

The world's leading publication for one-namers

Journal

of One-Name Studies



www.one-name.org

An Irish One-Name Study



The origin of the surnames Croker, Crocker & Croaker



John Madder

English Man or Scot?

Two New Competitions

& Much More

Blindell

The Jigsaw of a Surname



DNA
Discoveries



The end of an era



FamilySearch

links with the **Guild**

All the latest Guild news and updates

Guild

of One-Name Studies

Box G, 14 Charterhouse Buildings
Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA
Tel: 0800 011 2182 (UK)
Tel: 1-800 647 4100 (North America)
Tel: 1800 305 184 (Australia)

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

Richard Moore FSG
Iain Swinnerton TD.DL.JP.
Alec Tritton

Guild Committee

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

Gordon Adshead
John Coldwell
Peter Copsey
Stephen Daglish
Corrinne Goodenough
Ken Mycock
Roy Rayment
Anne Shankland
Sandra Turner

Bookstall Manager

Howard Benbrook

Forum Manager

Wendy Archer

Regional Reps Co-ordinator

Corrinne Goodenough

Website Manager

Anne Shankland

Librarian & Helpdesk

Roy Rayment

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Executive Kirsty Gray
Seminar Gordon Adshead
Marketing John Coldwell

Guild Officers



CHAIRMAN

Kirsty Gray
11 Brendon Close
Tilehurst, Reading
Berkshire
RG30 6EA
0118 941 9224

chairman@one-name.org



VICE-CHAIRMAN & EDITOR

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

vice-chairman@one-name.org
editor@one-name.org



SECRETARY

Jan Cooper
Greenways
8 New Road,
Womersley, Guildford
Surrey, GU5 0SE
01483 898339

secretary@one-name.org



TREASURER

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

treasurer@one-name.org



REGISTRAR

Stephen Daglish
113 Stomp Road
Burnham
Berkshire
SL1 7NN
01628 666464

registrar@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 Rep Coordinator;
Corrinne Goodenough:

11 Wyndham Lane
Allington
Salisbury
Wiltshire, SP4 0BY
Tel: 01980 610835
E-mail:
rep-coordinator@one-name.org

The Journal of One-Name Studies
is published quarterly by the Guild
of One-Name Studies and printed
by Flexpress Ltd, 6 Coal Cart Road,
Interchange, Birstall, Leicester, LE43BY
ISSN 0262-4842

© Journal of One-Name Studies

facebook

twitter

www.facebook.com/guildonename
www.twitter.com/guildonename

MAIN ARTICLES

- 6** Blindell - The Jigsaw Of A Surname by Caroline Smith
- 10** John Madder - Englishman Or Scot? by Christine Hancock
- 12** DNA Discoveries by Susan C Meates
- 18** An Irish One-Name Study by Vicki Perry
- 22** The Origin Of The Surnames Crocker, Croker and Croaker by Brian Croker
- 31** The Blencowes At Blencow By Jack Blencowe

GUILD REPORTS - NEWS - EVENTS

- 15** Obituary - David Heppenstall Mellor by Gordon Adshead
- 16** The Guild Links With FamilySearch by Kirsty Gray
- 21** 2011 Guild AGM & Conference by Gordon Adshead
- 21** Guild Essay Competition by Anne Shankland
- 25** Guild News Xtra
- 26** Seminar Report - Born Abroad by Sue Ashton
- 27** Forthcoming Seminars

REGULARS

- 4** From The Chairman's Keyboard by Kirsty Gray
- 5** Registrar's Notes by Stephen Daglish
- 28** Marriage Challenge Update by Peter Copsey
- 30** Book Reviews
- 31** One-Name Mail

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.

Copyright of the material is to the Editor and Publishers of the Journal of One-Name Studies and the author. No material may be reproduced in part or in whole without the prior permission of the publishers.

The views expressed in the Journal are those of individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the committee of the Guild of One-Name Studies.

The distribution list for this Journal is based on the information held in the Guild database on the first of the month preceding the issue date.



From the Chairman's Keyboard...

By Kirsty Gray

Looking back at the last edition of JOONS, it seems that we have moved mountains in just a few months and recently, I wrote the longest ever Chairman's Newsflash to inform you of all the news, projects and forthcoming events. However, the last quarter has been tinged with sadness for the Guild as we were informed of the passing of **David Mellor** - our Registrar until April 2010 - after a brief period of illness. Many of you will have met David over the years at the AGM/Conference and at seminars. He took over from Roger Goacher in 2007 before handing over the baton to Stephen Daglish last year. Several Guild members were among those attending the memorial service in October which marked his many achievements as a paediatric neurosurgeon. Those who knew David will not be surprised to hear that, knowing he was very ill, he finished his book on the **HEPPENSTALLS** in two weeks and arranged for around 100 copies to be printed and delivered to his home. A copy will be donated to the Guild library in his memory.

Membership Retention

The Marketing Strategy meeting in March 2010 gave us so many new ideas and, having developed a five-year marketing strategy, Guild volunteers are now making significant inroads to improving the marketing of registered surnames and also promoting the Guild as an organisation to increase our membership. The Guild Committee recognises that the retention rate of new members needs to be improved and approval was given this year for a membership retention survey - implemented by **Chris Pomery, Stephen Daglish and Cliff Kemball** - to ascertain, from new members, their views on three broad areas:

- Their expectations when they joined the Guild

- The extent to which they were aware of Guild facilities and services
- The extent to which they use these services

The survey was sent to 508 members and 284 responded by the closing date - an excellent result, and our thanks to all who participated. Members who have left the Guild will also be asked to participate and we will be looking closely at the findings of the survey to guide our future plans.

When we discussed improving Guild benefits, several people raised the concept of having mentors available to guide new members. The idea being that mentors would be able to assist them with matters such as how to access the various benefits of membership (e.g. joining the Forum, setting up a profile page, etc) and be their main contact point for the frequently arising 'how do I...?', 'what should I....?', 'where do I....?' questions. The Committee agreed that these mentors would be available for new members at their request. Stephen Daglish has offered to be the mentor coordinator - please contact him if you feel able to offer this assistance to new members of the Guild - mentors@one-name.org.

We are keen to increase our worldwide membership as we are often perceived as a UK-centric organisation. We have joined the National Genealogical Society (NGS) in the US and appointed a 'Guild representative for America' who will be integral in managing the marketing of the Guild across North America as well as representing us on the NGS. Robert Young, who is undertaking the Ranger one-name study, is already a member of our Marketing Subcommittee and is committed to improving our image and presence in North America. If there are any of you who do not live in the UK and feel

that you can support us by advising on - and hopefully, assisting us in carrying out - suitable promotion of the Guild within your country, John Coldwell (chairman-marksub@one-name.org) would be delighted to hear from you.

The 'Introduction to One-Name Studies' Pharos course has been extremely successful since the first course took place in 2009. It is a five-week course, covering the history of one-name studies, reasons why genealogists should have a one-name study, how to check on the suitability of your surname, the history and distribution of surnames, the practical aspects of running a one-name study, and the collection and analysis of data from core records needed for a one-name study. The next five week course starts on 20th January 2011 - see www.pharostutors.com and click on 'courses'. Students who complete the Introduction course, or who already have a registered name with the Guild of One-Name Studies and a large amount of surname data, can also take advantage of the latest course - Advanced One-Name Studies. This intensive course looks at studies in light of analysis and synthesis of findings with an optional assessed element and runs for six weeks, starting on 23rd May 2011.

In October, I alluded to the fact that links were being developed with **FamilySearch.org**. Please take a look at the article on pages 16-17 for more information as to how this will increase the number of contacts you receive regarding your registered surname, as well as the Guild/FamilySearch transcription project.

Master Craftsmen of the Guild

This is the time of year when we look towards the AGM and Conference in April. This year we head to Warrington, to the De Vere Hotel, Daresbury Park from Friday 15th to Sunday 17th April 2011. A booking

form is included with this journal and can also be completed online at www.one-name.org/conference.html. At the AGM in 2010, we announced the first Guild Fellowship awards – Master Craftsman of the Guild – recognising those Guild members considered worthy of honour, either because of their level of expertise in genealogy and one-name studies, or for their contribution to the running of the Guild, or both. Twelve individuals were honoured in this way at the AGM at the Oxford Belfry and the citations for their nominations are available in the Members Room - <http://www.one-name.org/members/MCGs.html>. Nominations for 2011 should be sent to the Guild Secretary, Jan Cooper, by 30th January 2011 including a paragraph detailing the reason for the nomination. There will be a panel of current MCGs along with Jan and Ken Mycock, Data Manager, who will discuss all nominations and the 2011 awards will be presented at the AGM in April.

Guild Committee Elections

At New Year, we also invite nominations for **Election to the Guild Committee**. The Committee has agreed measures in advance to protect the fairness and integrity of the election procedure and I am delighted that **Peter Hagger** has agreed to be teller for this year's nominations along with **Jan Cooper, Secretary**. Following a proposal made by Roger Lovegrove, a past Chairman of the Guild, the Committee have agreed a procedure for electronic nomination which is detailed on the reverse of the paper nomination form, included with this journal mailing. I would be delighted to see more nominations for election this year. If you would like to put yourself forward for election to the committee but do not know two other Guild members, please get in touch with me directly. The Guild is making significant progress though we always need more hands on deck! Perhaps we might even see a ballot this year?!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for 2011 – I hope that it brings you many new one-name study contacts and much more time to put into your ONS! ■



Registrar's Notes

By
Stephen Daglish

The New Year is a time for making resolutions – maybe I can offer you a few ideas?

Postal & e-mail address changes

One of our problems is tracking down members who have moved house or changed their e-mail address without informing us.

Each quarter some copies of the Journal are returned marked "Gone Away". Similarly the Chairman's Newsflash will be "bounced" from some e-mail addresses that are no longer valid. We will try to contact members using any alternative contact details we have in order to find new details. If we don't know how to get in touch, then it will also be impossible for others to make contact about your study.

You can help by please trying to remember to let us know if you change your postal or e-mail address. If you have access to the Members Room on the Guild website there is a form in the Self Service area for you to do this. Alternatively e-mail changes@one-name.org or write to me with the details. It would also help if you can provide a telephone number (if you have not already done so) for us to contact you if we have queries.

Guild Register 2011

Now would also be a good time to check the registered details for your study. The new Guild Register will be published in April and details will be extracted from the database during March. If you have any updates there is a form in the Self Service area of the Members Room, or contact me with any changes.

Replying to queries

All members with registered studies agree to deal promptly with queries received by e-mail or by reply paid letter. The Guild has not felt it appropriate to define

what "promptly" means as the circumstances of individual members may vary. However the person making the enquiry will expect a response, so if there will be a delay in replying - for example due to illness or being away - it would be helpful to acknowledge the request and, if possible, to give some indication of when a fuller reply can be expected.

Journal distribution problems

Last quarter we became aware of a problem when a small number of members reported not receiving their copy of the Journal. We have been investigating this to find the cause and will be carefully monitoring the mailing of this edition. If you are reading this, it is probably safe to assume that you have received your copy – but if you have experienced any problems in the past or have any concerns in future, do please let me know so that we can investigate.

Mentoring for new members

You may have read elsewhere that the Guild has introduced an online mentoring service aimed at helping new members find their way around the various services and facilities that are available and which are an important benefit of membership. Mentoring is intended to complement the existing support available from the Regional Reps (who may themselves also be mentors) and the Guild helpline, which is now available in the UK, Australia and the United States.

Since the mentoring service was announced I have been asked if mentoring is available for existing members, as well as new members. We would be very happy to consider this – but, on the other hand, to be effective we need more members to help with the mentoring role. If you feel that you can help with this do please let me know. There is an e-mail address mentors@one-name.org. ■

Blindell

By **Caroline Smith**

The Jigsaw of a Surname

One Straight Edge and Three Rows

Four years ago I started researching a rare family name to answer some questions about my grandfather's family and as a tangible memorial to my mother, Margaret Eileen Blindell, and her parents.

The Blindell One Name Study has been registered with the Guild since 2007. Blindell is a surname from my maternal line and I grew up realising its rarity and family disappointment that it would not continue within our family. I have confirmed that our branch has become extinct for those bearing the Blindell surname following the death of my Grandfather, his brother and a single male cousin, primarily due to a lack of male children born in the last three generations. Knowing very little of my Grandfather's family and with few living Blindell female relatives it was easier to draw my family tree by looking for all Blindells using online records as the baseline for my study.



The author's Grandparents: Frederick Sidney Blindell (1906-1994) and Maud Ethel Prentice (1908 -1997) photograph taken just before their marriage in 1929.

The Blindell name falls within the Guild's 'small' category with an 1881 census count of just 59. The 1901 and 1911 UK census counts remained static in volume, each with 95 family members. The later 2002 ONS database found 101 individuals and gave an overall surname ranking of 32,945th¹. Initial analysis shows the name to be most common in England and therefore likely to be of English origin. Some additional information is available via my GOONS profile page².

I am using this jigsaw analogy to show my progress so far. Each individual with the Blindell surname being a single piece within the overall jigsaw. This article covers three main topics as part of my interim data analysis and is very much a personal approach and work in progress.

- Analysis of surname origin ('the top edge') and meaning using surname dictionaries
- Data collection methods used (or 'finding the pieces')
- Core records captured ('the bottom three rows'), insights into family groups and small scale migration.

The Documented Meaning (Finding the jigsaw's top edge)

Like many of you reading this article the origin of your chosen ONS is probably not where you started. Always knowing the name was rare, the occasional dip into surname lists usually drew a blank. In 2008 looking in P.H. Reaney & R.M. Wilson's "A Dictionary of English Surnames"³ was my first realisation that occasionally Blindell is included. With the initial capture of individuals with the Blindell surname completed and partially due to being on the Guild's/ Pharos Advanced ONS course⁴ I decided to investigate this in a more systematic way. The SOG Library has a comprehensive collection of surname dictionaries and leaflets in their catalogue from which I narrowed my search to interesting and more likely candidates for an English

surname. My analysis of the resulting 45 titles published between 1842 and 2008 identified two with a specific reference to 'Blindell'.

