The end is nigh! Your last chance for the 1881 Project

Back cover Images of the AGM & Conference
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Regional Representatives

Cover illustration

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Project shown on the front cover
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prepared for Frank Leeson, the
Editor of the Genealogists' Magazine, journal of the Society
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From the Editor’s desk

This may just turn out to be the most unusual comment column by a new editor of a journal that you will ever read – because it may be my first and last! I don’t really know: we’ll just have to see how it goes.

I am a firm believer in the principle that editors should edit and leave the comment to others, unless they feel they have something really important to say. Those of you who may have read some of my opinions in Family Tree Magazine may think this is a new departure for me!

However, I see my role as Editor of The Journal of One-Name Studies as being one which covers a number of areas, by far the most important of which is keeping you, the members, informed about what is going on in the Guild, as well as in the wider world of genealogy.

Family history is changing almost beyond belief with the advent of this wonderful thing we call the Internet. Wonderful, perhaps, but in some ways dangerous, too, since it brings with it the potential for an awful lot of misinformation going out to unwary newcomers. Mary Rumsey, in her final editorial in the April issue, touched on the subject.

Which brings me to another important point. I want to pay tribute to Mary for the outstanding service she gave during so many years as Editor. She saw the Journal through a number of changes, and I am delighted to say that her great knowledge of genealogy will not be lost to readers, since Mary will contribute a regular column in which she will continue to provide us with the benefit of her experience and wisdom.

I have been doing the layouts and design of the journal for the last 12 months and now I find myself in the hot seat as Editor. There will be further changes in the look of the publication but, rest assured, they will be gradual. The Journal is the Guild’s flagship and it is my intention to ensure it remains at the forefront and cutting edge of family history publications – vibrant and modern in appearance, but also authoritative. I can’t do it without your help, though. So please, please, keep those articles and contributions rolling in!

Roy Stockdill
Chairman's Notes
By Alec Tritton

After two years' hard work at the helm, Roger Lovegrove found that for personal reasons he was unable to stand for committee this year. Our thanks for all his hard work in a very difficult period are echoed by both the retiring and the new committees.

In 1996 I was co-opted to the post of Vice-chairman, as it was a requirement of the then Constitution that we had six officers. Unable to resist a challenge, three years later I find myself Chairman.

Complaints
Since my appointment at the AGM, most of my free time has been devoted to fending off complaints! We are the only society that guarantees to answer any reply-paid query and yet there are a number of our members out there who, for one reason or another, do not do so. This reflects on all of us and is the equivalent of shooting ourselves in the foot. Usually it is because the information is not at hand and the letter is put to one side in the hope that in the near future the information will become available.

Members MUST try and respond within a week or two, even if the response is in the negative. Please remember that market research has found that for every bad experience someone has with an organisation, they tell seven other people.

Each of these seven tell six other people. That is 43 family historians who get a bad impression of the Guild from one unanswered letter, whereas if the best possible was done for the individual they will tell only three other people and they don't tell anyone.

On a happier note, the AGM saw the Guild launch its own bookstall, which is a dedicated bookstall with information, books and software of use to one-namers. Wherever possible, we will try and negotiate a discount for members of these products. We have already negotiated a members' discount of 10% from the Custodian software price. At the time of going to press, Karen Naylor and Ron Duckett (respectively, our web site and sales managers) were putting the finishing touches to an online price list which will be available on our web site and will also detail any other bargains.

All products can, of course, be obtained by writing to the Sales officer or by e-mail to: sales@one-name.org

At the AGM most of us were made aware of the non-contentious probate act which, by stealth, found it's way onto the statute books, effectively raising the cost of obtaining post-1899 wills by 500% and to view them by 6000%. As I understand the legislation, wills over 100 years old can now be obtained free of charge to bona fide researchers. On your behalf I spent an hour with my local MP discussing this matter and on April 27 he wrote to the Rt Hon Sir Nicholas Lyell QC MP. As of today, no further correspondence has been forthcoming.

My colleagues on the committee have started the year off with a commitment to attend as many events as possible, thus increasing publicity for our research interests. Already this year we have encouraged Guild representation by volunteers and committee members at the SoG Fair in London and family history fairs in Exmouth and Portsmouth. By the time you read this, we will have also attended fairs in Weston-super-Mare, Coventry, Birmingham and York. We were well represented at the SoG One-Name Studies seminar in March and are planning to attend the July event, as well as the Birmingham SoG Fair.

Other events planned throughout the year are at Maidstone, Worthing, Cheltenham and Bath.

If you would like to assist at one of these events, or attend on our behalf at an event that you know about, contact one of our publicity officers who will be glad of your interest and able to offer assistance with material and advice.

I shall be attending as many as I can and look forward to meeting you there.

From the pen of the Registrar

When an individual joins the Guild they are given a number. This is their identifying number and should be quoted on all correspondence, particularly that addressed to both the Treasurer and the Registrar.

Why would you want to write to the Registrar? Any changes in your circumstances that are communicable to the Guild must all go directly to the Registrar thereby saving the necessity of an intermediary passing on the information and at times resulting in the most recent information being missed from the latest publication; i.e. supplements and registers.

I really do need to know about:

• Changes of address, whether postal or email.
• Changes of category in your Guild registered name.
• The addition of registered surnames and/or variants.
• Changes of variants.
• The surrendering of a registered name.
• The wish to resign.
• And last, but not least, the occasions when your surname changes for any reason.

Dominic Johnson
The question of the disposition of members' papers upon their decease has arisen again and was discussed briefly at the last Committee meeting.

A form of codicil is included in the welcome pack for new members, but is this enough? Personally, I can imagine research constructively "disappearing" if family members involved in settling an estate are not interested in family history.

Also, if the executors of an estate are solicitors or a bank, then fees will be charged for disposing of the research and beneficiaries are not going to be happy about this. Again, although a will may exist, if the total estate is less than a certain sum ($5,000 in 1992), then there is no need to seek probate and, especially in the case of a sole beneficiary, this is a viable option.

Probably the best thing to do is during one's lifetime to try to find someone to take over the research, making a proviso that if the person is no longer able to continue with the one-name study then it should be made over to the Guild. Ideally, one should try to publish one's research from time to time, using inexpensive desktop publishing and/or photocopying.

**Trustee**

However, a possible alternative would be for the testator to appoint a trustee, a friend interested in family history, to dispose of his or her research. To the best of my knowledge, having been a testamentary trustee, this can only be changed if during the testator's lifetime he or she grants an enduring power of attorney, when the grantee can, prior to the testator's death, dispose of property, etc., making it impossible for the trust to be fulfilled.

Finally, if a member bequeaths research to the Guild that bequest should be absolute, trusting the Guild, if appropriate, to send parts of the research to county record offices. Also, that with the bequest there should be a clear indication as to where the research may be found.

I would like to know members' views on this subject. Write to me at 29 Queens Road, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1IG, or e-mail me at: vice-chairman@one-name.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

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**Secretary's Notes**

By Jim Isard

Having spent two days at the SoG fair, meeting many members and potential members, there seem to be two things about the Guild that are not clearly understood.

First, many potential new members are under the impression that to be a member of the Guild they must have checked all the records at Family Record Centre, collected all the wills and all the others things that one-namers do, and that this must be done in advance of becoming a member.

**No limits**

This is not so. When they sign up to become members, they have signed to say that they will carry out these tasks and then no time limits are put on this. So, if you know of any potential new members I hope you will put them right on this.

The second misconception concerns e-mail aliases. Many members think that by having an alias - e.g: isard@one-name.org - that it can be read by the whole Guild. But nothing could be further from the truth. Your mail will remain private and reach you in exactly the same way as all your e-mail.

The advantages are that if you change your ISP you would send just one e-mail to our Data Manager and your new address would be entered on our server. All your mail would then be redirected automatically if you use the one-name.org alias. So for one e-mail everyone would know your new address. No more lost mail when you change your Internet Service Provider!

**Search**

Our one-name.org address is becoming widely known and many enquirers use this to search for name matches. If you are still using the address supplied by your ISP you could be missing contacts.

You can even use the alias for e-mail facilities you have at work. It would make no difference to how that worked.

So I say to everyone: if you have not yet registered an alias, now is the time to do it and take advantage of this free service provided by the Guild. Ø
Astonishing hike in wills charges provokes genealogists’ fury
By Audrey Collins

I SHALL never forget how I spent my birthday in 1999. It is on April 23, and last year I was in Stratford-on-Avon, where William Shakespeare and I are celebrated in style. This year, I spent the day in First Avenue House, High Holborn, London, reading and ordering wills, because it was the last day you could do this at the old, low rates.

It is now widely known that the rates for reading and copying PRFD (ie post-1858) wills and administrations rose by an enormous amount on April 26 1999. No-one likes a price increase, but this one provoked more fury and indignation among family historians than anything else in recent years. This was not due simply to the scale of the increase, but to the lack of warning given. Just to make matters worse, when the news was made “public” by the Court Service, it was badly handled by the Probate Department.

For many years, the fee to read a will or administration (admon) was 25p, and a copy was 25p per page for a will, and 25p for its accompanying grant of probate, or the admon if there was no will. In a rare fit of clear thinking a few years ago, the Probate Department simplified this to 75p per will, regardless of the number of pages. At either rate, this was long recognized as one of the best bargains in genealogy.

Of course, it was too good to last, and we all knew that there would have to be an increase some day. What no-one anticipated was the massive hike to £5 for a copy of a will and grant, or for an admon alone if there was no will. Worse still was the 5900% increase from 25p to £15 just to read a will in the search room. As it turned out, this last was only temporary and the fee for reading was rapidly revised downwards to £5.

On March 26 the Court Service sent a circular to solicitors and probate practitioners, listing all the new charges, effective from April 26. Neither the Federation of Family History Societies nor any other genealogical organization was informed. Many of the charges listed relate to current applications for probate and administration, which constitutes the bulk of the Probate Department’s work, but the items of relevance to genealogists and other researchers are:

**Fees:**

On inspection of any will or other document retained by the registry (in the presence of an officer of the registry): £15.

On a request for a copy of any document, whether or not provided as a certified copy: £5.

Where a search of the index is required, for each period of four years searched after the first four years: £3

**Interpretation:**

“The fee [for inspection] shall not be taken where a search is made for research or similar purposes by permission of the President of the Family Division for a document over 100 years old filed in the principal registry or a district registry or another authorised place of deposit.”

This still leaves many questions unanswered. For example, it is not clear whether the charges refer to applications in person, by post, or both. The phrase “including a search” seems to refer to postal applications, as personal applicants have always had to do their own searching. Despite the considerable acreage of notice boards in the Probate Search Room, only two weeks before the price increases there was nothing on display to indicate this.

On request, the cashier would produce a list, but there were no copies for members of the public. The Probate Department Manager, Kevin Donnelly, confirmed that the copies would cost £5 to personal applicants at First Avenue House, or at District Probate Registries. This rate would also apply to postal applications to the Probate Registry at York, where the fee covers a search of up to four years. Previously a postal application cost considerably more than a personal one.

**Harmonisation**

One of the aims of the new pricing structure was harmonisation between the various Registries. The other was that the prices charged should more accurately reflect the cost of providing each service. This accounted for the astonishing rate of £15 to read a document, as the wills are now held off-site at Companies House, and each application has to be faxed there. Then the will has to be located, photocopied, and each page faxed back. This obviously costs more than the 25p which was charged formerly, but this is largely because the Court Service chose to move the wills to a less convenient location in the first place.

The new charge of £5 for a will still represents better value for money than most death certificates at £6.50, although it is a lot to pay for an admon, which may tell you no more than the index.

Despite the lack of communication from the Probate Department, the news spread rapidly throughout the genealogical world by word of mouth and over the Internet. Bargain-hunters descended on First Avenue House, which on some days looked like a Guild of One-Name Studies convention. Considering their previous inaction, the Probate Department coped quite well, by...
their standards. By Thursday April 22 they had even managed to put up notices of the new prices!

Then it was all over. The new charges were in place, the search room was quiet, except for the few who needed to be there, and some who had not heard the news and who were in for a big surprise. Hardly anyone was ordering wills to read.

