

SURNAMES...ROADS TO AND FROM GENEALOGY, FAMILY AND, LOCAL HISTORY



Copyright - Julie Goucher, October 2021

Welcome to the first of a new quarterly newsletter, written on behalf of the Guild of One-Name Studies. This newsletter is scheduled to be published in **November, February, May, and August** each year. It will be available to download by both members of the Guild of One-Name Studies and the public, enabling the Guild of One-Name Studies to remain meeting its charitable and educational aims. Non-Guild members may subscribe [HERE](#) to receive notice of when the next issue is available.

The one thing we all have in common, is that we are interested in researching our individual family histories or local history projects, and in some cases multiple projects. In doing so, our research and endeavours start, usually with a surname and as we expand our research, we add breadth and depth to those projects, and in doing so, add more surnames and place names.

Eventually, we individually come up against one of the key reasons that Guild members tell me they join the Guild and work upon their specific surname. Four key reasons are:

- A genealogical brick wall,
- A surname that is not British in its origin
- A surname that is rare
- A surname that is our own and we have multiple individuals with the same name.

Whatever the reason, studying a surname can open new avenues of research. Let me share my first steps.

My first genealogical note dates from 1986 and 1987, when I began asking questions of the oldest generations in my maternal family. In contrast, I knew little of my paternal family in comparison. In the former, I lived close to what I refer to as ground zero – Surrey, Sussex and, Hampshire in England, and especially in that area where those three counties meet. I know

now that my family had lived in those regions for three hundred years, and I have multiple instances of those surnames in my genealogy. Are those instances down to their being a small marriage pool? Or are they unsurprising because the branches were living in the same geographical area? Or were they the same larger and expanded family?

Research began and it took until 2017 before I registered the **BUTCHER** surname with the Guild. By then I had already been a Guild of One-Name Studies member since 2002, when I registered my paternal surname of **ORLANDO** which is of Italian origin, my own family comes from Sicily and the overlapping of surnames in Sicily is the same as what I already experienced in England. In both instances, I had family members who had migrated from the home country to Australia, Canada, Argentina, United States and elsewhere, and that was even before I began to explore individuals in my studies.

Let me explain what a One-Name Study is; this is a genealogical project that focuses on a *surname, across all time periods and at a global scale*. It is more of a marathon than a sprint; the sort of study that you invest a great deal in.

Let me share these broad facts on surname research:

- Varied reasons for starting surname research
- Research begins in separate locations, depending on:
 - - Where the surname has its origins
 - - Where your own links to the surname are
 - - Where and how you access material, and the accessibility to records and data
- Many Guild members have DNA Surname Projects (myself include)
- Different methods of “processing” and working on a study
- Different software used to store a study
- Different genealogical backgrounds, from new to genealogy to those with decades of experience.
-and more

A study is what we each make it. We make our own rules of how we proceed. Those that register with the Guild commit to fulfilling five study principles which you can read about [HERE](#).

The Guild has a huge amount of data on its website, <https://one-name.org>. Here you can read about starting a one-name study, registering a surname, DNA, preserving a study, and much, much more – visit <https://one-name.org/one-name-studies/> and then explore the links on the righthand side.

The Resources tab on the top menu bar has links to Guild indexes, Pharos courses where you can learn more about surnames, how to research and how to create a successful study. You can view all the Guild’s newsletters and journals published between 1980 and 2018, all free of charge. There is also large set of pages on DNA.

You can watch webinars too, and these are located [HERE](#). I recommend starting with the Seven Pillars series which is [HERE](#).

In the coming weeks, an Education section will be added to the Guild website, which will become, I hope, an essential part of how we can promote the study of surnames.

The next issue of the newsletter will be available in February.

If you have any comments and questions, you would like answered, or you want to share your surname of interest, then please get in touch by emailing education@one-name.org, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Next time, I shall be sharing thoughts on how our surnames have changed overtime and what elements might impact our surnames.

See you next time.

Julie Goucher

Julie Goucher, October 2021

Disclaimer – This newsletter is written by Julie Goucher on behalf of the Guild. Julie is a Trustee for the Guild of One-Name Studies, as well as Education Officer, and a Pharos Tutor. The views expressed here do not represent the Trustees of the Guild, nor Pharos Tutors. Julie writes about the Guild and One-Name Studies on her own site, <https://anglersrest.net>