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Journal

of One-Name Studies



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DNA
Discoveries Pt 2

Eastlake

A Data Mining Exercise

**One-Name
Archaeology**

The Moulder Archive

The Quested Surname

Killing 'em off & More

All the latest Guild news and updates

Vol 10 Issue 10 April - June 2011

Guild

of One-Name Studies

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ARTICLES, letters and other contributions are welcomed from members, especially accompanied by illustrations, and should be sent to the Editor. Publication dates will normally be the first day of January, April, July and October.

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From the Chairman's Keyboard...

By Kirsty Gray

Could I have picked a better time to write my Chairman's Column than on my return from Who Do You Think You Are Live?! I very much doubt it! Having been a member of our wonderful organisation since 2002, I have personally assisted on various occasions on the bookstall with Howard Benbrook and extolled the virtues of the Guild as well as occasionally managing to sell superb resources to members and non-members alike. With the retirement of Howard in November last year and the new 'marketing' approach to Family History Fairs, **Corrinne Goodenough** had a particularly tough task at the event this year. With her outstanding management skills and a superb team, **47** people joined the Guild at the show, **2** who re-joined and a further **12** new members joined online while the show was on, using the special membership offer of 20 months for £20 – an ingenious master plan from our Treasurer, **Cliff Kemball**. This netted the Guild more new members in a 3 day period than have joined in any previous month since we began. A massive achievement!

We were 'plugged' by many of the lecturers in the programme of Society of Genealogists workshops and we are indebted to many helpers during the course of the event, from the 'Ask The Experts' team, organised by **Barbara Harvey**, to the nearly two dozen members who assisted on the Guild stand. Thank you one and all for making this such a success.

Surname Atlas

For those of you who missed WDYTIA, you may be unaware of the release of the updated version (1.1) of **Surname Atlas**, the software designed by Guild member and Master Craftsman, **Steve Archer**, which plots surname and first name data from the 1881 census. For those who are already familiar with

the features of Surname Atlas, the improvements include:

- a county surname tab which identified which surnames have a higher total percentage in a particular county than any other county
- an increased program window with larger graphics and extended maximum zoom percent to 5,000% (mainly needed for London)
- a colour-coded histogram bar to display results

The old saying that 'a picture is worth a thousand words' is definitely true with Surname Atlas! As Steve himself says: 'Surname Atlas is a must-have for people undertaking family history research who want to show the distribution of their surnames'.

Guild Elections

The date has passed for nominations to be received for **Election to the Guild Committee**. Results will be announced at the AGM in April along with the presentation of the **Master Craftsmen of the Guild (MCG)** awards. The AGM/Conference weekend is around the corner and I look forward to seeing many of you there – some new faces and many old friends. If you haven't booked your place yet, do get in touch with the team (conference@one-name.org) and see if there are any spaces, but don't leave it too late!!

In the last journal, I wrote an article about our new links with **FamilySearch**. This is now live and in the forthcoming months, you should begin to see some correspondence coming from individuals who have found your one-name study by using the new site. **Ancestry** have always proved hard to crack, though the personal touch at WDYTIA appears

"This netted the Guild more new members in a 3 day period than have joined in any previous month since we began."

to have created a link with someone who might be able to work with us on creating a mutually beneficial association for us all. So, watch this space!

What a year!

Now that I am reaching the end of my first year as Chairman and I have a chance to look back, it has been a year of enormous change for the Guild. I have thoroughly enjoyed leading the organisation through the roller coaster of 2010/11, though there have been many tough times and difficult decisions which have had to be taken to steady the ship and move the Guild forward. We don't always get it right and I am grateful when you, the members, tell us we aren't! That said, it has been particularly gratifying of late to have received so many e-mails and verbal communications praising the work we are doing and thanking the Officers and post holders, all of whom give their time freely. Recent comments range from 'the Guild is so lively now', 'I am amazed at the efficiency and response I get from the Guild..... I have also been to a regional meeting today which was very informative and friendly' to 'we are moving so fast compared to other genealogical organisations What a wonderful organising committee we have!' I am sure that you will share in thanking the team for their hard work and dedication in the 2010/11 Guild Committee year and I look forward to many more successful years to come! ■

Guild NewsXtra

Guild Helpdesk reaches Oz

By Roy Rayment

Following the highly successful launch of the Guild Helpdesk's North American toll-free telephone number in April last year, the service has now been extended to the whole of Australia. Calls made to the Guild's Australian toll-free telephone number 1800 305184 are answered there during eastern business hours (9am to 6pm from Monday to Saturday) and in the UK at all other times. This enables the Guild to provide a seamless 24-hour telephone helpdesk service to both the general public and to its members, which is something quite unique for a genealogical organisation.

The Australian toll-free number will be on trial for about a year, at the end of which the Guild committee will be in a better position to evaluate it properly. If it proves not to have been used very much, the Guild may well decide to discontinue funding it, thus leaving Canada, the UK and the USA the only countries with free telephone access to the Helpdesk.



The committee would like to place on record its thanks to Lynette Begg (member 4139) of East Maitland in New South Wales for volunteering to man the new toll-free telephone number during local business hours. However, for both administrative and technical reasons, it is not possible at present for Lynette to deal with queries raised by members regarding website password difficulties and so members needing help with these or similar problems are advised to call after 6pm local time, when their calls will be answered in the UK.

Lynette and I look forward to speaking to as many as possible of the Guild's Australian members during the trial period!

HELP WANTED!

As part of our marketing research the sub-committee is collecting details of published articles on one-name, or surname, studies and any mentions of the Guild. All publications from anywhere in the world and all types of sources from newsstand magazines to society journals, both hard copy and "electronic", are of interest. The data is entered on a Wiki page so all members can readily enter new details directly on to the page.

Please help by submitting any information you come across directly on the Wiki page or by emailing to me at chairman-marksub@one-name.org

To access the page go to the Members Room and click through to get to the Wiki Contents List. The "List of Articles on one-name studies and the Guild" is near the bottom of the page. Alternatively go direct to the URL: <http://www.one-name.org/members/wiki/index.php?page=List+of+articles+on+one-name+studies+and+the+Guild>.

Pitfalls and Possibilities Update

In the last issue of the Journal I reviewed the excellent book "Pitfalls and Possibilities in Family History Research" by Pauline Litton.

Pauline has contacted me to clarify where the book can be purchased from and to point out the book's website which can be found at <http://www.pitfallsandpossibilities.co.uk>.

The website allows payment by paypal or alternatively an order form can be downloaded if you prefer to pay by cheque. For those without a computer the book can also be obtained directly from Pauline at 2 Florence Road, Harrogate HG2 0LD (cheques payable to Mrs P. Litton). Price including postage is £13.75 UK and £16.75 overseas.



You do not need to throw away the polythene envelopes that the Journal (and a lot of your other magazines) arrive in - they can be recycled! Polyprint Mailing Films produce polythene envelopes, and take them back for recycling (at a loss).

If you would like to participate, please send polythene wrappers and bags - anything in plastic classes 2 and 4 - provided all paper labels, sello-

tape and 'foreign objects' have been removed, to Polyprint at the address below. Please include your contact details & clearly mark the outside of the package "For Recycling". You will need to pay the postage.

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John Vincent

DNA Discoveries

By **Susan C. Meates**

In part 2 of this article series, more Guild members share their results from their DNA Project, and illustrate how DNA is an important component of their one-name study.

Adding DNA testing to your one-name study is an opportunity to make interesting discoveries and discover information not available in the paper records.

You will have success with your DNA Project, regardless of your country of residence. Just as a one-name study is a global endeavor, a DNA Project is also global. The global nature of a DNA Project enables you, if you so choose, to raise funds in migration destination countries, to fund testing in the ancestral country, to help participants find a match. Often a documented link to the ancestral country can't be found for early migrations, and DNA testing will help these persons discover more information about their distant ancestors and a DNA match might provide a location for further research. In addition, regardless of the country, often multiple members of a family tree will contribute to fund testing for their tree. Raising donations is optional, though it is worth considering, since it will make it easier to recruit participants when you can provide a paid test or partially sponsored test kit.

With this Journal issue, another project, the Phillips DNA Project, has passed the 500 member mark, and joins the Wells DNA Project as the only two Guild member projects to reach this point.

Many Guild projects have now passed 100 participants, and more are closing in on 100. The number of participants depends on the frequency of the surname, the time the project has been in existence, and the time devoted to recruiting. In addition, using sales and marketing techniques and material can increase recruiting effectiveness.

Phillips DNA Project and One-Name Study

Family Tree DNA, Ancestry.com, DNA Heritage, and others. Established 2004. Participants, 523 at Family Tree DNA.

Nancy Kiser, administrator; Tom Hutchison, co-administrator; Virginia Phillips-Smith, co-administrator.

Websites: <http://www.phillipsdnaproject.com/> and <http://one-name-study.phillipsdnaproject.com/>

The Phillips One-Name Study commenced officially in 2009 when the Phillips surname was registered with the Guild of One-Name Studies, but the roots of the study go back to 2004 when a Phillips DNA project was organized in the United States. Here are the goals of the project, then and now:

1. Help researchers from common or related branches of Phillips families work together to find their shared heritage.



Fig 2. Charles W. Phillips (b. 1860 Tennessee) and 2nd wife Effie Byrd

2. Identify how the participants' families are connected, both genetically and through paper trails.

3. Identify and confirm genetic lineages of ancestral families and find our ancestral roots in Europe, or wherever they may be.

4. Ultimately catalog pedigrees and genetic connections of all known Phillips trees.

We believe it would be impractical to do a one-name study of such a common surname as Phillips without the help of DNA analysis, because it would be impossible to sort out and



Fig 1. Engraving of Picton Castle, Pembrokeshire, Wales, ancestral home of the Philipps family.

differentiate between all the diverse, unrelated Phillips families worldwide. Thus far, through DNA analysis, we have identified more than 60 distinct, unrelated Phillips families in the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, United States, Canada and other countries around the world.

There are over 350 different Phillips pedigrees in our database. We maintain a large database of information on Phillips families worldwide and try to help our participants as much as we can with their individual research, but we function mainly as the coordinator of a large networked group of researchers. Every month, one or more of these researchers discovers a Phillips relative or branch that they never before knew existed. Some of the DNA matches have been between Phillips men who live in different countries. This is the reason and rationale for our existence.

Ulph DNA Project

Colin Ulph. Family Tree DNA. Established 2008. 65 Participants.

The project, which embraces the surnames ULPH, AULPH, HULF, ALP, ALPE and ALPS, began in July 2008, when our one-name study was already 30 years old. All six names exist in living families around the world but are quite rare, the current total number of male name-holders worldwide being just over 350. Documented ancestry indicates that ULPH, ALP and ALPE all originated in Norfolk pre-fourteenth century and probably emanated from the parish of Burnham Ulph, now part of Burnham Market. AULPH, ALPS and HULF are of more recent origin, possibly variants. One of the project's objectives has been to discover whether all six names might be traceable to a common male ancestor who lived since surnames came into use. So far at least three men with each name have been tested - more where a single name, like ULPH, has several lines known to be distinct over the past 300 years.

Although it's early days in our project, one exciting discovery early on was that all three HULFs tested have identical DNA with some of the ULPHs, proving that they do have a common ancestor who is yet to be found. It seems also that the families of ALP and ALPE will have a common ancestor, too. Early DNA results show, however, that there is no genetic link between the AULPH and ULPH



Fig 3. 107 Ulphs and descendants pack into the village hall at Burnham, Ulph for the first clan gathering in 1987. Photo taken by Colin Ulph.

men so far tested, nor between ULPH and the ALP and ALPE families. One of the ALPS lines was already known to have derived from an ALPE but, as he was illegitimate, no common ancestry was expected beyond the eighteenth century and DNA has confirmed this. Other important discoveries so far have been common DNA between men from separate ULPH lines, which gives hope that further research might reveal a common ancestor at some future time.

