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# Journal

## of One-Name Studies

The quarterly  
publication of the

**Guild of  
One-Name  
Studies**

<https://one-name.org>

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All the latest Guild news and updates



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The Guild of One-Name Studies is the worldwide centre of excellence in one-name studies and promotes the interests of both the individuals and groups who are engaged in them. Established in 1979 and registered as a charity in 1989, the Guild provides its members with the means to share, exchange and publish information about one-name studies as well as encouraging and assisting all those interested in one-name studies by means of conference, seminars, projects and other activities.

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Tracy Care  
Tel: 01227 906099  
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[editor@one-name.org](mailto:editor@one-name.org)

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

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Fiona Tipple  
[study-registrar@one-name.org](mailto:study-registrar@one-name.org)

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# Journal

of One-Name Studies

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All photos courtesy of authors unless otherwise stated.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



well by the volume of conversation at break time.

This last year has been challenging because of the ongoing situation just about everywhere in the world. Our members are all over the world too.

I am pleased to be associated with the first efforts of trying to replace face to face meetings by hosting Yorkshire regional online meetings. We now have at least three more open to all members, giving members a chance to chat. Take a look at the Guild calendar.

I hope that other meetings may spring up and we will give all regional representatives the chance to start similar chats with their members, even if we have to show the less technically challenged how easy it is.

Regional Representatives are becoming a rare breed. What do we need to do to

I think it is essential that we keep in touch with our members while at the same time giving them a chance to meet together. I can always tell when any gathering of members is going

encourage members to take one what is an essential link in the chain? Should we offer more training on how to, and what to do? Should we scrap the post altogether and send out a centralised message?

I would like to hear your views although we have so few in the position that maybe many of you don't have a clue what they do. If you can spare the time, please log on to our website and look at the Job Description:

[https://one-name.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/editor\\_uploads/jobdescriptions/JD\\_Regional\\_Rep.pdf](https://one-name.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/editor_uploads/jobdescriptions/JD_Regional_Rep.pdf)

Without our volunteers, we won't have a Guild that functions. The less volunteers we have, the more others have to do.

We are considering changing the way we give titles to our volunteers so that we have a uniform system. The committee has given out job titles in the past without a thought of uniformity, so we have Advisors, Coordinators, Managers, Representatives, Organisers, Project Managers, Officers, Liaison and Leaders. More on this, when we have a decision.  
**W. Paul Featherstone MCG**

## Guidelines for Contributions to the *Journal*

### Submission of articles

All articles should be submitted to the editor@one-name.org

Articles should be sent as a Word/Notes document. Although article length has not been an issue to date, articles may, however be edited if too long.

Photographs, maps, graphs etc. should have clear captions and sent separately from the article i.e. as jpgs.

### Abbreviations

Use full spelling first time with the abbreviation in brackets and the abbreviation, e.g. GRO, thereafter.

### Italics

Use for foreign phrases, and titles of publications.

### UK/US spelling

The UK/US text will remain as sent by the author.

### Dates

10 April 1970 not 10th April 1970 or April 10 1970.

### Article cut off dates for 2021

- 5 February
- 5 May
- 5 August
- 5 November

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

Address for correspondence:  
c/o Secretary, 113 Stomp Road,  
Burnham, Berkshire SL1 7NN

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# The Meanest Man in Yorkshire

by Jean Toll

The meanest man in Yorkshire was not a Vant, but married to a Vant, therefore part of my study. Several pieces have been written about him, and this is another using a mixture of these sources.

John Turner, said to be the meanest man in Yorkshire, was born on 1 March 1800 in Quarry Moor near Ripon to parents who had a small farm. Nothing is known about his early life apart from his being apprenticed to an unknown linen draper. He became assistant to Mr Sayer, a linen draper in a shop next to the old Bowling Green Hotel in Bridge Street, Bradford. When Mr Sayer decided to leave the area, John managed to buy the business for £1,000 borrowed from his family.

He was a changed man; he had been one of the “young bloods” of the area and took great pride in adorning himself with jewellery, gold rings, watch & chain and the latest fashions in clothes, apparently ‘far more than an assistant draper had any right to be’. As soon as he acquired his own business he disposed of all his finery and never again wore anything but the most basic apparel. His whole life became one of making money by whatever means possible, even at the expense of his health. The business thrived, it was open from the early morning, four, five or six am, and didn’t close until ten or twelve at night. If a coach stopped at the Bowling Green Hotel to change horses, even if it was at 1am, John would open his shop to sell the finest linens to the [usually] wealthy travellers! He only took a few hours to sleep amongst the piles of goods that packed the premises from basement to attic. He would walk to Manchester to purchase new stock, or occasionally get a lift on a carrier’s wagon [it is unclear if he paid the carrier for the privilege]. He would buy, at a very low price, goods that small traders were having no luck selling elsewhere, he would then ‘sell them on’ in his shop. When he had been in business for about two years he purchased a public house in Kirkgate, Bradford, paying cash which surprised many people. Day by day his business increased, and his shop was seldom closed, except for a brief few hours at night.

This lifestyle with its long hours, hard work and self-denial eventually made John unwell and he decided, reluctantly, to sell the business. A buyer was soon found. Nine years to the day after buying the business for £1,000 John sold it for £16,000. In order to regain his failing health, he moved to Starbeck near Harrogate where he spent the next 40 years until his death. He bought Beech Grove House near the north-eastern line of the railway where he lived in utmost privacy, engaging a housekeeper to deal with everything so that he would never need to leave the house. He started to acquire property, even buying the workhouse when it came up for sale in 1858, benefitting from Harrogate’s 1840s building boom. He gained most notoriety as a money-lender and was sought after by those who were financially embarrassed. Tradesmen in their winter doldrums, property owners with deeds to mortgage came to him on a regular basis. The interest he charged was unchanging, at 5%, for ease of calculation.

In the privacy of Beech House and its grounds John recovered his health and became, if possible, more avaricious in his actions when out and about. He was often to be seen with his wheelbarrow gathering the refuse of the roads or picking up stones, which, after being broken and accumulated, he sold for repairing the roads. Very little that would raise money escaped his keen eyes. On one occasion, a debtor from Ripon could not pay him, he took as security the man’s grindstone which he wheeled home to Starbeck, unfortunately a short distance from his home, the grindstone broke in two, he left it there and soon returned with his wheelbarrow to gather the fragments. He always took a large bag with him when going out and about. Nothing was overlooked, even a stray feather would be carefully picked up and added to the stock, bits of old iron, stray nails, rags of woollen, cotton or linen were prized finds, not to be left behind. Old boots, shoes and bits of leather were pounced upon and disposed of for what he could get for them from some economical cobbler, or when too valueless for a cobbler they were hoarded a bit longer until he could dispose of them to a glue maker. He owned a large amount of property and would always be there when his rents were due, and, if the sum was not promptly paid a distraint would be immediately looked for. John frequently travelled to Bradford to collect rents, always travelling roughly 21 miles there and back on foot, carrying his food with him. On one occasion, he was seen walking over Rombards Moor barefoot with his shoes slung over his shoulder to save the leather!

In 1841 John married his housekeeper, Jane Vant the mother of his year-old son, John Francis Vant [Turner after the marriage], finding it cheaper to marry Jane than to provide separately for mother and son. His domestic arrangements for the rest of his life were equally frugal. He often stated that his domestic expenses did not exceed £20 per year; this was little more than what was spent on the workhouse inmates at the time. Fire was never used in the house except for cooking. If he could not pick up enough coal to supply the fire, he would forage in the hedgerows for wood to serve the purpose. I feel so sorry for Jane and John Jr, how very cold they must have been in the harsh winters of those days. When in the house, he always changed from his good clothes, and wore a house suit which was made from hundreds of patches material of all shapes and sizes [more work for Jane].

John bought the house next door when it was half-built and the owner could not afford to keep up the payments to the builder. John and Jane moved into this uncompleted house and John Jr stayed with his family in Beech House. The house remained uncompleted until his death, with a great mound of stones and rubbish in front that he would not have disturbed. It remained there until his death. As his health deteriorated, he moved to a cottage overlooking the Old Sulphur Well, where he spent his last days.

John died on 2 March 1883 aged 83 in Knaresborough: speculation was rife about his great fortune. It appears, however, that owing to the depreciation of the value of

# Marriage Challenge Update: GRO Certificates - Is there Copyright?

by Peter Copsey MCG

If you examine an England or Wales birth, marriage or death certificate purchased from the General Register Office (GRO) within the last twenty years, you will see the words “© CROWN COPYRIGHT”. Before year 1999 such an inscription did not appear, although copyright must be assumed. What does this mean to we genealogists?

It is not possible to copyright facts; it is the way in which the facts are presented that is protected. It is the certificate as a whole that is subject to copyright not its contents. However, data protection laws do apply to facts and this matter must be borne in mind when publishing or passing on data concerning living persons.

A limited amount of copying of copyright material that is allowed by the courts is called “fair dealing”. Fair dealing is permitted for education, research and for personal, non-commercial purposes which should include what most of us are doing.

The National Archives has made it clear how copyright of GRO Certificates is to be applied. Reference is made to the document titled “Reproduction of birth, death and marriage certificates; General Register Office approved guidance on the use of certified copies of official certificates” dated May 2014. It can be found here <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/information-management/reproduction-of-birth-death-marriage-certificates.pdf>. This document contains the following words:

**2.3. Reproducing completed forms**

You are authorised to reproduce certificates for all purposes other than providing evidence of an event (see 4 below), subject to the restrictions listed below. This may include publishing in a book or magazine, or placing a copy on the internet.

**You must:**

- ✓ Acknowledge Crown Copyright.
- ✓ Comply with the [Data Protection Act 1998](#) and the [Human Rights Act 1998](#). This means, for example, that if you propose to reproduce the contents of any certificate containing personal data about any living individual, you should obtain the permission of that individual(s) before you do so.

**You must not:**

- ✗ Reproduce the Royal Arms and any departmental logo unless this is as an integral part of a certificate (that is, you must not just copy these items from a certificate)
- ✗ Use certificates or their contents to advertise or promote a particular product or service, or in a way which could imply endorsement by HM Government.

Continued from page 4

property in Harrogate the worth of his estate at the time of his death was given by the National Probate Office as £50,784 15s 10d. A second probate in 1889 gave the same amount. It is not clear how much was left to Jane in his will, but it is known that in a Codicil [dated 28 November 1882] Jane had been removed as an executor and John Jr was being called “my reputed son”. No reason was given for this change of executor and wording. When Jane died on 15 March 1887 aged 73, her personal estate was £205 16s 8d. One wonders if, immediately upon John’s decease Jane stoked up the fires with bought coal and led a comfortable life until her own demise. John Jr had predeceased both his parents, dying in 1882 aged 42. Sadly, none of the known buildings associated with John Turner, Jane Turner or John Turner Junior survive. Beech House stood

So back to the question that is the subject of this article - “Is there Copyright?”; the answer is effectively NO. Even if you are intending to publish a substantial number of copies of certificates, this should be satisfactory as long as you acknowledge Crown Copyright and observe Data Protection restrictions.

Full marriage details may also come as copies or transcriptions of parish marriage registers, rather than certificates. Transcription would be satisfactory (see my article in the last Journal about Faux Certificates) but copies of register pages is another matter. For these, copyright restrictions may apply. The publisher/owner of marriage registers held at Record Offices is the church diocese and “fair dealing” in reproducing entries should apply. If you ask for a photocopy of the register entry, it will usually receive an endorsement stating that this is copyright material.

You may obtain copies of church marriage register pages from genealogy web-providers such as Ancestry or FindmyPast. If you examine the terms and conditions of these providers you will see similar conditions imposed equivalent to copyright’s “fair dealing” - that the images provided shall only be used for limited personal, non-commercial use. Special permissions are required for professional genealogists, or where any more than a small proportion of the images are to be used.

On to Marriage Challenges. At the time of writing Covid 19 restrictions are in place throughout the country with Record Offices closed. It is uncertain when they will reopen. Five Challenges were announced in the last Journal and these are generally on hold. They will restart when the ROs have re-opened and the Challengers are comfortable with continuing. I will not be announcing new Challenges until the future is clear.

The Guild will be looking for Marriage Challengers to volunteer when the country is back to normal. If you live fairly close to a County Record Office and can afford to spend some time there to help other Guild members with their one-name studies by finding marriage entries, then becoming a Challenger could be an option. Even if Ancestry, Findmypast or FamilySearch have done some indexing for marriages in a particular county, there is likely to be some parts of that county or some period where a Challenge would be worthwhile. Please email me [marriage-challenge@one-name.org](mailto:marriage-challenge@one-name.org) if you think you can contribute.

until 1980s when it was demolished and the Old Folks Home, Ravenscourt, was built on the site.

## Sources:

1. Starbeck Nostalgia by Stephen Abbot published 31 May 2006
2. Bradford Observer October 1883
3. The Ripon Historian Vol 5 No 3 - July 2002
4. Vant One-Name Study
5. Last Will with Codicil of John Turner
6. William Grainge’s “Annals of Harrogate and Pannal”
7. Information from David Vant 2013
8. Information from Neil Turner

# DNA for your ONS:

## DNA Tips

by Susan C. Meates MCG

The extensive features and functions of the project management system at Family Tree DNA lead to complexity and can be overwhelming to new DNA Project Administrators, as well as those that have spent a limited amount of time with the system. This article covers the key items you need to know about, to make it easier for you to manage your project and help your participants. This article will also cover important features of the Personal Page provided for each participant.

