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Genes Reunited – is it any use for one-namers?

Also in this issue...
- Do many of us really have rare surnames?
- Grey Owl and Amen Glass at Unusual Studies Seminar
- AGM news and other Guild reports
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Regional Representatives
A LIST of Regional Representatives of the Guild in a number of UK counties and overseas can be found on the inside back cover of this Journal. If you are interested in becoming a Regional Rep, please contact the Regional Representatives 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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The views expressed in the Journal are those of individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Committee of the Guild of One-Name Studies.
A month or so back I received the Minutes of the Probate Department Copies Service Users Group, which gave a progress report on the Digitisation Project for the Probate Calendars. It is hoped to be out to tender early in 2005.

Having recently tried to use the existing computerised calendars, for probate from 1998 onwards, at First Avenue House and, finding them less than ideal for one-namers, I contacted the DCA (Department for Constitutional Affairs, the successors to the Lord Chancellor’s Department), to offer advice and assistance on future on-line data.

Unique

I believe Guild members are in an almost unique position as genealogical data users and many have considerable experience in using online facilities for obtaining information. To cut a long story short, I have agreed to consult Guild members and co-ordinate responses to DCA on what an online probate calendar should ideally contain and how it should be accessed.

As it is paid for by the public purse, such online facilities are unlikely ever to be completely free, so we need to take a pragmatic approach. What I understand to be envisaged is a pay-per-view solution to look at images of the existing calendars. I believe pricing is planned to be 10p per page viewed, with a minimum purchase of £5 which would be valid for 30 days.

Clearly, an index is required in order to located the correct image. The main question is what should be in the Index for free, and how much extra would there be in the image to make it worth paying for.

Initial suggestions are that the index should contain:

- Name (including middle names).
- Location (I presume deceased’s last address).
- Date of death.
- Clearly, each of these must have facilities for wildcard and range searching.

By the time you read this I will have already opened up the debate on the Guild Forum. I would welcome constructive suggestions on online probate calendar access and my contact details are at the front of the Journal.

Complaints procedure

The Guild Officers recently received a complaint direct from a member. Can I please remind everyone that we have a process for Members’ Feedback. Initially, any issues should be taken up with the Committee member concerned. Only then should it be escalated. Page 10 of the Members Handbook refers.

Constitutional Review

The Committee is making good progress, but at least one more meeting is required before I can table the outline proposals to members. I have written again to the Charity Commission, seeking further clarification on some of the projects we may wish to undertake in the future.

And finally

The Guild year ended on November 31 2004. Subscriptions for 2004/5 were due to be paid by November 1. At the time of writing (early December), a significant number of members still had not re-subscribed.

This year the Committee have agreed as a goodwill gesture to mail out this copy of the Journal to all members, including those of you whose renewal is overdue.

Membership and registration of those not renewing will lapse on February 1, resulting in loss of all membership benefits. Can I please urge you to renew as soon as possible and avoid having to re-register at a later date. Please contact our Renewals Secretary, Rod Clayburn, 4 Winnham Drive, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 8QE, e-mail: guild.renewals@one-name.org
What was civil registration review all about, exactly?

Don’t governments get their nannying knickers in a twist sometimes? Cynics might say rather too often! Can there have been a bigger surprise than the recent announcement – reported on page 24 of this Journal – that the much-heralded and controversial, in some aspects, changes in civil registration will apparently not now happen?

Well, at least not in the lifetime of this current parliament, for by the time the proposed legislation can be reinstated there will have been a General Election and the entire political spectrum may have altered. Who knows?

Ever since we first heard about the civil registration review, the family history world was thrown into turmoil, since certain aspects of the proposals seemed to threaten our very existence.

It is quite true we welcomed some of them, especially the scheme to digitise the older, historic records (those over 100 years old) and make the original registers accessible at record offices. Obviously, this would have helped genealogical research considerably.

And yet, even these promising ideas seemed flawed. For by the powers-that-be admitted there was no clear indication as to how this would be undertaken – or who by.

The principle of it being undertaken on a not-for-profit basis is not one that would appeal to any large commercial organisations, and there was a real fear that if it ended up being undertaken by operatives in the Third World – as with the 1901 census – the quality of data produced would be unacceptable to family historians.

Restrictions

However, what really stuck in the craw were the proposals to restrict information on birth and death certificates – specifically addresses, occupations and causes of death – under 100 years old.

This would have meant that, at one fell swoop, the two most vital pieces of information the genealogist needs to identify one John Smith from scores of others – addresses and occupations – would have been removed!

After much arguing and consultation, our viewpoint was listened to and the proposed suppression of occupations was removed. I can recall one memorable occasion when I asked the civil servant in charge of the whole review what on earth was sensitive about knowing that someone was a plumber when he married 40 or 50 years ago.

He looked me straight in the eye and admitted: "Nothing whatsoever."

However, after the consultation process and much to-ing and fro-ing, we were still left with proposals to restrict addresses on marriage and death certificates under 75 years old, and the cause of death on death certificates less than 25 years old.

As a journalist, I am automatically opposed to censorship and my views on unnecessarily stringent privacy laws are far too well-known for me to repeat them here. However, speaking as a family historian, there is no doubt that even these watered-down proposals would have seriously hampered our research.

Now we learn the whole thing is back in the melting pot. So what happened? There is a belief that the government tripped itself up badly in believing it could get away with forcing the civil registration changes through by using the Regulatory Reform Order procedure.

This was meant to be employed on relatively non-controversial, tidying-up legislation, fast-tracked through parliament without a full debate. However, it seems the Regulatory Reform Committee thought the procedure should not be used for such far-reaching changes as proposed in the civil registration review – the biggest shake-up since the whole system was introduced in 1837.

Did no-one warn ministers in advance that this might happen? Have the General Register Office wasted lord-knows-how-much money on their lengthy consultation procedures?

One nice little theory I saw propagated on the Internet genealogy mailing lists was that the immense interest generated by the BBC2 TV series “Who Do You Think You Are?” has produced so many new family historians that ministers began to panic about losing votes come election time next May.

Who knows what will happen now? Watch this space!
DNA testing comes of age

How a surname-based DNA project can be organised and results benefit the one-namer

By Chris Pomery

WITH genetic genealogy now almost five years old, 2005 is a good time to review some of the predictions I made in July 2001 when I confidently described DNA testing as “a valuable tool for one-namers”, and the progress of the Pomeroy DNA study.

What strikes me most clearly is that, while the promises that DNA testing offers to historians are slightly delayed in arriving, the potential that genetic genealogy now offers has grown larger than I’d anticipated just a few years ago.

To reveal how this is happening let’s review how a surname-based DNA project can be organised and how its results might benefit the one-namer. Typically, a one-name study gathers together family trees researched by different, often unconnected researchers.

Some of these trees will have been drafted many years ago before mass transcription data such as FreeBMD came online, others more recently and benefiting from the flood of data now available on the web. Even as the diligent one-namer gathers transcription data from far and wide, one of the key problems he or she faces is how to link together the trees and to corroborate all this research already done by third parties.

Effective

DNA testing is proving an effective tool to corroborate the integrity of documented family trees for the simple reason that the DNA signature of each male descendant is passed down from father to son in a manner that exactly mimics the transmission of the surname from one generation to the next.

The Y-chromosome test results of any male descendant who shares the surname of the oldest male in the tree should, in almost all cases, be identical or extremely similar. By DNA testing several male descendants within a tree, we can quickly identify whether they share a common DNA signature or not. If they do not, the answer will lie either in a documentary error within the tree, which we can then try to correct, or in a break in the line of DNA transmission in one generation from father to son.

There are, of course, good reasons why some male descendants might have a different DNA signature than the standard one for other male descendants in that tree. These include an illegitimate birth somewhere in the paternal line, the parenting of a male child by a man other than the documented husband, name changes for inheritance purposes, and the like. But the DNA testing of a small number of male descendants per documented tree will quickly reveal their common DNA signature, in turn isolating that part of the tree where a different DNA signature is found as warranting closer documentary investigation.

Impact

Four years on, it is hard for me to over-estimate the huge impact that DNA testing has had on the Pomeroy One-Name Study, which has benefited greatly from the hints provided by our DNA results. At the same time, I can reveal that virtually every large documented tree has revealed some anomalous DNA results which have caused us to reinvestigate the documented assumptions underlying each tree and to try to correct them. In a nutshell, most of the major trees had significant faults in them which the DNA results have flagged up and allowed us to start to remedy.

Within this context, I have to confess that I take a very pro-active role in running the Pomeroy One Name Study which I know would not suit every GOON. In fact, I even have the desire of one day “finishing” the study by reconstituting its family trees! In practice, what this means is that I have an active certificate-buying policy using society FOR several years now, Guild member CHRIS POMERY has been in the vanguard of the “new genealogy” – the science of making genetic links by DNA testing.

His book, DNA and Family History, was published by The National Archives in September 2004 and has proved a best-seller.

