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论坛@one-name.org
To e-mail a message to the forum, send it to:
goons-l@rootsweb.com

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).

The Journal of One-Name Studies is published quarterly by the Guild of One-Name Studies and printed by Flexpress Ltd, 5 Saxby St, Leicester
ISSN 0262-4842
© Journal of One-Name Studies
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AFTER TWO years in the role, this is my last column as Chairman. I have, however, decided to put my name forward to stay on as a Committee Member and take on a lesser role or two.

This will enable me to ensure there is a smooth handover to your next Chairman (to be appointed after the AGM) and continue to help where required. I will at last have some time for my own one-name study, which has been sadly neglected these past four years.

My term in office has been somewhat of a roller-coaster ride, with many ups and downs. On balance I have thoroughly enjoyed it, but there have been episodes I’d rather wish we could all have avoided.

Achieved

We have achieved much during the past year or so. The problems with Journal distribution have virtually been eliminated since handing the whole process over to our printers, Flexpress. It took a little while to bed down but the previous problems have not recurred. We are, however, still at the mercy of the mainland and international postal systems and the odd Journal still goes astray.

Thanks to the work of Mary Rix and Peter Alefounder, the Guild Marriage Index has now become a really useful tool – not only for finding other Guild members interested in the same couple, but also for finding the parish identity for a post-1837 GRO marriage reference. It will become progressively better as more data is entered, so keep sending in and updating your marriage information.

After a slow initial take-up, the Guild Online Data Archive is also a success, enabling members to preserve their data away from their home PC, which is critical these days. I have heard of several members who have either had a disc crash or complete computer failure in the past month alone. I understand members can elect whether to share their data with everyone or just Guild members. I shall investigate the facility further in my anticipated spare time.

Seminars continue to be very successful and our 2005 Conference and AGM looks as if it will be every bit as popular as previous ones. Planning is already well under way for the 2006 Conference.

The Guild is in a very healthy financial state and we are in a good position to take on new projects. What the Committee needs now are volunteers who are prepared to identify projects, gain Committee approval, and manage the projects successfully. I know there is a lot of talent out there, so let’s have some really good ideas. I am still awaiting a decision from the Charity Commission on the use of our funds in this way. Progress has been very, very slow.

Apart from the Journal and seminars, our next main point of contact with members is through our Regional Representatives. This has been identified as an area in which we need to provide further investment, support and encouragement.

Last year we sent copies of the 2004 Register of One-Name Studies to about 80 public libraries in the UK to improve the publicity given to your studies. This year we plan to widen the net and include record offices and LDS FH Centres. The Marketing Sub-Committee continues to pursue ways of increasing the profile of the Guild and its members’ studies.

Constitution

I have continued to work on revising the Guild’s Constitution, and will continue to do so if the next Committee wish me to. One of the changes I am planning is to increase the term of Trustees on the Committee, who currently stand down every 12 months and, if re-appointed to the Committee, can stand for a further term. This can (and has) lead to difficulties in forward planning.

I hope to propose a three-year term for Trustees, which is more in keeping with the Charity Commissioners’ guidance. I envisage that one-third of the Trustees will stand down each year, and the Committee will be assured of the continuity of service of the remainder, unless they decide to stand down.

I would like to end by thanking your Committee, the Guild Trustees, who do so much to keep the Guild moving forward. Without their efforts, much of what you have come to expect as part of your membership just would not happen.
RIP “Harold Crooks-Faker”, the charlatan of genealogy

ID MANY Guild members read, I wonder, the recent obituaries of Harold Brooks-Baker, the self-styled and oft-quoted “royal expert”, who presented himself unashamedly as Britain’s premier genealogist?

Trawling the Internet, I couldn’t help noticing that American newspapers particularly appeared to have been completely taken in by the machinations of their countryman, who aspired to become the epitome of the typical English gentleman.

British newspapers like The Times and Daily Telegraph mostly contended themselves with straight-forward reporting of his life, combined with a little gentle mickey-taking of his innumerable observations on the doings and frolics of the royal family, ridiculing his pontificating and some of his more absurd comments.

Only the Mail on Sunday, as far as I am aware, exposed Brooks-Baker as the charlatan many of us in the UK genealogical world knew him to be. In an entertaining two-page spread, they described him as “Harold Crooks-Faker”, the “Nabob of Snob” and even a “shady American businessman with a trail of debts”.

Harold Brooks-Baker’s standing amongst real genealogists was zero. He was constantly described in the press as the Publishing Director of Burke’s Peerage, but this was a deception to win him acceptability in the media and with the public, who were unaware of the true facts.

In fact, he never published a single edition of Burke’s Peerage, the so-called bible of the aristocracy. There was a near 30-year gap between an edition published in 1970, well before Brooks-Baker became involved with Burke’s Peerage, and the edition published in 1999. By that time, the title and rights to the book had been sold to another company with which Brooks-Baker had no connection.

However, he traded on the name by retaining the business title and continued to describe himself as Publishing Director of Burke’s Peerage, publishing a few minor books, thus deliberately confusing the issue and taking in much of the media, who never understood the true situation.

Family historians remember only too well a series of rubbishy books called the Burke’s Peerage “World Book of…” [fill in any old surname you like] which he sold to the gullible. These contained no more than lists of names and addresses (many of them out of date) culled from CD-ROMs, electoral registers and telephone directories, etc., with a potted guide to the particular surname of little genealogical value. I suspect even a few Guild members may have been conned into buying one.

Titles

Another of Brooks-Baker’s sidelines involved selling obscure Scottish and French titles to those with more money than sense, and he even launched his own Burke’s Peerage credit card.

Unfortunately, he took in the media because he was, quite simply, useful to them. He was what the press calls a classic rent-a-quote personality, who could be guaranteed to come out with a pithy comment on any royal subject you cared to name, even if it was frequently inaccurate.

I once wrote to a major tabloid editor, a former colleague, complaining about the fact that his newspaper kept on quoting Brooks-Baker. I got a note back that said: “Harold is an old rogue but he talks a good game!”

According to the Mail on Sunday, the Queen and the other royals hated him and Buckingham Palace went to the rare step of issuing a statement saying he knew no-one in the royal family.

Even the hyphen in his name was bogus and assumed. Still, he seemed undeterred and continued on his merry and incorrigible way, presenting himself as a royal expert and media darling.

We shall not see his like again – hopefully!

A bouquet for Scotland

I RECENTLY spent three days at the General Register Office for Scotland, researching the ancestry of a Westminster MP for my series on well-known people in Practical Family History magazine.

I have to report that with their wonderful computerised system at New Register House in Edinburgh, I achieved in those three days what normally takes me from four to six weeks to do at the Family Records Centre when ordering certificates, returning to collect them four days later and then ordering more.

At New Register House you can simply call up the digitised images of the register entries, discard the ones you don’t want and print out the ones you do for 50p. Even allowing for the £17 a day entrance fee, I saved many pounds on the cost of buying English certificates, not to mention the fact that Scottish certificates contain much more information.

Well done, Scotland!
The making of the Guild Marriage Index and how you can use it to discover where marriages took place

By Peter Alefounder

THE ORIGIN of the Guild Marriage Index (GMI) can be traced back to Paul Millington’s article1 in the Journal in 2001, in which he proposed the creation of a database to exploit his discovery of a method by which the parish or other place of a marriage in England or Wales in the period 1837–1911 may be inferred from its reference in the General Register Office Indexes.

There was no interest in this from the organisers of FreeBMD, who were unwilling to add to their database anything not in the GRO indexes, and at that time only limited interest from the Guild2.

The present Index arose from an initiative of Mary Rix who, having canvassed opinion at a Guild meeting in 2003, proposed the construction of the GMI mainly to help Guild members find the unknown spouses in marriages extracted from the GRO Indexes, but with the benefit of also identifying places of marriage.

This proposal was sent by e-mail to those known to have an interest and was also published in the JOONS3. By August 2003 over 70 members had contributed marriages from their one-name studies and on September 20 that year the Guild committee gave final approval, making it an official Guild project. By then Mary Rix had recruited me to write the web pages and software.

