons and an understanding of their history and background events.

Mercenaries
It is likely that Orrs met their maker from the earliest times through military service. As a West coast of Scotland family, some may well have been employed as “galloglass” (mercenaries) in Ireland as long ago as the 13th century. In the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries many disenchanted Protestants and Catholics sought military service with other European states and served, often with great distinction, in France, Spain, Germany, Poland and Sweden.

Orrs were prominent in a variety of ways in the burgeoning America and some 102 of their number have been found who served in the Revolutionary War or War of Independence (1774–1783). Hugh Orr from Lochwinnoch (1717–1798) manufactured 500 muskets in 1748, and in the war he was well established as an iron-founder and arms merchant.

His son, Colonel Robert Orr (later General Orr), was armorer at Springfield, Massachusetts. Perversely, division occurred between emigrant families, with many of the Loyalist supporters going to Canada during the conflict. The remainder supported the American cause of independence.

No fewer than 129 Orrs from 16 States are recorded as taking part in the 1812–14 War against Britain. The distribution of the volunteers is an interesting illustration of how mobile the immigrants were. Their spread was across the country from Vermont, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey and New York in the north-east, down the coastal plain through Virginia, North and South Carolina to Georgia; through Pennsylvania and the Ohio valley to Tennessee and Arkansas and all points west to Texas.

I was surprised to learn that slavery and its abolition was not initially a major issue in the American Civil War. However, realisation that the Confederacy were using slave labour to further their war effort led to the Second Confiscation Act and Militia Act (July 1862) and authorised the enlistment of all able-bodied citizens between the ages of 18 and 45, including “persons of African descent.”

A consequence of this was General Order 143, Adjutant General’s Office, May 22nd 1863, and the creation of the Bureau of Colored Troops. The first regiment of the United States Colored Troops was mustered in June 1863 and 24 black American Orrs, former slaves or sons of slaves, served the Union cause. By way of illustrating the way the wider Orr “family” was split, there were 16 Orrs who served with the Confederate regiments from Louisiana.

A total of 1,411 Orrs appear in the Muster Rolls. Some served for years, while others responded to alarms and only served a few days before they were stood down. Two Orrs were awarded the Medal of Honour for courageous action under fire:

Charles A. Orr, born in Holland, New York. Joined the Army at Bennington NY. As a Private, Company G, 187th New York Infantry, he and two others rescued several wounded and helpless soldiers at Hatcher’s Run, Virginia, on October 27 1864.

Robert L. Orr, born March 28 1836 in Philadelphia, PA, served as a Major in the 61st Pennsylvania Infantry. At Petersburg, Virginia on April 2 1865, he retrieved the colours which had twice fallen and carried them under fire at the head of the column.

High price
In modern times the American Orrs paid the highest price in World Wars I and II, Korea and in Vietnam. The American aspect of the two world wars is work in progress, but I do know of 45 Orrs who were killed in action during WWI and a further 29 who were prisoners of war. Eight American Orrs were killed in action in the Korean War. In Vietnam, 524 Orrs were in action there, of whom 14 are listed as killed and are commemorated at Arlington National Cemetery.

Turning to the Commonwealth countries, I was surprised to find that Australian units took part in the Boer War 1899–1902 and three Orrs were among their number: D. Orr of New South Wales; H. Orr of Queensland; and John Orr of Tasmania, who was a Corporal in the Fourth Australian Contingent.
Imperial Bushmen, Colonial Military Force, Killed in Action, November 18 1901.

By the time of the Great War, 1914–1918, very many Orrs had emigrated, taken citizenship and joined up. There were those who had recently emigrated and returned to the land of their birth to join up and those who signed up anyway, such as S. Orr and John Richard Orr from Downpatrick, Co. Down who served in the Canadian Infantry; Thomas Orr from British Columbia, Canada, who served in the 1st/5th Northumberland Fusiliers; and Wallace Orr of San Francisco, California, who served with the 1st Bn. Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

The Canadian Orrs were well represented, with 236 of their number listed in the Canadian National Archives as serving in the Canadian Expeditionary Force of WWI. Sixty thousand Canadians died in WWI (11,000 with no known grave) and are commemorated at the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Four hundred and one UK and Commonwealth Orrs died for their country in the two World Wars, including two persons who adopted the Orr surname as an alias when joining up. Based upon the origin of the regiment or service that they served in, the distribution is:

- Australia: 36
- Canada: 40
- Hong Kong: 1
- Ireland: 33
- Malta: 1
- New Zealand: 17
- Scotland: 132
- South Africa: 4
- Trinidad: 1
- Wales: 1
- England: 134
- Unknown: 1

One death in a family is tragedy enough but there were occasions when brothers were lost. Two sets of brothers were among the New Zealand losses in WWI: Robert Charles Orr and John William Orr from Auckland; and Ernest Orr and Henry William Orr of Hamilton. There were brothers Herbert Orr and F. Orr from Oldham, Lancashire. From the tiny island of Malta, brothers Arthur George Orr died in 1917 and David in 1945.

It is particularly sad to record the death of both father and son in active service. Sapper James Orr, 6 Bomb Disposal Coy. Royal Engineers died October 3 1940. His son, Robert John Dillon Orr, 2nd Bn Royal Ulster Rifles, aged 20, died at Caen, France on July 19 1944. Neither were the civilian population spared from family disaster. In Glasgow, Annie Orr, aged 29, and her mother Annie Goodwin Orr were killed in their home at 2, Shiskine Street, Maryhill, on March 14 1941. In all, nine civilian Orrs were killed by enemy action.

The brothers theme continues in my immediate family. I found the record for Rifleman Harold Smith Orr, 1st Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles, who died aged 20 on March 1 1944 on the beach at Anzio, Italy. He is buried at The Beach Head Cemetery, Anzio, plot XXII.A.3. His elder brother Charles (my father), at the time acting Regimental Sergeant Major in the same regiment, had the task of collating casualty reports and learnt of his brother’s death while so doing. He survived the war and the later conflict in Korea, serving with the colours for over 21 years before taking a Commission, retiring as a Captain Quartermaster. Another brother, Samuel Orr, Sergeant, 42 Commando, Royal Marines was killed in action in Malaya in December 1950.

The Orr Roll of Honour

American War of Independence
1774–1783

War between Britain and America
1812–1814

American Civil War
1861–1865

Boer War
1899–1902

World War I
1914–1918

World War II
1939–1945

Korean War

Vietnam War

In the UK every town has its War Memorial and we are familiar with the sight of the Cenotaph. Nineteen-ninety-eight was the 80th anniversary of the Remembrance Day services and included poignant scenes from the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial. Those commemorated at these places are but a few of the whole and we should not forget that the roll call at other memorials runs into millions.

The theme approach is certainly very interesting and rewarding, providing the opportunity to look at diverse aspects of my family. On the topic of war, it was heartening to see the patriotism that caused young boys to lie about their ages in order to sign up and the stoicism of families who lost loved ones and suffered great hardships without a bread winner.