In this specially commissioned article, he describes how the work he has been undertaking since 2001 has progressed and its effect on the Pomeroy One-Name Study.
research funds to identify the missing documentable links.

This is, over a few years, consolidating a large number of small family trees into our major trees. By doing this, I am – in consultantspeak – leveraging the benefits of the DNA results which have indicated which trees might be linked together through a common genetic heritage.

But I should stress that while I have been working at developing the one-name study in a very pro-

active way, I think the impact that DNA testing has had upon our study would be replicated in other surnames, too.

When we first started the Pomeroy DNA project in 2000, we had just two or three documented family trees with more than 200 name-bearers in them, and we deliberately chose one male descen-
dant per tree to be DNA tested, regardless of the tree’s size, in order to find out which trees would turn out to be linked by genetics.

The initial results identified seven “genetic families” where several participants shared a broadly identical DNA signature, plus a number of singleton DNA signature results. As we enter 2005 the picture looks markedly different. The number of DNA-tested male POMs has risen from 51 to 73; the number of “genetic families” (classified as two or more identical or near identical DNA results) has risen from seven to 14, and the largest of these “genetic families” has 18 members.

Documented

Some of these genetic families are now clearly documented as a single family tree. The best example is that of Tony Pomeroy, my predecessor who set up the Pomeroy ONS, whose DNA result was shared by four other DNA study participants whose smaller trees have subsequently been documentarily linked with Tony’s Dorset tree, expanding it from around 200 to 500 members.

By contrast, other “genetic families” are still a documentary work in progress. Traditional methods suggest that the trees of a set of eight DNA partici-
pants are highly likely, based on their geographical origin, to form a single family tree. The DNA results are, however, less clear cut, suggesting that there may be three distinct DNA signatures within such an expanded tree. One of those DNA signatures is only found within this family tree, so I am fairly confi-
dent that this one is truly associated with the tree as documented.

The other two DNA signatures have also been found in other unlinked family trees. This opens up
two possibilities for each of these DNA signatures: firstly, that the trees they are associated with might one day be documentarily linked together and with the main tree; or, secondly, that the same DNA signature independently exists in two genuinely unlinked family trees, despite the common surname.

If the caveats above seem a bit vague and unsatis-
factory, the answer lies in the particular circum-
stances of our DNA project. The reason why the Pomeroy DNA study has yet to answer this type of question is simply because we ran our initial set of Y-chromosome tests on 51 members four years ago when this kind of DNA testing was still in its infancy. Just to backtrack, each DNA signature is defined by a series of numbers generated by investigating the structure of the DNA at a number of different places (known as markers) on the Y-chromosome.

The very first surname-based DNA study in 2000

Handling the switch from paper systems to digital archives

BACK in January 2001 I wrote an article about how one-namers might handle the switch from paper-based systems to digital communi-
cations and archives. While that seemed a bit of pipe dream at the time, I can report that, after a long-term scanning effort, our paper archives have now been turned into a 1.5Gb folder of PDF files.

During this process I found that my prede-
cessor, Tony Pomeroy, and myself have had contact with over 1,000 researchers or enquirers and that collectively in the archives we had details of over 400 certificates. Even more reassuring, we now have multiple copies of the archive shared among our leading members, so it is much safer than when it was simply on a single shelf.

I was quite surprised by these figures, as I’ve always thought we were quite a small study with fewer than 2,500 name-bearers in the UK, backed by my resolve to put no more than 20 hours a month into it. This realisation spurred me on, though, to attempt the next stage and switch the delivery of our newsletter wherever possible from post to e-mail. Just 37% of our 216 newsletter recipients don’t have an e-mail delivery address, though a few of them still elect to take a printed posted copy.

As an incentive, any member who takes the e-mail PDF version now only has to pay a one-
time membership fee, so we’ve also slashed the administrative time taken to chase sub-
scriptions every year. Next year I plan to market the study more widely outside the UK and I’m hopeful that we’ll get a stream of new members who will, in effect, pay a one-
time donation to join our e-mail newsletter mailing list and boost our research funds. I’d be interested in hearing from any GOON who’s tried this approach and to hear whether the experience has been good or disappointing.
compared just four markers across its participants; the Pomeroy DNA study a year later compared 12; today, the standard genealogical Y-chromosome test measures 43 markers.

If we were running the same test surname programme today our results would be much, much clearer because of the higher resolution of a routine test procedure that uses almost four times as many markers as we had access to four years ago. Basically, I would now be able to look at every individual DNA result and determine the linkages between them with a much higher degree of clarity than I can with the low resolution tests we received in 2001.

Upgraded
This move from low resolution Y-chromosome tests (12–25 markers) to high resolution tests (37–43 markers) is the key one that has upgraded the usefulness of genetic testing for genealogists across the board and guaranteed the continuing growth of interest in the investigation of DNA links.

Back in 2001 I predicted that it would soon be possible to compare one’s individual Y-chromosome result with a large public database, and that control populations of results based on regions and data on the mutation rates of individual markers would become available to help organisers with some of the more advanced aspects of DNA testing. While these have not yet arrived in the form I had expected, there are signs that they are now in the process of arriving.

Price drop
Better news is that the price of a high resolution Y-chromosome test has dropped significantly helped in part by the current weakness of the dollar against the pound. A 43-marker test can now be bought for around £85–90, putting it within reach of the dedicated genealogist.

The key test of any technology is an assessment of the benefits it brings. Purely personally, the indication from our DNA results that the majority of people bearing my own variant surname – Pomery – link back to a single family, is an invaluable hypothesis that I’m hoping future trawls through the documentary evidence will gradually back up.

But whenever anyone asks me what’s the point of DNA testing, I cite the case of one of our American members who for several decades has tried to document his links back to a Pomeroy family in County Cork in Ireland in the mid-17th century. Two British men who separately trace back to a family in the same time and place we already knew share the same DNA signature. Why not take the DNA test and see if yours is the same as theirs, I asked the American?

Identical
A few weeks later the answer came back: his result was identical. While the match is only at a low resolution, anything other than an exact match would have tended to disprove his research and family history, so he was extremely pleased that the DNA test tends to confirm, even if it cannot conclusively prove, the link.

As I see it, DNA testing opens up a highly valuable way for Guild members to link name-bearers in the New World with their Old World ancestor families, a feature which I, with my focus on the origins of the British families, find extremely useful to engage our overseas cousins.

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pomeroy@one-name.org

I need your help!

• FOOTNOTE
Can I please enlist GOONS members’ support? I’m currently trying to identify inspiring, complex and ambitious history projects undertaken by non-academics, i.e. people like us.

These would include genealogy and family history projects, surname studies, local history projects such as parish, community and factory studies, plus anything quirky and fascinating with a strong historical theme to it that involves an historical person or a quest of some sort.

They can be published or unpublished. I’m doing this within a part-time diploma in history and I’d be very grateful to hear of any projects that members can signpost me towards. Please feel free to e-mail or write to me with suggestions.

How to get a copy of Chris’s book
CHRIS Pomery’s book, “DNA and Family History”, was published by The National Archives in November 2004. A signed, dedicated and numbered copy can be bought direct from the author at the book’s website, www.DNAandFamilyHistory.com

The website publishes and links to a range of other genetic genealogy resources, including detailed results of the Pomeroy DNA study, advice how to run a surname-based DNA project and a list of testing companies & prices.
Do many of us really have rare surnames or do we just think we do?
By Donald Hatch

We all know that for many day-to-day purposes, and especially for family history research, having an uncommon or rare surname can be beneficial. Those with surnames that occur uniquely or very rarely can be more easily traced than the 100,000 John Smiths or Mary Browns. Many of us may, however, mistakenly think we have a (very) rare name when this is not the case.

My interest in this subject was awakened by an article by Trevor Ogden entitled “How rare are surnames?” in the Journal of One-Name Studies in April 1998, which suggested that there might be at least several hundred thousand different surnames in the UK and also that a large proportion of these occurred only once, i.e. there was only one person with this name in the UK.

In this article I will call such a unique occurrence of a surname a “hapax”, after the Greek word meaning once-only and used in an expression to describe words that are found only once in all extant classical literature. More recent work by Ogden suggests that there are perhaps 200,000 persons with names that only occur once in the UK and 140,000 whose names only occur twice.

Can there really be so many unique names and how can this be? Apart from immigrants, most people must surely have at least some relatives with the same name; and as soon as a male marries his name will automatically acquire a second holder. My conclusions in this article from research into 19th century names is that although a considerable proportion of all names are “hapax”, the number and proportion of people with such a name is smaller than at first sight might appear.

Estimates based on small samples, or even large samples that are only a small proportion of the total population, give rise to erroneous estimates of the frequency of rare or unique names. In addition, many apparently hapax names are transcription errors, spelling variants or homonyms for more common names. Even after correction for these factors, many remaining hapax names appear to be dubious, and very few individuals can be found to be hapax in both the 1881 and 1901 census returns.

