

The world's leading publication for one-namers

Journal

of One-Name Studies



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A One-Name Study from the
Scottish
Gàidhealtachd

Vol 10 Issue 2 April-June 2009

Computing For
ONS Beginners

Welcome To The
Members Room

12th Australasian
Congress...

Cherish Erroneous
Death Records

Hair Today, DNA
Tomorrow

All the latest Guild news and updates

Guild

of One-Name Studies

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This online discussion forum is open
to any member with access to e-mail.
You can join the list by sending a
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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 Peter Walker

Just before Christmas, a number of us who had registered on the 1911 census website got rather excited when we were offered early access to a beta version of the site. Excited and frantic too, as this beta access was to be open for just 4 days, though in the event this was later extended. There were other downsides too. Only a small number of counties were available - though again this did increase as the days went by - and we would have to pay full fees for any information beyond the very basic free search index. The price set for access to the full enumeration image (30 units, around £2.70 depending on volume purchased) is the same as the images for the ship passenger lists on Findmypast's emigration records (aka Ancestors Aboard), which is fine if you only need to look for one's own grandparents and a few collaterals, but prohibitive for all but the smallest of one-name studies. But most of us could not resist shelling out to answer a few long-standing mysteries. What none of us knew was how soon in the New Year the official launch would occur. True, some counties are still not available, but the fact that it has been released so early and with none of the disasters of the 1901 census is an impressive achievement and Brightsolid are to be congratulated. But still, the price is prohibitive and complete collection of the complete data for many studies will have to await the availability of a subscription option.

Findmypast have stated that a subscription option will be available later in 2009 but be warned that this is likely to be a separate subscription from any you may currently have and no price has yet been mentioned. One can only wonder how far Brightsolid have understood the market and the elasticity of demand. In other words, would they make more money if the price were lower, but this might be more than made up for by the greater

demand? On behalf of one-namers I put this to them, but they failed to understand my point, focussing solely on the very high cost of the digitisation process and the fact that the price was the same as the ship passenger list images. But the digitisation costs are sunk, and their recovery should now focus on maximising income. Maybe they just dismissed it all as special pleading, which in part it was of course.

Irish Records

Coming hard on the heels of this wonderful new data opportunity was the release online of the first sections of the Irish 1911 census, but this, impressively, is free and contains a lot of information about the homes where the families lived. This different approach probably has two reasons. Firstly, the Irish government is well aware of the goodwill and potential tourist income from encouraging families to research their Irish roots. Secondly, making access free makes up in part for the well-known lack of Irish records due the events of 1922 - though I think I am right that this is not the sole cause of the destruction of Irish records. In a separate development, Irish BMD indexes are now available on the LDS Family Search site.

New Index at Ancestry

Another development at Ancestry is the availability of fully indexed births for England and Wales from 1916. For many of us that collected our BMDs the traditional way - and can recall the biceps development that came with it - these indexed records won't add to our basic data. But this doesn't mean it is of no use to us. Firstly, we can carry out a quality check on our original hard won data (did we miss an entry when a neighbouring researcher had the volume we wanted to search?). Secondly, we can search for elusive entries that might have been registered with a really

deviant spelling. Thirdly, we can also now locate, by searching on the wife's maiden name, for the children of our married ladies. But that's not all. I expect that many of you have similar experiences to me. When I have a contact from a new correspondent, it is important to understand that while you may be mainly interested in your study surnames, they will be interested in their entire family, which will include some lines you won't have fully researched, such as the ancestors of the wives and the descendants of the married women, both groups of course not having one's chosen study name. The fact that I am trying to encourage maximum sharing of information and that I have access to more information through subscriptions than most new contacts, means that I will often be prepared to assist their own research. So all in all, this new indexed data is most welcome. For births in England and Wales we now have excellent indexed coverage through the combination of FreeBMD, Family Relatives (1866-1920) and Ancestry (1916-2005). I understand that marriages and deaths will follow.

Seven Pillars

So even if collecting the 1911 data is partially on hold, there are still lots of opportunities to assist others and this helps underline the expertise that one-namers usually have. Moreover, even with these huge new data collection opportunities, there are many other aspects of a one-name study to follow up. The committee have been busy here in trying to identify gaps in the availability of sources of knowledge in the various areas that comprise a one-name study, basing our analysis around what has become known as the 'seven pillars', namely data collection, Analysis, Synthesis, Responding to enquiries, Publicising your study, publication of results and Preserving your study. This has several objectives: it will allow

our Editor to identify potential new articles for this Journal, our Seminars sub-committee to identify new ideas for seminar topics and also once the gaps have been filled with new sources, to strengthen further the information contained in the Wiki. I know from the Forum discussions that there are many experts amongst the membership and we would welcome assistance and peer review with this task, so do get in touch if you are willing to help. Ultimately, this should assist members learn the craft of the one-name study. For those wanting a more disciplined approach to learning, the new Pharos course is available and early indications are that it is extremely popular.

Conferences

By the time you read this the annual conference will be upon us. At the time of writing, it looks to be the best ever attendance, so it appears that so far the Guild activities are not unduly

impacted by the recession. Perhaps focussing on our mutual hobby diverts us away from all the doom and gloom. I hope to meet as many of you as possible, both frequent attendees and first-timers. I hope you will also give the new committee every support. As I write it appears that we have less nominations than the maximum 15 seats on the committee, so I would like to try to co-opt some further members to strengthen the team and reduce the burden on the stalwarts whose 'multitasking' has kept the Guild going over the past couple of years. Could you help?

Although the main committee meets physically 5 times a year, it is possible to assist the Guild wherever in the world you live. It is noteworthy that our Marketing Sub-committee has not met physically for some time, but thanks to e-mail has managed to bring in help and expertise from 'over the pond'. As long as members do

respond to issues raised in this way, it can be an excellent way to work.

As mentioned in the last issue, I was unable to attend the AFFHO Congress in Auckland, but I would like to express my thanks to all the Guild members who did attend and 'flew the flag' for the Guild, especially to David Evans who took over my speaking slot. And to all those new members who joined at the Congress, welcome and I hope you enjoy your membership of the Guild. I was going to suggest that should you wish to help your fellow members across the globe, I'm sure that assistance in collecting those hard to acquire NZ BMDs would be most appreciated. But by the time I had finished writing this column the NZ BMDs had gone online too. As someone said a few years ago, collecting data from the Internet is like trying to drink from a hosepipe. Happy drinking! ■

The Journal - One Year On

By Keith Bage



Well, that passed quickly didn't it. The Journal you're holding in your hands now is the fourth I have produced since becoming Editor. I can just about remember the slight anxiety of putting my first issue together coupled with the worry of getting it to print on time, but thankfully all went well.

You may have noticed a few changes over the year, some rather subtle, and some not so. I thought long and hard about how to move the Journal forward, from a complete re-design to leaving well alone. In the end I decided I wanted to retain the overall feel of the Journal which Roy had done so well in creating, yet put my own stamp on it. In the process I really want to raise the bar and make the Journal something that wouldn't be out of place on your local newsagents' shelf alongside other genealogy related publications (a lofty ambition indeed). I know there is still some way

to go but I'd really appreciate your feedback on how I'm doing, good, bad, or just plain ugly.

I was at last years Guild conference where I was able to speak to a number of you and gather your thoughts on the Journal, as well as soliciting a few articles. Well, I am pleased to say I will also be in attendance at the Guilds 30th annual conference in Peterborough, which promises to be fantastic. So, if you see me, do come over and say hello. I would really welcome your views on the Journal. Of course it is also a good opportunity to discuss any possible articles you may be contemplating.

Your Journal STILL Needs you

In my first issue I wrote a column entitled "Your Journal Needs You", which was essentially a call to arms for all Guild members to put pen to paper and get those articles flooding in. I have to say whilst I did get some

response, I wasn't inundated with articles. I can't stress enough how important your contributions are to making the Journal an enjoyable and useful read. Without a good selection of articles it is impossible to provide a good balance of topics. Do consider submitting an article, no matter how small. We are fortunate that within the Guild there are many knowledgeable people but don't feel that you need to be an expert on a given topic. Maybe you could write a book or software review, or maybe you have some techniques or methodologies to share. Alternatively, you may know of a special collection of particular interest to One-Namers or maybe you are a new member who wants to write about your first impressions of the Guild. I'm sure you all have many ideas for interesting topics. I look forward to seeing and hearing about them and to sharing a drink (or two) with some of you at the Conference. ■

Computing For ONS Beginners

1. Computers and the Web By John Coldwell

This is the first of a new series of articles aimed at helping One-Name Study beginners to get the best out of their computer systems. This introductory article deals with computers for ONS and retrieval of information from web sites. Future articles will cover data storage, tree construction and publication. A copy of the articles and example program pages will be placed on the Guild WIKI for future reference. All members are strongly encouraged to expand and develop the advice given in the articles by adding their improvements to the WIKI.

The starting point of a worldwide computer aided One-Name Study (ONS) is **FIND**ing data by accessing a large number of web sites and the many other genealogical sources.

Collected information is **SAVED**, typically using a spreadsheet or database program where it can later be analysed.

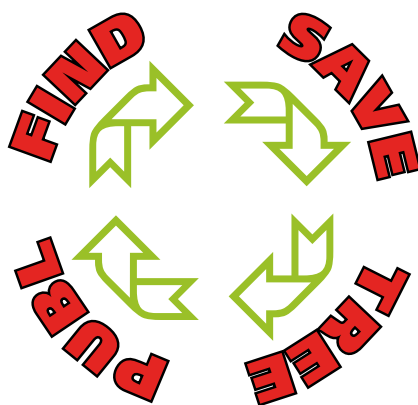
Individuals can, where possible, be linked to form family **TREE**s using one of the Family Tree programs now in common use (Experienced programmers may prefer to create or use a bespoke version of a database or other program.) This program should output in a format convenient for interchange with Contacts, ONS groups etc. (text, GEDCOM, pdf, web site pages etc.)

Results of the study may be **PUBLISHED** in a book, a ONS website, a DNA Project or other media preferred by a member. Members are encouraged not to wait for "the mirage of the end of the ONS", but to publish early, updating at intervals as research progresses.

This article highlights some aspects of computer use peculiar to an ONS assuming that the reader has basic skills in computer usage. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not necessarily supported by the Guild.

Computers

Almost all modern computers are suitable for ONS work. The choice of genealogy programs is much greater



Basic One-Name Research Cycle

with the Windows XP operating system although other Windows, Mac and Linux systems can be used.

If you are planning to buy a new system consider a web-book which is small, lightweight and convenient to take on research trips to Record Offices etc. At home a large external high resolution screen can be plugged-in for easy viewing, especially for looking at large spreadsheets. Icon positions depend on screen resolution but can be remembered separately for each screen using the simple program "Desktop_Resetter" (www.desktility.com)

Broadband internet is desirable as download times for many of the web sites would be much too long with a dial-up system.