### Understanding Access Settings

With the implementation of GDPR, privacy was significantly increased, which also increased complexity.

There are now three settings for each kit: Minimum, Limited or Advanced. You can see how each kit is set on your Member Information Report. You reach this report in your project by selecting in the menu at the top of the page: Reports, Member Reports, Member Information, which is the 4<sup>th</sup> selection in the drop down menu.

On the Member Information Report, the column titled Access Granted will tell you the kits status, as Limited or Advanced.

When a kit joins a project, the default Access setting is Limited. They must take action to change this to Advanced.

For a kit set to Minimum, the Project Administrator cannot visit the Personal Pages for the kit, so you cannot see with whom they match. You need a kit set to Minimum changed to a higher access level, either Limited or ideally Advanced.

For a kit that is set to Limited, the Project Administrator cannot see their address including country, and you cannot change any of their settings, including their Most Distant Ancestor. This means that you must get the participant to enter the Most Distant Ancestor. It is extremely helpful to the project and other participants to have this field set for each kit. If you are using a standard format for Most Distant Ancestor, you will need to supply the information and format to the participant to enter, along with directions.

It is recommended that you encourage your participants to set themselves to Advanced. This is especially important so you as the Project Administrator can enter the Most Distant Ancestor information.

Here are the directions to supply to your participants to change their Access granted to Advanced. If you paid for the kit and have the password, you can do these steps:

- Log into the kit
- Hover in the upper right hand corner over the person's name, select Account Settings
- Select the Tab Project Preferences
- Click the Pencil to the right of the Project name
- Follow Directions and change access to Advanced

- Set the future Administrator to Advanced
- Click Confirm.

Setting the future Administrator to Advanced enables you to bring on a new Administrator, either as co-Administrator, or to take over your DNA Project when you retire from the project, and they will have Advanced Access, to make it easier for them to manage the project.

You can use the bulk email feature to write to all your participants to change their setting, if the majority are set to Limited, else you might want to write each individually, when you have a small number set to Limited.

More information on Access Levels can be found here:

<https://learn.familytreedna.com/project-administration/group-administrator-access-levels-and-permissions/>

### Bulk Email

The Bulk Email feature enables you to email all your participants, or a selected Genetic Group. To reach this tool, on your Project Page select in the menu at the top Project Admin, and then Bulk Email.

You can use this tool to ask participants to change their Access Level, as well as to keep participants informed about the project and the discoveries achieved. Select the recipients and fill in the form, and click Submit Email.

These emails are reviewed by Family Tree DNA, so there is a brief delay before the email goes. You should get a copy when the email is released. The link below provides the guidelines established by Family Tree DNA. It is important to follow these guidelines, or your email will not be sent.

<https://learn.familytreedna.com/project-administration/gap-bulk-email-guidelines-and-fags/>

Your project members can unsubscribe at any time to your bulk emails, so use this feature with care to avoid unsubscribes.

### Release Form

Another important column on the Member Information report is the column labeled Release. This column identifies whether the participant has done a release form, with a Yes or No. It is rare that a release form isn't done, though it does happen. If you have a participant who hasn't done his release form, he will not participate in matching, so others cannot see if he matches them.

If the participant has Internet access, he logs into his kit, clicks Match, and can do the release form electronically. If he doesn't have Internet access, and no longer has the release form provided in the test kit, you can print and mail him a

release form for him to sign and mail back. Be sure to write the kit number on the form. The release form is found here:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/forms/FTDNA-release-form.pdf>

If you have the form mailed back to you, then you can scan it or take a photo, and email it to Family Tree DNA, or postal mail the form back to the vendor.

## Publicly Display Results

The column on the project Member Information report called Publicly Display Results shows the setting for each kit, as to whether their result will appear on your public Family Tree DNA website. This setting is only applicable to Y-DNA and mtDNA, since autosomal (Family Finder) results do not display.

This setting is most important for Y-DNA. You want all results to display on your website. If a kit is set to No, then you can provide them with the following directions to change their setting:

- Log into the kit
- Hover in the upper right hand corner over their name, select Account Settings
- Select the Tab Project Preferences
- Down the page, under Group Project Profile, opt into sharing.

Their results are pseudonymized, which means no first name is provided, just surname, so they cannot be identified.

The Public website settings determine what information, beyond the results, is displayed on your website. The choices are: surname, Most Distant Ancestor, both, or neither. In addition, in Public website settings, you can determine if the public can view the results page, or participants must log into their kit see the Project results page.

For projects that I have set up, I select the following:

- Public Display of results
- Surname and Most Distant Ancestor

You can change these settings, if desired. Go to Public website setup page, under Project Administration.

## Beneficiary

A participant can set a Beneficiary for their kit. It is very important to encourage all participants to take this action. Otherwise, once they are gone, there is no one to contact for approval for items such as upgrades. When you test the oldest male of a tree, it is especially important for them to have a Beneficiary so they can continue to make a contribution to the knowledge about the surname, long after they are gone.

For a beneficiary, they can choose a family member or the project. Here are the directions to provide the participants:

- Log into their kit
- Hover in the upper right hand corner over their name, select Account Settings
- On the page that comes up, on the second row of tabs, select Beneficiary Information

- Enter the information on the beneficiary, or else state the project name, such as Ricketts Project
- Click Save.

The participant also has the option on the Beneficiary Information page to select the option called Printable Form, and this will generate an official form to print. They then fill in the form, sign, and keep a copy with their estate papers and forward a copy to any interested parties.

## Match Emails

Often, participants get tired of Match emails, especially if they get a lot of 12 marker match emails. In desperation, I've seen participants just delete their email address from their kit. Instead, they should set their Notifications. Since all the pages and tabs on a participants Personal Page can be confusing, it is helpful to provide them with directions:

- Log into their kit
- Hover in the upper right hand corner over their name, select Account Settings
- Select the Tab Notification Preferences
- Turn off any Match emails they do not want to receive. It is recommended to turn off 12 and 25 marker match emails.

## Project Administrator Notification Emails

As the Project Administrator, you can control the emails you receive from Family Tree DNA. To change your settings, follow these directions:

- Log into your Project
- Hover over your name in the upper right hand corner
- Select My Settings
- Add or remove check marks next to each type of email in the first column, labeled Notification Settings
- Click Save Settings at the top of the page.

## Getting started with a One-Name Study

We know from our members that most of us initially consider a One-Name Study because of a family interest. You may have a brick wall you want to work around. You might have multiple instances of the name in your background. You may have gathered a lot of information about a surname already. In the sections that follow, we are going to run through some of the key considerations you might have in taking on and starting a One-Name Study. You don't have to read it - many members just jump in with both feet and get started - but for others we hope it helps.

Taking on a One-Name Study requires you to make two main commitments:

- you must respond to all enquiries if you have registered your study with the Guild of One-Name Studies; and
- you agree to collect all instances of that name wherever it is found, though you can work at your own speed with your own priorities.

# In Search of Herbert Tickle

by Melody McKay Burton

## The Catalyst

My journey into genealogy began in the Hebridean islands in the late 1990s, I was part of a team of IT professionals brought to work on EU funded projects in the Highlands of Scotland. One project involved working with Family History Societies, who were digitising their records. The societies had a fascinating repository of records and images, often of those who had emigrated many centuries ago.

I discovered the world of GEDCOMs, census, and parish records. The census records, in particular, fascinated me. I was intrigued by what they suggested of the lives of the families. A young couple with a child would be listed on one census. Ten years later the woman might appear on the next census as a widow, the mother of several young children, with her occupation shown as 'Pauper'. Often the family would then disappear altogether. I found it heart-breaking and completely captivating.

## Discovery at a Distance

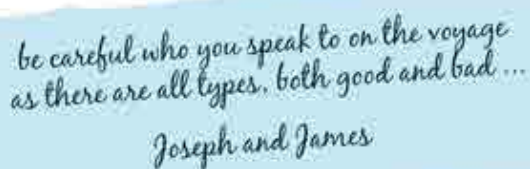
This experience inspired me to see what I could find out about my own family history. Living far from any physical library or archives, my research was confined to the internet, especially when, in 2001, I moved from working in Scotland to Greece. Although there were few online resources, there were several active genealogy forums with helpful users to point me in the right direction.

I managed to trace many of my ancestors and was bitten with the genealogy bug. My parents had both passed away but, like many families, we had someone who was the 'family history' expert. In my case, it was my Aunt Barbara. She was my father's cousin, the daughter of the youngest of nine siblings. Unlike me, she lived close to her older relatives and had paid attention to the stories they told. Around 2002, I took a trip to visit her in Liverpool, where my father's family came from. She showed me her research, including documents she had collected over the years. These were mostly marriage and death certificates, but among them were two faint handwritten letters.

## The Letters

Barbara had found the letters in a box of other items, but had no idea who they were from, or how they might be connected to our family. The originals are too faded and difficult to read to reproduce here, so I have re-created sections of them.

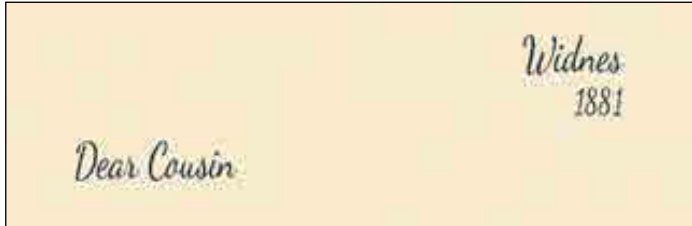
The first was little more than a scrap of paper. It appeared to be the bottom third of a letter, written on both sides of thin paper. Signed 'Joseph and James' it included a warning:



be careful who you speak to on the voyage  
as there are all types, both good and bad ...  
Joseph and James

My aunt did not know who Joseph and James might be. They were obviously writing to someone making a journey by sea. But who was it, and where were they going?

The other letter was complete. Written on a small sheet, such as you find in a pad of writing paper, it began:



Dear Cousin  
Widnes  
1881

then, interestingly, was signed at the bottom:



Your affectionate niece  
Herbert Tickle

The writing was hard to decipher but I could make out a reference to 'joining my family soon' and that they were all grateful for the help of the recipient, whoever he or she was. I was baffled by the fact the letter was addressed to a cousin but signed from a niece, with Herbert, a male name. I could only assume family relationships were not as precise in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as nowadays.

My father's family name was Tickle, so I felt I could assume Herbert was a relation of some sort. Like many families, my ancestors used conventional naming patterns, calling their children after older family members. I had never come across the name Herbert anywhere in the generations I had traced. As far as I could tell from my research, he wasn't a niece, or a nephew, or even a first cousin.

The letter indicated he was a relation, but I had absolutely no idea where he fitted in. It was a mystery.

## Who Was Herbert?

Returning to Greece, I determined to try to find out who the authors of these letters might have been, and why they were in a box belonging to my family. There was no surname for Joseph and James. I thought they may have also been Tickle so tried searching online for them. Ancestry.co.uk had recently been launched and I joined it to help with my research. It didn't contain as many records as today, but I found several Joseph and James Tickle in the Liverpool area. None had any apparent link to my line. For all I knew, Joseph and James may not have been Tickle at all.

I decided to turn my attention to Herbert. At least I had a surname and a date to go on. I found a few Herbert Tickle. Among them was an entry from the 1881 census for a Herbert



No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION
323	10 Prince St		Herbert Tickle	Boarder	Widow	18	Dishwashing Apprentice

Herbert Tickle, 1881 census.

Tickle - in Widnes. This Herbert was born in St Helens, a town with which my ancestors were also connected. He was in the right place in the right year to have written the letter, and had a connection with somewhere my ancestors had lived.

It was my first breakthrough. I couldn't be sure this was the correct person but I was hopeful that the census would give me more information on him and his family. However, when I looked at the full details of the census entry, Herbert was not with any other family members. He was 18, a butcher's apprentice, and a boarder in the household of the Andrews family from Somerset.

My satisfaction at finding a probable candidate for the letter-writer was short-lived. When I looked at the following census, for 1891, Herbert Tickle, born around 1863, was nowhere to be found. I was a little despondent.

In those days, it was harder to find information, but eventually a member of a forum I belonged to tracked him down in the 1871 census, aged 8. And there was his family - including James, his father, who was a bricklayer, and Joseph, his younger brother. Was it them who had penned the other letter?

with a wife, Lillie, and two children - a son, Herbert, and a daughter, Cecile.

Further searching of this census produced entries for Joseph B Tickle, born 1868, his wife and two daughters at house 3020 Galveston Ward 07, District 0127, and James A Tickle, born 1870, a boarder in the home of the Meyer family, originally from Germany. It appeared that Herbert had two younger brothers, named Joseph and James. The reference to 'the voyage' in the scrap of letter and to Herbert 'joining his family' now began to make sense.

I was able to establish that James Tickle Snr, Herbert's father, and his wife, Ann Maria Bennett, had emigrated to the US in 1880 with their three youngest children - Alice, Joseph, and James. Herbert had stayed in England, perhaps to finish his apprenticeship. He joined them in Galveston, probably the following year. There is an immigration record of an H Tickle arriving in the United States from Liverpool on 28 Oct 1881 on the ship, Teutonia. This information fitted perfectly with the dates when the family were, and were not, in the UK censuses.

