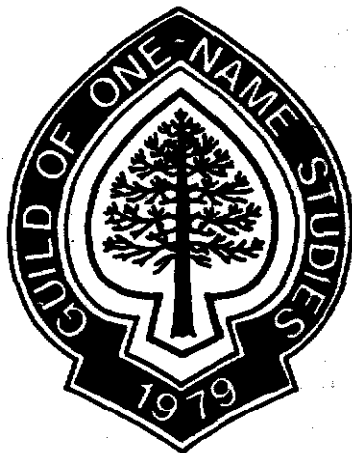


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The Guild of One-Name Studies

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Editorial : Due to the sad death in July of Frank Higgenbottam, the summer and autumn issues of our Journal were delayed about six months. This time gap dried up at source the normal flow of letters and articles from readers. Your views on sources, methods, personal experiences and other family history topics make for interesting and varied reading. I await them.

On Indexing by Basil LaBouchardière

How do you find out what has been done or published already ? Do you have to read right through all those pages and pages ? If only everyone would index the persons, places and subjects they write about.

This criticism applies to our Journal. Therefore such an index to our Journal is being prepared.

Computerised indexing should be commonplace tomorrow.

Would someone please relieve me of my editorial duties and let me concentrate on devising a suitable computer format, for example, a panel with a maximum capacity of 15 lines with 32 characters per line on which to provide data about family history.

The panel would be suitably laid out, ready to be fed straight into the computer.

One can drive a car without knowing how it works : why not use a computer in the same way ? Today a suitable computer may be bought for £250 including a print-out facility, but the price and the quality of the print must be bettered soon because of the enormous potential demand.

Why not come and discuss this topic at Leicester in May.

Our Chairman, Derek A. Palgrave MA. FSG. writes :-

A New Dictionary of Surnames

The Guild's attention is drawn to a new project being undertaken at the University of Essex. Its instigators are Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges of the Department of Language and Linguistics. Broadly speaking they are attempting to explain the origins and meanings of surnames and variants, and so they have something in common with members of the Guild of One-Name Studies.

Your chairman has been in touch with them to see if it is at all possible for members of the Guild to assist in this research. As a result of this approach, Mr Hanks and his assistant have agreed to join in the Guild's Annual Conference at Leicester in May. In the meantime it would help if members would complete the questionnaire, enclosed with this Journal.

The emphasis will be on tracing current surnames back to their origins rather than on recording mediaeval instances which are no longer in use. As one might expect common surnames will predominate and to ensure that this is the case it is intended to check the telephone directories of large cities for frequencies. However many other names will be included on account of their history, genealogy or morphology.

The entries will not be confined to British names but will be drawn from European sources. This seems perfectly logical in the light of the origins of so many so-called British surnames.

References will be made on occasion to the origins of certain well-identified families and peculiarities of regional distribution will be high-lighted. In this context the work of family historians may be invaluable.

Although the book is to be primarily a reference work, providing historical and etymological information in summary form, it will discuss facts that are of considerable interest in their own right. The book is intended to appeal to the general reader and

browser as well as to the scholar or genealogist seeking specific information.

The main dictionary text is expected to extend to 600,000 words, consisting of 10,000 main entries covering up to 100,000 surnames. Thus on average ten variants, derivatives, cognates and equivalents will appear under each entry.

It is anticipated that the material in a given entry will vary from a single line to a short essay extending to say 500 words; the length will depend on how much useful information can be given. Where a number of cognate forms in different languages are grouped in a single entry, an English form will be selected as the headword, unless the comparative frequency of the name in another language outweighs this consideration (e.g. the French form, Bourgoin, is more common than the English, Burgoyne). To select a headword from a number of variants in a given language, preference will be given normally to the "root" form provided this remains current.

European names tend to fall into four categories :-

1. Those derived from the given name of an ancestor.
2. Those derived from the occupation of an ancestor, such as Smith or Potter.
3. Those derived from the nickname of an ancestor, such as Long, Mallory (unlucky) or Redhead.
4. Those derived from a place, such as London, or a clearing in trees, Woodley.

