Certified Copy of an
Pursuant to the Births and
Deaths Registration Act 1953

Registration District
Liverpool

No. 323
Surname Mary
First Name Ellen
Sex Girl
Place of Birth Liverpool
Date of Birth Seventh August 1848
Residence 4 Eaton Street Liverpool

Entry No. 323
Birth in the Sub-district of St. Mary's Liverpool in the County of Lancaster

The mark of Ellen Bibby Mother of Ellen Bibby Mother
Reg. No. C. Chubb

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody.

CAUTION—A certificate of a registration of an entry in this register should be obtained from
the Registrar General for Northern England, before the register is removed from
the office or a fine may be imposed.

WARNING: The facilities of this register should not be misused and an offence may be
committed.

Fraudulent births and deaths registration in the 1840s – are there fictitious people in your one-name study?

Also featured in this issue...

Using 91929 for one-name studies

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

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

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T'S BEEN a busy quarter since the last Journal. I have at last retired from paid full-time work, although somehow I still don't seem to have any time for my own one-name study.

The Guild Conference and AGM was a huge success and thanks are due to Roy Rayment and his team for organising what many considered to be the best Conference to date. Thanks are also due to the GRO management and staff at Smedley Hydro for allowing us the opportunity to see at first-hand the processes for certificate production. This, for me, was the icing on the cake of an excellent weekend. I won't dwell further on the subject, as I am sure it is more than adequately covered elsewhere in the Journal.

Next year's 25th Anniversary Conference and AGM will be in Bedfordshire at the Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre. It promises to be a superb event at an excellent location. Make a note in your diaries now for April 2–4 2004.

Constitution group
I have set up a working group to review the Guild Constitution and recommend any changes thought necessary. Membership includes myself, Jim Isard, Graham Tuley and Peter Walker.

As there were insufficient nominations for the committee to force an election, all those standing were automatically elected at the AGM. The committee now comprises the usual suspects, plus Peter Walker and Rob Alexander (the full list is inside the front cover).

At the committee meeting on May 17, we set up a further two working groups. The first is in response to the falling numbers of new members announced at the AGM. Whilst this is not yet a serious issue, the working group has been formed to consider how best to publicise the Guild and target potential one-namers. Initial members are Roy Rayment, John Hanson, Peter Walker and Jeanne Bunting.

The second working group is to make recommendations on best practice for the storage and archiving of member's research. Membership comprises David Mowbray, Rob Alexander, Jeanne Bunting and myself.

Guild Library
We have been unable to find a volunteer willing and able to take on the role of Guild Librarian. It is not necessary to be a committee member to be Librarian, so if anyone has a little time and a bit of space (OK, a spare bedroom!) and is willing to act as librarian and host for the library, even if only on a temporary basis, please get in touch with me. Currently, the library is boxed up and preventing me from getting my car in the garage!

Guild image
Several of my friends have commenced researching their family history (it wasn't my fault, honest). Three of them are researching families whose names are registered with the Guild, so naturally I recommended they contact the appropriate Guild members. They have all been delighted with the responses they received and it is good to see the Guild and its members are held in such high regard. Keep up the good work.

Categorisation
Following my item in the last Journal on categorisation, I have had only one response, generally agreeing with my position. Can I take it that no one particularly cares about categorisation in its present form? I have been pondering the problem for some time and trying to look at the issues from an outsider's point of view. I believe our categories are not relevant to potential enquirers – mostly they will just want to know whether we have the information they need or not. What I suspect they will want to know is what services each member provides. Perhaps a more appropriate method might be to use symbols for services provided, similar to those used in hotel/holiday guides, e.g. ones for: one-name society exists; periodical/newsletter produced; website with data, etc.

This could be enhanced to show the extent of data for certain topics, such as civil registration, countries, etc. I would appreciate constructive comment for retaining or amending the current system, so we can take action before preparing next year's Register.

I am writing this just after the excellent Edinburgh Seminar. I was delighted to meet those of you who were able to attend and look forward to meeting more of you at the next Guild event.
Privacy issue is on the menu again

ENTERTAINING as all the talks were at the Guild’s Conference, there was one issue which had delegates more steamed up than any other – me included.

This was at the very last session, when Kieron Mahony, the senior civil servant charged with overseeing the government’s Civil Registration Review, made a presentation. Certain aspects of the proposals are bitterly opposed by family historians – specifically the plan to suppress some information on birth, marriage and death certificates of those born under 100 years ago.

Suppression

I am sure I don’t need to recap, but just in case there is any member who hasn’t heard about it, it is intended to suppress addresses and occupations. Also the cause of death on death certificates. This means, for example, that if you get the marriage certificate of someone married in the 1950s – and who may well by now be long dead – you will not be allowed to know where he was living 50 years ago, or the fact that he was, say, a plumber.

Now, if anyone knows anything dafter and more ludicrous than that, I would dearly like to hear it!

I put the question direct to Kieron Mahony, asking him what was sensitive about knowing someone was a plumber when they got married 50 years ago. He looked me straight in the eye, or so it appeared from my front row seat, and replied in a loud, clear voice: “Nothing whatsoever.”

Well, that told me something: namely that Mr. Mahony, honest and affable man that he is, is clearly in the hands of his political masters and has to carry out their wishes, whatever private reservations he obviously has about some of the more barmy proposals.

And just why is this nonsense being perpetrated upon us? Yet again it’s the old canards about privacy and prevention of fraud.

I know some folks think I have a bee in my bonnet about it, but, frankly, this hysteria over privacy drives me potty. It has become an obsession, verging on paranoia. I have even heard, I am dismayed to say, of Guild members who arbitrarily impose on their own studies a 100-year cutoff and will not include living people in their databases.

I find this utterly staggering and a negation of what genealogists and family historians are supposed to be about.

Leaving aside the somewhat basic question of whether a member who does not include living persons in his or her researches is carrying out a proper one-name study within the terms of the Guild’s definition, I am at a loss to understand the thinking involved.

What on earth is sacrosanct about the living? Why shouldn’t we research them, just as we research the dead? Nobody owns exclusive rights in their own birth date! It’s a fact that is entirely in the public domain.

As to the idea that knowing what someone does for a living, to earn a crust or two, is an invasion of their privacy – well, I am almost lost for words. I can perhaps see the point if they work for MI5 or something equally sensitive, but they’re hardly likely to put that on a census form or a loan application, anyway, are they? The term “civil servant” covers a multitude of sins.

Nor does the crime prevention argument impress me. It’s up to the police and financial authorities to find some better method to combat fraud than the present daft system of asking for your mother’s maiden name.

Two features in this issue of the Journal also address this topic Steve Tanner writes on page 9 about using the online facility 192.com to compile lists of people of your Guild-registered surname. I have used the CD-ROM version of this program, the UK-Info disc, to compile a database of more than 3,000 Stockdales (and variants) in the UK. I cannot see how one-namers compiling surname databases are any different to companies building mailing lists of customers.

Moreover, the potential benefits of finding living people who share your surname can be huge for the family historian. As Barney Tyrwhitt-Drake points out in his article on page 11, you may just find a hitherto unknown third or fourth cousin who has in their possession the one gold nugget you have been seeking for years.

I have to say that in all the years I have been involved in genealogy – around a quarter of a century – I have never had anyone complain about my invading their privacy. On the contrary, I have inevitably been welcomed with open arms by folks keen to learn more about their family history.

So let’s have no more of this privacy nonsense, eh? When the Civil Registration Review consultation is held (probably from this month) I urge all members to make their views known to the government on the scandalous proposals to suppress information we are entitled to.
Almost from the beginning of civil registration, it was appreciated that there was a significant level of under-registration, particularly of births. The onus was on the registrar to collect births and deaths – he could be fined for failure to register them. Until 1875 parents could only be prosecuted for refusing to give details if asked for them by the registrar.

This article is about three sub-districts where there was significant over-registration of both births and deaths in the 1840s. The relevance of this to family historians is self-evident. The trials of registrars in Liverpool, South Shields, County Durham, and St. Marylebone in London, highlight the issue.

The evidence given in the courts and in an application for the post of registrar throws light upon the methods employed by registrars in densely-populated areas to collect birth and death registrations.

Charles Chubb, Registrar of Great Howard Street sub-district in Liverpool, and Thomas Wilson, Registrar of South Shields sub-district, were both jailed for six months with hard labour for fraudulently entering births (and in Wilson's case, deaths) in their registers.

Assistants

In both cases they employed assistants to knock on doors, enquiring if there had been any births or deaths in the area. They both paid their assistants a fee for each registration.

The third case, that of All Souls sub-district in St Marylebone, is a little obscured. A footnote in the Registrar General's Annual Report for 1850 indicates that the registrar for All Souls had been imprisoned for falsifying the registers and that the number of registrations of births and deaths before 1845 were not to be trusted. No further details are given.

The Registrar in 1845 was Charles Benson Breary, a surgeon, who had come to the post only in September the previous year. Breary's predecessor, Thomas Daniels, who was appointed in 1842, died in August 1844. Daniels' deputy had been his son James, an engraver, and Breary retained him until the appointment of Thomas Tindall as deputy in August 1846. There is no indication of what happened to James Daniels in the correspondence. Breary resigned on grounds of ill health in April 1849.

Mystery culprit

I have not been able to identify who was gaoled for the All Souls fraud. Thomas Daniels, the most likely person to have been held responsible, was dead. Breary had entered the post at the very end of the period during which it was going on – it is even possible that it was he who brought the matter to the attention of the authorities. James Daniels may have been implicated, but he does not appear in the printed sessions papers for the Old Bailey and Central Criminal Courts between 1846 and 1853, nor in the indexes to London prisons for the same period.

