Old postcards can enrich your one-name research

Making the best use of the 1901 census online
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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).

The Journal of One-Name Studies is published quarterly by the Guild of One-Name Studies.
ISSN 0262-4842
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Worcestershire Seminar in the spring will have a traditional flavour

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Ash Computer Seminar had something for all

Serendipity and FFHS pay-per-view website • One-Name Publications Award • Cory Society’s West Country Event

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Reviews JANE MORSON’S round-up of new genealogical publications
Letters Your views on issues in the one-name world

It’s A Funny Old Genealogical World

Front cover illustration: Just a few of the 90,000 postcards held by Colin Buck, author of the article on Page 13

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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I’ve spent my working life in the commercial world. I think I understand the simple dynamics of buying and selling, but I’m constantly struck by the reluctance of the genealogical world to pay for something that has inherent value. The presumption has grown that these things should be free and there is widespread suspicion at the entry of commercial companies into genealogy. Why? They have made significant investments at their own risk and must be expected to look for a return. I think we should be less suspicious. We have a lot to gain from these enterprises, and they have a lot to lose if they don’t listen to our needs.

My other major interest is the theatre and my favourite community theatre company proposes to create a trading company to maintain its financial strength and independence. They’re lucky enough to have a prime site to provide an income stream, but it’s set my mind turning: is this something we should consider? The contribution from our commercial ventures is increasing and separating this into a trading company might open up further business opportunities, the profits from which can be used to further our objectives. It’s a thought I may return to in later issues.

Surname book

Elsewhere in this Journal, you’ll find a statement from Geoff Riggs about the surname distribution book. This has turned out to be one of those projects that started out as a good idea but was beset with problems. Additionally, the technology moved faster than we could have possibly anticipated. The committee has decided to close this project down and by now those members who had made advance payments should have received compensation. I should like to thank these members for their patience. I am sorry we have had to disappoint you.

Geoff, as you might imagine, is unhappy this has been necessary. You might be interested to know that the committee, after long and careful consideration, rejected Geoff’s offer to resign, choosing instead to value his long contribution, and he continues to serve as Vice-Chairman.

Ash Seminar

I’m constantly pleased at the success of our seminars. Those attending always go away with something positive. You get a whole day of presentations at a very reasonable cost, including refreshments, plus the added advantage of meeting up with other Guild members.

The theme at the most recent one at Ash in Surrey, ably organised by our very own FSG, Jeanne Bunting, focused on using computers in one-name studies. I did a spot on my feet – Genealogy Programs was my subject. People were very patient with me, as it’s a sprawling subject and there really is no answer to the question: “So what’s the best genealogy program, then?”

We’re aiming to expand our seminar programme and we are certainly going to do more computer-related subjects. But those not “digitally aware” should not despair, because the subjects are about far more than technology. I just wish we could run some seminars outside the UK. Maybe, just maybe, we could find the funds.

Finances

Our financial position remains strong. Ironically, this is both good and not-so-good news. Good because it gives us the opportunity to make investments in projects that will bring us benefit in the future. However, as a charity there are limits to the surplus we can retain. So, I am looking for suggestions on how we should sensibly use this money, a lot of which has been generated by our commercial operations. What are your thoughts? Is it time to have our own premises? Has one of you a burning idea for a book that the Guild could publish? Should we extend the seminar programme, but reduce prices? Please let me have your ideas.

Constitution

I’m a relatively new Chairman, but I can see we have a few constraints within our Constitution, and I think it may make sense to look at these. For instance, you may have noticed the frequent appeals from me for help. The constitution requires a subcommittee to be composed of a majority of main committee members, and all Guild Officers are, ipso facto, members of each subcommittee. While I can see this enables committee members to have a significant influence on the subcommittees, these people do have homes to go to! To expect the same people to turn out for each of these subcommittees doesn’t make sense and brings few new ideas to the meetings. We’ll take a careful look at this in the next few months. Constitutional change is not achieved lightly, and so I want to proceed cautiously. More news on this when I have it.

Don’t knock commercial genealogy!
I HAD a valuable lesson recently in why it's always worth asking a record office whether they hold any material on an obscure source, on the off-chance of what might seem a real long shot turning up trumps. Even we more experienced genealogists need these reminders now and then, and it should also be a lesson to some of the newer would-be family historians who seem to think it can all be done on the Internet, which, of course, it can't!

This does not, in fact, concern my one-name study but rather another line of my family research. However, I thought I would share with you my experience as an example of what kind of priceless material is just lying around in odd corners waiting to be harvested.

Having discovered from the censuses of 1851 and 1861 for Scarborough that my gt-gt-grandfather Thomas Worsnop (1801–1872) was a police officer in that bracing Yorkshire seaside town, I contacted the North Yorkshire Record Office at Northallerton and asked if they had any police records for that era.

I really didn't hold out much hope at all, but back came a letter saying they had looked through some Scarborough borough records and found two old accounts books for the police covering a period from 1836 to 1857, in which Thomas Worsnop was mentioned many times. Was I interested in these? Well, is the Pope a Catholic?

I got the impression in a phone conversation with an assistant that the record office didn't even have these old notebooks listed, except in a general way amongst other borough records, and had come across them by accident.

Off went a cheque sufficient to cover a reasonable amount of search time and after about four weeks back came a sheaf of photocopied pages from these aged accounts books. Was it worth the wait? You bet! The books went into the minutiae of daily life in the police station, listing in meticulous detail payments to every officer by name and amount, also showing details of sums paid to local tradesmen for supplying goods such as bread, candles, oil and straw (for horses, perhaps, or maybe the cell floor).

This does not, in fact, concern the court sessions (spelt "sessions") at the town hall. Also, there were many examples of his signature when he had signed for his money at the foot of the page.

Moreover, there were names among the other police officers that I recognised from other documents and which help explain some interesting connections. For instance, Thomas Worsnop's second wife was a Sarah Hirst and one of his fellow officers was a Thomas Hirst, whom I suspect (but have not yet proved) was possibly Sarah's brother. Another was an Edward Maltby — and Thomas's third wife was a Jane Maltby. Yet another police colleague, one William Tindall, appears as a witness on one of Thomas's marriage certificates.

Directory

By use of the Pigot's directory and an 1850s map of Scarborough, obtained from Scarborough Library, I was able to identify the tradesman named in the accounts and work out where their businesses were in relation to Thomas Worsnop's address in the census returns. Most would have been his near neighbours and, no doubt, friends.

And so it was possible to build up a general picture of what his life must have been like, and all from a couple of musty old notebooks found in a record office when I had really expected nothing at all. So take note: ask and ye may find, for you never know what might turn up!

And it goes without saying that my gratitude is due to the unknown person who thought those old accounts books worth preserving, when they could so easily have been destroyed.

Ask and ye may find! How an obscure source came to light
How one-namers can make best use of the 1901 census online

Well, they say third time lucky! This is the third time I have started this article. Every time I began, the PRO/Qinetiq changed their website, www.census.pro.gov.uk, and caused me to rethink. On top of that, this is the third time – well, I think it is – they have released the site to the public. I could spend the rest of this article looking at the basics of using the site, but there have already been a number along those lines (in fact I wrote one for the Society of Genealogists’ Computers in Genealogy magazine).

Or I could just look at all of the errors that exist, but, then, I am sure you are all aware of them – and fed up with them as well. You can read Jeanne Bunting’s article in the same issue of CIG or her forthcoming article on the 1901 Census in the February issue of Practical Family History.

Neither do I intend to go into the history prior to its re-release, as that would take up the whole of the article itself! Instead, I wanted to take a look at it from a one-name studies viewpoint and, hopefully, give you some helpful hints and tips along the way. Suffice to say that the site is now public again, but no major fanfares this time, though. No major stories in the press, either – mind you, there are still the odd comments around about checking on who was living in your house at the time of the census. According to the “coming next” page on the website – and it is always worth checking this part regularly – this should be available soon.

On top of that, they are actually making amendments to the underlying database already. The DITTOs and DOs have been corrected; well, at least the names have, though none of the other data has been. A similar thing has happened with people shown as over 100 years old. They have corrected ages, but none of the other information that is incorrect in any of the entries.

Someone posted to one of the mailing lists a message that they had found someone aged 277! Now, this got me thinking about the numbers involved and some time spent trawling the database showed that there were in fact a significantly larger number than I would have thought of at the time.

I obtained a total of over 1,200 people and I was certain that wasn’t all of them. I would have estimated a figure of closer to 100 as being the correct figure. The oldest was 299! You may ask why this is a problem for a one-name study. Well, if your total is less than 300 you should have no worries. But it is the larger ones that may have the problems; however, more of this later. Mind you, I have heard there were entries for people aged over 299 that you would never have found. These have all been corrected and there are now only 48 agreed between 101 and 108, which is the oldest I can now find.