James Tickle	Head	Mar	36	Bricklayer	Lambertine St. St. Helens
Ann Maria do	Wife	Mar	36	Instrument	do do
Herbert do	Son		8	Scholar	do do
Alice do	Daughter		6	do	do St. Helens
Joseph do	Son		2	do	do do
Harriet Bennett	Widow		62	do	do St. Helens

Herbert Tickle, 1871 census.

Although I didn't recognise them as having any connection with my own ancestors, I continued searching. After successfully identifying the other members of Herbert's family in 1871, I was in for another disappointment. Neither I nor those in the forums could trace any of them in the 1881 or 1891 census, despite much wildcard searching.

### The Missing Family

Around this time, I read a family history magazine that included an article about emigration to North America. It suggested that, if a family seem to disappear from UK records, you should look for them overseas. No-one I knew of in our family had emigrated so this had not occurred to me. Shortly afterwards, Ancestry had a special offer of a month's free access to American records. I decided to give it a try, not really expecting to find anything.

I searched for Herbert Tickle, using the birth date that I had gleaned from the earlier censuses. To my surprise, I found an entry in the 1900 US Federal Census for Galveston Island, District 0142. Here was Herbert Tickle, born in England in 1863,

Feeling excited, I tried to trace Herbert's family onward from 1900. But, just as had happened before, the trail ran completely cold. Once again there was no sign of Herbert and Lillie Tickle or their children in subsequent US censuses.

I assumed the records were not yet online but thought perhaps someone local might be able to help me. I managed to find a forum for Galveston Family History and posted to ask if anyone knew where I might find later census or other records for the family. To my surprise, I received a reply asking whether they might have been victims of 'the Storm'. This was quickly followed by another post giving details of their deaths, which led me to discover a major disaster that I had previously known nothing about.

### The Great Galveston Storm

The 1900 US census, in which I had found Herbert and his family, was taken on 1 June 1900. It recorded the population of Galveston as 37,788, making Galveston the fourth largest city in Texas. It also had one of the highest per capita incomes in the United States. All that was to change drastically.

Tickle Herbert	Head	W	Mar	1863	37	Am	13	England	England	England
Lillie	Wife	W	Mar	1871	29	Am	13	Texas	Texas	Massachusetts
Herbert	Son	W	Mar	1863	37	Am	13	Texas	England	Texas
Cecile	Daughter	W	Mar	1871	29	Am	13	Texas	England	Texas

Extract from the 1900 US Federal Census of Galveston Island.

Just three months after the census was taken, on 4 September 1900, the Galveston office of the National Weather Bureau began to receive warnings of a tropical storm moving northwards over Cuba. Initially, it was believed it would pass over Florida, then swing north-east and move out to the Atlantic. Over the next few days, the storm caused heavy destruction in New Orleans, and along the Louisiana and Mississippi coasts, but damage to the telegraph lines meant that it was not widely reported.

On the morning of 8 September, a storm warning was issued in Galveston. At that time, forecasters discouraged the use of terms such as tornado or hurricane to avoid panicking residents. The weather did not appear particularly threatening, and nothing indicated the incoming storm would be unlike anything the Gulf Coast had seen before. Very few residents heeded the warning and evacuated. People went about their normal business until mid-afternoon, when reports began circulating that there was something that looked like a great grey wall out in the Gulf, moving slowly towards the island.

That night, the storm came ashore with an estimated strength of a Category 4 hurricane. Winds of 120 miles per hour blasted the city. Flying debris cut through buildings like shrapnel. The highest point in the low-lying city was less than 9 feet above sea level. The storm surge of over 15 feet entirely submerged the city at one point. Waves crashed onto the streets and knocked buildings off their foundations, when they were then pounded to pieces by the surf.

The storm began to subside at daybreak the following day, but the city had been all but obliterated, with terrible loss of life. There were dead bodies for miles around. Over 3,600 homes were destroyed and between 6,000 and 8,000 people died on Galveston Island itself with a further 6,000 on the nearby mainland.



The Manager of Western Union, Houston, sent a telegram to the Chief of the U.S. Weather Bureau on the day after the hurricane:

*First news from Galveston just received by train that could get no closer to the bay shore than 6 mi where the prairie was strewn with debris and dead bodies. About 200 corpses counted from the train. Large steamship stranded 2 mi inland. Nothing could be seen of Galveston. Loss of life and property undoubtedly most appalling. Weather clear and bright here with gentle southeast wind.*

To this date, the Galveston Storm remains the deadliest natural disaster in the United States history.

## Victims

I was sent a link to the Galveston Historical Storm Death List, which includes these names:

TICKLE, Herbert J. (SS Avenue S ½ between 59th & 60th)

TICKLE, Mrs. Herbert J.

TICKLE, child of Herbert J. (1)

TICKLE, child of Herbert J. (2)

TICKLE, Mrs. James Sr.

With this news, my search for Herbert Tickle ended. Herbert, his wife, and his two children all met with tragic deaths in the place his family had sought a new life. His mother, Ann Maria, was also lost in the storm.

## Who Was Left?

Having discovered what happened to Herbert, I wanted to know what became of the rest of his family. I found that Herbert's sister, Alice, and her family, and his brother, Joseph, and his family, were among the survivors. There was no sign of James Tickle Jnr.

On 24 November 1900, Joseph's wife gave birth to their third child, who was named John Bennett Tickle - his middle name a tribute to his grandmother, Ann Maria Bennett from Lancashire, who had perished in the Galveston Storm.

## Tracing Descendants

Although I had found out much about this Tickle family, I was no nearer identifying whether they were related to me. I decided to try to find any descendants, to share details of the letters with them and to see if they could shed any light on the possible relationship between our ancestors.

Using the 2000 Texas Phone and Address Directory I found the names and addresses of several people with the surname Tickle. Rather than write to all of them, I looked for the most likely candidates. In many families, it seems to be the matriarchs who know the most about family history, so I looked for females with 'old-fashioned' names, indicating they might be older.

I received replies from two of the ladies I had written to. One of them sent me a large package with family history information. However, it transpired her Tickle ancestors had emigrated to the US from Germany and were unconnected to Herbert.

The other person told me that she had passed the information and copies of the letters to her nephew, whom she said was a descendant of Joseph Tickle and had an interest in family history. Unfortunately, I heard no more from him.

## Postscript: Fast Forward Fifteen Years

During the early 2000s, through my search for Herbert Tickle and participation in online forums, I collected a lot of data on Tickles in various places throughout the world, not only those in Texas. My life then became very busy and I did little family history until I retired in 2017.

With time to rekindle my interest in genealogy, I began to consider what to do with all the information I had on various Tickle families. I discovered the Guild, learnt about Y-DNA, and decided to use my earlier research as a basis for a one-name study and DNA project. I was keen to publicise my findings on a website and the Guild's Members Website Project enabled me to do this.

One of my first tasks was to see what else I could find out about the Galveston Tickers and their descendants. Herbert eventually became a bricklayer, like his father. His brothers were stonemasons, and they played an active role in building the new city, which had some spectacular architecture. The surviving Tickers became respected members of Galveston society and I was able to write a number of blog posts about them, telling their story from their life in St Helens to having family weddings described in the pages of the Galveston newspaper.

While researching, I came across a StoryCorps recording from 2016 with a father and son, telling the story of their family and the Storm. I realised immediately that they were descendants of Joseph Tickle. Unfortunately, the GDPR regulations meant it was impossible for me to obtain contact details for the people involved. I tried various means to obtain an address or email for them, without success.

I decided to try Facebook ... and struck lucky. I was able to identify the father from his image in the video. I messaged him, explaining who I was, telling him about the letters, and giving him the URL of my study website. He appeared to be a very intermittent Facebook user. I sent two messages over the next couple of months but didn't hear anything back. Not wanting to look like a stalker, I left it at that.

Six months later, I suddenly received a reply. He had read the articles on my blog and was full of enthusiasm for the project. We've remained in contact since, and earlier this year he joined my DNA Project.

My brothers already had results in the project. I was delighted when my Galveston Tickle's Y-DNA37 test result showed a genetic distance of 1 with a 36/37 match with them, indicating that he and they shared a common ancestor, as I had thought. I still don't know who the common ancestor was, although there is a potential candidate. The Y-DNA results have shown a link to another Tickle family and I hope eventually I may be able to draw all three strands together.

My search for Herbert Tickle is a story with many ups and downs. Although I've come to a dead end with identifying our common ancestor at the moment, I'm hopeful that I'll have another breakthrough in the future. I've learned never to give up. With patience and perseverance, answers often come eventually.

## Rogues Gallery

### *Elizabeth Adshead/Frankland/Stevens: Stealing*

*by Gordon Adshead MCG*

#### Background

This is very much a one-name story. As the Adshead study contains some 10,500 births, 7,100 marriages and 7,700 deaths the focus has to be almost exclusively on records and individuals who have the surname Adshead and there is very little time to follow up what happened to females born Adshead and then married out to a different surname.

Hence when the large [Timothy1716] London tree was constructed the only thing that was known about Elizabeth was:-

- Parents: Timothy Adshead b.1766 and his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Elizabeth Robinson m.12 February 1792
- Christened 13 April 1793 Cripplegate
- Married 25 December 1817 St Botolph without Bishopgate to Benjamin Frankland

Then in December 2011 I received an email from Geoff Jackson in Australia who was requesting to join the Adshead Group:-

*"I am Geoff and recently learnt that my GGG grandmother Eliz Frankland, Convict to Tasmania on "Sovereign" 1827 maiden name was Adshead. Now I want to know all about her family via your group."*

Once we had established that we could learn a lot from each other Geoff sent us a most interesting account of what had

happened to Elizabeth. The information is nearly three pages long and is referenced at the end of this article. It contained a great deal of well researched detail. I only have space to summarise the key points below:

- 1818 December - Son Benjamin Frankland born
- 1821 6 March - Deserted by husband who went to USA
- Worked as a servant
- 1827 4 March - Arrested for stealing from her master (some Bedding and a Purse)
- Pleaded guilty at Old Bailey and disclosed the whereabouts of the goods
- Sentenced to Death
- 1827 April - Her two Adshead brothers submitted a Plea for Mercy to King George (a copy of this was found in TNA - see below)
- Sentence changed to transportation to Australia
- 1827 5 April - Taken aboard convict ship "Sovereign" (The first all-female sailing). Together with her 9-year old son Benjamin
- 1827 20 November - Arrived at Hobart, Tasmania (7.5 months voyage)
- 1828 5 February - Jailed for 7 days for "indecent and immoral conduct"
- 1829 20 July married William Stevens, a free settler baker in Hobart
- 1836 21 November - Granted Conditional pardon
- 1840 5 November - Granted Full Pardon

Disappeared from records (probably changed name).

The 3-page letter from Geoff is at [www.adshead.com/adshead/ElizabethFranklandLetter.rtf](http://www.adshead.com/adshead/ElizabethFranklandLetter.rtf)

The Plea for Clemency is at [www.adshead.com/adshead/ElizabethFranklandPlea.jpg](http://www.adshead.com/adshead/ElizabethFranklandPlea.jpg)

# Who were the two brothers, and were they even brothers?

by June A. Willing

On 29 August 1841, at St Pancras Parish Church, London, two marriages took place. James Willing married Emma Benham (a widow, née Skones) and William Willing married Esther Daye. They were each other's witnesses. Each man gave his father's name as S. Willing (dead).



*St Pancras Parish Church was built in 1822 on the corner of Euston Road and Upper Woburn Place, to replace the original medieval parish church, situated about half a mile to the north, on Pancras Road. Burials continued to take place in the old churchyard, and in 1848 the old church was restored, and became a separate parish church, known as St Pancras Old Church.*

I first came across these two men in 2001, when I was contacted by a descendant of William. I did not know who S. Willing was, or much about James and William, as I did not have much data on Willing families in London in the 19th century.

It's worth remembering how difficult it was to do research on this family at that time. Apart from 1881, census indexes were patchy. There were certainly none online. Finding births, marriages and deaths meant searching through the GRO index books. Many parish registers were indexed in the IGI on microfiche, but I had to go to London to see microfilms of the parish registers. It was a long process, but eventually a picture emerged.

James was a labourer. He and Emma had five children, William, Mary Ann, Caroline, John James and Robert John. James was not consistent in the census about where he was born, St Giles (1851), St Pancras (1861, 1871) and St James (1881). His stated age mostly gave a date of birth around 1810/11, though in 1881 he said he was ten years older than in all of the others. He died in 1885 in St Pancras, supposedly aged 84, which would give a date of birth around 1800/01, agreeing, more or less, with his age in 1881.

William was also a labourer. He and Esther had eight children, Stephen George, Diana (or Dinah) Elizabeth, William Edmund, Richard James, John Frederick, Henry Charles, Frank and Esther Charlotte. In the 1851 census he said he was born in St Pancras and was 35, giving a birth date of around 1815/16. He died in 1860 in Islington aged 45.

As for S. Willing, I found a likely candidate, Stephen Willing, a tailor. He and his wife, Joan/Joanna/Jane, had four children listed in the IGI. They were Robert, baptised in 1799 at St Saviour Southwark (then in Surrey, now in Greater London) and Thomeson (Thomasine), a daughter baptised in 1802 also at St Saviour Southwark. Then they moved north across the river to London where they had John, baptised in 1803 at St Giles in the Fields, and Stephen, baptised in 1807 at St Anne, Soho.

