

THE GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES
NEWSLETTER

Member of the Federation of Family History Societies

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FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

In the first issue of the Newsletter an appeal was made for articles and notes from members. The response during the past year has been most gratifying and the Editor hopes this will continue during the coming months. Any contribution, long or short, article or comment, will be welcome. If you have a grouse about the way the Guild is being run, why not get it off your chest, by writing a blistering letter to the Editor and sit back and see how your fellow members react, when it is published?

We hope to publish details in the next issue of a Weekend Conference on One-Name Studies to be held again at Leicester in June or July. If the two previous conferences at Leicester are anything to go by, this will be well worth attending. If you wish to suggest a particular subject or subjects for the Conference, please write to our Chairman, Mr. Frederick Filby, whose address is given above.

During the weekend the Annual General Meeting of the Guild will be held, when there will be an opportunity to throw out the existing officers and replace them with those militant members who would like to restructure the Guild.

It is also planned in the next issue to start a series of notes on how to arrange your genealogical material, including parish register entries, wills, GRO births, marriages and deaths, census returns, pedigrees and last, but not least, your correspondence.

Talking of the spelling of surnames, all but one of the members who comment in this issue on Dr. Hodsdon's letter published in our October Newsletter got it wrong: Hodgson, Hodson (twice). Even the Editor at first got it wrong. There must be a moral in this somewhere!

May the Editor and Chairman take this opportunity of wishing all members a

Happy New Year and good hunting in your family research.

HOW MANY OF THE NAME ARE THERE?

by Donald Livingston Gunn

This question may be answered with useful accuracy for a complete national unit and the answer should define the size of a genealogical problem there. Since one cannot line up and count the bearers of the interesting Name, a sampling technique must be used. This depends on the assumption that the holders of the Name are fully assimilated into all classes of the general population; if this assumption is unsound, the results will be unsound, too.

I have used the telephone book technique for Australia, where I have no access to personal information. In that country there are 30.9 telephones per 100 of the population of all ages suggesting that practically every household has a telephone, though there must be many business telephones. Counting the entries under Gunn (and Gun, which is equivalent) in the telephone directories - which are not too many - gave 644 Gunns. Taking this as 30.9 per 100 of all the Gunns gives roundly 2,080 Gunns (Guns) in the Australian Commonwealth, or when the States are worked out separately - they vary greatly in size of population - 2,070 Gunns. The data for this investigation were all available in the offices of the High Commissioners of the States, all in or near the Strand, London and their staffs were very helpful.

That is a more troublesome method to apply in this country because there are so many telephone directories, but it has been done. Comparing the results with those of other methods showed that the Gunns in Scotland have little more than half as many telephones per 100 as the general population of Scotland, indicating incomplete assimilation and spread into the various classes in their own country. A false result would also be obtained with immigrant group consisting largely of shopkeepers from East Africa or with another consisting of unskilled labourers from Pakistan.

A sounder method depends on the assumption of assimilation only to the extent that births, marriages and deaths are not systematically different in the Name group and the general population. Marriages are fewer than the other two and more variable from year to year. Births seem to be the most consistent and, in our still growing population, in most years exceed deaths in number, so births provide the best index to use.

The alphabetical index of births at the General Register Office in St. Catherine's House, Aldwych, London is open to use without tickets and gives the entries for England and Wales combined. The Scottish records are only in Edinburgh. The occurrences of the Name are counted over a sufficient period of years (four volumes per year) to give an annual average that does not change much when an extra year is added. The total number of Name births is then compared with the total number of all births over the same period.

The total number of all births is the same for all Names, so a club can make up a table for use by all the members. I can provide figures up to 1972 for a limited number of people who send me a s.a.e. for reply. The data can be obtained in the Library upstairs in the Office of Census and Statistics next door to the Registry but that involves a little searching. The total population of the country can also be found there, but the simplest plan is to choose a period of years centring on a census year, e.g. 1961 etc., the population totals for those years being given in Whitaker's Almanack.