I was not prepared for, and was chastened by, the numbers of soldiers, sailors and airmen who emerged from my research as having no known grave, whose only memorial, if any, is on a plaque somewhere.

This, more than anything else, demonstrated for me the wanton obscenity of war.

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How accurate are pedigrees on the Net?
By Bob Cathcart

In the course of scouring the Internet for any reference to my one-name study, Cathcart, I have come across one person many times, namely, Sarah Cathcart who is supposed to have been born in Penarth, Glamorganshire, Wales, circa 1572, and married William Lewis in the same place on August 3 1592.

It would seem that one of the couple’s children, William II, was one of the Pilgrim Fathers who went to America on the Mayflower. A suspicion has formed in my mind that Americans seek Pilgrim Fathers in much the same way that many Australians search for convicts, and Sarah has become something of a curiosity to me.

Randomly choosing four different deposits on the Internet, I downloaded the GEDCOM files and created four separate databases. I then carefully merged the databases one by one whilst deleting identical references but leaving conflicting ones.

Also, because they were irrelevant to my study, I deleted such references as LDS Baptisms, Seal Child, Seal Spouse, etc. The results are interesting and give some rather peculiar information.

“A suspicion has formed in my mind that Americans seek Pilgrim Fathers in much the same way that many Australians search for convicts.”

Credibility gap

Care still has to be exercised, even when data seems more reliable. The data for Sarah’s marriage to William might look fairly good but is immediately thrown into doubt when we are informed that William died on the very same date! This, despite the fact that he is supposed to have sired at least four children during the next six years. Of these, two have “circa” years of birth and two have day, month and year. The eldest is supposed to have been born at Penarth and the rest at Llandough.

Credibility is stretched when we find that William has two grandfathers. One is Edward, who is supposed to have died circa 1560, with no other information. The other is Richard of Sychdin Llewys, born circa 1520, whose wife, we are informed, was Louri Fychan Conway. The latter couple came from a database of over 15,000 persons (Sarah was the only Cathcart) which seemingly traced some antecedents back about 1,000 years.

Royals and aristocracy

The index was liberally sprinkled with the names of royalty and many of the aristocracy of the UK and Europe. It might be of interest to note that Richard of Sychdin Llewys was about fifteen and his wife about five when their supposed son, Edward, the father of William was born.

Further down the American line, there are many discrepancies between two of the databases, which show conflicting family events for identical individuals in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. I am well aware of marriages being repeated but it is somewhat difficult for births and deaths!

Another error which is very easy to make is that of transposition – there is an American Lewis who is supposed to have been married in 1688, just four years after his christening on August 18 1684, but another record showed that event to have taken place on the same date in 1648 which, happily, coincided with his birth year.

Date confusion

A different form of transposition can result when researching American records because dates are shown in the order day/month or month/day and Americans themselves fall into the error when they show yet another Lewis as being married on 2nd December 1685 and 12th February 1685.

What is the point? I guess there are several. First, I think I can accept that there was a Sarah Cathcart, who married a William Lewis in Wales circa 1592 and that some of her descendants now live in the USA. Secondly, there seems to be ample warnings here not to trust any of the information on the Net unless reliable sources are quoted.

Thirdly, I do wish my American cousins would all show the dates in the same format, whichever one they choose!

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The Scottish Statutory Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths
By Jim Floyd

The Registration (Scotland) Act, 1854, came into force on January 1 1855 and initiated the system of Statutory (Civil) Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths in Scotland which continues to this day.

The preceding voluntary system of recording of baptisms and marriages was the responsibility of the individual parish ministers or session clerks in the Church of Scotland and, thus, did not generally include the large numbers of Roman Catholic and other non-established denomination events. Being both voluntary and denominational, the system was neither universal nor maintained to a common standard.

The statutory payment of three pence required by the Stamp Act for each baptism, marriage and death entry UK-wide during the period 1783-94 was also a major disincentive to registration, particularly of baptisms. Even without this, the ceremony was sometimes neglected until many months or even years after the birth of the child, and it was not uncommon for entire families of children to be baptised on the same occasion. Although the individual dates of birth of each child were sometimes recorded in such multiple baptisms, the long time gap and the frailties of human memory could lead to entirely innocent errors of fact. One particularly useful feature, regularly found in Scottish baptisms, is the recording of the maiden surname of the mother.

Marriages were generally recorded as the banns being read from the pulpits in the respective parish churches of both bride and groom on three successive Sundays. The recording of deaths, usually as burials or the interment, was particularly fragmentary. Note: a mortcloth was a large black velvet cloth used to cover the coffin from the time the body was placed inside until the interment.

Old Parish Registers

At the start of statutory registration, the Church of Scotland records from the more than 900 parishes were gathered into a central location in Edinburgh and are now preserved in New Register House as the Old Parish Registers (OPRs). Microfilm copies of the original registers are widely available for general research and a microfiche index has been prepared by the LDS. This OPR index is also available as part of the computer searching system in New Register House. No similar systematic gathering of Catholic or non-established registers was carried out in 1855 and these original records are still held by a variety of custodians, including the respective churches, private individuals and the Scottish Record Office.

Initially, almost the same numbering system was utilised throughout Scotland for the OPR parishes and the Census and Civil Registration districts. There were a total of 1027 districts with numbers starting in the north of the country at 1 (Bressay) in the Shetland Islands and running to 901 (Wigtown) in Wigtownshire in the south, with the numbering of individual parishes/districts following their alphabetical order within each county.

In Renfrewshire, for example, numbers ran in the series 559 (Abbey, Paisley), 560 (Cathcart) etc., to 575 (Renfrew). Ayrshire followed, in the series 576 (Airdrossan), 577 (Auchinleck), 578 (Ayr) etc., to 620 (West Kilbride). The larger cities, towns and parishes had sub-districts numbered in the numerical format 644/1 (Glasgow, Central District, 1855-1874), though in later years some alphamerical formats were used such as 481B (Grangemouth, 1874-1900) and even combinations of the two such as 71A/1 (Kincardine, 1873-1892).

Over the years, the numbering system has been amended on several occasions to accommodate the changing population distribution.

Current practice

The most recent rationalisation of the numbering system, in 1972, involved a change to an entirely numerical 3-digit system (no doubt with computers in mind) ranging from 100 (Unst in Shetland) to 875 (Whithorn in Wigtownshire). Large numbers of Registration Offices were amalgamated and there are now about 360 offices throughout Scotland, with the larger ones being allocated blocks of 3-digit district numbers and the entry number also being restricted to 3 digits (001-999). For current births, the combination of the year, district number and individual entry number also doubles as the National Health Service (NHS) Number for the person concerned, in the (example) format 1999/100/111.

Note that in Scotland, unlike in England, each birth, marriage and death has always had a unique entry number, which is the same in the original copy held at the local Registrar's Office as in the duplicate copy deposited with the Registrar General for Scotland in the General Register Office for Scotland, New Register House, Edinburgh. Page numbers in the register itself have no significance as a means of identifying events in the Scottish system.

