PUBLISHING FOR ONE-NAME STUDIES

An 8-page special on producing family books, journals and web pages

Also in this issue...

Proposed major changes in civil registration will bring good and bad news for family historians

Full report of Guild and FFHS conference at Coventry
Guild of One-Name Studies

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Regional Representatives
A LIST of Regional Representatives of the Guild in a number of UK counties, and overseas, can be found on the inside back cover of this Journal. If you are interested in becoming a Regional Rep, please contact the Regional Representatives Coordinator, Barbara Harvey (address and phone number on the inside back cover).

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ARTICLES, letters and other contributions are welcomed from members, especially accompanied by illustrations, and should be sent to the Editor. Publication dates will normally be the first day of January, April, July and October.

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Memorable conference weekend that left my mind reeling with new responsibilities!

IT IS A REAL privilege to be writing these, my first Chairman's Notes for the Guild. I must say that, when I turned up with the big blue boxes containing the Guild bookstall for the AGMI/Conference at the University of Warwick, I had no idea that I would come away with the same (slightly lighter) boxes, but with a mind reeling with the responsibilities and possibilities that this new job brings.

As I write this, it's still only been a few weeks, but my e-mail in-box has never been more full! But wasn't that a great weekend, at the AGMI/Conference? I know this must be frustrating for those of you who live a long way away or who couldn't make it because you were busy, but you missed a truly enjoyable event. Interesting lectures, congenial company, well-organised and clean accommodation, some thoroughly good food - lots of genealogical jollity was had by all.

2003 theme
My thanks go to Dominic Johnson and her team who made the whole thing possible. And if you can make it to the next one at Liverpool University on April 25–27 2003, where the theme will be "Civil Registration", then I recommend that you do so. I don't think you'll be disappointed!

Of course, the weekend had its serious side. Our guests, the Federation of Family History Societies, voted at their AGM to invest in their own pay-per-view service to be available over the Internet. This is a significant undertaking that will require the full cooperation of their member societies (we are one, of course), since it is they who own the content that you will access through this service.

This approach is in sharp contrast to the direction taken by the Society of Genealogists, who entered into a partnership with a commercial organisation, origins.net. I shall be watching the FFHS development with a great deal of interest.

Our own AGM passed with relatively little controversy, I thought. I fully expected someone to ask me a difficult question about census vouchers, (such as when members could start to use them! Still no news on that as I write this, I'm afraid), but all was relatively quiet.

FFHS Chairman
It was, significantly, Alec Tritton’s last AGM as our Chairman, but his compensation was that he was elected as Chairman of the Federation of Family History Societies - it's a good thing to have friends in high places!

And what's changed, then, on the new committee? Well, I'm pleased to say that Barbara Harvey has accepted the role as Regional Representatives Coordinator, replacing Graham Tuley, but that otherwise we have continuity. That's good news for me, as the novice Chairman, to know that I can count on such experience.

The only other recent change in appointments is that Paul Millington has decided to concentrate on the Guild website and has passed his role as Forum Manager to Peter Walker, who is already demonstrating that he can keep order in the lively debates we
have on the Guild Forum. Our Forum, incidentally, enjoys a justified reputation for being one of the best genealogical discussion groups around, so if you haven’t joined and you’re “connected”, then send Peter a message with your membership number to: forum@one-name.org.

It would be appropriate, I suppose, for me to take this opportunity to indicate the sort of Chairman I’d like to be, offering the directions that I’d like to set for the Guild – a sort of manifesto, if you like. But the

**Guild mustn’t fall into same VAT trap as the SoG**

truth is that I haven’t had time, in the whirlwind of the recent events (I’m still running the bookstall – anyone looking for a challenge?), to do more than simply learn my new duties.

There is, however, one thing that I believe we shall have to examine carefully – and soon. It’s money. But it’s not the lack of it, quite the reverse.

Some of you, I know, are members of the Society of Genealogists. If so, then you will know that they are in something of a financial crisis at present that has led to a big increase in subscriptions.

**Liabilities**

I don’t want us to fall into the same trap, and although their position is rather different to our own (a much larger membership, a London property to maintain, and a valuable library to preserve), at the heart of their problem is a failure to anticipate their liabilities towards Value Added Tax.

The Guild is very healthy financially at the moment, but continuing growth, further success with our events, and anticipated benefits from the Halstead Trust, may mean that we will be required to register for VAT. Along with this comes more bureaucracy and pressure for our Treasurer, Sandra Turner.

This may seem a little like a tedious accounting exercise but, in fact, our financial position gives us tremendous opportunities to “advance the education of the public in one-name studies”, as it says in our Constitution.

**More seminars?**

But how should we do that? Run more seminars? Establish a library for one-name studies? Create an education programme? Set up a bursary to support academic research into surname studies?

These are just a few of the ideas I’ve heard discussed, and to try and focus our efforts in this direction, I’ve asked Paul Millington to lead a Projects Steering Group to bring proposals to the Committee for our consideration.

I know that Paul would welcome your ideas. It’s your Guild – what would you like to see?

And now for a commercial – our next seminar is to be held at Ash, in Surrey, on Saturday, October 19. Although the programme is still being developed, the theme will be the use we make of computers in one-name studies. I’ll be there, and I’d love to get the chance to meet as many of you as I can. If you’re within reach, put the date on your calendar!

**Thanks, Alec**

Finally I cannot end my first Chairman’s Notes without giving full recognition to the contribution made by my predecessor, Alec Tritton. Under his leadership, the Guild has not only achieved strength and stability, but also enjoys a significant reputation in the wider genealogical community.

I am grateful to him for creating such a healthy organisation. I only hope that I can come some way to emulating his achievement.

---

**New Chairman was once a professional actor**

HOWARD BENBROOK has been a member of the Guild since 1999 and has served on the main committee for the last year. Howard is probably best known to members for running the Guild bookstall, and in the nine months since he began loading up his car and touring the country, he’s visited nearly 20 venues and taken over £4,000 for the Guild.

Howard’s own genealogy interests centre on London and he claims to be descended from at least nine generations of East End cockneys. Unable to find the origins of his earliest known ancestor, Edward Benbrook, who ran a pub called 'The Antigallian' in Limehouse in 1750, he began to record all the occurrences of the Benbrook name and a one-name study was born. Several years later and it seems he should have been looking in Warwickshire all along!

Howard works in the IT industry where he specialises in training, but his first love is the theatre, and for a period he worked as an actor professionally, appearing in regional theatre, West End and radio in both straight plays and musicals. He even met his wife Pam when they were rehearsing the opera “La Boheme” (he was playing Schaunard, she Musetta). They now have two grown-up sons, who also work in IT.

In one of those enticing coincidences, the pursuit of Benbrook variants frequently takes Howard to the record office in Stratford-on-Avon, as a lot of Benbrooks are to be found in Rowington, a Warwickshire village that is mentioned in Shakespeare’s will. Alas, there’s no evidence yet of a Benbrook marrying a Shakespeare but when the record office closes, ‘tis but a short walk to the theatre!
Proposed civil registration changes will bring good and bad news for genealogists

How many Guild members, I wonder, have bothered to obtain a copy of the White Paper on civil registration or download it from the Internet? Believe me, you should – and quickly – for it contains proposals which could pose a significant threat to some aspects of our researches.

You have probably all read stories in the national press that have concentrated, inevitably, on the more populist aspects – such as giving couples greater choice on where to marry, registering births by telephone and online, providing baby-naming services at register offices, and allowing people who undergo a sex change to alter their birth certificate.

However, buried deep in the White Paper under a section on balancing privacy and the public interest in registration are proposals that, if they become law, will remove from the public domain data that we have long taken for granted.

In essence, certain vital information that we have enjoyed access to ever since civil registration was first introduced in July 1837 is in danger of being withdrawn. Specifically, this concerns addresses, occupations and causes of death on certificates – data that is bread and butter to the genealogist – relating to anyone born within the last 100 years.

This could lead to some ludicrous anomalies, which I will deal with later. It’s not all bad news, of course. Like so many typical pieces of government legislation, the White Paper offers us a carrot with one hand and takes something away with the other!

First, though, let me outline the major proposed changes...

- There will be a gradual switch-over to full computerisation of records and paper certificates will be phased out, though people will still be able to obtain them purely as souvenirs for commemorative purposes.
- Paper certificates will no longer be required to obtain things like passports and driving licences. Instead, a national computer database will be created and births, marriages and deaths will be linked to provide what’s being called a “through life record” of individuals.
- Government departments like Work and Pensions, Health and the Benefits Agency would be directly notified of specified events and data; agencies such as the Passport Services and DVLA and local authorities would inform people the data they have provided may be checked against the computer records; and bodies such as banks, building societies and insurance companies would be “approved users” who could check statements with the consent of the subject.
- Civil registration records over 100 years old will be deemed “historic” and transferred to county record offices. This would mean that eventually the original registers from register offices would be fully available – meaning, presumably, that we would no longer have to buy the certificates.

The government says it would support not-for-profit organisations interested in providing electronic access to the historic records.

- People born within the last 100 years will be deemed to be the “active population” and their records will continue to be available but with certain information removed.

Restricted data

The restricted data to be treated as “confidential” would be...

- Personal addresses on birth and marriage certificates.
- Occupations of those involved in a birth or marriage event.
- Cause of death and addresses of informants on death certificates.

Such information would only be available to the individuals themselves, their families and “approved users”.

It is, of course, these latter proposals which will cause severe alarm to genealogists – and which will strike most of us as utter nonsense, in fact.

Let us consider the proposals and their likely consequences in more detail...

First, the GOOD news. Few will surely doubt that the idea of producing a “through life record” of every citizen from birth, through marriage to death...
- and including changes of marital status, name and even sex - is a good one. How often have we, as family historians, prayed that such a record of an ancestor could be available! Linkage of the civil registration records of all major events in a person’s life will obviously be a considerable boon to the genealogist of the future.