Unfortunately computers are vulnerable to internal random failure, accidental damage, theft, loss etc. and routine regular back-up of your ONS data is a vital task to ensure that

irreplaceable data is not lost. Consider using an external large capacity USB hard drive (say 300GB) and make regular automatic back-ups of the whole computers internal drive. The back-up facilities built in to the computer operating system often have limited capability and can be difficult to use for restoring data. The use of a specialist back-up program, such as Acronis on the PC, setup for a full disk back-up with incremental back-ups on a daily basis, is recommended. A further safe guard is a second external drive used for monthly back-ups and kept in a fire and burglar proof location. This also provides secure long term storage for second generation ONS researchers.

Opinions differ on whether the computer should be left on or off at night. An advantage of leaving it on is that the back-up can be set to run at night while the system is not in use. It is a good idea to restart the computer every couple of days as the re-loading of the operating system tends to clear out any software glitches that sometimes develop.

For ease of access when looking for files and saving new files it is a good idea to collect all ONS work in a folder in the root directory (C:/ONS/ on a PC) Sub folders can include Contacts; Data; Trees; Misc; Images with further sub-divisions for ease of filing. Access to the main directory can be via a "short-cut" icon placed on the desktop with a copy also in the system bar (just drag the icon into the bar) to provide single click access to all your files at all times.

Operating systems provide a wide range of keyboard short cuts (see Help for a list) and it is well worth learning a few of these. Perhaps the most used are "Ctrl and C" (CMD and C on the Mac) to copy highlighted data and "Ctrl and V" (Cmd and V on the Mac) to paste the data into another place.

On a PC personal keyboard shortcuts can be created using the free auto-hotkey program (www.autohotkey.com/). It includes a comprehensive manual and is relatively easy to use. For example the following 4 line "script" is used to set up a short-cut key to automatically type your email address into a document or website:

```
#e::
Send,
goons.member@one_name.com
return
```

In the above example you would of course include your email address in place of the made-up address used in the example. The line "#e::" determines which short-cut keys to use – in this case the "windows key" (which is denoted by #) with the "e" key. Many other keys can be used and the program allows a choice to be made. The program can include many scripts for other uses including for example, inserting your ONS, postal address, and can save a lot of typing.

E-Mail

Expect to receive and send large numbers of e-mail messages which often need to be saved and it is worth carefully planning message folder titles for ease of future reference.

Use your main email address for contacts and safe sites where the address will not be "skimmed" for fraudulent use. For other uses obtain one of the many free email addresses which can be ditched if it becomes a target for excessive spam. Your GOONS address is probably best reserved for GOONS contacts.

The Address Book usually allows contacts to be categorised and it is worth separating contacts as GOONS; Family History; GenesReunited etc. Contacts can also be grouped into a "distribution list" so that all contacts can be easily addressed in a single email on matters of general interest.

Direct email contact is best but some contacts have to be via mail sent direct from a web site address (e.g. GenesReunited, Roots message sites). These sites can create a proliferation of contacts in various places and it becomes difficult to keep track of them. It is suggested that a spreadsheet is used to track all contacts with dates etc.

Internet Browsers

Some members report that they find the free Firefox browser a better tool than Internet Explorer although current versions are quite similar. In any case use a modern version with "tabs" so that several sites can be open at the same time. This can be helpful, for example, to enable the various census images of a particular family can be quickly stepped through from 1841 to 1911.

Firefox provides useful free "Add-ons". The "Table2Clipboard" Add-on is particularly helpful for an ONS as it allows tables of data on a website to be quickly copied. To do this, right-click the mouse anywhere on the table and then select "Copy whole table" from the displayed menu, and the table is copied to the clipboard from which it can easily be pasted into another application (e.g. Excel, Open Office Calc).

Web Sites

Genealogical data is now available in vast quantities. The difficulty is deciding what and when to access the information.

Please refer to the Guild Wiki (which can be found in the members room) for useful links, and watch the Guild Forum as a valuable source for new sites and help in accessing and understanding the data.

Use the many free sites (e.g. IGI, FreeBMD) and also consider an annual subscription to one or more of the main source sites (e.g. Ancestry, Find my past, The Genealogist)

The Favourites (or Bookmark) facility of the Browser should be used to keep a list of all the names (abbreviated) and URL's of websites of interest. For ease of access place ONS sites

in a dedicated folder in the Favourites toolbar with regularly accessed sites as separate items. For example the search data entry forms for the census sites 1841, 1851....1911; FreeBMD; IGI; GOONS and be shown in the bar as separate icons to give one-click access to the site.

A systematic approach is needed. It is suggested that a spreadsheet is used to construct a list of sites with a note of the date that data is extracted and any limitations (such as missing years, counties). The site title can conveniently be the URL of the site (copy/paste from the web Browser) so that jumping to the site is simply a matter of clicking on the title. Extracted data can be kept on other sheets of the same spreadsheet file (until the file size gets too big). Review the list from time to time to decide if and when a site revisit is required.

Registered Births

Perhaps the most useful first site for the beginner to access is: <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/cgi/search.pl> For example, select "Births" and insert your ONS in the search box and, provided that there are less than 3000 registered entries, almost all the ONS registered births from 1837 up to the mid 1930's will be listed. Surname variants can be entered one at a time or a "wildcard" can be used to cover various possibilities. Wildcards can be used to substitute ambiguous characters. They can be "?" for one character or "*" for a number of characters (see full explanation on the site). If more than 3000 births are returned, split the search to say born before 1900 and born after 1901, and combine later. The easiest way to extract the search results is to use the FreeBMD "Download" button to copy the download data to Excel.

It is useful to number each row of the extracted data to be able to return to the original extract order after a sort. Insert a column on the left of the sheet. Type the header "Ref" in cell A1 and insert the number "1" in cell A2 (the first row of data). In cell A3 type the formula: `=1+A2` and copy this formula to all cells in the column and this will number the rows consecutively. Copy the whole column of number formula and then, with that column still selected, use "paste special" then "values" to over-write the formula and freeze the numbers, then save the sheet.

FreeBMD registration district names, whilst being correct and unambiguous, are sometimes not named consistently and for sorting purposes it is preferable to adjust the data to use a standard name. To do this sort the data by district and the variations will then be obvious. Confirm the correct standard district name and copy it to all the registrations in that district using the drag-copy facility. Note, always make a copy of a sheet before sorting in case an accidental partial sort destroys the consistency of the data. Delete the copy once it is clear that the modified sheet is correct.

Later registered births up to year 2005 are available on www.ancestry.com. Search results are often limited to a small number of lines per page (e.g. 25 or 50) which means that many pages have to be laboriously downloaded one by one to extract all the data. It is always worth looking at the URL to see if the "lines per page" number can be identified and changed. See Example 1 under "Computers for Beginners" in the Guild WIKI.

The Ancestry birth search results include the date in the Excel date format and presented as "Month-Year" (e.g. Jan-04). It is more useful to have the year converted to a number for ease of calculating dates (e.g. year died from age at death). Unfortunately this is not straightforward and special formulas are required. The year and month can be separately extracted in Excel using a formula to extract the month (3 letter abbreviation):

`=TEXT(A1+0,"mmm")`

and for year:

`=VALUE(TEXT(A1+0,"yyyy"))`

The formula are placed in two new columns next to the extracted Month-Year in cell A1 (adjust the formula if not in A1) and then copy down over all the rows. The date Jan-04 is then shown as Jan in the month column and 2004 in the year column. Change results to values.

Birth registrations obtained from FreeBMD and Ancestry can be compared to check for errors and omissions.

The Art of Searching

This is a key skill which an ONS researcher needs to engender. Remember when searching that the site index will probably include transcription and other errors. A degree of lateral thinking and patience is often required when inserting the search details before that elusive data can be found. Wildcard searching can be helpful especially for finding variant names.

Search using different sites with the same data as the search options and transcription errors may differ. Switching between sites can also help. For example it may be possible to locate a marriage and place in FreeBMD helping to locate a census entry giving age and place of birth.

Web sites appear to be designed primarily to meet the needs of the "own family history" researchers only requiring a few names. ONS (except rare name studies) researchers on the other hand often need many hundreds if not thousands of names where access to each individual image would be prohibitively time consuming. Once again ONS researchers have to use lateral thinking to maximise the data that can be extracted from the free-to-access index.

Experiment with different search tactics to elicit extra information. For example when searching the England and Wales birth registrations for 1916-2005 try inserting your ONS name as the mother's maiden name in the search. From the children's names you can see the father's surname and where the child's name is the ONS it may indicate that a father's name was not provided.

Other Sources

Try your ONS in Google and this can lead to several useful sources. Also try Google Alerts which can usefully bring new sites and possible contacts on a daily basis.

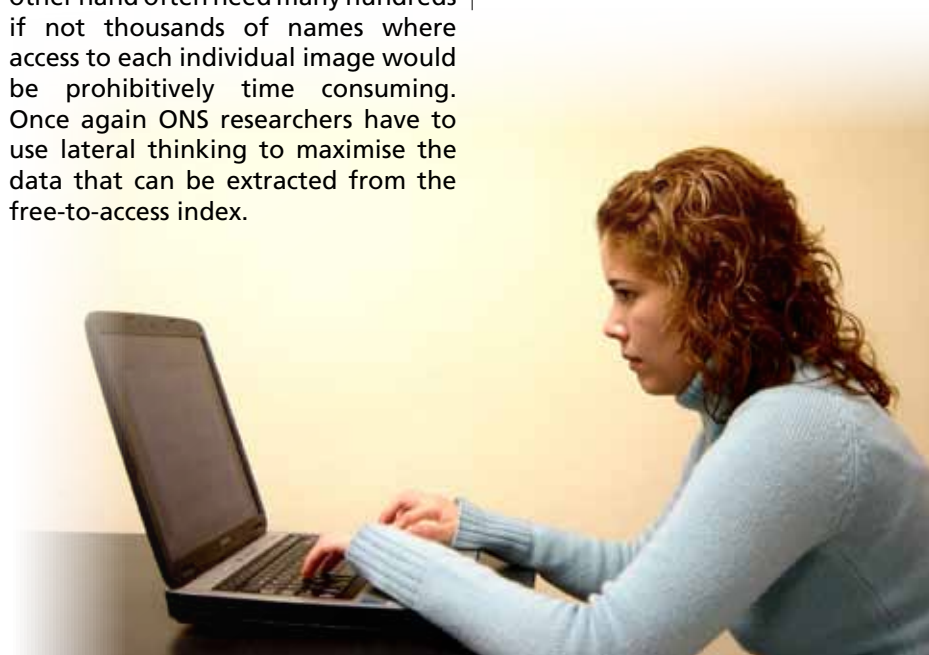
Social networking sites, such as Facebook, can be a surprisingly useful source of contacts leading to details of more recent events and are well worth trying. Equally, family history sites, such as GenesReunited, can be a good source for ONS. And many more...

Own computer searching

A large quantity of data will built up on your own hard drive over a period of time and it can prove time consuming to find some specific detail. Consider using one of the free programs which catalogues all files and every word they contain and allows quick searching. Examples of such programs are Copernic, Microsoft Windows Search & Google Desktop. ■

Coming in the next Journal:

"Spreadsheets"



Guild NewsXtra

Guild Library - Stocktake

The Guild Library will be closed for stocktaking during the week beginning Monday 27th April 2009. Members who currently have items on either normal or long-term loan are requested to arrange for their return to the Library by Friday 24th April at the latest or to contact the Librarian on Freephone 0800 - 011 2182 if there is a need to retain items during the stocktaking period.

