FOUNDER members of the Guild, who were among those who joined at the very outset in 1979, pictured at the 25th Anniversary Conference and AGM at Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire. Standing, left to right, are: Philip Lloyd, Michael Dalton, Michael Egerton, President Derek Palgrave, David Hawgood, Ernest Hamley, Iain Swinnerton and David Gynes. Seated, left to right: Penny Pattinson, Pamela Palgrave, Pauline Litton, Mary Griffiths and Pauline Pedersen. 

One-name studies without a computer
Intelligent searching of
Oxford DNA Seminar

Report and pictures of 25th Anniversary Conference
The Guild and One-Name Studies
Guild information

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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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Everyone appeared to enjoy our 25th birthday Conference and the letters and e-mails I subsequently received tend to confirm this. A report on the event at Wyboston Lakes in Bedfordshire appears elsewhere in this Journal.

I’d like to take credit for it, but unfortunately I can’t! Congratulations and thanks are entirely due to Roger Goacher and his team of organisers. The venue, in particular, was excellent and reasonably well placed for access. Consequently, we are planning to hold next year’s Conference, there too — so please put Friday April 1 to Sunday April 3 2005 in your diaries now.

New Committee
Again, there were insufficient nominations of members to join the Committee to require an election. The new Committee, therefore, comprises:
- Ken Toll – Chairman
- Paul Millington – Vice-Chairman and Webmaster
- Sandra Turner – Treasurer and 2005 Conference Organiser
- Kirsty Maunder – Secretary
- Roger Goacher – Registrar
- Roy Stockdill – Editor
- Barbara Harvey – Regional Representatives Co-ordinator
- Jeanne Bunting – Seminar Sub-Committee Chairman
- John Hanson – Data Processing Manager
- Rob Alexander
- Peter Walker – Forum Manager
- Roy Rayment – Publicity Manager

Howard Benbrook – Bookstall and Sales Manager
We have also co-opted Rod Clayburn onto the Committee. He has agreed to take on the role of Renewals Secretary.

Our thanks go to Geoff Riggs, who stands down after almost seven years service on the Committee. Geoff is now Director and Chairman of the Federation of Family History Societies Publications Company and we wish him well in his new role.

Paul Millington used the AGM to launch his Guild Archive Project (see page 16 and subsequent pages in the previous Journal). Initial take-up of the facility has been slower than expected, but more studies are being added as members get their data ready to upload.

Mary Rix’s Guild Marriage Index is now online in the Member’s Room on our website. I was surprised and delighted to find an entry for my name. It added a spouse whose details I had not yet found.

I will be adding my marriages, once I can get a few days clear to check the details and add the GRO references for the females prior to 1890, which I foolishly neglected to record when I started my one-name study.

Newsflash
Committee member Rob Alexander negotiated Guild members a month’s free access to the Thompson Gale index and images of the Times Newspaper.

It was announced on the Guild Forum, but, unfortunately, we do not yet have a mechanism to contact all members quickly and many of you will probably have missed it. This leads to two actions:

- The first is to set up a Guild Newsflash facility, so we can communicate important information to members quickly. The Committee have given approval to set this up and I hope to be able to announce something soon. Are there any volunteers out there able to assist in setting up and running such a facility?
- The second is to arrange periodic access to online data for members. I am currently checking with the Charity Commission to ensure that it is an allowable use of Guild funds.

Genes Reunited
I have recently revisited the Genes Reunited website at www.genesreunited.com (part of the Friends Reunited group). I was amazed to see how many people were now researching my registered name.

About 15 individuals accounted for the 130 or so entries for my name and I have been able to help most of them. Many have also contributed data that I was not previously aware of.

I was, however, rather surprised they had not already discovered there was a one-name study for Toll in existence.

Hopefully, this lack of knowledge about the Guild in some quarters is something we can address in the coming months. Our Publicity Manager, Roy Rayment, is already targeting county libraries with details of the Guild, our Register and our website.

Everybody enjoyed our 25th birthday conference at Wyboston Lakes, so we’re going again next year!
Can SKS (that’s Some Kind Sucker) please do my family tree for me?

Among the various “hats” I wear in the genealogical world, I have for the last few months had a close involvement with the Second Edition of the National Burial Index, which is due to be released in late August at the Federation of Family History Societies’ 30th Anniversary Conference at Loughborough, Leicestershire, and then go on general sale on September 1.

As part of my duties on the NBI Committee, I am responsible for handling publicity – a duty I acquired as something to do with my previous incarnation in the newspaper world, I expect – and I issued a press release back in April. This went not only to the general and family history media, but also to many Internet Rootsweb mailing lists.

As a result, I received some interesting e-mail enquiries about the NBI, some eminently sensible and straight-forward, others not quite so. However, none were more extraordinary than the one from a gentleman in America, who asked me, quite seriously, if I’d acquired as something to do with my previous incarnation in the newspaper world, I expect – and I issued a press release back in April. This went not only to the general and family history media, but also to many Internet Rootsweb mailing lists.

As a result, I received some interesting e-mail enquiries about the NBI, some eminently sensible and straight-forward, others not quite so. However, none were more extraordinary than the one from a gentleman in America, who asked me, quite seriously, if the Second Edition would include as well as entries for burials...

• The birth dates of all those buried.
• The maiden names of married women who were buried.

Well, what on earth do you say to a query like that? Not wishing to lose a potential sale, I was tempted to e-mail him back and say that of course it would include these features! However, discretion and a pending sense of guilt at being so utterly misleading – not to mention downright lying – fortunately dissuaded me from doing so.

I desisted also from the temptation to explain to him how ridiculous his question was – and how it would take a team of genealogists the size of the theoretical infinite number of monkeys, who might in an infinite amount of time reproduce the works of Shakespeare, to research the origins of more than 13 million people (the number that will be on the new NBI) and link their birth dates and women’s maiden names to the burial entries!

However, it did set me wondering as to what sort of genealogist he could possibly be to ask such a question and what thought processes were going on in his head. The answer, presumably, is that he was a rank beginner, a total novice with not a clue about how to research or about the nature of records and indexes.

Expectations

It also set me pondering on the bizarre expectations and fantasies that newcomers to genealogy and family history seem to have these days.

I expect you’ve all heard the apocryphal story – at least, I think it must be apocryphal – of the woman who supposedly arrives at the Society of Genealogists library, rushes inside and demands to be given her family tree, exclaiming: “And be quick about it, I’ve got a taxi waiting!”

However, the Internet equivalent of that tale is to be found daily on many of the genealogy mailing lists, where what I call the “look up culture” is not only thriving but achieving horrendous proportions.

Messages of the “Can SKS look up my great-great-grandfather John Smith, believed born somewhere in Yorkshire, in the 1861 census?” variety are witnessed regularly, prompting me to wonder whether the perpetrators have ever read a book on genealogy or have the remotest idea of how to go about researching their family history.

Silly me! Of course they haven’t.

Indeed, they almost certainly think: why should they? For aren’t all the answers out there in cyberspace, just waiting to be tapped into and downloaded? And if not, there is always SKS (Some Kind Sucker, in my book) who will provide instant answers.

Am I alone in despairing at this new breed of Internet wannabe family historians who think it’s all so easy? Every time I post a message suggesting they might like to do a bit of homework for themselves, or at least read a book or two before they start doing their family tree, I am inundated with rude responses telling me I am arrogant and patronising to newbies.

Well, maybe I am but with good reason, I think. Is it really so unreasonable to expect newcomers to genealogy at least to make an effort to learn the basics? Would they sit an exam in advanced mathematics before they’ve mastered their two-times table? Would they try and drive a Formula 1 racing car when they haven’t learned to ride a bicycle?

I genuinely fear for the future of family history when I see some of the examples of incredible ignorance being perpetrated daily on the Internet. What kind of trees do some of these people end up with? Who can believe a word of their researches?

And what can we one-namers, as the supposed “creme de la creme” of genealogy, do about it?
Pen and paper records never crash and never pick up a virus!

By MARGARET SPILLER

AM WRITING in support of non-computer-using one-namers, even though I am something of a hybrid myself. I do have a computer (well three, actually, including a Commodore 64 in a box at the back of a cupboard) but I still keep my POOK One-Name Study manually.

Why do this when I have so much computer power available? Firstly – and crucially – I have never found the time to input all my records on to either of my two modern computers. I work all week, with a lengthy commute, and the task has always seemed too daunting at weekends.

Computers are not always reliable and I have had my share of problems. I managed to input my own family tree on my computer running Windows 95 and it was very useful for a while, as I could print out family trees to send to correspondents. Then I tried to link to the Internet and failed. Following this, the printer packed in, so I was back to photocopying manually drawn trees. Later I bought a laptop running Windows XP, which I thought would be useful for research once I retire. This linked with the Internet with no trouble and I enjoyed using e-mail and the web. I was looking forward to sending and receiving details of far-flung Pook families and I gave a few researchers my e-mail address. This is where the next problem began: despite having protection software, I picked up a virus from someone who contacted me by e-mail and I now have ongoing problems with outgoing e-mails.

Manually kept records are always available; they never crash, pick up viruses and are easy to photocopy. The postal service always works, albeit slowly. Apart from the cost of postage, manual records are much cheaper to keep and use: just a pen, paper, some ring binders and a typewriter.

Without a computer, there is no need to pay for expensive computer equipment and supplies, no Internet Service Provider to pay a monthly subscription to and no costly servicing to get rid of viruses. E-mail is admittedly very quick, but this can be a disadvantage when time is limited, as there is an expectation of a speedy reply.

So how do I run my manual one-name study? I have lots of ring binders for various types of information, e.g. marriage index, wills index, deaths index, telephone index, IGI printouts, censuses, miscellaneous data, etc.

Most of these are sorted alphabetically according to county, using paper slips, and typed. I have a box file for all the BMD information I transcribed into notebooks from the records at St. Catherine’s House when they were held there. I also have a card index box with the names and addresses of all the correspondents I have been in contact with over the years, with the reference number for the appropriate family. This is complemented by three correspondence files with dividers for each researcher for easy retrieval.

Numbered trees

I have two files full of numbered family trees I have constructed for the various Pook families, with an Index and a cross reference to all the researchers of these families. My family trees are manually drawn on blank A4-sized paper and large families cover several sheets, which are cross referenced. My numbering system is simple: distinct families are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc., and separate sheets are numbered a, b, c, d, e, etc. They are also identified by place names, e.g. Tiverton 1, Exeter II or Portsea III.

When I receive an enquiry, I look to see what family trees I have for the place in question. I can usually attach the enquirer to one of my family trees quite quickly and then find if others are researching the same family. However, if the information received is sparse, I may have to request further information. I am frequently able to give enquirers details of other people researching the same family tree, which is one of the major ways in which a one-name study benefits others. The
advantage of manually drawn trees is that single sheets can easily be redrawn or added to when fresh information comes in. I can also add any information I like, e.g. the existence of a will or an occupation, and put it exactly where I want it for easy referral. Other information and photographs relating to the family can be filed alongside the appropriate tree.

