

THE GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES
NEWSLETTER

Member of the Federation of Family History Societies

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Vol. 1, No. 6

Issued quarterly

Spring, 1981

From the Chairman and Acting Registrar (Frederick N. Filby)

As the Guild enters upon its third year, I am aware that it is my duty as your Chairman to give you a report on our progress during the past twelve months and on behalf of your Executive Committee to seek your mandate and guidance for our activity in the months to come.

It was writing the word 'activity' that set me comparing the Guild with other family history societies of a similar vintage and being also Chairman of another society which started at about the same time, I thought that comparison would be both easy and useful. It is with some surprise, therefore, that I find the differences more numerous and significant than the similarities. Agreed we have reached a membership of 300 at about the same time and our quarterly journals seem to leapfrog despite changes in the postage rates, but there the comparison ends. The reason no doubt arises from the fact that the interests of Guild members are not centred on a particular locality but are nationwide, as are their addresses, so there are no monthly meetings or sub-committees for the exchange of ideas. We do have of course an annual conference, which plays an important role in bringing members together, but the Newsletter is our vital channel of communication and it has to cater for readers of considerable genealogical experience right from the day of joining. We do not organise project outings for recording monumental inscriptions and parish registers, but every one of our members has his or her own specialist surname index and operates a free information service. As a result, our 'directory of members' interests', i.e. The Guild Register of One-Name Studies, needs to be updated twice a year and is in constant demand, so much so that a complete reprint is now required as a matter of urgency.

As every Guild member is automatically a subscriber to Family History News and Digest, he or she has the privilege of having his or her surname interest mentioned in every issue and this is creating an increasing awareness of our activity through the English-speaking world. The maintenance of the reputation we are building up is in the hands of each and every Guild member through his or her handling of the enquiries received. May they be many and fruitful and long may you keep up the good work.

Owing to the large number of letters published in this issue, it has not been possible to print an article by W.E.P. Broom, 'Difficulties in a Survey of a Name - Broom'. It is hoped to include this and an article 'Surname Variations' by Wilf. Hodgkinson, together with some other letters received, in the next issue of the Guild Newsletter. - Editor

WEEKEND CONFERENCE ON ONE-NAME STUDIES AT LEICESTER, 27-28 June, 1981

The venue for our Weekend Conference on One-Name Studies will once again be the Grand Hotel in Granby Street, Leicester. Commencing at 2 p.m. on Saturday, 27 June, it will finish shortly after noon on Sunday 28 June.

The Guild's AGM will be held during the course of the meeting and the Conference programme will consist of a series of discussions on one-name study topics of particular interest to those present and of vital concern to the future development and expansion of the Guild.

The Conference fee is £3.00, including afternoon tea and morning coffee. Overnight accommodation can be provided in the Hotel, for which a booking form is enclosed. Attendance at the Conference Dinner is optional, but where required must be booked and paid for in advance on the booking form provided.

As delegate participation is to be the essence of the Conference, it is hoped that those attending will bring with them examples of their techniques and data collection for display and discussion. Let this be our Forum for the future.

Mr. Ballyn and the Bunns of St. Albans, by Elizabeth Grace Roberts
Paulin Press, 7 Harrow Close, Hagley, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY9 6PP, 1980
192pp. 24 plates, card covers, A5. £6.95 (plus £1.00 postage and packing).
Reviewed by Duncan Harrington.

This splendid book will be welcomed by those readers who have enjoyed the author's previous books, In Search of Anglesey Ancestry and Anglesey Family Letters, 1840-1935. It is also to the author's credit that she has published these herself. The book has been researched and written over a ten-year period and has returned to the melting-pot more than once. Such is the nature of biographical research where some exciting clue leads on to a veritable treasure-trove of information. The book has obviously provided very enjoyable research for the author and I have little doubt that it will provide the reader with as much pleasure.

From letters and memoirs the author has managed to paint a vivid and clear account of the Ballyn family. The letters have been inserted into the narrative so that the reader is immersed in the characters from her ancestry to whom she introduces us. The Ballyn family pedigrees (pages 184-188) are drawn up in the narrative style associated with Burke's Landed Gentry, but in the present book the author has only given the bare years (and not the day and month) and no places are stated for most entries. This also applies sadly to the Bunn, Hillier and Huggett pedigrees on pages 188-192. The pedigree on page 21 is considerably better.