It would also be of considerable help if members who still hold items for review in the Journal would please contact the Librarian as soon as possible with details of the items concerned. ■



Irish Civil Registration Records on Familysearch.org

The Irish Civil Registration Indexes up to 1958 are now available on **FamilySearch.org**. This includes non-Catholic marriages from 1845 and full birth, marriage and death indexes from 1864.

There was "one Ireland" up to the end of 1921 and then separate GROs in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland. For the post-1922 period only the index entries for the Republic are available at the link below:

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/#p=2;t=searchable;c=1408347> ■

3rd UK Jacket(ts) Families Gathering

Another 5 years have gone by and members, or descendants of Jacket, Jackets, Jackett, Jacketts and Jackett-Simpson families are invited to meet at GOONHAVERN VILLAGE HALL on Saturday 16th May 2009 at 7.0 pm.

Light refreshments will be available during the evening. There is also a large car park and wheelchair access.

For full details contact John Jackett, 4 Rose Meadows, Goonhavern, Truro, TR4 9LB. Tel No: 01872 572449. E-mail johnjackett@talktalk.net or jackett@one-name.org. ■

Mac Users - Get a Guild Register search widget

Mac users might like to know of a new Guild Register search "widget" which has been created. This little utility allows you to search the Guild's online Register from your Mac's Dashboard.

You simply enter in a name in the search box and your browser will open, listing any results which include the name searched for.



The widget is available from the Guild website at the address below.
<http://www.one-name.org/members/widget>

SOMERSET WILLS PUBLISHED

What have Dover Castle, fishing 'weres' on the shore of the Bristol Channel and the 'cad' Thomas Salmon all got in common? The answer is they can all be found in a new book on Somerset Wills published by the Somerset Record Society (registered charity). This volume contains transcripts of 1200 hitherto unpublished wills edited for the Society by historian Adrian Webb. The original wills were burnt during the Blitz of Exeter in 1942 but fortunately for local and family historians Miss Olive Moger had kept carbon copies of the transcripts she had made. Amongst the wills, which are from all over the ancient county of Somerset, are many for people who lived in the Taunton, Wellington and West Somerset area mainly from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century.

Included in this volume are the wills of John Ashe who left money to the Leper House in Taunton in 1560, also a tick weaver from Frome and a Georgian lady who had a collection of manuscripts noteworthy enough to mention them in her will. There are many wills for the Amory, Ashman, Crandon, Date, Day, Fry, Hamlen, Hare, Hewlet, Hilborne, Hill, Kelson, Lansdown, Longman, Paul, Peddle, Pope, Sheppard, Simes, Smith, Squire, Thorne, Walton, Webb, Whitchurch and Wilkins families, plus hundreds of other Somerset families. Miss Moger also accumulated transcripts of many hundreds of other documents which are now held at the Devon Record Office.

Volumes are issued free to all members of the Somerset Record Society (membership £10 per year). This volume is available for purchase to non-members for £33.00 (plust £2.49 postage in Europe, £5.46 overseas surface) from the Somerset Studies Library, Taunton Library, Paul Street, Taunton, Somerset. Existing members of the SRS can purchase copies of the wills volume at £22 plus postage. Details of the Society, other volumes, including wills, can be seen at <http://www.westcountrygenealogy.com/somerset/somrecsoc.htm> ■

Welcome To The Members Room

by Anne Shankland, (Guild Webmaster)

Looking through some statistics on the Membership recently, I was struck by the fact that it showed that 58.2% of members had visited the Members Room on the website. This means that over 40% of you haven't. The immediate query that comes to mind is: whyever not?

Logging In

If it's a question of not knowing how to get in, then that's easy. The Members Room is at <http://www.one-name.org/members/>, and since this is for members only you will need to enter a username and password to show that you're a member. Your username is your membership number, and you get a unique personal password to go with it. If you haven't got a password, or can't remember it, then you should go to <http://www.one-name.org/for-gotten.html> to request a new one. This can all happen automatically if your email address is in the database; just fill in the form for a password, and it will be automatically generated and emailed to you within a moment or two. Make sure the email with your password doesn't drop into your spam folder! It will be sent direct from the website but the "from" address will be mine, i.e. webmaster@one-name.org. Make sure that your email client will accept messages from this address.

If your email address isn't in the Membership Database, or you're not sure whether it is or not, (or even if you just prefer the personal touch and don't mind waiting a day or so), then fill in the form at http://www.one-name.org/cgi-bin/request_pw.cgi, and I'll generate one "by hand" and send it to you.

If you have any difficulty getting a password – or if you can't remember your membership number – or if you have any kind of problem getting into the Members Room, then email me at webmaster@one-name.org and I'll sort it out for you.

Home	About the Guild	Events	Journal	Registered Names	Joining the Guild	Members Profiles	Members Room
	Contacting the Guild	Fairs	Sales		Membership Benefits	On-line Records	
Self-service	Services	Information	Bookstall	Library	Guild Admin	Regional Reps	Committee Room

Welcome < your name here > to the Members' Room!

I'm In, What Now?

The principle behind the Members Room is that it should give you access to information and services that are useful to you as a member and that the public does not have access to. In this category are Guild services such as the **Guild Marriage Index**, which may allow you to find links between your study and someone else's; the **Marriage Challenges**, where you can ask a Challenger Guild member to look up a marriage for you in a specific R.D. that he or she plans to do a systematic search in; and the **Probate Index**, where your registered name may be mentioned as a beneficiary of someone else's Will. These facilities aim to make the research done by other members of the Guild available to you in your own One-Name Study.

In addition to this, you can request that some forms of research be done for you, as part of the "look-up" services offered by the Guild. There are a number of data sources available in CD form, where the Guild has obtained permission to do look-ups for registered names on members' behalf. These are fully listed under "Lookup Services" in the "Services" section of the Members Room. In addition, members who do not have access to the Internet can request that look-ups are made for their name on www.findmypast.com - the Internet source of UK B/M/D register indexes.

Special Offers

For your own research purposes, there are also some promotional codes available to you in the Members Room, which can help to reduce the cost of your research. Both FindMyPast and LostCousins have kindly agreed

to allow a discount to Guild members who quote the special codes from the Members Room; similarly, the Society of Genealogists will waive their joining fee of £10.00 to Guild members who accompany their application with the voucher available from the same source. And don't forget the discounts given by the **Bookstall** – generally 10% off list price, including FindMyPast and Ancestry vouchers.

Guild Wiki

There are also sources of practical help in the "Information" section of the Members Room. In particular, there's the **Guild Information Store**, or the "wiki" as it is widely known, which is the result of a collaborative effort on the part of many Guild members to pool their knowledge for the benefit of other members. You may be familiar with the concept of a wiki, from Wikipedia, the best known of public wikis. The Guild's wiki is a similar (but smaller!) project, where members can add or edit pages to contribute their own expertise. You can see the wide range of material in the Wiki, in the (partial) Contents Page at <http://www.one-name.org/members/wiki/index.php?page=Contents> Page. If you're not familiar with wikis and how they work, have a look at the introductory page at <http://www.one-name.org/members/wikintro.html>, which will tell you all about them. Or just go into the wiki pages and take a look around at the wealth of information on many different genealogical areas that is held there.

Of course, the wiki is only one of the many useful sources of information in the Members Room. The "Information" tab includes not only

HAIR TODAY, DNA TOMORROW!

By John Swallow

DNA is a tool of recent invention, which many of our middle to older generations do not quite understand; to be fair, you need to be a biologist to understand it fully. The population at large know that it is to do with tying people together by establishing some sort of biological linkage where, should you have body parts or body secretions an individual can be determined and quite possibly actually identified. Some DNA specialists also claim, that by some black art, you can go back to earlier times too, thus revealing a lineage. They also know that this mysterious process is sometimes helpful in solving crimes that might not otherwise have resolution. However, asking this part of the population if they would like to have a DNA test done they are likely to respond as my mother did (now 99 yrs old). She forcibly declined because, as far as I could make out, it was prying into her past for no good reason. I tried to explain why us genealogists might want to carry out such investigations but my argument did not prevail.

Putting her hat on for a moment, why do I need to identify myself as belonging to a particular SWALLOW twig? I do so to improve the quality of our knowledge about the tree and also because I am into reducing the amount of assumed and estimated data that any tree must contain, effectively, the difference between Genealogy and a Family History. I suspect that most people do not make such a distinction and may feel threatened by a deterministic process. I don't have a quarrel with that in general but I am concerned about the amount of family history statements that are more based on parenting than genetics.

Am I My Father's Son?

My mother tells me that I am my father's son, indeed I tell my son's that they are my children. Bottom line

(pardon the pun) is that the mother may not know who the father of her children is in an extreme case. In other cases, she honestly believes that she is telling the truth. In my case I have no choice but to accept that William George is my father, not only because my mother tells me he was but because it is impossible for two males to have the same ridiculous hair without there being a connection. So that is me in the clear then. The same significant marker however, cannot be seen in either of my two sons but one does look like me and the other looks like his mother. So it is a reasonable assumption that us three would match if a DNA test was carried out. Also, possibly lurking at the back of most people's minds, once they start to consider the implications of DNA testing for genealogical purposes, is the possibility that their father, grandfather and so on might not actually be related to them. The music hall jokes about the window cleaner and the milkman, had to have some basis in fact. Wow! That would be one turn up for the books.

One of my distant relative's lives in Sydney and he and I appear to spring from a William SWALLOW who was born around September 1702 in The Hadhams in Hertfordshire. I used "appear" in the previous sentence because, in reality, although the available paper records support the argument, it actually does no more than say that a line of parenting males can be established between Bruce and me. Parenting, thankfully for us humans, is not solely determined by genetics but by acceptance too and there will be innumerable instances where a non biological father sustains a child of another man. Does this matter, well not from a sociological point of view. If the pseudo father did a good job raising this child, why should anyone else care? The child loves the father and both parents love the child, hopefully.

For genealogical purposes however, a greater burden of proof than that provided by paper records should, whenever possible, be established and the DNA test is a tool in trying to reach this objective. We say, in support of this argument, that research is a discipline which has to tease out the facts and present them in a format that allows your peers to review them. Accuracy in the research process is not a luxury option but is something which the true researcher should strive to attain, even if the outcome is not exactly welcomed with open arms. Herein lays another part of the problem. A short story to illustrate the point.

