Get yourself a Guild web profile for your one-name study

Six-page special report and pictures of the Guild’s Annual Conference

The world’s leading publication for one-namers
Vol 8 Issue 11  July–September 2005

Topics
- About the Rayment One-Name Study
- Variants
- Distribution of the name
- Data
- Links
- Impact of the study

Rayment
One-Name Study

www.one-name.org

Elizabeth Simpson
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Regional Representatives
A LIST of Regional Representatives of the Guild in a number of UK counties and overseas can be found on the inside back cover of this Journal. If you are interested in becoming a Regional Rep, please contact the Regional Representatives Co-ordinator, Sandra Turner (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
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As this is my first column as your new Chairman, I should start by recognising the efforts of my predecessor, Ken Toll, over the last two years. As he said in the last Journal, much has been achieved during his period in the Chair. I know I can rely on his continuing support, as I can many of the other stalwarts of the committee who are always ready to offer their advice.

Who I am

Historically, I’m a fairly recent member of the Guild, joining in 1998, though I’d been engaged in my one-name study of Hollyer, Holyer and Hollier since the early 1990s. These names were registered by the late Harry Holyer and it was only when he died that I joined the Guild and took them over. In retrospect, I should have joined earlier.

I have been a keen supporter of local meetings in Hertfordshire held by our Regional Representative, Barbara Harvey, which got me interested in the workings of the Guild. In April 2002 I took over as Forum Manager, a role I continued until last October. I joined the committee in 2003 and recently have been “shadowing” Ken as Vice-Chairman.

In March 2004 I started the Guild Warning, Advice and Reporting Point (WARP), to provide advice to members on computer security issues and scams etc., which we prefer are not discussed on the Forum. My professional background is 33 years in the telecommunications industry and I’m now an independent consultant. Now I’m in the Guild’s hot seat and I hope I can continue the progress made in recent years.

Conference

My term of office started at the Guild Conference and AGM at Wyboston, which proved to be another great success. The quality of the speakers and, indeed, the entire programme was very high, so thanks to the organising team led by Sandra Turner. Several of the key speakers made some very important comments about one-name studies which I’d like to think we will all take to heart.

Listening to George Redmonds, Sharon Hintze and David Hey, I was struck by the need not to get stuck in the trap of seeing our studies as merely the collection of more and more data. We should spend some time analysing and further researching aspects of our name and publishing the results, be it through books, journals or, increasingly these days, via websites. This becomes ever more important as the volume of data increases, which could cause us to be “lost in the torrent”.

It does seem to me that we are perhaps over-focussed on data collection. We describe the criteria for both registration and ultimate Category A/B status in terms of the data to be collected. We should perhaps think about also encouraging more analysis and publication of material about our names. As both George Redmonds and David Hey said, we are the experts in our respective names and know far more than those who compiled many of the surname dictionaries. Sharon Hintze also made the point that many academic researchers are forced to take short cuts, such as studying a single parish or attempting “automated” family reconstruction, whereas our own data has not been as well exploited as it might be. So I’d like to encourage members to think about research outputs as well as data inputs.

Web Awards

Earlier this year, I had the pleasant task of working with my fellow judges, Paul Millington and Penny Denby, on the Guild web awards. We had 21 entries and congratulations to those who were placed or commended. They are entitled to have a Guild logo on their website recognising their achievement. The logo has the text Striving for Excellence on it.

With that in mind, this year we have provided an adjudication report to those who requested it, in the hope that we can encourage improvement in the overall quality of members’ websites. If you haven’t requested a report yet, it’s not too late. I also hope that those of you who attended the Bletchley Computer Seminar will have learnt something about how to create one-name websites and will consider putting your site into the next competition.

Overseas

I’m keenly aware that many of our events are UK focussed. While this reflects the location of the majority of our members, we do have a sizeable and enthusiastic group of overseas members and I’d like to think we can do more to provide value to those of
you unable to attend our UK based events – though, as usual, it was pleasing to see a few overseas visitors to our AGM and Conference this year.

Actually, it’s not just a UK elsewhere issue, as many of our Scottish members find themselves too far away to travel to many events and too thinly spread to support local meetings. The recent Marriage Challenges stimulated by Peter Copsey on the Guild Forum are providing particularly valuable support for our members unable to visit UK repositories and I’d like to think more activities like this will emerge. For those of you not on the Forum, I’m hoping we will have more to say about Marriage Challenges in the next Journal.

I’m also keen to engage with our overseas members, so we can provide more pertinent advice on how to go about doing one-name studies in other countries, where available data like BMDs and censuses will differ, and also about the challenges of doing a study abroad for a UK-centric name. This will help us all in our commitment to carry out a truly worldwide study.

Projects

The Guild is in a strong financial position to develop many more activities and projects, but we are limited by the number of members prepared to bring these about. Your hard-working committee cannot undertake all these on their own and we would like to see more members assisting with marketing, seminars, publications or developing our library and archive services. Any new ideas for projects are welcome.

Even overseas members can assist with these activities in their own areas or interact via e-mail. So if any of you would like to get more out of the Guild by putting more in, then do contact me to discuss how you might be able to help.

In conclusion, I look forward to working with your committee and all the other volunteers in taking the Guild forward.

DID you read that newspaper story – it was also on the Internet – about the attempt to get DNA samples from two women buried 400 years ago in Suffolk in order to try and and identify the remains of a man thought to be an early pioneer settler in America?

By the time you read this, the archaeological dig will have taken place, but in case you missed the article here is the essence of it...

Archaeologists in America have discovered what is thought to be the skeleton of Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, who is believed to have been a leading, but previously unsung, figure in the establishment of the first English settlement at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.

A Suffolk historian and genealogist identified the likely last resting places of Gosnold’s sister and niece at separate village churches in the county, and the purpose of the dig was to extract DNA from the women’s bones to compare it with samples from the remains discovered in Virginia.

Now, as many members will know, I am not among those who seem to regard DNA testing as the new Holy Grail of genealogy. Indeed, I regard it as no more than just another useful tool and largely a sideshow to the main event. I confess this is possibly because I struggle severely to understand the scientific explanations behind it all!

However, fascinating as the process of historical research is, I must admit also to a feeling of slight unease about such projects as the one in Suffolk.

This is not, I hasten to add, out of any religious convictions – because I don’t have any – but tampering with graves purely to test a pet theory about whether one person was related to another seems not only ghoulish but perhaps to be taking the whole concept a mite too far.

We who belong to Internet genealogy news groups and mailing lists have been joking, virtually ever since the possibilities of DNA testing were first discussed, about “digging up our ancestors”! I never thought it would actually happen – but now it has and I have a rather odd feeling about it.

Permission

One wonders how far it might go? Will the time come when any family historian might be able to trundle along to the Bishop and ask permission to dig up great-great-grandma because they want to prove that one family of a particular surname is related to another?

Surely not – otherwise we will have the prospect of graves being opened and bones removed up and down the land! Besides, one can think of countless famous persons who would be in line to be dug up to prove something or other.

So why did the Church of England give permission in this particular case?

I can’t help wondering whether the diocesan authorities were ever so slightly star-struck by the prospect of top American archaeologists arriving in their rural parishes to undergo investigations, not to mention the possibilities of worldwide publicity and the link with an early American founding father.

Or am I just being cynical again? ☺
Creating a website, even a single web page, presents a number of challenges to the one-namer – from resourcing (acquiring web space), technical (understanding HTML the language used to write web pages), design (structuring the site and individual pages) and finally creating the content.

Some 20% of Guild members have risen to these challenges and have a website registered with the Guild. However, that leaves many other Guild members without a significant presence on the web, despite evidence that suggests that the web is where many beginners look when starting their family history.

By default, the Guild website presently carries only limited information about Guild members and their one-name studies. The website displays names and addresses, as well as a website address if the member has one. In terms of attracting the reader it is a little bit bland – nothing about what the surname is all about, what has information been collected, why the name is being studied, and so forth.

Just over a year ago, the Guild switched to a new Internet Service Provider (ISP) which provided significantly more web space. The obvious solution to the issues highlighted above was to allow registered studies to be described in more detail on the Guild’s website. However, with so many members the process of creating pages needs to be as automatic as possible.

