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THE GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES
NEWSLETTER

Member of the Federation of Family History Societies

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Report on the 1981 Annual General Meeting

Although this Newsletter was put together before the Guild Conference and A.G.M. at Leicester on 27th June, it seemed prudent to defer publication for a week or two to see whether there would be any matter that should be brought to members' notice, without their having to wait for a complete report of the proceedings, intended for our Autumn edition.

This brief delay has, in fact, been fully justified in that, as you may have noticed from the heading above, the Guild now has a new Chairman. This indeed is of interest to the ninety per cent of our members who were unable to attend the A.G.M. and it is also of some importance that you be told the sequence of events which lead the representative ten per cent to bring about this situation.

Prior notice of the intention to hold the A.G.M. at Leicester in June was contained in our January Newsletter, since this Conference provided an opportunity for the maximum number of members to be present at the A.G.M. However, as our Constitution specifies that the A.G.M. "shall be held each year not later than 30th April", the relevant clause 9 was suspended for duration of the meeting, which was attended by 33 members.

The Chairman then presented his Report for the year ending 31st December 1980, a copy of which is enclosed with this Newsletter. As will be seen, he concludes with the wish to stand down as Chairman, but expressed his willingness to serve on the Executive Committee for a further year, if this was the will of the meeting.

The Treasurer followed with his Report and Balance Sheet for 1980, a copy of which is also enclosed. He went on to comment that the Guild's funds had increased over the year and this was accounted for by two factors; the additional subscriptions and once only Registration Fees of new members, coupled with the fact that the production costs of the Register and the Newsletters had been partly subsidised. The cost of the latter represented the materials used and was shown in the account as Stationery, whilst the outlay on the former had been largely recovered by sales through the Federation Postal Publications Section. Both these items were certain to cost more in the future and the postal costs continued to increase, so that if the flow of new members declined, it might be necessary to look for an increase in the annual subscription.

Both reports were adopted with a vote of thanks to the Guild's Officers and Executive Committee for their work throughout the year.

The next item on the agenda being the election of Officers and Executive Committee, it was disclosed that Mr. Derek A. Palgrave has expressed his willingness to stand for the office as Chairman. His name was therefore duly proposed and seconded and there being no other candidates, he was elected nem. con.

(continues on page 85)

DIFFICULTIES IN A SURVEY OF A NAME - BROOM

by W.E.P. Broom

On researching the origins of the name Broom as a place-name and surname, a great number of variations in the spelling occur, particularly when used as a place-name. Less variation is noticed when looking at the surname. Broom is of Anglo-Saxon origin and various spellings are met with as a result of the many languages that have helped form the English language. The following are the different forms of the word Broom :

Anglo-Saxon	....	brom	Modern German	....	brombeere
West Germanic	....	brama	Low German	....	bram
Old Teutonic	....	braemo	Dutch	....	brem, brum
Old High German	....	bramo	French	....	genet
Middle High German	..	brame	Latin	....	genista
		Scottish .... brum			

The Welsh 'brun' for hill, the Old German 'brun' for slope, the Gaelic 'braon' for dew/drizzle, the Latin 'bruma' and the French 'brume' for fog, are a few words which may bedevil the name.

The recognised variants of the spelling of the surname are Brome, Broom, Broome, Brom, Brum, Brwme, Brwne, Bron, Brun, Brune, Broun, Broune, Broam, Brooam, Broem, Brooem, Brougham, Abroem, Abroms, Abrome, ApBroom, MacBroom, McBroom, McBromius: more reading will no doubt produce others.

One interesting example of the name is recorded in Somerset. To ensure that a marriage to a Brome was remembered, Brome was used as a Christian name but the spelling was reversed to Emorb Johnson. The father's name was Brome-Johnson; his father, Emorb's grandfather, William Johnson married Johen (Joan) Brome about 1540.

According to L'Estrange Ewen in A History of Surnames of the British Isles, 1931, page 252, the name Brum is possibly a thousand years old. The possible reasons for the different spellings of the name, be it place-name or surname, could be:
(1) The interpretation of a poorly-written word; an error of translation.
(2) A clerk's written record of the sound of the name, influenced by the dialect of the speaker and also the listener.
(3) Due to the effects of the many languages that have helped to form English, resulting in many origins (of the name).
(4) The deliberate spelling of the name in an unusual way to appear refined.

Surnames have to be classified into four main groups: (1) local surnames; (2) surnames of a relationship; (3) surnames of occupation or office; (4) nicknames. The surname Broom and its variants is classified as a local surname, derived from residence at or near where broom grows, or from a place called Broom. Logically one is directed to a dictionary of place-names. Local surnames are said to be the largest group in numbers and importance, thus it would be sound to make a review of the place-names that are called Broom or names associated with the Broom. The following is the result of such a review, using The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names, by E. Ekwall, with the permission of Oxford University Press.

Various spellings of the word Broom used as a place-name.

County	Domesday original	Domesday translation
Warwickshire	Brome	Broom
Oxfordshire	Bvmerescote	Bromscott
"	Brvnhala	Broomhall
Somerset	Bvrnetone	Brompton Ralf
	Bvrnetone	Brompton Regis
	Brvnetone	Brompton Regis
	Brvnfelle	Broomfield
	Brvne	Brown

Surrey	Brunlege)	
	Brvnlei)	
	Brolege) all on one page for Bromley	
	Brunlei)	
Staffordshire	Brvnlege	Abbots Bromley
	Bramelei	Gerrard Bromley
	Bromlei	Kings Bromley
Nottinghamshire	Brvnesleia	Brinsley
	Bruncote	Bramcote
	Brvncote	Bramcote
	Broncote	Bramcote
Buckinghamshire	Brvnhelle	Brill
	Bvrneha	Burnham

The translations of extracts from Domesday Book are reproduced by permission of the publishers, Phillimore of Shopwyke Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, who are producing a county by county edition under the general editorship of John Morris.

I feel it could be of some value to list a number of specific contradictions to bring to one's notice differences that might mislead if the written word is accepted too freely. Ventilation of such possible pitfalls are valid, so that time, money and effort might be saved.

In Devon Broomborough is recorded as Bromburgh in 1876 and as Brouneburgh in 1414, which is said to have the meaning of 'brown hill'. Broomthorpe in Norfolk is written as Brunesthorpe in the Domesday Book. The first element could be confused with 'brown'; it so happens that about 1060 there was a priest named Bruno at Brunesthorpe. In the same manner Brunstead is written Brumestada. Shropshire records Broome as Brame and Herefordshire has Brom's Ash as Bremesese, also as Bromesais. An author in Bedfordshire Place-names records the spelling of Bromham in Domesday Book as Bruneham, also as Brimeham. The following spellings are also seen between the years 1066 and the fourteenth century: Braham, Brynham, Broam. Despite this variation, in Wiltshire Bromham is spelled Bromham.