Extinction of names – a theoretical approach

Given assumptions about longevity, and about the chances of a holder of a hapax name marrying and producing sons, it is possible to estimate the chances of a hapax name becoming extinct, remaining hapax or multiplying. Assuming, then, that our Mr or Miss Hapax is a 20-year-old orphan without relatives of the same name, marries at 25, produces two children by the time he or she is 30 and dies at 70, and this also applies to all their children, Table 1, below, indicates the likely outcome.

The table indicates that under these assumptions the chance that a hapax name will disappear altogether is high and rises over time, and that if it does not disappear it will cease to be a hapax name! For example, if our hapax is a Miss Hapax, after 30 years she will have married and lost her maiden name, so there is a 50% chance of extinction in the first generation. If it is a Mr Hapax he will also have married, but will now have a wife and two children, so that there are four persons with his “hapax” surname.

If both children are girls (25% chance) he and his wife will have died after another 30 years and both girls will have married and lost their maiden name, leading to an additional 12.5% chance of extinction. If they are a boy and a girl (50% chance) there will be still one family of four after 60 years (50% of 50% = 25%). After 120 years there is a nearly 75% chance that the name will have disappeared, and a small chance that from the original one Mr Hapax more than 10 descendants have appeared. Eventually, the chance that the name becomes extinct levels out at 81%. Given the simple assumptions above, a real hapax cannot occur, since all the occurrences come in family units of four persons, but, of course, reality is much more complex so that

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of persons with hapax name after</th>
<th>30 years</th>
<th>60 years</th>
<th>90 years</th>
<th>120 years</th>
<th>150 years</th>
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<tr>
<td>0 i.e name is extinct</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>69.5%</td>
<td>74.2%</td>
<td>77.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
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<td>0.8%</td>
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<td>0.4%</td>
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<td>32</td>
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* (8 or more)
(The formula used to make these computations is given in an Appendix at the end of the article)
hapax names can appear and disappear regularly. Indeed, given the rate of extinction there must be a similar rate of hapax creation.

This finding that hapax names will tend to become extinct or multiply supports the belief that the total number at any time may not be as great as some estimates based on samples suggest. To test this hypothesis, I examined some large samples of names. To avoid the problems caused by the influx in recent years of large numbers of immigrants with unusual names, I started by analysing a large sample of Victorian marriage registrations. Because even this large sample seriously underestimated the number of hapax names, it was later augmented by a 100% sample from the 1881 census.

Samples and sampling error

If you take a random sample of persons, the proportion of those with apparently hapax names is at first 100%. All the names are different but after say, 50, persons are sampled some names begin to be repeated. In this way the number of hapax names continues to rise, but they decline as a proportion of all the names found. Most of the hapax names turn out not to be so, as a second, third, etc., holder is found. It will be shown that even if a 20% sample of the population is taken, (a very large number of persons), many of the apparent hapax names are not, in fact, so.

A similar effect occurs with the words in this article: if we just take the first sentence nearly all the words are hapax, and in the whole article very many will be, but this does not mean that if all English literature is examined such a large proportion will remain so. As a test I analysed the 25,000 words in a report I had written, which suggested that of the 2,615 different words used, 1,059 (41%) occurred only once, and a further 402 (15%) only twice. But together these uncommon words represented only 7% of the total number of words. The most common 10 ("the", "of", "and", "to" etc) were good for 70% of all the words used. A similar distribution is found with surnames.

To achieve as large a proportional sample as possible I restricted my analysis to names beginning with the letters HA. All the marriages between 1867 and 1886 of brides and grooms whose surname began with these letters were extracted from the FreeBMD database as at November 2001. At that time, the coverage of marriages was about 73% – 5.7 million persons marrying, compared to the ONS total of 7.7 for England and Wales in this period. Surnames beginning with “Ha” were, and remain, about 3.4% or 1 in 30 of all UK surnames. “Ha” does not include any of the most common surnames such as Smith or Brown but has a good scatter of names in the top 200. If we assume that the distribution of “Ha” names is similar to that of all other names, we can make estimates for the whole population of names by using this factor of ±30. This assumption has not been verified, and is commented on later in this paper.

Table 2 (left) summarises the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name*</th>
<th>Percentage with main spelling*</th>
<th>Frequency in 1867-86 sample</th>
<th>1867-86 marriage sample</th>
<th>All names in 1853**</th>
<th>1867-86 marriages</th>
<th>1881 census ***</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>17387</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>14728</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>13360</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>6171</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hart</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>4691</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawkins</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>4532</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayes</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>4357</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harding</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>4292</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartley</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>4010</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardy</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>3776</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haynes</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>3731</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>&gt;300</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammond</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>3529</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harper</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>3210</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayward</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>3014</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hancock</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2968</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haigh</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>2919</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>&gt;300</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hargreaves</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2612</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>&gt;300</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanson</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>2255</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>&gt;300</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hale</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>2079</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>&gt;300</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamer</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>1829</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>&gt;300</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All others</td>
<td>87992</td>
<td>45.5</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total sample</td>
<td>93.6%</td>
<td>193442</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Including homonyms such as Haynes/Haines, Haigh/Hague, Hamer/Harmer etc.
** Excluding homonyms for England and Wales, source Registrar General
*** Including Scotland; the Scottish name Hamilton came in the 6th place with 2.2%
NB: In 1853 the most common surname, Smith, was held by 1.36% of all persons, or slightly more than 4 times as frequent as Hall
distribution of the most common names from this sample of marriages (the data from the 1881 census is discussed later in this article and added here for comparison).

The total sample amounted to 193,972 persons, but still only represented about 20% of all persons with “Ha” names at the time. A small number (340) of obvious transcription errors, spelling mistakes, and double-barrelled names were removed. Dealing with “foreign” names, which were relatively few at this period – slightly less than 1% of the births of people in the 1901 census took place abroad – was more difficult.

Foreign names

Obvious foreign names with small numbers of holders (e.g. Haber-stumpf), were removed, since they were likely to be recent immigrants or temporary visitors. Hagestadt, with six occurrences, was the most common of the 190 persons with foreign names. Foreign names that occurred more often were left in the sample, since it could be assumed that the name had become indigenous, e.g. Habershon, with 17 persons.

After removal of all these persons (0.3%) the sample for further analysis became the 193,442 in Table 2. Amongst these persons there were 3,775 “different” names, of which about 1,900, or half, were hapax names. This would suggest that there might have been 285,000 hapax names in the total population (1900 x 5 x 30, as the sample is only 20% of the total “Ha” names, and “Ha” names are 1/30 of the total population). This total is similar to Trevor Ogden’s original estimate for modern-day Britain. However, inspection of the sample indicated that there were many spelling variations of what could realistically be considered the same name, either because of transcription errors or simply from the existence of homonyms – different spellings of the same sound.

Homonyms

The process of reducing the complete sample to account for this factor is somewhat subjective. In principle, I combined all the various spellings of surnames that were pronounced similarly – homonyms – but even here there is doubt about the pronunciation used. For example, did Haman rhyme with Harman, Hamman or Hayman? The most frequently occurring spelling variants combined into one name were Haynes (2,338 persons) and Haines (1,263 persons). Only about six per cent of all persons had a name that was regarded as a homonym and combined with another name. The result was that the total number of names was reduced from 3,775 to 2,274, and the number of hapax names fell more sharply, from 1,900 to just 854, (since relatively many of these names were homonyms for, or spelling variants of, more common names). This meant that 38% of all names were hapax names, but only 0.44% of persons had such a name.

To estimate how many of these 854 names were, in fact, hapax names, and not just “apparent hapax” names because of the relatively small sample, two further tests were carried out. Firstly, a large number of random subsamples were taken from the FreeBMD sample, at levels of 50%, 25%, 12.5% etc., down to samples of just one person. From these, summary statistics were calculated and graphed.

Figure 1 illustrates how a quite small sample gives a good estimate of the percentage of persons with the top 10 names (±40%), but that the percentage of persons who appear to have a hapax name (or, for example, to have just one other holder of their name, a “2”) declines continuously. A sample of 200, or 0.1%, of the full sample of 193,442 persons suggests that about 30% have hapax names and a further 10% 2s (marked by arrows).

Figure 2 uses logarithmic scales, which generate a straight line trend, to clarify the decline in percentage...
hapax as the sample size increases (the 100% sample size in this figure refers to all “Ha” names, about five times as many as the FreeBMD sample of 193,442 persons). Extrapolation suggests that if the FreeBMD sample were increased to 100% coverage of the “Ha” names, no more than about 0.15% (or about 1,500) of all persons would have one. Applied to the total population, there would be only about 45,000 (1,500 x 30) hapax names, instead of the 200,000 suggested by earlier research.

To sum up, the sample of 193,442 persons with 854 hapax names suggests that 0.44% of all persons had a hapax name, or about 132,000 in the whole population of about 30 millions at the time (854 x 5 x 30), but extrapolation to a 100% sample reduces this total considerably to less than 50,000.