The Guild is now offering a single web page – known as a profile – to every one-name study registered with the Guild. The page is produced by filling in a simple form online, no web skills are required – just an understanding of what your ONS is about, and you are the expert! For an example of a profile, see Figure 1 below.

**Content**

So what can go on your profile page? Your page is organised into eight distinct topics, though you can choose which of these you wish to include on your page:

- Description – a summary of your study.
- Variants – information about any recognised variants.
- Origins – the origin or meaning of your registered surname.

Get yourself a Guild profile – a single web page for every registered one-name study

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THE author of this article is the Guild’s Website Manager. In 2004 he launched a major Guild initiative, the Electronic Archive for members’ one-name records. He is also involved with the online Guild Marriage index.

At the Bletchley Computer Seminar, Paul launched yet another new project – the provision of a single web page on the Guild’s website for every registered one-name study, known as a profile.

The setup of a profile is a simple process that even those with little experience of creating web pages should be able to undertake without difficulty.

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By PAUL MILLINGTON

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Figure 1 – part of a Guild profile for the Rayment One-Name Study
• Famous and historical occurrences.
• Frequency of your name.
• Information about the distribution.
• Data – a description of the data that you have collected, together with any link to any data that you have archived with the Guild.
• Links to any other resources for your name on the web.

The page may also include a picture to illustrate the study, which will be shown in the top right of your picture.

Your contact details (both postal and e-mail), a counter to show how many times the page has been viewed and the date the page was last updated may also be included if you wish.

Your page will be available on the Guild website at...

http://www.one-name.org/profiles/<registeredname>.html

Composing the contents

The language of the web, HTML, is a large and very flexible language. In order to keep profile pages simple and straightforward, only a small subset of text styles can be produced by this facility.

Four types of formatting are supported...

• Plain paragraphs. Simply type the desired text into the website form. If you want to start a new paragraph, hit the Enter or Return key. Don’t worry about line breaks as the program will calculate where to place these.

• Bulleted list. An item in a list is indicated by prefacing the desired text with an asterisk followed by a space (“* ”).

• Emphasis. Text may be displayed in italics by beginning and ending the text with an asterisk; for example, *The Guild of One-Name Studies* would be displayed as The Guild of One-Name Studies.

• A hyperlink. A hyperlink is described using square brackets with the destination and text separated by a vertical bar (shift + “|”). For example, [http://www.one-name.org|the Guild] displays the text “the Guild”, which will take the reader to the Guild home page when selected. If the displayed text and the destination are the same, you can simplify the description by omitting the text and the vertical bar, for example:

[http://www.one-name.org]

Pictures

Your personalised web page can contain a single picture in the top right of your web page. The picture can be anything to illustrate your one-name study for example, a personality, a coat of arms, a building or a distribution map associated with your study. Some examples are given in the adjoining column.

The picture can be displayed in either portrait or landscape. A portrait picture is displayed 116 pixels wide by 146 pixels high, while a landscape picture is 232 pixels by 146 pixels. Do not worry about the size of your original picture, as it will automatically be sized. Your readers will also be able to see the picture in its original size by clicking on the picture on the web page.

The picture that you include on your web site is best provided in JPEG format. JPEG files can be created by most graphics programs as well as scanners (usually the file will have the extension .jpg). PNG files (.png) can also be used on your web page. GIF (.gif) files and bitmaps (.bmp) are not supported.

Maintenance

To produce your web page, you will need to log in to the maintenance facility which can be found in the members room at

www.one-name.org/members/profiles/maintenance.html

You will need to provide your registered name together with your password, which will initially be supplied by the Administrator when you apply for an account.

Your profile web page is produced from the maintenance page. The main options are:

• Composing your text and generating your web page (labelled “Compose”).

• Maintaining your picture (“Maintain picture”).

• Deleting your web page (“Delete”).

• Changing your password (“Change password”).

The “Compose” action on the maintenance main page is perhaps the most
and an account name and password will be sent to you.

Non-Internet users
Availability of access to the web is increasing, though it is recognised that many members do not yet have access. In the UK, many libraries provide access. However, the Guild is keen to ensure that even those members who do not have access can have their own web page. The Guild is looking longer term to see whether, for instance, a network of volunteers could be used to input the text for pages for those members who do not currently have access to the web.

Summary
All of the Guild profile pages automatically become part of the Guild website, enabling the information on them to be indexed by Google and other search engines, and helping other researchers looking for information about your registered name to get in touch. Collectively, information about individual studies also acts as an advert for the Guild as a whole. 

I hope that Guild profile pages will prove to be another significant benefit of Guild membership. 

Figure 2 – the compose page for your profile
Trawling for online newspaper data and the problems arising from OCR

By Peter Fifield Wells

Articles from old newspapers are becoming available on the Internet through various subscription services such as Ancestry.com. These can be valuable sources of information for surname research.

However, the researcher needs to be aware of how these online documents were created in order to make full use of them. Given the amount of information we are talking about and the formatting involved, the only practical way to put this information online is via Optical Character Recognition, commonly abbreviated as OCR.

A computer scans the document and does what our combination of eye and brain accomplish, which is to interpret the patterns of dark and light into recognizable letters and words. No computer systems are yet capable of doing this as well as a reasonably educated human, so errors are common.

Old newspapers can be especially problematical for OCR. The paper used was not the best quality, the ink would migrate in the papers and blur the letters, the old paper being scanned might be yellowed and not in the best condition and the ink could be faded.

While the result of the scan could also be put through a word processor to check for obvious word problems, this could be very expensive due to the number of errors that would need fixing.

Index

Of course, the online information is only useful if it is indexed and, given the above, the index will be an index of what the OCR process saw as opposed to what is actually there. We will be able to find more information if we are aware of some of the more likely errors introduced by the OCR process.

The OCR process is attempting to interpret the shapes of letter, and the shapes of many of our letters are similar. The biggest problem will be with the lower case letters, as these are smaller and therefore more subject to misinterpretation, due to poor quality of the original. With this in mind, some common substitutions to look for are as follows:

- The letters “l” and “i” are commonly interchanged; “f” and “t” are another likely problem pair, and “f” and “t” could also be confused with the previous “l” and “i”. Note that all of these are, to a fair degree, variants of a straight vertical line.
- Another set consists of the “circle” letters, “o”, “e”, “c” and “a”. Consider also a combination of the vertical line and circle; “b” and “h” can be another problem pair.
- The problems are not limited to single letter misinterpretations. An “i” and an “n” next to each other can easily be converted into the letter “m” and vice versa. Even more likely is that the combination of “r” followed by “n” becomes an “m”. An “f” followed by an “i” could become a “b” or an “h”. A “c” followed by “l” could become a “d”. These are merely examples, and by no means exhaust all of the possibilities.

By virtue of their larger size the capital letters are somewhat more problem-free, but offer their own set of misinterpretations. “O” and “Q” may be readily interchanged and “F” and “P” could be mistaken for each other. A capital “C” followed by lower case “I” could become “O” or “Q”. The upper-case “I” is sometimes very much the same as the lower case “i”, which, in turn, is essentially identical to the numeral “1”.

Hopefully, the OCR program knows enough to not intermix numerals with letters, as capital “O” and numeral “0” are also very much alike.

Wild cards

Many search engines allow the use of wild cards in the search terms. A question mark in a search term indicates an unknown letter, so I could enter “F?field” and retrieve all results with any single character in the second position of that name. Similarly the asterisk is used to indicate any number of unknown characters. If I enter “Fif*d” I would retrieve anything from “Fifd” through, for example, “Fifxxxxxxxxd”.

The potential problem with using wild cards on documents scanned with OCR is that you can turn up a lot of what amounts to pure garbage, and unless you have high-speed Internet access it will not be worth your while to look at all the results.

EBSCO is an organization that provides through libraries a subscription search service of many old newspapers which have been scanned using OCR. One of the advantages of their system is that they give a bit of context with each of the results, so that you can decide whether it is worthwhile to retrieve the page in question.