Returning to the surname, the puzzlement remains. In Place-Names of Durham, by Jackson, Richard Brun, Richard Bron and Richard Broun are discussed under the name of Broom and are considered to be the same man. A list of Warwick MP's by Kemp and Bewen states that Robert Broun, an MP for Warwick in the years 1368, 1384, 1397 and 1403 is the same man as Robert Brome, MP for Warwick in 1405. The History and Antiquities of Leicestershire states that Thomas Brome is buried in Croxall Church chancel in 1667 as was his wife in 1713; it quotes Shaw's Staffordshire, vol.1, p.873, as its source. After much checking such a burial cannot be confirmed. Bartholomew Brome married Anne Cranmer, daughter of Edmund, Archdeacon of Canterbury, who was brother to Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury. Unfortunately no record of daughter Anne can be found.

Researching the Wiltshire Brooms, it is found that a Ralf Broom has his name spelled as Broome and Brome in his will. His record of burial is at Bremhill Parish Church and is spelled Broom. Ralf wished to be buried at Brimble near his grandfather, according to his will, quoted in Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Magazine, vol.44, p.34. In the same volume, p.192, it is implied that he is buried at Bremhill Church. A short Brome pedigree from the Plea Rolls under De Banco, Hen.VI, page 113, is correct and substituted for page 165 of vol.xvi(N.S.) Henry V in which Henry Broune is printed in error and it should read Robert Brome.

A major difficulty is the interchange between Broom and Brown. For example, in Whittaker's History of Craven on a number of occasions Broom and Brown are interchanged, one such occurrence being on page 201, Robert Brown, Rector of Keighley Parish Church. It reads Brome in the index. Dugdale gives a Brome being named Brown in public records. The Surnames of Scotland by Black, records a Marion Brwne and Robert Brwne under the name Broom and that they are related: also recorded Brom, Bron, Brun, Brune, as being written for the name Brown, when the men were with the French on military service. This, according to their Muster Rolls. The Victoria County History of Oxfordshire states on page 59, vol.5,

Ann, daughter of Sir William Broom, Lord Mayor of London 1544. On investigation, it appears the Lord Mayor was a man named Brown. In 1812 a letter from the French Minister of War in reply to an application from a British prisoner of war: it was at first understood that the prisoner was a Captain Thomas Broom and is so written in the Minister's letter. In the prisoner's reply the name has been obviously altered to Brown. It seems the man was possibly Brown.

A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames with Special American Instances, by C.W. Bardsley, states that the surname Broom in Norfolk has been corrupted to Bloom. In support of this, a personal communication suggests that the Rev. Francis Bloomfield, Norfolk's own historian, descended from a Sir Henry Broumflete alias Bromefilde, who lived in 1440. Also according to General Armory Two, edited by Cecil R. Humphery-Smith, sprigs of broom appear on his shield. A number of persons believe that Bloomfield was never granted arms.

The difficulties still continue. In a recent book Shropshire and Hertfordshire Villages, by G.H. Haines, 1974, it states that a monument in Badger Parish Church is of Isaac Hawkins Brown but in the index it is printed Broome. Is it a printer's error? A letter to the Vicar and problem is solved; the monument is of Brown. One can see that if these queries occur very often it could be costly in time, money and effort.

Contributor's address: 25 Abington Grove, Elm, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

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SURNAME VARIATIONS

Wilf. Hodgkinson, 7 Manor Grove, St. Neots, Cambs PE19 1PP writes:

Recent correspondence has prompted me to take a closer look at the spelling of my surname, HODGKINSON. I find it has been consistently spelt thus for the last 350 years, though some are still tempted to insert an 'e' in the middle. During the course of my research I have come across 4 'similar' surnames and a recent search through the telephone directories has revealed their number as follows (compared with over 1000 HODGKINSONS):

HODGSKINSON	-	4
HODGEKINSON	-	12
HODGKISON	-	23
HODGKISSON	-	7

Such numbers do not suggest any great antiquity. HODGSKINSON probably comes from Great Longstone, Derbys., about 150 years ago where there was also a family of HODGKINSONS. HODGEKINSON is more likely to be a family which has put the 'e' in rather than continual use since the early 17th century. HODGKISON comes from just one family of Amersham, Bucks, which dropped an 'n' about 150 years ago. We are not sure when except that one branch of the family which emigrated to Australia about that time continues to use HODGKINSON to this day! HODGKISSON is now confined to a small area of the West Midlands. Again, it appears to have originated c.1850 and the most likely explanation is that this is a branch of the HODGKISON family. The problem of surname spelling (and thus of variations) appears, in this case, to date from 1837 or after, rather than earlier. For example, HODGKISON and HODGKINSON are frequently interchanged on certificates. Local accents may account for some changes. The worst (!) example came from south-west Notts where HODGKINSON sounded like WADKISON!

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Mrs. Elaine Wiltshire, 26 Simmil Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 ORT writes:

I agree with Mr. D.W. Hamley when he says that he is amazed at the use of card indexes by members. I am researching two names, one of which is extremely uncommon, DUNMAN, and the other is not very usual, BURKIN, but can only just about cope with a card index for DUNMAN.

Between 1837-1907 there were 108 births registered for the name DUNMAN, including

five in Shanghai, although the majority were in Dorset and the environs of London. From 1908-1978 there were 38 births registered of which 8 were adoptions.

As far as the index is concerned I use white cards for those born as Dunman, pink for wives and yellow for husbands which does make it easier to pick out relevant names at a glance. However, even with this uncommon name I have some 500 index cards.

My other interest is in the surname BURKIN and, of course, I am working on the variants, BIRKIN, BERKIN, BERKEN, BURKING, etc. So far as BURKIN is concerned between 1837-1907, 514 births were registered, comprising 244 males and 270 females, while from 1908-1978 there were 526 births comprising 268 males and 258 females, giving an overall total from 1837-1978 of 1,040 births - 512 males and 528 females.