From this analysis the consensus is that Blindell is an example in the nickname category of surnames. P. H. Reaney was a linguist, and his method was to identify the earliest occurrence of the surname, thereby using etymology to devise a potential meaning (Alured Blindel in 1221)⁵. Reaney & Wilsons, "A Dictionary of English Surnames, p.493, states "*Blindell, Blindel is identical with Blundel*". This reference linked to Blundal, Blundell being a variant of Blondel, in turn these references and variants (Blondel, Blondell, Blundal, Blundell) gave me the potential definition from Old French with Blondel being a diminutive of blond, 'fair' of hair or complexion.

The only other specific reference to Blindell within a surname dictionary is from Robert Ferguson's "English Surnames and their Place in the Teutonic Family"⁶, published in 1858. This mainly shows various etymology links to the words pale and straw-coloured from the Old German Blond, in English known as Bland. The diminutive of Blond being the Old German Blandila (with the variation Brandilla), being the English equivalent of Blindell, Blondell and the French Blondel.

Continuing by using the same method of review and looking at dictionaries published prior to Reaney³ identifying similar or conflicting reasoning, or using other approaches gave the following information. Henry B. Guppy, in "Homes of Family Names in Great Britain"⁷ in the 1890's used names of farmers in each county, excluding those with a frequency of less than 7 per 10,000 in a county. Although Blindell was not present, Blundell was included with a low count of 9 in Bedfordshire

and 18 in Lancashire with no other counties identified. Included was a brief reference to a Lancashire family named Blundell existing since the reign of Henry III (formerly of Sefton, Lancashire) and in the 1890's living in Ince Blundell, Lancashire. Also another family influential from the eighteenth century came from Cardington in Bedfordshire. Another well known dictionary compiler, the parson-scholar, Charles Bardsley in "A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames"⁸ published in 1901, includes Blondel or Blundel a "colour name" as the blond as a name of complexion similar to Russell and Plunkit with early references and a possible link to Blondel de Nesle reputed to be the minstrel of Richard Coeur de Lion. Bardsley corroborates the name Blundell as being "conspicuous amongst English County Families".

The Norman People 1874⁹ states that a Blondel family came over to England with William Mallet and William B. in 1165 from which a branch became seated in Ince Lancashire and another in Ireland as Barons of Edenderry which are linked to the Blundells of Cardington, Bedfordshire as stated later by Henry B. Guppy⁷.

Data Collection Methods (Finding the jigsaw pieces)

With an interest and career in records and information management I realised the importance in finding a suitable computer-based index for my ONS. Having used Family Tree Maker for my own family history I decided to investigate other options to purely record instances of the surname, similar to a 'data mine' application. This would allow me to sort and find records as my pile of jigsaw pieces got larger. I decided to enter the records into the database myself to better understand the data rather than doing an automated upload being an option due to the small size of this study.

I chose to purchase Custodian¹⁰ for the following reasons:

- template data entry structure provided by record type which I could enhance as my understanding of the records developed;
- structured data entry to guide me with the capture of key information from each record type (as I was inexperienced in

what I may need later to enable any further analysis of the data);

- requirement to enter my completed but manually identified GRO BMD Index entries from 1837 into a computerised index;
- software with the likelihood to be upgradable to later versions and therefore protect the data availability as computer hardware and operating systems change;
- not wanting to spend time developing MS Excel, or similar application, templates, layouts and formatting to capture and compare information;
- the ability to extract records using SQL will be useful as the database grows.

Based on advice at a seminar I purchased the full version of Legacy (Legacy 7, as at June 2010) to capture family groups and my own family records are in a Legacy file. I used Family Tree Maker for the Blindell census records as an initial family baseline I find the data entry screens for entering 'facts' (e.g. occupation, and residence) faster to update, this will be transferred into Legacy 7.

Coming from a family history approach I wanted to use the data to identify names, dates and locations and individuals life events beyond the hatch, match and dispatch records. Things like, where did they live, what did they do for a living, where did they move to and to theorise why these changes may have happened. This involved looking into the wider social environment within the relevant time period including family events, local and broader external influences to identify what may have triggered that changing circumstance for a family or individual. This resulted in identifying some families or individuals that warranted more in depth research and adds colour and personal interest to the overall study but will be part of a future article.

I decided on a planned structured approach for the data collection, to better enable the linking of individuals into families back in time and across branches. Therefore I chose to start with recent historical records (as advised in family history) in a stepwise approach completing one dataset, or collection of similar records at a time, and comprehensively recording the results into Custodian. I still get side-

tracked and look at early records but the backbone of my study comes from the 20th Century working backwards. I have subscriptions with two of the online providers (Ancestry UK and The Genealogist, as at June 2010). I have had other subscriptions, or individual record access from other data providers to fill gaps, confirm transcriptions, or for the availability of particular datasets. Non-electronic records, primarily microfilm of parish and workhouse records, are being manually searched for Blindells in key parishes referenced as birth place or residence in the census returns. My random people records, often a single individual found in an obscure dataset, parish register microfilm or index. Internet posted family trees are 'captured' in some way for later sorting. Once confirmed against a reliable, or primary source, they are added into Custodian.

Custodian is very strong in managing records, with the first cut being a dataset, which matches my approach. I realised that later I would want to link an individual to their life events, then the individual into a family, this is not the strength or purpose of Custodian. Therefore, to bridge this gap I created a Unique Person Id (which the GOONS online courses refer to as a 'reference key') within Custodian to link a person to their records on the database. Details below summarise this approach with an example of how it is used in my study.

The **Unique Person ID (UPI)** starts as an individual record identifier (a Custodian single row) for each record indexed. If two life events can be shown to be for the same person (e.g. a birth record and a known death record for the same individual) then they both have the same allocated UPI. Many of the links to a single person are due to corroborative evidence e.g. a rare personal name; locative and name link combination; name and date possibly with a locative link combination. If the link is proved through the addition of later datasets being analysed then two, or more, previous UPIs are changed to a single identical UPI for all the records for that person. If merged, the earliest life event UPI is the retained UPI and all records for this person are updated and previous UPIs are deleted (removed UPIs are not reused for another person).

Forename	Surname	Year	Record Source	Place	Age	Calculated Birth Year	Personal Reference	Family Reference
Arthur Henry	BLINDELL	1875	Birth Index	Luton		1875	BDF001/000019	BDF001
Arthur Henry	BLINDELL	1879	Death Index	Luton	3	1876	BDF001/000019	BDF001
Arthur P. A	BLINDELL	1931	Marriage Index	Luton			BDF001/000038	BDF001
Arthur Percival A	BLINDELL	1909	Birth Index	Luton		1909	BDF001/000038	BDF001
Arthur Percival A	BLINDELL	1972	Death Index	Bromley		1909	BDF001/000038	BDF001
Arthur R	BLINDELL	1928	Marriage Index	Luton			BDF001/000035	BDF001
Arthur Ralph	BLINDELL	1905	Birth Index	Luton		1905	BDF001/000035	BDF001
Arthur Ralph	BLINDELL	1993	Death Index	Luton	87	1905	BDF001/000035	BDF001
Arthur W	BLINDELL	1948	Death Index	Luton	74	1874	BDF001/000018	BDF001
Arthur William	BLINDELL	1898	Marriage Index	Luton			BDF001/000018	BDF001
Arthur William	BLINDELL	1873	Birth Index	Luton		1873	BDF001/000018	BDF001

Example: BDF001/000018: BDF = County of Bedfordshire; Place code 001 = Luton; 000018 is the eighteenth individual record for Luton. In this example the person is Arthur William Blindell.

The format of the UPI (or reference key) has a set formula to assist in the linking of individuals to a specific county and place:

Chapman County Code: Place Code / chronological record number (for that place)

As county boundaries can alter, the website Curious Fox¹¹ is used as a reference point to identify a county, rather than the county at the time the record was created. Overseas records will use the two letter ISO standard country code¹².

The UPI is used to link all records, both paper and electronic, and where possible to tie them all together. This includes copies in paper files and records in other family tree software programs.

Core Records Captured (The jigsaw's bottom three rows)

Based on this methodology and using the Guild's suggested core records I completed data capture of UK records post-1837, which I see as the bottom three rows of the jigsaw gradually reaching the earliest records on the top row. Working through each dataset I have added these into Custodian for easiersorting and analysis. The backbone of the post-1837 records are English, Welsh and Scottish civil registration records (260 births, 212 marriages and 202 deaths). Supplementary records, sometimes pre-1837, include military records; National Burial Index entries; online non-conformist records¹³; outbound passenger lists¹⁴, and wills (both indices and transcriptions). Other added value records include newspaper articles involving more prominent

Blindells including those in the 'Times'¹⁵ index (primarily James Blindell MP, his son Ronald J R Blindell with business ventures, racing horse and football team ownership, less known James Saville Blindell who had mining and shipping businesses in the Cardiff area).

No specific variants to the Blindell surname have been identified. However, deviant¹⁶ spellings for the same family and individuals have been identified in pre-1860 records especially within parish and a military records. The occurrence of deviants so far include Blindel, Blindle where the person is illiterate and the record is being created by a third-party official. I expect the occurrence of deviant records and spellings to increase as earlier records are incorporated.

My overseas records are sparse and to be developed and indexed on Custodian. Identified migration entries to New York originating from UK families include three people entering in 1883, 1892 and 1924 respectively. Using www.familysearch.org records from the Church of the Latter Day Saints: the 1880 US census has a single person who has been linked back to his family in Surrey; the U.S. Social Security Death Index (primarily records since 1962) gives seven instances of Blindells. Other individual overseas records include a death in Bengal, India (from the India Office Index of the British Library¹⁷). Other small numbers of individuals have been identified living in the 19th and 20th centuries in New Zealand and Tasmania.

To assist in tracing living Blindells for the potential exchange of information

and creating a more active DNA project I have made internet searches on www.192.com¹⁸ and www.Tracesmart.co.uk¹⁹. Due to the small size of my ONS and the known problems with the ability to 'opt-out' from the published electoral roll this information is less useful for analysis. Using the current distribution of a surname as an indicator of the original location of the surname becomes less accurate due to the passing of time, recent population mobility and the relatively small size of the Blindell study. Similarly I have not used more recent editions of telephone directories. I have had more success in contacting others through internet options such as my Guild Profile and also a presence on Genes Reunited, Facebook and Lost Cousins. Several smaller sites have enabled me to find Blindells living overseas in South America, New Zealand, and Australia.

Now that I have captured more records I am actively looking to see how I can link records at different levels. Placing all UK census records into Family Tree Maker software is now completed from 1841 to 1911 and includes all parts of the census record. To reduce online site transcription errors impacting the accuracy, images were always referenced and all major census providers indices were cross checked against the initial Ancestry information with additional records added, or amended as required. The worst situation was the 1891 census where the Ancestry total number of individuals was 53 and in Find My Past 110. To resolve this images were checked and those entries that were difficult to read were checked against possible individuals within the indexed

BMDs. In this instance a significant number of the extra records were incorrectly transcribed 'Blundell' records and therefore discarded. Links between the Custodian and census records is made by manually adding the UPI to the Blindell Census file. Through this method and adding other life events, such as marriage details and maiden names (instead of the Blindell surname for wives as given in the census) thirty-nine twiglets (small fragments of family trees) have been identified. Going back further in time and into parish records will further consolidate these twiglets into fewer branches.

Very recently I have created maps from my collected data to better visualise patterns in surname distribution. With such a small study I have had to try a more comprehensive approach than that suggested by Colin Rogers's, "The Surname Detective"²⁰, by mapping datasets over a larger time distribution due to the small size of this study. An example of Blindell Deaths (1837 - 1883) shown below shows greater concentration of Blindells in London, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.



Blindell Deaths 1837 - 1883

Interim Conclusions

At this stage of my research I would agree that Blindell as a surname is definitely in the nickname category, probably to indicate a fair complexion or hair colour and linguistically to be of Old French or Norman French and of prior Germanic origin.

Beyond this and with the warning from David Hey²³ in "Family Names and Family History" that the "guessing the meaning of a surname is a dangerous game to play". I realise the need to do further research, especially in earlier time periods in order to map surname

distribution and to substantiate any person links to the more common Blundell surname.

Further analysis is proposed to see if the pre-20th century occurrences of the Blindell name are in similar primary locations to those for the Blundell name, or if they are concentrated in different parts of the country. This approach would consider that although the Blindell name does not appear to have any variants, perhaps Blindell itself is a variant of the more common surname Blundell. Due to the rarity of the Blindell surname, where a single prolific family can skew the results, this approach will need to be defined and then mapped using suitable statistical methods to reduce this risk. The approach is likely to include civil registration birth, marriage and death records separated by event type, each map covering a ten year period similar to that used in Colin D Rogers's book, "The Surname Detective"¹⁹. The results of this analysis would be further corroborated using census data.

I use technology as a tool and will continue to use Custodian, Legacy 7 and Family Tree Maker, upgrading as required. In June 2010 over 1550 records were available in my Custodian 'data mine' the earliest from 1651 and the most recent in 2005. I believe it is important to look at new options to collect and analyse the data so I will be developing my use of the Map My Ancestors²¹ and also GenMap software. In 2011 I expect to launch a Blindell website to share some of my analysis and information. I hope this will increase the possibility of collaborative work to find those missing pieces and move towards completing the Blindell jigsaw.

Footnotes:

1 Surnames, England & Wales, National Statistics 2002. Accessed via the web link www.taliesin-arleyn.net/names (search last run June 2010).

2 Guild of One Name Studies, profile for Blindell One Name Study www.one-name.org/profiles/blindell.html

3 Reaney, P. H. & Wilson, R. M. A Dictionary of English Surnames. Oxford, Oxford University Press, Rev. 3rd edition, 1997.

4 GOONS/ Pharos Advanced ONS course (as at June 2010) www.pharostutors.com/details.php?coursenumber=902

5 Referenced from Reaney & Wilson, p. 49, Assize Roll Glos. (Selden Society vol. 59, 1940)

6 Ferguson, Robert. English Surnames and their place in the Teutonic Family. London, George Routledge & Co., 1858.

7 Guppy, Henry Brougham. Homes of Family Names in Great Britain. London, Harrison & Sons, 1890.

8 Bardsley, Charles Waring. A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames with Special American Instances. London, Heraldry Today, 1980. Rev. reprint of 1901 edn.

9 The Norman People & their existing descendants in the British Dominions and the United States of America. Baltimore, MD (USA), Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc., 1989. Reprint of 1874 edn.