**Manual indexing**

So, in my opinion, it is quite possible to successfully run a one-name study without a computer. Manual indexing systems work perfectly well, providing they are well thought out, and can be tailored to individual taste. They are always reliable and do not take up that much space, unless you are researching Smith or Jones! Information from the Internet can be obtained by using Internet Cafes or any organization with access available to the public.

> I have not completely given up on my computers and have decided that I really must have a go at the 1901 census, now that it seems to be running smoothly. But if and when I shall input the whole study onto a computer waits to be seen. It is more likely that, when I get a new printer, I will put my Indexes on the word processor (for easy updating) and print them out.

**Computer technology is fine when it works but a nightmare when it goes wrong. For reliability, give me pen and paper every time!**

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POOK One-Name Study

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My manual method is easier for finding people than a computer  
By Henry Christmas

I **GOT INVOLVED with genealogy when my grandfather died in 1954 and left me his diaries and the family tree going back three generations. This aroused my interest. I joined a family history society and found the Mormon IGI microfiche records.**

I then decided I would like to learn more about the CHRISTMAS surname. In one of the family history magazines, I noticed a reader was interested in the name in Surrey. As my grandfather came from Surrey, I wrote to her and found that she was the wife of a distant cousin of mine; also that she had a family tree compiled by J. A. Reeves of Salisbury, which went back another nine generations in Hampshire. I was really hooked now!

In 1975 Brian Christmas of Maidstone contacted me. He was doing a one-name study of the Christmas name and we became partners in the venture. I was interested in trying to connect families; he was more interested in archive records with a Christmas flavour. Together we made a good combination. Via a contact of Brian’s, I received printouts of the IGI for most of the Home Counties.

I listed all the names under their respective parishes and I was then able to assemble the individual families, or most of them. It was astonishing how these families could be connected together, using the respective dates. The families were then recorded on parish sheets, which were given letters indicating the county (e.g. BRK), a number for the century, (16, 17, 18, or 19) and a letter for the parish (a, b, c, etc.). Therefore, for Cholsey in Berkshire 1800 the sheet would be BRK18A. I then showed the families under their parishes on county sheets, using the backs of used continuous computer printout paper. These sheets catered for two centuries and were quite large. All were placed in a county folder.

As I assembled each family, I recorded the marriage of the parents in a record book and gave them a reference number. Hence, a marriage of Robert Christmas and Martha Cope at Cholsey would be shown on the parish sheet for Cholsey (BRK18A) as Family No 893, and in the family register under 893, as Robert 1768 BRK 18A.

I thought when I started that “There can’t be many Christmasses about”. How wrong this proved to be! I extracted over 2,000 births from the IGI and about 2,000 marriages. This covered the period from early 1500 to 1837. I later found the IGI is not comprehensive in its coverage. When I researched Cambridgeshire, I was able to record 630 births from the registers for the period 1550–1837, but the IGI only had 300. So there is still a lot of work to do.

I recorded all the births and marriages chronologically on sheets in ring binders. With hindsight, perhaps I should have used a card index system, because I could not easily add additional names to the list in the correct place. As each family was recorded in the family register, I entered the family number in the births and marriage lists.

I stayed with Brian in Maidstone several times and went into London to St. Catherine’s House. Here, I extracted 7,000 births and 6,300 marriages from 1837 to 1982. I continued to enter them onto my parish sheets and then county sheets. From the parish registers, a birth usually gave the father’s and
mother's name and later the maiden name of the mother. I used these to assemble the families. When I used the lists from the General Register Office, only the father's name was given up to 1911, so I was foiled. The only thing I could do was to record these births under their respective registration districts on the county sheets. The 1881 census returns helped in recovering some of these names back into families.

All this took several years. I then received details of the 1851 census returns from contacts, also a complete listing of the 1881 census. I recorded these on the parish and county sheets as a coloured dash by the particular name, with a different colour for each census, i.e. 1841 brown, 1851 green, 1861 mauve, 1881 blue, etc.

I now have a typed list of births, marriages and deaths in ring binders, with a family number against most of the entries. When I receive a query regarding a particular person, with a birth date or marriage date, I look in the register and hopefully find him/her. This gives me the family number. I look in the family register and this gives me the county and sheet number. I look in the sheet number and, hey presto, there is the family! I can also add additional information on the parish sheet. I can tell immediately if there is a census record by the coloured strokes by the side of the name. I can follow the lineage by looking at the county sheet and see the connections backwards and forwards.

This takes no more than about two minutes and I still prefer my manual method for finding a person. It takes me so much longer to start my computer and then find the relevant file. I have much more information on my parish sheets at a glance. I have been able to produce 29 different Christmas family trees so far and I have no doubt some of these will eventually amalgamate.

I now have a computer – shock, horror! – and am slowly getting all my records onto disk for posterity. I admit the computer makes it easier to record new births, etc., in my lists, but I have no doubt a card index system would cope just as well for those without a computer. ☺

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Researching a medieval family without a computer
By Sydney Smith

At 93, SYDNEY SMITH must surely be the Guild’s oldest member. He has been working on a one-name study and his family history, entirely without a computer, since 1975. He has carried out his researches largely from within the walls of his retirement bungalow, where he is confined by age-related infirmity. He sent this account of his work on the rare surname of SALVIN.

The name SALVIN, according to the historian Surtees, Thoroton’s History of Nottinghamshire and others, derives from “Silvan”, a medieval timber castle in a heavily wooded area on the Nottinghamshire-Yorkshire border, near the villages of Cuckney and Thorpe Salvin.

It was the name of my mother’s grandparents. Her family history is well documented and was also handed down through male inheritance long before I was born. It was passed on to me by my great-grandfather, David Salvin (1830–1919), a master builder and rural architect. He could vouch for a long line of male descents through vast knowledge of the family folklore and, although in his own era without the documentary resources we enjoy today, he knew of the family’s medieval origins.

My mother, Henrietta Salvin Clarke, was born in Liverpool in 1883. After her father and two elder brothers died, grandfather Salvin was asked by his daughter, Frances Clarke née Salvin, if he and his wife would take over Henrietta’s education and wellbeing. She became their ward and, after his wife’s death in 1915, David’s part-time housekeeper.

Henrietta married in 1904 and I was born in 1910, so my own life overlapped that of my great-grandfather by some nine years. In my most formative years I was regaled with family folklore, most of which I took little notice of at the time but must have retained sub-consciously. When he died, David left my mother his artefacts, documents and numerous memorabilia, and when she died in 1979 she left these and her own extensive reminiscences to me. After retirement, I brought them out of storage.

Family history had become a popular hobby and as our local library had the Dictionary of National Biography, with extensive references to early Salvins and a bibliography for further reference, I decided to try and collate the references left to me, which went back to the early 1600s, with those of earlier date. This ultimately enabled me to write a history of the Salvins with the title A Family History from Domesday to Millennium, copies of which are in the libraries of the Society of Genealogists, Nottinghamshire Record Office and the Nottinghamshire Family History Society, and with members of the family who assisted my research.

I was unable to visit record offices, due to being housebound, and the only electronic aids I had were a Smith Corona typewriter and a basic photocopier. However, I corresponded with archivists, including:

• The County Durham Record Office, who have the Salvin family papers from the 1300s to the 1800s, deposited by the Croxdale branch of the

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family resident at Croxdale Hall, Sunderland Bridge, Co. Durham, from 1402 to the present day.

• Oxford University, concerning the Victorian architect Anthony Salvin (1799–1881), who was the ninth Salvin to hold that forename and whose many works included Salvin’s Tower at Balliol College.

It was due to a split in the two main branches of the Nottinghamshire-Yorkshire Salvins that Gerard Salvin, eighth of that forename, married an heiress, Agnes of Croxdale, and left Nottinghamshire to manage his wife’s estates, taking most of the Salvin medieval records with him.

Having spent much time collecting and collating all available information, on impulse I rang Durham City Library to enquire if they knew anything of Lady Agnes. They told me about the Salvin papers at the county record office. I also contacted the tourist information centre, who passed my letter to a

## Fifty ring binders and 9,800 record cards in my ONS

By Karen Taylor

I DO use a computer now but I didn’t when I started my PATTEN-DEN One-Name Study 20 years ago. My filing system has not changed since then but the number of ring binders has grown to 50. I started with one binder with dividers for censuses, parish registers, references and miscellaneous, including maps, into which I filed the information transcribed from:

• Censuses – alphabetically by parish and by year.
• Parish Registers – alphabetically by parish.
• References – any other information on numbered pages, starting from 1, with an index.
• Miscellaneous and maps – any general family history data that didn’t mention my registered surname.

As I accumulated more data, it was obvious that my name was centred around Kent and Sussex, so I expanded my system into colour-coded ring binders: red for Kent, blue for Sussex and yellow for Other Areas. I now have six red Kent ring binders, one for censuses, one for parish registers, one for miscellaneous and maps and three for references. If I build up a large collection of references on one subject, these are moved into their own file or files, e.g. Directories, Photographs, Foreign, Wills (3 green files), and BMD certificates (2 orange files).

I have a whole filing cabinet of correspondence, filed by name. The files mentioned above contain the background information from which I make up record cards containing details of individual people who have used the surname, Pattenden, at some time in their life. I have 9,800 of these, filed alphabetically under filenames, so that all the Ann, Anne, Anna and Hannah are filed in one sequence.

Working in a library, I was used to 5 x 3-inch catalogue cards, but I found these too small to put much information on, so I decided on 6 x 4-inch cards, writing on both sides in pencil so that I can amend the details as necessary.

On the front, the forenames are at the top left, underlined if the person made a will. If I do not know the date of birth, then the card is filed under the marriage or death date. All the “undated” cards for Albert are filed in front of the Alberts with birth dates. The birth date is in the centre of the card with the surname and family tree page number on the right if I have drawn an A4 or A3 family tree for this branch of the family. If the page number has a circle around it, then the individual is a member of my main or largest family tree.

On the left-hand side of the card is marked:
• C for christening date and place, with room for birth date and place.
• M for marriage dates and places.
• P for parents’ names and year of birth.
• S for spouses’ names and year of birth.
• C for children’s names, year and place of birth.

The back of the card contains a chronological list of all the records in which this individual is mentioned, with codes like PRC (parish register christening), PRM (parish register marriage), IGIC (IGI christening), IGIM (IGI marriage) Kent 36 (Kent References Page 36) and the names of correspondents, so I can refer back to the original material in the ring binders and to correspondence in the filing cabinet.

I have indexes of other surnames in surname order and male marriages, so I can look up and find how many Alberts and Janes I have and when they were having children.

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HE 1837online website www.1837online.com can be very useful to one-namers, even if, like me, you completed your BMD collection before it came online. However, it remains a useful check – for example, when the FreeBMD website of General Register Office indexes disagrees with what you’ve collected.