**1881 census check**

To confirm this estimate, a full sample of the 1881 UK census for names beginning with “Ha” was analysed. My thanks are due to Steve Archer for extracting this sample from the 1881 census. A similar process of analysis was used as for the FreeBMD sample: of the 1,041,336 persons with “Ha” names, only 2,075 were removed as foreign, and 302 as double-barrelled or clear transcription errors. The process of correcting for homonyms reduced the number of different (spellings of) names from 10,439 to 5,961. The number of hapax names fell from 3,886 to 1,876.

This is somewhat higher than the estimate of 1,500 given above; it may be related to the way names are transcribed. In the FreeBMD sample the original names in the marriage registers were possibly correctly given and spelled at the time of registration, with the errors only creeping in during the original 19th century, and later FreeBMD, transcription processes; with the census the original enumerator may well have misspelled a considerable number of names, and there is well documented evidence that in recent times the census transcription process has also added many errors. But all transcriptions are subject to considerable errors from various sources. Table 3 gives some summary statistics from both samples.

Figure 3 illustrates how the percentage of apparent hapax names that are really hapax rises sharply as the sample size increases; even a 20% sample (e.g. the 193,442 persons in the FreeBMD sample) only means that about 41% of apparent hapax names really are so.

**Samples**

On the assumption that there are actually 1876 real hapax names amongst “Ha” names in the 1881 census, the FreeBMD sample of 18.6% would suggest that only 18.6%, or 349, of the 854 apparent hapax names were, in fact, really so. The next step was to examine the individual hapax names in the two samples to see if this was the case.

It transpired that there were only 54, not 349, names that were hapax in both samples. Two-hundred-and-sixty-seven of the other 800 hapax names in the FreeBMD sample occurred more than once in the census, and the remaining 533 did not occur at all.

Conversely, of the 1876 hapax names in the 1881 census, 1,822 did not appear at all in the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample:—</th>
<th>“Small sample”</th>
<th>FreeBMD sample</th>
<th>1881 census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of persons with Ha names</td>
<td>12074</td>
<td>193442</td>
<td>1038959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of all Ha names</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of different names found</td>
<td>779</td>
<td>2274</td>
<td>5961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons per name, average</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>85.1</td>
<td>174.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with top 10 names</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of (apparent) hapax names</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of names that are (apparent) hapax</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of persons with hapax names / persons per hapax name</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>0.44%</td>
<td>0.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of apparent hapax names that are real hapax</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 6.25% of the FreeBMD sample (= ± 1% of the total population of Ha names)
** see also figures 2 and 3

*Table 3 – Summary statistics from Ha samples*
FreeBMD sample and just 17 occurred more than once. However, the FreeBMD sample of marriages has the peculiar property that the marriage being registered immediately abolishes a hapax name, since a male hapax acquires a wife with his name and a female loses her maiden name! A further check was, therefore, carried out by examining what had happened to the 1881 census hapax names by the time of the 1901 census. An examination of the 1876 hapax names in the 1881 census suggests that many of these may well have been foreign and of recent origin, or a variant spelling of another name, in spite of the correction process carried out. Table 4 gives 32 randomly selected names as examples.

Table 4 – Examples of hapax names in 1881 census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Habisham</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hamblick</td>
<td></td>
<td>Haronesty</td>
<td></td>
<td>Haveeker</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadwitt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hammad</td>
<td></td>
<td>Harrups</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hawbrow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hainault</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hancatty</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Harsomb</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hawlock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haltch</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hanigilton</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hartham</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Haxt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hallatson</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hanscourt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hadsrick</td>
<td></td>
<td>Haybold</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hallswatt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Harperer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hasthead</td>
<td></td>
<td>Haygest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halsno</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hardslup</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hatterbey</td>
<td></td>
<td>Haynesmus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halfwell</td>
<td></td>
<td>Harkard</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hauds</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hayslow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note 1 indicates persons with a birthplace outside England; these were France, Norway, Ireland, N America and and Belgium respectively. In addition it can be clearly seen that some of the other names could easily be spelled differently, e.g. Habersham, Hadwit etc.)

Finally, which were these names that were hapax in both the 1881 and 1901 censuses, and were they, in fact, the same persons? The total is estimated to be about 170 (9% [Table 5] of 1,876 names) giving 5,100 (170 x 30) for the population at large. But none of the 17 persons identified in Table 5 were actually the same person in both censuses! Their names are given in Table 6.

Indeed, there was only one occurrence of any of the sample of 200 hapax persons in 1881 being found in 1901, even if the name was by then no longer hapax. This was a certain John Haytread, born Hitchin, a locksmith aged 23 living at Willenhall in 1881, and a superintendent of an insurance company, aged 44, living at Swadlincote in 1901.

These findings suggest, as many users of the census will be aware, that these databases are by no means as accurate and comprehensive as we would like.

Conclusions

What conclusions can we draw from these analyses about the rarity or not of surnames? On the basis of the 1881 census sample, corrected for homonyms, etc., as described above, the following distribution is suggested, as shown in Table 7 on page 17.

(Please turn to page 17 for the conclusion of this article.)
was an early subscriber to Friends Reunited, and found it of considerable benefit. In common with many users, I let my subscription lapse after the initial year.

When they launched a sister site called Genesconnected, I was more sceptical (and there weren't any occurrences of my “Name” listed!) so didn't register. This year they re-branded as Genes Reunited (GR), and having heard some favourable tales, I decided to give it a go. The service has evolved over the last six months. Some features have improved (such as personal security), some have been added, and others have been trimmed. What follows is, I believe, the latest situation.

The purpose of the site is to enable individuals to “publish” their family tree, find connections with others, and share data. It also provides various forums for mutual help & advice.

Basic home page
Some of the information on the home page changes periodically, so it will not always be identical to the illustration (see Figure 1). One snippet that appeared whilst preparing this was the fact that there were 22,516,862 ancestors on the site. I assume they mean entries, as many of the ancestors will clearly be duplicates of someone else’s.

From the basic (free) home page you can search for an individual by forename AND surname only. I tried John Smith and there were 7,059 entries. It won’t let you see the details of the entries unless you register, which is free.

I tried using wild cards for searching, but it wouldn’t have it. Well, actually, it did – it said there were four entries for ** Smith! I tried my usual trick of putting in three spaces followed by an asterisk (it works on some sites) for forename, with Smith as the surname. Again, it wouldn’t accept it, but did come back and there were 21,302 entries for Smith. Clearly, a lot of people out there need help. It goes on to say that over 250,000 entries are added each week. A check for my registered name revealed that there were 198 entries. I know already that this represents about 60+ individuals, increasing by about two per week.

You can start building a family tree from the basic homepage, but I’m not sure what value this has. I started one as directed, and when I clicked on the appropriate button I got an “error on page” message. I assume that unless you register, this information is discarded.

Registration
There is not a lot you can do on the site without registering, but that is free, easy and seems to be secure. I certainly haven’t had any unwanted mail as a result. Registration requires some personal data to be entered, but there are no checks and you can more or less put what you like (but so can everyone else). Having registered, there are many more menu options available (see the side panel in Figure 2.) One nice feature is the free downloadable charts in PDF format which were all quite usable when printed out. There is a six-generation fan chart, a four-generation pedigree chart, and a family group record sheet that is one of the better ones I’ve seen.

At this stage it is also possible to start entering data and building a family tree. There is a facility to import & export GedCom, but this has not been evaluated. I think I’ve worked out how the site operates: a large, lineage-linked database of individuals, is searchable by surname and other details. If I entered my own tree just for my one-name line, it would be about 1,200 individuals – about 20% of my ONS. Of these, about 700 have my registered name and would, therefore, swap those entries of the other subscribers.

I also have about 500 other surnames which I am not particularly interested in, mostly the spouses of distant branches. However, the prospect of anyone finding me listed as apparently interested made me decide to keep my entry to a selfishly perhaps! decide to keep my entry to a minimum and I resisted the temptation to add more than my own basic details.

When you search you can select by first name, surname, year of birth (with range) and place of birth. Wildcards are still not allowed. A search for John Toll brought up 10 matches and indicated that there were a further 34 listed under variants, which it had found using something called NameX® and which it claims to be superior to Soundex. It then goes on to say that it doesn’t check all spellings under which your ancestors name may appear.

Clicking on any of the names gives you the forename and membership number of the person who submitted the information, complete with a summary of the details they submitted on their ancestor. It also invites you to subscribe for £7.50 per annum, so you can contact the submitter.

Subscription
Subscription is online by popular credit and debit cards or by cheque. There is a link at the bottom of the screen for details. They have cheekily ticked the box to make it a Repeat Transaction Authority, renewing your subscription automatically in future years, but there is a note telling you that you can unsubscribe if you don’t want to do that.