For some real-life examples, using their system I have turned up valid and pertinent references to Fifield, my surname of particular interest, by entering “Fiffield” and “Fifieid” as search terms. On the
the other hand, using “Fifield” as the search term I have also turned up “4 3000820 0-1715 0 FLFIELD and Twinolaiap; Jopis Wilson” as the context, which shows how bad OCR can be.

Without high-speed access it would not be worthwhile spending several minutes to download that page; most likely “Fifield” does not even appear on it. Just think of what a wild card search could have found!

**Compare**

When I find a document online, I copy it to a file on my computer and then compare it with my genealogy file later to see what information I want to enter. With only one dial-up phone line, this minimizes my online time. The computer needs to be able to display the newspaper page, and a typical freely-available program used to do this is the Adobe Reader.

When looking at the page afterwards you will use the same reader program you used online, and you want to be able to again quickly locate the article of interest. You need to realize that the same search term used to find the article in the first place also needs to be used on the downloaded page.

**If I found the article with the search term “Fifield”, then I will need to search the page for “Fifield” after I have retrieved it; “Fifield” will not work.**

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**CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY COMING**

C. W. Fifield, special agent of the Continental Oil company for the Salt Lake City division, was in Price Thursday, his company having decided to put in a station here for distributing its products. He had with him blue prints of the railroad yards and trackage here and when leaving had about decided to place the tanks and buildings of the company on the north side of the Denver and Rio Grande main line in the vicinity of the stockyards. Price

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**Much neglected, grimy bundles in The National Archives hold valuable records for one-namers**

Keith Percy delves into the mysteries of PROB46 and finds gold dust

Records that ought to be looked at by one-namers are lying almost untouched in boxes at The National Archives at Kew. That would be no surprise if they were some ancient, obscure tax list – but they are not.

The grimy bundles in the boxes are the bonds of administrations granted by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) in the years 1713 to January 1858.

For me, the mystery began with an innocent question at the Family Records Centre as to whether there were any bonds for PCC administrations. I wanted my “grants” index for the WHITEHOUSE name to be as complete as possible.

The most experienced person on duty had never received such a request before, so he scuttled off to the back room and eventually came up with the answer in an old typescript guide. I needed to consult class PROB46 at Kew. It is given a brief mention in the book, *Tracing your ancestors in the Public Record Office, 6th edition, 2002*.

**Crucial**

Bonds were entered into by the administrator and one or more sureties for the honest administration of the estate of a deceased person who left no will or a will that was legally deficient and so could not be proved.

They supply the place of residence and the occupation of the parties making the bond. This information can be crucial for PCC administrations, as it is not given in PROB6 or in the Estate Duty Office Register (IR26).

I sorted my index of Whitehouse grants from 1731 onwards, finding 44 PCC administrations of intestates and 11 with the will annexed. Ordering PROB46 is simple once you know the month and...
year of grant from PROB6 or the administration calendar (PROB12).

Alas, whereas there is an index to PCC wills available from Documents OnLine and this includes administrations with will annexed, there is no composite index to PCC administrations after the year 1800, only the yearly calendars. PROB46 has roughly one piece for each month, although occasionally two months are contained in the same piece. So I duly put in a bulk order for the 52 different pieces that I needed, using the National Catalogue online.

Rules

Bulk orders, as I discovered, are hedged about with various rules. Firstly, there are daily overall limits on the number of bulk orders that can be processed and then there is a limit to the number of documents that can be ordered by an individual researcher for a single day. In my case, because the piece numbers required were not consecutive, the maximum was 30. In fact, it was not too bothersome to have to put in two bulk orders for separate days, because finding and reading these bonds is a slow business.

While ordering the pieces was easy enough, there was further preliminary work to do. The bonds are arranged by “seats” of the Probate Court. The Court divided its work geographically into five seats, each representing a region in which the deceased resided. These are shown in the box above.

PROB46 bonds are arranged in bundles by seat, so it is advisable to make a list with a column for the seat. The seat can be discovered either from the county etc. given in PROB6 or its calendar or from the folio number of the PROB6 entry. There is a guide book at The National Archives which lists the seats that correspond to the folio numbers. It is also advisable to know whether the administration is “plain” (PROB6) or with will annexed (PROB11), since from 1796 onwards there are separate bundles if there was a will.

Precious

The pieces came in large, heavy boxes, packed with the precious, dirty bundles. A huge trolley piled high awaited me in the Map Reading Room on the second floor, where there are tables dedicated to

| 1. Registrar’s | Overseas or at sea (unless grant was to the widow, in which case jurisdiction passed to the seat in which she was resident), if the deceased died outside the PCC jurisdiction and estates subject to litigation |
| 2. Surrey | Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Hants, Somerset, Surrey, Sussex, Wilts |
| 3. Welsh | Berks, Derbyshire, Gloucs, Herefordshire, Leics, Northants, Oxfordshire, Rutland, Salop, Staffs, Warwicks and Worcs; also, Wales |
| 4. Middlesex | Bedfords, Bucks, Cambss, Essex, Herts, Hunts, Kent, Lincs, Midddx (except those parishes in the London seat), Norfolk, Suffolk |
| 5. London | 31 parishes in London and Middlesex |

Bonds in Class PROB46 at The National Archives are arranged according to seats of the Probate Court.

The whole exercise took 11 hours, so my average speed was 5 documents per hour. Despite this, I never appeared to be going slowly. Remarkably, I found all but one of the 55 and that was a grant following an incompletely administered probate of a will. In all but two instances I found the bond in the correct seat bundle – and one of these discrepancies was because the labels on the bundles had been swapped around. Another surprise was to find a few dates of death not given in the Estate Duty Office Register entry.

Tidy

What struck me most was that the bonds had obviously never been much consulted, as they were so tidily bound in their ribboned bundles.

Yet, these are essential papers for anyone wanting maximum information from a PCC administration, and no grants index can be complete without covering the PCC.

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Journal of One-Name Studies, July–September 2005

11
Annual Conference and AGM is yet another resounding success at Wyboston Lakes venue

STEVEN WHITAKER’S personal view of the big event in the Guild year

The next Annual Conference of the Guild of One-Name Studies will be at Wyboston Lakes, St Neots, I read. Where’s that? Unlike the regular attendees, I didn’t attend the last Guild Conference, so I had to find the Conference Centre for the first time – on April Fool’s Day, of course, so everything was bound to go wrong.

Actually, nothing did. After a pleasant drive, the centre was just off the A1 and difficult to miss. Of course, I then went round in circles trying to find out where the Lakeside Suite was until I asked the Security Guard at the entrance. He was very helpful, like all the staff, and wanted me to explain what the Guild actually did – not the easiest topic to explain to a total novice.

Surprise

When I finally arrived at around 6pm and got to registration, I got a pleasant surprise as I was given my name badge and goodie bag by an old work colleague, Mary Seager. I hadn’t seen her for some years and I had no idea she had any interest in family history. As they say, it’s a small world.

After a brief chat, I just had time to freshen up before dinner. The food was very good, as it was throughout the conference. Then, after a brief welcome speech by president Derek Palgrave and a section of funny and quirky genealogical snippets, we had an opportunity to show our general ignorance in the quiz. Actually, I did better than I was expecting and won a 1901 census voucher. Tip for next year – read the Constitution before doing the quiz.

I was then swept along in the crowd in the general direction of the bar. There, Journal Editor Roy Stockdill and partner stood at the pool table for several hours, defeating all comers and depriving them of their small change. Eventually, after I drifted off to chat elsewhere, they were defeated by the Treasurer, Sandra Turner. Perhaps the red wine finally got to them or she threatened to cut off funding for the Journal.

After a comfortable night’s sleep, the next day started with the boring but necessary AGM. Fortunately, everyone seemed keen to run through the agenda as quickly as possible. Two notable changes to the officers of the Guild were announced: Ken Toll was stepping down as Chairman to be replaced by Peter Walker and Sandra Turner was training Cliff Kemball to replace her as treasurer.

Committee

Both Ken and Sandra are to remain on the Committee and are hoping to be able to dedicate a bit more time to their own one-name studies. It was also pointed out that there are spaces available on the Committee if anyone wants to assist in running the Guild.