For Gunn (and Gun) 1866-1875, I found 1,186 births in England and Wales compared with 8,033,921 births of all names, so that one birth in 6,774 was named Gunn (Gun). The mean population over that period was 22,656,100 and if one of those in each 6,774 was a Gunn, there were 3,344 Gunns altogether at that time. The likely size of the error, indicated roughly by using deaths or marriages for the same period may be +8%.

With the aid of figures taken for me in Edinburgh, I was able to show by such methods that in 1855-64, 55% of the Gunns in Britain were in Scotland, but by 1962-1971 only 44% were in Scotland and 56% were in England and Wales, to a total

of nearly 13,000. Clearly individual families cannot easily be traced in such a number, unless there are family records or an unusual name running through the line. For example, my grandfather, b. c1820, was named Livingston and 13 of his 15 male descendants and 6 of his 10 female descendants had the name Livingston as well as Gunn. Similarly 27 Bray Gunns have been found between 1838 and 1909, mostly associated with Brighton, as are a smaller number of Brapple Gunns. But without such an eye-catching signal and especially with only forenames that are common like William and George, tracing can be difficult and expensive if the numbers are large.

The original data mentioned here were first published in the Clan Gunn Society Magazine No.10 (1974), 14 (1977-78) and 15 (in press).

Contributor's address: Taylor's Hill, Chilham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 8EZ

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A SHORT TIRADE ON BEHALF OF THE NEEDY
by J. Heygate-Browne

There is no doubt that the Guild of One-Name Studies has the potential to make a very significant contribution to genealogical research. It is a matter for regret that it seems unlikely to do so within its present form.

It is a fact that the majority of the Guild's membership is comprised of individuals coping single-handedly with their own research, enquiries, record-keeping, printing and publishing. It is also a fact that these individuals, as a majority, are represented only as a minority on the Guild's Executive Committee. This arrangement is both undemocratic and undesirable.

This situation has probably arisen not so much from self-interest on the part of present Executive Committee members, as from the simple fact that those with the power to effect change have been unaware of the interests and needs of the main substance of the membership.

The Guild should not exist as a sub-federation of any "One-Name Society". The Guild has a much more valuable function to perform than acting as another instrument for these already more than adequately represented organisations.

The Guild of One-Name Studies would be most constructively engaged in acting as a true "co-operative" for all its members. Experienced members could provide expert advice and the Guild itself could assist members with their printing, publishing and record problems. Ideally a central library and advice centre could also eventually be set up.

There is no reason why the principles laid down here should not be applied as soon as possible to the Guild. Revenue to finance this expanded concept of the Guild's services would be the natural result of a restructured organisation, which was aimed at satisfying the real needs of the majority of its present and potentially vast future membership. With a real change of direction the Guild of One-Name Studies certainly has an excellent chance of improvement and much-needed expansion. If, however, the Guild of One-Name Studies remains in its present form, its future indeed seems bleak.

Contributor's address: Ormonde House, 51 Amersham Hill, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 6PG

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Mr. Trevor Stott, Tree Cottage, Lammas Gardens, East Bridgford, Nottingham, writes:

Noting recent correspondents' comments on the numbers of their surnames in the GRO indexes prompts me to continue my study of single surname population trends. Members at the first Leicester Conference will recall I touched on this subject under the heading 'STOTTISTICS', i.e., the statistical study of the STOTT population. The most exciting finding was that the family is increasing at only half the rate of the total population of England and Wales.

In other words, whilst the STOTTS have been busy increasing from 7,000 to 10,500 (150%), the rest of the country has increased from 16 million to 50 million (300%). It follows that some other families must be increasing at a much greater rate than average and whilst it is interesting to contemplate the reasons for these deviations, e.g. genetic, social, abnormal female/male birth ratio, fecundity, etc., much more basic analysis is needed. (For the technical, we are dealing with a bionomical distribution of a log-normal function). STOTT information is based on 67,650 births, marriages and deaths extracted from the GRO indexes 1841-1970.