Sample

In November 2003 a small group of Guild members began testing a small sample database on web space kindly provided by David Banks, the Guild’s own website at that time being completely full. This database was made available to the Guild Committee for their approval in February 2004.

The first proper edition of the GMI, on the Guild’s new website, was released on April 23 2004. Since then two more editions (the second on July 22 2004, the third on January 20 2005) have appeared.

There are now 94,140 entries online, with contributions from 197 members (see bar chart below).

Construction

Mary Rix collects information sent in by Guild members and enters it into an Access database. It is this database that occasionally makes an appearance at Guild meetings and conferences. For the online database, further processing is required.

All entries are subject to verification – a computerised check intended to detect typographical errors.

This does not ensure that all entries are correct, but it does allow the removal of many of the errors that are inevitable in a database of this sort. For example, digits are not normally found in names and the soft-
ware would detect any use of the numeral 0 instead of the letter O.

The verification software does not remove entries from the database. It merely draws attention to those where there may be a problem. Thus, exceptions can be made – one such is for the marriage of a 3rd Earl. Dates are also checked to ensure that they are within range (1837–1911) and that they actually exist, allowing for leap years.

The current database contains one entry with an impossible date, June 31, 1877. The correct date is unknown and, for all we know, June 31 may be what is written in the original document.

The verification also ensures that registration district names are standardised, essential for the later addition of links to the GENUKI lists of parishes for each district.

Periodically, a set of new entries is sent to me for checking and the full database for a new edition of the online index is also checked before final processing. For each new edition of the GMI, Mary Rix produces a large CSV file from her Access database. I reduce this to a set of much smaller index files which are sent to Paul Millington for uploading to the Guild website.

- **How to make use of the GMI**
  The GMI resides in the Members' Room on the Guild website, [www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org). You will need the username and password, which are provided each year on the back of a Journal address sheet and are also available via the Guild website, [www.one-name.org/forgotten.html](http://www.one-name.org/forgotten.html). There are two ways to search the Index...

- **Surname search**
  You may, as Mary Rix envisaged, search for your surname of interest among the entries submitted by other members. This search is conducted only on the spouse surnames, and not the registered surnames, of these entries. A powerful wildcard facility is provided, of which details can be found on the web page just below the search forms. Having found an entry, you may then contact the submitter and hopefully enjoy a fruitful exchange of information.

- **Marriage place search**
  Practically all members will have lists of marriages from the GRO. Obtaining the details of these (name of spouse, exact date and place, etc.) by purchase of the certificates would be an expensive course of action. In most cases, these details are also available from the parish register.

  A single registration district may contain many parishes and, particularly in London, a single parish may encompass several churches, each with its own
preferably to just one, although as yet that is unlikely to be achieved. As the GMI grows and more contributions are added, it will become much more useful for this purpose. For this type of search, the information required is the year, quarter and GRO volume for the marriage in question. For JavaScript equipped browsers, the year and volume are selected from the drop-down menus.

Suppose you have found a marriage in the GRO index for 1851, 2nd quarter, volume 17 page 54, in the Cheadle registration district. No fewer than 20 parishes are listed by GENUKI for Cheadle. A search of the Guild Marriage Index gives the result you see in the illustration (bottom left).

Recalling from Paul Millington’s article that each parish begins on a fresh odd-numbered page in the GRO index, it is clear that this marriage must have been in Cheddleton St. Edward.

We might not have been so lucky. Had the page number been 57 or above, the marriage could have taken place in Dilhorne, Draycott in the Moors, East Vale, Farley, Forsbrook, Ipstones, Kingsley, Oakamoor or Whiston, all those parishes from Dilhorne onwards in the GENUKI alphabetical list for the Cheadle district. This is nine possible parishes – a lot to search but still a considerable improvement when compared with the complete list of 20.

• Contributing to the GMI

Contributions can be sent by e-mail to Mary Rix at marriage.index@one-name.org. The preferred format is a comma separated variable (CSV) file, although most other formats can be read and converted. The information required

Results of a place search. The links from the districts are to the corresponding GENUKI lists of parishes.

Ken Toll searched the GMI for Toll/Tole and found that Charlotte Tole married William Chandler at Dunton, Bedfordshire. Having thought the Tole family extinct in that area, he contacted Guild member Dick Chandler by e-mail.

“We have both gained from this exchange” – Dick Chandler
Six million WWI medal index cards are to be destroyed by the MoD

Family and military historians have reacted with horror to the news that some six million World War One medal index cards are to be destroyed, following their digitisation and placing online by The National Archives at the DocumentsOnline website.

Both the Ministry of Defence, which holds the cards, and TNA claim the realities are such that there is no other option. They say the cards have been offered to institutions such as regimental museums, but the costs of transferring them and storage are prohibitive. However, Col. Iain Swinnerton, a prominent military researcher and founder member of the Guild, says: “This is an absolute scandal – these are historic documents and should not be destroyed.”

Iain also points out that...

- There is information on the back of some of the cards that has not been filmed and will be lost forever.
- There are many family historians who do not have Internet access.

He adds: “These are priceless original documents and for some 60% of the 5.5 million men who served in WWI they are the only record of their service. It is disgraceful that TNA want to get rid of them. I think every FHS and ONS should be jumping up and down and complaining to their MPs. “I have been sent examples where home addresses have been written on the back, often of the relatives who applied for the medals. So often, particularly with our former colonial cousins, all they have is a faded sepia photo with no identifying badges or markings, and if their ancestor’s documents were burnt that is all they will ever have.”

Your Family Tree magazine has started a campaign to save the cards. Editor Garrick Webster said in a message posted on genealogy newsgroups and mailing lists: “The MOD claims it holds copyright on the cards and it can do what it wishes with them. These cards are part of the nation’s heritage. They are public records and remind us of the enormous sacrifice and loss incurred by men and women in this country during WW1 and of their bravery. They enable the children and grandchildren of those who died and those who survived to find out some of the lost details of their forebears.”

The National Archives says the cards are stored in 143 cabinets, each almost six feet high, in an MoD facility at Hayes, Middlesex. No institution wants to take them because of the huge costs involved in transferring and storing them. TNA also claim only about two in every 300 cards has something on the back. “The resources required to identify and extract that small percentage of cards from within the total collection of 5-6 million cards cannot be justified,” a spokesman said.

Paul Millington had a reference to a marriage in 1842, 4th quarter, vol 6 page 213, in Abingdon, Berkshire, registration district. A search of the GMI revealed a marriage on page 217 in Abingdon but the particular church was not given. He presumed the marriage he was looking for was in one of the Abingdon churches and found it in Abingdon St. Helen. This marriage is itself now in the GMI.

“A splendid resource” - Paul Millington

is year, quarter, surname, forename(s), registration district, volume, page, spouse surname and forename(s), exact date (day, month, year) and place. Mary will accept incomplete entries – further details can always be added later. However, for the online index, entries must be useful for the surname search or the marriage place search, preferably both. Entries that include neither the spouse surname nor the place could not appear in the results of either type of search and so will be excluded from the online index.

Non-ONS marriages

Marriages that are not part of a one-name study can be included in the GMI. Such entries will be accepted if they include the GRO reference, place, date and the names of both partners. The names will be entered both ways round, so that surname searches will include both bride and groom.

The Guild of One-Name Studies must surely be in a unique position among genealogical societies in being able to construct an index of this sort from the collected knowledge of its members.

Many thanks to those who have already contributed a list of marriages. If you have not yet sent any, please do so and help to make the GMI a success.

References

2 Benbrook, Howard (Jan–Mar 2002) JOONS Vol 7 Issue 9, pp 14–15. “Advantages of being a GOON has the e-mail electrons humming!”

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Researchers 21st century contemporary sources for your one-name study

By Jeffrey Knaggs

As Members of the Guild of One-Name Studies, we are required to research ALL occurrences of our chosen surnames. This includes all those people who were born, married and died this century. This branch of study has difficulties all its own. In this brief overview I will mostly confine myself to the situation in England, as that is where I do my own research.