A Cautionary Tale

The following is correctly portrayed but the surname is expunged to avoid distress to the individuals concerned. I spent a period of time researching a name not connected with my twigs, and during the course of this research I happened across two others working on the same name. One lived in Birmingham, the other in Aberdeen. The Aberdeen person joined me and the Birmingham guy, somewhat late in the game. Mr Birmingham and I had established a reasonably well documented case getting both of us back to the early 1800s but we were beginning to run out of luck. He and I were then contacted by Mr Aberdeen, who wanted to know what we had found out. Mr Birmingham and I were happy to exchange information. For all we knew, he might have a link to earlier times. Alarm bells began to ring however when he told us that he was aiming to get his tree on the wall of his yet unborn child's bedroom, so that it would be there in all its glory when his wife returned from hospital. ".....by the way, how long have you two been trying to put this twig together then?" Mr Birmingham said, eight years and I said about 6. At that point he e-mailed us with a rather derogatory note which expressed his

surprise at the length of time we had taken to do what he estimated would take him about 3 months and reaching back as far as 1400 as well! We jointly composed a reply stressing the need to be very cautious and to test evidence as he gathered it. We got an even ruder reply which intimated that we were clearly old and dodderly and his tree had just been sent to the printers for a fancy wall chart to grace the nursery wall. To show us he was not exaggerating he sent his data file to us. He had a good half of Mr Birmingham's family in his tree and this family we know for certain is not connected. I found a number of duplications of data which indicated that his research method was to note that if a William was the father of a groom he guessed the fathers age and then looked for a suitable William in records he could access. Adoption was immediate if a likely candidate was spotted. We were, I must admit, a bit put out by this so we collaborated again and sent him a reply which pointed out, what were according to us, errors in his data. That was the last we heard from him. The point of this is that he would have been unlikely to consider DNA as a tool in the same way he felt he did not require documentary proof in support for almost all his findings. There was no way that he was going to come back to the beginning to do the job properly.

Therein is, I suspect, the source of much resistance to DNA testing and I have concerns that many existing

trees may not be subject to the rigours of DNA review. Bruce and I will start again if necessary if the DNA results show a wrong connection. Bruce and I would continue to collaborate but we would now know that we were not connected in the way that we previously thought. Bruce would of course be delighted as he has always considered me to be unworthy of a connection to himself anyway. For my part I am not giving up that easily as I am hoping to figure in his will (smile, it's a joke).

Costly Business

Additionally, there is of course a logistical and financial cost to having DNA tests made. The current cost is relatively (sorry another pun) high and not everyone can afford to use DNA as a tool. In my case it would amount to a considerable sum.

How could we overcome our very reasonable concerns about our biological beginnings and the cost barriers to getting DNA tests carried out?

Back To The Title And.... "Hair"

Immediately upon reading this article you are bidden to cut off a lock of your own hair, place it in a small acid free paper envelope and attach that to the birth certificate, or other pertinent hard copy document.

Placed in the envelope alongside the hair should be a short description of you and your "assumed" parents and grandparents.

On your death, unless you decide otherwise, this hair sample could be subjected to analysis with the resulting report being attached to your birth certificate.

Imagine that over time you and I could be responsible for a welter of DNA samples that could, possibly, revolutionise this most interesting hobby of ours. Of course the above is but the bare bones of suitable procedure and much more thought needs to put into how this could be managed for the benefit of all. For example, the simple expedient of scanning in data and handing a CD/DVD it to the Guild to store, could not be applied to hair samples. How would the Guild store and care for these physical entities?

At this point in time such considerations do not concern us; we need to play around with the basic idea. At least Susan Meates is in the forefront of this particular science and may have already considered elements of this proposition and we will undoubtedly hear from her on the matter.

Finally, we shall in the future have to have regard to legal issues, medical research and medical advisory matters as well as how the insurance industry react to DNA disclosure that indicates a potential health risk.

I will be pleased to hear your views, swallowresearchresource@hotmail.com ■



Sydney Brewin MBE, 1931 - 2009

After a long fight against kidney cancer (since 1991), Sydney Brewin passed away on 21st January 2009.

Sydney was born in Burton-Upon-Trent, on 14 April 1931. He was always proud of his working class roots and was brought up to follow the traditions of the Methodist faith and Liberal political ideology.

Sydney was a founding member of the Guild (number 17), joining the Guild in 1979. He was treasurer from 1980 to 1989 and also served as Vice-president for some time.

In 2003 Sydney was awarded an MBE in recognition of some 30 years as a Citizens Advice Bureau volunteer, an

occasion which was celebrated in the Guild Journal Vol 8, issue #4.

Reluctantly Sydney left the Guild in 2004 when his illness meant that he was unable to carry on his study, though as a keen letter-writer, he was dictating replies to his many genealogical correspondents and took great pleasure in receiving and dictating letters.

Sydney remained at home until the last three days of his life when hospital became the only option, he died of a heart attack, but chatted happily right up until the end. His battle now over, we are all very grateful he is no longer suffering and can reflect on his full and active life. ■

A One-Name Study from the **Scottish Gàidhealtachd**

by **Iain Kennedy**

Surname research in the Scottish Highlands is stymied by a number of factors.

1. The parish registers tend to be late starting, often only dating back to the late 18th century or even the early 19th century.
2. The 1843 Disruption in the Church of Scotland led most Highlanders to leave to form the Free Church, resulting in the loss¹ of further information. In the most extreme example, Lochs parish on southern Lewis, a key Kennedy area, has a register only starting in 1831 and with no entries after 1843 – just 16 Kennedy baptisms are contained in it. See Fig 1 above.
3. Surname aliases are common
4. The patronymic naming system.

In this article I will explore some of the challenges I have encountered whilst studying early references to the Kennedy surname in the era of patronymics and aliases.

A Gaelic Kennedy alias – MacUalraig.

In the case of Kennedy (itself an Anglicised form of a Gaelic name), it is well attested that it is known by the Gaelic form MacUalraig in certain parts of the Highlands, traditionally Lochaber district.



Fig. 2

This street sign in bi-lingual Fort William shows the traditional Gaelic form of the Kennedy surname. According to clan tradition (but little



Fig. 1 The Free Church at Crossbost, Lochs parish, Lewis.

else, seemingly), the name came from an ancestor called Ulrich Kennedy who came to Lochaber from Ayrshire in the distant past. I have found records of this alias in use in Argyll, Inverness and Perth counties. For example the alias is well-known on the island of Tyree, where in an Argyll estate rental from 1779 a footnote under 'Kennedy' tells us 'Kennedy is now a common surname in Tíree. It appears here in its form McUolrie and McCualrig'; the book proceeds to list 52 McCualrigs and only 3 Kennedys. In Perthshire local Kennedys in Foss and Strathtay have called themselves McUrich.



Fig. 3

Although some claim that all the Highland Kennedys descend from Ulrich, this street sign from deep inside the heart of the Scottish Gàidhealtachd in Steòrnabhagh tells a different story. Here Kennedy is shown to not have a distinct alias and the name is a simple transliteration into Gaelic.

Kennedy patronymics

I recently studied a number of resources at the National Archives in Edinburgh in an attempt to find

older references from before the start of the parish registers in highland Perthshire, where the key parish of Forthingall, a Gaelic speaking parish as late as 1901 and one of the top 10 parishes in Scotland for the surname, has a parish register that only dates from 1748. This parish has its own extra genealogical challenge. It was a traditional home to the MacGregor clan who were banned from using their surname in the early 1600s. As a result clan members were forced to take another surname and picked from a variety of alternatives. Many appear in the early records with 'late MacGregor' tacked on to the end of their adopted name. Luckily, to date I am unaware of any of them picking Kennedy as their new name but a reference to someone called 'Duncan Menzeis alias McWilliam leat McGriger' shows the challenges in store.

Fortunately there are some good sources that predate the parish registers. For the men of the north shore of Loch Rannoch their records are amongst the Menzies papers at the National Archives in Edinburgh. Two sets of records were consulted, a set of rental lists for the Menzies estate and a baronial court book. This court was run by the Laird of Menzies until hereditary jurisdiction was abolished in 1748. The court books date from 1622 and run to some 3000 pages over six volumes and are a treasure trove of information.

The earliest rental I saw was from 1695 and showed the Kennedy surname at three farms or fermtouns along the shore. The key farms appeared to be those of Camuseracht² Beg and Mor (these are the Gaelic words for small and big and place names often appear in such pairs). The entry was rather curious though, and thrilling to find:

Neil McCoil VcEwen tennent Kennedie Rorie Kennedie his sone

I had scored a great first for the study, a patronymic linked to the modern Kennedy surname! In the following rental from 1698 it got even better, as the same pair of men were listed at the same farm but without any surname at all:

Neill McCuil VcEwin & Rorie his sone

Of course, viewing this record in isolation would furnish no clue as to what surname this represents.

If you are lucky enough to find such records they are often linked with the word 'alias' but this can also happen when the link is between two surnames. For example in a militia muster roll from 1705, I found the following individual listed at Dunkeld:

John Kennedy alias McWarlick

This man is providing us with his Gaelic alias MacUalraig, a name capable of almost endless spelling variations. Often the clerks writing these names down were non-locals, for example the court clerks who wrote up the barony court books were mostly from Edinburgh. We are dependent on their ability to spell Gaelic names in a helpful way. We are also dependent sometimes on indexers providing us with logical access to these names. You never know quite how they will pigeon-hole the names and it usually pays to scan the entire index in case something of interest shows up.

By way of example, consider these index entries from the Register of the Privy Council, which all refer to individuals from Leanachan in Lochaber, the place where the Highland Kennedys first set up home. The farms of Leanachan-beg and -mor were totally under their control and usually records only show Kennedys there. These entries all come from volume XIII covering the period 1683-4.

- Kennedy, Neil, in Leanachanmor, decree against him for despoilation 580
- McCorig - see McEwin VcInduy
- McEwin VcInduy alias McCorig of Leonachinbeg, Duncan, decree against him, 578
- McEwan, VcOnell Roy, Angus, in Leanachanbeg, dec. spol. 580
- McValrick, Angus in Leonachine decree against him 578
- [McInduy (VcInduy), Duncan McEwine, alias McCorig, in Leanachanbeg see McEwin VcInduy ...]
- McQuollarie of Leanachanbeg, Duncan, dec. 579

In my opinion there is only one surname here. The only person in real doubt is Angus McEwan VcOnell Roy who could be anyone. All the others apart from Neil Kennedy are Kennedys using their Gaelic alias, but rendered with great variation.

One of the most frustrating habits of indexers, but a most telling one if we are to understand how surnames developed, is the technique of rendering a Vc- name as Mc-name instead, viz. re-indexing Duncan McEwine VcInduy under McInduy. Of course at this time McInduy was not a surname – it is simply the Gaelic for son of black John, Mac-Ean-Dubh. Modern day MacKears and McIndoes may find the form very familiar though.

The use of patronymics gradually faded but the timescale was highly location specific. By the time we get to the 1730s the Kennedys on Rannoch only appear with their modern surname but further to the southeast, on the Menzies lands of Apnadull, this had happened by about 1660. But even before then, the modern surname could be used; the earliest record I have from Leanachan is a tack issued by the Gordon family, the Earls of Huntly, who owned Lochaber, and dates from 1637. It uses the Kennedy form of the name.

The Gaelic poets as a surname source

If lowland clerks detract from our understanding of surname origins, better help may be available from the Gaelic poets writing in their native tongue, calling people by the names that were in daily use. One of the great poets, Alastair mac Mhaighstir Alastair, actually stayed on Rannoch at one stage and knew the Kennedys



Fig. 4 The Kennedys of Leanachan in Kilmonivaig parish church yard.

there. One of them gets a mention in his poem 'Iorram Cuain':

Donnchadh Mac Uaraig a'luadhadh leo 'S b'fhada buan a spalagan.