As most of you who have used 1837online will already know, you navigate to the relevant page(s) (before 1984) by using the first three letters of the surname required. In the case of some unusual surnames, such as IDIENS, my great-great grandmother’s surname, only a single page will be shown for each search, or two if you are unlucky and the three-letter combination happens to span two pages. However, for very common names many pages will be shown and it can be expensive to browse through until you find the right entry.

It will be no surprise to find that the combinations BAR, BRO, DAV, GRE, HAR, JON, ROB, SMi, THO, WHI, WIL and WOO all bring up multiple pages every time. While few one-namers pick the very common names that dominate these letters, you are unlucky if your chosen name shares these combinations!

In my case, I am studying the names HOLLIER, HOLLYER and HOLYER. This, too, brings up multiple pages – not because HOL covers a very common surname, but because there are so many medium-frequency names that start with HOL. In fact, the most common HOL name is HOLMES, which is only the 87th most common name today (or 85th as recorded in the 1881 census).

In order to pick the right page as quickly as possible, what one-namers need to know is where their surname appears in the BMD indexes with respect to all the other surnames sharing the same three-letter combination. This is where I found Steve Archer’s Surname Atlas software useful. Since it shows the number of appearances of all surnames in the 1881 census, it would allow one to answer this question.

Simplifying

This is not what the software was intended for, and you can’t get at the underlying data to pull it into a spreadsheet and quickly do the sums. To my dismay, I found there were 1,618 surnames beginning with HOL recorded in the 1881 census index, from HOL through to HOLZMAN. A little simplification was, therefore, needed.

I transcribed manually the 102 HOL surnames which had 100 or more appearances, starting with HOLBORN and finishing with HOLYOAKE. I made the assumption that the very large numbers for the more common surnames would dominate the sequence. In any event, complete accuracy would be a waste of time, as some variation will always occur from one quarter to the next and, of course, each three-letter combination will start and finish in the middle of a page.

The list of more frequent HOL names included my own names of Hollier (596) and Hollyer (105) but not the rarer Kent variant Holyer (73). However, I noted where these occurred with respect to the rest and calculated where these three names fell in the total of 175,046 appearances of these 102 surnames. I finally con-
cluded that the three names should be found as follows:

- Hollier 42%
- Hollyer 58%
- Holyer 99%

The percentage figure expresses where the beginning of the name should lie in any sequence of pages. So if the HOLs span six pages, Hollier should be found on page three (0.42 x 6 = 2.52), Hollyer on page four and Holyer on page six. Well, that’s the theory!

Minimise browsing

In practice, it may be out by one page, but should minimise the wasted and expensive browsing from the beginning. As mentioned above, a big source of inaccuracy is caused by where the combination starts and ends. A typical browse through 1837online for HOL brings up something like this:

- HOD-HOL 1 page
- HOL-HOL 7 pages
- HOL-HOM 1 page

However, the method works quite well and in most cases will only be one page out.

What else did I learn? Well, of the 175,046 appearances that were used, some 80 per cent are due to the 16 most common surnames that each has over 2,000 appearances in Surname Atlas. This suggests that the approximation to ignore those names with less than 100 appearances was probably OK. For those with a particular interest in HOL names (some 45 HOL surnames are currently regis-

A search for births for surnames beginning with HOL in a typical quarter produces six pages to view

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Surname range</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr-May-Jun</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>HOD-HOL</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>VIEW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr-May-Jun</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>HOL-HOL</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>VIEW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr-May-Jun</td>
<td>1930</td>
<td>HOL-HOM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>VIEW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I note that two of these names, with their other variants, are Guild-registered – rather you than me!

So, if you suffer from the multiple page problem, I hope this article has shown you how to improve your chances of getting the right 1837online page the first time.

PETER WALKER
Member 2941
24 Bacons Drive
Cuffley
Hertfordshire EN6 4DU
hollyer@one-name.org
Many of you will by now have seen changes to your e-mails that arrive via your one-name.org address. If you haven’t, then you are one of the lucky ones who never seem to get spam or viruses via your e-mail!

These changes started at the end of March when the Guild changed its Internet Service Provider (ISP). Unfortunately, the timing of the decision to change ISPs and implement it meant that it wasn’t possible to put something in the Journal in advance. It is also one of those changes that is impossible to time exactly. The change took nearly 36 hours to filter its way round the Internet. But first, a little bit of history to explain the reason for the change...

In order for the Guild to progress with two new projects, the Guild Archive (detailed in the April–June 2004 Journal) and the Guild Marriage Index, it was ascertained that we needed more disc space than our ISP at the time was allowing us, and we also wanted to explore other avenues. A review was carried out of potential new ISPs and the one chosen was Internetters, an established UK-based company that provided all that was required, including 500 megabytes of disc space.

As part of this deal, they also host the Guild e-mail alias service that directs xxx@one-name.org to your regular e-mail address. For a very modest sum, Internetters were able to offer us a spam filtering and virus blocking service on mail sent to one-name.org addresses. This service is an all-or-nothing one. Either all one-name.org addresses have it or none. Nowadays, almost all e-mail addresses suffer from receiving spam and viruses, so the Committee felt that on balance this was something that would be of benefit to the majority of our members and opted for the service.

**Spammer**

Whilst the Guild Forum would have been an option for telling people about the change, it only covers about 25% of the membership and we do not currently have a system to e-mail non-Forum members or, indeed, all those having one-name.org aliases. It may be possible to set up a bulk e-mail facility in the future but that stands as much chance of the one-name.org domain being classed as a spammer in its own right, which is the one thing that the Guild wishes to avoid!

**Blocking**

Let me explain how the virus blocking and spam filtering service works. If Internetters detect a virus, the e-mail is deleted, but a message is sent to you to let you know. That is what you have been seeing. There is no real value in these messages, as it is highly unlikely that the apparent sender of the e-mail is actually the real sender with a virus-infected computer. So, just delete these messages and rest assured that an unwanted message has been removed. As Internetters update their Anti-Virus (AV) definitions many times a day, it may catch viruses that your anti-virus software hasn’t yet been updated for.

Whilst on the subject of viruses, virus writers are becoming increasing clever at using social engineering to persuade people to open attachments. One recent scam, which was men-

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**Figure 1 – the contents of a typical Norton Anti-spam folder in Outlook**

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**Why the Guild has changed e-mail system to defeat spam and viruses**

By John Hanson
mentioned in the last Journal, involved sending one-name address users a message claiming to be from “The Management at one-name.org”. Clearly this isn’t the Guild and we would never contact members in this manner, but we decided that something needed to be done to assist members with such problems and queries, especially as we have always tried to avoid discussion of viruses and spam on the Forum. So please read Peter Walker’s article on WARP on page 26!

Span filtering

Spam filtering is somewhat different. You get a message informing you that Internetters have detected a potential spam message directed at your address. Unfortunately, the way that Internetters have implemented this means that the same settings are used for everyone that uses the service with them and therefore we cannot “tweak” the options to suit ourselves.

What it shows will depend on your e-mail program but Figure 1 shows the contents of my Norton Anti-spam folder in Outlook. This shows the headers and you will notice immediately that there are several different styles to the headers.

Firstly they have all been detected by Norton Anti-spam. Then there are some lines that have "***SPAM***" and some with "*****SPAM*****" and some that even have both! The first of these is generated by my own ISP and was introduced without my asking or any notification and Internetters generate the second.

Figure 2 shows an extract from one of these messages and some complicated lines showing why it considered the message to be spam. Now, no spam filtering can be 100% accurate; there are bound to be some false positives and some false negatives.

This is especially true of centralised systems like Internetters (which uses the Spam Assassin system), which won’t know about your personal connections and preferences. It counts features of the message and classifies it as spam if the count is greater than 4.2. Since it cannot always be right, by showing you some of the body text, you can decide whether it really was a wanted message.

If so, you can click on the attachment to read the original message. But by filtering the spam, it means you won’t actually open most messages and this is helpful, as with many HTML-based spam messages, the act of opening them causes a message to be sent to the originator that your address is “live”, which means you are likely to be a target for yet more spam.

It is possible to reduce the chances of e-mails being classed as spam. Firstly, write in plain text. If you check the scoring on all spam, I would guarantee that almost every one has HTML in it and an immediate score of two.

Also, if you use plain text some of the others, like big text or bold text, are avoided. If you have people who e-mail you regularly and they are being caught, ask them politely if they would change their settings. It will possibly mean that they will get more replies to their e-mails because if our anti-spam is blocking it, so may somebody else. Changing to plain text normally occurs under “message format” in Outlook.

Benefit

May I on behalf of the Committee apologise for not notifying you all in advance, but would assure you all that any changes that we made were for the benefit of the Guild and its members?

Let me re-iterate, though, that it is not possible to set spam filters or virus protection for individual members; each is either ON or OFF for all Guild e-mail accounts. Similarly, the settings for each service are common to all of Internetters’ customers, so it is unlikely that we can arrange any significant changes to settings.

We will, as promised at the AGM, continue to monitor the situation and make changes to satisfy the needs of the majority of members as appropriate.

If you have any comments, please send them to guild.spam@one-name.org

JOHN HANSON
Data Processing Manager
dpm@one-name.org
Pool, red wine and some fine lectures make 25th birthday Conference a success
By ROGER BRUTON

THIS year’s Annual Conference and AGM at Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire, over the weekend of April 2–4 was a very special one, since it marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Guild in 1979. A special event demands a special report and ROGER BRUTON (Member 1932) made such a good job of reporting last year’s Conference in his own inimitable, light-hearted style that we invited him to take up the baton once more!

The first test of a conference is whether or not you can actually find the venue. I did. The directions were, as usual, very good. As I was initially expecting to arrive very late (having been told I would not be free of my earlier assignation in Stratford-upon-Avon until midnight), I was dreading trying to locate Wyboston in the early hours. In the event, I arrived at about nine – late enough to miss dinner but, importantly, not the bar.

First impressions? Well, I thought it looked like a cross between an industrial estate and an open prison, especially as it has a manned guardhouse. The speed bumps were plentiful and vicious. The first one I saw, the second one I didn’t. And that was the one that would have launched me and my possessions into orbit, had I been driving a convertible. As I was only driving at 10 miles per hour, trying to locate the right building, it was even more exasperating. Handy hint: next time, come in a 4 x 4 and drive across the grass.

Eventually, the reception beckoned and I was catapulted to the desk amidst a coach load of Ealing Rugby Club delegates, and was very nearly booked in with them and carried off in their raucous scrum. What finally gave me away and saved me was my grey hair and an adequate supply of teeth. I was checked in and instructed to help myself to a GOONS welcome pack (which did not include my badge) and I found my very pleasant room. Just the one odd omission – there was no way of locking the door from the inside.