Errors

I should say at this point that a lot of the work that has been done on errors – and my grateful thanks to fellow Guild member Jeanne Bunting for permission to use some of hers later on – would not have been possible without the 1901 Census Extractor utility. This utility, which can be found at http://leedsindexers.co.uk/Internet_Tools.htm and was written by Guild member Stephen Miller, is one of three such programs and, to my mind, the best. It will convert the information from the index web pages into a database format. However, it does do more than...
that as well. Using the knowledge that every icon that points to a page that can be downloaded has a unique page number hidden behind it (and embedded in the HTML), it converts the information to the piece number and the approximate folio number for that image. It also extracts a person ID for each individual. Using this information, it is possible to sort the data into households.

The latest version (4.0) also adds a Chapman Code and adds the details of the sex of the person. Now, calculating the sex from the name is a dangerous practice to my mind. There are many instances of incorrect sexes on the census. One very good example of this is Jeanne Bunting's great-grandfather, Isaac Bradford. He was eventually tracked down as Susan Bradford and a male as well! There are many more examples, and you only have to think of John Wayne – real name Marion Morrison – as a modern-day example.

But that said, the program is an absolute gold mine to anyone extracting data from the census. You can also save the result as either a file for importing directly into Custodian as a comma separated file, or directly into Excel.

However, this is no substitute for getting the actual image from the enumerator’s notebook. Whilst strictly not my one-name study, I obtained the image for my grandmother Zilpah Bird (born in 1892) and there with her and her parents was my great-great grandmother Maria Smith, living in a part of London that I would not have dreamt of searching. It also told me that her husband John was already dead, and one of these days I may hopefully have the time to find his death between 1891 and 1901. The same image shown to my mother brought the reaction “Where is Aunt Elsie then?”. I eventually found her living with her Uncle John Smith and living next door was her uncle Charles Smith.

As far as my own one-name study is concerned, I knew there should have been 227 FOSKERS in total for the variants that were around in 1901. This is based on the details that I had on all of the families and taking into account all of the information from the GRO indexes. A trawl for the FOSKERS showed 113, though a few of those I didn’t recognise from their place of birth, and the FOSKEW version, gave 23. This is a total of 136, or 60% of the figure that I would have expected. So where were all the rest?

I knew from the 1881 census that there were likely to be some under the name of FORKER. Yes, there were, and of the 123 Forkers 33 at the minute I shall lay claim to. The correction details will be going in to the PRO soon. The remainder of the Forkers I am still working on, trying to work out if any more of them are mine, using a combination of resources, the 1881 census.

FIGURE 1: A typical screen after doing a person search on the 1901 census website, as it appears using the 1901 Census Extractor utility program.
being one of the major ones. This brings the total to 169 or 74% of what should be there.

There was one branch of the family that in the 1881 census appeared under the name of FOSKETT. Of those that had been listed that way in 1881, I found only one but it threw up a couple more that had been seriously mis-transcribed. So – up to 172.

FOSTER was the other name that I have always had trouble with. In fact, there are at least two families I am aware of that changed their name to FOSTER during the First World War because they thought the name sounded too Germanic. Again, with a trowl though the FOSTERS for some of the missing FOSKERS and using the places of birth, I found another 14 – so we are now up to 186 and 82%. In fact, I found the FOSTER first because I was missing the parents for one family in particular. The

children on the top of the page were correctly transcribed but the parents on the bottom of the previous page were missing. Knowing the first names, age, and place of birth, it was easy to find the parents.

Using a combination of simply first name, age and place of birth I have been able to find a further eight as FASKER, five as TOSTER, and one each of FOOTER, FOSKELL and TOSKER. This makes a grand total of 203, or 89%. I still have to find the remainder! I know where they all died or were married later on, and yet I still can’t find them. I also need to check the army records for a couple of the men, as they may have been serving in the Boer War.

Halstead research

The above approach works well for a small one-name study, but how does one fare with a much larger one? I didn’t want to go doing something for nothing, as they say, so while I was at Jeanne Bunting’s home recently, we decided we would download all of the entries for the name HALSTEAD/HALSTED. They would be needed eventually for the Halstead Trust, anyway.

The less common name HALSTED wasn’t a problem, as there were only 196. But HALSTEAD was a totally different kettle of fish. So, a different strategy was required.

As I am sure those who have already done it for their larger studies are aware, it is a process of trial and error. The way that worked for us was to start with people aged one year, with the variable plus/minus one year. This gave a total of 185 up to the age of two years, including all of those who were X number of months old. Using this concept, it was a fairly easy process to work one’s way up the list of ages, the next being four plus/minus one, and so one.

Don’t forget, though, you need to add twice the variation plus one using this technique or, you will end up with duplicates. Also, once you get to about 45 you should be able to amend the age range to a

FIGURE 2 – After sorting in the Census Extractor program the data is shown with page and person IDs, which enables you to sort them into households
higher value and, certainly, once you get to the top end of the ages you should be able to go much further. Using this method, it took just 22 passes through the census database to extract the 3,117 HALSTEADs.

If your study is even larger, then the strategy will need to change as well. You could do two passes through the data, using male and female and the same age ranges, or you may even have to resort to looking at individual years if the study is very large.

Wanting to find something really large to get my teeth into, I decided to have a look at the entries that are supposedly unreadable, like those that have "..." for the surname. Remember, any of those could be one of yours!

To start with, they aren’t all designated with three dots. There are a total of 139 entries that have either two dots or any number of dots from four to twelve! As for the three-dot entries, I started at the high age end and worked backwards. The top end was easy, with very few entries per year band for both males and females, but it didn’t take long for the number of entries to exceed the 300 entry limit for the result.

So then it was a question of extracting the males and females separately. By that time I was down to the high 30s. Even that wasn’t good enough, and it was down to analysis by marital condition.

Eventually that didn’t prove good enough, either, and for the entries below the age of 20 I was down to analysing by relationship with marital condition within sex, a total of 40 searches per year for both males and females, but it didn’t take long for the number of entries to exceed the 300 entry limit for the result.

So then it was a question of extracting the males and females separately. By that time I was down to the high 30s. Even that wasn’t good enough, and it was down to analysis by marital condition.

Eventually that didn’t prove good enough, either, and for the entries below the age of 20 I was down to analysing by relationship with marital condition within sex, a total of 40 searches per year. Some of the very young entries I have not been able to extract because the total exceeds that 300 limit. The only way forward then would be to do it county by county. But that brings us onto another set of errors. In total, there were 578 errors in 970 entries, of which 208 were surname errors, including Maybel Elizabeth, who was actually a Margaret Johnson!

Three pages had more than 60 errors on each. There was not one page without a single error. The details were shown recently at a PRO digitisation meeting and Qinetiq have asked for the full details. I am not surprised!

Submitting corrections

The PRO are actually looking at ways for corrections to be submitted, other than using the form on the web site. But they have been promising a meeting with the Guild since the end of 2001 to discuss the specific needs of one-namers.

The biggest bugbear, though, is still trying to find the people that you want. I suppose the major discovery in all of this is that it is surprising how little information you have to enter at times to find anybody. So, as a rule of thumb, enter a little and add more till, hopefully, you find what you want. Sometimes there is no substitute for playing and hopefully one of these days I shall find my missing 25 Foskers, but they may have to wait a while.

This article has only been able to skim the surface of this subject and, hopefully, the editor may permit another article in the future. In the meantime, if you have any interesting entries or errors please let me have the details, and the image, if at all possible. ☺

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FIGURE 3 – This name was actually Margaret Johnson, but was transcribed as Maybel Elizabeth!

FIGURE 4 – A couple who were transcribed as FOSKETT, when the name was clearly FOSKEW
Finding day and month surnames on the 1901 census

By Roy Stockdill (who should get out more)

O DOUBT like a great many other family historians, since we have finally had the satisfaction of being able to play with the 1901 census online I have been examining its almost endless possibilities.

Yes – having freely taken the mickey out of the PRO and their QinetiQ partners in the last issue of the Journal over the endless delays, I do now confess that, despite some of the bizarre vagaries of the transcriptions, the 1901 can be a wondrous “toy”, offering constant scope for entertainment. Especially if, like me, you are one of those perverse folks who just love uncovering pointless facts and statistics (well, I don’t get out much!).

Casting around for something unusual – some might say peculiar – to do with the online 1901 census, I decided to try and see how many people I could find with surnames matching days of the week and months of the year.

And so I settled down for half-an-hour or so, cheerfully entering days and months into the surname field to see what happened, using the excellent 1901 Census Extractor Utility program described by my colleague John Hanson on the preceding pages of this Journal.