But before the end of the week there came another twist. A pronouncement came from on high that the Probate Department had misinterpreted the Lord Chancellor's Statutory Instrument, and that the fee to inspect a document should be £5, not £15. The higher rate applies only to the inspection of original documents, and not to the filmed copies produced for you to read in the search room at First Avenue House. For your £5 fee you are now allowed to take the copy away with you. Previously, these copies could not be removed from the search room, the excuse being that they were not certified copies, and might be of poor quality, but suddenly this is no longer a problem.

The phrase “whether or not provided as a certified copy” is the first indication that copies other than certified ones can be provided. As with the ambiguities already mentioned, the wording of the new fee instruction is not at all clear. It is rather worrying that the assembled legal expertise available to the Lord Chancellor’s department could not produce something clear and unambiguous.

Of course, cynics might suggest that the wording is deliberately ambiguous, so that the Powers That Be can later change their minds and claim that is what they meant all the time.

Silver Lining

This constitutes something of a silver lining because it means that there is now effectively a same-day service, of sorts. You have a choice: for your £5 you can have a copy will to keep, within an hour or so, but this does not include the Grant of Probate; or you can wait a week or more for certified (and better quality) copies of both documents.

Protests continue, which may or may not produce results. In the meantime, how do we make the best of the situation as it now applies? For the older documents, there are a number of possibilities, but the 20th Century is more of a problem.

First of all, you can apply to the Probate Department at First Avenue House for a “Literary Card”, a permit which admits you to the department “for Literary Enquiry”, as referred to in the “Interpretation” quoted above. In plain English, this means you can inspect copies of documents over 100 years old for no charge.

To obtain one of these passes, you simply have to write a letter requesting one. Of course there is nothing as helpful and straightforward as an application form!

For wills and grants up to 1903, you can look at Death Duty Registers and their indexes, which may give information not found in the will itself. The indexes are on microfilm, but the registers from 1858 onward are not, although the Public Record Office intend to film them in the near future. Meanwhile, you can only see them at Kew. The filmed indexes can be seen at the Family Records Centre and the Public Record Office at Kew. They can also be ordered through LDS Family History Centres.

At Kew there is also a little-known class of documents in J121, a 7% Sample of Contentious Probate Case Files and Papers 1858–1960. There are annual indexes, well worth inspection for one-namers. It is also worth remembering that not only the PRFD calendars (indexes) have been filmed by the LDS Church, but the actual wills themselves up to 1925. This means that, ironically, researchers in Salt Lake City have free, and more or less instant, access to wills, but researchers in London do not. There is no complete set of these films in the UK, but you can order the ones you need through any LDS Family History Centre.

Service Charter

Finally, as the Court Service has decided to charge according to the cost of providing its services, it is surely reasonable for users to expect the service to live up to the promises in the Court Service Charter. You can obtain a copy from First Avenue House, or any Probate Registry, and it includes such gems as “When you visit a probate registry you will find polite and helpful staff wearing name badges,” and “When you phone us we will answer the phone within 30 seconds.” Copies ordered are to be sent out within five working days. The leaflet actually says three days, but this has been changed to five, in pen!

If you have Internet access, you might like to look at the Court Service website at:

www.courtservice.gov.uk

The new charges were posted there at about the time when the circular was sent to solicitors. As someone who is reasonably good at finding my way around websites, this one strikes me as a good place to publish something you don’t want anyone to find. In theory, you can also download a copy of the Courts’ Charter: Probate Service Users. However, when I tried, it would only give me one page, followed by six blank ones!

The Charter also says: “We welcome your comments and complaints and use them to improve our service”. This is surely an invitation we should enthusiastically accept. ☺

Audrey Collins is a leading genealogist and professional researcher in the UK, and the author of “Using Wills After 1858 and First Avenue House”, which is published in the “Basic Facts About...” series by the Federation of Family History Societies (Publications) Ltd., 2-4 Kiln Street, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire BL0 9BZ. ISBN 1-86006-090-0.
Advance planning is the key to a successful reunion
By Shelagh Mason

The Stead/Steed One-Name Study and the Kemp Family Association have just held their first International Reunions from April 9-12 1999, at Canterbury, Christ Church University College, Kent. The weekend went superbly – but the important thing was the level of planning beforehand to ensure the four days went smoothly and without a hitch. Of course, there were problems, but these were overcome. Actual numbers attending varied between 45 and 65, of which 50% were from overseas.

The Editor asked me to write this report as a guide to helping others who are thinking of holding a similar event, offering ideas and highlighting some of the possible pitfalls. In this case, the reunion was held at a college – an ideal venue, as it could offer residential facilities. Here are my thoughts and tips...

How to start
First ask yourself: "Why am I holding a reunion?" If you don't come up with a sensible reason, then don't bother. My reasons were that many of our members who were on the same tree had never met before, so a gathering of the clan was beneficial to them. Many had enquired about the possibility. In addition, a number of our members have never used a computer before, and had no idea how software could be used for storing, manipulating and displaying data and trees.

The planning started a year before the event. Having decided that a long weekend seemed the best choice, I chose the weekend after Easter for some sensible reasons, I thought:

- Cost of travel for overseas visitors.
- Cost and availability of accommodation.
- Less likely for members to be away on their summer holidays.

I would recommend that you check the FFHS Journal, etc., for other events. We clashed! A lesson learned...

Location?
Choosing the location can be a difficult problem if you don't work at a University College, as I do. Where do you book? Christ Church was such an obvious choice for me. Not only did we have all the on-site facilities we could possibly require, but in addition the college is just outside the city centre and close to the Cathedral, the Cathedral Archives and the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies.

Once I had decided when and where, the next thing was to draft out a basic itinerary. You have to consider the age range and physical ability of those attending, so breaks for tea and coffee and a rest are essential. Amazingly, I threw the basic programme together in 10 minutes. Estimate the number of people you think might realistically attend and allow for the fact that a proportion of them will be unable to join you. Also allow for the fact that people will find you on the Net and ask to come very late on – I had both kinds! Once you have done this, discuss with others your basic thoughts on what is going to happen. Don't think you can do this on your own. You may well know a lot about certain aspects, but others will have thought of many more, believe me.

Be sure to visit the venue early on. You can't do this blind. We had two "base rooms", one for the Stead/Steed and one for the Kemps, where we displayed the trees and had plenty of source materials for everyone to look at. In choosing these rooms, I discarded quite a few for a variety of reasons. Bear in mind wherever your room is, you have to get all your material from the boot of your car! You want rooms where you can display your trees, but not get in the way of the tables and chairs. You will also need to book display boards and however many you order, it won't be enough. You need space to present books and other materials and when people arrive they would like to find tables in small clusters to claim for people with like interests, so size matters!

Do you want an official photograph of which everyone can have copies? Does the institution have a photographer you could hire? Make a note of the cost. What about guest speakers? This year the going rate was

Will you want a computer suite?

All: you going to be using a computer suite? If so, check compatibility of your files with its installed operating system. Will your files open in its software or do you need to bring specialised software? If the latter you will need written permission from the manufacturers before it is installed. I had files in Excel, Word and Family Tree Maker, backed up as gedcoms. We used them all Yes, I had problems. My files are in Word 7 and Excel 7, through Office '97 small Business Edition (Windows '95). The college computer suite used Windows NT3.51. I had to convert all my files at the last minute into Word and Excel 6 and then keep my fingers crossed. Family Tree Maker is not designed to run on Networks, but it did remarkably well; it failed to operate a few non-essential features, but we didn't care.

The computer suite contained 25 Pentium computers with zip drives, a flatbed scanner, a high-speed laser and a colour inkjet printer as standard. It was well used. Bear in mind when hiring a computer suite, you will also have to cover the cost of a technician who will be keeping an eye on you and smoothing out those awkward problems. In total this cost us £325 a day (inc VAT), so you really need to know it's going to be well used!
your members turn up, your speakers must still be paid. Do they need an OHP, a slide projector, a computer with screen projection? We were lucky to have a state-of-the-art, fully computerised lecture theatre. These don't come cheaply, either, so consider carefully what you actually need. I decided it might be a good idea to have some bookstalls and eventually Kent FHS, the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies and an antiquarian bookseller came and seemed to be kept quite busy.

We had a reunion buffet on the Saturday evening, and a number of people were able to attend the buffet only, including non-genealogical spouses. We also had a bar for three nights. What else? Oh yes, the visits. I arranged two visits to the Cathedral Archives (their search room may be a nice size, but their work rooms are tiny), and a maximum of 20 people per group was essential. I enquired about the possibility of visiting a year in advance, then had a talk with the Head Archivist to discuss what he could show us and finalised arrangements closer to the time. The Archives were not open to the public at these times, so we had to cover their costs, which were very reasonable. An additional donation was also made to help towards the costs of conservation.

I had arranged a visit on the Monday morning to Steede Hill, ancestral home of the Harrietsam Steede family, but it was not to be. The house was sold at the end of last year (for a mere three-quarters of a million pounds), and the new owners were less than interested. So a trip to see the house and the Steede Chapel in the church half a mile away had to be cancelled quite late. I had planned to give the owner of Steede Hill a copy of the book of the same name by a previous owner, Robert Goodsell, by way of a thank you for having us. It's always a nice idea to keep on their good side.

One of our members stood in and gave an illustrated talk instead, and Bob Young also talked about the reasons for problems with early American research. I asked the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies whether it might be possible for a small group to visit another time. I then had a talk with the Head Archivist to discuss what he could show us and finalised arrangements closer to the time. The Archives were not open to the public at these times, so we had to cover their costs, which were very reasonable. An additional donation was also made to help towards the costs of conservation.

Mailshot

The first mailshot I sent out included a map of the area and the campus, to give some idea of the event's location. It included residential and travel information (including how to get from the airports). Also included were details like parking and disabled access, contact numbers for people to give to relatives, looking after their property (and the College/my disclaimer for liability), facilities on site, visits and excursions, and the full details of the schedule with a clear breakdown of prices for events and for residential/non-residential costs. I also asked people to bring with them as much of their own research as they were able, ensuring that these were copies and NOT original documentation.

I created a form that broke down the reunion into sensible slots which simply followed the schedule, together with an emergency home contact and some basic medical information in case anyone became ill. It was also necessary to know if anyone had any specialist dietary requirements. It is not necessary to mailshot your entire membership with these details. If you produce a newsletter, advise them in its pages, and ask them to contact you for details. I did mailshot everyone, as I didn't have a huge number of members at the time, but I shall not do it again, as numbers have grown considerably this last year.

Having tried to think of everything, it's time to get someone else to look at it, perhaps the Conference Office. After that, you're off! Have fun! If any Guild member would like a copy of the original mailshot and form, I would be pleased to send you a copy.

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Writing cold to strangers and the best way to go about it
By Jean-Baptiste Piggin and Linda Hansen

HOW to approach total strangers for information, when they may have no interest in genealogy, is a difficult and thorny topic that all one-namers face at some time. The following is a transcript of a recent discussion, partly conducted on the Guild's online forum and partly privately by e-mail among participants. Because we feel it will be of wider general interest to members, especially new ones, we have decided to reproduce it in The Journal. It all began with the following message...

Linda Hansen in Switzerland:
"I recently registered my one-name study and have been given extractions from the UK Electoral Rolls. I am thinking about writing to these people but it would be the first time I have entered into correspondence with unknown people who have no interest in genealogy. As some of you have undoubtedly done this before, have you any hints or suggestions on how a letter should be worded to get non-genealogists interested and to increase my chances of a response? Should I send a stamped, addressed envelope with each letter (quite an expensive undertaking), especially as most people probably will not reply?"

The replies
Jean-Baptiste Piggin in Germany: "I did my only mass mailing to English, Australian and US addresses about 10 years ago. About a quarter of the English and Australians responded, but only 10 per cent of the Americans bothered to reply. Recently I did a similar mailout to e-mail addressess and got nil replies from the United States, but more than a quarter of those in Britain took the time to reply. Other one-namers have told me those are fairly typical response rates: family history seems to be the 'in' thing in Britain and Australasia at the moment, but not elsewhere.

"Drafting an effective letter is difficult. You have to excite curiosity by offering some snippets of interesting information on the family origins and on you personally, while reassuring the addressee that you are not from a Halberts-style commercial venture and that you do not want money. Be realistic. Your letter will not awaken an interest in family history among those who don't care, but it will seem like a godsend to a small number of people who had always been meaning to inquire into their family but had not yet got started. Write the letter as if the unknown recipient is just as interested in family history as you are.

