Everyone's raving about the 1881 Census CDs, but how useful are they really to one-namers?

Heraldry as source material

Discounts on software and books

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The Guild of One-Name Studies

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Guild Forum
This discussion forum is open to any member with access to e-mail.

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Officers and Committee
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Regional Representatives

Cover illustration

There is no doubt the family history event of the decade has been the release of the 1881 British Census and National Index on CD-ROM, which has revolutionised searching for ancestors in the census. However, it's not all plain sailing, as our special 5-page feature reports.
A MAJOR slice of this issue of the Journal is devoted to the 1881 British Census discs. My apologies to those Guild members who do not possess the discs and, indeed, to those who do not use a computer at all. However, there is no denying that the advent of the census discs has been the most eagerly discussed event in family history for many a year. They have been the major talking point in genealogy journals and in the Internet mailing lists and genealogy news groups. Thus, it was felt appropriate to take a long, hard look at the package and ask the question: how valuable are they for one-namers?

My own personal view, after several weeks of hands-on experience with the discs, is that the LDS Church deserves a cautious seven out of ten, but with a "Could do better next time" proviso. Undoubtedly, they are an amazing tool, enabling one to perform searches of the 1881 Census in a way that has never been possible before. However, there are flaws in the system, many members will have discovered for themselves.

The inability to search by addresses and/or occupations is a major omission. Nor are the search and save facilities exactly user friendly to one namers. If you have a large number of entries, the task of extracting them from the regional discs, being limited to saving only 100 records at a time and only in RTF format, then having to process them through other software and remove duplicated entries, is a real pig! I was also surprised to discover in my own case that the LDS standardisation scheme lumped all my STOCKDALES, STOCKDILLS and STOCKDELLS, etc., together, but did not produce the entries for STOGDALE, which is a well accepted variant of my registered name.

Stephen Archer addresses these points admirably in his article, whilst other members add their own observations and experiences.

Finally, might I just mention that this is the last issue in which you will see the current Guild house style. From next January there will be a new-look masthead, front cover and Guild logo. ☝

Roy Stockdill

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Chairman's Notes
By Alec Tritton

At last I received a reply from Lord Irvin (yes, the one with the hand-painted wallpaper) in response to the letter from my local Member of Parliament regarding the exorbitant increase in charges pertaining to wills.

According to the Lord Chancellor, over 1,500 consultation documents were distributed before the decision was taken. It is interesting that, after speaking to a number of friends and colleagues, I find that this did not include the Federation of Family History Societies, the Society of Genealogists, Family Tree Magazine or the British Record Users Group. In fact, I have yet to find any individual or organisation active in family history that was consulted. I leave you to draw your own conclusions.

Often I hear that many of our members would like to attend both the Federation Conference and the Guild's Annual Conference but, as they occur in the same month, finances do not allow them to do so. So here is an important advance date for your diary — your committee has offered to host the Federation Conference in April 2002, which will then be combined with our own Guild Conference, so both will be affordable that year!

This is an exciting challenge and a unique opportunity for us to show the genealogical world that the Guild is made of. It will take a lot of organising and I hope that many of you will make a special effort to attend and, if possible, to offer some assistance throughout the weekend. I hope for definite details of dates and location in the January journal.

We have also settled the venue for next year's Annual Conference and AGM, which will be at Easthampstead Park, a magnificent country house just outside Reading, Berkshire. The AGM will be on April 1st — and some might think this rather apt for GOONS!

London seminar

The Seminars Subcommittee have decided to hold the February seminar in Central London with a newspaper theme. Our editor, Roy Stockell, has arranged for us to borrow for the day a copy of Palmer's Index to The Times, so we hope to have a longer research lunch session, when the Guild's own CDs will also be searchable for anyone who attends.

Finally, I would like to mention that Brian Teece, who for the last two years has maintained our Internet mailing list, has decided to take a well-earned break. The list has been well regulated, and any problems has quickly been dealt with, and I would like publicly to express the committee's thanks to Brian.

Treasurer's Notes
By David Abbott

The renewal season is here again — and I still have not got on top of the remaining queries from last year! As the Guild grows, so does the workload and complexity of the tasks that fall to the volunteers who make everything happen. As far as I am concerned, all I can say is that if you have a query, don't write to me unless you have to, as replying in writing is very time-consuming. If you do need to, then please give me your phone number or an e-mail contact, as these are much quicker to deal with. Best of all, call me by phone, as I can look up records as we talk. This way we can usually get to the bottom of any problem.

The role of any decent treasurer, finance officer or director of any organisation is not simply one of keeping the books straight; it must also involve an element of strategic planning. I have tried to fulfill this aspect, both for Committee and those who have attended recent AGMs (who can forget the charts I prepared — figures can be daunting, but picture charts bring some life to finances).

I have come to the conclusion that one aspect that will need to be faced by the Guild sooner rather than later is the thorny issue of the automatic provision of Family History News and Digest within the subscription. It is a subject that has often been raised at AGMs, with vehement opinions for and against its provision. I personally gain much benefit from it, but feel that the time has come for its automatic provision to cease. The reason for this is simply that although it is published bi-annually, its publication schedule does not fit in with the Guild. This is because it is printed on a 5/7 month split, and is published in April and September. In practical terms, it means we have to chase hard to get copies at the beginning of April, so that despatching the Journal is not delayed. However, the September issue arrives at least a month before the Journal is due, so sits around becoming more out of date each day. As I have said, this is a personal view, but I have come to a definite opinion that it should go and you can be assured that I will be airing it strongly over the coming months.

Although writing this well before the year end, I can confidently state that the Guild will again increased its membership. We shall have more members than at any previous time, and this is a reflection of the more prominent profile and role played by the Guild in the genealogical world. As well as a dedicated band of current and former committee members who have worked hard in recent years to increase the Guild's prominence, many other members have also undertaken tasks that no more than the few people involved would be aware of. As the Guild moves towards its coming of age 21st anniversary, I can only be thankful for what has been done so far and feel confident about the future.
I HAVE received four letters in response to my article in the July journal about the disposition of members' research after their decease. Two of these related to specific research and I passed these on to John Colloff, the Guild Librarian, to deal with. It is John who you should turn to for help in deciding how to deposit your own research.

The other two letters were more general and dealt with various aspects of research preservation. One, from a member who is on the staff of the Court of Protection, raised some very relevant points. I quote from this letter below...

Will instructions

"I think it is important to emphasise to members the importance of depositing research somewhere whilst still able and capable of doing so. If they do not want to do this, then the next best thing is to include instructions in a will and make sure as many people as possible know that there is a will and where it is kept. The Bank is always a good place to deposit a will, as enquiries will be made there by the Court of Protection when any Receivership application is received."

"The Court of Protection does try its best to ensure Testametary instructions are carried out. Obviously assets of value, e.g. property, may have to be used to pay nursing home fees, but directions would normally be given for non-valuable items to be held by the eventual beneficiaries."

"The eventuality which should be avoided at all cost is to make no provision for dealing with financial and other affairs in the event of death or incapacity. It is not uncommon for an elderly, mentally incapable person to be placed in a nursing home and the local authority or local solicitors to make an application to the Court to enable the property to be sold to pay the fees."

"If there are no known relatives and no knowledge of a will, then there is likely to be a house clear-ance and everything will be deposited. Research papers, family photos, etc. are likely to end up on the tip!"

Bequest idea

Some members may have seen on the Guild Forum the Chairman's ideas for the preservation of one's research. But here it is so everyone can think about it. The proposal is as follows: for a bequest of £1,000, the Guild would undertake to sort and microfiche 4,000 pages of research, making multiple copies. Thus, not only would the research be preserved for the lifetime of the Guild, but also any one taking over the surname would be able to have a set of fiche.

In conclusion, it is not too difficult to put research into a simple published form during one's lifetime, which is one way of making it readily available as well as contributing towards its preservation, and I will be addressing this in future issues of the journal."

Secretary’s Notes

By Jim Isard

We should all have seen by now the 1881 British Census on CD. What we must remember is that all the work of inputting the data was done by volunteers.

Help is now needed on another major indexing project. In 1997 the Imperial War Museum was given a grant by the National Heritage Memorial Fund to create an inventory of all War Memorials throughout the country.

The raw data for this index must be collected by March 2000, so that the index is completed by March 2001.

They now need help and are asking for volunteers particularly in the following areas:

- Wales, South-East England, Midlands, North-West England, Greater London, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Lincolnshire, Gloucestershire, Tyne & Wear and Hertfordshire

If you are interested in helping this project, then contact Nick Hewitt, the Project Co-ordinator, at:

The National Inventory of War Memorials
Imperial War Museum
Lambeth Road
London SE1 6HZ
e-mail nhewitt@iwm.org.uk

Future

If we all indexed just one memorial, the project would soon be finished, and this would be a way for us all to put something back into the system that will be here for future generations of family historians to use."

The Journal of One-Name Studies, October 1999 263
The value of heraldry as source material for a one-name study
By John Titterton

The contribution of heraldry in one-name study research was highlighted by Duncan Curie’s article in The Journal, January 1999, when he identified that Eborall and Abrahall are part of the same study. In the previous edition, John Charnell had come to a similar conclusion when he found a potential Charnell variant using similar arms to a Charnell family.

Heraldry may not seem very relevant today to the majority of people. However, from the 13th century until the start of the present one it was very important for a small proportion of the population. It was used to show family connections and status, and, consequently, there was a vested interest in ensuring that its use was properly regulated. This regulation was carried out by the College of Arms, a body established in 1484 and still in existence today.

Because of this regulated system, heraldry can be used as a source material by local historians, family historians and for one-name studies. To do so, one needs to appreciate a few of the basic principles relating to the use of arms by an individual...

1. No two people should use the same coat of arms.
2. A coat of arms is granted to a specific individual and specified heirs.
3. When the original bearer of the arms dies its use passes normally to his eldest son.
4. Any younger sons may use their father’s arms but they must be “differenced” in some way, so that, although their arms are different, the family connection can be seen (the practice in Scotland is slightly different).

From the above one can see that:
1. Where one person uses a coat of arms it does not mean that everyone with that surname can use these arms.
2. Several people with the same surname can use arms totally different from each other.
3. The arms used by different branches of the same family could bear some similarity.

Differencing arms

There were two main systems of differencing arms within a family. The method used may suggest the period when the branches of the family diverged. In the 13th and 14th centuries the practice was to change a particular feature on the arms. The Beauchamp Earls of Warwick used the arms “Gules a fess between six crosses crosslet or” (a red shield with a horizontal gold band with three crosses above and three below, each cross having a small bar across the end of each limb), as in Figure 1. Another Beauchamp family changed the crosses crosslet for martlets (a small bird with no legs) [Fig 2]. Although the devices are changed, the colours used are usually kept the same.

