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Journal

of One-Name Studies



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**Who Do You Think You Are?
Live! 2013 - Report & Pictures**

**The BMD Vault
Project**

Vol 11 Issue 6 April–June 2013



Gaydon & Cheltenham Seminar Reports And Much More

All the latest Guild news and updates

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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

To email a message to the forum, send it to: 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>



www.facebook.com/guildonename



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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

Re-reading my Chairman's Column in the last JOONS, written just before Christmas, so much has happened in such a short space of time! Guild Committee nominations were received in January, as were the postholder application forms for non-Committee volunteers. The Guild Committee is once again under quota, though this year, by just one. It is worth remembering that we can only achieve what we do with people willing to carry out roles, manage projects/events, assist with running seminars/conference, help at fairs etc. There are many posts which can be performed without being on the Committee or even in the UK, so please do get in touch if you feel that you are able to assist with the management of our organisation. We need you!

Master Craftsmen of the Guild (MCGs) and Guild Award of Excellence (GAoE) nominations were also received in January and the successful candidates will be announced at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 6th April at the Copthorne Hotel in Cardiff.

The focal point for most family historians in February was, I am sure, Who Do You Think You Are? Live. The Guild Stand was masterminded by Stuart and Teresa Pask and saw an extraordinary number of Guild members supporting the event during the course of the weekend. Not only did the volunteers sign up 42 new members, taking advantage of the offer of 21-month membership and a free copy of Seven Pillars of Wisdom: The Art of One-Name Studies, but they educated many hundreds of attendees about surnames and the Guild, as well as passing on hundreds of member contact details. It is always a pleasure to meet Guild members at events such as this ... I trust that you all enjoyed the experience on the Guild Stand and I hope to see you at other events in the future.

We continue to be represented at a large number of family history events across the globe and we are indebted to members who give up their time to promote the Guild, our members' studies, and the services our organisation provides.

It was of course with great sadness that I reported in my February Chairman's Newsflash, Anne Shankland's resignation as Webmaster. She had held the position for the past six years and indeed, been my Vice-Chairman during this period. Her tremendous efforts have ensured that we have a website with many outstanding facilities which we often take for granted, including PayPal for subscription renewals, seminar and conference payments and online sales, as well as the development of the Bulletin-Board and the development and maintenance of the various Guild indexes.

Following on from the efforts of Peter Walker (then Chairman) and myself (then Secretary), to improve the transparency of Guild governance, Anne has streamlined the Guild's administrative processes allowing Guild members to read all Committee and subcommittee minutes and reports in a timely manner. The current Guild website is most certainly a testament to Anne's expertise and industry.

“Anne's tremendous efforts have ensured that we have a website with many outstanding facilities”

The Guild is extremely grateful to Karen Bailey, previously Assistant Webmaster, for taking on the role of Guild Webmaster and, whilst Anne will be missed, I am very pleased that she has decided to stay on in the role of the Indexes Administrator which involves the maintenance and development of the facilities provided by the various indexes on the Guild website.

By the time you read this journal, the Guild Conference and AGM weekend in Cardiff will be imminent. I trust that you will enjoy the opportunity to watch this event live as you did in Essex last year. We are doing our utmost to provide facilities for our worldwide members to be involved in all our events and any suggestions for further improvements would be greatly appreciated.

What a wonderful Committee the Guild has.... I am sure that you will join me in thanking the team for their hard work and dedication in the 2012/13 Guild Committee year. I look forward to another successful year ahead!

Guild members and Committee members have so many great ideas for improvements we can make in terms of Guild benefits and services. However, these cannot occur without further volunteer support. The 2012/13 Guild Committee - many of whom are nearing, if not exceeding, ten years in service - is extraordinarily dedicated. But, more support is always needed. Please let me know if you have some time you could give to the Guild, in whatever capacity.... ■



Marriage Challenge Update

By **Peter Copsey** (Member 1522)

Many of you may have wondered what has happened to Westminster Marriage Challenge and St George Hanover Square (SGHS) Marriage Challenge that were being undertaken by Sian Plant. I'm sorry to say that Sian, for personal reasons, needed to stop work on her Challenges a few months ago. She has passed all the information that she had collected to me. I now appreciate what a huge task it is. For instance, on Sian's SGHS spread-sheet there are 15,119 entries. A good proportion of the entries are Cardinal Points (first and last marriages in each church for each quarter) and this will lead the way to the requested marriages being quickly found. I wish to thank Sian for all the effort she has put in and to her helpers.

I have now arm-twisted another Guild member to take over where Sian left off. So my thanks go to Ann Cossar who had very kindly volunteered. I'm sure we wish Ann well in continuing these somewhat daunting Challenges. Many of you will remember what a sterling job Ann did on one of the first Challenges; Islington in 2005 (before Ancestry stepped in and indexed everything).

But Challenges need not be daunting, because they can be tailored to suit the circumstances. By splitting a Challenge up into short periods (like Stage 1; 1837 to 1850) they are easily manageable.

One of the rewarding aspects of a Marriage Challenge is the thanks and anecdotes that one receives after the results are sent out. Here's one (copied with permission of author):

"The marriage certificate you provided for Fanny has solved the problem of Eliza Mary Akehurst. FreeBMD has only one marriage for that page (either a single marriage on the page, or two partners still to be indexed). I looked them up in the 1901 census and there is Mary Eliza, living next door to Fanny, who married two years later. I have an Eliza as a sister to Fanny and the ages fit. Bingo! So, the register may have been destroyed, but your Marriage Challenge allowed me to work around the loss."

The Marriages Challenges beginning in the coming months are listed below. All members are encouraged to send their requests to the Challengers by e-mail, hopefully using the standard "requests.xls" spreadsheet on the MC web-page. However 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 ■

Registration District and Period	Deadline for Requests	Challenger	Challenger's email
Colchester 1837 - 1911	22 April 2013	Marion Hopkins	marion.hopkins@one-name.org
Pontypridd Stage 3 1891 - 1911	30 April 2013	Margaret & Alan Southgate	close@one-name.org
Morpeth 1837 - 1911	31 May 2013	Phil Thirkell	philip.thirkell@one-name.org
Malling 1837 - 1911	31 May 2013	Nick Miskin	miskin@one-name.org
Alston 1837 - 1911	31 May 2013	Sue Horsman	horsman@one-name.org
Cardiff Stage 1 1837 - 1865	31 May 2013	Sean Kisby	sean.kisby@one-name.org



DNA 37-marker Test Kits from Family Tree DNA

by **Cliff Kemball (Treasurer, Member 3389)**



Announcing a new benefit for Guild members The Guild is offering for sale to members a DNA 37-marker test kit from Family Tree DNA

The Guild has negotiated a special purchase, and now has Y-DNA 37-marker test kits from Family Tree DNA available at a special price. You can save money, and not have to wait for a sale. The Guild member must initiate the order, and then either the participant or the member pays.

Y-DNA 37-marker tests from Family Tree DNA can be purchased by Guild members for **£80.00** (including postage and handling). This offer applies only to Guild members who order a DNA kit through dna-kit-order@one-name.org, or who purchase it at a Guild Seminar, from the Guild stand, at regional meetings, or at the Guild's annual Conference. This DNA test kit (see picture, below right) can currently be purchased directly from Family Tree DNA at the standard retail price of US\$169.00 plus US\$4.00-6.00 postage and handling, or the project pricing of US\$149.00 plus US\$4.00-6.00 postage and handling. See <http://www.familytreedna.com/products.aspx>.

The most popular and widely used DNA test for family history purposes is the Y-chromosome DNA test, colloquially known as a Y-DNA test. The Y-chromosome is passed from father to son, and determines that the child is male. For this reason, only males can take this test, since females do not have a Y-chromosome. Conveniently for the family historian, the path of Y-chromosome transmission usually corresponds with the inheritance of surnames, making the Y-DNA test a very valuable tool as an aid to traditional documentary research. This DNA test:

- is for men only.
- is the recommended level of Y-DNA tests.
- 37-marker matches are highly likely to be related within the past 8 generations.*
- provides genealogically relevant matches and recent ancestral origins.
- is recommended for confirming a genealogical relationship with another male.
- provides your Haplogroup: deep ancestral origin of the paternal line.
- allows your DNA to be stored by Family Tree DNA for free so that you can upgrade the test in the future.

* Estimated for exact 37-marker matches, at a 95% confidence level.



Finding matches and your ancestral origins largely depends on how your DNA compares to Family Tree DNA's database. Since Family Tree DNA has the largest DNA database in the world, you have the greatest chance of finding close relatives by testing with Family Tree DNA. However, if your paternal line is rare, it is possible you will not have matches or ancestral origins information right away. As Family Tree DNA's database is constantly growing, you may get matches over time, and Family Tree DNA will send you email notifications about any new matches.

Our online order form (see www.one-name.org/members/sales/) will allow you to purchase one or more of these 37-marker test kits, and to pay in whatever way suits you best. If you have a credit card, you can order online using the secure PayPal processing (even if you do not have a PayPal account). Alternatively, once you have filled in the form you can print it out and send it to us with your cheque, by post, or by bank transfer, using the Guild's bank account details - Account: Guild of One-Name Studies, Bank: Santander Bank, Sort Code: 72-00-01, Account No.: 64819304 ■



Growing Your DNA Project – Recruitment

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

Having a one-name study gives you a tremendous advantage with a DNA Project. As part of your one-name study, you may have done one or all of the following: constructed family trees, built up a list of contacts of those interested in the surname, done some study and/or mapping of the surname to know about the likely number of origins, and/or determined where the surname is located today. The information generated from these activities gives you an advantage. For example, you can turn your contacts into two lists, such as males with the surname for recruiting and females plus males without the surname for raising donations. Another example is that knowing how many trees exist for the surname gives you an understanding of the scope of the project.

Even if you just started your one-name study, it is never too early to add DNA. When you are ready to add DNA to your one-name study, the DNA Advisor is here to help, including providing a step by step guide to vendor selection, as well as setting up your project with proven marketing material. Simply write to: DNA@one-name.org.

Recruiting is the key to a successful DNA Project. You can't evaluate the DNA results for your family trees until you get the males to participate.

The Presentation

The word DNA scares people, and knowing this will enable you to tailor your presentation to be non-threatening. Phrases like a "harmless genealogy test" are useful towards this goal. Avoiding scientific discourse is also helpful.

Whether you are using email, postal mail, or phone to contact your prospects, it is helpful to have a one- or two-paragraph presentation prepared. For the phone, memorizing the presentation will enable you to focus on listening to the prospect. Your presentation will cover briefly how DNA testing works, that it is a harmless genealogy test using the latest scientific discoveries, and then focus on the benefits – the discoveries the person can make and the contribution they will make to the knowledge about the surname and the corresponding genealogy.

If you already have a success story from your DNA Project, briefly include this in your presentation, focusing on the benefits the participants received.