After a vote of thanks, we had the awards for Guild Journal and Web Awards. Having had the opportunity to view the magazines and websites, all the winners and those commended should be congratulated on the excellence of their publications. One of those things where you think—ah, yes, I must produce a website but somehow the business of collecting and recording your ONS takes over until the next year and you think exactly the same thing again.

In addition, some chump was foolish enough to
volunteer to write up the Conference for the Journal!

Then, after a coffee break, we were able to get down to the part of Conference that I anticipated the most, the lectures. First off was a talk sponsored by the Halsted Trust and delivered by George Redmonds on *Surnames: Origin and Development*. I have heard George before and always found him to be an engaging speaker. He did not let us down.

The main theme of his talk was his definition of a surname as all of the names relating back to a single progenitor, so that, for example, Smith was not a single surname but a large number of surnames, each of which could, in theory, be linked back to a particular person, usually a blacksmith, silversmith etc.

He illustrated this with a number of examples and made some important points. These included the problems that existed with surname directories, which often found a particular byname being used in medieval records and assumed that it was the source of a similar modern surname without ever showing any link between them. He suggested that this was an opportunity for us to actually link our names back to their original source or sources in a way that would be very difficult for anyone not doing a study of all instances of a name.

Next speaker was Sharon Hintze, the Director of the large LDS Family History Centre in Kensington. Her theme was *The Future of Family Reconstruction*. This field of academic research involves the study of small populations, generally single parishes. Parish records are analysed to identify families and answer questions such as what was the average life expectancy, at what age did people get married and so on. She had a number of criticisms of the current approach and stressed her opinion that family historians and academics should be able to interact much more closely for their mutual benefit.

**Analysis**

This could easily have been a very dry topic but Sharon’s presentation ensured I found it most interesting. However, I’m not sure if I’m ever going to be in a position to answer some of the questions that she proposed for analysis, such as how many marriages took place between different social classes and what effect did living grandmothers have on the survival of their grandchildren in my family.

This provided a hot topic for discussion over lunch. As in many fields, much of the useful work of Conference doesn’t take place in the AGM or lectures, but over coffee or a meal, or even at the bar – of course, whether you remember that crucial discovery the next day is a different matter!

After lunch, there was a short presentation by Paul Millington on formatting data for the Guild Archive. The Archive was the subject of an extensive article by Paul in the April 2004 Journal and is documented on the website. Therefore, I will just say that I found it easy to load all my births, marriages and deaths onto the Archive, making them available to anyone via the Web. My probate and adoption records will be uploaded when they are in a fit state.

Then, just as we were settling down to doze after lunch, we got the loquacious Howard Benbrook’s lecture to wake us up. Anyone who has ever been to the Guild Bookshop will be familiar with Howard’s style and he was as entertaining as ever.

The subject of his talk was *Putting your Name on the Map*. He discussed a number of software products that can be used to map the distribution of a chosen surname, with the assistance of Paul Millington acting as straight man and demonstrator.

**Surname Atlas**

Most people will be aware of *Surname Atlas*, which uses the 1881 census data to map a distribution of a selected surname at that date. Howard describes this as “dinner party” software, good for showing to people to demonstrate where their name is located but not flexible enough to map other sources of data – BMD indexes or other censuses for instance. For that, we need *GenMap*, which we have to provide with a file of data but which can be configured to reproduce that as required.

Howard also showed us the LDS companion, which allows us to convert the proprietary files of data produced by the LDS, such as the IGI, Vital Records Index and censuses into a chosen format, which could, for example, be supplied to *GenMap*, allowing a more or less automatic map to be generated. All of these products are available from Howard on the Bookstall.

After a break for tea, Roger Kershaw of TNA delivered a lecture on *Migration Records in the National Archives*, which was followed by Gordon Adshead discussing more about maps and databases. Gordon uses postcodes to map his data and

*Continued on page 16*
Pictures from the Guild’s Annual Conference and AGM as we meet at Wyboston Lakes for the second year running

Left: Derek Palgrave presents the award for the best journal in Category A of the One-Name Publications Awards to Chris Braund.

Above left: President Derek Palgrave opens the Annual Conference, flanked by (left to right): Secretary Kirsty Maunder, retiring Chairman Ken Toll, Treasurer Sandra Turner and Webmaster Paul Millington. Left: Some of the delegates at the Conference opening. Below and right: dinner groups.

Above: Bookstall manager Howard Benbrook holds court behind the Guild Bookstall.

Above: Teresa Pask receives her runner-up certificate in the Web Awards.

Left: Kirsty Maunder

Ken Toll

Sandra Turner

Above: Bookstall manager Howard Benbrook holds court behind the Guild Bookstall.
he demonstrated the use of Autoroute software to convert that into an OS map reference, which can be used by GenMap. Personally, the only postcodes in my database are extracted from the electoral roll for living individuals and I find the gazetteer in GenMap is able to identify and map these locations by place name, which is sufficient for me. Still, it is useful to know that the facility exists and others may find it of use. This brought the day’s lectures to a close and gave us time to go and put best bib and tucker on for the evening banquet.

Reception

The reception for the banquet was held by the bar – this had one slight defect. Once the welcome speech was made, it took a while for some people to be prised from their bar stools and make it into the restaurant! I had chosen to sit at Table 1, along with several committee members, in the hope that it would ensure we were served promptly.

Sadly, it didn’t – one of the minor whinges was the time it took for the food to arrive, but it wasn’t too much of a concern to me as I was happy to talk. I was seated next to the printers of the Journal and we had an interesting discussion on how it was printed. More of a concern to me, at least, was that there was no vegetarian starter offered. However, the waiter was able to provide a suitable (and excellent) alternative on request.

We were serenaded by a jazz quartet and the small dance floor next to the restaurant was opened up after the meal, but most people were too busy chatting and drinking coffee to partake. However, Scottish Regional Rep Graham Tuley and his wife Margot managed to uphold the honour of the Guild and strut the light fantastic. After they stopped, I think the band got fed up with being ignored by us as we chatted, and started to wander amongst the tables as they played. We drifted into the bar eventually and the evening became pleasantly fuzzy at this point.

However, I did manage to make it up for breakfast on Sunday morning, although I did notice that it was significantly quieter than the previous morning. Perhaps everyone had got up early and gone to the Ecuemical Service.

After a couple of cups of coffee, I was ready to face the day. We were due to start off with Rod Neep discussing Data Sources for Family Historians. Like all Guild members, I’m always interested in new places to look for my name, so I was looking forward to this. Unfortunately, Rod was unable to make it, so David Hawgood had to step into the breach. He discussed a number of subjects. One was the subject of Braille maps for the blind. He had been demonstrating these during the conference – an excellent idea. After all, the blind have as much family history as anyone else.

Secondly, he raised the subject of co-operation between Guild members. The Guild Marriage Index is a step in the right direction here, but he pointed out that many members have access to other data that would be useful to others and other co-operative projects would be useful to all.

His final subject was indexes for one-name studies in countries other than the UK. Paul Millington demonstrated David’s website, which has a list of sources that he has found useful at: http://www.hawgood.co.uk/global/

This was an excellent and useful presentation, particularly in the adverse circumstances.

After a break for coffee, there was a lecture by Michael Gandy entitled Names and Nonconformity. I expected something about the origins of the various nonconformist beliefs and the records that they left behind. That wasn’t what we got. As Michael said, you can get that from a book. Much of Michael’s rapid-fire presentation had little to do with nonconformity but it was amusing.

Assumptions

He stressed that you should understand the purpose of the records at the time they were written and not make assumptions based on the norms of today – Michael Gandy

“...the purpose of the records at the time they were written and not make assumptions based on the norms of today” – Michael Gandy
with another presentation by Paul Millington, this time on the Guild Marriage Index. This was covered by Peter Alefounder in the previous issue of the Journal, so I don’t propose to go into it here – but I have sent Mary Rix my marriages, so at least she won’t be chasing me for them again for a while!

The Marriage Index is benefitting from the marriage challenges being carried out by a number of members of the Guild, where they are checking the records for all the parishes in a registration district. By the time of publication, I will have completed the marriage challenge for the district of Holborn.