10 Custodian software (as at June 2010) www.custodian3.co.uk

11 www.curiousfox.com

12 ISO country codes (as at June 2010) www.iso.org/iso/english_country_names_and_code_elements

13 Official and Non-Parochial BMDs available online records from The National Archives (TNA). Deposits from TNA (RG = Registrar General) series RG4, RG5, RG6 and RG8 (includes Quaker, Methodist and other non-conformist records).

14 Passenger Lists leaving UK 1890-1960 available online records from the TNA deposits (BT = Board of Transport) series BT27 Outbound Passenger Lists.

15 Times newspaper available to search (as at June 2010) www.archive.timesonline.co.uk/tol/archive/

16 Definition of 'Deviant' available in the Guild on One Name Studies Handbook, 2007 edn., p.5.

17 India Office, British Library. Reference N/1/285 f.128 www.indiafamily.bl.uk/UI/FullDisplay.aspx?RecordId=014-000021410 (search run June 2010)

18 192.com www.192.com

19 Tracesmart www.tracesmart.co.uk

20 Rogers, Colin. The Surname Detective: Investigating surname distribution in England, 1086-present day. Manchester University Press, 1995.

21 Map My Ancestors software (as at June 2010). www.familytreeassistant.com/software.html

22 Google Maps www.maps.google.com/

23 Hey, David. Family Names and Family History. London, Hambledon and London, 2000.

John Madder Englishman or Scot?

By **Christine Hancock**

Although I have only been a member of the Guild for a short time, I have been researching my family history for some time, especially my registered name of MADDER. While making desperate searches for Madders to get past my personal brick wall, one name kept popping up: Captain John Madder who was hanged, as a pirate "on the sands of Leith" in 1705.

This turned out to be quite a famous incident at the time and one of the events that led to the union of England and Scotland. The Darien Expedition had been a disaster, and as so many Scots had invested in it, the country was nearly bankrupt. A Scottish ship named "The Speedy Return" had been sent to trade in the East Indies, but despite her name had not returned. The English had seized another Scottish ship, the "Annendale". At this point, in the summer of 1704, an English ship called the Worcester, arrived in Leith on her way home to London from India. She was laden with pepper and other valuable cargo.

It was too much of a temptation and the Worcester was seized in retaliation for the loss of the Annendale. By December of that year when it seemed that the owners of the Worcester were winning the legal case to regain the ship, the whole crew of the Worcester were arrested for piracy. It was suggested that the reason for the non-appearance of the Speedy Return was because she had met with pirates, and that those pirates were the crew of the Worcester.

There was a trial and the whole crew were found guilty and sentenced to death. There were pleas of clemency from Queen Anne, who of course was Queen of both England and Scotland, but she could not interfere with the Scottish Parliament. By this time it was almost impossible to delay the executions any longer, because the Edinburgh Mob was so incensed

with the suggestion that these "Englishmen" had murdered their Scottish sailors, that a lynching was feared. So on 11th April 1705 the first three of the prisoners were executed. After this things calmed down and the rest of the crew were eventually released. The three who died were the Captain Thomas Greene, gunner James Simpson and the First Mate, Captain John Madder.

So who was this John Madder?

Some sources said he was English and others that he was a Scotsman, which made his supposed crime all the worse. The surname is found in both countries, so that was no help. Where could I start?

Looking through all the Madder information I had collected, I realised that there were several PCC wills of Madders at TNA, available online. Sailors who died at sea make up a large part of these wills and there were two John Madder wills, one was proved in 1707 and the other in 1708. Which, if either, was "my" John? Both were "of the parish of St Paul, Shadwell". The first was written in February 1701/2 and mentions a daughter Isabella and a sister in law Susanna, wife of George. The second written in 1699 had a sister, Euphen. The first seemed the most likely until I discovered that the Worcester had left port in January, so I discounted it. Then I noticed the names of the witnesses; they looked familiar. They were all members of the Worcester crew and therefore the will had been written on board the ship while they were waiting for a wind to leave English waters. This was definitely my man!

In the IGI I had found a marriage in 1694, at St James Dukes Place, of George Madder to Susanna Sinclair. In the same place in 1687 was a marriage of John Mather to Isabella Foster (Madder and Mather can be interchangeable). Around this time the London Parish Registers became available online on Ancestry and looking at the original images, I found that both these couples were "of St Paul Shadwell".

After many hours spent on the computer trawling through the pages of the parish register of St Paul Shadwell, the docks area of London, I discovered that John and Isabella had three children: John 1689-1690, Isabelle, 1692 and James, 1695. Unfortunately the burials for this parish from 1694 to 1707 are too fragile to be filmed (or even looked at) so I assume John's wife and second son had also died by the time the Worcester sailed, since he only mentions his daughter Isabella, a minor. Perhaps they died as he was leaving – was that why he wrote (or re-wrote) his will so late?

So John Madder was an Englishman. Or was he? Let's go back to the other PCC will of John Madder and his sister Euphen. This is an unusual name in England, but not in Scotland. Search the British Isles IGI and only 5 come up, all in Scotland, including Euphame Maider baptised in Bo'ness, West Lothian on 7 Nov 1676. Rugby Family History Group, of which I am a member, was running a coach trip to the LDS Library in London and according to the LDS catalogue they had the film of Bo'ness (or Borrowstounness), so I decided to have a look.

The entry read:

Euphame MAIDER daughter to James MAIDER & Margaret THOMSON his wife was born the 2 of November & baptised the 7 of this same month. Witness to her baptism George MARTIN & James BINNING. The father of this child being absent at sea, she was presented by Richard THOMSON.

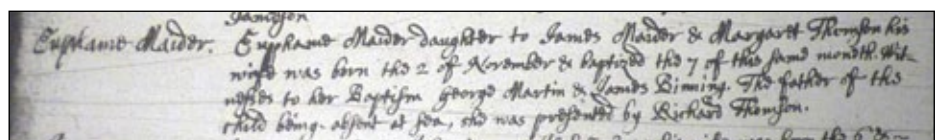


Fig 1. Baptism entry for Euphame MAIDER.

There were other children of this couple, including a son John, baptised in 1670, as well as baptisms to other Madder parents. I also found the same families in Wemyss in Fife and elsewhere in the area. So there was an extended family of Madders, some of whom were sailors, in Scotland. A coincidence?

At the same time, I was looking into the Worcester incident to see if I could pick up any more information about John Madder. State and Treasury Papers at TNA told the story of the efforts of the Worcester's owners to get compensation. The most interesting of these documents (Calendar of Treasury Books, vol.21), which in fact I had found on the British History Online website, gave a list of the amounts allowed in compensation to the members of the crew of the Worcester. John Madder was awarded £100 for clothes etc, £60 for legal expenses and £300 "for his death: We find upon enquiry he has left a family destitute of subsistence and therefore are of opinion the said demand may be a reasonable recompence for their suffering". This document was dated 12 Aug 1707 and I have found no evidence that it was ever paid. Eventually, the death of the main owner, Thomas Bowrey in 1713 and the death of Queen Anne the following year, which caused a change of government, meant that the affair ended. I found no mention of the Worcester thereafter.

Online I came across what looked like interesting references to John Madder in a book published in 1930 called *"New Light on the mysterious Tragedy of the Worcester"* by Richard Carnac Temple. I was able to obtain a copy of the book, which was a real goldmine. It was based on the papers of Thomas Bowrey, owner of the Worcester and gave me a lot more information. I realised that these papers must still exist and discovered that those concerning the Worcester were held at the Guildhall Library. I was able to look at them, on microfilm, at LMA.

What an amazing collection of documents. Thomas Bowrey had been a Sea Captain in the East Indies and was now sending his own ships to trade there and he seems to have kept every single bit of paper including bills & receipts. Those relating to the Worcester run to over 200 documents.

The most interesting were included in letters from Thomas Bowrey's agent Henry Smith, who he had sent to Edinburgh in 1707 to gather information.

Smith had been approached by a lady called Mrs Barbara Binning, who was looking for compensation for money that she had lent to John Madder while he was in Scotland. Her sworn Memorial starts:

"The ship Worcester having arrived in the Road of Leith upon the last day of July 1704, John Madder Chieff Mate thereof having been a long time out of Scotland and having no friends upon the place except the said Barbara, he did apply himself to her and both borrowed money from her and made use of her credit for meat and drink, washing and lodging &c, till he was committed prisoner within the Tolbooth of Edinburgh upon the 15th December 1704" also "other necessaries furnished to him during his imprisonment as the use of her own bedsheets blankets and others which were very much damnified by the using of several oyles and spirits for the gout he then laboured under all which were rendered useless to her."

She also paid for his coffin. The document finishes with *"the said Barbara Binning is in exeeding great loss by her advancements and Engaging her Credit out of mere Charity and Humanity to her near Relation in his great want and Extremity."*

I have been told that in Scotland "near relation" means something like a second cousin. So what could I find out about Barbara Binning? More clues were found in the accompanying document in which John Madder states *"Forasmuch as I am indebted ... to Barbara Binning daughter to the deceit James Binning Barber in Barrowstourness the sum of fourty pounds sterling"* he assigns all his goods on the Worcester to her in recompense, and lists them, so I now have an inventory of his possessions, including 660 mangoes!

So back to the IGI, where I find a Barbara Binnie baptised on 26 Feb 1666 in Bo'ness. Her parents were James Binnie and Katherin Mather. Returning to the baptism I had found earlier in Bo'ness of Euphame Maider,

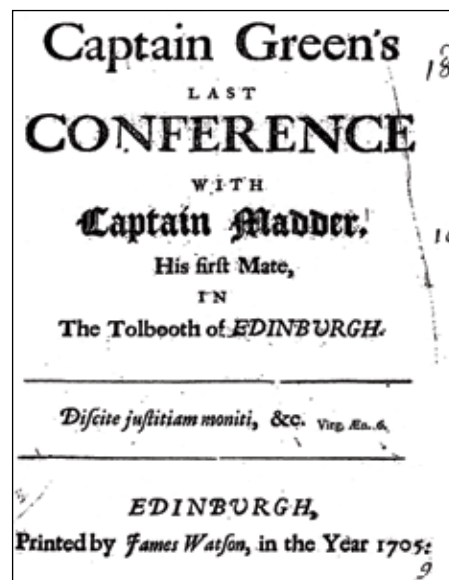


Fig 2. A contemporary pamphlet about the trial

I realised that one of the witnesses was James Binning. Everything clicked into place. Barbara's mother must have been a cousin of John's father. They might have known each other as children.

Of course you are now asking how John Madder fits into this family, and I have to admit that I don't really know. By this time I had invested some money in Scotland people so was able to find the burial, at Leith South, in April 1705 of:

*"Capt Tho Greens Commander
Capt John Maither Mate
James Simpson Gunner
of ane English East India Ship called the Worcester of London, being sentenced to death for Pyrracy & Robbery, were hanged (the First being in the Thirtieth & third year of his age, the second in the Fortieth and Fourth year of his age, the third in ye Thirtieth and nynth year of his age) within the Sea mark near to the Saw-Miln, on the Eleventh day, and were buried on the said Day"*

So John Madder was 43 and therefore born around 1661/2, however I have yet to find a suitable candidate in the records. All we can conclude is that Captain John Madder, Chief Mate of the Worcester, was born (probably) in Scotland to a Scottish seafaring family. He married and lived in London, but had no surviving children (His daughter Isabella's will was proved in London in 1711). So, Scottish or English? Just an ageing Sailor with gout, but definitely not a Pirate. ■

DNA Discoveries

By **Susan C. Meates**

Adding a DNA Project to a One-Name Study is a tremendous opportunity to discover information beyond the paper records. This information can identify mistaken connections in family trees, is useful in investigating theories or sorting out multiple families in the same location, and is invaluable in investigating surname origins, surname evolution, and confirming variants, or even discovering unknown variants.

In this two part article series, a variety of Guild members have shared their experiences with DNA testing for genealogy.

If you are interested in adding a DNA Project to your one-name study, help is available. No scientific knowledge is required. Many of the paper records we deal with are more complicated than a DNA Project. The help available includes a guide to comparison charts and articles to help with vendor selection, project set up with proven marketing material, example recruiting emails/letters, analysis and tracking tools, and questions answered. If your registered surnames are already in a DNA Project, and you want to get involved, help is available to analyze the situation, determine your options, and if desired, negotiate a role as co-administrator for you. To get help, write me at DNA@one-name.org.

The benefits of a DNA Project are significant, and you can proceed at your own pace. The longer your DNA Project exists, typically the higher your number of participants. For example, the Wells DNA Project established in 2000 now has over 500 participants, the Phillips DNA Project established 2004 has over 480 participants, and the Meates DNA Project established in 2001 has over 300 participants. Both the Chandler project, 2003, and the Cotton project, 2002, have over 200 participants. More Guild members' projects have also moved into the "over 100 participants" category.

A variety of factors have an impact on project size, including surname frequency, recruiting efforts, and fund raising efforts.

In the second part of this 2 part article, more DNA Projects will be covered, and educational links will be provided.

Below are DNA Project summaries submitted by various Guild members.

Ricketts DNA Project

Salli Dyson, Family Tree DNA
Established 2009, 59 Participants

When starting the Ricketts one-name study, over 40 years ago, the frequency of the surname worldwide was not known. As the study progressed, the frequency became evident and sorting out the various trees can be overwhelming at times. In the USA, there are over 10,000 adult Ricketts, and in the UK, over 6,000 Ricketts, as well as multiple variants in both countries, and many other countries (including Argentina) with Ricketts and variants.



Fig. 1 George William Ricketts, a son of George Ricketts born c 1680.
Picture Courtesy of the
[Lt Co HC Ricketts Will Trust.](#)

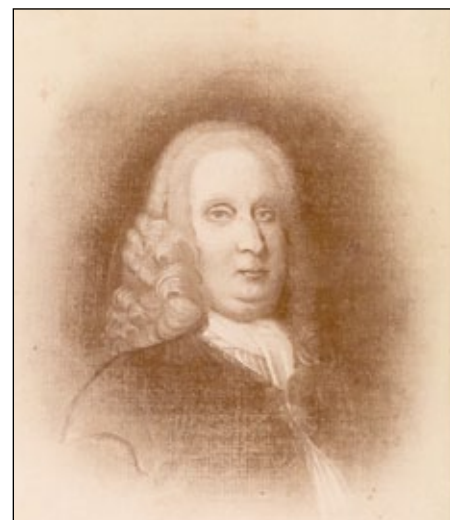


Fig. 2 George Ricketts c 1680-1760
Picture Courtesy of the
[Lt Co HC Ricketts Will Trust.](#)

Preliminary research in early records indicates an estimated 25-60 origins for the Ricketts surname, with probable surname evolution from surnames such as Rackett and Rockett. My one-name study includes Ricketts and close variants, and the DNA Project includes additional surnames beyond the one-name study, to explore surnames which are candidates for possible surname evolution.