Without the evidence from the trial, one can but surmise as to what had happened. However, to support his application for his father's post, James Daniels said that they received information from midwives, surgeons, and undertakers. The All Souls information gathering was thus somewhat different from the two northern sub-districts.

The size of the problem is not an easy question to answer with absolute accuracy. However, the Registrar General's Annual Report for 1850 provides birth and death registration figures for individual sub-districts for the years 1841–50.

By comparing the average numbers of registrations in the years preceding a trial with the average for the years following, it should be possible to get some feeling for the numbers involved.

The South Shields case came to light because in the year ending June 30 1843 the crude death rate for the district was seen to be 25 per cent above
the national average. There had been no local epidemic reported, so the discrepancy was brought to the attention of the Commissioners of Health for Towns.

In an article in The Magazine of the Registration Service in the early 1970s, P. H. Gibson gives very detailed figures for the South Shields deaths. There were 829 deaths in the civil registers, of which 614 could be accounted for in the parish registers, with another fourteen internments outside the area. This left 201 registrations not accounted for. For 115 of these, neither the deceased nor the informant could be traced. In addition, another 59 entries occurred more than once – a total of 174 suspect entries.

In South Shields, there was an average decrease of about 170 death registrations (37%) in the non-epidemic years after the trial when compared with the years immediately preceding it. Comparison of Gibson’s figures for deaths in South Shields sub-district with those derived from the Registrar General’s Report, shows good agreement, indicating that comparison of the “before and after” averages is reasonably reliable.

A similar exercise on the birth figures shows a decrease of about 200 or 31% – see bar chart (left). The bars show the decrease in registrations after the trial.

**Pattern**

The pattern of birth registrations in the neighbouring sub-district of Westoe over the same period is more “normal”, without the “step” between 1843 and 1844. High levels of deaths registered in South Shields in 1846, 1848 and 1849 are mirrored in Westoe, suggesting that there were local epidemics in those years.

The figures for All Souls, St Marylebone, indicate that there was over-registration on about the same scale as in South Shields – almost 300 deaths (30%), while nearly 570 births (38%) registered in the years...
1841-43 could have been fictitious.

The Liverpool discrepancy was also exposed as a result of the diligence of the GRO statisticians when they identified an unusually high birth rate for the Great Howard Street sub-district. When Chubb requested bail, this was opposed by the prosecution.

Mr. Snowball, the Registrar General’s inspector, said: “I’m afraid I shall have to oppose it. It is a felony, a very serious felony. There are many more cases.”

Mr. Rushton [the magistrate]: “More cases, have you?”

Mr. Snowball: “Oh dear, yes, a great many more.” The question is: how many more?

The pattern of births in the Great Howard Street sub-district was more complex than in South Shields and All Souls. The increase in the years to 1847 could be explained by an influx of Irish people as a result of the famine following the failure of the potato harvests. However, comparison with the birth registration pattern for the neighbouring St Martin’s sub-district suggest the Great Howard Street figures were inflated by about 685 per year, or 37%.

There are a number of similarities in the two northern cases. In both, the registrars had other commitments and personally employed assistants to visit houses enquiring for births.

It looks very much as if the assistants were the source of the discrepancies. In fact, it was noted in court that John Hughes, Charles Chubb’s assistant, had previously appeared before a magistrate accused of defrauding a Dr Walton in a similar manner, although he had been cleared of the offence.

It is obvious, though, that the two registrars were negligent and did not check registration details as thoroughly as they should have.

It is difficult to see how fraud on the scale that it occurred in All Souls, St. Marylebone, could have been perpetrated without the involvement of Thomas and James Daniels, given the manner in which it was said they gathered information – from, among others, businessmen and professional persons.

Identified

Without the names of the suspect registrations, it is, of course, not possible to say how many are in the General Register Office indexes today. All 11 cases identified in the trials of Thomas Wilson and Charles Chubb appear there, so it is likely that all the others are also present.

I have obtained the birth certificates of Hannah Sinnott and Thomas Seymour via the GRO without comment, so obviously the central registrations have not been annotated to indicate that they are fictitious. I have also obtained certificates from the local register offices concerned.

I find it surprising that no annotation was made here at the time of the enquiries, particularly given the amount of investigative work – especially at South Shields where over 800 deaths were followed up.

Incidently it would be interesting to know the legal position of the registration service in issuing certificates knowing them to be fictitious!

At least two of the three cases came to the notice of the Registrar General, and subsequently to the courts, because of their scale of operations. As was commented on by a Poor Law Board memorandum, the employment of assistants paid by the birth or death was asking for trouble. How common the practice was, it is not now possible to say.

Its occurrence in South Shields until 1844 and in Liverpool four years later – where at least two registrars used assistants – suggests that it was widespread. Indeed Chubb’s barrister “had no doubt that other registrars were in the habit of doing the same, both in Liverpool and in other large towns”.

While fraud on the scale described here was not commonplace, it is highly likely that, as long as the system of employing assistants was used by registrars in urban areas, a low level of undetected, fraudulent registration was endemic.

Further Reading:

Very little seems to have been published about fraudulent registrations, as more attention has been paid to the more widespread under-registration.


Do you know of any fraudulent registrations?

THE situation revealed by Peter Park of fraudulent births and deaths being registered in the 1840s throws up some alarming possibilities for the family historian! Might it not explain sometimes, for instance, those cases where people just “disappeared” without trace or subsequent mention in records? And how widespread was the practice? Were Liverpool, South Shields and St. Marylebone just the tip of an iceberg? Have YOU ever come across a suspicious registration? If so, the Journal would love to hear from you. E-mail editor@one-name.org or write to the address on the inside front cover.
Using the online electoral roll 192.com for your one-name study
By Steve Tanner

As one-namers, we tend to differ from the general run of family historians in being interested in tracking down all branches of our chosen name to the present day. In so doing, we may wish to contact people for various reasons:

- To acquaint them with the existence of a one-name study of their surname, in the hope of arousing their potential interest and contribution.
- To find others who may share our interest and may have already done some research of their own.
- To contact long-lost relatives.
- To sort out puzzling loose ends of trees which we may have followed down, for example, through censuses and civil registration, only to encounter ambiguities or gaps in our files.
- To arouse some sort of group pride or comradeship.
- To contact possible participants in future Y-chromosome DNA studies.
- To identify a possible market for any book we eventually publish.

Readers will no doubt be able to add to this list. When it comes to firm data, as private individuals our sources are actually quite limited. We are clearly not going to get access to the police national computer files, even if we wanted to. Phone books, whether hard copy or online, are handy for giving an idea of frequency of a name in each area. However, with the increasing trend to take the ex-directory option, or rely on mobiles, as many as half of all residential phones are now ex-directory.

Privacy

This apparently varies according to area. For some reason, people in the south of England are more likely to wish to conceal their whereabouts in this way. By contrast, Australians are far less squeamish about their privacy – nearly all are in the phone book.

This is where the website www.192.com may be of interest. It offers a subscription service, enabling one to search the UK electoral roll.

At present, it claims to be up-to-date as of 2001. The important thing to note, however, is that the rules about making this source available to all and sundry are in the process of being tightened up, mainly because it is felt that commercial organisations, junk mail peddlers and the like are irritating in their misuse of it. This follows a court case in Wakefield, Yorkshire, and since last year voters have had the choice of ticking a box to the effect that they do not wish their name and address to be divulged to any non-essential user – that is, apart from the police and other statutory bodies.

This will presumably make sites like www.912.com of decreasing usefulness in the years to come. One-namers would, therefore, be well advised to profit from it while they can, as used in conjunction with the data you should already have from recent indexes of births, marriages and deaths, it can enable you to build up – at least for a relatively small one-name study – what amounts almost to a partial 2001 census 100 years before that is actually revealed.

Options

There are various price options. I chose the cheapest: £19.99 for 100 searches, usable for up to a year. My search technique began very much as trial and error. As the only compulsory search box is surname, you could, of course, try for a printout of the whole UK population of your studied name at one fell swoop. However, unfortunately, you are limited to the first 200 names. It’s not like the IGI in FamilySearch, where you can click “Next” and get a further 200, and so on.

Thus, in my case, with my relatively small study of HEMPSALL (excluding variants), I already knew to expect around 400 HEMPSALL over-18-year-olds in the UK. Having “zapped” 200, I felt momentarily pleased with myself, until I realised there was no easy way of getting the other 200. After all, the site is not intended for genealogists and their odd pattern of searches. So I decided to search by each postal area in turn, printing out as I went along.

Here, I have found it best to use Post Code – i.e. the first one or two letters – in the place search, rather than the town-based names of the smaller areas. These, of course, cut across traditional county boundaries. Thus, DN, based on Doncaster, includes Doncaster and much of North Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire; NG (Nottingham) covers Nottingham, Mansfield, Newark and Grantham; PE (Peterborough) covers a large area loosely corresponding to the old Fenland.

Knowing these three to contain a large proportion of the people I was looking for, I started with them, even though this involved wasting the blanket search of the first 200 in the whole UK that I had just made. I have found it helpful to print out a map
of the post code areas (www.evoxfacilities.co.uk/pcdarea.htm) is a useful online source; then you can tick off each area as you search it. One hundred searches should be enough to cover the whole of the UK, at least for a moderate-sized study. For larger ones you may have to subdivide the more populous areas if any one of these contains more than 200 of the people in question. You may decide not to bother with some of the more remote ones (e.g. ZE, Shetland) but even these may hold surprises! I was surprised to find a colony of Hempsalls in the Isle of Man. These areas also lend themselves to the kind of frequency–distribution maps beloved of one-namers, as they are somewhat more equal in area than counties and more numerous. They are better for that purpose, allowing more interesting and significant detail.