Secondly, obviously we must welcome the news that the older historic records are ultimately to be transferred to the county record offices and made publicly available. This is something for which the genealogical community has been campaigning for a long time. However, even here there are drawbacks, for it has not been made clear whether we will have access to the original registers, or whether access will be on microfilm or fiche, or if they will be digitised in some form or other.

If the latter, then the debacle over the 1901 census online hardly promotes confidence in the government’s ability to get this aspect of the proposed changes right!

Much more serious, however, is the proposal to restrict access to information on addresses, occupations and cause of death on records under 100 years old. Let me spell out what this means in actual, hard terms...

“Active” dead

It means, as I understand it, that anyone born less than 100 years ago will be deemed to be part of the “active population” – even though millions will, in fact, be DEAD!!! The problem is, because the birth and death records have never been brought together, no-one knows who of those born within the last 100 years is dead and who is still alive.

This could lead to some quite bizarre anomalies.

For instance, the increasing number of centenarians will become “historic records” once they pass the age of 100 – and full information on them will be available. But millions of people who are long dead will have some of their details suppressed.

You could have an ancestor born, say, 95 years ago who is very probably dead, and you will no longer be able to know:

- For births, the occupations of the parents or the addresses of the mother and the informant.
- For marriages, the occupation or profession of the bride and groom, nor of their fathers, nor the addresses of the bride and groom at the time of the marriage.
- For deaths, the occupation and the cause of death, nor the usual address of the deceased person and of the informant.

The increasing number of people researching their family history from a medical point of view, because they want to try and discover whether there is hereditary disease in the family, will find this last point particularly disconcerting, I imagine.

Nowhere does the White Paper attempt to provide a definition of “family”. So, though it proclaims that the individuals concerned and their families would be able to access this data, it doesn’t say who would qualify. Does family mean a spouse, next of kin, sibling, or does it go down to a third cousin twice removed who happens to be researching the family history?

This is one of numerous points that those responsible for drawing up the White Paper do not seem to have thought through. And why the 100-year cutoff point? Could it be this has been chosen for bureaucratic, administrative convenience, falling in with the closure period on the census returns?

As for other concerns, I am sure I do not have to spell out the disastrous consequences for genealogists of removing addresses and occupations from certificates! The differentiation between two people with the same surname – especially if it’s a frequent one – living in the same place could become impossible. Moreover, it would make the tracing of living relatives – always an important aspect of a one-name study – much more difficult also.

Just why is the government proposing these restrictions on information that has been in the public domain ever since 1837?? The answer, predictably, lies in the proclaimed need to prevent fraud and protect individual privacy.

Members will know that the privacy argument doesn’t wash with me. I utterly fail to see how there can be any privacy issues involved in knowing the address and occupation of someone who may have died 40 or 50 years ago! Nor am I convinced there is evidence of widespread fraud using birth and marriage certificates. Indeed, it can be argued that an open system of registration is more likely to detect fraud than a closed or restricted one.

As family historians, we know that the traditional reason banns of marriage have to be called on three successive Sundays is so that anyone who knows of an impediment – like the marriage being unlawful – has an opportunity to object. Was it not for precisely the same kind of reasons that it was decreed the records were to be made public when civil registration was first introduced?

Another alarming fact is that the proposals will NOT be debated by Parliament, but will be pushed through under statutory order-making powers, intended to speed up legislation. It’s envisaged the process will start in the coming Autumn. So if you want to make your views known, time is running out! Richard Ratcliffe, Director of Archives Liaison with the Federation of Family History Societies, says:

“[I] hope more societies and individuals will respond as at present the proposals are vague and in many cases unworkable, so the more responses that are received, the better.”

Any comments on the White Paper can be made by e-mail to: registration.review@ons.gov.uk or to Lorraine Cole, Civil Registration Review Programme, General Register Office, Smedley Hydro, Trafalgar Road, Southport PR8 2HH. Family historians are also being urged to write to their MP.
The nuts and bolts of publishing a 400-plus page family book
By Jack Blencowe

WHEN THE April-June issue of the Journal arrived I was overwhelmed by the favourable review given to our book. I had been awaiting the review rather nervously. I had often thought that had I been trained as an historian instead of a plant pathologist, I might have done a better job. I feared I might be accused of producing an over-blown family scrapbook and would have been happy to admit that the cap fitted and I was prepared to wear it — at least it is a scrap book giving pleasure to many of our Association members.

That said, I thought an account of the "nuts and bolts" of the publishing procedures might help others to make up their minds to make a start on their own family book.

Getting started
We had accumulated a couple of thousand pages of transcripts of wills, indentures and marriage settlements, together with dozens of unconnected family trees. Clearly, it was too expensive to publish it all — and who would read it? At our reunion in Oxford in 1993, we decided to try and put something into book form. Getting started was perhaps the most difficult stage! The early history of the family made a beginning, but how to link that with the tales of migrants to the City of London and emigrations overseas? In the end I wrote, and encouraged others to write, the individual pieces and hoped that eventually I would be able to link them into a coherent sequence. Starting to get something down in black-and-white is the main thing.

Choosing the format
By the time of our 1997 reunion in West Virginia I had a few chapters in hand and we decided that, if we were going to publish at all, it was worth the expense of a hard cover volume that our kids would be proud to have on their bookshelves. We hoped, by publishing in the USA, to get away with a cost of less than $30. I knew that costs would be minimised by producing camera ready pages and decided that I needed a large page to allow for the printing of legible family trees. That ruled out A5 and I did not like A4 for a book format. Quarto, the American letter size, had a nicer proportion and gave me a few extra millimetres of width for the trees. I had a good stock of old tractor feed quarto paper to use for drafts but ended up having to buy a couple of large packs of quality paper whilst on holiday in Virginia.

Choosing the method
Journal Editor Roy Stockdill had suggested using a two-column layout but I opted instead for a broad, easy-to-read single column, but with a wide margin I could use for side notes. Book Antiqua is a less cramped font than Times New Roman and I chose 11 pt, ostensibly to be easy on the eyes of elderly readers, but privately I wanted to stretch the text to fill 200 pages! In the event, things snowballed, I ended up with double that length and maybe could have got away with 10 pt.

I started off with a version of MS-Word that allowed me to have foot-
notes for unfamiliar words or terms and end notes for references to sources. The computer kept crashing, maybe several times in an afternoon, taking minutes to reboot and losing the most recent typescript.

Microsoft were very helpful but failed to identify the problem. I got so discouraged I more or less packed in the job for six months. In the end I found that the crashes occurred when I attempted to alter a footnote or its superscript in the text — probably because I had pushed the capacity of my hard disk to the upper limits! I installed an extra disk and turned to MS Publisher. Although having to move or re-number footnotes manually was a nuisance, it provided easier page layout and insertion of illustrations.

The trees were produced using a Visio' program designed for management diagrams. No company ever had such a complicated structure as the Blencowe trees and that was another reason why my old disk got overloaded. At a late stage, I decided the trees might look better without the box around the names but it was too time-consuming to make the change.

Scanning the pictures was a learning process. If I started again (which Heaven forbid!) it would be quicker and better; but in the end only one picture was really unsatisfactory.

When we search parish and census records they tend to be available by county. To someone overseas it might not be apparent that — for example —

Brackley in Northamptonshire, Mixbury in Oxfordshire and Gawcott in Buckinghamshire were within walking distance of each other. It was essential to include a few maps, so I copied small sections from Bartholomew's 1:100,000 road maps.

An index seemed essential but was difficult and time-consuming to produce. With so many archaic and variant spellings and similar given names, I ended up splitting it into three time periods — not very satisfactory, but better than nothing.

**Editing it**

This falls into several categories. The computer is supposed to provide styles that ensure consistent font size for the different levels of heading, etc., but the little green man who lives in my computer (and probably has cousins in yours) would sometimes slip me from 11pt to 12pt when I was looking the other way. Then comes the weeding out of split infinitives and those "words not to end sentences with". Dealing with other persons' contributions can be tricky and calls for a lot of tact. Obvious errors can be removed (it wasn't Palmerston who secured the Suez Canal for Queen Victoria!). A verbose or telegraphic presentation can be put into more readable form; but, apart from hurting contributors' feelings if you are too rigorous, there is a real danger of ending up with something that reads as if it was all written by a single author.

**Getting into print**

By the time of our get-together in San Diego in 1999 I had about 90 per cent of the typescript in hand but ran into a major snag. I found that the publisher we had in view would not, as expected, print pages with scanned images; rather, he needed to scan the pictures himself. Moreover, he could not consider colour pictures or produce hard cover volumes. Companies that did the binding of doctoral theses expected to charge from £25 upwards per volume, which was far too expensive. I headed back home feeling rather downcast.

Turning to the Yellow Pages I visited the first printers that caught my eye: the Short Run Book Company in Windsor. Good-looking hardback volumes were on display and cost estimates were apparently lower than in the USA. For my expected quarto-size book of 440 pages I was quoted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>500</th>
<th>750</th>
<th>1000</th>
<th>1250</th>
<th>1500</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>£8,000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>£13.00</td>
<td>£10.67</td>
<td>£9.50</td>
<td>£8.80</td>
<td>£8.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For comparison, their earlier estimate for a 350-page book in soft cover was:

£3,261 £3,831 £4,401 £4,971 £5,541

The quote for the hard cover specified stitched binding in 16-page "hefts" of 90gsm paper and included the artwork for the dust jacket, which was to be of gloss-laminate in full colour. Addition of a four-page colour insert was to cost about £800. It could not be located opposite appropriate text and had to be bound in the middle of a "heft". I had negotiated a concessionary rate of £100 royalty with the map publishers. To make sure that my scanned images didn't come out with the dreaded "moiré" effect, and to see that the tiny print of the trees reproduced clearly, the publisher asked the printer to do a specimen page; that cost about £30.