Whether talking or writing to the prospect, their response and questions will tell you about what is important to them. Some may be fascinated about finding out about their distant origins. Others may be interested in finding matches, especially if they are interested in genealogy. Their questions and response are clues as to which of your

selling points from your presentation are working for this prospect, so you can focus on those points. Questions can also signal potential objections, which we will cover later.

Your enthusiasm is an important factor. Using words such as interesting, exciting, and fun will encourage the participant. It is hard to turn down an experience that is fun, interesting, exciting, and about them – they will make discoveries.

Establishing credibility is also important. The DNA Project website and your Guild Profile establish credibility. As you begin to have results, prospects can visit your website and see the results. You will be both establishing credibility as well as reducing concerns. The potential participants will find out that the result of a DNA test is really just a string of numbers, and not something harmful or scary.

Objections

In communicating with prospects for your DNA Project, you will encounter concerns, which are also known as objections. These concerns can be phrased by the prospect as either a question or a statement, and give you information as to what actions you need to take so the prospect will participate in your DNA Project.

Questions are a sign of interest, and are a positive opportunity for you to provide more information. The questions also illustrate concerns – which will need to be addressed to turn the prospect into a participant.

Questions are the best objection, since they are easier to overcome. Usually a question means they are still considering participating, and you still have an opportunity to influence their decision. Statements are the beginning of the prospect taking a position, and will most likely take more effort to address.

As you get experience, you will begin to anticipate your typical questions, and then modify your presentation so these questions are addressed during the presentation.

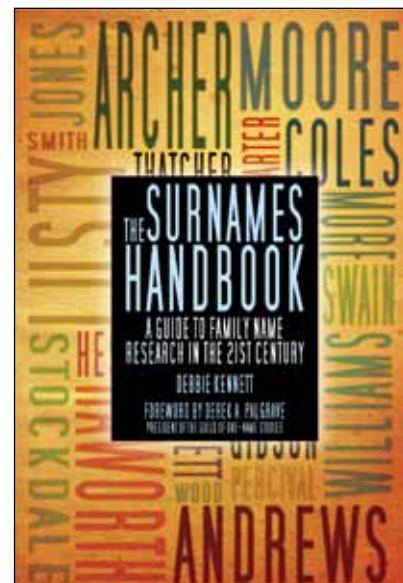
The first step when you get an objection is to determine if the objection is real, or is a smokescreen for the true objection. You achieve this by asking a question. For example, cost is often an objection, though it is also often a smokescreen. This means that cost is brought up as an objection, when it isn't a true objection, and the prospect does not yet feel comfortable in telling you the true objection. If presented with a cost objection, ask "If I was able to raise donations to fund some or all of the cost of your test kit, will you participate?" This question will uncover whether cost is the true objection, or there is another, hidden, objection. ■

The Surnames Handbook: A Guide to Family Name Research in the 21st Century

by Debbie Kennett

The History Press, 2012, pp136

ISBN: 9780752468624 Published price: £14.99



The latest book authored by Guild of One-Name Studies member, Debbie Kennett, addresses a clear gap in the field of surname study. There are many surname dictionaries available, but they do not provide newcomers to the field with much information as to how these conclusions were reached. Debbie's book encourages the reader to draw their own conclusions about their chosen surname and provides the tools with which to do so.

The book is broken down into ten-easy-to digest chapters. Throughout the book the points of reference are included, and websites referred to in full. The language throughout is accessible to the lay person whilst being academic in content.

A concise history of the rise of surnames in different locales is provided which is required to understand fully the evolution of the chosen surname. Similarly, Debbie has split the surname origins into four categories as follows:

1. Place-names and topographical features
2. Given names and relationships
3. Occupation, status or office
4. Nicknames

Each is explained clearly with examples given.

Identifying variants and deviants early on in your research is essential to ensure that you need not revisit the same dataset on multiple occasions. A whole chapter is dedicated to this important, but often neglected area, and having finished this I went off and registered my variants, having gained a better understanding of what they were.

The ability to 'map' one's surname is an approach that appears to be unique to one-name studies dating back to the mid-1800s. Debbie addresses the key developments in this approach right up to the present day and demonstrates how useful it can be, even for the more common surname.

Similarly, Debbie highlights the need to check if the research has been done before. A comprehensive list of both off- and online areas to investigate is provided, including reference to the relatively new Family Names in the UK (FaNUK) Project with which many members of the Guild of One-Name Studies will be familiar. As with any genealogical research we are reminded to verify the information contained by looking at the original source. By doing this the reader may save time and energy by pinpointing the most important areas of research.

It is well-known to Guild members that Debbie has considerable expertise in the field of DNA; I however struggle to understand anything more than 'we all have it and relations share bits that are the same'. The chapter dedicated to DNA

and surnames is so well-written that at the end of it I felt I knew exactly what was being discussed. There is specialist terminology in this chapter, but it is difficult to discuss the concept without it and, once again it is well-explained. It appears that DNA studies are becoming more commonplace, but if they confuse and confound you then this chapter is a perfect introduction.

Debbie uses her One-Name Study of Cruwys/Cruse/Cruise throughout to illustrate her points and to demonstrate how different datasets have contributed. I found this very useful, especially when addressing variants, deviants and mapping programmes. The methodology of a One-Name Study is also discussed with Debbie emphasising that the focus of One-Name Studies in the modern era has shifted from the collection of all references of a particular name to the reconstruction of families and co-operative working, allowing names to be studied world-wide.

This book differs from other surname-based texts in that over half of the content is dedicated to key datasets and pre-1600 resources with comprehensive appendices that detail exactly where to find the information required. We are also shown how to put the results of our data-gathering to use with a dedicated segment on mapping surnames. This enables readers to create their own distribution maps and thus draw their own conclusions.

All in all I am extremely impressed by this book which could have easily been entitled "A Beginner's Guide to Starting a One-Name Study". It had me running to the computer to check out websites I had not come across before and provided many pointers on where to go next. This book has a place in every collection, be it academic, or casual and I will be referring to it a great deal as my own study grows.

Carole Steers (Member 5625)

Copies of this book can be purchased via the Guild website www.one-name.org/sales.html, with payment via PayPal or credit card online, or by cheque through the post.

Joseph and Mary: A Case Study in Deaf Family History by Neil J Alderman

British Deaf History Society Publications, 2011, 92 pages

ISBN: 9781902427393 Published price: £8.50

From the outset, I must be honest about my initial response to being asked to review this book, an account of the life and times of Joseph and Mary, the author's paternal grandparents. An avid genealogist and one-name studier, I thoroughly enjoy hearing about other researchers' successes and amazing finds, but there is nothing which sends me to sleep quicker than someone else's ancestors' life story in intricate detail. So, I had no high hopes that this publication would enthrall me.

Starting at the back to find out more about the author, my view quickly changed, firstly due to the realisation that the author's education and my own career were strangely intertwined; Neil attended Mary Hare Grammar School for the Deaf in Newbury, not three miles from my last teaching appointment as Head of Sixth Form at Trinity School, his degree was in Chemical Engineering, whilst mine was in Chemistry. However, this link was secondary to the engaging writing style, which made me curious: could the author of this book make his own personal family history interesting to readers, many of whom would be unrelated to the family?

To my amazement, the short answer is a resounding, yes! The 49th Work of the British Deaf History Society, this publication is an excellent example of how to document your family history. Astonishingly, the author is the only one of the 'four children, eight grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren' of Joseph and Mary to have been born deaf, though the couple were themselves both deaf from birth. The extensive documentary evidence published, including letters, photographs, pupil lists, censuses, maps, certificates, and so much more besides, serves to enhance the reader's experience enormously. Undoubtedly, a massive amount of time and effort has gone into this book, published in 2011. The only regret I would have is that the author did not wait a few more months for the removal of the censorship of the infirmity column from the 1911 census. This would just be the icing on the cake, seeing Joseph, Mary and some of their extended families' hearing difficulties, in writing, on the 1911 entries.

Neil's research into this couple has clearly been all-embracing and he should be rightly proud of the high-quality product he has generated which will interest not only his own family, but the wider Alderman families and the deaf community as a whole. ■

Kirsty Gray, Chairman



Christine Abery

10th February 1954 - 29th September 2012

On a sad note we mourn the loss of Christine Abery at the age of 58. Jean Stangroom, the Chair of Norfolk Family History Society wrote:

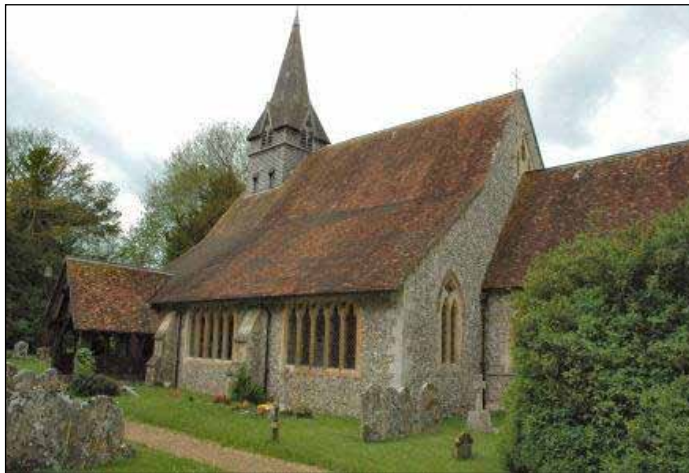
"Christine had been a member for many years and gave a lot of her time to the Society by running the Bookstall; going to Fairs; running 'help' sessions at Libraries with myself; Church Yard surveys with Mary Mitchell; organising meetings with her Cromer Group and so much more, she is sorely missed".



The Life and Times of Rev. Jonathan Heskins

by Janet Heskins (Member 2281)

Searching the internet is always likely to provide fresh insights into the lives of previous generations of one's family. This was the case when I came across a reference linking Jonathan Heskins with the parish of Wherwell, where he was vicar for a very short time; from September 25th 1679–December 7th 1680, at which point he died. The Wherwell village internet site stated that very little is known of the early incumbents of the parish church, so I am attempting to rectify this with regard to one vicar who was the incumbent over three hundred years ago.



Wherwell Church from the Village Website

Jonathan started his life in the Gloucestershire town of Wotton-under-Edge, situated at the southwestern extremity of the Cotswolds. His father, John Heskins, a maltster, had married Ellen Pincott on January 19th 1614 and their first child, Benjamin, was baptised on February 26th 1615. There is no further mention of Benjamin or the birth of any other child until the baptism of Jonathan, which is recorded as having taken place on November 25th 1621. It was in this year that the trouble brewing between James I and Parliament came to a head. James had summoned Parliament for his own ends but these were not met. Parliament asserted its rights as representative of the people; James asserted his right to dissolve Parliament. This was to be the backdrop to the start of Jonathan's life.