Although registration in Scotland was introduced some 17½ years later than in England, the details included in the registers (and on the corresponding certificates) have, from the very beginning, been more extensive, and hence more useful to the genealogist, than those in the equivalent English registers.

The first year of registration, 1855, was exceptional, even by Scottish standards, in the amount of information demanded by the Registrar during the formal registration of an event. For example, on a birth certificate one has, as well as the obvious details of the birth itself, also the name, age, place of birth and occupation of father; the
name, age, place of birth and maiden surname of mother; place and date of parents' marriage; number and gender of previous children and whether these children were still living or were deceased. It can, therefore, be seen that finding a birth in 1855, especially of a late or youngest child in the family, can give an excellent summary of the whole family up to that point.

Similar extensive details were demanded for the registration of marriages and deaths in 1855. Marriage registers include, for each party: birthplace; age; marital status (single, widow/widower); whether this was a second or third marriage; any children by previous marriages and whether living or deceased; name and occupation of father and whether living or deceased; name and maiden surname of mother and whether living or deceased. Death registers give name of spouse (if married); names and ages of living children; names and age at death of deceased children; father's name, occupation and whether living or deceased; mother's name, maiden surname and whether living or deceased; place of burial and name of undertaker.

It seems that, once the system was operating, the authorities realized that this huge amount of information being recorded was somewhat more than was necessary for their own purposes. The details demanded were therefore reduced for the following five years (1856–60), with subsequent slight modifications in the details required in 1861, 1866, 1971, 1967 and 1972. From the genealogist's point of view, one of the most annoying omissions was the failure to record the name of the spouse in the death registers in the period 1856–60. Fortunately, this detail was restored in 1861 and has been recorded ever since.

**Duplicate registration**

There are occasional instances, especially in the early years—and sometimes today—of duplicate registration of events. This is most common in births where the event may have been registered in both the district of the birth (or perhaps the previous home district of the mother) and the current home district of the family.

One point which should be borne in mind is that the duplicate birth and death Registers in New Register House record the actual signature of the informant. This is not the case for the marriage registers (or Schedules), which are copies made by the local registrars and do not contain the actual signatures of the parties or witnesses. As in England and Wales, events which occurred towards the end of December in any year were commonly not registered until the January of the following year.

The Register of Corrected Entries (RCE) is a means of recording fuller details of any alteration relevant to the original register entry. This is added (in manuscript) as "See RCE Vol...." in the register. These RCE Volumes may be inspected and copies taken. For births the RCE may record an alteration of name or date, or later marriage legitimising a child. For marriages 1855–April 1984, the RCE is the only method of recording and cross-referencing a divorce (legally possible in Scotland from 1560). A separate Register of Divorces granted in Scotland has been kept from May 1984. RCE entries for deaths usually record the results of a precognition (preliminary examination of witnesses to establish whether there are grounds for prosecution) if the death was sudden, unexplained, suspicious or the result of an accident. In Scotland, the latter may be investigated at a Fatal Accident inquiry (FAI), conducted by a sheriff.

**The indexes**

The indexes to the births, marriages and deaths in Scotland are now on computer and easily searchable, for a daily fee, in New Register House in Edinburgh. They are also searchable, again at a cost, at several other official locations, for example in Glasgow, Aberdeen and London. Indexes for events over 100 years old, have recently been made accessible online on the Internet at: http://www.origins.net

Many older indexes are also available on microfilm at various LDS Family History Centres. The computer index simplistically transcribes the previous paper (manuscript or printed) indexes, with the same increasing range of details being included through time. Some transcription errors in the original indexes, which have been spotted over the years by researchers, have been corrected in the computer index. Sadly, human nature being what it is, some new errors have also been introduced as well.

One major advantage of the Scottish registration system over that in England and Wales is the compilation of separate male and female indexes. Although this may at first sight seem a trivial difference, it does mean that one does not have to guess at the gender of individuals with unusual, archaic or otherwise obscure Christian names. It also helps on those occasions where children have been given surnames as Christian names.

Since Scottish civil registration works on an annual basis, there is no equivalent in Scotland of the quarterly indexes as exist in England. However, some idea of the date can often be judged from the index number, which started again at "1" in each year. Naturally, events with low numbers are likely to be early in the year, though it obviously depends on the population size of the districts.

In Scotland, it has long been customary for married women to retain their maiden surname, particularly for legal purposes, and to use it instead of, or as well as, their married name. Thus, one commonly finds on Scottish gravestones, inscriptions in a form such as: "Here lies the corps of Mary Wilson, relict of John Brown." In this example, Mary was the widow of John Brown and her maiden name was Wilson. In the community she would have been known as "Mrs John Brown", at least while her husband was alive, but any legal documents would typically record her as "Mistress Mary Wilson or Brown". Reflecting this common use of multiple surnames, married women are indexed in the death registers under both their maiden and all married names. As a consequence, the female death indexes are usually substantially larger than those for males.

For example, in my own study of FLOOD/FLOYD families in Scotland, there are 1,104 female and 831 male (total 1935) entries in the deaths Index for the period 1855–1997. The difference between the two, 273, presumably gives a rough measure of the number.
of married women in the index. Comparable data for births are 1,099 female and 1,215 male (total 2,314), and for marriages 703 female and 672 male (total 1,375) over the same period.

The great advantage of the Scottish system of civil registration, for both single-family and one-name studies, is that the daily fee for searching the records (including OPRs, census, GRO indexes) also allows one to see and extract details from microfiche copies of the Registrar General's duplicate set of the original registers.

It is also possible, for similar fees to those at New Register House, to do some searching at local registration offices. However, in this instance, right of access is only guaranteed to the indexes, not to the original registers (though it may be possible to see a register briefly, particularly if the office is quiet). Naturally, the local offices only have the indexes to their own registers, not those for the whole of Scotland. The local indexes were simply the handwritten index at the back of each annual volume, and are duplicated in the copies in New Register House (which also has the cumulative annual index for the whole country).

In addition, since all the Old Parish Registers from the Church of Scotland were long ago centralised in Edinburgh, there is no equivalent local source of pre-registration marriage and baptisms comparable to that in

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England. It can be seen, therefore, that it is possible, and more economical in time (and generally money as well), to do the bulk of one’s Scottish research in Edinburgh.

The ability to extract complete details from the birth, marriage and death registers means that it can be feasible, depending on the frequency of the surname, to build up complete sets of families in Scotland from the official records as part of a one-name study. Indeed, the indexes themselves can be much more useful than their English counterparts, since the system of district naming and numbering in Scotland means that districts are smaller and more numerous. This allows greater resolution of geographical location and means that clusters of names become more obvious and meaningful. The unique entry number for each event in Scotland, the same both in the local Registration Offices and the GRO(S), is also an advantage. One useful result is that twins generally have consecutive entry numbers in the birth registers and can often be spotted as such from the indexes.

