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# Journal

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## of One-Name Studies



[www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Guild of One-Name Studies Australian Seminar Report & Pictures



To BB or not  
to BB?

Maritime Records Seminar, Greenwich  
Report & Pictures

And Much More

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### Forum

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

[forum@one-name.org](mailto:forum@one-name.org)

To email a message to the forum, send it to: [goons@rootsweb.com](mailto:goons@rootsweb.com)

### Guild Bulletin Board

You can register using your guild membership number and your one-name.org email alias at:

<http://bb.one-name.org>



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

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# From the Chairman's Keyboard...

By Kirsty Gray

**W**ishing the working weeks away towards my next holiday, it would appear that I have managed to wish away the whole of 2012 and it barely seems possible that I am wishing you all a Happy New Year when we are seeing in 2013. The threat of the Millennium Bug, a computer programming problem rumoured to shut down all computer systems at midnight between 31<sup>st</sup> December 1999 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000, seems like a lifetime ago and oh, how many of us rely so heavily upon our computers these days.

Our hobby - or should I say, obsession! - has grown beyond all recognition in the last decade and the Guild has expanded its membership to 2,620 at the time of writing. With our vision to become a more global organisation, the Guild Committee were delighted to note that the number of Australian Guild members has doubled since their first Australia-wide meeting in 2004. We have also welcomed **Paul Howes** as a Committee member and postholder this year and he has already made tremendous progress in setting the foundations for the future of the Guild in the US and Canada.

At this time of year, we look back and into the future. In my last column, I mentioned nominations for **Master Craftsmen of the Guild (MCG)**. The Guild Fellowship Scheme, [www.one-name.org/members/fellowship.html](http://www.one-name.org/members/fellowship.html), was set up to recognise those Guild members worthy of honour because of their level of expertise in genealogy and one-name studies, or for their contribution to the running of the Guild, or both. Jan Cooper, [secretary@one-name.org](mailto:secretary@one-name.org), would be delighted to receive your nominations by Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013, with a brief citation supporting your proposal.

The **Guild Award of Excellence (GAoE)** complements the MCG and aims to acknowledge members' contributions to ONS publication. The GAoE was first awarded in 2012 following a proposal by Alan Wellbelove, and he has very kindly agreed to chair the 2013 award panel. Further information about the GAoE can be located on the Guild website, [www.one-name.org/members/excellence.html](http://www.one-name.org/members/excellence.html). Alan would be delighted to receive your entries to [gaoe-panel@one-name.org](mailto:gaoe-panel@one-name.org) by Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013.

Looking to the future, the **Annual General Meeting and Conference** will be held in Cardiff from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2013, with the AGM on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 9am. Bookings are going extremely well and arrangements are being made for some activities on Friday for those arriving early and wishing to see some local sites in Cardiff. If you wish to book extra nights or if you have any specific questions, requests etc. please get in touch with the conference team on [conference@one-name.org](mailto:conference@one-name.org) so that we can make sure your conference is as enjoyable as possible.

Each year, the Committee is disbanded at the AGM and all Guild members wishing to stand for the **2013 Committee** must complete a nomination form, enclosed with this journal. This is also true for all Guild postholders, project managers and representatives. The new **Situations Vacant** page on the Guild website, available from the Self Service tab, lists all posts which are currently available though of course, some roles will fall vacant when volunteers step down at the end of the year. Please consider whether you have some time to support our organisation. There are so many volunteer roles within the Guild; transcribing (from the comfort of your own home), tackling a marriage challenge, representing the Guild locally, managing Guild publicity, joining the Committee and so much more. All job descriptions are available in the Members Room of the Guild website and I would be delighted to discuss particular posts with interested individuals. Keeping it simple, the deadline for nomination and postholder forms is Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013, to Jan Cooper, whose address is on the printed forms.

February sees the biggest genealogical event in the calendar - **Who Do You Think You Are? Live** - from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2013. The workshop timetable features many Guild members from around the world, speaking on diverse topics from migration and surnames from the Caribbean to how to trace your Yorkshire or West Country Ancestors in England. It will certainly be an event not to be missed and Stuart Pask, Stand Manager, has some superlative ideas to set us apart from the other stands and really bring in the crowds to promote the Guild. If you can spare some time to support the Guild stand at WDYTUA, Stuart would be delighted to hear from you on [stand-manager@one-name.org](mailto:stand-manager@one-name.org).

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the New Year - I hope to renew acquaintances with many of you in 2013 and meet those of you with whom my path has yet to cross. ■

## Editor's Comment:

All main articles in the journals from Volume 11 Issue 2 (April –June 2012) to Issue 5 (January–March 2013), will be automatically nominated for The Guild Award of Excellence (GAoE). However, this excludes those articles written by students of Pharos' Advanced One-Name Studies Course in 2011, who were awarded Distinction and have already received the GAoE in April 2012.

If you would like to ensure that you are included in the nominations for GAoE in 2013/4, write an article for the JOONS. Email me at [editor@one-name.org](mailto:editor@one-name.org), or write to me at my address available on page 2.



# To BB or not to BB? — That is the Question!

by Anne Shankland (Guild Webmaster, Member 1554)

The introduction of the new website Bulletin-Board last October was, regrettably, not universally welcomed with delight by the members; in fact it provoked what must be one of the longest threads ever seen on the mailing-list Forum! There was some irony in this, since one of the principal concerns being voiced was that the Bulletin-Board (BB) would result in the demise of the much loved Forum. That clearly isn't going to happen - as the lively discussion on the Forum showed!

Many of the posts to the Forum were about the proliferation of communication channels used by the Guild. Colin Stevenson opened this subject:

*I am concerned at the number of communication channels being used by the Guild as it is now easier to miss something of interest. I am not inclined to use social media such as Facebook and Twitter, which may be my loss.*

and Colin was also concerned at the possible threat to the continuation of the mailing-list Forum (since the Forum had, coincidentally, experienced one of its occasional lulls during September):

*It does appear that as expected the volume of messages on the Forum has decreased. It seems to me that sooner or later a choice needs to be made between the BB and the Forum.*

Gordon Lickfold echoed this concern:

*I like this forum very much, but if the traffic on it falls considerably so I feel forced to have to learn how to follow the BB as well, I shall not be happy. Do we have to have the BB as well as the forum?*

and Peter Armstrong felt the same way:

*I have not looked at the BB ... I have noticed how quiet it has become on here [the Forum] of late. I really would like to continue with the mailing list but it does seem that generally all the Rootsweb lists have become very quiet ... Looks like Wendy may be out of a job soon!*

Peter will be reassured to know that Wendy's job is quite safe! In fact, Wendy was one of the initial evaluators of the Bulletin-Board when it was first set up, before it was decided whether to go ahead and make it available to the membership, and clearly she understood - even if others did not - that the Bulletin-Board and the Forum were companions, not competitors.

While the volume of messages to the Forum disproved any ideas that the Forum should be discontinued, there was considerable concern about the multiple communication channels available to and used by the Guild members.

Paul Prescott echoed earlier posts about this:

*For some time we have had many (but not all) messages duplicated on the Forum and the Guild Facebook page, and now the Bulletin Board is competing with these two.*

Many people were worried about having to spend more time checking the Bulletin-Board, such as John Hill:

*Logging into the Guild BB daily and looking to see what is new will involve too much time for me to find it worthwhile, unless to follow up something I have originated.*

and Paul Featherstone:

*I would agree with these sentiments, I could waste valuable time looking on Facebook, Mailing list and BB.*

and also John Bradburn:

*I thought that it was a very bad idea when I heard that the Guild was introducing a second, parallel, method of communication without even suggesting any good reason for this. For me the Guild Forum has been by far the best part of the Guild's offering and even to follow only the Forum takes a certain amount of time each day and a lot of time to catch up when I have been away. To cause the members to have to view another communication medium every day so as not to miss any interesting information (and there is certainly much of interest on the Forum) is, in my view, a very retrograde step. Some people may have the spare time and the inclination to do this but I do not. Please, Guild Committee, sort this out and give us back one medium of communication!*

And this was also expressed in Colin Stevenson's initial post:

*... I think the Guild needs a communication strategy.*

However, not all the comments in this thread on the Forum were critical or antagonistic towards the new Bulletin-Board. Many members came in with some very positive comments, such as Fiona Tipple's:

*I know it's early days, but at the moment my preference is shading towards the BB, as it seems to be more structured, and so easier to find things. I tend to get lost in the Forum Archive when I'm looking for something that I should have kept a note of.*

And Kathleen Cooper felt much the same way:

*This is why some of us like the BB. We can check those sections specifically (you can also subscribe to them so you are alerted to new topics) - we can share screen shots and images to give more detail on questions - and carry on as long as the conversation lasts without worrying about others being inundated with messages that are of no interest to them.*



Tessa Keough was in agreement:

*The Bulletin Board was introduced to provide an alternative or addition to the Forum. Many members would like topics clearly delineated, would like to post screenshots, would like to share documents, and would like to post without worrying about fonts, attachments, or snipping, or plain text vs rich text - NONE of which is available on the Forum.*

*... The Guild Forum AND the Guild Bulletin Board [are] both excellent sources for asking questions, discussing technology, websites, research, what have you! ... Just as I browse the Forum and sometimes search it to find answers, I can browse the Bulletin Board or simply click on the link under my name and check posts that are new since my last visit. For me the Bulletin Board simply works - but TO EACH HIS/HER OWN.*

*... Just like a buffet - no one is forcing you to eat everything - choose the things you enjoy, try something new and then make some choices. It's all good.*

while Debbie Kennett also wrote:

*The Bulletin Board also provides a lot of functionality which is not available from the Rootsweb system including the ability to format your messages (no worries about broken URLs or converting to plain text!) and the ability to include attachments and post pictures. Because the board is hosted on the Guild's own website we are also not restricted by the Rootsweb regulations which, for example, disallow commercial postings and have also stopped us in the past from discussing potential Rootsweb competitors such as Rootschat and GenealogyWise. ... It is entirely up to each member as to which system they choose to use. I see the Bulletin Board and the Forum as being complementary and will continue to use both.*

This was cheering, since the Bulletin-Board was in fact created in response to a suggestion originally made at the end of last year by Jeanie Atkins on the website Suggestion Board, putting forward a plea for "a proper forum". The move to a new ISP early in the year made such things much more feasible, and so the Bulletin-Board was set up and given a trial period of a couple of months before receiving Committee assent and being opened up to the membership at the beginning of October.

I take the point that the Bulletin-Board does add to the number of communication channels available to the membership. But this does not mean that the Guild Committee does not have a communication strategy - it does. Neither the Forum nor the Bulletin-Board - nor, for that matter, Facebook or Twitter or GenealogyWise or Google+ - are intended as official communication channels; they are means by which the members can interact with one another. Unlike geographically oriented Family History Societies, where most of the members are locally-based, Guild members are spread across the globe and cannot easily meet each other face-to-face, so electronic means of communication are vital if individual members are to feel genuinely part of the organisation. And, may I add, it is not necessary to keep up with all the discussions going on in each medium - any more than it is necessary to take part in every one of the face-to-face discussions that go on at Seminars, Conferences, or regional meetings.

As Vivienne Dunstan put it,

*I'm not sure why there is felt to be a need to follow every means of communication. Yes, you will miss out on some things, but that's not the end of the world. And by choosing the means of communication best suited to you then you have a system you can work with.*

The official communication channels for the Guild are just the same as they have always been:

- The Journal, which goes out to every member
- The Chairman's Newsflash, which goes out to all members who have email and who have not previously opted out
- The website, which is accessible to all members with internet access

You will see from the above that the Journal is the **only** universal means of communication since it goes to every member, whether they have access to other means or not. This, incidentally, is why the Forum discussion of the Bulletin-Board is being summarised here in this Journal article, because only about a third of the membership is even subscribed to the Forum and so - popular though the Forum is - only a minority would ever have seen the discussion.

As for members communicating with the Committee or to individual postholders, the official channel is email or letter - not the Forum, not Facebook, not the Bulletin-Board. Many of the postholders do not have time, with their Guild responsibilities, to monitor all these channels, but all postholders have accepted the obligation to respond to emails or letters within a week of receipt. So if you want to tell a postholder something - don't Facebook it or tweet it or post it to either the Forum or the Bulletin-Board, as the postholder may not see it. Tell them directly by email or letter! Then they have to respond!

Finally — an apology. The Bulletin-Board was launched with an announcement in the Journal, but without much supporting information on the website - for which I admit I was responsible (although I was at the time rather busy, as you can imagine). As John Hill mildly observed,

*A wee handbook to the various facilities and options (preferably in .pdf format so I can download it) might help us to get used to the new system and perhaps learn to love it!*



And Carol Gilbert also pointed out,

*The Bulletin Board is not likely to become popular unless it is more obvious on the guild website! Not having received Joons for some reason I was unaware of its existence until I saw this thread, so went to the members room to look for a link. There isn't one!! Even a search for Bulletin Board produced no valid results. I had to download the e-version of Joons and scroll through one page at a time to find the reference and links as it doesn't feature in the index there either. It must be the most secret Bulletin Board in the world!!*

This point was well and justly made and I hang my head in shame! But you will note that it has since swiftly been addressed and there are links in the "News" section of the Members Room home page to both the Bulletin-Board itself and to the User Guide.