As the project continues, considerable effort is going into identifying and locating useful 'targets' for testing in the future. We keep up the interest by informing all past volunteers of the latest developments by means of a twice-yearly progress report, and a summary aimed at the whole clan is included in our periodic newsletter, ULPH Family News.

Parrott DNA project

Wayne Parrott. Family Tree DNA. 53 participants.

P-rr-tts began to appear in Maryland and Virginia beginning in the 1600s, and the spelling Parrott soon became standard. Given that their descendants frequently crossed paths as they settled throughout the southeastern United States, the assumption was that they were all one family. This assumption became official 'fact' with the publication of the book, *Links that Bind* in 1967. Subsequent research efforts have tried repeatedly to find the missing links that connected the

various Parrott families, but have come up empty.

Now, DNA testing has revealed that there were multiple Parrott families who settled in the American Colonies. It turns out the Parrott settlers in 1600's Virginia represent two completely unrelated families. A third Parrott family from Virginia was founded by a Swiss immigrant in the 1730s. Furthermore, the Virginia Parrotts turn out not to be related to the 1600's Maryland Parrott family, and it is now evident that at least one additional Parrott family settled in Maryland in the 1750's.

In the 1700 and 1800's, Parrott families began appearing throughout the southeastern part of the country, as the original settlements expanded westward. Most of these have incomplete paper trails, and thus could not be traced with any certainty to one of the original Parrott families. Finally, DNA made it possible to assign these branches to the correct original families, and in some cases, to the correct parents.

From a research point of view, it is no longer necessary to spend time and effort to find the missing links that were supposed to connect the various family branches together—the families are not related, so there were never any missing links to begin with. Now, the surviving paper record makes sense, as it no longer has to fit the preconceived notions. Without such constraints, it has been possible to trace one of the three 1600's families back to its origins

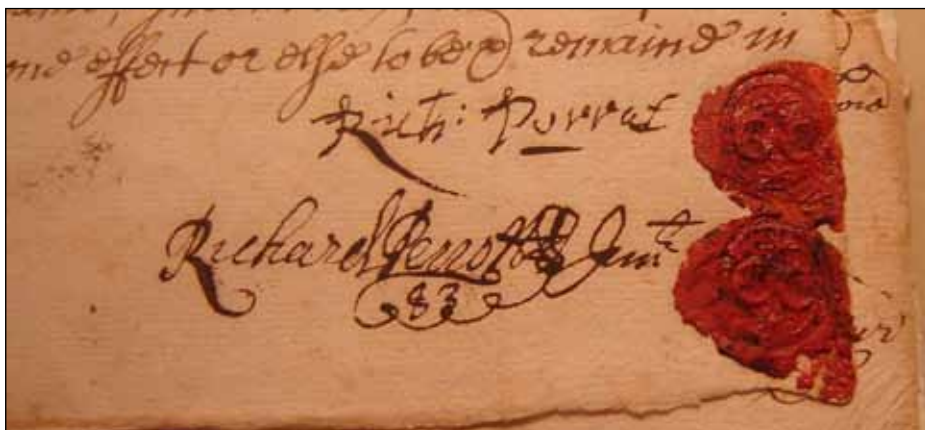


Fig 4. The signatures and seals of Richard Perrot and his son, Richard Jr., dated 2 April 1683. The Elder Richard founded one of the Parrott Families in Virginia in the mid 1600's. It is now known he was born on 10 Feb 1621/22 in Potton, Bedfordshire, England. A large proportion of the Parrotts in the USA today descend from Richard. Despite numerous reports to the contrary, these Perrots did not use the 3-pear design on their seal. This photo was taken in 2007 by Joseph Parrott. This and similar documents are part of the Churchill Family Papers, MSS 1197, Special Collections, University of Virginia Library.

in England. The search continues for the origins of the others. Thus far, there have been no transatlantic DNA matches, but DNA participation on the English side remains low.

There is one question in particular which lingers on. There is one Perrot family that became prominent in Wales and England, and which is easily recognizable because their armorial bearings used a seal with 3 pears in it. There have been many attempts to link the American Parrotts to this family, though none have held up under scrutiny. Some of these Perrots did make it to the new world, as a tombstone in Barbados bears the family seal; there is no evidence any made it to the colonies that would become the US. Seals have been found for two of the original 1600's Parrott families, and they are not that of the Welsh/English family. Unfortunately, there are no known living male descendants from the Welsh/English family. Someday, perhaps DNA analysis from one of their remains may reveal if the family is still alive in the USA, or if the family really died out.

For a more in-depth report, see these articles:

Reksten, Harald and Wayne Parrott. 2009. A re-examination of the relationships among the Parrott families of the American Colonies in the 17th century. *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* Feb 47(1):21-43 & May 47(2):129-147

Reksten, Harald and Wayne Parrott. 2010. Early P-rr-tt families of North America: Myth & Fact on the Internet. The P-rr-tt Society Family Notes. March 26:8-12

Useful links:

- The P-rr-tt Society- has a vast data base of P-rr-tts in Britain, Australia and New Zealand <http://www.p-rr-tt.org.uk/>
- Early Parrott Lineages of North America <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~parrott/parrotlines.shtml>
- DNA Project: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~parrott/>
- The Perrot family of Wales and England: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~parrott/pembrokeshire.shtml>

Blencowe DNA Project

Jack Blencowe. Ancestry, 22 participants.

The Blencowe Families' Association does not have a formal DNA Project, though we have used DNA testing. The name, in all its various spellings derives from the village of Blencow near Penrith; the earliest ancestor of whom much is known is 14thC Adam de Blencow. The line descending directly from Adam died out in 1927 but one of his sons (or more likely grandson) moved south to Marston St Lawrence

near Banbury and descendants of that line flourish in Britain and elsewhere around the world.

Most of the family groups stem from a dozen locations, most of them within walking distance or horseback ride from Marston St Lawrence. A couple of the groups can be traced back to Adam on paper, most can only be traced back to the 17th or 18th centuries; DNA analysis has enabled us to link the various groups. A Blencowe descendant of a 19thC emigrant to Virginia from Towcester is one of the known descendants of Adam and his DNA is our "type specimen" and these family groups have an exact match with him:

- Blincoes of USA (descended from a 17thC immigrant)
- Blencowes of Bicester, Kings Sutton, Sussex and Essex
- Blincos of Slough/Windsor

Quite different are the Blincows of Whilton/Long Buckby. Different again are the Blencoes of Wisconsin who derive from emigrants from Gawcott near Buckingham, but they proved to be identical with the Blencos of Bethnal Green.

It was not necessary to test two groups: in one the male line was broken by an 18thC adoption another by a birth out of wedlock in the early 19thC.

Members of one or two minor groups have failed to trace male descendants.

Fig 5. The portrait of Anthony Blencowe in the chapel of Oriel College, Oxford is based on the contemporary portrait in The Provost's dining room. Anthony was Provost 1574 - 1618; his nephew Sir Henry built the present-day Blencowe Hall.



Sisson DNA Project

Carol Sisson Regehr. Family Tree DNA
Established 2002. 97 participants.

I am one of the co-administrators of the Sisson/Sissons DNA project.

In December 2008 we published an article reporting the first findings of our project, in the journal "New England Ancestors" published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society. In the last year, the journal was renamed "American Ancestors".

We have found that there are at least 3 different unrelated lineages named Sisson or Sissons. We designate them the Richard, Robert, and Thomas lineages after three 17th century immigrants to North America. We have a possible 4th lineage discovered after this article was published. We have found that for the spelling "Sissons", some are related to the Robert lineage and some to the Richard lineage of the spelling "Sisson".

We are very enthused about what the DNA study has done for our one-name study. We believe that some of this information could *not* have been ferreted out with only conventional paper research.

Our long-term goals are to determine the DNA results of Richard, Robert, and Thomas themselves, to



Fig 6. Barnabas Sisson was born 9 May 1772 in Portsmouth, Newport Co., Rhode Island, USA. He died 19 Aug 1809 in Sakonnet River and was buried in Union Cemetery, Po16, Portsmouth, Rhode Island.



Fig 7. Perry Sisson who died in Andersonville prison during the USA Civil War

test more participants in England to try to find the birthplaces of Richard, Robert, and Thomas; and to find the DNA result of the pre-Richard, pre-Robert, and pre-Thomas ancestors. After the article was published we did get a new participant from Australia, so we have added one more country to our list. We have participants from the U.S., Canada, England, Ireland, France, New Zealand, and Australia.

Our results are a stellar illustration of what DNA is ideally suited for in one-name studies. For a more in-depth report, see this article: Carol Sisson Regehr, "Results of a Y-Chromosome DNA Study on Surnames Sisson and Sissons," New England Ancestors", Vol. 9, nos. 5-6 (Holiday 2008), pp. 53-55.

Vick DNA Project

Larry Vick. Family Tree DNA. Established 2006. 65 Participants. 23andMe for Autosomal testing.

The Vick Y-DNA Surname Project is limited to male members since only men have a Y chromosome and thus Y-DNA. The project has members from nine major clans. Two of the clans are English. One can be traced to Gloucestershire and the other to Sussex. Additionally, there are members who trace their ancestry to German, Danish, and Norwegian clans. Most project members are Americans and are descendants of Joseph Vick of Lower Parish, Isle of Wight County, Virginia (who first appears in the Virginia records in 1675). While it is highly likely Joseph was English, no records have been found that prove he was born in

England. Men with similar Y-DNA to that of the descendants of Joseph Vick live in Orkney and Shetland. Finally, there is an African-American clan that descends from slaves.

A second project, The Vick and Allied Families DNA project, has both male and female members and uses autosomal DNA as well as DNA from the X chromosome to augment the efforts of the Vick Y-DNA project. Autosomal DNA has been useful in examining family traditions. For example, one family claimed land in the U.S. in 1902 based upon Choctaw ancestry. The family's claim was denied due to lack of documentary evidence of Choctaw ancestry. Autosomal DNA testing of project members who are descendants of this family showed it was highly unlikely the family's claim was true.

For Further Information:

If you are interested in adding a DNA Project to your one-name study, simply contact me Susan Meates at DNA@one-name.org. I can provide references to various charts and articles on vendor selection, set up your project with proven marketing material, provide sample emails/letters for recruiting, and answer any question you may have. If someone else has already set up a project for your registered surname, there may still be possible solutions.

For help, questions and to get started: DNA@one-name.org.

It is recommended that you write before taking action, since help includes setting up your DNA Project with proven marketing material.

Vendors:

FamilyTreeDNA.com
Ancestry.com
DNAHeritage.com

Vendor neutral comparison charts by ISOGG (International Society of Genetic Genealogists).

Vendor Comparison from a Project Administrator's perception:

<http://www.isogg.org/features.htm>

Vendor comparison for Y-DNA tests

<http://www.isogg.org/ydnachart.htm>

Vendor comparison for mtDNA tests

<http://www.isogg.org/mtdnachart.htm>

EASTLAKE

A DATA MINING EXERCISE

Course Participants: **Sue Mastel** (Coordination), **Kim Baldacchino** (Report), **Anne Brady; Alan Wellbelove; Valerie Jones; Joanne Baldwin**

This report summarises the findings from a group exercise undertaken in the *Introduction to One-Name Studies* course offered by Pharos Teaching and Tutoring Limited. The course tutor Helen Osborn challenged course participants to find as many occurrences of a surname of our choosing within two weeks. Team members included Sue Mastel, Kim Baldacchino, Anne Brady, Alan Wellbelove, Valerie Jones and Joanne Baldwin.