The Heskins family of Wotton-under-Edge were of the 'middling sort', providing mayors and jurors on various occasions. They were obviously friends of other notable townspeople as witnesses to wills. The occupation of maltster was highly regarded, providing the malt for beer-making, indeed John Heskins may have taken the process further and also been a brewer. So Jonathan was born into a relatively well off family, with young cousins of similar age, including Nicholas who was later to be mayor. These close family relationships became more important when Jonathan's mother died in August 1623.

John Heskins did not remain a widower for any length of time but married Alice Wickwar on June 23rd 1625. This provided Jonathan with a number of half-siblings: Hannah, baptised January 26th 1628, Samuel, baptised May 1st 1630, John, baptised April 2nd 1632 and Nathaniel, baptised January 31st 1635. Meanwhile Jonathan had been educated to such a level that he entered Oxford University, as recorded in *Alumni Oxoniensis: Jonathan Heskins, son of John of Wotton-under-Edge, Glos, Pleb, Lincoln Coll, Matric. Jan 25th 1638/9 aged 17*. This would suggest that he entered Oxford at an earlier age, as was usual at that time.

James I had been succeeded by his son, Charles in 1625. The 1630s were relatively peaceful, Charles reigning without recourse to Parliament but in 1639 Parliament was recalled to deal with the Scottish question. Matters came to a head in 1642 when Charles raised his standard at Nottingham, in August, calling men to his side against Parliament. Before this point Jonathan had disappeared from view. There was certainly fighting in the Wotton-under-Edge area: Gloucester was besieged, as was Bristol.

John Heskins lived through the vagaries of the Civil War, dying near its close, being buried in Wotton-under-Edge on January 14th 1645. In his will John bequeathed 'unto my sonne Jonathan Heskins the sum of five pounds of current English money to be paid him within one year next after my death' This is in contrast to his bequests to his other children: Hannah received ten pounds, Nathaniel seems to have inherited the business, 'the tableboard and frame in the Hall, the table board and frame in the parlour and the bedstead in the best chamber' plus half of a piece of woodland. Mention of the three rooms suggests that the family lived in a substantial house. Samuel received five pounds and the other half of the wood. As there is no mention of Benjamin or John junior it is assumed that they have died - or have been disinherited. John's wife, Alice was to act as the executrix of the will and was to inherit everything not mentioned previously. The inventory was valued at £600, a sizeable sum.

Samuel followed his half-brother to Oxford; *pleb, Merton Coll., matric. February 12th 1647/8 aged 17, BA from Brasenose Coll. 1st June 1649*. Amongst those who went up at the same time as Samuel was the historian Anthony Wood. Samuel was at Oxford during the time of the imprisonment of Charles I, his execution and government by Parliament alone under the Lord Protector. Far more is known about Samuel's career than about Jonathan's, particularly the latter part. He became rector of Choldrington, Wiltshire, on December 4th 1651. The village is now known as Cholderton.

Rev Samuel Heskins 'succeeded Nathan Noyes in the rectory of Choldrington. And he, finding the parsonage house, and

barn stables out of repair and almost falling to the ground through the neglect of the former incumbent, who in the Civil War was some years absent from Choldrington and never after lived there but at Sarum because the parsonage house at Choldrington was not habitable. He, the said Mr Heskins, at his own cost and charge began to repair and build up the dwelling house, barns, stables and outhouses.' The account of the repairs runs from 1652 until 1703 at which date much of the original work was damaged by the tempestuous wind on November 26th and 27th 1703.



Cholderton Church

Jonathan reappears in 1662 at Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire: *February 26th 1662/3 Edward Haines [gent] and Mrs Rosamund Clifford, both of this parish were married at Frampton church by Jonathan Heskins[clerk], in the presence of many neighbours and kindred by banns etc.* The Cliffords were an ancient Gloucestershire landowning family, apparently including the 'Fair Rosamunde', unfortunate mistress of Henry II in the twelfth century. The account in the Victoria History of Gloucestershire states; *John Clifford (d. 1684) may have fostered the Rosamund story locally: he named one of his daughters Rosamund, he had his pedigree copied with the original Rosamund included.* So there may be some truth in the rumour of the connection or was John Clifford a precursor of those who take part in 'Who do you Think You Are?', where family rumours are held up to scrutiny?



Frampton-on-Severn Church

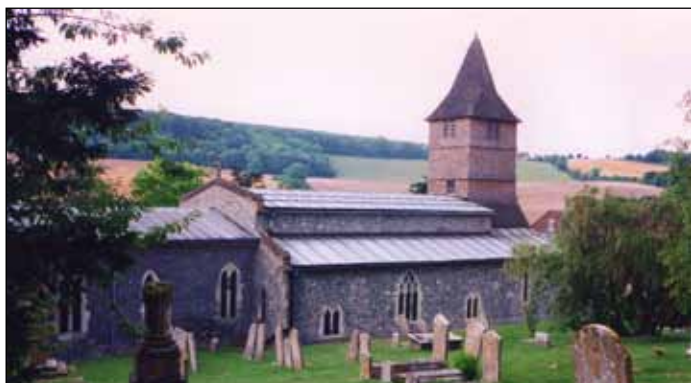
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, Frampton-on-Severn. INCUMBENTS	
1698 Stephen.....	1692 William Doane...
1785 Thomas.....	1698 William Smith...
1565 Thomas & Doulson...	1721 Charles Wallington...
1575 Richard Maddeley...	1765 John Wicks.....
1578 Hugh Bray.....	1770 William James...
1424 William Nicholl...	1775 William Ellis...
1468 John Levison...	1777 Thomas Rudge...
1501 Sir William Heydon...	1784 William Jenkin...
1532 Sir John Okes.....	1813 J.H. Dunsford...
1557 George Wadden...	1847 George Chute...
1542 Sir Richard Shefford...	1855 Maurice F. St. John...
1554 Thomas Mason...	1881 Charles Russell...
1558 John Robins.....	1888 Edmund Blake...
1559 Sir Peter Ovyatt...	1902 Lionel Ward.....
1578 John Savaker.....	1936 Frederick Paton...
1621 Thomas Pill.....	1945 Donald Dobson...
1622 Alan Bishop.....	1949 Charles Jenson...
1624 Thomas Pill.....	1966 Edward A. Dixon...
1649 John Barnsdale...	
1665 Jonathan Heskins...	
1668 Nicholas Paul...	
1680 Samuel Butt.....	

List of Incumbents, Frampton-on-Severn

Jonathan married at some point because on September 8th 1664 it is recorded that 'Jonathan, son of Mr Jonathan Heskins, vicar, was baptised. It would appear that his wife's maiden name was Webb and that she may have lived in the Basingstoke area. During the time that Jonathan served at Frampton-on-Severn the name of John Barnsdale, vicar of Cam, also appears. There may have been a link between the two parishes because there was a decline in the population of Frampton in the mid-seventeenth century, according to the Victoria County History. This could mean that the parish was unable to support a vicar.

The Alumni Oxoniensis for Jonathan Heskins continues, 'one of these names - Vicar of Marlborough St Mary, Wilts 1668.' At some point in his ministry Jonathan behaved unlawfully; 'So after Jonathan Heskins of Marlborough St Peters had been suspended for performing marriages without banns or licences, the bishop refused to restore the minister despite the attempts at persuasion by borough magistrates.' Eventually he was restored, 'after the minister had acknowledged his fault and the magistrates had promised to use their best endeavour to execute the ecclesiastical laws...'

Marlborough was a town with two parishes, St Mary the Virgin and St Peter's. Jonathan's name is linked to both. An Exchequer document dated 1674-5 relates to an incident between Jonathan Heskins, clerk, and Richard Heller and his wife, Katherine. The dispute concerned a passageway. It was claimed that the Hellers had encroached upon the passageway by moving a boundary between cottages and the tower of St Mary's church. Marlborough had been devastated by fire in 1653. The boundary was moved by two feet at that time.



Hurstbourne Tarrant Church

Presumably Jonathan moved from Marlborough to Wherwell, after a gap of two years, judging by the dates, having resigned from Marlborough in September 1677. In doing so he was moving closer to his half-brother, Samuel, vicar of Choldrington and to Samuel's son, also Samuel, who was rector of Hurstbourne Tarrant and rector of South Tidworth. These three parishes are all in the neighbourhood of Andover. It has not been possible to trace any of Jonathan's children with any certainty. In 1735 a person named Jonathan Heskins was drowned in the River Severn on August 22nd. He and two others were buried in the churchyard of Elmore, up river from Frampton-on-Severn. No Jonathan Heskins was born in Elmore, so could this have been the son who was baptised at Frampton in 1664, now aged 71 years? Another Jonathan Heskins was buried on May 8th 1700 at St Leonards Shoreditch.

The boys born to Samuel Heskins of Choldrington all moved from the village, to London as merchants or to Cumberland as an excise officer, but the records of Marlborough, St Mary, include the marriage of Edward Heskins on December 6th 1692, possibly a son of Jonathan.

Jonathan Heskins lived throughout the times of the Stuart kings. He was born in the reign of James I and died in the reign of Charles II. He had received an excellent education and had entered a profession. He had lived through one time of conflict in his early twenties and was entering another at the close of his life when the Duke of Monmouth was starting to make his claims to the throne. As there is no record of Jonathan as a Church of England minister during the time of the Commonwealth it could be that his churchmanship was not acceptable, or he may have been abroad. There is a tantalising mention of a Jonathan Heskins, living in Massachusetts, in the *American Historical Review*, Volume 21, but no date is given.

Tracing family history is akin to detective work, with some mysteries being solved, but with many questions remaining. Names and dates are all very well but delving into the available records gives evidence of the people of the past who are a part of wider families. It is my understanding that I am descended from Samuel Heskins, vicar of Choldrington through his son, Thomas, who became a London merchant. So I share my ancestry with Jonathan, tracing it back to Wotton-under-Edge in the early seventeenth century. ■

Tunnelling Shield



by Jan Cooper
née Greathead

On 9 January some new stamps became available, issued by the Post Office to celebrate 150 years anniversary of the first London Underground Railway.

One of the second class stamps shows the Tunnelling Shield James Henry Greathead invented and designed. His statue stands outside the Cornhill Exchange, near the Bank underground station and is placed over an underground air vent. One of the original tunnelling shields was discovered when the subway to the platform was built. It was decided to leave it in place and paint it red for all to see. A brass plaque is placed on the subway wall.

How many times have you walked under the shield?





Speed Up Data Entry for Beginners

by **John K. Coldwell** (MarkSub Chairman, Member 2172)

I recently obtained a new Windows 7 laptop and obtained a cheap second-hand screen. I have been able to use these to effectively streamline my one-name data entry. The screen is standing on a couple of thick books to raise it above the laptop display and it is plugged into the laptop video output. I also still use my old laptop for independent internet access. The set-up may look complicated but it has proved to be very easy to use. It is an alternative to using two windows on one screen which I have found too cramped for ease of use.