The arms used by two different Edensor families show a similar differencing practice. The family at Cumberford, Staffordshire, used a white shield charged with a red horizontal band between three black horses [Fig 3]. The Edensons living at Hartington, Derbyshire, used a white shield with a red chevron between three horses [Fig 4]. The genealogies of the two families have yet to be traced back to a common point but the similarity of the arms with the obvious “difference” suggests a common genealogical origin.

A new and simpler means of differencing of the arms of brothers and their descendants developed in the 15th century. From this period a small additional charge was added to the shield. This was called a cadency mark. The eldest son used a label which he discarded when he became the head of the family, i.e. at his father’s death. The second son added a crescent, the third son a molet and so on. This system of cadency could cover up to nine sons.

The theory was good, but in practice there were difficulties and anomalies. The position of head of the family passed from father to son. The second son of every head of the family differenced the main family arms with a crescent. Consequently every second son of successive heads of the family used the same arms, as did their own eldest sons after their deaths. At the third generation two cadency marks are necessary, i.e. the second son of a third son would use a crescent on a
molet. For the fourth and subsequent generations the system is really unmanageable. In general these cadency marks tended to be forgotten and so the different branches of the family end up using the same arms. The implication is that the Eborall/Abrahall families adopted this form of difference.

The composition and design of a coat of arms may reveal some aspects of the family origin. The earliest reference that I have traced to the Edensor family at Hartington is to a grant of land in Hartington to a nlomas, son of Fulcher de Edenshouer, by William Ferrers, Earl of Derby, who died in 1247.

The Ferrers family at this date used a coat of arms which included horses' shoes, also called fers [Fig 5]. This is surely the origin of the horseshoes in the Edensor arms. The heraldry used by a subsequent generation of William Ferrers' family demonstrates another practice from the 13th century. If a lord married an heiress whose estates were greater than his own then he may have discarded his own arms and adopted those of his father-in-law. Occasionally one son of the marriage would inherit his father's estate and arms and another son the mother's estate and arms. William Ferrers, son of William above, married as his second wife Margaret Quency, daughter and heiress of Roger, Earl of Winchester. Their grandson and subsequent descendants used the Quency arms of Gules seven voided lozenges.

This practice may explain the similarity between the arms of the Tydrynton family, probably the ancestors of the Tittertons, and the arms of another one-name study, that of WARTH. The Tydryntons were Lords of the medieval manor of Tydrynton, now known as Titherington near Macclesfield, Cheshire. They used a white shield with a black ragged cross [Fig 6]. They were succeeded in their estates, probably through the female line, by the WORTH family who shortened the limbs of the cross [Fig 7]. It is these later arms that I saw at a Guild event on a display of the Wath family. The implication is that the Wath family is in some way connected with the Worth family.

The above has assumed that members of a family are using arms to which they have a genealogical right, with appropriate differences when necessary. One difficulty may arise where a family have adopted a coat of arms of a more renowned family to enhance their own status. The best known example of this must be the Spencer family, represented today in the male line by both Earl Spencer and the Duke of Marlborough. Their ancestor, a very wealthy sheep farmer, persuaded the College of Arms that he was probably descended from the medieval baronial family of Despenser. He was granted arms [Fig 8] which were very similar to the Despenser arms [Fig 9]. Likewise, the up and coming Montagu family were granted arms based on the medieval Montacute family, Earls of Salisbury. Again, no family connection can be proved.

This charge of assuming some-one else's arms has been levelled against the family of an ONS, the Beresford family. In addition to using the Beresford arms, the Westerham branch in Kent started to quarter the arms of Beresford. These two families with surnames spelt with "s" are often confused (phonetically they are very different). J. H. Round, in an article in The Ancestor, was very critical of the Beresford family. However, the medieval Bereford family were not in the same league as the medieval Despenser and Montacute families, so there is perhaps not so strong a motive for the Beresford family to start using the Bereford arms. Also, in the Bereford ancestry there are a number of Bereford-Beresford marriages. Was one of these, in fact, a Bereford-Bereford marriage and the use of the Bereford arms quite justified?

Heraldry is yet another tool or source for people engaged in historical research. It has a place in one-name studies and can give some problems a completely new perspective. There has been much discussion on how one can identify surname variants. The use of common heraldry has been shown to be one factor to be taken into account. As with all source material one must be critical of its use and be aware of possible abuse.

Those interested in either heraldry or family history often acquire a strong interest in the other. Bernard Juby, Iain Swinnerton and myself are but three members of the Guild for whom this is true.

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How to win media interest and good publicity for your family reunion
By Penny Willstrop Denby

PUBLICITY, and planning it, for any major family reunion is a very important part of the pre-organisation. By advertising an event as far ahead as possible there is time to include any family members who may not have heard about the gathering, for you will discover that not everyone passes information on to the extended family as requested. By publicising the event, you may also find some more family members to add to the tree.

Early publicity can bring extra details to add colour to family history from non-related but interested readers, listeners or viewers. It may also encourage those non-genealogists who will be coming to the reunion to look out old photos and family papers to bring with them. Advance publicity creates an atmosphere of anticipation, setting the scene for "an event not to be missed". If the pre-publicity is well thought out, then good publicity will follow during the reunion with little extra effort.

Recently I organised the first WWW (World Wide Willstrop) reunion in York. It was a four-day gathering and just over 100 family members attended some or all of the events. About half those who attended lived in York and the surrounding area. The rest came from all corners of the United Kingdom and there were three groups from the USA.

I live in Kent, so one of the first things was to find someone closer to York who would be willing to help out. I struck lucky - my seventh cousin once removed, Pam Elliott, is programme secretary of the City of York and District FHS and lives in York. Pam agreed to be northern publicity officer and made suggestions about Yorkshire newspapers to contact. I wrote a news release, which I mailed about six weeks before the reunion to local papers, and adapted it to send to all the BBC TV and radio regional news editors in areas where Willstrops had lived. (The text of Penny's release is given in the grey panel on the opposite page).

I tried to give editors the sort of information I felt they might use, include all the main points of interest, but keep the length to one side of A4 paper. I am a designer and strongly believe presentation and first impressions are most important. The release was typed double-spaced and accompanied by a brief letter.

Don't be surprised if there is no immediate response. Newspapers, radio and TV all operate at the last minute. The main thing is, you have sowed the seed for a story. About a week before the reunion I sent a second release, updating the figures for those attending and sending a cutting from the Yorkshire Evening Press. Pam had called the paper and when a reporter invited her for an interview she was armed with history, pictures and maps. The result was a large spread, which included a photo of Pam, a week before the event and a request for a journalist to come along to some of the gatherings with a photographer. Naturally, we said yes.

Through a request to the GOONS mailing list, I was fortunate that a fellow member, Denise Rason, living about a mile away, contacted me and I was able to borrow five fabric-covered boards of the type that only need Velcro for attachments. This meant I was able to plan my display well in advance. I regard an exhibition of family history as a form of publicity.

My prime reason for wanting one was to give the family who attended a lasting visual memory of the reunion. I produced A3 panels of information, with the minimum written and maximum image content, to get over the earliest part of our family history. The panels were printed on watercolour paper and mounted on foamboard. They were numbered on the back and had Velcro stickers.

We moved the display to each venue, sometimes twice a day, but I found others quite happy to put it up, as they only had to follow the numbering system of the boards. There was an added publicity bonus to the display. Reporters read the information and it gave them a good background for interviewing members of the family.

Family crest

We have a family crest. I have never found who is entitled to use it, but I incorporated it with the date of the reunion into a small iron-on badge design which I printed from my computer. Badges were mailed with the final details and tickets to all those attending. One cousin wore a baseball cap with the badge on it for the whole weekend and in one of the TV items a close-up of a badge was used as part of the introduction. I also used the crest on a bookmark menu I made for our farewell lunch and another menu for our Pedigree Dinner.

As a result of the article in the Yorkshire Evening Press, a Daily Mail reporter contacted Pam and she arranged for him to interview me the day before the reunion began. The interview took an hour and a half at the Rockwell Rooms, our first venue. I had just put our 16-metre long family tree on the wall, so that made a good starting point for the interview.

Also as a result of the YEP article, a York resident who worked in Leeds told a Willstrop colleague who, with her sister, brother and parents, was able to join us. Someone unconnected to the family mailed the article to a New
York Willstrop descendant she knew. He was able to read the story within a couple of days of it being printed and made contact with us.

BBC Radio York invited Pam and I to speak early one morning, the local BBC News team filmed us twice and the Calendar programme from Yorkshire TV, too. All these were last minute arrangements. The reporters and photographers were very helpful and the family enjoyed the TV crews filming. One disappointment is that TV companies will only let an organiser have one copy of the film that is broadcast, not all the rushes. Further copies are very expensive and, of course, the film is the film that is broadcast, not all the rushes. Further copies are very expensive and, of course, the film is copyright of the company. For our family records, we would have liked all the recordings. Lots of the local family, however, managed to video the three extracts that were used with different voiceovers in different regions and we have an audio tape of our BBC interview.

I had two approaches for further articles, one from the Weekend Mail and one from a features agency. I turned the features agency down, as they wanted me to sign a contract before they had found a magazine to which to submit the article. A Weekend Mail Magazine reporter came to my home and interviewed me for four and a half hours. She was very interested in the research angle but in the end the paper decided "there was not enough flesh." I took this to mean that there was no scandal in the Willstrop family. I could have told her a few tales but, having spent more than 30 years gathering my small family together, the last thing I want is to upset anyone. My main regret was that four million people read the Weekend Mail, so I might have found a few more descendants!

From the overwhelmingly positive response I had from everyone about the reunion, I believe that most people would prefer to read, see and hear more about happy family events of ordinary people - more uplifting than much of the rubbish that is in the national media every day about the rich and famous!

NEWS RELEASE

WORLD REUNION OF WILSTROP DESCENDANTS
TO BE HELD IN YORK FROM 24TH TO 27TH JUNE 1999

Willstrop descendants worldwide will be home in Yorkshire for four days in June. Amongst them there will be descendants of John Harvey Willstrop who joined the Leeds City Police Force on 19th February 1875 and retired on 4th April 1901. John's great granddaughter, Penny Willstrop, is seeking any information about his life, careers - after his 'retirement' he was a timekeeper in Hull and then a commissionaire in Leeds - or family. If you have photographs, newspaper cuttings or tales from those years Penny would very much like to hear from you.

Over four days in June the family will visit the mediaeval village site of Willstrop, near York, to discover where the Willstrop name originated. Willstrop village was included in the research done by Maurice Beresford, professor of archaeology at Leeds University in the 1950s, and recorded in his books about the lost villages of England. During the four days of events Willstrops will be able to find out about Sir Miles Willstropp, the King's Escheator in 1470, and about Guy, his son. It was Guy Willstrop who enclosed the village - which resulted in its destruction.