We now had to decide on the print run. We didn't go into it with our eyes closed. I put together a synopsis of what the book would contain and, with a suggested cost of about £15, asked members to tell me how many copies they would buy plus how many they might buy. This came up with a probable uptake of 680 copies, so 750 looked like a

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**THE portrait window of Anthony Blencowe, who was Provost of Oriel College, Oxford 1574-1618, in the college chapel.**

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safe option. However, what if this wasn’t enough? An additional reprint of 250 would cost £5,000! With the most active members of the Association spread over three continents and time not on my side, I decided to go for 1,000. From newsletter subscriptions and cost under-runs on our reunions we had accumulated nearly £1,000 in the UK and about $4,000 in the USA. I reckoned that even if we only sold 600, we would not go broke. In the event, 750 would not have been enough; those of us who advanced funds have been reimbursed and the Association funds are slowly getting back near where they were before.

Pricing it

With a unit cost of around £11, I settled on a price of £13.50 plus mailing. We had aimed for $25 for North America but the book turned out to be 100 pages longer and 50 per cent heavier than expected, so we had to raise that to $30. It has been argued that the quality of the publication would have made £20 and $45 more appropriate, but I feel strongly that a lower price made it possible for folks to buy copies for each child or grandchild.

Inevitably, there was a last-minute crisis! Rodney Mann, who now owns Blencow Hall, had acquired two historic paintings of his home and agreed to let me publish photos. Time was slipping by and they didn’t arrive. Our reunion in Williamsburg was only weeks away and I had to have the galleys by then. Blencow was involved in foot-and-mouth operations, so I couldn’t bother Mr Mann. I set a Monday deadline, wrote references to the pictures out of the text and took the typescript to Windsor. Tuesday arrived — and so did the pictures! After a phone call asking the publisher to hold everything, I salvaged the discarded pages and dashed to Windsor.

Distributing it

One of the attractions of publishing in the USA had been, for me, that some other lucky guy would have to do it! What happened was that the printer delivered 1.6 tonnes of books to my small garage. After much searching, I found a freight company that would collect a load and fly it anywhere in the world. However, the destination airport in America lacked customs facilities. In desperation, I chose an expensive door-to-door rate and shipped some 630kg at a cost of £1,300. At £3 per book it was worthwhile, for the load got there on September 9.

I was able to arrange pub or village hall meetings for several groups of our members and passed the books over personally, allowing me to meet a number of them face-to-face for the first time. It also saved me packing many parcels and avoided the very high postage costs of £4.30 for one book.

The weakness of the currency and the high postage cost affected purchases in Australia and New Zealand. The lowest rate I found was book post surface mail, with a maximum package weight of 5kg. This made a limit of three books per package at a cost of just over £18. For home and abroad I must have licked more than £500-worth of stamps!

For me the outstanding thing has been the “Wow!” factor of the stunning dust jacket produced by the publisher, John Cox. I think the high cost of the colour plates was worthwhile. So far as the text is concerned, I have been advised of three errors of fact and have found very few typos. The whole book, text and pictures, is backed up on two Zip discs.

Publicity given to the book on our website has brought in a steady trickle of enquiries and the review in the Journal generated several more. The membership of the Blencowe Family Association has risen from about 90 to 150 and we’re starting to talk of the ‘03 Reunion, maybe in Vancouver. ☺

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ONE of the numerous charts, showing many generations of Blencowes at Marston St. Lawrence, Northamptonshire, over a period of 540 years.
The advantages and pitfalls of web page publishing

By Penny Denby

It is often said that everyone has at least one book in them and Thomas Aquinas warned: “Beware the man of one book.” For genealogists, both maxims hold true. Most genealogists realise before too long that they have in their family history the raw material for a book. For many, it is then only a short step to assembling the material into the basis of a book.

The shelves of the Society of Genealogists bear witness to those impulses to record their family story for posterity. And those verbose e-mails we all receive from enthusiasts remind us how keen and well-informed many family historians are on matters concerning their ancestors. So, Thomas Aquinas was right to warn even the wisest not to argue with someone on their specialist subject.

Electronic media make it all the easier for would-be authors to set down their family history. Widespread use of family database programs and the simplicity of computer tools such as cut-and-paste and file copying and sharing only add to the sense that transition from record keeper to author is but a short and easy step.

We are fortunate to have these tools. The growth of interest in genealogy over the last decade has been fuelled to a large degree by access to the worldwide web, by e-mail and by the ease of using programs such as Family Tree Maker for transferring data by gedcom files.

So convenient indeed are electronic media that it is now easier than ever to fall into the common traps of writing. The present article is not intended as a guide to writing a family history but it needs to be stressed that all the normal disciplines of authorship should still apply:

• Be focused and clear in meaning.
• Use a dictionary; do not rely on computer spelling checkers, and especially avoid grammar checkers.
• Avoid jargon, exaggeration, hyperbole, abbreviations and foreign terms.
• Do not use two words where one will do, or a long word where a short one will convey your meaning.
• Be sparing with punctuation and be careful with apostrophes. Ban exclamation marks entirely.

Above all – and this is where temptation with electronic tools might be greatest – guard against verbose writing. Exclude with rigour material that is not appropriate, does not add anything to the reader’s understanding of the precise subject or can be summarised. Thus far, writing for print and electronic publication follow identical rules.

At the point the raw manuscript is checked and ready for publication, different considerations start to apply depending on the choice between traditional paper and electronic publishing. However, many authors will be keen to see their work in a variety of formats and there are decisions that can be taken at this point which allow the paper and electronic publishing streams to coincide for a while longer and thus avoid duplication of effort.

Deciding format

Suppose it is decided that the family history is to be published using simple formatting available in a word processor or the more advanced designs possible in a desktop publishing program. The resultant files, including any imported graphics, can be sent to the desktop inkjet or laser printer, to the local print shop or a commercial printer. The same file is the exact one that can be used with little or no alteration for electronic publication.

It is possible to work from this point onwards with the word processor document or the page layout program’s file but there are distinct disadvantages in this course. It is possible to publish – even a work largely in text format – using a spreadsheet, database or graphics application but these are really methods for the expert or the foolhardy.

The prudent approach will be to make use of the powerful, adequate tools that the word processor or page layout application provides to design the pages, chapters and sections of the book.

Now pause to consider the difficulties of publishing the file you have created. What computer will the reader be using? PCs and Macintoshes are not compatible. Will the reader’s software be able to open your file? Not everyone has the latest version, or indeed any version, of Word. And the chances of the reader having an appropriate version of the desktop publishing program are even more remote.

Before looking further at the mechanics of handling the files, let us think about some matters which either do not arise, are not so crucially important or are largely redundant in the new format of electronic access.

One of the immense advantages of electronic media is the ability to search vast amounts of data in fractions of a second. For this genealogists, of all Internet users, have cause to give thanks. What this means for the electronic publisher is that indexes,
the variety printed in books, are redundant. Now the user and reader can choose to search on any word they wish, rather than the narrow choice provided by an index.

Consider another matter which, until the dawn of copy-and-paste, was largely a matter for lawyers and publishing professionals. Copyright is suddenly a matter to take very seriously. Doubt this and your work of years may be copied and distributed around the world in less time than it takes to stick a copyright label on a CD.

Protection

The purpose here is not to discuss whether the family historian may copy other people’s work; much has been written on the subject. Rather, how should you, the author, protect your copyright in your work and in the assembly of material? This is a crucial departure from hard copy publishing. While it was always possible for the dedicated copyist to make facsimiles of printed books, it was often precluded on economic grounds. Not so with electronic files. Electronic books are easy to publish but so easy to copy, too. It is this which has so far held back publishing across a medium which in other respects is almost perfect for the industry.

It is no surprise the printed book has had such a good run. The portability and sheer usability of a book with flippable pages have guaranteed its longevity. Electronic books are going to be used in very different ways, so don’t imagine your lovingly assembled family history will be read front to back, word by word on screen; it won’t. Users – they will not be readers in the accepted sense – will search and trawl your work for information and they might print some or even all of it for a conventional read.

Accepting this puts an additional responsibility on the author and the publisher. Information in future will be the watchword and the more concisely and accessibly it is presented, the more successful the electronic publication will be. It can be argued that far from making the book boring or less readable, this added discipline will enhance the work.

Whether publishing the work for profit, posterity or vanity, or a mix of all three, the author must consider his or her response to the technical, editorial and publishing issues raised here. If the motive is more than publishing as an end in itself, serious consideration should be given to these points:

- Organisation of information.
- File format.
- Users’ likely viewing software.
- Protection and control of copyright.

Factors which have restrained electronic publishing are fast being resolved. Systems which overcome many of the hurdles to commercialising books and other works, while protecting authors’ rights, are available and within financial and technical grasp.

If the author is serious about reaching the widest possible audience, file formats which have universal acceptance must be first choice. Web browsers (Internet Explorer, Netscape and newer browsers such as Opera and Mozilla) provide the ultimate universal medium, regardless of the type of computer on which they reside. Unfortunately, the instructions – hypertext markup language – read by browsers to interpret the file into a readable web page can be difficult to master and can make the task of producing a book on the web unwieldy.

Better, then, to consider what is probably the second most accessible file type: portable document format, which can be read by any user with a PDF reader, available as a free download from firms such as Adobe. Conversion of book files, whether in a word processor or page layout format, into PDF format is straightforward and requires a conversion program such as contained in Adobe’s Acrobat suite. By this method the whole file, including graphics and tables, is converted and compressed ready for recipients to view using their PDF reader.

At this stage you have a file that can be distributed to users, either as a download from your website or on CD-ROM. Your prospective audience is wide – too wide, in fact, if you wish to maintain some sort of control over rights and prevent indiscriminate copying. Such control will be essential if the book is being sold.

One of the most up-to-date and hacker-proof methods of protecting your files is to “wrap” them in a protective piece of software which travels with them wherever they go. This method allows anyone to copy and distribute the file – by e-mail, for instance – but only those who have registered and, in the case of commercial books, paid for, an unsealing key will gain access.