Turning to the information available, you get (provided they’ve filled in the forms) all over-18s in a household, listed in alphabetical order, with at least one given name, and other initials. Thus, you might get Susan, Tracy, Wayne and William, each followed by the same full address. Your knowledge of the naming patterns of recent decades will enable you to sort out family groups in most cases. Here, for example, it is not rocket science to conclude that you are dealing with a couple, Susan and William, with two grown-up kids, Tracy and Wayne, in their late teens or early twenties, still in the nest.

Of course, if you have already listed all the births and marriages up to 2001 you will have the children already; but if you have only listed the bride’s and mother’s maiden names (reluctant to do the lengthy reverse look-up necessary to get her given name), you can now add her name to your database.

Voyeurism?

It has to be acknowledged that there could be an element of voyeurism about this, which might give one-name studies a bad name. For instance, if you fill in both a first name and a surname, as well as throwing up the name and address of that person you will also list any other person, even of a different surname, living at the same address – as well as neighbours either side in some cases. Thus, you may note a couple living together but not married. Granted, this makes little odds nowadays, but how intrusive is it to know exactly who is living in a house in 2001? Rather more so than searching on an 1881 census CD, one would think. Hence, the usual caveats about protecting the privacy of living people apply: they should not be added to a family tree which may be published without their permission. Here, the use of a blank box and “Living”, as in an LDS Ancestral File, might be the road to go down.

One-namers who have listed recent births from the GRO indexes – especially in the last two decades – will no doubt have noted, with some frustration, that a growing proportion – perhaps a third – of all births are now registered simply by the maiden name (if that term still has any currency) of the mother. Thus, you have no idea who either of the parents is, whereas previously you had both.

Whatever one may think about the rights and wrongs of the trend to non-marriage, this is certain to cause problems for future genealogists. The period 1911–80, during which we could, by and large, reconstitute most trees simply by correlating maiden names at marriages with the subsequent births, will be looked back on as a “golden age”.

Henceforth, taking my HEMPSALL study as an example, many of the babies registered as Hempsalls in the 1990s will end up using another name in later life if their parents belatedly tie the knot; conversely, many who were initially registered under another name may become Hempsalls by the same process. Or not, as the case may be.

This already seems to be happening, according to results obtained from the electoral roll. A number of unexplained individuals, seemingly in the 18–24 age group, appear who do not appear to have had their births registered, while a similar number who are known from the GRO Indexes to have been born, have gone AWOL. Some may have failed to register, some may be abroad or have been born abroad and some may have been adopted, but I suspect that in an increasing number of cases the name has, in fact, changed since the birth registration.

Of course, this kind of thing happened in the past but perhaps not to the same extent. Some will argue that it will make genealogy more interesting! At least with the “snapshot” of my HEMPSALLS at the turn of the millenium, thanks to the online electoral roll, I have a fair chance of maintaining contact.

It should also be noted that all searches on www.192.com are logged and could be made available either to the data subject, or to the police or other agencies. So you might just conceivably have to explain to a suspicious MI5 officer why you have been searching for everybody of a particular name in the UK. Have your answer ready! ☺

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UK-Info 2003 CD version

MEMBERS interested in using 192.com to create a database of living people of their registered surname may like to know that there is also a CD version available. It’s called UK-Info 2003 and full details are on the 192.com website. It costs £49.95 but versions have been given away free with computer magazines. Personally, I think the disc is better for larger one-name studies, since it allows you to collect up to 2,000 entries in batches of 200 before you are reduced to searching on individual areas or post codes. It allows you to build a personal database as well – Editor.
Properly conducted one-name studies are a great boon to genealogists
By Barney Tyrwhitt-Drake

Rain spotters, and even nowadays plane spotters (particularly in Greece), have become figures of fun. We stereotype them as sad, obsessed individuals whose sole passion is to view and collect as many things as possible on a list. There is also a public perception of family historians being “ancestor spotters”. I see this whenever I announce that I am a family historian researching my ancestry.

The knee-jerk reaction from many members of the public is: “That’s interesting, how far back have you got?” I usually try to explain that it is quality of ancestral research that matters more to me than the alleged quantity of ancestors found, but by that time they are usually not listening or their mind is made up and they don’t wish to be bothered with facts.

I see the same thing when talking about family history databases. Many people are far more interested in knowing how many people a particular database can hold, rather than how it holds and relates that data, or what search and analysis tools it offers. Perhaps it is all part of the “dumbing down” and “celebrity fever” we see in other walks of life?

“Celeb” family history

The first book I read on family history research was Don Steel’s excellent 1980 BBC publication Discovering Your Family History. All right, it had to use a “celeb” – the TV newsreader Gordon Honeycombe – as the basis for describing the process of family history research, but it was written in such a way that the star was not the “celeb” but the whole process of doing the research.

This led me to set myself some goals for my own family history research. I was going to research as full a genealogy of all my daughters’ antecedents and relatives as possible and select interesting people and groups/families for further in-depth research and possibly publication. And I have stuck to that task.

So yes, as far as the first part of my goal is concerned, I am a bit of an ancestor spotter. If we are honest, I suspect most of us have something of this tendency in us. However, I have to say that the in-depth research is the bit that really inspires me.

Arguably the most exciting finds I have made along the way have been things like ancestors’ diaries, which tell me so much about how they thought and felt. Ironically, in order to find such heirlooms, you almost always have to be a bit of an obsessive ancestor spotter to track down the fourth cousin twice removed who has inherited them. A couple of examples may help explain this. Being blessed with the unusual surname of Tyrwhitt-Drake, I can be pretty sure that anyone else with the same name is a relative or the spouse of a relative.

After my mother died I was going through the Christmas cards she was sent that year and was fascinated to find a card with a handwritten note on it saying that the sender knew someone who thought they had some Tyrwhitt-Drake ancestry. Several phone calls later I had spoken to a previously unknown fourth cousin living in the wilds of Sussex. We quickly established that if I brought her a printed family tree she would show me everything she had (documents that means...).

After lunch a couple of weeks later. I was able to pore over my great-great-great-grandmother’s scrapbook. It had come down to my cousin through several junior branches, and she was fascinated that I was able to tell her who all the people mentioned in it were and how they were related.

Among my mother’s other possessions was a manuscript book with a letter from a second cousin once removed, who is a retired vicar living near Sheffield. After one more phone call I was on my way up the M1 to meet him. He had inherited the family photograph album from the 1870s, including pictures of my great-grandmother as a young girl. He was happy for me to scan it and produce a facsimile version on CD-ROM which I duly did, making copies for him and his family, of course.

All of which goes to show that a train spotter’s obsession with finding as many of your collateral relatives as possible can be very helpful when it comes to discovering those missing or unknown documents to help with the really interesting parts of your family history.

So, next time you hear someone pontificate that they are not interested in finding their living relatives, only in researching their ancestors, perhaps you can gently remind them that some of those relatives may be sitting on the very documents that can help them. Sometimes it pays to be a train spotter. Properly conducted one-name studies can be a great boon to genealogists keen to create as full a family tree as possible. Their great virtue to me is that they do not just collect a name in isolation, but they put it in the context of the document where it was found.

So, although I do not conduct any one-name studies myself, I am full of admiration for those who do and for the help they offer to other ancestor spotters and family historians.

- Barney Tyrwhitt-Drake is a well-known genealogy lecturer and writer of genealogy software.
In my article in the January–March 2003 edition of the Journal [Vol 8 Issue 1] I described briefly the workings of the 1901 Census Extractor Utility. This, as you will no doubt remember, was one of a number of similar utilities that would convert the details from the results list from a search in the 1901 Census online into a database format.

The utility, like its counterparts, would also convert the page number into the correct piece number and an approximation of the folio number. This, of course, was only possible because the page number was consistent and there was a table in existence that gave the details of which page number related to the first page of any given piece number.

To make things more complicated, the PRO and QinetiQ didn’t use a straight run of page numbers. If your one-name study is large enough, you will have noticed that the page numbers go up and down like a yo-yo. This was, I imagine, a means of trying to stop any pattern-forming and people going to get their images from sources other than the online site.

In early April 2003 they introduced the additional facility of the address search. There were no fanfares this time – they seem to be learning at last! – and also made a number of minor amendments. One of these “minor amendments” now means that every time you go to the census site the page number generated will be different.

Random number

What they have done behind the scenes is to place a random number generator into the equation. This works fine for them and, as long as you know the process, it is always possible to regenerate the same number and at the end of the day they are able to tell the original page number and display the correct image. This is not a “minor change” and was not just slipped in! It takes a lot of work to generate that sort of code and get it to work flawlessly.

They try to give the impression that this change does not make any difference. Well, it doesn’t to the normal search operation, but it does mean that all of the extractor utilities were broken and no longer able to generate valid piece and folio numbers.

However, all is not lost, but you will need to get hold of a new copy of whichever utility you use. I still prefer the one I mentioned in my original article from Leeds Indexers. However, the site details changed shortly after the article was written; so if you want the 1901 Census Extract and Guesstimator Utility, go to the following address...

http://www.leedsindexers.co.uk/

and follow the link in the left-hand column to the Census Guesstimator.

**Piece and folio numbers**

The program still works in the same manner; it just doesn’t calculate the piece and folio numbers. Thankfully, at the time of writing they haven’t done anything with the page numbers, but if people keep complaining about something having been removed they may even change that, and then where would we be?