There will be an exhibition of the results of much family research in the Sports Hall in Tockwith from 24th to 26th June. Penny, who lives in Kent, has been researching the family name since 1967 and more recently her Yorkshire cousins - Jan Schofield of BBC Radio York and Lilian Rutland of Hull - have also been investigating Willstrop history. In the past two years Penny has visited four Willstrop branches - San Antonio and Seattle in the USA, Winnipeg and Toronto in Canada. Representatives are all planning to join the events.

There will be lots of opportunities to meet and get to know other branches of the family, to share tales of the past and plans for the future. There will be a welcome party at the Rockwell Rooms in York, an evening river trip on the Ouse and a chance to join the Pedigree Dinner in St William's College. If any listeners are Willstrop descendants and have not already received a programme or booking form then please contact Penny at...

PENNY WILLSTROP DENBY
Member No. 2837
53 Forest Drive
Keston Park
Keston
Kent BR2 6EE

COMMENT by the Editor: Having worked in the media for 43 years and sat on news desks on both local and national papers, I have to say that Penny's press release and PR plan was a model of how to do it properly. It is no use writing vague letters to news editors, just asking if they would like to send someone to cover your family reunion. News editors are busy people and unless you grab their attention instantly your release will join dozens of others in the waste bin! You must give them an angle, a story, something they can focus on.

As an example, when I organised the first-ever Stockdill Reunion in Yorkshire in 1997, one attender was my third cousin, a wonderful old lady of 94 from Virginia, who had been born in England but emigrated to the USA in 1907, aged four. Thus, she was making her first return visit to her native land in 90 years - moreover, it was her first-ever transatlantic flight. What a natural this was for an angle! We featured on Yorkshire Television's Calendar programme, had lengthy spots on BBC Radio York and Radio Leeds, and stories in the Yorkshire Post and Bradford Telegraph and Argus.

Penny's approach covered all the points I would stress myself...

• Make an early, advance approach to news editors.
• Make your press release short, snappy, well presented and, above all, newsworthy.
• Follow up with a further release nearer the date.

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The Debneys - one lot were said to be blonde, the other brunette
By Jean Debney

DEBNEY is a comparatively rare surname in the UK. In 1978-9 less than 70 were listed in the telephone directories. It is said that the name derives from a French phrase meaning "God bless". No evidence has yet been found to support the theory that it is of Huguenot origin, nor is it clear what connections there may be with the possible variants DABNEY, DIBNEY/NAH and DOBNEY, which have now been included in the study.

Research suggests that the present Debneys are descended from two main groups, one from the Midlands, and the other from East Anglia, of which the former may be the older. The Midland Debneys are thought to be mainly brunette and the East Anglian group blonde.

According to family legend, the Midland Debneys were said to have been given three-quarters of an acre of land "in perpetuity from King John under his seal of blue wax". No record of this transaction has yet been found, but Debneys lived at Outwoods and Moreton in the parish of Gnosall, Staffs, for many centuries until some land was sold or the manorial rights were extinguished in the 1920s.

In the 19th century members of this group migrated to the Birmingham area and then to Yorkshire. Some were bricklayers and may have been involved with railway construction, while others became coal miners or went into heavy industry.

The earliest known record of the East Anglian Debneys is of John Debney, worsted weaver of Norwich, who died in 1553. His grandson, Robert, became Alderman of that town, Mayor in 1624 and Member of Parliament for Norfolk in 1625. It seems likely that they may be the ancestors of the Debneys found in Suffolk and Essex by the 18th century.

The descendants of Thomas, a farmer of Tunstall, Suffolk, in the mid 18th century, spread out in East Suffolk, to London and overseas. Thomas's son, another Robert and probably a member of the notorious Sizewell Gap Gang, died in 1778 whilst trying to recover some smuggled goods. His gravestone can still be seen in Tunstall churchyard. Also in Tunstall, an area of woodland called "Debney's Grove" is marked on the Tithe Map of 1842 and the Campsey Ashe Estate sale map of 1949.

By the 19th century one branch of this family had become shopkeepers in nearby Southwold but their descendants have since dispersed. It is possible that a group of Debneys in 17th century Essex are connected with some later Debneys who were living in Saffron Walden, Essex, during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Over the centuries, many Debneys have moved to London, the earliest being recorded in 1559. In the early 19th century one shop-keeping family, probably from Saffron Walden, Essex, moved from Chelsea to Deptford, Kent, with a later branch in Croydon, Surrey. During the same period another group, who were bricklayers and also from Saffron Walden, were living in St Pancras.

Members of at least two East Anglian families are known to have migrated to Australia in the first half of the 19th century and others from the Midlands to Canada in the 20th century.

As a member of the Guild of One-Name Studies, I have, since the late 1960s, been collecting worldwide references to the surname and compiled an extensive slip index. Most of this data has been entered on to a computer database using the program Pedigree, which can be searched in return for reciprocal family information and an s.a.e (or 3 IRCs). Included are birth, marriage and death registrations from 1837 to date, census returns, parish registers, the IGI and probate records, and other records.

Together with my husband, Cliff, we belong to the Society of Genealogists and the Berkshire and Suffolk Family History Societies as well as the Guild of One-Name Studies. I have taught family history for many years, write articles - including dating readers' old photographs in Practical Family History - and book reviews for family history magazines and also have a regular phone-in spot on our local radio. We are proud that the family line continues with our two sons and six grandchildren.

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SOURCES:
3. Records in Norfolk County Record Office.
4. Records in Suffolk County Record Office.

HAVE you a ONS with interesting information or people in it? Why not share it with members? We can all learn from each other, and often valuable tips can be picked up from another member's research. Send your contributions to the Editor (address inside front cover).
The Cox Repository finds a new life on the Internet
By Roy Cox

I HAVE been a member of the Guild now for some years, albeit a not very active one, I regret. And even that which I was able to do had to be given up, due to my arthritis making it difficult for me to lift. However, my pursuit has not flagged and with the advent of the World Wide Web my efforts have been able to help many other persons.

I started researching my family in 1959 and soon came to the point where I could not get any further information, as we all do. I joined three genealogical groups, hoping to find the illusive family links. Several years passed before I was successful and found distant cousins. But what to do with all those Cox references that were not mine? This Repository is the result and its contents are now available to all other COX/COCK researchers.

The Repository also has access to many Cox/Cock references contained in Broderbund's World Family Tree collection. These mainly record families in the USA and Canada, most of whom have European origins, of course. However, due to the duplication of Christian names, it is often difficult to identify one particular family with only the name to go on.

Meaning
I have been asked several times: "What does Repository mean?" This did not imply ignorance of its definition of course; they just wanted to know how it related to my research. I thought of many titles but this seemed the most appropriate - I like to think it describes (not perfectly perhaps) its purpose. I have gathered all references that I have found to the name and some of its variations, and designed a "Graveyard" database on my PC to hold the information.

The Repository presently holds just over 22,000 records, which represents at least five times that in names. The beauty of the design is the search facility, which can usually find any item in seconds. Coupled with other programs I can usually deal with enquiries quite quickly from any part of the world.

The contents of the Repository have been limited to just basic details and does not store other family information. Births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, burials and some wills are recorded, although in some cases from the older censuses addresses are entered also. It must also be understood that there is no direct access to these records by any second parties. I am the only person who can access them, as the name of the program implies.

Since branching out onto the Internet, I deal with an average of some 45 e-mails per day. Most are not concerned with my research and some of these are a by-product. The enquiries I do get give Information on Cox/Cock research, which the person allows me to enter in the Repository as a donation. I have been able to connect at least four sets of cousins this way.

I have also added another facility to the Repository, which links the incoming information to its record as a document. This can then be accessed from the record being displayed. I have only one main problem and that is printing related records. I can print single records in A4 size but they have to be accessed individually to do so.

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Everything's coming up Roses!
MY three times great-grandmother was Roseannah Foster when she married and became Roseannah Willstrop. She had two Willstrop grand-daughters, and one of these Roses was my great-grandfather's twin.

I found my father's second cousin, Barry Willstrop, about thirty years ago. He was born in Leeds, Yorkshire but now lives in Seattle, Washington, and is married to an American Rose. My third cousin, Geoff Willstrop, lives in San Antonio, Texas. He found me via the Internet in 1995. He is married to a Mexican Rose. Through contact with Geoff I've found another third cousin, Charlie, who lives in New York State with his wife, Rose. Her grandparents were Italian. Last summer I visited the two branches of Willstrops who emigrated to Canada - and there I had lunch with Barbara Rose (Willstrop).

More recently I was frantically trying to trace the descendants of one of my great-grandfather's brothers, Frederick, in time for the first World Wide Willstrop reunion. Frederick's only daughter was called Rose Willstrop. This English Rose married a Jordan in Ludlow, Shropshire, in 1900 but although I contacted all the current Jordan families in Ludlow, none had a Rose in their tree. Less than two weeks later - and only a couple of days after I had put a message on a Compuserve genealogy forum - Rose Jordan's great-grandson found my web page. What is more, Rose Jordan's granddaughter, Maureen, came to the reunion. What does she have to do with this story? Guess what Maureen's middle name is!

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The Journal of One-Name Studies, October 1999 269
Archiving your work for posterity – what do members want from the Guild?

By John Colloff, Guild Librarian

IN THE few months since I became the Guild librarian I have found a major unresolved problem in the question of what happens to the work of a member when it has been left to the Guild in the member's will. Of course, we store it carefully and reply to any reasonable queries as best we can. We are also ready to hand over to any future researcher. However, on examining some of the works I felt that their accessibility could have been increased considerably by a few simple actions.

Further, I realised that many members, having started their studies several years ago, were likely to have them in, to say the least, rather unfriendly formats both for quick cross-referencing, and physically handling and storing. A further consideration could also be the likely life of the materials that have been used.

Let me address the access problem first, and here I risk the wrath of many members by borrowing an idea from the world of computers. On the Guild Forum, Brian Teece has opened a monster list for members to input all other surnames that occur in their one-name study. This can be examined by members with access to the Internet, and they can quickly check with the submitting member if the occurrence of a surname provides one of their long-lost links.

My suggestion is that every one-name study should have a list of all other surnames that occur in the study, so that it can be quickly interrogated about any possible cross links of interest. This makes an ideal index to the study for future researchers. I believe that this holds good for both computerised studies and those recorded on paper, be it books, notes or card file.

Many members have adopted the medium used for many years to make records both compact and accessible, that of film, in the form of microfiche or microfilm. In a recent discussion on the Guild Forum, our chairman was quizzed on just this topic. Briefly, Alec suggested that a legacy of $1,000 would be sufficient to cover the cost of having a sizeable ONS microfiched, with spare copies for reference and archiving. Any future researcher wishing to take a major interest in the study would have little problem in having a fiche re-converted to a full size paper version.