Next up was Laura Peaurt of the British Postal Museum and Archive who gave us a short history of the Post Office and showed us the type of records that the museum holds. There is, unfortunately, no central index of employees, so any thoughts of going along and just looking up all the holders of one’s name were dashed. However, a substantial number of employment records do survive, so if anyone has an indication that an ancestor was employed by the Post Office they may want to go along to the museum, which is conveniently located very close to the Family Records Centre.

This lecture was generally enjoyed, but my trouble was that I’ve actually heard it before elsewhere. This is an unavoidable problem; there are, after all, only a limited number of lectures and lecturers available so regular attendees are bound to hear the same one twice on occasion. It does make the jokes a little less funny, though.

The final lecture was by David Hey, another Yorkshireman, like George Redmonds – what is it about Yorkshire and surnames, I wonder? He lectured on Surname Patterns: Stability and Mobility. I must admit I was getting lecture fatigue by this point, but David did come up with a couple of points worth noting.

One was that surnames tend to be stable not at the level of an individual parish, but at the level of a group of parishes surrounding a town. Presumably this is because the town is where the market would have taken place and given the opportunity for labourers to find a new hiring.

Stability

The second was the level of stability. Names found in the poll tax records of the 14th century turn up in the same parishes in the 17th century hearth tax and again in the 19th century records. David illustrated this by means of maps he had prepared based on the GRO deaths index for the 1840s.

As he said, useful maps are now easier to generate using Surname Atlas. There was much hilarity when one of the names that he chose to illustrate this point was Fernihough, the subject of Barbara Harvey’s one-name study, and, unsurprisingly, she knew more about the distribution than he did!

On that note, the Conference was wound up with a reminder that next year’s Conference would be at Stone, Staffordshire on April 7–9 2006. I hope to see you there. ☺

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Guild One-Name Publications and Web Awards

WINNERS of the Guild Awards for One-Name Publications and Websites were announced during the Annual General Meeting. Results in the contest for journals and newsletters were:

**Category A**
1st: The Braund Society Journal, entered by Chris Braund (Member 594) and edited by Janet Few.
2nd: Swinnerton Family History, entered by Iain Swinnerton (Member 127).
Joint 3rd: Pomerology (Pomeroy Family Association), entered by Chris Pomeroy (Member 3400).
Joint 3rd: The Filby Association, entered by Marion Filby (Member 49).

**Category B & C**
1st: Hemingway and Variants, entered by Maurice Hemingway (Member 2806).
2nd: BINS Newsletter (Badham One-Name Society), entered by Peter Badham (Member 1816).
3rd: The Hollow Log (Hollow Family Researchers Newsletter), entered by Colin Hollow (Member 3056).

**Website Awards**
1st: Yeo, www.yeosociety.com, entered by Sheila Yeo (Member 2350).
2nd: Uridge, www.uridge.org, entered by Teresa Pask (Member 293).
3rd: Flack, www.flackgenealogy.co.uk, entered by Denise Carr (Member 4259).
Commended:
Hudgill, www.hudgill.co.uk entered by Pamela Bishop (Member 4247).
Sherwood, www.sherwoodfam.plus.com, entered by Phil Sherwood (Member 2391).
Spidle, www.speidelfamilygenealogy.com, entered by James Spidle (Member 4304).
Guild’s Bletchley Computer Seminar – a memorable event in a memorable venue

By Cliff Kemball

I HAD the pleasure of attending the Guild’s Computer Seminar at Bletchley Park on Saturday, May 28. My pleasure was partly due to the range of talks given on web pages, but more to the magnificent and fitting venue of the Bletchley Park mansion.

Bletchley Park was the location of the World War II code breakers who broke the German high command’s top secret messages. The mansion was originally booked to accommodate 50 people for the seminar. However, demand was so great the allocation was taken up within a few days of it being announced in the Journal. Fortunately, organiser John Hanson was able to book more accommodation and in the end a total of 94 people attended, making it one of the most successful seminars ever arranged by the Guild.

Web Pages

The first presentation by Peter Walker was entitled “Web Pages, Start To Finish”. Peter explained how websites work, what you need to create your own site and ways to create web pages. He highlighted some design considerations and the type of content needed for ONS websites.

The talk provided a good insight into setting up your own website and examples of where to look for further information on web design, domain names and web editors. The demonstration of the HTML needed for a very simple web page and the comparison of the bloated HTML for the same page created by a web editor program was an eye opener.

When I eventually get around to my own website, I will be sure to refer to Peter’s talk. In particular, I shall ensure my site loads quickly, avoids too much detail, does not use huge graphics, provides an introduction to the site and explains what is in it. Above all, I will make it clear it’s a one-name study.

Packages

John Hanson gave the second talk, which described the facilities in genealogical packages to develop your own website. John looked at a range of packages and demonstrated them.

The majority provided detail information from your one-name study data via a GEDCOM file, creating family trees and other pre-formatted genealogical information. Packages included Family Tree Maker, Personal Ancestral File, Family Historian, Generations, and Family Origins. Unfortunately from my point of view, John did not discuss The Master Genealogist (TMG) and the related program Second Site, which creates web pages from TMG projects.

Paul Millington introduced his latest Guild project, the facility that enables members to develop an instant web page within a few hours. This has been available to Forum members on a test basis and nearly 90 members have set up a web page prior to its formal introduction at the Seminar.

The facility enables members to create their own one-name study page to a standard format by simply completing a form on the Guild’s website. The web page will enable you to illustrate your one-name study and attract more researchers to it.

Finally, Jeanne Bunting gave a talk entitled “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly”, which ran through a range of genealogical websites and identified the things that worked and the irritating things that didn’t. In the main, the talk was critical of the majority of the sites in that they tended to have a misleading search facility, heavy advertising, poor design and
The work developed significantly during the early part of World War II. The total number of people working there at its peak was over 12,000, all in top secret. It is amazing to consider Station X was kept totally secret for the duration of the war and many years afterwards. It was not until a book called *Station X: The Code Breakers of Bletchley Park* was published that its existence became public knowledge.

Secrecy was maintained by the use of discreet cells and a need-to-know philosophy. The extent of it was brought home to me when I heard of a friend’s aunt who worked at Bletchley Park but never told her family until she was well into her 80s.

The most famous of the codes to be broken was the Enigma machine. The greatest success was the construction of Colossus, the world’s first programmable electronic computer to help break the German ciphers. We got the opportunity to see the rebuilt Colossus in operation. Some of the more prominent names mentioned were Hugh O’Donell Alexander, Alastair Denniston, Tommy Flowers, John Herivel, John Jeffreys, Dilly Knox, Max Newman, Ralph Tester, Alan Turing and Gordon Welchman.

With around 12,000 people working at Bletchley Park, there should at least be a few of them in the studies being researched by our members! But of the names mentioned above, only two are registered by the Guild, Newman (member 2475) and Welchman (member 4285).

I am sure everyone found the seminar a useful and enjoyable experience. All the presentations were very professional and in two cases – Peter’s and Paul’s – were made more useful by everyone being given PDFs of the presentations on CD, so that extensive notes did not need to be taken.

**Even experienced website users would have found many of the hints to improve their sites useful.**

BOOKSTALL Manager Howard Benbrook’s mother, Lillian “Billy” Andrews, worked at the famous Station X. She was posted there at 17 after her training in 1941. The picture shows her in Wren’s uniform.

Station X was a place of brains, intrigue and excitement. But for Billy, the only moment of excitement came when news broke of the sinking of the Bismarck. She mostly recalls a world of drudgery. She was set to operating the machine central to decoding Enigma messages known as the “Bombe”. Not knowing, and not allowed to know, the purpose of the machine, she worked eight-hour shifts, watching an array of whirring dials. Her shifts often ended with blinding headaches.

But the story has a charming outcome. Billy applied for a transfer and was posted to Hambrook House, West Sussex. It was there she met Leslie Benbrook, a young naval rating working on illustrations for naval handbooks. A romance blossomed and Billy and Les were married in August 1943.
Sunderland Occupations Seminar will have mix of local and national speakers

By Rod Clayburn

Having recently visited the University of Sunderland’s St. Peter’s Campus, I can personally vouch for the facilities available for our Occupations Seminars on Saturday, August 20.