Computer arrangement – Top left: Secondhand screen, Bottom left: Windows 7 laptop; Bottom right: Old laptop

To set-up this screen arrangement:

1. Right-click any empty area of your desktop, and then click **Screen resolution** – Alternatively go to **Control Panel > Display > Change display settings**
2. Select the recommended resolution, and landscape orientation
3. Click the **Multiple displays** drop-down list, and then select **Extend these displays**
4. Click **OK**.

At the top of the display there are two small icons representing the two displays which are numbered 1 and 2. Click and drag the icons so that the mobile display is vertically below the screen mimicking the physical arrangement as shown in the screenshot. This arrangement allows you to have two full size windows open at the same time both driven by the same laptop.

Open your 'data-gathering' program (in my case Excel) and drag it down onto the laptop display (it may be necessary to first reduce the window size and return to full size on the bottom display). Open your 'data storage' program in the top display. (I will not mention the program I use as whilst it does a good job it is no longer supported). Note that the one cursor moves freely between the two displays and you can

copy data in one window and paste in the other (or drag and drop). This saves considerable time having to switch between windows on a single screen. For example, I previously would note the data in Excel, say name "Stephen", then switch window to the data program to type it in but forget if it was spelt with a "ph" or a "v" so I had to laboriously go back to the other window to check – which is irritating and time consuming. In this case you merely have to look at the screen to confirm the name. Alternatively you can readily copy and paste the data from one to the other without error.

The way I work is to find one-name data on the internet from one of the very many and varied data sites (helpfully often announced on the Guild Forum) and using the Table2Clipboard 'add-in' for the Firefox browser, I copy and paste the data into the 'data gathering' Excel spreadsheet.

I then use the powerful editing features of Excel to clean-up and reformat the data into my preferred arrangement. For example, you can use Excel (or similar program) to combine post 1915 births and marriages from FreeBMD, using entries with a common maiden name, to form family groups. Excel techniques have been described in previous JOONS and in the Guild Wiki so just search on the Guild website for more details.

I prefer to assemble my one-name data as a chart with children linked to parents in a multi-generation diagram as I find it easier to visualise how individuals fit into the hierarchy than by inspecting a list. My next step is to search the database to check if I have already got an individual to which I will add data or if a 'new' person has to be added to the list of 15,000 already in the database.

My old laptop is used as a tool to get extra information from the internet to try to resolve problems, for example, where there is confusion because there are two families in the same area with similar names. This can be done in parallel without interfering with the data set-up.

I gain further speed-up using the free AutoHotkey program to create shortcut keys. For example, I have a script which operates on pressing the windows key and the C key together and types in my one-name "Coldwell". Similar scripts (or programs) can be easily written for other text entries you have to do repeatedly – for example "Birth Registered at". Scripts are easy to produce using the examples which come with the AutoHotkey instructions and in fact can usually be made by simply changing the examples provided. The program operates by simulating typing the words on the keyboard so it works for data entry in all other programs. It is also very useful for entering your email address or postal address. ■



Pauline M. Litton, MBE

Congratulations to Pauline Litton who has been named in the New Year Honours List. Pauline has been made a Member of the Order of the British Empire. The award was made for services to genealogy and family history.

Pauline lives in Harrogate with her husband Roger. She has been involved in genealogy and family history since 1968. As well as helping many others achieve success with their own family trees, Pauline has traced the Litton tree back to 1590.

Pauline has both initiated, and participated in, projects organised by societies to ensure that information and records are recorded and made available for the benefit of future generations. She has held a number of posts and appointments including:

- A founder member of the Guild
- Secretary, and Editor of North Cheshire FHS
- Secretary, and Editor of Ripon & Harrogate FH Group (now Harrogate & District FHS)
- President of Harrogate & District Family History Society
- Genealogical Consultant to Family Tree Magazine for many years
- 20 years spent compiling a marriage index for North & East Cheshire (300,000 entries)
- Joint Editor of the 1994 and 1997 editions of the British Isles Genealogical Register (BigR)
- For the last 13 years Secretary of the Yorkshire Parish Register Section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, working on publishing the county's registers in book form and on CD
- One of four Life Vice-Presidents of the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS)
- FFHS Council Member from 1979 to 1988
- FFHS Publications Committee Member from 1982 to 1994
- Honorary Editor of Family History News and Digest from 1982 to 1988
- FFHS Vice Chairman from 1982 to 1985

Pauline has written several books on family history and edited 27 'Basic Facts' booklets for the FFHS. In 1979/80, as editor of the North Cheshire Family Historian, she won the Federation of Family History Societies first-ever Elizabeth Simpson Award for the journal making the best contribution to family history. In the JOONS archives you will find several articles written by her, including her first in 1983 in Volume 1 No. 9, 'Life Expectancy - Interpreting Statistics'.

This is the first award of this kind for family history in the UK and we are justly proud of Pauline and everything she has done to further our hobby.



Who Do You Think You Are? Live! 2013

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

The greatest show on earth has ended and it was next to impossible to avoid the buzz of excitement on the run up to the show and during it. Social networks lit up spreading the infectious enthusiasm being spread by attendees to the show.

Who Do You Think You Are? Live! Is a three-day event attracting visitors from around the world to experience it. Exhibitors include the large data and service providers including FamilySearch, Ancestry, Find My Past, The Genealogist, British Newspaper Archives, My Heritage and Genes Reunited to name a few. Many local family history societies attend and often group up to form a regional presence. There are many regional attendees including Irish, Northern Irish, Welsh and Scottish organisations along with many English ones.

This year's theme for the show was migration. A Migration Zone featured stands for those with Caribbean or Indian ancestry and Families in British India (FIBIS), also those who are Italian, German, French and Polish.

Many of the Society of Genealogists' educational talks featured stories of migration to and from the UK and elsewhere.

This year our Guild members contributed to the success of the show and in many diverse roles and capacities.

The Guild Stand and on a Stand

The Guild stand had a very steady stream of visitors throughout the three days. The event is an opportunity for the Guild to explain to visitors what a one-name study is, how to tackle one and why we start these studies.

For visitors familiar with the concept of a one-name study the benefits of conducting their study with us are explained. The show is the single biggest annual event where new members join and often register a name.

For those interested in a particular surname then Surname Atlas is demonstrated. The surname of interest is plotted on a map to show distribution of that surname. The person is walked through variant spellings and an opinion shared about the possible point of origin. A printout is provided and for those keen to explore many different surnames or forenames they have the opportunity to purchase the software from our stand.

After arriving early I did a quick lap of the main exhibition hall to see who was attending and roughly where they were located. I quickly arrived at the Caribbean Family History Group where I help out in between other roles. I found a pull-up banner called "Caribbean Connections" and on it was mentioned a town in St Kitts called GREATHEAD. The banner goes on to explain the connections to the UK and

how Bertie Greathead became a slave owner at the age of seven years old after his uncle bought him "30 Negroe Men... 4 women". I photographed the banner to send to Jan Cooper who is studying the GREATHEAD surname.

Guild member Maurice Gleeson had exactly the same idea and sent Jan the photo. I soon received an email from Jan asking me to get to the bottom of this. I emailed Jan more photos along with an email address for the author of the banner. The temptation to see the banner was all too great and Jan returned to the show on Sunday just to see the banner.





Guild Members Educating

Guild members made a significant contribution to the success of the show with 25% of educational presenters being our members. Their talks encompassed a huge array of topics. Else Churchill reported to the Society of Genealogists' Workshop presenters that she had "lost track of the excellent feedback and lovely comments I heard from attendees at the show." Congratulations and very well done to all of our speakers. Some show attendees sat on six talks in a single day.

Guild Members as 'Ask The Experts'

'Ask The Experts' is an opportunity for show visitors to spend 20 minutes with an expert that can help them. Visitors range from beginners asking "how do I get started?" through to quite detailed questions involving brick walls.



For instance, I had two questions "How can I tell my Thomas Brown from all the others?" and "I cannot find Julia Smith's birth."

We experts tell the Society of Genealogists of our particular expertise and they try to match visitors' needs to these experts. Guild members make excellent experts because of the way we use record sources. We are skilled at finding the hard-to-find record sources and the individuals within them and we often see some of the peculiarities in the records themselves. So Guild Experts can handle a wide variety of questions on the availability of sources and finding the right person.



Additional Highlights

Debbie Kennett's report on her experiences is available at:

<http://cruwys.blogspot.co.uk/2013/03/who-do-you-think-you-are-live-2013-days.html>

There are also video summaries available at <http://www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com/video>

Can you spot the Guild members who appear in the Day 2 video?

Guild Members in other Capacities

Guild members often perform many roles at the show. In the above photograph, clockwise:

- Janet Few and Chris Braund bring history to life in their period costume
- Forum Manager Wendy Archer manning the Oxfordshire FHS stand
- Chairman Kirsty Gray on the National Institute For Genealogical Studies stand
- Jo Fitz-Henry as an Ancestry Advocate, together with visitor Shirley Robertson
- Jackie Depelle helping on the Family Historian stand
- Jackie Depelle again, this time wearing THE HAT!
- Finally, Guy Grannum leaving the Caribbean Family History Group stand for The National Archives stand. Guy is an expert on Caribbean ancestry.

Guild Members & DNA

Guild members Chris Pomery, Debbie Kennett and Katherine Borges helping in the Family Tree DNA area. They gave educational presentations and helped visitors with their DNA questions. The 12 marker DNA test proved to be very attractive for visitors. ■





Percy Vayro, Third Generation Farmer on Clifton Castle Estates

by [Rennison Vayro \(Member 4347\)](#)

During research into my family ancestry I came across several interesting characters, but none quite so distinctive or colourful as the one whose story I would like to relate.

Unfortunately in the last week of January 2012 there was an announcement in the *Northern Echo Obituaries* that Percy Vayro born Clifton-on-Ure, late of Aiskew near Bedale had passed away peacefully in Middlesbrough Hospital on January 26th 2012. As far as I know he was the longest-surviving Vayro in our ancestry, and in his 97th year. He was a distant third cousin twice removed.



[Percy Vayro \(1915-2012\)](#)

Only last year there had been articles in the *Northern Farmer* and *Yorkshire Post* about his life as a third-generation farmer in Clifton-on-Ure, which ended with the caption that he was hoping to survive to get his letter from the Queen.

Unfortunately this was not to be, for Percy passed away three years short of his ambition. For the Vayro ancestry this was truly a very sad day.

Tommy Vayro, Percy's grandfather (born 1835) the first of the Vayro line, is thought to have arrived at Clifton Estates in the late 1830s perhaps with his parents Richard Vayro and Mary Bussfield from East Witton. Tommy had married Sarah Todd and they eventually had thirteen children, most of whom survived. Apparently "Tommy's Hut" remains on the Clifton Castle Estate as a relic of the days when as head

horseman he was allowed an acre for his house, cow, and the hut provided for her shelter and for the hay the family made for her winter provision.



[Clifton Castle](#)

Tommy's son, Robert was born in 1867. Bob, as he was known, married Mary Jane Sturdy and they had eight children. Their last son Percy was born during the Great War. Percy's elder brother, Billy, was already approaching school leaving age and working on the estate. From the hard times of the great Depression, through mechanisation and pioneering new cattle breeds, farmer Percy Vayro had seen many developments.

