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Journal

of One-Name Studies



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Howes That?

The Story of a Website

Implementing A
Surname Study Website
With **Drupal**

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2010 Conference,
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My Family
Warts and All

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Guild

of One-Name Studies

Box G, 14 Charterhouse Buildings
Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA
Tel: 0800 011 2182
E-mail: guild@one-name.org
Website: www.one-name.org
Registered as a charity in England
and Wales No. 802048

President

Derek A Palgrave MA MPhil FRHistS FSG

Vice-Presidents

John Hebden
Richard Moore FSG
Iain Swinnerton
Alec Tritton

Guild Committee

The Committee consists of the four
Officers, plus the following:

Gordon Adshead
Keith Bage
Peter Copsey
Stephen Daglish
David Mellor
Paul Millington
Roy Rayment
Anne Shankland
Sandra Turner

Bookstall Manager

Howard Benbrook

Forum Manager

Wendy Archer

Regional Reps Co-ordinator

Sandra Turner

Website Manager

Anne Shankland

Librarian & Helpdesk

Roy Rayment

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Executive Peter Walker
Marketing Position Vacant
Seminar Gordon Adshead

Guild Officers



CHAIRMAN

Peter Walker
24 Bacons Drive
Cuffley
Hertfordshire
EN6 4DU
01707 873778

chairman@one-name.org



VICE-CHAIRMAN

Peter Hagger
106 Hayling Ave
Little Paxton
Huntingdon
PE19 6HQ
01480 477978

vice-chairman@one-name.org



SECRETARY

Kirsty Gray
11 Brendon Close
Tilehurst, Reading
Berkshire
RG30 6EA
0118 941 4833

secretary@one-name.org



TREASURER

Cliff Kemball
168 Green Lane
Chiselhurst
Kent
BR7 6AY
0208 467 8865

treasurer@one-name.org



REGISTRAR

David Mellor
2 Bromley Road
West Bridgeford
Nottingham
Notts NG2 7AP
01159 141838

registrar@one-name.org



EDITOR

Keith Bage
60 Fitzgerald Close
Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB7 4QD
01353 650185

editor@one-name.org



www.one-name.org

Guild information

Bookstall

As well as Guild publications, the
Bookstall Manager has a supply of
Journal folders, ties, lapel badges
and back issues of the Journal. The
address is:

Howard Benbrook
7 Amber Hill
Camberley

Surrey
GU15 1EB

England
E-mail enquiries to:

bookstall@one-name.org

Forum

This online discussion forum is open
to any member with access to e-mail.
You can join the list by sending a
message with your membership
number to:

forum@one-name.org

To e-mail a message to the forum,
send it to:

goons@rootsweb.com

Regional Representatives

The Guild has Regional Reps in
many areas. If you are interested
in becoming one, please contact
the Regional Representatives
Coordinator, Sandra Turner:

2 St Annes Close
Winchester
Hampshire SO22 4LQ
Tel: 01962 840388

E-mail:

rep-coordinator@one-name.org

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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

When I spoke at the Amersham Seminar, I described, as I always do when presenting on the topic of one-name studies, how they are different from ordinary genealogy. I suppose that for many of us, much of the time, the similarities are greater than the differences. But all the same, these differences have a profound effect on the Guild and the enthusiasm of its members. It is often said that nobody is interested in reading about someone else's family. How many times have your eyes glazed over when facing yet another article in a family history journal describing the details of someone's rather ordinary family ancestry. For many of us, I suspect, we prefer articles describing unusual people or events and most especially those that teach us new techniques or sources. We also value experts in their specialist fields. New techniques and sources may have limited interest to the average family historian, but for us one-namers all such information allows us to expand our researches. As I often say, ordinary family history tends to be convergent – trying to find our next most distant ancestor from amongst thousands of people and places, whereas one-name studies tend to be divergent – any new source revealing our 'one name' may take us off in a completely new direction.

This explains perhaps why the Guild remains strong when other societies are struggling. We are fortunate to have many experts and specialists within our membership and many participate in the Forum where members can share their knowledge and help each other. But there's a downside to this expansive character of one-name studies – one can feel overwhelmed by the challenge that these ever-expanding horizons present. Truly, a one-name study is never complete. No doubt this discourages some from starting in the first place, but we would always recommend progressing at the pace you feel comfortable

with. Sometimes, too, it's important to take a break from data gathering and concentrate on other aspects of your study. Perhaps time to try to fit some names into trees, or update your web-site, plan a Marriage Challenge or write something for this Journal.

Can you help?

For some of us, our one-name studies have to take second place to administering the Guild. You won't be surprised therefore that I return to a familiar theme. The Guild needs more help. We are now half way through the committee year but still have not got enough volunteers to cover some of the key roles vacated last year. This puts additional strain on the rest of us, while other activities remain 'on the back-burner'. As much as we like new ideas in the Guild, you will understand that my heart sinks every time I read another suggestion of the form 'I think the Guild should do ...' when there is no suggestion as to who might make these ideas happen. Some of the best Guild features have started from one individual who had an idea and took it forward initially on his or her own. So you will understand that the Guild committee often faces a dilemma between letting an individual try something new and avoiding situations that experience suggests will not work and reflect badly on the Guild. In that sense, the Committee does need a mix of experienced individuals and new blood that doesn't know what won't work.

One area which has not in recent times had enough attention is marketing. As you may know, the Guild does not currently have a Marketing Sub-committee and we have had to pull back activities to the minimum, which means trying to ensure we have adverts placed in the right journals. But marketing is more than just advertising. It's about matching what we do with the needs of our various

stakeholders – our members, our prospective members, family historians generally and the wider family history community which includes archivists, professional genealogists, journalists and academics. And as a Charity, we are required to deliver our objectives to 'the wider public'. Is this something you could help with? ■

Have you changed your Standing Order?

As I assume most of you will be aware now, this year we have regrettably had to increase our annual subscription to £15 (with a £1 discount if you opt to have the Register in electronic form only). The renewal season will soon be upon us and the administration of this will be immensely simplified for us if everyone who pays by Standing Order adjusts it as soon as possible to pay the Guild £15 (or £14) on 1st November each year. Note that we do not operate a Direct Debit system, so we cannot take money directly from you or set up this new amount on your behalf. As it relies on action by yourselves, the Guild introduced a web page where members can confirm that they have adjusted their Standing Orders. As I write, a worryingly low proportion of those who pay by Standing Order have confirmed their action using the web page, which can be found at <http://www.one-name.org/cgi-bin/user-maintenance/confirmSO.cgi> (or in short-form <http://tinyurl.com/lcpmjk>).

It may be that many of you have changed your Standing Order but not told us, but if you haven't made the change yet, please do so as soon as possible before the old amount is automatically forwarded to us. Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Guild NewsXtra

giftaid it

As you may know I have been pro-actively trying to increase the number of UK members who sign a Gift Aid Declaration (GAD), as a means of increasing the Guild's income. At the last budget the Government announced a change to the Gift Aid rules which meant that Gift Aid claims could only be back-dated for four years (instead of seven) with effect from the financial year 2010/11. This will reduce the amount of Gift Aid we will be able to claim in respect of UK members who have been with the Guild for four years or more.

As part of this year's Gift Aid campaign I have e-mailed/written to all the members who had joined the Guild over four years ago and had not signed a GAD. Those members who did not respond have been marked as "ineligible" which means I will not chase them again. Of the 341 members contacted 50 replied and signed a GAD. I have therefore marked 291 UK members as "ineligible" in the Guild's gift aid database.

I have also e-mailed/written to UK members who have joined the Guild within the last four years and had not signed a GAD. Of the 348 members contacted 63 have now signed a GAD and a further 24 have let me know that they are ineligible to sign a GAD.

I shall, of course, continue to chase up those who have not yet signed a GAD.

I would like to thank all those Guild members who responded to my last Gift Aid campaign to get more members to sign a GAD. On the basis of the additional GADs received I expect to be able to claim over £1,000 from HM Revenue & Customs. I expect that I will continue to receive a trickle of GADs in the coming months, but I would urge members who are eligible to sign a GAD, and have not done so, to e-mail or post one to me at your earliest opportunity. Over 67% of UK members have already done so

Cliff Kemball
Guild Treasurer

Guild To Award Fellowships

The Guild of One-Name Studies is the premier worldwide organisation for the study of surnames and its members comprise some of the most knowledgeable and experienced genealogists in this specialised field. The Guild is run by its members for its members with a significant number of Guild post holders undertaking the various administrative tasks needed to operate the Guild efficiently and effectively. However the Guild does not have a mechanism for recognising the contribution made by Guild members either in the field of one-name studies or in supporting the Guild's activities in an administrative role.

The Guild Committee has recently approved the setting up of a fellowship scheme to recognise the expertise of its members and the contributions made to the running of the Guild. Each member awarded under this scheme will be known as a Guild Master Craftsman (GMC).

Membership of this award will be restricted to fifty members at any one time and after the first year no more than five new candidates shall be admitted in any one year. The scheme

will start in 2009-10 and in the first year up to twenty candidates may be admitted as GMCs.

Nominating a member for an award

We would like Guild members to consider nominating anyone they consider worthy of being awarded a fellowship of the Guild by providing a short description as to why the candidate should be nominated. The citation should summarise the contribution the individual has made to the promotion and understanding of undertaking a One-Name Study. Alternatively the citation should identify the contribution the individual has made in supporting the Guild's activities in an administrative role. The nomination should be sent to Kirsty Gray, Guild Secretary, 11 Brendon Close, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG30 6EA or e-mailed to secretary@one-name.org before the 23rd January 2010, in sufficient time for the nominations to be considered by the Guild Committee at their February 2010 meeting.

Any member of the Guild may propose new candidates for this award and a Guild member may nominate

anyone for an award. While the award of a Guild Master Craftsman will not be confined to current members of the Guild, the award of a GMC to a non-Guild member will be considered exceptional. The rules governing the award of a GMC will be placed on the Guild website at <http://www.one-name.org/members/fellowship.html>.

Approval of the awards

In the first year the Guild Committee will assess the nominations received and will approve up to twenty fellowships. It is anticipated that in subsequent years the assessment of nominations will be considered by a small group of people drawn from GMC members and some trustees.

All the people awarded a Guild Master Craftsman will be announced at the Guild Annual General Meeting and a list of such GMCs will be printed in the Guild register and made available on-line on the Guild website. GMCs will hold the position for life. ■

Paul Millington



Howes That?

The story of a website

By **Paul Howes**

Six months ago, I took the plunge and decided to register an ONS into my own name. I'd had a few warnings and misgivings about taking something like this on, because it's BIG! The warnings kept coming from other GOONS when they received my application. So my misgivings also continued! However, I've persisted and am now beginning to generate interest in our community about what I've done and how. This article attempts to explain a little of the background of how I've done it, in the hope that others might benefit from my still limited experience.

What is it?

In these six months, I have set up a website, registered 100 interested people and now have a database with almost 16,000 people in it, growing by hundred more per month or so. By the time this article appears we will have catalogued all registered births, deaths and marriages in England and Wales from 1837 through 1930 (about 40,000 records) and sent hundreds of corrections to FreeBMD!

This has required the use of some different skills from those typically used by GOONS in the past. They're not difficult to learn, just different, especially when being a GOON has frequently implied working on one's own in a lonely garret with nothing more than a card index and a box of 2B pencils!

By the way, I do not claim to be blazing a trail. For that, you might look at the grand-daddy of them all: the website of Arnold Sprague and Dick Weber: <http://www.sprague-database.org/>. After twelve years, their phenomenal database stands at 307,000 connected individuals and counting! It is gratifying to find that I also adopted many of their principles before I found their site. I bow to their massive achievement. Given that my own name is several times more

frequent than theirs, it shows the size of the task ahead.

Start at the very beginning

"A very good place to start" – Maria von Trapp

Like many other of life's projects, it helps to know where you are going before you start the journey. I had, and still have, four goals:

1. To help individual Howes family members break through brick walls in their research. I have three separate lines of Howes ancestors and am blocked on every one!
2. In particular, to establish the English roots of Thomas Howes, who emigrated to America in 1637
3. To bring together Howes families from around the world, and add to the sum of knowledge about our family name
4. To examine whether there are common roots between Howes, Howse and Howe families

These goals have led me down a particular path. If you have a different set of goals it is quite possible that you will end up in a different place.

For me, it was immediately obvious that I wanted to go beyond the strict bounds of an ONS. If I wanted to be a resource for people researching the Howes name, I had to look too at descendents of female Howes individuals, ie, people not named Howes. The implications of that are to



Figure 1. The websites front page

multiply the size of the ultimate study to Sprague-like proportions!