Hoping that most of our 250 members will have extracted similar data, though not necessarily so prolific, I would be delighted to hear from anyone who can provide me with a list of numbers of b, m and d of a single surname each of the years 1841-1970.

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THE GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES AND ITS CATEGORIES

Mr. C.L. Barrett, 15 Limes Road, Folkestone, Kent, writes :

I agree with much of what you say (Col. Swinnerton) in your letter to the Guild Newsletter of October 1980, but that is not the whole story. I am number 257 in the One-Name Register, so I am relatively green, but I have been researching an unusual name for about three years, so I am not as green as all that.

There is certainly a need for a professional body of one-namers. Not necessarily in the sense of paid professionals, but in the sense that it should clearly define the aims and code of practice of one-namers, set standards and police them and train and encourage aspirants to those standards. There is a perennial dispute between quality and quantity, but there is nothing to be gained from snobbish elitism, which would quickly cause the Guild to wither and die.

For the beginner, it is easy to become bogged down, confused and lost in a welter of unrelated material. The information sent me when I enquired about membership greatly helped me to categorise what I was doing and gave me headings under which to plan next year's work, and the next year and the next year and and the! The contact with others with the same problems of horizontal search and analysis, as opposed to our Family History Society, which concentrates on vertical search, has been useful and encouraging. It is naive to think that anyone joins an organisation without considering what they can get out of it. The Guild needs to establish itself as the body which concentrates on the one-name specialisation and is the authority on such things.

The Guild needs to regrade its Category E members, of whom I am one, as aspirant, trainee or apprentice members. If the Guild is to grow, however, it needs to encourage this category rather than turn it away. In encouraging it the Guild needs to provide conference and training sessions and advice through its Newsletter, so that those who have not yet gone far enough to qualify for membership in other categories will be encouraged to work in the directions laid down by the Guild. In this way the body of true one-namers will grow and the information available for other enquirers will expand and the Guild will be universally recognised as the body which is the authority as its name suggests.

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Mrs. Pauline M. Litton, 34 Bramley Road, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 2DB, writes:

I agree with Lt.Col. Swinnerton that there are far too many members in the Guild

who do not truly fulfil the requirements outlined and that this is leading to a lowering of standards. However, I dispute that the major part of the blame should be borne by we Category E researchers, as he implies, as I consider much of the fault lies with Category C researchers.

Some Category C members, who may or may not possess the expected 'basic data', do not appear to have the knowledge or experience to cope with enquirers, whereas there are many Category E researchers with a far greater depth of knowledge about their names than that provided by fulfilment of the minimum requirements for Category C but who, for whatever reason, do not feel inclined to fulfil these particular minimum requirements. I suggest that the Guild should look again at the qualifications for entry to Category C, as I question whether the specified data is the most relevant for research purposes.

Obviously 'a list of relevant entries for the name and stated variants in the GRO' is desirable (although I question whether for Category C it is necessary to extend this beyond, say, 1921 except for deaths) but I do not believe that, with present-day research methods and resources in mind, the other criteria for belonging to that category are the ones which we should be requiring from aspiring members. I would recommend that for 'a list of all relevant entries for the name in the printed PCC Will Indexes up to 1700' and 'a list of all relevant entries for the name from the telephone directories of the UK', we should substitute 'abstracts of all Wills for the name in counties where the name is known to be present to any extent' and 'printouts of all relevant entries for the name from the 1978 (or latest) edition of the CFI/IGF (Computer File Index, now known as the International Genealogical File)'.

From my own experience of researching three surnames in some depth over twelve years, I can state that the PCC Wills Indexes have been of very little help to me as, apart from the decade of the Commonwealth, only a very occasional member of my 'Midlands and North' based families has had cause to apply to the PCC for a Grant of Probate. On the other hand, abstracts of all Litton and Ethell Wills from the diocese of Lichfield, Chester and York have been of inestimable value in furthering not only my own genealogical and family history researches, but also those of other people interested in the names. Similarly, listings from the telephone directories have only confirmed my findings from the CFI as to those areas where the names are 'thick on the ground', whereas the printouts and subsequent research into entries contained therein, have enabled me to make considerable progress into my researches. I agree that Categories A and B need the telephone listings as the most convenient method of contacting potential members, but I do not agree that they should be a prerequisite for membership of Category C.