In 1914 the Great War was into its first year and "it would all be over by Christmas". In 1921, Percy used to walk across the fields to Thornton Watlass village school where he received an excellent eight-year education until he was 14, that might have changed his life.

However in 1929, the country fell deeper into recession and rural poverty was rife. Lady Cowell, the chatelaine of Clifton Castle at this time, instructed her agent to provide estate staff with a couple of acres of land to provide food for their families, as it was possible that wages could not be paid as the crisis worsened.

Bob told his youngest son Percy not to go out to work, but instead, he was to grow food for the family and, as Percy recounted, this helped them thrive at a time when others were starving. So it was that from an early age Percy dug, sowed and harvested for the family while his elders took whatever work was available.

In the early 1930s, Mr Petch, a tenant farmer of Clifton Grange, offered Percy his first job at a wage of £1.50 a month. By then, Percy knew how to work hard, for he had helped his father, the head horseman, and he knew how to feed working horses, harness them and hitch up the plough and sow.

The Second World War was brewing and the countryside roads were still unmade, cars and tractors were a rarity and cattle were still walked to market from Clifton to Northallerton, some 15 miles away, by a young farmer like Percy.

Percy described how he well remembered the doctor bringing his father home with a broken leg, carrying him over his shoulder, from his car into the house. Bob had been bringing two new farm horses back from Northallerton when he fell in front of them trying to cross the hard tarmac of the A1.

Just before the war Percy started to work for the Curzon family who had inherited the Clifton estate. The first tractors were appearing, and Percy learnt about spark plugs, magnetos and radiators. He regarded his first Standard Fordson as no more than a team of horses which didn't need feeding, shoeing or resting.



He worked long cold hours ploughing the Clifton Banks facing the west looking right up Wensleydale to Pen Hill. Those were the days when social life was restricted to a small area, public transport was rare and the bicycle the main option.

At the start of World War Two Percy's family moved to Masham where he went weekly to hand over part of his meagre wage and call at the pub to join friends in singsongs. He got word that the Thirn chapel congregation in Rookwith had a higher than usual number of young girls, and there he met Muriel Hudson who was to become his wife in 1946.

With the war came better wages as the country dug for victory. Percy became farm foreman and later moved to the Grange Farm house with Muriel.

Mr Petch's death in 1959 started another chapter in the story, when Percy was invited to take over the running of Clifton Home Farm. He had to pass his driving test and take over a farm without horses. When the father of Clifton Castle Estate's present owner bought the estate in 1963, he enlarged the farm and modernised the system. Percy took to it like a duck to water, and had said that his life could have been very different had he had the benefit of modern education.



Clifton Home Farm

He worked happily with the estate's advisers. Percy had been appointed as manager of Clifton Home Farm on the estate where the very first herd of French Limousin cattle came in 1971. American ranchers wanted UK-born calves; the French still played their part in helping UK/US transactions, and Percy learned how to cope with what was a unique situation on a farm where cowboys in boots and Stetsons met with French bankers in suits who were financing the ranching revolution in Montana and Colorado.

Over the years, Percy had many farm trainees through his hands. One of these, David Anderson, the founder of Andersons Farm Business Consultants, kept in touch with Percy and remembers him as "the true country gentleman and an indestructible friend." Percy and Muriel never had a family of their own, but until very recently he regularly attended Sunday services at Mycar Methodist Chapel where he always joined in with vigour.



Percy with Reverend Kathleen Wood

Percy had a full and rewarding life, that began with the farming industry he entered just as times and technology were changing. He adapted to that but stuck to old-fashioned human values that are often forgotten in today's society.

In the summer of 2011 a Lifetime Award was presented to Percy, then aged 96, at the Great Yorkshire Show in Harrogate, by the president Sir Ken Morrison, in recognition of three generations of the Vayro family who were born and worked on Clifton Castle Estates near Masham.

The Marquis of Downshire, present owner of the estate, had taken Percy around the estate farms and when Percy arrived back at the Castle he said, "It doesn't seem that long ago - 90 years though - that I used to come down to

do t'osses with me dad. Castle's not changed, trees on't drive have grown and you're the fifth family to live there. But, by gum, the farms are different and I think they've never looked so well."

During 2011 he was in a care home having left hospital after a hip operation, and his comments were "Good, I can go home now. The garden needs hoeing and I'm not happy with all these old folks." His buggy got him into Bedale, to chapel and to visit the old folks' home where the residents were mostly younger than him.

The many who knew Percy hoped he would go on singing and digging to meet his maker. In arranging the pictures for the original article in the Yorkshire Post he said to the photographer, "You'll be back in four years to see my letter from Her Majesty."

Unfortunately Percy will not keep that appointment with the Queen. But I would like to say that if in the past I have said that I had not found anyone famous in the ancestry, I think I would now change that statement.

Links to the original two articles in the Northern Farmer and Yorkshire Post are as follows:

<http://goo.gl/hpYvj>

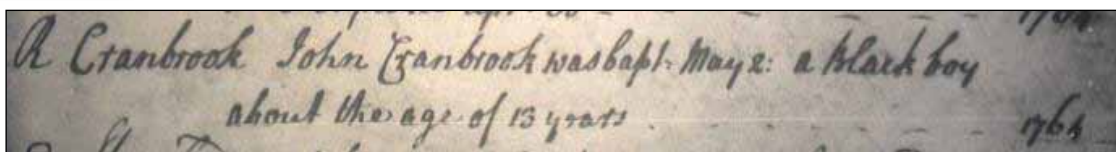
<http://goo.gl/Jfr3D>

They make interesting reading, and I would like to thank the editorial and photographic teams for use of some of their material. The original copyright remains with the two magazines. ■



Who Do You Think You Are? Live! 2013 - Personal Highlight

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



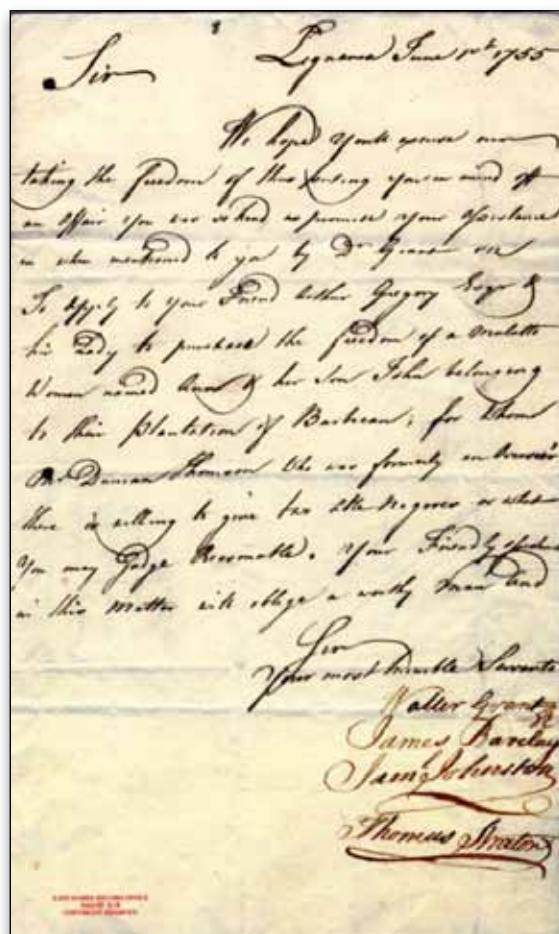
During the show I had several sessions on 'Ask The Experts'. The highlight for me was two ladies who wanted my opinion on a matter of slavery. They had only just discovered that their ancestor was black.

John Cranbrook was bapt May 2: a Black boy about the age of 13 years 1764 at St Nicholas, Rochester, Kent, England. There are few things of potential significance I explained:

1. The "Black" might not be an accurate description [indeed John was buried as a Mulatto]
2. Baptised at the age of 13 suggests that he may have recently been freed from slavery as it was illegal for slaves to be baptised as it was illegal for a Christian to be a slave. If we could ascertain who freed him then this might be a lead to his natural father.

We reviewed his marriage register entry and he signed his name in a very neat handwriting. He had been educated and this too might help to reveal his natural father. I was intrigued about who freed him and I was given this document:

The significance of it was that four men, including "Samuel Johnston" the lexicographer, had asked Rose Fuller, MP and a Judge in Jamaica, for his help in asking his friend to swap two slaves "Ann and her son John" for two, "or what you may judge reasonable" slaves for a "worthy man" Duncan Thomson who was a former plantation overseer on the Barbican plantation on Jamaica. Duncan Thomson is the primary candidate for being the natural father. If only we could find the manumission document. Very interesting!





The BMD Vault

by **Cliff Kemball**
(BMD Vault Coordinator, Member 3389)
and **Anne Shankland**
(Indexes Administrator, Member 1554)



The Guild is developing a BMD Vault project which will provide Guild members with access to an ever increasing database of Birth, Marriage and Death facsimile certificates.

The original aim of this project was to enable the copyright certificates held in the Guild's e-library to be transcribed so that "faux" certificates could be produced for inclusion in the Guild's searchable digitised online Library. The project was approved to allow the Library group to run the project using Guild volunteers to undertake the necessary transcriptions and for the Indexes Administrator to develop suitable web facilities to deal with the submission of spreadsheets (in Comma Separated Value 'CSV' format), analyse the content and add the data to a Guild BMD Vault database. Initially the project had been aimed at marriage certificates only, but in May 2012 it was decided that it should also include birth and death certificates, and so it was renamed as the 'BMD Vault'.

The objective is to increase the volume of material available to our members to search and copy as required, for their one-name studies. The longer term aim is to make this material also available to members of the public, as this would contribute to our charitable objective of educating the public in One-Name Studies.

Project Progress

A team of 12 volunteers has been working on transcribing data from digitised certificates to standardised CSV spreadsheets for subsequent uploading to the Guild's BMD Vault database. Initially PDF files of certificates were emailed to these volunteers to work on, but because the sizes of some of these files were so large they are also being made available via Google Drive. Eventually we plan to enable all volunteers to use the Guild's BMD Vault facility to download files to transcribe and subsequently upload the resultant CSV files for checking and input to the BMD Vault database.

The Guild Indexes Administrator has been working on developing the BMD Vault facility and the associated BMD database. The specification for this project has been agreed between the BMD Vault coordinator and the

Guild Indexes Administrator and some standard CSV files have been designed to enable birth, marriage and death certificates to be submitted to the BMD Vault database. The project will eventually cover certificates from a large number of countries, not just the UK.

Excellent progress has been made on increasing the volume of data that will eventually be submitted to the BMD Vault database. Data has been obtained from a number of differing sources; some of which will need to be transcribed and some that will eventually be able to be uploaded directly to the BMD Vault database.