Benefits of full membership include, say GR:
• Contact members and discover your family history
• View other members’ family trees
• Post messages on all message boards.
• Add photos to your family tree

For me, the first is the most useful. Clicking on a name’s individual brings up a screen similar to the one before, except now you can send a message to the submitter of the individual concerned. At this stage you only know the submitter’s forename (that which they registered with) and their membership number. If you write a message in the annoyingly small box provided and send it, the recipient gets an e-mail advising them they have a message. You have them automatically added to your personal contacts list (see Figure 3 on page 16) facilities. A copy of the message is placed on your “sent messages” list and the individual is marked as “contacted” in future search results list.

Recipients of messages have to visit the GR site and log in or click a link in the notifying e-mail they receive to read the message, which is located in their personal inbox. In this way, each party can carry on a discussion without revealing their email address to each other. You can, of course, reveal your true contact details in a message to enable discussion to continue outside GR, for example to swap images of records or post to printouts.

Your contact list provides a historical log of all the messages via GR and you can use it (for your message...
their tree with you.

There is another facility which they don’t list as benefit which I find extremely useful, and that is to be e-mailed periodically when new people with your name(s) of interest have been added. You can also have a list of people who have been added in the last few days, which can be set to up to 14 days.

**Personal experience**

When I find a new entry has been added for my name, I send a message via GR explaining who I am, what I do and the sort of data I hold. Some of them are very surprised! I try to tailor each response for best results, depending on whether I recognise the individual(s) listed from my records.

I have had a much higher degree of success than I expected, given that many of those contacted will only have a passing interest in the name. Overall, “No reply” is about 15-20%, but I have modified my approach slightly and now seem to be faring considerably better.

When confronted with a long list of individuals whose submitters I’ve not contacted, I start the contact process to see who submitted the entry. I note the individual, submitter name & membership number (e.g. in a spreadsheet), and cancel the process. I repeat this for each name submitted.

Sorting the information by membership number, you can see who has made multiple entries and who has made single ones. The former are likely to have done a certain amount of research – and the earlier the dates, the more they might have done – and be interested in your one-name study. The others seem to fall into two basic groups:

- Those who have the name on a distant branch. Some of these have been quite helpful.
- Those who have just put their own name in to see what happens.

The latter are often very interested and provide useful information of the current generations in exchange for data on their ancestors. I have helped many who were just starting out on their family history. I now give my contacts the option of drip-feeding information to help them along their way, or “all at once” for those who have only a passing interest in the subject.

**“Lost” individuals**

I’m not sure whether it is a co-incidence or not, but a significant number of the contacts I’ve made are related to individuals I’ve “lost” in my own research. Often this is because they relocated within the UK or Colonies, and somehow eluded the various census indexes. I’m also collaborating with other contacts on tracing their Toll ancestors who seem to appear from nowhere. This is helping me to target future research to mutually helpful areas.

If I made any mistake, it was contacting too many people at once. I was like a kid in a candy shop, firing off messages, perhaps 10 a day. Then the replies came back and I was faced with quite a heavy workload to satisfy the expectations I’d created! If doing it again, I would endeavour to select perhaps five submitters who appeared to be from the same family. Once those had been resolved, I’d move on to another five or another family.

I haven’t found an easy way to add those branches of my ONS that are not related to me. I suppose I could register as a deceased individual from one of those lines, giving my e-mail address, but I’m not sure of the value of doing so. I have yet to find a way to de-register and remove my information, though I’m sure it must be there.

**Summary**

GenesReunited is definitely aimed at the beginner and has some very annoying adverts, not even relevant to genealogy. Has it been worthwhile? Definitely! For about the price of one English BMD certificate I have received data in abundance, particularly from abroad.

One very kind person extracted a huge amount from locally held records in Australia. I have also had the satisfaction of providing significant help to about 30 people.

*In less than six months I have been in contact with more people interested in my Guild-registered name than through any other method and might now have enough contacts to start a one-name group.*
The estimate of about 172,000 different names applies to the situation in England and Wales in the late 19th century. Since then the population has nearly doubled and many new names have been imported by immigrants. This would suggest that more than 200,000 different names are currently to be found amongst the British population. Of the 2.5 million persons classified as having “very rare” names in table 7, about 10% or 260,000 had “extremely rare” (two to six holders) or hapax names, a breakdown of which is given in table 8.

Table 7 – Estimate of the frequency distribution of names, late 19th century

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Nr of “Ha” names</th>
<th>Nr of names in whole population*</th>
<th>Nr of persons in whole population* (millions)</th>
<th>% of population</th>
<th>Frequency (one occurrence in x persons)</th>
<th>Examples of names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>more than 1 in 1000</td>
<td>Hall, Harris, Harrison, Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quite common</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>1 in 1000 to 1 in 5000</td>
<td>Hartley, Hancock, Hay, Harwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quite rare</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>7370</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>1 in 5000 to 1 in 100000</td>
<td>Hatch, Handford, Hamlet, Harbottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td>5678</td>
<td>164094</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>less than 1 in 100000</td>
<td>Hawcroft, Hamper, Havage, Halber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5961</td>
<td>172273</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Grosseled up to England and Wales 1881 census population of approximately 30 millions by a factor of 28.9 (30 / 1.039 (Ha names)). From a modern sample of 55.9 million recent registrations in England and Wales the first 116 names only account for 23% of the population, with 152 names representing the most common 25.7%. The first 10 Ha names account for 1.3% of all persons in the 1881 census, and 1.2% in this modern sample. These differences may suggest that the assumption that the Ha names were representative of all names is not entirely correct, or that a modern sample has a slightly different composition to a 19th century one. See www.taliesin-arlein.net/names/ for the source of the modern data.

The estimate of about 172,000 different names applies to the situation in England and Wales in the late 19th century. Since then the population has nearly doubled and many new names have been imported by immigrants. This would suggest that more than 200,000 different names are currently to be found amongst the British population. Of the 2.5 million persons classified as having “very rare” name and less than 1% have an “extremely rare” or “unique” name, but one in three may claim to have a name classified as “quite rare”. An interesting further study would be to investigate whether the distributions found here for England and Wales in the 19th century are also to be found at other times and in other countries, where the generation and history of names might be very different.

I would like to acknowledge my thanks for constructive comment and encouragement from Philip Dance in the preparation of this article. Any errors or omissions are entirely my own responsibility.

DONALD HATCH
Bilthoven
Netherlands

Reference
1) To be found on Philip Dance’s “Modern British surnames website at: homepages.newnet.co.uk/dance/webpjdl/

Appendix – Formula for rates of extinction of surnames:
The formula for generating the rate of extinction becomes quite extensive after a few generations. After 60 years (two generations) it is 1/2 + 1/2^3 (= 62.5%); after 90 years 1/2 + 1/2^3 + 1/2^4 + 1/2^7 (=69.5%); after 120 years 1/2 + 1/2^3 + 1/2^4 + 1/2^5 +1/2^6 + 1/2^8 + 1/2^9 + 1/2^10 + 1/2^11 + 1/2^15 (=74.2%). This only applies of course under the assumption made here.
Grey Owl, Jacobite glass, slave records and settlement certificates in Unusual Studies Seminar at Swindon

By Michael Bunting

A REMARKABLY mixed programme of topics was on the menu at the Guild’s Unusual Studies Seminar at Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Swindon, on Saturday, November 27 2004.

The first talk was given by Marjorie Moore and was entitled “Grey Owl – A Red Indian in the Family”. Grey Owl was introduced as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces in World War I who married an Indian girl, Anahara. Grey Owl was a trapper but his wife persuaded him to give up killing beavers and eventually he became a conservationist, a writer and lecturer in the subject.

In this role he visited London in 1935, meeting King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. He was also commissioned to appear on Children’s Hour but because of his anti-fox hunting views the programme appearance was abandoned. Even so, a leaflet based on the script sold well. He died on April 13 1938 and it was at this point that Marjorie explained her connection with Grey Owl – but to tell you the solution now would be to spoil her story! So invite her along to one of your meetings.

Marjorie also has on the same tree a murderer, James Coburn Belaney, who poisoned his wife Rachel with prussic acid, but they were counter-balanced by a Roman Catholic priest and writer Robert Belaney, as well as another who was a nun.

The erudite Mrs Dominic Johnson informed the audience that Red Indian men do not have facial hair. Did you know that? That leads me nicely to the second talk, “The Spottiswoode Amen Glass” by Dominic Johnson.

Early English glassware was manufactured during the reign of James I, with Dominic showing an example of a Jacobite glass which looked more like a soup bowl as it had two handles. The chased pattern was a very attractive open rose surmounted by intertwined stems, leading to two rosebuds.

Toast

John Spottiswoode fought for Prince Charles, the Young Pretender and when the Stuarts were toasted by their supporters, the cry “Amen” was shouted.

Family wills showed that the glass was bequeathed through the family by a complicated sequence of deaths and led eventually to John Roderick Charles Herbert. He was married three times and adopted the name Spottiswoode. By this time the “Amen” glass had been consigned to a wooden box and left under the stairs. The family home was demolished some 250 years later in 1938 but, luckily, during the house clearance the glass was rediscovered after which it was put up for sale at Sotheby’s.