Joan had probably died between 1807 and 1820, as Stephen seemed to have remarried to Diana (or Dinah). Stephen and Diana baptised a daughter, Caroline, in 1820 at St Pancras. Stephen was buried in 1830 at St Pancras, aged 56. Diana died in 1863 in Islington Workhouse, aged 78.

Since William had named his eldest son Stephen George (George was the name of Esther's father) it seemed very likely that S. Willing was Stephen Willing. He was indeed dead by 1841, having died in 1830. James had used the names Caroline and Robert for two of his children, and William had used Diana. None of this was proof, though.

I was unable to find baptisms for James or William, under the surname Willing, despite searching the registers of all of the stated birthplaces, not relying on indexes. I found no marriage for Stephen and Diana, and there was no marriage for Stephen and Joan in London. However, there was a marriage of Stephen Willing and Joan Burgoyne in 1797 in Sampford Spiney, Devon, which could have been them, as they were not to be found in Devon records after 1797.

I was fairly sure, at this stage, that Stephen was the father of both James and William. I thought it was most likely that Joan was the mother of both of them. A couple of my ancestors had seven children between 1810 and 1826 and had also failed to baptise some of them as babies for no obvious reason. So James and William would have been full brothers. This became Theory Number One, in the absence of any other evidence.

It was not until 2016, when Findypast put parish registers from the City of Westminster Archives online, that I found Joan's burial. She was buried as Johanna Willing in 1814 at St Clement Dane's, aged 42. So she could not have been the mother of William, assuming that his stated age in 1851 was correct.

All I could do then was assume that William's mother was Diana, whereas James's mother was Joan, making them half-brothers, same father, different mothers. This became Theory Number Two.

Of course, we have another source not available to me in 2001, DNA. I started a YDNA project with Family Tree DNA, with the help of Susan Meates, in 2008. Thanks to that, I managed to prove who my 3 x great-grandfather, Nathaniel Willing was, and incidentally, that the three main Willing families in Devon were related, as their DNA all matched. I wrote about this research in the Journal of Jul/Oct 2010.

In 2010, William's descendant, who had first contacted me in 2001, also did a YDNA test but, rather to my surprise, his DNA did not match the descendants of the Devon Willings. However, there are several scenarios which could explain these results. A couple of years later a DNA test done by another descendant of William, a third cousin of the first, matched the first.

I was really looking for a descendant of James to do a test, which was difficult as James has far fewer male-line descendants than William. I did not manage to find one until 2016, not long after I had found Joan's burial. His DNA did not match the two descendants of William, which was a bit confusing. I wondered if William had been a son of Diana by an earlier husband, before she had met Stephen. This would mean that James and William were not half-brothers, but step-brothers. This became Theory Number Three.

Then it occurred to me that I was overlooking another possibility. Perhaps neither of them was actually a son of Stephen. Diana could have been the mother of both James and William, who had had two different fathers, so they could have been half-brothers, same mother, different fathers. This became Theory Number Four.

I really needed a DNA test from someone who was definitely descended from Stephen. In 1818, Stephen's sons Robert and John had been convicted of larceny and transported to Australia. John subsequently disappeared but Robert had a number of children and has numerous descendants alive in Australia today. In late 2018, one of them contacted me wanting to do a DNA test. Would he match the descendant of James, or would he match the other Devon Willings? In March 2019, his results were completed, and there was another surprise. He matched the descendants of William.

As things stand now, I know that Stephen and Joan had four children, Robert, Thomasine, John and Stephen, between 1799 and 1807. Joan died in 1814. At this point Stephen was



*St Andrew's Church, Plymouth is the oldest church in Plymouth, dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and was the only church until Charles Church was built in the 1640s. St Andrew's was badly damaged in 1941, during the Blitz, and restored in 1957. It was designated as a Minster Church in 2009.*

looking for a housekeeper and/or a second wife. Enter Diana, with a son, James, probably aged about three or four. Stephen and Diana's son William was born in 1815 or 1816, and their daughter Caroline in 1820. I have no evidence that they ever married, so perhaps Diana was already married to someone else, or perhaps they simply did not bother to marry.

So James and William were probably half-brothers: same mother, different fathers. Of course, DNA has its limitations. In this case, while I can be certain that William was a son of Stephen, I cannot be 100% certain that James was not. The non-matching YDNA might have been introduced later via a NPE (non-paternal event). It would help to find another descendant of James, preferably not too closely related to the existing project member.

Then there is the fact that Stephen, who married in 1797 in Sampford Spiney, Devon, was baptised in 1777 at Plymouth Charles, a son of John Willing and his wife Grace, née Jutsham. John and Grace married in 1772 at Plymouth St Andrew. But John married as John Wheeling. Three of his children, John, Stephen and Grace, were baptised as Willing, but one, Alexander, was baptised as Wheeling.

So, was John Willing/Wheeling really a descendant of a Willing family from Devon? His different DNA could indicate an out-of-wedlock birth for him, or perhaps one of his ancestors. Or was John "really" a Wheeling, from elsewhere? Wheeling is a very rare name. He has very few YDNA matches, and so far they have provided no conclusive answers.

Either way, this is a clear demonstration of what a difference YDNA testing can make. Without it, I would still be on Theory Number Two, believing that James and William were half-brothers, both the sons of Stephen, with different mothers, but with no real way of proving it.

# Close Rolls: Use in tracing the origin of surnames

by Wayne Shephard

In preparation for a recent talk about the origin of surnames, I reviewed Close Rolls, which are a series of documents that date from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. I was interested in finding out in what form surnames were recorded over the centuries, beginning with the late middle ages.

According to a description on The National Archives (TNA) website, “Letters close, which were usually of an executive nature conveying orders and instructions, and, therefore of a private and personal nature, were issued folded and ‘closed’ by the application of the great seal. They were enrolled on the close rolls.”

Although the content of the close rolls was of a private and personal nature, it could deal with matters of great importance, the letters being addressed to officials like sheriffs or illustrious personages like foreign rulers. Writs were issued concerning matters ranging in importance from major constitutional decisions to the daily economy of the royal household.

... Close rolls were made up by the regnal year. Within it, parts were created to make roughly uniform sized rolls.”

Close Rolls are a great source for names of individuals who were parties to agreements and activities. Because they go back several centuries, they can also show us how names were recorded and changed. There are certainly many individuals listed from nobility and privileged major estate owners, many with their formal titles recorded. But there are also a great number of ordinary citizens named: clerks; court officials and constabulary; city and town officials; clergy; tradesmen; tenants of farms; convicted prisoners; and merchants and business owners. Occasionally can be found descriptions of estate lands, with ownership history and lists of tenants.

The rolls show a variety of subjects:

- land assignments or grants;
- estate decisions and inheritances;
- appointments of people to specific positions;
- proclamations;
- incarcerations;
- legal suits between individuals;
- payments to employees;
- commercial transactions

Copies of the documents are available online through *Internet Archive* or through the *Hathi Trust Digital Library*. A comprehensive list of the individual records, along with links to where copies can be sourced, can be found on the website, *Some Notes on Medieval English Genealogy*.

The manuscripts were published in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in different formats. Again, from the TNA website: “A Latin transcript of the close rolls from 1204 to 1227 was published

as *Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum in Turri Londonensi asservati* (2 vols, Record Commission, 1833-34). A Latin transcript of the close rolls from 1227 to 1272 was published as *Close Rolls of the Reign of Henry III* (14 vols, HMSO, 1902-38). An English calendar of the close rolls from 1272 to 1509 was published as *Calendar of the Close Rolls* (47 vols, HMSO, 1900-63). Close rolls for the reign of Henry VIII are briefly calendared in *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII* (HMSO, 1864-1932).”

Always interested in the beginnings of my own surname, I searched the volumes from 1204 to 1408 for “Shepherd” or variants to see how the name was recorded, when it first appeared and if there were any patterns as to how it may have changed.

The name appears in quite different ways and with a range of spelling as you go back in time. In the earliest records, the word for shepherd is written in Latin as forms of *bercarius*, often in lower case indicating individuals may actually have been sheep owners (Figure 1).

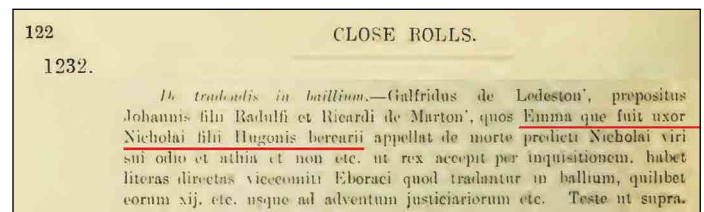


Figure 1 - entry in the Close Rolls from 1232 (16<sup>th</sup> year of Henry III), showing individuals described in Latin as, Emma que fuit uxor Nicholai filii Hugonis bercarii (Emma, the widow of Nicholas, son of Hugo the shepherd).

As one moves forward in time in the Close Rolls, a new name appears as bercher, always as “le bercher” or “the shepherd” (Figure 2). The Bercher name probably originates as an occupational name for a shepherd, deriving from the Latin word and the French version of “Berger(e).” In England, it most likely was influenced by the arrival of the Normans in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

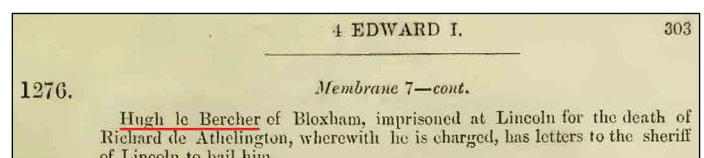


Figure 2 - entry in the Close rolls from 1276 (4<sup>th</sup> year of Edward I), showing an individual named Hugh le Bercher or Hugh the Shepherd.

Eventually the name Shepherd appears, first as an occupational name type, le Shepherd, and occasionally in lower case, and later as a full surname (Figures 3 and 4).

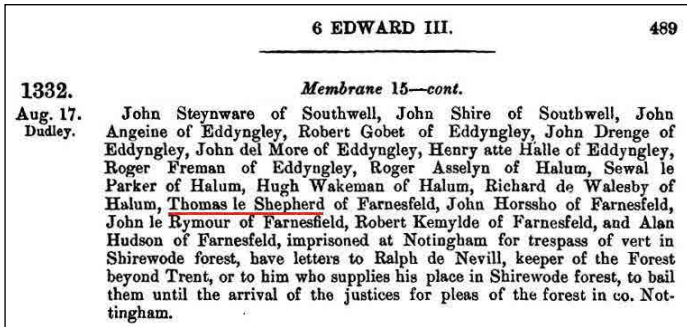


Figure 3 - entry in the Close Rolls from 1332 (6<sup>th</sup> year of Edward III), showing an individual named Thomas le Shepherd, possibly an occupation.

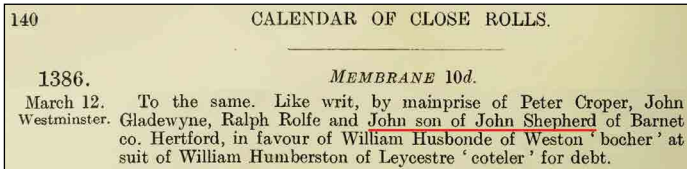


Figure 4 - entry in the Close Rolls from 1386 (9<sup>th</sup> year of Richard II), showing an individual named John who was the son of John Shepherd.

We can get an idea of the time distribution of the various name types by plotting out their frequency in the rolls (Figure 5):

- The earliest close rolls had both Bercarius and Bercher although there were only two or three entries per decade.
- The last mention of bercarius was in 1270.
- Le Bercher is first recorded in 1228 but is not seen associated with many individuals until the 1260s. By the 1330s it had died out.
- In the 1280s we start to see the Anglicized version “le Shepherd” recorded.
- That was of course when the records were published in English, too, which might explain part of the use of the name.
- Through the 14<sup>th</sup> century the descriptive “le Shepherd” disappears, the last occurrence in 1385.

By the 1330s we are also seeing the name without the “le” in front. The 1330s decade has the highest count of the surname Shepherd in these documents. Some may have been the same individual, recorded several times over the years, but that cannot be confirmed.

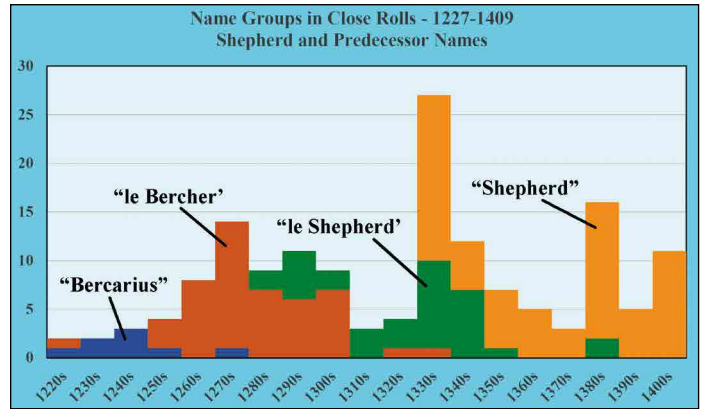


Figure 5 - plot of the number of entries for the name, Shepherd, or variants, and predecessor names of Bercher and bercarius (Latin).