The DNA results to date show 17 Genetic Groups, where each group represents a different common ancestor. Only 7 trees have a match to another tree, with all the other trees being unique results. There is one group of 5 trees that match, and another group of 2 trees that have a common ancestor. The balance of 15 Genetic Groups only contain one tree so far.

The DNA Project commenced in March 2009, and has been extremely valuable in sorting out various Ricketts family trees. Where possible, we've tested two or more branches of a family tree, and DNA testing has identified mistaken connections in a variety of family trees. In addition, the DNA Project has established the ancestral result for the Ricketts of Jamaica, and this accomplishment has disproved multiple genealogies on the Internet regarding USA trees descending from the Ricketts of Jamaica..

Even with a multiple origin surname, with 25-60 origins estimated, using targeted recruiting in the UK, we achieved a trans-Atlantic match with our first 5 test kits placed in the UK.

37 Marker DNA Results for a Ricketts Tree. This tree is also known as the Jamaica Ricketts

Each man tested represents a different son of George Ricketts, b c 1680, who died in 1760 in Canaan, Jamaica.

Son of George Represented	Result																																					
Jacob b 1723	13	24	14	11	11	14	12	12	12	13	13	29	18	9	9	11	11	25	15	19	30	15	15	16	17	11	11	19	23	16	14	16	18	37	38	12	12	
William Henry b 1736	13	24	14	11	11	14	12	12	12	13	13	29	17	9	9	11	11	25	15	19	30	15	15	17	18	11	11	19	23	16	14	16	18	37	38	12	12	
George William b 1760	13	24	14	11	11	14	12	12	12	13	13	29	18	9	9	11	11	25	15	19	30	15	15	17	18	11	11	19	23	16	14	16	18	37	38	12	12	

The markers highlighted in green represent mutations since George c 1680. The result for George c 1680 is the result shown for the man representing the son George William b 1760 Jamaica, the third line of results in the chart. We know that this result is the ancestral result for George c 1680, based on each marker matching the other participants, except the two markers where there are mutations. Where there were mutations, by testing descendents of 3 different sons, we have sufficient data to determine the ancestral result, since 2 of the 3 men match on each marker in question. In addition, this level of mutation over 3 centuries is very reasonable, and validates the genealogy research.

The Ricketts DNA Project has participants from a variety of countries, and we are still in the early stages.

One surname origin has been discovered, from research in early records, and then parish registers. As persons moved away from the manor of Rycote, Oxfordshire, they were first recorded as de Rycote, and later just as Rycote. In the 1600s, in one parish, there was a period of recordings that went back and forth between Rycotes and Rycketes/Reckots/Rickots, finally stabilizing as Ricketts in the 1700s. It also appears from early records that multiple persons at different times moved away from the manor, to different places, and became de Rycotes. Most likely each of these males had a different Y-DNA result, so we will end up with multiple Y-DNA results from this one locative surname origin.

I am the co-administrator of the DNA Project, handling recruiting outside the USA, and the project manager, Kathleen W. Hinckley, handles USA recruiting.

DNA testing has been invaluable, and we have been fortunate to secure samples from elderly males, often the last male in a tree.

Chandler DNA Project

Dick Chandler Family Tree DNA
Established 2003, 272 participants

The Chandler surname DNA project has participants tested by Family Tree DNA and, by careful scrutiny of the YSearch database and other sources, we have secured the Y-DNA result for a number of additional Chandlers who have tested with other laboratories. We have several tri-continental matches, and to date 57 genetically distinct Chandler families have been identified. The project was initiated by the American Chandler Family Association (CFA), comprising

members who believed themselves to be descendants of 1610 immigrant John Chandler. The three most significant discoveries so far have been:

1. A significant minority of CFA members are not descended from 1610 immigrant John, but from several different ancestors. Some Chandlers who have been neighbours for generations, and considered themselves to be kin, have been found not to be so. This caused the project to expand its target coverage, to attempt to embrace all Chandlers worldwide.

2. An Englishman with unbroken 12-generation English Chandler ancestry, traced back to a 1575 christening in Hampshire, has proved to be a 35/37 match with the descendants of 1610 immigrant John. Unexpectedly, that testee was Dick Chandler, conductor of the Chandler One-Name Study! The common English ancestor, probably in the early 1500s, is still being sought.

3. A genetic family with four participants living in Barbados and Australia were found to have a common ancestor in Barbados, but one of the Australian lines descended from the illegitimate son of a white teacher and the daughter of a freed slave. As often occurred in Barbadian society, the "outside child" was reared and educated with the legitimate children.

Chandler is an occupational surname and was therefore assigned to many unrelated families in England during the period when hereditary surnames were acquired. In order to estimate the likely number of genetic Chandler families in existence, the transcription of surviving English Poll Tax records of 1377, 1379 and 1381 were examined line by line for occurrences of names approximating to Chandler. The resulting surprisingly

small number was adjusted upwards to take account of lost tax records, untaxed individuals, clergy taxed separately and other factors, then downwards to take account of line extinction and other factors. The resulting number of genetic families was in the range 100 to 200. Taking the mid-point of that range, the Chandler DNA project could be said to have so far found representatives of about one-third of the estimated number of genetic families.

To try to attract more DNA project participants, a montage of genetic Chandler family vignettes is being assembled on the CFA web site: an index of the 57 families and the stories completed so far can be viewed starting at http://www.thecfa.org/genetic_chandler_families.html.



Fig. 3 Guild member Dick Chandler congratulating one of their DNA testees, the adopted son of an adopted son, born in Korea of an American father and a Korean mother and adopted by a Japanese family. DNA testing in conjunction with the Chandler family association has given the adoptee a genetic family and a male lineage

Creer from the Isle of Man DNA Project

John A Creer (Creer ONS)
Family Tree DNA

Established 2005, 28 participants

Creer is a low-frequency name which can be traced back to a small farming area in the centre of the Isle of Man as far back as 1500. Conventional genealogical research, in the form of a one-name study, had by 2005 largely exhausted all existing documentary sources and had produced a number of Creer family groupings/trees that could be assumed were connected with each other, but without corroborating documentary evidence. No further progress was being made.

In 2005 a Y-DNA study was initiated, selecting Creer males from around the world, for whom there was at least eight generations of documented genealogy, with at least two members from each major family grouping (for cross-validation) and no-one being closer than third cousin (to avoid unnecessary testing). 19 out of 26 men tested showed a very close spread of Y-DNA haplotypes at 25 markers (a maximum genetic distance of three apart) indicating a close genetic connection. The remaining seven results showed no commonality and were assessed as non-paternal events.

Analysis of the genetically similar Y-DNA results showed that a clear



Fig. 4 Edwin Creer

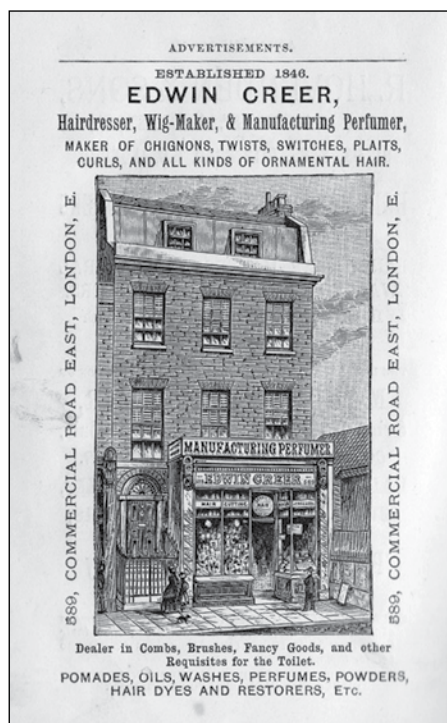


Fig. 4 Edwin Creer's Shop

genetic "family tree" (phylogenetic tree) could be constructed for these Creer family groups and this evidence fitted extremely well with the pre-existing genealogy picture. Furthermore, it indicated that all these Creer men were descended from one male who, by statistical extrapolation of the data, most probably lived on the Isle of Man sometime between 1200 and 1400. This again fits well with the external evidence.

The study is now complete and the combination of the Y-DNA analysis, backed by the extensive genealogy documentation of a one-name study, has proved for the first time that all the Creers from the Isle of Man (many now scattered around the world) are all descended from one early Manx man. Moreover, subsequent deep clade Y-DNA analysis is providing some genetic evidence that this early Creer male may well have been of Viking origin, offering now another tantalizing avenue of research.

Catley/Cattley DNA Project

Tim Cattley Family Tree DNA
Established 2006, 11 Participants

I have been instrumental in instigating Family Tree DNA testing the Catley/Cattley name with listers on Rootsweb Catley in order to see if any connections could be made between the 32 different lines that have so far been identified.

The name distribution appeared to be regional by the 17th century with centres in a) Somerset, b) London/Essex/Herts, c) Lincs/Notts and d) Yorks/Lancs.

Could DNA testing find any connection and a common source to prove the theory that the name was in some way originally connected by a lay ancestral association with the Gilbertine monastic settlement of Catley (or Cathley) out in the Lincolnshire Fens that was founded in 1143 AD?

Of the 32 known lines, we have Listed members for 21 of them and to date we have 11 DNA results, which has produced one three-way match, two two-way matches and four nil matches. This indicates that there are certainly seven unconnected lines and thus disproves the single source theory (which was always wishful thinking!) and confirming that different families in different parts of England simply by coincidence chose the same place name, Cat*ley = wild cat wood.

The DNA matches have not produced any startling discoveries but do confirm that certain "regional trees" have a common ancestry which although considered likely, could not be proven through lack of written evidence.

Bolt DNA Project

Katherine Borges Family Tree DNA
Established 2003, 39 Participants

The Bolt DNA Project has been critical in sorting out family trees, especially where the documentation has been insufficient to draw accurate conclusions. Initially the focus was the USA, and then the project was expanded globally. The natural progression was then to a one-name study, which was started in 2007.

The Bolt surname is found in many different countries, with the highest concentration in the Netherlands, followed by Switzerland, Canada, Australia, and the UK. Mapping the surname on a global basis indicates multiple origins in multiple countries. In the UK, the highest concentration is in Devon. Mapping the surname with the UK Census shows that almost every county has some Bolt persons, indicating multiple origins within the UK.

The DNA evidence has supported these observations, since there are multiple different results. One primary

goal is making connections between trees in destination countries to trees in ancestral countries.

The Bolt DNA Project provides sponsored test kits for any male Bolt in an ancestral country.

Caverly / Caverley / Calverley / Cavalier DNA Project

Paul Caverly Family Tree DNA
Established 2004, 21 Participants

Recently I made contact with a 90 year old genealogy researcher in Surrey. This gentleman could trace his CALVERLEY surname ancestry back 900 years to the Leeds area. The CALVERLEY surname is a variant I want to explore but was waiting to make such a contact as my new contact. He has been good



**Fig. 5 George (1854-1931)
& Matilda Caverly**
Hastings County, Ontario, Canada

enough to send me all of his years of research including Civil Records documented over the years. He has also agreed to join my DNA Project. My DNA Project has a number of members with my CAVERLY surname but only one other CALVERLEY member. References in several UK surname dictionaries conclude the Caverly/Caverley surnames derived from the Calverley surname. One day DNA may help confirm or disprove this theory.

The project is small with 21 members but open to anyone who has an interest in any variants of the surname. ■

David Heppenstall Mellor 1937 - 2010

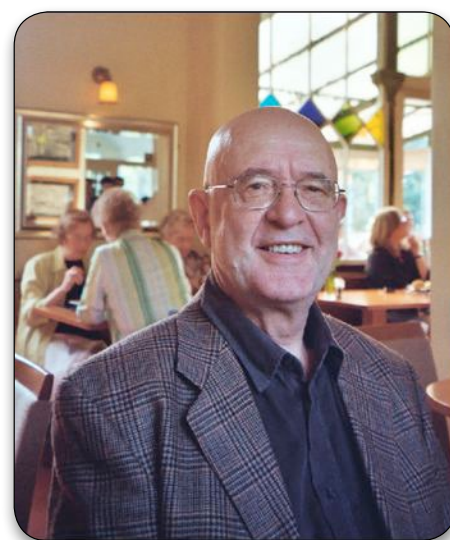
Many Guild members will have been shocked and saddened at the sudden death from brain cancer of David Heppenstall Mellor on 13th Oct 2010 at the age of 73. David had always been very interested in family history. He joined the Guild in 2001 and as regional rep for Nottinghamshire organised several Guild meetings in his own house. He served efficiently as Guild registrar for three years from April 2007. Many members joining the Guild recall his courtesy and kindness and sensed both his enthusiasm and willingness to help.

David was born on 21st Sep 1937 in Huddersfield, and studied medicine at Leeds. Following posts in London, Philadelphia and Aberdeen he specialised in childhood nervous diseases such as epilepsy and became a much respected paediatric neurologist. When he moved to Nottingham he was involved in pioneering work in the use of computer tomography in brain

scanning and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1979.

At the end of 2009 David announced to his Guild friends that he was going to cease any further data collection and put all his efforts into writing up as much as he could of his research into the Heppenstall family. He must have had some premonition that his time was short, but he only learned that his illness was terminal five weeks before he died. Apparently at this point David went into overdrive and completed his 201 page book on the Heppenstalls, organised its printing and left instructions on how the 60 copies should be distributed. Sadly David never saw a finished copy before they arrived back from the printers.

Now is not the time to review his book. Copies will be deposited with the Guild. On quick inspection it is a superb example of how a one-name study should be written-up. The book has 16 sections covering many aspects



of David's findings relating to the Heppenstall name. It comes with a CD containing many data files, indexes, Gedcom trees, reports and photos. The title is "Born HEP or born to be HEP". Chambers Dictionary defines "Hep" as (obsolete slang) - Knowing, informed, well abreast of fashionable knowledge and taste especially in the field of jazz. This sums up David well: he often told his wife Yin that he learned a lot from the Guild: we learned a lot from David.