The story concerning the earlier part of the author's Bunn ancestry is most fascinating and she relates a tale that is true of many of our own family trees. "As work went on," she writes, "the usual gaps in parish registers and corporation records made difficulties, the most unfortunate of all being the missing St. Albans Abbey Registers that disappeared in a fire that destroyed St. Albans Rectory in 1743. One register supposed to have been burned, was discovered in 1880 by Mr. Craggs in a hayloft attached to his house in St. Albans, the property of Mr. J. Kent, great-grandson of Mr. John Kent, who died in 1798, having been for more than half a century Clerk to the Abbey (Herts Genealogist & Antiquary, William Briggs)". The baptism of the first authentic Bunn ancestor and his marriage were in those missing registers..." It was also interesting to see that the author had used the signatures of her ancestors to help sort out different individuals.

The author writes, "Joseph and Francis both married into the Hillier family, who really must have a small chapter to themselves later on". I am pleased to say that they did and perhaps we may yet see a complete book on this part of her ancestry, since it is apparent that there are many of this name with interesting lives. In this book Mrs. Roberts has concentrated on Frederick John Hillier

(1742-1816) and his son Thomas Hillier (1768-1849). John Frederick Hillier, who was lightkeeper at the North Foreland Light, lived at a spot that had formerly been the site of a Tudor warning beacon. The author relates the anxiety of the early owners of lighthouses, shown in some of the surviving correspondence, that "the lights should have adequate attention during the hours of darkness. One letter to the Vicar of St. Margaret-at-Cliffe beseeches him to take note each evening as darkness fell if the braziers at South Foreland were well-lit. Other letters plead with the light-keepers not to spend all their time fishing, but to attend to their duties at the lighthouse."

Extracts from a very early diary or memoir, written by Thomas Hillier, help to breathe life into the narrative and provide us with information and motives that most historical records on the whole rarely provide. In the appendix there is an account by A.L. Helliour of the Swedish Church, Princes Square, London, which reveals that Thomas Hillier and his father were dedicated to the teachings of Emmanuel Swedenborg. This is of great interest in that it has been said that the Swedenborgians never had a congregation in Kent. This apparently is not true, although it might have been shortlived. There is also an interesting account in Thomas Hillier's own words which explained his two marriages, for which the author had found two marriage licenses, but in the parish registers, one record for the marriage by banns at a later date. She writes "He had obtained a special licence, dated 30th December 1789 ... about which Thomas writes 'This unthought of, unexpected and unaware marriage, Oh! it made such an uproar' ..." Thomas actually obtained a second marriage licence dated 25 October 1790 and was married again, in his own words, "to please! To please whom?" Thomas Hillier later in his life was involved in a long and costly litigation, which fortunately left a considerable quantity of written records, which have been of great use to the author. The law suit was over money and property his wife Sarah Muggett should have inherited.

A chapter at least has been devoted to the Muggett and Paulin families and the author has done much to bring alive the central characters from such records as have survived. As such it is a great disappointment perhaps that the outline pedigree charts do not record more information since it is not found elsewhere in the text. I am quite certain that the author will continue to locate yet further details of this side of her family and we look forward to another book perhaps in the years to come.

There are one or two technical points which distract slightly from the overall pleasure of this book. Firstly, the photographs have lost a crispness that could have been retained by using a better quality art paper for the illustrations, as in her previous books and secondly the book, I think, would have gained from being provided with an index, especially since the story did not follow in strict chronological sequence. For instance, the index in Anglesey Ancestry enabled me to tie up the account of the death of James Clifford Ballyn on page 24 there with the account on page 101 of this present book. In all, a very readable book.

FRENCH GENEALOGY

An association of accredited, professional genealogists has recently been formed in France. This group can recommend professional searchers who specialize in various categories of French genealogical records. The new body, the Chambre Syndicale des Généalogistes - Héraldistes, 74 rue des Saintes-Pères, 75007, Paris, France, will supply a list of recommended searchers on receipt of two international reply coupons and a self-addressed envelope. (Taken from Descent, Vol.10, part 4 (Dec. 1980), the official journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists, "Richmond Villa", 120 Kent Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000, Australia - a magazine that can be heartily recommended by your Editor for all those interested in Australian genealogy.