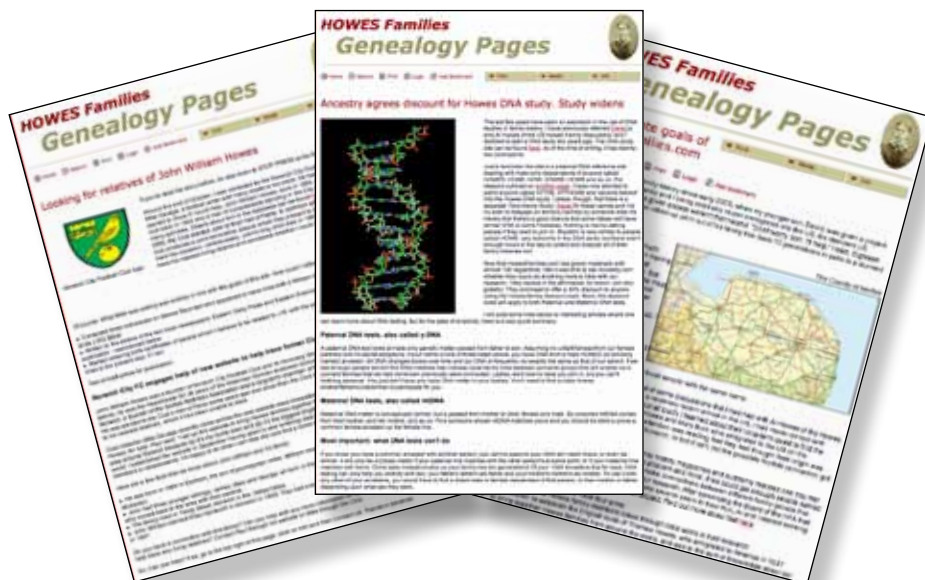
With the American end of the Howes clan, I'd figured out too that we needed to have a DNA component to the study. We started that a few months earlier when we were able to obtain a substantial discount from a testing service and very quickly got to twenty participants, a tiny number compared to what we will need to have achieved. Now we have a discount again (actually open to anyone) I hope this will re-stimulate interest.

Collaboration

I'm a management consultant. Working with other people is in my (and my firm's) DNA. The Internet is a fantastic tool for working together,

but to actually do it, you need to find willing volunteers. Only a few people who visit will be willing to work. So maximizing the number of eyeballs is the game, SUBJECT TO keeping on top of the data you receive. That means I/we had to:

- Provide something of value or interest to visitors – the linking of everyone into family groups is key to that value, I believe, because it mimics what visitors themselves are doing
- Start with something big enough to generate traffic - I spent almost a year entering up details of the Howes family within about 15 miles of Norwich, across all censuses starting in 1901 and working back from there, linking families together as I went.
- Control the quality of data and insist on putting everything into a consistent format. Nothing now gets on the site without being vetted for consistency. What format doesn't matter – make up your own rules and stick to'em! I made one mistake and spent hours going through the data correcting items that would have been much easier before merging. By the way, beware of the merging facilities of the commercial programs. It's very easy to merge the wrong people, especially when your one name study has (as in my case) more than 600 people named William Howes! Do not merge the wrong people! It's like unscrambling an omelette. Yes, I made that mistake too! All my merges now are one person at a time and completely controlled.
- Make regular changes to keep people returning for more. I add an additional page every so often and had to redesign the whole front page after only three months to reflect the rapid move away from pure Norfolk data.
- Make people feel they're part of something successful – makes them more eager to give up their own data.
- Respond to everyone, within 24 hours usually, and make it personal. Even standard registration e-mails I send are customized in some way to what



the enquirer has told me about themselves.

- Provide a lot of positive feedback. I give top priority to people who share their data with me and put their material up on-line as soon as I can. This gives them a good feeling and they tell their friends and family members who then also come to the site to look up what happened to their family!
- Use methods for grabbing data in bulk where you can, a tip from a previous edition of JOONS, but you must do something with that data, or there is no added value for the visitor to the site.
- Look for volunteers and treat them well. Time is the most precious commodity we have and if people give up some to help, they need active encouragement, praise and so on. Don't push them to do what you want them to do. Let them do something that interests and energizes them. Recognize that they have other interests and will want their involvement to ebb and flow. Not a problem.
- Restrict your active marketing activities so that you are not overwhelmed with incoming data. So far, I have not even had to write to the Family History Magazines to publicize my site. I did write an article for the Norfolk FHS a year ago which generated a lot of interest and I have written to the local Norwich newspaper once, as you'll see from the website. Both of those

were very successful in generating traffic. Every time I think things are getting quiet, I answer one or two questions on a mailing list relevant to the Howes name and put my web address under my name. That's enough to get people's attention. Google frequently does the rest. Web traffic to my site has meant that it has gradually crept up the search engine's list and now appears at the top with the right combination of terms.

- Be opportunistic. I had an enquiry from Norwich City FC's historian and together we solved a mystery for the club in only three weeks. We turned that into a letter to the local newspaper and a special page on the site.
- Maintain your integrity at all times. If you have a strict non-commercial policy and a 100-year rule, stick to them.
- And finally, use a great piece of software to show the results. I use TNG which requires a web server with php and MySQL software. It works fine for me and in particular the user group is the most friendly, knowledgeable and helpful group on the web, yes, even beating the GOONS list! To get the best from it, you need to learn some basic HTML and php but it's not that difficult when you can simply copy code and play with it. I keep my basic data on FTM even though I've become frustrated with its American

bias because I'm used to it and every few days upload a new GEDCOM to the web.

What's next?

Ideas I have for the future development of the site are:

- Producing a page each for interesting people named Howes – perhaps I can get people to write something about someone in their own family
- Adding pictures of peoples ancestors to the site, just like I've added certificates. I really wish I could do this now because lots of people want it, but I just don't have the hours in the day to maintain it!
- Producing more statistics on the site, e.g. Where are the people from? What are their names (like

my William stat above)? Who are the major patriarchs? And so on. This last one is very important because it will link into

- Furthering the DNA study
- Putting a CMS wrapper around the site to allow for a single sign-on to all the contents, including the bulletin board.

I will, of course, be asking the customers for their ideas!

In conclusion

As I re-read the points I made above, it occurred to me that the points I'm making are not so different from running a business: "figure out what you want to do", "focus on your customers", "quality is your best marketing tool", "follow your energy", be responsive, use the principles of mass customization, get your friends to say great things about you, and so on and so on.

This is a strictly non-commercial site, but I believe the message is one of convergence. Running a good website is just that whether you are selling things or just sharing ideas. It is different from a traditional ONS but the skills you need are not difficult to learn and the feedback from your users when you get it right is heart-warming. I hope to have been of some help to others who might be thinking about such an approach.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to say thanks to everyone who has shared their data, to Dave Howes in Germany who's produced most of the BMD listings and a special mention to my cousin Ian who has proved to be every bit as crazy as I am and has supported the development of this site with great chunks of his time. Really greatly appreciated. ■



Registrar's Notes

By
David Mellor

The Size of the Guild Membership

When it comes to Guild membership numbers, the committee has always been of the "size matters" school rather than the "small is beautiful" school. There is a comforting strength in numbers and, at a time when other similar groups to ours are feeling the pinch from the economic downturn, we are not only weathering the storm, we are positively flourishing.

Figures

Successive Registrars have recorded the number of new members each year since the Guild was founded in 1979. The bar graph at the bottom of the opposite page shows that there were 198 founder members in 1979 and then a period of low but gradually increasing member enrolment leading to a peak of over 200 per year in the period 1989-1990. Then there was a decline in new members joining during the years 1991-1997 although the

reasons for this decline are not clear. This was followed by four halcyon years 1998-2001 during which over 200 new members joined each year. In fact the year I joined, 2001, was (naturally!) the best year of all with 298 new members that year. Then another decline occurred during the years 2002-2007 during which period enrolment figures were in the range of 155-183 per year. Finally in 2008 we start to see the green shoots of recovery with 215 new members that year. The current year 2009 promises to be even better with 204 new members having already joined by the end of August. I have used a predicted total number of 250 new members for 2009 in the bar graph but this may well turn out to be an underestimate.

Reasons

It is always difficult to come up with satisfactory explanations for fluctuations in a complex system such

as Guild membership. However there are a number of possible reasons for our current success despite the economic climate and the recent but necessary increase in our annual subscription charge.

Firstly the Guild offers excellent and continually improving value for the subscription charged. If I were asked to list my three favourite benefits I would give the Guild Knowledge Store (Wiki), the Guild Forum and the Journal of One-Name Studies, all of which seem to go from strength to strength.

Secondly there is the increasing public interest in family history following the popularity of the television programme *Who Do You Think You Are?* and the various spin-offs.

Thirdly by 2008 the process for membership application had been

completely separated from surname registration, so allowing new members to join without feeling under any compulsion to register a one-name study until they are ready to do so.

Fourthly our Webmaster Anne Shankland has recently made it possible to join the Guild online using the form available on our website (www.one-name.org) and paying the first annual subscription by PayPal.

Fifthly we have set up a scheme whereby non-members who subscribe to the new five week online course *Introduction to One-Name Studies* provided by Pharos Tutors are given a free one year subscription to the Guild in the expectation that most will continue with their membership thereafter.

Other Considerations

Our total membership number at any one time of course depends also on the number of members leaving the Guild by death, resignation or failure to renew towards the end

of each year. Year end figures for total membership take these losses into account and are shown in the following table.

Year	Members	Non-UK %
2006	2031	14%
2007	2081	14%
2008	2180	15%

From this we can see that from 2006 to 2007 there was a net gain of 50 members but from 2007 to 2008 there was a bigger net gain of 99 members. It looks as though we are in line for an even greater increase in total membership by the end of this year as we currently (at the end of August) have a total membership of 2294. This figure will need to be adjusted by the end of the year with the addition of about another 50 new members and the subtraction of an unknown number of members who fail to renew. I would estimate that the net gain in membership 2008-2009 could be expected to be in the order of 150.

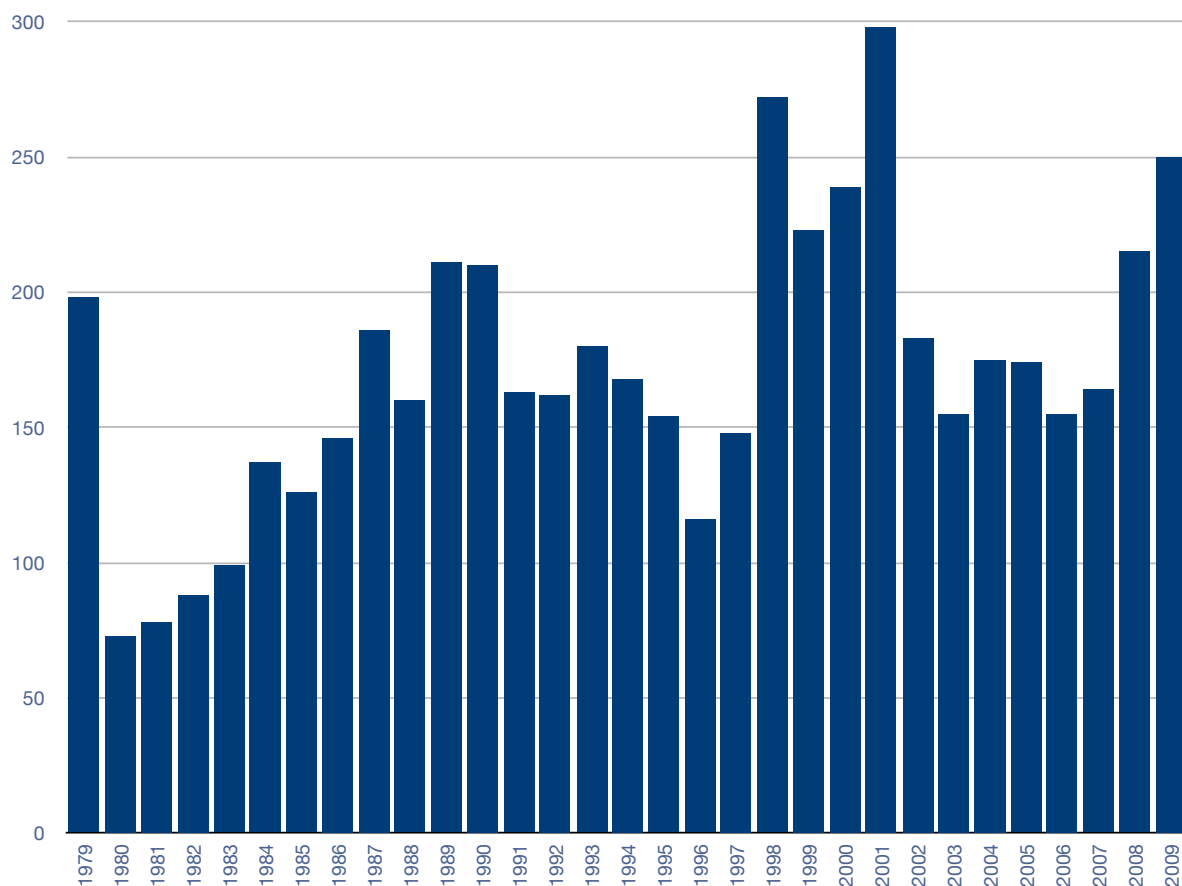
Your committee would like to see an increase in the proportion of

non-UK members to better reflect the international status of the Guild. As you can see from the table the proportion of non-UK members increased by 1% between 2007 and 2008. At the end of August 2009 the proportion of non-UK members had again increased by 1% to 16%. However there is still much room for improvement and a marketing plan aimed at non-UK countries is being discussed for next year.

Healthy

The healthy growth of Guild membership despite the world's economic upheavals has to be a good thing, but it does increase the pressures placed on the committee members and officers. The day to day running of the Guild depends totally on able members volunteering their time and skills. Your committee would like to see more members offering their services to the Guild so that we can continue to grow and flourish. ■

New Members





There's More Than One Way To Do It!