David will be greatly missed.

Gordon Adshead

The Guild links with FamilySearch

By **Kirsty Gray**

FamilySearch.org is the largest genealogy organisation in the world with millions of people using their records, resources and services to learn more about their family history. For over 100 years, FamilySearch has been gathering, preserving and sharing genealogical records worldwide. The Guild powers and objectives state that we should 'co-operate with, affiliate with or join other charities, voluntary bodies and other institutions relevant to one-name studies..... to secure the widest possible awareness of one-name studies.' So, when the opportunity came about to form a link with them and promote the studies of Guild members, we jumped at the idea!

The initial link was discussed and agreed at the June Committee meeting with the vision being to create a link from the FamilySearch search facility to the Guild list of registered surnames. For example, someone putting **SELENA SILLIFANT** into the FamilySearch website would be presented with the search results

as well as an icon or similar indicating that the surname is registered with the Guild and providing a link to our website. FamilySearch have an affiliate application called SharingTime and the screen shots that follow show how they are able to connect users to the Guild, as well as other providers of services for their users.

When a FamilySearch user has searched on the website for the name they are interested in, e.g. SELENA SILLIFANT, they arrive at a screen as shown in fig 1. Clicking on a SharingTime icon behind the name of SELENA SILLIFANT (highlighted at the bottom of the pedigree tree) opens up a window as shown in fig 2.

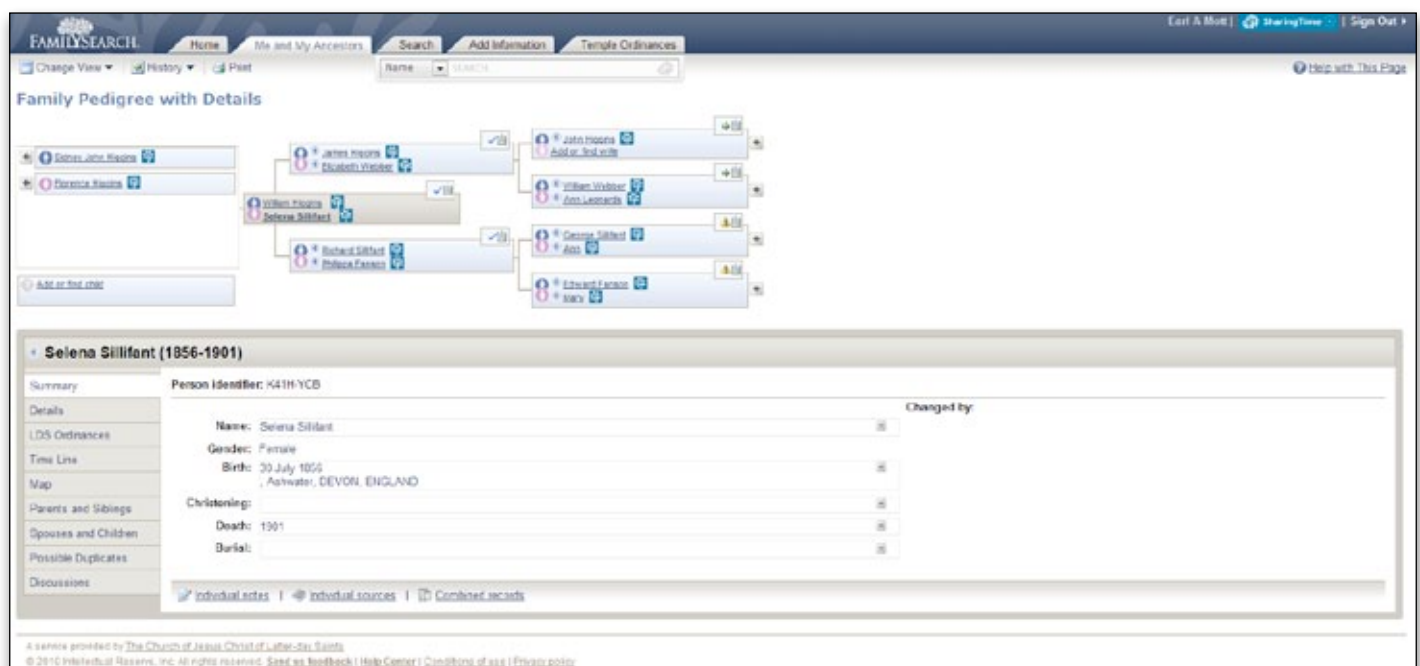
The user would then click on Guild of One-Name Studies and would have a new tab appear in their browser as shown in fig 3, highlighting whether a study exists or not. If a profile exists, clicking on 'see a profile of this one-name study' would take them to the study profile page (shown in fig 4).

"A super link to an organisation which holds 2.4 million rolls of film in the Granite Mountain Records Vault and one which should generate many more contacts for your study names!"

The user could also click on 'see contact details for this member' for further information.

A super link to an organisation which holds 2.4 million rolls of film in the Granite Mountain Records Vault and one which should generate many more contacts for your study names! Should there be any member not wishing to be linked to the FamilySearch website, Anne Shankland has agreed to set up an opt-out facility in the Members Room, under the 'change of study details' option. The database linked to FamilySearch will be updated monthly and it is hoped that the link will be live in late February or early March. Please direct any questions you have about this project to chairman@one-name.org.

Fig 1. A typical FamilySearch Pedigree screen



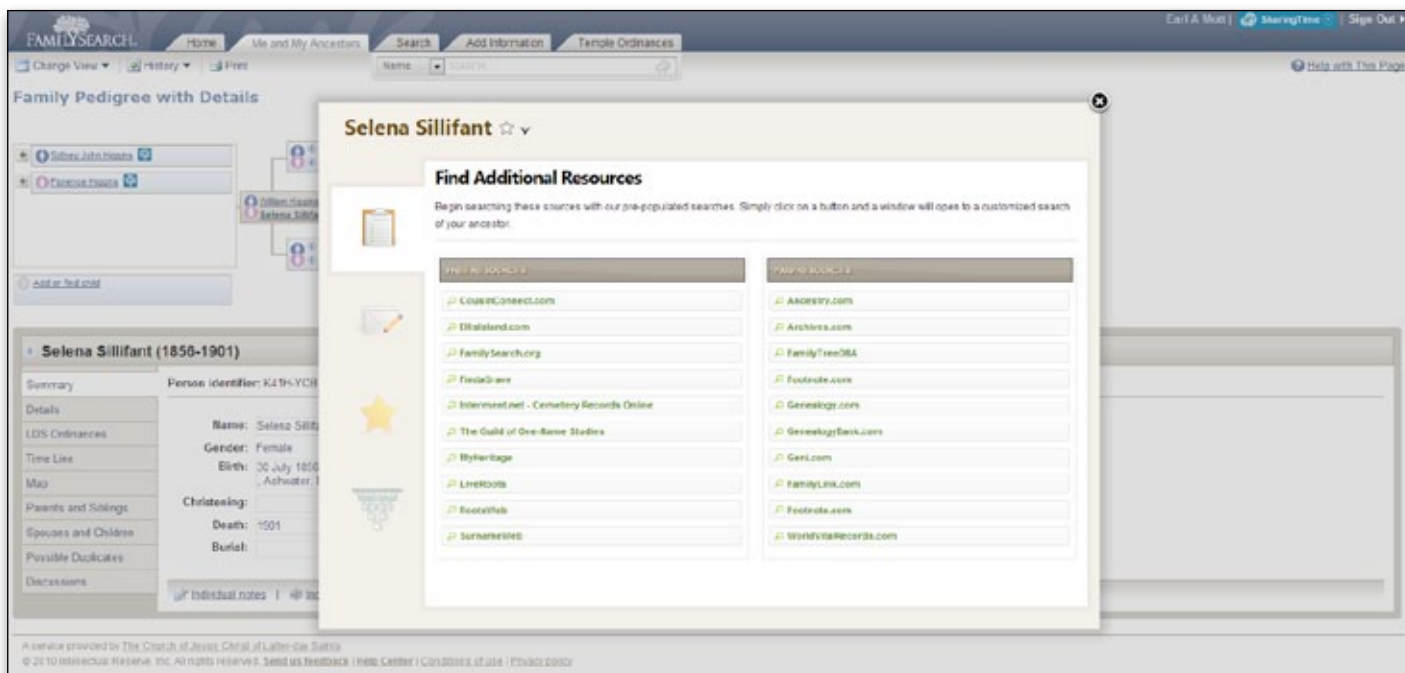


Fig 2. The SharingTime additional resources screen



Fig 3. Above shows the associated Guild member's details.



Fig 4. Above shows the Guild member's profile (if one exists)

And there's more...

A further opportunity presented itself in September..... FamilySearch are also in the process of converting all their genealogical and historical records from around the world into digital images which are stored in their online system. They plan to give everyone free access to these indexes through their website. They have 140,000 volunteers transcribing various worldwide records and, realising the need for accuracy of transcription, have developed a 'double pass' system so that two volunteers transcribe the same record to ensure that they are getting the most accurate indexing possible.

They have offered us the opportunity of getting involved in the project. Guild members can volunteer to help transcribe records for Family Search and we, the Guild, get a full copy of the index and digitised material in exchange. Our volunteers coordinator, Glenys Marriott (**volunteers@one-name.org**) has agreed to coordinate an indexing project on behalf of the Guild. This project will be a closed project in which we can select the records we want to transcribe, at a county and record level (e.g. Yorkshire marriages post-1837, not in the IGI). These records will be completed solely by Guild volunteers and we will then receive a copy of the images and index for our archives. If you feel that you have some time that you could put to this transcription project, please get in touch with Glenys.

An Irish One-Name Study

By Vicki Perry

My one-name study began, as I suspect many others did, as a project researching my own family history. My paternal grandfather, Gerard Perry, was born in Ireland in 1924 and although I had been successful in tracing his paternal line back to the mid-18th century, I hit a genealogical brick wall in the form of my 6x great grandfather, John Perry, who lived at Graystown, near Killenaule in Tipperary in 1760.

The Graystown Perrys were Protestant and small land holders. A larger and wealthier Perry family lived in nearby Woodroff and evidence seemed to link the two families quite strongly; but DNA testing with a proven Woodroff descendant proved negative. As attempts to establish the relationship between these two families proved fruitless, I became increasingly aware of other Perry families residing in Ireland in the same time-frame. The seeds of my one-name study were planted.

Perry is not originally an Irish surname and has not been located in any Irish sources before 1600. It has its roots in the south-western counties of England and is believed to stem from the Old English word for pear tree. Some of the Irish Perrys were English merchants who settled in Ireland in the 17th century, most notably William and Edmund Pery, the

ancestors of the Earls of Limerick. Very early on, I set myself the challenge of locating all Perrys in the Irish historical record and attempting to link them back to their settler ancestor. It is well-known that many Irish records were destroyed in a fire at the Public Record Office in Dublin in 1922, making Irish research difficult, so it is perhaps surprising then to discover how much information can be extracted for a one-name study.

All one-name historians will be familiar with the records of civil registration and their creation in Ireland to a large extent mirrored that in the rest of the United Kingdom, of which Ireland was a part until 1922. Registration of non-Catholic marriages began in 1845, with all other marriages, along with birth and death registrations, becoming compulsory in 1864. Until recently, the only way of accessing these records was to either visit the General Register Office in Dublin or to use the microfilm copies of the indexes at a Family History Centre. However, these indexes have recently been put onto the pilot Family Search site. Getting copies of the entries is less costly than in the UK, as some have been filmed by the LDS and can be printed out. Photocopies, rather than full certificates may be ordered from the GRO.

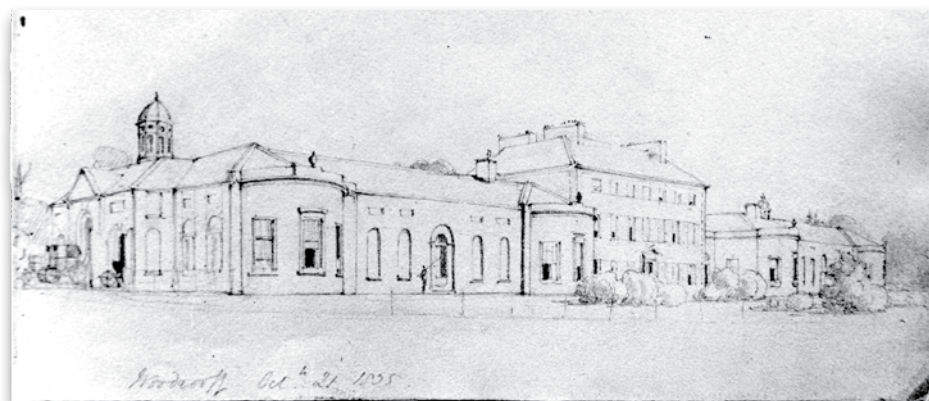


Fig 1. Woodroff House, home to a branch of the Tipperary Perrys until the 1920s. Picture courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive.



Fig 2. Graystown townland, Tipperary

Census Records

The 1901 and 1911 census records are also now accessible through the website of the Irish National Archives (www.census.nationalarchives.ie/), and even better the images are available for free! The bad news is that only these censuses have survived in their entirety, with those from 1821-1881 having been destroyed, some in the 1922 fire and others under the direction of the Irish government. Early census fragments do survive, and a guide such as John Grenham's "Tracing Your Irish Ancestors" (2nd ed. Dublin 1999) is invaluable for locating them. Unfortunately, I have yet to find a Perry in any of these, but have located families of the name in the later ones. Some of these fragments have survived in the form of abstracts made by early genealogists, whereas others were taken in 1908 when the Old Age Pension was introduced, in order to prove the age of those born before civil registration. Irish researchers are very keen on putting transcripts of records on-line and it is always worth Googling to see what is available.

Anyone that has studied their Irish ancestry will be familiar with the term 'census substitutes'. These are records that can be used to mitigate the loss of earlier census returns and usually relate to tenure of land. The most well-known are the Tithe Applotments in the 1820s and 1830s and Griffith's valuation in the 1840s - 1860s. Although only the holder of land was named in each case (rather than each family member), they are useful for finding where families lived. The National Library of Ireland's index is particularly useful for extracting surnames and Griffith's Valuation is available on-line, most notably for free on the Ask About Ireland website (www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml).