At the risk of provoking a fresh outburst of controversy, I put forward the suggestion that the 'basic data' required for Category C be amended as above and that Category C members be asked to state that they fulfil at least two of these requirements before registering their names in this category, as I feel that many of the recent problems have occurred because members have registered their name(s) long before they have come anywhere near to fulfilling the requirements. This should enable a number of Category E researchers to re-register as Category C (and vice versa) and, if enough people agree with Col. Swinnerton's views, it would surely be possible to create a category of Associate Member to include Category E researchers.

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Mr. D.W. Hamley, 21 New Street, Cawston, Norwich NR10 4AN, writes:

I have written to Col. Iain Swinnerton and said that I agree with his remarks in the Newsletter, but that I did join for what I could get out of the Guild, but that I also hoped I could put more into it than I took out ...

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The Editor can heartily recommend the three volumes GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN ENGLAND & WALES by Smith & Gardner, Vol.1 £4.05, Vol.2 £4.60, Vol.3 £4.05 (post & packing on 3 vols. £1.80) available from The Latter-day Book Store, 'Whitecroft', Mill Lane, Birch Green, Colchester, Essex CO2 0NG.

THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME SHIPSIDE/SHIPSIDES

by Geoff Shippides

Many times during my life, after telling somebody my name, I have been asked how it originated. Until now I have had to confess ignorance, although for many years I have thought that it had more to do with sheep than ships. I have never yet met anybody with my name other than my own family, - father, children, etc. although owing to my continual examination of telephone directories whilst carrying out a one-name study, I know that quite a few other bearers of the name exist.

Whilst compiling a chronological index of births, marriages and deaths of bearers of the name, I noticed that all the earlier mentions of it were Shipside, not Shippides. It was not until I traced the father of my ancestor, William Shippides of Gotham, i.e. John Shipside, born 3 February 1621 at Gotham, that I found that my own line was originally Shipside and not Shippides. John Shipside was born thus but later in life was known as Shippides. The father of John Shipside, also John Shipside, who made a Will in 1627 called himself Shippides in the text but his mark at the end of the Will was signed Shipside. That is the earliest mention of the name Shippides that I have found so far.

It was whilst searching the Phillimore Marriage Index of Gotham, Notts. that I noticed and almost passed by on page 22, the place name SHEPESHIDE. I looked at it and then said to myself and then realised that my name was but a corruption of 'Shepeshide' and what that implied.

I enquired of the Archivist at the Nottingham PRO, where I was at the time, as to the whereabouts of Shepeshide and she told me that it was not very far away, being just over the border of Notts. in Leicestershire and also not far from Gotham. She told me that for many years people called it 'Sheeps Head'. She agreed with me that it was highly probable that the name Shipside originated when one of my ancestors who came from Shepshed, as it is now called, was named after his place of origin.

After many years of wondering and speculating about my name, I am satisfied that it is, after all, derived from a place-name.

Contributor's address: 32 Copperfield Gardens, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4UD.

(The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names, by E. Ekwall has: Shepsed Leicester (Scepe(s)hefde Domesday Book, Shepesheued 1167 P. Schepe-ued 1191 P). The place is fairly high and the name may mean 'hill where sheep grazed'. Cf. HEAFOD. - Editor)

A MATTER OF APPROACH

by Clifford Bratt

Having researched my family for almost sixty years with considerable success, I have been requested by two members of the circle of "One-Namers" to reply to Dr. James Hodsdon's letter which appeared in the October number of the Newsletter. They feel that my experience of approach may be of assistance to others.