Guy Grannum gave two talks, the first being entitled “Slave in the Family”. His incentive in tackling the preparation of his paternal family tree was his parent’s wedding anniversary.

Whilst having the benefit of a fairly unusual name, he still had to contend with a number of variants. Luckily, there were few entries in the General Register Office Indexes until 1950, after which the numbers of Grannem/Granham in the UK increased markedly.

Guy compiled a set of statistics of the normal family history events, including the IGI, for the United Kingdom and Barbados, his great-grandfather, a landowner and colonial civil servant, having been born there in 1872. By comparison, the UK figures for each event were about a third or less of those in Barbados, a possible reason being that the slaves working for landowners in the West Indies, as they did not have unique surnames for identification, often adopted the surname of the plantation owner.

Guy had brought along a number of slave registers, which were only of limited use from a family history aspect, but those of the estate owners had more information about siblings, deaths and inheritance.

He closed by describing how various parliamentary acts from 1807 onwards led to a reduction in the slave trade, beginning with the Africa to West Indies move...
ment and finally the inter-island movement.

Guy went on to describe how the merger with the Historical Manuscript Commission, and thus the formation of The National Archives, had led to many developments from the old Public Record Office. A great deal of internal reorganisation had taken place: rebranding of the website with much greater use of drop-down menus to improve user navigation and more documents being made available on line. Self-service pigeon holes were now being used and there was an electronic seat allocation system.

Digitised documents now available include PCC wills; a WWI Army medal index; a WWI Merchant Seamen medal index; and photographs of Victorian prisoners in Wandsworth Jail 1872–1973. There are also Immigration lists 1948–60 from India and the Carribean and WWII Internee cards, as well as access to the Ancestry census Indexes for 1881 and 1891.

Poor relief

In “Please Relieve Me – No Talk”, Beryl Hurley gave an historical review of poor relief, including examples of the prejudice of people of the day and of the use of settlement certificates, drawn from examples at the Swindon and Wiltshire Record Offices. In the latter case, there were quite a number of multiple removals of the same person from the same place of habitat. Low wages often led to temporary or long-term poverty or illness. Sometimes, this was alleviated by inter-parish co-operation rather than removal and by short term handouts, but more often the treatment was harsher and less generous.

Vestry minutes sometimes give an insight into the difficulty the Overseers had in raising relief. Beryl went on to read many examples of the applications and letters requesting help. These were read dramatically to portray the humour and pathos in the different situations.

Applications have been coming in thick and fast for our Maps and Directories Seminar at the Essex Record Office on Saturday, February 19 2005.

Because our press date is before Christmas, we do not know whether there will still be places available when you receive your Journal. However, a notice will appear on the Guild’s website when all places have been filled. In case there are still places available, there is an application form included with your Journal.

Just to remind you, we have what we hope will be a good line-up of lectures...

• Evelyn Cornell, Director of the Historical Directories Project at Leicester University, will be talking about the project.

• Clive Paine, well-known author, broadcaster and lecturer in his native Suffolk who will talk about tithe, estate and town maps.

• David Hawgood will outline his project for preparing tactile maps for the blind.

• John Hanson will describe Computer Maps and Mapping and Jeanne Bunting will tell you how you can use maps and directories to help you find census entries more easily.

Computer Seminar at home of Colossus and Enigma

Originally, we had hoped to hold the next Computer Seminar in the hotel in Northampton where we had our AGM until we outgrew it.

Their pricing structure has changed dramatically since then and is no longer within our budget. However, we have picked what we think is an excellent alternative.

Where better to hold a computer seminar than Bletchley Park, the World War II home of Colossus and Enigma? The date is Saturday, May 28, so make a note now!

Websites

We have yet to finalise the programme, but it will include a lecture by Peter Walker on “Creating a Website” and Paul Millington will describe his latest project for the Guild – instant websites for members.

We hope to include either a tour of the site or a look at the Computer Museum in place of the last lecture and a buffet lunch will be included.

Details will appear on the Guild website once they have been finalised and an application form will appear in the April–June Journal.

Further seminars in the planning stage are as follows:

• August 20, St Peter’s Campus, the University of Sunderland – Occupations.

• November 19, The Woolwell Centre, Plymouth – Lesser known sources.

Jeanne Bunting
Chairman
Seminar Sub-Committee
Those of you resident in the UK can’t have failed to notice the current television series, “Who Do You Think You Are?”. Whether you feel it represents family history research fairly or not, it’s clearly having an impact.

We’ve noticed an increase in the number of people who’ve just started out and are bewildered by the wealth of data that’s now available and the range of products they can buy to support their new hobby.

This was amply demonstrated at two events I attended recently. One was organised by BBC London and run in conjunction with The National Archives at Kew. On the following day I was with BBC WM, in Birmingham.

They were great opportunities for a bit of community broadcasting and Guild members were to the fore in practising their media skills. Barbara Harvey responded to listeners’ late night enquiries from the BBC London offices in Marylebone, and Trish Bliss wound up the Brummies with her very own version of I’m Sorry, I Haven’t A Clewley on BBC WM. I’m afraid I couldn’t resist getting in on the act and Carl Chinn, local historian and personality at BBC WM, dragged me from the Bookstall in Birmingham for a 15-minute slot on surnames. If you’ve got a copy of Surname Atlas, try entering CHINN and you’ll see just how local a broadcaster Carl is!

To be serious for a moment, this has to be a wonderful opportunity for us, as Guild members, to help a new wave of family historians get to grips with researching some of their difficult names. I should mention the Marketing Subcommittee here. This relatively new group has the task of presenting and promoting the Guild. It’s partly about recruitment, of course, but its more important role is to bring your study names to the attention of the public at large. That, after all, is the most important thing we sell. We’ve already resolved that we need to “put ourselves about a bit”, and I’ll be helping to promote Guild services from the Bookstall. If any of you has ideas about how we might improve our profile, let me know.

What’s new, what’s big

Commercial modesty forbids me from revealing just how many copies of the National Burial Index 2nd Edition have by now passed through my hands, but it’s already reached the status of my second-best-selling item ever. I just hope that the benefit from all these sales is going to those family history societies whose members spent many eye-popping hours recording all this information!

There are some items on the Bookstall that I feel are a real privilege to be able to offer. For a while now I have been selling a couple of beautifully illustrated books from the Phillimore catalogue, An Historical Atlas of Sussex and An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire. Both are hardback, and up to the usual high quality we’ve come to expect from that publisher. Each book is stuffed full of articles and maps and illustrations tracing the history of its county, with a comprehensive reading list if you want to investigate further. Recently I received the third in this series, which is equally appealing. An Historical Atlas of Kent. If your names and families are closely associated with any of these three counties, I can recommend these books.

Price list

There are a few extra items on the latest, yellow price list. If you’ve ancestors in London, I’ve added two more of the useful research aids produced by the West Surrey FHS, focused on Victorian and Edwardian London (FH40 and FH41). And members can once again take advantage of subscriptions to Ancestors and Family Tree Magazine. At this stage, I’m only able to offer annual subscriptions to UK-based members.

This time of year seems to be a favourite one for societies to hold their Open Day and I’ve been to Kidlington (Oxfordshire FHS), Horndean (Hampshire GS), Hastings (Hastings & Rother FHS), and Woking (West Surrey FHS) since the last Journal. Add to that the usual round of family history fairs in places like Cheltenham, Eastleigh, Norwich and Wimborne, and the Guild’s own seminars in Longdon, Staffs, and Swindon and you’ll understand why my car needs a wash! Wimborne usually marks the ‘closed season’, but this year that all changed, thanks to the BBC. I’m really looking forward to the holidays.

Where we’re going

Once I’ve recovered from my Christmas pudding, I shall once again jump into the car and represent the Guild at these coming...
Please don’t let your lifetime’s one-name study research end up on a bonfire!

For some researchers undertaking a one-name study is a transitory hobby. For many Guild members their one-name study becomes a life-long obsession. They spend thousands of hours researching sources, collecting and collating information, seeking ancestors or descendants and corresponding with other family members.

But what happens to all that painstaking research when they can no longer continue with their hobby? I wish I knew!

Disposal

Every year, about seven per cent of Guild members fail to renew their subscription. Sometimes we learn why – some no longer feel able to continue with their study due to increasing age, infirmity or a change in family circumstances, and in a few cases each year we learn that the member has died. When members contact us telling us they will not be renewing their membership, we contact them and ask them to consider the future disposal of their research material. We also try to find out what has happened to the papers of deceased members. But there is a limit to the action we can take to try to trace deceased member’s next-of-kin.

In about 100 cases each year members just “disappear”. They don’t respond to subscription reminders or letters are returned marked “Gone Away”. There is little more we can do to try to seek to preserve their research. Where we are told about the lodgement of one-name study papers we maintain a record of the details. But we know about less than 90 past studies.

I have recently been reviewing the records of the 2,500+ former members of the Guild. Thousands of names have been studied in the past from ABERY to ZOUCH, but the research on almost all is “lost” – probably destroyed in most cases.