Although the Scottish system of civil registration of births, marriages and deaths started later than that in England, the resulting records are much more detailed and of greater value to genealogists. The facility allowing searchers access to copies of the original registers, right up to the penultimate year or so, is particularly welcome, especially for one-name studies. The exhaustive cross-indexing of the various potential surnames of married women and step children also means that searches for a particular surname in Scotland can be particularly thorough. The accompanying tables show the details which are recorded in Scottish birth, marriage and death indexes and certificates during various time periods.

Selected Bibliography

NOTES ON TABLES
BIRTHS: There are separate indexes for males and females. Occasionally, where the mother may have died in childbirth or shortly afterwards, she will have been recorded as “deceased” in the register. It should be borne in mind that this refers to the situation at the date of registration of the birth, not at the date of birth of the child. A search of the relevant death certificate for the mothers would, in most instances, clarify the position.

A more common situation is where the father has died before the birth of the child. Modern births may be registered both in district of maternity/nursing home and domicile of female parent. Current birth certificates show mother’s name and address first, followed by father’s name and address (if different).

MARRIAGES: There are separate indexes for males and females. Subsequent marriage(s) of divorced women may be indexed under both their maiden and (all) previous married surnames.

DEATHS: There are separate indexes for males and females. From 1855-58 the deaths of married women are indexed only under their married surname. From 1850 onwards, married women are indexed under both maiden and married surnames(s), unless these were unknown to the informant and therefore not recorded in the register. Occasionally, however, widows reverted to their maiden names and may, therefore, not be indexed under their married surnames. Deaths of step/illegal children may be indexed under both their original and later or assumed surnames.

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The real ethos of the Guild of One-Name Studies
By Derek Palgrave, President

The decision to form a “Guild” to foster the study of single surnames was taken during a conference on this topic organised by the Federation of Family History Societies at Leicester in 1978. At that time, the number of societies making up the Federation was 93, of which 29 were one-name societies.

A year or so earlier, I had been appointed by the Federation Executive to liaise with one-name groups. To facilitate matters, I chaired a small sub-committee of individuals associated with one-name societies who were interested in developing single surname studies.

It was as a result of the efforts of the sub-committee that the 1978 One-Name Conference at Leicester was arranged. A large number of enthusiasts in this field attended, including many who were involved in individual studies of single surnames but were not associated with, nor did they wish to form, a one-name society as such.

It was for this reason that the term “Guild” was adopted to emphasise that the members were all individuals practising a specific craft, using a wide range of methods, sources and knowledge.

The very first Register of One-Name Studies was published by the Federation but subsequent editions have been compiled and published by the Guild. The main object of the Register is to provide the reader with a list of surnames which members of the Guild are researching comprehensively. However, everyone who registers a particular surname has an obligation to respond to all reasonable enquiries about that surname.

Categories

The idea of classifying entries A, B and C, was to let the reader know if he or she was contacting an individual associated with a formally constituted one-name society (A); an individual or individual group publishing a regular Bulletin (B); or a dedicated individual, with a substantial collection of data, operating as a Clearing house for a registered surname (C). The categories were purely descriptive and were in no way intended to imply any differences in status within the membership.

Although many of those who were involved in launching the Guild were associated with one-name societies, they did not feel that it was appropriate to create a separate category of membership within the Guild for societies as such. After all, their one-name societies were already embraced by the Federation, which had been founded in 1974 to provide services and support for all of its corporate members.

Those who joined the Guild at the outset did so in order to share their ideas with others and to explore those aspects of family history peculiar to one-name studies, such as surname evolution and development, linguistic corruption and the geographical ramifications of a surname and its variants etc.

It is abundantly clear that there are many individual family historians who are engaged in one-name studies. However, only a relatively small proportion make this type of research their primary objective, but later go on to adopt the approach advocated by the Guild, to compile a comprehensive index or database which will enable each of them to develop a balanced view of the historical and geographical distribution of the surname in question, in addition to establishing the basic genealogical links.

Few one-name societies

Many who choose this route join the Guild, but the number who consider the formation of a one-name society as an essential step seems to be remarkably small. For instance in the current (14th) edition of the Register of One-Name Studies there are only 57 members who are associated with one-name societies.

As a proportion of the surnames registered, this number is only 4%, so taking into account the members of the Guild who have not registered a surname, the proportion of the membership as a whole is somewhat less. In other words, for over 95% of Guild members, the formation of a one-name society, associated with the surname each has registered, is not really a major priority.

As one of the 57 members of the Guild associated with a one-name society, I fully appreciate that I am one of quite a small minority. Consequently I do not expect any special privileges within the Guild just because I am Secretary of the Palgrave Society, nor do I expect the Guild to devote much of its energy and effort to one-name societies per se. However, I do hope that it will continue to give due emphasis to all those other interesting topics which are unique to one-name studies.

I realise that some one-name studies, being supported by a one-name society, are registered with the
Guild by an individual who may or may not be an officer of that society. There is no reason why that society should not make provision in its own constitution or standing orders to enshrine an arrangement whereby that individual retains his or her Guild membership and surname registration in order to maintain its continuity.

Of course the individual concerned would be bound, by clause 2.2.7 of the Guild’s constitution, to deal with all reply-paid enquiries about the registered surname. So, in the event of a breakdown in communication between him and the other members of his one-name society, he could be regarded as having breached his written undertaking.

This might render him liable to forfeit his registration or membership or both, so the way could be clear for another registrant.

The Author:
Derek Palgrave, President of the Guild
Member No. 103
Crossfield House, Dale Road
Stanton, near Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP31 2DY

Forthcoming events

SoG day seminar for computer one-namers

THE Society of Genealogists is holding a seminar on Saturday July 24 from 10.30 am for “One Name Studies on Computer – pedigree building and surname distribution.” Barney Tyrwhitt-Drake will describe work on mapping and relative frequencies of surnames from IGI/VII, the 2% sample of the 1851 census, electoral rolls, and, hopefully, the 1881 census on CDROM. David Hawgood will describe correlation of the 1881 census with births, marriages, deaths and wills, followed by the building of pedigrees linking many different households.

Other contributions are invited in three forms: a 20-minute lecture on the day; poster presentation, display of a pedigree built from a one-name study, display of a table, graph or map of surname statistics; papers in advance by contributors who cannot be present (these will be available to those attending). It is intended to make all contributions available subsequently in published or electronic form.

If you wish to contribute, contact Dr Douglas Jopling up to March 31 at 46 Kenton Rd, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 8AB (e-mail: jopling@clara.net); or David Hawgood at 26 Cloister Road, Acton, London W3 0DE (e-mail: David_Hawgood@compuserve.com) after March 31. To book, contact the Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, London EC1M 7BA, phone 0171 253 5235, fax 0171 250 1800, email: sales@sog.org.uk; web site: www.sog.org.uk. The price for the day is £18, or £14.40 for SoG members.

Still room at AGM & Conference

PLACES are still available for the Guild’s 1999 AGM and Conference, to be held at the King Charles Hotel, Gillingham, Kent, the weekend of April 16-18, but get your bookings in NOW! The conference will have a military and sea-going theme, “Musket, Fife and Drum”, with speakers on topics ranging from World War I records to the Coastguard Service. Two hours have been set aside on Saturday for the AGM and there will be a demonstration of Custodian.