Announcing a new Guild competition for 2010

By **Anne Shankland**

The Guild Publication Award last year was a great success (with well over a hundred entries received), but it was not something we can easily repeat.

Instead, we are hoping to keep up the momentum with the announcement of a new competition for 2009-2010, reflecting a critical element of One-Name Studies:

There's more than one way to do it !

One of the most frequent discussions among Guild members when they get together is, "How do other one-namers go about their hobby?" This is a subject which never fails to arouse interest, and members always seem happy to talk about their methods or to hear someone else's approach. No matter whether you've been doing your one-name study for three months or three decades, your input to this discussion is valuable, as your experience is unique. No two studies are the same, so there can never be one "right" way to run a one-name study. On the contrary, one-namers are often actively working out their own approach based on the characteristics of their study, and comparing methods and techniques and tools can be of mutual benefit. And it's fun!

So this year we are inviting members to submit a short article – say up to about 1500 - 2000 words – describing some aspect of how they go about doing their One-Name Study. There will be seven categories (listed below), corresponding to the "seven pillars of wisdom" of one-naming (see the Guild website section on "One Name Studies"). Members can enter for any or all of these categories – the more entries the better.

The categories are as follows:

1. Data collection.

This is the activity which many one-namers find takes up almost all of their time! We are interested here in anything to do with collecting data, either actively (e.g., by visiting repositories or searching the web) or passively (where correspondents send you information about people with your name). Tell us where you look for your data, what you find and where you find it, especially when you find some surprising material or find it in a surprising place. Do you get most of your data by visiting record offices, or on the Internet? Many Guild members are UK-based, so if you are in the habit of visiting non-UK repositories we would all love to hear about it.

This category includes, of course, what you do with the data: how you record it, how you store it, what techniques you use to work with it. If you use index cards in shoe-boxes, tell us about it. If you keep your data on paper in a set of lever-arch files, let us know. If you use a computer, tell us about the software you use and why you use it; what you like about it and what you don't like. The Guild Forum is full of questions and answers on this topic, so we know you have lots to say on it.

2. Analysis

As you collect your one-name data, you can start to analyse it to find out more. This involves, for instance, trying to establish the "missing" data, such as the names of the spouses who married-in to your study name family, or the individuals or families who should appear in the Census but for various reasons don't (maybe as the result of transcription errors or less than perfect indexing). It may include reconstruction of family groups from the data you have collected about individuals. It may also include the analysis of naming patterns within families, or the occurrence of variants of the study name, or migration of

families from one parish to another or from one continent to another.

3. Synthesis

Once you have a substantial amount of data, it gives you the opportunity to "add value" to your study by allowing you to draw conclusions from the data. You may start to identify patterns over time, or over geographical areas, in various aspects of your study such as the origin of your surname, its variants, and its distribution. You may find yourself asking, and answering, questions such as: Where did the name arise? Has the name spread out from a single "heartland" where it is or was at its most concentrated? What is the pattern of longevity, of infant mortality, or of migration abroad? How did variants come about?

Tell us the methods you use to answer these questions – and the interesting results that you have achieved. You may have decided to run a DNA study to find out more about the name; how have you gone about this, and what have you discovered from it?

4. Publicising your study

You will want to make the existence of your study known, to maximise the chances of hearing from other people with your name. There are many ways of doing this, including of course the Guild Register in both its printed and its online form, but also covering genealogical directories and websites. You may have produced your own website, or Guild profile; if you have a website, you may publish all your data on it or you may provide just a few snippets to entice interested people to contact you. You may issue a newsletter to a circle of like-minded people; you may stage periodic reunions for people sharing your name. You may even form a One-Name Society for the name, which may do any or all of the above. Tell us about the ways in which you publicise your study, especially

the more unusual ones or the ones which turned out to be much more successful than you expected – or, for that matter, much less!

5. Responding to enquiries

Once your one-name study has got a bit of publicity, you will start hearing from people interested in the data you have. Most of them will claim someone of your name as their ancestor, and will want to hear more about these people. Maybe some of them have stories you would like to tell us; maybe some of them relate “wild history” to you and will not believe that their account is not strictly factual. Maybe some of them – even most of them – may turn out to be related to you in ways that you had not expected. One of the areas of one-name study that can cause problems but gets little attention is the management of a large number of contacts; how do you deal with this?

6. Publication of results

This was, of course, what the Guild Publication Award last year was all about. But in most cases, what we didn't hear about was your own experience at writing up your work. Was it an enriching experience? What went right? What went wrong? With hindsight, can you identify things you would have done better next time round? Would you advise other people to do it the same way as you did?

7. Preserving your study

The final category is about preserving your study for the future. Ideally, of course you would find someone who is keen to take it on when you have to relinquish it yourself, but in the meantime it is important to make sure that your data is well organised and well protected against loss. How do you do this? Have you suffered any losses of your data, and how did you remedy them?

On each of the above categories, the essays may be a simple “this is how I do it”. Or they may be more anecdotal, “this is how I did it when I started when I didn't know any better”, or “this is how I did it when I started and it turned out to be a great way to do it”. Or they may be instructional, “this is a good way to do it”. Or even inspirational: “I did it like this and look what happened!” They may be light-hearted in tone, totally serious, or humorous. It is hoped that people will contribute widely different styles and approaches according to their own tastes and interests, the length of their study or the lack of it, the characteristics of their study name, their available resources and techniques, or the skills and technology they have available to them. Some will work very much on their own, some will form part of a formal or informal group or society and will share the effort.

A break from Guild tradition is indicated by the fact that there will be prizes (not just a Guild certificate): we are awarding, for the winner in each category, a book token for £25, redeemable against Howard's Guild Bookstall. Obviously some categories are bound to be more popular than others – but remember: your chances of winning are higher if you go for a less-popular category.

Since the essays will take some effort and time to write, we are announcing the competition earlier than usual, in the hope that members will start writing straightaway. But the essays do not have to be new – if members have an appropriate article already written we will happily accept it. The essays may previously have been published in JoONS, but – sorry – articles published in other magazines or Journals will not be eligible.

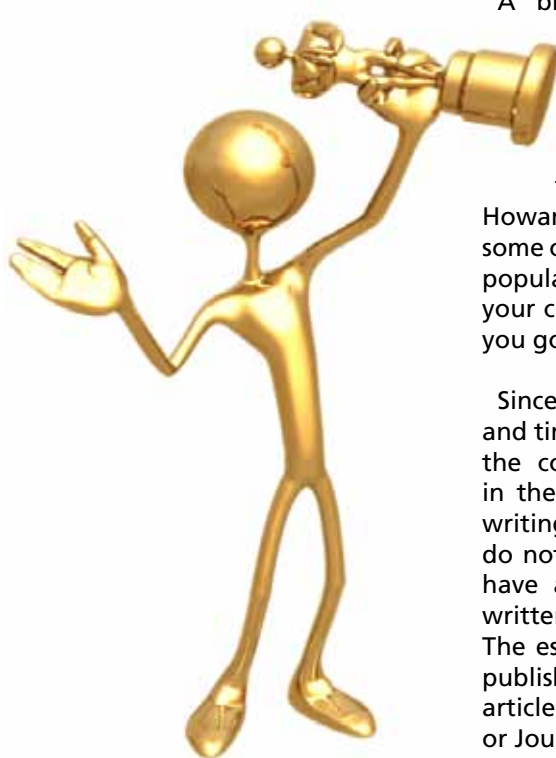
The closing date for competition entries will be Sunday 14th February 2010, to allow time for judging before the winners are announced at the Conference in April. The entry form will be available in the Members Room of the Guild website, or you can request one from the Guild Helpdesk. Or you can simply send in your entry by post or email, quoting your name, membership number, the name of the article and the category in which you are entering.

Judges have not yet been chosen, but the plan is that each category will have its own panel of three judges, and some judges may be judging more than one category. Committee members, post holders, and even judges are eligible to enter any of the categories as long as they don't have to judge that category.

We are hoping that at the end of the competition we'll have a collection of “how we do it” essays that together represent the practice of one-naming, that we can collect up into a book. The essays in the book will not be restricted to the winners only; any material which the judges assess as good enough or which makes a worthwhile contribution can be included. We would like to emphasise that contributions from new members are at least as valuable as those from more experienced members; enthusiasm and enjoyment are just as welcome as experience and expertise. The result should be a distillation of all the theoretical knowledge and hands-on skills – not to mention the pleasure and satisfaction – of the Guild membership in going about their study. It should be a convincing proof that when it comes to One-Name Studies –

There's more than one way to do it!

Entries should be sent to the competition organiser, Anne Shankland. Soft-copy (electronic) documents can be sent to anne.shankland@one-name.org; hard-copy (paper) documents should be sent to Anne Shankland, 63 Church Lane, Colden Common, Winchester, SO21 1TR. We look forward to receiving your essays. ■



31st Guild Annual Conference 2010

If you do not want to miss out – complete the enclosed booking form

Six months ago the 30th Anniversary Conference was taking place at Peterborough – the most successful Guild Conference ever with 180 people attending. Work is already in hand to arrange the conference for 2010, the only difference this time is that I appear to have been roped in to help organise it this time (fortunately in partnership with our experienced and successful conference organiser – Kirsty Gray).

For the last five years I have been a member of the Guild Committee, which has meant that I have attended all Guild Conferences since 2004, when the 25th Anniversary Conference at Wyboston Lakes took place. Each conference since then has seen progressively more people attending and each has been a wonderful experience, a chance to meet other Guild members and an opportunity to hear a wide range of interesting talks. I would certainly recommend attending the Guild conference to all members.

Around the world in 3 days

The 31st Conference is entitled "Around the World – an international perspective". The aim of the conference being to provide a series of talks concentrating on the different perspectives of one-name studies around the world. The programme will start on the Saturday morning with a talk on undertaking research using Canadian records. This will be followed by a look at the LDS resources available to One-Namers. Subsequent talks will cover research for One-Name Studies in British India, the Caribbean, Australia and New Zealand. Helen Osborn, the

tutor for the Pharos "Introduction to One-Name Studies" online course, will give an insight into the differences in approach to research in Northern America compared to those adopted in the United Kingdom. Attendees will also be invited to appreciate how WorldVitalRecords.com can aid One-Name Studies. As World Vital Records has recently set up GenealogyWise (Ed. see article in this issue), a social networking web site devoted to genealogy, I expect some information will be provided on how the social network site has developed.

I expect that there will be some other delights to experience during the conference and a significant expansion of the Guild's knowledge store "Guild Wiki" on the subjects raised during the conference.

The 31st Conference will take place from Friday 9th April to Sunday 11th April 2010 at the Oxford Belfry Hotel, Milton Common, just south of Oxford, near the picturesque market town of Thame, amidst 17 glorious acres of countryside. The Oxford Belfry hotel has excellent conference facilities and can cater for up to 200 delegates. It has well-appointed bedrooms with tea and coffee making facilities, satellite television and 24-hour room service. As well as a superb leisure centre, the hotel has two tennis courts; a croquet lawn; a gym; spa; warmed indoor swimming pool; scented sauna, and an aroma steam room. The Oxford Belfry Hotel will provide a wonderful experience. The hotel is only a minute from the M40 and the main line Oxford railway station is 14 miles away.



A preliminary conference booking form is enclosed with this journal. As introduced last year you will be able to pay for the conference by PayPal using the link <http://www.one-name.org/conference.html>. Alternatively you can complete the booking form and send it with your cheque or credit card details to me at 168 Green Lane, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 6AY. A map is located on the conference page of the Guild website. The demand to attend this conference is likely to be high and as the number of hotel rooms available at the Oxford Belfry hotel is less than that available at Peterborough last year, I would strongly suggest that you book your place early.

I very much look forward to seeing you at our Conference next year. ■

Cliff Kemball

Joint Conference Organiser

Guild Lookup Services



John Carbis



Peter Copsey



Barry Foale



Cliff Kemball



Roy Rayment



Gillian Stevens

The system of providing look-ups has recently been reviewed and the arrangements for responding to requests from members to undertake a range of look-ups have been revised. Previously individual guild email addresses had been assigned for each lookup service and the individual undertaking the look-up was responsible for providing an initial estimate of the costs of the look-up and for collecting the money.

The Guild has experienced a few problems with the previous arrangements for responding to requests for look-ups. These problems included:

- The need for Guild members to send e-mails to each of the look-up email addresses if they wanted look-ups to be undertaken for a number of look-up databases.
- Some look up requests had not been undertaken because of the pressure of other Guild activities by one of the look-up volunteer.
- One of the guild look-up email addresses has not been set up correctly resulting in the lookup requests not reaching the volunteer.
- Cheques received for the look-ups undertaken were sometimes not passed to the Treasurer within six months meaning that the money could not be banked.
- Lack of flexibility in getting look-ups undertaken.

As a result of the review the future look-up service will be carried out by a team of six volunteers – John Carbis, Peter Copsey, Barry Foale, Cliff Kemball, Roy Rayment and Gillian Stevens. Requests for look-ups should either be e-mailed to lookups@one-name.org, posted to Cliff Kemball at 168 Green Lane Chislehurst Kent BR7 6AY or members should phone the Guild freephone number 0800 011 2182. Request should state the surname (and variants, if required)

you want searched, which databases need look-ups and the maximum amount you would like to spend on the look-ups. If the cost of the searches is likely to exceed your maximum you will be provided with an estimate.