This means that it is still possible to generate family groups using the program. However a word of warning: the page numbers do NOT start at 1 in piece one and work upwards.

If you have data already from a large sample, you will notice that they jump around all over the place. The only time that they are consistent is within the same piece number.

It was put there for the benefit of the PRO and QinetiQ and not ours. We have just used it to shortcut the system. The problem is that the shortcut was removing some of their revenue. A large number of people were simply getting the information from the indexes and not buying the images – a very dangerous practice, to my mind.

**Whilst not part of my one-name study, if I hadn’t bought the image for my 10-year-old great-aunt Elsie Bird, not living with the family, then I would not have found her uncle John Smith and family and his brother Charles living next door to him.**

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• JOHN HANSON is a member of the Guild Committee and the Data Processing Manager for the Guild. He lectures regularly to family history societies on the 1881 and 1901 censuses and also on genealogy on the Internet.
The A2A database at www.a2a.pro.gov.uk/ comprises searchable catalogues of archive items held throughout England. It doesn’t yet offer a full description of all the archives in England, but it is normally updated on a monthly basis, so it’s worth revisiting the site periodically to see what’s new.

Alternatively, if you subscribe to the Guild’s Forum, Stephen Benham – a member who works at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth – normally posts a message advising of new updates and what they contain.

Currently, following an update in May 2003, the A2A database contains catalogue entries described as coming from 322 record offices and other repositories. However, a number of English record offices aren’t yet included, since the figure of 322 is inflated by such bodies as the Quilters Guild of the British Isles and Oswestry Town Council. For a full list of the current repositories, you can open up the drop-down list for the Location of Archives option on the Standard Search page.

Nevertheless, there are more than 4.5 million entries and I’ll wager that you’ll probably find many valuable nuggets in this veritable goldmine.

Before you start, it may be worth investing a little time to click on the New A2A Users link in the top menu, and then on the Database Help item in the menu on the left-hand side of that new page. That way, you can learn what wildcards and search operators you can use to narrow down your search. It’s not obligatory, however, and you can dive straight in by clicking the Search button on the top right of the Welcome page.

That takes you to the Standard Search page where, as well as being able to enter a Keyword or Phrase, you could refine your search by specifying the Location of Archives and/or the English Region and/or the dates (either a range or specific year). The English regions you can choose from are the same as the areas represented by the Regional Archives Councils of the same names (as shown on the map found at www.ffhs.org.uk/Societies/Liaison/RAC.htm).

But I recommend you to ignore these other search fields (and those on the Extended Search page, which allows you to further refine your search by Catalogue Reference, Archive Category and/or A2A Theme). Instead, just enter the surname you want to search for as a Keyword, click on the Search button (see illustration below) and you’re in business.

If there are more than 25 results from your search, they are displayed 25 to each page. This is about the only thing you can’t change on the A2A site – on some other sites you have a choice. You then have the...
choice of sorting the results by Number of Hits, Location of Archives or Date. The date used for sorting, however, is the earliest date in the collection of records for that catalogue item, which may bear no resemblance to your particular hits.

Unlike some sites, the search is confined solely to the surname you entered, so don’t forget to search separately for any variants. By contrast, even the National Archives’ PROCAT includes in its results for RIGGS other terms such as Rig, Rigg, Rigging, so the number of hits returned can be grossly inflated by the references to oil rigs, ships’ riggings and aircraft rigging, as well as to persons with the separate and more frequently occurring surname of RIGG.

Land measure

Because of the specific searching, the only non-relevant hits returned by A2A are the 26 hits in Northumberland Record Office shown above, which all refer to “Riggs” as a measure of agricultural land (seemingly used locally for ridges).

The number shown at the top of each results page refers to catalogues, each of which could have multiple hits, and there are actually 259 hits in total. Conversely, though, some of the multiple hits in a catalogue might be for the same person. The 82 hits in the one catalogue item in the West Sussex Record Office above are all references to Ogle Riggs and his family of Eastbourne. They were descendants of mayors of Southampton and Winchester and a far cry from the humble ag labs forming most of the Riggs numbers.

What sort of documents might the hits refer to? The most profitable from a research viewpoint, of course, in the case of ag labs are the Poor Law documents such as Bastardy Examinations, Bastardy Orders, Removal Orders, Settlement Examinations, etc, as well as the Quarter Session records. Most of the hits relating to Ottery St Mary (the epicentre of the Riggs surname in Devon) refer to Apprenticeships arranged by the Poor Law Overseers.

One of the Puddletown hits refers to a Removal Order from Paul in Cornwall (a parish south of Penzance). I’d traced the person’s baptism and death and the marriage of his daughter, all in Puddletown, but hadn’t been able to find his own marriage. Little wonder, since he’d married in Paul which was 250 miles away!

Closer to home, I was flabbergasted to find that two of the hits for Blandford Forum related to a Bastardy Examination and resultant Bastardy Order against my 3-times great-grandfather Joseph. More happily, the hit for Milton Abbas parish refers to a Settlement Certificate granted in 1714 to my 6-times great-grandfather Richard (1665–1732), so that’s gone on my list of items as high priority to examine on my next visit to Dorchester Record Office, when I eventually find time to resume my researches.

Details screen

The details screen will give you the catalogue reference number for the item, and provides a link to the page relating to the repository concerned in the ARCHON Directory (part of the Historical Manuscripts Commission’s current website). This enables you to find out where it’s located, the opening hours and the telephone number and/or e-mail address to book in advance.

If you get absorbed in some of the results you
find, and follow them through into your one-name study records, you may find when you return to A2A that your current session has expired. If so, a message will tell you, and ask you to quit via the Exit Session link. That should take you back to the Welcome page, where you can initiate a further search if you wish.

Bear in mind that, as I said at the beginning, not all record offices are included in A2A yet. And even those that are might not have loaded all their catalogue items onto the A2A's system. So, as well as visiting A2A, I would strongly recommend you check to see whether the offices in your particular county or counties of interest have searchable databases on their own websites.

### Bundle

Searching on A2A for Somerset Archive and Record Service documents relating to RIGGS yielded only two references. Yet searching the service’s website at www.somerset.gov.uk/archives/asp/querylst.asp revealed an extensive bundle of documents referring to a Thomas Medlycott Riggs, who turned out to be descended from Sir Edward Riggs of Riggsdale in County Cork and later Binfield in Berks. Thomas isn’t mentioned in any of the references to that family in Burke’s Peerage, or any of the Irish genealogies which contain references to the family!

His wife was an heiress from Somerset and, because he predeceased her only by a few days, and her will left everything to a friend of his and nothing to her relatives, it was contested in the courts. As a result, the bundle of documents which I was later able to examine at Taunton contained a detailed account of their deaths, with references to Thomas’s father and grandfather which confirmed his descendancy from Sir Edward Riggs.

Some record offices even allow you, once you’ve found a document of possible interest within their databases, to order that document over the web or by e-mail, so that it will be ready for you to examine as soon as you arrive at that office. This avoids you waiting for the document you want to be retrieved.

For example, you can search online at Essex Archives Online, using their SEAX system, at www.essexcc.gov.uk/heritage/ero/seax/default.htm and, provided you register as a user, can then go on to pre-order documents that you find of potential interest.

Don’t confuse Access to Archives with the Archives Hub at www.archiveshub.ac.uk/. The latter is a separate initiative, supervised by the Manchester Computing Department of the University of Manchester, to provide a national gateway to descriptions of archives in UK universities and colleges. Its contents are far more limited and the search isn’t confined solely to the surname you enter, so of the five so-called hits that it returned for Riggs, none of them were of value but included references to the surnames Rigg and Rigge.

### And Wales is even further behind, its “Gathering the Jewels” program at www.gtj.org.uk/gtj/app being of little value to one-namers.

GEOFF RIGGS
Member 2408
Peacehaven
Badgers Meadow
Pwllmeuric
Chepstow
Gwent NP16 6UE
THE LINE-UP of speakers was formidable and their command of their subjects could not be faulted. Over a period of two days, the conference delegates learned perhaps more about the topic of civil registration than most had ever known (writes Roy Stockdill).

Though we were all fairly familiar with civil registration in England and Wales, and perhaps many with Scotland also, I suspect most of us knew little about how the different systems work in the Irish Republic, Germany or Holland, so it was fascinating to be given a different perspective on the subject in these countries.

First lecturer of the conference was an old friend of many of us, Audrey Collins, a well-known genealogist and part-time worker at the Family Records Centre. Audrey’s talk was entitled The Making of the General Register Office Indexes and she gave us a thorough grounding in the work of the GRO from its earliest days, observing that when it introduced civil registration in 1837 the government upset the Church by taking away its monopoly on marriage. She told how clerks were sometimes stopped wages for errors and charged a shilling for spoilt parchment. She added: “The GRO had a difficult job to do and never had enough money to do it.”

Audrey was followed by Jim Floyd, one of the Guild’s Scottish Regional Representatives, who spoke on Civil Registration in Scotland. Jim claimed the Scottish system was “the best in the world” and after hearing him describe it, few delegates would disagree! He also pointed out that it was easier and cheaper to carry out a one-name study in Scotland because you can see the certificates for free.

It was then the turn of Dublin genealogist Eileen Ó Dúill, who guided us expertly through civil registration in the Republic of Ireland since 1864. She made delegates laugh when she mentioned that births were supposed to be registered within 21 days but sometimes people gave a wrong date because they didn’t want to pay a fine. “Your ancestors were wily,” she said.

