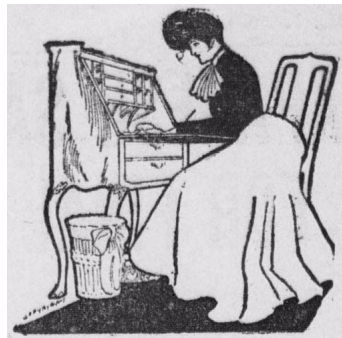




Dear Adam

Hello! I am Charlie Wilson, registrant of the Southgate one-name study and volunteer Publicity Manager for the Guild of One-Name Studies. Each month I hope to provide some interesting reading and temptations to dig deeper into your surname bearers.

**Shhh - genealogist at work ...**



Recently, I have found myself feeling rather contemplative as I research.

I have now been working on my one-name study for about 18 months, and it's been a whirlwind of learning experiences.

But more and more I find myself moving away from the hustle of data and name gathering, preferring instead to take a deep dive into a single Southgate.

**Because a one-name study is not (just) name hoarding**



Yes, we one-namers search out all instances of our surnames, wherever and whenever they may be found.

(We end up with a lot of lists, and don't forget the spreadsheets!)

But I feel strongly that as I collect and analyse, I don't want to lose sight of the stories that my individual Southgates have to tell.

Really digging down into the details of an ancestor's (or in my case a surname bearer's) life has many benefits:

- You discover new (to you) record sets
- You learn how to fill in the gaps
- Your ancestor "comes to life"
- You feel like a detective (pass the deerstalker ...)

### Charles Larwill Southgate (and his dog)



**CHARLES L. SOUTHGATE,**  
Member of Committee of Arrangements for Moose Masquerade ball.  
San Jose Mercury News  
vol. XCIV no. 117 27 April 1918



**LA BELLE CREOLE,**  
San Jose Mercury News  
vol. LXV no. 104 30 April 1904

Seeking out the intricacies of Charles' life beyond BMD and census records led me to [The Portal to Texas History](#), a fantastic place to learn more about a state I knew little about.

I discovered directories, land deeds, [newspapers](#) and court cases, which helped place Charles in that elusive "missing census" time period, 1881-1900.

(He, ahem, eloped to California with his teenage mistress, leaving his wife and two children in Texas ...)

Charles had myriad interests: he was vice-president of the local Humane Society; scorer for the San Jose Road Cycling Club; organised "hops and socials"; and even dressed up as Uncle Sam for a charitable parade ...

Oh, and he owned a rather lovely Cocker Spaniel.

Just call me Sherlock ... (!)

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I am writing up Charles' life story now and I'll be sharing some hints and tips about sharing your work next month.

Meanwhile you'll find more stories if you search our studies. Featured right now is the surname [Eastlake](#), whose bearers have some fascinating tales to tell.

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### **Why not try it yourself?**

Choose an ancestor, or surname bearer, and see how far you can take your investigation.

Look at newspapers, directories, legal documents, and don't forget Google.

Seek out addresses, friends, employers and events and create a timeline (and a map, love a map).

Think laterally and dig deep - you'll be amazed at what you can find.

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### **Guild News**

During March we had eleven new one-name study registrations. They are listed below. Do any appear in your own research? If so, the registrants would love to hear from you and they can be contacted by searching for the surname here:

#### **Guild of One-Name Studies**

MINNEY	IVENS
PRENDERGAST	KNODLE
TIGHE	OXLADE
CALDER	STRICKLAND
DEFTY	WILEY
RICKARDS	

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### **An unusual resource you may not have heard of**

OK, you have probably heard of this one. But maybe you don't often use it for genealogy?

The Internet Archive is a massive collection of materials that are free to access and search. It currently holds 35 million books alone.

By selecting "search text contents" you can find traces of your ancestors in unexpected places - the history of an organisation or town perhaps, or an early 19th century gossip sheet.

I'd love to hear about the most unusual place you have found your ancestors.