We selected the surname **EASTLAKE**, including the variant **EASTLACK** and other variant names as identified during the exercise. According to ancestry.com, this is an English surname from Cornwall and Devon. It originated as a habitation name from Eastlake in Devon, named in Old English as *east lacu* the 'eastern stream'.

Number of Occurrences Found	
EASTLAKE	49,499
EASTLACK	13,680
Other Variants	34,125
Total Occurrences	97,304

We found **97,304** occurrences of the surname, detailed in a shared research log that we managed using Google Docs. The surname occurred in **585** references. We were overwhelmed by what can be found in such a short time.

OUR APPROACH

Our approach was straightforward:

- Decide who would lead the exercise
- Decide on a name to research
- Agree that we would also search for variants
- Agree some basic guidance
- Decide how to record the information

Themes

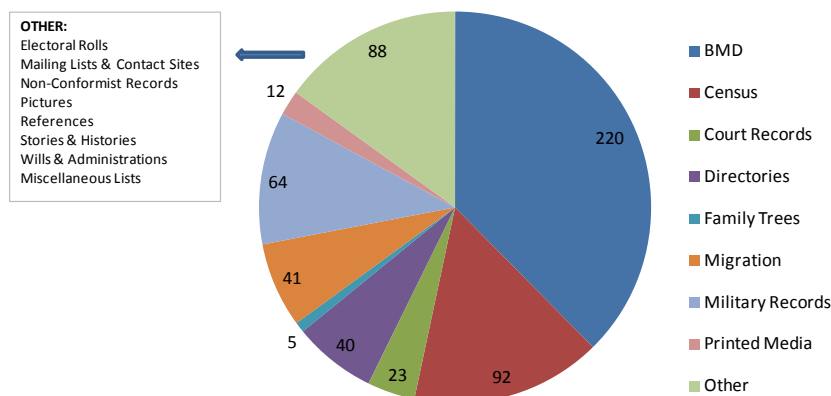


Chart 1.

- Decide how to divide the research – we divided by country
- Do the research and capture results in the group research log
- Keep team informed of progress and problems
- Do the final report

This approach worked well for us. As one team member said, 'We have done brilliantly. Most geographical areas have been covered adequately and some comprehensively'. As with any group effort though, there are things we would do differently in future collaborations:

- It was never going to be possible to delegate tasks at the outset, as we had no idea how much time or enthusiasm each team member had for the project. We should have defined clear tasks at the outset and invited individuals to pick what they were prepared to do. Also we should have asked the group to be more specific about what resources they could access.
- Google Docs enabled us to share our research log which did away with the burden

of one person trying to capture everyone's progress. In addition, it made our progress visible at all times which was motivating in itself and enabled us to spot key gaps in our research. It isn't clear though if everyone was comfortable with using Google Docs or what was expected in all the fields in the research log. We should have ensured that everyone was comfortable with the technology.

- The Research Log itself could be improved by using data validation features to specify an allowable set of values for each field. Key fields like country and theme need to be consistent to allow sorting, counting and summing for data analysis. In addition, we should have provided separate columns to hold the locations where detailed indices and/or images are stored for any of the individual collections. Many of the detailed indices were saved into spreadsheets during this exercise, which will be of great help when the study is taken forward.

Countries

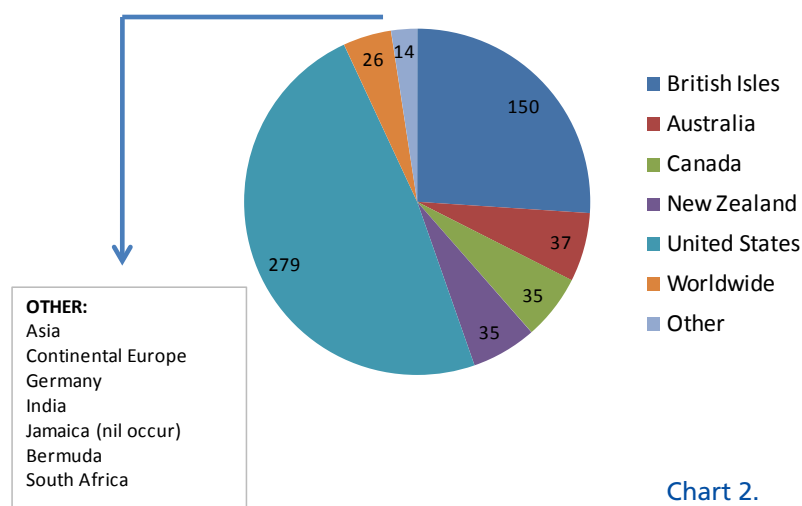


Chart 2.

REFERENCES

Chart 1 opposite shows the types of references we used. Of the 585 total references, over half of them were either Birth, Marriage, Death (BMD) or Census listings. However, we found the surname and its variants in a wide variety of sources.

For the Printed Media theme, we did not count each newspaper as an individual reference. Rather, we counted all the newspapers of a given country as one reference. Otherwise, newspapers would have accounted for the vast majority of our references. For example, ancestry.com identifies 480 U.S. newspapers that contain the Eastlake surname or its variants.

We sought a worldwide investigation of references as shown in chart 2 above. Most references were for the British Isles and the United States, but we also found significant numbers of references in other former British colonies. There are also many sources now that cover worldwide references.

We feel that we achieved representative coverage of the available references. Key omissions include:

The number of United States references on ancestry.com was so high that we didn't have time to investigate the many other sources of US genealogical data.

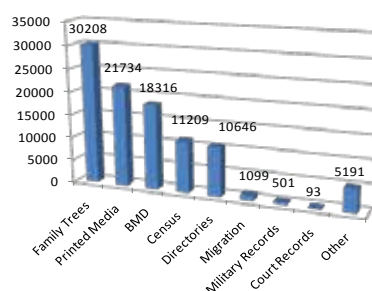
We didn't have time to check out *Cyn-di's List*, which contains over 270,000 links to genealogical websites.

We didn't have time to do Google searches on the surnames, which would have turned up a wide variety of additional sources. This type of open-ended search is especially difficult with a surname such as Eastlake, which also occurs as a placename.

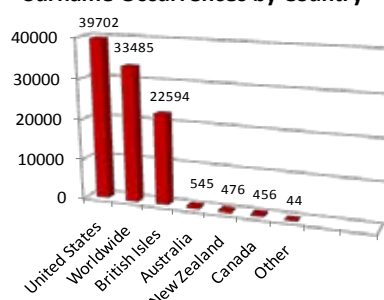
We only have one reference for Asia and none for South America. We've analysed the IGI holdings and we don't believe there are any significant populations of Eastlake or variants on these continents. However, it would be worthwhile to better understand the sources available for these locations.

SURNAME OCCURRENCES

Surname Occurrences by Theme



Surname Occurrences by Country



When we look at the actual occurrences of the surname, we get a different distribution to that seen in the references. We can see from the blue bar chart that the highest volume of occurrences came from Family Trees, followed by Printed Media (mainly newspapers). The newspaper occurrences have not been analysed to determine if the name Eastlake is being used for a placename rather than a surname, so the Printed Media figure can be expected to reduce significantly following analysis.

The volume of occurrences says nothing about the usefulness of the information. In the case of Family Trees and Printed Media, it is generally difficult to extract a list of the individual surnames to use in analysis. In addition, the quality of Family Tree information varies greatly. Because of the high volume and these other difficulties, we recommend that the other types of indexed sources be tackled first when trying to investigate a surname.

VARIANTS

One of the trickier parts was to decide how to handle variants. We knew of the Eastlack variant, but otherwise we did not know what forms the Eastlake surname might take. One of the team members did significant early analysis on the variants and made recommendations to the rest of the team on how to search for them using wildcards (where the search engines permitted). Preliminary visual analysis of the 5600 US *International Genealogical Index* (IGI) and 1170 British IGI entries, catalogued using wildcard searches, yielded over 50 possibilities for variants and deviants. Although our data shows derivations from Eastlake, Eastlack or E*s*|*k*, it seems likely that the original name was Eastlake or Estlake, from which Eastlack and E*s*|*k* all derived, based on the dates of earliest appearance.

SURNAME DISTRIBUTION: WORLDWIDE

Time didn't permit a good analysis of the distribution of our results, especially complicated by the fact that many occurrences of the surname Eastlake are likely to be placenames rather than the surname. However, as a preliminary view, we observed the data shown in the following table:

Location	Surname Occurrences
British Isles	Predominantly Eastlake, but also many occurrences of E*s* *k*
United States	Predominantly Eastlake, but also many occurrences of Eastlack and E*s* *k*
Australia	Predominantly Eastlake, but also many occurrences of E*s* *k*
Bermuda	Eastlack
Asia	Eastlake
Canada	Eastlake
Germany	Eastlake
India	Eastlake
Ireland	Eastlake
New Zealand	Eastlake

Bermuda is the anomalous country, where Francis Eastlake (or Estlake) sailed to from Plymouth in about 1660 as a Quaker minister. He and his family then emigrated to the United States and started the Eastlack family. Sources say he was outspoken, which helps to explain how many sources report on his very short stay in Bermuda.

These preliminary results support the view that migration was early to the United States and Australia. In Canada and New Zealand, where sample size is sufficiently large for some analysis, numbers of deaths significantly exceed births. Is this due to the availability of records or is it related to later migration? Sample size for all other countries is small and might indicate temporary stays. One of the participants identified that Passenger Lists to the United States were overwhelmingly Eastlake rather than Eastlack. This might be explained by how early the Eastlack name took root in the United States.

SURNAME DISTRIBUTION: BRITISH ISLES

Based on our present knowledge, the earliest persistent recorded uses of the Eastlake surname were in Cornwall/Devon. The Eastlake surname came first in 1558, Eastlack shortly thereafter in 1591 and E*s*|*k* did not appear until 1653. Whilst the first two may be the result of which parishes were included in the IGI, it seems significant that the third didn't appear until nearly a century later.

Using county breakdowns available from The Genealogist website, we identified the distribution of the Eastlake and Estlick surnames in

England and Wales through the census years. Es(t)lick was chosen as a representative E*s*|*k* variant. The results are summarised on the opposite page.

The evidence strongly supports the hypothesis that the Eastlake surname originated in Cornwall or Devon, most likely in the Bodmin area. It is interesting that Ancestry.com identifies it as a habitational name from a place called Eastlake in Devon and it would be worthwhile to understand their basis for identifying the originating location as being in Devon rather than Cornwall.

Similar to other surnames that members of the group have studied, such as Adamthwaite and Estall, the Eastlake surname appears to have originated in one location with migration slowly occurring to major cities and eventually to spreading across England. Also similar to these other surnames, the Eastlake surname appears to be extremely scarce in other parts of the British Isles. Not unexpectedly, overseas migration is dominated by former colonies of the British Empire.

The Es(t)lick distribution tables clearly show that it also originated in Cornwall or Devon. It then follows a migration pattern analogous to Eastlake and other surnames that we are currently studying.

EASTLAKES OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

We've already discovered several noteworthy Eastlakes in our research:

- **Roger Eslak (1400s):** An intriguing mention of Roger is made in

the Medieval Soldier database, identifying him as a man-at-arms in service to Sir Thomas Kyrielle and John Beaufort, Duke of Somerset. He is recorded on an expedition to France in 1443. This is the earliest recorded use of the name that we have found.