A modern building situated on the north banks of the River Wear, it has a marvellous view upstream to the Wear bridges and downstream to the North Sea. Next door is the National Glass Centre, so if you have glassmakers in the family...

As someone with Sunderland ancestry, I took the opportunity to visit the Sunderland Local Studies Library and found the staff and material of immense interest.

A visit up the road to the Tyne & Wear Archives in Newcastle-upon-Tyne filled in more details on my Sunderland river pilot family. Durham and Northumberland Record Offices are also close.

Out in the country, the local scenery is especially good. Any long distance attendees — we have a few already — could make a research holiday around this venue.

Local sources

We have a mix of national and local speakers and, in order that attendees from the local area have not heard the lectures before, the lecturers have come up with some new material, much of it based on local sources.

The Northumberland & Durham Family History Society has provided great assistance in choosing this venue and their bookstall will be in attendance.

Introduction to One-Name Studies Seminar

OUR latest introductory seminar will be held at St. Mary’s Church Hall in the picturesque village of Bransgore, Hampshire on Saturday, October 15. For those unfamiliar with the area, Bransgore is situated in the far southwest corner of the New Forest, only a few miles north of Christchurch, Dorset. So it’s a Hampshire village with a Dorset postal address!

This seminar follows our usual introductory format, starting off with Guild Registrar, Roger Goacher explaining “What is a One-Name Study and how can the Guild Help?” After coffee break, Vice-Chairman Paul Millington will provide pointers on “How to organise your One-Name Study”. The afternoon session will start with Chairman Peter Walker on “Sources for One-Namers”, and then Kirsty Maunder our Secretary will explain about “Preserving your Research”. The day will be rounded off with an open forum.

Lesser Known Sources Seminar

New Seminar Sub-Committee Chairman Helen Williams is the Principal for a seminar on Lesser Known Sources, to be held on Saturday, November 19, at the Community Centre, Woolwell, about six miles north of Plymouth City Centre.

We have yet to finalise the speakers, but consultations with Maureen Selley of the Devon Family History Society has produced a number of interesting options.

On Saturday February 18 2006, we shall be holding another of our popular Practical Computer Seminars at Epsom.

In May 2006 we shall again be visiting the North of England, this time Yorkshire (venue and subject matter to follow).
As the Guild’s new Treasurer, I would like to introduce myself and let you know something of my background.

I have been researching the Kemball name and its variants – Kimball, Kemble, Kimble, Kembell – for nearly 30 years and I have been a member of the Guild of One-Name Studies for five years. I also became the Guild’s Regional Representative for Kent in the summer of 2004.

By profession, I have been an Auditor for the National Audit Office (the independent audit office for the UK Government) for nearly 38 years. In January 2002 I took the opportunity to retire early at the age of 55.

My work for the National Audit Office involved the audit of a wide range of Government departments, both on financial audits and on “value for money” audits. My last years at the NAO were as an Audit Manager responsible for International liaison and the reporting of value for money of UK government expenditure overseas and internationally.

Changes

Hopefully, based on my professional career, I am well placed for the role of Treasurer for the Guild. I have already instituted some changes to the Guild’s financial controls, set internal targets for paying invoices and for managing the Guild’s income, and introduced profiled budgets to aid the Guild’s financial management.

I have also assisted in the recent adoption of a project proposal form which requires the applicant to document the expected benefits, risks, and financial implications of the proposed project.

You will see that last year’s accounts provide more information than in previous years and that the format of the accounts is more in line with the requirements of the Charities Commission. You will also see from the 2003–04 Guild Accounts that the Guild is in an excellent financial position, with a surplus in year of £14,835 and an overall reserve of £62,184.

Tax reclaim

One of the first tasks I undertook as the incoming Treasurer was to reclaim from the Inland Revenue the tax paid on subscriptions and donations made by UK members. A claim has now been submitted to the Inland Revenue for the two years ending April 2005, and the money should be in the Guild’s bank account by the time you read this article.

The Guild is able to claim tax back on subscriptions and donations made to the Guild by UK taxpayers. The tax can be reclaimed for any UK member who has paid income tax or capital gains tax equal to the amount the Guild can claim back. You do not have to pay large amounts of tax – if you only pay £3 or £4 a year, the Guild can still claim the tax back.

Even if you have no earnings but have a small amount of savings, you are probably paying tax on the interest these savings are earning and we can claim the tax back. Currently, the Guild can reclaim £3.38 in tax for each UK member who has both paid their subscription of £12 and have completed the GAD.

The tax from Gift Aid and donations can only be reclaimed in respect of UK members who have completed the GAD form. A GAD only needs to be completed once by UK Guild members. Once it has been completed the Guild can reclaim tax paid on the member’s subscriptions and donation back to April 6 2000 or, if later, the date the member joined the Guild.

Whilst a large number of UK members have completed this form, I was surprised to find that nearly 850 UK members have yet to complete the GAD, which represents 51% of the Guild’s UK membership.

Form

So if you have not yet completed a GAD and you currently pay income tax, taxes on share dividends or capital gains, then please do so now. A copy of the GAD form is attached with this issue of the Guild’s Journal. It is on the reverse side of the Standing Order form. I should emphasise that you do not need to have paid by standing order to complete a GAD. A copy of the GAD form can also be downloaded from the Guild’s website at http://www.one-name.org/members/GiftAid2005web.pdf

Just complete the form, sign it and send it to the Renewals Secretary, Guild of One-Name Studies, 4 Winnham Drive, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 8QE.

If you require any further information about Gift Aid, contact the Inland Revenue and ask for booklet IR65 “Giving to charity by individuals”.

Taking over with the Guild’s finances in a healthy state
If you're a regular reader of this column, there's a risk you might be heartily sick of hearing about the National Burial Index, 2nd Edition. I'm sorry, but it has commanded a good deal of attention on the Bookstall recently and despite my complaints in the last Journal that the market had gone cold, recent sales have responded to some blunt, raw, naked selling. Yes, I played my trump card: I dropped the price! Erm... did you think I was going to drop something else?

Now, the public can buy NBI2 from the Bookstall at the same privileged price enjoyed by members – that's £36.00, a full 20% off the recommended price. Got yours yet?

A real project
I hope the Editor has space for Peter Copsey to talk about his brainchild, the Marriage Challenge. As I write, it awaits endorsement by the committee, but as far as I'm concerned this is the first Guild project where I've been able to take an active part. Yes, I know there's the Guild Marriage Index (GMI) and that's a really worthwhile project but, for me, it's a bit passive. I sent off my marriages ages ago and now they're buried in a database, waiting for someone to rummage through them.

The Marriage Challenge is something else. When I first began to understand my Cockney roots, I grabbed the chance to plough through the parish records for St Dunstan's in Stepney, poring over each page, hoping for a sniff of a Benbrook. Well, I'm sure they are there, but do you have any idea just how many St Dunstan's parishioners there were in the 19th century? It's a long slog, trying to find an unusually named needle in that particular haystack! Contrast this with Peter's project: Guild members looking for family connections to their registered surnames send you entries from the GRO marriage indexes in your target registration district for you to find the originals in the local churches. This is much better than mangling the microfilm in the vain hope that a Benbrook will turn up because you know these people will be there somewhere – why else would they be in the index? And once you find the entry, you have the identical information to the content of the GRO certificate. Great! There's £7.00 saved, for a start!

But I found there's more to it than that. It's really engaging, something to do with the thrill of the chase. I offered to find Stepney and Mile End marriages for members and there have been hundreds! I set up a project plan and I'm now more than halfway through. Each submitter gets back as much information as I can record, including things like names of the witnesses, where I can read them, and the basic details are added to the GMI. I can very nearly identify the church where any Victorian marriage took place in Stepney and Mile End registration districts if you tell me the GRO Index page number. Now, there's an offer and it's not on the Price List!

What's new, what's big
I'm a fan of maps, and I've got several old maps of London on CD on the Bookstall because I've noticed how confused people can get with the ever-changing London geography. I have one or two classic maps of London – John Stow's survey of 1720, John Rocque's map of 1746, and the coloured map by Edward Stanford in 1862 – but now there's news that the gap between the last two is to be filled by Christopher and John Greenwood's map of 1827. The commercial details are not finalised yet but I'm expecting a retail price of £22.50, which should mean I can offer a members' price of £20.25. I'm hoping for availability by August. The CD will be fully indexed, like all the others – this one has over 5,000 names – and to give you an idea of what it looks like, there's a sneak preview above.