The volume of BMD Vault data accumulated so far has exceeded 120,000 and the BMD Vault Coordinator is working on increasing the number of sources from which the Guild will be able to obtain BMD data. For example, the Guild's Front Office Manager is contacting a number of Marriage Challengers, who have not yet provided details of their challenges, to see if they can submit their spreadsheets of Marriage Challenge results to the BMD Vault project. BMD Vault data is coming from a range of sources including:

- existing digitised certificates held by the Guild
- certificates submitted by Guild members
- Marriage Challenge data
- Marriage Index data (where the full data has been collected)
- certificates provided by various Family History Societies.

The project team would be grateful to receive any certificates from any source and from any country. If the data is already in a digitised format i.e. PDF, Word or in a spreadsheet, it can be emailed to the BMD vault coordinator at bmd-vault@one-name.org. Alternatively arrangements can be made to collect original or copy certificates which the Guild can then digitise free of charge, and return the original and the digitised

file to the Guild member or the organisation that sent them. Members outside the UK should contact their local regional rep to see if arrangements can be made locally to collect and digitise the certificates.

Excellent progress has also been made by the Guild Indexes Administrator on developing the BMD Vault facilities and BMD Vault database. Anne has been working on the script which uploads 'CSV' spreadsheets to the Guild's website, analyses its content (for subsequent re-checking and amendment if necessary) and adds the data to the BMD Vault database. The system is currently able to handle spreadsheets in the standard Marriage Challenge results format and a few variations of it. For instance, the system can handle spreadsheets where the marriage data is split between Bride and Groom, and also for 'party 1' and 'party 2' where the data has not got separate Bride and Groom columns. Because of the variety of sources from which the certificate data is obtained, it is essential that there is a facility within the system to be able to identify possible duplicates, or near-duplicates where additional information may be included. The Indexes Administrator is currently working on developing this facility.

Once the BMD Vault project is functioning fully the accumulated BMD Vault data will be uploaded to the BMD Vault database, and will become available to all Guild members to search and to download specific 'faux' certificates as required. One of the significant developments that will be brought about by this project is that the existing Guild Marriage Index will form part of the BMD Vault database. This will mean that data from the Guild Marriage Index will be more comprehensive than the present version, potentially holding all the data available in the Marriage Registers. In addition, members will be able to search for their own surnames in future, if they wish; an option will be provided to members for them to a) choose whether they wish to make their 'surname' data available for searching and b) whether they want it available for other members to search.

At present the project team have been concentrating on UK Birth, Marriage and Death data, but in the longer term the project aims to collect data from as many countries as possible. In preparation for this expansion, the project team would like examples of Birth, Marriage and Death certificates and of standardised CSV formats that would be appropriate for Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the US, which could be used to upload data to the BMD Vault database.

If the BMD Vault project expands as planned there will be a need for more volunteers to carry out the transcription work. If you are interested in volunteering to undertake some of the transcription work please contact Cliff Kemball, the BMD vault Coordinator, bmd-vault@one-name.org.


Future Developments

The BMD Vault project is an exciting development for the Guild which will initially provide a significant increase in the data available for searching by Guild members. In the longer term it is hoped that the BMD Vault database will be made available to the public for searching. This would significantly improve the international profile of the Guild and contribute to the Guild's charitable objectives of educating the public in one-name studies and promoting the preservation and publication of the resultant data, and to maximise its accessibility to interested members of the public.

Members can assist in the development of this project in any of the following three ways:

1. providing a standardised CSV file format for birth, marriage or death certificates for any country in the world
2. submitting certificates to the project team, again from anywhere in the world
3. volunteering to act as a transcriber for the project.

COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE



IN THE REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF Axminster
FROM THE REGISTERS OF Kilminster

1837. Marriage solemnized at <i>the parish church</i> in the <i>parish</i> of <i>Kilminster</i> in the County of <i>Devon</i>								
No.	When married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
2	October 10th	<i>Ephraim North</i>	<i>full</i>	<i>Widower</i>	<i>Gent</i>	<i>Kilminster</i>	<i>George North</i>	<i>Thatcher</i>
		<i>Mary Aish</i>	<i>full</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	-	<i>Kilminster</i>	<i>William Aish</i>	<i>Yeoman</i>

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Established Church by Licence* by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { *sgd* } in the presence of us, { *(Geo?) Gillett* *Charlotte Sampson (Leamon?)* }
 { *sgd* } { *Mary Gillett* }

GRO REFERENCE: 1837, Quarter 4, AISH, Mary, Volume 10, Page 11.

Entry transcribed by Michael Egerton from the register deposited at Devon Record Office, Exeter.

Faux certificate produced from that transcript using Andrew Millard's csv2faux php script.



Will of Benjamin Dennis Oxland of HMS Vigilant Seaman, dated 8th August 1778 with Admons. 30th June 1783

by Marilyn Johnson (Member 2618)

Proved and Granted at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC), a copy of the Will and Admons. is recorded in the Cornwallis Register, Quire numbers: 301 - 348. TNA ref: PROB 11/1105. This handwritten entry appears over two facing pages and begins with the words 'In the Name of God Amen'. The Administration starts three lines from the end of the first page and runs onto the right hand (recto) page, where it was foliated (313) by hand in the upper right hand corner: there also seems to be lines drawn so the clerk could write neatly.

Wills and Admons. were usually proved in the PCC (PROB 11) because of the value of goods, or wages due, but also because of where the person died. Benjamin's will may have been proved in Canterbury because he was due wages from the Royal Navy, or because he may have died at sea or abroad.

From the late 16th century the Admiralty had problems with persons impersonating the executors, creditors or next of kin of deceased seamen. Although there were proposals to reduce or stop these practices it was not until 1786 that the Office of Inspector of Wills was set up, three years after Benjamin died.

Life at sea was fraught with dangers; seamen were required to write Wills to provide for their families were they to succumb to disease, accident, illness or War. Many Wills were on printed forms with the details filled in by hand: one cannot tell if this one was and many were witnessed by the Captain of the ship as was this one.

'Benj- Dennis Oxland of His Majesty Ship Vigilant seaman being of sound and disposing mind and memory after my decease make publish and declare this my last will and testament..... I commend my soul to God that gave it and my Body to the Earth or Sea as it shall please God to order and as for all my worldly Estate I give bequeath and dispose thereof as followeth... my Dearly beloved father John Oxland of the Parish of Plymstock in the county of Devon vittualler all and Singular my Household Goods and furniture cloaths watches rings and every other {???} which I now possess or may at any time here after likewise my wages Sum and Sums of and {quantity?} {winricouts?} Goods Chattels and Estate whatsoever as shall to any ways am owing or belonging unto me at the time of my decease I do give devise and bequeath the same unto the said John Oxland of the Parish and County aforesaid and I do hereby nominate and appoint the said John Oxland my only and Sole Executor of this my last will and testament hereby revoking all former and other wills and testaments and goods of Gifts lyant at any time heretofor made and I do ordain and Witness those present to stand and be for my only last will and testament in witness whereof to this



Copy of the Will of Benjamin Dennis Oxland

my said will I have set my hand and seal the eighth day of August in the eighteenth year of the reign of Sovereign Lord George the Third.....In the year of our Lord one thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Eight.....'

Benjamin signed his name in full, the clerk having drawn a circle and placed L S inside it. It is witnessed by R Kingsmill Captain *HMS Vigilante* and John Whittington Pursers Steward.

The Annexed Administration dated 30th June 1783 tells us that Benjamin's father John Oxland predeceased his son and Admons. were granted to Ann Oxland widow, 'the natural and lawful Mother and next of kin' and 'sole executor and universal legatee of John Oxland.' The Admons. imply that Benjamin was still serving on *HMS Vigilant* at the time of his death in 1783.

Benjamin's Will does not mention a wife or children so he was probably single. He may also have had no male sibling as John's Will makes his wife his sole executor. From his list of goods and chattels one can see that Benjamin owned furniture and household goods, this may mean Benjamin lived independently of his parents or his furniture etc., were in storage of some kind. The Will also lists clothes, watches (plural) and rings from which one could deduce that he was reasonably well off: watches were luxury items not usual for the ordinary man. The Will does not tell us what rank Benjamin was, but one needs to consider the possibility that an Ordinary Seaman would not have

enough spare money to keep a home whilst at sea and/or own watches and rings. One also has to consider the possibility that the furniture, household goods, rings and watches may have been inherited. Another explanation could be that the rings and watches were plunder from enemy ships, although I am not sure if the Royal Navy did this: I know piracy was practised in earlier history to take plunder and share it amongst the crew, but am not sure if this continued into the 18th century and it is something I may need to research further.

Benjamin's father, John Oxland, was described as a Victualler which could mean Grocer, Licenced Victualler (who sold alcohol) or an Innkeeper of Plymstock, Devon. Plymstock is a village, large enough to hold St Mary and All Saints Parish Church, and an ancient Parish. One cannot know if the Will refers to a residence in the rural village of Plymstock or the more extensive Plymstock Parish which takes in a number of villages and large areas of arable land.

The Will was written during the reign of George the Third (1760-1820) when the government was led by Lord North (1770-1782). Benjamin served on *HMS Vigilant* during the American War of Independence (1775-1783) just at the time France, allied to America, entered the war in summer 1778. On the day Benjamin signed his Will, Captain Cook reached Cape Prince of Wales in the Bering straits. Benjamin's Will is countersigned by Sir Robert Brice Kingsmill first Baronet (1730-1805) after he had returned to active service as captain of the *Vigilant*.

Vigilant was a 64-gun third-rate ship of the line, part of Admiral Augustus Keppel's fleet at the battle of Ushant (an island off the English Coast) on 27th July 1778, just days before Benjamin wrote his Will. Controversies surrounding the conduct of the officers involved and the indecisive result of the battle abounded against Kingsmill. He was offered service in the West Indies, but avoided it by resigning his commission. The Will cannot tell us when Benjamin actually joined the ship, but the fleet did return to dock for repairs after the Battle of Ushant so it is possible that Benjamin wrote his will as soon as he was assigned to the ship, especially after knowing the damage that *Vigilant* and others in the fleet had sustained. There is also a possibility that Benjamin was 'impressed' – press-ganged by force – a practice which continued until the early 19th century. Were he a victualler himself he may have been put in charge of the food stores and obtaining supplies.

Although there is a baptism entry (1754) for Benjamin Dennis Oxland in the Plymstock parish records and an entry for the burial of his father John on 18th March 1782 and possibly for Ann on 2nd August 1783 there is no burial entry for Benjamin. Registers of Seamen's Services (ADM 188) and the Continuous Service engagement books (ADM 139) were not in use at this time and therefore there are no seaman's records to view which would answer questions about Benjamin's service. I would like to access the captain's logs (ADM 51); some logs have lists of crew and I may find out if Benjamin was buried at sea or abroad. The *Vigilant's* Muster Rolls or Pay Books, (ADM 34. 828 & 829) may have entries showing when Benjamin died and what wages were outstanding at his death and when and to whom paid. Other records one could look at are Abstracts

of Ships Journals 1736-1795 (ADM 7 / 269-575). If he or his father were Freeman there may be voting lists or Apprentice or Freeman's lists available to search.