- **Francis Eastlake/Eastlack (born circa 1635):** Francis was the Quaker minister who emigrated to the United States from Plymouth and started the Eastlack family. He and his wife Margaret suffered much persecution in England and Bermuda before settling in New Jersey. He wrote a book on his religious beliefs while in Bermuda.
- **Charles Locke Eastlake (1836-1901):** From Wikipedia, we know that Charles was a British architect and furniture designer, nephew of Sir Charles Lock Eastlake, painter and President of the Royal Academy. He started the Eastlake Movement, a design reform movement where he 'posited that furniture and decor in people's homes should be made by hand or machine workers who took personal pride in their work.' We have found many references to Charles and his Eastlake Movement.
- **Alfred Eastlack Driscoll (1902-1975):** Alfred was a US politician, a member of the Republican Party. He first served as a Senator for New Jersey and then became Governor of New Jersey from 1947 to 1954. It seems fitting that he served the state in which

the Eastlack family originated in the 1600s.

- **Harry Raymond Eastlack (1933-1973):** According to Wikipedia, Harry 'died from fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva (FOP), a rare and poorly understood disease in which the bone repair mechanism runs out of control, turning other tissue like muscles and tendons into bone. Eastlack permitted his skeleton to be preserved for scientific research, and it is today on display at the Mutter Museum of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia. His skeleton is one of the few existing in the world and a valuable asset to the study of the disease.'

THE VALUE OF THE EXERCISE

Participants found the exercise valuable for the following reasons:

- **Applying What We've Learned about Organising our Studies:** The volume of information, the time constraints and the need to work with a group forced us to organise the exercise and the data we collected. Making use of a shared Research Log was particularly valuable.
- **Finding Out about many New Sources:** Capturing the URLs has made it possible to use our results in any one-name study.
- **Learning Techniques for Saving Information:** Several team members had the opportunity to store the detailed indices behind the summary numbers. In this case, practice makes perfect and we can now capture large volumes of data far more efficiently. In addition, the data is being captured in a manner that makes subsequent analysis easier.

- **Finding Value in Collaboration:** The amount of information that the group could assemble in two weeks far exceeds what any individual could have done. In addition, each team member brought their own unique experience to bear on identifying sources. Collaborative techniques can be applied to any one-name study, even rare surnames.

Post-Course Note:

The results of this exercise are proving very valuable to continuing research into the Eastlake surname, identifying locations and providing indices to the many sources available. In addition, research planning is simplified and results can be easily organised. A significant portion of the 1800s has already been reconstructed for the British Isles and variant names have now clarified, with Eastlake and Eslick being the prevalent names in England. ■

Distribution of the EASTLAKE surname in census years 1841-1901 – England & Wales

(source: *The Genealogist*, accessed 10 July 2010)

Census Year	Berkshire	Channel I.	Cheshire	Cornwall	Devon	Durham	Essex	Gloucs	Hampshire	Kent	Lancs	London	Middx	Northants	Northumbs	Pembrokes	Somerset	Staffs	Suffolk	Surrey	Sussex	Westm'land	Worcs	Yorks	Crew Lists	TOTAL E&W
1841				11	43							8				10	1				7			2		82
1851				21	51							18				7	2									99
1861	1			30	42							22				11	2				8		2			118
1871				13	35				1			60	2	5	11	3							5	1		136
1881				9	54	10			1			60	6		11	4										155
1891		8	9	28	43	1		1		1	13	73	4	2	3	7	5	4		3		1		1		207
1901				29	40	7	2	8		2	1	68			40	11	5		1	4				5	1	224
all years	1	8	9	141	308	18	2	9	2	3	14	309	12	7	65	53	15	4	1	7	15	1	7	9	1	1021

Distribution of surname ES(T)LICK in census years 1841 – 1901 in England and Wales

Census Year	Channel I.	Cardiganshire	Cornwall	Cumberland	Derbyshire	Devon	Durham	Glamorgan	Kent	Lancs	London	Middx	Somerset	Suffolk	Surrey	Yorks	TOTAL E&W
1841			31			6					4						41
1851	2		84			5		4			10						105
1861			92			8		5			4	1					110
1871		7	106			10					13						136
1881			53	9		12	23			12	15	1		2	1	2	130
1891			50		1	17	10			8	1	2					89
1901			54			9	17		6	23	6	1	1				117
all years	2	7	470	9	1	67	50	9	6	43	53	5	1	2	1	2	728



One-Name Archaeology?

by **Derek Palgrave**

As I was one of the weakest history students in the class at school, my teacher suggested that I visit a remote church in North Norfolk where, he said, there were some interesting monuments. As a teenager I was not into monuments so I did not take any action at the time. A year or so later, when I had acquired a tandem, jointly with my then girlfriend, now my wife, we set out for North Barningham, St Peter. The church was difficult to find and, when we eventually arrived, the door was locked.

We collected the key from the address given on the notice-board, opened the door and entered a small but charming country church. However our main purpose was to see the monuments, some of which were in the north aisle and others in the chancel. Dominating the east end of the aisle was a magnificent 17th century tomb-chest with grey marble columns supporting a curved pediment below which were two oval niches containing busts of a man and his wife. The whole structure was embellished with heraldic shields. On reading the inscriptions we were amazed to discover that the couple commemorated were Sir Augustine Palgrave and his wife, Dame Elizabeth.

This was indeed a revelation and a moment to savour – was I related to these people? Who featured on the other monuments? Nearby, on the floor, was a 16th century brass to Henry Palgrave and his wife, Ann. In the chancel there was another, but less elaborate, tomb-chest to John Palgrave together with a ledger stone in the floor to another Sir Augustine Palgrave. Furthermore, high on the north wall of the chancel was a very ornate sculptured monument to Margaret Pope, née Palgrave, showing her as a kneeling figure in a recess flanked by angels, and under a

canopy bearing a composite shield of eighteen quarterings.

That first visit to North Barningham had profound consequences – I realised that I needed not only to explore potential genealogical links but also to appreciate the importance of heraldic symbolism. We continued to visit the church from time to time gradually introducing more of our relatives to these unique memorials. Later on in the early sixties I began contacting Palgraves listed in telephone directories as well as systematically collecting references to the surname in the published literature and original documents. In 1968 I met Patrick Palgrave-Moore, who was launching the Norfolk and Norwich Genealogical Society, and this led to an expansion of our research effort to cover rather more archival material.

Under Threat

In 1969 we heard that, under the terms of the Pastoral Measure¹, there was a petition to have St Peter's declared redundant. It had not been in regular use for twenty years or so; it was very neglected and the churchyard was seriously overgrown. The main provisions of the Measure were either the disposal of the building to be used for some other purpose or the removal of its roof so it became, to all intents and purposes, a ruin. There was also a third option allowing the church to be vested in the Redundant Churches Fund on the grounds of architectural or historical merit.

Naturally our concern was the fate of the monuments in which the Victoria and Albert Museum had already expressed an interest. It was our view that they should stay where they were, as markers for the remains of those that they commemorated. I drafted a pamphlet describing the monuments and their association with the



Fig 1. Monument in north aisle to Augustine and Elizabeth Palgrave.

manorial family and circulated this as widely as possible among the many living Palgraves whom I had located, seeking their support for vesting the Church in the RCF. We also received considerable backing from the Norfolk Churches Trust led by Lady Harrod, prominent in local conservation matters. She advocated our organising some services in the church, the first of which took place in June 1973 to celebrate the Patron Saint's Day. This was well attended by local people and several members of the Palgrave families who lived in the Norfolk area.

The press coverage² of this event was very supportive and it became clear that more services needed to be organised and who better to take on

this responsibility than the Palgraves. Later that year we arranged a gathering at a convenient venue just outside Norwich where those present agreed that a formal association would be beneficial and this became the launch-pad for the Palgrave Society. Two major advantages ensued: we had a group identity, when communicating with the various church authorities to persuade them to conserve St Peter's, and we had a pool of concerned members who were able to take part in regular working parties in the church and churchyard at North Barningham. This combination proved very effective and after instituting a programme of voluntary maintenance sessions both inside and outside the building, the Society organised further services in 1974, 1975 and 1976. These efforts demonstrated beyond all doubt that there was a convincing argument in favour of conservation so there was much rejoicing when the decision was made by the church authorities that St Peter's would be vested in the RCF for the foreseeable future.

The Palgrave Society has continued to contribute to the regular maintenance of the church and churchyard and for almost forty years has been arranging an annual service every June. On each occasion this has involved finding a clergyman to take the service and a choir to lead the singing, and running a publicity campaign to encourage a worthwhile congregation. Initially there were problems associated with seating as many of the pews had



Fig 2. Brass in north aisle to Henry & Ann Palgrave

been given away before vesting, so it was necessary to borrow chairs from elsewhere. Furthermore there was no pulpit, lectern or altar rails. After much discussion with the RCF (now referred to as the Churches Conservation Trust), the Palgrave Society managed to acquire replacements for all the missing items from other redundant churches which were no longer in use for regular worship.

Many other appropriate events have taken place including weddings, christenings, a Flower Festival and, over the last few years, Heritage Weekends with exhibitions and guided tours. We have also listed the gravestones in the churchyard, compiled a church guide³ and published a number of monographs^{4,5} featuring the church, its history and its heraldry.

Other Surname Links

I am sure we are not alone in our endeavours and I am aware that there are other members of the Guild who have links with specific churches associated with their one-name study. The Swinnertons have strong associations with the church in the village of Swinnerton, similarly the Filbys with Filby Church in Norfolk. The Alabasters have a special link with Hadleigh church and the Surmans with that at Tredington. Even if a family does not have an obvious connection with a particular church it is worth checking the records of Memorial Inscriptions in Record Offices, Libraries and FHS collections with a view to arranging to photograph any relevant gravestones in churchyards and cemeteries.

Incidentally heraldic reference works often provide clues to places with known links to armigers where there could be tombs, hatchments or other tangible archaeological evidence related to a specific one-name study. Material of this type is increasingly at risk so it is important to record it and, if at all possible, assist in its conservation. It is also worth checking specialist museum collections for artefacts known to have been owned or used by a bearer of the registered surname. Occasionally items appear on Ebay and, almost by chance, we have been able to acquire a few objects including a medal, a spoon and, in a few instances, books.



Fig 3. Wall monument in chancel to Margaret, daughter of John Palgrave.

Having been prompted by a teacher to look at some ancient monuments in a remote Norfolk church brought about a change in my attitude to history for ever. Imagine my delight a few years ago when I was able to speak to that teacher's daughter, who now lives in Australia, but then on holiday in UK and attending a Guild Conference. Although her father was no longer alive, she was sure he would have appreciated the outcome. ■

References

1. Elliot-Binns, M.F., **A Guide to the Pastoral Measure**, Church Information Office, Westminster, 1969
2. **Eastern Daily Press & Eastern Evening News**, 30 Jun 1973
3. **St Peter, North Barningham, A Guide to the Church**, Palgrave Society, 1996
4. **North Barningham, the Church, the Hall and the Palgrave Family**, Palgrave Society, 1974
5. **Heraldry at North Barningham Church**, Palgrave Society, 1976



The Moulder Archive

By Sue Horsman

With thanks to Jenny Tudbury and Peter Copsey for their assistance

The Derbyshire Guild members who attended a meeting in September were unanimous that this article ought to be written, and that as I had initially suggested it, then I should write it. Oh Dear – me and my big mouth!