The poems and the connections between mac Mhaighstir and the MacUaraigs is discussed at some length in a useful article by Ronald Black in the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, and the author even spends some time discussing the identity of Donnchadh Mac Uaraig (Duncan Kennedy), probably the local schoolteacher at Finnart. In a strange twist though, the main English translation of the poet's works, carried out by two Gaelic speaking Highland ministers, managed to translate MacUaraig as MacQuarrie not Kennedy. This is undoubtedly an error on their part.

Gillandrist – a Kennedy alias, patronymic and given name!

The difficulty of studying patronymics is that it is often only after the event that the significance of a name becomes apparent, and recording all names in the area really is essential. I learned this the hard way when I followed up my research with the rental lists with a study of the baronial court books and a paper in the MacGregor collection entitled 'The Camerons of Rannoch'. This was part of a set of papers rescued by a John MacGregor from a sale of manuscripts by the Menzies family in the early 20th century.

Many of the entries in the court book are simple lists of tenants appearing

to have fines rendered for minor transgressions of the local laws. From 1660 the court book listed tenants on Rannoch but none of the names were recognisable and almost all were patronymics, with the first occurrence of 'Kennedie' being in 1700.

In the paper 'The Camerons of Rannoch' the story is told of Camuseracht, originally held by the MacGregors until the proscription of the clan following the battle of Glenfruin in 1603:

'During Duncan MacGregor's absence in Ireland, where he remained for seven years, the Laird of Menzies who had long before obtained a Crown charter over them, gave a grant of Macgregor's possessions in Camuserochd to one of the name of Kennedy from Lochaber, known in the country as Gillandhurstbeg, and from whom the Kennedys or clan Gillandhurst in Rannoch are descended.'

This is not the only recorded mention of the name Gillandhurst Kennedy. Writing on the Leanachan Kennedies, Lochaber historian Somerled MacMillan writes that 'one of the first to be mentioned in Highland lore was Gill'-Andreis Beag, a contemporary of An Tàillear Dubh, who was slain prior to 1577.'

The Camuserochd story (still awaiting proof from primary sources) immediately told me two things. Firstly, it introduced a fourth way in which Kennedys might be referred to – either as a Kennedy, a MacUalraig, a Gillhandhurst or just a simple patronymic. The second thing was that it reminded me of many patronymics I had already seen in the baronial court books but not paid any particular attention to. Fortunately I had made sufficient notes of names at the key locations, even though it seem rather laborious at the time.

In the first listing at Camuseracht in 1660, there was this man:

Johne more Mcllandres

In light of the new information, this man can be identified as a Kennedy. Even better, in 1719 I had noted this group of people:

Camserachmore: John McOlroy on oath, Rorie Kennedie on oath ut

supra, Euin Kennedie on oath ut supra, Gilandrist Kennedie on oath confesses wood and frees venison.

The use of this given name Gilandrist, which I had never seen before, now makes sense. It is rather a shame that the last record noted using this given name is 1736, and once the parish registers commence in 1748 then it was not used once amongst the 148 Kennedy baptisms. As a surname there is though a sole baptism in 1753 where the father's name is given as Malcolm Mcllandrish but the clerk has indexed the child under the surname Anderson. The birth was at Inchgarth on the Keltney Burn which is on the eastern edge of the parish, many miles from the Kennedy territory. Interestingly the GRO have ignored the clerk's margin entry and indexed this baptism under the surname Mcllandrish. There is no great weight of evidence suggesting that this family are Kennedys but it must remain a possibility.

How reliable the rule of thumb that equates Kennedy with Gillandrist is, or over what area it can be applied, is still unclear. Whilst on the one hand I have found singleton records from further afield which look to be Kennedys using the alias either explicitly or implicitly, it is clear at the same time that in other areas McGillandrish exists as a surname in its own right.

Summary

Are all these people related, despite the plethora of naming conventions? Modern DNA testing, using 43 marker testing at DNA Heritage and DNA Ancestry, shows frustrating results in that there are a large number of seemingly unrelated Kennedy lines in the Highlands. Perhaps since the surname did not settle down until the 18th century, it is too much to hope that the oral tradition of a common ancestry had held to be true over the timescale of the several centuries since Kennedy first occurred in the area. I still feel that we do not understand enough about the way in which surnames were adopted in the Highlands, particularly for the so-called 'broken men' who were outside the main clan structure, like the Kennedys.

Here is a quote from Edmund Burt, an Englishman sent to work as a roads

engineer in Inverness in the 1730s. In this passage he attempts to give his understanding of the different naming conventions.

'These patronymical names, at length, are made use of chiefly in writings, receipts, rentals etc. and, in ordinary matters, the Highlanders have sometimes other distinctions, which also to some are pretty long.

When numbers of them, composed from different tribes, have been jointly employed in a work, they have had arbitrary and temporary denominations added to their Christian names by their overseers, for the more ready distinction; such as the place they came from, the person who recommended them, some particular vice, or something remarkable in their persons, etc. by which fictitious names they have also been set down in the books of the employer.'

¹ Baptisms not found in the Kirk registers on ScotlandsPeople between 1843 and 1855 may be in the records for the local Free Church, which are mostly stored at the National Archives in the CH3 and CH16 collections.

² The Ordnance Survey now spells this place Camusericht. The last map to show both farms dates from 1820 and spelt them Camiserichbeg and Camiserich more.

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Marriage Challenge Update

By **Peter Copsey**

Birmingham Marriage Challenge - A New Approach

For large Registration Districts I have always recommended that a Challenge is done in stages; for instance, stage 1 would be 1837 - 1851, stage 2 1852 - 1871, etc. Birmingham Registration District is one of the largest but the Challenge is not being done this way. Instead of slicing it horizontally, it is being sliced vertically. Let me explain.

Team Effort

When Barbara Harvey announced her Challenge in November she received over 4000 requests. Barbara lives in the London area and the parish registers are deposited in Birmingham. Barbara has easy access to only a few of the marriages registers, namely those where copies are held at the Society of Genealogists or available at the Latter Day Saints library in Kensington. Barbara's proposal was to limit her "stage" to these two churches, St Jude and St Philip.

However when members realised what Barbara was intending to do, several who live with easy access of the Birmingham Record Office volunteered to help and join in the

Challenge with Barbara co-ordinating. Karen Burnell is now searching the St Martin registers, David Fall is searching St Thomas, Barbara Griffiths is searching All Saints, Ruth Croft is helping Karen and Ian Preece, working from home, is searching the IGI and collecting associated cardinal points (GRO page numbers of the first and last marriages in a church for each quarter).

The Challenge is being done church by church rather than period by period; and this approach is working very well. Each volunteer has effectively adopted a church, not just abstracting the requested marriage information but taking cardinal points so that a mapping of the GRO page numbering for the District is obtained.

Want To Join The Team?

More volunteers are needed as there is upwards of 20 churches in the RD. But, as for all Challenges, there is no time limit and for someone to adopt another church, next year say, would be satisfactory. If you would like to join the team and help with the Birmingham Marriage Challenge,

please contact Barbara via e-mail at loverock@one-name.org.

Upcoming Challenges

Challenges commencing in the coming months are shown in the table below. If you would like to request a search for your marriages (registered names only for the period indicated) send the details from the GRO index (using FreeBMD, perhaps) to the Challenger, either by e-mail or to his or her postal address given in the Guild Register. Also, keep a watch on the Guild web-page for Marriage Challenges as further Challenges are announced.

For more information about Marriage Challenge, what it comprises and how it works, see the article in the Journal (October - December 2005).

Anyone who would like to become a Challenger or would like to know more about what is involved please contact me, the Marriage Challenge Co-ordinator, at marriage-challenge@one-name.org. ■

Registration District and Period	Deadline for Requests	Challenger	Challenger's e-mail
Woodbridge 1837 - 1911	25 th April	Ken Finch	hurren@one-name.org
Dorchester, 1837 - 1911	25 th April	Mary Brinson	pride@one-name.org
Guildford - Stage 2, 1882 - 1911	30 th April	Shirley Forster	elwick@one-name.org
Pershore (Repeat), 1837 - 1911	30 th April	Ian Preece	preece@one-name.org
Martley (Repeat), 1837 - 1911	30 th April	Ian Preece	preece@one-name.org
Swansea (Repeat), 1837 - 1911	5 th May	Eileen Boyt	boyt@one-name.org



A View From The Bookstall

By
Howard Benbrook

The 2009 Olympics

Phew! It's over! I got back from the annual bunfight that is the Who Do You Think You Are? Show at Olympia at the beginning of the week and I think my voice has now finally recovered. I may have spent most of my working life talking to large groups of people, but that wasn't above the hubbub of several thousand people in a big open hall for eight hours solid over three consecutive days. I think my voice went down more than an octave!

But I'm pleased to tell you all that I think it was worth it. The expense of 4 tables last year, together with associated costs (electricity, travel, parking, etc) led to an embarrassing loss and I wasn't planning to repeat that. I was still keen to have a presence, but I booked just one table. My helpers (thanks, team!) were awfully cramped but, thanks to their energy and enthusiasm and a gorgeous range of 'big books' on London places (see below), I think we may even have made a little profit. Not a lot, mind you, but at least I can look the Treasurer in the eye again!

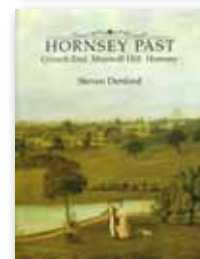
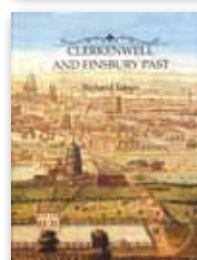
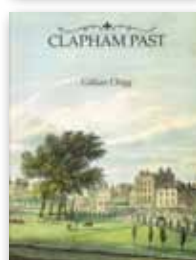
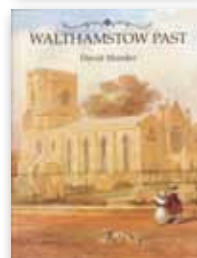
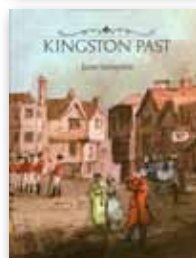
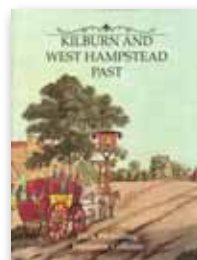
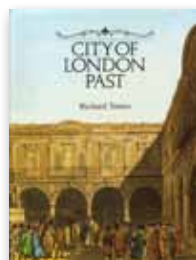


More importantly, over a dozen people decided to take the plunge and join, or re-join the Guild. So, if you belong to that discerning group, a big welcome to you!