First of all, one must realise that everyone is not interested in genealogy and writing to someone not personally known may be regarded as prying into their business or as an affront upon their privacy, and so one must be most cautious and circumspect in wording the initial letter, which can so easily make or mar your efforts. Persons may have very good reasons for withholding information or may possibly regard you as a 'crank'.

My approach is by a handwritten letter mentioning my interest and progress in the subject and enclosing a questionnaire clearly stating the information required. The questionnaire is prepared horizontally on a foolscap sheet with the following headings and columns: Surname; Christian Name; Date of Birth; Place of Birth; Date of Marriage; Date of Death; Place; Occupation. As much information as possible should be shown, leaving the recipient to fill in the blanks.

If perchance you do not happen to write a clear, legible hand, then and only then should the initial letter be typed. The handwritten letter gives a personal approach, but there is nothing more annoying than to receive a scribbled missive which requires time and patience to decipher.

Remember that the information you seek may not be readily available and the person to whom you have written may have to write to or visit relatives or consult records in order to satisfy your needs.

If no reply is received after an interval of three or four weeks, follow up with a further letter stating that you hope they have received your letter and will be prepared to assist you in your hobby, and that you are looking forward to their kind reply at their convenience.

I never use a stereotype introductory letter (each one is compiled individually). A stamped addressed envelope is always enclosed for reply.

Undoubtedly the best way to obtain information is, if at all possible, to seek it personally. First write or telephone and arrange an appointment. One can cover a great deal of ground in the space of an hour and while one may have to listen to a catalogue of ailments or other irrelevant matters, there is little doubt that you will obtain far more information than by correspondence.

My greatest successes have always been the result of personal interviews and on several occasions have been invited to come again or even to spend a weekend with them. Ladies are, in my opinion, the best informants. They have retentive memories regarding their various relatives.

Following the receipt of information, however meagre, always write a letter thanking the person for access to their home and for the details given. This has a psychological effect and you may find, as I have done on so many occasions, that at a later date you may receive a further letter giving more vital information. I now have far distant collateral relatives who keep me informed regarding births, deaths and marriages of their particular families.

In any case, information provided in this manner is far less expensive and sometimes more accurate than material culled from Parish Registers and Census Returns and is more interesting and less laborious.

It is hoped that the experience gained over the years will be of some small help to others pursuing their family interests.

Contributor's address: The Woodlands, 65 Moreton Road, Upton, Merseyside L49 4NR
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Mr. A.R. Inch, 4 Garden Cottages, Bolmore, Isaacs Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4BU, writes:

Dr. James Hodsdon's letter struck a very sympathetic note with me as I also have been working on the problem for quite a while now and like him, wondering what the ideal 'postal' approach might be, as I've had my fair share of rebuffs and ignorings. At least with the former one knows where one stands, but with the latter one's missive is hanging around in the pending file, hoping for a change of heart, perhaps! The shortest rebuff I had was certainly to the point; it said, and I quote: "I do not divulge any family information", end of quote, but on the other side of the coin I've had many heartwarming replies and many more than the negative ones - and the ones who do reply stand to gain quite a lot of information they may not even know themselves.

For what it may be worth I set out one of my typical 'approach' letters; maybe it can be compared with others in like vein:

"Dear

I hope you will forgive me for writing to you out of the blue, as it were, but you will see by the enclosed article (an "Inch" one, written for a family history journal) that I am (to say the least) "interested" in our common (or rather, I should say, uncommon) name which I have been researching and its origins for many years now.

Recently I embarked on the mammoth task of trying to compile a family tree for all male Inch's and their issue and to do this I have been enlisting the help of as many of our small clan that I can, with, I might add, quite a lot of co-operation from them so far. To attempt this task (more a labour of love for me) it is better to work backward from the present day, as there is more data available in modern times, plus the fact that there are still a few live Inch's with whom I can correspond to try and get the benefit of their recollections, regarding their own particular 'twig' of the whole Inch family tree. So far I've compiled nearly three hundred Inch family trees and that is before I start on the pre-1837 data.