"Don't bother with stamped self-addressed envelopes. Those who reply expect a benefit from you: friendship, stories swapped, preservation of a past they value. Non-repliers ignore your letter because they can't spare the time to write a thoughtful, accurate reply or prefer the past to stay buried, not because of the minimal cost of a stamp, and they may even see your prepared envelope as coercive.

"What I do recommend including is a questionnaire. It gives the respondent a clear idea of what you want to know, and it allows them to send back a very minimal reply at first if they are too shy to write you an effusive letter. It could for example ask the names of the respondent's parents and paternal grandparents and where they lived."

Roger Lovegrove in Britain: "The general consensus is that you should not be too pushy. Nothing along the lines of 'Please tell me everything you know about your family'. Nor should you offer to help someone to trace their family: after all, if they are not interested in doing it, then they have nothing they need help with: it also comes across as being somewhat conceited - implying that you know more about their family than they do.

"The best approach is generally accepted to be to ask them for their help (e.g. in tracing your family). If you expect a reply then you must most certainly pay the return postage - and, in fact, supply the envelope. Why should they incur any cost or inconvenience in helping you with your hobby? I am afraid that a one-name study can be an expensive pastime, but think of it as an investment. However, a fairly productive alternative would be to tell them that you do not expect a reply, but that you will be phoning them in a couple of weeks to have a chat. That way, the initiative remains with you and you will not waste as much money on people who are not interested."

John Causton in Britain: "Could you give an example of a letter?"

Peter Amsden in Britain: "The letter below is a copy of the one that I have used. Usually it gets results. The stamped, addressed envelope is essential. Few people will respond if there isn’t one and it does encourage a reply anyway. Enclosing a form also seems to work because it is much easier for people to fill in the details that you want, rather than rambling on about things that are of little interest. For some reason people don’t mind filling in forms - I suppose that it saves them thinking about what to say."

"Dear ———,

"I am trying to put together the history of the XXXXXXX family. With this in mind, I am writing to all known members of the family hoping that we can establish what the current position is, how the family has evolved and the historical background.

"The kind of information that is needed is contained on the enclosed form, and it would be of great help if you could fill this in with any relevant details and return it to me in the enclosed pre-stamped envelope.

"This research is purely for my own private interest.
and any personal information given to me regarding present families will be treated in the strictest con-
dience. However, I shall be happy to share with you any
historical background to the family if it would be of
interest. Please feel free to ask any questions about my
research. I look forward to hearing from you.”

JB Piggin: “I’d rather not put a copy of my “fishing”
letter where it can be called up by anyone using the
Internet (the Guild forum is archived at rootsweb.com
and can be freely searched by anyone) but I don’t mind
sending it privately to other members or it appearing in
The Journal. The following text was one that I used to
various e-mail addresses in 1998...

‘Hi ...... I saw your name in a directory of e-mail
addresses and we seem to have something in common:
our unusual surname. I thought I would write to you
and ask if (despite the slightly different spelling of our
surnames) we could be related. Just for fun, I’ve been
trying for quite a few years to sort out how everybody in
the world called Piggin or Piggins is linked (They seem
to be). Dozens of people have generously given me help
and I’ve compiled about 20 family trees covering
almost all the main branches of this family. There are
two main groups: one originating in Derbyshire and the
other in Norfolk in England. The name is now found in
Australia, New Zealand (where I was born) and the
United States.

The name Piggin has nothing to do with the farm-
yard but comes from an obscure medieval joke about
something named a ‘pic’ – maybe a pike (weapon) or a
peak (hill): we are still working on solving this mystery.
If you have not already heard about this research from
your relations and are interested, I can always send you
information. There is no charge, but I do ask for your
help in adding to the store of family information.”

Questionnaires

“My questionnaires that I used 10 years ago asked for:
your parents’ names; your paternal grandparents
names if they were called Piggin; the names of any of
your brothers and sisters in the order of birth; the name
of anyone else in the family interested in family history.
The people who did reply, often after months or even
years, were usually very cooperative and keen to con-
tribute and we established some lasting friendships.”
Blake Allan in Canada: “Very helpful in my opinion. I
have a lot of success by telephoning after I have written,
sometimes before I have written.”

JB Piggin: “I plan to try cold calling to some Ameri-
cans soon. They just do not respond to mail. But if you
are shy, it takes a certain amount of courage to cold-call
a stranger with what is in essence a rather daft request.”

Tony Woodward in Canada: “As a newcomer one
thing that causes me a lot of anxiety is the need to
contact people with the Freberg surname to get more
information about existing families and work back from
there. I have to get to grips with this aspect of my
search in the near future. I’ve already identified the
addresses of about 150 Frebergs in the U.K. and about
80 in the USA. I can guess what my own reaction might
be on receiving mail out of the blue from someone I
don’t know from Adam, asking for personal details about
my family, so I’m apprehensive about doing the same to
someone else. I’ve tried to compile a letter explaining
myself and asking for information, but had trouble
coming up with anything that looks convincing.”

Merry Wells in Britain: “I sent out letters in the
1980s. I tried to choose people who were older mem-
bers of a family, asking them to tell me of their parents
and grandparents, assuming their grandparents would
be included on the 1881 census if British and I could say
that if I already had them included in a family tree I
would be pleased to send them a copy if they wished. I
wrote by hand as clearly as possible, to make it more
personal, sometimes including a very short form to fill in
on parents, grandparents and siblings, with a space at
the bottom for great-grandparents or any other informa-
tion they felt might be helpful to locate their branch.

“I only sent out about four letters at a time to different
areas of the country. Someone once returned my letter with ‘not interested’ scrawled at the top within my self-
addressed envelope, and I wasn’t sure who it was from!
So keep a note of who you send to and when. Also
suggest that if they know of another member of their
family who has done some research that they could pass
your enquiry on to them instead. I once had a reply from
someone in Spain who was the sister-in-law of the
widowed lady who received my letter in England.

“Make sure you have as full an address as possible
with a post/zip code. I saw in a Halberts book the
address “Flat 1, London” plus postal code, so I checked
in the telephone directory, rang the number and found it
was disconnected, so I abandoned that one. If you
haven’t a zip code for USA they get returned to sender.

“I found response from England and Wales was good,
provided I asked them to pass it on to someone if they
thought that would be better. Australia, New Zealand
and Canada were excellent, and the USA I gave up on,
even though I was enclosing dollar notes, SAEs or
International Reply Coupons. It didn’t seem to make any
difference: my results there were almost zero.”

Linda Hansen: “What seems to have come through
repeatedly is to be brief and to the point, and not to
overwhelm the recipient with your vast knowledge of
their family. Sending too much information gives the
impression you know enough already and are not in
need of help. People seemed to be evenly divided on
the issue of SAE or not.”

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Merry Wells: merryl.wells@one-name.org
Peter Amsden: amsden@btinternet.com

* See the Reviews section for a review of a new book
by Peter Amsden on this topic.
Stimulating appeal of surnames in time and space
By Trevor Ogden

At least four Guild members made their way to Sheffield at the end of March and had a very stimulating and informative weekend at the conference of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland (SNSBI). The programme included such topics as Old English astronomical names and 14th century ship names, but for this article I have selected only material relating to surnames.

David Hey, Professor of Local and Family History at Sheffield University, heads the Names Project Group that has done work on surnames originating in the area, some of them at farms and other small places that have changed their names or ceased to exist. He talked on "Distinctive surnames of Hallamshire", the part of South Yorkshire which consisted of the ancient parishes of Sheffield, Ecclesfield and Bradfield. He discussed names like Broomhead, Dungworth, Staniforth, Bullas, Burnett, Smethurst (Smadders), Shemeld and Shimwell, all detailed in David's Oxford Guide to Family History.

Amongst other names, Creswick is known as a surname from the late 13th century, although the first reference to the place is dated 1322. Wilson is, of course, a name of multiple origin, but there is a family of that name originating in Broomhead. Similarly, there is a local Coombs family from a farm near Bradfield. Housley Hall, north of Ecclesfield, was the origin of the name Housley. The family were there until 1671 when the main line died out, though members of a junior branch became cutlers in Sheffield. Other local names discussed were Mouldycliff, Crossley, Whitley, Reaney, Jeffcock, Drabble, Levick, Smallbehind (becoming Smallbent and Smallbend), Bayes (formerly Base), Pickfork (becoming Pitchfork), Habergham and Habbershaw.

The "William Set"

Peter Wilkinson, another group member talked about "The William Set" and its distribution in Britain. This is the score or so of names which derive from the Christian name William, including Williams, Fitzwilliam, Wills, Wilcocks, Wilkinson, Wilson, Willis and Wilmot. Peter has used the IGI records and Genmap software for plotting. His presentation concentrated on 16th century baptisms, plotted by parish or county. The IGI coverage for that date varies from a few per cent of parish registers in some counties to over 90% in others. It is possible to make a rough correction to the number one would expect from 100% coverage, but Peter has concentrated on number of occurrences and not attempted to plot the number as a percentage of total baptisms.

There are wide regional variations in almost all the names, and some of the distributions seem to complement one another. For example, Williamson was strong in the north and east, especially in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, where it showed dispersion throughout the county, rather than any town or rural bias. Williams occurred more in the south and west, with peaks in the far south west and Shropshire. No Welsh peak for Williams is apparent in the 16th century, though the name had become common by 1650. The main reason is probably the lack of surviving parish registers in Wales in the 16th century, though the later growth of surname use in Wales might also be a factor.

In general, names ending with "-son" are commoner in the north. It is tempting to associate this with Scandinavian settlement, but this does not tie up with details of the distribution, so "-son" must be a Middle English suffix and some hundreds of years after the invasions. If we examine the change of concentrations by looking at 25-year intervals, this does not clearly show gradual diffusion of the name, as often assumed.

George Redmonds, an authority on Yorkshire names, said that statements in the standard works on Christian names and variations in fashion do not stand up when one looks at the data from Yorkshire from about 1300 to 1700. His own name, George, was said to have become popular with the coming of the Hanoverians, but it was one of the commonest 10 names in Elizabethan times. Mary is said to have been unpopular with 16th century Puritans, but in the strongly Puritan parish of Halifax it was the second most popular name. However, despite statements that Mary was an enduringly popular name, in the Yorkshire Poll Tax returns, 1379, 20 female names are more popular, including Alice - 40 times as popular as Mary. Michael was rare in the Poll Tax returns (7 occurrences in 21,000 males). In Halifax in 1571 Michael appeared 21 times in 160 baptisms, second to John, but in other Yorkshire parishes it was still uncommon.

George Redmonds provided a possible explanation of these regional Christian name variations. Christian names are often passed from father to son, and the gentry in particular could, in this way, preserve names through generations in which the name was otherwise very rare. However Christian names could also be propagated through wider "cognatic" groups, often through godparenthood. For example, Cuthbert Wiltham, rector of Garforth in the 1640s, inherited his Christian name, but his will and other records show that it passed to his godsons and wider amongst his parishioners and their descendants. George gave similar examples from the 16th and 17th Centuries of Christian names being passed to an array of godchildren, or of the godfather's surname being used as a Christian name by several godchildren.

SNSBI had its origin about 30 years ago as a scholarly forum but became more open in 1991. Members include historians, geographers, archaeologists, linguists, local and family historians and enthusiastic amateurs, united by an interest in place, personal and other names. It publishes an annual journal, Nomina. The Society is
Am I paranoid or is the LDS persecuting me? By Peter Amsden

THERE can be few of us who have not had reason to be thankful for the LDS Church and the IGI. How many hours have we spent poring over fiche records and extracting information on our ancestors? How many journeys have we made by car, bus and train to the nearest FHC to acquire this valuable offering?

But now the LDS has moved into the age of modern technology. Those of us with computers and an Internet connection no longer have to move more than our fingers to grab as much of this information as we can assimilate. It all sounds like something I let on to the genealogist’s dream. Just type...

http://www.familysearch.org

and in no time at all you have access to information with which you can drive some of us into a state of near madness. Well, in reality, I do not know how big the “some” is. It could just be me. I am beginning to get that impression, unless I am suffering from paranoia.