As far as days goes, there were only two names that produced significant numbers of entries – MONDAY and FRIDAY. Both these presented problems initially, since just entering either surname with no other information brought up the “taking too long” and “please narrow your search” message. However, by searching first for males with the age parameters 0 +/- 50 (to obtain all those aged between 0 and 50) and 101 +/- 50 (to obtain all those aged 51 and over), and then repeating the process for females, I managed to gather all the entries in just four passes for each name.

The result was a narrow victory for the Mondays, of whom there were 630 against a total of 616 Fridays.

Many a May Day

Naturally, I searched to see if there were any really interesting examples, like Good Friday or Easter Monday. Sadly, no. However, I was somewhat surprised to find no fewer than 110 people called May Day – all females, of course, ranging in age from five months to 72.

After the Mondays and the Fridays, only the surname SUNDAY offered any other number in double figures. There were 11 people of this surname, spread around the country in London, Essex, Lincolnshire and Staffordshire. One was a 50-year-old butler at Cannock, Staffs, called John Sunday, and I thought it rather a shame that his name wasn’t Friday, as I could just imagine an upper class family asking: “Where’s our man Friday?” (well, I told you I don’t get out much!).

The surname THURSDAY managed to muster only two entries – a married couple at Salterforth, near Skipton in Yorkshire, called James and Ellen Thursday, both aged 57.

Finally, there was just one person in the whole country whose surname was TUESDAY: a 65-year-old female called Joan Tuesday, born in Somerset and enumerated at Lewisham in South London.

Hardly surprisingly, there was no-one called WEDNESDAY or SATURDAY – not that I had expected to find any entries.

Turning to the months of the year, I rapidly realised that searching for folks called MARCH and MAY was going to be a futile exercise. There were far too many of both and I reckoned it would take me a month of Sundays to find them all!

Most frequent month surnames, apart from March and May, were AUGUST and JUNE. I found a total of 191 people called August, though quite a number of these seemed to be foreign nationals and I suspect some anglicising of the names had taken place in some of those cases.

June produced a total of 121 entries – but, to my slight surprise, no-one called June June, though there were three females rejoicing in the name of Jane June and a 1-month-old child called May June in Essex.

The surname APRIL produced just two females with no apparent connection between them, since both were born and enumerated in different places.

What did surprise me, rather, was the number of entries for the surnames JANUARY and JULY. The former produced 95 people of the name – including a four-year-old girl called May January at Croydon in Surrey – and the latter 33.

For the months of February, September, October and November I drew a blank – nil returns for each one – which scarcely surprised me. But I found just one person named after the last month of the year. This was a Josephine DECEMBER, a 22-year-old milliner born in Germany and enumerated at Kensington, London. How did she come to get a surname like that, one wonders? Perhaps she was a foundling child in that month.

One wonders, of course, how many of the examples of day and month surnames were enumerators’ or transcribers’ errors. Inevitably, some will be. But I still found it an entertaining exercise, and one which at least showed the possibilities of the census search engine.

If anyone else has used the online 1901 census to find strange, unusual – or simply plain daft – data, then please, please, do let us know and we will publish the results! ☺
Why you should document all your records and what is in them
By John Colloff, Guild Librarian

I HAVE JUST spent many hours sorting and delving into one of the smaller bodies of data deposited with the Guild from one of a deceased member’s three one-name studies. The member died suddenly and the spouse kindly boxed up all the files and sent them to the Guild.

Unfortunately, all I found were a lot of ring binders and index cards, and my time has been spent in sorting out what the deceased member’s methodology had been, what files should be there and what was to be found in them. In this, I am grateful for the flying start given to this work last year by Vice-President Mary Rumsey.

Please consider that this could happen to you. If you died suddenly – or even if you decided to pass on your research in your lifetime – what record is there to help some stranger to find their way around your records? How many, like Shelagh Mason (Member 2519, registered name STEAD), who runs a very large one-name study, have a published list detailing what records there are?

I make no apology for reporting that this has been a hot topic on the Guild Forum, our members’ online discussion list, and a summary paper is being planned by others. However, the Editor thought it a subject of some importance – one that is so often forgotten by genealogy researchers – and has asked me to write about it here.

Helpful

I know many of you think you are still at the start, or near the middle of, your one-name study. You might even have got to the stage where you have realised that it will never end, but such a list would still be helpful. Also, a list of what is not there could be equally useful to some future researcher hoping to benefit from your work.

So forget what to do with the files for the moment and just list what is there. Ask yourself: is there a master index? If so, what form does it take: a card index, a computer spreadsheet, fully annotated family trees, a data CD? Whatever form it is in, it will be invaluable. Further, if that is lost, damaged or mislaid, of what use is the rest of the work, especially to people with little or no knowledge of any of the families concerned?

The study I was working on had a master card index that ran to nearly 4,000 numbered, standard 5” x 3” cards, one for each individual. Each card listed the spouse(s), parents and children and cross-referenced the other card numbers, where known.

What was not given was how the researcher had established these relationships.

Had this information been obtained factually from birth, marriage and death certificates and similar records, deduced from census returns or simply given by word of mouth from family members?

I had received an enquiry on this study for which I was able to find about a dozen relevant records, and fed back the information from the index cards. However, because there was no statement that, unless otherwise stated, the relationships shown had been obtained from publicly available birth, marriage and death certificates and other records, I could not vouch for their credibility.

From the quality of the rest of the work, I assumed the relationships were from the records listed in the ring binders, but I had to make that assumption clear in my response.

Please consider the following when compiling your research:

• How well is the basis of your records documented?
• What validity could a stranger place on the relationships you claim in your study?

I know these are not nice aspects to consider, but as you wonder what is to happen to your records, would you first consider how clear and lucid is the logic on which they have been compiled? Then, how accessible will they be in the years to come?

Incidentally, these monster packs of 5” x 3” cards are quite heavy and difficult to store. Because of this, some of these cards (not while in my safe keeping) had suffered some mouse damage and some safer form of storage has been considered.

I had to report back to the Committee that the cost of microfiching the index cards of the larger of the three studies I have been discussing was of the order of £7,000. In my opinion, this is a sum we could not possibly consider expending from the Guild’s general funds on one single study.

I suggest the long-term life of your media is yet another factor to be considered when asking what to do with the files. ☺

• JOHN COLLOFF has made it known he will not be continuing as the Guild’s Librarian after the Annual General Meeting in April. However, until then he will continue to receive deposited work on behalf of the Guild. His address is given in his Librarian’s Notes on page 19.
What kind of f-ing one-namer are you?
By Roger Goacher

I HAVE a friend, Alex, who helps me with my one-name study. He is actually a distant cousin – well, we share an ancestor born in 1720. Alex enjoys spending hours in front of a microfilm or microfiche viewer extracting records. I find that after about an hour of such work my eyes hurt, I am bored and I know I might miss that vital entry I am looking for.

While the 1901 census was unavailable, Alex spent days at the local library extracting all the Goachers from likely parishes in Sussex. When I checked, he had managed to find about 90% of all the entries in the county. Alex and another “cousin” also extracted many of the Goacher entries in the GRO indexes from microfiche. Oh yes, I did my bit, starting in the days of St Catherines House, lugging down the heavy volumes and laboriously writing out the entries in cramped conditions. But without the help of others it would have taken me forever. Their help has been invaluable. I call them my FINDERS.

Alex loves looking at all kinds of material, seeking any reference to the Goacher name. His greatest success was finding a reference in an index to papers connected with Chichester Cathedral mentioning a Radulfus Gochier in 1485. Could this be the progenitor of all the Goacher lines in Sussex? We obtained a copy of the document – a will written in Latin – and had it translated. Unfortunately, Radulfus turned out to have been a Catholic priest, who left 10 marks and a cassock to celebrate and pray at the burial. Probably not the man we are looking for – but, then, who knows? Alex has found many other obscure pieces of information that have been immensely useful in my study. He is my FERRET.

I have another friend who likes deciphering old documents. Give her copies of an 18th century will and inventory, plus a magnifying glass, pen and paper, and she will settle down happily for a couple hours worrying out the full text. I haven’t the patience for such painstaking work. She likes FOR-MALIZING the data into a readable form.

Family historians particularly enjoy FLESHING out the lives of their ancestor, seeking items of information that will make them seem more “alive”. I have one friend who tries to find out all she can about the lives and times of her names. She seeks out the history of the area, newspaper articles, contemporary pictures, the weather at the time, issues such as the effect of the Corn Laws: anything that will provide an insight. We have all done this at times. I investigated the history of a farm which was occupied by one branch of my family from the mid-1700s to World War I. Along the way, I discovered the family had connections with the Quakers and William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, was an occasional visitor.