It pains me when a new member asks to register a name that I know has been held by a former member, but for which we have no information about past research. I think of the hours and hours of work the new member will spend re-inventing the wheel.

Preserve

What can we do to preserve our ONS research for the future? First, we can spread it around. If we are in touch with others interested in our name, we can give them copies of our research where possible. Then we can make use of some of the Guild resources. We can put our BMDs on the Guild Archive...

http://www.one-name.org/members/archive/archive-description.shtml

and our extended marriages
information on the Guild Marri-
age Index...

http://www.one-name.org/
members/GMI/gmi.html

This will not only help other
researchers but also ensure that
the information can be pre-
served. The Guild Committee is
looking at ways of enhancing the
Guild Archive, but please be pati-
ent, as such developments take
time.

If we maintain computer
records of our study we can con-
sider lodging a CD of the data
with a record office or local
studies library and the Guild. We
should not wait until our study is
“finished” – it never will be. We
could lodge a copy of our study
at a significant milestone in our
research, or just for safety’s sake.

Label

But we need to remember that
such CDs should be appropri-
ately labelled and contain a ReadMe
file, which is a file in basic text
providing details of:
• When the disc was created
and by whom.
• A list of the files on the disc,
brief details of their contents and
the program with which each was
created.
• Plans for future research
• Details on how to contact the
study owner.

Our data collection is ongoing,
so we will need to provide
updated discs at regular intervals.
Remember, too, that technology
changes rapidly and repositories
do n’t have the resources to con-
vert files and move them to new
recording media regularly – I
suspect few of us are still using
5¼” discs, for instance.

Non-computer users might
want to consider depositing
paper copies of parts of their
study – perhaps family trees and
BMD information – in a similar
way.

Such intentions are all very
well, but we are busy people and
still actively working on our ONS.
But what happens if the prover-
bial “bus” comes along in the
near future?

Have we already identified and
discussed the issue with someone
who is prepared to take over the
study and our research data? Do
are nearest and dearest know
what they should do with the
material? How can we ensure
that our wishes are carried out?

Codicil

We could consider adding a
codicil to our will setting out our
intentions for the lodgement of
our ONS research. A draft codicil
is included in the Guild’s Mem-
bers’ Handbook. We could also
consider including a bequest for
the maintenance and preserva-
tion of our research.

But who will take our research
material if we haven’t got a rela-
tive or contact prepared to
continue our study? If our ONS is
largely based on one locality we
could deposit it with the local
Record Office – most welcome
such material. The Society of
Genealogists in London will
accept such material, too. Both
local record offices and the SoG
are repositories open to the
general public, so deposited research
will be available to those who
come after us.

A local family history society
might be prepared to take the
material, but we should ensure
that they are willing to accept it.

Limited

Why haven’t I mentioned leav-
ing our ONS research to the
Guild? Like most other family
history societies, the Guild has
limited storage facilities, no
resources to carry on a study, and
material is not available to the
general public.

Why not you may ask? With-
out a massive injection of cash,
the Guild is unlikely to be able to
afford our own premises and
make material available to non-
members, but we are looking at
other possibilities for preserving
and disseminating deposited
research material.

All that said, the Guild has
never rejected a gift of research
material and nor would we, for it
is one of the Guild’s principal
objectives to ensure that ONS
material is preserved. But is our
material in a form that it can be
stored for future researchers?

When the Guild’s former Editor
and Vice-President Mary Rumsey
died we “rescued” all her remain-
ing family history research
papers, as her son, who lives
abroad, did not wish to retain
them. These papers filled three
large crates.

Wheat

My wife, who is also a member
of the Guild, somewhat foolishly
offered to sort them out. It took
her three months just to sort the
wheat from the chaff, setting
aside the non-genealogical
material and sorting the papers
into “names”.

Having done this she concen-
trated on cataloguing the
material for just one of the
names Mary researched, WINDI-
BANK. At the end of a further six
months we were able, by agree-
ment, to pass this material on to
Brian Windibank in France, the
member now studying the WIND-
IBANK name.

My wife is now working on the
material for other names Mary
studied, hoping to get them in
some kind of order so that they
can go back into the Guild Library
for future researchers.

So my final point is: is our ONS
material in a form that it can be
passed on? If we can, we should
find the time to sort the material
out before it is too late.

Please consider the future of
your ONS study now. We don’t
want to learn of more valuable
research work ending up in land-
fill sites or burnt on a back
garden bonfire! ☀
Book early for the 2005 Guild Conference and AGM at Wyboston Lakes

I am pleased to find that so many of you have already booked for our Annual Conference from April 1–3 at Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre, Bedfordshire.

I have been kept informed by Roy Rayment and he told me yesterday that, in comparison to the bookings taken the same time of year for the 2003 Conference when we went to Liverpool, the numbers are up.

This does mean that you really will need to book early to avoid disappointment. There is a limit to the number of people the venue will hold, so obviously when that number is reached we will have to say “No more”.

Do have a look at the Guild website under Events and then 2005 AGM and Conference for details and latest information. You will find details of how to get there, if you need them, and a little about the speakers and their photos, too.

Speakers

We will also have a list of attendees – so you will be able to see if your friend has booked or maybe find someone in your area who you could travel with.

You will see from the booking form sent with this Journal that, in addition to the speakers mentioned last time, we have also booked Michael Gandy, a very well-known speaker.

We are trying to get someone from the Probate Office to come and talk to us. Unfortunately, the printer cannot wait and the booking form and Journal have deadlines to meet, so please check with the website to see if we have managed to get our probate speaker for you.

Our first speaker of the Conference – immediately after the AGM – will be George Redmonds, the well-known surnames expert, and his talk will be sponsored by The Halsted Trust, registered in England and Wales as Charity Number 1090907. The name Halsted is registered with the Guild.

I am looking forward to meeting many friends old and new at Wyboston.

SANDRA TURNER
Conference Organiser

Notice of 2005 Guild election and closing date for nominations

NOMINATIONS are invited from all members of the Guild for election to the Guild Committee.

The Committee has agreed measures in advance to protect the fairness and integrity of the election procedure. The procedures described in the document posted with this Journal are in accordance with those measures.

The 2005 Annual General Meeting of the Guild of One-Name Studies will take place on Saturday April 2 2005 at Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre, Bedfordshire, at 09:05.

The closing date for nominations is, therefore, Tuesday, February 2 2005.

KEN TOLL
Chairman

Guild One-Name Publication Awards

You will find with this issue of the Journal an entry form for the Guild Award for One-Name Publications 2004. Despite the disappointing number of entries in recent years, the Committee has decided to run the competition for at least another year – so let’s see those one-name newsletters and journals rolling in!

As usual, there will be two classes: for Category A Guild members and for Categories B & C combined. The winners will be announced at the Guild’s 2005 Annual Conference at Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire, from April 1–3.

To enter you must send three copies of your chosen publication to the address given on the entrance form. Please note that they MUST be identical copies of the same issue, which must have been published during 2004. Entries from years other than 2004, or entries with different issues, will be disqualified.

Ken Grubb, Editor of “Grubbing Around”, journal of the Grubb Family Association and winner of the 2003 Category A class, has kindly agreed to chair the Judging Panel for the 2004 Award.

Michael Walcot

We are saddened to learn of the death of a former member of the Guild, Michael Walcot, on November 1 2004.

Michael served on the steering committee that set up the Guild and was a founder member. He appeared in a photograph with other early one namers in the October–December 2004 issue of the Journal. He had served on the committee of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry and when he moved to Hampshire to teach he founded the Hampshire Genealogical Society.
Civil registration review – it’s all off (at least for the time being)!

AFTER many months of concern on the part of family historians over the government’s major review of civil registration in England and Wales, it came as something of a shock – just before the Journal went to press – to learn that the whole thing appears to have been shelved, at least for the time being.

The far-reaching review constituted the biggest-shake up of civil registration since the system was instituted in 1837. Several thousand family historians responded to the initial White Paper and gave their opinions.

While the genealogical world welcomed some of the proposals, especially those relating to making the historic registers accessible at record offices and digitising the older records, others were vehemently opposed. These included proposed restrictions on information on birth and death certificates.

Reform Order

The government had planned to put the necessary legislation through using Regulatory Reform Order powers which, in effect, bypass full parliamentary debate.

However, in a surprise statement on December 8, the chairman of the Regulatory Reform Committee announced that the committee had decided the powers should not be used in the case of civil registration reform.

In a statement to member societies of the Federation of Family History Societies, Geoff Riggs, Director of Computer and Internet Facilities (and a former vice-chairman of the Guild), said:

“You will be well aware of the draft Regulatory Reform Order published in July intended to reform the law on registering births and deaths and the structure of the local registration service. This was the result of the White Paper, and the extensive consultations that followed on the future of civil registration.