As for the Bulletin-Board's popularity, *pace* Carol Gilbert - there is a saying that there is no such thing as bad publicity. In this case it was certainly true. While the members were criticising the new facility on the mailing list Forum, requests to join the Bulletin-Board skyrocketed from the initial up to half-a-dozen a day to a peak of 31 in a single day! The Bulletin-Board has, at the time of writing, been open to the membership for only just over a month, and has already 257 members. I am hopeful that this success will continue and that you, the members, will find it a useful and beneficial new facility. ■

Tessa Keough has provided two excellent videos on how to use the Bulletin-Board. These are available at [www.one-name.org/members/TwentyWithTessa.html](http://www.one-name.org/members/TwentyWithTessa.html)



## Marriage Challenge Update

### Marriage Challenge is for all Members

By **Peter Copsey (Member 1522)**

**M**arriage Challenge is a project designed to help all Guild members. The only exception is when a member has already acquired full details of every marriage for their Name registered in England and Wales between 1837 and 1911, either having found the marriages in the deposited registers or having purchased the certificates; I doubt that there are many members who fall into this category. Marriage Challenge is of particular importance to those members who cannot get to the relevant Record Offices in England or Wales where their marriages will be found - especially those members living outside UK.

Please do not be discouraged from asking for your marriages to be found because you cannot offer anything in exchange. Marriage Challenge does not work that way. Our volunteers who undertake Challenges get sufficient satisfaction from the task itself and for the thanks they get when they send out the valued marriage information. I hope all recipients do thank the Challengers who may have spent many days, many months even, searching through registers for the marriages on their search list.

For those with very big studies, do not be put off from sending in requests. A Challenger may decide (it is their

choice totally) whether to limit the number of requests from one Guild member and I can well understand their deciding to do so. But if you don't ask, you don't get.

The Marriage Challenges beginning in the coming months are listed below. All members are encouraged to send their requests to the Challengers by email, hopefully using the standard "requests.xls" spreadsheet on the Marriage Challenge web-page. However some Challengers may accept requests in any form. Send the listing extracted from the GRO Marriage index (FreeBMD will give almost all of them) for the named Registration District between the years given (Year, Quarter, Surname, First names, Full GRO reference). Challengers will search for and often find your marriages in the deposited Church registers and then send you the full particulars.

Being a Challenger 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 Coordinator, on [marriage-challenge@one-name.org](mailto:marriage-challenge@one-name.org) ■

Registration District and Period	Deadline	Challenger	Challenger's email
Farnham - Third Stage 1891 - 1911	31 January 2013	Howard Benbrook	benbrook@one-name.org
Tynemouth - Third Stage 1871 - 1911	31 January 2013	Phil Thirkell	thirkell@one-name.org
Mitford 1837 - 1911	28 February 2013	Bernie Guymer	guymer@one-name.org
Chelmsford Repeat 1837 - 1911	16 March 2013	Peter Copsey	copsey@one-name.org
Alston 1837 - 1911	31 May 2013	Sue Horsman	horsman@one-name.org



# DNA and Your One-Name Study

## Growing Your DNA Project

by **Susan Meates (DNA Advisor, Member 3710)**

### Starting with Your Tree

Usually, the first two participants are distant males with your registered surname, representing your tree. Ideally, if possible, you would fund these two test kits. When this is not possible, consider encouraging several persons in your tree to contribute to fund the testing. Another option is to begin with one male in your tree, and then either save over time or raise donations to fund the other male.

Asking the first person to participate is the hardest step of the DNA Project. It is easier if it is someone you know, and that you are able to offer them a paid test kit. A sponsored test kit also enables you to select the ideal person to test, as compared to finding any male who will pay.

After you ask the first person, it becomes easier. As with anything new, the first step is the most difficult. Select the method of contact that you are most comfortable with, whether it be a letter, email, or the telephone.

Once you have tested your tree, you will be gaining experience with recruiting and DNA results, and be ready to move on to growing your project.

### The Formula for Recruiting Success: Develop rapport, build trust, educate, and sell discovery

Once you have a suspect or prospect, the former being someone you need to test and the latter being someone interested in testing, there are 4 steps to turn the suspect/prospect into a participant.



DNA Kit consisting of 2 cheek scrapers, and specimen tubes

Developing rapport with the prospect is important, so they feel comfortable telling you their concerns. Having concerns are not a problem, since we will cover in the future how to overcome these concerns. Not knowing they have a concern or they tell you an erroneous concern as a smokescreen to hide their real concern is a problem - since they will not participate in this situation.

Building trust is also key. The prospect needs to trust you to turn into a participant. Your actions and communications will be evaluated, consciously or subconsciously, and a trust conclusion will be formed. What is helpful in this area is to have a set of rules you follow for your project. Documenting these rules for yourself maybe a useful step. There is no need to share this document with prospects.

Educating the participant is the next step; though keep the scientific information to a minimum. Tell them how DNA testing for genealogy works. Keep the presentation short and non-technical. For the few interested in more detail, you can elaborate. Keep it non-threatening, exciting, fun, and interesting.

You are selling discovery - what the participant will discover as a result of taking a harmless genealogy DNA test. They will discover to whom they are related. This information will then guide the genealogy research. Knowing which family trees are related will provide information that is critical for investigating the origin of the surname. The participant will also discover information about their distant ancestry and origin. For the participant and the project, this is a tremendous opportunity to make discoveries not possible from the paper records alone.

It may be helpful to practice your presentation, whether verbal or written, on your friends, and get feedback, before approaching a prospect.

### Call to Action

An ideal closing is making the participant feel important. They will be part of an important project utilizing the latest scientific discoveries to assist with the genealogy research for their family tree. In addition, they will be contributing to the knowledge about the surname, and leaving a legacy. Participating includes a lifetime subscription, so they will continue to receive match emails and make discoveries in the future.

The final step is to ask them to participate. Depending on the situation, they will either place an order or you provide them with a paid test kit. ■



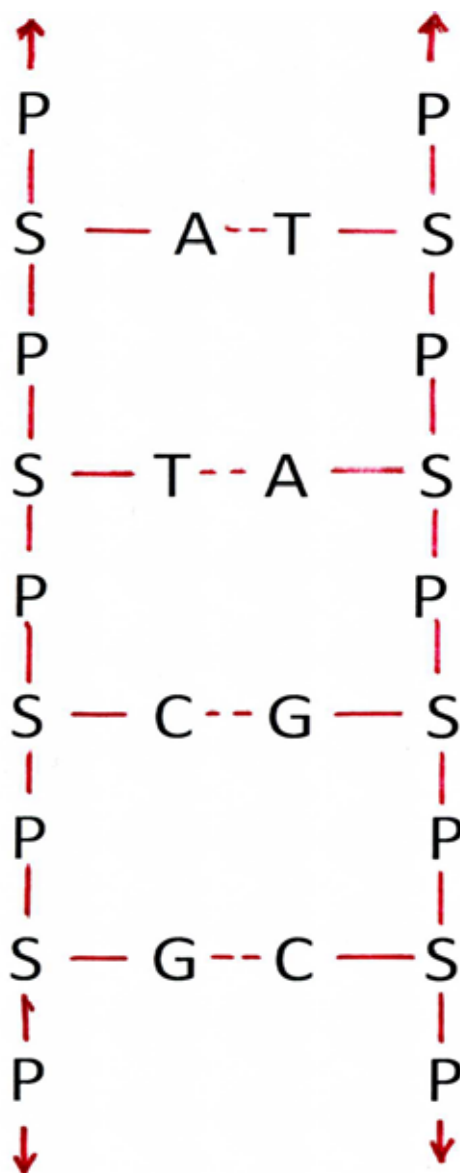


# A Diamond Jubilee for DNA

by Derek Palgrave (President, Member 103)

Just sixty years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1953, Francis Crick and James Watson published in the scientific journal, *Nature*, details of the structure of *deoxyribonucleic acid* now known to all as DNA. This was the culmination of the very long process of research which began in 1869 when Friedrich Miescher discovered a substance that he called *nuclein*, isolated from the nuclei of white blood cells. He later generated a much purer sample from salmon sperm. His pupil, Richard Altman, a histologist who was studying the occurrence of this substance in cell protoplasm, noted its acidic reaction so, in 1899, he referred to it as *nucleic acid*.

The fact that *nucleic acid* was normally found in chromosomes led Frederick Griffin to postulate in 1928 that nucleic acid might be the molecule of inheritance. He based his conclusion on some detailed experiments in involving mice and virulent bacteria. A decade or so later Oswald Avery extended Griffin's work to see if there was a unique compound which was responsible for passing on inheritance data. He successfully demonstrated that *deoxyribonucleic acid* [DNA] was the critical molecule.



In 1929 Phoebus Levene at the Rockefeller Institute investigated the chemical components which made up DNA. He identified the presence of *sugar*, *phosphate*, and four bases: *adenine*, *cytosine*, *guanine* and *thymine*. He was able to show that the linked sequence was always *phosphate-sugar-base*, each unit being referred to as a *nucleotide*. He suggested that a DNA molecule incorporated a string of nucleotide units linked via the phosphate groups but he was convinced that the chains were quite short. However in 1934 Caspersson and Hammersten were able to show that DNA was in fact a long chain polymer.

In the 1940s, Erwin Chargaff examined a large number of DNA samples and analysed the ratio of the four bases to each other. He found that adenine and thymine were always present in similar quantities and that the same equivalence applied to guanine and cytosine. This constancy of composition is now referred to *Chargaff's Rule*.

Having characterised the chemical composition of DNA the next step was to devise a model which reflected the spatial positioning of atoms in relation to one another. Its validity could then be verified by X-Ray diffraction techniques. Rosalind Franklin and Maurice Wilkins were able to generate an X-ray diffraction pattern from a DNA sample which suggested that the molecule had helical symmetry, but the precise positioning of the atoms within the structure was not clear.

However in 1953, James Watson and Francis Crick constructed a more sophisticated model involving a double helix framework, somewhat akin to a spiral staircase or twisted ladder, made up of sugar (S) and phosphate (P), with a series of steps or rungs. Each step was a crosslink made up of two bases. In fact, by hydrogen bonding, *thymine* (T) was paired with *adenine* (A) and *guanine* [G] with *cytosine* [C]. The accuracy of their model was confirmed by X-ray diffraction and it is this event that we celebrate.

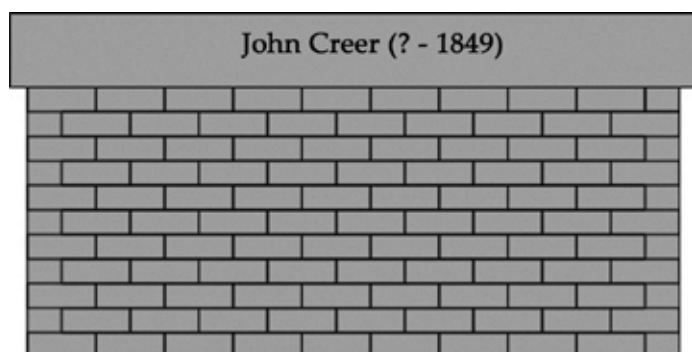
The real significance of this structure has come about because any pair can occupy any step and the precise sequence of steps defines each living being - every individual plant or animal has a unique sequence, but species and groups within species have close similarities. Furthermore families within groups have even closer similarities thereby providing opportunities to identify not only individuals but also their close relations: hence the current interest in DNA profiling for genealogical research. ■



# The Successful Use of Autosomal DNA Testing to Break Through a Brick Wall!

by John A. Creer (Member 4421)

When I first started researching the history of my Creer family line back to the Isle of Man some 12 years or so ago, I very quickly encountered a genealogical brick wall, in the person of my 3xg grandfather, also a John Creer. His marriage in 1813 and the subsequent birth of his children were clearly recorded, but he seemed to evade successfully all later attempts of the census enumerators to record him, so I was never able to find an approximate birth date for him. When I eventually tracked his death down in Liverpool in 1849, it was also clear he had lied about his age to his second wife - so no clues there!



Creer is a family name, unique to the Isle of Man, and as such occurs with only a very low frequency. So the next logical step was for me to try and research all the other Creer family groups that my John Creer might have belonged to, and then, by an easy (so I thought) process of elimination, identify him. Thus was my Creer one-name study born!

## One-Name Study

Five years later I had amassed a database of some 23,000+ records containing some 70 researched family trees, detailing all those Creer families scattered around the UK and those who had emigrated to the new worlds of the USA, Canada and Australia. So far so good, but I still had not identified the parentage of my John Creer.

By then I had become painfully aware that John was the most popular male first name in use since the 1500s within the Creer family! I had a short list of a number of putative parents for my John Creer, but no corroborative evidence to pick one family out as mine!

## Y-DNA Study

So, in desperation, in mid-2005, I became an early-adopter and launched the Creer Y-DNA study to try and see whether this new possible source of evidence could resolve my genealogy problem. I set about enlisting male Creers around the world to join the study, persuading them (thankfully successfully) that this new science was no threat and would indeed help them to understand better their Manx/Creer heritage.

And so it proved. Two years later, the completed Creer Y-DNA study ([www.creer.co.uk](http://www.creer.co.uk)) demonstrated powerfully that this analysis technique could indeed radically enhance the knowledge of our own family history, showing that all Creer men, from the Isle of Man, are all closely related and are all descended from one man who lived on the Island in the period 1200-1400.

The Y-DNA analysis also identified several new close cousins to me, hence providing hard evidence of my John Creer's previously unsuspected second marriage. I was able to identify the individual Y-DNA profiles of most of the major Creer family groups, and thus could eliminate a number of putative parents of my John Creer from my short list. The short list had become shorter, but there were still too many candidates on it!

## Autosomal DNA Testing

In 2010 a new type of DNA test became available to the general public, being offered as a potential new source of evidence for genealogists. This was the Autosomal DNA test (marketed as "Family Finder" by FTDNA and "Relative Finder" by another American company 23andMe).