I also found a small notebook in a record office written by Harriet Gocher in 1867 in which she jotted down over 50 recipes. I even tried a few. The apple pudding and lemon drop cakes were quite acceptable, but I baulked at a recipe for cough medicine which started with: “Take 60 drops of laudanum.” I also didn’t fancy the recipe for “Emily’s cake” that includes ammonia!

Have you ever met a FOCUSER? Sometimes when you’ve hit a brick wall, someone comes along who looks at your work and says: “Ah yes, but have you tried looking for...?” Some people seem to have the ability to focus on a problem, pick out the essential elements and come up with a flash of insight that will lead an enquiry in a different direction. I have been lucky enough to meet such a person once or twice in over 20 years of research.

There is at least one other kind of researcher – the type I think I probably am. I am a FITTER. My greatest joy is playing Sherlock Holmes and fitting together information in a plausible scenario. I like looking at a pile of disparate data and saying: “There’s that Tryphena in Chichester and another Tryphena born in Midhurst 30 years later. Could one be the granddaughter of the other, as its such an unusual name?” I then try to find the evidence to prove – or sometimes disprove – my assumptions.

There are, of course, two other Fs connected with genealogy we mustn’t forget. First, the many FRIENDS we meet along the way who help us with advice or just offer a shoulder to cry on when we get stuck. Then there is the FAMILY: the past family we are studying that provides us with many hours of useful employment and not a little frustration, and our current family – our partners and children who put up with our obsession. They patiently visit the local shopping centre while we leaf through dusty tomes. They accept that a Sunday outing may mean a trip to a graveyard. They know that if they suggest a holiday lying on a tropical beach, we are more likely to suggest a trip somewhere in Britain – “You can do whatever you like and I can spend some time looking for great-great grandfather John’s burial.” Thank heavens, most of all, for the family in family history research!

So what kind of one-namer are you? Are you a finder, a ferret, a formalizer, a flesher, a focuser or a fitter? Or is there some other “f” word to describe you? ☺

ROGER GOACHER
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If you are reading this, then you have chosen to spend a good deal of your allotted time on this earth searching for information on past events for no other reason than curiosity. It will not benefit you financially and may cause you to be the object of derision among some friends and, indeed, family. My wife has believed I must be potty for the past 20 years.

However, unlike most addictions, this is not life-threatening but is to be nurtured and developed. You can’t help it: you are a family historian. Or, if you prefer, a genealogist (I am never sure of the difference). You have searched for and gathered information on the ones who have gone before and, of course, in some cases those who are still with us.

You will have amassed information from many sources, filled files full of certificates and census returns. Now, how about postcards? Yes postcards! “Ah,” I hear you say, “somebody else trying to encourage us to spend lots of pounds on pictures of our town or villages of interest!” Well, you would be wrong. I am trying to get you to look at the other side – the other side of postcards, that is.

Time to get to the point. I compile the Postcard Index.

The first British postcard appeared in 1870. However, the real explosion in the use of postcards occurred after January 1902, when the Post office allowed messages to be written on one half of the side reserved for the address. The golden age of postcards was between 1902 and 1920. Millions of cards a day were going through the system and, because of the love of collecting, many have survived where letters have not.

A Post Office publication of 1911 commented: “The result of all these changes, especially the permission to use private postcards with a ½d adhesive stamp, has been to raise the consumption of postcards to about 860,000,000 in 1908–1909.”

What the Post Office failed to mention – it was, presumably, so taken for granted that it did not mention consideration – was that the efficiency of the Post Office was so considerable, with up to six daily collections and deliveries in some major cities, that the postcard became the preferred medium of written communication for many people.

“Drop me a postcard” was said in just the same way as people today say “Give me a ring.” It was quick, cheap and reliable and demanded relatively little writing. In many cases the picture side of the postcard carried an appropriate visual message and so even less writing was needed.

Ever since the appearance of pictorial postcards, it has been the illustrations that have engaged attentions. From the beginning, people have collected them for the picture.

Rarity value

Now, of course, certain topographical and subject cards are worth a lot of money, depending on their rarity. Today there are thousands of collectors worldwide. Whilst many families have cards handed down, countless other collections have been sold off to the trade over the years. Whilst there is always a possibility that you may come across a family card at a fair, the chances are very slim. Until now, no-one has tried to collect and index cards, based on the names on the back.

Some of you one-name persons (about 150) are already well aware of what I do but for the benefit of many others, In very simple terms I collect postally used picture postcards dated from 1898 to 1950 and index them by the name and address of the person to whom the card was sent. The object is simply to unite the cards with someone today who has an
interest in the original recipient. In 1994, while shopping in a second-hand market in Leeds, I noticed an old tin full of postcards. Some were postally used and contained interesting messages. However, I thought they had obviously been discarded during a house clearance and were almost 100 years old. Someone had kept them all those years as part of their family history but now they were discarded and the family link severed. If only those cards had been addressed to my ancestors! What chance was there of ever finding any sent to my family?

Technology

The idea of my Index was formed there and then. As I had just acquired a computer, the technology was in place. I started buying small lots from market traders, but soon realised if the Index was ever to be of any real use I needed large numbers of cards. This was, and still is, the biggest problem.

There are many millions of cards still surviving, but if the picture is of any interest at all, then the dealers are talking big money. I attended auctions and made some contacts in the postcard trade which has enabled me to amass the 90,000 I have so far. In effect, I buy the trade does not want, either because the card is damaged or, more usually, the picture side is of no interest to anyone. As long as it has an address on it, I will have it. I index 10,000 at a time and produce each volume in several formats. The sales of the index, the searching fee, and the sale of the cards themselves – they have always been £1 each – is how I finance the project.

Social classes

I attend a lot of family history fairs, providing a searching service and trying to sell the present index to finance the next lot of cards. I am often approached by people saying their family were illiterate or too poor to be involved with postcards. But having seen so many, I am convinced the sending and collecting of cards covered every social class. I have cards sent to Lords and Ladies, MPs, MPs, brigadiers, majors, captains, privates and vicars (I have hundreds of Reverends), as well as tens of thousands of ordinary people, some of whom had difficulty with writing but still felt obliged to join in the popular and useful means of communication. The messages on the cards vary from “Arrived safe”, etc., to virtual essays. Some people managed to write hundreds of words covering the whole space available in the smallest writing possible. Some cover family matters, local events, births, deaths and marriages. The postcard really was the telephone of the day!

Some have what I can only call suggestive remarks, or is it just me being cynical? A lady called “K” wrote to a friend in Derbyshire in 1948: “The emeralds have been found! In the hem of my petticoat. They must have slipped down and lodged there and our new third chauffeur found them quite by chance when I asked him to stop the car in the lower woods yesterday (which is another tale of course). I was so pleased and gave him a big reward as you may imagine. I must get Percy to promote him to 2nd chauffeur.”

Some are thought-provoking. In July 1939 Alice Koll was in Germany visiting her boyfriend when she wrote to her mother: “Peter met me at the Hotel Bahnhof with a large bunch of roses. He is very charming but he wears his Nazi’s uniform and letters that could only have been decipherable by the person receiving them. Anyone claiming them today will be so frustrated!

Well over 3,000 cards have been claimed by interested parties, many to keep the messages private. Shorthand was used, but so were combinations of figures that could only have been mentioned on the cards, where they fit in the family and why they were getting cards from abroad. The index only covers addresses in Great Britain and Ireland but many were sent from abroad. I have customers in a dozen countries. In South Africa many cards have gone to Dr Ash Emery (Member 1536) who collects all my EMERY and SHOESMITH cards. In Canada Dr Penelope Christensen (Member 1164) seems to be a very busy lady with at least five separate names of interest including DASHWOOD and JUPP. In Australia there is Sheila Bayley (Member 3146) who snaps up my DUNWELL cards. In Dubai Paul Money (Member 301) gathers all the MONEY cards. Nearer home, well over 100 Guild members from every area of the UK have taken cards addressed to their name interests.

At the time of writing I have on my desk six cards ready to go to my latest Guild client, Daryl Cornner (Member 2331) who will shortly be in possession of examples, do not respond to my letters telling them about the cards. However, the support and interest shown by many makes my thousands of hours of work well worth it.

Postcards are a lovely snapshot of the moment, as even those with little or no message still have a history about them. There is no guesswork – they were handled by the person receiving them. I like to think that the cards are passing through my hands and are going to end up with someone who will treasure them for what they are, a little bit of personal family history.

For a £3 registration fee, which includes all variants of the name(s) I search the current index and let you know if there are any at this time, and any future ones are set aside for you.

Since I started the project, I have averaged about 1,000 cards a month and will continue to do so. As stated, the cards are just £1 each. I give you the actual card, not, as some people seem to think, photocopies.