SoG Fair

THE Guild will have a stand at the Society of Genealogists Family History Fair on May 1 and 2. Volunteers will be needed to help man the stand both days. Please contact Alec Tritton if you are willing to help.

Toseland Clan Society AGM

THE 5th Annual General Meeting of the Toseland Clan Society will be held in the Village Hall, Little Harrowden, Wellingborough, Northants, on September 25 and 26. Doors open at 10.00 am both days and close at 6.00 pm on Saturday and 4.00 pm on Sunday. The only formality will be the AGM at 2.0 pm on Saturday and the remaining time can be spent searching through the

The Journal of One-Name Studies, April 1999
A canteen will be available both days and cold lunches can be ordered in advance. Entrance fee is £1 per adult. There will be a word processor, micro reader, photocopier and computer available for use. Contact Mrs. F. Jennings, President, 40 Moresdale Lane, Seacroft, Leeds LS14 6SY, tel: 01132 259954.

SHARE assembly
THE Surname Hodgson Association & Resources Enterprise (SHARE) 6th Assembly will be held from October 8-10, at the George Washington Country Hotel, Washington, Tyne & Wear. Rooms £95, or single £115, includes 3 meals, 2 snacks and facilities. Non-resident delegates £29 per day, including 2 snacks and lunch.

The four journals of One-Name Studies, April 1999

CHAIRMAN Roger Lovegrove drew the above graph, illustrating the ups and downs of membership in the 20 years since the Guild's formation in 1979. It shows we gained a record number of new members in 1998.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number joined</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>198</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>74</td>
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<td>81</td>
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<td>97</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

society's extensive records. Visitors are invited to contribute to them.

The Journal of One-Name Studies, April 1999
Surrey Seminar
AN extremely well attended Surrey Regional Seminar at the Salvation Army Church Hall, Woking, on Saturday, February 6, included talks and discussions on several topics of profound interest to one-namers.

First, in the morning session, Martin Gregg spoke about the new Data Protection Act and led a debate. Then Colin Ulph enthused members with his ideas and suggestions for organising a one-name gathering. After lunch, Jeanne Bunting spoke on using computers for one-name studies. Vice-chairman Alec Tritton led the closing general questions session.

The next Regional Seminar is the Somerset one at West Monkton Village Hall, West Monkton, near Taunton, on Saturday, May 15.

Oxfordshire day out
AT our first regional meeting, Oxfordshire members suggested we should have a Guild stand at the Oxfordshire Family History Research Day on September 28, 1998. John Sermon, who is now busy writing his book on the Sermons, and I set up our stand displaying our own newsletters, the Guild Journals and other one-name publications.

We had a steady stream of people asking what the Guild did and how it could help with their research. We pointed many towards the website and for others who were looking for specific registered names we looked up addresses. We had a number who were thinking of joining and some who had written for the initial pack, but had been put off by the different categories.

Here I digest. After reading the January Journal, I have to agree with Mrs. Vivienne Fitch that we should have a D category. This would be either for a specific country, or be a probationary category where people who had information on a name and its variants could be encouraged to join and then be helped to another category. I started in category C and am now in category B. Whether the low frequency name of Hiles will ever become a category remains to be seen. I don't think it would be lowering our standards to have a D category, but would increase access to information which has been researched and help new members with that first step.

Back to our day out, which was not only a success for the Oxfordshire Family History Society, but also for myself, as one of the requests was for Hiles. As a result, I have a new cousin, solved a family history puzzle and changed part of my family tree into a hedge. There was a steady stream of people to the Guild stand. However, we felt that we could have done with a display pack, membership packs and a complete list of registered names. Other ideas would be appreciated.

Marc G. Hiles, Member No 2186
16 Shadwell Road, Berinsfield
Near Wallingford
Oxfordshire, OX10 7PN

Cornwall Group
THE Cornwall Interest Group met at the Public Record Office at Kew on March 20 and time was spent transcribing from BT176, the alphabetical index of Masters and Mates. This information will be lodged with the Cornwall Family History Society and the Cornwall County Record Office as a research aid for people who cannot get to the PRO.

The Cornwall Family History Society is repeating its Family History Fair at the Princess Pavilion, Falmouth, on May 29/30. Members of the Group who exhibited at the Birthday Fair in 1997 received great benefit from it and made a considerable contribution to the research services on offer to the general public, so a booking form for this year's fair is being sent to all members.

Chris L. Barrett, Member No 257
Flat 3, 44 Earls Avenue
Folkestone, Kent CT20 2HD

Look-up service from Great War CD offered to Guild members
A copy of "Soldiers Died in the Great War", a CD database compiled from the 81 volumes of the book which were originally published in 1921. The CD is held by me on behalf of the Guild. I am ready to offer a look-up service to members. It should be noted that the database output lists the entries sorted by surname and Christian Name - but on paper only.

The database can be searched by regiment (and battalion or sub-unit of a regiment), surname, Christian name, and place/county of birth or enlistment. The output offers surname; Christian name; place (but not date) of birth; place of enlistment; sometimes the place of residence; number, rank; regiment, cause, place and date of death; and sometimes additional text indicating service in another regiment. Output for officers is slightly different.

A pilot scheme for those on the Guild electronic mailing list has so far produced a total of 45 requests and a wide variety of responses. One name had no entries (no charge made) and the most was a total of eight officers and 219 soldiers (12 A4 sheets). Some of the more interesting have been searches for all soldiers born in, resident in and enlisted in a specific place. It is also possible to find which soldiers died on a particular date or in a theatre of war, or to search for particular battalions of a regiment.

How does the data compares with that from the "Debt of Honour" on-line database recently opened by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission? The obvious point is that "Soldiers Died" only listed the British Army casualties. There were other publications of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines and Royal Air Force dead. The CWGC covers all Commonwealth (formerly British Empire) dead of all armed services and is concerned with all who have fallen in wars since 1914.

The original "Soldiers Died" publications seem to
Update on the 1881 Project – by Geoff Riggs

From annus horribilis to the digitus extractum!

THE Royal Family don't have a monopoly on "annus horribilis". They can't have, otherwise the 1881 Project wouldn't have been plagued as it was during 1998!

You must be accustomed by now to the chronicle of delays the Project suffered during the year. Firstly, the refusal of Microsoft Paintbrush and Windows 3.1 to "talk" to Microsoft Paint and Windows 95. Then back to the drawing board to cater for the disproportionately large populations in the London RDs.

However, by the middle of October, I'd worked up a good head of steam, adjusting the data on the input forms to reflect the London RDs. It looked as though the Project had turned the corner at last. But they say troubles come in threes, and the third (and biggest!) blow came in October.