It will become clear from the structure of the book that a very large number of surnames in all European languages are derived from a comparatively small number of given names especially those such as John, Peter, Bartholomew, etc. occurring in the Bible. There were fewer occupations in mediaeval Europe than there are today but they did give rise to a substantial number of surnames. Similarly nicknames made a significant contribution. Locative surnames are also numerous but in general tend to have fewer variants.

The main entry in each case will trace the group of surnames concerned back to vocabulary words in whatever languages are relevant. In the case of some given names this means that the etymology will be taken back as far as the Biblical Hebrew. In the case of personal names, Biblical characters, early saints or folk heroes who bore them will be mentioned. There does seem to be some evidence that the local veneration of minor saints is associated with the geographical distribution and probable locale of origin of certain specific surnames.

Where names of occupation or nicknames are included some explanation of the trade or craft will be presented or the circumstances leading to the adoption of certain nicknames will be

postulated. Where the surname derives from a placename then some account of the origin, meaning and geographical location of that place will be given.

The compilers have carried out a very thorough survey of the extant publications on surname origins but they are currently extending this appraisal to family history and genealogical material. They appear to be approaching their project in a most systematic way which differs markedly from previous studies.

They emphasise that their dictionary is not intended to compete with detailed local historical surveys such as those being published in the English Surname Series. In their opinion there is a great difference in scale so there is room for both.

They pay tribute to Reaney's scholarship pointing out that their own work would have been more difficult had he not published his Dictionary of British Surnames. However the latter had many limitations such as too much stress on obsolete and rare names.

Furthermore Reaney was weak on Celtic names and also he tended to ignore many common names which are current.

The new "Dictionary of Surnames" will have the advantage of being able to draw upon more recent scholarship in this field including European and American research. At the present time Elsdon C. Smith's Dictionary of American Surnames first published over a quarter of a century ago seems to be the only comprehensive work available in the U.S.A. All being well the collaborative efforts of Hanks and Hodges will fulfil the needs of the growing number of enthusiasts tracing names of European origin in many parts of the world.

The Guild wishes them well and its members look forward to the emergence of a new reference work in the field of name research.

Frank Leeson FSG. member No. 86 sends this article :-

The Early Days of the Leeson Archive

The Leeson Archive was formed in 1963 in order to put on a formal basis, without actually forming a family association, the co-operative efforts in surname and family studies of bearers of the Leeson-sound surname. The immediate aims of the Archive were:

1. To collect the known pedigrees of all branches of families bearing the Leeson-sound surname (e.g. Leason, Lisson, Lesson, Lison, Leyson etc.)
2. To extend these pedigrees back in time by means of further research in order to link up the branches wherever possible in family groups.

3. To establish a permanent repository of family histories to which future generations may refer.
4. To publish such details of progress, both general and individual, as would encourage the further co-operation of genealogical organisations and bearers of the Leeson-sound surname.

The value to science of such a study as the above seemed obvious and hardly needed emphasizing. I did not think it had been attempted before in connection with a relatively common surname sound, and hitherto the only large and consistent body of information appeared to be that relating to historical changes in marriage fertility, mortality and family movement in the records of the British nobility which, as Francis Galton, the great geneticist, noted, are by no means representative of the English people as a whole.

The study began in May 1962, and up to the end of 1963, 110 individuals had been selected and approached by circular letter, a proforma and stamped addressed envelope being enclosed. 42 replied with the completed proforma or information; 5 replied with a promise to send information after further enquiries had been made; 7 were not interested; 4 letters were returned marked "Gone Away" etc.; and 5 did not reply but were identified as related to informants in the first group. 47 remained unanswered.

Those in the first group were able to give details of relationships as far back as : father only, 9; grandfather, 16; great-grandfather, 4; further back still, 3. Five of the branches had a tradition, as yet unproven, of a connection with the family of Leeson, Earls of Milltown in the Peerage of Ireland. Including pedigrees obtained from other sources, the Archive soon held genealogies of 46 different branches, including one Leeson from Driffield, Yorks. The great majority of these branches hailed from the Midlands, but six were from Ireland and seven were emigrant branches (Australia, 3; Canada, 2; U.S.A. 2). Only three branches were immediately linked with others (not included in the total).