How is this happening? I am not sure. Perhaps in one of my less thoughtful moments I let on to the LDS that I had a web site which contained a long list of surnames extracted from my research—a web site that was designed for no other purpose than to help people with a direct connection to my Amsden family. Of course, there are going to be names like Smith, Jones and a number of other not uncommon ones somewhere along the line. Few of us will be authorities on all of these families. Yet the LDS site has been set up in such a way that anyone searching for Smiths and a few dozen others will be directed to me as the fount of all wisdom.

When the test site was first set up I found I was downloading around 100 e-mails a day, asking for information on people whom I knew nothing. I tried to be polite, answering where I could and saying “Sorry” to others. In the end I added a note to the page, telling searchers that unless they could show a direct connection to Amsden I would not answer. It worked after a fashion, because in the early days it was probably only people familiar with genealogy who were searching.

However, now that the site is up and running with full-blown media coverage, I am back to where I started. I don’t know if people read my “Please Note” message, but if they do then a considerable number are under the impression that it does not apply to them. They write anyway. Well, they send messages. In most cases, “writing” would not be a term I would use. The odd person does send a well-considered missive which, if nothing more, deserves an intelligent reply. The remainder fall into a few well-defined classifications.

• The downright rude and demanding: “Please search for above information of relative.”

• The “I don’t really have any information, but I am sending it anyway.”: “MY FATHERS NAME IS JACK BLOGGS, HIS FATHER WAS JOHN BLOGGS, I DONT KNOW WHAT HIS MOTHERS NAME WAS...MY FATHER WAS BORN IN INDIANA USA...I DONT KNOW WHERE HIS FATHER WAS BORN...MY FATHER WAS BORN IN AUGUST 31 1922 E-MAIL ME AT xxxxxxxxxx@aol.com...IF I AM TRACEABLE THANKYOU.”

• “Please give me any info you have on the bloggs name from scotland. my great grandfather was named andrew bloggs and he had a son william bloggs. my grandfather (william) was born in 1919 and was only 4 months when they came to the united states so we don’t know much more than that. thank you.”

• The mysterious: “family name father henry born 1898 mi usa any information”

“I am married to Aron Wayne Bloggs. I only know his Bloggs name and family are from alabama.”

“Having done some searching I became intrigued with a brief history of my the Blogg’s name. My grandfather Bloggs married a Woman surnamed Rose and lived in Sheleburne NH.”

• The “Please read this six times and see if you can understand it” message: “I am looking for anything on the Bloggs family I have been looking for years and have gotten nowhere, I would really appreciate your help, if you can tell me any thing about where they came from, my dads name is Eldom Luther Bloggs he was borned in Randloph county Alabama, his was borned june 1 1892 father norne was David alexander Bloggs and I dont know where he was borned, his father”

• To avoid embarrassing people, I have changed all names used in the extracts from e-mails to Bloggs, but the remainder of the texts are exactly as received—yes, really!

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Data protection, the new law and one-namers
By Iain Kerr

In the October 1998 edition of the Journal, I wrote a short article highlighting the implications of the existing Data Protection Act 1984 for those of us who are developing or maintaining one-name studies in the United Kingdom. The Data Protection Act 1998 became law when it received the Royal Assent in July 1998. The new Act, when fully implemented, will give effect in the UK to EC Directive 95/46/EC. The British Government have indicated the intention to bring the new Act fully into force in 1999. However, Ministers have yet to announce the commencement date for the main provisions of the Act. When the 1998 Act is brought fully into force, it will repeal the Data Protection Act 1984. Until then the 1984 Act will remain in force.

There are a number of important differences between the new Act and the 1984 Act with which we have been familiar. For a start, the Data Protection Registrar will become the Data Protection Commissioner with revised powers. The Registrar/Commissioner has produced detailed guidance in anticipation of the Act coming fully into force, although some interpretations of the Act will have to await the making of case law.

This article is based on that advice, which comes in the form of a number of leaflets and in a comprehensive guide that is available on paper from the Data Protection Agency (DPA). General advice on the Data Protection Act and copies of documentation published by the Registrar may be accessed through the Registrar’s web page at: http://www.open.gov.uk/dpr/dprhome.htm

The information presented here is focused on those running one-name studies, but it applies equally to any genealogist holding personal data on living people. The subject of data protection has its own arcane language. Wherever possible I have tried to use simple English, but I may be forced into using the jargon of the data protection professionals. Where this is the case I have attempted to provide definitions of those terms.

Finally, the Government has not acted swiftly to develop the mechanisms and procedures required in the Act. These notes are based on the initial guidance developed by the Registrar: advice which will be enhanced as the secondary legislation upon which the Registrar’s practices are based, is developed and promulgated by the Government some time this year.

Changes in the 1998 Act
A major change which is directly related to all genealogists is that the scope of the 1998 Act and the powers of its regulatory body, the DPA, has been extended from electronic data to include all paper records. Under the 1998 Act, compliance now extends to some manual data – that includes information which is recorded as part of a “relevant filing system” or with the intention that it should form part of a “relevant filing system”. The term “relevant filing system” means any set of non-automated information relating to individuals which is structured so that specific information relating to a particular individual is readily accessible. Non-automated information may be found in a variety of different media, e.g. paper files, card-based address records, non-automated microfiche etc.

A second key element is the introduction of the concept of “data controller”. A data controller is defined as a person who (either alone, or jointly, or in common with other persons) determines the purposes for which, and the manner in which, any personal data are, are to be, processed. Data controller is the equivalent term to “data user” in the 1984 Act but with some differences. These include a stronger emphasis on “processing” of data, together with the concept of determining “the purposes for which and the manner in which” personal data are processed. These go beyond the concepts by which the 1984 “data user” was defined. Also, the term “data controller” is defined by reference to “personal data” as opposed to data generally.

Essentially, a one-namer maintaining records about living individuals in the European Economic Area (that is the 15 EU Member States, together with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, is a “data controller” within the meaning of the Act! “Personal Data” is defined in the Act as “data which relate to a living individual who can be identified from those data; or from those data and other information which is in the possession of, or is likely to come into the possession of, the data controller”. It includes “any expression of opinion about the individual and any indication of the intentions of the data controller or any other person in respect of the individual.” So, genealogical records of living persons, including biographical notes, is “personal data”.

Revised Data Protection Principles
As with the 1984 Act, there are eight Data Protection Principles (“the Principles”) in the Act. However, the new Principles are not exactly the same as those in the 1984 Act. Except to the extent that any data controller will be able to claim an exemption from any one or all of them (whether on a transitional or outright basis), the Principles apply to all personal data processed by data controllers. Controllers must comply with them, irrespective of whether they are required to notify and whether or not they are actually notified.

In broad terms, the Data Protection Principles state that “personal data” must be:
1) obtained and processed fairly and lawfully, under published conditions for both personal data and additionally for sensitive data set out in the Act in particular, that the data subject has given their consent to the processing.
The Committee presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31 October 1998. The accounts have been subject to independent examination, and a statement by the examiner has been included on page 4.

The Nature of the Guild

The Guild of One-Name Studies is an unincorporated association registered in England and Wales as a Charity, registration number 802048. The Guild's governing document is its Constitution, as agreed and amended from time to time by the Guild's members.

The objectives of the Guild, as stated in Section 2 of the Constitution, may be summarised as being:

(i) to advance the education of the public in One-Name Studies

(ii) to promote the preservation and publication of the resultant data.

The Guild has no salaried staff, all activities and services being dependent upon unpaid voluntary effort by its members.

Responsibilities of the Committee

It is a requirement of the law that the Guild shall each year prepare a revenue account which deals with the affairs of the Guild for that year. The Committee is responsible for ensuring that every revenue account and every balance sheet published shows a true and fair view.

In preparing these financial statements the committee is therefore required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Guild will continue as a charitable organisation.

The Guild is obliged to keep proper books and records and to establish and maintain a satisfactory system of control of its books of account, its cash holdings and its receipts and remittances. Holders of any position in the Guild are accountable to the Guild for any moneys or property in their charge.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES and REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Reporting year

The year under this report is the Financial Year for the period 1 November 1997 - 31 October 1998 inclusive.

Membership as at 31 October 1998

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(Membership was reported at the end of the last year as 1489.)

General Meetings

The 1998 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Guild was held at Northampton on 4 April. There were no Special General Meetings during the year.

Committee

The Committee is elected annually in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution then in force. Membership of the Committee during the year was as follows. Unless stated otherwise, membership was for the whole of the year (i.e., retired and re-elected as at the AGM). Officers as at the end of the Financial Year were as indicated.

David Abbott
Ernest Hamley
James Isard
Dominic Johnson
George Lashbrook
Sue Lawn

Treasurer
Secretary
Registrar

Roger Lovegrove
decoted 12 September
retired 4 April
Karen Naylor
Keith Plant
Geoff Riggs
Mary Rix
Mary Rumsey
Mike Spathaky
Ray Stockdill
Chris Swarbrook
Alec Tritton
Alan Tupman
Graham Tuiley
John Witheridge

Chairman
Editor
Vice-Chairman

Sub-committees

The following sub-committees were formed by the Committee during the year. The indicated people were members of the sub-committees at some time during the year, but not necessarily for the whole of the year. The Guild's Constitution requires that all Officers be members of each sub-committee.

Executive Sub-committee

"To make decisions on behalf of the Guild concerning matters which either have been delegated to it by the Committee or are emergency items."

The chairman of this sub-committee was the Guild Chairman, the other members being the Officers.

Seminars Sub-committee

"To organise seminars to advance the education of the public in One-Name Studies as allowed by the Constitution."

The chairman of this sub-committee was John Witheridge, the other members being the Officers and Ernest Hamley, Richard Moore, Mike Spathaky, Derek Palgrave, John Witheridge, Polly Lawrence, Roy Stockdill

Seminars were arranged at Hastings, Stafford, Swindon.
Publications Sub-committee

"To organise and produce those Guild publications, and associated items, which are intended to be read by members generally or by the general public."

The chairman of this Sub-committee was Alec Tritton, the other members being the Officers and Karen Naylor, Sue Lawn, Mike Spithaury, Roy Stockdill, Alan Tupman.

Four editions were published during year (January, April, July, October).

The fourteenth edition of the Register of One-Name Studies was published together with two supplements (a third supplement being published after the end of the Financial Year).

The Guild opened its own domain, with the name www.one-name.org.

The Guild has been represented at meeting(s) of the Federation of Family History Societies, The Scottish Association of Family History Societies and the British Genealogical Record Users Committee.

No postal ballots were held during the year.

Committee is pleased to report that after losses for two consecutive years, this year shows a surplus. This was principally brought about by a revision of subscriptions and registration fees in July 1997. The surplus is a little less than originally expected and was mainly due to investment in capital equipment, needed as a result of the demands of an increasing membership.

On the income side, the increase of over ten thousand pounds may at first sight be misleading. It is a Charity Commission recommendation that all income is stated on the Income and expenditure account. Thus, increased attendance at Annual Conference brought in over two thousand pounds extra; conversely, a similar amount was then expended on extra accommodation.

Obviously, the revision has resulted in a large increase in registration and subscription amounts. Regarding deposit Interest, over 300 members took up the invitation of paying a three year subscription in 1997, making a significant increase in interest received. Also, of particular note is the doubling of donations the Guild has received. This is predominantly due to duplicated subscriptions following the change this year to a year starting in November: a number of errors were made by banks (and some members!) in making the change, and Committee is grateful that most of these duplications were donated. All is not bright though, as sadly, despite a modest increase in the number of covenanting members, the reduction in basic rate tax in the tax year we claimed on (25% to 24%) resulted in a repayment lower than the previous year.

Regarding expenditure, there has been an appreciable increase in the cost of members' copies of the Journal etc., (rising from £7.05 to £9.30 per member). Some of the increase was planned, with the number of pages in the Journal increased and better quality paper used. The FHHS heavily reduced its bulk order for the Register which increased its unit cost. Despite this, and the publication of three supplements, relevant costs increased by less than six hundred pounds.