First decision – what to call the article; something snappy to get the readers attention? Definitely not – that would be disrespectful, especially after viewing the contents of what we found ourselves dealing with.

Going back a few weeks in time, Jenny Tudbury, the Regional Rep for Derbyshire was contacted by the Guild Archive Manager, to say that a Derbyshire member had died, and that his family wished to donate his research to the Guild. Could she organise something? Fortunately there was a Derbyshire group meeting coming up, and John Moses, one of the attendees lived near to the late member. Jenny arranged for John to collect the research, which he duly did, and brought to the meeting. The large cardboard boxes full of ring binders were duly deposited in Jenny's lounge.

Our meeting discussing brick walls and different archives went ahead as planned, followed by lunch on the patio on a sunny but chilly September day. Roy Dunicliffe had to leave soon after lunch, so whilst the rest of us were still eating, he went to take a look at the boxes. He soon returned looking shell shocked, and said 'Crikey I wish I had not seen it'.

After lunch, we adjourned to the lounge with cups of tea to see what John had brought.

Background

Michael David Moulder was born in 1947 in London. At 16 he left school and like his father, Frederick he became a Postman. He was Guild



John Moses, Sue Horsman and Andrew Apps inspecting the Moulder research

member number 425 and had joined the Guild in about 1983. At that time he had moved away from his family and was living in Plymouth where a few years later he married Joyce.

In later years Michael and Joyce moved to Chesterfield in Derbyshire where earlier this year Michael sadly died.

Getting started

On entering the lounge we found ourselves looking at over 30 years worth of research into the Moulder family. There were 7 large boxes, each containing binders containing all manner of research and correspondence, all contents being individually filed in plastic wallets. We were all lost for words and were unable to describe our feelings, other than 'What on earth are they going to do with that'

It was however food for thought, as we were all thinking about our own individual studies and filing systems

(or lack of them). Seeing the 'Moulder Archive', sadly no longer neatly filed in sequence, really brought it home to all of us that several things needed attention in our own studies.

Firstly, what would happen to it when we ourselves went to join the ancestors? I am definitely taking a list of questions with me when I depart this world.

Have we anyone who is interested in taking over our study? Have we told anyone (or put in our will) what is to be done with all our hard work? If we have nobody to leave it to, have we said that we want it to be donated to the Guild?

Having made plans for its future, is our research in a fit state to be handed over? We may understand our own filing systems, but does anyone else? Is the research filed logically and labelled so that our successor can find their way around it? Have we made it obvious that our successor needs our computer

files? Where are they stored and what packages do we use? Have we labelled all our photographs? We may know who people are but will our successor?

Oh dear, not many 'ticks in the box' so far!

The Guild Archive

Back to our pile of boxes. The master plan is that at the next conference Jenny will hand over the boxes to Peter Copsey, who is the Guild Archivist.

Peter explained to us that the Guild employs a digitising company that will take the papers and digitise them. Most papers are suitable; the exceptions are anything that is stiffly bound and cannot be laid flat and anything that is very large (over A0). Trees written on wallpaper are a particular problem. When the papers are returned, they are boxed into cardboard archive boxes and taken to the Guild store in Romford. The Guild is about to increase the amount of racking in the store to increase its capacity. But a time will come when the Guild will need to decide whether to destroy some of the paper archives (relying solely on the digitised images) or rent a bigger store (possible budget problem).

Just in case anyone is worried about the thought of destroying paper

records, there is adequate back-up of the e-library. Copies of the e-library are held, not only with the e-librarian, but with the webmaster and on a hard-drive back-up kept in the store. Also, the Guild would be happy to return the original paper material to the originator, or his/her family, should this be preferred to placing it in store after digitising.

We decided that before we gave the boxes to Peter, we should try and sort the contents of the boxes into meaningful groups, so I returned to Jenny's house a couple of days later and we did this. We found at least 20 years of correspondence from which it was apparent that over the years Michael had helped many people throughout the world with the research into their own branches and twigs of the Moulder name.

Also as part of the exercise we realised that there were a large quantity of Marriage Certificates. We decided that it would be a fitting legacy to Michael's work if these were submitted to the Guild Marriage Index, so I agreed to take them and input details to a spreadsheet prior to submission. We also decided that I should contact any Guild members where I found a Moulder marriage to a registered name, to offer them details of the marriage.

The whole experience has been extremely thought provoking for everyone involved, showing us that we all need to consider the future of our research.

We must have all spent many years researching, and have experienced the highs and lows: of 'eureka moments' to brick walls that simply will not be breached. Added to how much have we spent on our research? We would not want all this to be lost.

Going back to our Derbyshire group meeting and the topic delayed in order to view the Moulder research: we are now all looking forward to the next meeting when Jenny Tudbury will be giving a PowerPoint presentation on the Guild On-line Archive. Is that a coincidence or what?

And finally, as I am completing this article I see an announcement in the Guild Members Room of a new facility for members to nominate a 'genealogical next of kin' and to determine what should happen to their Guild Archive and Profile pages.

I for one will be taking recent events as a 'wake up call', as I'm sure will the other Derbyshire members who were present at our September meeting. ■

Who Do You Think You Are? Live 2011

By **Corrinne Goodenough**

Welcome to all our new members (47) who joined the Guild during WDYTIA? It was great to meet you during the event and we look forward to meeting you again, perhaps at a Seminar or maybe Conference?

During the show we demonstrated the latest version of Surname Atlas, answered enquiries regarding registered surnames, and passed on contact details to visitors.

We met many Guild members and friends who visited the Stand to say hello and were delighted to see you all.

We were very busy, but not so busy that we couldn't introduce members from opposite sides of the globe, to each other.

Thank you to all the Guild members who gave up their time to help on the Guild Stand or in the "Ask the Experts" area. You were fantastic and the Guild couldn't have managed without you.

Barbara Harvey (Loverock ONS) met Eileen Robbins (see below), who visited the Guild Stand to see if anyone was researching the Loverock name. Barbara and Eileen share a common ancestor and are now swapping notes! ■





Marriage Challenge Update

Marriage Challenge Celebrates its 6th Birthday

By **Peter Copsey**

It is now over 6 years since the first Marriage Challenge (MC) began. This was in February 2005 when Howard Benbrook and myself visited the London Metropolitan Archives with a search list of 160 marriages within the Pancras Registration District. We were not sure how many we would find in a day and whether it was "a task too far". But the experience was so rewarding, the results so satisfying and the response so encouraging that Marriage Challenge took off and has flourished ever since.

During this 6-year period about 90,000 marriage entries have been found and fully transcribed - helping many of us to make progress with our one-name studies. When you consider the cost of purchasing a certificate from the GRO today at £9.25p each; this amounts to a benefit of £830,000 to our members whilst expenses claimed by Challengers have been under £6000. But all our volunteers have given to the Guild many, many valuable hours of their time undertaking Challenges for which we are most grateful. I believe this is part of the strength of the Guild where many of us are willing to donate our time to help other members and

differentiates us from most county family history societies.

Challenges covering a total of 210 Registration Districts (as at 1st March 2011) have been performed. Some have been undertaken in stages in order to limit the size of each task and there have been a few Repeat-Challenges. Bearing in mind that MC has been running for 6 years, it is very suitable to take on Repeats of the early Challenges as this will help our newer members and those who were not appreciative of the benefits of MC when it first began. Even a second repeat is not unreasonable and I hope to be offering this for West Ham RD later in the year.

Could you do a Challenge?

Marriage Challenge is rewarding and enjoyable and you will be helping your fellow Guild members with their studies. You could share the task with a friend or another Guild member. If you think you could become a Challenger, I look forward to hearing from you. Contact me, the Marriage Challenge Co-ordinator, on marriage-challenge@one-name.org. Generally, expenses incurred during a Challenge will be repaid by the Guild.

"During this 6-year period about 90,000 marriage entries have been found and fully transcribed"

Below is the list of forthcoming Challenges. All members are encouraged to send their requests to the Challengers by e-mail, hopefully using the standard "requests.xls" spreadsheet on the MC web-page. However most Challengers will accept requests in any form. Send the listing extracted from the GRO Marriage index (FreeBMD will give almost all of them) for the named Registration District between the years given (Year, Quarter, Surname, First names, Full GRO reference). Challengers will search for and often find your marriages in the deposited Church registers and then send you the full particulars. ■

Registration District and Period	Deadline	Challenger	Challenger's e-mail
Settle 1837 - 1911	30 Apr 2011	Karen Burnell	armistead@one-name.org
Risbridge 1837 - 1911	1 May 2011	Sandra Stevens	hazelwood@one-name.org
Alnwick 1837 - 1911	1 May 2011	Sue Horsman	horsman@one-name.org
Pateley Bridge 1837 - 1911	1 May 2011	Karen Burnell	armistead@one-name.org
Poole Stage 2 1882 - 1911	1 Jun 2011	Jenny Compton	hadaway@one-name.org
Maldon 1837 - 1911	5 Jun 2011	Peter Copsey	copsey@one-name.org



Killing 'em off

by Roger Goacher

An important part of family reconstruction in a One-Name Study is to trying to find the death or burial of an individual. This is often easier to do for those born in the late 18th or 19th century rather than the 20th century.

Following a family through successive censuses can identify when a spouse is first recorded as a widow or widower. Checks with BMD indexes often identify the likely death details if the first name or location is unusual. But they won't identify the exact date, cause or place of death, nor will they show where the deceased was buried. Buying death certificates to get the full details is an expensive business.

You may have inherited Victorian or Edwardian Mourning Cards, similar to the one illustrated, which provide fuller details, but they rarely give all the information that we would like.

An Internet check may provide an obituary if the individual was noted in some way. Many historical newspapers are now online, and cemetery and crematoria records are increasingly being indexed and being made available. Many local Family History Societies have published memorial and cemetery records for churches in their area, and the National Burial Index for England & Wales may help pinpoint a death we are seeking.

Full details of sources worth checking for historical deaths can be found in

the Guild Wiki on the website under the section for a particular country.

But what about more recent deaths? The Death Indexes for England & Wales on *Ancestry* go up to 2005 and on *Findmypast* to 2006. These may help; but in my ONS I have far too many individuals named John or Daniel, Mary or Jane to positively identify a particular death; increased mobility often meant that they had moved well away from where they were born by the time they died.

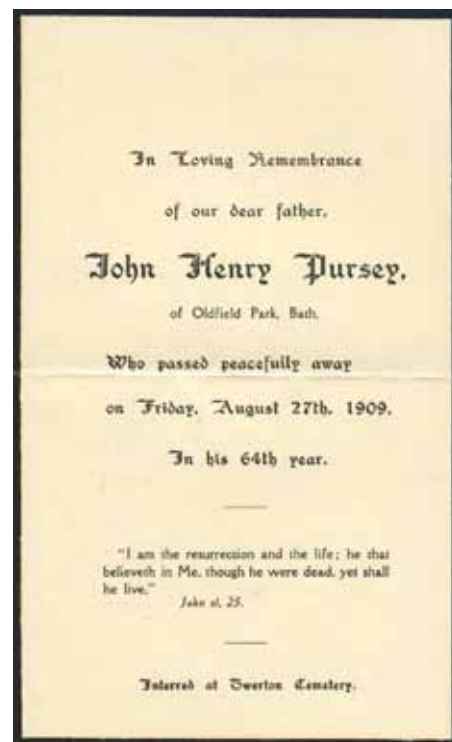
Most national newspapers and some of the large regional ones are online, but searching for a particular death is very 'hit and miss'. Most local papers are not online, but often contain an announcement that would be very useful to someone's ONS.