Paul Millington gave an interesting presentation on Putting Civil Registration Data On Your Website – a topic that will no doubt be appearing in a future issue of the Journal.

After listening to Peter Towey describe the complexities of civil registration in Germany, most of the delegates were glad they had no German ancestry!

Final speaker of the first day was Neil McIntyre, Senior Superintendent Registrar for the City of Liverpool, who described the work of this extremely busy department, which deals with 164,000 customers a year.

On Sunday, the lectures were led off by Peter Park, whose absorbing talk on Fraudulent Registration of Births and Deaths in the 1840s is the subject of a major feature in this Journal.

Peter was followed by Dave Mayall, one of the moving spirits behind the FreeBMD project, who spoke of the work done by the 5,000 volunteers. He revealed they were already over halfway to their objective of putting more than 100 million records online.

Zwanet Plomp, a charming lady genealogist from Holland who attended the whole conference with her husband, described the registration procedure in the Netherlands, which began in 1811 during the Napoleonic era.

Finally, the conference wound up with a presentation on the government’s Civil Registration Review by Kieron Mahony, the man charged with steering the reforms through the legislative system.

Kieron, an imposing and cheerful figure, stood up well to the battering given him by delegates on some of the more controversial proposals – even agreeing to lengthen his stay by an hour in order to fit in more questions!
FLRDAY: The directions to Liverpooll were pretty good and easy to follow. On arrival, it was noted that all the organisers were wearing Best-of-Show-type blue-ribbon rosettes. The porters and other university staff proved to be very pleasant and there were adequate shops within a brisk 10-minute stroll for all the inevitable things I had forgotten.

The first amusing point were the “trick” room keys with the wrong numbers deliberately stamped on them (because students keep losing them in town!) and identical corridor keys. This all caused at least one hysterical incident when a delegate returning minimally dressed from a shower in the downstairs facilities went to the wrong corridor and found all his belongings missing from “his” room. Almost equally amusing was the Dolly Parton lookalike in the restaurant, wearing her white hat as some kind of fashion accessory.

Hints

Hints to conference centre proprietors: You know that your bedroom fixtures and fittings are “tired” when...

• The table in the room has been turned around so that the broken leg which would otherwise cause collapse is wedged against the radiator.
• While lying in the bed you sink so far down that a spirit level could be used to compare the two sides of the bed without actually touching the occupant.
• It would take dynamite to get the drawers in the wardrobe out.
• While the windows will open, there is no mechanism for actually keeping them open.
• Some of the illumination in the room is provided by a large burn-hole in the curtain.
• While waiting for the bathroom sink to fill you can pop down and have breakfast.
• The radiator valves are closed but the pipe supplying them is so hot you would swear it glows in the dark.

And so to Southport and the General Register Office visit. The coach ride there and back was unbelievably hot but Roy Rayment provided a daring cabaret by doing a balancing act while facing backwards and simultaneously talking into the microphone while not holding on!

Once there, and having been refreshed with tea and biscuits, whips and chairs were used to prevent us all straying off into the bowels of this holy of holies in the world of genealogy. Up and down the stairs we went, wheezing our way from one interesting demo to another at individual desks throughout the building.

The staff there made it all a memorable and fascinating visit, finishing off in the ballroom at the big surprise to many – what is basically the 1939 census, all the data and indexes from the wartime national registration system.

Wow! Forty pairs of eyes glazed over as we took this all in.

Trivial Pursuit-type facts: 1) The first entries in the first national registration book are Mr & Mrs Start; 2) It’s claimed that it’s not known when Smedley Hydro was built.

This was actually my second visit, the first being about 20 years ago while I was working for a computer manufacturer that was bidding to supply the “new” system. I think the revolving file system for the microfilms is starting to look a little dated.

Later that evening in the bar, Roy Stockdill was the “turn”, providing some amusing newspaper and genealogical out-takes. A blues band provided by the other conference group at the venue, some chemist graduates billed as “Liverpool 76 – reunion”, then supplied the music.

SATURDAY: The displays dotted around the venue were very interesting, including all the birth certificates of the Beatles and other documents from around the world. At the AGM, aside from all the normal business, the idea of the Guild obtaining a Coat of Arms was put forward by President Derek Palgrave. I think he was rather surprised and disappointed by the strength of the negative reaction. In my opinion, he had perhaps not “sold” the idea very well to those present.

Awards

The well deserved awards for publications and web sites were announced – they were all of a very high standard. The rest of the day was something of a “registration-fest” and provided a lot of interesting and informative information.

Audrey Collins, whom I had previously spotted lurking in and holding court at the FRC without realising who she was, was obviously more used to over-running than all the others, as she was the most adept at dealing with this when her enjoyable presentation came to an end.

Jim Floyd: Unfortunately there are only five BRUTON entries in
the 1881 census, so it’s unlikely that I will ever make use of the excellent Scottish registration facilities described.

Eileen Ó Dúill, looking more of a celebrity TV chef than an Irish registry office guerrilla, spiced up a very enjoyable and informative talk with handy hints on dealing with the rules and employees of the Dublin Record Office. The exotic Irish-American accent was especially intriguing.

Paul Millington, the techie-biker, an unashamed employee of that favourite hate target Qinetiq, instilled a mixture of enthusiasm to go home and build the world’s greatest website and despair about ever being able to produce anything worthwhile.

Paul also produced a series of suggestions about how members may be able to get their research on the web with help from the Guild. I hope all the options put forward are fully discussed by the whole membership.

I also suggested to Paul that if it might be of interest to members to have their photographs on the Guild website so that you can more easily remember who is who, and who you have spoken to.

Disappeared

Peter Towey brought more personal despair, as before his talk had even started Peter removed any hope of my tracing a family rumoured to have disappeared in Germany. The talk was very interesting, informative and indeed sobering, for anyone still labouring under the misapprehension that Germany was a model of order and organisation.

Research here now makes Ireland look easy!

Neil McIntyre, an unlikely registrar, provided informative and often amusing anecdotes about the registration business. He also was quick to point out that he will certainly not be England’s first wing-walking or bungee-jumping registrar, should these opportunities arise in any future legislation changes.

Dinner was an excellent meal served by pleasant and helpful staff. What more could you ask? Well, what I would say is that it was noted that a) there was alcohol in EVERY course – not an easy task to accomplish; and b) the main course was pork. Two daring gambles, where you have not previously established the religious or social backgrounds of all the guests.

Wine “painting”

Closing the main bar and opening the bar in the restaurant after dinner was a mistake, in my opinion, as there was then no mingling to speak of, as, with few exceptions, everyone just stayed at their own tables. I was one exception, and I particularly enjoyed the red wine “painting” at table D! I’m sure that festivities would have gone on much longer had we not all been evicted from the restaurant at 23:45.

SUNDAY: Another excellent day began, thankfully, 30 minutes later than the previous one. I was there in the restaurant to witness the discovery of the green dietary indicator stickers which were supposed to have been attached to the delegate badges (with the far-too-short chains) on Friday!

Peter Park presented a fascinating piece of research into the fraudulent activities of a few heinous wasters of our time from the mid-19th century. Sufficient to say that should you have any “ancestors” from Liverpool, South Shields or Marylebone that you are finding tricky to “pin down”, consider that they may well be as real as Bugs Bunny. The idea of OVER-registration was certainly a new and worrying piece of news to me.

FreeBMD data

David Mayall presented the history of and plans for the remarkable FreeBMD. I had offered all my data in the very early days, when my BRUTON entries would have added a hefty percentage to the work done up to that point. However, due to their very commendably high standards of accuracy, my data was going to cause a problem, as I had committed the crime of changing, for example, “W. Ham” to “West Ham”, as well as many other little “standardisation” changes.

Zwanet Plomp provided not only an informative introduction to research in the Netherlands, but an invite to the Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie (CBG), where she works. She may regret that if we ALL turn up together!

The comments about the failed attempts by the resistance during WW2 to blow up the record offices and their invaluable contents must have reassured those still reliant on card indexes. It is, it seems, even with explosives, very difficult to burn a box of cards beyond just charring the edges.

Militant tendency

After all the goodwill of all the previous parts of the conference, there were moments when I was wondering if Kieron Mahony, talking about the Civil registration Review, was going to be, at the least, dragged outside and tarred and feathered. I hadn’t realised that there were such “militant tendencies” within the Guild, but they certainly surfaced here.

It occurred to me that the people that dreamed up all these new government “security” proposals are not that different to those that thought it would be a good idea to pay registrars on a piecework basis.

EPILOGUE: Afternoon tea brought the conference to a close, and I for one, feel that the organisers deserve a round of applause for putting together such an enjoyable event. I do not automatically attend every Guild event, and my decision as to whether to attend is usually based mainly on the content. This conference was irresistible and lived up to expectations.

P.S. If you own one of the old enamel Guild badges, hang on to it, as the new silver design was unveiled in Liverpool.
Tour of Smedley Hydro a fascinating glimpse into certificate production
By Paul Millington

At about 10.30 a.m. on the first day of the Annual Conference, the first coachload of some 45 Guild members pulled up outside the Birkdale Park Smedley Hydropathic Establishment, a Victorian pile in the leafy suburbs of Southport. Were we in need of a restorative tonic from too much staring at microfiche and microfilm? No, this was the home of the General Register Office, source of all those birth, marriage and death certificates (English and Welsh) we so lovingly gather.

After tea and biscuits, we were given a short introduction by Mel Connell, who explained how the work at Smedley Hydro was organised. Like many others, however, I was itching for the main tour to begin.