This powerful mechanism has several advantages. The level of protection can be chosen by the publisher when the file is sealed, as can the period. Thus, for example, a book might be sealed with only reading and printing permissions set. Or all activity except copy-and-paste could be allowed but limited to a stipulated one-month period. In this way review copies, for instance, could be widely disseminated in the sure knowledge that the files would be disabled and useless after expiry of the time limit.

Your family history will represent several or even many hundreds of hours’ work. Whether or not you are considering selling your completed electronic book, such protection as described here will give you peace of mind over misuse or abuse of your work. At the very least, it provides a mechanism for identifying readers and users, and therein for potential new sources of information.

- PENNY Denby is a partner in web publisher Ninety North, www.ninetynorth.com (See Guild Website Awards, page 20)
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A wealth of information at seminar on publishing for one-namers
By Alan Kinnaird

GUILD member Alan Kinnaird contributes his impressions of the Essex Seminar on Publishing for One-Name Studies at Colchester in February, following on from the report in the previous issue of the Journal. Here, Alan looks in more detail at the subjects of publishing a large family history book, at the Blanchard Society's novel idea of Web-on-a-Disc, and publishing a regular one-name journal.

As you would expect, the Seminar was well attended, with members receiving a wealth of information from John Blanchard, Ken Grubb, David Hawgood, Jess Jephcott and Roy Stockdill on all aspects of publishing from paper-based formats to the Internet.

Whichever route you choose to go down, it was clear that the advent of the computer not only made publishing easier, enabling members to write, edit and incorporate photographs, but to arrange and set their copy, ahead of sending the document to either the printer or the Internet. This essentially made you your own publisher, avoiding the pitfall of using a "vanity publisher" whose claims that they could get your book printed will ultimately cost you pounds at the expense of quality.

Clearly, the more you do yourself, the more you save on the outlay, and the more likely you are to make a profit. Key points in saving money were to do your own typesetting and avoid colour, to avoid the expense of having to produce four separation plates for each picture. Colour photos were, therefore, scanned either by the author or the printer through a special dot matrix sheet to produce the type of illustration you get in newspapers, which could then be pasted into your document. Further cost reductions would be effected if glossy paper was avoided, and if large books were not split into two volumes, as that would entail more binding and handling.

Page format

In terms of format, A4 was considered to be extremely practical, as it also offered an A3 double-page spread. Key advice was to leave a margin for binding and trimming and not to use too many fonts or cram the page too full of text. Generally, the use of two or three columns was seen to help make things more interesting by offering a variety of ways to incorporate your text and illustrations — this being debated more fully by Ken Grubb in the context of a periodical.

Jess Jephcott gave an insight into his 22-chapter book, which comprised an introduction, instances of the names occurrence and origin, the Jephcott Society, heraldry, parish records, family trees (which made up half the book), demographic studies, illustrating how the family spread, IGI, births, marriages, and deaths, wills and administrations, monumental Inscriptions, apprenticeship records, university graduates, military records, taxation and law and order records, trade and telephone directories (the latter being something that would now be omitted as the information is now easily accessible on CD), snippets of information sent by correspondents, etc., and indexing, a maiden name index being considered more practical than trying to index everybody, supplemented by place and key word indexes.

A major book of this size took Jess eight years to research, write and publish.

Having got to the stage where you are happy with what you have produced, you can supply it to the printer as either hard copy or on disk. It was emphasised that if you were going to give the printer a disk you should check that he had exactly the same fonts as you. Software compatibility also needs to be discussed, as some printers don't use Microsoft products, preferring instead Quark Express. If you encounter this, a bureau could convert your document into the right format.

Binding methods

The resulting book could then be bound by a variety of methods, stapling and comb binding being economic for smaller publications, but they lacked the crispness of perfect binding, i.e. with a glued spine like a paperback. Perfect binding is slightly more expensive, but considerably cheaper than having your book bound in hardback, which could add roughly 25% to the cost.

Costs were also dependent on the size of the print run. For a book containing everything on a one-name study, Jess advocated printing a batch of 25, due to the low demand. This allowed him to update and reprint as necessary, it being noted that you were obliged to supply a further six copies to copyright libraries if an International Standard Book Number had been obtained. The cost was offset by the benefit of the publication being nationally catalogued, indexed and preserved. Additional copies could be supplied at the author's discretion to libraries such as those at the SoG or at Salt Lake City.

It was generally hoped that a book would last 100 years on good quality, acid-free paper, again something that you need to specify to the printer.

It was interesting to compare this process and the print run to the batch of approximately 50 CDs that
had been issued to members of the Blanc(s)hard Society. Their CD was equally comprehensive, having been compiled by several persons. Instead of a book's contents list, it had a site map enabling it to be navigated just like a website. To this end, three versions of the key data consisting of 40,000 references were given in date order, name sequence, and by registration district. A useful addition was an index of Journal articles, to which there were hyperlinks – something that was impossible with a traditional book format.

The disks were compiled in Acrobat because the society believes it prints better HTML pages and stores pages more economically, even though less than one-tenth of the 700MB disks were used. Production was achieved by burning a master copy, from which the distribution copies were cloned. The disks currently do not have any built-in protection, and it was suggested that if security became a problem its PDF files could be password-protected.

Distribution was controlled by the society’s desire to instigate member participation and to promote an exchange of knowledge, which they do by making the disk available only to their members. It is the society's policy to give limited information initially to enquirers, making the rest available to them when they join. This policy was developed to avoid the acquisition and misuse of their research.

Copyright consent

John Blanchard also gave an account of trying to obtain consent for quotations and the copyright problems he had encountered, which were debated. Two things emerged: it was better to ask permission, and that sources should be acknowledged.

The seminar noted that newspapers enjoyed 70 years’ protection, and that up to 10% of a publication was the maximum that journalists could extract for a review, and that a similar restriction was imposed for copyright reasons by libraries on extracts for personal study. Due to the complexity of the topic, it was suggested that copyright became the subject of a future seminar.

Ken Grubb gave an excellent insight into the issues associated with starting a new periodical, based on that produced by the Grubb Family Association. Was it a newsletter, a journal, a magazine or a bulletin, and what were its objectives? Ken's own personal choice was between a journal and a magazine, with a title incorporating a pun or a play on words such as Grubbing Around, The Hollow Log, etc. Objectively, he bases his publication on the Three E's – Enlightenment, Education and Entertainment.

As enlightenment, it should inform on current research. The difficult thing was to get people to write about what they are doing, as they will frequently perceive it to be incomplete, but what they do know may be the missing link that someone has been searching for for years. The education role is to help the less experienced member – something Ken addresses by including, say, a two-page article on the history of parish registers.

Covers could be used for news items, an index, coat-of-arms or items such as old photographs. Content with plenty of white space, bold headings, text set out in double or triple columns to break it up and add interest, and an A4 format, was advocated.

The question of fonts was seen as a personal choice, but they should be clearly legible. Ken liked New Times Roman and used it both straight and italic, advising against using too many fonts.

Articles supply

Printers work in multiples of four pages, so you need to decide how large your publication is going to be and how often it's going to be issued. These factors were influenced by the availability of information and the supply of articles from contributors. This limits Ken to producing two issues of Grubbing Around as summer and winter editions, each 24 pages long.

The journal consists of an inside page on which details of the society can be printed, along with copyright conditions; the first page is the editor's page; the second page comprises domestic news of engagements, marriages, etc. The main bulk of the publication is then made up of one or two large, illustrated articles of 3-4 pages in length. These are followed by regular features such as letters and emails to the editor, and “From my notebook”, comprising smaller items.

Military forebears

Forebears with military service and the orders they were awarded, together with a review of their life, also forms a regular part of the Grubb magazine, as does an index of past articles.

The back cover is always the same – internally a piece of poetry that mentions the family name, and externally the ISSN and the printer’s details.

The most important factor in producing a periodical is to do so on a regular basis, as members look forward to it and they bind the family together. Ken recommends: “Don’t skim on the number of copies you produce”. Ultimately, the content of the journals will be used to write a family book, as they have covered much new ground.

Summing up, an overall message of the seminar was: whether you are writing a journal or a book, it will pay dividends to find a local printer from whom you can get advice, resolve fonts and binding and get a quotation. C

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Advice in Guild booklet on publishing a one-name journal or newsletter
By Roy Stockdill

The Guild has a publication, One-Name Journals & Newsletters From the Desktop, by Journal Editor Roy Stockdill. This is available from the Sales Manager (address inside front cover of this issue) and offers advice on typefaces, page design, writing and editing articles, using pictures and illustrations, dealing with printers and other aspects of producing a family or one-name publication. The advice in it is also relevant to writing and publishing a family history.

The 16-page booklet also gives the full criteria for the annual Guild Award for One-Name Publications. Here are extracts of some of the more important points:

- Good design is uncomplicated. Clean-cut lines, simplicity and visual clarity are what you should aim for. Don’t try to cram too much copy into the available space. The results are usually awful – cramped and congested, with text very difficult to read.
- If you have lots of fonts on your computer, don’t use them all at once. This produces a hodgepodge and visual nightmare.
- White space is a valuable design tool. Don’t be afraid to experiment. Try leaving a side column blank except for a head-and-shoulders picture. Or extract one paragraph from the main text and run it in larger type down the side. This is known as a “hook” to bait readers into the article.
- Ensure decent spacing between columns, otherwise the eye will tend to run straight on across the page from one column to the next. A minimum gap of a quarter of an inch, or 5 mm, is recommended.
- Typefaces are measured in units called points. One point is equal to 1/72nd of an inch, so 72 point type is an inch high. Choose a nice, clean font for your main body type. There are two types – serif and sans serif. A serif font is one with the extensions or “feet”. Times Roman is a classic serif typeface used by many newspapers. Headlines and crossheads can be set in a contrasting typeface to the body text. A popular one is Helvetica and another is Switzerland.