• Civil Registration

This would appear to be fairly straightforward. For England and Wales, the GRO Indexes normally take about a year to appear at The Family Records Centre, so the indexes for years up to 2003 are now available. However, you might have difficulty ordering a copy of a birth certificate unless you already know what's on it. This subject has been raised here and elsewhere before, so I won't go into it.

Of course, the majority of one-namers don't live in London or the South-East of England, so have to rely on available online indexes. FreeBMD, although an invaluable source for the 19th and early 20th centuries, holds nothing later than 1983 (after which the indexes changed from quarterly to yearly). 1837Online hold records up to 2002; it is a pay-per-view site, and, although not without its detractors, many people recommend it.

The civil registration review has been shelved for the time being but it is bound to be revived at some stage, and for how long we will be able to browse the indexes and order certificates is a matter of concern to family historians.

• Probate

Even today, the majority of people still die intestate, but the probate indexes and corresponding wills are a valuable contemporary source. Unless there are complications, details appear on the computers at The National Probate Registry within a few months of death and you can still order a copy of any will for £5. The biggest problem is that there is no online index.

• Newspapers

Local newspapers are a valuable source of information on births, marriages and especially deaths. However, there has been a trend over recent decades towards greater informality, with fewer hard facts in these announcements. These days more and more children are born to unmarried parents and announcements are quite likely to give only the mother's surname or to give a hyphenated one, in either order. There are few marriage announcements these days, and wedding photographs are almost never accompanied by a date. But the majority of deaths are announced in local papers, and there are often lists of children and grandchildren.

The cause of death can sometimes be inferred from details of where donations may be made.

Many local newspapers have a website that carries these announcements but they are often not archived, so we have to look every week. Most national newspapers, however, have websites with an archive that can be searched and all sorts of interesting news snippets can be found. Subscribers to Ancestry.com can receive automated news of obituaries in (mostly American) newspapers and the Rootsweb obituary site has a free database and associated distribution list.

• Censuses and directories

Few of us will live to see our own entries in the 2001 census and future censuses are likely to be less and less useful to family historians anyway. For details of where people live now, we have to turn to telephone books, local trade directories and the electoral register. www.192.com is a useful pay-to-view site where contemporary people can be found using these sources and this organisation also produces a version on CD-ROM. Many foreign telephone books, both white and yellow pages, are online. See www.yell.com for British yellow pages.

• Monumental Inscriptions

Many people in Britain opt for cremation these days and only leave a simple memorial giving a name and a range of years. But traditional headstones are still being erected and often provide information, or at least clues, difficult to obtain elsewhere. Many now include a photograph of the deceased and I wouldn't be surprised if video, or even voice-mail, soon follows. Few modern MIs are listed online, but family history societies have ongoing projects to record them.

• People

I have left to last that resource which, when researching our own tree, we are encouraged to consult first – human beings. People getting married, having children, being bereaved or just existing are alive and can be contacted. But be careful! Most people have no interest in family history and at best will see you as a harmless nutter, at worst a nosy-parker who ought to be reported to the police. Some of the people you contact, or who see you taking down particulars from their loved one's grave, have an overwhelming desire for privacy and you might need to use tact and discretion.

This has been just a quick overview of some of the more obvious sources that are still useful to one-namers researching modern people. But its main aim has been to remind you that family history didn't end 100 years ago – it continues now and into the future.
Patrick Sullivan lay for two years in the infirmary at Whiston Workhouse, the result of a traumatic head injury suffered while quarrying clay near his home in Eccleston, Lancashire. With that accident, financial support for his wife and nine children came to an abrupt end. Patrick’s wife, Maria, took in laundry to make ends meet.

The children, accustomed to hearing their father sing as he returned home from work, now left school for good to help support themselves. Then, finally, on August 19 1907, Patrick Sullivan passed away at the relatively young age of 46, the cause of death as certified by the doctor being cerebral degeneration.

Patrick Sullivan was my great-grandfather and the details of his demise were pieced together from recollections of my mother, several aunts and cousins and with information from his death certificate. By all accounts, the last years of his life were grim. But his earlier life was very different. Although he toiled long hours to support his family, they were a great joy to him. He told his children of his life in Ireland, where he had been born and raised, and how he had sailed to England where he met, fell in love with and married Maria Moran. The couple settled in the St. Helens area of Lancashire to raise a family.

Daunting

I wanted to learn more about this man and what had led him to leave Ireland for England. I undertook to research the family history, but what a daunting task I faced. Although I knew that Patrick Sullivan had been born in Ireland about 1861, I didn’t know the precise locale or even the county in which he had been born. According to the Matheson report based on 1890 data, (O’)Sullivan was the third most common surname in Ireland and it seemed unlikely that I would be able to identify which of many Patrick Sullivans born about 1861 was my great-grandfather. Attempts to find his marriage in the English civil registration indexes turned up nothing and I was unable to learn his father’s name.

Two lucky breaks cleared the hurdle. One family member provided the name and address of a relative who lived in a town where they believed my great-grandfather had been born: Belcarra, County Mayo. And a second family member recalled having been told as a child that before settling in England, the family name had been Surdival, not Sullivan. I consulted the parish records for the Irish Roman Catholic parish of Balla and Manulla, which includes Belcarra, at my local Family History Centre in Toronto. Baptisms for my great-grandfather and his siblings were quickly spotted and the family tree began to take shape. Patrick Surdival alias Sullivan was the eldest son of a farming family.

With a sense of satisfaction at having discovered my great-grandfather’s birthplace, my attention was drawn to the surname Surdival itself. It was not a name that I had encountered prior to beginning my family history research and I was curious as to its origin. Surdival is not an old Irish clan name, so how did it come to be used as an Irish family name? How long have there been people of that name in Ireland?

The name Surdival itself suggests a possible origin. Located in close proximity to the English Channel in Manche, France, there is an historic town named Sourdeval. In his work on the origins of English surnames, Reaney states that the names Sirdifield, Cedervall, and Surrell derive from this location, while Baring-Gould gives Sordwell as the modern version of Sourdeval. Although the surname Surdival is not mentioned by either of these authors in connection with Sourdeval, France, it seems reasonable to hypothesise that it, too, might have arisen from a locative surname, de Sourdeval. There is some evidence for this and I will explain this by going back to medieval England.

Following the death of Edward the Confessor in 1066, there was much political turmoil around the issue of succession. Believing he had a rightful claim to the throne, the Duke of Normandy, later known as William the Conqueror, successfully invaded England that same year and became king. Richard de Sourdeval, also of Normandy, is reputed to have attended William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings during this Norman invasion and his name appears in the Battle Abbey Rolls.

That Richard was present at Hastings is a somewhat contentious assertion, but what is not in doubt is that Richard tenanted many English manors after the conquest, particularly in Yorkshire. After the success of his invasion, William claimed all English lands as his own and rewarded his supporters with...
choice properties. One of those acknowledged in this manner was William’s half-brother, Robert de Mortain, Count of Mortain in Normandy. Robert was granted several hundred manors in England, and it was a number of these that were tenanted by Richard de Sourdeval, Robert’s neighbour in Normandy and fellow supporter of William.

Hugh, the eldest son of Richard de Sourdeval, established himself at Aberscir, Brecknockshire, Wales. According to the Routh Family History, Hywel Swrdwal or Surdwal, the Welsh heraldic bard, was a descendent of Hugh. Morgan and Morgan, on the other hand, are somewhat more tentative in making assertions about the poet’s ancestors, stating only that he may be a descendent of Hugh.

Whatever the relationship, it’s possible that the name Surdeville, found in East Flint, Hawarden, Manor and Rake in Wales may be a version of Swrdwal, or Surdeval.

During the 12th century, the English invaded Ireland, and among the newcomers may have been descendants of Richard de Sourdeval, either from Yorkshire or Wales. At the time of the founding of the Abbey of St. Thomas, Dublin, in 1177, a Hugo de Swoerdeval or Surdeval made a grant to the new abbey.