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Worcestershire Seminar in the spring will have a traditional flavour

The Guild’s first regional seminar of 2003, to be held in the spring, will have, we believe, an unbeatable appeal to members looking for not only an excellent day out but the chance to hear some really stimulating and fascinating lectures from top speakers.

For the Worcestershire Seminar, on Saturday, March 1, we have lined up what promises to be one of the most attractive events the Seminars Subcommittee has ever organised, with the following ingredients in place...

- An all-star “batting” lineup of four of the biggest names in genealogy.
- A location in a lovely part of the Worcestershire countryside.
- A new “upmarket” approach to our seminars, with a hotel venue and a buffet lunch as part of the all-in price.

Moreover, all the lectures will have a strong flavour of the more traditional type of research, while still clearly orientated towards one-name studies. This is the result of some concern by members of the Seminars Subcommittee that non-computer users were beginning to complain they felt left out of Guild activities.

Research

Thus, the talks will be around research that does not necessarily demand the use of computers. However, regular computer users are assured that this most certainly does NOT mean the seminar will hold no interest for them!

On the contrary, the programme that has been arranged is aimed at all members, of whatever level of expertise and experience, and among the speakers are some of the Guild’s founding members, whose knowledge of ancestry research and one-name studies is probably unequalled.

The venue: The Seminar will be held at the Hundred House Hotel, which is in Worcester Road in the village of Great Witley, Worcestershire. This is about 10 miles north-west of the city of Worces-

ter and quite close to the M5 motorway.

The date: Saturday, March 1 2003, starting with registration between 9.30 and 10.0 a.m.

The speakers will be:

- Colonel Iain Swinnerton, a founding member of the Guild, who will speak on “Fifty Years a Genealogist”.
- Pauline Litton, another long-standing Guild member and well-known for her column in Family Tree Magazine. Her talk will be entitled “Fact, Fiction and a Foundling”.
- Jeanne Bunting, a member of the Guild Committee, who will talk about passing on your research in “What Happens When I Die?”
- Derek Palgrave, the Guild’s popular President and also a founding member. His lecture will be entitled: “A One-Name Study Before Home Computers”.

Displays

During the lunch recess there will be various displays and bookstalls for delegates to browse, including the Guild’s bookstall and the Guild members’ magazines and newsletters.

Vouchers for the 1901 census online will be on sale and mem-

bers are reminded that the usual discount will apply to the purchase of computer software from the Guild bookstall.

Holding a seminar in a hotel is a new approach for the Seminars Subcommittee, so this event will be something of an experiment. It indicates a move away from the more traditional venue of church or village hall.

Therefore, inevitably, the price has had to be increased from the norm. However, the price for the Worcestershire Seminar of £14 per person is inclusive of all lectures and includes a buffet lunch and all teas and coffees.

Those wishing to extend their stay in this scenic locality are advised to contact the hotel directly (01299 896888). Bed and breakfast establishments and guesthouses are also available in the area.

All Guild members, together with any family historians and genealogists having an interest in this programme, are welcome to attend what should be an enthralling and educational day.

Further information may be obtained by telephoning the organiser on 07956 271886.
Guild Conference lecture line-up on civil registration will be wide-ranging

With this issue of the Journal you will find a full booking form for the Guild’s 2003 Conference and AGM, to be held from April 25–27 at Liverpool University. As announced in the October–December 2002 Journal, the theme of the whole conference will be Civil Registration.

You will find all details of accommodation and how to book on the form, but here we are pleased to bring you details of planned activities and lectures over the three-day programme.

It is intended that the topics to be covered will encompass not just England and Wales, but will also include civil registration in Scotland, Ireland and Germany as well, plus even a contribution on genealogy in the Netherlands.

The Conference is getting off to an early start because on the Friday afternoon there will be a coach trip to Smedley Hydro, Southport, headquarters of the General Register Office for National Statistics, where the General Register Office is based and where all copies of birth, marriage and death certificates – so vital to family historians – are produced. The conducted tour will take approximately two hours.

Lectures

On Saturday, after an opening welcome by our President Derek Palgrave, the Guild’s Annual General Meeting will be held before the first lectures of the Conference. There will be six speakers, as follows:

• Audrey Collins, well-known genealogist, on The Making of the GRO Indexes.
• Jim Floyd, the Guild’s regional representative for Scotland South on Civil Registration in Scotland.
• Michael Merrigan, our Irish regional rep, on Civil Registration in Ireland.
• Paul Millington, Guild webmaster, who will give a presentation on the Guild’s proposed BMD search engine on CD-ROM.
• Peter Tovey, of the Anglo-German FHGS, on Civil Registration in Germany.
• Karen Fletcher, Superintendant Registrar for Liverpool, on Civil Registration Today and Tomorrow.

There will be further entertaining and informative lectures on Sunday, the final day of the Conference, with the following speakers:

• Peter Park, a very well-known and experienced genealogist for some 30 years, who will give an address on Fraudulent Registration of Births and Deaths in the 1840s.
• Dave Mayall, one of the founders of the online FreeBMD Project, who will talk about the history of, and latest developments in, this valuable aid to family historians.
• Zwanet Plomp, a Dutch genealogist, who will speak on How to Find Your Name in the Netherlands.
• Kieron Mahoney, of the General Register Office, who will talk on The Civil Registration Review – a topic which is bound to provoke some controversy!

There will be a Computer Suite open for delegates from 10.45 to 16.30 on the Saturday, and from 9.00 to 12.00 on the Sunday.

There will be an Ecumenical Service, for those delegates not wishing to miss Sunday morning worship, at 8.00 a.m., led by the Rev David Gynes.

The principal social gathering of the Conference will be a banquet on the Saturday night, which will include a bar extension until 23.45.

What’s happened to 1881 surname book?

Vice-Chairman Geoff Riggs has asked to make the following personal statement...

Regrettably, the delays and setbacks encountered in preparing the book for the printers have proved more formidable than anticipated. The Guild Committee, therefore, agreed that it would be better to return to members the money paid for advance orders of the book, and that this should be published other than by the Guild.

At the time of writing this report, I’m therefore finishing re-inputting the data and producing the remaining maps, which had been postponed until after the book was produced. Once these have been analysed, printed and despatched, I’ll then send out the disks of data at county level and at registration district (RD) level that have been ordered.

As partial compensation for the delay in producing these, I’ve included population figures for the 1901 census at county and RD level. I’ll also add to the RD disks a spreadsheet containing the populations of the USA states and territories as at 1880, so that those who wish to can carry out a similar exercise on that census.

My next update will report that these disks have been despatched. At that stage, I’ll ask that, if exceptionally, any member ordered maps and/or disks but haven’t received them, they should then contact me. Until then, I ask you to be patient for the last time.

Please accept my sincere apologies once more for the way in which this project has backfired, but also my assurance that it will be completed in the coming months. I will then finalise my preparation of the resultant book.

Geoff Riggs
Many thanks for your Gift Aid help to the Guild

Welcome to another year with the Guild. For some I know this will be your first Journal, because we have quite a few new members. It is the start of the Guild accounting year, so you can understand that I am very busy. I am lucky this year because Roger Goacher, our Membership Secretary, has taken over receiving renewals. He told me he had warned his post lady to expect to deliver lots of letters to him every day. I wonder if she expected so many!

I want to thank many of you for starting a standing order for your annual subscription. This does save quite a lot of time. The only trouble with standing orders is that they do give me work – our usual slim Bank Statement was nearly sixty pages last year! I am still waiting for this year’s statement for November.

UK account

Unfortunately, to use a standing order to pay your subscription you do need to have a bank account in the UK. This means that many of our overseas members have to either send cheques or pay by credit card. We are still looking into making it possible to pay by credit cards online and hope this will be working with a secure system for next year.

Also a big Thank you to those who have sent in Gift Aid forms. A number of you were not sure if you had signed one before or if these need signing each year. I have had several queries. I am, therefore, just going to explain a few things about Gift Aid again.

Gift Aid is a Government scheme under which registered charities can reclaim the tax back that UK taxpayers have paid. A Gift Aid form only has to be filled in once but it is sent out each year because there are still some members who may well be eligible who have not yet signed. You do not have to be paying very much tax – you only have to have paid tax equal to the amount we can claim back.

This means that for every £12 subscription paid by members who pay UK income tax, we can claim back £3.38. So it is possible you can sign a form, even if you pay only a small amount of income tax each year. You do not lose out yourself; you pay us the same as usual and we do the rest.

If however you are a higher rate taxpayer, then you can also claim money back from the Inland Revenue. If you do not pay tax yourself but your spouse does, then ask them to pay your Guild subscription and they can sign a Gift Aid form. I have spoken to the Inland Revenue who agree this is acceptable.