Derek A. Palgrave, 210 Bawtry Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN4 7BZ, writes:

I was absolutely horrified to read on page 59 of No. 5 of the Newsletter that readers could send me a stamped addressed envelope and I would supply a free leaflet. Forming a One Name Group is a publication in the Federation of Family History Societies' series of monographs which can be purchased from the Federation Sales Department at 30p as advertised on the inside cover of every copy of Family History News and Digest.

I suppose that I shall have to do what you say I have done and write a brief leaflet so I can satisfy this demand. I will summarize what I have written in the booklet and then plug the booklet itself, which I am now preparing as a second edition, as the first one has some errors and we are out of stock anyway.

Moving to another topic, I would like to thank you for including my request for members of the Guild to pass on details of name-variants. Only two people have taken the trouble to send me information, but I suppose it is early days yet.

(Sorry for the misunderstanding, Derek, and thank you for correcting it - I see you have now produced a second edition of Forming a One Name Group - Editor)

Mrs. Betty Choyce Sheehan, 24 Coleman Road, Southampton, Mass 01073 U S A
writes:

I can't tell you how very pleased I am with the Guild's Newsletter. It far surpasses other periodicals of its kind for lively give and take and for choice tid-bits of information.

Sitting here 'across the water', just enjoying each edition, makes me feel like I'm not doing my bit to support the group, so now I'm going to try to make some small contribution for one of your future issues of the Newsletter.

Many references have been made to research 'down under'. During that period of my own research for CHOICE/CHOYCE families located in Australia, I used the most common channel, namely a letter to a reference librarian asking her to duplicate the names of those people from the area telephone directories.

One day, my casual request fell upon the desk of a creative librarian. She suggested that I write off for electoral rolls in the state archives, which would not only list names, but addresses and occupations. Before her letter had cooled off, I wrote immediately to the first archive:

The State Archivists, Queensland State Archives, 168 Annerley Road,
Dutton Park 4102, Queensland, Australia.

Other archives I had to locate by myself. The following are ones I have:

Principal Librarian
Australian Reference
National Library of Australia
Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia

Principal Archivist
Archives Office of Tasmania
91 Murray Street, Hobart 7000
Tasmania, Australia

Principal Librarian
Battye Library
The Library Board of Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia

La Trobe Librarian
State Library of Victoria
328 Swanston Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000
Australia

Reference Librarian, South Australia Dept. of Community Development, State Library Division, Box 419, GPO Adelaide 5001, South Australia.

My response from the Electoral Commissioner, State Electoral Office, 1 Francis Street, East Sydney 2010, New South Wales, Australia, indicated: "It is not practicable to furnish ... from the New South Wales electoral rolls." They referred me to the Genealogists Society, 120 Kent Street, Sydney 2000, NSW, Australia. For some reason which eludes me now, I did not follow up on that reference.

Would you please be good enough to clarify an item for me? Mrs. Pauline Saul of the Federation of Family History Societies mentioned the Birmingham & Midland Society project for an index concerning "Unwanted Certificates" and "Unrelated Certificates". Would you please excuse my ignorance and explain exactly how you would describe these certificates? (Over to you, Mrs. Saul, can you oblige? - Editor)

Could you also please tell me what is meant by foolscap' as used in "a SAE foolscap envelope"? My inadequate American dictionary describes 'foolscap' as being "a size of writing paper about 13x16 inches". It does not refer to an envelope size. One final question. Could you please advise me in inches, what size A4 paper would be? Again, let me congratulate you on the quality of the Guild Newsletter.

(A foolscap envelope is one measuring nine inches by four. A4 is the size of this Newsletter, namely 11.69" x 8.27" (297mm x 210mm) - Editor)

Miss Joan Thornely, Fold Farm, Chisworth, via Hyde, Cheshire SK14 6SA, writes:

I have been reading some back numbers of the North Cheshire Family Historian and see in the July 1975 number that you were making a register of "single name enthusiasts". I think I know all the THORNELYS who spell their name this way from 1722 to now - with a very few exceptions they are all related to me and I have collected a great many others of different spellings mostly from the old Parish of Stockport and some from Glossop, Mellor, Mottram, Didsbury and round about. I couldn't call myself a one-name Society but I should like to be on your register if you think I might qualify.