Our esteemed editor may be interested to see Hack's Alley, or Fleet Street as it sometimes known, and those of you who are intrigued by the infamous Fleet Marriages should take a note of Fleet Prison, just on the right hand edge of the map. The Fleet River runs under what is now Farringdon Road and the Family Records Centre is only a few hundred yards and years further north. On a personal note, my dad had his first job, aged 14, in Shoe Lane – but not in 1827!

Price list
This is the usual reminder that there is a new Price list. There are
very few changes this time, but please use the new one if you’d like to order some items.

Where we’ve been

Since the last Journal, we’ve been about a bit. Of course, there was the Guild’s own AGM and Conference at Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire, but that was closely followed by the Wolverhampton FH Fair, the South Coast FH Fair at Worthing, Sussex, and then the other main event of the year, the SoG Family History Show in London. Following that, there was the Oxfordshire & Bucks FH Fair at Kidlington, Oxon, and the Coventry FHS Fair.

By the time you read this, the Bookstall will also have been to the Guild Computer Seminar at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, famous in WW2 as “Station X” (did I tell you that my Mum worked there?), and the Essex and East London FH Fair in Brentwood, Essex.

Where we’re going

You may be getting the idea that the Bookstall is an operation focused on the South East of England. Well, although that’s true, it’s where I live, of course, and those of you in the wild and woolly North (I bet Roy Stockdill cuts that bit!) should know that I’m booked to attend the famous fair at the York Racecourse, and the so-called National Family History Fair in Gateshead. I’d like to think that I shall see some of you there. I shall look forward to it – honest, guv!

Here’s the schedule for the next few months for the Bookstall (Saturdays unless otherwise stated):

- Yorkshire Family History Fair, York, June 25
- Guild Introductory Seminar, Wrengringham, Norfolk, July 2
- SWAG FH Fair, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, July 9
- Bucks FHS Open Day, Aylesbury, July 23
- Guild Occupations Seminar, Sunderland, August 20
- Kent Family History Fair, Maidstone, Sunday, September 4
- National Family History Fair, Gateshead, September 10
- Beds & Herts FH Fair, Dunstable, Sunday, September 18
- Oxon FHS Open Day, Kidlington, September 24
- Hampshire GS Open Day, Horndean, Sunday, September 25

By the way, if you can stand spending several hours listening to my sales patter, then please join in behind the tables.

It’s really not difficult; most of the time you’ll be helping new family historians try to make sense of this jumble of information. You’d be amazed at how much you know!

Ta!

I seem to have struck a particularly London theme with this issue. But if this hobby teaches you anything, it surely makes you aware of your origins – and I share mine with many thousands of people whose ancestors were migrants to “the Smoke”.

So, this time I shall say “Ta” to the following group of lovely people who’ve helped me in recent weeks: Tricia Bliss, Bob Golder, Denise Bright, Barbara Griffiths, Barbara Harvey, Bob Cumberbatch, Susan Atkins, Peter Walker, Ken Toll, Tony Beardsley, Paul Millington, Judith Akhurst, Roy Rayment, and Kirsty Maunder.

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

WWI medal index cards are saved

IN the last Journal we reported the outrage amongst family and military historians that some six million World War One medal index cards were to be destroyed, following their digitisation and placing online.

However, despair turned to joy as the historical interest group, the Western Front Association, announced that it had taken over custodianship of the cards, following discussions with the Lord Chancellor’s Department, The National Archives and Ministry of Defence. The cards are now in the possession of the WFA and have been moved to a secure storage facility. A statement on the association’s website said: “To secure the long term future for the cards we will need to raise funds for the administration and care of them. Once the funds have been raised we will endeavour to digitally copy the reverse side of the cards that hold correspondence details – approximately 5% of the cards. We will also be seeking a permanent home for this valuable archive.

“This is an exciting project for the WFA in our 25th Anniversary year; we would ask people to bear with us as we work to secure the future of these historical and important documents.”

The relatively small number of women’s cards have been given to the Imperial War Museum.

Guild features in “Your Family Tree”

THE Guild was the subject of a whole-page feature in the June issue of the commercial genealogy magazine, Your Family Tree.

The article described us as “one of the major umbrella groups for genealogical societies” and quoted President Derek Palgrave, Secretary Kirsty Maunder and Editor Roy Stockdill.

Award

The magazine also published photos of the front covers of two recent issues of the Journal of One-Name Studies and reported that we had won the Federation of Family History Societies’ Elizabeth Simpson Award twice.
MAKE no apology for returning to the subject of e-mail addresses and Guild aliases once again in this column.

With the last Journal you will have received the 21st edition of the Register. Can I ask you all, if you have not yet done so, to check your personal and name entries and ensure they are both correct and complete? We have nearly 2,000 members but we only have e-mail addresses for around 1,470 of you.

We recognise that not all of you have e-mail. However, increasingly through the Chairman’s Newsflash, we are keeping members up to date with events and issues that cannot wait until the next Journal. We would like to think that as many of you as possible are able to receive these.

The Guild Chairman sent out a couple of Newsflashes in April to all members with an e-mail address. About 30 of the messages bounced because the e-mail address we held for a particular member was no longer valid.

Work

That is less than 2.5 per cent of the total number of members with e-mail addresses – not bad. However, the work involved in sending letters to all those “bouncing” members was considerable, time-consuming and in most cases unnecessary.

If you need to add to or update your information, please use the form in the website Members’ Room or send an e-mail to changes@one-name.org. Do tell us about your websites, too. A listing on the Guild’s pages can attract more traffic to your own site. Don’t forget that, even if you are not an online member, you can still have a web presence for your one-name study, using the new profile page facility that Paul Millington described at the AGM and spoke about at the very successful Computer Seminar at Bletchley in May (also see Paul’s article on Page 6 of this Journal).

If you don’t tell us when you change your e-mail address, not only do you miss any Newsflashes but it also means that messages sent to your Guild e-mail alias will bounce back to the sender. You might just miss an enquiry about your registered name that provided a vital connection you were seeking.

Bounced

Sometimes, members of the public inform me if they have tried to e-mail a Guild member but the message has bounced. In such cases I can contact the member. But I do wonder how many researchers try to contact Guild members, get a rejected message, and then give up.

Guild aliases are a great invention! Some members, especially new joiners, might not appreciate what a boon they can be.

Every member who informs us of an e-mail address is allocated a Guild alias. If you have registered a study, then your Guild e-mail alias will usually be your study name; for example, mine is goacher@one-name.org. If you haven’t registered a study, then the alias will be your personal name – mine would be roger.goacher@one-name.org.

Your Guild e-mail alias is published in the paper version of the Register and shown on the Guild website, so it is an important means for others to contact you about your study. All e-mails sent to your Guild alias are forwarded to your “real” e-mail address. This happens automatically; no one in the Guild can read them.

So the address can, if you wish, be used for all your e-mail, not just in connection with your one-name study. If you change your service provider, you only need to tell the Guild of the new address, not all of your contacts.

Alias

This is a very useful benefit of having a Guild alias. I use my alias as my prime e-mail address. I use it for all my correspondence, the address is shown on my letter headings and business cards and I use it when every I have to give an e-mail address. All my contacts use my goacher@one-name.org address, and when I changed my ISP some time ago from Demon to Freeserve all I had to do was tell the Guild and my messages were automatically re-routed.

It wasn’t always so. When I first started using e-mails I would include my Guild alias in the signature text of all my messages, but my messages still appeared to come from my Demon address. Anyone replying to a message from me would probably automatically store my Demon address in their address book – not what I wanted.

I didn’t understand how my outgoing e-mail messages could be configured to appear to come from my Guild alias, even though the transmission was actually handled by my “real” ISP.

An article by Peter Walker in the October–December 2003
Journal detailed how this can be done for many ISPs. The procedure is very easy, and it is worth reading Peter’s article, which is on the Guild website at...
www.one-name.org/members/pdfs/e-mailaddress.pdf

to find out how to do it.