For some time a few of us have been scanning our local papers for Guild 'names' and providing details of announcements to help other members. This is so valuable that the Committee has adopted the idea as an official Guild project – The Newswatch Project.

Since the project was announced by the co-ordinator, Jim Isard, in the July 2010 Journal more than 70 members have joined. Full details of those taking part, and what is involved, can be found in that Journal or on the Newswatch web page <http://www.one-name.org/members/newswatch.html>.

Since the Newswatch Project was launched I have received two announcements relating to my ONS – one from a Canadian Newspaper and one from Britain.

Who wouldn't want to receive an announcement such as that shown? All the details given for three generations should enable me to slot the family in to one of my trees easily



and probably 'knock off' some of my outstanding database entries.

The Guild Newswatch Project is an exciting development, but we need more volunteers to look at THEIR local paper. The more 'watchers' we have the more likely that YOU will receive something to help your ONS. We particularly need more participants from outside the UK. Announcements found to help another Guild member can far outweigh the limited time involved.

The value of the project is shown by an email Jim Isard received from a member:

"Interestingly this morning, after receiving your transcript we spent an extensive 3 hours putting a lot of pieces into place. I would rate the Newswatch Project to be as beneficial as the Marriage Challenge." ■

GWYNETH LOUISA GOACHER (GWEN)

Of Wayland Avenue, Crawley Down, passed away peacefully at St Catherine's Hospice on 21 August 2010, aged 68, after a long illness.

She will be sadly missed by her beloved husband Terry, children Mark and Christine, daughter-in-law Sarah, grandchildren Jonathan, Kylie and Joss, and all her other family and friends.

Her funeral service will take place at The Surrey & Sussex Crematorium, today (Thursday 26 August) at 3.30pm.

Some Speculations on the Origin of the Quested Surname

By **Penelope Burton**

The most famous QUESTED of all never really existed. Adela is the heroine of *A Passage to India*¹, to whom something terrible may or may not have happened in the Marabar Caves. This novel could be a metaphor for the mysterious origin of the QUESTED name; wild speculations about the truth are made, and what really happened is never satisfactorily explained! In this essay I shall examine how I set about discovering the name's origins, and describe some avenues explored, including some leading to probable red herrings. This is a work in progress, but we are exhorted by fellow GOONS such as Peter Walker² to publish, and I hope that by doing so more expert one-namers, etymologists, philologists, mappers and others than I might be able to suggest which roads we should follow.

The QUESTED Study in outline

My husband, growing up in Berkshire, knew that QUESTED was a rare surname, and that his family had roots deep in the roughest areas of the East End of London. Most of the (handful) of QUESTEDs in the London phone books were known to his family. When he took a student job working on the Cross-Channel ferries out of Dover, he was astonished to find that, in Kent, the name was more common, with shop signs and adverts exhibiting the name QUESTED. His family, along with others I have met subsequently, supposed the name to be of French origin. This may be because the name 'looks' French, but no-one has produced any evidence for this. I decided to study the name three years ago, collecting the census and BMD data which was readily available online. I stored the data in Family Tree Maker 2006 and also in Excel spreadsheets. I then found that QUESTED was registered with GOONS and contacted Helen Smith, who is the coordinator of the study. She has collected QUESTED data over many years, and we are now collaborating. I recount

this in order to make it clear that my contributions to the ONS are particularly concerned with two areas; reconstructing the London QUESTEDs and looking at the origins of the name.

The study is small, with 212 occurrences in the 1881 Census³, 314 in the 1911 Census⁴, 251 in the National Trust Names dataset for 1998⁵ and 301 in the ONS Surname database for England and Wales⁶. The Censuses, BMDs and Parish Records all show the name concentrated in Kent, although small numbers were found in London from the 16th century, the name proliferating there from the 1850s onwards. In the present day QUESTEDs are also found in the Anglophone "Old Commonwealth" countries and the USA.

First steps: but are they in the right direction?

When I first started researching QUESTED I looked in all the surname dictionaries I could find. The name does not occur at all in a number of them, presumably due to its rarity. Barber⁷ claims that it is 'from Quenstadt; a German loc[ative] and p[ersonal] n[ame]'. Bardsley⁸ agrees that it is 'Local, "of Quested."' from the suffix -stead, but states 'I cannot find the spot'. The earliest reference to the name which he gives is 1622. Reaney⁹ says that it is "of uncertain origin, probably a habitat name from the lost village of Questers (earlier Quernstede) in the Parish of Sampford, Essex". The Oxford Dictionary of Surnames¹⁰ echoes Reaney, and states that; 'A quern is a stone handmill for grinding corn, from Old English, cweorn 'quern, hand-mill' + stede; site'. I was unable to find the mysterious village of Questers in any modern gazetteer.

From my initial BMD and Census data collection (which were bedevilled by mistranscriptions on the various Family History websites), I found some

true variants for identified Quested individuals which included QUISTEDE, QUISTED, QUESTAD and QUESTEAD.

The Soundex Matches from the NameThesaurus¹¹ website are shown below:

Quaistedt, Quastad, Questad, Questat, Questead, Questet, Questod, Questwod, Questwood, Quickstad, Quickstead, Quicksted, Quigstad, Quistad, Quistead, Quisted, Quisthoudt, Quisthout, Qwested.

The site also gives 31 Namex matches and 139 Metaphone matches for QUESTED. None of these names contain 'QUER-'. This is discussed further in the linguistics section below.

I made primitive attempts at mapping the surname data, using the basic distribution maps available on Ancestry, The Genealogist, National Trust Names and also The British Surname Atlas and GenMap from Archer Software¹². This exercise revealed what was already known; that the QUESTEDs were predominantly located in Kent throughout the 19th Century. It also demonstrated that, for more detailed analysis, the data needed to be more consistent with regard to how the locations were stored, in order that it could be properly geocoded in some way. I experimented, not very successfully, with Google Earth¹³. The recent Guild of One-Name Studies Mapping Seminar, however, has shown how Google Earth and applications which make the most of its many features, are the way forward for one-namers.

From reading books on surname research, such as those by George Redmonds¹⁴ and Colin Rogers¹⁵ I realized both that the surname was likely to have originated in Kent, and that earlier records of the name and any variants were needed to progress the search for the origin of the name.

Linguistic byways

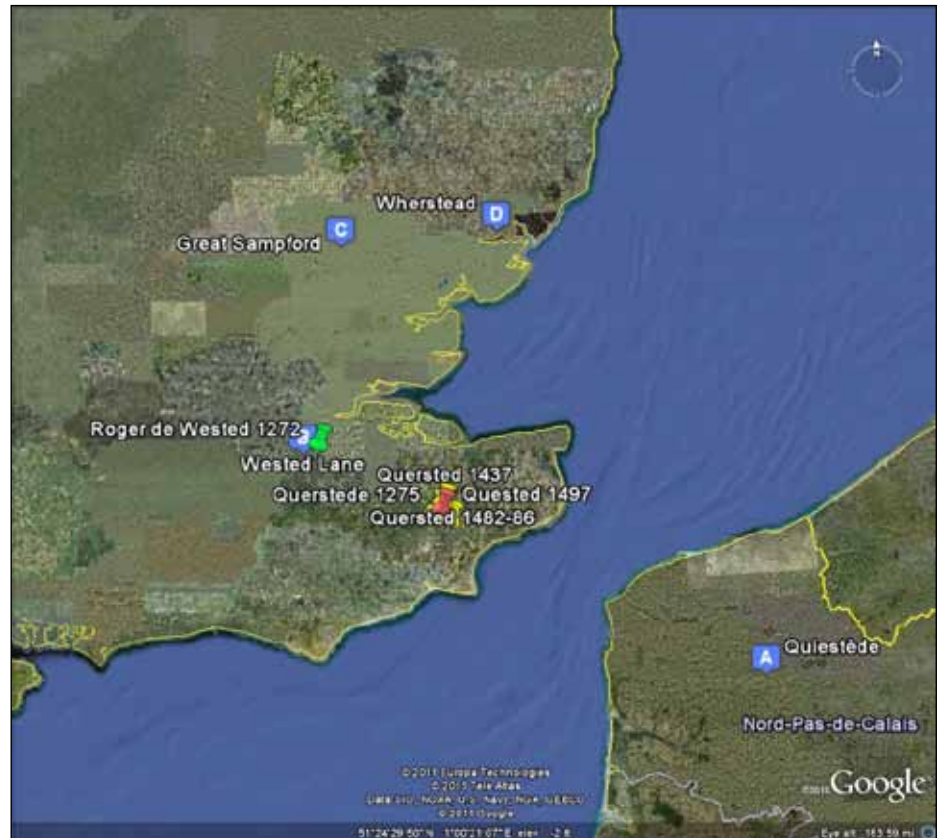
At this point, my tutor on the Genealogy research skills course at Birkbeck¹⁶, and GOONS member, Mari Alderman suggested that there were a number of Kent family- and place-names where 'Qu' and 'W' are transposed, for example, Wickenden and Quickenden and Wharmby and Quarmby, and that I might look at WESTED as a source of the name.

David Crystal¹⁷ briefly discusses this shift between w- wh- and qw- which is evident in lay subsidies from East Anglia around 1300. Others have demonstrated that the Latin <qu> replaced the Old English <cw> for example cwen becomes Modern English 'queen'¹⁸. It appeared to be worth pursuing any links between QUESTED and WESTED.

There is only one WESTED place-name in the ARCHI¹⁹ gazetteer. And it is in Kent, just where the M20 joins the M25, between Eynsford and Crockenhill. However, this is some forty miles northwest of the Ashford area where the QUESTEDs have been found for 500 years. Today there is just a Wested Farmhouse on Wested Lane. I searched the National Archives²⁰ and the Census and BMD records online for WESTED as either a place name or a surname. In both usages it is very rare. I only found six WESTEDs in the censuses 1841-1911, on Findmypast²¹, and only six different marriages looking on all the online sites available to me. As a place-name, apart from some modern references to Wested Farmhouse in Kent, I found single uses in each of Devon (1634), Suffolk (1313), Yorkshire (1596) and Hampshire (1707). Of greater interest is reference to a Quitclaim²² held at the centre for Kentish Studies:

'Margery dau. of Stephen Havyngod and formerly W. of Osbert de Cobbeham to Sir Ralph de Sandweye Kt. (.....) All her rights in the manors of Stutyuges, Wrotham, Ehteham, Stanstede, Eynsford, Craweham, Stocton (....) Wm. Sir Wm. de Fawkeham, (....), Robert de Eynerford, Robert Russel, Roger de Wested, Ralph Hareny, Richard Culverhus, Robert Kateby, Rich. de Cunbe clerk'

So here is a Roger de WESTED, associated with the very area where the present-day WESTED is situated, in a document from 1272. I contacted



the archivist for the Farningham and Eynsford Local History Society²³, through their website, and was informed that her earliest reference to the location WESTED was from 1545. I could not find any local QUESTED or WESTED parish records in the available indexes.

Following this WESTED byway, I looked at the name WESTHEAD, which sounds (to the untrained such as myself) as if it might be linguistically similar. This name, although rare, is more numerous than QUESTED, with 372 in the 1841 census, rising each ten years to 687 in the 1881 and 1085 in 1911²⁴. In the earlier censuses they are almost exclusively to be found in Lancashire, and the majority are found there and in adjacent counties in 1911. I do not consider WESTHEAD and QUESTED to be connected.