Whilst I fully agree with this proposal at the present time, I do wonder how far into the future we will be able to find active contractors to do this work. In the mainstream world, fiche is a dead medium and I believe that it is having a brief renaissance in genealogy due to the availability of cheap surplus equipment and low prices from underworked contractors. I could be wrong and fiche may attain a permanent place in our vocabulary of recorded media, in which case this is an ideal solution, especially for our non-computer members. However, I do believe that it deserves more discussion to make the archiving task easier.

First let us consider the likely format of many current one-name studies and how suitable this may be for our fiche contractor. I am not being at all critical here, simply trying to present the facts as I perceive them at the present time. The first photograph is of some of the contents of one of the five large archived boxes of members' one-name studies. As there are five boxes like this, I have taken the liberty of assuming that any one is not untypical of a good, well recorded and organised study. Also, that my fuzzy photos do not breach any standards of confidentiality about their contents.

There are seven plastic card index boxes, each containing 250 to 350 separate cards. The 32 ring binders of A4 size hold anything from 12 to 240 pages each, and the single A3 ring binder contains about 180 pages of printouts from the I.G.I., giving mute evidence of hundreds of hours of work in some Mormon reading room throughout 1981. My back-of-an-envelope calculations make that about 7,000 items for a fiche contractor to handle.

Now try to consider what you would want to be paid to lay out 2,100 cards for accurate photographing onto fiche. You would not get into the Guinness Book of Records with this, as that was done when they did just this with all the index cards for the U.S. Library of Congress, the largest library in the world. However, perhaps this example will make you reconsider the format of your own archive records.

One of the other five boxes contains five cardboard trays of cards, each holding over 1,500 cards; another A3 ring binder; five A4 ring binders, and another seven plastic card index boxes. With my 20/20 vision of hindsight, I see that, though the cards were an excellent tool, they are a bad storage medium, especially when trying to hand them on to others in some unknown location.

Please do not think that I am making any sort of
criticism about the way that these members recorded and filed away their work. These were our founders and it is thanks to them that we have our strong Guild today. I am using hindsight to see how we can improve matters now. I am, however, inviting you to think about what you want the Guild to do for you, and by these examples try to demonstrate one or two of the solutions available.

By contrast, look at the next photographs where members have made their work up into complete volumes. To get their work into one, or several, A4 volumes, members have used methods varying from hefty staples through to professional book binding. They all work. Some will not take too much robust handling, but they can all be quickly and easily made into fiche, due to the standard size of the pages.

I am reminded here of some of the discussions on privacy, where the point was made that virtually all of the data that we work with is already in the public domain. What we are doing is selecting and shuffling it into an order that gives part of a family's history. Once such a compilation has been made and is available for reference, the original data can nearly always be quickly found and checked.

To make our study we had to find and see the details on that elusive marriage certificate or census record, but once its location and details are known does our archive need a full, certified copy, or will a simple reference suffice? Perhaps this makes the conversion to a book format a bit easier if you consider listing events, rather than displaying the records themselves. Indeed, one of the volumes shown contains copies of the society's newsletters used as an updating chapter.

It distresses me to think of is to leave their work to the Society of Genealogists, although they know that it will just go into a box and join all the other boxes there awaiting indexing before the work can even be accessed by other members. Given a constructive approach, I believe that the Guild can do better for its members than that.

I have suggested that members consider storing their data on CD. However members have expressed fears of it becoming inaccessible due to the outdated of that technology. I see no reason to suppose that the Guild would not, at the appropriate time, transfer the collected CDs onto the replacement media of DVD disc. Thereafter, when DVD became old hat it would be simple for the Guild to transfer the collected DVDs onto whatever the replacement media is in 2020, or whenever.

This has been questioned, saying that one could not trust anybody to do just this. The Guild was set up as a mutual aid society for people of like interests to help each other. Surely the most common aim of every Guild member is to see their work recorded for posterity, and if necessary such a detailed undertaking could be added to our constitution?

For how long are we archiving? I would like to examine the concept of posterity in this context, as I suspect that widely different views are held. With respect to my own ONS, whilst I would like to think of being read and studied in 200 years' time, realistically my own ambitions are much less. I cannot envisage any further than four or five generations, at most, being interested enough to want to look at such details. This is bearing in mind that for any fifth generation I will only be one of "N" ancestors where 'N' is the sum of 2+4+8+16+32. That is 62 individuals and I would be only one of 32 different names at least in which an individual at that future time is likely to be interested.

I have assumed that the current indifference of the current generations continues through the next one after them. For any nearer enquirer, my activities as the family historian are well enough known by the family for them to find enough information to lead to my work within the family group. So I am trying to leave a trail for some, as yet unborn, relation, who in 50-plus years' time develops an interest in family history. For such an interest to develop I must assume that civilisation as we understand it still exists, and that there has been reasonable continuity of a society with the leisure time to pursue such interests.

In this context, I suggest that we can rely on future Guild members who will still be sharing our interests to transfer our records from the current storage medium onto its replacement, as and when necessary, to ensure their survival in an accessible form. That is, of course, provided that we start to make things as easy as possible for the records to be so archived now.

So I am suggesting that tonight you all make your name lists for your work, and tomorrow start putting a record of it into a book format. Try to complete it whilst still living and promptly deposit it with the Guild, and you are home and dry. Do not be afraid to archive your work in its present stage, as you can take care of updates in your regular newsletters.

Currently I maintain that this is best done by recording your work onto CDs, and I trust that the Guild will simply compile the collected CDs onto DVD. Later, I am confident that the Guild will continue to update the form of storage media in pace with developments. ☺

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The 1881 Census discs – a brilliant tool but with shortcomings
By Stephen Archer

A NUMBER of reviews of the 1881 British Census CD-ROMs have already appeared, including the introductory article by David Rencher of the LDS Church in Family History News & Digest (April 1999, pp 26-29), and the comprehensive review by Barney Tyrwhitt-Drake in Family Tree Magazine (July 1999, pp 29-38). The purpose of this article is to complement, rather than repeat, their content, pointing out some of the oddities in the viewer software, describing some of its shortcomings and suggesting possible workarounds. It is based on some of my own findings, but also relies heavily on the many postings to UK Internet mailing lists, especially those of the SoG and the Guild of One-Name Studies. For these, I am indebted to contributors to those lists.

System requirements – According to the packaging, the program requires a Pentium processor running Windows 95 or higher. In fact, it should run fine on most 486 PCs with 8Mbytes of RAM and people have reported success running on a Power Mac with Virtual PC for Mac-Windows (95 or 98 version). It has also been tried on an Acorn Risc PC with a 486 processor and runs fine. The LDS don’t guarantee that the program will run on non-Pentium computers, however, to avoid potential support problems.

Installation problems – Several people have reported difficulties installing the Resource File Viewer, problems not covered by the brief instruction page at the front of the CD-ROM set. There is no advice in the Troubleshooting section of the manual either. Even by following the usual recommendation of closing all programs and switching off virus-checking software, the install has not worked in some cases. There seems to be a particular conflict between the RFV and Norton Antivirus. The RFV install program writes a number of DLL files to the Windows directory. This has caused problems to some users, since certain programs need specific versions of shared Windows DLL files. Visual Basic ActiveX objects get overwritten with VB6 versions.

Despite reports to the contrary, the RFV will not read the 3-county 1851 Census CD-ROM. Although the 3-county data is also stored in a Folio Views database, it’s in a different format and can only be accessed with the (more capable) viewer that came with it. The same applies to the Australian Vital Records Index.

Surname search oddities – The wildcard search facilities (using * and ?) and the ability to search on forename and/or birthplace make the CD-ROM version a much better tool than the microfiche edition for tracking down lost ancestors. However, there are some curious aspects to the search logic. For instance, the National Index won’t cope directly with a surname that includes a space character. Entering “St Pierre” returns no matches even though they do exist. Entering “Pierre” does produce a result set, but the “St Pierre” entries are almost lost amongst 49,670 others, most of which are “Perry”. Entering “St” on its own works as well, but this time the “St Pierre” people are lost amongst those called “Saint”. Fortunately, the regional discs are more flexible, returning a valid result set when you enter a surname comprising two parts. The lesson is to avoid space characters when using the National Index discs.

People with aliases, or where the surname was uncertain, may have the second version in brackets, e.g. Cook (French). This also applies to entries where the addition was not in the original enumerator’s handwriting. In the National Index the name in its complete form will appear twice. Thus, the above example can be found by entering either Cook or French. It seems that all combination surnames, i.e. those comprising two or more words, should have been indexed under each word, even if that word was only a single letter. Thus, “Princess H R H The, Victoria <1869>” may be found in the National Index amongst the single letter “H” and “R” entries. However, I couldn’t find her by entering “The” in the surname field or, more surprisingly, under “Princess”.

On a similar theme, the entry “WORT(H), Henrietta” occurs amongst the single letter “H” entries, presumably because of the bracketed “H”. Clearly, this particular side effect was not anticipated.

Some individuals are identified only by initials. An oddity of both the National Index and regional discs is that some of these have a trailing full stop after the surname initial, e.g. “A., S. <1794>”, while others don’t, e.g. “A.E. Pnt <1805>” (which, as it happens, is the very first entry in the National Index). If, having failed to find an individual with full surname, you search on initial only, you can’t enter a full stop – in fact, you can’t enter any punctuation characters at all in the search box. So if you look for all individuals with surname “A”, the program returns a list, but fails to find surname “A.”.
Many of the names in the 1881 census index could not be read completely by the transcribers, and these use the convention of three dots regardless of the number of unreadable characters. This begs the question: will my wildcard searches return these entries as well? Fortunately, they do, so that searching for "P" or "GNELL" on the Greater London West disc will return "...GNELL, John. On the National Index you can't enter the asterisk character, but the same entry can be located amongst the single-letter "P" entries simply by entering "P".

Surname variants—Some discussion has taken place amongst one-namers and other interested parties of the surname synonyms table. This table is called "Surname" and can be found in a Microsoft Access file called 1881bc.mdb, located on all the CD-Rom discs in folder |\1881\standard.

The table contains 404,793 records, which represents the number of "unique" surnames in the 1881 census, including all recorded variants. Surnames with illegible characters are not included, however. Each record in this huge table comprises two fields, "Surname" and "StandardSurname"—i.e. a unique surname as recorded on the census and its "standardised" version. So, for instance, ABBOTT, ABBOT and ABBOTTs are all mapped on to a standard rendering of ABBOTT. The purpose of this table is to allow the search software to return known variants of surnames (but only where you have not asked for exact spellings). The 404,793 variants map on to 327,982 standard names. These standard versions have been determined by the LDS, and in a similar way that variants are grouped together on the IGI, there are bound to be cases where we, as users, disagree with their interpretation.

There are quirks. The RFV Help file states that "Scottish prefixes have been standardized in this index, so that names like MacPhie and McPhie will appear together under the same standard last name spelling." Fair enough, but the dreaded space character, as mentioned above, has caused an unwanted side effect.