Briefly, this product tests over 700,000 genetic markers spread across the autosomal chromosomes and compares them with the same data for other individuals within their database. Saliva or cheek swab samples are required in the same way as for the Y-DNA tests. Where identical fragments of DNA, of a significant size, are found in identical locations on the same chromosome, when comparing two people, then it can be deduced that these two persons are genetically related.

The extent of the similarity in terms of the size and location of any identical fragments can be used to deduce the closeness of that relationship, with an acceptable level of probability. This test can be used by both men and women, and is not constrained to only the male line like Y-DNA testing. The conventional wisdom is that one can generally be able to identify accurately a relationship as far away as a fifth cousin, and sometimes further. So in practice it embraces a time frame over the last 2-300 years or so, well within the reach of genealogical validation.

## My Experience

In 2010 I was tested with the both the Family Finder and Relative Finder products, but without any obvious new connections being revealed.

The 23andMe Relative Finder database is much larger than that of the FTDNA Family Finder (FF), but the usefulness of the former is very much blunted by one's matches being largely anonymous and very few of these matches ever reply

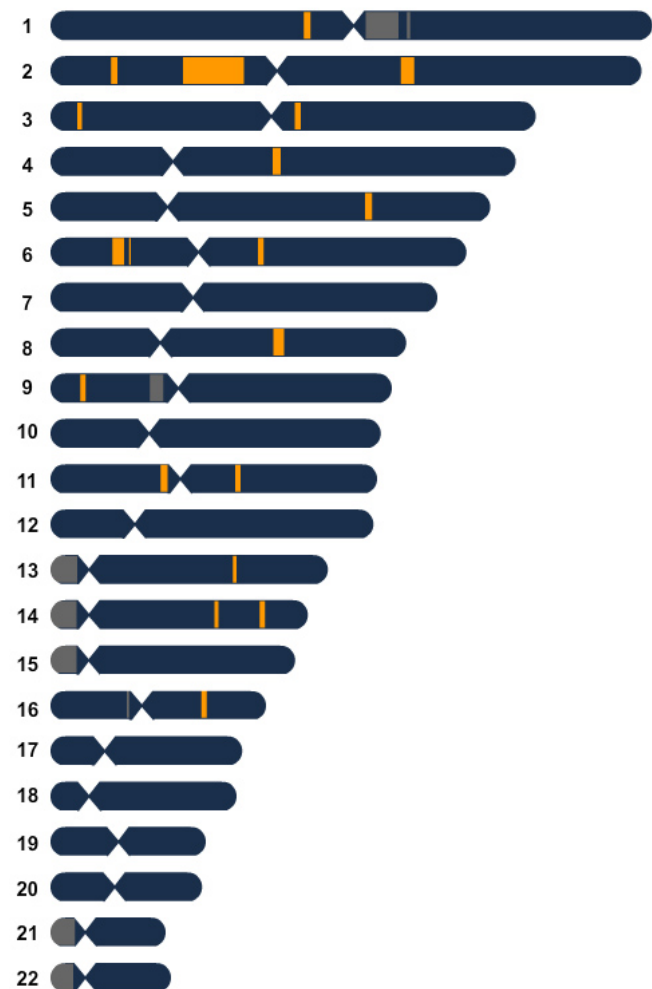
to an invitation to share information. The majority of people who take the 23andMe test are mainly interested in the medical implications of their testing. The FTDNA FF test is aimed at people with a genealogy interest however and each match is identifiable and shows an email address.

Personally I was sceptical about the utility of these types of test at first, as I was certainly getting large numbers of distant matches without seeing any real scope to track down where the possible genealogy connection might be. However, all that has changed!

Late in 2011, within a month of each other, I received notification of my two most meaningful matches yet on Family Finder. The stronger was with a lady from Texas. The size and scope of the overlap in our shared DNA was such that the standard FTDNA calculation predicted a relationship of 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin but in the range 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> cousin.

Gratifyingly, her genealogy suggested that her 4xg grandmother was named Creer and lived on the Isle of Man, and this grandmother promised to be the daughter of one of the couples on my list of putative parents of my John Creer and therefore must be the sister of my 3xg grandfather.

If that connection is true, then on examination of our two possible trees, the Texan lady and I cannot be closer than 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> cousins, although the strength of the FF match would indicate nearer than that, even allowing for some statistical variation in the calculation.



Screen dump from the browser showing our matches by individual chromosome

On closer examination, it turns out that we both have a set of great grandparents in the line to our possible common ancestors, and who were each first cousins to each other. In a small and close island community first cousin marriages were not uncommon.

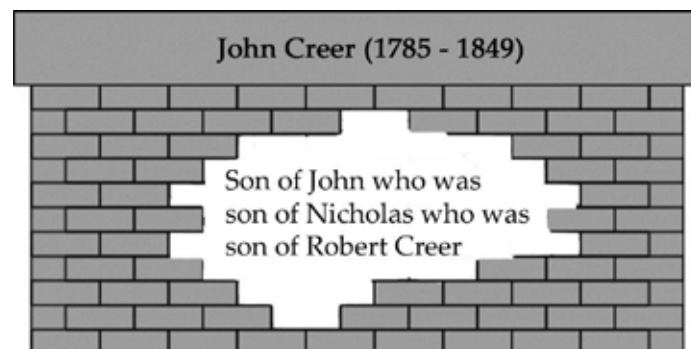
These first cousin marriages in our two separate direct lines have quadrupled the amount of our shared DNA above and beyond what would typically be expected, and so a 5<sup>th</sup> cousin would in fact show the same amount of shared DNA as a normal 4<sup>th</sup> cousin. And this effect is of course what we have seen here very clearly.

The quality of this autosomal DNA match itself, backed by the genealogy, provides strong and new evidence of our relationship not previously available. Furthermore, the amplification of the match in the way seen provides additional proof of this connection, by emphasising the two first cousin marriages in our lines.

Additional corroboration of this approach has also since been provided by the second, but more remote, FF match with another lady of Manx descent. Exhaustive evaluation of her family tree indicates only one possible family in common with me, and the strength of the autosomal match correlates well with the genealogy evidence, indicating we are eighth cousins.

## Conclusion

So I can now report that the brick wall in my paternal line around 1800, has now, after 12 years of toil, been broken through in a most satisfying way (adding a further 100 years of history) by the use of this new autosomal DNA test, providing evidence available by no other means.



The cost of such a test is not trivial (Family Finder \$289) and some people have even carried out tests on various of their immediate family members, in order to be able to map out and identify more clearly which fragments of overlapping autosomal DNA represent which ancestral family group.

I am not advocating such an extravagant course of action, but from my experience, I would suggest that, should you have an important brick wall somewhere back in your tree (within the last 2-300 years), then the autosomal DNA test, with perseverance, really does have the potential to provide new evidence above and beyond the traditional paper trails.

Such action may be a long shot, but if it works then the payoff is high. The size of these two autosomal databases will continue to increase further in the future, growing the chances for everyone that they might find meaningful matches within them. New potential relatives are signing up every day and it only takes one good match to break down your wall! ■





# WANMER – Conducting a Small One-Name Study

by [Lisa Watson, Australia \(Member 5476\)](#)

I suspect that the origins of my one-name study are similar to that of many other one-name researchers. That is, the pursuit of my one-name study arose out of an interest in one of the surnames in my own family tree. Having two lines of SMITHs in my tree as well as a number of other fairly common surnames, the rarity of the WANMER name intrigued me.

Wanting to know more about the origins of this surname, and having attended a seminar on one-name studies, I decided to embark upon my study, formally registering it with the Guild of One-Name Studies in 2010 and I identified three primary objectives for the study.

1. Identify the origins of the surname - my initial reason for commencing the study.
2. Identify most, or all, individuals who have ever held the surname and to reconstruct these individuals into family lines.
3. Learn more about the strong connection the name appeared to have with south-east England.

## Data Collection

Having decided to pursue this study my first step was data collection. Being resident in Australia but studying a name that is largely UK and US based, data collection has been almost solely via Internet based resources. Starting with Ancestry and FamilySearch I have collected all vital records (births, deaths/burials and marriages), census records and all other records available on these sites. I have done the same for other major databases including FreeBMD, FindMyPast (UK and Australia) and The Genealogist. I have also extended the search to other websites including historical newspaper sites, national and local archives and vital records sites outside of the UK. Some of these have been particularly important for reconstructing family lines such as US newspaper obituaries which provide a wealth of family information.

In undertaking data collection I've encountered a number of issues, not all of which are necessarily specific to one-name studies.

## Duplicating Searches and Results

Even with a small study it can become difficult keeping track of exactly what research has been undertaken. It's also necessary to revisit sites periodically to check for any new references as new records are added. As a result I have developed a research log spreadsheet where I record four main pieces of data - the record or dataset searched, the location of that data (such as the website accessed), how many records were extracted, and the date it was last searched. This allows me to know what records have been searched and in which locations.

Similarly, a significant amount of data is available on multiple sites. For example, a search of Ancestry, FreeBMD and FamilySearch will produce results that originate from the same or similar primary sources. Given the scope of my study is only small, I decided early on that I would record every event found, even if I had already recorded the same event from another website. As a result, although my database contains 1950 records at the present time, about 30-40 per cent of these are duplicates.

## Recording the Data

I've struggled with the best way to store the collected data. Initially, as the study was so small, I decided to use Excel worksheets. I became dissatisfied with this method as it was difficult to record sources and names and the more data I collected the more difficult it became to consolidate the data. Subsequently I designed a simple Access database and then later redesigned the database, however neither version met my needs, partly due to a lack of time and skill on my part in developing the database.

Finally, I drafted out a process which sent me back to using Excel as the primary method of recording my data and now have a better handle on my data and am more organised than at any time since I started my one-name study. Essentially, I have two sets of data. The first are individual workbooks which contain certain types of data. For example, I have a workbook that just contains birth, baptism and christening records found in United Kingdom records. Another workbook contains only deaths and burials, another one all the censuses and so on. In these workbooks I include as much information from the records as possible including full details of the record and its source.

As mentioned above, each time I add data to a workbook, the name of the record set, its source and the date are added or updated in a separate research log workbook. These workbooks become the master files for my research and are not used for any purpose other than to hold the data and the records are not modified in any way once added to the workbooks. To allow me to interrogate the data in a meaningful manner and without risk of corrupting my research, the basic data from each recorded event is copied to a separate workbook with the source details included so it can be easily referenced back in the master workbooks. This separate workbook is used for filtering, sorting, identifying family groups and allows me to extract meaningful data about my study as will be seen further below. I have also started to map my family groups in Legacy Family Tree to provide a way of easily viewing relationships and to utilise the charting tools in the software.

## Name Variants / Deviants

Having researched the WANMER name in my own family I had identified that the name had a clear variant of WANMORE with individuals often listed under both spellings over time. Despite the rarity of the name, deviants became an unexpected problem, for example when comparing two separate UK censuses, only 10 years apart, and finding that individuals who should be on both are only listed on one. Of course, there could be reasons for people disappearing between censuses - death and emigration for example - but these couldn't account for all of the missing individuals. It's only when I broadened the search criteria that I discovered the wide number of deviants created by transcription errors. For example, Jonathan WANMER first appears in the 1861 England Census as a 32 year old married man living in Reigate, Surrey with his wife and two children. He can be found under the WANMER name in subsequent censuses except for 1891 when the index lists him under the surname WANNER. Many of the original documents I've viewed do show the correct name and most of the errors come through in the transcription of the records. In some instances, relying only on the two main variants, it would be possible to miss out on entire family groups over a period of time.

To date I have located WANMER individuals listed under at least 20 different spellings including WAENNER, WAINNER, WAMNER, WANMAR, WANME, WANMERS, WANNER, WANNIER, WANMOR, WARMER, WASSMER, WENMAR, WENMOR, WENMORE, WHANMAR, WHANMER, WINMAR, WOMMER, WONMER. Data collection becomes a little more complicated when you have to factor all of these into the search. Not only that but it's difficult to find people when they could be listed under a deviant that I haven't even discovered yet. Wild card searches and first name searches can help but do not always work. While a large one-name study might not be able to go to these lengths to find individuals, in a study as small as mine it is a feasible exercise.

## Family Reconstruction

With such a small study I can attempt family reconstruction in a way that most medium and large scale one-name studies cannot attempt. At the present time, the WANMER name is found in two main locations - the UK and the USA - with a small number of individuals in Australia. The Australian line, from which I am descended, is relatively simple to reconstruct. Two brothers - James and Solomon - emigrated from Kent in England in the mid 1800s. James arrived circa 1853 after having served with the British military in India. He brought with him his Indian born wife and two daughters. James' first wife died in 1859 and he remarried but of the seven children from his two marriages (three boys and four girls), only the daughters survived to adulthood thereby ending this branch of the WANMER line.

James' brother Solomon arrived in Australia in April 1859 at the age of 18. He married and had five children, only one of which was a son, also called Solomon, who also went on to have five children, including two sons who are the source of all living Australian WANMERs estimated at less than a dozen individuals.

In the USA the WANMERs are more numerous but, so far in my research, it appears that all can be traced back to a single individual - Uriah WANMER - who emigrated with his family to the USA around 1838. Uriah lived in New York state and from

his two marriages is believed to have had up to 17 children, many of whom I have been able to document through to the 20th century. Although still concentrated in New York and the north-east of the USA, the children and their descendants have migrated across the country with individuals as far west as California and south to Florida.