**Charter**

In the charter of this abbey, the town Balisurdeval, also referred to as the “ville” of Hugo de Surdeval in “Nas”, in or near the parish of “Kil”, is mentioned several times. Apparently, Hugo de Surdeval was well established in the county of Kildare in the twelfth century and lent his name to lands there.

Both the surname and the town name have persisted in Ireland over the centuries, although the town name is perhaps barely recognizable today as originating from Surdeval. In the Patent and Close Rolls of Chancery for 1596, the village of Surdwalston in County Kildare is given as a location from which one John Ewstace was entitled to corn acreage tithes.

Half a century later in 1654–56, the civil survey of Kildare was undertaken. At this time, the parish of Kill in County Kildare comprised a townland named Shurdwalstowne. Later, as seen in the wills left by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1066</td>
<td>Richard de Sourdeval</td>
<td>Yorkshire, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1088</td>
<td>Hugh de Sourdeval</td>
<td>Brecknockshire, Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1177</td>
<td>Hugo de Surdeval</td>
<td>Kildare, Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1297</td>
<td>Simon Surdeval</td>
<td>Kildare, Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1302</td>
<td>Hywel Swrdwal</td>
<td>Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1450</td>
<td>Edward Surdeville</td>
<td>Dublin, Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1673</td>
<td>David Surdivale</td>
<td>Mayo, Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1796</td>
<td>Shreiff Surdeville</td>
<td>Dublin, Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1837</td>
<td>Survival</td>
<td>Mayo, Ireland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alexander and George Graydon of County Kildare in 173912 and 176213, respectively, the lands in question were referred to as Swordwallstown. And by the time of Griffith’s evaluation toward the middle of the 19th century, the townlands were known as Swordlestown North and South.

After the first mention of Hugo de Surdeval in the charter of St. Thomas Abbey, variants of the surname continued to appear in Kildare and elsewhere in Ireland. For instance, Simon Surdeval was a juror of two land disputes in County Kildare in 1297 and 130214. His connection to Hugo de Surdeval is unknown. Was he a descendant or other relative? Or did he simply have some connection with the town bearing Surdeval’s name?

Will

Approximately 25 miles north-east of the parish of Kill, the site of Hugo de Surdeval’s lands, is the city of Dublin. Given this short distance, it’s not surprising to find bearers of the Surdeval name in Dublin in the years after the abbey charter. A gentleman of Dublin by the name of Edward Surdeville left a will in the year 167315. The name continued to appear in connection with Dublin until at least 1837, when a Mr. Surdeville is mentioned in The Times (London) in an article on Irish agitation as the late Sheriff of Dublin16.

Toward the end of the 18th century, there are indications of Surdivals in County Mayo. David Surdivale appears on the list of flax growers for 179617, apparently having planted flax in the parish of Drum and been awarded spinning wheels for its processing. How did the Surdivals come to be in County Mayo? Is there a connection between the Dublin Surdevilles and the Mayo Surdivals? I wondered if any landowning Surdivales from Dublin or Kildare had been relocated to County Mayo at the time of the Cromwellian transplantation.

French

Consulting Simington’s published list of transplanted individuals18, I found no mention of Survall/Surdiville in Mayo. Given that French forces were present at Castlebar, County Mayo, during the rebellion of 1798, it seemed possible that the Mayo Survivals might have arrived as part of this French contingent. However, the presence of David Surdivale’s name on the flax growers’ list two years earlier invalidates that argument.

In summary, my research to date has shown that there have been Survall/Surdiville families in Ireland for over 800 years. However, the question of how and when bearers of the name settled in different parts of the country is still unanswered.

To make the study more intriguing, one needs only ask how the Survivals found today in different countries around the world are related, if at all. It seems that I have at least as many questions about the surname Survival as I did when I began my research.

References

17. Ulster Historical Foundation Flax growers Bounty List 1796. Ulster Historical Foundation, Belfast, 1999

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M3B 1C1
Canada
FIVE YEARS AGO Cheshire Registration Services were the first county to post their births, marriages and deaths on the Internet.

Under the auspices of CheshireBMD, it is a joint project between the registration services and the local family history societies.

Requests to the Registrar for a copy of a certificate entailed them manually searching through handwritten indexes to the weighty copperplate ledgers. Researchers can now make use of the indexes and the simple search facilities to identify the names they are looking for and order the certificates accordingly. Other counties and family history societies have followed suit, many using the same code as the original Cheshire site.

UKBMD – www.ukbmd.org.uk – started life as a means of enabling the original sites to be found easily but has progressed to a portal giving easy access to many sites offering BMD information, as well as others offering listings of parish records and bishops’ transcripts.

Figures 1 and 2 show the main page to the website, but before I concentrate on the main part of the site let’s look at some of the other options.

- **One-Name Studies**

  The section titled ONS lists a number of one-name studies and, yet, I could only count eight Guild-registered names among the 21 listed sites. Mind you, there was an entry to the Guild Archive (well, letter A of it – I wonder how many will look at the other letters?), so those who have their data on it are in some ways catered for. I am not convinced how serious the one-name studies on Jones and Piper are, though!

  There are a number of interesting sites in the section on the census, both the well-known national organisations and also some private local ones which are always worth looking at.

  - **Mailing list**
    The Register section contains a link to enable you to subscribe to the mailing list that keeps you informed of the latest releases. The list is maintained as part of the British Genealogy website, counts several Registrars amongst its members and, like a lot of similar lists, is a fount of information.

- **County Option**

  This part of the site allows you to select the county that you are interested in and then by clicking on the word “County” you can see the listing of related sites. Unfortunately, the main county for my own ONS – Suffolk – is not very well covered.

  What I want to concentrate on, though, is the part covered under “Local BMD”. While each of the projects is listed under its own county, this lists them all in one place and, at the time of writing, the following areas are covered...

  Using the Cheshire database engine are Bath, Cheshire, Lancashire, North Wales, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Wiltshire and Yorkshire. In addition, there are similar projects for Cambridgeshire, Durham, Isle of Wight, Kent, Newcastle, Tees Valley, Warwickshire and Wrexham but they all use differing search engines. To begin with, though, let’s look at the Cheshire-style ones.

  You will need to look at each county to see the coverage, as they vary greatly. Cheshire (see Figure 2), for example, now has nearly four million records online, with the majority being births, while Lancashire (see Figure 3) has only just over two million but concentrates on marriages.

  Each site has a section on the updates that have been made, detailing what has been added and when. Selecting any of the types will take you to a screen that enables you, amongst other things, to see the listing of which registration districts have been covered.

  Selecting a district will show the list of churches, chapels, etc., that are included in the district, together with dates on registers, but, more importantly, the dates that have been indexed on the site. Figure 4 shows part of the index for the

![Figure 1 – the opening screen of UKBMD](image1)

![Figure 2 – the pioneering Cheshire BMD](image2)

![Figure 3 – Lancashire BMD](image3)

![Figure 4 – the index to marriages at Bury, Lancashire](image4)
From 1837 onwards they list the spouses’ full name and also the name of the church where the marriage took place. Figure 6 shows the search screen for this surname search, which is easy to complete. This happens to be the one for marriages but they are all basically the same. You select the region that you are interested in, enter the surname and in the case of marriages you can enter the spouse’s surname. You can, of course, add the initials of the parties as well, if required. Next, select the type of match that you want – exact, soundex, etc. – and select the “Display surnames” button.

Well that isn’t quite it – I missed the year and for marriages in Bury, Lancashire.

Going to the search page you are presented with two options, Simple Listing and Surname Search. Part of the Simple Listing is shown in Figure 5 and this will simply list all of the people with the surname beginning with the first letter of the surname selected. You can if you wish restrict the registration district and you can select multiple years if required.

To my mind though, the major benefit of the site is the Surname Search and, in particular, the marriages. Why? Well, even from 1837 onwards they list the spouses’ full name and also the name of the church where the marriage took place. Figure 6 shows the search screen for this surname search, which is easy to complete. This happens to be the one for marriages but they are all basically the same. You select the region that you are interested in, enter the surname and in the case of marriages you can enter the spouse’s surname.