Where a link was established, the respective informants were given each other's addresses; otherwise details of individual pedigrees obtained from informants were treated as confidential to the Archive. There was one branch, however, which, through its inclusion in such reference works as Burke and Debrett, could not escape detailed publicity, and it was, therefore, the subject of the Archive's first publication - "The Milltown Leasons : A Provisional History of the Family of Leeson, Earls of Milltown in the Peerage of Ireland", issued to mark the bicentenary of the Creation of the Earldom in 1763. Copies of this 63-page illustrated record were presented to or purchased by the British Museum, National Library of Ireland, National Gallery of

Leeson (where the Milltown Art Collection is housed), Society of Genealogists, Russborough House (the family seat), Genealogical Society of Utah, and Callinafercy Castle (home of the last-known Milltown).

I had the honour during the first year to read papers to several local historical and archaeological societies on surname research in general, illustrating them with maps, showing the distribution of bearers of the Leeson-sound surnames in the 16th, 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries and in the four decades between 1841 and 1880. These lectures and maps, with the addition of a map showing the distribution of the very common Lee-sound surname in 1850 were to form the basis for an article on the subject in the Genealogists' Magazine. (Vol.14 No.12, December 1964, pp.405-12).

During the course of the first year I spent an interesting day touring south-west Northamptonshire - the very heart of the Low-land Heart of England - which was the nucleus of so many families bearing the name of Leeson. I motored up the M-1 resigned to finding the sleepy little yeoman villages of our distant past now linked by ribbon-development into a semi-industrial sprawl; but this, I hasten with joy to add, was not at all how it was - though the same de-population that drove the Leesons into the big cities has been responsible for keeping cinema and supermarket at bay in the hinterlands.

Harpole, just off the road linking M-1 and Northampton town, is still a modest village of golden stone and thatch. I wandered round the graveyard of the graceful Norman church, but the only Leeson names were on the War Memorial - George and John, brothers, killed in the 1914-18 conflict. I asked an old villager why there were no Leeson gravestones in a village where more of the name hailed from than any other, and he remarked that they had all been honest but humble, too poor to afford the luxury of a stone - and this held good for old Tom, cousin of the two lads on the Memorial, who had died, aged 76, only a couple of months before my visit. I would find Bill, another cousin, he added, at the first house in Norbuttel, the next hamlet; he was the last of three generations of Leeson waggoners who had worked for Agate the miller there.

I motored on to Great Brington, a beautiful golden village on a hill overlooking a long, hazy dale, and then on by Long Buckby to Braunston, another hilltop village linked to the neighbouring Warwickshire landscape by its pink sandstone church - and by the Leesons who moved down a century and more ago to find work in Rugby. Everywhere I paused to check the churchyards for gravestones but with the same barren result as at Harpole -

"Names are vanished, save the few in the old brown Bible scrawled ... "

I turned back south-westwards from Braunston, and by Daventry's high, rain-stained streets, sped down to the deserted, dreaming heart of England, abandoned by the Leesons more than three centuries ago when the heirs of the Leesons of Whitfield went to seek their fortunes in Dublin and London, and their country cousins moved to seek fresh pastures in neighbouring counties. My car seemed to be the only one intruding in the leafy winding lanes, so that in Culworth I was relieved, at last, to find a hand-operated petrol pump to minister to its thirst. The church where the Hugh Leeson (1620-1700) who went to soldier and brew in Ireland was locked, however, so I hastened on to Thorpe Maudville, where, I knew I would find the Leeson arms among others on the tomb of Thomas Kirton (d.1601), Common Serjeant of the City of London, for Hugh's grandfather, Thomas, (d.1614) had married his daughter. The fiery rays and fleecy clouds of the Leesons were quartered with the black cross of the Stotesburys in recognition of an even earlier match when Thomas Leeson's own grandfather, Robert, married the Stotesbury heiress in the time of Henry VIII, and gained a minor manor at Sulgrave subordinate to that of the famous Washington family.