Those of you with your own one-name study website will probably be familiar with e-mail aliases. Your web host probably allows you to use a number of e-mail addresses in relation to your website and re-routes messages to your own ISP.

Complex

But consider for a moment the size and complexity of the Guild’s e-mail alias list. Each Guild member with an e-mail address has an alias, but there also aliases for committee members and other post holders, Regional Reps etc.

Each of these aliases has to have routing information to the correct “real” e-mail address. With nearly 2,000 Guild aliases, maintenance is a significant task, one now undertaken by the Guild Webmaster, Paul Millington.

Eighteen months or so ago we were looking for a new host for the Guild website to provide greatly increased web space at a reasonable cost. We had considerable difficulty in finding a company that could also handle the Guild’s alias system.

Now the new arrangements have been in operation for a year or more, they are working well, and we are looking at further ways to improve arrangements.

Changes of e-mail address notified to us are normally now implemented within a few days. You can easily check to ensure your Guild e-mail alias is working correctly. Send a test message to your one-name.org address and you should receive it back correctly delivered to your underlying real e-mail address.

So it is important to ensure that you notify us of any changes to your real e-mail address. Your Guild alias can be a real help for you and your ONS. Do please think about using it widely.

New Guild initiatives from Marketing Subcommittee

By Kirsty Maunder

MARKETING Chairman, Conference Organiser, Berkshire Regional Rep AND Secretary of the Guild...are there any vacant rolls you could take on?

Known for my amusing typos, I just couldn’t resist that one! But seriously, the Marketing Subcommittee is really going places. We have seen some fantastic new initiatives through to implementation already.

- A “virtual office” Freephone number which gives members and non-members an immediate response to their enquiries.
- Talks to the public to Introduce the Guild – at the Family Records Centre by our new Chairman, Peter Walker, and several Guild members presenting to their local family history societies
- Libraries/Record Offices Project: sending out the new Register of One-Name Studies, the latest edition of JOONS (only to Libraries) and publicity material to raise the profile of the Guild and advertise members’ studies

Overseas

But there is still much more to do! We have several overseas members who have been instrumental in highlighting areas in which the Guild can improve its international publicity, and they have provided the Subcommittee with invaluable information to move this project forward. Indeed, many of them are keen to do the legwork, too, which is greatly appreciated (thanks to Bohdana Badzio, Dick Chandler and Bob Young).

Turning the focus back to the UK, there is a huge amount that members can do. Many of you are involved with your local family history society or an FHS relating to a key location in your one-name study. Get out there and tell the FHS members about the Guild! You can promote not only your own study but the other 1900 or so surnames registered with the Guild. As I mentioned in the April journal, we have developed a Guild Powerpoint presentation that can be amended to include details of your own ONS – all you have to do is ask.

The April edition of JOONS also heralded the announcement of the competition to design a Guild mouse mat. Though the number of entries was slightly disappointing, there were several good submissions. The results will be announced in the next issue of the Journal but entrants will be informed of the judges’ decision shortly after the closing date.

Unfortunately, no-one has stepped forward yet to take on the role of Lecture Coordinator. This is not an onerous task and should take no more than a few hours per month. The job includes coordinating talks, finding speakers for events, liaising with venues, etc., and would be suitable for someone with good interpersonal skills who is prepared to spend a small amount of time helping to raise the profile of the Guild in the wider genealogical community. Anyone willing to take forward this initiative, please contact me on secretary@one-name.org

Finally, there are a great many of you who are occasional or regular writers in the many UK family history journals. Reference to the Guild in these journals is few and far between at the present time. If you could mention the Guild in written articles and/or in the section about the author, that would publicise our members’ studies and also draw in possible new members.

All our new ideas need people who are willing to get involved and see the projects through. Perhaps this article may have found a few of those people? Here’s hoping!
Obituary

Brian Christmas, 1936–2005

A LONG-STANDING respected Guild member, Brian Christmas, died earlier this year. This appreciation is by his old friend, Derek Palgrave, President of the Guild.

Brian and his twin brother, Roger, were born at Ottershaw, Surrey, in November 1936. They grew up during the war years when their father, Arthur Cyril Christmas, was serving in the Royal Navy. Like most twins, they did a great deal together, including the odd skirmish. Encouraged by their mother, Annie (née Prebble) they both sang in the local church choir but Brian was the one who played the piano and attended classical music concerts.

When they left Woking Grammar School in 1953, Brian joined the publishers, Longman and Green, which instilled in him a lifetime love of books. He often used to take proof copies of obscure titles home for the family to read. Although he developed a real flair for proof-reading, he qualified in accountancy by part-time study, working for several civil engineering firms and, finally, Southern Water.

He enjoyed tennis in the summer and table tennis in the winter, but all the year round he was involved in historical research, including genealogy and heraldry. He joined many societies, including the Society of Genealogists and the Guild, where he registered the surnames Christmas and Prebble. He also took a great interest in the registered surnames of other members, frequently telephoning them with a new reference he had encountered during his own research.

He developed expertise in a number of topics including aliases and silhouettes, on which he would lecture. He also contributed to The Oxford Dictionary of Surnames, new editions of The Dictionary of Genealogy and The Local Historian’s Encyclopaedia, Chinese Armorial Porcelain and Dictionary of National Biography.

He joined the Guild Committee in 1989 as Publications Officer, committing himself to extending the Guild’s portfolio of specialist publications. He showed the way by compiling a substantial bibliography which appeared under the title, Sources for One-Name Studies and for other Family Historians. Unfortunately, shortly before it went to press in 1991, Brian was involved in a serious road accident not far from the SoG Library.

His injuries were major and it was many months before he was able to leave hospital. He never fully recovered but he still continued to be fascinated by books and for about 12 years or so he maintained his telephone contacts and correspondence with many other researchers in this country and abroad.

Brian was one of those rare individuals whose enthusiasm was boundless. Whenever we met, he always had a snippet of information which he knew I wanted to know. He was an inveterate collector of second-hand books and there were many occasions when he was obliged to dispose of cherished volumes in order to ensure he had sufficient living space.

In latter years, when his health was a problem to him, he remained cheerful and passionate about his historical studies. They still brought him joy and he passed that joy on. He died on February 16 2005. Long live his memory.

DEREK PALGRAVE
President

Letter to the Journal

I have recently joined the Guild with an impressive membership number 4384 (obviously, I waited a hundred members too long, or I would have received a much more arithmetically satisfying number, 4284!). Having read my first issue of the Journal of One-Name Studies from cover to cover, I would like to congratulate the Guild, and especially the Editor Roy Stockdill, on an expertly-done and very interesting publication.

As I studied my copy of the membership list, I could not help but notice that very few members come from outside of the British Commonwealth and almost none at all from Eastern Europe, where my own research interests lie. Given the great importance of one-name studies to our understanding of the history of any national surnames, and the apparently unrestricted – in the geographic sense – mandate of the Guild, I wonder if the latter is interested in promoting the one-name approach beyond its traditional territory?

This may be a two-way street, bringing new members to the Guild as well as formalizing the existing, if not spurring new, one-name work in the additional countries. A link to surname research in Central and Eastern Europe, in particular, may, in fact, be shorter than it at first appears. The genealogical communities in Canada and the United States are dealing extensively with those areas and may already have nascent one-name studies in their hands.

Bohdana Badzio
Member 4384
Vernon
British Columbia
Canada
# Regional Representatives as at June 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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We have vacancies for RRs in the following areas:

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- LANCASHIRE
- LEICESTERSHIRE
- LONDON
- NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
- SHROPSHIRE
- AUSTRALIA
- USA CENTRAL
- USA NORTH EAST
- USA NORTH WEST
Bletchley Computer Seminar and SoG Family History Show

PICTURES from two recent major events in the Guild's calendar. Top: part of the audience at the very successful Computer Seminar at Bletchley Park, home of the former “Station X” secret code-breaking centre (for a full report see page 18). Bottom picture: our team on the Bookstall at the Society of Genealogists’ Family History Show.

Journal of One-Name Studies
July–September 2005
Quarterly publication of the Guild of One-Name Studies
ISSN 0262-4842
£2.00 when sold to non-members