At this point I had intended to locate my fellow GOONS and then have a quick shower before commencing the evening’s festivities. However, before I could say “bookstall”, Howard Benbrook had started forcing red wine down me and I was lost. I arrived at the end of the quiz organised by Maurice Hemi-ngway, which was just being won by Derek Palgrave, shamelessly exploiting his knowledge of the Guild in olden times.

All those present pretended not to be impressed by the fact that I had spent all day filming with Johnny Depp and I was dragged off to the pool table by those famous reprobates Benbrook, Stockdill and Spivey. They found the only way of beating me was by forcing more red wine upon me, which they did.

Saturday morning

Come the Saturday dawn, I discovered the one thing worse than coming face to face with your father in the bathroom mirror – your grandfather. There he was, just after the retreat from Mons. The awful weather did not improve the bleak location. I stared in wonder at the determined-looking folk striding out toward the golf course. Despite having had to forego breakfast, due to my leisurely start, the eminently sensibly-sized mugs of tea provided before the start of Saturday’s events set me up for the morning.

Ken Toll and Derek Palgrave welcomed members old and (very) new to the conference – approximately five per cent were in attendance. I paid particular attention to Ken’s detailed instructions for emergency evacuation: “Out there, after me!” Despite the idea having been mooted and the venue having the technology, web cams were not a feature. One feature that will be remembered by many I’m sure though, was the microphones.

Amazing to think that we have online access to the records of people who died two hundred years ago, yet sitting at the back of the room we cannot hear them being read out! Microphones aside, the presentation facilities were generally very impressive, and Roger Goacher also made flamboyant use of the sliding lighting controls.

There were a number of overseas members’ biographies displayed both at the venue and in the programme, which made very interesting reading and a refreshing change from tales of the County Record Offices.

Geoff Riggs introduced the inevitably well deserved and tricky-to-match Web Awards, while Roy Stockdill announced the One-Name Publications Awards. Sandra Turner presented the accounts – it was noted that GOONS genealogical projects are needed and there are funds available. Also, next year’s venue has not yet been planned, although I sensed a keen liking for Wyboston. Noticeable amongst early matters raised, Polly Rubery voiced

Iain Swinnerton

Journal of One-Name Studies, July–September 2004
her concerns about spam e-mails emanating from and through the Guild e-mail system.

After morning coffee, Iain Swinnerton introduced Derek Palgrave, who regaled us with stories of the Guild at the time of its foundation, including tales of getting lost in Leicester in 1979 while heading for the inaugural conference. Derek was just one of the presenters who gallantly fought with the array of electric buttons on offer.

A feature of most of the weekend’s presentations was the size of written information projected on-screen – too small for the size of the room. Where the information is simply a grey line for most viewers, it is debatable whether it is worth showing at all.

A breathless Janice Cloud from the USA, bravely researching the BOSOMWORTH name (apparently heavily mispronounced by some ladies in Texas), gave an interesting insight into the research methods employed in the USA. My favourite tip was the chocolate-covered coffee bean snacks she favours for aiding wakefulness in record offices. A slightly more problematic tip was to install a relative in Salt Lake City, with a view to providing rent-free accommodation. I suppose the equivalent here would be packing Auntie Mabel off to live in Kew. And whilst I was worrying about “parking” small numbers of archive CDs at family homes around the country, Janice deposits shoe boxes. Well, US houses are bigger, aren’t they? Janice also guided us around a few of the world’s stranger genealogical websites – a very enjoyable session.

Janet Heskins discussed those old favourites, the brick wall, errors and assumptions in the IGI and the confusion and scrambling caused by family legends.

Lunch was quite nice, even in the slightly clinical ambience of the restaurant. Outside, the rain was lashing down on the lake surface. I imagine in better weather (can you get that in Bedfordshire?) it could be quite pleasant, sitting outside on the decking with a long cool drink. Despite his efforts at helping me thrash the Stockdill/Benbrook axis at pool, I bought a map from Phil Spivey’s bookstall.

Peter Walker introducing himself as the Guild website manager and raised a slight undercurrent of good-humoured hissing and booing – I can’t think why. He, in turn, introduced Paul Millington, the Guild Vice-Chairman. Paul, as was to be expected, had mastered the microphone! Well, almost. He demonstrated the new data archive system and the method of applying for an account and the Guild marriage index.

During the tea break, not only was I cornered by Mary Rix, asking where my Marriage Index entries were (Oh good grief, I’ve still not done that!), but Kirsty Maunder also caught me taking notes on everyone. Was I that obvious?

I couldn’t help it, but as David Hawgood introduced Maurice Hemingway, the name triggered memories of Harry’s Bar in Venice. But, then, he is not very like Ernest, so that didn’t last long! Maurice gave an interesting talk on newsletters he has produced, as well as flyers, journals and annuals, in a “spreading the word” style.

Roy Stockdill, talking on publishing, dealt more with the layout than the content of articles and was trying to guide us away from the boring aspects of the printed page. Handy hint – never send Roy anything with etchings of churches or gothic print fonts!

From where I was sitting, I could hear some gasps in the audience as people struggled to hide their A5 periodicals! Incidentally, for those who are interested (as I was) the Guild journal font is deGaulle – seven feet tall with an attitude. Further handy hints were dispensed on how to win the “Best Journal” award next year. A very big point was that when preparing a publication, ensure the person printing your publication has the same font selection as you. Spot colour within an article is also a favourite “hot” spot.

Saturday dinner

The reception was hosted by Ken Toll and Derek Palgrave. I briefly got involved, in the bar area, in a “Who’s-got-the-biggest-head?” competition. Much to my surprise, I lost. The last time I was in a hat shop, I bought the biggest one they had. Next year, if you want to get involved bring a tape measure! Being open to the public, the bar televisions were all being avidly watched by cricket fans – I understand England were doing rather well against someone-or-other.

What I didn’t realise was that, having suggested online a meeting of Forum contributors, a number of people were expecting such a gathering. While we did eventually get a photograph organised on Saturday evening of a number of us, the “get-together” never really happened. Perhaps it should be more formally organised next time? I apologise if I let the side down!

For dinner, I was seated at table 10 between Hugh Cave, an excellent supplier of red wine, and Bruce Margrett. It was a very enjoyable event and meal. All the controversial elements of last year’s dinner were absent. However, my wife will think I am lying, as there was ONE thing on the menu

Continued on page 18
Celebrating 25 years of the Guild at the anniversary Conference and AGM at Wyboston Lakes

President Derek Palgrave opens the Conference, flanked by Guild Chairman Ken Toll and Treasurer Sandra Turner

Above: Some of the audience take a brief “time out” between the lecture sessions.

Right: A slightly raucous group of Guild members seem to be enjoying themselves at the reception before dinner – or was it after?

Above: Ken Toll chairs the Annual General Meeting of the Guild.

Top right: Derek Palgrave, as President and one of the Guild’s original founder members in 1979, had the honour of cutting the 25th anniversary cake.

Derek cuts the birthday cake, Pamela gets a kiss...

Pamela Palgrave, wife of our President, gets a kiss from Ken Toll after Ken had presented Derek with a plaque marking his long service to the Guild.

...and Kirsty joins the band!

Top: One-name study displays at the Conference; above: Howard Benbrook, the Guild’s bookstall manager

Left and below: some happy groups at the anniversary dinner.

Kirsty Maunder, our new Secretary, is a lass of many talents – among them, playing the saxophone. She delighted members when she joined the band and sat in at the after-dinner jazz entertainment.

Pictures by Peter Walker, Alan Bardsley and Gordon Adshead
When the milk and sugar failed to appear with the coffee, Michael Egerton proved to be a splendid waiter and was dressed for the part.

Just one thing: I had to walk 15 paces and crane my neck round a corner to see the Guild's new Secretary, Kirsty Maunder, accompanying the (very good) band on baritone saxophone, a spectacle not to be missed. Be warned – Kirsty has since started a recruitment drive for a GOONS band for next year's conference! Luckily, the hard-core dance floor addicts did not have so far to glide.

**SUNDAY MORNING**

What a glorious morning! At least it started with blue sky and sunshine. And breakfast was all that it should be. The trick is just to get there before all the place settings are used. Keeping-your-wits-about-you tip: do you know what is really embarrassing? It's when you have been talking to someone for ten minutes before you realise that you have previously had a conversation with them online! Oh dear. No names - no pack drill!

Kirsty introduced the first Sunday session and also claimed the “youngest member” award. It seems that she was conceived at around the time and place of the first conference in Leicester. There were no remarks on this coincidence, save vehement denials.

The first session was on “Producing a One-Name Website”, and was presented by Penny Denby and Judy Elkington. Penny is a web professional and counts the *Mail on Sunday* amongst her clients. To those of us with a technical bent, this was an interesting presentation, in terms of the recommendations of Dreamweaver and Fireworks but I noticed that a few “luddites” were blinking, open-mouthed. Penny has a website for her registered name, Willstrop, and made a couple of interesting points for me: firstly, the idea of producing a timeline for the name, and, secondly, the advisability of using a guest book. It had never occurred to me, naïve little thing that I am, that you have previously had a conversation with them online! Oh dear. No names - no pack drill!

Judy, a self-proclaimed dumb-blonde descendant of Charlemagne, demonstrated her lack of technical prowess by immediately leaning on the presentation PC and bringing up a menu on-screen. Her Elkington family website has been produced by her “little friend in Weymouth” – the girlfriend of her son, a relationship Judy seems eager to encourage. I did like the picture on the site of Judy’s ancestor in his underwear. He was demonstrating his home-made wooden replacement legs, required after a harrowing accident. He made them several inches longer than the originals, which brought him up to his desired height.

Victor Medlock, the newest Guild member present, won the guess-the-weight-of-the-anniversary-cake competition. Rumours that this was a blatant recruitment ploy were hotly denied. The cake was cut with not a little dash by Derek Palgrave, armed with a sword from the Swinnerton armoury. The cake was duly tasted by all present at morning coffee.

Chris Braund, resplendent in a red scarf, introduced the talk on one-name societies and gatherings given by Tom Bliss and Polly Rubery. Tom’s amusing tale of embellishments and agblats. recounted the usual yarns of having to tramp all the family legends while traipsing around the county record offices. However, he is also up against a magazine aimed at 12-year-old girls called “Bliss”. His major tips are to organise a family gathering “before all the oldies die” and, if possible, to get someone else to do all the leg work for you!

Polly Rubery excited my interest in obtaining an A3 printer during her talk on organising a one-name gathering. While researching her ex-husband’s grandmother’s family(!), she has found that the main problem has been money and the cost of such events. Rule 1 it seems is: “Don’t leave ANYTHING to chance!” Polly also confessed to pinching a lot of ideas from the GOONS gatherings.

The build-up to the afternoon session was swathed in cloak-and-dagger mystery. Roger Goacher built us up to a frenzy of anticipation and excitement. In the event, the mystery speakers turned out to be Jeanne Bunting and John Hanson presenting a picture of GOONS life in 2029 at the 50th anniversary – and dressed like something out of an Eagle comic from the 1950s. Predictions are, of course, notoriously difficult to make. Who would have predicted today’s reliance on computers in 1979? However, a gallant stab was made. An introductory course in Wyboston microphone technology would have been a tremendous help!