At Sulgrave, therefore, I could not miss the Washington Manor, now restored to Tudor glory, both inside and out, where an English curator with an American accent showed me bonds drawn up between Washingtons and Leesons. I had also noticed "Stuchbury Hall Farm" on the map, near Sulgrave, and wondering if this could have been the original Leeson manor, paid it a visit. An obvious Tudor house stood part-hidden by the accretions of later unsophisticated centuries of rustic occupation, while in the farmyard lay carved stones which must once have formed part of an imposing building. The friendly farmer, Mr Tims, told me that archaeologists had been recently digging in a nearby field, and on later investigation I discovered that Stuchbury, or Stotesbury, (from which place the surname derived) is one of the "lost villages" of England, and the stones had evidently come from the church for which the archaeologists had been searching. The Stotesburys associated with the Leeson Manor were originally from nearby Brackley, and it is unlikely that Stuchbury Hall is directly connected with them.

I did not have time to make a detour to Whitfield before returning to London, but I called at Abthorpe in the fading light and looked in the church for the tablet which commemorates Miss Jane Leeson (d.1648) who by her will made many endowments to parishes all over this part of the county. She was the daughter of Anthony Leeson (d.1587), who was the Lord of the Manor of Frankton, Warwickshire. It seems likely from the choice of Christian names in this branch (Thomas, Arthur, Anthony, Jane) that it was connected with the Leesons of Whitfield and Sulgrave, but a link has yet to be proven.

My own branch derives from Kenilworth in Warwickshire in the 17th century, moving into Coventry as weavers at the end of the 18th, and I am reasonably familiar with the neighbourhood. I was glad of the opportunity, therefore, to obtain a mental picture of the topography of another area vital to the history of the Leasons.

Dr James Hodsdon, 6312 Golden Rock, Columbia, MD 21044 USA.
sends this outline of the potential for One-Name research
in pre-1500 sources.

Mediaeval Hodsdons

After some years of avid but haphazard gathering of all available references to Hodsdons/Hoddesdons, I recently organised my notes on individuals living in the pre-Parish Register era (1500 was my arbitrary limit) and was surprised to find no fewer than 64 probably distinct bearers of this always uncommon name, which is derived - according to Bardsley - from Hoddesdon, Herts.

My sources were almost entirely the various well-known printed series of state papers, wills and other deeds (particularly those relating to London) supplemented by a small number of unpublished wills held at the Public Record Office and the Corporation of London Library.

Sixty-four individuals is admittedly not much to build connected biographies with, especially when they are spread over three-and-a-half centuries (my earliest reference to one Norman de Hoddesdon comes in 1165), but all the same, it is a reasonable base from which to answer general questions and draw some useful conclusions.

For instance : is there any pattern to the use of de with this local surname ? At first sight the usage seems quite arbitrary but if we tabulate all occurrences, we find that between 1165 and 1350, the use of de is consistent : 1360 to 1390 is a fairly well-defined period of transition; while from 1400 onwards, the preposition completely died out. This evidence tallies well with Reaney's remarks on the subject in the Introduction to his Dictionary of British Surnames.

When does the surname become definitely hereditary, and cease to be a temporary label ? This is probably impossible to determine finally, but it may have been in the second half of the 13th century : there is no sign in the twelve pre-1300 references of any descent of the name from parent to child, and then quite suddenly in the early 14th century, modern surname usage appears (the preservation of wills from around this date naturally enhances this phenomenon). In the figure of Richard de Hoddesdon, fish-

monger, d.1323, we appear to have the progenitor of a line of merchant Hoddesdons that can be traced to the mid-1600s at least.

A contemporary of Richard was Stephen de Hoddesdon (fl 1311-32). He was also a fishmonger and therefore probably related but it shows however that some surname fluidity still existed : one of his sons, (yet another fishmonger) was named Sewall Hoddesdon but two other sons were, for reasons unknown, named Robert Sewall and Stephen Sewall. Some time later we find Thomas Hoddesdon (d.1420) alias Barnet, and his son, Robert Hoddesdon, also alias Barnet, but this ambivalence does not seem to have persisted.