For names like McDonald and McGowan you would expect the National Index to work in a similar way. If you search on "McDonald" or "MacDonald" in the National Index you will get both of these common variants, as well as "Mc Donald" (with an extra space) and "Donald", amongst others. However, searching on "McGowan" or "MacGowan" fails to produce any "Mc Gowan" entries, even though many exist in the index. Why? It's because "McGowan" has been assigned to "Gowans", which also includes the variants "Gowen" and "Gowing"—mostly of English origin as it happens. So to locate "McGowan" in the National Index you need to enter "Gowans" or "Gowing" etc. Entering "Mc Gowan" won't work, as you can't enter two-part names. I haven't checked any other Scottish "Mc" names, but the safe approach would seem to be to search for the name both with and without the "Mc" or "Mac" prefix.

Can we do anything about the LDS standardisation scheme? After installing the RFV, the location of the 1881bc.mdb file is recorded in the Windows Registry and some discussion has taken place on pointing the Viewer to an alternative location, i.e. to a hard-disc version of the file which could then be edited. However, Hugh Ainsley has discovered that the actual surname indexes (*.ndxaz.nfo) are based on the "standard" versions of all the surnames, so that altering the "standard" name in 1881bc.mdb will not help.

Misspellings

Many entries in the surnames table are not mapped to what we would regard as standard forms, but have been left unchanged in the StandardSurname column. Presumably this is because they slipped the net, or because the LDS couldn't decide which standard name they should be given. For instance, one surname of interest to me is FREEMANTLE, to which the variants FREEMAN and FREEMANTELL are mapped. However, while scanning this part of the table I just happened to notice that FREEMALTLE also occurs, for which the entry in the StandardSurname column is FREEMATLE, i.e. unchanged. This is clearly a mistake, but won't be found by doing a search on FREEMANTLE. Knowing that the misspelled entry exists, I entered that version in the National Index, and discovered hitherto unknown Freemantle families in Cheshire and Yorkshire. It is certainly worth examining the table, looking for odd renderings of the names you're interested in.

There are many typing errors in the surnames table, for instance, a number of occurrences of "O" (zero) in place of a letter "O", and the occasional "1" (one) in place of letter "I". Users have analysed the table in detail and one or two have reported their findings on the Guild mailing list and elsewhere. Many other oddities occur, such as surnames containing commas (MA,...D) and other odd characters: e.g. K/RIS, "O"/BREN, VON-ELLARDT, and IFOL/D. Some entries repeat the same letter several times, e.g. Abraaabrahams, Halis.

How did these entries get into the surnames table? It seems that the list of "unique" surnames was derived from the census database itself, simply by extracting all the unique entries. Was the data then validated? If not, one would expect many examples of the zero vs. letter "O" variety, since these two characters are so close to each other on the keyboard. The fact that there are only a handful (66 out of 30 million) suggests that most have been caught at some stage.

I decided to follow up one example. I picked Horborn...
which looked like an unusual surname and where an incorrect version “HOrborn” also appears in the surnames table, i.e. with a number zero in place of the first “O”. Using the National Index, I wanted to find whether “HOrborn” exists in the database. Although you can’t enter a string containing a numeric character directly into the surname search field, you can paste any string of characters from the Windows clipboard – clearly, the RFV program only traps keystrokes one by one as they are entered. Thus I typed “HOrborn” into Notepad and pasted it into the search field. This revealed the entry I wanted, “HORBORN, Walter <1868>”. Looking carefully at the screen, I could see that the offending zero was indeed there.

Geographical Issues – The grouping of counties into Census Regions has produced raised eyebrows in the UK and one wonders which map the LDS developers used. One is surprised to learn that Greater London takes in Oxfordshire, Hampshire and Sussex. The definition of East Anglia is also odd, extending west to include Northamptonshire and north to the Humber estuary. Though the groupings were probably made to optimise the surnames table, i.e. with a number zero in place of the space, one feels better labels could have been chosen.

When originally enumerated, civil parishes were grouped into Registration Districts, the names of which are not given in the 1881 Census product and must be deduced from the parish names or Piece numbers. Registration Districts were grouped into Registration Counties, which broadly match the historic counties but sometimes the decision seems to have been made without benefit of local knowledge. Barney Tyrwhitt-Drake has found that iackford, historically almost entirely within Buckinghamshire, has been assigned to Oxfordshire, which is on a different CD-ROM set.

A few civil parishes straddled county boundaries and have been assigned in their entirety to one county or the other. However, sometimes the decision seems to have been made without benefit of local knowledge. Barney Tyrwhitt-Drake has found that iackford, historically almost entirely within Buckinghamshire, has been assigned to Oxfordshire, which is on a different CD-ROM set.

Scottish error

An error has occurred with the Scottish county of Sutherland. All those enumerated in the county who were also born there have had their birthplace altered to “Sunderland, Durham, England”. Fortunately, such entries are prefixed with the genuine Sutherland parish of birth, so that from a birthplace stated as “Kilcanan, Sunderland, Durham, England”, you are able to deduce what it should have said. A similar problem occurs with a small number in Essex whose birth county was also Essex. Some of these birth counties were originally recorded as “Sx”, a local abbreviation for Essex. This has been misinterpreted at some point, producing nonsense birthplaces such as “Braintree, Sussex, England”.

Non-Genealogical Uses – The census data set is a unique resource, but it can’t easily be used by those pursuing social or economic history projects. Although reasonably successful at locating individuals, the RFV is not geared to purposes besides straightforward ancestor-hunting. The kind of search that would be useful is one on occupation. The main RFV programmer at Salt Lake City informs me that the addition of an occupation search would have involved adding further indexes, which would have increased the number of CD’s in the set and increased its cost to users. This, they felt, was unjustified.

Exporting Data – Currently, the best way to export census entries for a given surname is to use the facility that allows you to select up to 100 records from the upper index pane of the program, then save these in a Rich Text Format file. Records are the names of individuals, but since you get the whole household for each individual you get many more than 100 people. Households are written to the file in Piece Number/Folio Number sequence. You may have selected two or more individuals from the same household, but each household will only be returned once, so this reduces the overall number of households per file. However, some users report that exporting a full 100 records produces less than the correct number of households.

An RTF file can be imported into most word processing packages, and in theory generates a file that looks very similar to a normal printout from the RFV. The main proviso is that “hidden text” should be set to display (under the Tools/Options dialogue in Word 97), although the RFV Help file points out that WordPerfect may have problems, and I’ve yet to persuade Lotus WordPro to display an imported RTF file correctly.

What else can you do with these RTF files? There are currently two utilities that will convert them to formats more suitable for one-name studies: RTF Wizard from Drake Software and LDS Companion written by myself.

If you want to look at a particular town or village, you can select the “Neighbors” tab and use the mouse to highlight many more than 100 households, copying the data to the Windows clipboard. To accomplish this, first click at the top of the range to be selected, then drag with the mouse to highlight it. Alternatively, you might find it quicker to click at the top of the range, then scroll to the bottom of the range using the vertical scrollbar and shift-click at the bottom of the selection. This only works if you have previously used the Tools/Options dialogue and unchecked the option “When scrolling, update cursor position”.

Having used Edit/Copy, you can then paste it into a word processing program. The data loses its formatting and effectively becomes a tab-delimited ascii file, adequate for finding strings of characters such as addresses or occupations. You can also take advantage of the data being tab-delimited by pasting into a spreadsheet such as MS Excel. Each data item will be placed into its own individual cell. You can then use Excel to find strings of characters. I tried the exercise with some Scottish data and created a 35,000-line spreadsheet. One or two software developers have been experimenting with extracting data using this or other methods, and some programs may appear over the next few months. These will probably offer more flexible search and presentation tools than provided by the RFV.

Bugs and Other Limitations – Some of the problems with the RFV could have been solved prior to release, but the LDS Church were committed to a deadline, so
that many of the suggestions made by the beta testers were not implemented. Other problems could not be fixed owing to limitations in the Folio Views software.

With regard to the RFV itself, I am told by my LDS contact that "bugs will always be fixed", although it wasn't clear as to whether we would need to buy the next Resource File release to benefit from this. Either way, the LDS clearly have it in mind to upgrade the RFV, which should improve its usability with existing data sets, including the census and the vital records indexes. Limitations of the product, e.g. the lack of an occupation search, are unlikely to be addressed since that would entail creating further indexes.

Some mistakes seem to have arisen through unfamiliarity with UK geography, and although most of these were nipped in the bud following comments by the beta-testers, one or two made it to the final product, such as the inclusion of a Scottish county called "Dunfermline" in the printable manual in place of Dumfries. Many suggestions were made for additional information in the Help file, but usually without being implemented. One hopes more people from this side of the pond will be included in future testing of British resource file products.

Finally, although this article has been pointing out many of the negatives, I would like to conclude on a positive note. The 1881 Census CD-Rom is undoubtedly a brilliant tool for family history, and the LDS are to be commended for making it available at such an attractive price. ☺

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Views of Guild members...

OTHER Guild members who have been trying out the 1881 Census discs have found some of the drawbacks in the search and save procedures a real irritation. Here are some of the comments that have been made via the Guild Forum...

Strange idea of variants

"MY niggle is the fact that one cannot isolate specific spellings for a name in the National Index. The LDS's idea of what constitutes a variant is often very wide of the mark. My mother's maiden name is Walkerdine, which is not very common, but entering this for a search also finds all of the Walkers, which are common. Somewhere among these thousands of names are the ones that I need, but it can take hours to search through them. Why should the LDS consider Walker to be a variant of Walkerdine when they have no relationship to one another?

"The inability to search by occupation must be another drawback, but by far the most annoying aspect is the lack of facility to search for a particular road or street. There are no Amsdens living where I grew up and spent my early years, but I would clearly love to know what this area was like in 1881. Who lived there? What did they do? Were they rich or poor? All of which information is important if we are to draw some picture of the life and times of that community."

PETER C. AMSDEN
Member No. 1053

Sloppy programming

"I HAVE been told that the RTF save program used by the LDS is, not to put too fine a point on it, 'crap'. There was some very sloppy programming on the RTF part of the program, causing it, at first sight to black out completely. The problem with their RTF conversion is that for some reason it generates borders that are 100% of the width of the page. Word ignores this instruction, whilst WordPerfect tries to meet the instruction and hence blanks out the page. If you want to use WordPerfect, just use 'Reveal Codes' and find the border commands at the start of the document, then delete them. Very funny that they had this problem, since WordPerfect was written by the Mormons.

"There is another bug in that the 'details' are shown as 'hidden text' and you have to explicitly 'reveal hidden text' to get the relationships and occupations."

FRANK HAKNEY
Member No. 1832

Fiche version not obsolete

"THE new CDs have not rendered the fiche version obsolete. Those of us who have already extracted all our surnames from the fiche and compiled a combined searchable database, so having a fully printable file, will find that the new National Index will only allow the first 100 entries to be printed. Moving down a mode to search the county files, all I understand that only 100 entries can be printed out. The new CDs will, however be to the advantage of those searching new or wider range of surnames that faster access is now available on screen.