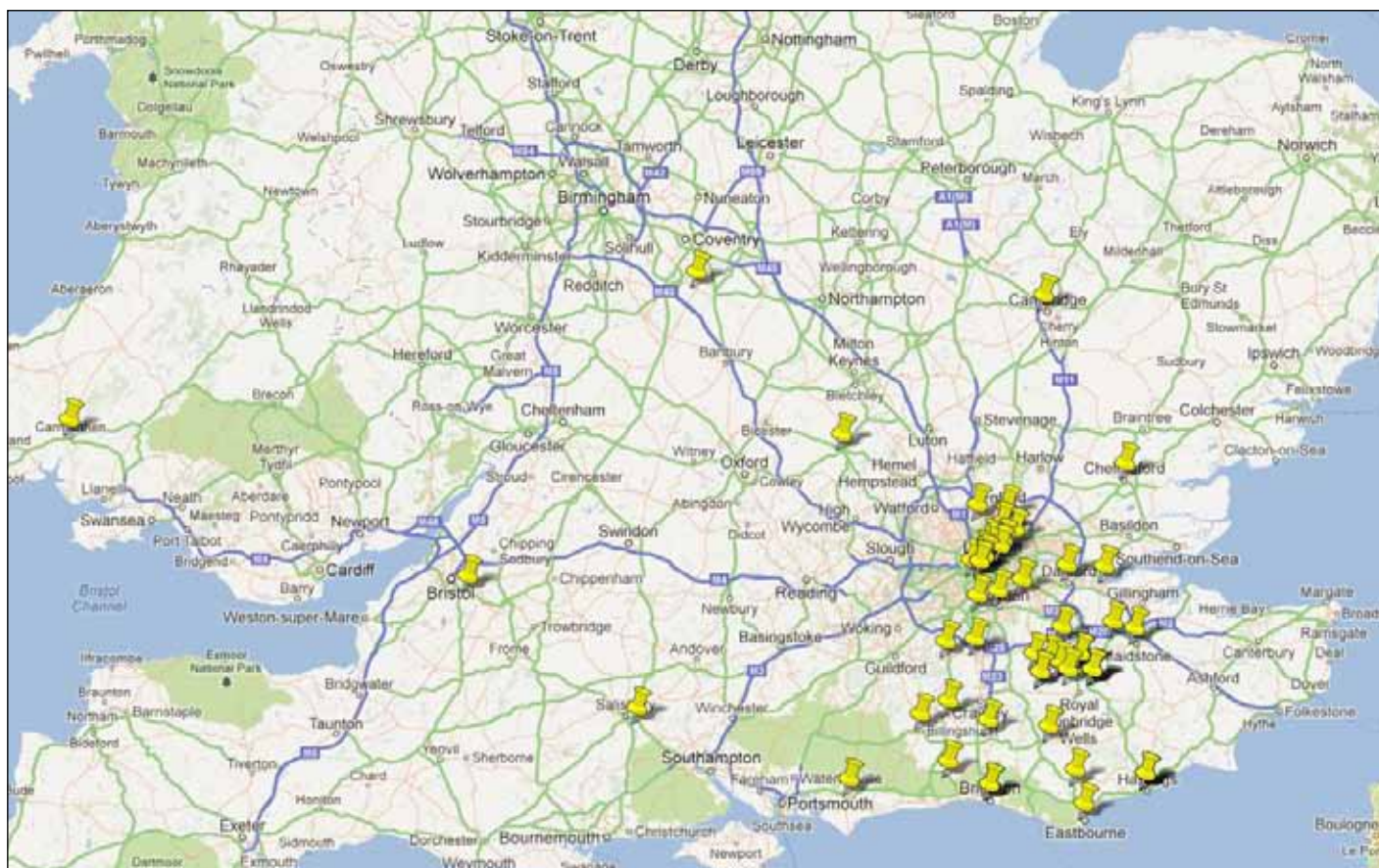
In England where the US and Australian branches originated, I have been able to reconstruct a number of family groups from the collected data. The lack of information in some indexes, such as the GRO birth, death and marriage indexes, makes it difficult to link generations unless other records can be found. With the help of censuses and parish records I have been able to make steady progress in this area. I have also reconstructed a number of family groups from the 1500s onwards but again, gaps in the records have made it difficult to produce a continuous link to the present. If I continue to collect any data, it will be primarily in an attempt to fill in the gaps in these family groupings.

## Distribution and Migration

One of my stated objectives in undertaking this one-name study was to look at the links between the WANMER surname and the county of Kent where it appeared to be almost exclusively located within England. After collecting data which covers from the 1400s until the present day, I have been able to confirm that, in England, the surname has always been concentrated in the county of Kent, in an area around modern day Tunbridge, with some overlap into Surrey, Sussex and London. Migration has occurred over time, to the USA and Australia as previously mentioned, but within England the concentration of the name in south-eastern England has remained.

Within my database, there are 304 recorded birth events, of which 185 are for unique individuals. Of these, 154 are for individuals born in England and the table below shows the breakdown by county.

County	No. of Births (1500-present)
Buckinghamshire	1
Cambridgeshire	3
Essex	1
Gloucestershire	1
London, Greater London & Middlesex	29
Kent	83
Lancashire	1
Surrey	8
Sussex	20
Warwickshire	2



All births, baptisms & christenings 1500-present, excluding 1 in Liverpool, Lancashire

In my initial study of the distribution of the WANMER surname I have chosen to map birth events at the town level as well as the English censuses so as to be able to compare events over a longer period of time.

The map was created using Google Earth and shows all births, baptisms and christenings which have been extracted from the records for the period 1500 to the present and mapped to the town in which they occurred. Note that where multiple events are recorded for an individual, only one has been mapped in order not to distort the data. Despite the data covering a period of 600 years, you can see a clear concentration in south-east England across the entire period.

By the 1800s, the family has spread out further, however the concentration remains in the south-east. While a very small one-name study makes this type of mapping relatively easy it also needs to be remembered that small changes distort the picture more than in a large study. This is definitely applicable to the WANMER study where there are so few individuals and where movements are often a single family group.

## Surname Origins

Although one of my main objectives when commencing the one-name study, discovering the origin of the WANMER surname is the objective on which I have made the least progress. The first hurdle has been the lack of any clues as to its origin from any surname dictionary. A review of the surname reference books at my local genealogy society failed to produce any mention of WANMER or WANMORE.

There are a number of references to the name as a location in various records however these date at the same time as individuals resided in those areas and so it is difficult to know which appeared first - the individual or the location.

Of interest are a small number of entries for WANMER found in the US censuses indicating European ancestry with birthplaces in Germany and Hungary. I have also found a 1928 reference to a family with the surname WANMER living in Baden-Wurttemberg, Stuttgart, Germany as well as a reference to a Georg WANMER in the German WW1 Personnel Rosters. However I have not yet been able to sight the original documents for any of these references to confirm that spelling of the surname in the records. Nevertheless, this provides another avenue to explore in my aim to identify the origin of the surname.

## Conclusion

Overall I am satisfied with where my study of the WANMER surname has taken me to date. I currently have a significant amount of data collected and organised in a way that allows me to undertake further analysis and synthesis of the surname and the people who have held that name. While I will continue to collect data as it becomes accessible, I plan to focus more of my attention on the continuing tasks of family reconstruction as well as mapping of all events from my database into Google Earth. This will allow me to dynamically view the changes in distribution over time. Finally, I hope to one day find the information that will provide further indications as to the surname's origins even if I never find a definitive answer. ■

This is an abridged version of an essay written by Lisa for the Pharos Course – Advanced One-Name Studies, for which she was awarded a High Merit. The full unabridged 17 page version, including maps, Family Groups, and detailed source citations is available at <http://goo.gl/ZuQfG>.







# Tenth Biennial Sisson/Sissons One-Name Study Meeting in Albany, New York, June 21-23, 2012

by Carol Sisson Regehr, Kansas, USA (Member 5088)

A meeting for researchers on the surnames Sisson and Sissons took place June 21-23, 2012, in Albany, New York. This group has gathered every other year since 1994, each time in a different city, to share research and tour local areas of interest to surnames Sisson and Sissons.

Previously, the gathering has taken place in Wisconsin; Westport, Massachusetts; Cincinnati, Ohio; Kansas City, Missouri; Richmond, Virginia; Rochester, New York; Springfield, Illinois; and Denver, Colorado. Group members keep in touch via email between gatherings. This gathering was dedicated to the memory of David Arne Sisson of Rochester, New York, a cousin and fellow researcher of many years, who passed away on December 20, 2011.

Those attending this gathering represented both spellings; three countries (the US, UK, and Canada); at least three different DNA lines; some who have been to all 10 gatherings; some for whom this was their first; and one individual who has ancestral lines for two different unrelated Sissons DNA lines.

Group members toured historical sites in central New York state, including many small cemeteries with Sisson burials. On Saturday, the main group meeting featured presentations

by two groups who had made research trips to Yorkshire, England, since the last gathering; sharing of research on family lines; sharing of anecdotes and pictures; and an updated report on the group's DNA project, which was featured in the Journal of One-Name Studies in Vol. 10, Issue 10, April-June 2011, p. 9. We are beginning to explore ways that autosomal testing may



David Arne Sisson who died December 20 2011

Saturday night's dinner featured a presentation on the westward migration of the Sisson surname in the US as analyzed in early US censuses, by professional genealogist Marian Pierre-Louis, who herself has Sisson ancestry.

The next gathering is being planned for Providence, Rhode Island, in mid-June 2014. Please contact Carol Regehr at [sisson@one-name.org](mailto:sisson@one-name.org) if you would like to be updated on arrangements. ■



Group picture:

**Back row, standing, left to right:** David Martin, Edwin Sisson, Albert Sisson, Susan Ashley Blake, Sharon Sisson Miller, Jim W. Sisson, David Sisson, Wendell Sisson, Ed Sisson, Malcolm Sissons, Darrel Sissons, Lowell Regehr, Carol Sisson Regehr, Duane Sisson

**Center, seated, left to right:** Breta Sisson, Ilah Sisson Walser, Joan Sisson, Doris Sisson, Jim A. Sisson, John D. Sisson, Irma Sisson, Fran Sisson

**Front, kneeling, left to right:** Larry Sisson, Jay Sisson, Art Sisson, Jeannine Sisson, Ginny Sisson Allen, Joe Sisson, Lisa Saunders, Connie Sisson, Rocky Sisson, Jerry Sisson.



# Plungar Memorial Service

## 22 September 2012

by **Bob Cumberbatch**  
Education Liaison Officer (Member 4039)

A very moving dedication service to the crew of a Lancaster bomber ED 549 which crashed near the village of Plungar, in the Vale of Belvoir. The plane, piloted by Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Flight Sergeant Russell Avey (21), came down about a quarter-of-a-mile from Plungar on the morning of 5 March, 1943.

Former air raid warden Dennis Kirk (92), who lives in the village, was on duty that night when he heard the sound of the approaching aircraft before, as he described, 'all of a sudden it just went down.' Mr Kirk and his group rushed towards the scene to help and found one dazed survivor on the railway track. Only one of the seven crew members on board survived - Air Gunner Sergeant DS Davies, a British serviceman. Of the other crew members three were British, two were Canadian and the other a Barbadian. A granite memorial in memory of the crew, with a plaque inscribed with their names, was dedicated during the service at St Helen's Church in Plungar.

Nine members of pilot Mr Avey's family, from Canada, were among relatives of the servicemen who attended the memorial service conducted by The Venerable Air Vice-Marshal Robin Turner CB DL RAF (Retd). Pilot Russell Avey's nephew, professional opera singer John Avey, sang a song which he had composed especially for the service. Other relatives present included Nancy Collins née Cumberbatch, the 86-year-old

sister of Barbadian Sergeant Grey Cumberbatch (21), Bomb Aimer, who came with three other family members, and Tara Henton the great niece of Sergeant Rene Landry, Rear Gunner, RCAF, who had travelled from London but was originally born in Canada. The packed church congregation also included villagers, representatives from the RCAF, Barbadian High Commission and former Bomber Command air crew.

Villager David Webb organised and helped research events leading up to the memorial service, with Bomber Command historian Tim Chamberlin, from nearby Aslockton. Mr Webb said: "The relatives of the servicemen appreciated the hospitality we extended them and were awe-struck at having a Lancaster and couple of Spitfires fly over. I think there's a really strong sense of gratitude in the village for these young crew members. It was our opportunity to say thank you in a public way."

It was a hot, sunny and wonderful day for the memorial service, a very fitting tribute to the crew of this Lancaster bomber. This was a very friendly, warm and welcoming event but not a sombre affair. It was a very fitting balance of memorial tribute and a celebratory remembrance. The villagers of Plungar and the British Legion deserve a huge thank you for their efforts. It was a very great honour and a privilege to attend the service.

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I arrived to the news that Grey Cumberbatch's sister and family from Barbados had missed their train to Grimsby and could not be reached by mobile phone. They were expected on the next train and could arrive at least 45 mins after the service had started. I headed to meet Dennis Kirk who is in his 90s. He was an eye-witness to the crash, first to the scene and still remembers events vividly. I met the Canadian crew members' families. They were comforted in knowing that the airmen were not killed by a horrendous fire on impact as had been stated in other accounts of the crash. Dennis mentioned that he found three crewmen lying in a field and that they looked so peaceful that they could have been asleep. We discussed the crash and some of us surmised that the plane may well have run out of fuel making a fire highly unlikely given how long the plane had been flying.