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Well that isn’t quite it – I missed the year and for marriages in Bury, Lancashire.
a good reason. The help text says that you can select multiple years by holding down the Control key and selecting the separate years. If instead you leave the first year highlighted, use the mouse to move the slider to the bottom of the list and, holding down the Shift key, click the last year. You have now selected every year in the list. Figure 7 shows part of the result of searching for the name Halstead in Lancashire.

You can see the wide variety of places involved. But there are two things to note — firstly, the spouse’s full name is listed even in 1843 and the other is that the entries are organised in complete years.

You will also note that the entry for Mary Halstead in 1844 has an asterisk beside it and is, in fact, a hyperlink. Selecting the link will display the details shown in Figure 8. The page does explain that there are seven possible reasons why there are two names for Mary, only one of which is remarriage.

You may also notice from Figure 6 that you can output the result of the search to a file rather than to the screen. In this case you will be prompted for the file name to save the details to. The files open easily in a spreadsheet, as Figure 9 shows.

• Other options
You will have to play with the other websites to see how they work, as they are all different. Some, like Kent, will only let you search a single year at a time, but if you use it in conjunction with the GRO indexes it can be reasonably painless. However you do sometimes stumble on the odd little gem. A search in the Isle of Wight for the name Halsted revealed, amongst others, the entries shown in Figure 10.

Clearly, two of the entries have come about because the mother’s maiden name is Halsted, so behind the scenes they have indexed it. A search of the 1881 census and the GRO indexes showed that a Helen Jane Hasted married a George Cheverton in 1878 on the Isle of Wight.

To my mind, this is a wonderful resource for one-namers and now all I have to do is find an easy way of working out the ones that I have checked before!
HEN THE GUILD was launched at the end of the 1970s its members, although aware of the fact that their research methods had so much in common with those employed by other family historians, still tended to place greater emphasis on the problems peculiar to the study of a single surname and its variants.

However, with the advent of newer techniques, the greater accessibility of source material and enhanced capacity for communicating information, all researchers, irrespective of their specialities, are realising that it is becoming more and more important to share in this expanding pool of knowledge. It was, therefore, a particularly welcome initiative on the part of the Guild and the Essex Society for Family History jointly to organise a major seminar at Chelmsford.

The venue at the Essex Record Office was very well appointed with an excellent lecture theatre and good facilities for participants to circulate in between lectures and during the lunch-hour. Furthermore, there was sufficient space to accommodate the many bookstalls offering a wide range of books and software.

Jeanne Bunting started the first session by describing some of the problems she had encountered when trying to find people in large conurbations. She drew on her personal experiences in both Sheffield and the London area. Using published maps to find the whereabouts of relatives mentioned in local directories and census returns had not been straightforward. The dates of publication of the maps rarely coincided with those of the directories or census years and the situation was often exacerbated by the renaming of roads.

In many instances, sections of several long roads had been given different names, so it was difficult to pinpoint a given location until the house numbering had been resolved. The lecturer had worked out a procedure to accomplish this, which she illustrated with some excellent graphics.

Jeanne Bunting

Redevelopment

She and her husband had visited some of the areas concerned in order to establish if the buildings in which they were interested were still standing but, as is so often the case, urban redevelopment had removed any earlier evidence. However, in one instance they had been able to photograph an extant bridge which was known to have been very close to an area where ancestors had been living and working.

The next speaker was Evelyn Cornell of the University of Leicester. As an information librarian, she had been involved in the three-year New Opportunities Fund project to set up and maintain Internet access to images of several hundred local directories spanning the period 1750–1920. The Local History Department at the university had a substantial collection of historical directories but many had been borrowed from elsewhere in order to provide optimal geographical cover of England and Wales. Owing to possible problems with trade marks and copyright, it was considered undesirable to include post-1920 directories.

The lecturer described the procedure which had been adopted to transfer the information to computer and the philosophy behind the search routines. She conceded that the site had not been designed with family historians in mind, but it was fairly straightforward to search on keywords which could be surnames. In fact, it was not necessary to specify a geographical area or a time-span so for a one-namer this was ideal, although it was liable to be quite time-consuming. Several members of the audience indicated that they had used the site but at least one described the mode of searching as somewhat cumbersome. Nevertheless, there had been a steady stream of around 30,000 visitors each month, so it was proving a worthwhile enterprise..

Regrettably, the future of the site was uncertain. The funding
was of limited duration and there were no plans to operate beyond three years. Many of the audience suggested that it was a good candidate for conversion to a pay-per-view site, but being a university project, this was unlikely to happen. There was a possibility that a further grant, enabling an expansion of the site to include Scottish directories, might extend its life. But this was by no means clear.

The morning concluded with an expertly presented survey of traditional maps by Clive Paine, a well-known local historian and extramural tutor. He showed us a sequence of maps dating from the 16th century onwards. He drew attention to the series of county maps published by John Speed in the early 1600s, illustrating an early method of displaying topographical features. The ancillary matter on the margins and in the corners received special mention: for instance, there were often coats of arms associated with the local gentry, drawings of buildings and, in many instances, town plans. There were town maps per se, often showing important local details such as mills and lime kilns, etc.

Manorial and estate maps were of especial value to family historians as they often displayed field names, landholders and significant local landmarks. Supporting documents listing names and land usage were especially important. Later on, in the 19th century, the tithe maps and schedules, which are almost universally available, recorded extraordinary levels of detail, so much appreciated by family historians.

Ordnance Survey maps were first established in the time of Henry VIII but published versions did not appear until the 1830s. The lecturer stressed that the 6-inch, 25-inch (and occasionally 50-inch) scale maps provided so much data that they should be more widely used. Most local authorities had good collections in their public libraries and record offices. We were left in no doubt that this cartographical information was too good to miss.

David Hawgood, who spoke immediately after lunch, described some work he had been doing recently to generate maps for blind and partially sighted people. He pointed out that for the partially sighted some convenient form of magnification was often sufficient but for the totally blind it was essential to produce tactile images, usually in conjunction with a spoken commentary.

Special paper was available on which an image could be printed in black. Subsequent heat treatment of the paper caused the encapsulated chemicals immediately below the printing to expand and lift the image into relief. County boundaries, roads and towns could be included, together with Braille characters for more detailed identification. Examples were passed round for the audience to examine.

It was envisaged that a sound commentary and PDF files could be downloaded from the web and printed out onto the specialist paper for local heat treatment. The author had already established a website at www.dhmap.org to provide for the growing selection of maps for this purpose. Work was continuing in order to develop rather more sophisticated images incorporating OS grid references.

The final session on Mapping Your Ancestors was presented by John Hanson. He observed that one of the most likely starting points for many of us was the Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers, but there were now several options including Cassell’s Gazetteer (1898) and Steve Archer’s Surname Atlas, both available on CD-ROM. He also commended several others, such as John Cary’s 1787 Map of London, Stanford (1867), the London of Charles Dickens Junior, (1879) and more generally MACH (1881), but this was only available for three counties. He singled out the 1958 Atlas of London on CD-ROM as it had a good street index.

Users of FTM had access to maps but the gazetteer was disappointing. However, it was worth looking on the internet for links from Cyndis’s List, Google, etc., together with the specialist map websites, Oldmaps, Streetmaps and Multimaps with aerial photography options.

Also mentioned were maps from specialist genealogical sites such as www.britishgenealogy.com with free download offers, such as the 1871 Post Office Map of Essex.

The lecturer concluded by offering some advice on producing maps to incorporate one’s findings. He pointed out that early versions of EXCEL included a feature which allowed the insertion of quantitative data into maps, but he regularly used Steve Archer’s GenMap V2.1 to illustrate a range of geographical distribution data.

So ended a very successful Seminar. The collaboration between the Guild and the Essex SFH in arranging such an interesting and stimulating programme was more than justified.

I found it was a day well spent. Not only in the lecture theatre but in other parts of the Essex Record Office. There were plenty of opportunities for meeting people and for paying a visit to the Essex SFH’s impressive Research Room.

The speakers and the organising team deserve our congratulations.