My aim with this name is to prove or disprove that they are connected originally with the same family. In the period 1837-1907, 82% of the births registered were in Kent, Surrey and London. The Kentish names related to my branch of the family from Cudham where the name occurs from 1653 when the Parish Registers started and in the neighbouring village of Knockholt from 1600. The Surrey registrations are mainly Croydon, where the name occurs from 1693 and villages between Cudham (which is on the border with Surrey) and Croydon. From the research I have managed to do with the births registered in London these families seem to have originated in Kent.

With respect to Mr. Hamley I would suggest that some of the remaining 18% are registrations which have been misspelled and should, in fact, be BIRKIN. My reasoning for this is that my research so far shows that the Birkin spelling occurs in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, etc. and the majority of these 18% come from these districts. In addition, although I have a record of their birth, there is no marriage or death which, although they could have emigrated, suggests that when my researches into Birkin are more complete I may find they married or died with the name Birkin.

At the moment it would seem that the Birkin name is much more common and so perhaps Burkin is an offshoot of this family. I should be very grateful to hear from any member who has any references to either of these names.

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RARE SURNAMES

David Newman, 17 Redriff Close, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4DJ writes:

I have recently joined the Guild and have read with interest various letters on numbers and distributions of various names. I would be very interested to see just how rare some names are and it struck me that it might be possible to compare St. Catherine's House index figures 1837-1980. My own interest is in the name Standerwick, Standwick, Standrick, Standerick, etc. (not Stanwix which is definitely Carlisle area) of Somerset origin.

I have:

Births	445
Marriages	294
Deaths	314

Considering the name is 'rare' it is alarming how many entries for which one has documented evidence such as censuses, etc., do not appear at St. Catherine's. I have several instances of this occurring, so goodness knows how many Smiths are missing!

THE INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX

by F. N. Filby

The above was referred to by Mrs. Pauline M. Litton in her letter printed on page 53 of Guild Newsletter No. 5; as she explained, it is better known to some of us as the Computer File Index or C.F.I. However, to some Guild Members it is a completely new phenomenon and therefore well worth some explanation in these pages. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, who are perhaps better known to us as Mormons, are required as part of their religious beliefs to take an interest in their ancestors, which they have been doing for many years and to assist their endeavours, their technicians have been photographing vital records of all kinds, including bishops transcripts and parish registers, wherever this facility has been made available to them. Large numbers of Mormon pioneers crossed the plains and deserts of North America in their waggon trains during the last century to set up their own State of Utah and many farm labourers and craftsmen were recruited from rural and industrial areas of this country, which they left with their families and what little they possessed. Thus you will see that many of their ancestors could also have been our ancestors and through their generosity we too are able to take advantage of their painstaking research over many years. They did not of course know which of the records they copied were of their ancestors and to facilitate research, the entire mass of data was programmed into their own computer installation at Salt Lake City and then re-presented on computer print-out sheets arranged by surnames and christian names within counties, with the events for identical names in chronological order. The result was then microfilmed on to postcard size pieces of celluloid called microfiche, each of which contains pages of data arranged in 17 lines spread of 21 columns, i.e., 357 pages per fiche and each page has a capacity of 60 names and events, but the average is nearer 40 or 50 per page. The events are mostly christenings and marriages, with a very few births and burials. The total is a gigantic genealogical index of some 32 million names for the whole of the British Isles, undoubtedly the best research tool for finding lost ancestors since Boyd's Marriage Index. Of course it does not have all the answers by any means, but it is enormously exciting for what there is and equally frustrating for all that is still missing.

I first became aware of the C.F.I. during a visit to the late Ellsworth Filby of Kansas City in 1975 and he took me on to Salt Lake City, where I was able to see the Mormon Library and facilities for myself. As a result of a further visit the following year I was able to introduce and present a complete set of microfiche for the British Isles to the Society of Genealogists. It quickly became a popular feature for visitors to Harrington Gardens, but copying out the required entries was very time-consuming. However, this was soon remedied with the purchase of a reader printer, which for the sum of 20p enabled one to take home a photocopy of the required page to study at one's leisure. A welcome help to any researcher, but to the one-name researcher it represented a ready-made data-base covering predominantly the period prior to civil registration. This facility of complete print-outs for all entries of a particular surname for every county is now available at several other places besides the S.O.G. and includes the Institute at Canterbury, The Birmingham and Midland Society and the East of London F.H.S., to name those that I know. There may well be others, but it is certainly worth making enquiries. If you are fortunate enough to have heard or have the opportunity of hearing a talk by Mr. Jeffrey F. Packe, the Director of Negotiations here for Mormon Genealogical Interests, then your one-name study will surely benefit as a result. If it proves technically possible with our primitive duplicating arrangements we will reproduce a sample print-out page for you with this Newsletter. I suspect that it will raise more questions than it answers, but that way we may all learn something from one another.