As a brief additional excursion from the main path, when I was searching for exact names and also for deviants I was concerned that in the former case we might have a considerable list of terms to search each index on, and in the latter case that we can never be certain that the software behind the search engine (for example on Ancestry)²⁵ is using the same logic as a one-namer might. I asked John Challis of The NameThesaurus²⁶ about this, as I felt that Soundex produced better true matches for QUESTED

than NameX or the extensive and bewildering Metaphone list which the search returns. His reply (via email) is interesting:

(...) although etymology is not our primary concern. NameX is used by several genealogy service providers, (...)

The problem with Soundex generally is that its Precision is so poor – in other words it returns far too many poor matches, mixed up with the good results. But in the case of "Quersted" it returns good results with good Precision. Fortunately (for NameX) this is a rare example. (...)

This poses some questions regarding understanding search engines, but, tangentially, also served to remind me of the need to improve my record-keeping of terms used to search each database.

Back on track, or round in circles?

At this point I joined the Guild and made contact with Helen Smith, coordinator of the QUESTED ONS. She agreed that the 'lost Essex village of Questers' theory was curious, as she has found no early records in Essex and can establish QUESTEDs in Kent from the late 1400s, and in particular around Westwell. We are now collaborating on the QUESTED ONS, and have set up mechanisms for sharing data online using Dropbox²⁷

which is a file storage site which can give us both access to the same files which are synchronised on all our computers. This or a similar application would be useful to any GOONS member, but is a necessity for us as we are based on opposite sides of the Globe. We have both undertaken the excellent Pharos²⁸ ONS courses which, in my case at least, have made me review my approach to data collection, analysis and synthesis. We have reviewed our data and realised that we need a more standardised approach to data formats and need to also set up a data log so that we do not duplicate effort.

We have re-examined the early QUESTED data, and collected more interesting occurrences of the name as more indexes come online. The East Kent Will Index 1396-1659 (updated in 2010)²⁹, gives these numbers of documents; QUESTED (29), QUERSTED(7), QUERSTEDE(2), QUESTEAD(1), QWESTED(2). Five of the 9 QUERSTED(E) wills are from the 15th century, the earliest being from 1461. There are no WESTEDs! The earliest of these QUESTED wills is from 1497.

A lease from 1437 mentions 3 QUERSTEDE males, two from Westwell and one from Ashford. A recent find from the Original Record³⁰ website is a reference to a Mabel de QUERSTEDE from the Patent Rolls of 1275-1276, mentioning Hothfield, which is less than three miles from Westwell.

QUESTED has not been found in the Kent Feet of Fines of the 12th to 14th centuries or in the 1334/5 Kent Lay Subsidy Roll.

It is clear that there are QUESTEDs and QUERSTED(E)s in the same small area of Kent in the 15th Century, and the record from the previous paragraph is from two hundred years earlier and in the same small area. This seems to throw more doubt on the Essex origin for the name, so I returned to look at this theory. Reaney³¹ does give QUESTERS as a group of field-names in three adjacent parishes around Great Sampford, Essex, and states that it was recorded as QUERNSTED and QUERNSTEDE in the 13th and 14th centuries; that Great QUESTERS (in Little Sampford), is recorded as QUESTED in 1484, and as QUESTED (in Thaxted), in the 16th century. So we do have a linguistic link with our name, but no early genealogical links so far with Essex.

However, QUESTED is only recorded as a place-name there after we know there are QUESTEDs in Kent. We know from the work of McKinley³², Hey³³ and Redmonds³⁴ that surnames may arise from a single homestead, also that the modern distribution of the name, even if circumscribed, may not relate to the location which gave rise to it. However, it seems to me doubtful that a few fields in Essex could lead to a name which ramified so soon after in Kent. I contacted The Institute for Name Studies³⁵ at the University of Nottingham to ask whether there was any evidence of QUESTED/WESTED place-names in Kent (the Kent volume of the English Place-name series is not completed). The researcher's reply, passed to me via email, reiterated the Reaney hypothesis, and pointed out 'on the Tithe Maps (of c.1840) 'Great and Little Questers cover one single area of considerable size (over 40 acres)'; he did not think the surname can have originated in Kent.

In the light of the early forms QUERSTED(E) found recently in our data, I returned to Google and searched the Web, Google Books and Google Scholar for this variant. I found a small number of interesting occurrences of QUERSTEDE .

WHERSTEAD³⁶ village website gives the following: Wherstead village lies three miles south of Ipswich. (...) In Domesday Book the place is described under the names Querstede and Wervesteda.

This website gives a number of links to antiquarian books concerning WHERSTEAD, several by the Reverend Zincke³⁷, which are available in PDF format. These will make for a lot of reading; a post on Rootsweb³⁸ gives an extract listing many names for WHERSTEAD.

I found a number of references to an Albrecht QUERSTEDT circa 1426 on German sites³⁹ which I am unable to translate, despite trying Google Translate.

Lastly, I found a French antiquarian book online⁴⁰, which gave the following:

QUIESTÈDE, c°n d'Aire. 307 hab.; en 1698 : 446 h. — Kierstede, pouil. de Thérouanne. — Querstede, pouil. de Boulogne. — Quistède, le Petit et le Grand, Bignon. — Quistède, village; (...) Maillart. C'est au Petit Quiestède.

Quiestède is a small village 54 kilometres south-east of Calais, whose name was given as QUERSTEDE in some as yet unidentified earlier document. Google Maps reveals that Quiestède is 88 miles from Westwell, including a short hop across the Channel. Little Sampford is 95 miles and Wherstead 111 miles from Westwell. This could induce a return to wild speculation.

Are we nearly there yet?

To return to E M Forster, he went to Tonbridge School, in Kent, allowing me to speculate that he came across the name of his heroine there, or even a prototype for Miss Adela QUESTED.

To summarize, we have QUESTEDs established around Westwell, in Kent, from the 15th century onwards. QUERSTED(E), found in the same location from the 13th century, is a variant and probably an earlier form of the name, having all but died out by the late 17th century. Etymologists and philologists consider the derivation to be from cweorn 'quern, hand-mill' + stede; site, and argue that the origin is a lost village in Essex. We also have a village in Suffolk and one in France, whose names have been written identically in the past, and a 15th century German with a possible variant of the name. Work has also started on looking at the present day distributions of QUESTAD, a Norwegian name, found in the USA, and also on KVISTAD, found mainly in Norway. It is difficult for an amateur to evaluate linguistic explanations for the origin of a name. If the QUERSTED(E) form takes us nearer to the linguistic roots of the surname, is the evidence for the name arising in Essex really any greater than that for it originating in Suffolk, or, indeed, France?

I have learnt so far that following red herrings can waste time which might have been better spent stopping to organise, analyse and synthesise my existing data. However, sometimes a blind alley may contain a nugget of information; collaboration can bring great rewards and a new emphasis to an ONS and taking stock and reviewing 'known unknowns' is an essential part of our One-name study.

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National Trust Names <http://www.nationaltrustnames.org.uk/>

The Surname Atlas and GenMap, <http://www.archersoftware.co.uk/>



Seminar Report - Rogues Seminar

Ruishton Village Hall, Taunton, Somerset, Feb 12th 2011

By **Janet Few**

Janet sent a very comprehensive report containing extra details on the four talks. Owing to lack of space we have produced the following précis. Janet's full report with website links may be found on the Guild website at www.one-name.org/members/seminars.html

What better way to spend a Saturday in February than in the company of a variety of rogues and criminals? No, not the delegates at the recent Guild 'Rogues Seminar' in Taunton, but the topic of the day itself. It was a measure of the friendliness of the occasion that, an hour before the official proceedings began, delegates were arriving, greeting old friends and making new ones. The seasoned hands always seem to absorb the first-timers into this ambience in a seamless fashion. One delegate, at her first seminar, commented on this, stating that she didn't in the least feel out of place. This early part of the day was also an opportunity to view the variety of posters that attendees had produced, telling the stories of the rogues, criminals and victims in their own one-name studies.

As ever, the chat with fellow attendees was every bit as important as listening to the excellent speakers. And excellent they were. What a pleasure to hear well-presented papers given by knowledgeable experts. We all had something to learn from the day. Dr Colin Chapman opened the proceedings by helping us to understand the complexities of the hierarchical church court system. Colin illustrated his talk with examples of lurid church court cases. As Colin said, forget the red-top newspapers, here is all the salacious gossip one could possibly want. And want it we do because hidden somewhere in the records of the church courts are mentions of, it is estimated, 10% of the population. That's 10% of your ancestors and mine, be they criminals, witnesses or victims. Amongst the examples quoted by Colin were: 'Marian Everard hath had a bastard and hath not come to church to give thanks after childbirth.' [Felmingham,

NFK, 1597] 'We present unto you that John Thomlinson and the wife of George Ellis were locked into a room together very suspiciously, by her husband's report.' [Thame, Oxf 1608]. And these were the ones that can be quoted before the watershed!

Next was Esther Hoyle, Senior Archivist at the Somerset Heritage Centre. She did for the civil court system what Colin had done for the ecclesiastical courts. Although Esther's examples were from Somerset, this didn't matter, as the information was applicable elsewhere. Apart from the standard petty and quarter sessions' records, that are housed in County Record Offices, Esther pointed out that we can come across references to crimes and punishments in a variety of other, sometimes unexpected, places: school log-books and vestry minutes to name but two.

After an excellent buffet lunch, organised by the efficient catering team, and more socialising and exchanging of ideas, the sessions resumed. Liz Hore, from the National Archives, spoke about the records housed there. She said that there are plans to add many of the criminal registers to the Findmypast website within the next eighteen months. This will be very valuable as the frustrating point of the whole day was the impression given, by all four speakers, that although there is certainly all sorts of wonderful information about our families in the records that they were describing, it is very difficult for us to access this in what is, at present, largely un-indexed material. Liz did mention some useful websites. Many members will be familiar with the searchable Old Bailey Online website which covers the proceedings of the Central Criminal Court 1674-1913. This



Liz Hore presents on records housed in the National Archives

site now has a User Wiki feature, where we can add additional detail about the individuals listed. Liz also mentioned the searchable index of the Archives Office of Tasmania listing many transportees. The developing website, Anglo-American Legal Tradition, with its links to the National Archives catalogue, is also worth exploring.

David Hawkings rounded off the day with an overview of the records, showing how these could be brought together by providing us with a case study of one of his own criminal ancestors (he has five and challenged us to beat the total), Thomas Hartnell, prisoner number B493. The fact that we all do have criminals in our families, if only we could find out about them, was brought home when a member of the audience spotted one of his ancestors listed on one of David's slides.

Many thanks must go to the organisers for such an interesting, informative and friendly day. Now we all need to get down to indexing court records so that the rogues and criminals can be found and added to our one-name studies. ■

Forthcoming Seminars

13th August 2011

The Art Of ONS Seminar

Subject matter would be new members with more emphasis on what an ONS entails and less on the workings of the Guild. In this revamp of our regular new members seminar, we intend to expand on methodology in the one-name study. It is planned to have a special Q&A session with specialists given advance notice in order that they may research a deeper answer.

Venue: Colonel Dane Memorial Hall, Church Street, Alwalton, PE7 3UU

19th November 2011

Railway Records Seminar

You would be hard done by if there was not a railway worker in your ancestry or one-name study. We have selected this magnificent venue and requested some of the country's most recognised specialists in the subject of railways to speak about old railway records and associated trade unions. To start us off, a member of the museum staff will explain just what they hold; should you wish to include this in your visit. Maybe you would like to stay an extra day?