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<th>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 1998</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales: publications, services and incidentals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference and seminar receipts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and income tax refund on covenants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposit interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Members' copies of Journals, Register and FHND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guild operating expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs: publications (Inc sales), services and incidentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference and seminar expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGM expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,299</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 1998</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESERVES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>represented by</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FIXED ASSETS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,299</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting Policies
   a. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention and applicable accounting standards.
   b. Depreciation has been provided on all assets, using the straightline system, at 25% per annum.

2. Income and Expenditure of Annual Conference and Seminars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>1997</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference, net loss</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars, net gain</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>246</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Donations and refunds of income tax on covenanted Subscriptions

   | Donations, including duplicated subscriptions | 1,097 | 547  |
   | Tax recovered on 1997 (1996) covenanted subscriptions | 865   | 926  |
   |                      | 1,962 | 1,473 |

4. Cost of publications received by members (member's copies only)

   | Journal cost (members' copies) | 4,613 | 3,415 |
   | Register of One-Name Studies (13th) (members' copies, inc supplements) | 2,114 | 1,542 |
   | Family History News & Digest | 3,169 | 2,890 |
   | Dispatch costs of Journal, Register & FHN&D. | 4,821 | 4,330 |
   |                      | 14,717 | 12,186 |

5. Guild operating expenses

   | Post and telephone | 1,050 | 1,042 |
   | Printing and stationery | 1,726 | 1,821 |
   | Committee travelling expenses | 1,315 | 765  |
   | Room hire for committee meetings | 0     | 32   |
   | Sub-committees' expenses | 320   | 257  |
   | Subscriptions | 332   | 313  |
   | Insurance | 110   | 112  |
   | Representation at other Societies | 48    | 244  |
   | Regional (County) representatives' expenses | 86    | 12   |
   | Internet (Website) Expenses | 268   | 291  |
   | Advertising | 216   | 102  |
   | Computer software | 334   | 58   |
   | Independent examiner's (audit) fee | 75    | 75   |
   | Sundry expenses | 117   | 161  |
   |                      | 5,997 | 5,193 |

6. Reserves

   | ACCUMULATED FUND | 3,299 | 1,398 |
   | GENERAL RESERVE FUND as at 31st October 1998 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
   |                      | 6,299 | 4,398 |

7. Fixed Assets - comprising computers, printers and other items

   | Written down value as at 1st November 1997 (1st January 1997) | 972   | 1,224 |
   | Add. Purchases in year - Computer, Printer, Photocopier, Copier/Scanner | 2,122 | 240 |
   | Less Depreciation at 25% per annum | (987) | (492) |
   | Written down value as at 31st October 1998 (31st October 1997) | 2,107 | 972  |

8. Current Assets

   | Stock of publications &c. | 2,069 | 1,869 |
   | Debtors and prepayments | 1,708 | 1,035 |
   | CWS Charities Deposit Account | 12,000 | 14,000 |
   | Bank balances | 335   | 342  |
   | Cash balances | 0     | 1    |
   |                      | 16,112 | 17,247 |

9. Current Liabilities

   | Creditors | 3,139 | 2,737 |
   | Subscriptions received in advance | 8,781 | 11,084 |
   |                      | 11,920 | 13,821 |

* Where noted, the 1997 figures have been restated to give a clearer comparison with the current year, with some new headings added.

End of Annual Report.
Approved by the Committee on 16th January 1999. Signed: Chairman

Treasurer
Independent Examiners’ Report
to the Members of the
Guild of One-Name Studies

I report on the financial statements of the Guild for the year ending 31st October 1998 which are set out on pages 2 and 3.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity’s trustees the committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts; it considers that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner’s report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Guild and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner’s statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

14th April 1999

15 Sunnyfield,
Mill Hill,
London, NW7 4RD

F W Scott
(Signed)
Chartered Accountant
Registered Auditor
2) obtained only for the specified and lawful purposes, and shall not be further processed in any manner incompatible with that purpose or those purposes.

3) adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose or purposes for which they are processed.

4) accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date.

5) processed for any purpose or purposes shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose or those purposes.

6) processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects under this Act.

Further, appropriate technical and organisational measures shall be taken against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.

Data shall not be transferred to a country or territory outside the European Economic Area, unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of protection for the rights and freedoms of data subjects in relation to the processing of personal data.

Consent
One of the conditions for data processing is that it should be carried on with the consent of the data subject. Consent is not defined in the Act, but the definition in the EU Directive may help. It defines "the data subject's consent" as: "any freely given specific and informed indication of his wishes by which the data subject signifies his agreement to personal data relating to him being processed." The fact that the data subject must "signify" their agreement means that there must be some active communication between the parties. Data controllers cannot infer consent from non-response to a communication, for example from a customer's failure to return or respond to a letter or request to confirm data.

The processing of "sensitive data" requires the "explicit consent" of the data subject.

Individual rights
The 1998 Data Protection Act gives rights to individuals (the "data subject") in respect of personal data held about them by others. The data subject's rights are outlined below.

Right of subject access
An individual after request of a data controller in writing and payment of a fee is entitled to be told whether the data controller or their agents are processing that individual's personal data. If the answer is positive, the individual must be given a description of the personal data, the purposes for which the data are being processed, and those persons to whom the data has been or may be disclosed. The disclosure should be intelligible and comprehensive and be supplied in permanent form by way of a copy, unless copying is not feasible. The data controller is also required to reveal any information as to the original source of those data.

A data controller may charge a fee for dealing with subject access, but it is not yet known what the maximum fee will be. A data controller must comply with a request promptly, which is interpreted as within 40 days of receipt of the request or, if later, within 40 days of receipt of the information required. Data controllers are permitted time to satisfy themselves as to the identity of the enquirer, to locate the information which that person seeks and the appropriate fee. A data controller need not comply with a request where they have already answered an identical or similar request by the same individual, unless a reasonable interval has elapsed. The reasonable interval will be defined by: the nature of the data; the purpose for which the data are processed and the frequency with which the data are altered.

The DPA offers guidance for the recognised problem which could occur when data controllers find that complying with a request will require them to disclose information relating to a third party who can be identified from that information.

Right to prevent processing likely to cause damage or distress:
An individual is entitled to require a data controller to cease or not to process personal data of which that individual is the data subject, where such processing is causing or is likely to cause unwarranted substantial damage or substantial distress to them or to another. The data controller has 21 days to respond to such a data subject notice by way of a written notice to the individual. The data controller has to confirm compliance with this request, or intention to comply with the request or state the reasons for regarding the request as unjustified. This request can be enforced by a court order.

Right to prevent processing for the purposes of direct marketing
An individual may require a data controller to cease or not to begin processing personal data relating to that individual for the purposes of direct marketing. The individual may apply to court for an order to that effect if the data controller fails to comply with the notice.

Rights in relation to automated decision-taking
An individual may require a data controller to ensure that no decision which significantly affects them is based solely on such automated decision-taking as evaluating matters relating to the data subject, such as their performance at work, their credit worthiness, their reliability or their conduct.

Right to take action for compensation
If the individual suffers damage by any contravention of the Act by the data controller, they are entitled to pursue a claim for compensation through the courts. The data controller's defence is to prove that they had taken such care as was reasonable in all the circumstances to comply with the relevant requirement. Damages for distress alone can be claimed where the contravention relates to the processing of personal data for "special purposes".

Right to obtain rectification action
A data subject may apply to the Court for an order requiring the data controller to rectify, block, erase or destroy inaccurate data relating to them as well as any other personal data which contain an expression of opinion based on the inaccurate data.

Right to request the Commissioner
An aggrieved individual has the right to request the Data
Commissioner for an assessment to be made as to whether any provision of the Act has been contravened. Dependant upon the Commissioner's assessment, which may involve the service of information notices by the Commissioner, this may lead to enforcement action being taken by the Commissioner.

Likely timetable of introduction

The Government has yet to agree and publish a timetable for the introduction of the 1998 DPA. However, the guidance from the Registrar is that there will only be a short period before the Act is fully enforced. It is recommended that if you are considering registration, you should do so in advance of the full implementation. The Registrar's staff are available to advise members of the public.

Exemptions from notification

There are a number of exemptions from various provisions of the Act; the “primary exemptions” and the “miscellaneous exemptions”. The primary exemptions include national security, crime and taxation purposes; health, education and social work; regulatory activity; journalism, artistic purposes, or literary purposes; research, history and statistics; information made available to the public by or under enactment; disclosures required by law; disclosures made in connection with legal proceedings; and domestic purposes.

The miscellaneous exemptions include: confidential references given by the data controller for specified purposes; where personal data could prejudice the combat effectiveness of any of the Armed Forces; data involved in Judicial Appointments and Honours or in Crown employment and Crown or ministerial appointments; management forecasts and planning; negotiations; corporate finance; examination scripts and marks; legal professional privilege; and self incrimination.

Registration and notification

The new Act introduces a new system of “notification” that will replace the existing registration scheme. This will result in a register of data controllers replacing the present Register of data users. Until the notification provisions come into force, any application for registration received by the Commissioner will be dealt with in accordance with the Principles and other provisions in the 1984 Act.

The Data Protection Register contains the names and addresses of all registered data users with broad details of the data they process. The Register is open to public inspection at the Registrar’s office in Wilmslow. Copies of individual register entries are available free of charge by contacting the Registrar’s Information Line. A register entry only shows what a data user is registered to do; it does not name the individuals on whom it holds personal data. The Register is available via the Data Protection Registrar’s web page: http://www.open.gov.uk/dpr/dprhome.htm

With the exceptions outlined earlier, if you hold or control personal data on computer, you must register with the Data Protection Registrar. Registration is normally for three years and one standard fee is payable to cover this period. To register you should telephone 01625 545740. The registrar’s staff will advise enquirer of the fee to be paid. Those found guilty of non-registration can be fined up to £5,000.

A register entry gives the data controller’s name and address together with broad descriptions of:

- those about whom personal data are held;
- the items of data held;
- the purposes for which the data are used;
- the sources from which the information may be obtained;
- the types of organisations to whom the information may be disclosed;
- any overseas countries or territories to which the data may be transferred.

Conclusions

The requirements of the new Data Protection Act are such that the majority of UK-based individuals who hold genealogical records which refer to living citizens of the UK and the European Economic area must register. It is certainly wise to register now before the full notification scheme is introduced. It is noteworthy that the Society of Genealogists and many family history societies and other genealogical groups are already registered because of their membership records.

If you have any doubts about registration, you are recommended to contact the Data Protection Registrar’s staff by email to data@wycliffe.demon.co.uk, or by conventional letter to: Office of the Data Protection Registrar, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

[Extracts from the Guidelines to the Data Protection Act, 1998 are used here with permission of the Data Protection Commissioner.]

IAIN KERR
Member No. 2404
(Southen/Southen and McTurk/MacTurk)
email iainkerr@clara.net

COMMENT by The Editor

THE provisions of the new Data Protection Act, as outlined by Iain Kerr, fill me with alarm and apprehension for genealogy. On the one hand, certain clauses seem to suggest that any personal records at all about living people, whether on computer or on paper, could be subject to the Act. Does this extend even to one’s Christmas card list, or a letter to your granny relaying some piece of gossip about Aunt Mabs?

On the other hand, will not genealogy qualify for exemption under one, or more, of the various headings: “artistic or literary purposes”, “research, history and statistics”, or “domestic purposes” (as a hobby)? It seems that the draft regulations are still being debated between the Home Office and the Data Protection Registrar, so the full implications are not yet known.

Personally, I have never believed the original Data Protection Act was ever intended to apply to family historians at all, but became a typical piece of catch-all legislation. But, then, I wouldn’t like to be a test case! We shall be glad of readers’ views on this matter. ☺
The end is nigh! Your last chance to join in the 1881 Project  

By Geoff Riggs

XBRIDGE debating societies used to argue that "one must draw the line somewhere" and, unfortunately, that's true of the 1881 Project. Input forms are still being received from members, and we've now passed the 400 mark, but we have had to set a deadline of August 31. After that date, I'm afraid we must move on to the next phase of preparing the contents of the County and Registration District discs and sending them out to those members who've ordered them. So the next month or so is your last chance to benefit from this service, and to get the 1881 distribution of your registered surname included in the Guild book to be published next year.

Why the long wait?