Parish Records

Most Catholic parish registers were micro-filmed by the National Library of Ireland in the 1970s and are available there. However, although the microfilmed registers are incredibly useful for family historians, it can be difficult to extract information for a one-name study as they are not indexed. Just recently many parish records have started to appear on-line at www.rootsireland.ie/. Unlike other sources mentioned, these are on a pay per view basis.

While Catholic parish registers have largely survived from the early 19th century and in some cases earlier than this, many Protestant registers were destroyed in the 1922 fire. However, some survive, mostly in the Representative Church Body Library in Dublin, the National Archives or in local custody. With regards to collecting information from both Catholic and Protestant registers, my tactic has been to locate those parishes in which a known Perry family lived and to prioritise searching these microfilms. It is a slow process but this type of record is one of the few that records details of Catholic and non land-owning families before the mid-19th century.

For Protestant marriages, the marriage licence bonds index available at the National Archives is a useful source, and it is straightforward to extract those entries for a particular surname as this is how they are indexed. Unfortunately the original bonds again have not survived, but details of both parties, the year and diocese are recorded and in the absence of parish registers can provide useful information.

Wills

Some of the most useful records that I have come across in Irish archives are indexes to and abstracts from Irish wills. Before 1858, Irish wills were proven either in the Prerogative Court (for estates worth over £5) or the diocesan or consistorial court. As well as proving wills, these courts administered the estates of those who had not left a will. Indexes to the wills and administrations exist for both the PC and the local courts. Unfortunately, many of the will books, in which these wills were transcribed by the courts, were destroyed in the Dublin Public Record Office fire of 1922. However,



Fig 3. Inspector James Perry (front-centre), Captain of the DMP Championship tug of war team c.1890

some have survived in abstract form or in other sources, so the situation is not as bad as it would first seem.

In order to establish which wills and administrations were granted through these courts, it is necessary to check four different sets of indexes: The index to Prerogative wills, the index to Prerogative grants, the indexes to consistorial wills and the indexes to consistorial administrations. All of these are available in the National Archives of Ireland, but some have also been published. Arthur Vicars published an index of all of the pre-1800 Prerogative wills in 1897 and this is available to download at www.archive.org. A series of indexes to diocesan wills was published by Phillimore and Thrift in the early 20th century, before the fire. Despite many of the original records having been burnt, useful information can still be gleaned from the indexes themselves, including the date of death and place of residence of the deceased.

Having created a list of all pre-1858 wills and administrations, it is interesting to see how many of these have survived in any format. Sir William Betham extracted information from over 35,000 pre-1800 Irish prerogative wills, in notebooks that have been deposited in the National Archives in Dublin and microfilmed by the LDS. Notebooks containing information from the Prerogative administrations were also created, although

clearly they are not as useful, as in the absence of a will, the only information available is the name of the deceased, the executor, date of death and value of estate. Nevertheless, considering most Irish will and administration books were destroyed in 1922, they are better than nothing! Additionally some have survived in other forms, including in collections of abstracts and these have been indexed by the National Archives, and are also available on-line at Irish Origins (www.irishorigins.com). Out of 152 Irish Perry wills from the indexes, 73 appear to have survived in one form or another, mostly in Betham's abstracts. Some are also available through the UK National Archives as they were also proven in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, presumably because the deceased also had property on this side of the Irish Sea.

It is clear that information is much more readily available in Ireland for the land-owning classes, and nowhere is this more true than in the records of the Registry of Deeds. This record repository is unusual in Ireland in that it contains a series of records that has survived in its entirety from the early 1700s. It was established in 1708 to enable land-owners to register evidence of legal title to their property and although registration was not compulsory, many 18th, 19th and 20th century deeds have been copied into the large volumes there. There are two indexes to the records in the search room and the one

that is the most useful to the one-name historian is the surname index. However, it is worth noting that this index is arranged by the grantor and not the grantee of land, and so it is not possible to abstract all deeds that mention a specific surname using this method. The LDS family centres have microfilm copies of this index, which can be used to locate a particular document in the volumes of registered deeds. A project has begun to index these records on-line and this database, while small is growing. It is hosted by Rootsweb and can be found at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~registryofdeeds/index.html>.

As well as the more obvious sources such as civil records and wills, there are many other interesting collections of records from which information could be extracted for a one-name study. For example I have found several Perrys, including my own great great grandfather in the records of the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP). These records are fascinating in their detail; I have discovered that James Perry was 5 ft 10 inches tall and was granted a reward in 1883 for "arresting a man for viciously breaking glass". Jim Herlihy has published books containing lists of men who served in the DMP and the Royal Irish Constabulary. Once armed with a service number, it is possible to access information contained within the original records at the National Archives at Kew, or the microfilm copies held in the National Archives of Ireland and the LDS family history centers.

Having traced back several Perry families, it is clear the Irish origins of many of them date from the 17th century, when English merchants and soldiers settled in Ireland following the Cromwellian conquest, about which some records have survived. For those that haven't survived, some were indexed before the destruction of the records and since many of these indexes were published in the 19th century they are out of copyright, and are often available on-line. One of my most unexpected finds so far was one Ambrose Perry, who I found in a list of those transplanted to Clare in 1653. Up until this point it had been assumed by Perry researchers that all of the early Perrys had been Protestant, so it was surprising to find one who had been sent to County Clare and had his land confiscated for being Catholic.

DNA testing has been especially useful for linking up lines of Irish Perrys where the records simply have not survived, although of course it is much more useful when used in conjunction with historical records. As a recently appointed co-administrator of the Perry DNA project I am still learning how this can be useful in our research, but it seems to me that DNA is yet another 'source' that can be used to collect data for a one-name study. So far at least 6 Irish Perrys have had their DNA tested and we are awaiting results for another two. The results have in some ways been surprising. The proof that my own family had originally come from Tipperary came from a match with a



Fig 4. James and Sarah Perry (probably on their wedding day, Monasterevin, Co Kildare, 1 Feb 1880)

descendant of this family who had left Ireland for Liverpool in the early 20th century. The DNA match, combined with clues from parish registers and wills was enough to place our ancestor in the correct family despite the destruction of parish registers and census returns. Unfortunately, we did not match another slightly more well-heeled family from nearby Clonmel. A match in this line would have extended our line back to 16th century Devon and would have made us cousins of the Earl of Limerick!

This is not intended to be a complete list of records for an Irish one name study. Five years ago I thought that I had come to a dead end with my Irish research, but attempting a one name study has opened up the existence of new records that I didn't know had survived! A random search on Google as I was writing this produced a list of Mayors and Sheriffs of Cork, digitised depositions regarding the 1641 Irish Rebellion and a plethora of records on the marvellous Clare Library website (www.clarelibrary.ie), all of which contain details of Irish Perrys. Of course, my ultimate aim of this research is still to find out the story of John Perry of Graystown, but the Irish Perrys project has taught me to think much more laterally in locating records relevant to my research and I have gone from almost giving up on the Irish side of my family history to having a research list that gets longer the more work I do! ■



Fig 5. Copy of the 17th century book of the survey and distribution of Tipperary, from the collection of the Marquess of Salisbury

2011 Guild AGM & Conference

Daresbury Park, Warrington 15-17 April 2011



By **Gordon Adshead**

I would like to remind you that the Guild's 32nd Annual AGM & Conference is to be held at the DeVere Hotel, Daresbury Park, Warrington, WA4 4HS.

The conference is titled '**Northern Lights**' and full details of the venue and programme can be found on the Guild's website at www.one-name.org/conference.html.

To be sure of a hotel room payments are due by 31st January 2011.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Not yet got a profile?

Struggling to understand how to use the Archive?

Paul Millington will be attending the conference on Saturday and will be providing an advice surgery for members wanting to better understand how to make the best use of Guild on-line facilities. Unsure of your members' room password? Want to apply for a profile or unsure what to write? Don't know how to structure your data for the Guild Archive? Got some burning idea for new IT facilities that you would like to discuss? Paul will be on hand all day to try and sort your problems.

Guild Essay Competition

Announcing a new Guild competition for 2011

By **Anne Shankland**



The Guild is running its annual Award competition again this year, and entries are invited from all members – the more the merrier!

Last year the level of entries was disappointingly low, although the standard of those we received was very high. This time I hope that more of you will be inspired to put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard, and produce an essay on the subject of

How to run a one-name study

or, on a more personal note,

How I run my one-name study

We look forward to reading your accounts of how you go about your one-name study, or what it is about your one-name study that is unusual, or distinctive, or significant in some way. Perhaps you study a very rare

name, so that in fact your ONS is the study of only a single family? or maybe your study is one of the larger ones, so that you adopt a very different way of running your study or organising the data within it. Perhaps you have formed a society in which the members share the work involved in running the study? or maybe you prefer to work alone? We are particularly interested in the outputs from your one-name study, which may range from published one-name books, or periodical newsletters to your members, or reports of the results of DNA research, to such things as family tree charts or groupings, name distribution charts and maps, studies of mortality or longevity, etc. But essays on any aspect of your one-name study will be welcomed.

Since we are all interested in one-name studies, we must share many characteristics of how we go about

it. But again, each one-name study is different, both because of the character of the name itself and also because of the personality of the people carrying on the study. Tell us about how your study is distinctive and worthwhile. Tell us about the ways you have found to make the work easier and more rewarding.

Writing an essay represents a significant amount of effort, and to reward that effort we have decided, this year, to award a prize to the winning entry of a year's subscription to FindMyPast. So get writing!

Entries can be emailed to shankland@one-name.org, or alternatively posted to me at 63 Church Lane, Colden Common, Winchester. SO21 1TR. Closing date for entries will be the 31st March 2011, and the winning entry will be announced at the AGM on 16th April 2011. ■

The Origin of the Surnames Crocker, Croker and Croaker

By **Brian Croker**

According to Devonshire legend Crocker is a Saxon name as recorded in the following saw:-

"Crocker, Cruwys and Copplestone when the Conqueror came were at home"

This has been quoted in numerous sources from John Prince in his *Worthies of Devon*¹ published in 1810 to the present day. However, there is no mention of the personal name Crocker or any of the variations thereto, which follow later, in the Domesday Book. It must therefore be said that while no recorded proof now remains of the Saxon use of the personal name Crocker before the Conquest, the "firm authority of unquestioned tradition" overcomes this lack of positive evidence.

George Redmond says that one of the traditional classifications of surnames is "of occupation, status or office"². The traditional origin of the surname Crocker and its variations Croker and Croaker is that it is one of this class of names, coming from the trade of the crocker, a maker of pots and crockery. The purpose of this paper is to see whether historical evidence supports this tradition.

Support for the principle of the name of the trade of making pots at the time of the emergence of hereditary surnames "from the thirteenth century ...to the sixteenth"³ is found in dictionaries of the English language. A Middle English dictionary⁴ says that the word for a maker of pots was "crockere/crokkere". However, Postles¹⁸ says that potter was also used.

Support for the above origin of the names is given in a number of books on the origins and meanings of surnames as follows:-

"Crocker, Croker: a derivative of OE (Old English) *croc(c)*,, *crocca* an earthen pot, hence "potter" (MED)"⁵

"Crocker: 2. occupational name for a potter, from an agent derive. Of ME *crock* pot (OE *croc(ca)*)"⁶

"Crocker, Croker, Croaker, - Occup. "the crocker", a potter, a maker of crocks, From ME *crokke*, an earthen pitcher"⁷

"*Crocker* (and perhaps *Croker*) means a maker of coarse pottery."¹⁰

Interestingly Croaker is given another origin in one book:-

"Croaker: 1. English (Norman): habitation name from any of the various places in Normandy, most notably Calvados, Oise and Nord, called Crèvecoeur 'heartbreak' ..."⁶

Even more interesting is the following:-

"Croaker, or le Crochere, from Crocea, a cross (Ducange), crocearius, a cross-bearer. Simon le Crockere and William Crockare mentioned in England c 1272 (Rot. Hundr.), Norman families may be included. John le Crochere held lands from De Pomeray, Devon, t, Henry 1."¹¹

A look at the origin of the surnames as found in records now follows.

As would be expected in the evolution of a surname a number of variations were recorded. The use of these were eventually rationalised into the three variations given in the title to this article, the first two by the period when hereditary names became the norm and the third a little later.

The author has listed the earliest records or citing of records that combine given names with words referring to the occupation of potter/crock maker that have been found to

date by the writer. The quality of the sources varies – some are in original language, some translated into the English of different periods, others are transcribed and/or interpreted.

It is possible that the surname evolution in some families/regions may not have happened until an even later period than that covered by these records. The following record may be a classic example of this:-

"Ricardus Lok de Minty alias Ricardus CROKKER de Minty (Glouc), crokker"⁹ 1443

In some of the records the fact that the person involved was working as a potter is noted and these instances are recorded in the "Occupation" column on the data sheets. For many of the entries the derivative "le" is used between the given name and the various forms of crockere (potter) which indicates that the person is "the potter". The absence of the derivative could be because it was not present in the original document but it could be due to transcription interpretations. In the later part of the period it could indicate a move towards the use of inherited surnames.

The time when names changed from being descriptive to becoming hereditary is difficult to assess. The dropping of the use of the derivative could give an indication but the lack of it in some early records is unlikely to be significant for this purpose. The passing on of a descriptive name to children would be the most positive evidence but detailed genealogical information for families in this period is scarce.

Is it possible to illustrate more positively the evolving of the hereditary surname process from the records about a specific family? This question will be dealt with on a County basis the first being Devon which is generally regarded as being the main centre for the origin of the surnames Crocker and Croker.