Crossheads

- Break up the solid text with a crosshead or two, a miniature headline in a larger type than the body type, consisting of one or two words referring to something in the following paragraph.
- Antique typefaces are OK for the occasional special effect, but don’t overdo their use – and never use them for body text because it will annoy people when they can’t read it.
- Some magazines fully justify body type (full out on the line with variable spacing between words) whilst others prefer set left/ragged right. Whichever you choose, try to avoid what are known as widows and orphans. These are stray single lines or words that straggle alone at the top or bottom of a column.
- Make headlines short and snappy, acting as a “teaser”. They should be in a larger type than the text. You can centre them above the article, set to the left of the column or even occasionally to the right. But be consistent throughout.
- Keep articles punchy and make the opening paragraph “sing.” The intro is your front page. It should lure the reader into wanting to read the rest of the article. Don’t waffle on for several paragraphs before getting to the point, as starting a story in the middle destroys its purpose.

Pictures

- There’s an old saying: “One picture is worth a thousand words.” This is especially true in family history. Pictures of ancestors bring them “alive” and into the reader’s consciousness in a more meaningful way; also churches where they worshipped, photos of houses in which they lived, newspaper clippings, family heirlooms and ephemera.
- When using family trees, don’t attempt to squash in too much information at the expense of making the type too small to read easily.
- When publishing a family journal or newsletter, be sure to have the pages stapled in the middle. Stapling in the top left hand corner does make a publication look rather amateurish.
- If you can’t afford full colour but would like a little colour to brighten up your journal, then you can ask your printer to add spot colour. This involves using two plates, more expensive than one but cheaper than four which you need for full colour.
- If using automatic hyphenation, check carefully to ensure that words are always broken in a sensible place. Generally, the narrower the columns the more likely hyphenation will be needed, especially with justified text.
- When numbering pages, neither the cover nor the back page is normally included in the pagination.
- Beware the copyright laws if planning to extract at length from any book or other publication. Ask permission and, if in doubt, consult a specialist. Protect your own copyright with the © symbol and a statement that no material in your journal should be reproduced without your permission.
- Before taking your pages to the printer, check the final proofs very carefully, then check again – because you will almost certainly have missed something!
GUILD history was made when the 2002 Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting was held at the University of Warwick, in the city of Coventry, over the weekend of April 12–14. For the first time ever, as well as holding our own conference we were acting as hosts to the Federation of Family History Societies, which held its own AGM and six-monthly General Meeting during the conference.

Thus, as well as Guild members, there were many delegates present from other family history societies throughout England and Wales. They heard a stream of lectures over the two days from top speakers, browsed the bookstalls and displays and enjoyed socialising with old friends and acquaintances, as well as meeting new ones.

The conference was the culmination of two years of organisation by a special committee headed by Guild Chairman Alec Tritton. Other members of the Conference Committee were: Janine Brooks, Jeanne Bunting, John Hanson, Dominic Johnson, Derek Palgrave, Mary Rix, Roy Stockdill and Sandra Turner.

The theme of the conference was an unusual one – "Damnation, Co-operation, Education, Salvation". This was based on the nickname of a locally famous crossroads at Earlsdon, a suburb of Coventry near the city centre which was known to generations of Coventrians as "Ation Corner". It was so called because at the four corners of the crossroads stood a public house, a Co-operative store, a school and library, and a Methodist church – the "damnation, co-operation, education and salvation" of the conference title.

Accordingly, the lectures were chosen to fit in with this theme, with a total of 13 talks spread over the two days of the conference weekend.

The main lecture theatre in the university's science block was packed for the conference opening on the Saturday morning, performed by the Lord Mayor of Coventry, David Chater. In his welcoming speech, he mentioned that he was delighted to see his uncle and aunt – members of the Coventry Family History Society – among the audience.

**Surprise**

There was a pleasant surprise for the Lord Mayor. Unknown to him, Guild Committee member Dominic Johnson had done some research on his family history and she made a presentation to the conference, with illustrations. Alec Tritton presented the Lord Mayor with the bound research, in best "This Is Your Life" fashion.

After the formal opening, the...
initial keynote lecture of the conference was given by Dr. Julian Litten on “New Graves for Old: Re-use of churchyards and cemeteries.”

Dr. Litten, a distinguished funerary historian and President of the Church Monuments Society, made a powerful case for the re-use of older cemeteries and argued that there was no national “crisis” over shortage of land for burials.

Delegates then had six more lectures to choose from on Saturday, as follows: Birth and Baptisms: Myths and folklore, by Tom Doig; Schools and Scholars: Education from the 17th to the 20th century, Eileen Castle; England’s Old Churches, Roy Tricker; Trade Union Records and the Family Historian, Christine Woodland; The Life and Times of Matthew Hopkins, Witch Finder General, Janet Heskins; and History of Gravestones: 17th to a dash as film star late 20th century, Carmen Miranda! Eileen de Ville.

On Sunday, there were a further six talks: A Bomb in Your Back Garden: Records of the Blitz, by Peter Park; The Co-op and its Rivals, Audrey Collins; Getting the Most from the 1881 Census Index on CD-ROM, John Hanson; Collaborative Approaches to Historical Projects, Derek Palgrave; Talking About Education: Changing face of education through oral history, Roger Vaughan; Reading between the Lines: Researching from old newspapers, Jeanne Bunting.

A reception and banquet was held on Saturday night, at which – as per the tradition of Federation conferences – some of the guests wore fancy dress. The room in which the banquet was held was decorated with Union Jack bunting and balloons, as the theme was a “Victory Dance”, chosen to tie in with the conference theme appropriate to the city of Coventry, which rose from the ashes of wartime bombing.

Ration book

To complement the theme, the menu was designed as a wartime ration book, and the evening featured dancing to 1940s music from Jeremy Huggett’s Band of Gold.

Guild officials played a major role at the AGM of the Federation of Family History Societies – an indication of our standing in the wider genealogical world.

Alec Tritton, standing down as Guild Chairman, was elected Chairman of the FFHS instead, while Dominic Johnson is the Federation’s Director of Education and Geoff Riggs its webmaster.

Journal Editor Roy Stockdill was Chairman of the Judges for the Federation’s Elizabeth Simpson Award 2002 and presented the Judges’ report. The award was won by the Somerset and Dorset FHS – twice runners-up in the previous years – for its journal The Greenwood Tree.

Another excellent year for the Guild

IN his final report as Chairman to the Guild’s Annual General Meeting, Alec Tritton revealed that we had enjoyed another outstanding year, with membership again reaching an all-time high. Alec also gave a rundown of the numerous committees the Guild was now represented on – an indication of our recognition in the wider genealogical world.

He also told the AGM the Halstead Trust deed had now been executed, despite difficulties posed by the Charity Commissioners, which had been overcome by persistence.

Finally, after six years on the Committee – the last three as Chairman – Alec Tritton said he would look forward to next year’s AGM when he could sit back, relax and just listen!

There was more good news from Treasurer Sandra Turner, who reported that the Guild was in a good financial position, with healthy reserves. We had put money into a publications fund and a property fund. She also announced a reduction in the credit cards charge fee from £2 to £1.

The AGM re-elected Derek Palgrave as Guild President and the following were re-elected as Vice-Presidents: Peter Goodall, Ernest Hamley, Mary Rumsey and Peter Tovey.

At a Committee meeting immediately following the AGM, the following Officers were elected: Chairman, Howard Benbrook; Vice-Chairman, Geoff Riggs; Secretary, Jim Isard; Treasurer, Sandra Turner; Registrar, Ken Toll; Journal Editor, Roy Stockdill.

Other members of the new Committee are: Janine Brooks, Jeanne Bunting, John Colloff, John Hanson, Barbara Harvey, Dominic Johnson, Paul Millington and Roy Raymont.
A bumper new crop of 21st century newsletters for loan to members

I HAVE received such a bumper crop of fresh ONS newsletters in the past couple of months that I felt it worthy of comment. I say fresh, because some of them are from established one-name societies who have only just got round to depositing current copies of their newsletters with your library this century.

Usually, new entries into my records are few and far between, but perhaps articles in this Journal and the content of our successful Guild seminars are bearing fruit and more people are producing newsletters. Interestingly, two of these are bilingual, linking us more strongly with Europe, as well as the existing very strong links we have with other English-speaking countries.

New names

So the Guild library welcomes newsletters from the following registered names: Acres, Alabaster, Diviani, Fanthorpe, Hodgson, Lerpiniere, Mackman, McIlhagga, Merry, Sherwood, Tilston, and Verrinder. We now have copies of 87 different one-name study newsletters for this century, all of which are available to members on postal loan.

I know that one or two of these societies have been killing me with kindness, hesitating to want to burden me with copies of their newsletters. Please! I will have nothing to do if you do not send me your newsletters.

They go into the Guild archives and are there for reference by all members. Perhaps some note or date in your newsletter could be saving some other member from following your weary trail round the records and leaving them fresh and ready to push on with the research where you had to leave off. If you do want to be kind to your librarian, please number and date each issue of your newsletter. I receive them anything up to five years after they were first issued and you would be surprised how many of them I have to skim through to get a clue as to when they were issued!

Dating

Sometimes I have had to use the date of the latest death being reported to get some sort of meaningful date. I know that you are all having to do this at times as part of your study, but I would ask you to ease the workload by at least dating your own paper-work.

I have been surprised to see that some of the offenders have been accepted for archiving by the British Library (by having an ISSN number). When I submitted the draft of my own newsletter to get my number, they made it clear that easily visible dating and sequential numbering was essential for acceptance by them, as well as prominent display of the ISSN number.

Finishing my theme of pedantic numbering and dating, I would add that whilst it is essential that membership numbers are quoted when dealing with Guild officers like our Registrar, it would be another easement for me to have that somewhere on your newsletter too.