Benjamin Oxland's Will may not have as much genealogical information as other Wills of its type, but for me, this is a whole new line for my One Name Study of Oxland. Benjamin, John and Ann were previously unknown to me as a family unit and although the line may not continue after the death of Benjamin, it shows me when and where the family had migrated and may eventually assist in finding the origin of the family.

To find out more about the family of Benjamin Oxland I intend to look for Wills and or Admons. for both John Oxland and his wife Ann. Having the burial dates of both has narrowed down the search for Probate at the Court of the Bishop (Consistory) of the Archdeaconry of Totnes, Diocese of Exeter or the PCC. Sadly, there is a possibility that these records were part of the Devon Church Records destroyed by fire and bombings in WWII. It may also be of interest to look for Death Duty Registers.

Other places to look include: Plymstock Manor Survey in 1755 (Bedford records T1258 M/E24 DRO) which includes a map in colour and lists of who owned and leased what property: we know that John, Ann and Benjamin were in Plymstock during this period and it may be worth viewing. The Plymstock Church Records (968/PI, 112-22 DRO) may include Rate Books, Church Minute Books, Poor Rates etc. Devon Land Tax Records 1780-1832 are available on CD and may be worth reviewing. Trade Directories held at the Westcountry Library for 1783 and 1784 may include an entry for John Oxland as although he died in 1782 Directories took time to compile, update and correct. Land Tax Records, poll books, local newspapers may also be available for Plymstock Devon.

There are more questions than answers when one analyses this Will. Some of those questions may require research and others may never be answered. The questions I particularly want answers to are, where did Benjamin die; did he have siblings; who were his grandparents and where did they come from? There is a glorious amount of social history available to flesh out the bones of Benjamin which, time permitting, I will have the opportunity to look at. I do know however, that my starting point, the Will of Benjamin Dennis Oxland, is neutral and reliable and that anything I build from the information held within its two pages will have an accurate and impartial foundation. ■

This essay was written as an assignment for a Pharos course. This is an abridged version of Marilyn's article. The full unabridged version, including references and footnotes, together with a copy of the will, is available at <http://goo.gl/YkopY>.



New Zealand Goldrush

An extract from a Verrinder Views Newsletter

by Stan Verrinder (Member 1183)

I was trawling through fresh New Zealand newspaper extracts on the Internet and I happened to come across an article from the *Otago Daily Times* of 26th November 1862.

"On the 11th inst., four men (Davis and party,) reported the discovery of payable gold in the Earnsclugh River, some twelve miles from Vallender's party, and applied for a prospecting claim. Prospect obtained, 5 dwts to two tin dishes.

"The greatest excitement has prevailed amongst the whole of the miners during the past week, and but few comparatively are now at work on the Dunstan field proper. Conroy's still carries and supports a good population. Gold has been obtained (and one prospect of up to 3 dwt to one dish) in claims sunk away from the lead hitherto believed to be the only one that existed in the gully, but the news of the discovery of gold on the Cardrona has quite eclipsed those on the Earnsclugh. From the distance and difficulty of the track to these I have not been able to satisfy myself of their lasting value, but from the few that have returned, I am led to infer that these prospectors are satisfied.

"During the whole week rumors of extraordinary rich finds have been floating about, and many so well authenticated that I make no doubt that ere long some really important finds will be made known. At present I am well aware that some parties who have discovered and are working highly remunerative ground, are waiting until discovered by the miners generally, before they apply for a prospecting claim, so as to have an opportunity of thoroughly ascertaining the best sites for which to apply when obliged to confine themselves to a limited area. These discoveries are remarked as existing in every direction on the western side of the Clutha, towards Nokomai, up the Clutha, and within a radius of from 40 to 60 miles from the Dunstan. The difficulty also of obtaining a prospecting claim with an undoubted title on ground not within the limits of a proclaimed gold field, leads to other arrangements, such as working with others, under a mutual understanding. The river party on the Manuherikia have commenced the bye-wash, and in about three to four weeks will have begun work in earnest on their claim. It is expected to turn out very rich.

This was at the height of the New Zealand Gold Rush, with its parallels in Australia in 1851 and California in 1849. There was no hope of identifying the Vallender involved as the first one known to immigrate to New Zealand was Ann Venneder (1840-1918), in 1865, with some of her siblings following in 1874.

A couple of weeks later I came across the following notice in the nearby newspaper *Lyttelton Times* of 14th January 1860. It is a reasonable assumption that our gold miner had been found, it was Thomas Valender for whom a letter was waiting. Alas, there were several Thomases that would qualify, and all were out of the frame for various reasons.

Lyttelton Times - 14 January 1860 CHRISTCHURCH LIST OF UNCLAIMED LETTERS

Grace, Wm.	Tetley, J. D.
Guillim, Thomas	Thompson, Mrs. E. J. (2)
Hall, Thomas	Thompson, R. F.
Hall, Chas. (2)	Turner, Thos.
Hammond, R.	Valender, Thomas
Hannah, Geo. (2)	Verey, Mrs.
Harper, George	Walker, Mr.
Harris and Lechenstein, (3)	Ward, J.
Hibbert, Wm.	Ward, Mr.
Hill, Chas.	Warlan Samuel
Hollier, Edward	Watt, Hugh
Hoodman, G.	Wedereel, Chas.
Humphreys, F. (2)	Werry, William
Hurley, John	Whard, Edward
Jackson, Henry	Wheeler, Jesse
Jackson, William	Wilson, Geo.
Jenkins, Mrs. E.	Wilson, John (3)
Jilespey, John	Williams, John (2)]
Jones, Mrs. Fanny	Wood, E.
Jones, Robert (3)	Wright, Frederick
Kean, Mr. (2)	Wyatt, the Rev. A. H.
Kebblewhite, Henry	A. W.

Otago Daily Times - 26 November 1862

Then there was another stroke of newspaper luck: the *Victoria Police Gazette of Australia* became searchable online. In the edition for 19th October 1855 was a notice that Thomas Vallender who was 22 years of age, and born at Maisemore, Gloucestershire, had absconded from the Franklin district of Tasmania. There could be little doubt that this was the gold miner.

Thomas (1834-1907), who was only firmly identified through his will, had an unfortunate start in life, his mother dying in childbirth in 1837 at the early age of 24, and his father eventually dying in Orton Road Hospital, Gloucester, which was the Gloucester Lunatic Asylum. In 1860 at the age of sixteen Thomas was sentenced to be transported to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) for seven years for theft. He had stolen, with an accomplice, a piece of cotton print worth 9s 4d (47p) from a shop in Narberth, Pembrokeshire, Wales. Thomas had had a recent conviction for theft hence the severity of the sentence. He was transported to Australia on the *Oriental Queen* which set sail on 4th November 1852 with 280 men and arrived on 19th February 1853 in Tasmania. His record shows that after five years of his sentence (i.e. in 1855) he was granted a conditional pardon, but that doesn't accord with the 1855 notice in the *Victoria Police Gazette*.

Thomas returned to England from New Zealand, somewhere between 1863 and 1866, paying his own fare, and in 1866 married widow Catherine Russell née Temple (1834-1897) in Derbyshire. For the rest of his working life he was a miner in the Derbyshire coalfield, but was not blessed with children. Shortly before his death he returned to his native Gloucestershire, where he died, leaving the modest sum of £55 13s 10d (£55.69p), to his two sisters and a friend. ■

The New Zealand newspapers mentioned in this article are searchable online at <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>.

Papers Past contains more than two million pages of digitised New Zealand newspapers and periodicals. The collection covers the years 1839 to 1945 and includes 77 publications from all regions of New Zealand.

St Thomas à Becket Church Graveyard, Hampsthwaite



St Thomas à Becket Parish Church in Hampsthwaite, near Harrogate, North Yorkshire is on the banks of the river Nidd which flooded recently. Relatives are saddened to see the flooded graves and it is certainly not a time to transcribe the MIs.

Photograph provided by John K. Coldwell
(Marksub Chairman, Member 2172)



Why be a Society in the 21st Century?

Gaydon – December 1, 2012

by **Christine Hancock (Member 5239)**

I hadn't been to a Seminar for ages then two came along together. Just a fortnight after the Maritime Records seminar in Greenwich, there was another one. This one was organised jointly by the Guild and the Federation of Family History Societies. As I have connections with both organisations, I felt obliged to attend. Plus it was held not far from where I live.

It was a cold frosty day to drive down the Fosse Way to the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon in Warwickshire and a welcoming mug of coffee and a chat with old friends.



Paul Millington with Hugh Cave

After the welcome and introduction by Guild Chairman Kirsty Gray, the first speaker was Paul Millington on "Publicising your society on the web". Paul is Profiles and Archives Administrator for the Guild and started by giving us some tips on how to improve our websites:

- Think about how visitors will see your site.
- Make it easy to read and quick to load.
- Think about the experience of the visually impaired – add descriptions to pictures and links.

Don't already have a website and are thinking of starting one? Look at other sites. What do you like about a site? See how others go about it. As a Guild member, you can set up a profile on the website. I was amazed to hear how many members have not used this facility - it is so simple and the obvious thing to do if you want the public to find you.

One of the first jobs when you set up a one-name study is to collect information - lists of births marriages and deaths, census information etc. How do you save it, display it and make it available to the public or members of your society? Why not put it in the Guild (electronic) Archives? This is a completely free service for members and you can decide

who can see it - from everyone, through registered users to just using it as a backup to your own computer. Now I know how this works, I will definitely be sorting and submitting my information.



Simon Leather

After a break for coffee and biscuits, we returned to the conference room for the next session, "Running your society" by Simon Leather. Simon runs the Leather Family History Society and he went into the details of setting up a society.

The first thing is to decide what it is for. What are you going to cover? As a One-Namer this will be everything about your name, everywhere and any time. Then the important decision on what officers you need, how often you are going to meet, and where, and how many members make a quorum?

If you are going to have a journal, how often will you publish? How many pages? Don't forget to get an ISSN number - it is free, although you will have to provide free copies for various libraries, but your efforts will be preserved forever. If your society starts to publish books you will need an ISBN number. This is not free (about £121 for a set of ten numbers) but you will need it to sell your book on Amazon.

Then there are the boring things like setting up a bank account, the cost of postage and printing, also insurance for meetings. Simon then took a look into the future - web publishing (perhaps an electronic journal to save on postage), setting up a website and of course, what was to be a recurring theme, what to do about an ageing membership.

As we adjourned for lunch, I felt relieved that my one-name study is too small to set up a society!



The buffet lunch was very good - I would say much better than the lunch at the Greenwich Seminar and there was plenty of it. I wish I had asked for a doggy bag for some of the left-overs! There was also time to visit the motor museum on the same site, although somehow I never got around to it.