Those Big Books

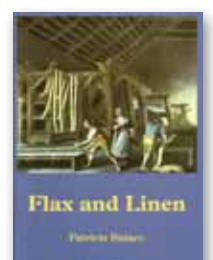
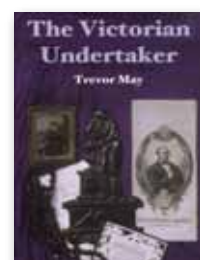
The success of the London books at Olympia encourages me to illustrate a

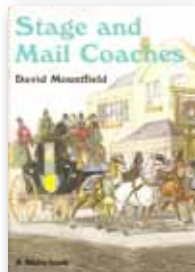
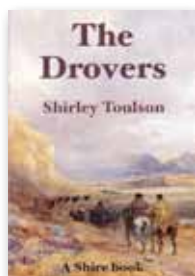
few more of them here. Published by Historical Publications, they used to be distributed by Phillimore until their demise and that role has now been taken by Countryside Books. You can see the full range on their website: <http://www.countrysidebooks.co.uk/>, if you click on the Historical Publications link. Although I listed some of these books in the Bookstall Price List with the previous Journal, I've now added: City of London Past and Clerkenwell & Finsbury Past both by Richard Tames, Clapham Past by Gillian Clegg, Fulham Past by Barbara Denny, Hampstead Past by Christopher Wade, Harrow Past by Eileen M Bowlit, Highgate Past and Kentish Town Past both by John Richardson, Hornsey Past by Steven Denford, Kilburn & West Hampstead Past by Weindling/Colloms, Kingston Past by June Sampson, and Walthamstow Past by David Mander. You'll find all the prices in the Bookstall pages on the Guild website.



And Some Little Books

I ventured into a new world in January and went to a show featuring remaindered or overstocked books. I bought some titles originally published by the ever-popular Shire Books (now part of Osprey), some of which have been out of print for a while but looked interesting. They include: The Drovers by Shirley Toulson, Flax & Linen by Patricia Baines, Stage & Mail Coaches by David Mountfield, Thatch & Thatching and Domestic Bygones, both by Jacqueline Fearn, and The Victorian Undertaker by Trevor May. Again, there are more details on the Guild website.





Where Next For Genes Disunited?

As I write this, the broadcaster ITV has just reported simply dreadful figures; increased competition for advertising revenues and the inevitable impact of the financial crisis have clearly taken their toll. But what does this mean for their subsidiary, Genes Reunited? In the news reports I've been reading, its half-sister, Friends Reunited, has come in for some harsh criticism, with reporters generally agreed that it lost its way after ITV picked it up for an initial £120m (and under that agreement there's another hefty payment due soon). But GR has a loyal following, not least amongst Guild members, and the subscription income may well be an attractive catch for one of the more active players in the family history world. Neither Ancestry, nor FindMyPast, has quite the same 'social networking' capability, so who knows?

Those Vouchers And The 1911 Census

And, speaking of FindMyPast, have you taken a look at the 1911 Census yet? Come on! I bet you've had a peek! Even if you're not yet prepared to spend time and money trawling through all those people with your chosen name, there's probably someone you want to find...

The rumours had been circulating for a few weeks, but the news that it was likely to be launched on 13th January sent everyone in a spin. And the conditions attached to using the site also took a few people by surprise. A FMP subscription wasn't good enough, you needed to have some 'credits' to take a look, (although

some people did have unused credits, of course). And what's the cost? Well, you'll need 30 credits to take a look at a household return, and that's the equivalent of between £2.40 and £3.75, depending on how many you buy, so it's pretty expensive at the moment. As you might guess, there's been a surge in requests for vouchers and I'm busy most days sending out orders (I took an order by phone while I was writing this article, for instance). Guild members, of course, can buy a 40 credit voucher for £4.50, plus postage.

If you're someone who can be patient and wait for the excitement to die down in the hope that it'll get cheaper, the latest I've heard on this is that there'll be 6 months of commercial exclusivity, after which time any rivals will be able to get their hands on the images and start their own indexing efforts. You should expect FindMyPast to bring the 1911 Census into a subscription scheme after that - but expect it to have premium pricing!

A New Leaf On The Tree

And, as if he knew, on the same day as the 1911 Census was launched, the phone rang at 7:15am. Isaac Michael Benbrook had arrived and I acquired a new status. Yes - just call me Grandad!



Where We've Been, Where We're Going

If I'm honest, the Bookstall hasn't been to many fairs recently. This is partly because there are fewer of them. Why should that be, do you think? This is not to say, of course, that the Bookstall has been idle. Those vouchers have kept me pretty busy, and I take the Bookstall with me to my talks (well - it all helps!). But, since the last Journal, we've been to Barking, Bracknell, Crawley, the Guild Seminar in London, and Olympia; and by the time you read this, Ron Woodhouse will have turned out for us at the City of York FHS Fair, and he's also planning to be at the Pudsey Fair (thanks, Ron!).

As for the programme coming up, we're going to try and have someone at the following events (see table below), even if I'm unable to take along the full Guild Bookstall. I hope I might get to see you at the Guild Conference in Peterborough, but if you're near any of the events, come and say hello.

And The Oscar For Best Supporting Role Goes To...

Lots of people! Well, I don't have an Oscar to hand out, but I do have oodles of gratitude for my many helpers. This time, I'd like to mention David Probett (3 times!), Roy Rayment (twice!), Barbara Harvey, David & Brenda Horwill (twice!), Margaret Young, Mike Walker (twice!), Sonia Turner, Colin Ulph, Cliff Kembell, Susan Atkins, Pat Wilson, Judy Cooper (& the ever-helpful Graham!), Kirsty Gray, Peter Copsey and Anni Berman. Please also thank your agent and your wonderful parents without whom none of this could be possible... ■

Event	Place	Date
Guild AGM/Conference	Holiday Inn, Peterborough	Fri 17th - Sun 19th April
South Coast Fair	Pavilion Theatre, Worthing, Sussex	Sun 19th April
Family History Spring Fair	School for the Deaf, Doncaster	Sat 25th April
The Family History Event	Barbican Exhibition Hall 1, London	Sun 3rd May
Kent Fair	Lockmeadow Market, Maidstone, Kent	Sun 7th June
Devon FHS Summer Special	Edgehill college, Bideford, Devon	Sat 20th June
Yorkshire Family History Fair	The Racecourse, York	Sat 27th June



Seminar Report - London Poster Seminar

London University, Canterbury Halls, Euston February 21st 2009

By **Gillian Stevens**

If you were not able to come for any reason to the Poster Seminar then you missed a fabulous day. The venue, was easy to get to for anyone who is able to travel to London as it is within 5 minutes of Kings Cross Station. There were 23 attendees with 18 producing posters, or presentations covering 33 wide-ranging topics

The day started by setting up the posters, the majority of attendees had prepared the content of their poster at home but the organisers Gordon Adshead and Richard Heaton had provided large rolls of paper, pens, sticky tape, pins, etc. for either preparing the whole poster on the day or to add to a prepared poster.



Many Varied Themes

The themes of the posters were far ranging with topics covering information about particular record sources through to those that posed questions on various aspects of their ONS.



The two hours prior to lunch concentrated on the group A posters starting with an hour of mini presentations lasting between 3-12 minutes which expanded on some of the poster themes. The following hour gave the attendees the opportunity to view and talk about the group A posters.

After a very good snack lunch another hour of mini presentations was followed by an hour to view and talk about the other posters in group B.

The day ended with a summary of the key issues raised. This summary and

many of the handouts and notes have been placed on the Guild Website in the Members Room Information: Seminar Proceedings section.

I hope that more Poster Seminars will be arranged as I think that it was a hugely successful day and from the comments received afterwards it appeared that everyone agreed that we all benefited from the knowledge of others whether they had just started their ONS or had been researching for several decades.

The organisers were thanked for the effort they had put into arranging a very successful innovative event. ■



Forthcoming Seminars

8th August 2009

THE ART OF ONE-NAME STUDY

New Members Seminar: Amer-sham. A number of short talks by several speakers will cover the workings of the Guild and the seven key aspects of a one-name study. Although primarily directed at members who have joined in the last few years, there will be much to help all put their study into context. There will also be a number of posters introducing a wide range of aspects of one-name studies.

21st November 2009

FINDING FURTHER ONE-NAME SOURCES

Less Used Sources at the National Archives, Kew. This Seminar aims to shine a light on a variety of less familiar records held at TNA of interest to One Name Studies. Topics include Hearth Tax, Sequestration papers, Chancery databases and Finding aids. We have also arranged a behind-the-scenes tour.

20th February 2010 – DNA SEMINAR

DNA Developments at the National Star College, Ullenwood, Cheltenham. This Seminar will build on the previous DNA discussions with much emphasis on practical experience and the interpretation of results.

Non-UK Sources for One-Namers Hampsthwaite Memorial Hall, Hollins Lane, Hampsthwaite, Harrogate HG3 2EJ

Programme

09.45 - 10.10 Registration and Coffee
10.10 - 10.15 Welcome to the Seminar
10.15 - 11.15 Records of the British in India – Michael Gandy
11.15 - 11.30 Comfort Break
11.30 - 12.00 Introduction to Sources in the Guild Wiki – Gordon Adshead
12.00 - 13.00 Irish Records – Michael Gandy
13.00 - 14.00 Lunch
14.00 - 15.00 European Sources – Peter Towey
15.00 - 15.30 Tea and Biscuits
15.30 - 16.30 New England and US Sources – Bob Young
16.30 Close of Seminar

On Saturday 16th May we are holding a seminar in Hampsthwaite village just 3 miles from Harrogate, Yorkshire.

The programme will give Guild Members and family historians an insight into a range of sources of overseas records.

The Seminar will be focussing on the material available outside the UK, with special attention to details sought by people with a one-name study. Michael Gandy will be giving two talks, one on Records of the British in India, and the other on Irish Records

Peter Towey will be talking about European Sources (mostly German and Italian) and one of our Regional Representatives from USA Bob Young has arranged a visit to UK at this time so he can give us a talk on New England and US Sources. Gordon Adshead will be telling us what we can find in the Guild Wiki to help our research outside the UK. (Don't forget to look at the Wiki yourself and if you have any information that will help other members please add it.)

Applications are welcome from Guild members, family historians, genealogists and members of the general public having an interest in the subject.

The cost of the seminar will be £20 per person including drinks and a light buffet lunch. This should be a very enjoyable and informative day. There will then be an opportunity to chat with other delegates and browse the Guild Northern Bookstall. There will also be interesting posters, books and indexes to study during the breaks.

To reserve a place please complete the Booking Form or go to the Guild website at www.one-name.org where you can book on-line and pay using PayPal. The site gives more details of the Seminar, including a map showing the location of the venue and the ability to download a further copy of the form (pictures of Hampsthwaite can be seen on the back cover of this Journal, Ed).

If you do not live close, May is a lovely time to visit the Yorkshire Dales so why not take the opportunity to spend a little longer in the area maybe a long weekend. The venue is in the beautiful Yorkshire dales near Fountains Abbey. Readily accessible by bus/train and 30 min to the A1. The Guild website gives places to stay for an enjoyable weekend. Local contact John Coldwell member 2172 for advice on travel (cheap rail Kings Cross/Harrogate, book early at nationalexpress.co.uk)

Booking forms may also be obtained by phoning the Guild Help Desk Tel: 08000-112182.



Cherish Erroneous Death Records!