Data CDs for loan

Following my description of this scheme in the last Journal I am still waiting for the collection to start. However I have received offers from people willing to donate data on fiche from which they have wrung the last drop of information useful to their one-name study. Whilst I would like to accept these, with grateful thanks on behalf of the Guild, I would prefer to hold off at the present time until the CD aspect of the scheme has got under way. Whilst CDs are pretty rugged, quality control of the more fragile loaned fiche material could be a problem, as well as determining the correct publishers or copyright holders of fiche, to apply to for copyright clearance.

I will advise the membership in this column when the scheme is up and running and detail the material that is available for loan from the library.

People’s Network

We hope soon to have full details of all the loan material in the library listed in the members’ room web pages. These lists are far too boring to appear in such detail in the Journal. However, in the UK, with the implementation of the People’s Network, free access to the Internet is, or soon will be, available to everybody at one of your local public libraries.

In addition, once you have completed a simple registration process at your local library, you can use the facility at any other participating library.

When viewing the lists, if you see an item that you would like to borrow from me, all you need to do then is send, from the library computer, an e-mail to: librarian@one-name.org with details of your snail mail address to which you want the item sent.

I am reliably informed that you will be able to do all of that free, with not even the cost of a stamp. Now that must be worth the bit of an effort needed to learn how to operate a publicly available computer.

Working with another charity, I am teaching people from sheltered housing in their 80s to do just that, so I know that it is not beyond the capabilities of any of our membership. ☺

Librarian’s Notes by John Collof

Journal of One-Name Studies, July-September 2002
Treasurer’s Notes
By Sandra Turner

T WAS GOOD to see so many of you at our conference weekend in April at Coventry, at which we hosted the Federation of Family History Societies for the first time.

For some of our new members it was the first conference they had attended, while for others it was an opportunity to meet friends again and to catch up on the news. From what I heard, everyone enjoyed the event and they are now looking forward to the next one.

Unfortunately, we had to hold our own AGM on Sunday afternoon this year, which meant that some of you had to start make our own AGM on Sunday you can be in after journey home and when return to these events to listen to the months r membership will have that time. not currently subscribed to the History

There is also the e-mail Forum. I did hear someone say (not a member for this year! Please let- so you will be able to catch up due again. After this meeting. again be able to receive mail. I will write a piece as a response level on is currently ing at 2002 to

For some of our new members Forum to do so. It was the first conference they I announced at the AGM that they had attended, while for others it was an opportunity to meet fellow researchers and to use the vast Farmery computer database. It’s planned to have an organised event on the Sunday for those travelling to Lincoln for the weekend.

The name Farmery means a "dweller near, or worker in, the infirmary", which would traditionally have been part of a monastery. Though there were monasteries all over the country, the name is almost exclusively linked with Lincolnshire, the East Riding of Yorkshire and the eastern part of Nottinghamshire.

This is the second organised Farmery day and is being held by popular request following the 2000 gathering that attracted 18 researchers from the UK and Canada.

Further details from Alan Moorhouse, 8 Strachans Close, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 3EB. Tel: 07970 770 546. E-mail: farmery@one-name.org Website: www.farmery.org.uk

And Buntings gather in Norfolk
The Annual Gathering and AGM of The BUNTING SOCIETY will be held on Saturday, October 12 2002 at Alpheton, Suffolk. For full details please contact the Secretary, Prue James, email: davidjames@bee.net
 Guild reports and news

Guild Website Award 2002 criteria and how to enter
By Geoff Riggs

As previewed in the last two Journal issues, the Guild is initiating a Guild Website Award for 2002. A website can be entered for the Award in one of

- Section A: The best One-Name Society website, which the member who has registered the surname can submit for entry;
- Section B: The best One-Name Study website, for a registered surname being researched by an individual member.

Basic criteria
In both sections, the judges will look for the basic criteria that should apply to any website. These include the following points:

1. The initial page should be reasonably quick to download. Web users are often impatient and, if a page takes a long time to appear, they will lose patience and look elsewhere.
2. Therefore, images which take longer to download, should be used to good effect but not overdone, and their size should not be excessive.
3. It should be attractive and welcoming in appearance. First impressions are all important and, having got visitors, you want to persuade them to stay.
4. Ensure that the text can be read easily and that text and background colours do not clash.
5. Its title and initial text should convey clearly to visitors what sort of information they will learn from the site and entice them to explore its pages.
6. It should be neat and logically presented, to reflect the fact your information has been researched and is presented in a similar fashion.

7. Whilst it may seem like stating the obvious, ensure there are no errors in spelling or grammar. Such errors may give the impression that the information in the rest of the site could be unreliable.
8. When designing the page layout, remember that some visitors may still be using the older 640 x 480 screen resolution (VGA) rather than the more normal 800 x 600 (Super VGA) or higher. Such users will find it irritating if they have to continually scroll their browser window sideways to view a page designed to fit a screen that is a minimum of 800 x 600.
9. Netscape Navigator and MS Internet Explorer sometimes differ in the way they handle pages. You should make sure that all your web pages appear correctly with both browsers, to prevent unplanned quirks in appearance.

One-Name Study site
Visitors to a website devoted to a surname are usually interested in general information about the surname itself. A one-name study website should include such information as:

1. What is the meaning of the surname?
2. What is its origin and how is it distributed?
3. Are there any famous or newsworthy people with the surname, either currently or in history? If so, what information is there about them?
4. Have any grants of arms been made to people with the surname? If so, is there a description either in words (the blazon) or as an image (the emblazon)?
5. Are there other websites devoted to the surname or with information? If so, are links provided to visit?
6. Are there any Mailing Lists, Forums, Message Boards, etc. in existence for the surname? If so, are details and/or links provided?

Individuals
The amount of information about specific individuals provided on websites will differ. Some may include source data only, some may include reconstructed family groups, some may include both.

The judges will not be influenced by which choice has been made, as we recognise most members need to extract information from enquirers in return. However, the site should make it clear how you can be contacted and what information should be provided for any query.

One-Name Society site
A society website, in addition to the above, needs to advertise what benefits can be received by joining, how much it costs, what information is contained in its newsletters and if members can help in carrying out any further research on behalf of the society.

If there is a section of the website with access restricted to society members only, a description of what it contains should form part of the main site (an added benefit of joining).

It should also state the society’s officials, its rules/constitution, and if it is a registered charity.

How to enter
Send an e-mail before September 30 to web.award@one-name.org with:

- Your name and membership number.
- The section entered (A = society, B = individual).
- Full address of the website.

All entries will be acknowledged on receipt.
- The judges will be Geoff Riggs, Guild vice-chairman, Paul Millington, the Guild’s webmaster, and Penny Denby, a professional web designer.
Guild Award for One-Name Publications

The Guild Award for One-Name Publications 2002 attracted a total of 20 entries in the two categories. Results were as follows:

- **CATEGORY A**
  2) Newsletter of the Haskell Family Society, edited by Win Haskell, Member 22386.
  4)* The Ulph Family News, edited by Colin Ulph, Member 501.
  5) Family Connections, Newsletter of the Prior Family History Society, edited by John Prior, Member 2696.

The winners were all very creditable, was unable to attend through illness. They can as an expert on military history.

- **COMBINED CATEGORIES B & C**
  1) Hemingway & Variants, edited by Maurice Hemingway, Member 2806.
  2) Ulph Family News, edited by Colin Ulph, Member 501.
  3) Family Connections, Newsletter of the Prior Family History Society, edited by John Prior, Member 2696.

The judges would like to thank all the entrants for submitting their journals and newsletters, all of which were creditable, especially from those smaller studies entering for the first time. We were sorry that not everyone could be a winner.

The winning entries are now with the Guild Librarian, John Colloff, and will be on display at various Guild functions during the forthcoming year. They can also be borrowed from the Librarian if anyone wishes to see them.

The Judges were: Roy Stockdill, Editor of the Journal of One-Name Studies, Jane Morson, Journal reviewer, and John Blanchard, Editor of AdversariA, last year's winner of Category A.

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Guild road show rolls into Devon for a successful South-West Seminar

Yet another successful Guild Seminar took place on Saturday, May 25, 2002, in the South-West area of the country. Around 40 people attended the event, held at the Sunningmead Community Centre, Wilcombe, near Tiverton, Devon.

For once, there was no particular theme, but that didn’t prevent many and appreciative audience from enjoying four very different talks by the featured speakers.

First, the Seminar heard a fascinating lecture from Chris Pomeroy on “DNA and One-Name Studies”. Chris spoke about the Pomeroy ONS and its co-operation with Professor Bryan Sykes’s team at Oxford, on which Chris had an article published in the JOONS (Vol 7 Issue 7, July 2001).

He revealed how results of the DNA survey of “Poms” were rather different from those of Professor Sykes’s investigations into his own name. The Pomeroy DNA tests concluded that there were seven different groups of Pomeroy and variants, with no common ancestor.

Chris was standing in for his colleague Tony Pomeroy, who was unable to attend through illness. The gathering sent him its best wishes.

Next, our Vice-Chairman Geoff Riggs gave an entertaining talk entitled “It must be true, it’s there in black and white!”, focusing on some of the pitfalls that await genealogical researchers.

After lunch, Dominic Johnson, the Guild’s representative on the 1901 Census Advisory Panel, gave a detailed account of the behind-the-scenes work of the panel in giving advice to the PRO and the background to the failure of the online census.

Finally, Diana Trenchard regaled the audience with some tales of her one-name study in “Trenchard trials and tribulations”. During the lunch and refreshment breaks there were bookstalls, including the Guild’s own, to browse.

The next seminar will be the West Surrey Regional Seminar at Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Surrey, on Saturday, October 19 2002. This event is primarily aimed at beginners to computers and at showing the non-users the advantages that using a computer can offer, but even the more seasoned user may learn something.

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Iain Kerr

As the Journal went to press, we were deeply saddened to hear of the death of a well-known Guild member, Iain E Kerr, of Windsor, Berkshire. Iain (Member 2404), who passed away in the Thames Valley Hospital, was widely known and respected throughout the entire UK genealogical community as an expert on military history.