Eventually I hope that with the help of many kind members of our small clan I will be able to reach back to No. 1, a Richard Inch of St. Kew in the N.E. Cornwall area, 1406."

I then go on to ask the personal questions pertaining to their own families, such as the names of brothers and sisters, parents, uncles and aunts and grandparents, etc. including the surnames of the distaff side. Then I would continue by saying:

"Now this is merely a friendly letter from one Inch to another and all I am trying to do is to sort out all the 'twigs' of the whole Inch tree for posterity and the interest of any of our small clan who would know more of their earlier ancestors."

I then go on to bait the trap by saying that I would send them a copy of their own family tree from the data they provide, plus mine and informing them that there happens to be an ancient Inch coat of arms from Cornwall and I would send them a colour photo of it if they wish: this often springs the trap.

Finally, I finish by saying:

"I do hope I might have the pleasure of hearing from you and in anticipation I enclose a stamped addressed envelope for your kind reply.

From one Inch to another, Yours sincerely, etc."

I look forward to reading other members' views on this subject and perhaps someone with a better command of the English language than I will be able to produce the ideal approach letter from our combined ideas on the subject.

I might add that I write all my letters by hand and not photo-copied, as I think this is a more intimate approach letter and shows the recipient that you are directing your personal appeal to him or her alone.

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Mr. E. Henry Dorrell, "Koala", 2 Ainslie Close, Aylestone Hill, Hereford HR1 1JH writes:

The problem mentioned in Dr. James Hodsdon's letter of 24 September 1980, of ensuring a reply to one's letters, even when an s.a.e. has been sent, is one which has to be met by all family historians.

I have found that some people who will not take the trouble to answer a letter are quite willing to answer questions orally, so it may be worth while risking a rebuff by making a discreet request by telephone to pay them a visit, at the same time inviting them to visit you.

Perhaps a reminder in the Guild Newsletter and in family history society journals might help to avoid another disappointment which one-namers sometimes feel. On several occasions recently I have gone to considerable trouble to supply information requested in a family history society journal, but have not received any acknowledgement, which obviously would have been appreciated.

However, we should never give up hope of receiving a reply. A few days ago I received an interesting answer to a letter which I wrote seventeen years ago!

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NEWSLETTERS PUBLISHED BY GUILD MEMBERS

BROOKSBY NEWS: the Brooksby Family Association, edited by R. City, 21 Elm Drive, Silsoe, Bedford MK45 4EU, Vol.1. No.1, Spring 1980, 18pp. duplicated typescript, A4; also Vol.1, No.2, Summer 1980, 20pp. For subscription rates, write to the Editor.

DELICHON URBICA (The House Martin): the journal of the Family History Society of Martin, No.1, January 1980, edited by L.W.M. Nex, 14 Rolleston Road, Fawley, Southampton SO4 1GB, 11pp duplicated typescript, A4. Subscription rates: £2.00 p.a. U.K. (£3.00 overseas).

THE NORRINGTON FAMILY NEWSLETTER: No.12, November 1980, produced by John and Jeannette Norrington, 13 Hylands Road, Epsom, Surrey KT18 7ED, 13pp, A4, duplicated typescript.

THE PARLEY PAPERS: a family history newsletter, No.4, Christmas 1980, edited by Mrs. Mary D. Griffiths, 36 Duchy Road, Harrogate, N. Yorks HG1 2ER, 8pp, duplicated typescript, A5.

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Mrs. Pauline Saul, Projects Co-ordinator, Federation of Family History Societies, 31 Seven Star Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 2BZ, writes:

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

About four years ago the Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry proposed to the Federation of Family History Societies the idea of starting an index for Unwanted Certificates. The Federation turned down the idea as being impractical, but because they believed in it the BMSGH went ahead on their own.

Although administered by them from the start, it was a NATIONAL INDEX with contributions from all parts of the UK and even some from overseas. ALL names from the certificates are indexed - mother's maiden name, witnesses, registrars, etc. along with the event and county. The list of names now runs into thousands.