COUNTRY: ENGLAND COUNTY: GLOUCESTER AS OF AUG 1976 PAGE 18,869

NAME (FATHER/MOTHER OR SPOUSE)		TYPE	EVENT DATE	TOWN, PARISH	D	E	S	SOURCE BATCH	SOURCE SERIAL/PAGE
VINES, ELIZABETH									
VYNE, ELIZABETH	CHARLES VYNE/	F C	25APR1585	CLIFFORD CHAMBERS	07APR1973AZ	16MAY1973AZ	11JUL1973AZ	C027541	0190
VINES, ELIZABETH	WILLIAM VINES/JANE	F C	1725	WOTTON UNDER EDGE	28FEB1977PV	31MAR1977PV	22APR1977PV	C049411	5517
VINES, ELIZABETH	WILLIAM VINES/JANE	F C	27DEC1726	WOTTON UNDER EDGE	21JUN1972PV	19JUL1972PV	03OCT1972PV	7206329	55
VINES, ELIZABETH	/ELIZABETH VINES	F C	27APR1728	MINCHINHAMPTON	11JUN1976WA	06AUG1976WA	UNCLEARED	C049001	7879
VINES, ELIZABETH	WILLIAM VINES/JANE	F C	23MAY1730	WOTTON UNDER EDGE	INFANT	INFANT	26APR1977PV	C049411	6518
VINE, ELIZABETH	JOHN WHITE	M M	22APR1777	RANDWICK			07JUL1973AZ	7233912	28
VINES, ELIZABETH	CHARLES VINES/BETTY	F C	09NOV1783	HAMBLEDURY	20MAY1976PV	25JUL1976PV	13AUG1976PV	C036122	5014
VINES, ELIZABETH	JAMES VINES/MARY SAVAGE	F C	07JUL1805	STROUD	19FEB1977SG	16APR1977SG	26APR1977SG	C034977	6277
VINES, ELIZABETH	WILLIAM HAYWARD	M M	24SEP1805	HAWKESBURY			23MAY1973DL	A184641	5305
VINES, ELIZABETH	SAMUEL VINES/ANN	F C	12AUG1827	STONEHOUSE	18JUL1973PV	030CT1973PV	31OCT1973PV	C036311	0810
VINES, ELIZABETH	WILLIAM VINES/HESTER	F C	20SEP1840	GLOUCESTER,SAINT NICHOLAS	31AUG1973QG	10OCT1973QG	16NOV1973QG	C036111	2002
VINES, ELIZABETH	ISAAC VINES/ANNE	F C	10JAN1850	LEIGH	26OCT1972HA	13DEC1972HA	15MAR1974HA	C029801	7049
VINES, ELIZABETH ANNE	JOSEPH VINES/ELIZABETH	F C	20MAY1855	KINGS STANLEY	23JUN1976QG	08SEP1976QG	23SEP1976QG	C046231	0599
VINE, ELIZTH	/MARY VINE	F C	20FEB1603	BISLEY	20JUL1974AL	02JUL1974AL	UNCLEARED	C035432	7748
VINES, EMMA	HENRY VINES/HARRIET	F C	24JAN1836	STONEHOUSE	19JUL1973PV	030CT1973PV	31OCT1973PV	C036311	1414
VINES, EMMA	RICHARD VINES/CHARLOTTE	F C	18DEC1842	WOODCHESTER	18JUL1973QG	21AUG1973QG	27OCT1973QG	C032362	0690
VINES, EMMA	JOHN HOWELL	M M	17MAY1857	BREAM,SAINT JAMES			CLEARED	M036491	0017
VINES, ESTHER	DANIEL VINES/MARTHA	F C	04JAN1798	RANDWICK	23MAY1976AZ	05AUG1976AZ	02NOV1976AZ	C049321	2148
VINES, FRANCES	RICHARD VINES/FRANCES	F C	20MAY1800	RANDWICK	26MAY1976AZ	06AUG1976AZ	02NOV1976AZ	C049321	3913
VINES, FRANK MARTIN	JESSIE VINES/SARAH	M C	24AUG1802	KINGS STANLEY	15JUN1976QG	17AUG1976QG	20OCT1976QG	C046231	0881
VINES, FREDERIC	LOUISA PHILLIMORE	M M	09JUL1870	KINGS STANLEY			CLEARED	M046231	1509
VINES, FREDERICK	SAMUEL VINES/ANNE	M C	27MAY1832	STONEHOUSE	19JUL1973PV	240CT1973PV	02NOV1973PV	C036311	1146
VINES, GABRIEL	FRANCES BAILY	M M	21APR1745	GREAT BADMINTON			13JUN1977LG	A178011	2877
VINES, GABRIEL	RICHARD VINES/MARY	M C	30APR1750	ACTON TURVILLE	05JUL1972SW	05SEP1972SW	20JUN1973SW	C026681	0063
VINE OR SEABORNE, GEORGE	JOHN VINE OR SEABORNE/	M C	27JAN1639	ALDERLEY	19JUL1972PV	14SEP1972PV	08NOV1972PV	C026711	0468
VINE, GEORGE	MARY WILKINGS	M M	20APR1724	BISLEY			10NOV1971AZ	6934511	76
VINES, GEORGE	ROBERT VINES/SARAH	M C	24APR1744	PITCHCOMBE	04MAR1972MT	28JUN1972MT	17OCT1972MT	7123204	25
VINES, GEORGE	SAMUEL VINES/HANNAH	M C	26JUN1796	RANDWICK	18JUN1976AZ	26AUG1976AZ	02NOV1976AZ	C049321	3549
VINES, GEORGE	WM VINES/MARY	M C	28MAY1805	WOTTON UNDER EDGE	22FEB1977PV	31MAR1977PV	06APR1977PV	C049411	5536
VINE, GEORGE	/MARY VINE	M C	13NOV1814	NICKLETON	27AUG1973SL	240CT1973SL	UNCLEARED	C030223	0030
VINES, GEORGE	WILLIAM VINES/JANE	M C	27FEB1820	CHELTENHAM,LADY HUNTINGDONS-PORTLAND CHAPEL HOUSE	15NOV1975QG	05DEC1975QG	12FEB1976QG	C046071	0010
VINE, GEORGE	ISAAC VINE/SARAH	M C	24JAN1827	CHARLTON KINGS	02NOV1973SL	19JAN1974SL	01MAR1974SL	C020562	0181
VINES, GEORGE	MARIANNE THOMAS	M M	10DEC1830	LYDNEY			CLEARED	M036171	0408
VINES, GEORGE	GEORGE VINES/MARY	M C	20MAR1836	LYDNEY	25OCT1973QG	01DEC1973QG	14NOV1973QG	C036171	1321
VINES, GEORGE	MARIA KNIGHT	M M	29SEP1840	NORTH NIBLEY			CLEARED	M030551	0909
VINES, GEORGE	JOSEPH VINES/ELIZABETH	M C	12MAR1857	KINGS STANLEY	15JUN1976QG	17AUG1976QG	15OCT1976QG	C046731	0560
VINES, GEORGE	WILLIAM VINES/MARTHA	M C	08MAR1863	GLOUCESTER,SAINT NICHOLAS	24OCT1973QG	05JAN1974QG	14NOV1973QG	C036111	4382
VINES, GILES	/HESTER VINES	M C	07APR1782	RANDWICK	18JUN1976AZ	16SEP1976AZ	UNCLEARED	C049321	3009
VINES, GILES	ELIZABETH BURFOOT	M M	14OCT1806	STROUD			22JAN1976PV	7504944	56
VINES, GILES	ELIZABETH BURFOOT	M M	14OCT1806	STROUD			02NOV1973SL	A184643	5029
VINES, GOODSON	SAMUELL VINES/CHRISTIAN	M C	17DEC1731	WOTTON UNDER EDGE	28FEB1977PV	29MAR1977PV	06MAY1977PV	C049411	6018
VINES, GRACE	WILLIAM VINES/AMY	F C	10MAY1812	RANDWICK	26MAY1976AZ	06AUG1976AZ	02NOV1976AZ	C049321	3955
VINES, HANNAH	DANIEL VINES/	F C	20MAY1718	MINCHINHAMPTON	11JUN1976WA	06AUG1976WA	20OCT1976WA	C049001	6004
VINES, HANNAH	DANIEL VINES/	F C	17DEC1763	RANDWICK	25MAY1976AZ	04AUG1976AZ	02NOV1976AZ	C049321	2687
VINES, HANNAH	THOS VINES/ELIZ	F C	23FEB1772	RANDWICK	25MAY1976AZ	04AUG1976AZ	02NOV1976AZ	C049321	2687
VINES, HANNAH	/MARY VINES	F C	14APR1775	RANDWICK	25MAY1976AZ	04AUG1976AZ	UNCLEARED	C049321	2687
VINE, HANNAH	JOSUAH VINE/ANN	F C	30OCT1783	WOTTON UNDER EDGE,PRESBYTERIAN OLD TOWN MEETING HOUSE-NC	03AUG1973QG	29AUG1973QG	07NOV1973QG	C036411	0010
VINE, HANNAH	JOSHUAH VINE/ANN	F C	29NOV1789	WOTTON UNDER EDGE,PRESBYTERIAN OLD TOWN MEETING HOUSE-NC	03AUG1973QG	29AUG1973QG	07NOV1973QG	C036411	0052
VINES, HANNAH JONES	/MARY VINES	F C	1792	BISLEY	20JUN1974AL	25JUN1974AL	UNCLEARED	C035432	6375
VINES, HARRIET	GEORGE .INES/MARY	F C	14MAR1841	LYDNEY	04AUG1973QG	120CT1973QG	14NOV1973QG	C036171	1643
VINES, HARRIETTE	WILLIAM VINES/SARAH COLLINS	F C	15DEC1811	STROUD	23FEB1977SG	15APR1977SG	27APR1977SG	C054971	7679
VINES, HARRIOT HARPER	/MARY VINES	F C	26DEC1799	WOTTON UNDER EDGE	19FEB1977PV	01APR1977PV	UNCLEARED	C049411	0462
VINE, HELEN	RICHARD VINE/CHARLOTTE	F C	19MAY1839	WOODCHESTER	18JUL1973QG	21AUG1973QG	27OCT1973QG	C032362	0505
VYNE, HENRY	CHARLES VYNE/	M C	22MAY1599	CLIFFORD CHAMBERS	29MAR1973AZ	12APR1973AZ	11JUL1973AZ	C027541	0221