A former professional soldier, he had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the British Army, regiments and battles and other military matters. He gave generously of his time in helping those less knowledgeable to trace their military ancestors. After leaving the Army, he worked as an IT expert and was especially knowledgeable about the Data Protection Act and the Millennium Bug.

He served for a while on the Guild Committee and was a speaker at the 1999 Conference and AGM at Chatham. He was also in charge of lookups from the Guild’s Great War CD. Several Guild officers and committee members attended the funeral in Eton, Berkshire.
London and Lancashire 1891 censuses on CD are an outstanding research tool

THE LANCASHIRE 1891 CENSUS RG12/2898–3488; THE LONDON 1891 CENSUS RG12/0001–0541. Both on CD-ROM in 38-disc boxed set, both also available as 3 DVDs. Price: each £49.95. Published by S & N British Data Archive Ltd., West Wing, Manor Farm, Chilmark, Salisbury SP3 5AF, England. Tel: 01722 716121, Fax: 01722 716160, E-mail: 100064.737@compuserve.com www.genealogy.demon.co.uk

HOW many hours and days have you spent trawling through reels of census microfilm in a windowless, airless basement in the old PRO or in a record office, library or family history society? How often have you had to queue to use an aged reader, then wait for your reel of film to become available, only to strain your eyestrain because it is impossible to get the film in focus?

How many times have you spent money and time on long journeys just to be able to read a census? How many times have you wished you could read the census in the luxury of your own home at your own convenience?

Well, at last long you can. Thanks to S & N, the 1891 census for Lancashire and London is now available on CD-ROM. Other areas and years will eventually be available and I look forward to reviewing them also.

The CD sets are pleasantly and conveniently boxed for easy use and storage. They are very simple to use. The page images are taken from the enumerators’ entries, thus enabling you to make your own mind up about an entry and not on the transcription done by a third party!

Although the sets are not indexed, I do not feel this causes a problem. With all the technology now available, we have become spoilt in recent years with the sudden influx of indexes. It is so often forgotten that indexes should only be used as a tool and the original entry should be checked. We will have to do what we have always done in the past: use other sources, like certificates and directories, to obtain the addresses, so that we are able to find the entry we require. It is then possible with these CDs to go straight to the horse’s mouth and look at the enumerator’s entry. What more could one ask for?

System requirements

To view the CDs, your system requirements are: a PC running Windows 95 or later with 16 Mbytes of RAM or greater and a CD drive. You will also need Adobe Acrobat, version 4, which is supplied with the CDs, or a later version. OR: a Mac or Unix system with a CD drive and Acrobat software, which can be obtained from www.adobe.com/Acrobat

Each set contains an eight-page booklet that gives step-by-step instructions on how to install and use the CDs. Although, as already mentioned, there is not a name index in these sets, Disc 38 contains the Master Area Index, Master Street Index and Piece Index. This enables the user to locate the CD that their particular area of interest is on and the subdistrict or piece number which covers that area.

The next step is simply to choose the relevant CD from the boxed set and load the Index file from within Acrobat, which allows you to locate the subdistrict and then browse through it. Entering the required street name in the Master Street Index, will locate the matches giving their subdistrict number and the folio number. A note must be made of the street’s details that are required. Using the noted details, select the correct CD and load it within Acrobat, then select the correct R12 file followed by the nearest folio bookmark, then browse.

As the quality on the original street index varied and in some cases was rather poor, when entering a street name it might not be recognised. If this is the case, it will be very worthwhile scrolling through the separate alphabetical lists, of which there are many. Although this can be a lengthy process, I had great fun and spent more time than I should have done looking up interesting and totally irrelevant addresses to my research, but many of my friends now know who lived in their homes in 1891!

The page images can vary depending on the condition of the return, but I have had this same problem in the past when looking at the films in the PRO. With this system it is possible to magnify up to 1600%, which proved very useful when trying to decipher the spelling of certain words.

Images of the pages can be printed, but great care must be taken to select the correct option of current page, otherwise you could end up printing hundreds...
of pages! The other slightly annoying inconvenience is that
the piece number and sometimes the folio number does not get
printed on the image, therefore you have to remember to note
detail these details on each page. But,
then again, this has always been
the case when taking the details
from a film or fiche.

Technical support is available
through the S & N website, details
of which are found at the
start of this review.

A surname index project has
been started and everyone is
couraged to take part. A Word-
Pad document and Excel spreadsheet have been included on CD
38 but to avoid duplication
and find out the latest information about the name index go to the S
& N web page. You will be able
to find out which districts have
been registered, then choose and register your own chosen district for indexing.

I have found both the London and Lancashire Census CD sets to
take a great wealth of information that can be tapped
whenever you have a spare moment. No longer do we have
to make a telephone call to advance book a microfilm reader,
then plan a trip to a record office. Our research can now be
done from the luxury of our own homes and S & N have made the
dreams of some people come true!

They are to be congratulated
on this ongoing project. An
absolute must for a genealogist’s
bookcase.

RATING

LONDON 1891 CENSUS INDEX –
REL. 1.1. CD-ROM (1). Price:
£14.95 or £5 to purchasers of the
S & N London Census Box Set. Published by: S & N British Data
Archive Ltd., details as above.

HERE it is, the first CD-ROM Sur-
name Census Index of the 1891
London Census. It is thanks to the
tireless hard work of the 70
named volunteers, who are
acknowledged on the paper CD
sleeve, we now all have the
chance of owning this wonderful
research tool.

This is only the first Index and
does not cover the whole of the
London census, only the districts
shown on the accompanying
loose sheet of paper. The other
areas will follow in other CDs as
soon as the volunteers have tran-
scribed their chosen districts. If
you would like to be part of this
project and help to make the
indexes available sooner, rather
than later, then log-on to the S &
N website for details.

Contained within this CD is the
S & N catalogue, along with the
London 1891 Census Surname
Index (Partial) and the London
1891 Census Surname Index (Par-
tial) Indecipherable Entries. On
the Indecipherable Index there
are 58 pages of names.

Slim chance

I am very pleased to see this, as
I much prefer transcribers to state
when they cannot read a name, rather than guess it incorrectly. It
would otherwise have been
indexed with a very slim chance
of ever being found. Also, by
having a separate index like this,
where you are aware the trans-
cribers have had problems with
the names, if you have been
unable to find a particular name
in the main index there is more
chance of you finding it through
this type of index.

It would be rather like looking
for a needle in a haystack trawl-
ing through the 11,667 pages of
the Census Name Index looking
for names the transcribers had
had problems with! Some entries
have question marks for both
forenames and family names,
others show the forename but
the majority have their ages, so it
is possible to use this as a guide
for the location of missing people
and then be able to make up
your own mind about the name.

I had great fun testing out the
Surname Index. I chose a name,
looked for all possible spelling
variations and then I printed out
the relevant pages. For each per-
son, you are given their family
name, first name, age, followed
by the area, district and folio
numbers for the census.

Using these census details, it is
very simple to locate the entries
on the appropriate CD from the
boxed set. I was pleasantly sur-
prised when I found that each
one had been indexed correctly. I
found it very simple to use and by
having the census details on the
printout it was so easy to add
them onto the census page
images when I printed those out,
which is what I had found to be a
slight annoyance when using the
CDs without the Index.

What I was very surprised to
find in the Surname Index were
names that had missing letters
and ones with question marks,
whose spelling the transcribers
had not been unsure of. I could
not understand why these entries
had been included here and not
put into a separate index or
added to the Indecipherable
Index.

This index is an excellent
research tool and I look forward
to reviewing the others.

RATING

THE ANCIENT AND HONOURABLE
CRAFT OF THE TOWN CRIER, by
"Jumbo" George Fage, Town
Crier of Reading. A5 stapled
booklet, 16 pages. Price £2.00.

MY GRAN WAS A PICCADILLY
FLOWER GIRL, same author, A5
stapled booklet, 18 pages. Price
£2.00.

My DAD WAS A BARROW BOY,
same author, A5 stapled booklet,
56 pages. Price £3.00.

All published by: Town Criers
Forever, 9 Blundells Road,
Tilehurst, Berkshire, GR30 4TR.
Tel: 0118 942 7194. E-mail:
georgefage@aol.com

THE author George Fage, who is
known by the name of Jumbo, is
not only the Town Crier for Read-
ing but he is also a Guild member
(2910). He was born in 1929 in
the Euston area of London – of
a Cockney Coster family of several
generations – where he has spent
most of his life apart from the last
few years. It is his own and other family members' stories that he tells in these three publications. George has had a colourful and varied life and comes from a true Cockney family. Reading these booklets, I found myself remembering all the wonderful scenes and humming the catchy tunes from films such as Peter Pan, Mary Poppins and My Fair Lady.

George has a wealth of information and knowledge of true Cockney life, and with his distinctive penmanship I would like to see these publications become chapters of one book, which could become a delightful and informative history of his Cockney coster family. And by using some of the tips that our Editor Roy Stockdill gives in his publication From the Desktop, he could produce a first-rate book.

In the meantime, George has done his best. But we have three separate publications which do not have ISBN's, the text is hard on the eyes and the reproduction of the photographs on the front covers is poor, which is a shame. However at least it is in print. I look forward to reviewing George's future work.

RATING

SPROTTICHRONICON, by Duncan Sprott. 100 pages, stapled, card cover, ISBN 0 9537718 0 6. Published by Duncan Sprott, Featherstone Common Farm, Greenhead, Brampton, Cumbria CA8 7JU. Tel: 07711 656454. Price: £10.00 inc p&p.

DUNCAN Sprott is another member of the Guild (3382) who kindly sent in a publication after my plea for items for review.

This book was Duncan’s contribution for the millennium, an effort to bring together 30 years of on-and-off study, of the names SPROTS, SPROTTES, SPROTTES and SPROATS, with the occasional SPRAT, into an arrangement of dates and events in order of occurrence. The first entry is for 943, the year the Danes took Wulfrun prisoner. She was the granddaughter of King Alfred, daughter of Edmund the Magnificent and probably the mother of Wulfric Spot or Sprot. The last entry is for the publication of Sprotticronicon on January 1 2000.