I did also explain on the renewal form that if you paid no income tax, but have share dividend and the Inland Revenue deducted tax on this dividend, then we could also claim this tax back. One of our members was delighted to read this, as she told me she had some investment interest on which tax was deducted before she received it and this always annoyed her; but a friend said she thought I had made a mistake, as she had never heard of it.

Our member quite properly contacted her local Inland Revenue department. They said that tax on share dividend is not classed as income tax and the Gift Aid only applies to income tax. It was at that point that our member contacted me, so I went to the Inland Revenue website to see if anything had changed. You can see for yourself if you go to: www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/pdfs/ir65.htm

I found this: Q: Can I count tax paid on my dividend income? A: Yes. Tax credits on dividend income can be used to cover tax reclaimed by the charity.

So I printed out the pages and posted these to our member. In fact, the booklet does say if you have paid tax (income or capital gains) equal to the amount claimed back by the charity, then you can sign the form, so it also applies to capital gains tax too. I hope that reassures you. If you have any worries about this, you can contact the Inland Revenue and ask for booklet IR65: Giving to charity by individuals. This gives a full explanation and examples.

If you would now like to fill a form in but no longer have the renewal form, you can download one from our website. Just fill it in and send it to me. If you have trouble getting it from the site (and I know some of you do not have access to the Internet) then just ask and I will post you a form.

Once again, many of you have taken the opportunity at renewal time to give Donations to the Guild. Thank you very much – it is really appreciated.

I am pleased to note that already bookings for our Conference in Liverpool next April include one member from USA and one from Spain, while someone in Australia has told me they hope to get here too. I hope to see many of you at the Conference. And a Happy New Year to you all!
HAVE to thank Paul Millington, who has been busy working on the Guild web pages and has added to them details of the material that is in the library and available for loan. It is made quite clear there that the library mainly operates as a postal loan service, and I hope that the same information will soon be published in a Guild leaflet.

However, because I have had several enquiries about this, I will repeat some of the information that has been requested here.

It appears that because only the addresses of the officers of the Guild are given inside the cover of the Journal, some members feel they are unable to reach me! They appear not to realise that I am just a normal member of the Guild and my address is given in the Register. When I hand the Guild librarianship on next year, the new Librarian's address will be found the same way – in the Register, under the postholder’s name as a member.

However, for the record, the details of your current librarian, to whom your newsletters should be sent and from whom material can be borrowed, are; John Collof, The Haven, Milford Gardens, Appleton, Warrington WA4 5EF.

Like all Guild posts, the e-mail address will not change. It is librarian@one-name.org

Odd, but some members don’t know where to find me!

Data CDs for loan in Guild library

I am afraid this is another scheme that is foundering. I am still waiting to receive any of the data CDs that were proffered so enthusiastically a few weeks ago. So currently, there is nothing along these lines available from the library.

I have had suggestions that the Guild should consider purchasing certain data CDs as they become available. So far, the committee has only agreed to the very few CDs that give broad enough coverage to be considered useful to the majority of the membership.

AS the Guild’s new Membership Secretary, I was thrown into the deep end with the annual subscription renewal exercise.

My thanks to those of you who returned your subscription forms quickly and accurately: top marks.

To those of you I have had to contact about missing cheques, incorrect payments or confusing instructions: must try harder. But perhaps you found the renewal form difficult to understand? It is a complicated document. If you have any suggestions for improving the information or layout, do, please, send them to me. I promise we will consider them and see if we can make changes.

On a lighter note, the Guild has reached another milestone. Recently I enrolled member number 4000 – Stan Godfrey from Leicester. Stan is researching the surname Giblett and its variants. Historically, Giblett is his family name, but his paternal grandfather changed his name to Godfrey because he was continually being ribbed about his original name. And the name may well have derived from someone who processed those parts of game birds.

Stan has been interested in family history for many years, but has had more time to carry out research recently, and he has traced ancestors back to the 1500s. The Giblett name probably originated in Suffolk, but the family appears to have migrated principally to London, the Sandhurst area and Somerset. Stan’s luckiest genealogical break was making contact with the Sandhurst Historical Society, which was independently researching the name in the area and was able to provide valuable information for his study.

Guild membership reached number 1000 after nine years of existence. It took another five years before member 2000 joined, six more to reach 3000 and a further four years to get to member 4000. How long to reach 5000 – any bets? We now have nearly 2000 current members – not a bad record and retention rate, I think, for an organisation nearly 25 years old.
Ash Computer Seminar had something for all
By Ron Hall

On a rather cold but bright Saturday morning in October, members of the Guild gathered in the Victoria Hall at Ash in Surrey, to attend a Computer Seminar. About 70+ members attended and a really excellent day was had by all.

After the first welcoming coffee, one was able to look round the Guild’s bookstall, well stocked as usual and very tempting to spend money at. My wife didn’t know it at the time but she will be giving me several “must have” books and computer programmes for Christmas.

In an adjacent room, a few members had displayed their one-name studies in various formats for us to look at. It was a shame that not more were on view, as I feel the information and ways of displaying that information can help us all.

The business of the day started promptly at 10.0 o’clock with a welcome from one of Ash’s residents, our own Jeanne Bunting. Jeanne was also the first lecturer of the day, her subject being “Using a Computer for a One-Name Study”. She took us through the various computers and add-on’s she had used since beginning her family history and explained her use of the computer in compiling her one-name study, with many on-screen examples.

Programs
After coffee break, our Chairman changed hats from being bookstall manager to lecturer. Howard Benbrook guided us through the many types of genealogy programs that could be used to record and display one’s family history. He spoke and illustrated programs ranging from Family Tree Maker to the new British Family Historian, via PAF, Generations, Pedigree and The Master Genealogist, to name but a few. He also illustrated the use of such programs as Parloc, the free parish locator program, and also the data storage programme, Custodian, very much loved by one-namers.

Although the programs discussed were Howard’s own choice, much food for thought was given and many discussions about the ones to use took place during the lunch break.

After lunch, the first speaker was Sue Turner, who took as her subject “Using General Purpose Programs.” Sue uses Microsoft Word, Access and Excel to record her family history data. She illustrated, among many things, how to merge cells in Word, how to use filters in Excel, and how she created a library database in Access to record all her fiche, books and CDs.

This database enabled her to keep a check on what she had (avoiding the purchase of duplicates), the value of her collection and where each was stored.

Sue finished her extremely interesting talk by describing how she used search engines on the internet such as Google, and AltaVista.

Using CDs
The last speaker of the day was John Hanson, whose subject was “Using CDs and Floppy Discs”. He described how the electronic media was recorded on floppies, CD-ROM and DVDs. He went on to talk of the wealth of material which was now available on CD, including the 1881 Census, Family History Library Catalogue, and Vital Records Index 2nd edition, published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons). In passing, he mentioned Data published by the various FHSs, e.g. Hampshire Genealogical Society’s Burial Index.

John then went on to one of his favourite topics, that of how to use the advanced search in the 1881 Census. Although I have personally heard the full talk that he gives on this subject many times, there always seems to be something new in each presentation. This time he illustrated how to select the data and then put it into Excel and create a table, which can be fully sorted however one wishes.

Thought
Following John’s talk, all the speakers joined in a Question and Answer session. It was obvious from the many questions asked that the talks had provoked much thought and members wished to go further in using computers for their one-name studies.

John Hanson then closed the day with the news that the Guild hoped to hold a similar Computer Seminar on the same weekend next year, when it was hoped that, among other things, access to the internet could be arranged.

I thought the day was excellently arranged. The speakers knew their subjects and the range of topics was just about right. I shall definitely attend the next seminar and if you have an interest in using your computer for family history I would urge you to attend.

There was something here for the beginner and expert alike. I felt it was impossible to go away without having learned something. Many thanks to all concerned. ☺

RON HALL
Member 3522
Hampshire

• PARLOC, the parish locator program mentioned above, can be downloaded free from the following website...
www.parloc.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

It is extremely useful for finding contiguous parishes.
Serendipity and the FFHS pay-per-view website
By Howard Benbrook

HAVE YOU noticed how serendipity is a recurring theme in genealogy? You're minding your own business, trawling through the usual microfilm suspects, when out of the blue, just as you're totally unprepared, that elusive piece of information leaps out at you.

So it's happened to me, of course. You may know that the UK Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) is about to launch its online pay-per-view service known as Family History Online (www.familyhistoryonline.net).

I went to a FFHS meeting a little while ago, and was presented with a voucher to use while they are testing the system. Even though they only had Berkshire and Cornwall data at the time, I gave it a go, just to be helpful. I knew, of course that there were no Benbrooks in Cornwall or Berkshire, so I did the usual thing – typed in my name, and "Benbrook" into the search engine. Gob-smacked? That doesn’t describe it – there are Benbrooks in Cornwall! But, but...this is impossible! Isn’t it?