What we do know is that in the 1300s, they were not all shepherds with flocks of sheep. Many can be demonstrated to have had other occupations, so had adopted a form of surname. Notably no versions of the surname appear in the published Close Rolls from 1204 to 1227. That does not necessarily mean people were not referred to by such appellations, just that they did not have any importance to be recorded in the letters close.

From this specific name example, it appears that a true surname (at least the precursor to mine) does not appear before the early 1300s.

There are similar situations with regard to some other surnames that might be kept in mind when searching the Close Rolls or other documents from the middle ages. The name Baker may have been recorded in Latin as *pistor* or *pestur*; Clark would have been shown as *clericus*; Shoemaker was *sutoris*; and Smith was written as *fabrum* or *faber*. They will most often have been preceded by the preposition ‘le’ especially into the mid-1300s. It is possible that some of the original Latin names survived as true family names in later centuries.

Because the Close Rolls span a long and continuous time period, they can be very useful documents in the search for surname origins. Other records that will be of value in the chancery files are Charter Rolls, Fine Rolls, Patent Rolls, Pipe Rolls and Feet of Fines.



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# Researching Instances of Instant, Istances!!

by Joan Chopping

I started this journey when I registered the surname Istance with the Guild of One-Name Studies, with the encouragement of my husband Dave; well, it was *his* grandmother whose maiden name was Istance. According to the 1881 Census only 20 people had the surname Istance and all lived in South Wales: eight in Narberth, two in Carmarthen, one in Llandilofawr and the rest in south east Wales. This will be easy I thought. Little did I know. I had completely forgotten that some enumerators of census and parish records wrote down names phonetically, with little thought to spelling, and have since found, through research, the surnames Instant, Instance, Istence, Estance, Inshance and Histance, to name but a few among many, many more.

It was an easy enough exercise to go back in time as at an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party a copy of an Istance Family Tree dating back to the 1700s was received by various family groups, including ours. At the time I thought nothing of it. I was busy working and raising a family, so the family tree was pushed away in a cupboard and given no more thought until about 10 years ago when I took up researching both my and my husband's family tree, and that Istance Family tree did come in handy!



David Silas Istance.

One person who caught my interest on the Istance Family Tree, was David Silas Istance, born in Morrison, Swansea, Glamorgan to parents, William (c.1817-1877) and Elizabeth (c.1811-1883) who both originated from Carmarthen, west Wales. William was born into a Wesleyan family as he and other family members were baptised in St Peter Wesleyan Chapel, Carmarthen. The 1841 census finds William and Elizabeth (née Roberts) in Pontypool, Monmouthshire but after the death of three children and the birth of a fourth, a daughter Eleanor, they decided to move to Morrison, Swansea, where, the 1851 census shows William's occupation as a tallow chandler. In 1852 David Silas was born, just as well, because my husband would otherwise not exist. David Silas went on to sire fifteen children, ten from his first marriage, and five from his second. Sadly, out of fifteen children only nine survived. Working his way up from a clerk in a colliery to head cashier in the Bodringallt collieries, to managing a hotel, to being a sharp-shooting Captain in the Welsh Regiment Volunteer Battalion, till eventually David Silas Istance became Chairman of Rhymney District Council; a life story in itself!!

But I digress. Back to William Istance, my husband's great-great-grandfather. William had an older brother John (1815-1901), who by 1841 had left Carmarthen for Monmouth to set up trade as a Saddler. By 1843 he was back in Carmarthen to marry Maria Dodd (1821-1911), who hailed from Pembroke. According to *The Cambrian* newspaper, which reported the wedding, she was a straw-milliner. Maria appears to have worked with Ann Istance a cousin of John's, a bonnet maker. The 1841 census records both at the same address in Blue Street, Carmarthen. John and Maria returned to Monmouth, where they lived in Monnow Street for over sixty years.



William Istance  
1817-1887

William Istance had a much younger sister, a dressmaker Rebecca (1829-1915), who remained in Carmarthen and never married. She did venture out of the county at least once as in 1871 she was in Aberdare, visiting her brother William's married daughter, Eleanor, also a dressmaker.

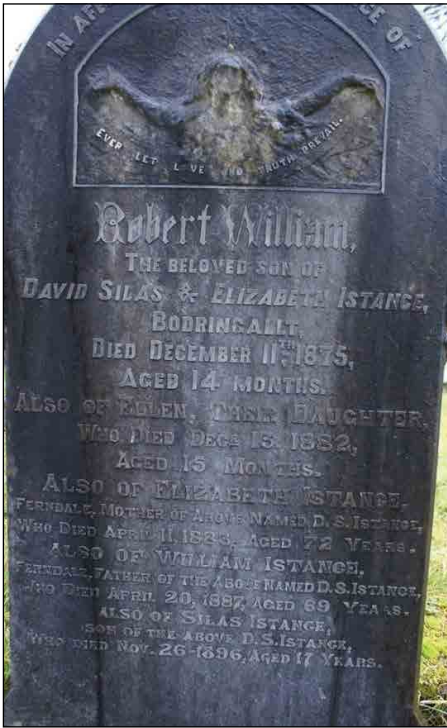
William's father, John Istance (1792-1875), was a ropemaker, as was his father Richard (1765-1831), before him. In 1841,



Elizabeth Istance  
(nee Roberts)  
c1811-1883

John's business was in the Chapel Yard, John Street, Carmarthen and later in 1861, in Red Street. In 1814, he married Mary Fisher, from Llandyfaelog, Carmarthenshire. There was a cabinet-making business in Blue Street, Carmarthen, which was run by John Istance's brother Richard (1796-1877) and later with the help of his son William (1822-1875). The business must have been successful as the 1851 census shows that Richard employed 13 men. Later, in 1861, he





employed five men and five apprentices, but by 1872 both he and his son William had filed for bankruptcy. It seems not to have bothered Richard too much as, aged 70 he had recently remarried, and moved to Llandilofawr, Carmarthenshire and was a local Wesleyan preacher, as shown in the 1871 census.

So where did this entrepreneurial family spring from? The earliest record I have is for a John Istance/Instance

(1696-1759) possibly born in Narberth, Pembrokeshire, married to Margaret. Baptism records show that a son John (1739-1774) was baptised in Carmarthen to John and Margaret. Did the grass grow greener in Carmarthen with hopes of a better life? Perhaps, but Carmarthen, on the river Towy, was a busy port in the middle 1700s. Ships needed rope, lots of rope, so was John the first of the Istance rope-makers? It can only be surmised, as it is not until the time of his grandson Richard (1765-1831) that records show him as a rope-maker.

The journey now moves to Wiston, Pembrokeshire, where another Istance family lived. It is not yet known if this family is connected to the Carmarthen one, but I am hoping one day to find a link but until then...

Daniel Istance was born in Wiston 1772 and baptised in Haverfordwest. He enlisted in the Pembroke Regiment of Light Dragoons (Yeomanry), but by 1800 was discharged, presumably wounded, and unfit for further service, from the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Ireland. Daniel went on to marry Theodosia Roberts in Spittal, Pembrokeshire in 1807 and sired two sons, David (1809-1890) and Thomas (1812-1869). According to various censuses his sons worked as cordwainers, shoemakers and even clog-makers.

David Instance/Istance was a hard man to track down but was eventually found in the 1861 census, living in Briton Ferry, Glamorgan, under the surname of Roberts. Why he changed

his surname to his mother's maiden name, I do not know, and if anyone can think of a reason, I would love to hear from them. David Istance/Roberts was found through researching his daughter Theodosia, who married a James Cramp in 1866 and was also found living in Briton Ferry.

Another interesting branch of the Istance family emerged in Belfast, Ireland, but sadly I think that family has all but died out. Daniel Istance (1821-1898), was born in Carmarthen. Records show his father's name was John Istance, but which one? Daniel Istance was a saddler in the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Lancers who had enlisted in 1842 aged 20 years and 8 months. He served 24 years, 57 days, including 12 years in East India. It was there that Daniel married Catherine Cullen. According to a Family Search record Daniel's father's name was John. Daniel was discharged from the army in Belfast, County Antrim where he remained until he died in 1898 after siring four children, two girls and two boys from a second marriage, Catherine having died in 1868. Sadly one boy died in infancy the year he was born, and Richard died at 27 from phthisis, aka TB.

When starting this research, I was unaware that I was following in the footsteps of a former member of the Dyfed Family History Society, namely Jean Istance, who I understand has written a few articles for the Journal and a number of booklets. Jean had carried out a huge amount of research into the surname Istance possibly going back to the 1300s, which I have yet to confirm, mostly done in the University of Wales, and Haverfordwest Archives. I was lucky enough to be given a copy of some of her work, thoughts, and ideas, which I am slowly working my way through, cross-checking with information I had already uncovered. I would like to say a big 'thank you' to Jean for her hard work, which is helping me to continue this journey.

*The above narrative was written three years ago, (with a few minor changes) nine months after I became a member of the Guild. It was published in the Dyfed Family History Journal, 2018, in the hope of responses from people researching Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire and of finding more Istances or family connections.*

*Obviously since 2018, my One-Name Study has moved on. During that time, whilst researching, I volunteered for the Ruby Project (something I will never regret), published the Istance website through the Guild's Members Website Project (something I never thought I would be able to do), run an Istance Families Facebook group, and now send out a Newsletter to family members who do not like, or use, social media. As a result, am in touch with Istances, or related Istances, living in Germany, Holland, Spain, UK and USA and have helped put many cousins in touch with each other, for which, I am told, they are very grateful.*

# “I’m sorry, your brother hasn’t returned from a bombing raid”

by Ian Gotts



My Auntie Blanche joined the WRAF 17 July 1941, according to her Service Record which I recently received from RAF Cranwell. I had submitted it in July, so a turnaround of only three months is good under the current constraints.

She joined up in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 20 miles from where she grew up and lived with her mother and sisters in Seaton Delaval, and by September was at Bridgnorth in Wales at the training school for six months. As ACW2 (Aircraft

woman grade 2) she was graded as C&B, an abbreviation I can’t find on the web, but ‘Cook & Bottlesher’ might not be far from the truth as she then qualified as a Cook. She put this to good use after the war by joining Woolworths Store as cook for the staff canteen for many years. She was promoted every year, making Leading Aircraftwoman and serving until 1945. Everybody needs feeding, and this was her contribution to the war effort.

By 17 September 1942 she was stationed at RAF Topcliffe in North Yorkshire, where they flew Armstrong Whitworth Whitley heavy bombers. The Royal Canadian Air Force were also flying Vickers Wellington bombers from there. Just after 23 September, Blanche was called into the Station Commander’s Office who told her:

*“I’m sorry, your brother hasn’t returned from a bombing raid over the North Sea”.*

At first shocked, but then puzzled, Blanche replied “But I haven’t got a brother in the Air Force”.

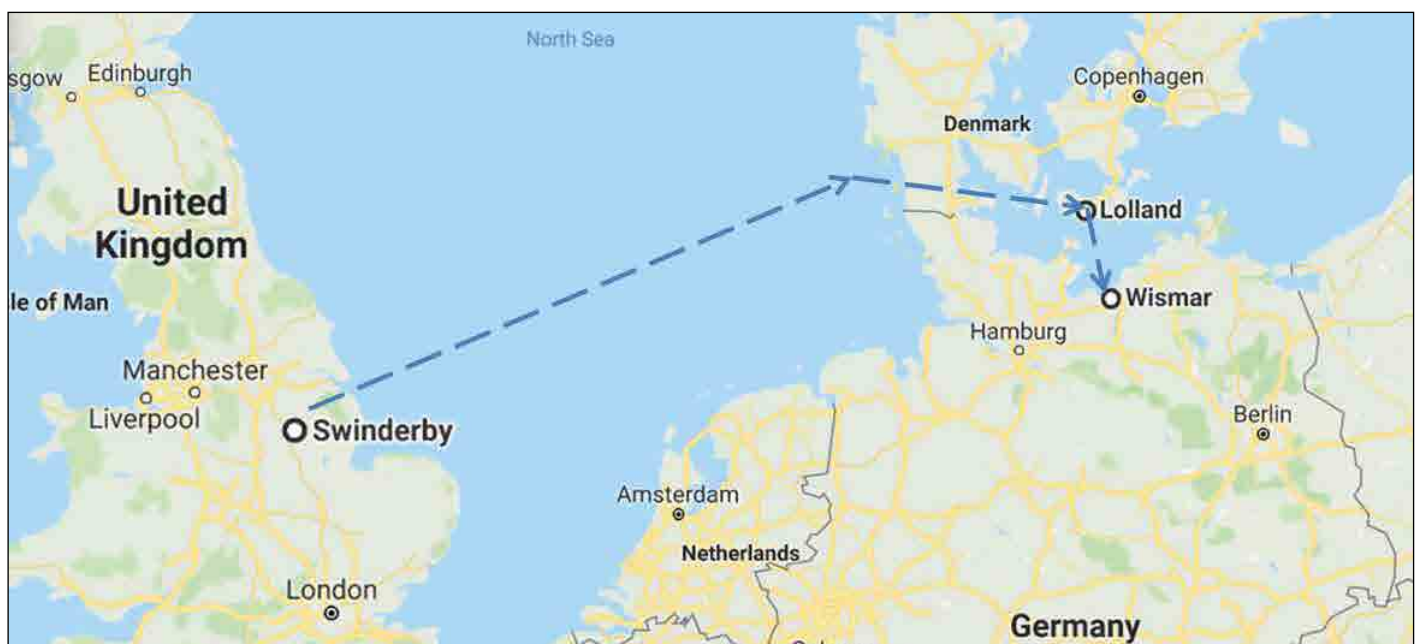
From then until her death, she never knew what had happened. I had scoured the paper records in The National Archive at Kew showing the operations of the RAF and RCAF during that period, but never found anything.