Venue: STEAM - Museum of the Great Western Railway, Kemble Drive, Swindon, SN2 2TA

18th February 2012

Aldershot Army Seminar

Where better for a seminar on Army Records than at the home of the British Army, Aldershot? Not quite Aldershot, but at Ash Victoria Hall, some 3 miles to the east. Ash is home to the Army Medical Services Museum at Keogh Barracks. We shall be assembling a group of experts and trust you will join us.

Venue: Ash Victoria Hall, 121 Ash Hill Road, Ash, Surrey, GU12 5DN

Northumberland Mining Seminar

21st May 2011, Woodhorn Archives, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 9YF

Come and join us on the beautiful Northumbrian coast and learn all about mining, not just coal mining, but also the lead and iron ore mining that took place in Durham, Northumberland and the adjacent counties. We have collected a group of local experts who will tell you the story of mining in the region and assist you with names and stories to enhance your research. Time has been allowed for a visit to the Northumberland Archives and a visit to their very interesting museum. For accessing the archives, further details on requirements are available on the Woodhorn Archives website.

Programme

- 09.30 - 10.15 Arrival: Registration and Coffee
- 10.15 - 10.20 Welcome and Introduction
- 10.20 - 10.50 Woodhorn Archives Mining Records - Duty Woodhorn Archivist
- 10.50 - 11.00 Comfort Break
- 11.00 - 12.00 Durham Mining Museum and DMM Website - Kev Duncan
- 12.00 - 14.00 Finger Buffet Lunch & Opportunity to visit Museum & Archives
- 14.00 - 15.00 Early Miners' Surname Lists for Northumbria - Geoff Nicholson
- 15.00 - 15.15 Comfort Break
- 15.15 - 16.15 Mining Durham's Hidden Depths - Gill Parkes, Durham County Record Office
- 16.15 - 16.35 Wrap up, Q&A and close of seminar

Following on from our two successful seminars at Durham University in 2008 and the University of Sunderland in 2005, we return to the North East again.

With the two local archives represented, together with Kev Duncan, the creator of the famous Durham Mining Museum website, and Geoff Nicholson, well known local Genealogist, we have certainly gathered together an interesting set of speakers for this seminar.

On the Guild interactive front, should you have any stories of miners in your family to share with others, please bring along a display. In order that we are not short of room, please contact the event co-ordinator Rod Clayburn if you require a display board.

Disabled delegates. We would like to ensure that any disabled delegates may participate fully in this event. The Woodhorn complex is modern and fully Disability Acts compliant. The seminar function room and the Northumberland Archives are on upper floors, but there are lifts available. Should you need any special requirements, please telephone the Guild Help Desk below. Book on-line at www.one-name.org under the 'Event Calendar' tab. Postal booking forms may also be downloaded from the Guild website or by telephoning the Guild Help Desk Tel: 0800 011 2182. ■





Revealing Online Survey Of 'Newish' Guild Members

By **Chris Pomery**

The Guild attracts many new members every year but we've long wondered why approximately a fifth of them regularly let their membership lapse within two years of joining the Guild. Why exactly isn't the Guild working for them?

An online survey offered a quick and easy way to investigate why our 'churn rate' of newly-joining members is so high and a survey run last autumn has identified actions we can take that will improve the experience of membership for all of us.

Targeting the pool of 621 members who'd joined since mid-2008, a total of 284 replied out of the 505 who were then still paid-up members, an astonishingly high 55% response rate.

Respondents revealed that their decision whether to renew their membership or not is driven primarily by personal circumstances and lack of time. Surname studies ask a lot of us as researchers and many newcomers find they've committed to more than they feel they can accomplish. Those members not renewing also show a much lower awareness of the Guild's core services and facilities, and make much less use of them, compared to members who stick with us. 37% of all respondents were not aware of the Guild Wiki, for example, compared with 24% using it.

It's often repeated within the Guild that outsiders perceive us as unfriendly, but it's more accurate to say that as newcomers discover that the task of setting up an ONS is more daunting and time-consuming than they'd realised they simultaneously encounter a highly knowledgeable crowd discussing issues in great detail. Balancing that insecurity, a great many respondents expressed a high level of satisfaction with the Guild. Indeed the highest retention rate was scored among members who want to start their research,

highlighting the Guild's key role as a forum of surname expertise.

The Committee is still digesting the survey results, but the broad message is pretty clear: almost nine out of ten respondents said they'd expected to find additional resources on the Guild's website explaining how best to organise a study, and almost two-thirds reported that they had been looking for support and advice to run the documentary side of their study when they'd joined. As one member put, "I know I have a lot to learn, but in some cases I am not even aware of where I am ignorant."

Excellent Response

We can certainly congratulate ourselves on the high response rate. A 2% rate would be a good result for an old-fashioned direct mail campaign. A higher than 50% rate signals that our newer members really do want to contribute to the direction and running of the Guild even if they don't feel able or ready to take on a volunteer post. There's a lesson for our ONS research groups here too. Online surveys are quick to put together, can often be free, and increase the sense of inclusion among groups of people who rarely if ever get to meet each other in the flesh.

The survey also revealed signs that the shape of the membership is shifting with an increasing proportion living outside of the UK and/or joining without registering a surname. The later increase may have resulted from a requirement some two years ago for new members to join the Guild first and then subsequently register a surname if appropriate. A number of new members report they are doing geographically-specific studies of a surname, not a worldwide study, so that whilst they are using the same research methods as registered members they themselves have not registered their surname.

There is evidence that new members still find the requirements of member-

ship confusing. Forum members won't be surprised by the comment from one that "I think the best thing would be for all the information for joining and what is required not to be quite so scary. (Ed: *The only registration commitment is to respond to all enquiries made to them. Members registering a surname should strive towards the goal of establishing a substantial body of worldwide data, in particular for countries where the name is relatively significant and where sources are readily available.*) I nearly didn't join because I was put off by the seemingly 'high brow' approach to the requirements and in fact I hesitated for several months before actually joining and then registering my name. Since then of course, I have discovered that everyone is super friendly and helpful and willing to do things for fellow researchers as I have done in my turn. The marriage challenges have to be one of the best opportunities I have found for improving my study." The survey also revealed some misconceptions: quite a few respondents wrote that they'd expected membership to generate more "leads" for them.

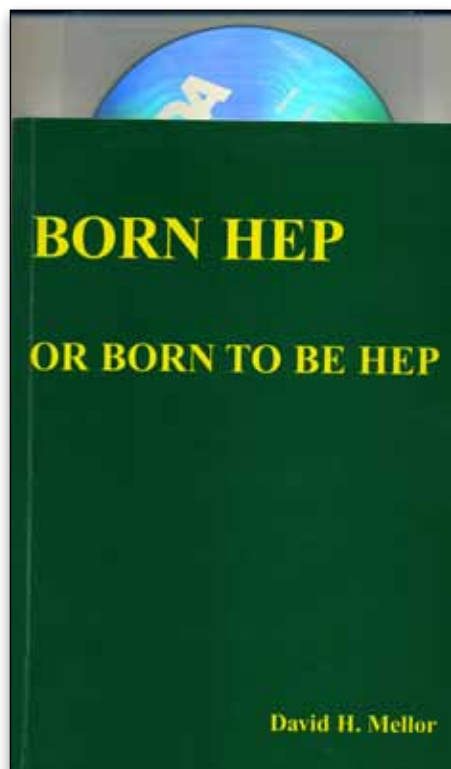
Without anticipating the Committee's recommendations, it seems to me that what's needed is a collection of best practice papers covering the technical aspects of running a surname study. These would need to rise above the level of anecdote and individual experience to synthesise our collective knowledge and help new members make practical choices about which software to select, how to put their data online, and how to reconstruct their trees. New members are asking for help from us to navigate their way through the key decisions that will shape their studies for years to come, and I'm sure I'll benefit too from that.

Note

We used Survey Monkey to ask 5 opinion questions and 4 factual questions. The survey can be reviewed online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/59RNZTL ■

Reviews Reviews Reviews

New genealogy books and CDs



**BORN HEP.....
OR BORN TO BE HEP**
by Dr David Heppenstall Mellor
Published by WB & DLHS 2010
ISBN 978-0-9555269-1-6
Price £15.00

This book is a one name study of the surnames Heppenstall, Heptinstall, Heptonstall, Hempenstall, Haptonstall, Heppleston, Eppleston and variants. The book has 17 chapters covering all aspects of David's research relating to the Heppenstall name. It comes with a CD containing an extensive array of data files, indexes, Gedcom files, reports and photos.

The first chapter provides a full list of all the main data sources used in this study. The extensive range of data sources will help as a check list of the data that can usefully be collected by anyone undertaking a one-name

study. The earliest occurrence of the surname is to Adam de Heptonstall (Adam of Heptonstall) in the 1233 Curia Regis Roll, although the first true instance found of the surname was the probate for the will of John Heptonstall of Smeton in the parish of Wilmerslay dated 25 Oct 1468.

The next three chapters look at the frequency and distribution of the surname (including variances). These describe published work on the distribution of the name, incorporate a large number of tables of distribution across the world, and explain the numerous occurrences of variants of the surname. Subsequent chapters provide an analysis on the use of forenames for Heptonstall families, the occupations of Heptonstalls and the instances of wills identified for this surname. These are all useful examples on how to analyse a surname in a one-name study.

David has drawn up 162 Heptonstall family trees and a significant part of this book is employed in summarising these trees. Four of the larger trees are described in detail in the following chapter, while full reports of all 162 HEP trees can be found in the accompanying disc. I suggest this is essential reading for all members of the Heppenstall families.

The book concludes with many examples of unusual Heptonstall events, details of famous Heptonstalls and an update of the origin of the surname and how the Heppenstall study has contributed to this assessment. David's aim in writing this book was to record all the information he had found so that it was not lost. David has succeeded in his aim and I encourage all Heppenstalls to buy a copy of this book to learn more about the Heppenstall name. One-Namers can also learn from this book on one way of recording the results of a one-name study.

I was initially disappointed with the lack of diagrams, charts, graphics, maps, and photographs, which would have usefully added to the effectiveness of telling the story of the Heptonstalls. However once I had a look at the accompanying disc I found that it included 115 photographs and a Word document providing a detailed legend of each of the photographs. In addition the disc includes data files on Births/Marriages/Deaths (Australia, Canada, UK) Censuses (UK, Canada, USA) and passenger lists.

By the end of 2009 David ceased collecting further data and put all his efforts into writing up as much as he could of his research into the Heppenstall family. David only learned that his brain cancer was terminal five weeks before he died. Apparently at this point David went into overdrive and completed his 201-page book on the Heppenstalls. Sadly David never saw the finished book before it arrived back from the printers. However I am sure he would have been very proud of the finished product, it is a superb example of how a one-name study can be written-up.

A copy of this book has been deposited in the Guild's library and can be borrowed by members via www.one-name.org/members/gpa/loans_books.html. However, if you are truly interested in publishing your one-name study book, I suggest you purchase a copy of this book (the cost of producing the book was £30.00 but Guild members can purchase a copy of the book at a "special price" of £15.00 plus post and packaging. Copies available from Yin Mellor – yin.mellor3@ntlworld.com. ■

Cliff Kemball

Pictures from WDYTYA and the Guild's Seminar at Taunton

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Main inset: The Guild's stand at WDYTYA. **Top left:** Guild stand manager Corrinne Goodenough. **Middle left:** Guild Treasurer Cliff Kemball with Guild member Jan Gow, all the way from New Zealand. **Bottom left to right - Pictures from Taunton:** Colin Chapman, David Hawking, Esther Hoyle, Liz Hore.

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