The first collection of names - Unrelated Certificates - was published in 1979 and was a sell-out at 50p. The second collection is due to be typed up and published in 1981.

The Index has obviously proved its worth and here is where the problem arises. Other Societies have begun to start similar indexes and as Federation Projects Co-ordinator this is causing me some embarrassment. One of my tasks is to try to avoid duplication of work amongst Societies and/or individuals and I can only repeat that the Unwanted Certificate Index administered by the BMSGH is a National One, for the benefit of all.

Before your Society embarks upon one of its own, do please ask yourself if it is really necessary. Could you not act as a clearing-house and send any pre-1900 Unwanted Certificates to Mrs. Barbara Baker, 270 Clarence Road, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands and this keeps the Index which is already in existence as a truly NATIONAL one? Mrs. Baker also looks up names in the index in exchange for a s.a.e. as part of the service.

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RUNNING A FAMILY HISTORY BULLETIN ON A SHOESTRING - V

By Frank Higenbottam BA, FLA, Editor of The Higginbottom Family Bulletin

ACCOUNTING AND MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

After much trial with more complicated systems, the writer has evolved a relatively simple system of accounting, based on one account book. The headings used on a multi-column page are as follows:

Year & Date	Member's Name & No. & other details	CASH			BANK			Total Bal.
		Paid	Rec'd	Bal.	Paid	Rec'd	Bal.	
1980				£13.62			£79.51	£93.13
Oct. 1	Prof. W.B. Heginbotham 35				£2.00		£81.51	
Oct. 26	Stamps (cheque)				£8.50		£79.01	

At the end of the year, you can draw up a statement of expenditure and income, with a surplus (or debit) balance.

A members' list, with addresses, is kept at the front of the account book, leaving twenty or so pages blank for this purpose:

No.	Name and address	Date joined.	From issue No.
1	William Higenbottam (1st cousin) 25 Orchard Close, Leigh, Lancs. (address changed to: The Garth, Glyn Garth, Menai Bridge, Anglesey, Gwynedd LL59 5PE.	21 Oct. 1970	1

Card Index of Members and Free and Exchange Mailing List (on cards)

Use 6" x 4" ruled index cards to record your members:

USA - HIGGINBOTHAM, William Rufus, b.13.5.1914 Joined 31.10.1979 No. 117	
W.R. Higginbotham, 5154 Winifred Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76133 USA	
\$11.00 2 years paid 31.10.79 = £4.67. Paid £18.50, 30.12.79 back nos.	
No.	Posted
38	31.10
39	24.11
40	20. 2
41	14. 6
42	5. 9
43	25.11
44	
45	

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Stencils @ £5.00 p/50	6	£0.60	
Duplicating paper @ £3.00 p/ream	2½ rms	£7.50	
		£9.71	9.7p

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If and when a sufficient number of paid subscribers (say, fifty) has been obtained, it might be worth while considering forming a family history society for all those bearing the surname or interested in it. The Federation of Family History Societies has prepared a leaflet on how to form a one-name society and a copy may be obtained from the author, Derek A. Palgrave, 210 Bawtry Road, Doncaster, S. Yorks DN4 7BZ by sending a stamped addressed foolscap envelope.

Those who form a family history society will find it to their advantage to apply for membership of the Federation, which issues The Family History News & Digest twice a year, with all the latest news, addresses of family history societies (national, regional and single name) in the British Isles and abstracts of articles from current journals, classified by subject. (Concluded)

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Mr. D.W. Hamley, 21 New Street, Cawston, Norwich NR10 4AN, writes:

Some members who talk of card indexes amaze me as either their family must be very small in numbers through the ages, or they are only researching one direct line. Ours is not a common surname by far, but if I used an index it would contain thousands of names and need a vast amount of space to store it. Which comes back to Col. Swinnerton - either we research the whole family - not just one branch of it - or else we are not family historians.