Well, here I was, content that I had Warwickshire antecedents who migrated to London a few hundred years ago to account for my immediate cockney forebears and it seems I have yet another line to pursue. Just as I thought I was close to cracking it!

By the way, the FFHS site is planned to be live by the time you read this. My fingers are crossed while I write this, but you might like to take a look. It may be worth your while.

Cory Society’s West Country Event 2003

THE Cory Society is holding its West Country Event 2003 over the weekend of Friday, May 16, to Monday, May 19, by the seaside at the Hotel Penavor, Bude, Cornwall.

Co-organiser Jean Hayes (Member 2115) writes: “Bring your family or friends to witness the re-enactment of the Battle of Stamford Hill 1643, visit Cory sites in Devon and Cornwall by coach or car, see lovely scenery, enjoy good food and bracing fresh air. Extended stays for golf, sight seeing & relaxing are possible. Daily attendance welcomed too.

"Ida Birch [Programme] and Jean Hayes [Accommodation and other details] are busy arranging a return visit to this area, last visited by American and British Corys in 1995. We hope to cover a wider area, include more recent discoveries and tailor our programme towards those living relatives who join the visit. There will be lots of interest to people who do not belong to West Country lines and, as in previous years, a jolly social time is planned.”

The cost is £30 for weekend events and approximately £117 per person for three nights’ half board accommodation. Those wishing to attend can obtain a booking form from jemhayes@globalnet.co.uk or by phone to 020 8398 1914 or Jean Hayes, 3 Bourne Close, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0EA, UK. Jean adds: “It is essential to BOOK NOW so we can reserve accommodation and coach transport.”

• “On The Move”, the 14th Annual Conference of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies, will be hosted by the Tay Valley Family History Society and held in the Bonar Hall, Dundee University, Dundee, on April 26 2003.

Send in your entries for One-Name Publications Award

WITH this Journal you will find an entry form for the Guild Award for One-Name Publications 2002. This will be the fourth year the competition has been held. The Guild Committee launched the Award in 1999 to encourage members to produce regular newsletters and journals to a high standard.

Once again there will be two classes: for Category A members and for Categories B & C combined. Last year, most of the Category A entrants were one-name society publications.

Judging will take place in February or March and the winners will be announced at the Guild’s 2003 Conference and AGM at Liverpool University from April 25–27.

Three copies

In order to qualify for the competition, you must send three copies of your publication to the address given on the form. Please note that they MUST be three copies of the same issue – not different ones – and must have been published during the year 2002.

The judges of the contest will be: Roy Stockdill, Editor of the Journal of One-Name Studies; Jane Morson, Reviewer for the Journal; and Maurice Hemingway, who has twice won the award for the combined Categories B and C.
Americans of royal and noble descent


THIS volume is the first of a series dealing with Americans of royal and noble ancestry. Thomas Dudley Esq., was an immigrant who became governor or assistant governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony from 1630–1653, and from whom thousands of Americans today are descended.

Thomas had connections to royal and noble ancestry through his mother, and most probably also through his father, and through his second wife Katherine Deighton. Using vital records and family histories, the first five generations of Thomas’s descendants are followed, which takes their various lines up to and beyond the Revolutionary War.

The book opens with the pedigree chart of Thomas Dudley through his mother Susannah Thorne, following her line back to William The Conqueror, followed by an Introduction and information about the author. Generation one opens with Thomas Dudley and his wives, Dorothy Yorke and Katherine Deighton, and his eight children.

From this starting point, the generations are followed with references given for all the evidence shown. The book closes with a comprehensive bibliography, an in-depth name index and an extra Lineage Society Index.


REVIEWING a book by a Guild member is always a pleasure. By publishing this book, the author hopes to stimulate further research into the lives of the Leathers he has included – who up until now have not been the subject of individual biographies – by members of their own immediate families.

The Leather individuals have been arranged chronologically to give an idea of British history and where the Leather families took their place within this history. The book opens with Robert Leather, a priest, who died in 1538, and closes with Ronald William Leather (1925–1995), an electrician from Hoxton, London. In between these individuals are other fascinating people.

They include George Leather, Jnr, 1786–1870, where through letters from his two sons at school in Durham, the headmaster of Durham School, and a letter that George’s wife Sarah wrote to one of their sons, we can build up a wonderful personalized picture of family life through each individual’s eyes.

We also have the story of John James (Jack) Leather, born in 1872, a footballer with Woolwich Arsenal FC. But, sadly, where pictures have been reproduced the moire patterns spoil the final result and rather let down what would otherwise have been a delightful product.

GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE JEWISH HOME AND FAMILY, by Rosemary Wenzerul. A5, soft back, 112 pages, ISBN: 1 86006 148 6. FFHS (Publications) Ltd., Units 15-16, Chesham Industrial Centre, Oram Street, Bury, Lancashire BL9 6EN. Tel: 0161 797 3843. Fax: 0161 797 3846. E-mail: sales@ffhs.org.uk; website: www.familyhistorybooks.co.uk Price: £5.95 (£7.10 inc p&p UK, £7.85 overseas surface mail, £9.15 overseas airmail).

THIS excellent book is clearly laid out and the instructions are so simple anyone could follow this step-by-step guide. The book is packed full of illustrations and black-and-white photos, which are used as examples to show the reader where and how easy it is to obtain information from existing records they might have in their home, not just obtained from libraries and record offices.

The book is designed so that the researcher can follow all members of their family, whether Jewish or not. Some of the information verges on social history, as the author believes you can’t have one without the other. By
investigating this way, it enables the researcher to create a delightful picture of how their family actually lived.

The book opens with a contents and separate illustrations index, followed by a foreword and introduction sections. Next, there are easy instructions on how to begin research and collect and store information. The reader is shown in a very simple way how to obtain information from a variety of sources. The book closes with an index. It is a pleasure to review a book which encourages Jewish genealogy. So often we forget to preserve information for future generations and this book reminds us. I look forward to further publications from the author.

THE SAGA OF THE BECKINGHAMS AND KAISER BILL (1914–1919), by Alex J. McGahey. A5, soft back, 115 pages, ISBN: 0 9543154 0 5. Alex J. McGahey, 2 Vane Road, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 3WE. Tel 01844 217625. E-mail: alex@mcgahey.org.uk Price: £5.50 inc UK postage (add £2.00 for overseas airmail).

THE author of this book, a Guild member, first got the idea for the publication after he had researched the war service of his maternal grandfather and three brothers through the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, from where he had noted down all the Beckinghams/Beckenhams recorded there. Using additional material from his one-name study and the Medal Roll Index at the Public Record Office, the author has been able to produce an interesting record of all the Beckinghams who served as soldiers and sailors during WW1.

Where possible, profiles have been produced for a number of servicemen. Each profile is fascinating to read but, again, it is a shame that the reproduction of the pictures are poor. The concept of this book, however, is a good idea, and it will be a great asset to anyone with an interest in these areas.
IN his interesting article *Slaves in the Family* (Journal of One-Name Studies, Vol 7 Issue 12), Malcolm Boyes appears to have extracted entries “verbatim” from the IGI but he does not appear to have read the Instructions for Using the IGI (an omission common to about 99 per cent of users!). These instructions are supplied with every set of the IGI purchased on fiche - I regret I do not know how they can be found if the IGI is used via FamilySearch (there is an online Help file – Editor) – and they should be essential reading for family historians, as they answer most of the questions people ask and the pitfalls they encounter when using this source.

Unusual names

With regard to the so-called “unusual names” which Malcolm quotes, the instructions say that words such as “Major” can denote a title, a given name or a surname. If the only record of a birth or christening gives the father’s name as “Major Jones”, for example, more research may be required to determine if “Major” is the father’s title or his given name.

When names that may be titles appear in the IGI, they appear twice, separated by an underscore. For example: “Richardson, Squire_Squire.”

Names commonly associated with this practice include Bishop, Duke (usually short for Maradmuke), Easter (Esther), Major and Squire. The “royal” ones like Prince and Queen are, I think, largely restricted to the British colonies.

It is worth pointing out that the instructions also say that some surnames and occupations may have been wrongly entered if the transcriber has mistaken the occupation for the surname. They give Carpenter as an example, but the same applies to Chapman, Clerk/Clark, Cooper, Farmer, Sawyer, Taylor, Weaver and many more. In these cases, the correct surname will often appear as a middle name in the entry.

Proof

As regards the article’s last paragraph, bear in mind that many clergymen, particularly Anglican ones, would not marry a couple unless proof was produced of their baptisms. Many slaves may have been baptised as infants, but if no written records were kept or survive, a further baptism may have been necessary immediately before the marriage.