"Incidentally, I noticed in my brief skirmish with the CDs at my local LDS library that the soundex system produces different groups of surnames from the original fiches. Example: a search on HAIKNEYS also finds all the HALKNEYS, which reveals a surprising new eccentricity to watch out for."

Frank Hakney
Member No. 1832

Graham Fidler
Member No. 2325

We hope to carry more about the 1881 disc in the January issue. By then, users will have had some months to get used to the program. We are particularly interested in hearing about any new workarounds on some of the discs' limitations - or any really bizarre entries you may have found! ☺

The Journal of One-Name Studies, October 1999 275
Who perpetrated a bizarre spoof on the 1881 Census?  
By Roy Stockdill

The 1881 Census discs have thrown up what would appear to be a curious spoof in the form of a patently false entry. At first sight, it was believed either to be a practical joke on the part of an LDS inputter, or possibly some kind of "dummy" instructional entry for programmers which had somehow slipped through and got onto one of the discs. However, diligent enquiries by a one-name researcher has revealed that the mystery goes much deeper, for the "spoof" — if such it is — apparently exists in the original enumerator's notebook. This being so, it looks likely that it is a forgery of more recent origins, somehow perpetrated at the Public Record Office.

The suspect entry appears on the Greater London Region (London/Middlesex A-L) Disc 1. It describes a dwelling at 16 Acacia Gardens, Paddington, and gives the head of the household as one Robert GOODMAN, aged 52, occupation "International Playboy", handicap "lunatic"? His wife is shown as Cecily Goodman, aged NINETY-SEVEN, of no profession. She is followed by an unmarried son, also Robert Goodman, aged FORTY, whose occupation is given as "pence"! Another son, James Goodman, is shown aged 12, a scholar. All four are shown as being born at Maidstone, Kent.

The entry becomes even more bizarre with a list of no fewer than 21 servants, ranging in ages from 65 to 14, including a butler and his wife, a chauffeur, four footmen, three lady's maids, two kitchen maids, a cook, a nurse, under-nurse, governess, gardener, assistant gardener, two pages and one woman simply described as a servant. Six of the servants were supposedly born in Timbuctoo, three in Russia, three in Nepal, and others in India, Rangpoor, Afghanistan, Persia, Lisbon, Colombo, Syria, Pakistan — and a 17-year-old maid whose birth place is shown as "Penal Colony, Australia".

The PRO reference is given as: RG I 1 Piece 0020 Folio 126 Page 48.

The entry caused much speculation, and not a little amusement, on the Internet ge Sunay list. It was reported to the YORKSGEN list (for Yorkshire genealogy), where I first saw it — and smelled a very large rat! I quickly checked out the entry for myself and realised it must be some kind of spoof. For one thing, trawling with the "Neighbors" facility for a long way on either side of the entry I discovered that there were no other entries for "Acacia Gardens". The entry is totally isolated, with entries in Poplar Square, Paddington, coming immediately before it and entries in Back Place, Paddington, immediately after it.

Other facts suggest it to be a palpably false entry, as follows...

* The term "International Playboy" would surely not have been used in 1881, though "pence" may have been (according to a dictionary of slang I consulted, it first appeared about 1871).

* A man of 52 with a wife of 97 and son aged 40?

* A Victorian A-Z of London published in 1888 shows no Acacia Gardens in Paddington.

* The birth places of the servants are deeply suspicious, especially six of them born in Timbuctoo. It is just remotely possible that a girl who was 17 in 1881 could have been born in an Australian penal colony, since transportation to Western Australia did not end until 1868. However, the real giveaway is one servant supposedly born in Pakistan — which didn't come into existence until 1947! Clearly, then it could not have been a joke by a householder or an enumerator in 1881.

Considerable discussion took place on the Internet lists and at first the entry was assumed to be a practical joke, either by someone in Salt Lake City responsible for the inputting or perhaps someone who helped with the transcribing in the UK. Other suggestions included a demo "dummy" entry for the guidance of inputters and programmers, or a deliberate piece of "misinformation" to catch anyone illegally trying to copy the disc — though the last one seems unlikely.

A forgery?

Then Janet Few, of the Braund Society, decided to check the film of the original enumerator's book at the PRO and — surprise, surprise — she discovered the dodgy entry appears there, too! Janet says: "RG I 0020 folio 126 is a genuine page in the enumerator's book. However the preceding page relates to Poplar Square, not Acacia Gardens. The preceding page marks the end of an enumerator's district and the page is not full. The dubious entry has been added on to a blank page at the back of the enumerator's book. Quite apart from the entry itself, two other things point to it being a forgery. First, the household suspiciously fills exactly one page. Also, the schedule number is given as 1 and does not follow on from the previous household.

"The handwriting does not look 19th century and could be the work of more than one hand. I can imagine several people taking it in turns to add more and more improbable entries. So how did this get there? I would imagine that it was done in the 1950s or 1960s when the original enumerators' books were produced for researchers. Maybe the perpetrator(s) will own up! It could have been staff or researchers, I guess."

Janet adds: "Despite all the fun and fuss this has caused, it does serve as a reminder that indexes should always be checked with original sources if at all possible, and that even what appears to be a film of a contemporary record should be treated with caution."

Amen to that!
Take advantage of Guild offer to members on software and books

THE Guild has arranged special discounts for members on a range of genealogical software and also on books about family history. You can purchase any of these items from the Guild sales manager, whose address is given at the end of this notice and again on the following page, with payment details. The software is also available on the Guild bookstall at Guild events and some family history fairs.

Below are the details of software available, on all of which there is a 10 per cent discount. Details of how to order books are given in a separate notice on the next page. Remember that on all items the cost of postage and packing must be added in. The system requirements for each software program are specified on the respective web pages.

GENEALOGY PROGRAMS

CUSTODIAN II by Phil Smith, £49 (£44.10 for members)
http://members.aol.com/pandssmith/Custodian.htm

Specially designed with one-name studies in mind, by the husband of one of our members. A series of databases with pre-defined forms, specially designed to store genealogical information. Consists of a series of data-entry forms for information from lots of different sources, mainly designed for UK sources but also North America and Australia VRIs.

All names from forms are included in the Master Index, which you can browse, search and then access any record. Can store in excess of 2 billion records. Visit the web-site for fuller description of all the various input forms it provides.

GENMAP UK by Steve Archer £25 (£22.50 for members)
http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/steve_archer/GENMAP.HTM

Imports dBase III and GEDCOM files to plot the distribution and movement of surnames through space and time using Dot-Distribution or County-Floodfill maps of British Isles. Exports dBase III, Paradox and Comma Separated ASCII (.CSV) files.

BIRDIE by Barney Tywhitt-Drake £25 (£22.50 for members).
http://www.tdrake.demon.co.uk/birdie32.htm
Imports GEDCOM data from IGI, converts it into standard Paradox database tables and lets you view the geographical distribution of the results on a map of the British Isles.

LDS COMPANION by Steve Archer £16 (£14.40 for members)
http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/steve_archer/LDSCOMP.HTM
Successor to IGIRead. Imports data from FamilySearch (IGI, Scottish Church Records, Ordinance Index, Social Security Death Index) and from Family History Resource Files (British VR, North American VR, Australian VR, 1851 Three-County Index and 1881 British Census). Converts data to choice of DBF, Lotus WK1, Excel XLS, Formatted ASCII, or Comma Separated ASCII (.CSV) formats.

RTF WIZARD by Barney Tywhitt-Drake £9.95 (£8.95 for members)
http://www.tdrake.demon.co.uk/rtfwiz.htm
Converts Rich Text Format (RTF) files from 1881 British Census into GEDCOM, .DBF, .DB and .TXT (Comma separated variable) files, that can be imported into any spreadsheet, database or family history program.

ORDERING

ALL items are priced as shown in the table (below left). They are available from:

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<th>ITEM</th>
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<td>Custodian</td>
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<td>RTF Wizard</td>
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<td>LDS Comp.</td>
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<td>GENMAP UK</td>
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<td>BIRDIE</td>
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Don't forget to include your name, address, membership number and payment to cover your order. Payments: by Sterling cheque, payable to The Guild of One-Name Studies; or by Mastercard, Visa, or Delta Credit Card, giving its number and expiry date and including the £2 surcharge in your total.
Newspaper theme for London Seminar 2000

The Guild is holding a Greater London Seminar in February 2000. This promises to be one of the best and most popular seminars we have ever organised.

It was felt appropriate by the Seminars Subcommittee that the first event of the new millennium should be held in the capital. A special theme has also been chosen. It will be "Newspapers as a source of researching for one-name studies."

There will be a special "flyer" and application form for the seminar with the January 2000 Journal, but make a note of the details NOW!


The speakers will include Dr Christopher Skelton-Foord, Reading Rooms and Information Services Manager at the British Library's Newspaper Library at Colindale, North London.

His talk will include an introduction to the services and collections available at the library and examples from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries of the type of family history information which is available in newspapers.

Well-known lecturers Jeanne Bunting and Audrey Collins are also due to speak. Jeanne Bunting's talk will be entitled "Reading Between The Lines" and she will relate the kind of things that you can find in newspapers in order to put meat on the bones of your ancestors. Audrey Collins will talk on sources in old magazines and specialist journals.

Roy Stockdill, Journal of One-Name Studies Editor, will lead off the seminar with a general talk about the press, including some of his own experiences over more than 40 years as a journalist.

As a bonus, we have arranged for a copy of Palmer’s Index to the Times on CD-ROM to be available for searching on the day, plus other Guild CDs.

The Guild’s 1999 bulk order discount publication sale

This year, instead of restricting your choice to the small selection we displayed in last October's journal, the discount will apply to the full range of our suppliers' own publications.

To explain this: if you require Federation of Family History Societies publications, choose any but those listed under "Other Publications Etc." from the FFHS list in the centre of the News and Digest that came with this journal.

This also applies to the Society of Genealogists and The Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry lists. If you cannot get access to these, copies can be obtained by sending your details and a 19p stamp (O/S members 1 IRC) for return postage to Guild Sales. Or by downloading at:

http://www.sog.org.uk
and
www.bmsgh.org

Remember, discounts only apply to items published by these organisations and ordered through Guild Sales, not direct.

This year we are delaying the closing and dispatch dates to allow overseas members more time to order and to avoid the orders going out in the Christmas post.

Rules or conditions

Discounts: Add the total cost of your order with appropriate postage, then the number of items ordered.

For 2 items, deduct 5%: 5 items, deduct 10%: 10 items and over deduct 15%.

Payments must be made in Sterling to The Guild of One-Name Studies.

All orders must arrive at Guild Sales by December 5 1999.