Orders for certificates are received from a variety of sources, including the Family Records Centre in London and by post. In future they hope to instigate online ordering. Each day, the post room marks up the orders and logs them all, making sure multiple orders can be dispatched together wherever possible. Orders by post may not be specific about dates and these are taken to another group who look at the indexes to see if the exact reference can be identified.

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The production of certificates, photocopies of originals which most of us are used to seeing, is run on military lines. The microfilm for each certificate has to be collected by one member of the team. A bundle of films, together with the orders, is then sent to the production staff. They take a film and wind to the appropriate page, where they have to identify the correct entry. The microfilm is replicated on a computer screen where they can mask out all but the required entry. The operators spend some time trying to ensure the best quality printout they can, but, of course, some entries are of poorer quality than others. There are production targets and each operator’s target is 13 certificates every hour. As you can imagine, the strain on the eyes can be telling.

Once a certificate is produced, it is initialled and a supervisor will examine it to see if it is sufficiently readable. If it is not, then a certificate will be produced which is a printed copy based on a reading of the original entry.

Last year, I obtained a certificate for a Cornish marriage in 1843. Accompanying it was a note saying the details had been confirmed with the registrar. I now understand what was meant by this! The department may contact the registrar who holds the original entry or, in the case of a marriage, a clergyman, to try to determine what the original entry may say. Identifying the names of witnesses can be particularly difficult. The team also has an extensive set of reference works listing place names, clergymen, etc., which enable them to decipher more difficult entries.

Commemorative

Next was the commemorative certificates section. Commemorative certificates are available for silver, ruby, golden and diamond wedding anniversaries, as well as for individuals on their 100th birthday. There is a certain amount of liaison with Buckingham Palace. All requests for commemorative certificates are checked with the original registers, and many times they have received requests for birth certificates for individuals who were only 99, or who had added a couple of years to their marriage in order to legitimise children born before the marriage. One example was for a couple who had moved the date of their marriage by seven years, which had to be explained to their daughter who had applied for the commemorative certificate!

After commemorative certificates, we were taken to the Ballroom. For me, this was the discovery of the trip. Here, stored in rack after rack, was the results of the 1939 “census”, or National Registration Act. With the outbreak of war in 1939, Britain needed to introduce rationing and so needed to know the name of everybody and where they lived. The census was organised in three weeks and carried out in two days. Unlike other censuses, this one was maintained until the end of rationing in 1952, as individuals moved, babies were born and others died. Identity numbers assigned to individuals were used as the basis for National Health numbers in 1948. Unfortunately, the 100-year-old rule applies and these files will remain closed until 2040.

Many members of the party looked wistfully at the files, knowing their details were contained somewhere within and working out how old they might be when the files were released. Unlike most other censuses, this one is already indexed, since civil servants needed to be able to access individual’s details quickly. It is still used occasionally for queries relating to National Health numbers. The indexes are stored on microfilm and as we left, members looked longingly at the film which contained the individuals of their one-name study.

All too soon it was time to go. Thanks to the Conference organisers and our hosts at Smedley Hydro for arranging such an informative trip – and roll on the release of the 1939 “census”!

©
Two new faces on Guild Committee

Two new committee members were elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Guild, held on the Saturday morning immediately after the opening of the conference.

Peter Walker, our Forum Manager, and Rob Alexander replace Dominic Johnson and John collof, who both retired with thanks for all their efforts and hard work for the Guild. Dominic was Registrar for a number of years and John occupied the post of Librarian. Both will be much missed. At a committee meeting later, all the existing officers were re-elected to their posts. The new Guild Committee, therefore, comprises the following: Ken Toll, Chairman; Paul Millington, Vice-Chairman; Jim Isard, Secretary; Sandra Toll, Treasurer; Roger Goacher, Registrar; Roy Stockdill, Editor; Rob Alexander, Jeanne Bunting, John Hanson, Barbara Harvey, Roy Rayment, Geoff Riggs and Peter Walker.

Derek Palgrave was re-elected President of the Guild and Peter Goodall, Ernest Hamley, John Hebden and Peter Towey were elected as Vice-Presidents.

Make a date NOW for our 25th Anniversary Conference

THE GUILD’S 25th Anniversary Conference and AGM will be held at the Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre in Bedfordshire from April 2 to 4 2004.

The group organising this Anniversary Conference investigated a number of possible venues but decided to consider something a little different for this occasion. I was invited to visit Wyboston Lakes by the Registrar, Roger Goacher. Wyboston, one of the largest purpose-built conference centres in Western Europe, is near the towns of St. Neots, Milton Keynes and Bedford.

I had looked at the Wyboston Lakes website and taken a virtual tour of the centre. If you have access to the Internet, you might wish to do the same at: www.wybostonlakes.co.uk. There are also photographs on the Guild website.

The approach and first impressions of the exteriors of the buildings may not be prepossessing but the interiors present a quite different image: light and spacious, functional but comfortable, and definitely all that one would expect from a 21st century conference centre. We soon felt relaxed and at home as we were shown around the various areas.

The spacious dining room and bar is situated in the main building, the conference and syndicate rooms in a separate building less than 100 yards away and bedrooms in another adjacent, linked building. We were shown a second conference complex on the site, The Willows, which is used by the police as a training centre through the week but could be our venue for the weekend.

Each area was well furnished and nothing looked less than almost new. Some building works were in progress but we were assured this would be completed long before our visit, extending the dining and bar area to overlook a lake through a glass screen wall.

Guild members with minor disabilities can rest assured that all facilities are close together and on one level. Fourteen of the bedrooms have been designed for use by people with a disability. All rooms are en-suite and have facilities such as tea and coffee-making, TV and hairdryer.

But what about the programme? Though plans are not finalised at the time of writing, the theme will be “The Guild and One-Name Studies, Past, Present and Future”. The aim is to involve as many members as possible in topics directly related to their membership of the Guild – after all it is our anniversary. I think we can promise that it will be different, exciting, interesting, entertaining and unexpected.

Full details will appear in the October Journal, and on the Guild website, which will be updated when plans are finalised. If you would like further details, please contact me at the address below or e-mail conference@one-name.org

Make a diary entry now: Wyboston, April 2–4 2004. See you there!

JANET HESKINS
Member 2281
117A King Charles’ Road
SURBITON
Surrey KT5 8PQ
Edinburgh hosts Scottish Seminar

A SMALLISH but keen gathering attended the Scottish Regional Seminar at St John's Hall, Edinburgh, on June 7. The audience was a mix of local and not-so-local members – the furthest travelling from the Sussex coast – who enjoyed an entertaining and informative day.

Hazel Anderson, of the Scottish Archive Network (SCAN), gave a talk on how the organisation was set up, using the Heritage Lottery Fund in partnership with Scottish Archives. With the Genealogical Society of Utah, they have scanned and indexed the Scottish Testaments (wills) from 1500 to 1901. Hazel explained that all documents have been digitised at high resolution and in colour before being compressed and uploaded to the website. The indexes can be searched free but the images cost £5 each per testament, whatever the number of pages. Once seen, the image stays in your account and can be viewed and printed at any time at no additional cost.

The image will be free to view when visiting the Library in Edinburgh. Income from the project will be used to fund digitisation of other series of documents. You can search the site at www.scottishdocuments.com.

It was interesting to learn about Scottish inheritance laws. The testaments are wills of “moveable property”. By law, property (land and houses) are left in fixed proportions to spouses and eldest children. Sometimes the eldest son is not mentioned in the testament because he is not left anything above what he is entitled to by law. If someone does not leave a testament, then an inventory is taken of their “moveable property” and someone else writes the testament. So testaments can be found for poor people as well as wealthy ones.

Continued on page 23

Halsted Trust Seminar in November

AN Introducing the Guild Seminar will be held at the premises of the Swedenborg Society, 20–21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH, on Saturday, November 8. Topics and speakers will be...

• What Is A One-Name Study? – Janet Heskins.
• Sources – John Hanson.
• Organising Your One-Name Study – Paul Millington.

As this seminar is being sponsored by the Halsted Trust, it will be completely free of charge. Though open to the general public and extensively advertised throughout the genealogical world, it will be an all-ticket event, with tickets being allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

News of Guild Seminars...

Epsom Internet Seminar for novices and more advanced

Following the very successful Ash Computer Seminar for Beginners – the first of its kind – we are following up with an Internet Seminar. This will be held on October 25 2003 at Rosebery School, White Horse Drive, Epsom, Surrey. Once again we are breaking new ground, as we have managed to secure a venue with two computer suites, each with 25 computers. This means we will be able to offer hands-on practical sessions with guidance from the more experienced.

The day will begin with a lecture for everyone on the kinds of sources for one-name studies that are available on the Internet. After that there will be three almost identical sessions and each delegate will attend each session. One will be a lecture on web page design, while the other two will be practical sessions. The content of the practical sessions will depend on the abilities of the delegates, and it is therefore essential that you state your Internet ability on the booking form.

For real beginners (none and basic), we would include connecting to the Internet, using a browser, setting a home page, adding and using “Favourites”, using “History”, using the “Back” button, saving and printing pages and pictures, etc., in the first session. Their second session would then be looking at the sites mentioned in the first lecture, both the pay-per-view sites and the free sites. This would include the use of search engines and dedicated genealogy sites. It would also include using the data you have saved.

The first session for the intermediate and advanced group would be the same as the second session for the beginners. Their second session would be more advanced use of search engines and possibly some practical exercises.