Σ = EVALUATED ENTRY

A = ADULT CHRISTENING B = BIRTH C = CHRISTENING D = DEATH OR BURIAL F = BIRTH OR CHRISTENING OF FIRST KNOWN CHILD M = MARRIAGE N = CENSUS W = WILL ALL OTHERS = MISCELLANEOUS

Gordon E.G. Barlow, P.O. Box 61, Cayman Islands, writes:

I would like to comment on some of the letters printed in your January Newsletter.

1. Mr. Hamley scorns those who are presently researching only one direct line of a name: he may be strictly correct to do so, but he should see that a name interest grows out of a family interest, not vice-versa. So if the Guild will take a positive approach to family historians (i.e. ancestor-hunters) it will in time build a much stronger base for one-name research. Otherwise the Guild will become a dead-end club concerned only with uncommon surnames.

(Incidentally, Mr. Hamley confuses family with name. Genealogically, a family consists of relatives; unless all Hamleys spring from a common ancestor, they are a genus, not a family.)

2. I agree with Mr. Barrett that everybody hopes to benefit his own research (directly or indirectly) by joining an organization like the Guild. Messrs. Swinnerton, Filby and others are extraordinary in giving so much time and effort to something like the Guild, and one is both grateful and admiring, but in judging the interests of members we must always remember the axiom: there is nothing so boring as other people's families.

3. Now I get boring. Also, I get to admit that I joined the Guild under slightly false pretences. Mr. Gunn's statistics on telephone subscribers can be contrasted with my own searches for the name STILLARD; one in Great Britain (which turned out to be a misprint for STILLIARD) and none at all in U.S.A. A family of gladioli-growers in Victoria, Australia, may be the last and only STILLARDS in the world. Whether it is a variant of the London STEELYARD/ STILLIARD or a continuation of the 17th century Somerset STILLARD (now Stellard or Stallard) has yet to be discovered.

4. I am glad to be able to agree with Mr. Hamley on surname variants. The Parish of Martock in Somerset seemed in earlier days to contain virtually only two root surnames: GAWLER and HAYNE, but with many variants, some of which must have been deliberately contrived. One area of enquiry suitable for the Guild is original versions of surnames, by region: if not by spelling, at least by deduced pronunciation. Do FRANKISH and FRENCH have the same root, racial or occupational? BARLOW began as BARLEY, the spelling in time allegedly reflecting the (north Derbys.,south Yorks) pronunciation: is this a realistic explanation?

5. A new subject. When exactly did surnames begin, by region and class? Would the undocumented poor have achieved surnames rather late in the piece? There seem to be a lot of guesses prevalent about surname origins: I have read in a DIY textbook that NELSON was likely "Nell's son", being the son of one Nell of strong personality, whereas surely it was either Neil's son (or variant) or, if Nell's son, then the illegitimate and unskilled son of a long-lived and well-known (unmarried) mother.

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PRESERVATION OF FAMILY ARCHIVES

T.F.K. Ulyatt, 2503 Via Astuto, Carlsbad, Calif 92008 USA, writes:

In 1930 I received a family tree and supporting data on a family from which I am descended. They were sent to me by a cousin who lived in Birmingham and who spent his holidays and spare time researching this family back to 1066 A.D. He told me that if I wished, he would send as much more data as I would like to have from his voluminous files. In 1930 he was 60 years of age and the last letter I had from him was in 1944 - censored, of course! He would have been 74 years old, therefore, and probably died some time soon after that year. In his

1930 letter, he remarked that he had no idea what would happen to all his records after his death and he supposed they would be "unceremoniously burned".

My remorse at this time over my failure to keep in touch is no help at all. He had a daughter (unmarried, I believe) as his only survivor. A kind lady in Birmingham, whom I met through correspondence, went to his last known address for me and the present residents only volunteered that the daughter had died six years ago. I intend to continue to follow this to learn what happened to his records and I am capable of doing so.

Now for the problem. The Guild has in excess of 257 members, all of whom to some degree have substantial amounts of information accumulated on the names they are researching. What happens to all these valuable accumulations as, one by one, we leave this "mortal coil"? Are they all to be "unceremoniously burned"? Even if a near and trusted relative gave them a good home, they would still be out of circulation and not available for any later person researching the same name.