During his closing address, Ken Toll emphasised that next year’s venue had not been booked. This was, I think, a hint that most attendees, including myself, were very happy with the choice of Wyboston and might second a repeat booking.

One of Ken’s closing acts was to present President Derek Palgrave with a special 25-year award.

While driving away in a north-westerly direction across the wind-swept Cambridgeshire fens, I was inclined to agree that, for the most part, the conference had been a great success and very enjoyable and that the choice of venue had been a good one. I look forward to next year’s.
guild DNA Seminar at Oxford’s Ashmolean Museum proves one of most popular ever

By Maurice Hemingway

The Guild’s latest in a series of stimulating, informative seminars proved no exception. This time it was the turn of Chris Pomery (Member 3400) who put together a very interesting day’s programme based around DNA, and how it can benefit and support genealogists, to entertain and educate us.

The seminar had to get off to a good start because of the venue. The wonderful Ashmolean Museum of art and archaeology in Oxford, which is Britain’s oldest public museum, gave us a splendid setting and an excellent opportunity to stretch our legs and minds during the lunch break. This seminar proved to be one of the most popular ever, having been sold out some time before the event at maximum capacity, with all 100 seats allocated.

Chris Pomery opened the proceedings, warmly welcoming delegates to Oxford, introducing the topic of DNA testing and benefits for one-namers and indicating the structure for the day.

The first of the five presentations got us off at a gallop by setting the scene in terms of genetics, DNA and the Y-chromosome. Dr Clare Harvey (daughter of Guild Committee member Barbara Harvey) who is a research associate at the Faculty of Medicine, University College, London, provided us with an introduction to the theory of genetics, what a DNA “string” looks like, its construction and the interesting bit — the Y-chromosome.

Clare described how it is that this tiny component in our make-up changes the sex at conception of those of us who go on to be born male. Clare showed us that by taking advantage of the recent huge steps in genetic science, we could use markers from the Y-chromosome to help identify a connection between people who had a common male ancestor through paternal lines.

Having been provided with sufficient theoretical background to grasp the concept of the science, Chris Pomery re-took the platform to share with us the three principal reasons for a genealogists’ diversion into a study of Y-chromosomes. They help establish through testing of descendants of a particular surname:

- If it is probable that they share a common male ancestor.
- If it is probable that those with what might be considered a variant surname is linked.
- If the clan members are descendants in common or if it is more likely that they adopted the clan name in honour or as a reward some time in earlier generations.

Genetic families

In his presentation, Chris concentrated on the first two objectives, given the interest that these held for most Guild members. He spent some time describing how through Y-chromosome testing we analyse “genetic families” and can prove a hypothesis that there is just one common male ancestor at the head of our one-name study, or if, in fact, the results demonstrate that it is probable that there are several distinct points of origin of the male line.

Chris advised those who were interested in expanding our one-name study to embrace Y-chromosome testing to check out a database of registered studies. The database is maintained at www.dnalist.net. He finished with a resume of the benefits of testing:

- Indications of where documentable links may be found for the various trees that you might have or for the variants (that is, an indication of which family groups could be expected to share a common male ancestor).
- Indications where mistakes might have been made in the documented trees by highlighting that descendants do not share the same, or very similar, Y-chromosome data.

In the final presentation before lunch, Dr David Ashworth took us through the mechanics of testing DNA samples. David was introduced as the Chief Executive of Oxford Ancestors, a company founded by Professor Brian Sykes in the late 1990s. Under the circumstances, David played a very straight bat, describing the process from taking a sample (by rubbing a cotton bud against the inside of the mouth) through the testing of the sample and its subsequent analysis.

He carefully avoided any explicit marketing of his product and company but did take several opportunities to justify the costs to the consumer by explaining the complexities and controls need to ensure the extremely robust quality control and the capital outlay for the equipment.

Nevertheless, he gave a very interesting presentation which included a description of how they had to break down the DNA they received on the cotton bud,
multiply it several million times to provide a workable sample and then analyse and report the results.

After lunch, we had a presentation by Patrick Guinness, who has set up the world’s largest “clan study” in conjunction with Trinity College, Dublin. He described how he is looking at the haplogroups of several clans in Ireland – that is, if they are likely to share common geographical points of origin. This was the first public airing of the data from this important study that has moved the thinking about clan formation along. Of course, while haplotypes are of interest to one-namers, there are fewer with a detailed interest in haplogroups.

Guild member Alan Savin provided a round-up of significant surname-based studies under way. In 1997 he started his own study, having read an article in Nature about DNA testing. He could see the possibility of a direct connection between Y-chromosome results and the generally accepted passage of surnames. After a shaky start, he got under way with University College, London, on a study to demonstrate this link, using his own surname. Alan candidly shared with us the fact that by today’s standards his would be described as a low-resolution test, only using six loci (markers) whereas contemporary testing is using up to 43 loci. Alan also introduced us to the published results of the Sykes, Staples, Mates/Meates and Wells studies noting that the Wells study is currently the broadest undertaken to date, having 261 individuals tested so far.

Pomeroy study

Chris rounded off the proceedings by providing some background to the Pomeroy and variants DNA project and provided many helpful anecdotes about the approach he has taken since starting in 1999, including managing the task whilst working in the Czech Republic. There is no doubt delegates gained a great deal from Chris and the other presenters at this fascinating seminar.

The seminar could hardly have come at a better time for me, as I launched the Hemingway DNA study at the Hemingway Gathering 2004 in June. My own objectives are: to identify if there is just one origin through one common male ancestor from the West Riding of Yorkshire; to determine if variants such as Hemenway, Hemingsley and Hemingbrough are true variants; and to establish if the American immigrant Ralph Hemingway, who appeared in what is now Massachusetts in 1632, is actually a Hemingway from the West Riding, as is claimed.

This is of particular interest, as he spawned the largest family group of Hemingways in North America and was the undisputed 7 x great-grandfather of Ernest Hemingway, the author.

I am hoping Y-chromosome testing will once and for all align his descendants to a specific Yorkshire family group or categorically indicate that there are no other Hemingways who have been tested with the same results. Either way, it is big news for Hemingways.

Computer Seminar
to be run again in Nottingham
By Jeanne Bunting

Once again, in line with the Seminar Sub-Committee’s policy of repeating seminars in a different location, we are holding a re-run of our first Computer Seminar, which was held in Ash, Surrey, a couple of years ago.

This time, it will be at the Nuthall Temple Community Centre, Nottingham Road, Nuthall, Nottingham, on August 21, 2004. Full details are on the flyer included with this Journal and also on the Guild website. Because there are no suitable eating establishments nearby, we will be providing a buffet lunch which will be included in the cost of the seminar. Our thanks go to Dominic Johnson for organising this.

We have been a little disappointed at the turnout for our computer seminars in the past. Do you all think you know it all? In each case, after the last two computer seminars, even the speakers had to admit they had learned something, as well as the delegates who had put themselves down as advanced and expert!

There will be three familiar faces as lecturers – it is surprising how few people lecture on computing – and one newcomer, both to the Guild and to the Seminar Sub-Committee, though she is no stranger to lecturing and demonstrating.

I will be telling you how you can use your computer for a one-name study and that is not just about keeping data – it will cover all aspects of organising your study. John Hanson will give a run-down on the genealogy programs you can use for your one-name study. After lunch, Howard Benbrook will talk about online census sources and pitfalls, and Helen Williams will bring up the rear with “Service Records Online”. We hope this seminar will have something for everyone, beginners and experts alike.

We would be especially interested in seeing how other people keep their records, so if you have any displays you can bring along, please do so. These are always a popular part of the lunch break and we would like to see more. Hope to see you there!

New Members Seminar

The Guild is running another free seminar about One-Name Studies and the Guild, at Longdon in Staffordshire on October 2, 2004. Our previous one last year in London was sponsored by the Halsted...
Trust. A flier about the seminar is enclosed with this mailing.

The seminar is intended to be of particular interest to new members of the Guild, but all members are welcome. It is also open to members of the general public, so that they can learn about one-name studies and the Guild. If you are not interested in attending the seminar but know someone who might be, please pass the flier on to them and also mention it at your local family history society meetings, if you belong to one.

The programme will be similar to last time. Guild registrar Roger Goacher will talk on “What is a One-Name Study and how can the Guild help?”. Vice-Chairman Paul Millington will tell you how to organise your records. After lunch, John Hanson will talk about “Sources for One-Namers”, both on and offline, and I will be warning you about what could and what should happen to your records when you die – often, sadly, these are not the same thing at all!

Please come along and bring your friends – this seminar will be FREE!

Other seminar news...

Unusual Studies at Swindon

ARRANGEMENTS for an “Unusual Studies” seminar, to be held at Swindon in Wiltshire, are now complete. Details will be published in the next Journal, but, as a taster, we will be having a talk called “Please Relieve Me” and another called “Grey Owl, a Red Indian in the Family”.

Next year we will be holding one seminar devoted to maps, a computer seminar on websites and how to design your own, one on occupations and one on unusual and lesser known sources. We also plan, in the not-too-distant future, to repeat the very popular DNA seminar in a different part of the country.

Know a venue?

On the subject of other parts of the country, I am always interested to hear of suitable venues where we can hold seminars. It is far better to have a recommendation from someone based locally who knows the hall in question, rather than book one on spec and then find it is not really suitable.

We do have a list of guidelines as to our requirements, so if anyone knows of a suitable hall, please let members of the Seminar Sub-Committee know via e-mail at chairman.semsub@one-name.org.

Ideally, we would like someone to keep a database of suitable halls and their facilities, so if you have nothing else to do...!

JEANNE BUNTING
Chairman
Seminar Sub-Committee

One-Name Periodicals Awards

Grubbing Around is best Cat A journal

THE results of the Guild’s 2003 Awards for One-Name Periodicals were announced at the Anniversary Conference at Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire, in April.

Winner of the Category A section was “Grubbing Around”, journal of the Grubb Family Association, edited by Ken P. Grubb (Member 2790), which was the unanimous choice of the judges. It is the second time that “Grubbing Around” has won the Category A Award.

Other placings were:

In Combined Categories B and C, the winner was “Prior Times”, the quarterly journal of the Prior Family History Society, edited by John Prior (Member 2696). Other placings:

The judges were Roy Stockdill, Janet Few and Colin Ulph.

• The winners of each category are reminded that under the rules of the Awards they are not allowed to enter for the following year’s Awards.

Web Awards

THE Guild is once again running a competition for the best one-name website in 2004. As before, the competition will be divided into two categories: entries from Category A members and entries from those in Categories B and C. Closing date for entries is November 30 2004 and the results will be announced at the Guild AGM in April 2005. Full details of the competition may be found on the Guild website at: members/web_award.html.