- Pictures by Keith Tunstill of the Essex Society for Family History and Gordon Adshead of the Guild of One-Name Studies.
Web pages on the agenda in Computer Seminar at Bletchley Park secret code centre
By Jeanne Bunting

We have chosen the magnificent Bletchley Park mansion in Buckinghamshire, the former home of the legendary wartime secret coding centre, as a fitting venue for this year’s Computer Seminar, which is all about web pages and how to create them.

The Seminar on Saturday, May 28, will be in the Library and there will be a line-up of expert speakers on the subject.

Guild Vice-Chairman Peter Walker will tell you all you need to know to get your own one-name web page up and running and John Hanson will show how you can get instant and not-so-instant web pages from genealogy programs. Paul Millington, the Guild’s website manager, will demonstrate his new initiative, DIY web pages for Guild members, and Jeanne Bunting will give a personal view on websites.

Museum tour
The day will end with an optional tour of Bletchley Park itself, as well as the Computer Museum. This is offered to participants at a cost well below the normal tour price.

Numbers will be limited to 50 and places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, so it will be essential to book early on this Journal. Further forms may be photocopied or downloaded from the Guild website.

Total cost, including a lunchtime buffet and morning and afternoon tea and coffee, will be £20 for those wishing to take advantage of the tour and £18 for those who do not.

Halsted Seminar on one-name studies
This year’s seminar to promote one-name studies, kindly sponsored by the Halsted Trust, will be held in Wreningham Village Hall, Norfolk, which is about 10 miles south-west of Norwich. The date is Saturday, July 2.

Alec Tritton, the Trust’s Chairman, will be answering the question, “What is a One-Name Study?” Derek Palgrave, well-known to Guild members as our President, will be speaking on “Surname Variants and Deviants”. Peter Walker will then discuss ways of storing your records, covering options from record cards to genealogy programs and I will repeat the talk I did for the last Halsted Seminar, “What happens when I die?”, discussing how you should ensure your research is preserved.

The Seminar will be free to all, members and non-members alike. There are no food outlets nearby, so we will be providing a buffet lunch and will be asking you to pay £4 to cover the cost of this.

An application form is enclosed with this Journal and further copies will be available on the Guild website. Do bring along your friends, particularly if they are either just starting out in family history or contemplating taking on a one-name study.

MEMBERS of the Guild have often asked: “Can we have a seminar in our area?” So, in order to spread its wings, the Guild will be holding a seminar at St. Peter’s Campus, the University of Sunderland, on Saturday, August 20, starting at 9.30 a.m. for 10.00. It is open to all and the subject matter will be “Occupations”.

It is intended that we have a mix of speakers, local and national. John Hanson, of the Society of Genealogists, will introduce the computer element with his A to Z of Occupations.

Geoff Nicholson will speak on Trade Directories and Trade Guilds. Neil Richardson will tell us about Master Mariners, Ship and Steam Boat Owners and David Butler, a Durham Archivist, will speak on “Behind the Green Baize Door” – In service in the first half of the 19th Century.

Bookstalls
The Guild Bookstall will be in attendance and it is hoped that the Northumberland and Durham FHS. will also provide a bookstall. The cost of attending the seminar will be £10 or £13 with lunch platter.

Booking forms will be available from the Guild website http://www.one-name.org/, and from the Seminars Secretary, Rod Clayburn, 4 Winnham Drive, Fareham, Hants PO16 8QE.

Forms will also be obtainable from the N&DFHS Library at Bolbec Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, as well as North-East local record offices and libraries. Please join us.

Jeanne Bunting
Chairman
Seminar Sub-Committee
Marketing the Guild’s profile
By Kirsty Maunder

You will no doubt have read the Chairman’s Notes over the last year and noticed that during the course of this year we have seen the formation of a new sub-committee tasked with improving the marketing of the Guild. I agreed to chair the group on a temporary basis, which inevitably will not be in any way temporary! I am pleased to report that after only two meetings the Marketing Subcommittee are making great progress and many new projects are already under way.

One obvious way to promote our members’ studies and attract new members is to place advertisements in the major genealogical magazines worldwide. That said, this is not the only way to increase the profile of the Guild and educate the public about one-name studies in general. We’ve come up with several project ideas we would like to pursue, but we need your help.

Regularly, e-mails are sent to: secretary@one-name.org, guild@one-name.org, publicity@one-name.org (all of which are received by me) asking for someone to speak at a family history society, local studies library or record office event on the subject of one-name studies and/or the Guild. Several retired committee members have in the past willingly obliged. But, I am sure there are many other Guild members who would be more than willing to speak at their local FHS or similar, with a little help from the Marketing Subcommittee.

We are currently working on a standard Guild PowerPoint presentation which can be adapted to meet individual presentation needs, so you would not be expected to spend hours preparing a slide show – just a little time to make your own! Just as important is the coordination of these talks, finding speakers, liaising with the venues, etc. so we are looking for a Lecture Coordinator, a role for someone with good interpersonal skills who is prepared to help raise the profile of the Guild. Any volunteers?

We are also working on producing Guild mouse mats to give away to record offices and libraries. Here’s your chance to win a Phillimore Atlas by entering our competition to design the artwork. It really doesn’t matter what format the design is in, whether computerised or by hand. But your design must:

• Advertise the Guild.
• Be a standard rectangular size (200mm x 235 mm) whether landscape or portrait.
• Include the Guild logo and website address.

The design may be used in other Guild publicity material, so copyright of the winning design would be owned by the Guild. Please send entries to me by post (address on the inside front cover), or by e-mail to secretary@one-name.org. Closing date is May 31 2005.

There are many more marketing initiatives in the pipeline – take a look at the new Register and spot the new contact details.

We would welcome new blood on the Marketing Subcommittee, so if you feel you can contribute in any way please get in touch.

Website aliases for members
By Paul Millington

For some time now, Guild members have had the use of e-mail aliases, such as millington@one-name.org. These aliases allow members to change their actual e-mail address – for example, when you change ISP – without having to notify all correspondents. Using the one-name.org address also shows that the recipient is a member of the Guild.

Members can also have their own register-a-website addresses with the Guild, but up to now members have had to notify their friends and contact the Guild whenever this address changes. This often happens when you use your ISP’s free web space but then change ISP – for example, if you switch to broadband.

Some people buy their own domain names, e.g. www.myonename.org.uk and point this to their actual website in order to maintain their apparent address even when the underlying website address changes. But for others there is a problem when your website address changes. The website also lacks the “branding” of Guild e-mail aliases.

However, with the launch of a new facility, Guild members can also now quote a Guild website alias. The alias can be quoted in one of two forms: http://www.one-name.org/homepages/millington or http://homepages.one-name.org/millington. There is no need for Guild members whose website is registered with the Guild to do anything. Their equivalent website alias (with Millington replaced with their registered surname) is created automatically and updated whenever they notify the Guild of a change in their actual website address. For those members who use an e-mail address of the form john.smith@one-name.org, the first dot is replaced with an underscore “_” when quoting the web alias, thus...

http://www.one-name.org/homepages/john_smith.

Not only does this allow people to maintain contact with your web site, but it provides a Guild branding. I hope this new facility will prove of benefit to members.

Journal of One-Name Studies, April–June 2005
ERENDIPITY! It happened again! Regular readers may remember that I very nearly put two people together at the Bath Family History Fair last year. They both asked after the same surname on the same day, but they were several hours apart and I couldn’t bring the two together.

Well, blow me, but it happened again in Crawley, Sussex. There I was, in a vast, draughty hall on a perishingly cold day, doing my stuff with Surname Atlas. A lady enquired after the name PASHLEY. I demonstrated that the name is particularly focused in the Doncaster/Sheffield area. She seemed pleased. Not three minutes later another woman approached me with exactly the same surname!

I broke off from my spiel and managed to intercept my earlier customer before she left the stall. I put the two together and enjoyed the sight of two total strangers discussing their common interest. There’s no price tag I could put on that. A warm glow surrounded me for hours.