The memorial team were disappointed that none of the British crewmen's families could be found despite newspaper articles and radio appeals being placed in the areas local to where the crewmen were buried. The only crewman who survived was just known as Sgt DS Davies; we did not know his first name. I left for the church as I was



Figure 1 - the Memorial





Figure 2- The crew of the Lancaster III 'S' ED.549 - Feb 1943 at RAF Waltham, Grimsby

1. F/S 99993 Gerald Russell Avey Royal Canadian Air Force pilot, buried Long Bennington (St Swithun) Churchyard
2. Sgt 1383404 Grey Doyle Cumberbatch age 21 RAFVR Air Bomber, from Barbados is buried in Long Bennington (St Swithun) Churchyard
3. Sgt 964171 Douglas S Davies was injured
4. Unknown
5. Sgt 1024294 John Robinson age 34 W.Op/Rear Gnr buried Thornton-le Fylde Churchyard
6. F/S R/100254 Rene Rodger Landry age 23 Air Gnr Royal Canadian Air Force, buried Long Bennington (St Swithun) Churchyard
7. Sgt 1176108 Benjamin Thomas Hallett, age 23 RAFVR F/Eng, buried Portsmouth Cemetery
8. Sgt 1535230 Alan Havelock Spence age 32 RAFVR Nav, buried North Sunderland Cemetery

to photograph and video record the event for the families of all of the crewmen and for their relatives. This was a huge responsibility that caused me significant anxiety. I would have one take and only one take! Then news that the Cumberbatches were close to Grimsby, they had caught the next train. David Webb collected them and brought them to the church with a few minutes to spare.

It was a truly beautiful memorial service (video: <http://youtu.be/iLRnR9XdPD8>). The villagers decided not to promote the service broadly but word of it spread and attendance was expected to be very high. The little church was packed. The highlight being John Avey, nephew of the pilot and professional opera singer, who composed and sung a song of tribute to these crewmen. The memorial stone was dedicated to the crewmen and Dennis Kirk rang the bells after the service.

The village hall was the location for afternoon tea laid on by the village and then a flypast by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Quite how this tiny village had managed to arrange a flypast by a Lancaster and two Spitfires remains a closely guarded secret. It was a breath-taking spectacle against the deep blue sky.

Grey Cumberbatch's sister and family visited the graves at St Swithun's, Long Bennington and then they had to return to London. The Canadian families and villagers headed to the local pub for a memorial supper, again paid for by the villagers and the pub landlord. We discussed the amazing

sacrifice that these men had made and remembered them fondly.

The memorial has now been sited on the towpath of the Grantham Canal, the nearest publicly accessible point to the crash site. A very fitting memorial stone for the relatives of this crew to visit in future.

Very recently Barrie Davies the son of Sgt Douglas Davies, the only survivor of the crash, got in touch, thanks to the many reports on the memorial service placed on the internet. He had relocated to Cyprus. He was so deeply moved by what the villagers had done to remember this crew. He is hoping to visit Dennis Kirk, the eye witness in January 2013.

Barrie mentioned that his father never really recovered from the ordeal of the crash. His father was examined by the squadron medical officer who referred him to a civilian psychiatrist. Barrie still finds the diagnosis that was made by the unempathetic psychiatrist deeply and disgustingly offensive - "LMF" - lack of moral fibre. Fortunately for his father, the Squadron Leader intervened immediately and quashed the psychiatrist's diagnosis. As a flying man himself the Squadron Leader knew exactly what his father had been through and understood his predicament. Doug Davies was retrained as a gunnery instructor and spent the rest of the war teaching youngsters the intricacies of aircraft guns.

Just three more crewmen's families to find ...





# The Digital Road Warrior

by Jim Benedict, Calgary, Alberta (Member 4794)

## Late one Evening

It was 2007 when I first visited Elwyn and Esther Benedict at their residence in East Syracuse, in Upper New York State. Elwyn was famous, at least inside the Benedict families, for being the author of *Genealogy of the Benedicts in America, Volume II*, published in 1965.

The first volume<sup>A</sup> was printed in 1870, by Henry Marvin Benedict and this was the definitive book of Benedicts of that time and was the prime reference in the nineteenth century.

Now Elwyn had moved the goalposts forward another 100 years with the second volume<sup>B</sup>. He and Esther had carried out a massive undertaking – to document the lives, dates and locations of thousands of North American families of one common surname. The story of their journey was covered in the previous issue of the Journal<sup>C</sup>.



Elwyn and Esther

The project was now finished. All the submitted family sheets had been transcribed into the book, some 630 pages. Names, dates, locations, family lines were there, and even a given-name and surname index in the back. The proofs went off to the printer, presses rolled and soon 500 sets of double-set volumes arrived at the home, ready to fill all the back orders. Their work was done.

Except that, they just kept coming. Every week, for almost fifty years since 1965, the manila envelopes arrived by postal delivery, stuffed with family trees, stories, photographs, personal thank-you notes, and usually a plea to publish that third instalment of the Benedict family history anthology.

Esther filled a three-drawer filing cabinet, and then a second, then a third. Cardboard boxes were stuffed full, stacked one on another, shoved into the corners of their bedroom. And still the materials continued to arrive.

Something had to be done. Elwyn was starting to fail in health and finally passed away in 2010. Esther was now alone in the house and would eventually have to move out to a smaller residence or senior's home. The cabinets of source documents were in jeopardy of ending up mouldering away in a basement, or more likely buried in a sanitary fill somewhere.

## A Problem to Solve

The obvious solution was to throw technology at the problem until it is fixed. This is the engineering bone in me, having worked with computers and digital imaging for many years. Surely the best way through this paper jungle was to shove it all into a memory stick. And so we started the "Massive Project", the conversion of a half-century of paper documents into digital records.

The other challenge was distance. My home is in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and this is about 3,500 kilometres down the road and another country away from Syracuse. There were no genealogy societies or volunteers in the area with a skill set or equipment that could help. Elwyn and family were also not going to release the original documents for shipment back to my residence. The only option was for me to go to the source, in Syracuse, and start copying.

Just how big would this undertaking become? If stacked, we estimated that the documents would pile up three stories high. Then we had better get started. And we should start with a plan and objective.

## The Plan

The archiving phase started on a visit in 2011. A foot-high stack of envelopes was grabbed off the first pile and hauled over to Esther's kitchen table.

The envelopes were at least in some sort of order; the order in which they arrived by mail, which is useless for a surname cataloguing project. This would require a different approach.

Each manila envelope was identified with a sequential index: BEN-0001, BEN-0002 and so on. I affixed a sticky index label below the return address, and so the first digital image would be of the addressee and envelope index label. In the computer, directories were set up using the sequential index names. Then the first image saved in each directory would be of the index label and mailing address for later correspondence.

The contents were then removed and each document and photo was also scanned. Once an envelope was completed, the captured images were then uploaded into the laptop and into the corresponding file directories. The ID and document count was written into the Livescribe journal. Every so often, the hard drive files were backed up onto a memory stick.

My first attempt at imaging was to use a high quality Sony Alpha digital camera with 12 megapixel resolution, mounted on a tripod, aimed at the floor. Each sheet was positioned and shot, with disappointing results. You just could not get enough lighting to pick up the details, and glare from the glossy photos was destroying most portraits.

The next attempt used a wand hand scanner, which you drag across the surface of the document. The control was much better, lighting was consistent and you could easily handle long-length papers. Once a rhythm was going, you could capture an image every five seconds.



After two years, I have scanned maybe 3% of the envelopes

The scanning and archiving process went slowly, each afternoon and evening, late into the night. After two trips and many days, I had processed maybe three percent of the pile. And this was the easy step; the cataloguing phase was yet to start.

### Indexing the Ancestors

Described above is an indexing method of keeping track of the digital images. A separate problem is to keep track of the ancestors themselves, which requires a different method of tagging. Later on, we will bring the two systems together.

Anyone attempting to keep computer file directories on their ancestors will have a vexing problem: how to tag the computer directories and files that will make sense to anyone else, particularly the inheritors of our research.

A variation on the Henry System<sup>o</sup>, created by Reginald Buchanan Henry, has worked very well for me so far. The Henry System was designed for tagging descendants of one surname and can be adapted for computer purposes.

For my Benedict line, from the Original Settler, Thomas Benedict, 1617-1689, it works this way.

All the children of Thomas Benedict are numbered 1, 2, up to 9. Thomas himself gets the letter A as his reference. His third son Samuel, of my line, is reference 3. Thomas' g-g-g-grandchild, Smedley Benedict, again my line, is numbered 352.25. A dot is used at each third position for convenience. If there are more than nine children in a family, then the letters A, B, and so on are used. Then I work my way down ten generations from Thomas to my reference, which is 352.254.123.2.

There are a few minor problems with this system, such as not always knowing the order of birth of children in a family. However, the Benedicts have been carefully researched and so this method works well. All of my ancestors of the Benedict line can now be tagged with the family reference and so the paper and digital trail is easier to follow.

Here is an example of the usefulness of a good indexing system. In a previous issue of the Journal<sup>E</sup>, I described making a connection to a Benedict branch in South Carolina using DNA. As a result, Robert and his sister Susan Benedict were able to confirm their link going back to our common Samuel branch of the Benedicts. Using Robert as an example of the indexing system:

My family reference:	352.254.123.2
Robert's family reference:	352.253.652

This shows that Robert and I are from the same son of Thomas Benedict: Samuel Benedict, 1649-1719, and that we share the same ancestors all the way down to the fifth descendant of Thomas: Smedley Benedict, 1800-1867. Smedley is my g-g-g-grandfather and is Robert's g-g-grandfather.

Then we branch separately. Counting the remaining positions in the family reference, underlined in the example above, that makes Robert and me third cousins, once removed.

### The Next Step

Once we have enough raw material to work with, it will be time to bring in help. Through the years, our Benedict surname website has gathered a number of kin out there that have volunteered to help with this project. Making the documents become digital will mean that we can farm out the next step to many helpers.

Each volunteer will receive a few of the envelopes as digital image files. The contents will be reviewed for all names, dates and locations and this will be matched, if possible, to a family line in the book, Volume II. The envelope index reference will also be tied into the family reference number. Now we have a family tree line with cross-referenced documents and photos.

If possible, we will reach out to the contributor's family, which will have to be done by regular mail, as virtually none of the packages have any email addresses. In most cases, the original contributor has passed on and will now become an obituary mention. Every envelope will become its own "Who Do You Think You Are?" mini episode for the volunteers.

### The Final Step

The final expectation is that we will publish Volume III. The Syracuse documents having been rescued by digital technology, we do expect it to be a digital publication. The new e-books and tablets will be entrusted to display our family genealogy into the next generation, while a hard-bound paper version can always be printed for the book shelf.

### The Technology Camera

The first camera I used in 2007 was a hefty Sony Alpha 100 digital SLR (single lens reflex) camera, capable of 10 megapixel resolution. The lens attachment has auto focus and a decent zoom range (18 to 70 mm). Images can be

JPEG, RAW or both formats. By mounting it on a tripod, the hope was to photograph quickly documents laid out on the floor or table below. This turned out to be very awkward, having to play with document positioning, zoom and shutter operation for each shot. The lighting is critical to get enough contrast of writing on paper or to reduce any reflective glare from glossy photographs.

The second camera was a Sony Cyber-shot, small enough to slip into a shirt pocket, yet having 14.1 megapixel resolution. The images were just as good as from its bigger brother yet taking document photos was a breeze.

In both cases, using a camera for doing documents has limitations. The shots have an inherent weakness because you can never quite position the document directly below the lens, which introduces keystoneing, or pinching distortion. Placing the documents by hand also meant that each image had some small tilt from vertical. If a proper document mount with lighting had been used, no doubt the results would have been better, but I required portability in the field.

## Wand Scanner



The camera issues went away when I started using a hand digital scanner. These devices can work just as well as a desktop flatbed scanner but are portable and very compact. The units have an internal light source that assures a true colour result regardless of your ambient lighting. I prefer the wand scanner because you can scan documents of unlimited length, although it requires a steady hand to not skew off course. There are small rollers on the bottom to keep you in line.

My first wand scanner was a VuPoint PDS-ST415-VP, resolution of 300 or 600 dpi, B&W or Colour, cordless, uses two AA batteries, micro SD card memory, downloads over USB cable, priced about \$100. This unit failed in the second year, so I purchased a replacement. It subsequently also failed.

So I switched to a Hip Street HS-SCNR430, with similar specifications to the VuPoint, but also having: Bluetooth wireless connection or USB cable connection to computer, batteries recharge over USB connection, priced about \$100. It has been very reliable so far.

Other researchers have had success with a portable scanner called the Flip Pal with 300 or 600 dpi resolution, scans 4 inch by 6 inch originals, with image-stitch software; the scanner stays stationary while the scan head is motor-driven. Can do small items such as jewellery, photos in glass frames or albums. Priced about \$150.

## Digital Pen



As the documents are being scanned I keep a journal on the envelopes and contents. Each envelope will have a tag number: BEN-0001, BEN-0002 and so on, and the name and address of the contributor will be recorded. Once back home, it helps to sort through the hundreds of stored images.

My best tool for journaling on the road is a Swiss Army Knife of pens: it writes, audio records, captures handwriting, does playback and even includes a calculator and translator. The Livescribe Echo looks like a pen, writes like a pen but does a whole lot more. Using a special journal book with microdots, it has a built-in infra-red camera aimed at the nib that tracks your writing across the paper. At the end of the day, you connect to your computer with a USB cable, and your handwriting is downloaded and can then be displayed on screen later on. You can also audio record at the same time for later playback. The recorded audio is kept indexed with the handwritten text - tapping on a written word starts playback from that point of the recording. This is the tool of choice when you do family interviews one-on-one and do not want to shove an intrusive microphone at a shy relative.