To those of you who've had to wait such a long time to receive your spreadsheets and maps, I apologise once more. But for the first time, this article doesn't have to include yet another explanation for further delays (touch wood), although I have run my old laser printer into the ground and had to buy a new one. The length of the delays has been compounded by the fact that over half of the 400 forms to be processed were received in the first three months of the Project. Those members submitting their forms in 1998 and 1999 have therefore had an even longer wait because of the log jam in front of them.

Each form can take a couple of hours to process, by the time the data is "number-crunched" and manipulated, and the resultant map then personalised with textual details of the densest counties. The revision of the original figures to identify London separately has obviously added to the processing time, especially where there is a large number of occurrences and/or a number of variants which may not be "alphabetically adjacent" but split over a number of fiche. And if there is a discrepancy with the original totals, this has to be referred back to the member to help resolve and agree the correct figures.

But we feel sure that the vast majority of you will have been more than pleased with your outputs when you eventually receive them. We've had lots of favourable comments and letters of thanks, but we'll restrict ourselves to quoting from just one, sent in by an eminent member of the genealogical world: "This really is a wonderful service you are undertaking and makes one's membership of the Guild a rewarding experience."

Quite a few members have commented that this exercise has prompted them to re-examine their surname's variants, having come across significant occurrences of new examples they previously hadn't considered. And others have been surprised at the new perspective they now have of their surname's distribution, viewed in terms of density rather than pure numbers.

Your position on copyright

A number of members have also enquired as to what the copyright position is on their output because they are eager to include the map in a newsletter, or in a web-page on the Internet. Copyright on all output from the Project is held by the Guild, and extends over the methods applied and the design of the resultant outputs. However, the Guild member has intellectual copyright on the initial analysis on which the outputs are based, and he or she is free to reproduce the results, provided that the Guild's copyright on the output is acknowledged.

Transcription errors

Part One of my original article, in the July 1997 Journal, highlighted the number of transcription errors that you might detect and have to correct your data accordingly. With my own surname of Riggs, there were 1,007 entries for that name, but 27 of these had to be excluded because they proved to be other than figgs in the original census, and a further 50 Riggs in the original census had been wrongly transcribed as other names: 77 out of 1,007 occurrences represents an error rate of some 7.5% on surnames alone.

My original article went on to ask you to advise me of any transcription errors which affect surname or birthplace. This was so that I could in turn advise them en bloc to Mrs Susan Lumas, the PRO contact person who was compiling a "list of submitted errors to be published from time to time" (see Family History News and Digest, April 1997).

Mrs Lumas has now produced the first such booklet, 1881 Census Project: Reported "mistakes" (the inverted commas are hers, not mine), and a copy has been sent to family history societies. As stated, she is concerned solely with errors in surname or birthplace, not forenames or ages or other errors that may prevent you from positively identifying a person you are looking for.

My thanks to those members who have already sent me details of such errors with their input forms. The important thing to note is that Mrs Lumas states that she
"will do one more collection of mistakes and add it to what has already been collected after that the counter is closed." I need to prepare and check details of any reportable errors for Mrs Lumas before the end of August, so sending them to me before the middle of August will be your last chance to set the record straight.

Please make sure, to qualify for inclusion in the final edition of this booklet, that you include the full PRO reference (Piece Number and folio are essential), the page number (on the fiche not the census) and type of fiche, such as As Enumerated 01234 or Surname 43210, and the incorrect as well as correct details. I can then submit a combined report to Mrs Lumas on behalf of the Guild's members.

GEOFF RIGGS, Member No. 2408
Peacehaven, Badgers Meadow,
Pwllmeiric, Chepstow
Monmouthshire NP6 6UE

EXPLORING back streets in faraway Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, former Committee member Ernest Hamley thought he had uncovered the headquarters of a rival organisation to the Guild.

Just to show he wasn't kidding, and to prove his discovery, Ernest had this picture of himself taken outside the front door, with its impressive canopy, by a passer-by. In fact, Ernest tells us, the building is an educational centre for advanced-level Malaysian-Chinese students and was named after its founder and principal, a Mr. Goon.

Ernest adds, somewhat cryptically: "And don't you dare ask what I was really looking for in the back streets of Kuala Lumpur!" As if we would, Ernest, as if we would! :-)

Report from Gillingham
Another successful AGM and Conference

The Guild's 1999 Annual General Meeting and Conference over the weekend of April 16-18 1999 turned out to be another successful and well attended event. Sixty delegates enjoyed three days of meeting old and new friends, hearing some very interesting talks - and, of course, a certain amount of socialising after the business of the day.

The theme of the Conference was "Musket, Fife and Drum" and the venue was most appropriate, since the King Charles Hotel, Gillingham, Kent, is a former Royal Engineers' NAAFI and the Gillingham/Chatham area is, of course, steeped in military and naval history.

Saturday morning was taken up with the introduction and welcome by the Guild President Derek Palgrave, followed by the AGM, presided over by Chairman Roger Lovegrove. There was no contested election for the Committee this year, so the following members were elected unopposed:

Alec Tritton, Jim Isard, David Abbott, Dominic Johnson, Mary Ramsey, Roy Stockdill, Graham Tuley, Karen Naylor, Mary Rix, Geoff Riggs, Roy Rayment, Pat Fleming, John Colloff and John Laws. (At the May Committee meeting, Paul Millington was co-opted).

The first talk of the day was given by Norman Holding, author of several FFHS books on World War I records. In his introduction, the audience was much amused by the story of how Norman, making an enquiry of a member of the PRO staff, was asked, "Have you read Mr. Holding's book?" to which he replied: "Read it, I wrote it!"

Norman then gave a fascinating account of how he had traced the career of his father, a WWI ambulance mechanic, largely using postcards he had sent home from the places in which he had been serving. It took him two years and many visits to Kew.

The second talk of the day came from Eileen Stage, who has made a fascinating study of coastguards. Eileen told how she was started on her quest by tracing the history and career of her husband's great-grandfather, who was a coastguard. Eighteen years later, she has an index of over 70,000 names.

The coastguards were founded in 1822 and their original role was largely devoted to dealing with smugglers. It was an unpopular and high-risk job, since coastguards were sometimes killed by the smugglers they were trying to catch. Moreover, they and their families lived on board ship in very cramped conditions.

Eileen Stage explained that around the time of the
Crimean War the coastguards’ activities changed from pursing smugglers to helping with shipwrecks, etc. She also mentioned the losses of coastguards at sea during World War I.

There were three talks on the Sunday, the second day of the conference. Following the theme of “Musket, Fife and Drum,” the first talk was on “A Royal Navy One-Name Study”, given by Paul Blake. This traced the naval careers of members of the Grandy family, plus a few others of the name who could not be connected to the main tree. The talk was illustrated with trees and photographs and many important facts were brought out relating to naval research.

After a coffee break, the second talk of the day, “Gone for a Soldier”, was given by Iain Swinnerton. Again, there were many illustrations and the talk covered the large number of WO classifications to be found at the PRO which can be used in the search for army ancestors. Iain pointed out that in the past all soldiers who received a pension in this country, excluding Ireland, were Chelsea pensioners, either “out pensioners” living outside the Royal Chelsea Hospital, or “in pensioners” if living in the hospital. Of all men who served in the army, only a third received a pension. A third of the rest were killed, while the final third served too short a time to be eligible.

In the afternoon, the talk “In Kilt and Trews”, given by Iain Kerr, again was well illustrated and covered the Scottish regiments, whether of the regular army, fencibles or militia. Iain explained that the fencibles were a kind of militia for home defence.

Iain also gave sources for Scottish military records which are to be found outside of the PRO. These include the Scottish Muster Rolls which are to be found in Edinburgh and, for those who served in the Indian Army, in the India Room of the British Library.

For those attending these talks, they certainly went a long way towards helping to overcome the problems of military research, which many family historians find difficult and confusing.

At a Committee meeting held on the Saturday afternoon, after the main conference was over, Alec Tritton was elected Chairman, succeeding Roger Lovegrove who had to stand down for personal reasons. The following officers were also elected: Mary Rumsey, Vice-Chairman; Jim Isard, Secretary; David Abbott, Treasurer; Dominic Johnson, Registrar; Roy Stockdill, Editor.

We were delighted to welcome to the Conference one of the Guild’s overseas members, Mrs. Pam Cook, Member No. 2148, from Christchurch, New Zealand. She was in England to visit her daughter and do some research. She was pleased with the theme, as both she and her husband have military ancestors.

On parade...your new Committee

Alec Tritton
Chairman

Mary Rumsey
Vice-Chairman

David Abbott
Treasurer

Jim Isard
Secretary

Dominic Johnson
Registrar

Roy Stockdill
Editor

Karen Naylor
Web Manager

Graham Tuley
RR Co-ordinator

Mary Rix
FFHS Rep

Geoff Riggs
Bookstall

Roy Rayment
Pat Fleming
Paul Millington
John Laws
John Colloff
Librarian

The Journal of One-Name Studies, July 1999
Somerset Seminar a fine tribute to Eric Banwell

WEST Monkton Village Hall, near Taunton, our venue for the Somerset Regional Seminar on May 17, was opened in 1979, the same year that the Guild was formed. A possible good omen for the seminar - and so it turned out.

The seminar was dedicated to the memory of the late Eric Banwell who, as Somerset Representative of the Guild, had been involved in much of the event's early planning. Among the 40 or so delegates from many parts of England and Wales there were several senior members of the newly elected Guild Committee.

Geoff Riggs got things under way with a step by step account of the methods used and progress made in the Guild’s 1881 Surname Distribution Project. His talk was illustrated with examples taken from submissions by attending delegates. He also paid tribute to technical input by Eric Banwell in the calculation of population density, etc., that had been incorporated into the project.

Next followed a slide presentation by archivist Ms Julie Mansfield, from the Somerset County Record Office. She showed examples of the less obvious documents held in Record Offices that can contain a wealth of information for the one-name researcher. She emphasised that a little lateral thinking can pay handsome dividends.

Audience participation was the order of the day and Julie made us all work to decipher the handwriting contained in an overseer of the poor’s rate book from the reign of William and Mary.

The lunch break provided an opportunity for delegates to examine displays of their researches brought by several delegates, look through the Guild’s display of one-name journals and the Marriage Index, or make purchases from the Guild’s and other FHs bookstalls.

In the afternoon, Tony Pomeroy enlivened the “pudding session” with an account how his one-name study, from humble beginnings, had become a worldwide family association. The culmination of several years’ work was a recent gathering of over 200 “Pom’s” at Berry Pomeroy Castle and village, near Totnes, Devon.

Trenchant

The seminar ended with a question and answer session, enabling lain Swinnerton, a founder member of the Guild and one of the panel, to offer some trenchant views on membership criteria - not necessarily those of the current executive.

The seminar organisers set out to provide delegates with an informative and enjoyable event in an attractive venue, judging from kind comments that have been received, this we achieved. Eric would have been well satisfied! :)

Ken Dilkes, Member No. 2318 Somerset Regional Representative

Cornwall Group’s successful Falmouth Fair

SIX members of the Guild’s Cornwall Interest Group attended the second Family History Fair organised by the Cornwall Family History Society at Falmouth during the second May Bank Holiday weekend, having taken part in the first fair two years ago and found it a useful way of making their research available to a wider public.

Additionally, three Guild members researching Cornish names attended and exhibited, independently of the Group. It is good to hear that, in spite of having been unwell for a couple of years, Doug Treharne is again fit enough to blow his bugle. Tradition is all!!

Seven Group members presented exhibitions of their work and attracted a great deal of interest. Information and enquiries were received from a large number of people and, where necessary, are being passed on to those Guild members who were not present. Quite a number of people took information about how to start a one-name study, on finding that their name was not registered.

Pasty supper

Seven members of the Group stayed together in the same hotel and eight members enjoyed a pasty supper on the Saturday evening. They were pleased to be joined by Alan Gerrish, the newly volunteered County Representative for Cornwall, and to have the opportunity to meet him and discuss matters of common interest. The Group also enjoyed the reminiscences of a Metropolitan Police dog trainer after the formal business!

It was agreed that exhibiting was a valuable exercise and would be repeated at C.F.H.S. Annual Conferences and future Fairs. The quality of the displays needs to be improved and they need to be more standardised in format, so that they look less “bitty”. It was agreed to standardise on an A1 format, which fitted the tables well. It was also agreed that a Guild banner was needed and some form of display boards to enhance the exhibits.