Derbyshire and Staffs meeting

A HALF-DAY meeting for Derbyshire and Staffordshire Guild members is planned for Saturday, September 18 2004, at the Priory Centre, Stretton, near Burton-on-Trent. We hope to have a representative from the Guild’s officers to explain the way the Guild is moving forward. Then David Bethell will enlighten us as to how his FONS organisation operates and perhaps let us into some of his research sources.

The afternoon will wind up with a question-and-answer session. For more details, contact Ron Duckett, whose details can be found inside the back cover of this journal. – RON DUCKETT
SOURCES are the life-blood of one-namers. Show me an index and I’m searching for my registered name. Finding a new and valuable source is always a joy. But many members may not realise that the Guild itself has one of the most valuable sources you are likely to find – our own e-mail list, known as the Forum. Here you have access to the knowledge and wisdom of hundreds of Guild members.

There are few problems that someone won’t be able to help you with, and you may find out about sources of information that sometimes disappear almost as soon as they’ve been discovered.

Over 420 Guild members are on the Forum, yet we know there are probably twice as many again who have e-mail but who are not members. This article aims to persuade those of you in the latter category you don’t know what you’re missing! What’s more, those already on the Forum would welcome the expertise that maybe only you can bring on some specific topic.

What is the Forum? Our website describes it as a “lively discussion forum where members can discuss the Guild, one-name studies and other genealogical matters.” Technically, it’s a mailing list hosted by Rootsweb. So what does that mean?

The Forum is an e-mail address, GOONS-L@rootsweb.com. When you send a message, it is broadcast to all members. So if you have a query, hundreds of people will see it and the chances are someone will be able to help.

Alternatively, the e-mail may develop into an interactive exchange of ideas and thoughts from many members, which may help you decide how to approach a problem where there is no one right answer. Such sequences are known as “threads”.

When you first join the Forum, you may not wish to post any e-mails right away. Many stay in the background and read the collected thoughts of the list. This is known as “lurking” and the majority of members do this most of the time, as 400 responses to a question would be over the top!

On average, the Forum has 11 messages a day, but the number may vary widely according to the popularity of a topic. Messages are delivered to the e-mail address of your choice, which can be your normal one or your Guild one-name.org alias. You can choose to receive them as individual messages or in digest form – a single e-mail with the messages as attachments.

All messages have the text [G] in front of the subject field, so you can sort the messages into a folder for later reading. It’s also useful to ensure that any anti-spam filter you may use recognises Forum mail and lets it through. Forum messages are plain text and have no attachments, so they cannot be the source of viruses. And only Guild members can join, so you won’t get any spam. When you respond to a message, you can either reply so the whole list can see your input (press “Reply-All”) or you can make a private reply to the sender (press “Reply”).

I could spend all of this article trying to persuade you why the Forum is so valuable and why you should join, but I thought I’d let members speak for themselves...

Members’ verdicts

“I’ve taken on a one-name study and the first thing is to look at what problems others are facing and to benefit from the answers given by the more experienced members. I marvel at the depth of knowledge of some of the participants. It seems no question beats them, even if it is outside the direct concern of ONSs. Exchanges on digital cameras were very enlightening.”

Ron Woodhouse (4126)

“Members of the Forum are very knowledgeable on a great number of subjects related not just to conducting a one-name study, but history and sources of virtually the whole world, plus anything to do with using computers for family history. I don’t think I’ve ever asked a question that has had no response.”

Merryl Wells (1757)

“One of the most useful features is ways to get the best out of online sources. Perhaps though county discussion groups are having similar discussions, a pound to a pinch of salt that most of them didn’t hear about the New York Times, and/or didn’t carry such well-informed directions on how to use the Leeds Indexers’ tools to get the most out of the 1901 England and Wales census.”

Stephen Benham (3620)

“I value the Forum for the tips and timely advice about web sources. A good example was the free access to the 192.com site over Christmas when I gathered all the 2002 & 2003 electoral roll data for my ONS.”

Eileen Adkins (2782)

“I find the Forum helpful to find new sources for my ONS but I also enjoy the more technical discussions of digital photography, databases, spreadsheets and FH programs.”

Shirley Forster (3754)

“Every one-namer should sub-
Forum members are a fount of knowledge on all aspects of family history, whether pertaining to a one-name study or not. Being able to ask a question and within a day have replies back, stating sources and examples, is tremendously useful. Because everyone is engaged in relatively advanced research, I’ve not come across those ‘Does anyone know of my great-grandfather born in London, name of Peter?’ questions on encounters on other lists. At the same time, older members are always very helpful when a newbie asks for advice.”

Theresa Heskins (3739)

“Why join the Guild Forum?” is similar to the answer to the question: ‘Why join the Guild?’ You don’t know why until that odd snippet of information about a new source, a transcription, a technique, an occupation, how to publish, making contacts, etc., comes to light that suddenly sends your research on a great leap. If you have a problem, there is always someone on the Forum that can solve it. Conversely, everyone has extra knowledge of some aspect of our work that they in turn can contribute.”

Alan Bardsley (1769)

“One of the best things I found from the Forum is the possibility of exchange work. Several members have done extracts from the 1901 census in exchange for my PR and Wills searches in Gloucester Record Office.”

David Mowbray (986)

“The Forum is equivalent to a Family History Encyclopedia – all queries and questions on virtually all family history topics will find an answer from someone who has been there before.”

Peter Adams (1915)

“It has members with all levels of experience, who freely share their knowledge of genealogical issues. It is often thought-provoking and sometimes makes me reassess my own methods for undertaking my ONS.”

Roger Goacher (2839)

“The GOONS list offers me a way of staying in touch with the major topics/developments that interest me without getting bogged down at the county level. The volume of mail is ideal and the threads last just long enough to keep it interesting.”

Ruth Rathbone (3105)

“The Forum makes the Guild more than just a Society.”

Julie Goucher (3925)

Our overseas members particularly value the Forum as a means of keeping in touch...

“Being remote from other Guild members, the Forum is my sole contact with people interested in one-name studies. Only there can I discuss the problems and methods of a ONS with an understanding and helpful group. Members seem unusually well informed on related matters such as data sources, history of records, database usage, etc. Some contacts made through the Forum have become lasting e-mail friendships.”

Bill Bunning (1325), USA

“I find the list invaluable, particularly all the sites people recommend. I’d never have time to search these out on my own. And the responses to the questions (mostly asked by other people, not by me) have helped me learn a lot. As I live out of the UK, it’s the Forum that makes my subscription worthwhile.”

Anthea Ashfield (770), Canada

“A reason for being on the Forum is a sense of belonging, even though I’m a lurker. Being far from the centre of action, the Forum, along with the Journal, maintains my only link with the Guild. It would be very lonely being 10,000 km from ‘home’ and only receiving the Journal.”

David Evans (3062), Australia

“Rarely a week goes by without a message telling me something I didn’t know that helps me with my study or alerting me to a previously unknown source. As a member in Canada, the Forum removes the feeling of isolation from genealogy in the UK which I would otherwise feel. The sum of the experience of Forum participants is formidable, as evidenced by the number of questions which receive speedy, knowledgeable answers.”

Dick Chandler (2767) Canada

Members often hear about useful sources for the first time via the Forum. Here are some mentioned by members:-

- 192.com; Access to Archives; FONS; Leeds Indexers program; WW1 Medal Index Cards; Ancestry.co.uk; Surname Atlas; PRO Wills Online; Old Bailey Online; Brass rubbings index; Jurors in Singapore; The London Gazette Online; British History Online; Obituary Daily News; Judges Reports on Criminals; Brian Teece’s Look-up List; the Paper of Record free trial.

I hope I have persuaded those of you with e-mail but who are not yet Forum members to join up. It’s easy! Just fill in the form in the members’ area of the Guild website:

http://www.one-name.org/members/forms.html

or send me an e-mail at forum@one-name.org, stating your membership number and whether you want list or digest subscription. Give it a try – you can leave at any time and it is, of course, free to all members. More information can be read here:-

http://www.one-name.org/members/forumfaq.html

I look forward to meeting more of you on our unique Forum.
What is it about the SoG May Fair (oops, sorry, Family History Show)? Every year, thousands of enthusiastic genealogists pour through the doors of the Royal Horticultural Hall in London during a very full weekend in early May and part with large amounts of cash.

Some are novices who drift from stall to stall, wide-eyed at the vast range of products on offer, clutching a few pocket-sized booklets with titles that begin: ‘Introduction to...” or ‘Basic Facts about...”

Their buying style is to be cautious, quite understandably. But then there is the much larger, determined group of people who’ve been around a bit and seem to regard the event as the annual spring-cleaning for their bank account. These people are on a mission: they are determined to leave the hall with as little cash as possible, and have probably stretched their credit limit to full plasticity.

The Guild was there, of course, helping people come to terms with their obsession and my back and my voice still bear testimony to the level of trade we saw. It’s madness, but we love it!

What’s new, what’s big?

New and big? This time, it has to be the much-awaited launch of the Second Edition of the National Burial Index (NBI), from the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS). The First Edition of the NBI was extremely popular, but the FFHS has considerably expanded the content in this new edition. There are now four CDs, not 2, containing over 13 million burials. That’s an increase of 150%. The official price is £45 but I’m delighted to tell you that it’s available to Guild members for £36, giving you a discount of 20%. If you already have the First Edition, though, you’ll need to get in touch with FFHS (Publications) who will upgrade your NBI for £25. If you didn’t catch it the first time around and you’d like to purchase the Second Edition, then just fill in the order form on the Bookstall price list.

At last – binders

I’ve been asked frequently about the possibility of offering binders to hold back issues of the Journal. Older members may remember that we used to offer an A5 binder but, with the dawn of the Editor Stockdill era, A4 became the size de jour, and you’ve been left with piles of old Journals littering the back of the cupboard.

Well, throw away all those elastic bands and bits of string – now you can have 12 copies of the Journal bound in a posh blue binder that will look magnificent on your bookshelf (see illustration). The price of this splendid item is a mere £5.00, plus p&p. Fill in the order form now!

At last – a price list

I’m sorry that I let my enthusiasm run away with me in the last issue of the Journal. I had fully expected to be able to include a Members’ Bookstall price list, but I completely underestimated the amount of time it would take me to prepare the list at a time when I had other commitments, and I missed the deadline to include it in the mailing. However, I’m pleased to say that I’ve now managed to get my life organised and you should have received a price list with this Journal. If you missed out, let me know.

If you’re not close to the itinerary for the Bookstall (mostly the south of England), this is for you. I hope that you’ll be able to take advantage of the 10% discount offered on nearly all the Bookstall items. Postage and packing will need to be paid, of course, but there are just two mail order prices, UK and non-UK.

I’d better point out that this is a members’ price list. I’m unable to accept orders from non-members this way. This may change in the future, but I want to take this development steadily and to control the level of work involved. If necessary, I will include an updated price list with each issue of the Journal and you should make a point of checking for any changes – and that includes prices!