As for the geographical origins of the Hoddesdons, the early examples leave little doubt that this is indeed a Hertfordshire name as Bardsley indicates. Of the twelve pre-1300 occurrences, one is explicitly connected with Hoddesdon the place, one with nearby Cheshunt, one with nearby Anwell, and six with Herts in general. Two instances, Norman (fl 1165) and Richard (fl 1195) are not formally located, but they are both early, and presumably represent individuals dwelling in Hoddesdon itself. The remaining one is the solitary pre-1300 adventurer, John de Hoddesdon, who, in 1272, was a wool merchant in Louvain.

We may guess that this merchant, John, had some connection with the numerous Hoddesdons, who from 1300 onwards, are in evidence in business in London; at least six in the fish trade, and four as cooks and bakers. Between 1300 and 1500, in fact, London provides the bulk of the fifty-odd references to Hoddesdons, though at least six of these still had land or interests in Herts, some in Hoddesdon itself.

Assuming - possibly unwisely - that these London merchants and citizens are generally of one extended family (the occurrences are from a fairly compact group of parishes within the City, and there are numerous indications of connection, if not always precise ties), the migration from Herts to the magnet of London seems to have been quite substantial. Only about half-a-dozen 1300 to 1500 Hoddesdons seem to be tied solely to Herts (Ware, Anwell and Barnet). Again only one Hoddesdon appears to have struck off completely on his own, this time to not-so-distant Horsham in Sussex (Thomas fl 1439). Against this apparent trend towards London, it must be borne in mind that merchants and property owners leave far more traces than others, and it is clear that from the later 1500s, when Parish Register evidence becomes available, that while certain Hoddesdons were well-established in London, they were also well distributed in Herts, their forebears presumably having passed unnoticed by the records.

For reasons such as these, it remains difficult to hazard any guess as to the total Hodsdon/Hoddesdon population at any point in time in the pre-1500 period, nevertheless it is interesting

to note that even on the often slight detail available, nearly half the 64 pre-1500 individuals can be grouped together, by associations of varying strength, into one "family", and it therefore seems not impossible that all subsequent Hodsdons descend from one stock - a crumb of comfort perhaps to anyone seeking to lay claim to the apparently now disused Hodsdon coat-of-arms. But that's another story.

In summary, I hope I have shown that while mediaeval evidence may be fragmentary, and from which it is almost impossible to construct extensive firm pedigrees, it can, if approached in the right way, yield quite a fund of valuable conclusions.

J.R.Horth, member No.286, sends this

Family Archive of the Horths of Norwich

Vol.No.1. 53 sheets Price £4.50
Seven generations of early weavers : 1455-1635 Wills, Inventories, Apprentices : 18 names; the rise and decline of a family business.

Vol.No.2 86 sheets Price £6.60
General background; name variations; occupations; Horths still in Norwich; dispersals since 1820; Notes on Norwich; Notes on the Norwich weaving industry. Maps; Photographs.

Vol.No.2 (Supplement) 69 sheets Price £5.50
Further information relating to the Horth family, to the City of Norwich, and to the woollen and weaving industry. Maps.

Vol.No.3. 96 sheets Price £7.30
In the Great North Ward - 9 Parishes; 89 marriages, 280 Baptisms, 218 Burials. Period covered approx: 1538-1837. Topography. Maps. Photographs.

Vol.No.4. 110 sheets Price £8.50
In the Great Wymer Ward - 13 Parishes; 52 Marriages, 127 Baptisms, 88 Burials, Period covered approx. 1538-1837. Topography. Maps. Photographs.

Vol.No.5 47 sheets Price £4.25
In the Great Mancroft Ward - 3 Parishes; 75 Marriages, 42 Baptisms, 24 Burials. Period covered approx. 1538-1837. Topography. Maps. Photographs.

Vol.No.6 69 sheets Price £5.50
In the Great Conesford Ward - 10 Parishes;
18 Marriages, 44 Baptisms, 27 Burials. Period
covered approx. 1603-1850. Topography. Maps.
Photographs.