On receipt of a request, the lookup team leader (Cliff Kemball) will allocate the look-up to one of the look-up team – generally on a cyclic basis. When the look up has been completed the results will be posted to the individual. The Guild makes a charge for this service as follows: £3.00 for up to 6 pages of printout, with additional pages charged at 15p each. Cheques should be made payable to "Guild of One-Name Studies" and sent to the Guild Treasurer.

The Guild offers a number of lookup services, providing access to databases that are generally not readily available to members. Our agreements allows us to print to paper or disc, information contained within the databases that is relevant to your research, provided you are a member. The majority of look-ups are available to all Guild members with a registered name. In addition the Guild provides look-ups to the various Findmypast databases which are only available to off-line members (members with no internet access) with a registered surname. The look-ups currently available are:

Biography Database 1680-1830:

This database holds over 900,000 records, giving names and other details extracted from various directories, subscription lists and Gentleman's Magazine.

Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-19:

During World War I over 5.8 million people were enlisted either as volunteers, reservists or territorials or eventually conscripted into the British

Army. In 1921, eighty-one volumes embracing every regiment and corps of the British Army were published listing approximately six hundred and thirty-five thousand soldiers and thirty-seven thousand officers who had died during this war. Searches may be made by a number of elements such as surname, Christian name, regiment, place of birth or enlistment and number and rank.

The Army Roll of Honour – WWII:

Searches can be made of soldiers who died in the Second World War 1939-45 between 1st September 1939 and 31st December 1946 and will include those killed in action and those deaths in service which were non-attributable (natural causes etc).

Armies of the Crown:

Searches will cover Regimental Histories of the British Army which will provide a brief description of the numerous available bibliographies and Regiments and Corps of the British Empire and Commonwealth which will provide bibliographies and details of 'Precedence, Military Chronology and General Reference'. These searches only provide biographies of the various British and the Commonwealth units of the British Army rather than information on individuals. Members are requested to provide as much background information as possible of the unit concerned.

The Complete Peerage:

The Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain and the United Kingdom Extant, Extinct or Dormant is a comprehensive guide to the titled aristocracy of the British Isles.

Cracroft's Peerage:

Cracroft's Peerage is the complete guide to the British Peerage and Baronetage and can provide additional information to that contained in the "Complete Peerage". It is a digital

source that has accurate listings, and in many cases detailed narrative pedigrees, of all peerages and baronetcies created in the British Isles.

The Westminster Historical Database:

The Westminster Historical Database has almost 150,000 records relating to the electorate of the City of Westminster between 1749 and 1820.

Findmypast Databases

The Guild offers a look-up service to the various databases held by www.findmypast.com to assist in the collection of genealogical data. Because of the large range of Findmypast databases that can be searched a separate request form is available to detail the look-ups required. A copy

of this form can be obtained either from Cliff Kemball (by post or phone 0208 467 8865) or by using the Guild freephone number 0800 011 2182.

The databases available include all Births/Marriage/Death indexes, the 1841 to 1911 UK censuses, overseas records, various directories, migration records and passenger list. At present only an index search will be made of the 1911 census because of the relatively high costs involved in downloading census images and/or transcripts. This will be reviewed if Findmypast introduces a subscription facility for the 1911 census. Guild members with e-mail access can undertake their own search of Findmypast records, and can take advantage of a 10% bonus.

Future Developments

If the demand for these look-ups increases, the Guild will examine the possibility of adding to the stock of databases. Suggestions on which databases could be acquired by the Guild for future look-ups would therefore be appreciated.

Because of the difficulties that the Guild have experienced in the past in undertaking look-ups, it would be appreciated if any member who has requested (but not received) a look-up in the past year, could resubmit their request to look-ups@one-name.org. ■

Guild look-up team

Forthcoming Marriage Challenges

Registration District and Period	Deadline for Requests	Challenger	Challenger's e-mail
Bridport, 1837 - 1911	18th October	Mary Brinson	pride@one-name.org
Norwich (Repeat), 1837 - 1851	25th October	Laraine Hake	alabaster@one.name.org
Upton on Severn, 1837 - 1911	31st October	Ian Preece	preece@one.name.org
Petsworth, 1837 - 1911	31st October	Colin Ulph	ulph@one-name.org
Bristol Stage 3, 1872 - 1891	31st October	Derek Allen	codgebrooke@one.name.org
Portsea Stage 3, 1881 - 1900	31st October	Michael Bliss	michael.bliss@one.name.org
Wycombe (Repeat), 1837 - 1911	31st October	Brian Horridge	brian.horridge@one.name.org
Watford, 1837 - 1911	31st October	Lyn Horridge	brackley@one.name.org
Blaby, 1837 - 1911	10th November	Joan Rowbottom	truslove@one.name.org
Massachusetts USA (Repeat), 1620 - 1850	30th November ¹	Robert Young	ranger@one.name.org
West Derby Stage 3, 1881 - 1911	30th November ²	Susan Atkins	scotchmer@one.name.org
Toxteth Park, 1881 - 1911	30th November ²	Susan Atkins	scotchmer@one.name.org
Orsett, 1837 - 1911	18th December	Peter Copsey	copsey@one.name.org



Marriage Challenge Update

By **Peter Copsey**

with assistance from **Anne Shankland**

A Guild Facility to Produce "Faux Certificates"

I'm sure that those Guild members who have undertaken Marriage Challenges would agree that their efforts can be fun as well as worthwhile. Some Challengers find that the searching for and finding the marriages is the challenging and exciting part, but that transcribing the data into a spreadsheet or onto proformas is less so.

I have no wish to lay down how a Marriage Challenge should be done, but in the attempt to make the clerical bits easier, the Guild is providing assistance.

Many Marriage Challengers currently receive requests for marriages from members in the form of a spreadsheet. Many also use a spreadsheet to hold the results found in the marriage registers. If this results-spreadsheet conforms to a standard, then there is a facility now available from the Guild to produce "faux certificates" and to provide the necessary data output for the GMI without further manipulation and with little effort from the Challenger.

The term "faux certificate" has been in use now for some time. It was coined by Howard Benbrook, our Bookstall Manager (himself an avid Challenger), to mean a certificate looking very similar to the expensive "real" certificates you receive from the GRO.

Andrew Millard has developed the "faux certificate" production facility which is now available on the Guild web-site (in the Members Room, under "Services"). A standardized "results.xls" spreadsheet is shown and this needs to be used for the facility to work. It accepts a .csv file of marriage data, produces a set of PDF "faux certificates" and automatically provides input to the Guild Marriage Index.

The standard spreadsheet template for specifying requests has also been improved, as shown in the downloadable file "requests.xls" on the Marriage Challenge web-page. The headings are now a little different and there are also new columns for the requester's membership number, name, and e-mail address. The template has two coloured sections. Requesters should complete the blue columns with their marriage listing and personal information. The yellow columns are for additional information where the requester knows more about the marriage (from the IGI or VRI, for example). This additional information may be helpful to the Challenger in locating marriages. Requests for a Marriage Challenge using this template can also be transferred without reformatting into the "results.xls" spreadsheet if "faux certificate" production using Andrew's facility is required.

If a Challenger is not proposing to produce electronically generated "faux certificates", but instead is planning to provide hand-written ones, the "requests.xls" can still be used to produce the listing for the Marriage Index. The blue and yellow columns are now compatible with the GMI format (after removing columns titled "Reference", "Requester" and "e-mail address" and Mary Rix doing a little re-ordering).

It is hoped that Challengers and Requesters alike will make good use of the standard format and that many Challengers will use Andrew's excellent facility. For more information on "faux certificate" production, see Andrew's article in this Edition.

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, on marriage-challenge@one-name.org.

"Some Challengers find that the searching for and finding the marriages is the challenging and exciting part, but that transcribing the data into a spreadsheet or onto proformas is less so."

On the opposite page is the list of forthcoming Marriage Challenges. All members are encouraged to send their requests to the Challengers by e-mail, hopefully using the standard "requests.xls" spreadsheet mentioned above. However many Challengers will accept requests in any form (for postal addresses, see the Members' Handbook). Send the information extracted from the GRO index for the named Registration District between the years given (Year, Quarter, Surname, First names, Full GRO reference). Challengers will search for and often find your marriages in the deposited Anglican Church registers and then send you the full particulars. ■





GenealogyWise

A new networking website for family historians

By **Debbie Kennett**

GenealogyWise (www.genealogywise.com) is a new website which is of potential benefit to Guild members and will provide an opportunity for one-namers to publicise their one-name studies and make contact with other researchers. The site was created by Family Link, a company launched in 2006 by Paul Allen, the former CEO of Ancestry.com, and several key members of the original Ancestry team. The company is based in America in Provo, Utah, and operates a family of websites which include www.WorldVitalRecords.com and www.webtree.com. The GenealogyWise website was launched quietly at the beginning of July 2009, and has since grown largely by word of mouth. It is a community where members can share their research interests by joining and creating groups. In addition there are discussion forums and blog postings on a variety of subjects of genealogical interest, and special areas to upload photos and videos. The website is beginning to acquire a loyal following, and by mid-August 2009 the site had already

attracted almost 13,000 members who had created over 3,000 groups. Over 300 videos and almost 10,000 photos had also been uploaded to the site.

GenealogyWise is free to use and is funded entirely by advertising. It is first necessary to register with a user name and to create a password. Members are given their own personal profile page to which they can add as much or as little information as they like. There is a section where you can list the surnames you are researching and the countries and regions which are the main focus of your research. There is also a space to provide a link to your website. There are varying levels of control for the profile page, the privacy settings and the e-mail notifications which can be easily customised to suit individual preferences.

GenealogyWise Groups

Members connect with other researchers on GenealogyWise by joining groups. There are groups for surnames, locations, organisations, family history programs, genealogy

websites, genealogical societies and various other specialist groups. A group has been set up for the GOONS and over 100 Guild members have already joined. If there is no pre-existing group for your surname it is very easy to create a new group (see the step-by-step guide opposite). Each group effectively has its own mini-website consisting of a brief description of the group, a customisable text box, a comment "wall" and a discussion forum. There are tools which enable the user to do some basic formatting such as adding bold or italic text, creating clickable hyperlinks and uploading pictures. More experienced users can add their own html code. The comment "wall" is very similar to a traditional message board, and is best suited for short queries as the messages very quickly disappear from view. The discussion forum is more appropriate for longer postings, and more editing options are available. Another advantage of the discussion forum is that each discussion is started on a new web page which is automatically picked up by search engines such as Google.

Once you have joined a group you will receive e-mail notifications every time someone joins the group, makes a comment or starts a new discussion. The settings can be adjusted if necessary so that you can stop receiving notifications for an individual group or you can stop following a particular discussion.

GenealogyWise friends

If you've set up a group for your surname you will want to encourage your fellow researchers to join your new group. On GenealogyWise your genealogy colleagues and contacts are known as "friends". There is a tool on your profile page which can be used to invite your contacts to join GenealogyWise. If you use one of the large ISPs or one of the popular address book applications you can

All Groups My Groups + Invite More People

Guild of One-Name Studies
Created by Keith Bage
View Groups

Information	Admin Options
<p>The Guild of One-Name Studies is the world's leading genealogical organisation for One-Name studies. *NOTE: this group is for members of the society for the Guild of One-Name Studies. If you are not already a member of the Guild check our website</p> <p>Website: http://www.one-name.org Location: Worldwide Members: 116 Latest Activity: Aug 15</p>	<p>Edit Group Manage Group Members Delete Group Send Message to Group Follow</p>

Members (116)

Discussion Forum

Guild Services and facilities
Started by Clifford Kemball Aug 15.

1911 census free at various repositories
Started by Wendy Archer Jul 28.

import your contact list. You will however need to go through the list carefully to ensure that you only send an invitation to your trusted genealogy friends and not your entire address book. If in doubt, you should enter the e-mail addresses manually. Those people who accept your invitations automatically become your "friends", and a list of your friends will appear on your profile page. You can also "befriend" other genealogy contacts you meet on GenealogyWise. The main advantage of adding your contacts to your friends list is that you have the facility to send them a private message via GenealogyWise. Your e-mail address is not revealed to your friends unless you choose to pass on the details yourself. If people are not on your friends list the only way to contact them is to post a public comment on their profile page which will not always be appropriate. Another advantage of setting up a friends list is that your privacy

"There are groups for surnames, locations, organisations, family history programs, genealogy websites, genealogical societies and various other specialist groups"

settings can be adjusted so that certain items such as photos are only visible to your friends.