Much later I was writing to a member of the family in Australia who mentioned that his first cousin once removed had died over the North Sea during the war! By then, the International Bomber Command database was starting up (<https://internationalbcc.co.uk/>) and identified Rex as the navigator on Lancaster bomber Serial Number R5909 which exploded and crashed in the Baltic, near Hyllekrog, Danish Island of Lolland on 23 September 1942.

It also identifies him flying out of RAF Swinderby, coincidentally where Blanche’s nephew was stationed. He is listed on the Air Force Memorial at Runnymede where he is listed on one of the panels. (<https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/cemetery-details/109600/runnymede-memorial/>)

So this is Blanche’s ‘brother’ but flying out of a different RAF base. How did the information get to the Station Commander at RAF Topcliffe? Presumably the details of all those lost were consolidated into a single list and distributed to all the stations, as many people would have other family members in the RAF.

Thanks to Kevin Stanley for Rex Alfred information.



# A Different Kind of Data: Strengths Inventories

by Anne Scoular

We GOONS are keen on (addicted to?!) collecting and analysing data about our ancestors. When the call for articles for the December issue went out, I thought I'd chance my arm with an article on a different kind of people data to explore: a sub-branch of the vast field of psychology/psychometrics, namely, "strengths inventories".

If you have access to journals or letters of ancestors (lucky you) this might give you some insight into their make-up. But for most of us, it helps us to know *ourselves* - it might help our research, but its most useful current application is to help keep us going through the present very tough times, by highlighting our core strengths, the things that we can rely on come rain or shine. (And we all have strengths!)

Most of us are well aware of our weaknesses - and things like appraisals at work habitually make us more so. But we are often less clear about our strengths. Thirty years ago, psychologists such as Martin Seligman and Donald Clifton spotted the gap: if you went to a psychiatrist, they could consult the DSM (*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*), a vast heavy tome which could detail with great precision which sub-variant of complex pathology you had - but there was nothing to chart human strengths with equal comprehensiveness and authority. The new(ish) field of 'Positive Psychology' has since invested significant research into redressing this balance. As a result there are now three major strengths inventories available:

- *The VIA (Values in Action) Inventory of Strengths*. This is the result of decades of research by Martin Seligman, Christopher Peterson and their teams at a number of top US universities, including the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Michigan. (For further background, see [www.authentic happiness.sas.upenn.edu](http://www.authentic happiness.sas.upenn.edu).) More than 11 million people have already completed the inventory, which looks at 24 overall human strengths and virtues. To try it, go to [www.viacharacter.org](http://www.viacharacter.org) and take the test - it should take only 15 minutes, and as output you receive a short report listing your strengths. (Some may surprise you!) There are various payment options; the free version is entirely sufficient for most purposes. The site also has a free library of further information.
- *CliftonStrengths™* (formerly *Gallup StrengthsFinder*). Similarly in recent decades the Gallup Organisation has poured millions of dollars into research on strengths in the *workplace*, and has published its own strengths profiling instrument, CliftonStrengths, now available in several versions. To access it go to <https://www.gallup.com/cliftonstrengths/>. The basic report gives your 'top five' strengths and some description; different cost options and fuller reports are also available.
- *Cappfinity* (formerly CAPP) *Strengths Profile*. Both the VIA and the Clifton instruments are American; the Cappfinity Strengths Profile is the result of over two decades of European research by Dr Alex Linley and his colleagues.

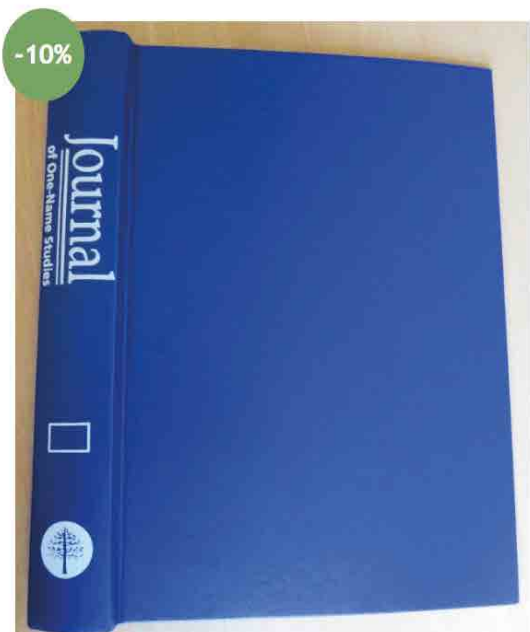
It is particularly valuable as its 3-way model takes into account the extent to which a strength is natural to us; the extent to which we use it; and whether it energises us. Something we're naturally good at, we do all the time, and is energising when we do, Cappfinity calls a "Realised Strength". So far, so similar to the above two tools. However it also includes in each report, our "Learned Behaviours", which we do all the time, we're hence good at, but, not being natural to us, drain our energy when we do them; "Weaknesses" (not natural; we're not good at them; they drain our energy if we have to do them) and "Unrealised Strengths", which are natural strengths, they energise us if we use them, but right now for some reason we're not normally putting into play.

This can help boost our mental health: if you are in lockdown, struggling with an unfamiliar situation, sick of shielding - or even, back to family history - just staring at that brick wall which has been in place way too long, try putting an Unrealised Strength to work! To take the test see [www.strengthsprofile.com](http://www.strengthsprofile.com). Again multiple cost options are available, and again the cheapest (currently £10) is perfectly fine.

Forgive this off-piste article, but I find this research useful, both for myself and to sustain others, and I hope someone out there might too.

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## Journal Binder



# John (Frederick) Constantine:

## A Tale of Highway Robbery, Transportation and Murder

by Sheila Harris, Amanda Clarke, and Christine Skinner

John was baptised on 29 December 1819 in New Malton, Yorkshire as just John. He was the fourth child of Margaret Constantine. Margaret was the daughter of William Constantine and Elizabeth. William is almost certainly the same William who, as a miller of Griff Mill Coverham, married Elizabeth Bink on 27 October 1788 although unfortunately he died before the 1851 census so there is no conclusive proof of this. Margaret was the second of this name born to William and Elizabeth, her oldest sister Margaret was born in 1789 and baptised at Coverham on 24 May 1789. William and Elizabeth must have moved to New Malton between 1789 and 1792 when their second daughter Maria was born. The next two children, Elizabeth, 1794, and John, 1795, both died in December 1795 as did their firstborn Margaret. Margaret, mother of John, was baptised in September 1796 followed by John, born and died July 1801, and John, born and died March 1805.

Margaret's first son William was baptised on 7 August 1813 and buried on 25 August. Margaret is recorded as a single woman.

Her second child Elizabeth was born in Carlton in Coverdale and baptised on 15 October 1814. I wonder if her parents sent Margaret back to stay with family there to avoid disgrace because this was her second illegitimate child. Whatever the reason Margaret returned to New Malton with Elizabeth and proceeded to have another son, William, born and baptised on 8 August 1816. Tantalizingly under Margaret's name is a large blacked out area and I wonder if this was where he started to write the father's name!

Six months after John's baptism Margaret married Thomas Smith, a wheelwright, of New Malton on 12 July 1820 and they lived together until his death in 1837.

John's Grandfather William died in May 1830 and was buried on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Local directories say he was a shop keeper of Low Street. Elizabeth must have carried on running the shop until she died aged 75 in January 1846, certainly she is there in the 1841 census.

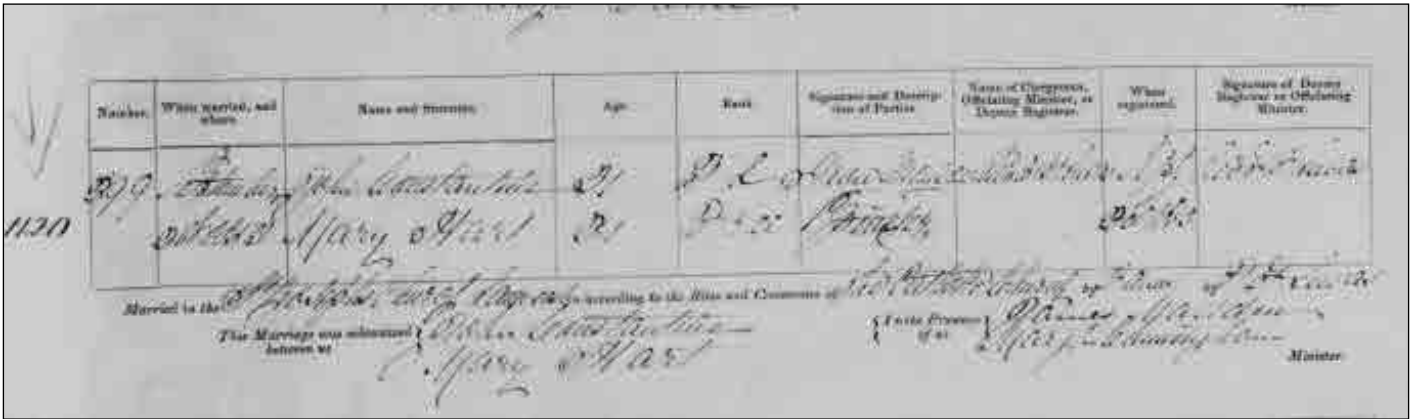
John married Mary Viney at St Leonards, Malton on 23 December 1839 when he was an iron moulder of Malton. Interestingly he gives his father's name as Thomas Constantine but I believe this to be Thomas Smith rather than Constantine. It is highly likely that the vicar just assumed that, when John said his father's name was Thomas, he meant Thomas Constantine.

In 1842 John Constantine, Iron Moulder, and his wife Mary, of Walmgate York baptised their son Joseph Viney Constantine on 16 June in Bishop Auckland. Joseph's birth is registered in Thirsk. There is no trace of John in the 1841 census but Mary is with John's aunt Maria and her husband Richard Hindson in Leeds.

By 1844 John was living in Malton where he took part in a highway robbery (what we would now call a mugging) with a man called Richard Lakin. John was 24 years old when he was tried at the York Assizes on 9 March 1844. It is reported that a man called John Race, who was a wheelwright, was attacked while he was walking home on a Saturday night.

Constantine John		Transported for Robbery East Angles first Conviction "widower" states this offence Highway Robbery done with Robt. Lakin on 13 <sup>th</sup> Baking Hill for John Race at Old Malton. without violence. Answer: Surgeons Report. Very good.													
Tried York Assizes 9 <sup>th</sup> March 1844		15 Yes													
Embarked 29 <sup>th</sup> July 1844 Arrived 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 1844		protestant Can read and write													
		Wife Margaret and 1 Child													
Trade	Height	Age	Complexion	Head	Hair	Whiskers	Visage	Forehead	Eyebrows	Eyes	Nose	Mouth	Chin	Nat. Place	
Iron	5ft 8in	25	fair	oval	brown	none	oval	depression	curved	brown	large	large	large	New Malton Yorkshire	
Marks Scar on right thumb High Cheek nail on right thumb split															
Period of Labour One year and nine months															
Station of Gang Woodbury 1 <sup>st</sup> class															
Class 1 <sup>st</sup> class															

John Constantine convict document (© Tasmanian Archives).



John Constantine and Mary Hart 1853 marriage certificate (© Tasmanian Archives).

A scuffle ensued and he was knocked to the ground and his pockets were rifled.

John Constantine and Richard Lakin were apprehended on the Sunday. He and Mary seem to have parted company before then because one witness says he was “keeping company” with an Ann Clarkson, although in a statement she said she did not know John. The statements of most of the witnesses giving him and Richard an alibi were stated to be very unreliable and all of them were said to be of poor character. John and Richard were convicted of attacking John Race and robbing him of four shillings and sixpence.

John was sentenced to 15 years transportation and sent to Van Diemen’s Land, Tasmania. He embarked on 29 July 1844 on the “William Jardine” arriving in Launceston Tasmania on 20 November 1844.

After a gruelling four months at sea in atrocious conditions, he set foot on Australian soil no doubt a lot thinner and much weaker.

It states on John’s convict records that he was married with a wife Margaret/Mary and one child, but he told the authorities he was a widower. John was literate. His trade was said to be an “Iron Monger”, a useful occupation in an expanding country.

John was sent to Westbury, a town 30 kilometres west of Launceston in the north of Tasmania. A visit to just about any of the earlier towns will reveal the hard labour & skilled craftsmanship of Tasmania’s convicts.

Most prisoners were housed in huts, not under lock & key. John’s records suggest he exploited this fact, and he served many additional months of hard labour for his numerous misdemeanours. To name just a few:

1. Riding a horse down the main street in a dangerous manner.
2. Being drunk and disorderly in public.
3. Having a female prisoner in his room for the purpose of tipping.
4. Concealing a female prisoner in his room.
5. Being absent from his bedroom all through the night.