J.A. Pearce, 20 Meadow Way, Westergate, nr. Chichester PO20 6QT, writes:

Even to appear to criticise where precious time is gratuitously devoted to a voluntary work can only be distasteful. Be that as it may, it seems perhaps the opening paragraph of 'From the Editor's Chair' invites just that.

Surely the Society can now graduate from a newsletter of duplicated foolscap sheets. The Society may still be small, but I have recently seen most attractive photo-litho productions by a couple of very small local societies with memberships well below the hundred mark, and both asking very modest subscriptions.

(Mr. Pearce and other members of the Guild will be interested to hear that it is proposed to produce the Newsletter by photo-offset litho on A5 size paper (half the size - A4 - of the present journal), starting with the first issue in 1982. - Editor)

A.W. Joscelyne, 79 Fernleigh Drive, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 1LG, writes:

Researching JOSCELYNE/JOSLIN, etc. (Essex and extending into Suffolk) for fifteen years. One hundred plus Essex parishes covered. Traced back many branches from EGIOUS JOSSELYN of Brittany. Would make this information available on request (stamped addressed envelope, please). Also information on families who married Joscelyne/Joslins, etc.

A NUMBERS GAME

by Wilf Hodgkinson

I began extracting HODGKINSON General Register Office entries (1837-1871) in the 1960's in anticipation of the 1871 Census. In 1970-71 I copied all the HODGKINSONS in the telephone directories so that I then had a good idea of the geographic distribution of the name in 1871 and 1971. About the same time I came across H.B. Guppy's Homes of Family Names in Great Britain, 1890, but more of this later. HODGKINSON births, marriages, deaths for 1837-1871 totalled 9,661 - quite a staggering figure to play around with and my first analysis was by Registration Division, followed by Registration county, as follows:

	B	M	D	T	%	X
Lancs	1390	621	916	2927	30½	1040
Derbys	721	342	501	1564	16	630
Staffs	514	232	326	1072	11	315
Notts	423	199	292	914	9½	380
Cheshire	398	177	251	826	8½	305
Rest of Eng. & Wales	1104	523	731	2358	24½	830
Totals	4550	2094	3017	9661	100	3500

An analysis by Registration District proved more interesting. I discovered that forty districts accounted for 80%, twenty-five for 66% and the 'top ten' districts account for 40%.

	B	M	D	T
Preston	292	132	255	679
Sheffield	178	125	130	433
Bakewell	180	74	135	389
Basford	200	82	103	385
Ashbourne	185	80	98	363
Derby	141	82	116	339
Congleton	161	67	106	334
Cherley	166	59	95	320
Woostanton	133	55	83	271
Bolton	127	59	80	266
Totals	1763	815	1201	3779

But I still had no idea how many HODGKINSONS there were and how many 'families' this represented. So back to the drawing board and I applied the national BMD rates to the yearly figures (making allowance for the difference between male and female marriages) and I came up with an estimated HODGKINSON 'population' of 3,000 in 1837, rising to 4,500 in 1871. (Incidentally, using Donald Gurn's method, the 1871 population is 4,605). It appears that the 1837 figure is going to be close to the deaths' total and the 1871 figure close to the births' total, but don't ask me why! As at 1837 an approximate national breakdown gives 7% widowed, 33% married and 60% single (most of these being under the age of 15) so that the number of extended families is unlikely to exceed 250 and may actually be closer to one hundred.

The next step was to take the 1851 estimate (3,500) and share this out among the counties strictly on a percentage basis and using the BMD 1837-1851M only. This estimated county population is shown under col. X above. Using the same process, I shared the Derbyshire total between the districts and predicted an 1851 population for Bakewell of 149. Taking my life (and chequebook!) in hand, I engaged a professional searcher to plough through the 1851 Census for Bakewell on microfilm and the result was 148 HODGKINSONS!

Needless to say, this result gave me much encouragement to press on and since I happened to be working on a couple of Notts families, I turned my attention to that county. With valuable assistance from Trevor Scott and the District Indexes published by the Nottinghamshire Family History Society, I produced an estimated HODGKINSON population for 1851. I have 'corrected' the estimates for some districts

because the Indexes omit parishes outside the county. (Southwell and Radford are still to be published.) A sample suggests that there are about 3.3 persons per entry so I have every hope that my little numbers game will have been worth the effort.