No add-ons or extra orders at discount prices will be accepted after that date.

All Sale goods are non-returnable.

Orders and their payments will be processed and cleared on arrival.

One bulk order will be made to each of our suppliers as soon as possible after the closing date.

Your goods will be dispatched in one consignment, as soon as all the supplies are in, as follows...

UK by second class post, overseas by surface small packets post.

Important

Please make sure your remittance covers all the goods you are ordering, as the time factor and our profit margin exclude correspondence.

If your payment does not cover the goods ordered, only items to the value received will be dispatched. Any surplus money will then be treated as a donation to the Guild. Small over-payments will also be treated this way.

Ordering

Please state: Publisher; Section heading; the item name printed as their list.

Do not forget to include your name, address, membership number and a payment to cover your order. Payments: by Sterling cheque, payable to The Guild of One-Name Studies; or by Mastercard, Visa, or Delta Credit Card, giving its number, expiry date and including the £2 surcharge in your total.

Post the completed details to: Guild of One-Name Study Sales, Outwood Hills Farm, Lower Outwoods Road, Burton-on-Trent DE13 0QX England, to arrive no later than December 5 1999.

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Braund Society aims for 200 in 2,000

FOR the last seventeen years the Braund Society has been promoting the study of the history, biography and genealogy of the world-wide Braund family.

To celebrate our 18th birthday we will be holding a reunion based in North Devon, England, from April 25–30 2000. The event will incorporate displays, talks, outings and plenty of eating, as well as our customary church service. All those interested in the Braund family are most welcome.

Our millennium project is to complete a biographical record of at least 2,000 Braunds, Braund spouses or Braund descendants, who are alive in the year 2000. We are also launching our “200 for 2000” campaign, hoping to increase our membership to 200 households. If anyone knows any Braunds or their descendants who could help us fulfil these aims please put them in touch with us.

THE BRAUND SOCIETY
Chris Braund
12 Ranelagh Road
Lake Sandown
Isle of Wight PO36 8NX
England
braundsociety@fewiow.freeserve.co.uk

De Carteret Circle is formed

EVERYONE with an interest in the de Carteret family will be interested to know there is now a formal Society for reunions and research, called Le Cercle de Carteret. This was formed at a meeting held at the Douzaine Chamber de la Vale, Guernsey, after an announcement, in a newsletter sent out within the UK.

Administrators are: Chairperson, Mr. Brian de Carteret, a retired maths tutor; Secretary, Mrs. Jenny Thomas, replacing Nicolas de Carteret, who had to withdraw due to appointment to the States Board for Health. He is still with us, but will not have the time to carry out the Secretary’s work. However Jenny has taken up the challenge with much enthusiasm. You should contact her at 6 Tunstall Terrace, Gibauderier, St. Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1XJ, phone 01481 710097, for membership forms for those who wish to join Le Cercle (SAE or IRCs for reply).

Other officers are: Treasurer, Mrs. Sharon French (Trust Manager); Reunion Secretary, Mrs. Susan Wood; Research & Archivist, Mr. Michael de Carteret; Newsletter Editor, Mr. Charles de Carteret, 144 Sheldrake Drive Chantry, Ipswich IP2 9NP.

Membership fees are: Single £10; Family £12; Student/OAP/OAP Couple £5; Overseas, £10.

A web site is in preparation in the USA by Jason de Carteret, e-mail: jason@decarteret.wm

Membership requests are welcome.

MIKE de CARTERET
Member No. 2849
Batu Tegar, Delancey Lane
St. Sampsons
Guernsey GY2 4BZ
E-mail: mikdecar@guernsey.net

Aussie member collects his Guild goodies

Guild member DanEyre from Victoria, Australia, paid a call on our Sales Manager Ron Duckett during a recent visit to the UK, and while visiting a stately home in Derbyshire, to collect his pre-arranged sale order. He is pictured (left) with Ron’s wife and daughter.

Dan’s UK research then took him on to Nottingham where he obtained local help at the Record Office from Dominic Johnson, the Guild’s Registrar. This series of events fell into place without a lot of planning, and was a help to Dan. Hopefully, there may be more of this kind of interchange and co-operation when Guild members from abroad are visiting the UK, or vice versa. ☺

CAN'T find your way around the Internet? Are those most important genealogy sites related to Great Britain proving to be rather elusive? Then this is the book that will tell you where they are hiding!

Although this book only lists the main sites, I would recommend its use and it will certainly get a place on my bookcase. The guide is simple to use, as each country is listed separately. Under each of these headings, counties are alphabetically arranged showing the sites that are available.

I would hope that as this medium develops for genealogical research, more sites will be listed in future editions of this book.


THIS is an excellent guide book, in its fourth edition, written for American researchers tracing British or Irish ancestors. The book's first chapter guides the novice researcher through the early stages of research, from the first blank piece of paper to questioning elderly relatives.

The other chapters guide the researcher through the different types of records that are available, where they are held and how copies can be obtained by an overseas researcher. Anyone researching their ancestry from outside Great Britain or Ireland will find this guide a useful tool.

KEEPING YOUR RECORDS IN ORDER: Family History and Genealogical Record Management System, compiled by Marie McCulloch. A4, spiral bound with a soft cover, 60 pages. ISBN: 0 94957747 2. Published by Brisbane branch of the Queensland Family History Society Inc. Price: $10 (Australian), plus p & p, from The Secretary, Brisbane Q. F. H. S., PO Box 171, Indooroopilly, Queensland 4068, Australia.

This publication is a must for any researcher who has not got their hard copy notes and files, etc., organised! As we all know, vast amounts of paperwork are accumulated and these records need to be put into proper order. Otherwise, many precious hours could be wasted while a hunt is made through mountains of unorganised paper, looking for a vital clue.

Guild member Marie McCulloch has given us an in-depth record system, from the basics through to the storage and preservation of artefacts. A must for the bookcase.


DO you know what a guinea pig, a hocus-pocus man, a quarrel picker and a colporteur all did for a living? No? Well, buy this book and you will no longer have any excuse for not knowing! Joyce Culling's excellent work, first published in 1994 and now reissued, is one of those books you can dip into anywhere and learn something new. In the introduction, the author cites some amusing occupations found in census returns, such as two female servants who were "kept by the flour dealer"; someone who had "A life-long interest in money"; and a man who gave his occupation as "A Scotsman".

Some old occupations have quite different meanings today. Did you know that a mugger was once a farmer who raised pigs or a labourer who looked after them? And a stripper was a worker who stripped bark from a tree, or tobacco leaves - not a stage performer who disrobes?

Finally, here are the answers to those queries I posed at the start of this review...

• Guinea pig - slang for an unattached or roving parson, whose fee was a guinea.
• Hocus-pocus man - a street ice cream seller.
• Quarrel picker - 17th/18th century for a glazier, being a pun on "quarrel", a small piece of glass or a tile.
• Colporteur - a hawkers of books, especially one employed by a society to distribute religious books and pamphlets (and I thought he was a song writer!).

Roy Stockdill

NEW publications are welcomed for review. Would authors and publishers be sure to provide full details of title, price (including p&p) and address for ordering? E-mail and web site addresses will be included if supplied. If you are offering a discount to Guild members, please state this clearly. Please send publications to our Reviewer: Jane Morson, Upper Neatham Mill, Upper Neatham Mill Lane, Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4EP.

Our round-up of some interesting new genealogical publications

By Jane Morson
One-namers who "milk a society for all its worth"

Perhaps one useful thing the Guild could do is to promote the aims and objectives of our organisation. I recently wrote to a family history society in the south of England to establish the cost of an extract from their marriage index for my registered names. Back came a reply stating that they had 133 matches, but that I would have to join their society to get hold of this list.

I wrote back pointing out that I actually had more matching marriages than they did, that I could not afford to join all the Societies in the areas where my ONS was prevalent, and that they could add the missing ones to their database, if they would let me know of any of theirs that I was missing. This seemed to me to be a genuine offer; they would have the benefit of my researches to add some missing marriages to their database, whilst I would have a check on my information.

Much to my surprise I got a disturbing reply to this letter. I quote, exactly as received: "ONS generally join a society, milk it for all its worth and then leave. As we give a service, we hope for long term members and not others who are working on their own behalf and not working for genealogy in general."

Implication

I disliked intensely the implication that I, and other GOONS, were not working for genealogy in general. I wrote back pointing out what I did for "genealogy in general" and that I could add the missing ones to their database, if they would let me know of any of theirs that I was missing. This seemed to me to be a genuine offer; they would have the benefit of my researches to add some missing marriages to their database, whilst I would have a check on my information.

Much to my surprise I got a disturbing reply to this letter. I quote, exactly as received: "ONS generally join a society, milk it for all its worth and then leave. As we give a service, we hope for long term members and not others who are working on their own behalf and not working for genealogy in general."

Yellow was too prominent in distribution map

The coloured density distribution map for the LEESON surname on the front cover of the July 1999 journal demonstrates the powerful impact and usefulness of such maps in one-name studies. However, I found the yellow of the 0.5 to 1.0 density band to be too prominent, having a similar impact to the highest density bands and creating a false mental picture, which I had to consciously correct. Although the difference between bands would be more difficult to distinguish, I think that graduations of one colour would be better.

We now need a next generation of mapping software to give greater geographical accuracy, down to hundreds or better. As it might involve considerable work, it might need to be applied selectively to individual counties of particular interest, say, to a suspected maximum density. For instance, in the Leeson map there could be a very high density near to the Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire border, which may have been smeared out over two counties.

A second way that accuracy could be increased is more density bands. In the Leeson map the densities in Warwickshire and Lincolnshire are very similar but show as different colours, as one is in the top of a band and the other is in the bottom of the next higher band. Is there a programme available to do this?

Were the Christoes from Cornwall, Devon or elsewhere?

I was most interested to read Trevor Ogden's stimulating article in the recent Journal about surname origins, Christian name derivations and our historical misconceptions about names in general. Many of the matters he raised have echoes in some name-searching that a friend of mine and I have done into her Cornish ancestors with the unusual surname of CHRIStOE. They were assayers in the copper mines around Redruth in the early 19th century.

Tall and haughty

At least we thought they might be old Cornish (even though they were said to be "tall with a haughty manner, strawberry blond hair and icy blue eyes") until my friend discovered that there were a large number of listings of the name Christoe in the Devon Record Office showing them owning land in Devon between the mid-13th and mid-16th centuries, when the most common version of the name was DE CHRISTENSTOWE, which we think must be the original form.

There is also the village of Christow in Devon which is said to have had silver mines nearby in the time of James I (later reopened by
the Victorians) and which had a Rector by the name of Christenstowe in the 13th century. Perhaps the name comes from the place?

The propagation of Christian names, which was discussed in Trevor's article, came up in relation to the Chiostoes/Christenstowes, who favoured mainly John and William as names except for a period of three or four generations when they suddenly took up James in a big way, reverting back to John and William afterwards.