Winter

It’s just as well, because the British winter is now well under way. When you’ve been around the circuit a few times, you get a feel for the good venues and the not-so-good. Crawley is not on my list of good venues, I’m afraid. For a start, the exhibition hall has only one door where you can bring your goods in on a trolley – for the rest, there are stairs to climb. Great! I bet the architect never tried to carry six or seven heavy boxes of books across a car park and up a flight of stairs. Add one of the coldest, windiest days of the winter and my habitual enthusiasm was pushed to the limit. And someone left the back door open! I have never worn my coat behind the stall before. And then, as if to see if we were really serious, there was a fire alarm. Exactly what we needed, standing in a wind-swept car park when there’s trading to be done.

How the mighty...

It’s funny, but the big sellers don’t usually last long. The initial enthusiasm for the National Burial Index 2nd Edition has begun to fade. That doesn’t make it any less of a product, of course. It just means the pent-up demand has been released. Did you get yours yet? I still have stock.

But don’t you think it’s weird, how we all clamour to get at the latest release of data? It’s not as if it’s going to go away. Remember when all those enthusiastic genealogists brought the 1901 online census for England and Wales to its knees? Why all the rush? I try to tell myself, when I get the time to do some genealogy research, that I should take it steady, that the records will still be there tomorrow. But I get so wrapped up in the pursuit that as the clock gets moves towards closing time at the record office, I’m frantically scribbling everything that I can get down.

What’s new, what’s big

What’s new? I rather like Robert Blatchford’s Family & Local History Handbook, now in its ninth edition. It’s one of those useful books, crammed full of articles (I counted over 70) by well-known authors. I particularly liked the account by Anthony Adolph of the on-off relationship between genealogy and the media. At its core, the book has a very full directory of useful references to things like record offices, family history societies, registrars and libraries in the UK and Ireland. There are even some handy hints on digital genealogy, which may help if you’re struggling with computerese. It’s 450 pages and a book you’ll keep turning to and priced at £11.70 (plus p&p) to Guild members.

Price list

As before, there’s a new price list (please dig out that sheet of green paper you threw in the bin). There are a few alterations from last time, at least one new title (see above) and I’ve removed a few slow-moving items. A couple of prices have changed, too – please do throw the previous (yellow) price list in the bin. You can also download the latest price list from the Guild website, or just let me know and I’ll send you a copy.

Where we’ve been

The year began for me with a trip to the world of my ancestors, London’s East End. The East of London FHS had organized a Fair in Queen Mary College in Mile End Road, slap bang opposite the street where my grandfather was born. Not that the street bears any resemblance now to its mention in Charles Booth’s Survey into Life and Labour in London (take a look at the website: http://booth.lse.ac.uk/). Then described as “the worst street in the subdivision [of Stepney], owing to the thieves and ticket of leave men living in it”, it’s now part of the Ocean Housing Estate, a group of those anonymous multi-storeyed buildings you get in Britain’s inner cities.

Then it was the Bracknell Family History Fair. If you’re not
familiar with Bracknell, it's not a place you'd readily associate with history. But there must be something about it because it's probably the third biggest fair around the country. I'm told there were more than 1,800 people through the door that day. I talked my socks off! And we didn't do half bad on the Bookstall.

Where we’re going
There’s not a lot happening in March that I can get to, but this is what the plan looks like for the Bookstall caravan thereafter:

- Guild AGM & Conference Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire, April 1–3
- Wolverhampton FH Fair Wolverhampton, April 10
- South Coast FH Fair Worthing, Sussex, April 24
- SoG Family History Show, Pimlico, London, April 30
- Oxfordshire & Bucks FH Fair Kidlington, Oxfordshire, May 8
- Coventry FH5 FH Fair, Coventry, May 15
- Guild Computer Seminar Bletchley Park, Bucks May 28
- Essex & East London FH Fair Brentwood, Essex, June 12

Do pop along if you're near and you've got the time. It's always good to see you. And we'll always welcome a new face behind the tables – there's lots to do!

Applause, applause! If you are Roy Rayment, Peter Copsey, Ken Toll (twice!), Rob Alexander, Steven Whitaker, Christine Colbourne, Helen Williams (twice!), Barbara Harvey or Ken Grubb, then you should sit back and listen to the thunderous reception. With your help, the Bookstall has contributed several hundred pounds to Guild funds in the last few months. It's difficult to say it well enough, so I'll just say – thank you, all of you.

If you'd like to contact Howard about any of the items he holds on the Bookstall, you can write to him at guild.bookstall@one-name.org, or 7 Amber Hill, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1EB, U.K. ☉

Be sure to include a ReadMe file with your ONS research

In my Notes in the January Journal, I wrote about depositing information concerning your ONS with the Guild or other repositories. I am grateful to all those members who contacted me with comments or queries, or who sent me CDs of their ONS material.

I was asked to provide more information about ReadMe files. I sent a message to the Guild Forum on the subject and I am repeating it here for members who did not see the message.

Information
In the context of a CD of ONS material, we envisage the ReadMe file containing information about the rest of the material on the disc. It should:

1. Have the file name “ReadMe.txt”.
2. Be created in plain text using a simple text editor such as Notepad or Wordpad on Windows computers. I think the equivalent program for creating text files on Mac would be TextEdit, Edit on Acorn computers and probably emacs or vi on Linux.

Text file
Producing the ReadMe file as a text file enables the file to be read on almost all machines, even if other files are produced in generic software packages.

3. Contain information about:
   - What files are on the disk and in what formats.
   - The programs used to create the files, with version numbers/dates, (e.g. Excel XP, FTM2005).
   - Date the disc and files were produced with version number and history where relevant.
   - Details of the author and contact points.
   - Any special handling instructions for the information (e.g. open file YYY first and follow the hyperlinks).
   - Any known incompatibilities of the files (e.g. “can't be read with xxx” or “disk will not autorun”).
   - Copyright information.

If you are depositing such a CD with the Guild you should also indicate in the ReadMe file the basis on which it is being lodged, e.g.:

- “Should I cease to be a member the Guild may release the information on this disc in whole or in part to anyone interested in my registered name.”

or:

- “Should I cease to be a member the Guild may release the information on this disc to any future researcher of my registered name.”

or:

- “Should I cease to be a Guild member this disc should be destroyed/returned to me.”

Librarian
We hope to appoint a new Guild Librarian shortly and make an announcement in the next Journal. Besides looking after the Guild Library’s documents, the Librarian will also take charge of deposited studies on electronic media, and will issue further guidance in due course.

In the meantime, if you want to deposit a copy of your study on CD with the Guild please contact the Chairman or myself. ☉
NOW here's a real novelty! The Journal doesn't normally review cookery books, but we are making an exception since this one has been published by the initiative of a one-name society, the Blencowe Families Association. It has been edited by Jack Blencowe, Guild member 2010.

Lady Ann Blencowe was a kind of late-17th century Delia Smith, who was married to Sir John Blencowe of Marston St. Lawrence, Northamptonshire, a Judge of Common Pleas and Member of Parliament for Brackley, Northants, from 1690 to 1695. Lady Ann, the daughter of a distinguished scholar and mathematician Dr. John Wallis, a founding fellow of the Royal Society, was born in 1656, married Sir John in 1675 and wrote her “receipt book” in 1694.

Today we would call it a recipe book but in the 17th century the word for culinary instructions was “receipts”. The book gives a fascinating peep into the kitchen and dining room of an upper class society lady of the time, with rich gourmet fare like lemon syllabub, peaches in brandy syrup and almond flummery.

Facsimile

The original has been lost but a facsimile limited edition was published in 1925. Now, it has been republished for Blencowe family members and general readers. Christina Stapley, an expert on herb cultivation and historical herb uses in cooking, was asked to interpret the recipes for a modern audience. The book is arranged so that some of Lady Ann's original recipes are given, followed by the modern descriptions.

A nice touch is that a foreword has been written by Peter Blencowe, a six-times great-grandson of Lady Ann. In it, he writes: “Both Ann’s husband, Sir John, and her father, Dr. John Wallis, lived to a ripe old age, the former 84 years and the latter 87 years.