Perhaps there is provision somewhere to take care of this situation and I have not yet heard of it. Our son has expressed interest in having all the material and correspondence that we have acquired on Ulyatt and its variants, but neither he nor I can assure that it will be available to others in all future years.

It is recognised that, by indirection, it is being suggested that a central clearing agency be established to receive such contributions and hold them available for posterity; and that doing so would be a monumental operation.

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OVERSEAS MEMBERS

Madame Margaret Audin, 37 Rue La Quintinie, 75015 Paris, France, writes:

I feel I'd like to say something that I intended to write about when I received the last issue - complying with the rules for the various categories. This is extremely difficult for overseas members, as although they can collect all the references in their own country, a lady in Australia writes about this in the current issue, the English side is not so easy and the majority of us cannot afford to pay someone to do it for us.

Take my own case - years ago I started chasing my mother's paternal side: Cartman. This was well before I'd even thought of it becoming a one-name study. Over several months I had a blanket search made from 1837-1900 in St. Catherine's but lack of further cash stopped it there. I continued over the years, contacting cousins and buying certificates on direct lines (when I could afford it) but until fairly recently that was as far as I could get. Each visit to London has been to St. Catherine's and last time over, this February, I at last got to the end of the blanket search up to the very last registers.

Now I was able to do this as Paris is not all that far from London and I do occasionally go there, but how can an Australian or American one-name searcher do this. Admittedly one can try to persuade an English person with the same name to help, but not everyone is interested enough to spend hours checking registers and, also, not everyone has the physical resistance to the weight of the books or the standing up all the time.

My next problem will be to obtain copies of the appropriate pages in the telephone directories. Personally I think that this is not particularly useful except that it shows that a certain number of people of the name were in a particular town or county at a certain date. I once tried to contact all the BOWLER entries in Lancashire and Cheshire and the majority of letters came back as 'dead', 'moved' or 'unknown'. Perhaps had I written immediately the new directory came out this would not have happened, but it took several months to obtain one going through the official channels.

Despite all the problems I shall plod on until I obtain all the required information in the hope that one day I shall find the solution to the problem of where the top of our tree originated. So far I have had two enquiries and, of course, all my own cousins are kept up to date on results. If I don't manage to comply with the rules I'm more or less told that my place would be in the National Pedigree Index. I entered the Cartman side years ago and last time I enquired I was told that there is only my entry. So it would seem that the only hope of progress is with the One-Name Study, despite the problems. I know you've probably had enough letters on the subject, but I felt that the point of view of the overseas members had not been presented. One last remark - those people wanting all references to a name should not forget the consular records - those ancestors often went abroad.

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THE SURNAME OSWALD

J. Oswald, 88 Hertford Road, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 3HH, writes:

I am afraid that I, probably like many others who joined the Guild at its foundation, have fallen behind in my good intentions. At that time, I planned to expand my family research into an Oswald One-Name Society, but this has proved rather more complicated than I had anticipated.

Although I knew that my grandfather had been born in Germany, I had always heard from my uncles (who should have known better) that the Oswald roots were in Scotland or Ireland. As "proof", I was referred to a well-known family in Hamburg called O'Swald.

My research very quickly proved, however, that I am descended from a family which has farmed fields and grown vineyards in a village on the Rhine (one of the bonuses of my research!) for well over 300 years. Ranging farther afield I found, apart from the O'Swalds mentioned above (who came from Silesia, but "anglicised" their name because they were great admirers of the British way of life!), a noble family, including an SS General called von Oswald and sundry other Oswalds, who spelt themselves variously Osswald, Osswalt or even Osswaldt, well distributed throughout Germany and Austria, as well as Italy - the Alto Adige or former Austro-Hungarian province of South Tyrol. I also found that there was a vast number in Switzerland, where a Swiss Family History Society informed me over 100 towns and villages are registered Oswald domiciles, and they seem to be spread abroad in many countries - including of course the USA.

I have dutifully carded the bulk of the St. Catherine's House birth index, and find the name in many forms (Oswold, Oswell, Uswell, etc.) mainly in Northumberland, Durham, Shropshire, Derby and Devon, but also in many other counties. Scotland I have not yet touched, but I know that there must be quite a few there as well. My conclusion is that there must be many entirely unconnected families spanning several countries and that the formation of an Oswald Society would be an administrative nightmare!

However, for what it is worth, my research will continue and my index will grow, if only to satisfy myself and I hope to continue my membership of the Guild and to answer any queries. I would like to add that several people have written to me quite out of the blue with information on Oswald marriages and births they have come across while doing their own research and I have been most grateful to them.

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F.L. Leeson FSG, 108 Sea Lane, Ferring, West Sussex BN12 5HB, writes:

I have very much enjoyed the correspondence in the last couple of issues of the Newsletter and though it is now closed officially, wonder if I might just add a couple of points.

1. The PCC Wills Indexes Clause was, I believe, included because it represents an easily accessible major body of evidence for the origin and development of a surname and for its distribution in the mid-17th century, too, when all wills had to be proved centrally during the Commonwealth.

2. As a Founder Committee Member of the National Pedigree Index I would urge all One-Namers also to register their interests with it, and not only E-types! Our terms of reference are broad and the free registration slip can easily be completed to show the range of interest. Three generations in the male line is the minimum requirement, so members may care to ask for sufficient slips to register not only their one-name study/ies but any other family lines that fulfil this requirement. Enquirers will then be sent photocopies of the appropriate slips and advised to get in touch direct with the registrant. A s.a.e. and note requesting registration slips should be sent to the NPI c/o Society of Genealogists, 37 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JX.

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LOCATION OF SURNAMES

Frank J. Snelling, 124 Craneford Way, Twickenham, Middx., writes:

In support of "A Short Tirade on Behalf of the Needy" (J.Heygate-Browne, Vol.1 No.5) I would appreciate some assistance from members. Having duly compiled "lists" of births, deaths and marriages from St. Catherine's House indexes, I have now compiled a list of "Family Event Places" (i.e. a list of place names signifying at least one birth, death or marriage) with the intention of thus locating the "haunts" of various branches of the Clan Snelling. The 'fly in the ointment' is that while the majority (+500) can be located to counties by 'Gazetter', there are 27 which I am unable to 'locate'. These are: BLYTHING/CHIPPINGHAM/CHORTON/CLARO/CODSTONE/DEPWADE/INEHOE(?)/FARHAM/FREEBRIDGE L./KETTEN/GUILTCROSS/HALSWORTHY/HARTISMERE/HARWICK/HEISTON/MERIDON/MERTHYN/MUMFORD/NORTHLEACH/PLOMESGATE/PLOUGHLEY/RYDALE/STAREHAM/THINGOE/TAVERSHAM/WAINFORD/WASFORD.