Again it was demonstrated that those who do attend, can and do deal with many enquiries for those not present, and even for non-Cornish names. Members not displaying would, in future, be encouraged to provide material, even if they will never be able to attend in person. They will be sent samples of the A1 format.

The Group was thanked by the Cornwall F.H.S. for a worthwhile contribution to the fair.

Chris Barrett, Member No. 257 Cornwall Interest Group
Attending a family history fair?
Get your Guild publicity pack

We announced in the April journal that we now have a publicity pack, which is available to members who would like to attend any fair, be it local or family history-based, to promote the Guild. I have since been asked what is included, and how to use the pack.

The pack contains:
- 2 A4 Laminated posters called “The Guild of One-Name Studies”.
- 2 A4 Laminated posters called “What is a one-name study?”.
- 2 A4 Laminated posters called “How do I start a one-name study?”.
- 2 A4 Laminated posters called “How do I join the Guild?”.
- 2 A4 Laminated copies of our publication list.
- 30 Application forms.
- 50 Name leaflets.
- 30 “Introducing the Guild” leaflets.
- 1 copy of the current register and any supplements due.
- A return address label.
- To book a pack please contact me on publicity@one-name.org or write to me at: 16 Mayfair Drive Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV10 8RP at least two weeks before you need the pack.

On receipt of the pack, you should check that all the items mentioned above are enclosed, if they are not then please contact me and I will arrange for replacements to be sent. On finishing with the pack, you are asked to post it back to the publicity manager using the return address label provided.

KAREN NAYLOR
Publicity Manager

Regional Seminars

Liverpool – Saturday, October 16
Venue: Rainhill Village Hall, Rainhill, Prescot, Merseyside.
Time: 10.0 a.m.
Programme: One-name research from a distance, Dave Hylands; Publishing for One-Name Studies, Roy Stockdill; The 1881 Surname Distribution Project, Geoff Riggs; General Questions Session, led by Harold Culling.

You will find a booking form with this mailing of The @~rnal.

Greater London – February 2000
Venue to be arranged.

The theme of this seminar will be researching from newspapers, including the Newspaper Library at Colindale, local newspapers and other records.

Warwickshire – May 2000
Venue to be arranged.

A computer theme, with speakers on using computers in family history and demonstrations of genealogy programs.

Wales – October 2000, Tintern
Venue to be arranged.

SoG Birmingham Fair
THE Guild will be having a stand at the Society of Genealogists Family History Fair at the NEC, Birmingham, on September 25 and 26. Volunteers are needed to help man the stall. Please contact Karen Naylor if you are willing to help.

Brocklehurst display
A DISPLAY of over 60 Brocklehurst pedigrees will be held at the Wirksworth Memorial Hall, Wirksworth, Derbyshire, on Saturday, October 2, from 10.0 a.m. till 4.0 p.m. The display will include thousands of Births, Marriages and Deaths, as well as over 750 Wills/Admons, and covers 12 English counties, 50-plus parishes and also includes America (more than 15 States, Canada (Newfoundland and Nova Scotia), Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand. For details, contact either Frank Brocklehurst (Member No. 819), 1 Park Avenue, Markfield, Leicestershire LE67 9WA, tel 01530 243370, e-mail fb@brocko.demon.co.uk or Jean Norman, 31 Wallfields Close, Findern, Derbyshire DE65 6QL, tel 01332 516944.

Graham Tuley

Could you be a Regional Rep?
I WAS re-elected to the post of Regional Representatives Coordinator at the Committee Meeting after the AGM. We had a brief meeting of the RRs and I believe that this was helpful, although I am aware that not everyone can afford the time or expense of attending the AGM.

Last year I managed to meet the RR in New Zealand and one from the south of England visited me in Inverness this spring. It is unlikely I will be visiting other RRs, but do let me know if you will be coming to the north of Scotland. I am pleased to report that a number of members have contacted me, wishing to find out what are the responsibilities of a RR. The minimum requirement is that you keep in contact with me at least once a year.

On the inside back page of the Journal are the names of the current RRs. If you have not heard from your rep recently, then do make contact and encourage them, or offer to help. I know one or two RRs would like to hand on their responsibilities, so if you think you could do more, then please make contact with me at the RR. I am sure that those who are members of the Guild Committee would really welcome some reduction in their workload.

There is no need to search through the Register to discover how many members there are in your area – this can be done for you and can be supplied as address labels if you wish.

Last year, both Wales and Scotland were reorganised and there are now two RRs for each country. There are many countries and a lot of English counties that are without reps and I hope more volunteers will come forward. After each Committee meeting I produce a newsletter to pass on what I think may be useful to the RRs and encourage them to provide comments for me to pass on to the Committee.

Graham Tuley
BASIC APPROACH TO MAKING CONTACT WITH RELATIVES, by Peter C. Amsden. A5 paperback booklet, 16 pages. ISBN: 1 86006 749 4. Published in 1999 by The Federation of Family History Societies (Publications) Ltd., 2-4 Killer Street, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire, BL0 9BZ.

This booklet is a new addition to the Basic Approach to series of books. Guild member Peter has aimed to show that family history is not just about obtaining information from past records, but that the living can often hold a wealth of knowledge about the past. More than one might, at first, have thought of. No matter how much progress you have made on your family tree, making contact with people could very well supply you with important clues – possibly a vital piece of information that makes a huge difference to your tree. If it were not to be written down, it might be lost forever. How many times have you wished that somebody from a previous generation had noted down events about your ancestors?

There is one main hurdle that you need to get over. How do you approach people, on what, at times, are potentially sensitive subjects? People need to be reassured about your motives. You need to use every ounce of your tact and diplomacy to put people at their ease. With the help of this easy-to-read booklet, the importance of contacting the living is not only achieved, but you should be able to succeed without offending anyone.

Peter suggests that the researcher, at first, should have a strategy for their project. He then explains the type of sources that are available and how to use them. Making contact with people, whether it is, for example, via the telephone, mail, or internet, is explained. Lastly, the importance of keeping records is emphasised.

A very good publication for anybody thinking of making cold contact with people.

NUTS AND BOLTS: Family History Problem Solving through Family Reconstitution Techniques, by Andrew Todd. A5 paperback, 56 pages. ISBN: 0 948781 14 9. Published in 1998 by Allen and Todd, 9-11, Square Street, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire, BL0 9BE. Tel/Fax: 01706 827988. Also from: FFHS Publications Ltd., 2-4, Killer Street, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire, BL0 9BZ. Price: £3.00

This book was written with the intention of making the researcher realise the importance of researching all lines, and not just the direct line. Andrew Todd has certainly achieved this. I feel sure that he will have given many researchers the inspiration and the understanding of “researching wide helps you to search deep” and that they, too, will be rewarded with the benefits of this fascinating type of research.

Ten levels

There are 10 levels of complexity in family reconstitution – the term that is used for this form of research. Each project can be taken to varying heights, from the simplest level, which is a couple of generations of one family group, maybe taking a few hours, to the most advanced level, (which many Guild members will identify with) that becomes a lifetime’s work!

Throughout the book, Andrew eagerly shares with the reader his many years of experience. He guides us into different research areas, and at the same time, by using examples of his own studies, he highlights the importance of family reconstitution. We are shown some of the challenges that he has encountered over the years, and how he has been able to solve them. One does wonder, if it were not for this type of research, if many of these problems might otherwise have remained a mystery?

I feel that this book will become a little gem to all researchers, from the novice to those with more experience. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it and would give it space on my bookcase any day.

THE LOCATION OF BRITISH ARMY RECORDS 1914-1918, fourth edition by Norman Holding, revised and updated by: lain Swinnerton. A5 soft cover, 120 pages. ISBN: 1 86006 084 6. Published in 1999 by the Federation of Family History Societies (Publications) Ltd., 2-4 Killer Street, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire, BL0 9BZ. Price: £5.95

As Norman Holding was committed to revising two of his other books dealing with WW1 soldiers, lain Swinnerton jumped into the breach and undertook the task of updating this edition. A major revision was needed due to the transfer of the WW1 soldiers’ documents to the PRO in 1996 and the officers’ documents in 1998. Iain also took the opportunity of contacting all the regimental museums, so that they could update their entries if they wished.

He also included all the museums’ names and addresses, whether they held individual records or not. The list of either related publications has also been updated. The service records of WW1 soldiers, their condition, whereabouts and availability are also given. The next 14 chapters are packed with information that will help anyone to locate any British Army record.

You certainly do not have to be an experienced researcher to use this book. Norman intended that the book was “to provide those
researching the life of a soldier during WW1 with a number of pointers on where to look for documents to assist him."

With Ian Swinnerton's help in revising and updating this fourth edition has it still been achieved? Would I give this book space on my bookcase? The answer would have to be YES, YES, to both counts.

**BRITISH GENEALOGICAL BOOKS IN PRINT**, by Stuart A. Raymond. A5 soft cover, 160 pages. ISBN: 1-86000-095-1; ISSN: 1033-2065. Published in 1999 by The Federation of Family History Societies (Publications) Ltd. From: S.A. and M.J. Raymond, P.O. Box 35, Exeter, Devon, EX1 3YZ. Also from FFHS Publications Ltd., 2-4, Killer Street, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire, BL0 9BZ. Price: £8.95

There are many genealogical books published by a wide range of organisations, both private and commercial. Trying to find out what is currently available is by no means an easy task.

Stuart Raymond has made an attempt to remedy this situation by listing all titles, published anywhere in the world, relating to England, Scotland and Wales that might be of interest to the British genealogist. Included are a few CD-ROMs that have come to his attention. It must be noted, that Ireland has not been included in this volume.

**Scottish**

Publications of member societies of the Federation of Family History Societies have also been excluded, as they are listed in their own publication, but as Scottish family history societies are not FFHS members, their publications have been listed in this book. In general, local histories are also excluded.

It is suggested that this book can be kept up to date by referring to the new book listings in journals such as Family Tree Magazine, Family History News and Digest, and the Genealogists Magazine. The books are listed by publisher, but there are also indexes of authors, surnames, place names and subjects. This makes finding an item very easy.

A publication of this type, I feel, is desperately needed in family history circles. Stuart compiled this edition by sending a questionnaire to publishers.

Let's hope he has so much more information sent in from all relevant publishers that this book becomes a tome that has to be edited and revised on a regular basis. It will then become an invaluable tool.


Originally Stuart had intended to included microfiche publications in his book, British Genealogical Books In Print, but, on reflection, decided to list microfiche separately. This being the case, the previous review also applies to this book.

**ONE-NAME JOURNALS & NEWSLETTERS FROM THE DESKTOP** written and designed by Roy Stockdill. A4 booklet, 16 pages. ISBN: 0 9516478 7 3. Published in 1999 by The Guild of One-Name Studies, Box G, 14, Charter House Buildings, Goswell Road, London, EC1 7BA. Price: £2.95. Available from the Guild Sales Manager (address in inside front cover).

This booklet was first published in 1997 in a slightly different format. It is with great pleasure that the Guild is now producing this publication, with all profits from its sales going straight to the Guild.

How many times have you thought of producing a newsletter or a one-name journal? Have you been putting the project on the back burner? Maybe you do not know how to produce a good quality product? This booklet will hopefully answer all your questions, and guide you through, step by step, from the initial conception to distribution of the printed copy.

The author, Roy Stockdill, is a professional journalist with more than 40 years' experience. After researching his family history for about 20 years, he founded the Stockdill Family History Society in 1996. He recently became the editor of The Journal of One-Name Studies — yes, the very publication that you are reading this review in!

Roy has passed on his wealth of experience freely in this booklet to enable others to publish a newsletter or journal with flair and individuality that will grab the attention of its readers. This booklet will help from the moment that you decide to take those first tentative steps in producing your own publication.

**Strategy**

Firstly, a strategy has to be worked out, followed by the types of equipment that can be used. Next, you are guided through the different stages of design, and the formation of the front page, to the most eye-catching layout, which includes the use of fonts. Once you have designed your pages and decided how many there should be, Roy then gives suggestions on ways to fill them.