	B	M	D	T	%	H. pop.	Corrected	Index entries
E. Retford	12	3	13	28	8	30	30	11
Worksop	14	10	6	30	9	34	26	5
Mansfield	10	15	14	39	11½	44	39	18
Basford	54	28	36	118	34½	132	110	27
Nottingham	25	14	26	65	19	72	72	23
Radford	10	11	8	29	8½	32	32	
Southwell	6	1	4	11	3	11	11	
Newark	13	5	4	22	6½	25	18	3
Bingham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	144	87	111	342	100	380	338	87

No, I haven't forgotten Guppy. Having waited some months for Boston Spa (the British Library Lending Division) to produce a copy, I have had another look at his findings. (I am well aware of the criticism of his methods). He lists HODGKINSON as: Lancs 20, Derbys 38, Staffs 16, Notts 15 and Cheshire 17. Unfortunately he does not give the totals by county upon which his findings were based so I have applied his results to the 1876 Blue Book totals. Converting these results into percentages gives: Lancs 35, Derbys 15, Staffs 13, Notts 4½ and Cheshire 8. With the exception of Notts, these results compare quite favourably with the percentages shown in my county table above.

Contributor's address: 7 Manor Grove, St. Neots, Cambs PE19 1PP

TALKING TO STRANGERS

Jessica Bilyard Freeman, 76 Highlever Road, London W10, writes:

Further to the recent correspondence in the Guild Newsletter on Dr. Hodson's original letter on 'Talking to Strangers', I have written or telephoned total strangers on a number of occasions and have come to the conclusion that practically any courteous approach will be answered, but at the convenience of the other person and not the researcher.

Drawing on my own experience in researching the surname BILLYARD (Billyeald/Billiet), who in the 1690's lived in a tiny village in Nottinghamshire called Fledborough, a couple of years ago I visited Fledborough to look around the church. As is not uncommon these days (but luckily for me as it turned out), the church was locked and I had to drive to a local farm to fetch the key. When I returned it, I could see that the farmer's wife to whom I gave the key was very curious as to my reasons, but was too polite to ask outright, so I explained what I was doing and my interest in the family of Billyard. She immediately said that I should see Mrs. S.... who had been a Miss Billyard before she married and who lived in the next village. I drove to this village, but unfortunately found my quarry had gone on holiday.

Returning to London, I plucked up courage, about a month later, to ring up Mrs. S.... and explain who I was, how I had heard of her connection with the Billyards and ended by asking if she had any family papers. To my delight she said she had and promised to send them to me soon.

About four months passed and I was just about to write a follow-up letter when, it being December, a Christmas card arrived from Mrs. S.... apologising for the delay but saying she had been very busy and would write soon. Another few months passed and finally I got a letter plus papers - which was well worth waiting for.

My great, great grandfather William Whaley Billyard had emigrated to Australia in

about 1846 and it appears that he must have left behind him in Nottinghamshire (with his uncle William Billyard of Fledborough who had brought him up when he was orphaned at the age of ten) some unwanted papers. Among them was a notebook for 1833 - the year in which he was articled to a solicitor. It was principally a "reading diary", i.e. WWB wrote down every month the books he had read and comments on his monthly schedule of improving his acquaintance with literature and history, mentioning such books as The Life of Napoleon Bonaparte. However, even more valuable was the fact that at the beginning of the notebook he had written in the dates of his parents' births, the date of their marriage and his own birthday. This enabled me to identify positively WWB's parents as John Billyard and Mary Whaley - the stumbling block had been that they were aged 53 and 43 respectively at the time of their marriage, which is of course an unusually late age for marriage.

I replied to Mrs. S.... thanking her for her help and saying how delighted I was to receive the notebook. About six months later she replied, saying I could keep the notebook, as she was sure I would treasure it and enclosing a few more papers. But all in all, it had taken nearly a year from my first approach to receive any useful help and so the best advice I now give myself is to acquire the qualities of patience and perseverance!

On another point, I wonder if I could ask if any other member of the Guild has come across any reference to the meaning and origin of the name Billyard? I have looked in about twenty dictionaries etc. and although I have come across a note that it is a name peculiar to Nottinghamshire, there is never anything else. I would be grateful if someone could help me with this problem.