Two days before I was due to present the Project at the Swindon Seminar, I suffered a severe attack of iritis, inflammation of the eye-ball which deprives one of sight in that eye while it lasts. I've had it before a few times, and visits to the Emergency Eye Clinic normally clears it within a week or so. This time, though, because I didn't want to be prevented from giving my talk, I delayed visiting the clinic (knowing they'd say I couldn't drive once the treatment with steroid drops started). As a result, the iritis lasted almost three months.

Now that it's virtually cleared, the production line is moving again. At Swindon, each of the members present learnt where he or she was on that production line. And, anticipating only a week or two's delay because of the iritis, I also forecast when those towards the front of the line would receive their output — but I hadn't banked on three month's delay. I am sorry.

One or two members remain unconvinced about the need to adjust the figures for London RDs, and for some surnames they may be right. However, for others the difference in the final figures is very significant, and we must analyse all the figures in a consistent way.

The diagram shows the percentages of populations in the three counties concerned which are inside and outside the London RD area. But the best way to illustrate the significance of the adjustments is the table at the foot of this article, which gives actual examples of the "before" and "after" positions.

You can see, in particular, the increase in the density of "Outer" Middlesex for the surname Tritton, and even greater increases in "Outer" Surrey for Woodger and Woolgar. Conversely, Scotchmer decreases in "Outer" Surrey, as does Tritton to a lesser extent.

Geoff Riggs, Member no. 2408
Peacehaven, Badgers Meadow
Pwllmeurig, Chepstow
Monmouthshire NP6 6UE

**Table: Adjustments for London RDs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Kent</th>
<th>Middlesex</th>
<th>Surrey</th>
<th>London</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scotchmer</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tritton</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodger</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolgar</td>
<td>1348</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continued from previous page

have been based on War Office casualty lists as published in all national and local newspapers throughout the war and some local information, which accounts for significant numbers who died at "home". The "Soldiers Died" data was effectively frozen when published and has had little amendment. The CWGC Debt of Honour list is developed from their original card index of actual graves and memorials to those "with no known grave". The CWGC data has been added to over the past 80 years as bodies have been found and as burials in UK cemeteries have been identified as those of soldiers. The two sources complement each other as valuable aids for one-namers.

The Guild Committee agreed the following for look ups from the "Soldiers Died" CD. The initial enquiry is £2.00 to include up to four A4 sheets. Additional pages will be charged at 10p per sheet. There is a charge of 30p for postage and packing (43p for overseas mail). This service is for Guild members only.

I require the following information: surname or names and variants to be searched (or places if you prefer); your name, membership number and postal address for the printout. Payment is in arrears by cheque, sent to me but made out to the Guild of One-Name Studies. I look forward to lots more requests.

Iain Kerr
Member No. 2404
51 Clewer Park, Windsor
Berkshire SL4 5HD
e-mail iainkerr@clara.net

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THIS CD-ROM is of the census taken on March 31 1851. It is fully indexed and gives names, ages, gender, relationships, marital status, occupations and birthplace. It also includes the source references to the original census records for each household. The information appears, as much as possible, as entered by the enumerator on the original document. As the registration districts often crossed the county boundaries, these entries are also included. This CD was produced as a pilot for the 1881 census.

The following system requirements are suggested: 486DX processor (486DX66 recommended), Windows 3.1 or better, (will run on Windows 95 or NT), 4 MB RAM (8MB recommended), CD-ROM drive (2X drive recommended), SVGA monitor with 256-colour-capable video card.

Easy to use
The CD is very easy to install and just as simple to use. There are many ways for a search to be conducted. The A to Z Index search enables you to order copies of the original certificates from the state civil registration office in Australia. Some references may also include names of parents and spouses, dates and places of events, ages of individuals when events occurred and other information. System requirements and indexed references that enable you to search the entire index for all birth, christening, marriage and death records that might exist for a person. You can search using a name, year, type of record or the state the event took place. A successful search will give you a list of possible individuals and last name, first name/s, type of record, year, state, and name of a relative.

A birth/christening search allows a search to be conducted for information about an individual. You can also search for all the children of a couple. For example, a successful search will give you last name, first name/s, sex, event date, registration year, reference number, father’s name, mother’s name, event place, registered state and parish.

Searching the deaths gives you the details on an individual death. This can contain, last name, first name/s, age at death, date of death, index year, registered year, reference number, father’s name, mother’s name, spouse, death place, birthplace, registered state and parish.

Searching this index is easy. If you cannot find an individual, try searching different spellings or abbreviations. There are four types of searches that can be made.

A household search includes information about the individuals that were residing within the residence at the time the census was taken. A household might also be an institution, such as a prison, school, or a hospital. If you wish to see who was living next to a household, this is also possible. This can be repeated as many times as you wish, viewing as many neighbours as required. It is just as simple to return to the original household by backtracking. It is also possible to tag records so that they can be printed or saved to a disk. Printing out any records is also straightforward.

The LDS is to be congratulated for producing this excellent product at such a superb price.


This set contains an indexed collection of references to 4.8 million births, christenings, marriages and deaths from the states of New South Wales (1788–1888), Tasmania (1803–1899), Victoria (1837–1888), and Western Australia (1841–1905). Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory are not included.

References include names of individuals, the year and place events were registered, and indexed references that enable you to order copies of the original certificates from the state civil registration office in Australia. Some references may also include names of parents and spouses, dates and places of events, ages of individuals when events occurred and other information. System requirements and indexed references that enable you to search the entire index for all birth, christening, marriage and death records that might exist for a person. You can search using a name, year, type of record or the state the event took place. A successful search will give you a list of possible individuals and last name, first name/s, type of record, year, state, and name of a relative.

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The A to Z Index search enables you to access individuals by the first letter of their last names. This index also allows you to backtrack and go to the next record and the previous record. It has the same printing and tagging system as the 1851 census.

Another excellent LDS product!
wonderful index for us to view at leisure in our own homes. This is a great help to all genealogists and an extra bonus for those of us doing one-name studies.

This Index contains approximately 5 million births, christenings and marriages taken from a partial collection of records in the British Isles from about 1538 to 1888. The index is not complete. It will continue to be updated, adding millions of names with each update. These records have been extracted, which means that someone has copied selected pieces of information from the original record. However, not all the important genealogical information has been extracted, so you are advised to check the original entry.

The British Isles comprises England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and the Isle of Man. The Index does not include the Channel Islands. Time spans of the extracted records vary greatly from parish to parish. There is a list which provides a summary of the number of parishes or places that are included.

Names have been standardised. This means variant spellings are listed under a common name, e.g., Smyth, Smythe, Smeith, are indexed under Smith. This enables you to search without knowing the exact spelling. However, you can override the system and search under an exact spelling.

When searching, the index pane displays a list of names that match your request. Scrolling up and down allows you to view all the names selected. The list is arranged in order of last name, year, type of event, the county, then by first name/s. Parents or spouses are also shown.

The detail pane is at the lower part of the screen. If you wish to view more details on an individual, you click on the person in the index pane. The person's record appears and the information that has been extracted from the original record is shown. This can include name sex, age, event date, where the event was recorded, the record from which the information was obtained, names of parents or spouse and any other information that was copied.