I hope you can see that we are trying to cater for everyone, from the raw beginner to the more advanced users. For obvious practical reasons, we must limit the numbers to 75, so bookings will be on a first-come-first-served basis. To give everyone an equal chance, no bookings will be accepted after October 11 to give us time to allocate the practical sessions. For this reason we have had to increase the cost of this particular Seminar to £10.

I hope you will enjoy the day, but remember, you cannot do your entire family history on the Internet, no matter what the media would have you believe!

Jeanne Bunting and John Hanson
T'S ALREADY been three months since my first of these A View From The Bookstall and it seems to have gone by in a flash.

As I mentioned in the last issue, Steve Archer's new program, Surname Atlas, has now been released. This is the software that offers a full colour surname distribution map for any name found in the 1881 UK Census (not Ireland).

Members who attended the Guild's AGM/Conference received a map of their own research name, each one created from Surname Atlas.

It's turned out to be just as popular as I predicted, even at the upper-end asking price of £12 (price to Guild members, £10.80). I've sold well over 100 copies and have an outstanding order book.

We hope to review Surname Atlas in a later issue of the Journal.

Is your loved one looking for a suggestion for your next birthday present? There is a new edition of the ever-popular Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Records. The publishers have held the list price at £50. This invaluable book has an updated index, and can be purchased by members for £42.50, a discount of 15%.

Did you know we have a new Guild badge? To coincide with the Guild’s AGM, and because we'd run out of the old black-and-gold version, a new badge (or pin, as some would have it) has been made, using the new blue logo. It's available to members only at £2.50.

While I'm on the subject, we also have new Guild pencils in blue or black at 30p and Guild notepads for the same price. Get in touch with me if you'd like any of these items.

Successful

The past three months have probably been the most successful period for the bookstall while I've been running it. The Worcestershire Seminar proved popular and the personalised surname distribution maps from Surname Atlas were a big hit. Family history fairs at Watford and Impington followed, but the busiest times were at the Guild's Annual Conference and the SoG May Fair.

Despite its title, we continue to sell more things like software and vouchers than books on the bookstall. Mind you, at each event all the bookstalls seem to be selling much the same range of books, so maybe that's not a surprise – when there's competition like that, it's a good idea to have something different to sell!

By the time you read this, the bookstall will have been at the Edinburgh Seminar. I will have been otherwise engaged – my thanks to Sandra Turner for running the show for me. We will also be at the following events:

- Yorkshire Family History Fair, York June 28.
- SWAG Fair Weston-super-Mare, July 5.
- Norfolk Family History Fair, Norwich July 12.
- Suffolk FHS Fair, Long Melford, August 2.
- Kent Family History Fair, Maidstone, September 7.
- Great North Fair, Darlington, September 13.

If you're at any of these events, please come up and say hello. And if you'd like to help out for an hour or two, you'll be made very welcome!

Did any of you take a long, hard look at the financial statement, presented at the AGM? Maybe I'm just a number-nerd, but I found it quite interesting. For what is, I think, the first time, income from sales exceeded subscription income, which was flat. I think that's significant – not because some of it comes from my efforts, but because it points the way perhaps to how we finance Guild future activities.

Should we extend our sales efforts to be able to generate more income, or are we already sufficiently commercial? I know some people are uncomfortable with this aspect – I’d be interested to get your views.

As ever, I can’t do this without some substantial help. My thanks are due to Trish Bliss, Sue Atkins, David Mowbray, Jim Isard, Anni Berman, Barbara Harvey, Geoff Riggs and Paul Millington, each of whom gave up some of their personal time to help me with the bookstall. My apologies to anyone I’ve missed!
Continued from page 21

When the digitisation of these early records is complete, the original documents will no longer be available. But we were assured because the scanning was done in colour and at very high resolution, the image can be adjusted to improve quality, making it easier to read than the original. On the website there is also a section on handwriting help. There are a few wills of famous Scottish people and improvements are continually being made to the site.

One of the original speakers was unable to attend, so Guild member Gregory Lauder-Frost kindly agreed to stand in. He advised us to treat printed family histories with caution. During his own researches, he discovered that three books on the Lauder family contained errors. Burke’s Peerage then published some of these. Gregory explained the lengths he had to go to in order to disprove previous research, though it would appear Burke’s are still reluctant to accept their error.

Dominic Johnson stepped in when Dorothy Spottiswoode was unable to give the talk on The Amen Glass herself. The focus of the talk was on the provenance of the so-called Spottiswoode Amen Glass, where Dorothy had used genealogical evidence to disprove newspaper and auctioneer claims.

Leslie Hodson gave a fascinating talk on the continuance of surnames through the female line, using as an example the complex inter-relationships between the Little, Rankin, Gilmour and Gordon families. On three separate occasions, the lack of a male heir forced families to change their name to acquire an inheritance. Leslie illustrated the talk with changes to the family’s arms, which occurred concurrently with the name changes and gave rise to much of the evidence used in the research.

Thanks are again due to Roy Rayment for an excellent day.

SANDRA TURNER

Soldiers died in two world wars

By JOHN CARBIS

The Guild has acquired copies of two CDs from which surname look-ups can be carried out for soldiers of the British Army who died in two world wars. The results are available as printouts only.

• Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919

During this war there can hardly have been a family which was not touched in some way by tragedy. In 1914 Britain went to war with an army mainly based on voluntary enlistment, numbering something over 270,000, with a further 486,000 Reservists and Territorials. In January 1916, for the first time in the country’s history, conscription was introduced, producing by November 1918 a further five million, of which over half were volunteers.

In 1921, 81 volumes embracing every regiment and corps of the British Army were published, listing approximately 635,000 soldiers and 37,000 thousand officers who died. Searches may be made by one or as many elements as required as follows:

• Regiment or corps, battalion or sub-unit of a regiment.
• Surname, Christian names.
• Place or county of birth (no dates).
• Place or county of birth (no dates).
• Number and rank.
• Cause, place, date of death.

Sometimes there is additional text indicating service with another unit. For officers there is shown decorations, etc.

• The Army Roll of Honour – WWII

This CD of soldiers who died in the Second World War 1939–45, contains the complete Roll preserved in the PRO under reference WO 304. Searches may be carried out for the Regiment or branch of the Army 1st September 1939 and 31st December 1946 and also includes those deaths in service which were non-attributable (natural causes, etc.), as well as those who were killed in action or who died of wounds or disease. The toll does not include “disgraceful” deaths, i.e. men who were executed for capital crimes whilst in the Army.

A search will provide:

• Regiment or branch of the Army at death.
• Surname & Christian names.
• Where born (county) & place of domicile (county).
• Initials, number, rank, theatre or country.
• Where fatal wound was sustained or death occurred, decoration and date.

The information represents that which the then War Office felt appropriate for their own purposes; that which the Imperial War Graves (now the Commonwealth) Commission desired; that which could be made public.

Details of how an extract may be obtained for either or both of the above CDs, is shown in the Members’ Room section of the Guild’s website. Alternatively, for those who may not have such access, then please write to me at the following address...

In-Pensioner 347 John C. Carbis Ward 13-4, Royal Hospital Chelsea Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea London SW3 4SR Tel: 020 7881 5390 Give the surname(s) required, or for individual soldiers as much information as possible about the soldier concerned, enclosing an A5 self-addressed envelope.

The Guild makes a charge for this service as follows: £2.00 for up to 4 pages of printout, with additional pages charged at 10p each. A free estimate of the number of pages will be provided on request. Cheques should be made payable to Guild of One-Name Studies.

For individual soldiers, where the initial look-up reveals more than one individual of that particular name and initials, then confirmation will be requested as to which look-up is to be printed.
EACH YEAR with the October Journal we send you a membership renewal form. This has now become very large and unwieldy and we cannot provide all the necessary information in an easy-to-read format. A number of members have asked if we could simplify this form.

We are, therefore, making two significant changes to the renewals procedure. The first involves adding additional information to address labels. On the top line, next to your membership number, you may see some letter codes. These could be:
- **SO** – you have a current Standing Order for your membership subscription.
- **RTA** – you have signed a Repeat Transaction Authority for credit card payment of your membership subscription.
- **GA** – you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration.
- **4PD** – you have paid your membership subscription for next year in advance.

These codes will appear on address labels from now on. As this is the first time that we have introduced this system, there are bound to be a few glitches. Could you please let me know of any errors or omissions, so that I can correct them before the labels are produced for the next Journal?

**Label**

If you have thrown away the address label before reading this article – naughty, you were told to retain it! – please contact me and I can tell you what codes, if any, were on your label. Please send an email to me at registrar@one-name.org or write to me at the address below.

The second change we are making is to reduce the size of the membership renewal form that we send out in October by removing the Standing Order, Repeat Transaction Authority and Gift Aid forms. In future these will be included with the July mailing.

If you do not see the codes SO, RTA or 4Pd on your address label please consider signing and returning the Standing Order form if you have a UK bank account, or the RTA form if you would like to pay your membership subscription by credit card in future. This will save us work at renewals time.

You will still be able to order additional items, such as magazine subscriptions, at renewal time. However, as the price of these usually increases each year, we prefer members not to include them on their Standing Order mandate.

If you pay taxes in the UK, please sign and return the Gift Aid declaration. This enables the Guild to claim back the tax you have paid on your subscription.

Please return signed forms to me: The Registrar, Springwood, Furzefield Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 2EF, UK.

**Proposed Marriage Index 1837–1911**

by Mary Rix

THE aim of this index is to help members find the unknown spouses in the 1837–1911 GRO marriage indexes. Those of us with large one-name studies cannot afford to buy all the certificates to get this information. Some of this information can be found on FreeBMD, but even when this is complete the partners will only be narrowed down to four in the early indexes or two in the later indexes.