Conclusion

Although GenealogyWise has only been up and running for a few weeks it is already proving very popular with family historians who have been eager to set up new groups for their surnames and connect with their fellow researchers. Inevitably, as with any new website, there are a few teething problems, but the company has been seeking feedback from its members and is actively responding to suggestions. The site is already beginning to

develop a friendly community feel, and members are learning from each other and discovering how to make the best use of the facilities. At the very least the site provides a free, easy to set up webpage where Guild members can publicise their one-name studies and add links to their profile pages and websites to help boost their search engine rankings. If GenealogyWise is to succeed in the long term the membership will need to grow substantially, but judging by the enthusiasm of the early adopters it seems that the site has the potential to take off in a big way. ■

A step-by-step guide to creating a surname group on GenealogyWise

- • Go to the GenealogyWise website which can be found at www.genealogywise.com.
- • Click on groups. Search the surname listings to check if there is already a group for your surname. If not click on "Add a group".
- • Give your group a name (eg, "Bloggs Surname") and write a brief description. The group name and description can easily be edited after the group is set up.
- • Upload an image for your group such as a photograph of a location associated with the surname or a family photograph.
- • Choose the wording for your group address. This is the permanent URL for your group. Once it is set it cannot be changed so choose the wording carefully. By default the address is set to use the same words as your group name, eg, www.genealogywise.com/group/bloggssurname. The address can however easily be edited and a shortened URL such as www.genealogywise.com/group/bloggs is preferable.
- • In the box for the group's location type "GOONS". This will ensure that your group will appear on the same page as all the other GOONS groups. This will also give you the opportunity to look at the groups set up by other Guild members to get ideas for your own group.
- • Choose the features you want to display on your group page such as a comment wall, a discussion forum and a text box. It is a good idea to disable the facility whereby group members can send a message to the entire group. Even if this facility is disabled the group admin still has the ability to send a message to the entire group but this is a feature which should be used with caution.
- • Choose the privacy settings for your group carefully as they cannot be changed once the group is set up, though you can if necessary delete the group and start a new one if you are unhappy with your decision. There are currently two choices: an open group which anyone can join or a private moderated group. If you want your group to attract publicity and to appear in search engine results it is best to have an open unmoderated surname group. The moderated groups are set up so that the only information displayed on the public page is the group's name and description which means that the group does not look very attractive and inviting to potential members.
- • To get ideas on how to develop your group or solve problems you can compare notes with other Guild members in the GOONS group at www.genealogywise.com/group/goons.
- • For further assistance join the Group Admins group at www.genealogywise.com/group/groupadmins or the Member Help group at www.genealogywise.com/group/genealogywisememberhelp.

My Family Warts And All

by **Ken Grubb**

I have been familiar with and have used **"The Times" Digital Archive 1785-1985** on the Internet for some time under the auspices of my local library, which had been far-sighted enough to purchase the software package in question at an early stage in its history. On first using the site, I duly entered the name 'GRUBB' in the keyword search box and was pleasantly surprised to receive 3,548 hits! As you can imagine, the site has since been the source of sundry "fill-in" articles in **"Grubbing Around"**, the twice-yearly newsletter of the Grubb Family Association. Whilst the number of hits might sound generous, it has to be borne in mind that the Grubb "family" currently comprises 12 disparate lines, as determined by our Association's Y-DNA study, with probably more lines yet to be discovered. In addition, as the name, with some variants, is to be found at numerous locations in England, Scotland, Ireland and, to much lesser extent, Wales, then perhaps the number of hits is not disproportionate.

My own Hampshire GRUBB line did not figure prominently in The Times archives, which suggests that either the family led a mundane, provincial life that was not worth recording or that any notable deeds or misdeeds committed by them missed being recorded in the national newspapers of the time. However, about a year ago, I came across an interesting development which threw a new whole light on my Hampshire forebears.

Hampshire Telegraph

Sometime in 2008, I found that various regional newspapers were being archived in a similar fashion under the heading of **19th Century British Library Newspapers**, and again, my local library was quick to add this facility to its existing Times archives. I duly discovered that a regional newspaper which had served

the South Coast of England and my home town of Portsmouth since 1799 was amongst those featured. It underwent several name changes during its life but I will use the one given previously. On my first venture into its pages, I again entered the name 'GRUBB' in the keyword search box and was again gratified to receive 196 hits ranging in date from 1829 to 1900. I spent the next two days ploughing through news items of various kinds, including magistrate's court reports, and at the end I felt that not only were most of the references specific to family forebears whom I had already discovered, and confirmed as being such by more conventional means, but that I had also been handed on a plate a social history of my family during the 19th Century.

A Brief History

At this point, it's probably worth providing a potted history of the family to set the scene. The name GRUBB has been recorded around Portsmouth Harbour since the 18th century, the first reference being the marriage of John Grubb (1731-1828). However, there were two Grubb families subsequently recorded, one on Portsea Island, now occupied by the modern city and port of Portsmouth, and the other being the said John Grubb's family which lived in Portchester on the west side of the harbour, a small village centred around Portchester Castle. This was originally built by the Romans in the 3rd Century as part of the Saxon shore defences and, later extended by the Normans in the 12th Century when a formidable castle/keep was built, which still exists. However, since the two families lived only a few miles apart and the men followed the same occupation, these factors and other evidence strongly suggest that we are talking of one family which split at some stage and went their separate ways.

My own Portsmouth family were mostly watermen and lived in Portsea, an area of Portsmouth which was developed on Portsea Common in the early 18th Century to house dockyard workers, the original medieval town of Portsmouth not being big enough to accommodate their growing numbers. Portsea soon became a separate entity, comprising narrow streets of back to back houses, built quickly and cheaply to be let at low rents to those workers and the like.

Portsea's whole purpose was to serve the Navy and the watermen played an important role in this. They owned and operated three varieties of wherries, craft designed and built to meet the needs for small seaworthy boats to go out into the Solent and Spithead in all weathers to service the capital ships moored out there. One such waterman was my 2 x great grandfather, Thomas Grubb (1804-1872), who later came ashore to become a publican.

A Mystery Solved

A mystery had always surrounded Thomas as I compiled my family tree over the years. In the 1851 Census, I had easily discovered his wife, Elizabeth, living in small terraced house in Portsea with her eight children, but no mention of Thomas. Elizabeth was described as a "Seaman's Wife" and I jumped to the too-obvious conclusion that he was away at sea and left it at that, thinking I would eventually find him. And I eventually did but not until I had ploughed through the Telegraph articles.

In the Hampshire Telegraph for 21st December 1850, I read the following:-

"At the County Petty Sessions on Saturday before the Rev. R.W.White, Chairman, Hon. a'Court Holmes, H.P.Gordon, Esq. and Capt. Crozier, R.N. – Thomas Grubb, a hardy



"The Britannia entering Portsmouth - 1820" painted by George Hyde Chambers (1803-1840) © The National Maritime Museum. The small sailing craft in the foreground is a Spithead wherry, referred to in the text.

looking mariner, was charged under information, that he with two others was in a boat, he being a subject of her Majesty, from which goods had been thrown out to avoid seizure within one hundred leagues of the English coast. Mr. Beverley opened the case by a statement of the circumstances of the alleged breach of the law and Mr. Field of Gosport defended the prisoner. Robert Wilcocks deposed: *I am captain of the 'Harpy', a Revenue cutter. On Sunday last I was about 17 miles from Barfleur on the coast of France; I saw a sail making from the shore; I sent out a boat to cut her off from the land and watched her with a telescope; she was standing north of east with the wind south east; in about half an hour she altered her course and stood back for Cherbourg; I found the wherry was escaping from the boat, when I made all sail on the cutter and gave chase; I hoisted a pennant and fired off several guns within a mile and a half; I fired into her when she bore up; I thought I saw a heap in*

her like men huddled together; when about four miles from her and a heap of merchandise covered with an old sail appeared above the gunwale of the boat. When I came close, I found her to be the 'William and Mary' of Portsmouth. At that time, I was about 20 miles from the French coast and from 40 to 45 miles from the English coast. When I first saw the wherry, she appeared deep in the water and afterwards light. The defendant, a boy and Thomas Stone were in her. I know Stone; I said why did you let me take you? Grubb said they had been blown off the land; I replied the wind is in the wrong way. He said I would rather have been shot than taken. I did not observe when the heap went away; I took the boat and brought the men back to Cowes.

Cross examined by Mr. Field (Wilcocks said): *I found neither spirits, stops nor anything of the kind in the boat; the weather was a little hazy occasionally; I was over four miles from her when I*

thought her deep in the water. There were two or three nets in her but they would not make a pile like that which I saw in her; she had a pump; I saw nothing thrown overboard from the boat; it was my impression that it was merchandize covered with an old sail; I won't say it was merchandize. The boat was not within 45 miles of the English coast; I do not know that Stone goes out fishing; there was a very heavy sea running at the time and the boat was occasionally hid in the trough of the sea.

Several of the crew gave evidence but there were material discrepancies in their account of the weather and other matters. Mr. Field made a powerful defence, pointing out variations and contradictions in the evidence and urging strongly on the attention and feelings of the court that when the punishment was such a very heavy one as six months imprisonment to hard labour, that men ought not to be convicted on

suspicion. He had previously taken an objection to the information which had been overruled. The Chairman said; *We are unanimous that we ought to convict in this case – Six months imprisonment with hard labour.* A like information was then preferred against Thomas Stone who was also sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour."

So on the 30th March 1851 when the Census was taken, Thomas Grubb was halfway through his sentence in Winchester Prison and, no doubt, looking forward to being reunited with his family.

"Marry In Haste And Repent At Leisure"

I mentioned previously that, eventually, Thomas gave up sailing and came ashore to become a publican and this became a pattern followed by several of his descendants. We now go forward in time to meet his grandson, William James Grubb (1851-1920), one of ten brothers and a former wherryman, who, for many years, ran the "Victoria and Albert", a large public house situated on the Common Hard in Portsea. His first wife, Mary Ann, died in January 1895 but by October of that same year, William had married Zilpah Barrett, 17 years his junior and the landlady of another public house called "The Gladstone", situated not far away. One imagines that William looked forward to a happy life with his younger bride but little did he know what he had taken on!! Three years later, we read the following in the Hampshire Telegraph for 26th March 1898, under the headline "**A Portsea Publican Charged with Persistent Cruelty**" –

"At the Portsmouth Police Court on Monday, William James Grubb of the "Victoria & Albert", The Hard, Portsea was summoned by his wife, Zilpah, living at 91 Arundel Street, Landport, under the Married Woman's Act of 1895, she alleging that she had to leave him through his persistent cruelty. Mr. S.H. Emanuel appeared for the complainant and Mr. G.H. King defended.

Mr. Emanuel said the parties were married in 1895. There were no children. Prior to her marriage, complainant, who had been landlady of the "Gladstone Tavern", Arundel

"He gave her black eyes and 'bashed' her on the head with his fists."

Street, was a healthy woman but she had the misfortune to meet the defendant and, after she married him, he thrashed her which caused her to have hysterical fits. At times, his conduct had driven her to intemperance. Complainant said her husband and his two daughters lived at the "Gladstone" tavern for some time after the marriage although he carried on the fully-licensed house on The Hard and a bumboatman's business in addition. He began to ill-treat her about 12 months after the marriage and had continued it ever since. He gave her black eyes and "bashed" her on the head with his fists. Matters got so bad that on November 9th last year she took out a summons because he had knocked her on the back of the head. He also threatened to "do for" her. She withdrew the summons but he assaulted her again, kicking her in the pit of the stomach on November 12th and she left him. She had since carried on the business of a greengrocer.

Cross-examined by Mr. King, complainant denied that she had delirium tremens and fallen downstairs and blacked her eyes. She also denied that she commenced drinking at 5.30 in the morning but admitted having soda and brandy which her husband asked her to have when he went out in the morning. She did not keep on drinking all day. Dr. Mulvany attended her, not for drink, but for paralysis of the nerves through fright and fear. After she left defendant, she wanted to go back and live with him but he refused to have her back. A deed of separation was also drawn up which she said she was willing to sign. She had been to the "Victoria & Albert" twice since she left defendant. She denied having anything to do with a man named Wellings or being thrashed by Mrs. Wellings.

Mr. King, for the defence, said the defendant had been a licence-holder for 22 years without complaint. After he married the complainant he found that she drank. She would commence as early as half past five in the morning

and by the time night came she would be in a very bad state indeed and would become hysterical. Defendant had never assaulted her more than was necessary to keep her off when violent but she used to fall about and hurt herself. Mr. King suggested the complainant's case was not tenable because she did not leave defendant through his cruelty. After they lived apart, she went to him and bothered him from time to time but he would have nothing to do with her.

Dr. H.P. Gaston deposed that in September last, he attended complainant for delirium tremens for a fortnight.

Defendant was sworn and stated that he found out that his wife had given way to intemperance about six months after marriage. He had never struck her although he had pushed her away to prevent her from scratching his face. The Bench found that the defendant had not been guilty of persistent cruelty and therefore refused to grant the order asked for".

"He had never struck her although he had pushed her away to prevent her from scratching his face"

The picture of my 19th century Portsea forebears that is conjured up in my mind from these and the other articles appearing in the Hampshire Telegraph is that of a strong-minded, resilient family whose menfolk were mainly engaged in a dangerous occupation in a tough naval port. Such setbacks as illness, unemployment and old age were a family affair in the absence of the welfare state and I have gleaned evidence from other sources that a strong ethos of mutual support existed when family members fell on hard times. If at times, the law was breached in the course of their earning a living then, whilst we would not condone such conduct in this modern age, it is, perhaps, possible to understand it in the light of the harder times in which they were living. The fact remains that it was my family – warts and all!! ■

Implementing a Surname Study Website with Drupal



By **Degory Valentine¹**, **Denise Mortorff²** and **Christophe Giraud-Carrier¹**

¹Brigham Young University, ²KendallAncestry.com

Background – Over 5 years ago, a Kendall website for surname research began with the focus of improving on early text-based search technology for accessing genealogical record content. Denise Mortorff, a Guild member and website owner, created the framework for the surname study. She sought out support from Brigham Young University's Computer Science Department, which has an interest in studying family history and technology through unique projects and conducts an annual conference on this topic. This resulted in a paper and presentation on technology for improving one-name studies presented at the March 2009 Conference. The published article (revised for this Journal) is presented here. The website, a work in progress, is at www.kendallancestry.com.