DEVON

One Devon family went from the pottery producing areas of north Devon to the south of the county and became prominent in public life having a number of Knights, a Secretary of the Admiralty, a leader of the movement to anglicise Ireland who was the progenitor of the many Crokers who lived in Ireland in the

So what sources did the writers of the articles about the Devon family use? Unfortunately, for the earliest information no sources are quoted. The reference to William Crocker as M.P. for Tavistock in 1377 was probably an early history of the English Parliament. The *Heralds' Visitations* produced ancestry charts going back to the grantee of the family arms which in this case was Sir John, his honour being granted in 1471¹⁵ so these records contain no details of the family in the period in which we are interested. It is possible that extensive searching might reveal the sources used but until that is done the work that was done by a number of prominent historians, which includes some input from living members of the family, provides the information that is sought after. In saying this it should be noted that there is generally agreement by the

Some of these entries could therefore refer to ancestors of the 1307 William Crocker. Looking at the list entries it is also possible, if not probable, that other of these early potters could have passed their trade affiliation names to sons who then repeated this action to make the names hereditary and to create other families that descended to later times.

say that the trade name became hereditary in Gloucestershire. In fact it is probable that a branch of the Devon family mentioned above moved into Gloucestershire because the coat of arms that was attributed to a Croker family of Battisford was a differenced version of that granted to Sir John Crockere of Devon.¹⁹

DORSET

Dorset County had an active pottery industry in medieval times²⁰ so the chances that at least some of the entries for this county in the list were workers in that trade. However, it has not been possible to demonstrate any passing on of the trade name in an hereditary manner because the writer has not been able to assemble descent/ancestries that go back beyond the mid 18th century.

OXFORDSHIRE

The list includes some persons from Oxfordshire who appear to have had connections with the pottery trade. Lewis²¹ says that there was manufacture of bricks, tiles and pottery centred on the village of Nettlebed from medieval times which confirms the presence of the trade in the county. However, a similar situation to that for Gloucestershire is found here – no connecting information between the periods plus a Croker family of Hook Norton the arms for which were also a differenced version of that of Sir John of Devon.²²

SUSSEX

Judging by the title of K J Barton's book²³ Sussex had an active pottery trade in medieval times and the Sussex persons named in the list were probably active therein but once again the conversion of their names to hereditary surnames cannot be demonstrated because of the writer's lack of evidence.

SOMERSET, WILTSHIRE, KENT, BEDFORDSHIRE

These counties are represented on the list but, as for some of the counties mentioned above, the question of the adoption of hereditary surnames cannot be answered unless further information comes to hand.

OTHER COUNTIES

The above discussion involves only a small number of the historical counties of England. In the period under discussion there have only

been very few random recordings of the occupational suffixes that led eventually to the current surnames Crocker and Croker. Does this mean that there was not any pottery/crockery activity anywhere else in England? No! So what surnames were eventually adopted by workers in these trades? Potter would have to be a strong contender – Bardsley⁷ says about Potter "A common entry in 13th century registers." This opens up another discussion which is not within the writer's field of interest and will not be taken up here.

GENERAL COMMENT

Postle¹⁸ presents a detailed history of the evolution of Devon surnames most of which is applicable to surnames all over England

SUMMARY

The end result of this investigation is that there appears to be no reason to disagree with the "occupational" classification of the surnames Crocker and Croker that has been propounded by numerous historians and others over the last two hundred years. Croaker has not appeared in connection with the other names so this will have to be treated separately at another time.

IRELAND

The above discussion concludes that Crocker and Croker were surnames of English origin. However, the author's listing of the earliest recordings of the names shows a number of entries in Ireland one in the 13th century and others in the 14th.

The language of the native Irish people was not English so it is most unlikely that these surnames evolved from the same trade as the English ones did. Do studies of the origins of Irish surnames make any reference to them? Neafsey²⁴, Matheson²⁵ and Keating²⁶ have no mention of them but MacLysaght²⁷ states that "the Anglo-Norman le Crocker (maker of pots) was in Ireland in the thirteenth century". Reddan²⁸ confirms this and notes that nothing is known about any descendants of these early residents.

It can therefore be stated again that the name Croker is of English origin.

PLACE NAMES

There are a number of place names that incorporate Crocker and variations the origins of which pre-date the

emergence of the hereditary use of the surname. These will be mentioned briefly because of the possibility of some connection with persons who used the name Crocker or variations thereon.

CROCKER'S HELE, PARISH OF MEETH, DEVON

Three places of the name Hela/Hele are mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086)^{29,30}. One of these later became known as Crocker's Hele and was identified with the Crocker family Risdon³¹ referring to it as "The ancient lands of the Crockers" and stating that they were there in the time of Edward II (1308-1327). Other historians quote Edward III not Edward II.

CROCKERNWELL, PARISH OF DREWS-TEIGTON, DEVON

Pole¹³ refers to this place as Crokerwell "the ancient land of Crocker, whence they moved to Lyneham". He says the same regarding Hele.

CROCKERTON, LONGBRIDGE-DEVERILL PARISH, DEVON

CROCKERHILL, BOXGROVE PARISH, SUSSEX

CROCKERN-TOR, LIDFORD PARISH, DEVON

CROCKERS COPSE, SOUTH DAMERHAM PARISH, WILTSHIRE

CROCKERSLAND, NORFOLK

CROKKERE, PARISH OF BUSHLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE

No mention of connection of these places with Crocker persons has been found so it is possible that the names were derived from pottery activities nearby although this is unlikely for Crockern-Tor.

CROCKER END, NETTLEBED PARISH, OXFORDSHIRE

No mention of connection of these places with Crocker persons has been found. However, Lewis³² states the brick and pottery making did occur at Crocker End. ■

Please see the Guild website for a full list of references which accompany this article. They can be found at www.one-name.org/journal/crocker.html

The end of an era Howard's Last Day

6 November 2010 West Surrey FHS Open Day, Woking Leisure Centre

A large number of Guild members, friends and fellow stall holders gathered for what was sadly to be Howard Benbrook's last day as the Guild's Bookstall Manager.

Howard busied himself as always with his wonderful Surname Atlas routine before hurrying away to promote the Guild with a Surname talk he was giving.

This was my chance to pounce into action and retrieve two cakes which were to be presented to Howard.

Returning from his talk, Howard seemed oblivious to the large gathering that had now assembled. That is until Chairman Kirsty Gray stepped forward to thank Howard for his wonderful efforts over the years, presenting him with a card and an engraved tankard to great applause leaving Howard semi-speechless (for once).

The cakes were then revealed and Howard posed for pictures with one in each hand, one with the Guild's logo and the other a picture of Howard at a bookstall.

Cake devoured and exhausted helpers departed (thanks to Liz Jones, David & Brenda Horwill and Michael Walker) it was time to pack up the stall for one last time. A long and eventful day, it was time to head home and maybe a drink or two in celebration of Howard's "retirement" and the end of a very successful era.

Thank you Howard (and Pam) for giving up so many of your weekends on behalf of the Guild, to order and cart around vast quantities of books and ephemera, selling them at the various Family History events over the past 9 years or so. It has been my pleasure to work with you on more



than one occasion and I think I speak for many when I say you and the Bookstall will be sorely missed. I hope that you will make the odd "guest appearance" at some future events and delight us with another Surname Atlas "performance" once again. Thank you.

Corrinne Goodenough
Guild Stand Manager

Guild Poster Competition

As part of the marketing effort to attract more members and enhance the Guild's image we require new posters for use on the Guild's stand at fairs and other events. This competition is to encourage members to help us by submitting their own ideas for Guild posters.

You are invited to submit a poster of your own design to be judged at the 2011 Conference at the De Vere Hotel, Daresbury Park, Warrington on 17th to 19th April 2011. All posters will be displayed and all members attending the conference will be invited to vote for their preferred poster. The winner(s) will be announced at the conference. It is not necessary for members submitting entries to attend the conference.

First prize is one-year's membership of Find My Past!!

Rules

1. Posters should be eye-catching with the aim of persuading a passer-by to stop and consider the content. Means which may be used to achieve this include the use of colour, graphics and a limited number of words.
2. Any method of creating the poster can be used.
3. All posters should include the Guild Logo.
4. Posters should be A4 or A3 size (or suitable for both).
5. A member may submit up to three entries.
6. Entries should ideally be a full size poster on paper sent by post to the organiser with the member's name and membership number written on the back. Send to John Coldwell, Granary House, High Street, Hampsthwaite, Harrogate, HG3 2HA. E-mailed images for printing by the organiser will be considered if a member finds this impracticable. Send to chairman-marksub@one-name.org.
7. Any poster submitted may be used by the Guild for advertising purposes. Copyright will be vested in the Guild.
8. It is regretted that submissions cannot be returned.
9. Deadline for submissions is 1 April 2011.



Seminar Report - Born Abroad

Sevenoaks Community Centre, Sevenoaks, Kent, Nov 20th 2010

By **Sue Ashton**

Sue sent a very comprehensive report containing a lot of detail on the four excellent talks. Owing to lack of space, what follows is just a précis with a little more emphasis on the great social aspects of Guild seminars. Sue's full report, together with other information presented can be found on the Guild web at <http://www.one-name.org/members/seminars.html>.

Prior to the event, the agenda gave me little interest in my own family research, however during research for my one name study, I had discovered some interesting facts and wanted to know more on how to go about researching further.

The first lecture of the morning was 'Researching ancestors in British India 1600 –1947' by Peter Bailey, who had 9 ancestors that lived in India, and chairman of the FIBIS society, and author of Baxter's Guide, biographical sources in the India office records, previously published by the British Library. This book includes a comprehensive list of IOR data relevant to researchers. The FIBIS book stall displayed an excellent array of reading and topic material, and just looking at the titles made me to want to go away and undertake more research.

Our second lecture of the day was 'Tracing your Huguenot ancestors' with Michael Gandy, which started with French Protestants who left France when civil war broke out in 1562 when their catholic king died.

Michael informed us that the term 'Huguenot' was used incorrectly in most cases, however was correctly used if French family can be traced back before 1679 and are not religious refugees.

Jeanette Rosenberg and her lecture 'Jewish genealogy for one-namers' evidenced a wealth of Internet resources. The earliest records of Jewish history in the UK is 1066, their expulsion in 1290 and readmittance in 1659.

I would encourage those of you interested in Jewish research to look up Jeanette's information through the members room, and access some of the excellent sites she mentions.

Our final lecture of the day was 'Black ancestry in Britain' by Kathy Chater, who indicated that many of our history is dotted with Black ancestry. Kathy informed us of research she had undertaken, and that in as early as 1662 origin or colour was only mentioned in baptisms and burials, and this she felt was only to establish parish of settlement, and was true to all immigrant groups.

The numbers attending this seminar (41) was somewhat lower than expected, which was slightly disappointing on view of the excellent quality of the venue and the speakers. However the overwhelming response on the feedback forms was that all had greatly appreciated the friendly and informative day. Many commented that they valued the excellent refreshments, the mini-guild bookstall run by Cliff Kemball and the chance to meet and discuss issues with other Guild members.

At the end of the seminar, I realised just how little I am aware of the wealth of resources out there for information, just because I am not looking for it. For my one-name study I concentrate on surname, and neglect to delve a little deeper, after all they aren't one of mine, and so I miss the hunt of historical information that is hidden - unless we know what to look for, and if I am honest, has been the basis of each lecture, and which has fuelled my interest in their chosen area of expertise. ■



Peter Bailey delivers his talk researching ancestors in British India



Cliff Kemball mans a mini Guild Bookstall next to the FIBIS stand



Kathy Chater gives attendees an interesting talk on Black Ancestry

Forthcoming Seminars

21st May 2011

Northumberland Mining Seminar

The Guild has chosen Woodhorn as the venue, being the location of the Northumberland Archives. The subject will be 'Mining in the North East' and will cover the coal, lead and iron industries with speakers from the Durham Archives, the Durham Mining Museum and local specialists. The Northumberland coast is a wonderful location and we would recommend you stay over, visit the archives and enjoy the scenery.

To be held at Northumberland Museum, Archives & Country Park, QE II Country Park, Woodhorn, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 9YF

13th August 2011

The Art Of ONS Seminar

A number of short talks by several speakers will cover the workings of the Guild and the key aspects of a one-name study. Although primarily directed at members who have joined in the last few years, there will be much to help all put their study into context. Supported by the Halsted Trust.

To be held at Col Dane Memorial Hall, Church St, Alwalton PE7 3UU, Near Peterborough

19th November 2011

Railway Records Seminar

The Steam Museum of the Great Western Railway will provide an interesting venue to hear a number of speakers present information about railway records throughout the UK.

To be held at Swindon Railway Museum, Kemble Drive, SN2 2TA

Rogues Seminar

12th February 2011,
Ruishton Village Hall, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 5JD

What do you really know about the Black Sheep in your Study?

Are you interested to find whether you might have Rogues or Victims of crime in your One-Name Study or to find out more about the Rogues and Victims you've come across in your research? This seminar will explain the Church and criminal court structure, what records survive, where you might find them and of course what value they can have – all presented by experts in the field.



Programme

- 09.30 - 10.00 Arrival: Registration and Coffee
- 10.00 - 10.15 Welcome and Introduction
- 10.15 - 11.15 Church Courts and their Records - Colin Chapman
- 11.15 - 11.30 Comfort Break
- 11.30 - 12.30 Assizes, Quarter Sessions, and Petty Sessions - Esther Hoyle
- 12.30 - 13.45 Finger Buffet Lunch
- 13.45 - 14.45 Convict Releases & Other Records at TNA - Liz Hore
- 14.45 - 15.15 Tea and Biscuits
- 15.15 - 16.15 Other sources for Criminal Records - David Hawkings
- 16.15 - 16.30 Departure

Dr. Colin Chapman is the principal speaker at this seminar covering many aspects of the criminal and religious justice systems. 200 years of Rogues and Victims – were any of yours in court records? The cost of the seminar will be £20 per person including drinks and a light buffet lunch.

To make the day more interactive everyone is invited to bring along details of Black Sheep they have encountered and to display and share details for discussion and the event co-ordinator Richard Heaton will contact you beforehand.

Disabled delegates. We would like to ensure that any disabled delegate can participate fully in this event. If you need any special requirements please telephone the Guild Help Desk.

Book on-line at one-name.org under the Events Tab. Postal booking forms may also be obtained from the Guild web-site or by phoning the Guild Help desk Tel: 0800 011 2182. ■



Marriage Challenge Update

By Peter Copsey

I have now completed several Marriage Challenges. I began over four years ago with little knowledge on the numbering of marriages in the GRO Index. I had read Paul Millington's article in the Journal about this subject (July 2001) and knew that for each Registration District (RD) the Anglican Church marriages were listed first, ordered alphabetically by parish, followed by the remaining marriages. But that is where my knowledge ended.