By **Peter Wells**

In the course of my one-name study, I have come across several erroneous death records. My standard comment is to keep in mind that the information on death records was seldom, if ever, provided by the deceased. However, by analyzing the errors it is possible to discover things that would otherwise not have been known.

Background

Before getting into the subject of the records, I will make a few comments on research in the Northeastern U.S.A. In the late 1700's we experienced this thing called a Revolution which, to some degree, destroyed the existing government. With their new found freedom, the people then went out and populated new areas where there was little or no government. Record-keeping went to pot and did not recover for about a century. Census records, started in 1790, named only the head of household and listed other occupants by gender and age category. Town histories, largely published around 1900, contained genealogies often based on oral history.

Some Simple Examples

I will start with a somewhat trivial example of an erroneous record. On 12 June 1881 the widow Elizabeth Bailey died. Her death record named her father as Tristram Fifield; the information on the record being provided by the town officers. In this case her real parents are known to have been Joseph and Elizabeth (Sanborn) Fifield. Tristram was her brother, some 14 years older than she, and he had never married, although there is reason to believe that he fathered an illegitimate son. However, if her parents had not otherwise have been known, the record would have at least placed her in the correct family, and further research might well have turned up her ancestry.

Another example demonstrates that even this assumption is not always valid. The descendants of Eliphalet Fifield of Vermont were convinced from his death information that his parents were Reuben and Mary. This belief was readily disproved by a little research; Eliphalet came from a town north of where Reuben and Mary lived, and a somewhat obscure probate record put him into guardianship there as a result of the death of his unnamed father at a time when Reuben and Mary were alive and well some 25 miles away. A process of elimination helped to place him in the correct family. However, one of the early census records did indicate a person the age of Eliphalet in the household of Reuben and Mary prior to the probate record. Eliphalet was in a different age category than their fully documented children. While they were not closely related, this suggests that Eliphalet did spend some time with the family, perhaps as a hired hand, and might well have developed a close friendship with them.

Study The Whole Family

Getting to the more interesting cases, the town history of Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, claimed that a certain Richard Fifield was the son of George but referenced no documentation. A study of the family of George plus an estimate of the age of Richard made this claim very unlikely. A check of family naming patterns suggested that the more likely father was Jonathan, an older brother of George of whom little was known. It is often worthwhile to make a full study of the family of a person in such a case. The death record of a daughter of Richard from the late 1800's provided the needed clue. By this time the record keepers were asking for more information, and the providers of the information stated that the daughter's father had been born in Northfield, New Hampshire.

Northfield is some 50 miles northeast of Hampton Falls, and had not even been settled when Richard was likely born, say 1769. However, a check of the 1790 census showed the presence of a previously unidentified Jonathan Fifield there! A further check of town records demonstrated that Jonathan disappeared from Epping, near North Hampton, where he was known to have lived, and shortly thereafter Jonathan appeared in the records of the new town of Northfield. Further confirmation was then found tying the two together, and adding yet two more children to the family of Jonathan and identifying his previously unknown wife. Obviously the descendants of the daughter of Richard did not know where their grandfather had been born, but knew his father had lived in Northfield and made a logical assumption when asked to fill out the death certificate.

Oral History Provides A Clue

At times it can take a considerable amount of analysis to trace the source of the error. The death record of Sylvia (Fifield) Wright in 1897 gave her parents as Joseph Fifield and Susan Straw, and no birth location. The cause of death of this 85 year old woman was "Disease of the Brain." Her marriage record was devoid of useful information. However, the death record of a daughter who died ten years earlier correctly gave the birthplace of Sylvia's husband and stated that Sylvia had been born in Canaan, New Hampshire. There was indication of only one Fifield family in Canaan at the time of her birth, and she would have been a late child in the family of Daniel. Another record indicated that Daniel remarried about two years later. This suggested that his first wife might have died at childbirth, and perhaps Sylvia had been put out to foster care. She would have had no recollection of her real mother.

Daniel had a brother Joseph in a nearby town, and Joseph had married late. His children were born about the same time as Sylvia, and his wife and family were reasonably well documented. With a possible identity for Joseph, who was Susan Straw? One additional piece of information was that the parents of Joseph and Daniel, also a Daniel Fifield who had resided in Sanbornton, New Hampshire, had been sent to live with son Joseph for support by the town of Sanbornton. There was a recorded marriage for the elder Daniel to Margaret Haggitt, and eldest daughter had been named Margaret. Daniel had recorded the births of all of his children in a batch in the town records of Sanbornton, but had not named the mother. In fact, none of the records of his children named their mother.

In this case, the oral history genealogy of the family in the Sanbornton history

gave the needed clue. It stated that Daniel had married "either a Straw or a Flanders." A careful look at Daniel's family provided further evidence. First recorded daughter Margaret was not born until over eight years after the marriage. There was then a three and a half year gap, and the following children were born about two years apart. Further, Daniel had not moved to Sanbornton until the time of the gap between Margaret and the other children.

The resulting conclusion is that Daniel had two wives. Margaret, with childbearing problems, likely died after the birth of her daughter. Daniel then married second Susan, who gave him the remaining children. The Sanbornton historians knew of only the second wife. Joseph's wife was busy with her own children and grandmother Susan, living with her son, stepped in to help. Sylvia, in her

old age and senility, remembered those who had cared for her in her youth, rather than her real parents.

The one further thing to consider is why the Sanbornton historians would have been confused about the surname of Susan. A possibility is that it was also her second marriage, and she was therefore both a Straw and a Flanders, one by birth, the other by marriage. Unfortunately, no further records have yet been found to document any of this.

These are examples of why I cherish those erroneous death records. They are sometimes even more informative than the accurate ones. Incidentally, one of the sons of the younger Daniel removed to Quebec, Canada, where the Fifield name was consistently recorded as Phyfield. ■

JournalSearch

A New tool to help you locate those interesting old articles.

by **Anne Shankland**

There have been many, many interesting and useful articles over the years in the Journal of One-Name Studies, and many of them are worth returning to – but how do you find the particular article you want in a great pile of back-issues?

A new facility called JournalSearch has been added to the Journals section on the website to allow you to locate a Journal article more easily. This lets you search by the article's title, or part of the title; by author's name; by a keyword; or by Journal volume and number, or date. JournalSearch will respond by bringing up the list of articles which meet your criteria, arranged in reverse chronological order (i.e. the latest first), with a hyperlink to the appropriate page in the Journal PDF.

This is not an automated all-text search like Google, where the whole

of the text has been word-indexed; it's driven by a hand-crafted Index created using the Journal article title, plus keywords that appear in the article itself. (Hopefully this will provide a more meaningful set of search results.) You can of course use the Google search available from the Guild Home Page to search the Journals held in the public area, which includes all except those issued during the past year. But I think you will find the JournalSearch facility more useful.

Currently, Volumes 6, 7, 8, and 9 have been indexed (i.e. all the A4-format journals to date). Future issues will be indexed shortly after they are published. Earlier volumes will be added to the Index over the course of the next few months.

Any Journal items which match your search will be listed with a hyperlink to the Journal issue and page of the

PDF file that contains them. Be aware that the whole of the PDF journal issue will be downloaded, and that some of these PDF files are quite big and will take a time to download. In some cases, for instance where the journal had a two-page spread which has had to be reflected in the PDF file, or where (as in early issues) there were supplements stapled into the middle of the Journal, the page number given by the Index will not relate exactly to the correct page number in the downloaded Journal, and you will have to move forward or backwards in the PDF to find the page you want.

I hope that you will find this new JournalSearch useful. The URL is <http://www.one-name.org/journal/journalsearch.html>, and you'll find a link to it in the Journal pages on the website. ■



Guild Subscription To Increase From 1st November 2009



By **David Mellor and Cliff Kemball**

The Committee has reviewed the long term forecast of its anticipated income and expenditure and has decided to increase the Guild's annual subscription to £15.00 with effect from 1st November 2009. Household membership of the Guild will decrease from £6.00 to £5.00 (The household must have at least one full member). A differential rate of £14.00 is also to be introduced for those members who opt out of having a printed register. The One-Name Study Registration fee will remain at £12.00 as a one off fee for each study registered.

The annual subscription has remained at £12.00 since 1st November 1997, a period of twelve years. Recent and continuing rising costs have brought about this decision. Without an increase in the annual subscription the Guild would incur increasing deficits at a time when it aims to increase its activities, provide more services to the public and develop additional benefits for our members.

As a charity it is not acceptable for the Guild to allow its subscriptions to be subsidised by reducing our reserves. Our recent spending of reserves in 2005-06 and 2006-07 is not what triggered the decision to increase the subscriptions. It has been by good financial management that we have been able to delay this inevitable decision to increase our subscriptions.

Long term forecast

The long term forecasting of the Guild's income and expenditure has shown that after achieving a breakeven budget for 2007-08 and setting a further breakeven budget for 2008-09, all subsequent financial years would likely incur an increasing deficit, unless the annual subscription was increased.

A review of the increased costs being experienced by the Guild has

identified that the Guild was incurring a loss on all its International members. This review showed that the costs of providing our international members with four journals a year and one Guild register then stood at £15.10. This meant that the costs were some £3.10 higher than the cost of membership and provided further evidence that there was a need to increase the Guild's annual subscription.

The Guild has been, and is now, financially restricted in its ability to take up many valuable projects that would benefit you in your research. This has to change. In 2008-09 we have had to restrict a number of our internal budgets to ensure that we can meet our breakeven target. Plans to increase the marketing of the Guild outside the UK has had to be delayed and other plans have had to be curtailed.

The increased subscription rate of £15.00 a year will ensure that the Guild will in all expectations not need to further increase its fees for some considerable time. It will also provide a reasonable increase in the Guild's income over the next five years to fund the many activities that the Guild may wish to introduce. In addition this increase will mean that the existing expenditure on our international members would be covered by the subscription (as recent steps have also been taken to reduce our journal and register production and distribution costs).

Looking forward we need to ensure that subscriptions cover their costs. Without this increase it would have been hard to justify our plans for promoting more overseas members when they were making a loss for the Guild. We can now aim to significantly increase our international membership and become the "worldwide centre of excellence in One-Name Studies" we currently purport to be.

Administrative arrangements

The new subscription rate will be introduced on 1st November 2009 for all new and renewing members. Revised membership application forms and renewal forms will be produced in time for the 2009-10 renewals process.

We appreciate that there may be an increase in the number of our existing members who will not renew their membership. The Committee is serious in its aim to expand the Guild internationally, increase its overall membership and continue to provide more assistance to our members in their one-name research.

"The annual subscription has remained at £12.00 since 1st November 1997, a period of twelve years."

We also appreciate that the change to the subscription rate will impose an administrative burden – especially for the 1,073 members who will need to amend their standing orders. To assist in this change over the Guild will be providing a revised bankers standing order form with the July 2009 Journal.

We would appreciate it if you could arrange as soon as possible to cancel your existing standing order and replace it with a new one for the appropriate revised subscription rate. The recent PayPal subscription renewal facility should also make the change over easier for some of our members who wish to pay via PayPal.

If you have an on-line bank account you can pay your annual subscriptions (or any donations you may wish to make to the Guild) via a direct transfer.