Introduction

Surname study websites are created as a focal point by avid genealogists who take it upon themselves to provide other researchers, interested in the same or similar name, with a foundation in what is known of the surname, including archives of relevant records, lineages, genetics, study reports and forums for information exchange.

In general, the person sponsoring a particular surname has very limited, if any, web development expertise. Yet, more often than not, that individual serves as the website designer and administrator. As a result, surname study websites are designed only to the extent of the abilities or personal resources of the web administrator, or what they can derive from external sources. Most extant websites are therefore text-based and never graduate to a higher (e.g., database) level since few family historians or genealogists have the technological skills needed to produce an advanced website.

Given the size and scope of most surname studies, the ability to conduct effective searches through the associated websites is critical. In general, single elements are accessible, much like one can find through a browser search, but it is uncharacteristic to find information accessible in which different elements specific to a researcher's interests can be searched in combination. Therefore, the present approaches are cumbersome at best, and require a lot of reading and sifting through information to find what one may be able to identify and utilize

in furthering their research. As one example, a search for the term Archdale throughout the Combs website (see <http://www.combs-families.org/combs/index.html>) returns 730 matches. Since the site is text-based, a researcher would be compelled to look through a possibly large number of report annotations, until something that sounds like it fits with the target application is found. Linking from the annotation to the target application, the researcher may also need to read through lists, a common format for record information in surname study websites.

To bring the power of sophisticated indexing, searching, and storage within reach of the typical surname study website administrator and its users, we have built on the existing strengths of the Kendall Ancestry website, leveraging the power and flexibility of Drupal, an open-source content management system (CMS) for the web. Although illustrated on one specific website, our pre-configured module set and taxonomy would allow surname study website administrators to manage large amounts of historical record data in an extensible framework without being encumbered by Drupal's complexity.

Kendall Ancestry

By design, Kendall Ancestry is a resource-centered website, intended to answer several of the shortfalls of traditional surname study websites. In particular, it was an essential requirement that record abstracts and reports be defined with relevant facets (to ensure maintainability), and that

they subsequently be searchable using these facets rather than text alone (to ensure accessibility).

Records are stored in a *Records Repository* in which researchers find a *Record Search* page where the integrated identification of records takes place. Inputs yield a *Search Results* page similar to that utilized in major archives from which specific records of interest to the user can be accessed in the form of a *Record Description*. The identification of records pertinent to researcher interests is further enhanced by the ability of the user to reorder by ID#, Date, Surname, Jurisdiction, etc. building in opportunities to narrow down choices that could not otherwise be accomplished readily with text-based searches.

One major advantage of the website is its underlying database, which indeed allows users to select information, singly or in combination, by a specific name, time frame, geographic location, record group, more specific record type, keyword, and by record ID#. The search can narrow down possibilities and more readily access information for the researcher. It can also demonstrate what areas contain and do not contain information in the database. For example, if a search for a specific type of record, in a specific place in time, returns no results, the user immediately knows that the database does not yet have information within the search parameters, without having to sift thru mounds of material. Human errors often introduced by such sifting (e.g., skipping over or missing information)

are also less likely with a database. Finally, the database approach makes text-based searches within specific fields possible.

Another advantage at Kendall Ancestry is the design of the *Record Description*, which includes features that enable the researcher to link to research reports within the website, link to scanned images, and locate and link to related external resources. Sources are adjunct features of the *Record Description*. They are located at the base of record abstracts and reports, and allow researchers to link directly to related abstracts in the repository, or other resources, entirely bypassing the search page. For example, a researcher could be on a page for Bedfordshire England Probate Records and the discussion would be about the records found in a particular court. A court probate record that had been abstracted and included in the Records Repository would have an ID#. This ID# could be added to the information for a person to link to the abstract directly and appear at the base of a report page with some of the citation information and the ID# to link back to the abstract in the Records Repository.

A novel and unique taxonomy was also developed for Kendall Ancestry. As an accomplished genealogist, the website's designer has organized geographical classifications, stratified by political time period, into a hierarchical *Jurisdiction* (locality) vocabulary. This vocabulary allows for classification of genealogical information by political regions as they have changed over time. Similarly, a second *Record Group* vocabulary categorizes types of historical records into topical groups. This approach also allows researchers to more precisely match search parameters to best fit their unique research needs. Jurisdiction and Record Group schemata can be adapted to a researcher's preferences.

Leveraging Drupal

By going to a content management system, we are able to retain and enhance all of the valuable features of the Kendall Ancestry website, while also creating a system that is sharable and may serve as a model for the rest of the genealogical community.

We felt that in order for the system to be attractive to the community, it had to be free. Hence, we restricted our attention to open source CMS.



Figure.1 - The Record Group Vocabulary

After analyzing the main competitors in that space, we settled on Drupal. We recognize that there may be differences of opinion as to which CMS tool is best. However, we note that it is not so much the tool itself that is at stake here, but rather the concept of automated content management. A result similar to the one presented here could be obtained with another CMS tool.

Our Drupal implementation is centered on two features: the *Record Repository* and the *Research Reports*. The primary focus is on record creation and searching related to the *Record Repository*. When record descriptions are added to the repository, they are assigned a term from both the *Record Group* vocabulary (see Figure 1) and the *Jurisdiction* vocabulary (see Figure 2). Because the type of record is defined by the vocabulary, only a single interface is required for adding a multiplicity of different content that characterizes each record.

The second salient feature is the *Research Reports* section. This section of the site features a browsable hierarchy of research reports organized by *Jurisdiction* and Record Group as follows:

Country
 ↪ State/Shire
 ↪ Record Group

General topical reports, jurisdiction and non-jurisdiction specific, can be created and included, as well. For example, one may insert a discussion of the County

Palatine period in Durham (jurisdictional topic) or a discussion of calendars/dates in records (non-jurisdiction related topic). *Research Reports*, while not emphasized here, is part of our ongoing website development.

Since there are 18 record categories defined in the *Record Group* vocabulary, manually maintaining hierarchical links among the research reports as new ones are added would be intractable. Our implementation, however, automatically maintains these links and allows research reports to be added with a singular interface similar to the *Record Repository*, regardless of where the report ends up in the hierarchy. This is accomplished through a set of queries embedded into a single page, taking context from the URL.

The current version of the website CMS tool, whose content and functionality continue to evolve, is at <http://www.kendallancestry.com/demo>. In terms of development, it took an experienced programmer about 3 months to analyze the existing Kendall Ancestry website and to re-implement it using Drupal. That implementation can be packaged into a Drupal module and hence easily re-used by interested surname study website owners. Indeed, tools like Drupal are within the reach of savvy non-expert users who are willing to give them a try. Only the addition of functionality beyond standard Drupal modules would require a programmer's assistance.



Figure. 2 - The Jurisdiction Vocabulary

Meeting the Community's Needs

In addition to its technological appeal, our implementation also meets most of the criteria for successful genealogy software identified by Mark Tucker at the *8th Family History Technology Workshop*. Indeed, it:

- **Teaches** by exposing users to the taxonomy through search menus and browsing.
- **Organizes** along the two vocabularies of the taxonomy.
- **Transcribes** through abstractions of historical records in the Record Repository, including images, vocabulary terms, and other essential facets.
- **Cites sources** and provides *source provenance* as facets of the record abstractions.
- **Remembers** in the form of audit trails, logs, and usage statistics built into the CMS.
- **Shares** through access privileges controlled with fine granularity.

Related Work

There are a few noteworthy projects that approach a solution similar to the one we describe here. Some family historians have implemented their surname study websites using a variety of CMS. For example, the North Cheshire Family History Society (dnr.me.uk/ncfhs2) uses Joomla!; Johnson Family History (johnsonfamilyhistory.org) uses DotNetNuke; the Bunting

Society (buntingociety.org.uk) uses Geeklog; and Think Genealogy (thinkgenealogy.com) uses WordPress. Although these sites are also extensible to varying degrees, they lack the added value of content forms, taxonomies, and search options that make our implementation unique.

Other family historians have also designed genealogical software that can plug into CMS frameworks. One significant example is a pedigree-centric genealogy program called The Next Generation (TNG). It offers pedigree and timeline views of genealogical data. Drupal can be extended (through its modular framework) to integrate with TNG and administer access privileges to TNG resources. However, TNG alone cannot support the type of multi-facetted record repository needed for comprehensive, surname research. Furthermore, before connecting to software like TNG, researchers should examine how they want people visiting their website to access and utilize data to study family history data to be sure they will be able to operate within the research approach they desire.

From the perspective of supporting family history, one may argue that there are (at least) three types of things that one may wish to accomplish:

1. Present an individual's personal pedigree(s) with relevant records. If records are provided, they are noted only if they have relevance to the lineage studied or have

potential for such relevance. This is the domain of standard software packages such as PAF.

2. Present numerous pedigrees with records for the purpose of linking specific identities of people into specific lineages. This seems to be the approach currently taken by TNG.
3. Present records for researchers to determine the relevance to their own research. The site is there to help people, but not to do their work; individuals must become experts at tracing their own family history. Lineages are included, but they are treated as a record which researchers are expected to use as an informational tool in figuring out their own connection. The website can also include lineage studies by lineage experts, but it is not the objective of the administrator to assume expertise in establishing the identities of persons in lineages and records except perhaps for their own.

One-name study websites, such as Kendall Ancestry, are squarely set in the third category. The use of a CMS to underlie one-name study websites enhances these sites' ability to deliver on their promises, and to do so in an administrator-friendly way.

Conclusion

The Drupal implementation presented in this paper answers the need of surname study website administrators for a more powerful data access method. It also uses the Jurisdiction and Record Group vocabularies to allow all record descriptions and research reports to be added from a single interface for each. It puts a powerful and easy-to-use website within the technical reach of the personal family historian.

From a user's perspective, the contributing factors that make the CMS/database implementation more useful (i.e., realize its potential) are the general website organization, the nature of the page content and presentation, and the connectedness between website areas. These, and other factors, allow users to better study and coalesce information to see its value in researching family history. ■



A View From The Bookstall

By
Howard Benbrook

The Interwhat?

I've just been reading the lecture delivered by the BBC financial journalist Robert Peston at the International Television Festival, part of the Edinburgh Festival. Robert Peston, you may recall, was the journalist responsible for first calling the 'credit crunch' for Britons when he reported on the dreadful state of Northern Rock's business. In his lecture, he questions the differentiation between the perceived types of journalism - newspaper, television and radio - and points to the new journalism; his 'blog', he tells us, is the "core of everything I do".

Why am I telling you this? Well, whether you like it or not, Robert Peston reckons that there is a cataclysmic change happening in communication and it's called the Internet. Yeah, right; he should do family history, as if we hadn't noticed...

Changes Online

And I, for one, certainly noticed the recent announcement that Friends Reunited, and therefore Genes Reunited, was to be bought by brightsolid, the company responsible for both FindMyPast and ScotlandsPeople. You may recall my article in the April Journal, when I wondered just how GR's owners, the television broadcaster ITV, might dispose of this asset. The move makes a great deal of business sense; not so much for the opportunity to acquire some data and technology as for the opportunity to sell their services to 10 million people - GR's customer base. This is not something to be sniffed at! And I wouldn't be surprised to hear of more consolidation in the months to come. Who's next, I wonder?

And, speaking of FindMyPast, did you notice that they've been busy lately? They've released new census images for the 1881 census for England & Wales, together with a new transcription and images for the 1901

census. They've only got to complete the 1851 census and they'll have the full set. You still can't get at the 1911 census with a subscription, though; they've been dropping hints like "will soon be available..." - but just how soon is **soon**?

Of course, not to be outdone, Ancestry hasn't been idle, either. They've added the England & Wales Criminal Registers, 1791-1892, and the records for British Army Prisoners of War, 1939-1945, are also now available. And a little bird has told me that, by the time you read this, they should have launched the London parish records - now that's something that I find really interesting! I'm led to believe that we can expect scans of all the parish registers from 1813 to the 1920s held by the London Metropolitan Archives and the Guildhall Library, transcribed and indexed by surname. I just hope that my information is correct - it will make a big difference to my research in London, that's for sure. Mind you, we're expecting this new data to command a premium subscription, so don't give up on those Guild Marriage Challenges in London just yet - if you want details of a marriage, you won't find anything cheaper.

Oh! By the way, did I mention? The Guild Bookstall has vouchers for sale to access both Ancestry and FindMyPast (and that includes the 1911 census); and Guild members get a 10% discount, of course. And (nudge, nudge) they'd make terrific Christmas presents for your family historian friends...