Debbie Kennett

The seminar resumed with Debbie Kennett on “The power of social networking: genealogy in the 21st century” She came up with some amazing figures for the number of people using social networking sites. Subscribers to family history sites number anything from 2m (Ancestry) to 65m (MyHeritage) but Facebook has 1 billion active users, 81% outside the US.

Google+ (400m users, but only a quarter of those are active) is good for “Hangouts” or virtual meetings, although most people here are already on Facebook or Twitter. The Guild has regular Hangouts. LinkedIn(175m) is a network for professionals, and is not as social. Twitter (140m active users) is good for keeping up with what is happening. You hear the genealogical news there first.

Did you know that over half the UK population of about 63m are on Facebook, compared with 26m on the electoral roll and 17m in the BT telephone directory? If you want to find people with your surname, where do you think you are most likely to find them? One advantage of Facebook is that a lot of the people who use it are of the younger generation. They

are not as careful about their privacy and you can build up whole families by looking at their contacts. You can also send messages to anyone on Facebook. Are you looking for a volunteer from that distant branch for your DNA study? Why not try Facebook?

Then there are Blogs. I find these a much better way of communicating with your audience than a website. They are easier to set up than a website and usually free.



Chris Braund

After the Tea Break was the final session “Why be a Society in the 21st century” in which Chris Braund told us about his experience with the Braund Society. This society was founded in 1982 and it seems to have discovered the secret of enthusing the younger generation. Apparently there are people who can’t wait to reach the age of 18 so they can join the committee!

Chris described how the Society is organised and about its activities. It runs a museum and collects artefacts connected with the Braund name – many exhibits are in private hands so it is partially a virtual museum.

Perhaps part of their success is running events for the Twiglets (under 18s) and getting all generations involved but a lot must be due to their motto “Friendship and Fellowship with Enthusiasm”, not to mention living half the time in the seventeenth century!

The seminar ended exactly on time. In fact the whole event went very smoothly. The venue, while not having quite the history of the National Maritime Museum, was very comfortable.

So, did we answer the question posed by the title of the seminar “Why be a Society in the 21st Century?” It appears that there is a growing problem in societies with an ageing membership and lack of new members joining. The younger generation are living their lives online and that is where we should go to find them.

Societies will change but people will still want to meet others with the same interests, whether it is online or in the flesh. So get out there and grab them. ■



DNA Seminar

National Star College, Cheltenham

February 9th 2013

by **Alan Stanier**

As the manager of a small y-chromosome DNA study, I was interested in attending the Guild's seminar on the use of DNA in one-name studies. I reached the National Star College somewhat early, so spent some time looking round the various displays being put up, and talking to other participants.



Rodney Brackstone - Speaker, Seminar Organiser, and SemSub Chairman

The seminar started with a useful and well-illustrated talk by Rodney Brackstone, "The Basics of DNA And Genealogy", which I thought held a fine balance between being too simple for the more experienced listeners, and too complex for the beginners amongst us. Starting from the structure of the cell, he talked us through the structure of DNA, and the story of how it was determined, then explained the workings of DNA fingerprinting, with some useful examples, before moving on to discuss the DNA in the mitochondria and nucleus of the cell.

Mitochondrial DNA is inherited through the female line, and can be used to investigate family relationships. This was demonstrated by showing how bodies found in Russia were proved to be those of the Romanovs, by comparison of mtDNA from, among others, Prince Philip. And, inevitably, the use of mtDNA in confirming the identity of the recently-discovered bones of Richard III was mentioned.

In both those cases, mtDNA was used to confirm family relationships already known though historical research. That DNA testing is only useful in conjunction with traditional methods of research was a theme throughout the seminar.

Nuclear DNA consists of 23 pairs of chromosomes, 22 almost identical known as autosomes, and a gender-related unmatched pair: XX in women, XY in men. Most of the remainder of his talk concentrated on Y-chromosomal DNA, which since it follows the male line, therefore the surname, is most useful to one-name studies. He explained Single Tandem Repeats, and their use as markers, and how they may be used to link family groups. The talk ended with a look at anthropology and deep ancestry.

Following a short break, there were three presentations entitled "My DNA Study Today", by Hugh Cave, Ken Mycock and Geoff Swinfield.



Hugh Cave — One of the Founder Members of the Guild

Hugh Cave's talk started with the observation that, whereas genealogical research asked the questions of Who and When, and family history research the questions of What, Where and Why, genetic research asked the question: How? He ended with conclusions including the salutary "Be prepared for 'disaster' ... hence the need for a trauma counsellor".

In between was a workmanlike account of the Cave ONS DNA project, illustrated by slides which warranted closer inspection than was possible at the time (I was pleased to learn the Guild will be making slides of all presentations available on the website). The talk was somewhat general at the start, which inevitably to some extent recapitulated Rodney Brackstone's talk, moving into a detailed account of the methods, results and problems encountered. I found it reassuring that others had had the same problems as me!



Ken Mycock, Vice Chairman

Ken Mycock's talk continued in the same vein, with illustrations from the Mycock study. His slides showing the results for the various family groups had the marker numbers in an unreadably-small font, which surprised me at first. But, as Ken pointed out, the actual figures were irrelevant for the seminar, the point was the search for patterns within the numbers.



Geoff Swinfield

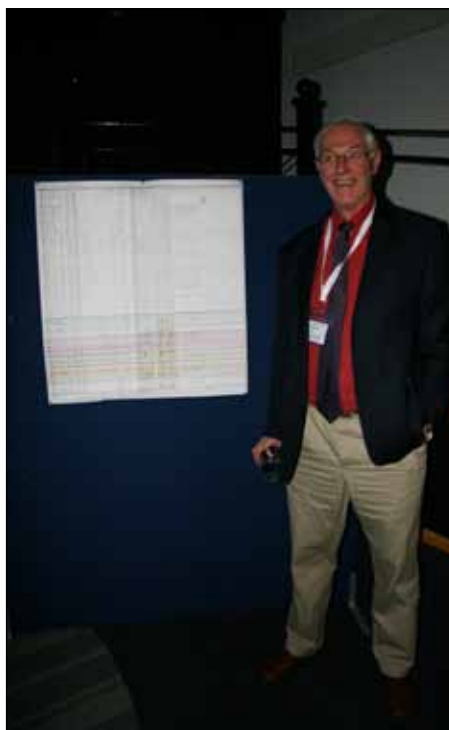
My interest was particularly piqued by Ken's discussion of variant surnames, because I have had similar problems. Meacock, Maycock and Mycock all have the same etymology, being diminutive forms of May, and the temptation is to see them as connected. But DNA testing shows otherwise. I have had a similar experience with the Stanyers and Stanways of Biddulph.

Geoff Swinfield's talk, subtitled "How DNA ruined My Family Tree!" was, for me, the most entertaining presentation. Starting with an account of a chance meeting with a fellow Swinfield in a Record Office, he spoke of how conventional family history research had allowed him to build up a comprehensive tree of the Swinfields, until DNA tests revealed that, solid written records notwithstanding, he wasn't related to a near cousin. Somewhere, there was an non-paternity Event (NPE).

His account of how DNA testing, and subtle inferences from census data, allowed him to pinpoint the probable source of the NPE, was most enlightening. Geoff started his talk as Geoff Swinfield, but ended it as Geoff Brown!

Following an excellent buffet lunch – the volunteers who catered for the seminar did a quite splendid job – James Irvine started the afternoon session with "Managing a large surname DNA project". My project is small, only nine participants and unlikely to grow much larger, so I don't have the problems with displaying and manipulating the data that those with hundreds of participants have. But having manipulated large databases in a previous career, I was interested in the problems raised. I was intrigued to learn how it could be done without becoming time-consuming, and soon got my answer: it's time-consuming!

James' talk was again illustrated with good slides that warrant closer examination. His conclusion that small and large DNA projects have much in common, but also significant differences, was well-argued. The genetic distance matrix that I find useful for my nine-participant project would be a nightmare for over 300 participants. I found his discussion of TiPS particularly useful.



James Irvine

The final session, and for me the most exciting, was Debbie Kennett's talk, "DNA, the future". Debbie discussed the current situation in five areas of DNA testing: Y-STR testing, Y-SNP testing, Mitochondrial DNA testing, Autosomal DNA testing, and X-chromosome testing.



Debbie Kennett

Of course, any prediction of the future must assume that current trends will continue, but there seem to be good reasons to believe that there are some exciting developments in the near future! I was particularly interested in the prospect of a full Y-chromosome sequencing for \$1000.

The seminar ended with an enthusiastic question-and-answer session. All in all, a very successful day. ■

Special thanks go to Alan, a non-member, for writing this seminar report.

Additionally, Christopher Meathrel for providing some of the photographs in this report.



Forthcoming Seminars

10th 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

16th 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

17th May 2014

Midlands Seminar

We last held a seminar in this location in May 2007, so it's high time we returned to this 'refurbished' venue for another Midlands area seminar. A number of suggestions have been put forward as to what this seminar should focus on, so perhaps you would like to give the seminar sub-committee some input of what you would like before we move ahead? We do hold many suggestions from your previous seminar comment forms, however your latest ideas are always welcome.

Venue: The Temple Centre, Nottingham
Road, Nuthall, Nottingham, NG16 1DP

Trades Union Seminar

Modern Records Centre [MRC], University Library
University of Warwick, Coventry, CV9 7AL
Saturday 18th May 2013

Trade Union, Freemasonry, and Friendly Society Records



Maybe those Guild members who did not attend the Guild Railway Records seminar at Swindon in November 2011, have not heard about the Modern Records Centre [MRC] at Warwick University, the facility noted for its holdings of old railway trade union records.

Programme

09:30 - 10:00	Arrival: Registration and coffee
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome by Seminar Organiser – Richard Heaton
10:15 - 11:15	Helen Ford (Archive Manager MRC) – Trade Union Records at the Modern Record Centre
11:15 - 11:30	Break
11:30 - 12:30	Diane Clements (Director, Library and Museum of Freemasonry) – Freemason Records
12:30 - 13:45	Finger Buffet – Behind the scenes tour of the MRC [Limited to 15 persons]. Or an opportunity for members to display their own research and brick walls
13:45 - 14:45	Chris Coates – TUC Collections
14:45 - 15:15	Tea and Break
15:15 - 16:15	Roger Logan – The Records of Friendly Societies
16:15 - 16:30	Wrap up and Close of Seminar

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.

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

We would like to ensure that any disabled delegate can participate fully in this event. Anyone with any special requirement should telephone the Guild Help Desk on 0800 011 2182 or email seminar-booking@one-name.org.

Pictures from the DNA Seminar

National Star College, Cheltenham



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Main inset: Question and Answer Session with the Speakers

Top left: National Star College Reception Foyer

Middle left: Debbie Kennett and Richard Scantlebury, together with other attendees

Bottom left: Geoff Swinfield together with Rodney Brackstone (Seminar Organiser)

Bottom right: Attendees during the Seminar

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