Vol.No.7. 40 sheets Price £3.60
The Horths in England. Demographic Data and
Analyses; Charts and Tables : 1837-1979

Vol.No.8 56 sheets Price £4.65
The Horths in England. "Somerset House" Indexes;
Births, Marriages, Deaths 1837-1979. Includes full
Registration details, district, volume, page.
665 Births, 458 Marriages, 465 Deaths.

Vol.No.9(I) 110 sheets Price £8.35
Transliterations of Parish Registers : All Saints,
St. James' Pockthorpe. Reconstituted family
groupings.

Vol.No.9(II) 159 sheets Price £11.50
Transliteration of Parish Registers : St. John
Maddermarket, St. Swithin. Reconstituted family
groupings. Names' Indexes.

Vol.No.10(I) 132 sheets Price £9.60
The Modern Family ; Branches "A"+"D";
Complete Family Tree. Full details of
Reproductive Males.

Vol.No.10(II) 100 sheets Price £7.50
The Modern Family : Branch "B". Complete Family
Tree. Full details of Reproductive Males.

Vol.No.10(III) 117 sheets Price £8.60
The Modern Family : Branches "F", "G", "H", "J".
Complete Family Trees. Full details of Reproductive
Males.

Totals : 14 Volumes 1254 sheets Price £94.55

Next year work will start on the Horths of Norfolk and Suffolk.
NB. The "unplaced" 19th century Norwich Horths (as listed in
Volume 2), will need to be checked against the 1851 Census
Returns at some future date. The records of the 22 "Non-
conformist" churches have also to be searched. JRH/December 1982.
(See next sheet for "Analysis of Births". Ed.).

OVERALL GENERATION ANALYSIS OF BIRTHS IN FAMILY GROUPS ORIGINATING FROM NORWICH:

Grid Letter	Time Span	Precursors		"A" & "D"		"B"		"F"		"G"		"H"		"J"	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
C	1440-1469	1	-												
D	1470-1499	1	-												
E	1500-1529	2	1												
F	1530-1559	2	3												
G	1560-1589	6	4												
H	1590-1619	8	9												
I	1620-1649	1	2												
J	1650-1679	4	-												
K	1680-1709			1	-	1	-								
L	1710-1739			2	1	2	4								
M	1740-1769			9	-	4	3								
N	1770-1799			10	8	3	2								
O	1800-1829			12	6	6	4								
P	1830-1859			14	5	9	3								
Q	1860-1889			30	20	7	9								
R	1890-1919			21	25	10	10								
S	1920-1949			16	16	9	4								
T	1950-1979			23	14	11	8								
Totals:		25	19	148	95	62	47	21	18	47	33	24	23	27	24

Note that there are a considerable number of births recorded below this line which cannot be assigned to any of the present-day branches because of lack of data.

Males: 354 Females: 259 Total: 613

Who was Helen Bennett 1772-1853 ?

Note : I had admired de Boigne for years as a man and as a soldier; he was a French military adventurer of excellent character and a successful general under Scindia of Gwalior.

You may be surprised to learn who Helen was, but hardly as surprised as I was at my slowness at realising her identity.

Basil LaBouchardière.

.....

Helen Bennett died in lodgings in North Street, Horsham, on the 27th December 1853 and she was buried in the graveyard of St. Mary's Parish Church, Horsham.

This English-sounding name was given to a 17-year old Muslim girl by General Count Benoît de Boigne, her common-law husband. He met Helen in the year 1787 in Lucknow at her sister's house. Her sister was "Fyze" Palmer, common-law wife of William Palmer. It was Zoffany's portrait of "Fyze" exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1956 (painted between 1783 and 1789) that immortalises "Fyze".

As a result of this association two children were born to Helen and de Boigne, Anna, who died when she was only 15 in her father's arms at the Chateau Beau Regard in Paris; and Charles Alexandre Benoît who succeeded his father in 1830 as second Count de Boigne. He also pre-deceased his mother. He died on July 23rd 1853.

de Boigne and his family left Calcutta in December 1796. He was ill with chronic malaria. They disembarked at Deal and travelled from Deal to London in a carriage sent to meet him by an obliging banker - de Boigne's fortune of £225,000 would be worth more than one million pounds in today's money!

de Boigne had social ambitions to marry into the French nobility. He had never been through any form of marriage with Helen - not unusual then. So concealing his Indian family de Boigne met and married Adèle d'Osmond, 17-year-old daughter of the impoverished Marquise d'Osmond. It was a disastrous marriage and lasted ten months.