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"FIRST APPROACH" LETTERS

Mrs.
Polly Bird, 18 Crawthew Grove, East Dulwich, London SE22 9AB, writes:

I see from the last Newsletter that you had a reply from Mrs. Sheehan to the request to members to send in examples of their 'first approach' letters. I was disappointed to find that you had not printed the copy of her initial letter which she had enclosed.

Surely the idea behind the request was to be able to print several initial letters so that readers could compare them with their own and see if some other wording could produce a better response? This is what I hoped to see. Although late in answering the call, I enclose a copy of my first approach letter, which, with an s.a.e., seems to evoke a good response.

"Dear ... I hope you will forgive me writing to you but I wonder if you could help me.

I am very interested in the history of the Goldring family of which I can find two main branches - mine in London and another in Sussex.

I am trying to gather as much information as possible from Goldrings about their family history and wonder if you have a family tree or information which you could send me. I would be most grateful for any help you could give me.

Yours sincerely, "

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

Mrs. Pauline Saul, Secretary, Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry, 31 Seven Star Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 2BZ, writes:

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Mrs. Betty Choyce Sheehan asks me to define an "unwanted certificate". I can do no better than quote the original paragraph announcing the innovation of this index in May 1977 (see The Midland Ancestor Vol.4 No.9 p.266)

"How many of us have received certificates from St. Catherine's House, at no mean cost, which have proved to be the wrong ancestor! However, they are someone else's ancestors and could therefore be of use to another genealogist.

It is proposed thus:

1. All persons having any unwanted pre-1900 certificates are invited to send them to us.
2. They will then be filed and indexed by surname.
3. Lists of accessions will be published in 'The Midland Ancestor'.
4. Any certificate of interest to a member may be purchased for £1 to be refunded to the original sender after all the information has been recorded.
5. Anyone who has old family certificates they have no further use for would be most welcome to submit them."

We had to abolish (3) as by November 1977 we had over 300 names covering more than 20 counties. The list eventually ran into thousands as we not only indexed the main surnames but all names that appeared on certificates, i.e. mother's maiden name, witnesses, medics, incumbents, registrars and cross-referenced them.

We revised (4) insomuch as it was easier to retain the original certificate; an enquirer receives all the details from the certificate of interest to him. We ask for a small donation to cover the administration costs (and in all this time, to the best of my knowledge, no sender has ever asked for the cost, whole or in part, of certificate to be refunded).

The second list of names is now typed up and awaits publication within the next few months. We hope it proves as popular as the first edition of 'Unrelated Certificates'.

As One-Namers are individuals who collect and research ALL references to a particular name and its variants, I would have thought such an index would be of special value to them. It provides a rare opportunity to pick up a reference to a surname which might otherwise go undetected, for however obscure that reference might be, it pin-points the name to a specific time and place.

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The typist (name and address on p.85), finding a wee space free at the end of this last page, takes leave to use it for a personal request. Would other One-Namers who know that all of their name, living or dead, go back to one family, care to correspond on the specific problems they find in filing, indexing, making of pedigrees, etc. I have a feeling that I have far more paper work cluttering up my flat than I need!

One member of the Copleston family is feeding us into a micro-computer, but since he is in Devon I won't have easy use and in any case, the bare facts are so cold and it is fun to browse amongst the trimmings, but I think I could be much more tidy and efficient if I could exchange ideas on methods with others 'in the same boat'.

The Editor has invited your Newsletter typist (Muriel Reson) to use this page to report upon the first

COPLESTON FAMILY GATHERING

We met in Exeter over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend and on Day 1 visited first the Village of Ide, just south of Exeter, where many Coplestone graves are in the Churchyard and Syd Copplestone of Birmingham saw the stone of his gt-grandfather, John Coplestone, who d. 1819. Our caravan of cars and campers drove on to Chagford where in 1529 John Copleston was given licence to hold a market and 2 annual fairs "in his town of Chagford within his manor of Chagford". Rev. Wm.Bulley awaited us at the Church and conducted us around, telling something of its history and taking us across the road to see the old Priest House where another John Copleston, DD, may have lived for a while when he was Rector there in 1647. This John was Provost of King's and Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University and in his capacity as a Cambridge JP, signed a warrant on one of the Rye House Plotters in 1683. In this year he was given a Grace Cup by Chas.II, replicas of which have been made for Harrod's as a Royal Wedding souvenir by the Goldsmiths' Company who now own the original. From thence to Drewsteignton to see in the Church the illuminated List of Institutions showing "Master Thomas Copleston, 20 May 1470". Thomas had two papal dispensations (being the 'son of unmarried parents') to take Holy Orders and to hold two benefices, the first in 1442 from Eugenius IV and the second in 1456 from Calixtus III. He was Junior(Southern)Proctor of Oxford University in 1445-6.

Day 2 saw us at Matins in St. Andrew's, Colebrooke, for the first time in about 400 years as a family, overflowing the Copleston Aisle, built by Philip (Sheriff of Devon 12 Edw.IV) and his brother Walter in memory of their father, John Copleston, who is third in the Devon Visitations. From the Church we drove the 2 miles to Copplestone to pay respects to the Copelanstan (now known as Copplestone Cross), which is mentioned in a Charter of Edgar, 974 and from which the family name is obviously taken. In amazingly good condition, it bears interlaced designs more commonly seen in the north of England. We called at Coplestone House, where the present owners kindly received us and pointed out where the original house was built, the present one being built around the remains of the chapel, divine service in which was granted to Adam de Copleston and his wife Alice by Bishop Brantingham in 1384. On to Eggesford, which went to the Chichester family by the marriage of Anne Copleston, only dau & hr of John (d.1606) to Edward Chichester, afterwards created Viscount. Two large and ornate memorials seem to dwarf this little Church. Last call of this day was at Chulmleigh and I was happy at last to see the small Congregational Church (one of the three oldest in the country) where my 6-gts, yet another John, was Pastor in 1718/19 - in the latter year he preached a sermon in The Great Meeting House in Bideford "God's Works and Wonders in the Deep and the Seafaring Man's Duty", which was printed and of which we have copies. He was then Pastor at Bideford until 1729.