Mrs. Betty Choyce Sheehan, POB 183, Eastampton, Mass 01027, U S A, wrote to Dr. James Hodsdon, who passed her letter on to the Editor:

Enclosed you'll find a copy of the initial letter (an informative duplicated sheet, addressed "Dear Cousin") I send to any new Choice or Choyce I encounter. Perhaps you'll find this of some use to you in response to your query in the October issue of the Guild Newsletter.

I have found that the more personal "cousin" approach works well for me. It established a relationship, no matter how tenuous, from the start and immediately involved this new Choyce in the project.

Incidentally, I never include an SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope). I know it goes against all the things you've read, but I figure it'll only cost my "cousin" the price of one stamp to reply. If he's at all interested, he'll be glad to invest that small amount. If he's not interested, I'd have lost my SASE anyway. As it has turned out over the years, I have had several Choyces send me money for the postage I've expended for them. My success rate has been about 90% in response to my initial letter. Add another 5% for mail returned by the Post Office as "undeliverable" and I think you'll find this approach borders on a successful one.

Once I hear from a new Choyce and receive what they can give me of their line, I draw a rough chart including all family members and return it to them to fill in any missing information or to correct any errors I may have made. I go through the thousands of pieces of Choice/Choyce vital statistics I've collected through the years and help them with their line where I can. I also encourage them to do some research on their own line and to collect any other Choice/Choyce information they might cross while searching for their own line. Most of my "cousins" have been more than generous in that respect.

THE GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES AND ITS CATEGORIES

John E. Silverwood, 105 Allan Street, Apt. 402, Oakville, Ontario L6J 3K2 Canada,
writes:

I feel that Lt-Col Swinnerton's letter in the October issue of the Guild Newsletter should not be allowed to go unanswered. It was indeed controversial and at the same time ambiguous. Mr. Nigenbottam and Mr. Filby had the right idea when they started this project when you take into consideration the response.

Lt-Col Swinnerton has an unhappy knack of omitting essentials - as for instance his definition of a Guild is correct in part, but he should have continued with his quote and said, "It is also any association for mutual aid and the promotion of common interest". Also when he writes of several complaints (from over six hundred enquiries?) he should have read D.A. Palgrave's letter to the Secretaries of member societies which gave these figures.

Mr. Filby in his letter of March 1979 also mentions this problem but continues, "However, in the majority of cases a rewarding exchange of information has resulted".

What could be more ambiguous than Col. Swinnerton's statement that "many of the original entrants (in the Register) were in it for what they hoped to get out of it - i.e. free publicity and the hope of information being fed to them ...", the rest of his statement is pure conjecture. May I ask Lt-Col Swinnerton why the name of his Society is on the back page of Family History News and Digest? Is this some form of publicity? Is he hoping to get something from this publicity? Why do we join societies, is it for the pleasure of sending in our yearly subscriptions or do we expect to receive something in return?

In conclusion, if we belong to or run a one-name society, the answer is "Yes", we do put down all the references to a specific name because, who knows, they may just turn out to be the long-sought cousin or uncle, etc. First you find the bones, then you flesh them out; dressing them comes later.

My sincere advice to Lt-Col Swinnerton is that if he does not feel at ease in our company he should form his own super guild - one which will exclude the proletariat and of course Colonials.

Doreen and Rodney Agutter, 263 Station Road, Balsall Common, Coventry CV7 7EG,

write:

As Category C researchers, we feel we must respond to Mrs. Pauline Litton's adverse criticisms, wondering on what proven basis she advances such claims. Category C states a minimum requirement but doubt many serious investigators are in fact satisfied with it. Lt-Col Swinnerton in his original comment in the October issue, reiterated at a recent lecture in Kenilworth, emphasised that the dedicated 'one-namer' must be aware of all avenues of information and collect accordingly. In our own case, we always look at lists of names on war memorials and search old directories and newspapers. We are studying parish registers where branches of the family are known to have lived, investigating calendars of wills and admons in whatever record office we find ourselves and have recently completed a list of abstracts (1858-1928) from Somerset House; all this in addition to the St. Catherine's House records as far as the latest entries available, plus the other basics.

We should be delighted if someone would enquire for information. To date, with one exception, all this research has been undertaken on our own initiative. We have even gone so far as to buy a certificate from St. Catherine's House for a line other than our own direct one and last year spent many hours combing the voters' lists in our area, because we needed to track down a lady, born to the family but married and thus lost to direct view, with a very routine surname, in order to acquire information on a hitherto unresearched branch. We are sure we are far from unique in our efforts.