The most famous story is in 1300, the tale of Dame Sprotte of the Motte, an early enthusiast for women's rugby football. In 1671 the evidence given by Jean Sprot at Dumfries at the trial of Janet McMuldroch, known as the Witch of Girthon, is told. Jean's name was spelt Sprot, Sprut, Srote and Sprot all in the one document!

The author states that he created this book with the use of a typewriter and photocopier in just three weeks. If you have an interest in this name you will find the information of great use, but note that the majority of the sources have not been given.

RATING


WOULD you like to have a description and history of the islands, counties, cities, towns, parishes and principal villages of Scotland before 1846? Then these books are the answer. They give a wonderful, detailed description of the natural and artificial features of each location listed. The places are arranged alphabetically and the amount of information depends on the size of location, its importance and its history. For example, the entry for Longo informs us it is a small island of irregular form and with considerable indentations, lying at the mouth of Loch Gairloch a short distance from the mainland. It is in the parish of Gairloch and the county of Ross and Cromarty. There are 35 inhabitants.

Detailed

Banff, with 3,958 inhabitants, is allotted nearly three pages. We are informed that it is a seaport, burgh, market town and parish in the county of Banffshire, of which it is the chief town. It is located 165 miles (N. by E.) from Edinburgh and on the road from Aberdeen to Inverness. This is followed by a concise history of the town from the 16th century, when it was just a small fishing village, and a detailed description of the town as of about 1846, its streets and houses.

We are informed that gas street lighting was installed in 1831 and that in 1810 pipes had been laid to bring to bring water to the inhabitants of the town. This had been achieved for the princely sum of £1100. There was a library, which had 2,000 volumes, as well as a reading room with newspapers and popular periodicals. There was also a museum and academy. The principal trade was herring fishing.

There follows over two more pages of vivid descriptions that build up into a delightful picture of life in Banff.

These volumes are packed with the most delicious details and descriptions, which allows the reader to build up a very clear and dramatic picture of Scottish locations in the mid-1800s. However, I feel the print used was too small and that it should have been enlarged to make reading the superb information easier. Also, the card used on the covers could have been of a heavier weight and I wonder if they will withstand regular use.
Registration issue won’t go away
YOUR introduction to the Letters in Vol 7 Issue 10 (April–June) said that the issue of “computer users v. computer illiterates” is unlikely to go away. Nor, unless something practical is done about it, is the issue of categories.

Roger Lovegrove’s comments in the same Journal about the “spinning” of the recent categories ballot results caused me to re-read earlier Journal items, the Working Group on Categorisation (WGC) and my (admittedly old) copy of the Constitution.

First, I must admit to bias: I completed a ballot form and voted for Method 3. Secondly, Classification of Membership and/or Registration levels does not appear to be part of the Constitution, therefore it will not be governed by the same rules of alteration.

Usurped
I agree with Roger that the Guild Committee appear to have usurped the members’ prerogative. However, to be absolutely fair, the WGC report was an invitation to prevarication. The Group did a very good job but they neither opened the stable door fully nor closed it firmly. Unsurprisingly, the horse escaped and now that the WGC no longer exists there is a danger that the matter could be allowed to rest.

Geoff Riggs admitted that the Committee took the opportunity offered by the vague terminology confronting it: Partial Study. Were they looking for one? Roger says the term was misinterpreted but of course misinterpretation shouldn’t have been possible. If you don’t want the dog to eat the sausages, put them in the ‘fridge! By the same yardstick, Category M would not amount to a form of Registration, either.

Personally, I see the problem as one of membership classification as well as one of registration level. If we are to retain members who do not actively operate a study (an apparent contravention of the Constitution), then those members should be distinctly identified (Associated?). Levels of registration should be identified also and all confirmed at a General Meeting, as demanded by Roger.

Disputes
Clearly defined rules to cover possible disputes that may arise over the wish of an applicant (or member) to fully register a surname that is currently at a Partial level should also be formulated, not left open to “action in the light of individual cases”.

A general meeting should be convened as soon, and as centrally, as possible. Having been chosen by the membership (forget figures – all members had the opportunity to vote), the only business before the meeting should be motions recommending the formal acceptance of Method 3, quoting full details of the constituent parts.

The normal rules of amendment should apply, either in advance or from the floor. Hopefully, the resulting resolutions would be ambiguity free. The motions could include criticism of the preceding handling of the matter, but I suspect the successful conclusion of the original exercise would be criticism enough.

Much has been said about a Guild being “a gathering of Master Craftsmen within their chosen Art”. We must insist upon this opportunity to ensure that our Guild is just that and that it remains so.

Fred Sole
Member 1981
17 HyHolmes
Bretton
Peterborough PE3 8LG
overall@one-name.org

Cater for all
NOW I have finally received my April JOONS and the new Register, I sit down after lunch and added up how many members have an e-mail address.

Out of a membership of around 2000, about 1315 have this facility, and a very few have a web page instead of or as well. Of those who have registered in the last five years, most have e-mail. The problem, therefore, lies with longer-standing members, who have probably been doing research since long before PCs were available. They have worked out a system – probably just as easy to use as some FT programs – and see no reason to move everything over to a computer, in itself a mammoth task.

Both types of researcher needs to be catered for and, really, there is no dichotomy between them. The computer user will have to check back to original sources that are not yet digitised, and the non-PC user will sometimes find that record offices, libraries and such will have information on computer, as well as in more conventional forms.

So a good mix of articles in JOONS is needed, with due consideration being shown to both types of researchers.

Jenny Bussey
Member 3625
El Morral 3
03792 PARCENT
Alicante, Spain
A problem of progress?
I WAS interested in the debate between the haves and have-nots as, although computerised, I have always preferred it to be simple. My first thoughts were that surely this is just a problem of progress. Years ago, those without a telephone were disadvantaged, as their communication had to be by post. The computer problem is just the latest manifestation of this.

As an activist within the Ramblers Association, I contact half my people by post and the other half more easily by e-mail. However, I now find that with a computer a few years old, a 486, I am also among the have-nots, as software and CD ROMs are now written which need Pentiums and massive hard discs, and my last CD-ROM purchase meant that I had to delete software for a previous one in order to load and read the current one.

I already have a second hard drive with my DOS one-name database on it. What is the answer? Is it no more CD ROMs or a new computer? If the latter, will I need another in a couple of years?

John Dowding
Member 2239
Flat 1, 17 Fen Street
Nayland
Colchester CO6 4HT
dowding@one-name.org

Lazy attitude to genealogy
FROM recent comments made in our Editor’s column, it would appear that many of our new members rely too heavily on genealogy information obtained on the Internet and CD-ROMs. This leans towards a lazy attitude to a fine hobby, relying on new “toys” to produce the goods. It’s no use moaning if this computer-based information reveals gaps in ancestral research — of course it will!

Published books, tapes and anything found via the media has been privately extracted from original archive material in the first place, and then sold on for profit.

There’s a good old saying: “You pay your money and you take your chance.” How true this is! The Family Records Centre in North London, together with the Public Record Office at Kew, Surrey, represents without doubt the greatest source of genealogical information for England and Wales back to the early 19th century.

County parish registers and manor court rolls could also take the researcher back possibly another 400-500 years without the gaps experienced via extracted information. It did for me and, folks, it’s all for FREE.

The snag is — you have to remove yourself from the comfort of your home to obtain it.

Eddie Pollikett
Member 1013
42 Beresford Road
Chandlers Ford
Eastleigh
Hampshire S053 2LY

Prosecution under the DPA?
MAY I thank you for the excellent seminar held in Colchester, which was both entertaining and informative. Being a small businessman, and also being involved in putting all our family association’s records onto computer databases, I was most interested in the way we should interpret the Data Protection Act. To this end, I sought clarification from my solicitor. I was, therefore, very much interested in the article by Roy Stockdill (Vol 7 Issue 9), “Enough of this paranoia over privacy”.

I wholeheartedly agree with everything he said. However, I believe Roy left one very important fact out, which with his statement, “Does anyone seriously believe the Data Protection Registrar is going to prosecute genealogists for exchanging information?” could lead to a misconception.

Roy is quite right: the Data Protection Registrar won’t. But as I had it explained to me, if we publish any data that we hold about anyone and a private individual feels that that information has harmed him or her in any way, physical or mental, then they have the right to prosecute us under the Data Protection Act.

It does not matter whether the information is about a living or dead person, or if the information is true or false. In fact, if the information is true it could be worse: false information can be retracted. However, to put it in perspective, the likelihood of this happening is very remote, especially if we are careful in selecting the data we publish.

In view of the amount of our family association data that I hold, and also being our association’s webmaster, I would be interested in your views on this subject.

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THE Editor replies: I wish I had a pound for every question and answer. The DPA is new, and different opinions may be quite different.

DUE to heavy pressure on space in this Journal, the regular feature, “It’s A Funny Old Genealogical World”, has been left out. It will, hopefully, return in the next issue – however, this depends on us receiving items for it! Please e-mail them to editor@one-name.org, or send them to the address on the inside front cover.
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To contact a Regional Representative by e-mail, use the alias in the following format: rep-scotland-north@one-name.org, with the name of the region replacing “scotland-north” as appropriate (put “-” instead of a space).
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USA NORTH WEST

WHY not devote just a little of your spare time to the Guild by becoming a Regional Rep? Contact the Coordinator.
THE Lord Mayor of Coventry, David Chater, opens the Family History Conference organised by the Guild at the University of Warwick in April, watched by (left to right) Guild Chairman Alec Tritton, Dr Julian Litten, keynote opening speaker of the conference, and our President Derek Palgrave. For the first time, the Guild played host to the Federation of Family History Societies, which held its AGM and General Meeting during the weekend. The Guild's own AGM was also held during the conference. • Full report on pages 16 and 17. (Photograph by Alan Bardsley).