Shoreditch Marriage Challenge

And talking of Marriage Challenges, I hope that, by the time this Journal pops through your letter box, requestors will have received their results from Stage 2 of my Shoreditch Marriage Challenge. If you haven't heard, please let me know. This is then

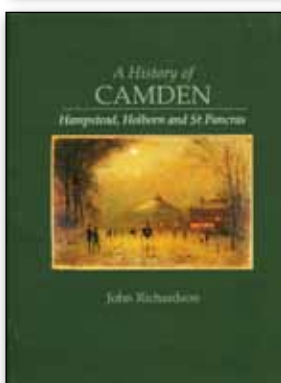
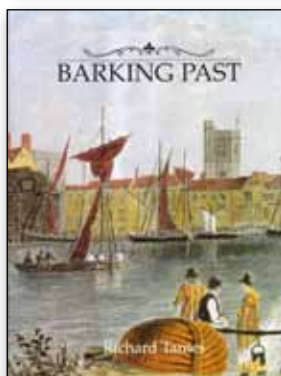
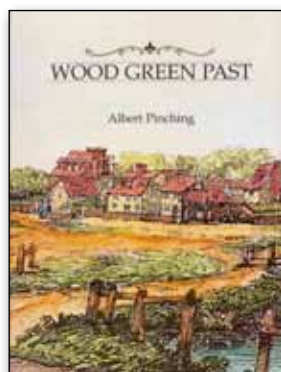
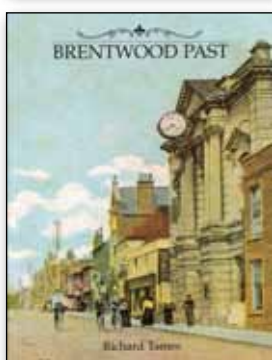
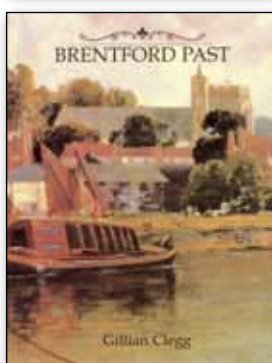
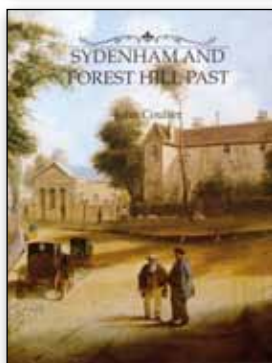
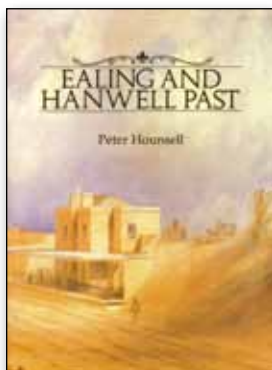
an opportunity to announce Stage 3; please send me your requests to find marriages registered in the Shoreditch RD between the years 1881 to 1911. I'm not going to rush into this one, so I'll set the deadline for requests at December 1st. That should give you some time, but will also give me time to assemble the data so that I can get started in the New Year.

Pam and I took a break at the end of August; we went to the Shetland Isles. We went, partly because Pam has ancestors from there. Although the Shetlands is nearly 800 miles from my home in Surrey, there was no feeling of remoteness at all; by comparison, the coast of France is less than 150 miles distant. Chasing up the past was a delight; I can thoroughly recommend the Museum and Archives in Lerwick, and the support we received at the Shetlands FHS underlined the importance of getting access to local knowledge. The walks were bracing, too! The Shetlands surely has plenty of weather... And I couldn't help noticing that, although there are only about 22,000 people currently living in the Shetlands, it was easy to pick out local names such as GARRIOCK, LEASK, and INKSTER.



What's New, What's Big

The 'season' has not yet properly begun but, nevertheless, I've taken the opportunity to add a few more London titles in the very successful 'Places & History' section, most of which are towards the outskirts of the town. If you have interests in/around Barking, Brentwood, Camden, Ealing, Hanwell, Sydenham, Forest Hill, or Wood Green, perhaps one of these will help give you some background. Refer to the Bookstall website for prices.



Where We've Been, Where We're Going

It's been quiet recently but, by the time you read this, The Guild Bookstall will have been to: Weston-super-Mare, Aylesbury, Amersham, Gateshead, Coventry, Horndean and Woodstock. And after that, the schedule looks like this:

Event	Place	Date
Suffolk FH Fair	Debenham, Suffolk	Sat 3 rd October
Family History Fair	Discovery Centre, Winchester, Hampshire	Sat 17 th October
West Surrey FHS Open Day	Leisure Centre, Woking, Surrey	Sat 31 st October
Guild Seminar	The National Archives, Kew, Surrey	Sat 21 st November

Time to Move On

It was a Sunday back in September 2001 that I set out to a family history fair, in Maidstone, to run the Guild's bookstall for the first time. I can't think how many miles I must have covered since that day, but it must by now be many thousands. There have been some significant changes in that time, (although not all my innovations have been successful!), and I'm pleased to think that I've probably made a decent contribution to Guild funds. But I think it's about time that I handed the task to someone new. Fresh blood is needed; new ideas, different insights. And, to be honest, I'd quite like some time to go back to that BENBROOK one-name study! I've already expressed my intention to the Guild Committee that I do not plan to celebrate a 10th Anniversary with the Bookstall and so this is an invitation to any of you who feels that you'd like to take over. There's no rush, but if you're interested, please get in touch; I'll be happy to give you the full low-down, warts 'n all!

Thanks All Round

But, of course, this is no solo effort. Without my helpers, I'd get nowhere. Thanks are due this time to: Chris Braund, Janet Few, Corrinne Goodenough, Judy Cooper, Chalmers Cursley, Wendy Archer and, of course, Ron Woodhouse and his wife, Gwen. I just hope I haven't forgotten anyone... Thank you, one and all - what a great bunch of people! ■

'Faux Certificate'

A New Production Facility

by **Andrew Millard**

Members will be aware that Marriage Challenges have been going on in the Guild for several years now. Many Challengers like to send the results of their searches to requesters laid out like a marriage certificate, a format which Howard Benbrook christened a 'faux certificate'. For several years, Howard has had a system to produce faux certificates from an Excel spreadsheet of transcribed data using the 'mail-merge' facility of Word. Back in 2006 there was some discussion on the Guild Forum about how other Challengers could do this, and I thought that rather than people with disparate computer systems and programs trying to learn how to generate faux certificates by this method, it would be easier to have an online system that generated certificates from data in a generic format.

Faux Certificates go on-line

I created a facility on my website which takes transcribed certificates or register data saved in a *comma separated variable* (csv) format (a standard data format that can be produced by any spreadsheet or database software) and uses those data to create faux certificates in the widely-used pdf format. A spin-off is that it is also easy to generate files for submission to the Guild Marriage Index. Initially only Marriage Challenge data could be handled, but as people have suggested improvements the program has expanded to handle any transcribed marriage record, as well as birth and death certificates. Recently the facility has been moved to the Guild website (you'll find it in the Members Room, under "Services" or directly at <http://www.one-name.org/members/fauxcerts/>), and it is available for all members to use if they wish, not just for Marriage Challengers. Currently only certificates from England and Wales are accommodated, but if there was demand other countries' formats could be included.

So, how does it work?

Detailed instructions are available on the Guild website, so I will present only an outline of the process of producing faux certificates. First you need to have your data transcribed into a spreadsheet or other tabular format, one certificate per line, with appropriate column headings in the first line (see Figure 1), and then use the 'Save as' function of your software to save the data as a csv file. Each space in a birth, marriage or death register where information can be entered can be accommodated by the program, but it doesn't require them all to be filled in and allows some flexibility in how you record the information. The list of recognised column headings is on the website but there isn't space to give them here – there can be over 50 items of data relating to one marriage! The columns may be presented in any order, and any column that is not recognised will be ignored, so if you have additional columns they do not need to be removed. If your *modus operandi* for transcription doesn't exactly match mine then there are often ways to make it work, for example, the software expects the surname and forename of each party to a marriage to be in separate columns, but it doesn't care if you put the whole name in a column labelled 'surname' and leave out the forename column (though this *would* be a problem for producing a GMI file).

On the website you will also find sample csv files illustrating the range

of variations that can be handled, for example Jewish and Quaker marriage certificates, together with versions of faux certificates completed with the column labels to illustrate where each column's contents will be placed. Mostly, what you enter in the column appears in the appropriate place on the faux certificate, but there are some exceptions. In order to explore the options available, you may like to try altering the sample file and seeing the effect that the changes have on the results.

Once you have a csv file with your transcribed data go to the website and upload the file. You can choose two output formats for your faux certificates:

1. All the certificates in one pdf file, one certificate per page.
2. Certificates as a series of individual pdf files, saved in a zip file (compressed folder). Most computers will automatically extract the individual files from a zip file.

Either format can be saved to your computer or sent to an email address with a message; the first can also be viewed online. I generally find that all is not quite right on the first attempt, so I view a multi-page pdf on the screen for proof-reading, correct my data file, and have another go. Once it is all checked as correct then I will run the process again with my desired output method.

The system has been running for three years now and seems to work well. The most common errors reported in the log of accesses are a failure to specify the csv file to be used, or the uploading of a file that has not been converted to csv. Some marriage challengers have made heavy use of the facility, and one or two one-name studies have been using it systematically to produce

Figure 1. Part of the sample file of birth certificates

	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Date	Place	Forenames	Sex	Father forenames	Father surname
2	Twenty fifth August 1848	Filton	Thomas	Boy	Thomas	Chapman
3	Seventh April 1849	31 Palmer Street, Holloway	Sarah Eliza	Girl	William	Clark
4	Thirtieth May 1871	Batterdale, Harfield	Cecilia Renaud	Girl	Thomas	Chapman
5	Twenty first November 1875	3 Little College Street, Westminster	Ada Josephine	Female	Edward	Orwin
6	Soth May 1879	Colbrook Horton	Herbert George	Boy	Thomas	Chapman
7	Twenty eighth March 1875	1 Thornbury Villas, Albert Road, South Norwood	Walter Jowett	Boy	Walter	Millard
8	Seventeenth October 1856	14 Warren Street, Camden Town	William Josiah	Boy	William	Coster
9	Twentyfirst December 1859	9 Tuckers Rents	Margaret	Girl	William	Pice
10	Ninth May 1856	48 Sloane Street	Henry Alfred Brooksby	boy	William Brooksby	Crabb
11	Nineteenth November 1852	10 Howards Road, Plaistow	Ada	Girl	Joseph	Mills
12	Twenty fourth January 1854	8 Brandon Road, Islington	James	Boy	George	Clark
13	Second November 1854	4 Ardnoton Street	James	Boy	John Marshall	Clark

COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH
IN THE REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF Hatfield

1871. Birth in the Sub-district of <u>Hatfield</u> in the County of <u>Hertford</u>										
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and Surname of Father	Name and Surname of Mother	Rank or Profession of Father	Signature, description and address of informant	When registered	Signature of register	Registered Place of birth after Registration of Birth
293	Thirteenth May 1871 Batterdale Hatfield	Cecilia	Girl	Thomas Chapman	Mary Ann Chapman	Plumber	M. Chapman Mother Batterdale, Hatfield	Twenty second June 1871	H. Sanders Registrar	—

Entry transcribed by Andrew Millett from birth certificate number D259344, for those certificates missing.
Faux certificate produced from known data using Andrew Millett's *oneName* plug script.

Figure 2. A faux birth certificate produced from the third entry in Fig. 1. Other notes could have been added and the Guild watermark can be replaced with one of your choosing.

electronic versions of certificates in their collections.

Faux certificates offer a method for sending neatly formatted, transcribed data to other researchers. The pdf files produced by the facility are very small (less than 10 kb per certificate) whereas a scanned certificate could be 50 times larger and convey the same information. Faux certificates are therefore suitable for e-mailing to contacts without broadband internet, or for printing and sending to people who cannot read old handwriting.

I'm happy to hear from users what they think of the facility, whether brickbats or bouquets, but especially

ideas for improvements. It has been adapted to accommodate quite a few variations in how certificates are transcribed, so if it doesn't quite fit what you are recording, please let me know and I can see if it can be adapted for you. If you have any problems using the facility then help is available via the Guild Helpdesk on 0800-011-2182 or helpdesk@one-name.org

Finally, I'd like to thank Shelagh Mason and Roy Rayment for testing various versions of the software, numerous Forum members for sending scans of certificates to show how varied they are, and Anne Shankland for her work in moving it to the Guild website.

COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE
IN THE REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF Hackney

1867. Marriage solemnized at <u>Providence Chapel, Paragon Rd to the</u> District of <u>Hackney</u> in the County of <u>Middlesex</u>								
No.	When solemnized	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Fuller's Name and Residence	Rank or Profession of Fuller
36	Twenty-ninth July 1867	Thomas Clarke	23 years	Bachelor	Joiner	91 Broad Street, Ratcliff	John Clarke	Blacksmith
		Sarah Elizabeth Coster	22 years	Spinster	—	91 Broad Street, Ratcliff	William Coster	Collector

Married in the Providence Chapel according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Anglican by Certificate by me,
Henry Heath Wm. Mould Gurney, Registrar

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Thomas Clarke } as the groom of the one part, and { Sarah Elizabeth Coster } as the bride of the other part, { William Coster } { Avin Coster }

NOTES: Certificate has given wrong 91 Broad Street "A" and the correct name "The certificate overleaf "A" referred to within second declaration, E. Vaughan"

GRO REFERENCE: 1867, Quarter 3, CLARKE, Thomas, Volume 15, Page 745
Entry transcribed by Andrew Millett from unnumbered certificate stated to be from Page 18 of "Book No. 4 entered on the twenty-ninth day of July 1867"
Faux certificate produced from known data using Andrew Millett's *oneName* plug script.