“The FFHS presented evidence in two written submissions, and oral evidence was given in person by our representatives to the Regulatory Reform Committee of the House of Commons, expressing our concerns about some of the issues that had emerged. We also presented that evidence in writing to the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee of the House of Lords.

“We have today been advised by the House of Commons that the Regulatory Reform Committee has concluded ‘that the order-making power under the Regulatory Reform Act 2001 should not be used in respect of the proposals contained in the proposal for the Regulatory Reform (Registration of Births and Deaths, England and Wales) Order 2004, which was laid before the House on 22nd July, in the last Session of Parliament.’

“This means the changes proposed CAN NOT be made by means of this Order! Despite this, the GRO has advised us that it remains committed to the reform of civil registration and will explore options for proceeding with modernisation. The GRO had naturally been aware of our concerns about some of the proposals that were being made, and liaison meetings had been started between us to try to address them. We hope that the good relations we enjoy with the GRO will enable us to have input to their discussions where appropriate whilst they are addressing their future options for modernisation.”

Clearly, there is now no possibility of any changes being made during the lifetime of the present parliament.

A beginner's guide to attending your first Guild seminar

By Patricia Kearns

I BECAME a Guild member by accident. I had been researching my family history for a couple of years when one day I received a copy of the Guild's Journal in the post. It was not addressed to me, just redirected to my address.

The detective in me went in search of its rightful owner and I soon found out that she was living only a few houses away. Imogen had been a member of the Guild for some time and because of her reassurance that it wasn’t a full-time job, I registered the name of Swadling in March 2003.

Contact

I had my first contact in the July and helped the lady as much as I could. I then found out from a cousin that most of her information was what she had received from him. What a disappointment! During the next nine months I collected a large amount of information for my study.

My next contact was a bit scary. He wanted a copy of all my research material. On the Guild’s advice I only answered direct questions. I corresponded with this person for many months and now have a lever arch file of information on his family.

Introduction

That was a year ago, so when my Journal arrived with the “Introduction to One-Name Studies” seminar details, I decided that I should attend and ask the question: “Why don’t people contact me?”

There were many points in
favour of attending...
  • It was free.
  • It was relatively local.
  • The programme offered a full day of information on useful topics that would help me to continue my one-name study.
  • My friend Imogen wanted to attend too.

So on Saturday, October 2, 2004, Imogen and I set off for The Village Hall, Brookend, Longdon, Staffordshire. Using a map and the directions we had received in the post, we arrived in plenty of time.

Unfortunately, there was very little parking outside the village hall but there was someone on hand to direct us to alternative parking. Once inside, we were issued with our name badges and offered refreshments.

The seminar was well attended and at 10 a.m. we settle down to listen to the first speaker, Roger Goacher, the Guild's registrar. His section was entitled: "What is a One-Name Study and How Can the Guild Help?"

Unique
He explained about the history of the Guild and defined what sort of information we needed to collect. He jokingly said that not every surname submitted is automatically guaranteed registration on the Guild website. The surname has to be unique enough to warrant being added. What was the point of registering the name of Smith?

At the end of his talk Roger invited us to ask questions. So I asked: "How did people find me?" because I hadn't had any contacts for over a year and couldn't even find myself on the Internet.

Unfortunately, Roger was having trouble with his hearing aid that day, and as I was sitting too far back in the hall, he wasn't able to hear my question or answer it.

After a few more questions we stopped for a short break and more refreshments. Paul Millington approached me and wanted to know about my Guild name, as he was very concerned that I thought that no-one could find me via the Internet. He assured me that he would look into it.

Organising
Paul was the next speaker. His talk was entitled: "Organising Your One-Name Study". He explained about using paper records. Cards indexes were good and the bigger the card the better.

With today's technology, computers were making the lives of genealogists much easier. He demonstrated spreadsheet shortcuts for editing records and transferring data from one source (1881 census) to your own database, how to keep records and what family tree packages were available.

After lunch, John Hanson began his talk on "Sources for One-Namers". He provided us with a wealth of Internet sites to check and, for those who didn't own a computer or have access to the Internet, places to visit and resources to check to enable us to find our research material.

Death
Jeanne Bunting was the last speaker of the day and her talk was entitled: "What happens when I die?" I was most interested in learning as much as I could about this, as I needed to know what I should organise before my death so that my records would survive after my death.

Poor Jeanne – she was suffering from a bad cold but intended to carry on with someone in the wings to help if she felt too bad. Her words of wisdom to us was to make sure that every entry was cross-referenced, sources documented, make sure we process all new information before we collect any more.

"Get organised" was her slogan and why was she so adamant about this? Years earlier she had agreed to help sort out information left to the Guild, and thinking it was catalogued, she found filing cabinets and files full of documents and paperwork that had no order whatsoever.

She then spent several months trying to organise it. Not wishing to repeat the experience or have anyone else experience the chaos, she urged us to get organised.

Forum
After another short break, there was an Open Forum for questions. This should have been chaired by Ken Toll, but in his absence Roger, Jeanne and Paul were able to answer all of the questions put to them.

I enjoyed my trip to Longdon as it gave me the opportunity to meet the people behind the scenes. Each section of the programme offered useful and relevant information on a wide range of subjects that would help anyone thinking about starting, or in the first stages of, a one-name study with their initial research.

Each topic was well presented by experienced one-namers who wanted to share their wealth of knowledge with us.

Our aim as one-namers is to collect as many incidences of our name as possible. By the end of the day I had learnt how to organise my information better, been shown the pit falls of not
organising my information correctly and shown were to look for new information.

During the week after the seminar Paul Millington contacted me and explained how I could be found on the Internet. I was very impressed with his help and now feel that it's not the Guild website that can't be found but that there is no-one out there looking for me!

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Editor's note: We are always pleased to hear from newer members of the Guild, telling us especially how they enjoy the seminars we organise around the country, how helpful they find them in their research and whether there is anything else we should be doing to enhance our services to members. Do feel free to write to the Journal if there are any points you want to take up. Whether it's praise or criticism, we don't mind – we can take both equally!

Issues arising from surname mapping by postcode article

Since the publication of my article in the October–December 2004 issue of the Journal of One-Name Studies I have received correspondence from members Philip Dance and Mick Sheath, raising two issues:

• Duplicates. Gordon Adshead has shown previously that the electoral register data on the UK-Info Disk contains duplications, i.e. people with the same address listed twice but with different postcodes.

I had not been aware of this when I prepared the article, but I have now checked my results. Sorting the records by person, name and street address, I found 133 duplicate and three triplicate records. In just over half of these duplicate records, each of the pair had exactly the same postcode.

Deleted

Although a few of these might possibly be children of voting age with the same forename as one of their parents, I have deleted one of each of these records.

In just under half of the duplicate or triplicate records, each of the pair or triplet had the same area postcode, although the district and/or sector code was different. I have deleted one of each pair or two of each triplet of these records.

In 13 pairs of duplicate records, each of the pair had different postcodes. All of these records, fortunately, included an STD area telephone code which was the same for each of the pair, allowing the record with the wrong postcode to be deleted. After all these deletions, I recalculated the prevalence of Heps in each postcode area, together with the corresponding Banwell indices.

Ranking

There was no change in the ranking of postcode area prevalences. No postcode area prevalence moved out of one Banwell index range (0–1, 1–2, 2–3, 3–4, >4) into another and so, fortunately, the map as published is correct.

• Typos. The term “postcode district” when used in the article should really read “postcode area” and “Branwell Index” should be spelt “Banwell Index”, as it was, of course, devised by the late Eric Banwell.

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Editor's note: The Journal apologises for the unfortunate misspelling of the Banwell Index in Dr Mellor's article.

Sorry, but I wasn't the handsome fellow in the picture!

I AM writing with regard to Derek Palgrave's article in the last Journal concerning the history of the Guild.

I thoroughly enjoyed the article and was flattered to find that I was supposedly standing between Derek and Iain Swinnerton in the picture on page 20 of a one-name gathering in 1977.

Unfortunately, it wasn't me but it was, in fact, David Watkins Grubb, our current President of the Grubb Family Association and son of our founder, Geoffrey Watkins Grubb, and a much more handsome fellow!

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A Happy New Year to all Guild members

The year 2004 was another good one for the Journal. Obviously, the highlight was the fact that we walked off with the FFHS's Elizabeth Simpson Award for the best family history journal in 2003, the second time we have won this prestigious prize.

I want to take this opportunity, as we enter yet another year, to thank everyone associated with the Journal – Committee members who have given me their whole-hearted support, our printers, but most of all those members who contributed articles and items. You all contributed to our success, and long may it continue!

My best wishes to all members for a very happy and successful 2005.

Roy Stockdill, Editor
Regional Representatives as at December 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.
For the Guild’s next Computer Seminar we have chosen a prestigious and highly appropriate venue – the famous Bletchley Park mansion in Buckinghamshire (pictured above), where during World War II code breakers broke the German high command’s top-secret coded messages, making a huge contribution to the war effort and the ultimate victory of the Allies. The date of the seminar is Saturday, May 28 – for full details see page 19.