There are many different ways of conducting a search. A detailed manual is provided, which can be printed from your computer. Also included is the Family History Resource File Viewer, a program that allows a view of the information, contained on any of the resource files created by the LDS. The viewer does not contain any data or information, but you can add a resource file to your viewer.

- All the above CD sets are available from: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Distribution Centre, 399, Garrets Green Lane, Sheldon, Birmingham, West Midlands, B33 0UH, England. Tel: 0121-784-9555.

**METCALFE: HISTORY OF THE CLAN.**


WHAT IS your society producing for the Millennium? The Metcalfe Society has given us this absolute gem of a book. Future generations of this clan will be indebted to today's members for producing a book of the highest standards, enabling it to stand the test of time and become a precious heirloom.

This publication is bursting with information, clearly laid out. The text is easy to read, not only grabbing the attention of the professional and novice genealogist alike, but also I feel that it will whet the appetite of any descendant that has yet to follow their own family history.

Due to the sheer size of the Metcalfe clan, the book only covers the UK (there is enough information held by the society on the Metcalfes in India to produce a whole book!). But the overseas Metcalfes have not been forgotten and they do get a brief mention towards the end.

The origins of the Metcalfe clan are covered in some detail. We are guided through the lives of early clan members with informative text brought to life with maps, a family tree and numerous colour photographs of the sites as they are today.

The Metcalfes of Nappa Hall, Wensleydale, are covered in the next section. We are taken on a journey through time from the birth of James Metcalfe in 1389, the founding of Nappa Hall and the trials and tribulations of the descendants of this branch. Again, this section is brought to life with illustrations and colour photographs.

In another section we are treated to the occupations and lives of 79 branches. These branches, each with their own trees, are based on the evidence of two or more ancestors of society members being alive in 1850 who can be traced back to a common source. The closing section is on the Metcalfe Coats of Arms, also well explained with illustrations.

This is a beautiful publication. The Metcalfe Society is to be congratulated on producing such a masterpiece.


RESEARCHING Welsh ancestry can be very frustrating, so this book could be the answer to your prayers if you are trying to follow your ancestors in Wales. This edition is an update to the first, published five years ago. Since the first edition there have been several local government changes in Wales. This has caused the relocation of many records. Also, many of the authors had done additional research, so every author was given the opportunity to update his or her text.

The front cover shows part of the heraldic pedigree roll compiled in 1591 by Thomas Jones of Tregaron for Sir Roger Williams of Pen-thon, near Caerleon.

The book itself has 23 chapters, which are written by several authors, each an expert in his or her own field. Their invaluable knowledge has been passed on to readers. If you have an ancestor who is "lost in Wales" (I can sympathise with anyone going through this!), then this book could just point you in the right direction.

Although I would recommend that all chapters were read, the index is superb for those just wishing to refer to a relevant subject.
Some more responses to our feature in the October Journal on "Privacy and the Genealogist"...

Our Secret World

I BELIEVE that a secret society is at heart a sick society, but secrecy can take many forms. Undoubtedly, there is information that needs to remain secret. We would not expect the police to open up their criminal records to public inspection, although in an ideal world even this might be questioned. However we have to deal with life as it is, and not as we hope it could be.

The important question surrounding any secrecy must always be "Why?" Who or what is this secrecy trying to protect? What information, for example, do the census records contain that could possibly harm any honest person?

In this case, one must suspect the secrecy is there to further the advance of statistical knowledge, rather than to protect individuals. The assumption is that there are people who might not tell the truth about themselves without the promise of secrecy.

Having made such a promise, it would, in my opinion, be wrong for any government to go back on its word. We can, however, question the sense of making such promises in the future.

The UK Official Secrets Act appears to cover everything from weapons of mass destruction to those working at Post Office counters. At one time, there were levels of secrecy within places like the War Office (perhaps there still is). They ranged through Confidential, Secret, Top Secret, Cosmic and Top Cosmic, if memory serves me correctly.

It all depended on who was allowed to see what, and I always suspected that Top Cosmic were letters the Prime Minister wrote to himself and then shredded. The whole thing struck me as some crazy boys' game.

But people actually appear to enjoy secrecy. It is a kind of social game where even your date of birth takes on some mystical meaning. The higher up the ladder you climb, the more secrets will be revealed to you. We have been playing it for hundreds of years. It is only within the last few decades, when modern communications have evolved, that the extent of the secretive society has been revealed.

Much information is only available to the privileged few. More and more, people are demanding that the veil of secrecy is lifted. They want evidence that secrecy is necessary and not some woolly excuse that it is in the public interest.

So what has all this to do with genealogy? I believe it has become the norm for people to keep secrets, or things they perceive of as secret. People I've met have been alarmed to know that I can legitimately obtain copies of their birth and marriage certificates. To them this is private information, as important as the major secrets of governments.

Perhaps this is their bulwark against a sea of official intrusion. We are not trained to be open: we are more likely to grow up believing others are not to be trusted, that in some way they will make use of this information against us. Is it surprising, therefore, that secrecy exists?

Of course, there are some who see ways to make capital from these issues. Those with most to gain are undoubtedly the media. "Publish and be damned" is a useful banner, and in principle is probably the way in which a more open society should move. However, we are all aware that what is published frequently falls far short of the truth.

How do we ensure that what is published is the truth? This is not so simple as it might appear. A documented event such as a birth, marriage or death may be as near to the truth as we can get. Beyond that we enter the realms of assumption, imagination, rumour and what may look like a good story.

For years I was a cameraman working in documentaries. I was aware that the process of sifting truth from fiction began the moment film moved through the camera. Absolute objectivity is simply not possible. There are those who ignore the mundane in favour of the dramatic. There are examples from history: Mathew Brady, who used to rearrange bodies on the American Civil War battlefields to create more dramatic shots, and the crime photographer Weegee, who would rearrange bodies at scenes of crime.

In recent times, there have been incidents when cameramen have ignored hundreds of well-fed children in favour of the starving few, thus presenting a picture far removed from the truth. The editor's notebook serves the same purpose. He cannot write the history of the world, but he can report on an incident and in doing so he is aware that good news does not sell newspapers.

The editing process doesn't stop there. The editors get their hands on the material and, because of space or time demands, more of the truth is filtered in favour of what it is deemed that the public want to see or read. I was told by a film editor that had Vietnam War footage been shown as taken, the war would have been over in a month. Someone had decided that the truth was too horrifying for the public to see.

Along with the desire to publish comes the question relating to the invasion of privacy. How private is private? How much of a person's private life are we allowed to expose before we step over the line of decency? There has been debate as far as the rich and famous are concerned. But the debate should
Privacy

YOU published my letter on privacy in the January 1999 edition of the Journal and, in the interests of total accuracy, I should now amplify the Canadian government's position which has recently been brought to my attention.

The Privacy Act provides for the transfer of records in the National Archives and that Act contains wording which prohibited the release of information until 92 years after it was taken. Privacy extended to the census takers while collecting the data. For 1906 and subsequent censuses the wording of the Act contains statutory provisions which permit the release of information only to the person named in the records. There is no time limit even after the named person is deceased, so Statistics Canada cannot transfer the census records to the National Archives without breaching the Privacy Act.