Our explanation why we are not registered as Category A or B is simple. Like Mrs. E. Wilson writing in the October 1980 issue, there are not enough people with our surname to contribute financially to the production of a regular newsletter, nor by virtue of advanced age could many join a family gathering. We compromised by sending Christmas greetings in the form of cards and individual letters.

It seems the intent of Category C and Category E is inherently different. Category C aims at total coverage, though who can ever claim it is complete? No-one could be so complaisant! Additionally, our researches are in breadth as well as depth, having established contacts abroad (USA, New Zealand, Australia) as well as in various regions of the British Isles. In the latter instances we have travelled to Devon, Kent and throughout the Midlands to meet members of our clan.

Compared with this, Category E will by definition always fall short of an ideal and may well be as much a source of disappointment as pleasure to hopeful enquirers. We would suggest that such members declare their territorial boundaries to avoid rebuffing clients. We in turn would be happy to complete a more stringent questionnaire outlining our present state of knowledge, the sources of information available and the extent of our experience.

TO E OR NOT E, THAT IS THE QUESTION !

Frederick N. Filby (Chairman of the Guild and Acting Registrar)
15 Cavendish Gardens, Cranbrook, Ilford, Essex IG1 3EA.

writes:

On the subject of the Guild and its categories and before our Editor says 'this correspondence must cease' I wish, as the instigator of Category E, to put into perspective the rather successful effort on the part of Lt-Col Swinnerton to "stir up some discussion". It is exactly two years since I, on behalf of the Steering Committee, wrote to all whose names were in the original Federation Register of One-Name Studies and invited them to join the Guild. Almost half of the 300 invited accepted the invitation immediately. However, what is even more significant is that some 150 did not accept the invitation or in some cases even confirm the accuracy of their original entry. The majority of those approached were listed as Category C in the original register and this in fact was the only option available to them. At that time, when they were keen to "advertise" and expand their own line of one-name research, they did not have the opportunity of using that most valuable publication, The National Genealogical Directory, so naturally they jumped at the chance of having their name in this new Register of One-name Studies.

In these circumstances it is hardly surprising that there were two or perhaps three letters of complaint about the arrangements and it must have been disagreeable for Col. Swinnerton to have had the task of dealing with these during his spell as Registrar, especially at a time when he and others were trying to establish standards and recognition for the "amateur" status of the Federation and its constituent societies in a hitherto mainly professional environment. However, for the reasons explained in my opening remarks, I feel that with the development of events following formation of the Guild, a very small problem had solved itself. The introduction of the additional Category E gave the enthusiastic newcomer to the art a chance to be honest about his present shortcomings and the would-be enquirer was made aware of "the Guild members' resources and organisational structure".

If that sounds vaguely familiar to you, it is because you read it in the Guild's Draft Constitution, of which every potential Guild member had a copy before becoming a member, and exactly the same set of papers has been used for every one of the subsequent 150 members who have joined our ranks. Each one of the 300 members has one vote in the Guild's affairs, regardless of his category, which is nothing

more than a label, in the best tradition of the Trade Descriptions Act.

We have been able to enjoy some stimulating comment as a result of this debate, ranging from Mrs. Litton's suggestion to abolish Category C, to Mr. Heygate-Brown's implied abolition of Categories A and B, but whatever YOU finally decide, spare a thought for how it is going to be administered by your Registrar, whoever he or she may be. The advice of your retiring Chairman is let us stop criticising one another and concentrate on trying to encourage the achievement of that most worthwhile ambition of 'a one-name study for every surname' in all categories from A to Z. Then perhaps we shall deserve the words of my Essex ancestors:
" 'E be a good lad, 'E be!"

Lt.Col. I.S. Swinnerton, TD DL JP FSG, Owls Barn, Bridgnorth Road, Stourton, Fr. Stourbridge, West Midlands DY7 6RS sends the following (for information):

In view of the number of letters I have received, I hope you will forgive a 'round robin' reply, but I am most grateful to you for writing to me in response to my letter in the October issue of the Journal of the One-Name Guild. I have delayed in replying until the next issue had been published to see if there was any further response in there.

Most correspondents seemed to agree with me, but not all, and those who did, did not agree on all the points I made. I am, of course, only a soldier and not an academic so perhaps I did not phrase some of it very well. Even so, some correspondents took issue with me on points I hadn't raised.