“Could it be as a result of sampling the healthful recipes and ‘physical cures’ described in Ann’s Recipe Book written in 1694?”

The recipes contain such 17th century delights as To make a sack possett att a wedding, To Broyle a carp and A Good Potatoe pudding, ye best.

And what, you may well ask, is a sack possett? Well, here is Lady Anne's “receipt”...

Take a quart of milk, or cream; if milk, take fifteen eggs, if cream, ten eggs; beat them with the whites. Then putt to them three-quarters of a pint of sack, and let them stand together till it be almost ready to boyl; then take the milk off ye fire & pour it as high as you can to ye sack & eggs; and let it stand by ye for half an hour.

Sack was white wine, in those days usually from Spain or the Canaries, and Christina Stapley in her modern interpretation suggests using sherry. She says: “Possets were very popular in Lady Anne’s day. They were wonderfully nourishing, warming and medicinal strengtheners, particularly for someone unable to digest a full meal.”

Warning

The book also contains herbal – or "Physical" – recipes for curing ailments and these come with a health warning! It says they are not for modern use and some include ingredients that are either unobtainable or could be harmful. Here is one somewhat extraordinary sample...

To make ye horse dung water
Take horse dung & putt to it so much Ale as will make it like hasty puding, and put it into your still. Then putt on ye topp one pound of treakell, and a quarter of a pound of genger an powder, and a quarter of a pound of sweet anniseed, and so distill all these together. This water is good for women in labor and in child-bed, for Agues and feavers and all distempers.

Er...yes, but don’t try this at home!

Christina Stapley comments on this recipe: “At least the ginger and aniseed might cover for whatever flavour came from the horse dung! We cannot help but feel sorry for the patient drinking this but perhaps they were unaware of the ingredients. If they did they must have been thankful it was distilled.”

All in all, this is a fascinating piece of social history and will be enjoyed by many more than just those keen on cooking.

ROY STOCKDILL
I was fascinated to read Donald Hatch’s article on “hapax” surnames (January–March 2005 Journal), ones that occur only once in the records. These surnames give a whole new meaning to a “one-name” study!

While the author clearly answered the question posed in the title of his article (“Do many of us really have rare surnames or do we just think we do?”) by drawing attention to his key conclusion that only eight percent of us have, by his definition, “very rare” surnames, a conclusion which accords well with one’s intuition on the matter, he didn’t draw attention to the more extraordinary conclusions that could be made from his analysis: that the other 92% of the population utilise less than 5% of all the recorded surnames (with 59% of the population using only about 810 surnames, just 0.5% of the total recorded), and therefore that, quite counter-intuitively, 95% of all surnames are actually “very rare”!

**Frequency**

Of particular interest also were the frequency distributions associated with each category of rarity, for I believe that these could be used to give one-namers a measure against which to assess their own studies and thus answer a question perhaps of more interest to individual GOONS, that of “How rare is the name that I am researching?”.

Clearly, a name which occurs only once in 100,000 (Hatch’s boundary between a “quite rare” and “very rare” name) implies that there must be 300 individuals of that name in the 1881 census population of 30 million (the base for the analysis).

So anyone whose one-name population in the 1881 Census numbers 300 or fewer can state now with some statistical backing that they are indeed researching a “very rare” surname.

**Criteria**

Combining and expanding on the data in Tables 7 and 8 of Donald Hatch’s article leads to the definitions of rarity and assessment criteria shown in the table below.

The definitions that Donald Hatch proposes thus appear to be a useful reference for one-name studies, and his statistics indicate that there are surely many thousands of potential researchers of “very rare” names yet to join the Guild!

Ben Kaser
Member 4029
41 Mathison House
Coleridge Gardens
London SW10 0RR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of names in population</th>
<th>% of names</th>
<th>Population (000)</th>
<th>% of population</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Number of occurrences in 1881 Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
<td>7,700</td>
<td>25.67%</td>
<td>more than 1 in 1,000</td>
<td>more than 30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quite common</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
<td>1 in 1,000 to 1 in 5,000</td>
<td>6,000 to 30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quite rare</td>
<td>7,370</td>
<td>4.28%</td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td>32.67%</td>
<td>1 in 5,000 to 1 in 100,000</td>
<td>300 to 6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td>51,731</td>
<td>30.03%</td>
<td>2,240</td>
<td>7.47%</td>
<td>1 in 100,000 to 1 in 5,000,000</td>
<td>6 to 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extremely rare</td>
<td>58,146</td>
<td>33.75%</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>0.68%</td>
<td>1 in 5,000,000 to 1 in 15,000,000</td>
<td>2 to 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hapax</td>
<td>54,216</td>
<td>31.47%</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0.18%</td>
<td>less than 1 in 15,000,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>172,273</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Estimated frequency distribution of Surnames for 1881 (after Donald Hatch, 2005)*
Why I am still a paper person

THIS is my answer to your challenge in the October–December 2003 Journal (“Tell us how you run a one-name study without a computer”). I am slow in responding because I was sure that you would be swamped by GOONS who favoured paper over computer.

I have been a paper person since I wrote my first poem at age nine, which I still have in my scruffy old book. I will always be a paper person. The thought of losing all of my hundreds of Godwin names because of some temperamental machine is unthinkable. I admit that computers frighten me.

Convicts

I returned to the workforce when my youngest daughter was 15 years old in order to pay for Anne’s and my own university fees, and for the next five years wrote about the history of other people. I then began to write my own family history, all on paper, with the help of my typewriter, which I was able to control.

I have now completed the story of my first two ancestors who arrived in Australia: John Holmes, convict, of Donyatt in Somerset, and Charles Godwin, convict, of Hampshire. Charlie is my choice for my one-name study.

I didn’t have to go into a cave in Somerset to find my John Holmes. I found his baptism in St. Mary’s Church, Donyatt, during a visit to England in 1982.

Task

I realize that choosing the name Godwin was the beginning of an enormous task, but having already collected a large amount of Godwin names on my visits to Hampshire between 1982 and 1996, and having recently downloaded more than 7,000 American Godwins, and 4,000 Canadian Godwins, I am beginning to feel more relaxed about my computer, although I will never store my names there.

You will probably think of me as a half-wit but I have my metal box ready to take my papers and photographs, and should fire break out at 32 Areca Drive, all will be carried out into the garden along with Henry the Staffordshire, who, though lovable, is only interested in food.

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Memories of Sir Matt

AS a librarian, I often find myself handling books on subjects which would not normally interest me. Recently I opened a book called McFootball: the Scottish Heroes of the English Game, by Norman Giller. As I was flicking through it, the following caught my eye in a chapter entitled Sir Matt Busby: Father of Football...

“Busby was a wonderful raconteur. He had a bagpipes accent with a strong West of Scotland tone, and to the untrained English ear could sometimes be almost unintelligible, as he himself would admit.

“I remember when I was playing with Liverpool in the 1930s,” he said, “and there was a national census. In those days they used to do it by sending people to your door to ask questions. When I told the young lady what I did for a living, she wrote down ‘fruit boiler’."

It would be interesting to know whether the census data was generally collected this way in 1931 and when the present system of distributing forms began.

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(Forms, called schedules, were distributed from the earliest censuses, but often the enumerator would have to help a householder fill one in. I find this surprising in the case of Matt Busby, but perhaps he was enjoying a joke, either with the girl or the author! – Editor).
Regional Representatives as at March 1 2005

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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COORDINATOR
See Hertfordshire

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SUFFOLK
AUSTRALIA
USA CENTRAL
USA NORTH EAST
USA NORTH WEST
THE Guild’s first-ever joint seminar with another society proved very popular when the Maps and Directories Seminar was held at the Essex Record Office, Chelmsford, on Saturday, February 19. A gathering of Guild members and members of the Essex Society for Family History enjoyed an outstanding day, hearing some fine lectures and thronging the bookstalls. In these pictures, Guild member Barbara Harvey (top) chats to visitors to the Guild Bookstall, while (above) Bookstall Manager Howard Benbrook indulges in his cheerful sales patter. See page 18 for a full report. (Pictures by Keith Tunstill)