Fig. 3 A faux version of a marriage certificate, illustrating how the wording of a non-conformist certificate can be accommodated.



Green Indeed

I appear to have mistakenly assumed that anyone interested in minimising power consumption would already have set their computer to the "hibernate" mode (using Windows power settings), so that after a short period of in-activity, the computer would automatically switch down to a state using extremely low power consumption. This probably saves more energy than constantly switching the computer on and off during normal day time operation when the computer is not in active use. Even the most ardent power savers probably don't "switch-off at the socket" when they leave their desks for a break so it is best to let the hibernate function do this for them and at the same time to let hibernate deal with the night time switch down.

I did not feel that there was enough space in the article to explain how to force the computer to hibernate. For example, if someone wants to run a back-up program unattended (highly desirable as such programs can take a long time to complete) then the solution is to automatically run the following executive to force the computer to return to "hibernate":

`rundll32.exe (in XP this is usually found in the C:\WINDOWS\system32\ folder) with the argument PowrProf.dll, SetSuspendState`

The facility to run this program is available in the Acronis back-up programme which was recommended in the article and I use this method successfully on my own computer.

John K Coldwell



Seminar Report - The Art of One-Name Studies

(New Members Seminar) Amersham, Bucks, Aug 8th 2009

By **Julie Long**

Unsure of what a Guild Seminar would be like and hoping as a new member that it would be useful, I booked up for my husband, a non Guild member and myself, to attend "the Art of One-Name Studies" new members seminar at Amersham Free Church Hall on Saturday, 8th August.

The instructions of how to find the hall were excellent, including photographs, and we were warmly welcomed and refreshed with awaiting coffee and biscuits on our arrival.

There was a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, but at the same time everyone was keen to make the most of the opportunity to pass on as much information as possible and ensure the day ran efficiently. The refreshments were plentiful and served quickly, with the minimum of fuss. Many thanks to those who provided them.

Morning Session

After our welcome Peter Walker gave his introductory talk on One-name Studies. Although this was familiar to longer standing members, to a new comer it was very interesting to find out how and why surnames came into being and the types of surnames that exist. Then to have the process of carrying out a one-name study explained. Something I had not encountered before was the secretary hand "e" which can be mistaken for an "o".

Derek Palgrave followed with his talk explaining how variants of

names came about and showed us the phonetic pronunciations connected to different written letters. Regional accents, and in Derek's own family name the biting East Anglian wind, can have an influence on pronunciation and spelling. My husband followed this up at lunchtime by discussing Worcestershire accents with Derek.

Next was Howard Benbrook's swift, but informative taster of what was available on the Guild Bookstall. During lunch I purchased a book on Workhouses to help my research on two members of my family who ended their lives in the workhouse.

There was plenty of time to browse the bookstall and chat at lunch time. Also to get advice from Derek and Peter on the feasibility of taking on the surname for one of my husband's lines.

Afternoon Session

In the afternoon Anne Shankland went through the Guild website. I was keen to return home and log on as soon as possible once I realized what "goodies" were available.

Jeanne Bunting's talk "The thrill of the chase: Is the internet killing it?" was very entertaining and useful, encouraging everyone to make sure that original documents are seen because of the errors in transcription and information that can be missed. Jeanne explained how she followed up a piece of family folklore and proved Joan Sims to be her third cousin. Seeing how Jeanne had "put meat on the bones" with incidences from her family's history showed how much more meaningful a study can be.

I was very impressed by the quality of the Guild Journal when I received my first copy. Keith Bage, the editor,



ran through the history of the Journal using again a very impressive Powerpoint presentation showing how the Journal had changed over the years. He encouraged everyone to feel they could contribute and gave us a variety of examples showing the Journal contents.

Lastly, there was the opportunity to ask questions answered by a panel of the speakers.

Was it a worthwhile way to spend a sunny Saturday?

Through attending, my enthusiasm has been re-energised. I have found three lines of my family on the 1901 census that I was unable to find before, using Jeanne's suggestion of wild cards within the surname when conducting Internet searches. They had been mistranscribed as Holoman, Holiman and Holtman instead of Holsman. My husband is now talking of joining and how he can make a website and start a newsletter. I would advise any new members who have not attended a seminar to take the opportunity to meet like minded people and learn more about family history and one-name studies in a comfortable, friendly atmosphere. ■

Summaries of some presentations can be found at www.one-name.org/members/seminars.html



Forthcoming Seminars

20th February 2010

DNA SEMINAR

A DNA Developments Seminar is to be held at the National Star College, Cheltenham. This Seminar will build on the previous DNA discussions with much emphasis on practical experience, the interpretation of results and the implications for surname studies in general. It will also look at the administration processes and conclude with discussion on how to run a more effective project.

Delegates who are already undertaking a DNA research project are encouraged to bring a poster/display of their results to share with others, and those with specific questions are encouraged to submit these in advance of the seminar to dnaquestions@one-name.org

15th May 2010

MAPS AND MAPPING SEMINAR

Maps and Mapping Seminar at the Helsby Community Centre, Lower Robin Hood Lane, Helsby, Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 0BW. This seminar will cover all aspects of maps and mapping for your one-name study starting with a talk on digital mapping by Paul Newman, Senior Archivist, Cheshire Record Office.

7th Aug 2010

COMPUTER SEMINAR

The seminar will be held in the excellent hands-on computer suites at the Rosebery School Epsom. Separate streams will cater for beginners, intermediate and more advanced users, and it is planned to cover a very wide range of subjects ranging from basic data capture, use of the best Internet sites to interesting data manipulation techniques.

Finding Further Less Used One-Name Sources 21st Nov 2009, The National Archives, Kew

Programme

- 09:30 - 10:15 Arrival - Registration and Coffee
- 10:15 - 10:30 Welcome to the Seminar
- 10:30 - 11:15 The Hearth Tax - Dave Annal
- 11:15 - 12:00 Civil War Sequestration Papers - Adrian Ailes
- 12:00 - 13:00 Lunch
- 13:00 - 14:00 Behind The Scenes Tour
- 14:00 - 14:45 Chancery Records - Amanda Bevan
- 14:45 - 15:15 Tea and Biscuits
- 15:15 - 16:00 Certificates of Residence - Michelle Hockley
- 16:00 - 16:30 Any Questions?
- 16:30 Close of seminar

The National Archive is a truly remarkable repository with very few surnames failing to feature somewhere within its vast collections. This seminar, presented by experts from the TNA, will enable participants to explore even more of the valuable, but often under used records deposited there.

The cost of the seminar will be £22 per person including morning and afternoon coffee or tea – as usual for Guild Seminars at the National Archive lunch is not included in the seminar price - but you can either bring your own or purchase lunch at the National Archive Restaurant.



We have also arranged a behind-the-scenes tour. Depending upon demand there will be two or three tour groups of 20 persons, and places will be allocated strictly in order of booking, so book as early as possible.

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.



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



Raise Your Profile

By **Peter Winney**

Believe every One-Name Study registered with the Guild of One-Name Studies should have a Profile on the Guild website. Whether the study is a new one or long established. Even if you already have a web-site. A Guild Profile is the easiest way to publicise your study and get the widest audience.

Benefits

The benefits of a presence on the Guild website are:

- *Accessible to all web users - including those with special needs*
- *Available to all web devices - including mobile phones*
- *Search engines find it easily - rating well up the page of un-sponsored selections*
- *Set up and maintenance is easy for you.*

At a recent Guild regional meeting I attended all those who had a Profile reported that this was now the prime source of their new contacts.

Broadband Internet & the Web

Broadband Internet is the communications media of the 21st Century. Still rapidly expanding with improved cabling, speeds and access. Access not just for computers but increasingly by means of small portable devices such as mobile phones.

The government has long been committed to providing Internet connectivity for all (such as in libraries) and improved broadband speeds nationally as part of its policy of "joined up government" in the provision of national and local government services.

Broadband has enabled the vast growth both in family history as a hobby and the commercial businesses

built upon that hobby - a trend that continues.

From the One-Name point of view this means:

- *More people will be actively interested in the Name you are studying*
- *Most of whom will use the Internet to seek information*
- *An increase in data readily available on the web*
- *But also more bad and inaccurate data likely to be encountered.*

Consequently a One-Name Study needs a web presence in order to:

- *Maximise the opportunity for making contacts*
- *Advise and encourage others interested in the Name*
- *Counteract the influence of bad data.*

The easiest way, and a very effective one, is by means of a Profile page on the Guild website.

Keeping it Simple

For your Profile the Guild provides a template within which you can select appropriate headings and input text. You are the one who knows best what your study is about. You need select only the headings that you want and within these you can describe your study. You can also include a picture to illustrate the study, and make links to other sites if you wish.

Using the template you can:

- *Input easily - you can type in direct to the form or copy and paste text from a prepared draft*
- *Build a logical structure that is easy to navigate*

- *Use paragraphs in the text to provide easy-to-find and easy-to-read blocks of information*
- *Make lists*
- *Emphasise selected text*
- *Include hyperlinks to other sites*
- *Include a picture or graphic.*

The choice of headings are:

- *Description - a summary of your study*
- *Variants - information about any recognised variants for your registered surname*
- *Origins - the origin or meaning of your registered surname*
- *Historical occurrences - famous and historical occurrences of your registered surname*
- *Frequency - information about the frequency of your registered surname*
- *Distribution - the distribution of your registered surname*
- *Data - a description of the data that you have collected*
- *DNA study - a description of any DNA study you may have*
- *Links - any links to external sources relevant to your study that you may wish to highlight.*
- *Contact Details - as provided by you.*

Accessibility

Because of the way it is designed so as to be simple to construct and maintain, the Guild Profile layout has other benefits - it is easily read by users with special needs, such as the blind and partially sighted, and those who do not use a mouse. The particular features that assist this are:

- *Text is used to provide all essential information on the page - it can be resized by the individual user to suit their personal needs and can be read out by automated text readers*
- *Headings linked to the navigation - essential for users unable to scroll the page*
- *Provision for listing of significant information*
- *Provision for emphasis of words or phrases.*

Search Rankings

The features that make the Guild Profile accessible also makes it easier for search engines to find and rank your Profile page - it has been said that search engines are the most widespread "blind" users of the web. Search engines are also attracted to large complex sites - so your Profile benefits from being part of the Guild website.

Another feature to aid searches is the inclusion in the template of appropriate "key words" in the "meta data" hidden within the coding of the page. You don't have to do anything. Included automatically are the Registered Name and other key words and phrases reflecting search terms that might be used (including a popular misspelling of "genealogy").

You can see this by placing the cursor on any Profile page, right-click on the mouse and select "View Source".

For example:

```
<meta name="keywords"
content="Winney, one-name studies,
surname, genealogy, geneology,
family history">
```

Optimise For Search

Web Consultants charge their clients large sums to "optimise" a website for search engines. As described above, the Guild Profile does this for you. But you can help by including in your Profile:

- *Context - make sure the content is appropriate to the chosen heading above it*
- *Name variants - include all registered variants and some deviant spellings so as to pick up all likely searches*
- *Key Words - words or phrases that you consider are important and may be used in searching for your page - put these at or near the start of paragraphs or listed elements*
- *Listing - make use of this facility where appropriate.*

Search engines also rank by the number of links into a site. So if you have found other websites relevant to your Name it is worth asking them if they will create a link to your Profile in exchange for a link to their site.

Just Starting?

You need not worry about not having enough content for your Profile because the background research that you did in order to register your One-Name Study will provide plenty. How frequently you review and update your Profile in line with the progress of your study is entirely up to you. You will find that a Guild Profile does attract enquiries.

Mature Study?

For a large and complex study a Profile can provide a short and succinct guide to what the One-Name Study is about. If you also have a DNA study there is now a heading for this in the Profile template. Search engines will pick up on this and help attract potential DNA recruits to your study.

Already have a Web-site?

Even if you already have a website for your One-Name Study a Guild Profile can provide:

- *A concise introduction for newcomers to the Name*
- *Alternative access to your web-site*
- *Greater chance of getting a high ranking in search engines than can be achieved by your website alone.*

Even award winning sites do not disdain being linked to a Profile - the websites of the Gander and Gant One-Name Studies are both supported by a Guild Profile.

Don't Have A Computer?

Local libraries now have computers and broadband connections. Or another Guild member near you can help. Contact the Guild for advice if you want a Profile but do not have a computer.

Conclusion

A Guild Profile provides the easiest and most effective way of publicising your Study on the web. Having joined the Guild and registered a One-Name Study, what possible reason could there be not to have a Profile?

Action This Day

If you have not got a Profile log into the Members Room and apply for one. If you have one, review and update it.

Sources:

1. *Journal Volume 8, Issue 11, Jul-Sep 2005*
2. *Guild personalised web pages - <http://one-name.org/members/profiles/description.html>*
3. *Access by Design - A guide to Universal Usability for Web Designers by Sarah Horton* ■



More Pictures from the Guild's Amersham Seminar

Vol 10 Issue 4 October-December 2009



Main inset: Derek Palgrave delivers his presentation on "the many variants of a surname". **Top left:** A display showing the various methods of promoting the Guild. **Middle left:** Seminar attendees perusing the bookstall. **Bottom left:** Julie Long listens intently, contemplating her seminar report. **Bottom Centre:** Gillian Stevens chats with other attendees. **Bottom Right:** Alan Moorhouse's display of items purchased from ebay which relate to his One-Name Study.

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