Sincere thanks to our Chairman, Fred Filby, who as usual is doing more than his share of work in connection with family history and I only wish I was in a position to get about more and help where possible.

Now for Dr. Hodsdon. There is no tried and trusted way to get an answer from a letter, as if there were it would be worth thousands of pounds to firms and individuals for the secret.

Be personal - do not send duplicated letters - and ask a few personal questions, such as "was it your father who served in the Beds and Herts in the last war whom my father met in a field hospital at Anzio?", etc.

Once you hit on a winner, you can safely leave the whole area in their hands, as once bitten by the bug, you will have a helper for life, but treat them as a partner, not just an agent.

I must cross swords with George W. Brown, who says a surname was misspelled in earlier times. Who has the effrontery to say what way surnames should be spelled? It was not until recent times that a standard dictionary came into being related to the English language, but never a book on surnames as such. No, not a surname misspelled, but a surname variant. Our own family still uses Hamley, Hambly, Hamlyn, etc. and please do not say their surnames are misspelled, as it was centuries ago given as Hamele, latinised as Hamelinus!

Will have to see what can be done to help Derek A. Palgrave with his Index of Name Variants and as he states, much is due to dialect, but also to language.

Consider Cornwall when several languages were current at the same period of history. Old English, Anglo-Saxon, Norman French, Latin and Cornish were all used to some degree at the same period and thus not only surnames were spelled in varying ways - place-names also suffered in the same way.

A lot of care must be taken in such an index, as taking an area close to me, I can cite Daglass which is but Douglas affected by the dialect, whilst Mennear and Mynheer are complete strangers. Mennear is Cornish and Mynheer is derived from a family that entered East Anglia via Norwich many generations ago.

(Mr. Hamley also sent a copy of a letter he wrote to Mr.T.W.Jacob (see last issue, page 14)):

From the current number of The Guild of One-Name Studies Newsletter, it seems you have set a trap for the unwary! You have made use of Jacob as a surname common with its use as a fore or personal name, and wait for the unwary to tumble into the pit.

Before I continue with the above, it may be of interest to you that it could well be that the Jacob family of Somerset was from Cornwall, via Devon, where they resided in early times.

Also that the Hamelyns held land in Cambridge probably the same time as William Jacob (various Rolls, The Exchequer of the Jews, Knights of Edward I, etc.)

As for Jacobs in East Anglia, they lived at Rushall in 1559, John Jacobbe; and William Jacobs lived at Southery ten years earlier. Both their Wills were proved in the Norfolk Archdeaconry Court.

I would be interested to see the entry "William Jacob holds one acre" as I feel it may read Willelmus filius Jacobi", thus denoting two possible personal names, i.e. Jacob was not, in this instance, a surname.

As for the "A.D.652", William Keenan thinks that this date is recent history! In his article published in The London Evening News on 12 November 1957 he wrote: "Before the Normans conquered us, the Hamleys were an old family in Cornwall ... So old is the Hamley line, that some Cornish authorities consider the name to be of Phoenician origin."

The experts tell me that Hamlin denotes a son of Ham, like a duckling is offspring of a duck, so if we include Jacob with his coat of many colours, can I include Ham, son of Noah?

I could not resist the last paragraph, but to be serious again, I think that there was one Jacob family in the U.K. in early days - before the flood of Yacobs, Jacobbs, etc. came from the Continent and that those in Cambridge were kinfolk to those of the West Country.

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BARKING UP THAT FRENCH TREE

Barking up that French Tree, by Margaret Audin, pub. by Cook-McDowell Publications Inc., 719 East Sixth Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301 USA, 1981, 61pp, index, vocabulary, addresses. \$8.75 + postage. This book describes how the Audin family was researched. Actual documents are shown with examples of handwriting in the different periods. Later chapters deal with starting one's own search, sources, addresses, useful books, etc.

It may be thought unnecessary emphasis is put on certain preliminaries such as knowledge of French, preparing the search, sending International Reply Coupons and so on, but this is because of the number of problems they cause.

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