Even though he received additional time on his original sentence of 15 years, John was given a conditional pardon after serving nine years and six months. This meant he could never return to England and his family.

On release, prisoners were encouraged to marry so as to populate this vast country. Prisoners needed permission to marry, once this was received the male prisoners lined up on one side, the women willing to marry them lined up opposite the men. If a lady liked one of the male prisoners, she would drop her handkerchief on the ground in front of him, if the prisoner wished to marry this lady, he would pick it up and they would be married at once. That way the authorities could be sure they did indeed marry. John was married this way to Mary Hart who was a free woman not a prisoner.

On his release, and as a married man John began his new life. He added the name Frederick as a middle name and he lived as a model citizen becoming an upstanding member of the community. He worked as a blacksmith.

There are numerous newspaper accounts of his good deeds as he integrated into his new life as a free man.

- 6 September 1856. John posted a reward in the paper for a lost dog.
- 26 January 1859. John was presented with a church service in his honour as appreciation for his help with choir of St. John’s Church.
- 14 January 1867. John dived into the river to retrieve the body of a child, William Jones who had drowned.
- 5 September 1868. John served on the Jury at the inquest of Mr. Robert McMasters.

During their married life, John and Mary had ten children, three named Francis died in infancy at nine months, 14 months & 16 months. Two other sons Alfred James and Herbert Thomas died in their 30s.

John died of paralysis on 5 March 1877 aged 58; he is buried in the Cypress Street Cemetery in Launceston.

Mary Constantine moved to mainland Australia after John’s death, as did her remaining children. When Mary died aged 73 years in 1905, she was living in Fitzroy, Victoria in the next street to her son, John Frederick Jun. and his wife Clara Myler.

But what of Mary and their son Joseph?

As stated before there is no trace of them in the 1841 census but by 1851 they are living in Hawick, Scotland as wife and son of John Miller, born 1818 in Brampton, Cumberland. John

Parish (or Township) of		City or Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of		Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Ecclesiastical District of		
No. of House	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb
		In	Value (1851, or Building (1861))				Males	Females			
	High St 2 Caravan			John Miller	Head	Mar.	43		Hawker	Cumberland Parson	
				Mary	Wife	Ma.	36			County of York	
				John		Un.	18		Travelling Shooting Gallery	Yorkshire Thirster	
				James		Un.	13			Cumberland Whitehaven	
				John		Un.	9			Hawick Northumberland	
				Mary Whittington		Un.	19			Yorkshire Sheffield	

1861 England census (© TNA).

and Mary had a son James, born Whitehaven, Cumberland on 11 July 1847. In 1851 John Miller's occupation was given as Auctioneer and Hardware merchant. Joseph Viney Constantine had changed his name to John Miller for some reason. John Miller and Mary never married although she was called his wife in all the censuses.

By 1861 John, Mary and their three sons were living in caravans in Bedington (probably Bedlington). John senior is a Hawker, John junior, now 19, runs a travelling shooting gallery, James and his younger brother Joseph born Hawick in 1852 are scholars. Also in the household is Mary Whittington born Sheffield about 1847. She was later to marry John junior.

John senior is said to have run a very successful fairground business called Miller's Ghosts, this is claimed to have made him a very wealthy man, however in 1871 he is living with Mary in Newcastle upon Tyne as an Iron Merchant, in 1881 he is still

there but has now retired, by 1891 he and Mary are living in Huddleston Street, Cullercoats.

John Miller junior is with his mother and stepfather in 1861. In 1876 he and Mary (née Whittington) have their first child John William George born in Sheffield on 4 October. He was in court 15 times between 1871 and 1901 on a variety of charges, larceny, drunkenness, brawling and racing horses in the street amongst them. John was variously named as a hardware man, owner of a shooting gallery and hawker.

John senior died in early winter in 1896 in Chatham Place, Newcastle upon Tyne. A retired auctioneer he left a will giving all his estate to "my wife, or reputed wife, Mary Miller or Mary Viney" Probate was granted on 24 December 1896.

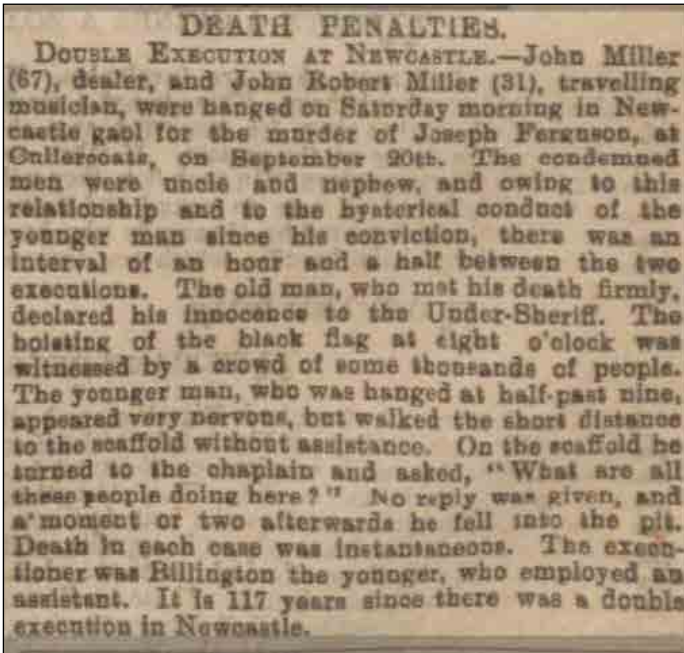
On the 9 April 1898 Mary married Joseph Ferguson, a journeyman joiner who was said to be 50 at their marriage, Mary was said to be 58 but as she was born in about 1820 she

*Miller* This is the last Will and Testament of me John Miller of Number 25 Huddleston Street Cullercoats in the County of Northumberland Retired Auctioneer I give devise and bequeath all my real and personal estate and effects whatsoever and wheresoever to my dear wife or reputed wife Mary Miller or Mary Viney for her sole and separate use and benefit absolutely And I appoint my said dear wife Executrix of this my Will In witness whereof I have herunto set my hand this eighteenth day of October One thousand eight hundred and eighty seven, John Miller, Signed by the said John Miller the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us together present at the same time who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other subscribe our names as witnesses, William Reed, Solicitor North Shields, Henry Purvis 34 Howard Street, North Shields.

*2 for*

On the 24<sup>th</sup> day of December 1896, Probate

John Miller's 1896 will.



Lincolnshire Chronicle, 10 December 1901 (© FMP).

was actually 78! Joseph was the same age as her son John (Joseph Viney Constantine).

In the 1901 census Joseph and Mary are living in Cullercoats where he is said to be a joiner, however tragedy was soon to happen.

Mary's son John was very resentful of the fact that his stepfather's money would go to Joseph following his marriage to Mary. On 20 September 1901 John and his nephew John R Miller, son of John's half brother James, went to the home of Joseph and Mary where John R stabbed Joseph several times, he died immediately.

In the court case which followed it was stated that John had plied his nephew with drink and that John R had suffered brain

damage in his childhood so he was not always responsible for his actions and could be easily led. A specialist was called to give evidence but he claimed that John R would have known what he was doing. After many witnesses were called both men were found guilty and sentenced to death. They were executed on 7 December 1901.

John Miller's death certificate simply states "hanged for the murder of Joseph Ferguson" as the cause of death. During the trial it is reported that Mary was a poor witness due to what we would now probably call dementia. She died three years later at her grandson James' home in Bristol.

John's sons John William (John Willie) and Thomas and his daughter Mary went on to continue running showground attractions and several of their descendants are still involved in the fairground and entertainment business.

The whole story of the murder was reported in True Crime, Detective Monthly in August 1995.

John Frederick Constantine is the 3x great grandfather of Amanda Clarke and the 2x great grandfather-in-law of Christine Skinner.

## Sources

1. Parish registers: Malton, Coverham and Bishop Auckland
2. Convict records in National Archives, available on Findmypast
3. Convict Records in Tasmanian Archives
4. Marriage Records in Tasmanian Archives
5. Tasmanian Newspaper Archives on Trove Website
6. 1851-1901 Census, available on Findmypast or Ancestry
7. Newspaper Archives on Findmypast
8. Family Archives

The article was originally published in the Cleveland FHS Journal July 2018, Vol 13, number 11.

## DNA Help is Available

This DNA section of the Guild website provides a vast amount of information on DNA testing for genealogy. You will find articles, videos, presentations, reference information, how to order a test kit from the Guild, and member's reports on their DNA Project.

In many cases you will find an answer to your issue in the material contained in the pages in the DNA section.

If you can't find an answer, then help, advice, guidance, and individual consultation on all facets of DNA testing is available from the Guild's DNA Advisor, Susan Meates.

In addition, the DNA Advisor will take care of all aspects of setting up a DNA Project for you, when you want one. More information about setting up a project is provided at [Want a DNA Project?](#)

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

One-on-one consulting is provided, to address any issue.

Guidance on how to interpret results, how to increase your participants, or help with getting any vendor problem solved.

The DNA Advisor will handle getting your DNA Project established and then setting up your project with proven marketing material. You can then modify the DNA Project profile and DNA website, if you so desire.

The DNA Advisor will also handle any negotiations, when required, to extract surnames from an existing DNA Project, or the negotiations to have a Guild member join an existing DNA Project as a co-Administrator.

# When were they born?

by Nicholas Spence

Nowadays we all know the importance of our birth date. I often need to quote it. It appears on my driving licence, passport and many other documents. If I have to phone a hospital about an appointment the receptionist seems more interested in my date of birth than my name or post code. It will doubtless feature on my death certificate when I die.

I was born on the second of April 1933, at our then family home in Kensington. How do I know? Although by definition I was present at the time, I have no firsthand memory of the occasion. I know the date and place only because my mother reported the birth to the local Registrar the following day and it is on my Birth Certificate. I have no reason to disbelieve what she reported, but I have only her testimony that I was born then. It is, however possible that I was born the previous day, and she might have changed the date she gave to the Registrar to stop me being an April Fool ever after.

But our ancestors seemed less interested in their dates of birth. I don't know whether parish registers have changed their format recently, but Anglican registers certainly used not to have a column for date of birth, only for the date of baptism. So for births before 1837 in England and Wales one often only knows a baptismal date and can but hope that the person in question was baptised soon after birth.

After 1837 in theory at least the birth should have been registered with the GRO, although in the early days parents often didn't register the births of their children for a variety of reasons. For instance some assumed that a date of baptism was good enough for all purposes, others considered it was none of the Government's business. It is also said that quite often a child was born well before the date recorded on the birth certificate but because the birth had not been reported within the official time limit, the date of birth was altered to make it look legal.

We know we can't always trust the ages given in post-1837 marriage certificates. For example if the man is much younger than the woman he is marrying, it is not unknown for him to increase his age or her to lower hers.

In theory if a person featured in more than one census return they ought to appear ten years older each time but I'm sure we have all found examples where a person's age appears to vary wildly between censuses. For example there is one female ancestor of mine who aged only nine years between censuses.

A while ago a fellow researcher sent me a copy of the front page of a family Bible which listed the names of both parents and all their children together with full dates of birth. All the children were born after 1837 and all their births had been registered with the GRO. All had been baptised and, unusually, their birth dates were also recorded in the parish register. So I had a date of birth, the quarter of civil registration and a baptismal date for each child.

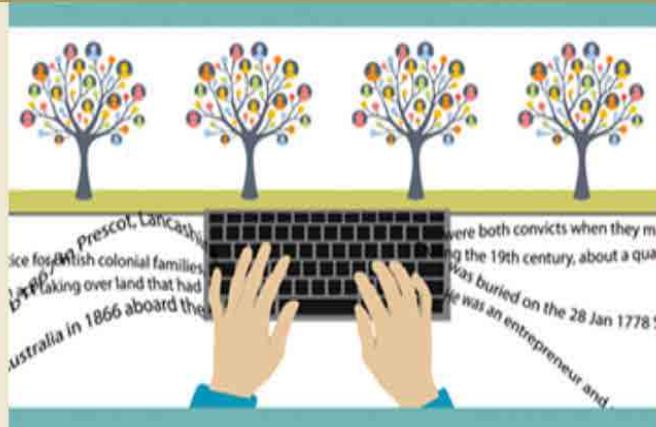
It was therefore interesting to compare the data I already had, all of which was self-consistent, with that from the page in the family Bible. What surprised me was that although the day

and month of birth for all the children exactly matched the data I already had, in a few cases the birth year was wrong. Trying to work out why this might be, I noticed that all the entries on the Bible page appeared to have been written by the same person at the same time, perhaps many years after the births in question. The more I thought about it the less I was surprised. I feel sure that we can all remember the birthdays of our own children, but moving slightly further away, although I can usually remember the day and month of my nephews and nieces' birthdays I often have great difficulty in remembering the year of their birth.

This was recently brought home to me when I began searching the 1939 Register for data on people in my One-Name Study (ONS). In most cases I already knew the birth date of those household members who featured in my ONS, but I was astonished by how often the day and month of birth given agreed with the data I already had but the year of birth was wrong, often by several years. The return was presumably made by only one person at each address who like the compiler of the Bible page would have relied on their own memory for the birth-dates of close relatives and, only if in doubt, would have asked other household residents for their birth data. I can't think of any good reason why they would deliberately falsify their birth year. It surely couldn't have affected the wartime rations to which they were to become entitled.