The Guild Bank Account details you will need to set up a direct transfer are as follows:

Account: Guild of One-Name Studies

Bank: Alliance & Leicester
Commercial Bank Plc

Sort Code: 72-00-01

Account No. 64819304*

* Members who bank with Alliance and Leicester Commercial Bank

should insert a "1" in front of our account number to make it a nine-digit number 164819304.

Opting out of the Printed Register

For those members who decide to opt out of receiving a printed copy of the register, the revised annual subscription rate will be set at £14.00. The facility to opt out of the printed register is already available on the Guild website <http://www.one-name.org> in the Member's Room under

"Self-service" and "Change Register details".

We are sure that the majority of our existing members appreciate that the Guild provides exceptionally good value for money. A list of the benefits available to our members can be seen on the Guild website (click on the top blue tab "Membership Benefits"). We anticipate that the Guild will be able to expand both its membership and its benefits in the future. Stay with us and you will not be disappointed. ■

Another benefit of Guild membership:

GOONS RAOGK

By **Kirsty Gray**

'Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness' is not a new concept. It represents a long-standing tradition in genealogy where researchers give generously of their time, expertise and opportunity in order to benefit other researchers, with no expectation of financial reward. The idea of the 'Marriage Challenge' (inspired by Peter Copsey) is just one example of this and so many members have benefitted from this. So, how else can Guild members help one another?

Our membership is worldwide and as members we agree to collect all references to our registered name/s on a worldwide basis. But when will I make it to Staffordshire Record Office to look up the two Sillifant references there? And South African Sillifant records will be untouched for a long while yet! This is where GOONS RAOGK comes in.....

The Guild warmly approves of kindness of all natures and especially when we can help one another in our research. Firstly, if you have a particular skill or knowledge that would be of use to other members, or maybe access to specific repositories, you can offer your services to other Guild members through a form in the Member's Room (<http://www.one-name.org/cgi-bin/members/raogk.cgi>).

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Offer or <input type="radio"/> Request from member number 4014	
Brief description of offer or request :	<input type="text"/>
Any further details such as time constraints or other conditions or limitations :	<input type="text"/>
Location (if appropriate) :	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Clear"/> <input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

It is worth mentioning that the services offered must not breach any copyright or other similar agreement associated with data; for instance, offers of look-ups from databases which limit use to the purchaser or licensee. A small number of look-ups may be acceptable as 'fair use', but a standing offer to do look-ups on a database such as the National Burial Index for example, would be contrary to the terms of the database. These offers would have to be removed from GOONS RAOGK.

Secondly, there is a facility for you to make a request of Guild members to provide a service to you, using the same form. All services are offered or requested with no expectation of

payment for work done, although reasonable expenses should be met by the recipient.

Individual volunteers will work in different ways - some may be able to do look-ups every week, some once a month, some less regularly, so please bear this in mind when making requests and be sure to acknowledge receipt of any requested information and ask if there are any costs incurred.

As co-ordinator for this project, please direct any questions or comments you have about this facility to kirsty.gray@one-name.org. I hope you will agree that this is an excellent new facility and look forward to lots of feedback from you all. ■



12th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry

Kings College, Auckland, New Zealand

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

The New Zealand Society of Genealogists hosted a wonderfully friendly and very well organised Congress, with a feast of interesting speakers and topics. There was plenty of variety to interest everyone and pleasant surprises to discover anew topics of interest such as DNA. A bonus was the facility to access WiFi internet throughout the venues.

This was the 5th triennial AFFHO Congress that I have attended in the past 21 years, the most recent being 6 years ago. My most outstanding memory of this Congress was the amazingly fast advances in technology. This was aptly demonstrated by the lecture by Elaine Collins who was unable to travel to New Zealand due to the pressures of her job during the release of the 1911 Census. Instead we were treated to a live satellite teleconference broadcast on a large screen. Not only did we learn the latest information on the 1911 Census, but also got to see fascinating footage on the meticulous process of filming the census. Other exciting advances included new methods of recovering unreadable documents by merging infra-red scans with ultra-violet scans. The digitisation of Australian Newspapers by the National Library of Australia is impressive, and as an example of technological advance I was delighted to be able to take out my iPod Touch and do a search *during* the lecture.

Exciting Things To Come

The presentation that had the audience clapping and cheering was the exciting announcement by Judy Jones from FamilySearch, of the forthcoming *British Jurisdictions Prototype*. This will be an interactive internet programme using optional overlaying of maps such as county, ordnance survey, parish, with links to sources of holdings of local records and much more, including seamlessly looking at maps of adjacent counties using same scale maps.

Being personally interested in ways to archive and store research, I was enthralled by a photographic workshop given to help understand the properties of various types of photography and how best to preserve them. Also Judy Jones gave an excellent lecture on organising research. Being a visual learner I was sorry that the lecture on using Custodian for one-name studies did not eventuate. Overall I feel I have returned with some wonderful ideas for advancing my personal research.

I am looking forward to the next Congress in Adelaide in 2012 by which time I am sure great advances will have been made for easier access to records in all parts of the world. ■

Susan Hilliker,
Sydney, Australia

I attended my first Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) Congress this year in Auckland New Zealand. I say my first because I do hope it won't be the only one I go to.

The Guild is a member of the AFFHO and David Evans is our representative, so attends their meetings and reports back to the committee.

The AFFHO Congress is held every three years and unlike the Guild Conference it runs for 5 days and has a stream of 3 talks to choose from or a workshop in the morning and afternoon each day. There was a plenary session first each morning and after lunch before we all went to our chosen talks. Many of the lecturers were from USA and UK as well as NZ and AUS. Michael Gandy and David Hay (from UK), both of whom spoke at one of our conferences in Wyboston a few years ago, were amongst the speakers. Those of you who read Dick Eastmans newsletter will already have learned a little of the Congress and know that he was there for the whole time – he gave three talks and one of the plenary addresses about recent developments in the family history world. Two of the things he told us about which will be available soon - the new Family Search Database, and the fact that the 1841 Manchester Census that was



Standing:

David Evans (3062) AUS, Sharon Evans (4380) NZ, John Dodds (4324) NZ, Susan Hilliker (0508) AUS, Christine Headford (4795) NZ, Lilly Baker (751) NZ, Lorraine Wright (4084) NZ, Andrew Peake (161) AUS, Brian Crocker (346) AUS

Seated:

Valerie Garton (4825) AUS, Helen Smith (4300) AUS, Pam Herrington (4589) AUS, Sandra Turner (3038) UK, Mary Rix (1328) UK

damaged by fire will be read using infra red and ultra violet.

I was also very pleased to learn from another talk, that the Australian Newspaper database can be edited where the OCR is incorrect.

The Guild Chairman Peter Walker was scheduled to speak but had to cancel for personal reasons. David Evans stepped in and gave a talk on One-Name Studies to around 70 people and that was very well received. We also had a meeting for Guild members and a few interested non-members attended that. Since the conference

we have had eight new members, four from New Zealand and four from Australia.

Another difference from our own conference is that all the speakers have to send in papers beforehand. These are produced in books that can be purchased. Luckily for me though I opted for the shorter version and the full papers on CD. The booked looked too heavy for my luggage. (Maybe something we should try in the future?)

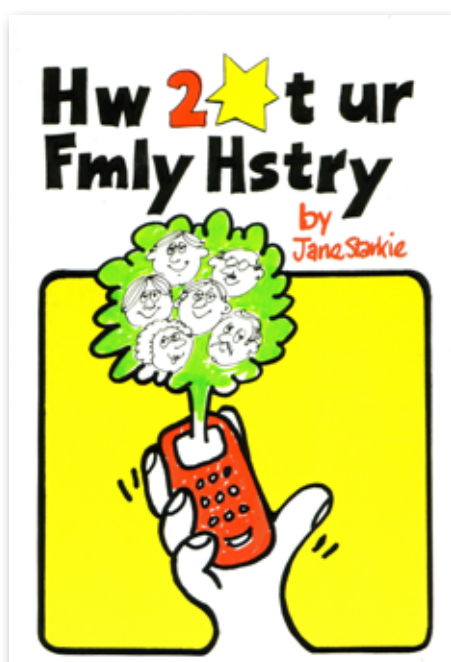
On the organising committee for this years Congress were two Guild

members Lilly Baker 751 and Jan Gow 4677. There were 450 delegates and because of the complexity in organising such an event it was five years in the planning. The next AFFHO Congress is already being planned and again one of our Guild members, Andrew Peake 161, is on the organising committee. We wish you well with this Andrew and I for one will be saving up and hoping to use this as a reason for my first visit to Australia in 2012. ■

Sandra Turner
Regional Rep Coordinator

Reviews Reviews Reviews

New genealogy books and CDs



**Hw 2 *t ur Fmly Hstry
by Jane Starkie,**

**Paperback
ISBN 978-1-906280-04-8,
published by
The Family History Partnership,
Lancs, 2008, £12.95, 159 pages**

As a relatively young family historian and a teacher by day, the Editor's choice of reviewer for this wonderful new resource was hardly surprising. The foreword says: 'If you are interested in family history, this book will inspire you', and it isn't far wrong. Jane Starkie has three children of her own and it is clear from her style of writing and many interesting turns of phrase that she is 'down with the kids'!

The introduction sets the scene and leads us into a story that Jane ably guides us through, beginning with Chapter 1 which is aptly titled 'Once upon a time'. Each chapter has a catchy heading and is interspersed with photographs (both black and white and colour), puzzles, diagrams, pictures from yesteryear and a variety of other artistic accoutrements. Different coloured pages scattered throughout the book highlight some key elements of the hobby (or should I say, obsession) which the author more than adequately explains in the simplest way possible. Jane's imagination has created a vivid illustration of the many aspects of family history – no mean feat.

Jane Starkie covers the basics of genealogy and leaves very few stones unturned in her endeavour to catch the eye of the younger generation

and interested 9 to 16 year olds in family history. Although this book is aimed at today's youth, it could appeal to all children from 7 to 70, or even older.

There is very little to dislike about the final product which has clearly set the author on a new venture as one of the founder members of the Family History Partnership; the non-profit organisation who published this book. When publishing my own journal *Simply Sillifant?*, the use of Curlz MT font seems like a good idea. However, in this lovely book I find myself having a real aversion to it. The use of multiple fonts is perhaps employed to engage the reader..... sorry Jane, it doesn't work for me. I would also have liked to see more examples of the documents that are relevant to family history. There is an example of the writing in the Domesday Book and a birth certificate though no censuses were reproduced (the chance was there and the author decided upon a transcript). An opportunity missed in my opinion. That said, I would recommend this book to anyone wishing to get their children, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins or any other member of the family interested in this fascinating hobby of ours. ■

Kirsty Gray

Pictures of Hampsthwaite, Harrogate

Location of the next Guild Seminar

Vol 10 Issue 2 April-June 2009



Main inset: Hampsthwaite Memorial Hall. **Top left:** Google Maps view of Hampsthwaite in relation to Harrogate. **Middle left:** St Thomas á Becket church. **Bottom left & right:** Street scenes of Hampsthwaite. **Bottom Centre:** Another view of Hampsthwaite parish church.

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