On Day 3 we went to Tamerton Foliot where local historian Pip Bebbington kindly conducted us around the lovely Church in which is a green marble memorial to John Copleston of Warleigh House, his wife Anne and 10 children. He was son of Christopher who killed his Godson outside the Church by the 'Copleston Oak' and was pardoned by Elizabeth in 1562. Thence to Warleigh House which came to the family through the marriage of Philip Copleston to Anne Bonvile, granddaughter and heiress of Leva (Gorges) Bonvile. Half of Warleigh is a nursing home: in the other half is the Great Hall with minstrel gallery. The grounds slope to the Tavy and contain a still-functioning dovecote and Elizabethan boathouse. At the end of this, the last day, people who had never met before parted as 'kissing cousins', having enjoyed every moment of a memorable weekend. (73 Fleeming Road, London E17 5ET)

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Report on 1981 A.G.M. - continued

Mr. Frederick N. Filby having agreed to continue with the duties of Registrar, which position had not previously been filled, he too was unanimously voted into that office.

Holders of the remaining offices of Treasurer, Secretary and Editor of the Newsletter, also the two remaining Committee Members had all offered themselves for re-election and there being no other candidates they, too, were confirmed in their positions for a further year.

Three other items of business were discussed and adopted by a vote of those present. These were:

1. The Executive Committee be given authority to raise the subscription next year by £1 if considered necessary in the light of events and such increase would be subject to discussion and confirmation at the next A.G.M.

2. That the Constitution be reviewed by the Executive Committee with a view to submitting any minor amendments to the next A.G.M. prior to the issue of a printed and corrected copy to each member, who had so far had only a draft constitution, as subsequently amended and outlined in Newsletter No. 2.

3. Now that the Guild was well into its third year and had a small but positive bank balance it was suggested that the subsidising of telephone calls and other items, by the retiring Chairman and Acting Registrar, should cease and that an award be made towards his expenses, in appreciation of his services to the Guild. Mr. Filby expressed his sincere thanks for this generous gesture and said that the money would be used towards the purchase of a Compact Edition of The Dictionary of National Biography which he felt would be a help to him in dealing with the many enquiries he receives about surnames, only a fraction of which were as yet in our Register.

The Annual General Meeting was then closed and the course of the Conference was resumed as will be reported in our next issue.

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A Report from the Chairman and Acting Registrar - Frederick E. Filby

It is now almost three years since the idea for a Guild of One-Name Studies was conceived at the meeting of One-name Researchers held at Leicester in May 1978. It took the Steering Committee almost a year to set up the project and they achieved the launch in March 1979. Now that we have been orbiting the Family History scene for two years and have just entered our third, it would seem an appropriate time to review our achievements and shortcomings to see if any course adjustments are required and whether it is perhaps time for a change in the crew who control this unique and highly experimental vehicle. You may not entirely agree with my choice of metaphor but I think that you will admit that the Guild can be described as unique among the Family History Societies, from which we differ in a number of ways. Although we share a large proportion of our membership with other Societies, our aims and objectives are not quite the same and it is in these differences that lie some of the problems to which I must draw attention later in this report. But first, what have we achieved in two years?

Because membership of the Guild requires certain qualifications and obligations, the initial invitation to join was limited to those whose names were in the Federation's original Register of One-Name Studies, entry to which had been free. However, such was the character and intent of those approached that within a month, we had 140 members each of whom paid a £2 registration fee and a £3 subscription to join. By the autumn of 1979 this number had reached almost 200 and has since climbed steadily to 300. All of these additions have been from written applications to join and there has been no attempt at recruitment, in order to limit membership to those who have a genuine wish to make the results of their research available to others who have an interest in the surname that has been registered. This control of enrolment has meant that the task of membership secretary has rested with the Acting Registrar in the effort to maintain standards and eliminate possible duplication of registration, of which there have already been some examples that have been satisfactorily resolved. Thus this careful assembly of surnames and members for the Revised

Register has involved the writing of approximately 600 letters of explanation and acknowledgement, as well as the receipt and banking of some £1,500 for registration fees and first year subscriptions. Copy for the Revised Register was prepared and passed for printing to former Guild Hon. Secretary Mrs. Pauline Saul, whilst the collating, stapling, folding and distribution of 1,000 copies in two runs of 500 was undertaken by your Acting-Registrar. Sales of the Register via the Federation Publications Section have almost covered the printing costs, including two supplements, thus leaving funds for a further updated reprint which is now required. Additionally, your Acting-Registrar has sent written answers to some 350 reply-paid enquiries from the public about Guild activities, members' addresses and whether specific surnames have been studied.

You will not need me to tell you that, thanks to the letters and articles from an increasing number of members, the Newsletter is becoming a platform for the exchange of views, news, techniques and hints on matters of special interest to the "One-namer". We are indebted to our member Mrs. Muriel Reson for typing the stencils of recent issues. Your Chairman has slightly improved his skill with the duplicator, as should be expected after printing some 30,000 pages, but our modest start has now provided the opportunity to contemplate using offset litho in 1982, although this may influence a review of the present annual subscription. As membership increases, distribution of the quarterly Newsletters and two issues of News & Digest must also be a matter for discussion at our next meeting and a volunteer to look after the mailing list and despatch arrangements would be welcome but proximity to the source of publications must have a bearing on the eventual choice.

We are indeed fortunate in having a Chartered Accountant as our Honorary Treasurer and he will be distributing a statement of our finances with the Newsletter, which will provide a face saver for the several members who have yet to pay their 1981 subscription, due on 1st January last.

Our Hon. Secretary has been busy with arrangements for this meeting at Leicester, during which we had already proposed to hold the A.G.M., later than it should be, but since this has facilitated a larger and more representative attendance of members it seemed to your Committee to be the preferable choice.

This brings me to the so-called problem referred to in my opening paragraph and concerns your Executive Committee. You will know from your experience with other Family History Societies that their Executive Committee is usually made up of members who are within a reasonable distance of one another for regular attendance at meetings when required and this tends to apply also to organisations with a national membership and even those who are able to overcome the difficulties and cost of travel. Distance has certainly been an inhibiting factor for the Guild's Executive Committee, as a result of which your officers have had to operate in isolation, relieved only by the occasional telephone call. This, plus the fact that your Chairman has also been the Acting Registrar, membership secretary, printer and mailing distributor, in addition to his several other commitments, has forced him to the conclusion that it is in the interest of the Guild and himself that this situation must change. He therefore wishes to stand down as Chairman but if required by his successor, is prepared to serve on the Committee for a further year and will continue to act as Registrar until someone can be found to take on this role, so vital to the continuing growth which the Guild is destined to enjoy under wise direction.