Because of her children, Helen refused to bring an action against the General. She retired to Enfield, then a pleasant village near London where she lived quietly and respectably and was considered as the General's legitimate wife.

After the tragic death of her daughter from pneumonia in 1804 Helen moved to Great Grounds House in the hamlet of Lower Beeding just four miles south of Horsham. We would not have known any more about her but for the fact that one of her grandsons who had inherited under Helen's Will came to Horsham about 1900 and found an elderly lady of 82 called Caroline Budgen.

As a young girl Caroline Colin as she then was had been Helen's personal maid. She had a countrywoman's excellent memory and her association with Helen was one of the strangest experiences of her life.

Notes of her conversation were jotted down in French on a single sheet of notepaper, undated, unsigned, the items in any order, as one random recollection led to another.

"Helen was a queer figure to young Caroline. She had a sallow complexion, strange dark eyes, took no trouble at all about her dress but wore magnificent rings. She smoked a long pipe, lost her temper very easily and could not bear to be bothered about anything. She had been a queen in her own country and she was married against her will when she was ten years old."

There is truth in this. Helen was almost certainly betrothed and married according to Muslim law to the Nawab of Pundri who died before the marriage was consummated.

The inscription on Helen's grave reads as follows :

Helena Bennett vidua defuncta obiit 27 Decembris 1853 aet. suae LXXXI. (Helen Bennett died a widow on 27th December 1853 age 81.) Requiescat in pace. Beati qui lugent, ipsi enim consolabuntur. (May she rest in peace. Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted).

Author's Note : Frequently I pass by Helen's grave. I pause and reflect on the life of this beautiful Muslim noblewoman whose fate brought her to live alone in a forest in Sussex, independent, very much still "a queen" - for me a powerfully sad story.

The sequence of my research was like this : I had read Desmond Young's "Fountain of the Elephants" Collins 1959 - a biography of de Boigne whose compatriots in Chambéry erected this fountain with four elephants back-to-back. Then A.H.Windrum's "Horsham" Phillimore 1978 alerted me to this unusual grave - it alone lies from north to south, the rest lie from east to west. The Horsham Museum Society allowed me to read Helen's Will. The West Sussex archivist helped me decipher the monumental inscription which is almost illegible now and he showed me the article in the "Sussex County Magazine" for October 1933 by Sir Evan Cotton CIE.

Letterbox

Due to lack of space the following letters have to wait for the next issue :- M.J.Egerton, D.M.Hamley, A.R.Inch, D.J.Ivory and Eunice Wilson.

Mrs I.J.Marker's "List of British One-Name Journals" is in hand.

Mrs Lynne Cowley writes from Bagshot, Surrey :-

I hope this short piece will be of interest to other members. I am not able to get much work done at the moment as I have a small son and can't get time in London, which is what is needed. I find this very frustrating as I haven't an awful lot of research to do and I just want to get on with it. Still mustn't grumble.

The Shroffs - an endangered species

It's too soon for me to produce a survey such as shown on page 48 of the Guild Newsletter for Summer 1982, ("Rare Surnames" by Dr Gordon M. Lickfold) but I feel the Shroff family is an endangered species - only 17 births in the 1837-1907 group, and only 15 so far in the not-yet-completed 1908-78 group.

I don't know where they came from. There aren't any at all on the IGI. Asking the family has proved difficult as they are a scattered bunch geographically. I wrote to all the Shroffs listed in the U.K. phone directories- 28. Of these 7 were already canvassed members of my family, cousins, and an uncle and an aunt; 15 replied, of them only 4 were not interested, the others hope to find out more for me.

My branch of the Shroff clan appears to be the only English part of the family. All my respondents, as I had expected, were either Indian or Pakistani in origin. At this point all I had to go on was that "We came from the East originally".