The inevitable problems that all editors have to face, and how to deal with them, are confronted. The uses of illustrations, and their reproduction, are also covered. The final stages, printing, artwork and distribution of your publication bring this exercise to a close.

The last three pages of this booklet are devoted to the guidelines for entrants to the Guild Award for One-Name Periodicals. This award is to be made annually to a registered Guild member at the Annual Guild Conference. The award is intended to encourage registered members, to produce regular newsletters and journals to a high standard.

I feel sure this publication will answer many questions, not only for people thinking about producing their own newsletters but those who felt that it would be an impossible task. This book will also be an enormous help to those individuals and societies who wish to improve the quality of their publications. I look forward to reviewing all of them. Would I give this product room on my bookcase? It’s already there!
Letters

Guild definition and evolution

DURING the General Questions Session at the recent Taunton Seminar, a non-member said she'd started a one-name study and had already extracted a considerable amount of data from the required sources. She wanted to know to what extent did she have to complete these before being able to join the Guild.

This highlights a common misconception amongst non-member one-namers, one that we as members should do our best to correct wherever we meet it.

Firstly, anyone can join the Guild as an ordinary member without even having to register a surname as a one-name study. In this way, they can understand better the advantages of being a full "Category" member, learn more about one-name studies from the Journal, seminars and Guild Conferences and generally appreciate and share in the mutual help and support Guild members normally provide to each other. They are also free to pursue their (unregistered) one-name study without being bound by the Guild's strict rules of responding to all reply-paid enquiries.

Secondly, one does not have to complete all the data extractions that the Guild defines before one can register a surname. If one has, then that might mean being able to come in as a Category B or A member, since the minimum requirements for those categories have already been fulfilled. The whole purpose of having a Category C membership is to cater for those members who genuinely intend to build up a substantial body of worldwide data, and who have started this task with commitment but not yet completed it. These members are still extracting their data.

Please forgive me if I am teaching you to suck eggs, but the misconception is so widespread that, if we do already know all this, why aren't we correcting it?

One of my fellow panellists during the Session at Taunton was lain Swinnerton, whose experience and knowledge in the field of family history (as well as of battle) ensures that his views are always well-balanced, practical and informed. As one of the founder members of the Guild in 1979 (member No. 127), he reminded us that the original rationale in setting up a Guild 'as distinct from an ordinary society - was to recognise and admit craftsmen, who had already served their apprenticeship by extracting their data before being admitted.

Analogy

I always listen receptively to lain, and respect his views. Therefore, driving home afterwards, I thought through the implications of his analogy. The Guild has changed in the past 20 years admittedly, but then so has the whole field of family history. Nowadays, there is a whole host of local family history societies to give help and support to practitioners in genealogy generally. And I suspect most of us more recent Guild members have come up via that route, researching our own family histories. We probably then carried out a small one-name study, localised by either time or place, in an attempt to unravel family relationships, and distinguish ancestors and their siblings from others with the same surname. Then, like Topsy, "just grow'd".

Iain's analogy is therefore still a valid one, but I would suggest that, in this changed environment we have already served our apprenticeships as family historians. We have then become sufficiently intrigued as to wish to graduate into one-namers. And thus, having "come up through the ranks" (to mix in another metaphor with which Iain will be familiar), we have already served our apprenticeships. The lady at Taunton who asked the original question is a prime example of this, being a prominent member of the Somerset and Dorset FHS.

Category C members should, therefore, have already mastered the basic skills and the art of genealogical research, and hopefully how to extend those general skills to the more specialised skills needed by one namers. So they enter the Guild having already earned the status of craftsmen. Extending lain's analogy still further, I submit that Category B and A members should then be regarded as "master craftsmen".

Before I leave the subject, though, let us not forget the alternative definition of a Guild, according to my Concise Oxford Dictionary. Yes, it is defined as "a medieval association of craftsmen or merchants", but it is also defined as "a society for mutual aid or prosecution of common objects". And it is the mutual help and support, mentioned at the start of this letter, that we should be stressing in order to attract more one-namers into the Guild, and to widen our appeal without losing sight of our craftsman-like standards.

I am pleased to say our questioner was sufficiently persuaded, by what she learned at the general questions session and in discussion afterwards, that she went away with an application form, having resolved to join the Guild.

Incidentally, Iain, may I lightly heartedly remind you that the dictionary alternatively defines a craftsman as a private soldier in R.M.E.? It is a small world.

Geoff Riggs, Member no. 2408
Peacehaven, Badgers Meadow
Pwllewynic, Chepstow
Monmouthshire NP6 6UE
What rank was the "Sergeant"?

I was fascinated by the portrait of David Readman on the front cover of the April 1999 issue of The journal, in which he is described as a sergeant. He is wearing a junior officer's cap, which a sergeant would certainly not be doing unless as a prank, which is extremely unlikely.

I cannot see any symbols of his rank, either on his epaulettes, when a narrow ring would show his rank as a Pilot Officer, or a slightly wider ring for a Flying Officer, or even two rings for a Flight Lieutenant. If he was a sergeant, it might have been possible to see his Sergeant stripes on either or both sleeves. Apart from his cap, there is no other evidence of his rank, but an examination of the original photograph might give a better indication.

It should be noticed that the airman is wearing an "S" flying brevet that indicates Signaller, which was later worn by most wireless operator/air gunners. All wireless operators upon gaining their flying brevet were accorded the rank of sergeant, and this possibly is where the error arose.

Dr. George A. Goulty
(Ex-RAF Signaller, Flying Officer)
Member No. 59
Stonecroft
7A Fenbridge Road
Werrington
Peterborough PE4 6RD

Arms are porcupines or hedgehogs, not boars

I appreciate the interest shown by Dr. Bernard A. Juby in the article that I wrote regarding the Eborall/Abraball arms. Dr. Juby points out that the arms do show hedgehogs and certainly not sea shells. A fellow Eborall researcher, Miss Carolyn Sheasby, photographed the tablet when we visited the church in 1995. Dr. Juby's suggestion that the artist (?), may have recorded mis-shaped hedgehogs for sea shells is probably correct.

The memorial plate is rather high up on the wall and is enclosed within the interior of the tower structure, so one is not able to step back any distance to try to see it more clearly. Perhaps the plate has been cleaned since the artist recorded it. I know that an Eborall man paid for the Hampton in Arden memorial to be cleaned in the 1920s.

Duncan Currie
Member No. 2245
12 Palmer House
Warrender Road
London N19 5EH

NOT sea shells

Regarding the mural tablet in Holy Trinity Church at Hatton to Joseph Eborall who died in 1793, anyone visiting the church will find that the arms do show hedgehogs and certainly not sea shells. A fellow Eborall researcher, Miss Carolyn Sheasby, photographed the tablet when we visited the church in 1995. Dr. Juby's suggestion that the artist (?), may have recorded mis-shaped hedgehogs for sea shells is probably correct.

The memorial plate is rather high up on the wall and is enclosed within the interior of the tower structure, so one is not able to step back any distance to try to see it more clearly. Perhaps the plate has been cleaned since the artist recorded it. I know that an Eborall man paid for the Hampton in Arden memorial to be cleaned in the 1920s.

A curate and two old maids

I am enclosing a snippet from a cousin of mine. June Springer, of Wanganui, New Zealand, which is a follow-up to the amusing paragraph "Neighbors from Hell" published in The Journal of January 1999 page 212.

June writes...

"The journal of One-Name Studies for January 1999 contained a paragraph contributed by Janet Heskins quoting 'felony cases' from Gloucestershire Quarter Sessions records for June 7 1784 whereby charges were laid about pulling up shrubs and plants from the properties of Mary and Elizabeth Pinfold of Minchinhampton. I can identify the ladies, who were the last of their line.

"Research on various Pinfold lines was carried out in the 1970s by Miss Mildred Pinfold of London, Ontario, Canada. 'The Pinfolds of England, Canada and New Zealand'.

"Mary (1722-1800) and Elizabeth (1725-1899) were the daughters of Joseph and Ann Pinfold and lived in a house called The Lammas, dating from the reign of Edward I. After their deaths there was a court case disputing their will and the defendant's counsel gave the reason for the bequest as part of his address to the court:

Quizzical

"Two old maids in a country town, being quizzical in their dress and demeanour, were not infrequently the sport of the idle boys in the market place and, being so beset on their way to church, a young curate who had just been appointed there, reproved the urchins as he passed in his gown and cassock and, offering an arm to each of the ladies, conducted them triumphantly into their pew near the pulpit.

"A great intimacy followed and, dying not long afterwards, they left him all they had, and such gentlemen of the jury, is the value of small courtesies."

"The Rev. Cockin won his case."

Bruce R. Isted
Member No. 2211
30 Niblett Street
Wanganui 5001
New Zealand
I now declare you...half man and wife!

The Vicar of the parish of Horsley, Gloucestershire, made a note of this unusual occurrence in the parish registers in 1732:

"August 11th 1732 — John Pegler and Ann Thomas were half married. I proceeded no further because they paid me but one half the fees, viz: 2s 6d."

Apparently, the fee was placed on the service book along with the ring. I wonder what happened next? Perhaps they went back another day with the rest of the money and had the other half of the ceremony!

Janet Heskins, Member No. 2281

Which parish this year?

The following curious entry appears in Baine's Directory of the County of York 1823 for the township of Swinton in the West Riding:

"Two farms, lying in this township, which belong to Earl Fitzwilliam, every year change their parish. For one year from Easter day at twelve at noon, till next Easter day at the same hour, they lie in the parish of Mexborough; and then till Easter day following, at the same hour, they are in the parish of Wath upon Dear, and so alternately. — Blount's Tenures. These farms consist of about 302 acres. — Ed."

What could be the explanation for this strange situation, and has anyone come across a similar one?

Roy Stockdill, Member No. 2534

Caught short

This amusing entry appears in the baptismal register for Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, for August 29 1823:

"Jane, daughter of Edward (blacksmith) and Margaret Hughes. NB: This woman, deserted by her husband, was suddenly taken in labour while in pursuit of him. They lived near Oswestry, Salop."

Polly Lawrence, Member No. 278

Bizarre tale of an irate exciseman and a coven of praying witches

A Tall of bizarre goings-on is told in this extract from the Pittenweem Register, Fife, for August 24, 1850:

"About one hundred years ago there lived in Pittenweem a class of religious enthusiasts, who met during the night to worship in a most peculiar manner. They assembled in a sand quarry, at a place then called the Cooper's Knowe, near the spot where Provost Tosh's house now stands. They were all women, and had no leader. Every one prayed or praised their Maker at the one time, after the manner that suited their own inclination, which created a most discordant noise.

"At that period a gauger [exciseman] resided in the town, whose office occasionally led him to seize smuggled brandy and gin, which gave him to suspect that he was not too well liked by a portion of the inhabitants. The gauger was a stout, burly chield [fellow], and fond of a dram: he had a large distillery in his garden, and sold his brandy and gin to the villagers at a reduced price.

"One of the enthusiasts prayed with a loud voice, 'O Lord banish bad fortune from the coast.' The gauger's name was Fulton, and he imagined the witch was praying that 'mad Fulton' might be banished from the coast. The gauger's ire was instantly kindled to the highest pitch, and he dashed into the midst of the assembly, laying round him with his whip. The women strove to persuade him they had met there to worship; but the gauger was certain that he had proof to the contrary, and belaboured them the more for their hypocrisy, vociferating, 'Ye midnight hags! I'll mad Fulton ye,' and drove them to the place where the Toll-bar now stands, the gauger storming and the women screeching all the way."

Ken Mitchell, Member No. 871

A terrible man?

When I first started tracing my family history I visited Deepdale farm in Grindon, Staffordshire, where my grandfather grew up. It had been the family home since about 1700.

During my second visit, the then owner, a Mr Mycock, said he had found some old letters in one of which there was a reference to a Titterton. The Mycocks had also lived in Grindon for centuries. The letter was dated 1814 and the reference to my great great great-grandfather was a single sentence: "William Tittton of Deepdale is dead & we haved had a very grat fest in our toune & all the tounes roundabout on a count of the pece."

My first reaction was what a terrible man my ancestor must have been! It was some time before I realised that the 'pece' referred to was that between England and France.

John Titterton, Member No. 1615
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