If Guild members submit their data to a Guild Marriage Index and include partners, dates and places where known, then we should be able to help each other by submitting the data we know. The other spinoff from this is that we should be able to identify the churches where marriages took place from the information we jointly know. • See “Locating Marriages in England and Wales 1837–1912” by Paul Millington in the Guild Journal Volume 7 Issue 7 pages 6 to 9 (July 2001).

The hope is that the index would be available on the Guild website for members to use and, hopefully, contact members with whom their one-name studies have links, or just to thank them for submitting their data which has enabled you to find the location of the marriage you need. There would also have to be a look-up service for members who do not have internet access.

Fields needed for the database:
- **Year**
- **Quarter (Q1, Q2, Q3 or Q4)**
- **Surname**
- **Forenames**
- **Registration District**
- **Volume**
- **Page**
- **Spouse surname (if known)**
- **Spouse forenames (if known)**
- **Exact date of marriage (if known)**
- **Place of marriage (parish and church name if known)**

You may use any database or spreadsheet – but please check with me to see that it is one I can read – or send the data as a tab-separated text file. Do not think you have to re-type all of your database, as many files can be altered electronically. If you would like to contribute your data to this index or find out more about it, please contact:-

Mary Rix (Member 1328)
Clapstile Farm
Alpheton
Suffolk CO10 9BN
Tel: 01284 828115
e-mail: mary.rix@one-name.org

Registrar’s Notes
By Roger Goacher

Journal of One-Name Studies, July–September 2003
A tribute to Mary Rumsey, Journal Editor 1986–1999
By Derek A. Palgrave, Guild President

FIRST met Mary Rumsey in the mid-1980s when she joined the Guild and registered the surname WINDEBANK and variants. She was a regular attender at Guild events, coming, in particular, to a meeting at St John’s College, Oxford, on September 13 1986 during the Society of Genealogists’ 75th Anniversary Conference.

At that time the Guild was seeking an Editor for its Journal so, in my then role as Chairman, I asked if any of the members present would be prepared to take on this task. A little later, to my great delight, Mary came up and offered her services. She pointed out that she had little experience at producing journals but she was a history graduate and had been involved in teaching, so she had some appropriate knowledge. Furthermore, her husband had some involvement in journalism, so she was sure he would provide practical support.

Among Mary’s predecessors were Frank Higenbottam and Iain Swinnerton, who, between them, had edited the Journal for about eight years, so she knew she had a great deal to live up to. Mary’s first effort was the Winter 1986/7 issue, in which she wrote a short Editorial setting out some basic guidelines. She encouraged contributions from the membership, especially those overseas, but reminded them always to quote sources. She went on to state that articles which were thinly veiled commercial advertisements were wholly inappropriate and would not be published. However, anyone who had encountered some unusual research experiences would be more than welcome to submit an account.

She frequently voiced her views on the importance of standards in historical research. Members should ensure their data was both accurate and consistent: for instance, secondary sources often needed to be checked against the originals. In her own research she had found substantial discrepancies between printed matter and archival sources. She criticised certain commercial publishers who produced seemingly authoritative works on specific surnames and warned members to be vigilant.

Mary realised the Journal was the only point of contact between the Guild and the majority of its membership, so she used her Editorial to draw attention to specific initiatives and events. If the Guild needed volunteers for given tasks, such as reviewing new publications or organising a one-day conference, she would provide some additional emphasis. As each New Year came round, she would suggest that each member resolve to contribute an article or letter. It was, perhaps, as a result of this that during the mid-90s members’ letters became very popular.

From time to time Mary allowed herself to think aloud, probably to see if it would provoke some reaction. I recall her wondering about the difference between genealogy and family history, or what motivates us: is it the desire to establish our nobility or a genuine interest in the genealogy of the common man?

Though she had qualified as a historian, she was of the opinion that much of our research was more akin to detective work. Nevertheless, she felt a one-name study had a validity of its own and that it was significantly more than mere name-gathering. In general, such research was carried out to the highest academic standards and she believed this should be more widely recognised. She also expressed concerns about the long-term preservation of research by members. Ideally, everyone should make some arrangements in a will about its deposit in a suitable repository – she even included a specimen codicil in the Journal.

Mary was always conscious of new ideas and made sure they were reflected in the Journal. She was much taken by the quantitative treatment of one-name studies, introduced by the late Eric Banwell and others, together with the possibility of tackling high-frequency surnames. She welcomed increasing interest in the genetic aspects of our research and also embraced the new technology, gaining familiarity with home computers. This had a marked effect on the presentation of the Journal during the early 1990s and she was a willing participant in its transformation to A4 format in 1997.

In 1999, when she stood down as Editor, she became Vice-Chairman of the Guild. She had devoted just over 12 years to producing our Journal, a truly outstanding record. Every member of the Guild owes her a great debt of gratitude. She kept us informed about the Guild’s activities and ensured we were fully briefed about the development of one-name studies throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

Although her final years were marred by serious illness, she always maintained her keen interest in the Guild. We mourn her loss and cherish her memory.
New Guild website award will be an annual event
By Geoff Riggs

The Guild Web Award, introduced this winter for the first time, was such a resounding success that it has been agreed to make it an annual event. There were nine entries in the Category A section – where a member could enter the website of the society relating to his or her registered name – and a staggering 37 entries in the section for Category B and C members, who could enter their own websites.

As a result, the two main judges – Paul Millington, the Guild webmaster, and Penny Denby, a member who is a professional web designer and publisher – had their work cut out because of the sheer volume of their task, as well as the generally high standard of the sites that were entered. In the final stage of the judging, those sites highly thought of by each of the judges were each assessed again by the two of them, and also by Geoff Riggs as the co-ordinator.

The assessments took into account how each of the sites fulfilled the detailed criteria, as first published in the Journal last autumn and also in the Members’ Room on the Guild website. The results, announced at the AGM held during the Annual Conference in April, were as follows:

**CATEGORY A**
- Winner: www.sole.org.uk – The Sole Society, Maureen Storey, Member 3309.
- Highly commended: www.clampett.net – The Clampett Family Centre, Wyndham Clampett, Member 3981.
- Commended: www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~sherwd, The Sherwood One-Name Group, Philip Sherwood, Member 2391.

**COMBINED CATEGORIES B and C**
- Winner: www.wykes.org – Harry Wykes, Member 3119.
- Second: www.preece67.fsnet.co.uk – Ian Preece, Member 1100.
- Third: www.uridge.org – Teresa Pask, Member 293.
- Highly commended: www.ramsdale.org – David Ramsdale, Member 3548.
- Commended (3): www.jbending.demon.co.uk – John Bending, Member 1228.
- freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~fisherclan – John Fisher, Member 1298.
- www.breadmore.org – Margaret Young, Member 2503.

Each of the above have been sent a special logo to display on their website. The judges would like to thank all the entrants for supporting this new venture and we are only sorry that not everyone could be a winner!

Under the rules of the Award, the winners in each of the two categories are ineligible to enter for the two years following their success, so there’s room for new names to appear on the results board. To enter your website for this year’s Award, please send an e-mail giving the address of your site, your e-mail address, and the section you wish to enter, addressed to web.award@one-name.org to arrive by SEPTEMBER 30 2003. The results will be announced at the Annual Conference in 2004.

DUE to the amount of material available for this issue of the Journal, especially the extended coverage of the Annual Conference and AGM and other Guild news, we apologise that there was no space for letters, reviews and the It’s a Funny Old Genealogical World feature – Editor.

**Braund Society wins Cat A One-Name Publications Award**

RESULTS of the Guild Award for One-Name Publications were also announced during the Annual General Meeting at Liverpool. They were as follows.

**CATEGORY A**

**CATEGORIES B and C**
- Runner-up: Rainbird Newsletter, edited by Rosemary Rainbird.
- Third: Northmore & Narnamore Newsletter, edited by Doreen Heaton.

Judges were Roy Stockdill, Jane Morson and Maurice Hemingway.

Under the rules of the contest, the winners are ineligible to re-enter for one year.

**CHRIS BARRETT**

IT IS with great sadness that I have to report the death of a friend and long-term Guild Member, Chris Barrett. He joined the Guild in 1980 as member 257 and registered the Surname UREN and variants.

Chris was an active member of the Guild and was Secretary from 1985 to 1987.

He set up the Cornish Surname Interest Group and frequently organised indexing and other research activities at the PRO. He also regularly set up a stall at the Cornwall FHS AGM, promoting Cornish One-Name Studies. Chris will be sadly missed.

KEN TOLL
Regional Representatives as at June 1 2003

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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CANADA WEST
Mrs. Therese Dobroslavic
31, 550 Beatty Street
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ENGLAND
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
See Oxfordshire

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WHY not devote just a little
of your spare time to the
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Coordinator.
THE Guild’s Annual Conference and AGM, over the weekend of April 25–27 at Liverpool University, was generally agreed by all who attended to be one of the best ever, with a theme of Civil Registration and a line-up of excellent speakers on the topic.

Here is a selection of pictures from the event. Clockwise from bottom left: former Chairman Alec Tritton giving a demonstration on his laptop; a section of the audience at the opening of the Conference; President Derek Palgrave and Guild Chairman Ken Toll on the platform; Derek Palgrave, his wife Pamela and Guild member Philip Lloyd at the Conference dinner; Conference organisers (left to right) Sandra Turner, Barbara Harvey and Roy Rayment. (Conference pictures by Alan Bardsley and Peter Walker).