## Tablet

Tablet or laptop computer, which is better? This becomes a personal choice and I work with both. The laptop offers a full working computer but tablets are getting better. They are also lighter and the battery charge lasts longer. Both can accept the scanner images for storage and playback. For backing up your files, it would be best to bring along a USB memory stick for extra backup. Or, you can upload your files "into the cloud" with remote file storage services such as Dropbox, Google Drive or Microsoft SkyDrive. ■

## Footnotes:

- A. *Genealogy of the Benedicts in America*, Volume I; by Henry Marvin Benedict; published 1870 by Joel Munsell, Albany, New York in 1870; 477 pages.
- B. *Genealogy of the Benedicts in America*, Volume II; by Elwyn Ellsworth Benedict; privately published 1969 by Elwyn and Esther Benedict, East Syracuse, New York in 1870; 636 pages.
- C. *Journal of One-Name Studies*, Volume 11, Issue 4, October-December 2012; A Dark and Stormy Night, by Jim Benedict.
- D. *Numbering your Genealogy*: Basic systems, Complex Families and International Kin; by Curran, Crane, Wray; published by National Genealogical Society, 1999.
- E. *Journal of One-Name Studies*, Volume 9, Issue 12, October-December 2008; The Twisted Thread, by Jim Benedict.



# Coffers, Clysters, Comfrey and Coifs

*the lives of our seventeenth century ancestors*

**By Janet Few**

The Family History Partnership., 2012, pp136

ISBN: 978 1 906280 33 8 Published price: £12.95

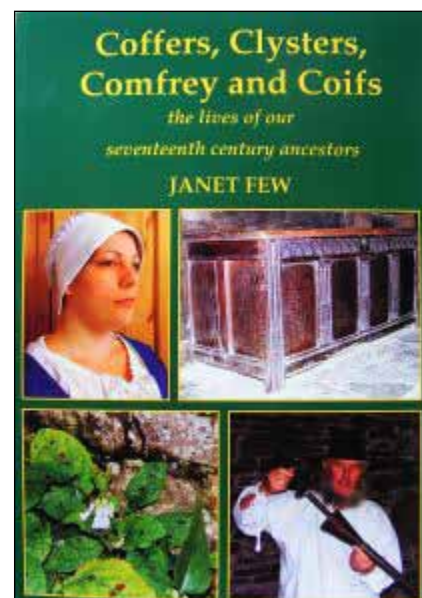
I will declare an interest at the outset; I have known Dr Few, the author, for many years through our mutual interest in family history. Having experience of her scholarship and attention to detail through a book published for the Braund Society and her various magazine articles I was looking forward to reading this work. It did not disappoint, it is one for every family historian's bookshelf.

This is a book that works on several levels. It is a good read if you wish to sit and immerse yourself in the day-to-day experiences, chores, and challenges that faced our ancestors in the seventeenth century. It wears its scholarly research lightly and manages to impart information in a lively and interesting way.

It is also a good reference book; use the contents page in conjunction with the index. From birthing to cause of death, via crime and punishment, food and clothing and the never-ending cycle of a woman's work: it is all here.

As a book to dip into it also scores. Found a Will listing medical paraphernalia? Look at chapter 6 - and never complain again about the modern NHS! Visiting a seventeenth century building - how did they live here? Chapters 1 and 5 (homes and furnishings & gardens and gardening) provide the answers.

The author has taken evidence from books contemporaneous with her chosen period, where they exist. There is a "Further Reading" list at the end of each chapter and cited works are noted at the foot of the relevant page. Plenty to get our teeth into.



I have "earmarked" [see Chapter 8] this book as a suitable gift for Family, Local, Social or General Historians. It is well laid out and appropriately illustrated.

Now, not being of the "upper crust" I must return to my "daily grind" else I shall "rue the day". The basis/derivation of these and other everyday expressions are to be found in the book and, along with the alliteration Janet uses in the title and chapter headings, add to the fun of reading it.

My pedantry leads to my one small criticism of the work. The editors/proof readers have done Janet no favours in allowing some erratic punctuation through their nets. Commas pop up in unexpected and unnecessary places. [Lynne Truss: Eats, Shoots and Leaves pub. Profile Books 2003, would have a field day.] Once the reader realises this and ignores them it doesn't detract from the overall pleasure and usefulness of this well-researched book. ■

David Gynes (Member 63)

## The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies

### Comings and Goings, Migration and Scotland

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2013

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Droving and Drove Roads in Northumberland: Dr Ian Roberts

Border Shepherds in Caithness: Jennifer Bruce

Migration Stories at the National Portrait Gallery: Sheila Asante

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Exploring the Buccleuch Archives

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# Thomas Vayro - Private 311 Durham Light Infantry Sixth Battalion Regimental No. 250007

by Rennison Vayro (Member 4347)

Following on from my published article in the Guild Journal of October 2011, a fellow member Adrian Abbott contacted me and suggested that his Grandfather Mark was at Conway Camp in 1914 when my Grandfather Thomas was also present.

Another colleague from the Guild, Mark O'Meara, also contacted me to say that there was a Private Thomas Vayro i.e. my grandfather Thomas showing up in the records of Ancestry.com ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)), where there are 16 images to view, taken from the microfilmed records (the 'Burnt Documents') at The National Archives. So I had in fact received essential information that the Durham Light Infantry documents were burnt, but not completely lost in the WW2 London Blitz.

Ancestry have apparently taken these images from TNA WO 363 - Soldiers' documents, First World War, 'Burnt Documents', <http://goo.gl/L51gN> and produced them as microfilm copies.

Unfortunately many details of signatories and dates are washed away by the fireman's hose, and other damage caused by the fire in the London blitz itself, but here is some of the factual information that I now have from the Attestation Papers and records of my Grandfather Thomas Vayro available from Ancestry.com.

Thomas originally enlisted in the Second Volunteer Battalion Durham Light Infantry on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1908. Also, the record shows that he was previously enrolled in the 2<sup>nd</sup> VB Durham LI — presumably this means the Volunteer Force established in 1902. Thomas's eventual Army or Regimental Number has been added, presumably at a later date 250007, but reads as 50007.

A third date of note shows that Thomas enlisted in the Durham Light Infantry, 6<sup>th</sup> battalion at Ripon on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1908 initially for 2 years. After enlisting for 2 years in 1908, he re-enlisted 17<sup>th</sup> February 1910 for 4 years; and then in 10<sup>th</sup> March 1914 for 2 years (but obviously the War required him to continue beyond 1916).

Thomas's original army number was 311 and he re-enlisted at Willington County Durham in 1914, as a Private. He went to France on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1915, initially shown on his 1915 Medal Card as entering France as a Private, and later was promoted to Sergeant on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1916. An Army Form B5112 dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 1922 confirms his Regimental Number as 250007 and gives some details of his medal entitlement.

He was "Disembodied" on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1919 on a form signed by the C.S.O. a certain C.J. Thomas. "Disembodied" meant that he returned to part-time service. On the outbreak of war, all Territorial Force Soldiers were "Embodied" i.e. they became full-time soldiers with the purpose of providing defence to the homeland whilst the regulars went overseas.

His "Disability Card" dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 1919 records "Weakness and Nerves" and he was discharged March 1919, as a Sergeant. This is a card for pension purposes. He was shown as being in the 5<sup>th</sup> DLI battalion, so perhaps towards the end of the war he transferred from 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion to 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion? I think it says 30% disabled — and that there are three children. (Thomas Henry, John William, and Mary) These factors would have been taken into account for the amount of his pension.

Another form says that he may be called on to re-join, in emergency, and mentions a medical category 'BI' — I don't know what this code means; possibly 'bodily injury'? The form mentions that he was a 1<sup>st</sup> class soldier and that he was a Sergeant-Cook.



Cooks Camp at Strensall in 1911 - Thomas is in the front row on the far right





Cooks at Conway Camp 1914 – Thomas is in the centre in the front row with white cap, next to the Commanding Officer

An overall summary sheet would have been used to calculate his service (in days/months/years) for pension purposes. It also mentions various camps, at Ripon 4<sup>th</sup> July 1908, Blackhall 28<sup>th</sup> July 1909, Rothbury 27<sup>th</sup> July 1910, Strensall 30<sup>th</sup> July 1911, and Scarborough 27<sup>th</sup> July 1912.

Promoted Sergeant on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1916 – and I think it says that he retained this rank in April 1917. Then he was reported missing 27<sup>th</sup> May 1918, from British Expeditionary Force, and this fits in with Thomas Vayro being a POW for a time, in 1918.

His medals are mentioned. As well as 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal, there is mention of Territorial Forces Efficiency Medal. Details of this fourth medal can be found on <http://goo.gl/IY9WD> and the medal would have been awarded after 12 years' service with his war service counting double.

Yet another colleague Ian Cruttenden suggested that if Thomas was in attendance at George V's Coronation he should perhaps have been awarded the 1911 Coronation Medal. Up to now I have found no trace of this but he was certainly named with about 20 others selected from the DLI in the book "The Faithful Sixth". Ian also suggested that the award of the TFM and 1914-15 Star were mutually exclusive.

The moral of the story is quite simple. If the original article had not been published in our Journal, I would still have been under the impression that his Service Records were completely destroyed, and therefore unavailable. Also by actually having the original details in print, brought them to a much wider audience, many of whom have willingly passed on their advice and military knowledge and in so doing enabled me to put together a more accurate picture with comprehensive evidence of my Grandfather Thomas' Army Service in the Great War.

With thanks to all those who assisted me. ■

### Editor's Comment:

Rennison has also provided another article, which will appear in the next journal. He has provided a synopsis of his article:

In February 2012, there were announcements in the Northern Echo Obituaries that Percy Vayro born in Clifton on Ure, late of Aiskew near Bedale had passed away peacefully in Middlesbrough Hospital on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2012. He was a third generation farmer. As far as I know he was the longest surviving Vayro in my ancestry, in his 97<sup>th</sup> year, he was a distant third cousin twice removed.



Cooks at Conway Camp 1914 – Thomas is in the front row, second from right





# The Boxall Surname: An Exercise in Landscape Evidence

by Howard Mathieson, Canada (Member 4328)

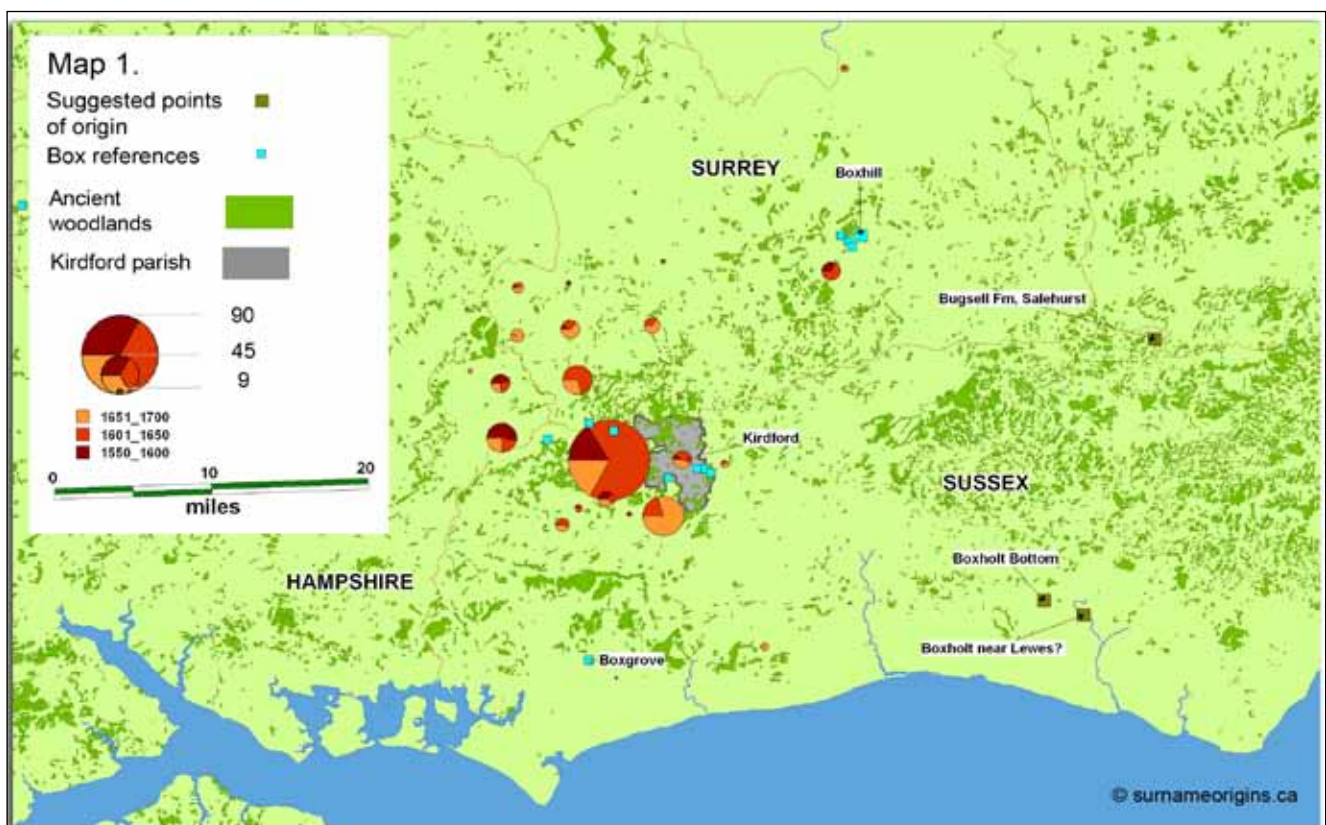
The origin of the Boxall surname can be traced to the Saxon woodlands. While the Saxons were agriculturalists, their economy was dependent on the ancient woodlands for fuel, for building materials, and for grazing animals. As population expanded the forest would be transformed to arable land, and as the woodlands were removed, small settlements would be established often taking the name of the woodlands they replaced. Over time some of these settlements would achieve the status of hamlets or villages. Eventually some would decline, decay, and ultimately disappear from the landscape. At some point, possibly in the thirteenth century, the name of one of these woodland settlements in the Sussex Weald was taken by a family who would ultimately be known as Boxall.