I had been marking time for about 4 years trying to find out where my great grandfather William was born. I knew he was born around 1855 from Old Bill's death certificate. I looked everywhere for mention of his birth; I quizzed the family, who warned me off two spinster cousins of mine, but I wrote to them as best I could and asked if they could assist.

A few weeks later a charming letter arrived from these two cousins. It contained all I wanted to know. They told me he was born in Saxmundham, Suffolk as William Bolton. He was taken as a child by a family named Shroff and he changed his name to theirs. He had a sister called Pepper who lived at Snape : another gem of information to check out.

At the end of the day though, I'm still left with the original questions - who were the Shroffs and where did they come from ?

Our Registrar, Frederick N. Filby sends this story :-

Notable Achievements

Having been denied the opportunity to know any of my grandparents, I have always felt it to be something of an achievement, in the space of three score years, to have known and talked with five generations of another branch of my Filby cousins.

It was therefore with great interest that I learnt from our member 291 George V. Mardon that his father, George Mardon, was born at Moretonhampstead, Devon in 1830, a span of over 150 years in just two generations.

It transpires that George Mardon, after a childless marriage of 25 years, remarried in 1896, and George V. Mardon was born on 20th Jan 1902, when his father was 71. He comments that it seems to have been "a good tune on an old Devonshire fiddle".

I thought that this delightful anecdote would serve as an encouragement to other music-lovers among our members and perhaps persuade them to reveal any notable time-spanning achievements that have been discovered in their own one-name studies.

Our Chairman, Derek A. Palgrave MA. FSG. writes :-

A Potential Marriage Index

MR A.G.Doo's letter (Summer issue page 50) reminds us all that we have data which, if centralised, could be a most useful index of surnames other than the ones we are each studying.

Surely it would be possible for every member of the Guild to contribute details of marriages on say 5"x3" slips into a pool of data which, like the various county marriage indexes, listed in the Federation booklet compiled by Michael Walcot and Jeremy Gibson, could be made generally accessible.

One hardly needs to stress the advantages of such a project. It could enable a searcher to bridge a gap since marriages are often found "out-of-area". The views of other readers would be welcomed.

Guild Meeting at Liverpool

Members can meet together during the Family History Conference at Liverpool University during the week-end 9-10 April 1983.

Anyone not attending the Federation AGM could hear Michael Walcot's lecture on starting a one-name study. Your chairman will be present throughout the week-end and would like to hear beforehand of topics to be ventilated.

The Guild of One Name Studies was formed in September, 1979 to encourage the exchange of ideas and co-operative liaison between the growing number of family historians who concentrate their research on all references to a single surname including proven variants.

In the majority of cases this activity is carried on by an individual working alone and not as a member of a One-Name Society, although many such societies have been established and admitted to the Federation of Family History Societies as formally constituted organisations.

The Aims and Objectives of the GUILD are:

- (a) To bring together those individuals and groups of people who are engaged in the collection of family data relative to all references, branches and occurrences of a single surname.
- (b) To produce a Journal and hold periodic meetings for the exchange of information on sources and research techniques helpful to One-Name activity.
- (c) To maintain and publish a REGISTER of the surnames being researched and, through close association with the Federation of Family History Societies, to secure the widest possible awareness of One-Name research.
- (d) To encourage and ensure by a written undertaking, that members will deal with all reply-paid enquiries relative to their registered surname.

So far around 400 names have been registered and the number is increasing continuously. An up-to-date copy of the Register is available from the Registrar or the Federation Sales Department, 96, Beaumont Street, Milehouse, Plymouth, Devon, PL2 3AQ price £1-00 which includes postage.

Regular Supplements to the Register are issued to members of the Guild free of charge and a regular update on the names registered appears in each issue of Family History News and Digest.

New applicants for membership of the Guild should send a stamped addressed envelope to the Registrar, requesting a Registration form. Overseas applicants may send International Reply Coupons.

The Registration Fee is £2-00 and the Annual Subscription, payable 1st January, is £4-00. The subscription covers four issues of this Journal and two issues of Family History News and Digest.

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