Website pages

To go with the new price list, I shall place some new Bookstall pages on the Guild’s website, inside the Member’s Room. This will give me the opportunity to include a small description of each item that I sell on the Bookstall; I hope you find this useful. I’m not yet at the stage where I can accept orders through the website directly, but this will be where you can download the most recent price list. If you’re able to fill out your order as a “soft copy” (the price list will be available in MSWord from the website), then I can accept your
order as an attachment to an e-mail.

Where we’ve been...

The first big event we attended since the last issue of the Journal was the Guild’s Conference and AGM at Wyboston Lakes in Bedfordshire. For me, it’s the “other” big event to the SoG Family History Show and was very successful. So, although there are fewer events to report this time, things have still been hectic. In between the two “biggies”, I managed to squeeze in the Family History Fair at Worthing, West Sussex, and at the time of writing I’ve just returned from taking the Bookstall to the Guild’s successful DNA Seminar in Oxford.

Next, it’s the huge Family History Fair at the York Racecourse in late June. Because it’s so far for me, I make a weekend of that event and this year some of the stallholders are taking a quiet trip to include dinner on the river on the Friday evening before Saturday’s insanity. Now, I think that’s what you call friendly rivalry!

Where we’re going...

This time of year things become quieter, but there are still a number of events we plan to visit:
- Kent FHS 30th Birthday and Open Day, Chatham, July 3
- Guild Computer Seminar, Nottingham, August 21
- FFHS Conference “A Flight of Yesterdays”, Loughborough, Leicestershire, August 29
- Kent FH Fair, Maidstone, September 5
- Cheltenham FH Fair, Cheltenham, September 19
- HGS Open Day, Horndean, Hampshire, September 26

Do drop in if you’ve some time to spare when we’re in the area. And, of course, you gain a much deeper experience through taking part! It’s not at all like selling used cars, despite my reputation – more like a glorified advice centre. Your experience could help a lot of people. If you have some time to help out, just let me know (address below).

Thank You

It’s such a pleasure when members offer to help behind the stall. It’s not just that they put in a lot of work, but it’s great to hear them explain to the public what we do and to catch the many different reasons why people start a one-name study. I’d particularly like to thank: Richard Akhurst, Sue Atkins, Trish Bliss, Richard Chilvers, Bob Cumberbatch, Ken Grubb, Barbara Harvey, Marc Hiles, Kirsty Maudner, Roy Rayment, Ken Toll and Sandra Turner, who all gave me so much support. Thank you – I can’t do this without you!

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

Registrar’s Notes
By Roger Goacher

FIRST, my thanks to all those members who contacted me about their surname variants and Register entry, following my article in the last Journal. I was gratified so many of you took the trouble to review your one-name study. I am always pleased to hear from members who have any queries about registration issues.

For some time, Guild guidance on registration requirements has been somewhat inconsistent. The actual wording varies between the website, the Register, the Members’ Handbook and the Guild Introductory leaflet. Many prospective and new members seek guidance from me on what the Guild actually requires of its members.

To overcome these anomalies and to bring the guidance more up to date, the current advice has been reviewed. A revised set of guidance notes has been put on the Guild website and will be used in future in Guild documentation as it is reprinted.

Rod Clayburn joined the Guild Committee in April and has agreed to handle the subscription renewals for next year. This will allow me to concentrate fully on the Registrar’s main duties throughout the year.

Your annual subscription is not due until November 1 2004, and a renewal invitation flier will appear in the October Journal. However if you do not already pay your subscription by Standing Order or by credit card with a Repeat Transaction Authority, please consider doing so. This will simplify Rod’s task at renewal time. If you pay taxes in the UK and haven’t already completed a Gift Aid declaration, again please consider doing so. This enables the Guild to claim back the tax you have paid on your subscription. Forms for all these transactions are included as a flyer with this Journal.

One further issue: in the past we have offered members the opportunity to take out or renew subscriptions to Ancestors and Family Tree Magazine as part of the annual renewal process. We won’t be offering the same facility in the same way this year. As the administration of this service has become difficult, especially with the change in the production schedule of Ancestors magazine.

In future, we are looking at ways in which a subscription service to genealogical publications could be offered to members through the Bookstall. We shall, however, still be offering members the chance to subscribe to the Federation of Family History Societies’ Family History News & Digest on the renewal form.
O, IT’S not Star Trek, but a new service to Guild members to provide advice on computer security threats.

Many of you will have seen the notice in the last Journal concerning Guild members being targeted by a virus attack. Messages were being sent to Guild members purporting to come from “the One-name.org team” and suggesting that you open the e-mail attachment, which would have infected your computer with a virus.

Actually, the Guild was not targeted as such, since such spoof messages were generated entirely automatically and many e-mail domains suffered similar messages.

However, as Forum Manager, I felt this was the last straw. Something had to be done! Members have been worried about the present-day plagues of viruses, spam and hacking attacks, yet many members are not expert enough to know what is or is not safe.

I have always discouraged discussion of such matters on the Forum for two reasons...

Firstly, discussion amongst non-experts can lead to the propagation of hoaxes and other urban myths. Secondly, such discussion can end up taking over all debate and drive people away from the Forum. However, many members felt that as the Forum is the only online community they belong to, the Guild ought to encourage some mutual self-help on the subject.

So, with the blessing of the Committee, I have launched the Guild Warning, Advice and Reporting Point – called WARP for short – to address the need to support members with advice and answer queries about computer security matters, while keeping the debate on the Forum to purely genealogical matters.

Help desk

So what is the WARP? It’s really a one-man help desk (i.e. me!) that aims to assist members by answering their queries, sharing advice with others and distributing warnings about the latest viruses or other scams to watch out for.

As one-Namers, computer data is our lifeblood and many of us are prolific users of the Internet and e-mail. There are many places where you can learn about computer security issues, but none would be local enough to put this in the context of genealogy and the Guild’s own e-mail alias system, our Forum and the “One-name.org team” messages mentioned earlier.

There are two components to the WARP.

• Firstly, an e-mail address... guild.warp@one-name.org where I can be reached if you want to ask for advice or report something unusual.

• Then there is an e-mail distribution list, where I post useful information about new threats, advice and news from other sources of information on computer security.

Only I post to this list, so it is not an interactive list like the Guild Forum.

Any Guild member can join this list – it’s useful to all online members even if you don’t belong to the Forum. To join, simply post a blank e-mail to guild-warp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

When I’ve approved your membership, you will then get an e-mail in response, inviting you to sign up to the list, including an option to sign up to the associated website. If you decide on the latter you will need a Yahoo ID and password – you may already have one if you belong to other Yahoo groups.

This website is at:- http://groups.yahoo.com/group/guild-warp/

It contains Internet links to some useful sites relating to computer security and also an advisory document called “Simple steps to securing yourself, your computer and your data;” Do you know the difference between a Virus and a Trojan? If not, this document will explain it all.

At the time of writing, some 95 Guild members have joined the WARP distribution list since it was launched in March.

I hope that many more of you will join the list. Not only will it provide clear advice on threats but also you can assist others by sharing your worries and experiences.

PETER WALKER
Guild WARP administrator
Guild.warp@one-name.org

IN an article on pages 12 and 13, John Hanson, the Guild’s Data Processing Manager, explains why we have changed our e-mail system to try and, hopefully, deal with spam and virus threats. Here, PETER WALKER, Forum Manager, explains his new early-warning system to help members who are worried by these nuisances.

NO, IT’S not Star Trek, but a new service to Guild members to provide advice on computer security threats.

SINCE it isn’t always possible to avoid splitting a long e-mail or Internet address, due to column width as above, here are those vital addresses again...

• To subscribe: guild-warp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

• Website: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/guild-warp/
Rise and fall of the Essex Phillibrowns a fascinating family story

DEAD RELATIVES: The Rise and Fall of the Phillibrowns in Essex, London and New York City, by Glenda Thornton, published by the author, 2960 Pharr Court South, #N5, Atlanta, GA 30305, e-mail: phillibrown@one-name.org. Hardback, 194 pages, ISBN 0-9714110-0X. Price £45.

Glenda Thornton told me that when she came to choose a title for this book, Dead Relatives seemed the only choice, because all the time she had been researching the Phillibrowns this was how she thought of them! And why not, indeed?

At first glance, this is a very impressive book – a hardback of nearly 200 pages with very fine illustrations, a beautiful cover and high standard of production. Nor was it a disappointment when I opened it and began to read.

Glenda, a Guild member (No. 1959), who was born and brought up in North London and is now an American citizen, has focused on members of this family from the 1300s until the late 1800s. Each chapter deals with a different era and is illustrated with maps of and pictures, which help to bring the characters to life.

Each chapter is also named after a different person: Thomas the Wine Cooper, Thomas the Writer, John the Woollen Draper, John the Cooper, John the Broker, etc., and we learn of the fortunes of that person's immediate family. The characters are easy to relate to, as Glenda brings them all to life in the pages of this book. We are able to share her excitement when finding a grave or a will – we all know the feeling.

Also, as we all do, Glenda encountered dead ends, but she didn't leave them out of her book. There was one family we learn a lot about and then they went to America and disappeared, although it seems their descendants are there still.

Fortunes

The book follows the family fortunes, showing how from early beginnings as yeomen in rural Essex the Phillibrowns rose in the social scale, becoming wine and sugar coopers and property owners in the City of London, leaving considerable wills. Then, as so many families also do, they declined until they ended up in the East End of London in very crowded accommodation.

Their circumstances changed seemingly when Thomas Phillibrown, a publican's son who became an engraver, deserted his wife and family and emigrated to New York. His wife died in a lunatic asylum and their daughter married an illiterate labourer and became a lowly charwoman.

Some folks cynically say the only interesting family history is one's own, but Glenda Thornton has certainly proved that saying wrong with this book. It is an inspiration and an outstanding example of how to write an entertaining and fascinating family history story.

SANDRA TURNER

ACROSS THE TAMAR, by Janet Few, published by The Braund Society, 12 Ranelagh Road, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8NX. A5, 80 pages, card cover, ISBN 0-954050-4-1. Price £5.60 inc p&p, UK, £7.0 inc overseas postage by air mail.

THIS is the second part of “So Soon Passeth It Away”, which was a prize-winning entry in the Millennium family history competition run by the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies. The first part was called “Cornish Origins” and the series tells the story of one branch of the West Country Braund family over a period of 250 years.

Dockyards

The author, a Braund by birth, follows them as they leave rural Cornwall in the early 19th century to cross the Tamar river – hence the title – to Plymouth, where they became dockyard workers and seamen.

The story is seen against a backdrop of the Napoleonic era, life in the Victorian navy and the dockyards, and covers the cholera epidemic of 1849 and the Opium Wars.

Another facet of the family story, like so many from that part
of Britain, involves emigration to America.

As one who lectures on writing up your family history, I always stress to those contemplating this task how important it is to set your story in the context of local and national events, and I am glad to see the author has done this admirably. There is also has an impressive list of sources, bibliography and comprehensive index.