The surname element “box” is thought to have been derived from the Boxwood tree (*Buxus sempervirens*). The meaning of the second element in Boxall is uncertain. Several possibilities can be advanced. For example it could be derived from Box Hill, Box Hall, or Boxholt(e). Aspiration could result in the dropping of the h sound. Thus Box Hill could become Box ill, or Box Hall might be expressed as Box all. In the case of Boxholt(e), the h could be dropped, and the t truncated, resulting in Boxol and eventually Boxall. Dialect would be important in this process.

Reaney, in his Dictionary of Surnames, identifies two possible points of origin for the Boxall surname. He first suggests a Bugsell Farm near Salehurst Sussex, and second a “lost Boxholt(e)” near Kirdford Sussex. In an article in English Studies entitled Box in English place-names (Volume 80 Issue 1, 1999), Richard Coates lists two Boxholts. First a “Boxholt St Anne Without” near Lewes from a manuscript fragment describing the Battle of Lewes (1264), and second he affirms the existence of a lost Boxholt near Kirdford. A contemporary reference, Boxholt Bottom, can be found between Ashcombe and Blackcap Sussex where in 1870 two burial urns were found on the estate of Sir George Shiffner. This feature may be related to the location of Boxholt St Anne Without.

*“Dialect would be important in this process.”*

If we focus on Reaney’s suggestion pointing to Kirdford we find close by a number of intriguing cultural and landscape clues. They include a Box Cottage two miles south west of Kirdford, and a Boxalland Farm immediately north east of Kirdford. British listed buildings describe the barn at Boxalland farm as, “C18. Faced with coursed stone,



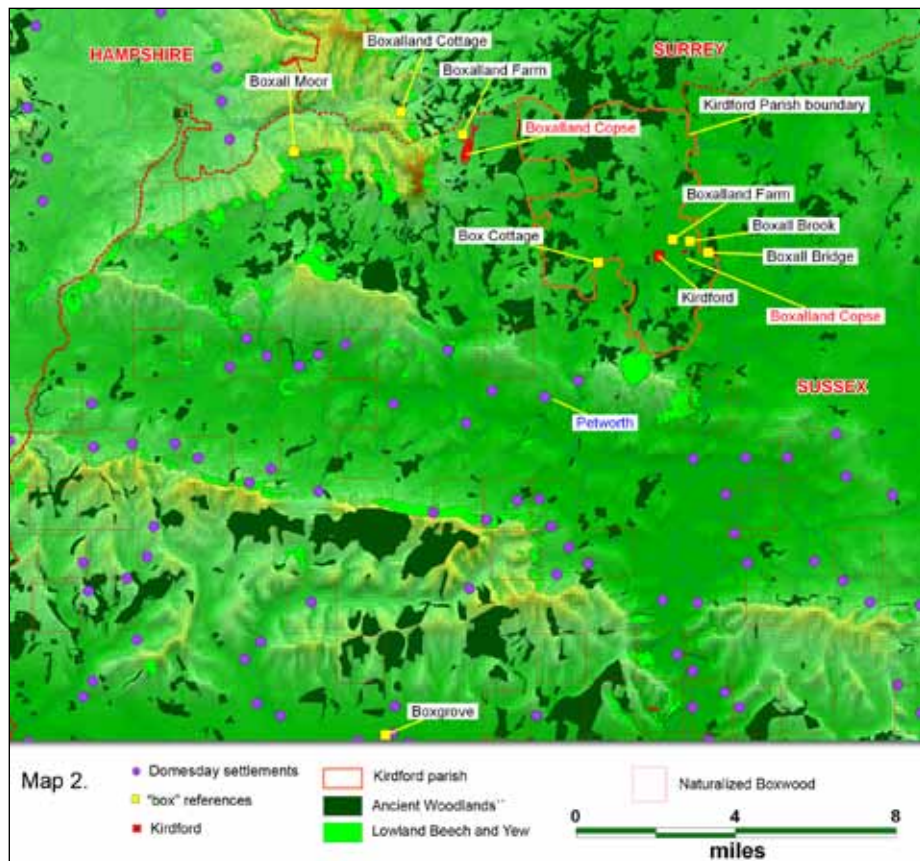
red brick, grey headers and at the upperpart weatherboarding. Hipped tiled roof, with pentice to west.” We can also observe a Boxall Brook (Assize Rolls, 1279, unpublished for Sussex at the PRO), and a Boxall Bridge (also the Assize roll 1279) all within one half mile of Kirdford (Map 2). Parish records from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century confirm the presence of the Boxalls in Kirdford (Map 1). Yet despite these tantalizing clues there is no present day evidence of a Boxholt in the vicinity of Kirdford.

### The Lost Boxholt:

The place name Kirdford (Kinnredford) is of Saxon origin, and was recorded as early as 1228. However Kirdford does not appear in the Domesday record. If Boxholt was near Kirdford, it was probably a small woodland settlement.

Gelling in *The Landscape of Place Names* notes that holt represents a single species of wood. Coates expands on this by commenting “one might speculate that a possible application of the term could be to a plantation, or at any rate an intensively managed wood”. The term holt is only rarely found in association with existing remnants of the ancient woodland in West Sussex and certainly not in the vicinity of Kirdford. By contrast the term copse is widely used as a qualifier to name nearly half of the present day woodlands within a 10 mile radius of Kirdford. Copse is also suggestive of a managed wood. Of particular significance we find a Boxalland Copse on the outskirts of Kirdford adjacent to Boxalland Farm. The term copse, “to cut”, was apparently not in use before the thirteenth century. This may indicate that the Boxalls acquired their surname prior to taking residence in the immediate vicinity of Kirdford, and that the area was largely settled following the Norman Conquest. Interestingly as late as 1675 a William Boxall of Kirdford continued to own woods of beech and oak (Kirdford inventories 1611 - 1775, Sussex Archaeological Collections 93, pp. 78-156, referenced in Coates).

The habitat of Boxwood may help narrow the search for the lost Boxholt. Boxwood is frequently found in association with Lowland Beech and Yew woodlands (Map 2). The Botanical Society of the British Isles has mapped the distribution of naturalized Boxwood using two kilometer grid squares. The Society comments that its habitat is “native to woodlands and thickets on steep slopes on chalk, and in scrub on chalk downland”. The grid squares in which naturalized Boxwood is found are included on Map 2. In the western Weald Boxwood is found not only on chalk, but also on the slopes of Lower and Upper Greensand strata of the Rother valley. It is noteworthy that Boxwood references are completely absent from the strata of Low Weald Clay on which Kirdford parish is found. It is also interesting to observe how closely the distribution of Boxwood parallels the distribution of Saxon Domesday settlements found in the Rother lowlands. Given the environmental evidence, Boxholt may have been located



immediately south and east of the present day parish of Kirdford where Boxwood, stands of Beech and Yew, and steep slopes are all found.

The remaining unanswered question concerns the fate of Boxholt. It evidently flew under the radar of medieval record keepers and at some point may have simply been abandoned. Is it possible that Boxholt was a 14<sup>th</sup> century plague victim? Alternatively the Weald was a resource hinterland for many agricultural parishes and fostered industries such as iron-smelting, glass-making and timber. Might the depletion of Boxholt's resource base have been its undoing? It is known for example that a 1615 prohibition on using wood fuel led to the collapse of the nearby Petworth glass industry. Remnants of the ancient woodlands are sparse near Kirdford and are more heavily concentrated west of the parish where we find a second Boxalland farm, a Boxalland Cottage, a Boxalland Moor and a larger Boxalland Copse. Might this movement of members of the Boxall family be symptomatic of the gradual exhaustion of the regions forest resources as well as the families desire to maintain a woodland way of life?

It is unlikely we will ever solve the mystery of the “lost Boxholt”. However based on the preponderance of circumstantial evidence it would seem probable that it was the source of the Boxall surname. ■

The Boxall One-Name Study is under the direction of Veronica Mensch, Guild Member 3758. Contact details: [boxall@one-name.org](mailto:boxall@one-name.org)





# Website Focus: Storing and Preserving Your Study

by Anne Shankland (Guild Webmaster, Member 1554)

“Preserving your study” is the final one of the “Seven Pillars of Wisdom” which the Guild puts forward in its advice on running a One-Name Study. And judging by the amount of discussion that goes on about it among our members, this is one of their greatest concerns: how to protect and preserve one’s study material which may have taken decades of work to collect and collate?

The Guild has several ways of helping its members to preserve their data, some of which also serve the purpose of publishing and publicising the studies – which of course is another of the “seven pillars”! The following attempts to show how the Guild can help you with this.

## Indexes:

The Guild website has several specifically formatted collections of members’ data, indexed for easy searching by surname of interest, which provide a method of storing and preserving data of the appropriate type:

*The Marriage Index* – which, despite its general-sounding title, is designed especially for marriages which took place in England and Wales between 1837 (when Central Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths started) and 1911 (when the Central Registration Indexes started to show the spouse’s surname as well as the primary person’s name). There is an obvious connection between the Guild Marriage Index and the Marriage Challenge project, where marriages meeting these criteria (England and Wales, between 1837 and 1911) are requested, sought in the Registers held at local Record Offices, and usually added to the Marriage Index when found. But individual members can submit their own marriage data to the Guild’s Marriage Index too, by sending the data in the form of a spreadsheet to the GMI coordinator, Mary Rix; details of how to do this are given on the web page [www.one-name.org/members/GMI/contrib.html](http://www.one-name.org/members/GMI/contrib.html).

*The Scottish Index* – again, with a slightly misleading title, since in principle any document can be added to this index, although it is being used at present for Scottish marriages only. Marriage records in Scotland contain a lot more information than records in England and Wales, and copies of the register entries can be obtained online from the ScotlandsPeople website much more cheaply and easily than the corresponding English records. So genealogists researching in Scotland are very likely to have more of these original records, with more information on them, than their colleagues researching in England and Wales. Again, data on Scottish marriages for addition to the Scottish Index is very welcome, and should be sent to the Webmaster who is currently acting as coordinator for the Scottish Index. Ideally the data should be in the form of a spreadsheet (see the web page [www.one-name.org/members/GDI/](http://www.one-name.org/members/GDI/) for details), or alternatively you can send electronic or paper copies of the Scottish Register entries for transcription.

*The Probate Index*. Wills are an important source of data for family history researchers, giving details of beneficiaries which may or may not be related to the deceased. The Guild’s Probate Index contains information on those people mentioned in Wills who do not share the same surname as the testator, and who can therefore not be found by searching Probate Calendars. The Probate Index coordinator is Derrick Watson, and you can find out how to submit your data to the Index on the web page [www.one-name.org/members/GPI/](http://www.one-name.org/members/GPI/).

## The Guild Electronic Archive:

The Indexes described above are all specialised indexes, containing a particular kind of data in a precisely-specified format. The Guild Electronic Archive – or just the “Archive” facility – on the other hand, caters for a very much wider range of data that you may have collected as part of your One-Name Study. Originally it included just birth, marriage and death records, then this was extended to includes Wills, Census, etc. Recently the Archives Administrator, Paul Millington, has extended it further to embrace almost any kind of tabular data that you might wish to store in it and optionally make available to other researchers, including for instance vital-record or census data from countries other than England and Wales or Scotland.

Members can specify that their Archive data is open to the public, or to registered users only, or to Guild members only. In addition, the archive owner can specify what is to happen to his data archive when he ceases to be a Guild member. If he expresses no wish, then the archive will be deleted; but it is hoped that he will give permission for the archive to be retained and thus remain available to other Guild members.

It is worth stressing that unless you, the member, give explicit permission for your Archive data to be retained – and also for your Profile page to be retained – both of these will be deleted when you cease to be a member of the Guild.

## The Guild Online Library:

The Electronic Archive and the three Indexes mentioned above, while being primarily aimed at the sharing of ONS data, all represent ways in which your data can be safeguarded by being held on the Guild webserver. However, they all require the data to be in some specified format, even the user-defined records used for the Electronic Archive.

In contrast, the Guild Online Library accepts data in any format as long as it is electronic. Gedcom files are particularly welcome in the Online Library, since they may be indexed to provide an easy lookup for the other names occurring in a one-name study; but any electronic format is acceptable, such as Excel or Word or PDF files – although formats specific to particular programs, such as .ftm from



Family Tree Maker, are not ideal since they require the originating program (and sometimes a particular release) to read them.

The Guild Online Library provides the means for any member to lodge a copy of their data with the Guild for safekeeping, while at the same time making the data available through the website to the rest of the membership. If you would like to use the facilities of the Guild Online Library for your data, send it to the Webmaster, with an email saying you give your permission for it to be made available to the membership, and it will be added to the Library, indexed if appropriate, and added to the Library Catalogue for the benefit of other members. You can of course update your files in the Guild Library at any time by contacting the Webmaster.

The Guild Library can be accessed from the “Library” tab in the Members’ Room. This provides the means of searching the Catalogue, or of searching the text of indexed material in the Library using a Google-style search. For more details, go to [www.one-name.org/members/library](http://www.one-name.org/members/library). ■

More information on the “Seven Pillars of Wisdom” is available at [www.one-name.org/taoons.html](http://www.one-name.org/taoons.html).