The basic point I was trying to make is that my idea of a true One-Nameer is someone who is interested in every bearer of the name anywhere in the world and at any period. Perhaps my idea is wrong?

Some of the points I was criticised on were:

1. My standards are impossible for any one person in a normal lifetime. I probably agree, but one must have an aim and I hope someone else will carry on the good work after me.
2. That I said "merely collecting every instance of a name is not by any means sufficient". Here is one place where I did not express myself very well: obviously you must collect every instance, I should have gone on to say "and research that person and try and fit him in to the family".
3. That One-Name can only be One-Name, but that there are members with two or three names registered. This is one I didn't raise but I don't agree - provided the person is carrying out my requirements for each of the names, he is still a One-Nameer.
4. My penultimate paragraph about trying to help an enquirer and then carry on researching that branch of the family myself. This was again not very well put and I was rightly chided by one or two correspondents. I meant, of course, carry on researching in conjunction with the enquirer. I do encourage members of my family to research their own branches, I help them as much as I can and do what they cannot, but in no way do I "take over". This is a policy the Swinnerton Society has developed very strongly over the last two years or so to the extent that various members are now regarded as the authority on various branches but I, of course, am regarded as the overall authority on the whole family.
5. Obliquely (and very nicely) I have been criticised as not being a true Family Historian in that I concentrate on One Name. However, I do assure you that well-known as I am as a male chauvinist, I do take an interest in my maternal ancestors and those of you who read my editorial in the September 1980 issue of my own journal will remember I encouraged my family to do the same.

6. On the issue of basic requirements laid down by the Guild, I did not pronounce at all, but was nevertheless sent criticisms of these requirements. Suffice it to say that I, too, have my doubts about the value of the PCC Wills clause - the other two, however, are basic working tools and are essential.

There were several other points made but the above are most important. I will add a few extra comments to individual writers but I would like to say to everyone how glad I am that the subject has been aired. I think it is very important and I would like very much to see it debated at a Guild Conference.

To sum up - I am unrepentant! I still hold to my belief that if I had joined Category E and said that I was only interested in the Swinnertons of Staffordshire, I would not be a true One-Name - even less had I said Staffordshire (18th Century).

I cannot put it better than paragraph 1 of the terms of reference to the Introduction to the Guild Register of One-Name Studies:

"The Register contains only the names of Societies, Family Associations and individuals who are interested in ALL references to a specific surname and its variants. (Enquiries relating to a specific name but just in a given area at a given time are more properly directed to the National Pedigree Index or to the appropriate Family History Society)."

That says it all. How can a Category E member possibly say yes to that? His or her proper place is in the National Pedigree Index.

(I think this subject has had a good airing in the Newsletter, so the correspondence is now closed. - Editor)

Brian Faithfull, Lot 7, Berice Drive, Lara, Victoria 3212, Australia, writes:

I thoroughly enjoy the Newsletter: being far away there is not much I can do to help. I am particularly looking forward to your next edition on how to arrange your correspondence.

Whilst researching my own family name, I have found some useful (to the right person!) family history on the following families: KIRKE from 780 (?1780 - Editor) TINDALL, TYNDAL or TINDALE, c.1300; WRENCH, FLEET and BLISS.

I have found the Newsletter very interesting and have taken up some of the excellent ideas that the members have written ...

Mrs. Charmian Barker of Sun Cottage, 6 East Gardens, Ditchling, Sussex BN6 8ST, is researching her family name of GUPPY in Chardstock, Devon (formerly Dorset) and has a collection of photocopies of Lay Subsidies, Muster Rolls, Fines, Manor Court Rolls and Accounts, giving names from 1332 until the end of the 18th century. She is willing to look up names for anyone whose ancestors came from Chardstock. (Stamped addressed envelope, please).

ENGLISH GENEALOGICAL CONGRESS 1981 AT YORK

There will be an English Genealogical Congress at the University of York, Monday - Saturday, 10-15 August 1981. The all-in fee for accommodation will be approximately £100. Closing date for applications is 30 April 1981.

Write to Miss Stella Colwell (author of that excellent recent book The Family History Book), 26 Rangers Square, Hyde Vale, Greenwich, London, SE10.

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The Guild of One-Name Studies Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 6, Spring 1981