The current Government is reluctant to amend the Act, since they believe that would invalidate the guarantee of indefinite confidentiality promised when the data was collected. They further believe that changes now would jeopardise Statistics Canada's ability to collect full and accurate information, since co-operation from individuals would have suffered from the negative impact of breaching an earlier guarantee.

Genealogy is a rapidly growing hobby in Canada, as it is in many other parts of the world. The constituency is there in the right numbers, but it is another question as to the political clout that can be mustered by so many diverse groups within the constituency. Perhaps that is another subject for discussion in journals such as ours.

Captain Robert A. D. Darlington, Member No 2776
1820 Merida Place, Victoria B.C.
Canada V8N 5C9

Other letters...

A back-up for my back-up

As a computer-owning mother of computer-owning sons, I have always been aware of the need to back up my discs on a regular basis. However, I was not aware until quite recently of the necessity for a back-up computer!

I cut my teeth on a ZX-81, followed fairly swiftly by a Spectrum, eventually upgrading to an amazing 48K, which I still use for playing Scrabble. Then when I retired and started in real earnest on the family research, the need for something rather more flexible than a typewriter became pressing.

Conscious of my inability to purchase a Rolls Royce on a pushbike income, I did the best I could and bought an Amstrad 8512. It has been very good for my modest needs and has enabled me to write innumerable letters, store and retrieve endless lists of information and upgrade and print out charts I have prepared in my own individual way. If it is somewhat pedestrian in its approach when I request it to trawl through large documents and seek out information, I do have plenty of time at my disposal and can afford to wait for results.

Recently I bought a booklet, "Computer Programmes for the Family Historian on Amstrad PCW Computers" by Ken Drake, MA, FRGS, and with trepidation that the disc drives have a limited life span. I also discovered that these PCWs are becoming an endangered species with the passage of time.

It is my good fortune that my eldest son and my brother both bought Amstrad PCW 8512s at about the same time as I did, although their needs were later to prompt them to acquire more powerful systems. Whilst my Amstrad has been used on a regular basis for about 10 years, theirs have been used for a great deal less.

Happily, my eldest son was willing to let me have his surplus computer and I was content in the knowledge that, should my faithful companion fail me, my information would not be completely lost to me without having to have an external drive fitted and pay for all my discs to be copied to a different system.

Less than three months after I acquired this back-up, my machine gave up the ghost. Once my son's machine was up and running, I was grateful that I had bought the booklet which had alerted me to the possibility of failure and I had made provision accordingly. Nevertheless, I no longer had the security of knowing that a replacement was waiting in the wings.

However, all is now well, as a telephone call to my brother ensured that yet another machine is alive and well, resting quietly in a loft in Sutton. If my present machine lasts me another 10 years and the third one a similar length of time, then perhaps that will see me through!

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Surnames as forenames

JOHN Titterton’s letter in the October 1998 issue of The Journal reminded me of a recent search into the origins of one of the most elegant names I have ever come across, Sir Cloudesley Shovel (1650–1707) from Norfolk, who became Admiral of the Fleet and Mayor of Rochester in Kent.

Cloudesley turned out to be his maternal grandmother’s maiden name, and no doubt there was a good reason for its use, but wasn’t it an inspired choice? My only reservation is what the local youngsters must have called him when he was their age!

I am also inclined to wonder what the attitude of the Church was, in those days, to the adoption of non-Biblical names. Was there a difference in this matter, between the landed gentry, who contributed to the maintenance of the Church, and the peasants?

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Eborall arms

DUNCAN Currie may be interested to know that the arms of Eborall impaling Beake in Hampton-in-Arden church (January 1999 Journal) were recorded by the well-known Warwickshire heraldist, Chris. J. Smith. William Eborall died on the 10th of January 1707 but the arms are recorded as showing boars rather than hedgehogs.

The arms shown on a mural tablet in Holy Trinity Church, Hatton, of Joseph Eberall, died 23rd November 1793, are recorded as “Azure three escallops Or”. Perhaps the artist mistook mis-shapen hedgehogs for sea shells? Stranger things have happened!

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And to my wife, I leave as much wine as she can drink – well up to a limit!

BEFORE his demise, Samuel Slocock, a brewer of Newbury, Berkshire, made careful provisions in his will of 1748 for the lifestyle of his widow. Samuel’s nephew, also Samuel, lived with his aunt and uncle and was instructed to see to the wants of his aunt on his uncle’s death as follows:

Mary Slocock was to be provided with “as much Red Port Wine or White Wine for herself and her friends, not exceeding a quart per day.” Also a carriage and pair of horses and coachman should be kept for her to go visiting, but she was not to stay away overnight. £50 pocket money was to be allowed per annum, paid quarterly.

Should any dispute arise between his wife and nephew, Samuel made provision that it should be resolved by his friends, Edward Lucas of Hungerford and Robert Bunny of Hurstbourne Tarrant, Mary’s brother-in-law. Samuel also made provision that if Mary was not satisfied with these provisions she could make her wishes known and have them adjusted.

Sounds like a good arrangement!

Mary was the daughter of Samuel Heskins, rector of Hurstbourne Tarrant, Hampshire. Her sister Martha was the wife of Robert Bunny. There is a memorial to the Rev. Samuel Heskins in Hurstbourne Tarrant church, the only HESKINS memorial I have found.

Janet Heskins, Member No. 2281

Some Scots oddities

DURING my excursions into Scottish Old Parish Registers over the years, I have collected a few oddities. For instance, this one in Grange, Banffshire, on May 25 1718...

“Alexr Allan in Behnamen had a Son be [sic.] his wife Jan Wat baptized and called Alex, witnesses Alex Huiie Sponsor for the Child because of the parent his gross Ignorance who could not be admitted to hold up his Child...”

And there is a mysterious note in the Baptismal Register of Keith, Banffshire. Following immediately after the name of the last witness in an entry for 23 April 1742 the Clerk has written, “No Christians in May!!”

Although I did look at Grange KSs to find out how Alexander Allan had offended Session, I’ve never found an explanation for the outburst of the Clerk in Keith. [Could he have meant to write: ‘No Christenings in May!!”? – Ed.]

That Clerk, John Skinner apparently had some strong views, exemplified by an entry for 1 May 1735:

“William Lawful Son to George Ellis & Isobel Boniman in Achnaman Born the last past... John Boniman his Grandfather being Sponsor his poor father being pressed prisoner by Achnaman to be a soldier...”

My favourites include an entry in Penicuik, Midlothian:

“Archibald Hall tenant in Morfield and Janet Thorburn his spouse had a child born April 12th & was baptized May the 3d 1736 named Archibald witnesses Robert Stewart & Archibald Hall father to the for-said Archibald but is misplaced and he not hearing the Minr either”

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* KEEP your contributions rolling in for this “fun” feature, folks!
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