Copies of this book can be purchased via the Guild website [www.one-name.org/sales.html](http://www.one-name.org/sales.html), with payment via PayPal or credit card online, or by cheque through the post. The price is £6.00 for members and £6.60 for non members.



## An Update on the Guild Collaboration with FaNUK

by [Andrew Millard \(Academic Coordinator, Member 1456\)](#)

In 2011 a cooperation was announced between the Guild and the Family Names of the UK project led by Richard Coates and Patrick Hanks, at the University of Western England. Since then many Guild members have submitted information about surnames they are researching. Other Guild members have contributed to standardisation of place-names in the IGI extracts FaNUK use. Many of those who submitted information have received a copy of the surname entry they requested; if you are still waiting for a response, please be patient – it will come eventually.

As over 200 million pieces of information relating to about 150,000 surnames have been sifted by the FaNUK team, it has become clear that many surname etymologies will be radically rewritten. Reaney’s dictionary formed a starting point, but non-current surnames have been discarded, many thousands more have been added, and, for those remaining, some 60% of Reaney’s derivations will be superseded.

Several Guild members have expressed dissatisfaction with the surname entry they have received. I have had discussions with FaNUK and alterations have been made to some entries. However, as was clear when the collaboration started, although FaNUK recognises Guild members’ expertise, ultimate responsibility for the dictionary’s contents lies with FaNUK’s experienced etymologists, so they reserve the right not to follow our interpretations. In what follows, I comment on some issues that have caused misunderstandings.

FaNUK entries are destined to form a dictionary, so they are necessarily brief, cite a limited range of examples and only include the briefest of arguments, if any, for the

etymology. Our evidence for early examples has not been ignored, but often it cannot all be cited, especially when other material needs to be included. That said, FaNUK now prefer properly referenced information from Guild members over other sources.

The questionnaire for Guild members asked for the earliest name-bearer with living descendants. At present, FaNUK has not decided how to use this material. They requested it hoping that it would be useful and to avoid multiple requests for information. Where this information has been cited, it is as an early example and not because of the connection to the present.

The entries deal only with the linguistic origin of a surname. Entries state clearly if there are multiple etymologies but only note other evidence for multiple progenitors when it is needed to support the etymologies. Thus where a Guild member has proved multiple progenitors, the entry may appear to be ignoring our research, but this is not the case, it is simply not commenting on non-linguistic issues.

The FaNUK project, whatever deficiencies it may have, represents an enormous improvement on the present surname dictionaries. I am grateful that the Guild has had the opportunity to contribute to this major advance in surname studies. If you are yet to make a contribution, please send it in as soon as possible. If you wish to comment on an entry do write to FaNUK about it. As the Guild’s liaison with FaNUK, I welcome any comments you may have on the project or individual surname entries. ■



# Maritime Records Seminar

## National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

by Penny Ann Smith

After attending my first GOONS seminar in Coalbrookdale in May, I immediately booked for the Maritime Records Day. The information leaflet introduced the seminar with “What better place than the National Maritime Museum for a maritime seminar”; how true this statement.



Cliff Kemball, Treasurer, and Seminar Organiser

After an informative and entertaining introduction to the day by Cliff Kemball, the seminar organiser, the first presentation **Naval Records of the National Maritime Museum** was given by two very knowledgeable speakers, James Davey and Martin Salmon, from the museum covering two distinct areas - naval records and maritime records. In covering the Naval records James began by explaining how much is of a personal nature and includes gems such as letters written by seamen home to their families, letters from officers, diaries and various collections of private correspondence. We were shown a copy of Nelson's first letter written with his



Martin Salmon and James Davey

left hand, which gave an insight into how he was feeling at the time, and one from a sailor pleading with his wife to write back with news of their daughter: both letters graphically demonstrated the nature of these collections.

James covered the type of public collection such as those of the Royal Dockyards including Jamaica, Gibraltar and Halifax; records of the central administration of the admiralty and the various subordinate departments for example The Sick and Hurt Board. He also referred to the Navy Board Project which is on-going. This collection of papers includes many runs of correspondence about a quarter of which are in-letters to the Navy Board, from dockyard commissioners, officers and workers, naval captains and contractors from around the world. The project also covers out-letters from the Board to the Admiralty, held at the National Maritime Museum (NMM).

Next Martin Salmon spoke about the maritime records available and the sources for research of the merchant navy in the NMM archives. He explained that their strength is not in official records but in the personal or private papers held.

Martin provided the background to Masters' Certificates and the various levels of competency, and demonstrated this with reference to Edward Smith, the captain of the *Titanic*. The whole room was surprised to learn that Edward failed his navigation certificate in 1888. He then explained that Crew Lists are effectively a contract between the master and the crew of a ship for a particular voyage and demonstrated the information that can be gleaned from looking closely at these records.

Within the space of one hour we had heard about electronic resources, the library, newspapers and journals, Lieutenant's logs, official log books and so much else I gave up trying to make

notes of them all. We learnt about the Caird library, the NMM website was shown, reference was made to records in various places and were told the chance of finding information about our seafaring ancestors is very good. James and Martin certainly covered a lot of resources in a short space of time in a very entertaining presentation.

Following a short break we were treated to Myko Clelland from FindMyPast. His talk, **FindMyPast's Maritime records for One-Name Studies**, was applicable to anyone with an interest in the subject not just one-name studies. Myko introduced us to FindMyPast's maritime records and demonstrated how to interrogate and drill down on these; he showed where to find applicable data sets and how these can be cross referenced, he explained port codes and how to work out the journeys undertaken by our mariners. Our friend Edward Smith from the *Titanic* was used to demonstrate just some of these. I am a subscriber to FindMyPast, as are many others who were at the seminar; I have tried searching for three different seafarers with very limited success. Yesterday I searched again, with my new found knowledge of the FindMyPast website and its maritime records, and now have “hits” to follow up on all three.



Myko Clelland

At 12.30 the morning session ended. After a buffet lunch came the opportunity to look around the museum, which I did, but unfortunately there was not enough time to see everything so clearly another visit is necessary. Others took the guided tour of the museum's Caird library and, talking to several participants afterwards, this was informative and well worth the time spent; some had already obtained their three-year reader's ticket. Several delegates had brought along displays, Fibis were also on hand with appropriate material and FindMyPast's website was also available to search for free.



Simon Fowler

The first speaker of the afternoon was Simon Fowler on **Royal Navy Sources for One-Name Studies**. In order to help us identify and locate records Simon explained how the navy is organised by personnel, trades, locations and navy service, and that to understand the organisation would enable us to identify the various and varied records available. Hints about areas to be aware of such as shore base names not being located where one would expect, were

given. Simon covered numerous on-line sources together with many useful records not available via the internet in locations including NMM, The National Archives, Fleet Air Arm Museum and the Royal Naval Museum. We heard about pension records, allotment books, certificates of service, ship's logs, the Navy list, muster rolls and pay lists to name but a few.

Our final talk of the day was **Locating Royal Marines** given by Richard Brooks. Richard clarified the nature and the role of Royal Marines, he spoke about their history, organisation, administration and operations together with how they are remembered. This is another huge area with a multitude of records and Richard could probably have given a whole day of in-depth talks on some of the various aspects he covered in one hour. His fascinating illustrated talk can only be described as an entertaining romp through what we can expect to find.

Overall a well attended, well organised, varied and extremely interesting event in a most appropriate location with something for everyone. Inevitably there was some overlap between the records and websites mentioned, but this was minimal, and did not detract from the quality of the speakers or their subject knowledge. I had certainly not realised what varied records were available or how interesting this subject would be. This report does not do justice to the excellent presentations or the professional organisation of the event. My second Guild seminar will not be my last and, I am sure that if all are of this quality, I will not be disappointed. ■



Richard Brooks

A DVD of the Maritime seminar is now available for sale via the Treasurer - [treasurer@one-name.org](mailto:treasurer@one-name.org) and via the Guild website [www.one-name.org/sales.html](http://www.one-name.org/sales.html).

The DVD costs £5.00 plus postage. Promotional material about the DVD can be found at [www.one-name.org/maritimedvd.html](http://www.one-name.org/maritimedvd.html).

The DVD contain copies of the four PowerPoint presentations given at the Maritime Records seminar plus the handouts provided during the day.

The DVD will also be available for sale at Guild Stands, some Guild regional meetings, the Guild Conference, and at all future Guild Seminars.







## 1<sup>st</sup> Guild Of One-Name Studies Australian Seminar

by Karen Rogers (Australian Regional Representative, Member 3922)

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October & Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October the First Australian Guild Seminar was held. This came about from a meeting over 12 months earlier with the NSW Guild members. I asked “What is it that you would like us to do here in Australia differently than we have in the past?”

The answer was “We would like our own seminar” – Aha, I thought to myself, a great idea as not everyone can travel to the UK for the annual Guild Conference and it may help bridge the distance factor not only with members here in Australia but with the Guild itself in the UK. I was determined to put the day together for our members.

Twelve months later on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October we spent the day at the NSW State Archives at Kingswood in NSW researching and also undertook an informative tour of the archives itself.

### Saturday Morning Dawned and the Seminar Day

We met at the Sydney City Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) Club. The seminar gave the regional representatives an opportunity to meet – some for the first time. Sadly Helen Smith, the representative from Queensland, was unable to attend due to family circumstances.

We started the day with introductions and all members gave a short rundown on how they conduct and run their One-Name Study.



Mike Spathaky talking about his ONS

This was followed during the course of the day by some interesting and excellent speakers which included:

- Records & Research at the Society of Genealogy – **Heather Garnsey**
- Guild News & Questions
- DNA Studies – **Richard Merry**
- The Methods & Results of a Study of M\*CH\*MORE Surname as a Middle Name – **Michael Mitchelmore**



Richard Merry - Speaking about DNA Studies

The conference gave us a chance to talk to each other about unique problems with our studies in Australia, catch up with other Guild members, and the Regional Representatives a chance to talk face-to-face. This is something we do not get a chance to do, due to distance here in Australia.



Australian Regional Representatives Left to Right: David Evans, Karen Rogers, Ann Spiro, Richard Merry

The day overall was a resounding success and we hope now to make this a yearly or bi-yearly event in Australia. ■

# Forthcoming Seminars

**18<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

## Trades Union Seminar

The venue chosen is just full of surnames from the records deposited by companies and trade unions. We shall have a talk on just what can be found in this venue, The Modern Records Centre, followed by pieces on TUC Library Collections, Friendly Society records and finishing with just what can be found in the Freemasons Library.

Venue: Modern Records Centre [MRC], University Library, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL

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**10<sup>th</sup> August, 2013**

## The Art of ONS Seminar

Two years on and we return to Amersham for our latest version of 'how to do it'. Run your One-Name Study of course. We listen to the Guild membership and attempt to obtain speakers who have a particular specialism in aspects of researching an ONS, especially following the 'Guild's Seven Pillars Of Wisdom' maxim.

Venue: Amersham Free Church, Woodside Road, Amersham, Bucks. HP6 6AJ

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**16<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

## Colonial Sources Seminar

Many Guild members have found persons with their ONS name in the former colonies of the British Empire. Together with the National Archives specialists, we have put together a set of talks on finding that missing person, or new holder of your study surname, who may appear in the remote and not so remote colonies.

Venue: The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU

## DNA Seminar

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013**  
National Star College, Ullenwood,  
Cheltenham, GL53 9QU

**C**omments made at the last DNA Seminar suggested that the level of subject matter was too high; with this in mind this seminar will start with a talk on basic genetics followed by presentations on particular DNA investigations, all from Guild members.

### Programme

09:30 - 10:00	Arrival: Registration and coffee
10:00 - 10:10	Welcome by Seminar Organiser Rodney Brackstone
10:10 - 11:10	<b>Rodney Brackstone</b> - The Basics of DNA and Genealogy
11:10 - 11:25	Break
11:25 - 11:55	<b>Teresa Pask</b> - A Medium Study in the Making
12:00 - 12:30	<b>Ken Mycock</b> - My DNA Study Today
12:35 - 13:05	<b>Geoff Swinfield</b> - My DNA Study Today
13:05 - 14:05	Lunch Break - With an opportunity to meet delegates and view displays
14:05 - 15:05	<b>James Irvine</b> - Managing a Large Study
15:05 - 16:05	<b>Debbie Kennett</b> - DNA The Future
16:05 - 16:25	Tea and Break
16:25 - 17:00	Question and Answer Session
17:00	Wrap up and Close of Seminar

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

The cost of the seminar will be £18 per person, including refreshments. To make the day more interactive everyone is invited to bring along details of their studies for display and sharing. Pin boards will be available for your use and the seminar coordinator will liaise with you beforehand.

If sending the form by post, it should be sent to the booking secretary: Alan Moorhouse, 8 Strachans Close, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 3EB.

For more background information and booking on-line, see: [www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org) and look under the 'Event Calendar' tab.

Postal booking forms may also be obtained from the Guild web-site or by phoning the Guild Help Desk on Telephone 0800 011 2182.

We would like to ensure that any disabled delegate can participate fully in this event. If you have any special requirements please telephone: please telephone the Guild Help Desk on 0800 011 2182.





# Pictures from the Maritime Records Seminar, Greenwich



Vol 11 Issue 5 January–March 2013

Main inset: Attendees before the start of the Seminar.

Top left: *My Sea-Faring Ancestors* display by Jeanne Bunting née Attersley

Middle left: Lively discussions between Pam Benbrook and Jackie Depelle over refreshments.

Bottom left: Attendees before the start of the Seminar.

Bottom right: Nelson's Ship in a Bottle by Yinka Shonibare, MBE

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