Jacobites?

Their use of the James name coincided with the Jacobite period and the Scottish Pretenders, and we wondered if the Christenstowes were Jacobite sympathisers. That would maybe suggest a Scottish connection or even origin, remembering the hair colour. In summary, we have found Christoe/Christenstowes in the West Country from the 13th century onwards, except for an inexplicable gap of 60 years at the end of the 17th.

There is no sign of them in Domesday, but the College of Arms says it has some mentions of the family but no record of Arms. Beyond that inquiry, we have yet to look outside Devon and Cornwall and it is perhaps time to spread the net wider — but where? Have any of your readers come across this name and can advise us?

DAVID GORE
Member No. 1014
The Red House
Lower Basildon
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In praise of the good old Amstrad PCW

I was interested to read June Morris's letter in the April 1999 Journal concerning her experiences with her Amstrad PCW. This machine in its several guises will surely be viewed in years to come as one of the great classics in British computer history, having introduced so many people to word processing and other programs.

I, too, had one for nine years, during which it served me well, with total reliability. With it, I built up my one-name study of the family of DUMMER, which eventually grew to more than 200 pages of A4 of tightly-packed data on 2,300 people. One of my objectives was to produce hard copies of all the information, to be placed in relevant libraries and record centres.

Hard copies or microfilm are more likely to survive than data on computer or disc and we should be looking to future generations of researchers. In my own family, the research was initiated by my g-g-grandfather and continued by my g-grandfather, who died in 1917. Nobody did anything until I picked up the baton in 1965. Fortunately, the papers had survived, which is not always the case. Therefore, we should not assume that our immediate descendants are going to look after our records, and we should certainly not assume that data on disc will be readable by future generations.

Genealogy program

Ideally, I should have used a genealogical program, but funds were very tight, so I had to content myself with the faithful old LocoScript word processing program, for which I still have a lot of respect. I even created the family trees with LocoScript. I realised that once you've got a database in word processing format it is difficult to transfer it to a genealogical program at a later date, but that would be some time in the future and I had no alternative at the time.

After nine years with the PCW I took the inevitable step of replacing it with a PC. PCs will not read discs produced by a PCW but, fortunately, I had access to LocoLink (special software and cable to link the PCW to the PC and convert the format of the data as it is transferred).

Unfortunately, I committed the cardinal sin of not reading the instructions fully and blew up one of the printed circuit boards in the PCW. I was terrified I might also have blown the LocoLink cable (£70!)..

My salvation came from the small ads in the local press. Many other people have gone over to PCs and want to get rid of their PCWs. I was able to get a complete PCW outfit for £15, which yielded up a replacement printed circuit board. The other likely source for old PCWs is the car boot sale. In recent years I have often seen one lying on the ground which might go for as little as £10. It never ceases to amaze me that people will pay nearly as much for a second hand typewriter, yet disregard a PCW with which they could achieve so much more.

Data flowed

Fortunately, the LocoLink cable was not damaged and the data flowed across to the PC with virtually no typographical errors, which is more than an optical character reader would have achieved. This still left me with one problem, however. Over a period of a couple of years I had extracted all the records of Dummer births, marriages and deaths from the St. Catherine's indexes and to save space on the printed page I had listed them in two columns. LocoScript does not have the ability to produce columns, so I had laboriously created quasi-columns manually. Now I had to laboriously "uncreate" 25 pages of quasi-columns for the PC. That took me even longer!

I have subsequently purchased a copy of the genealogical program, Generations (formerly Reunion) and entered all the births, marriages and deaths of the Dummer, but not (yet) much of the other detail.

It produces superb family trees. It also produces useful Reports which can be printed out as hard copy, but nowhere near as compactly as in my original word processed format, which means that my original 200 pages of printout will be considerably increased. But there is a lot of work ahead before I reach that stage.

The moral is, to avoid a lot of subsequent work, get your data into a genealogical program as early as possible. I also urge you to consider the importance of printing out a hard copy of all your data every so often and ensuring that it is properly archived. Don't keep putting it off — you never know when you yourself
are going to become just another statistic!

In my case, copies of the Fifth Edition of The Family of Dummer have been supplied to the Society of Genealogists, the LDS and reference libraries in Hampshire and Sussex, who will be kept updated with future revisions.

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And another PCW problem solved

I read with interest Mrs. June Morris' letter in the April 1999 edition of the Journal, as I, too, have the problem of an obsolescent PCW. My model is the PCW9512. When my printer broke down, I was lucky to obtain another one from a relative who is now using a more up-to-date machine. She will be letting me have the rest of the outfit when I am able to visit Liverpool.

However, all is not lost, even if friends or relatives are unable to help. In view of the difficulty of finding a steady supply of 3-inch discs, I decided to add a 3.5-inch disc drive to the machine. I found that the necessary drive was obtainable from LocoScript Software of 10/11 Vincent Works, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3HJ.

Now I have a machine that uses both 3-inch and 3.5-inch discs. I understand that they supply reconditioned printers, too. Their prices are quite reasonable. Hopefully, that firm will continue to supply parts for many years.

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Mystery of sergeant's cap is resolved

The observations made by Dr. Goulty in his letter, published in the July 1999 Journal of One-Name Studies, about the photograph of David READMAN in the previous Journal had already been made to me by at least two other correspondents.

Not being RAF myself (I was in the darker blue for fourteen years) it only vaguely crossed my mind that in the photograph David was wearing an officer's cap — so I failed to note it in the article.

When David Readman was taken prisoner in 1942 he was a sergeant and the research which Lieve Boonstra of the Netherlands was undertaking was concerned with that period. During his captivity David was promoted to Warrant Officer and left the RAF in that rank. On the original of the photograph it is just possible to discern the Warrant Officer badge on his left sleeve. The "S" brevet, I was told, was for "Specialist" wireless operator/air gunner. Another source suggested that it stood for "Signaler".

Thanks to further research carried out by Dr. Goulty, the exact meaning has been clearly proven to be, as he stated in his letter, "Signaller".

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Fascinating follow-ups to "Funny Old World"

WHEN I submitted snippets for inclusion in "It's a Funny Old Genealogical World" I had no thought that there would be any follow-up. However, the item about the widow of Samuel SLOCOCK of Newbury has provided me with a connection with another Slocock researcher. Maureen Luxton, Member 1346, had been carrying out research for a Slocock descendant. As a result, I have been spurred on to look at some Berkshire records at the PRO, Kew, leading to yet more relevant Slocock information.

The letter from Bruce R. Isted, Member 221, in the July 1999 Journal, giving information about the Misses PINFOLD, has certainly thrown more light on the cases in the Quarter Sessions which I quoted in the January Journal. It would seem that the young men who damaged the bushes in their garden were probably "bored teenagers".

It had escaped my notice until a minute ago that I could have looked up the Rev. William Cockin in my copy of "Minchinhampton and Avening" by A.T. Playne, first published in 1915 but reprinted last year. There I have found a portrait of Mr. Cockin and the quotation given by Bruce. There was also a little information about the Pinfold family, wealthy clothiers, who had lived in Minchinhampton since the latter part of the seventeenth century.

William Cockin, curate of Minchinhampton and Cherington, was appointed Rector of Minchinhampton in 1806 when the living became vacant. He continued in his post until his death in 1841. In his turn he left a large bequest including "a large cellar of wine", the sale of which, together with his furniture and other effects, lasted eight days. He was a very good natured, hospitable man, very charitable to the poor, and a great favourite with his parishioners, many of whom he used to rebuke by name in his sermons.

I had read this extract before but now that I have connected William Cockin with the Misses PINFOLD the two parts of the story have come alive. Is this not the essence of family history?

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Writing name inside reply envelope

With reference to the comment by Merryl Wells in the "Writing Cold" article in the July 1999 Issue of The Journal, I learnt long ago at work to write a name or reference on the inside of a reply envelope in case it was returned without any identification as to the sender.

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"Cunning rascals" used genealogies to defraud in 1897

Those genealogists worried about privacy and use of information for wrongful purposes will find this item from Dick Eastman's online genealogy newsletter of particular interest...

"Many people, myself included, are alarmed at the loss of privacy in this high-tech world in which we live. We think that the use of computers and the ease of finding information have made it possible for snoops to find out too much about us. In turn, this information can be used for purposes that we do not approve of.

"This week, Mary Jean Hall sent along a note that makes me wonder if this is a modern problem after all. Mary Jean found the following in a book printed in 1897. From the Wakefield Memorial, Historical, Genealogical & Biographical Register of the Name and Family of Wakefield:

"A WARNING
"It is deemed proper to warn the kinfolk that genealogies are sometimes made to serve unfortunate ends, in the hands of 'confidence' men and women. Books of this kind find their way into public libraries, where they can be consulted by any one; here cunning rascals familiarise themselves with parts of the family history and impersonate a distant relative and impose on the family hospitality, borrow money, ask valuable and rare favors on various pretenses, all to beat the selected victim. Sometimes (it is said) spirit mediums, clairvoyants, and fortune tellers consult genealogies to obtain necessary family history to bewilder and defraud their patrons. All kinds of schemes are resorted to nowadays for defrauding, and genealogies offer no exception to the rule.

"Homer Wakefield M.D.

Reprinted by kind permission of Dick Eastman, chief sysop of the CompuServe Roots Forum, from his online genealogy newsletter."

A doleful damsel, a whore and vicars with acid tongues

The Vicar of Seasalter, near Whitstable, Kent, from 1711 was Thomas Patten. His acid tongue let rip regularly, though whether he actually told his parishioners the things he wrote in the parish registers is doubtful. Here is one of his entries:

"William Parnel and Mary Steed, a doleful, forbidding, saturnine damsel, married."

And talking of acid, how about this curious middle name from Queensland, Australia BMDs...

7 July 1913 - Alma CHLORIDE Stead married William Herbert Burgess.

Another somewhat tart comment was this one by the Vicar of St. Mary the Virgin, Dover, Kent...

"30 Jan 1718, Elizabeth, bastard daughter of John Smith and Eliz. Reit. This is the second time she has played the whore."

From St. Mary's, Sandwich, is this entry...

"Memorandum: that on the 9th day of June in the yeare of Our Lord 1680 was by order of confirmation or laying on of hands by the Reverend father in God william ffloyd, The Bishop of Peterborough (Peterborough) the number of 400 and 58 men women and children, about 9 yeares old, in the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin Sand-

Men found lingering within tent!

HHL 1891 Census for Huddersfield, Yorkshire (RG12/3576 - HHL Fiche 6098686) contains the following entry...

Address: Back of Four Horseshoes Inn, Inside tent of Switchback Railway

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where born</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Profession</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N.K.</td>
<td>Man</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Driver of Stationary Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.K.</td>
<td>Man</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Carpenter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The Journal of One Name Studies

Contributions to the Journal

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