ROY STOCKDILL


I AM an avowed and dedicated fan of George Redmonds! Yes, I know some people probably think I go on about him too much, but for me there is no finer exponent of the art of writing about names and making every word fascinating.

It’s not just that he’s a fellow Yorkshireman and an outstanding speaker – though those facts endear him to me, of course – but his scholarship is equalled only by his down-to-earth writing style, which makes even the driest academic research entertaining for the ordinary reader.

Dr Redmonds’ previous books have dealt with surnames, but in this latest offering he concentrates on the study of Christian names and their influence on local and family history.

Over half a century of research into names has convinced him that every forename has a “pedigree”, which can be regional, local or centred even on just one family. In this book, he explores the implications for both amateur and academic historians, tracing the history of Christian names and their respective popularity over 700 years, and challenging some cherished assumptions by other writers on the subject which he shows to be flawed.

Beginning in Norman times, Redmonds first looks at the development of personal names from around 1200–1400 and the considerable influence of the Conquest on our stock of older established English names. He concentrates particularly on the poll tax returns of 1377–81, the most valuable early records for name researchers.

Name pop charts

The name popularity “charts” of 700 years ago see riding at the top those names which are still very much with us today – John, William, Thomas, Robert, Richard and Henry for males, and Joan, Alice, Isabel, Margaret, Ellen and Christine for females.

However, Redmonds points out how unsafe it can be to make assumptions about a person’s sex in an old record from their Christian name, for in his researches he found Richard, Robert, Laurence, Philip, Thomas and Nicholas all being used for girls, while names that are regarded as exclusively male today – such as Julian and Christian – once upon a time were always always feminine, as was Douglas in the 17th and 18th centuries. Oh, yes – and he found a woman in 1379 who rejoiced in the name of Diot Coke!

In other chapters, Dr Redmonds looks at first names from parents and godparents, names from abroad, saints’ names, names from legend, literature and the Bible and first names from surnames, especially from the ranks of the aristocracy.

This is a book either for reading all the way through on a decent train journey, or for sitting down and dipping into at any chapter and being certain of finding something to keep you enthralled.

ROY STOCKDILL

Latest books from FFHS


THE latest from the prolific Stuart Raymond, this useful book provides an excellent glossary to many of those difficult-to-understand words you are likely to come across in old wills. The author also has a useful bibliography of other books relating to county wills and where to find them.


THIS latest edition of the popular work, first published in 1982, has been updated by the well-known military historian, Iain Swinnerton. Both he and the original author Norman Holding are long-standing Guild members.


ANOTHER old favourite by a familiar Guild member, now in its third edition.

• All the above are published by Federation of Family History Societies (Publications) Ltd, Units 15–16, Chesham Industrial Centre, Oram Street, Bury, Lancashire BL9 6EN; online bookshop at www.familyhistorybooks.co.uk
Anniversary was an extraordinary event

The 25th Anniversary Conference at Wyboston Lakes was an extraordinary event and one which circumstances seemed destined to have me attend. An unexpected work visit to Europe and dates that fitted perfectly with the conference meant a quick decision was needed. Fortunately, the organisers could accommodate my very late booking.

Work trips, especially long-haul, tend to be exhausting and it is true that I did wonder if I should be bothered. How glad I am that I did not waiver.

My reason for relating this tale to our membership is simply to reinforce to those of us in other countries what a wonderful organisation we belong to. There is no question that the conference, as well as a most interesting programme, gave me the chance to meet the most wonderful, friendly folk that we know genealogists are; but further, the level of experience and knowledge that was clearly evident even in casual conversation proved that our members are certainly serious researchers. A step ahead of the average hobbyist, there is no doubt.

Value

I am pleased to report that there was clear evidence that the organisation values its wider membership and is constantly looking for ways to add membership value to those of us in other countries.

In summary, I would commend any members who are contemplating a visit to either Europe or the UK for business or pleasure, to plan such a visit around any future Guild conference. You will not be disappointed and I promise, as a result of my experience, it may well be the highlight of your trip.

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Meaning of Heritage

I am a long-term member of the Guild and read Derek Palgrave’s article on the subject of variants (JOONS Vol 8 Issue 5) with more than a little interest. Originally, I planned to address this letter to him, but on reflection it seemed to me that a wider audience might be interested.

The variations of my registered surname, HERITAGE, have never really presented a problem for me. As Derek Palgrave wrote, the different spellings that occur are obviously just that and I have found no genuine variants in the sense that they have always been different.

Cases with and without the initial H and with the “i” replaced by “y” and so forth do exist, but all such families may be linked to each other and often variants such as an “rr” in place of “r” are very fleeting. Using Derek Palgrave’s Figure 1, I calculate that, theoretically, there are 288 spelling variants. I have found most of these, but their scarcity and fleeting existence has discouraged me from any serious study and I have not always recorded them literally.

Variants

I share Mr Tanner’s difficulties in limiting the variations which the Guild permits me to register (Vol 8 Issue 5). I have listed those variations which will spread my entries in indexes rather than to indicate those most likely to be

found. Clearly, from Derek Palgrave’s article longer names will have more variants and no standard number of these is going to serve all members equally well.

The origin of the name Heritage had bedevilled me for more than 40 years and I had resigned myself to never knowing the origin or origins until a few months ago. Since childhood, I had been given to understand that the name derived from France, and certainly it has a French ring to it. On that assumption, I searched and searched for anyone sharing the name in France but never with any success.

I reasoned that the word “heritage” was likely to have the prefix of ’d‘ or ’l‘ and also searched for surnames like Deritage or Leritage anywhere, but again without success. I found a variety of spelling variations but all of these clearly derive from the basic word Erytage/Heritage and I have never found any genuine variants. The closest are Heritage and Heredge but both of these are the subject of separate one-name studies and we all agreed that there are no links between the three groups.

There the matter rested until a few months ago, during a period of enforced idleness, when I began to research medieval history rather more seriously and read the Anglo Saxon Chronicles for the first time. There, staring me in the face, was the word “heritoga”, which originally meant the leader of a war band but later became a community leader. The word is so similar to “heritage” that I cannot ignore it and I now have an even more profound mystery.

Heritoga is a Middle Saxon word which continued in use until the Norman period. Could it have become a surname, given...
that surnames did not evolve until much later? Where may I discover how long a Saxon word remained in use? As I understand it, the French language derives from Latin with some influences – and with no Saxon elements. So did the French impose their use of the word, meaning “legacy”, on Britons, using it as a community title during the Norman period and which of these is the basis for my name?

I shall be fascinated to learn the reactions of members to my puzzle. Is anyone able to give me a contact with an expert in such matters?

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No to 100-year cut-off
I THINK David Weston is wrong to limit his data collection by imposing a 100-year cut-off (JOONS Vol 8 No. 4). I collect all references to HITCHONs worldwide, any time, anywhere.

By not collecting family data from those living and those born since 1904, it would not be possible to...
- Include myself, my wife and siblings on any Hitchon family tree.
- Include my parents on any family tree.
- Include my daughter on any tree.
- Include a fourth generation, namely my two lovely granddaughters.
- Have any living family members subscribing to my newsletter. They freely provide information on their branches of the family.
- Put “lost” relatives in touch with each other, something that has been most rewarding to all concerned.
- Include births, marriages or recent photographs in my family newsletter.
- Arrange family reunions.
- Plot the present distribution from telephone directories.

I have only once been asked to suppress delicate information, although I was informed of it quite voluntarily.

I intend to continue my annual checks of worldwide hatches, matches, despatches and wills until I hang up my research.

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Oxford DNA Seminar
AS a third party observer (my husband is a Guild member), I was invited to the Headley Lecture Theatre at the Ashmolean Museum for the DNA Seminar at Oxford. I went along with an open mind.

Following the introductions by Chris Pomery, who I have heard speak on the subject previously, the first speaker, Dr.Clare Harvey, took 30 minutes to explain the intricacies of DNA. I’m afraid that they did not cover this subject in my nursing training, so although this was well presented, it went somewhat over my head. Perhaps it was too early in the day?

Chris then came back to outline the connections between types of DNA and its use in a one-name study. This made the subject a bit clearer and I decided to push on through and not disappear to the shops.

I am glad I stayed, as fellow Lancastrian, David Ashworth, gave a thoroughly professional talk on the methodology of DNA testing and how amplification of DNA samples are used both in genealogy and forensic Research – all extremely interesting.

We moved on to Patrick Guinness, the lead speaker, who would reveal all about the Guinness clan – well we had to wait a bit as Patrick took us through the full history of DNA studies, including horse and cattle pedigrees, Genghis Khan and the blood of the Vikings before arriving at the origins of Guinness from the Magennis Clan. A very interesting talk, but were we left wondering?

Poor Alan Savin had to fit his detailed talk on major DNA-based one-name studies into the short time slot left and this could possibly have been omitted and left for a future DNA seminar.

You always learn something new at every seminar, and so I did at this one. A visit to the Ashmolean Museum during the long lunch break added to my knowledge and left me with a promise to return and do the museum properly. It was a nice day out.

Liz Clayburn
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Whose signature?
WERE you one of the intrepid Guild members who attended the SoG Family History Show in London in May? Did you buy something from the Guild Bookstall? If you did, do you recognise the signature below?

This was how someone signed a credit card slip that was used to buy a copy of Phillimore’s Atlas & Index of Parish Registers and a £5 census voucher. Unfortunately, in all the chaos, my helper made a mistake with the ancient credit card machine and the imprint of the card failed to come through. I don’t know who bought the items; the only thing I have is this signature.

My generous helper insisted on compensating the Bookstall, but I would dearly love to return their money. So – if this is how you sign your name, would you please make contact?

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Regional Representatives as at June 1 2004

E-mail contact
To contact a Regional Representative by e-mail, use the alias in the following format:-
rep-scotland-north@one-name.org, with the name of the region replacing
“scotland-north” as appropriate (put “-“ instead of a space).
Where there is no e-mail contact, the message will go to rep-coordinator@one-name.org

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WE have vacancies for Regional Representatives in the following areas:

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SUFFOLK
AUSTRALIA
CANADA WEST
USA CENTRAL
USA NORTH EAST
USA NORTH WEST

WHY not devote just a little of your spare time to the Guild by becoming a Regional Rep? Contact the Coordinator.
Visitors from Dark Side of the Goons stun 25th birthday Conference!

IS it a bird? IS it a plane? Has the Guild opened its membership to extra-terrestrials from outer space? No, it was just the opening scene of a futuristic presentation given by Committee members JOHN HANSON and JEANNE BUNTING at the 25th Anniversary Conference at Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire. The two Js startled the final-day audience by appearing as visitors from the future – the year 2029 when the Guild will hopefully be celebrating its 50th anniversary – and predicting “developments” in genealogy in the intervening years. For full coverage of the Conference, see pages 14–18.