The Changing GRO Index

I soon discovered that the alphabetic order of Anglican parishes changed from time to time and that there appeared to be three reasons for this. Firstly, the form of the parish name would change. For example West Ham parish church was originally described as "Ham, West" and listed under H. In 1891, however, it changed to "West Ham" and subsequently was listed under W. A similar situation occurred with all parish names that began with South, North, East, Great, Little, Upper, Lower, etc.

Secondly, the parish name itself could change. A good example of this is the Church of St Chad within the ancient parish of Dagenham, Romford RD. The top line of early marriage entries for this church states "Marriage solemnized at the Church of St Chad in the Parish of Dagenham" so naturally it was grouped with the ancient parish church of Dagenham, St Peter and St Paul. In 1896 the top line of the marriage entry changed to "Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the parish of Chadwell Heath". You would assume that the church would now be treated as beginning with C; but no, this change did not occur until 1911. It seems that the GRO indexers took some time to react to situations.

Lastly, the position of the ancient parish church would change within the order of the other churches of

the parish. Where there were more than one Anglican church within a town, the GRO index would list the ancient parish church first, followed by any other Anglican churches alphabetically in order of dedication. But the situation changed later, generally between 1905 and 1911 when the ancient parish church was treated no differently from the other churches and was also included in the index order alphabetically according to its dedication.

The three types of change did not all take place consistently at the same time in the index. 1881, 1891 and 1911 were popular years for change but no general rule can be discovered.

From the start of Registration in July 1837, it was not just the Anglican Churches that were allowed to perform marriages without the Registrar present. Marriages that took place under the Quaker and Jewish religions also held this privilege, with the requirement to keep duplicate registers. By examination of the few Quaker and Jewish marriages I know about, it appears that these marriages are listed at the very end of the GRO numbering, with the Quaker before the Jewish.

The 1898 Marriage Act

Matters changed in 1899, following the Marriage Act of 1898. Under this Act other religious establishments could gain the right to perform marriages without the Registrar being present. Authorised Persons (AP) within the church were appointed to act in place of the Registrar. These churches then had to produce duplicate registers and a few of the church copies have found their way to the Record Offices. The Methodist churches were generally the first to embrace the Authorised Person provision, followed by some Congregational and Presbyterian churches. The marriages from these

AP churches were included at the end of the index after the Jewish marriages. The order of the churches was set by the date that AP status was obtained. When a new church gained AP status, its marriages were added at the bottom of the index.

"From the start of Registration in July 1837, it was not just the Anglican Churches that were allowed to perform marriages without the Registrar present."

The question remains concerning the order of the marriages where the Registrar is present. Looking at marriages where information has been submitted to the Guild Marriage Index, there appears to be no order. Sometimes a Register Office marriage would be high in the index order after the Anglicans, sometimes low; the same for Roman Catholic marriages and those from other denominations. However it is conjectured that the order in the index is the same as the order in the Registrars' books. One day a Registrar would be attending a marriage in a Roman Catholic church, the next day at the Baptist church and the next day performing a marriage at the Register Office. The GRO order follows this arrangement. Of course, for all Registration Districts there would be several Registrars' marriage registers; one would be held by the Superintendent Registrar and by each of his appointed Registrars. So the GRO index would include a chronological list of marriages of various denominations from one Registrar's book followed by a similar list from the next Registrar's book.

So summarising the GRO Index Order, applicable from 1837 to 1925:-

First page for RD	
Anglican marriages	Alphabetically by parish or name of location and then by dedication (but originally ancient parish church first)
Marriages with Registrar present	Listed by register (conjecture)
Quaker marriages	By establishment
Jewish marriages	By synagogue
Marriages with AP present	From 1899, by church in the order that churches achieved AP status
Last page for RD	

Marriage Challenge is an education in itself. You learn more about marriages than just the information about the persons who were married. You learn about churches, registers and the GRO index. Marriage Challenge holds its interest at various levels.

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

Here is the list of forthcoming Challenges. All members are encouraged to send their requests to the Challengers by e-mail, hopefully using

the standard "requests.xls" spreadsheet on the MC web-page. However most Challengers will accept requests in any form. Send the listing extracted from the GRO index (FreeBMD will give almost all of them) for the named Registration District between the years given (Year, Quarter, Surname, First names, Full GRO reference). Challengers will search for and often find your marriages in the deposited Church registers and then send you the full particulars.

Update

Susan Atkins has asked me to point out that her Challenges for West Derby and Toxteth Park are presently on hold due to the closure of the Liverpool Library and Record Office. The Challenges will recommence when the archive re-opens in late 2012. ■



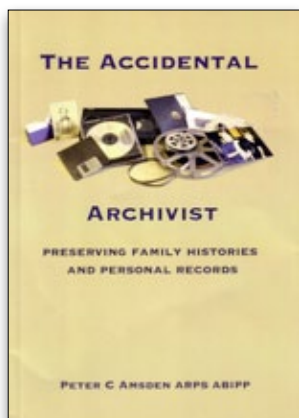
Jennie Fairs in Australia is undertaking a new type of Challenge. The clergy in New South Wales were required to send copies of their records annually to the Registrar of the Supreme Court. These records were then transferred to the Registrar General in 1856 when registration began. They have subsequently been microfilmed and are available to search at many local libraries, genealogical societies and State Archives. The microfilms are known as the "old records" or "early church registers". She requests that members check the online index to the NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages (<http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/Index/IndexingOrder.cgi?search?event=marriages>) for the period 1788 to 1855 and to extract and submit the following information:-

- Registration No (it is in the form V1838426 128/1838)
- Groom's Surname & Groom's Given Name(s)
- Bride's Last Surname & Bride's Given Name(s)
- District Code

Registration District and Period	Deadline	Challenger	Challenger's e-mail
Wallingford 1837 onwards	23 Jan 2011	Sue Hedges	hedges@one-name.org
Kingston 1837 - 1911	31 Jan 2011	Jean Normington	boughton@one-name.org
Leeds 1837 - 1840	31 Jan 2011	Margaret Creek	bickerdike@one-name.org
North Aylesford 1837 - 1884	31 Jan 2011	Clive Killick	killick@one-name.org
New South Wales, Australia, 1788 - 1855 (see above panel)	13 Feb 2011	Jennie Fairs	edenborough@one-name.org
Bath 1837 - 1860	20 Feb 2011	Barbara Roach	gimblett@one-name.org
Northampton 1837 - 1911	28 Feb 2011	Tracy Barrall	gayford@one-name.org
Daventry 1837 - 1911	28 Feb 2011	David Barrall	barrell@one-name.org
Towcester 1837 - 1911	28 Feb 2011	David Barrall	barrell@one-name.org
Hastings 1837 - 1911	28 Feb 2011	Roger Goacher	goacher@one-name.org
Nottingham Stage 2 1861 - 1890	28 Feb 2011	Jo Fitz-Henry, Rowan Tanner & Phil Hand	fitz-henry@one-name.org

Reviews Reviews Reviews

New genealogy books and CDs



The Accidental Archivist
by Peter C. Amsden ARPS ABIPP
Published by ASAT
Publications
ISBN 978-0-9535019-8-4
97 Pages, £8.95

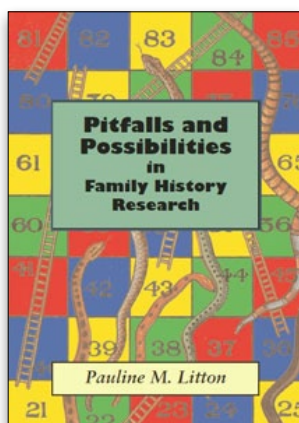
How to preserve family history records is a hot topic for today's genealogists particularly due to the speed of technological development. Peter Amsden's 'The Accidental Archivist' focuses on data items which come into our possession in various formats and end up being stored on computer, paper or film. He unravels some of the materials and provides simple explanations to assist in setting up 'an archive'.

Starting with a detailed chapter on setting up an archive and the key threats which archivists should be aware of, the scale of the challenge is presented to the reader with a chronology of the technology and when it first became available. Each type of media is then taken in turn from the daguerreotypes and ambrotypes of the 1840s and 1850s

through black and white prints, negatives, cine film and audio tapes to the modern day CDs, DVDs, colour laser prints and even Blu-ray!

At the core of this book, Peter provides detailed information about each type of document along with some top tips on how to preserve these record sets. The ordered, methodical way that this book is devised makes it a 'must' for anyone wishing to set up an archive of any nature. The author has kept production costs down and this book is a snip at £8.95 plus postage from www.amsden.info. Personally, I wouldn't have minded spending a few more pennies to have the pictures in colour. It would finish off this neat little publication perfectly. ■

Kirsty Gray



Pitfalls and Possibilities in Family History Research
by Pauline M. Litton
Published by Swansong
Publications
ISBN 978-0-9553450-1-2
276 Pages, £11.99

I received this book for review earlier in the year but unfortunately time and space have prevented its review until now. For that, I

apologise profusely to both Pauline and the Guild membership, for what a fascinating book this is.

There are a huge amount of "how to" books on genealogy but this book differs enormously in that it makes no attempt to teach "the basics" of family history research, but instead guides you through the possible pitfalls and in each of the record types.

The book is based on a series of articles which appeared in Family Tree Magazine between 1998 and 2001, but these have been expanded and updated for the book.

There is a wealth of tips within the twenty five chapters of the book with each chapter itself being broken down into sub-topics. There are chapters on everything from; Geography, Names, Census Returns, Civil Registration, Parish Registers, Burials, The IGI, People on The Move... The list goes on.

Each of the chapters is broken down further into sub-topics, for instance, the Names chapter contains information on; Accents, Pronunciation, Spelling, Variants, Names Changes, Double-barrelled Names, Naturalisation, Alias' etc. etc.

Pauline's writing style is "to the point" making this an extremely easy read. To its credit, it can be used as much as a reference book as one which must be read cover to cover, since you can simply dip into the topic of choice and have all its pitfalls laid out before you.

This book would make a very welcome addition to your bookshelves and my only regret is not being able to review this in time for you all to ask for copies for Christmas from your loved ones. However, if you have any pennies left over I thoroughly recommend you do yourself a favour and get a copy. ■

Keith Bage

Can Handwriting Be Hereditary?

I never knew my Grandfather, another John, as he died very shortly after I was born in 1937. However, while recently shuffling through a pile of family documents, I came across his signature which fascinated me, in that although it is by no means identical to mine, there was a distinct similarity. Then, when a year or so ago, I visited Montpelier, Virginia, the former home of James Madison, 4th President of the United States and bought a book bearing his signature, I was astonished to see that apart from the obvious difference in their Christian names and the Americanisation of the family surname, President James's signature was almost identical to my grandfather's. Now, of course, I am anxious to unearth further family signatures in order to ascertain whether these simi-

larities are purely coincidental. If you happen to have any old Maddison signatures or examples of handwriting, I would be most grateful for a copy.



Self, John Maddison (1937 -)

My Grandfather, John Maddison (1861 - 1937)

US President, James Madison (1751 - 1836)

Blencowes at Blencow

The Families' Association visits its ancestral home

By Jack Blencowe

During the last weekend in June some eighty members of the Blencowe Families' Association gathered at Blencow in Cumbria for what was certainly the most memorable of its biennial reunions. Twenty came from Australia, ten from USA, two from Spain and one from the Cayman Islands. The meet was centred on Blencow Hall, built by Henry Blencowe in 1590 and now extensively renovated and available as holiday accommodation. The most spectacular part of the renovation was the insertion of rooms in the empty shell of the south tower, allegedly attacked by Cromwellian forces before they went on to besiege the nearby Greystoke Castle. Twelve lucky couples occupied luxuriously-furnished rooms in the Hall, the rest of us stayed at b&b and hotels nearby.

Peter and Anna Blencowe had organised a full programme starting with a buffet dinner in the Village Hall. On Saturday there was a tea party at the Hall. Celebrating the 25-yr history of the Association there was a 'birthday' cake that, as the oldest member present, I was invited to cut. This presented a problem; the cake inside was delicious but the icing of its

side walls was too hard for the knife to penetrate, I suspect the Blencowe ladies eventually attacked it with a meat axe!

A group photo was taken in the courtyard beneath the carved plaque showing the 1590 date of the present hall and exhibiting the Blencow arms. It is believed that 14thC Adam de Blencow already bore the arms gules a quarter argent but in 1356 his overlord William Lord Greystoke 'granted to Adam de Blencowe an escutcheon sable with a bend clossetted argent and azure, of my arms to have and to hold to the said Adam, and his heirs, the arms aforesaid'. However, during the early 17thC the Herald, Sir William Dugdall made a Visitation; he refused to recognise the Blencowe entitlement to bear the Greystoke arms, he ordered them defaced immediately because they had not been awarded by the King. This can be seen today; the original arms were permitted to remain, recognising Henry's lineal descent from the original armiger. The motto around the arms: 'To live [is to] die to die [is part of] life eternal' is believed to commemorate the family's rather tenuous connection with Lady Jane Grey.

On Sunday a family service was held at Greystoke church where Blencowes had been married and baptised more than 500 years ago; Ian Blencowe from Australia was the organist. Some members took the opportunity to visit the earthworks and pile of stones marking the site of the earliest Blencow Hall. There was also a visit to Dacre church which had many family connections.

On Monday we were given a guided tour of Greystoke Castle by Mr Neville Howard, the present owner. A curiously-shaped stone marker, currently installed in a niche in the castle walls, is believed originally to have marked the grave of Adam de Blencow.

Discussions have already started about our next get-together. Blincos of Perth in West Australia and Toowoomba in Queensland are vying for the honour but northern New York State is also a possibility. ■

See pictures overleaf on back cover.

Blencowes at Blencow

The Families' Association visits its ancestral home

Vol 10 Issue 9 January - March 2011



Main inset: Group photograph of the Blencowe Families' Association reunion. **Top left:** Blencow Hall's South Tower, allegedly shattered by Cromwellian troops. **Middle left:** A station sign, acquired by a member when Dr Beeching closed the line. **Bottom left:** Coats of Arms above the entrance to Blencow Hall. The topmost shield is defaced, the Blencow shield is at bottom. **Bottom Centre:** The Association celebrated its 25th birthday. **Bottom Right:** Blencow Hall from the South.

Journal of One-Name Studies
Quarterly publication of the
Guild of One-Name Studies
ISSN 0262-4842
£2.00 when sold to non-members