Pauline Litton
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Pitfalls

Roy Stockdill, Editor of the Journal, writes:
I must endorse every word of Pauline’s warning about the pitfalls of not reading the instructions when using the IGI. Certainly, “Major” was not an uncommon forename in earlier times. There was a celebrated Yorkshire and England cricketer, for example, called Major Booth. And I had a great-uncle who rejoiced in the name of Prince Frederick William Stockdill.

Name or title?

I also came across in the IGI, when researching in the parish of Kirkby Malham in Yorkshire, an entry in 1639 for the marriage of a John Lambert ARMIGER. In fact, this proved to be the marriage of Major-General John Lambert, a close friend of Oliver Cromwell, who was Squire of the township of Calton in the parish. When checking the entry in the printed parish registers, I realised that “Armiger” was his title, which had been wrongly transcribed to the IGI as his surname.

I have also been contacted by Guy Grannum (Member 1404), who is the author of a PRO publication called *Tracing Your West Indian Ancestors: Sources in the Public Record Office*. Mr. Grannum sent me a lengthy letter, which I do not have the space to publish here, but which I thought would be of such help to researchers in this area of genealogy that I hope to publish it as an article in the April–June issue.

DNA testing for one-namers

MUCH has been written about DNA testing as a tool for genealogists, and particularly for one-namers like us.

For over 30 years I have studied and researched the Winwood name and have found the name recorded in the early 1500s in both the Norfolk/Suffolk areas, as well as the Shropshire/Worcestershire areas. However, I’ve been unable to find a recorded connection between the two groups. A
few months ago I contacted several direct line Winwood males from each area and asked them to be DNA donors to see if we could establish a genetic link. Thankfully, several came forward from the US, UK and Australia. Donor packets were sent out by Relative Genetics, Inc. and participants were asked to swab the inner cheek to collect samples.

The swabs used were mailed back in special envelopes for processing and analysis. In the end, we learned that those Winwoods who had clear roots in the Shropshire/Worcestershire area had a completely different DNA profile from those who had roots in Norfolk/Suffolk.

New cousins
Those who did have DNA profiles that matched were told how many generations back they were related. The study has produced several heretofore unknown cousins!

Those in the study were disappointed that we did not constitute a single Winwood family, but overall the study proved the existence of at least two Winwood families who, it would appear, derived the name independently.

The study is ongoing and will help those with the surname Winwood who do not know which area of England they are originally from – as the base DNA for each area is now firmly established.

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Being absent from the voters’ lists
FOLLOWING the correspondence on two electoral registers (Journal of One-Name Studies, Vol 7 Issue 12), I would like to mention that there is more to being “ex-directory” from the voters’ lists than the prevention of receiving junk mail.

There are several individuals in various professions who have just reasons for keeping their details away from the public domain, i.e. prison staff, police officers, environmental health officers etc).

Porridge
There are, unfortunately, individuals within society who no longer accept the “Ronnie Barker from Porridge” approach that getting caught is an occupational hazard and will pursue vendettas against the officers concerned and their families.

Similarly, employees in certain research establishments have justifiable reasons in keeping their details secret. It is my opinion that the rights of the living should be put first, even if it does later hinder the research of generations to come.

Bernie Guymer
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Welsh tartans are a joke!
APRIL Fool’s Day arrived early in Cardiff last year when a company calling themselves the Welsh Tartan Centre invented Tartans for the more famous Welsh Surnames – and drab concoctions they are, too!

Firstly, it must be a long time since the Welsh wore tartans. Even Scottish Tartans were invented in the 19th century to welcome Queen Victoria, who had become a Scotophile.

Secondly, the so-called Welsh Tartans are completely unauthorised by any Welsh families and it is particularly galling for Morgans, who already have a Scottish Morgan tartan, to find somebody has concocted another one without authority.

Welsh witches must have spent the whole of Halloween Night laughing at the gullibility of the Welsh nation, or was it on television?

David Morgan
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President, The Morgan Society
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Our reviews and letters pages
THE Journal welcomes letters from members, especially on matters of Guild activities but also on any issues of interest to genealogists and family historians generally.

They should be addressed either by e-mail to: editor@one-name.org, or to the address given for the Editor on the inside front cover.

We also want to encourage individual members, as well as family history societies, to send us their publications for review.

Please send books and CDs for review to: Jane A. Morson, Upper Neatham Mill, Upper Neatham Mill Lane, Holybourne, Hampshire GU34 4EP. E-mail: reviewer@one-name.org

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Welsh tartans are a joke!
A memorial stone with a curious inscription is to be found in the graveyard of Winchester Cathedral in Hampshire.

Reproduced below, with a 70-year-old photograph of the memorial, it records the death of a soldier, 26-year-old Thomas Thetcher, a Grenadier in the North Regiment of Hampshire Militia, who apparently died after drinking “small beer” — presumably a euphemism for weak beer — on a hot day in 1764.

The memorial has a chequered history. Written partly in verse, the original stone was placed in the graveyard by the Militia in 1802 and was apparently a replacement for an earlier stone that was destroyed. It was replaced again in 1966 by the Royal Hampshire Regiment.

The joking rhyme suggests that on a hot day soldiers should drink strong beer or none at all! And a second verse further down the memorial stone adds the dictum...

An honest soldier never is forgot
Whether he die by Musket or by Pot

The photo of the memorial below is an old one. It was taken some time in the 1930s by Jill Blencowe, now Mrs. Jill Dudgeon, and was supplied by Jack Blencowe (Member 2010).

An enquiry of the Curator of Winchester Cathedral revealed that the memorial was replaced again in 1966 by the Royal Hampshire Regiment and two further lines signifying this fact were added at the bottom. But does anyone — one of our Hampshire members perhaps — know anything more about the unfortunate Thomas Thetcher?

In Memory of
THOMAS THETCHER
a Grenadier in the North Reg.
of Hants Militia, who died of a
violent Fever contracted by drinking
Small Beer when hot the 12th day of May
1764. Aged 26 Years

In grateful remembrance of whose universal
good will towards his Comrades, this Stone
is placed here at their expence, as a small
testimony of their regard, and concern.
Here sleeps in peace a Hampshire Grenadier
Who caught his death by drinking cold small Beer.
Soldiers be wise from his untimely fall
And when yere hot drink Strong or none at all.

This Memorial being decay’d was restor’d
by the Officers of the Garrison A.D. 1781
An honest soldier never is forgot
Whether he die by Musket or by Pot.

This Stone was placed by the North Hants
Militia when disembodied at Winchester,
on 26th April 1802, in consequence of
the original Stone being destroyed

Witch doctor called ancestors to scare away enumerator

A UGANDA newspaper has reported the case of a witch doctor calling on his ancestors to scare away a census enumerator!

Mukasa Raymond had just finished the area he was assigned and had to duck from the rain, according to the newspaper in Kampala. But he found himself in the compound of Jaja Wabanna, where the witch doctor noticed the yellow uniform and responded by calling on ancestors to scare him away.

"By the time Raymond realised that he was at Jaja Wabanna’s place, the witch doctor was chanting and speaking in tongues," said a neighbour.

Raymond tried to explain to the witch doctor that he was not there to count his family and belongings but, rather, to escape the rain. But Jaja Wabanna did not want to listen to his excuses and told him to make a physical apology to the gods for the interruption.

The enumerator feared that if he didn’t succumb to the witch doctor’s demands he might be bewitched or even killed, so he gave him money.

Residents said that no sooner had Raymond paid the witch doctor than the rain subsided.

Roy Rayment
Member 2882
Regional Representatives as at December 1 2002

E-mail contact
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).
Where there is no e-mail contact, the message will go to rep-coordinator@one-name.org

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John Snelson
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NSW 2074

CANADA WEST
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ENGLAND
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
See Oxfordshire

DERBYSHIRE
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WALES
WALES NORTH & MID
See WALES SOUTH & WEST

WALES SOUTH & WEST
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WALES
WALES NORTH & MID
See WALES SOUTH & WEST

WALES SOUTH & WEST
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Peacehaven
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Pwllmeyrig
Chestpoy
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COORDINATOR
See Hertfordshire

WE have vacancies for Regional Representatives in the following areas:

BEDFORDSHIRE
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SUFFOLK
SUSSEX
WARWICKSHIRE
CANADA EAST
USA NORTH EAST
USA NORTH WEST

WHY not devote just a little of your spare time to the Guild by becoming a Regional Rep? Contact the Coordinator.
A FAMILY found on the 1901 census online. Left is Zilpah Bird, born in 1892, with her sister Elsie and brother Stanley. Zilpah was the grandmother of Guild Committee member JOHN HANSON, author of the special article on the census on pages 6–9.