I wonder if other Guild members have found the same thing in their researches and have a better explanation.

**Feature Study: Tickle and Tickell Study**

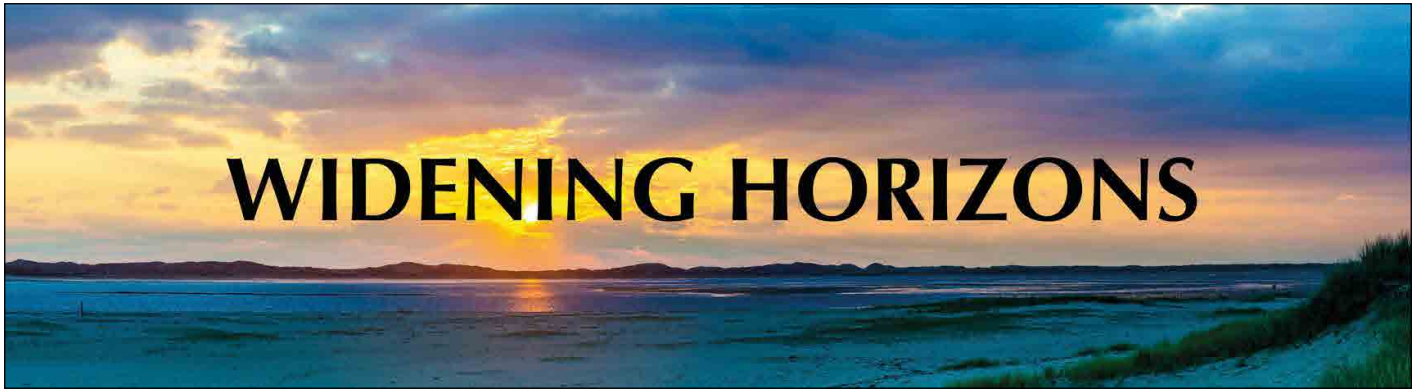


'Among the Tickle Trees', the Tickle / Tickell study website aims to bring the past to life. The blog features people and stories from around the world - military men, convicts, landed gentry, artists, blacksmiths, miners, and more. The accompanying DNA project has already identified some distinct trees. [Check it out.](#)



# The 'Widening Horizons' series of Webinars

by Alison Boulton



## Background

During October and November 2020, a series of 6 webinars took place, with 3 talks given on behalf of the Guild and 3 by members of the Local Population Studies Society (LPSS). This had long been planned as a joint Seminar by the two organisations, due to be held in Solihull in October. Rather than abandon the talks, it was decided to move them online.

Probably most 'one-namers' are also family historians more broadly, and are maybe interested in demography, social history and/or story telling too. We know that the lines between these different but related studies are blurred, and many of us will happily operate in some sort of pic'n'mix that enriches our researches. However, we are also creatures of habit, likely to stick to a few sources we know well and not always aware of what else is available.

This series of webinars was intended to broaden our scope and help us to learn about how others might make different use of the same records; what other resources they access and what emerging software and websites are out there. What can we learn from those with related interests, and how might ONS contribute to other fields of activity. Maybe there is something we have already done incidentally, but might want to give it a more structured focus and develop further.

We are particularly indebted to our speakers who gave their time and shared their knowledge and enthusiasm for free. All six talks are available to watch on our website <https://one-name.org/widening-horizons-webinar-series/> together with a little bit about each speaker and transcripts of the Q&A sessions.

## The webinars

### Mortality and Morbidity: a study of National Registration death certificates for two families 1837 to 2009.

Elizabeth Green opened the series, explaining how personal circumstances led her to investigate causes of death in her ancestors. During the process, she discovered a good deal about the history of death recording and registration with the introduction of a national system in 1837; the central role of the registrar - who in early days might have had to walk a good few miles to see the body and issue a certificate - and about the information on death certificates and what it revealed.

She introduced us to William Farr's 'nosologies', a listing of 12 classifications of causes of death, mostly categorised by the affected organs but also including old age and external causes. These nosologies would inform what could be put on the certificate, and a registrar would need to ensure there was a medical description which fitted one of the categories; these terms were often far removed from the local description of the disease, so 'the runs' became 'inflammation of the bowels', fitting neatly into nosology class 6 relating to digestive organs.

Elizabeth also noted that early on, information about women was often minimal, failing to record their age, relationship to the person reporting the death and often even the cause of death, though thankfully when a new certificate format was introduced in 1953, this was much improved and included occupation and maiden name.

We probably all use death certificates, or at any rate accumulate them, but Elizabeth's insights showed that there is a good deal more to be learned than cause of death. The certificates reflect social and medical thinking, can help determine patterns of disease and family susceptibilities and provide additional pieces of information that can enrich our understanding of the lives, not just the deaths, of our ancestors.

### One-Place Studies - thinking laterally: how a one-place study can support surname and population studies.

Our second webinar was led by Paul Carter and Pam Smith, co-founders of 'Name & Place'. Paul began by explaining that their work focuses on a community study of names and places in a particular geographic area, which can be a village, a street, a house or even an institution; it is harder to work across a larger area without defining a clear boundary. Such a study is easily linked to family history, based on where ancestors, lived, worked, moved to or from, and places them in a wider community and social context.

The time period to explore is a matter of choice, with the nineteenth century being richer in records and the 1871 census a good starting point. However, there is still plenty to be gained from earlier or later investigations, it is a matter of personal preference and what you want to learn from the project.

Paul went on to show examples of the Name & Place demonstration project on Rillington in Yorkshire, through one



of its residents Enos Piercy 1823 - 1905, a local tailor born to a single mother, and the Ruston family. The website enables you to record your research linked to sources, analyse your data and look for trends, insert maps, produce reports in tabular and graphical form, and share your findings widely. A free trial is available, after which it costs £120 annually or £15 a month.

I'm sure many of us have made trips to the places our ancestors lived; this approach allows us to research and record something about those places in a more structured way and gain an insight into their community and their place in it.

### Creating a publicly-available common format database of parish register data on baptisms, marriages and burials.

The next webinar by Dr Andy Hinde focussed on another common resource, parish registers, and the LPSS project. Again, this showed how analysing the data in different ways enables us to learn more from the records.

The LPSS was founded 1968. Its origins are linked to a Cambridge research project looking at aggregate parish register data based on monthly totals of births, marriages and burials in 404 English parishes between 1541-1871, which had been collected by local historians. Most registers started by 1600, but without a common format, which wasn't in place until 1800.

The 404 parishes are not evenly distributed, as rigorous quality control was applied to the selection. Data for each parish is collected in a separate Excel file, together with a text file of transcripts. Andy demonstrated the data using Odiham in Hampshire, particularly relevant just now because it has a 'pest house' built in 1622, where those with infectious diseases were isolated from the rest of the population! Analysing the data shows for example that in 1558-9, there were significantly higher mortality rates than in normal years, and that marriages did not take place during Lent until the 1800s.

The LPSS Parish Register project is now making the data available on a bespoke website so that files are publicly available, with an index showing the 404 parishes and their 1811 populations. Of course, there is a lot more parish register information available through other sources, including transcripts in record offices and local family history societies, though possibly in different formats or incomplete. So the next stage of the project over 10-15 years is to add these to the database if the owners are willing, produced in a common Excel format. It is envisaged that the information will be of particular interest to local historians, and those studying historical themes linked to local data.

### Ruby One-Name Collaborative Study: how it worked and what I learned.

In our fourth webinar Dr Nikki Brown described the Guild's Ruby study. Nikki was one of the 35 strong study team led by Paul Howes. The Ruby study took place over a year as part of the Guild's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, and aimed to demonstrate the benefits and outcomes of a collaborative ONS.

Whilst there is a common core of elements to a ONS, we all have our own approaches and emphases. The Ruby study needed to ensure consistency, which was established through clear instructions and good communication. It was important to be clear about who to include - all with Ruby name, women who married a Ruby, and children of women with maiden name Ruby - and to have protocols on quoting sources, dates and places. In addition, all work was checked, not necessarily a popular feature!

The study covered worldwide incidences of the Ruby name, so the team had to get used to using different records and formats. Nikki found herself using Australian records fairly early on, and found some invaluable information in Trove's newspaper collection. Other members of the team found themselves working in foreign languages and made use of Relatively Curious or Family Search wiki to get translations. Having a bit of understanding of the country's geography and history helps too.

The study found over 13,000 people and 200+ extended families across 6,800 places in over 40 countries. All the findings are available on the study website, which includes, trees, articles and photos, and blogs. The work has now been handed over to two 'real' Rubys, who will run the study and the website, and plan to undertake some DNA testing.

Niki feels she has definitely learnt things that she will apply to her own study, including being disciplined about who to include, simplifying the way she notes sources and using the current name to describe places.

### Looking at single trees and whole orchards: how genealogists and demographers can work together.

Dr Eilidh Garrett, chair of LPSS, looked at how family historians and demographers use the same sources, such as bmd records and censuses, but for different purposes. She defined genealogy as being about establishing and authenticating descent lines, whereas demography is about populations and communities and the events that influence them. So while both groups would use a parish burial record, the genealogist would focus on an individual person whilst the demographer might be interested in the ages at which people died. Census material is of particular interest to demographers because of the insight into multiple families within a community, whilst genealogists are looking at a specific family group and how that has changed over time.

There is a wealth of information to be found out about our ancestors, such as their age at death, how old they were when they married or how many children they had, which enables us to tell a story about the family. A demographer would use the same information but ask questions such as is this a common age to die, at what age do most people marry or is this a usual number of children at that time, in this place? However,

whereas genealogists will continue to search for their ancestors who might have moved elsewhere, in order to tell the next chapter of the story, demographers are using aggregate data so cannot follow up on those who, for example, move away. Instead they are more interested in number crunching in order to develop charts and graphs to demonstrate their findings.

Eilidh felt that each group had something to share with the other. Demographers can provide context and comparisons, while family historians and genealogists can provide examples of behaviour. She concluded that there is certainly benefit in more discussion in order to maximise the benefits of further collaboration.

### Identifying business proprietors from the census; and using the online Atlas on entrepreneurship.

The final webinar heard from Prof Bob Bennett, about his work on the British Business Census of Entrepreneurs (BBCE) 1851-1911, using the census to understand the role of business proprietors. Although business people were fairly small in number, they were an important part of the economy. One surprise finding was the high number of women, including married women, who were proprietors in the nineteenth century; they made up 40% of those working 'on own account', that is self employed. The research also showed a significant dip in numbers of people in business from 1901 through to the 1960s.

The analysis was based on the occupational descriptors in the census, identifying those who were employers (employing other people) or own account (self employed) and separating them from the rest, that is workers and the unemployed, inactive and retired. The project used an algorithmic search of 180 million census records 1851-1911. The data has been written up in a book, placed on the UK Data Service and developed into the Atlas of Entrepreneurship.

Checking of the data was necessary because of the changes in the way occupation was recorded across censuses, errors on the original and errors in transcription. It is important to note that census data is not always accurate due to non-responses and some records are entirely missing. The project attempted to check missing data by comparing responses across subsequent years, and noted that non-response was more frequent in larger firms employing over 300 people. The BBCE website has detailed information, resources and data, and the Atlas portal within it is a helpful map based finding aid, all of which contributes to local history studies and to an understanding of where our own ancestors fitted in the economic make up of the country. The project provides us with an insight into how we can be better informed as we read the occupation columns on the census.

### Conclusions

Watching the webinars I often found myself thinking, well I do that, but rarely in such an organised or well recorded way as I do my ONS and other family history. I certainly have a real interest in the places where my ancestors lived, and I might check up if I think there are specific issues around infant mortality over a certain time period; all information I would consider important in telling the story. Now I have some other websites and resources that I could use to help me find some of this context information, and perhaps too to

answer questions about why my ancestors made some of the decisions they did.

We know that over 800 people watched the webinars, with an average of 134 per webinar, with people from the UK, the US, Poland, Australia, New Zealand and Canada joining in to listen. We can also assume that some people watched with others who did not necessarily register separately. Looking at the weekly feedback from those who attended, the comments were predominantly favourable - we know the old adage that 'you can't please all of the people all of the time', but it would appear we pleased most of them for much of the time! The vast majority enjoyed the opportunity of listening to a speaker from the comfort of their own homes, and once any technical difficulties were overcome, spent a thoroughly enjoyable hour.

The webinar format recreates as closely as possible the seminar experience - where a speaker gives a presentation and can respond to certain questions put to them by members of the audience afterwards. Of course, at a seminar, the dialogue can also be continued over coffee, or during lunch, when seminar-goers can have a more informal discussion with the speaker. During the webinars, questions entered into the dashboard were collected and reproduced on slides at the end of the presentation for comment from the speaker. Time did not usually permit answers to be given for all the questions that were put forward, and some people felt they had been ignored. However, this was indeed not the case! All questions posed during the webinar were sent to the speaker afterwards, and for every webinar in the series there is a Q&A document on the page at <https://one-name.org/widening-horizons-webinar-series/>.

The SemSub team - Sue Thornton Grimes, Alan Moorhouse, Sue Swalwell, Denise Bright and Alison Boulton - is very grateful in particular to Tessa Keough, for her patience in teaching us the software and how to run the webinars, to other members of the marketing team for publicising these events and to Bob Cumberbatch for setting up the web page. This was a learning curve for all of us, speakers, organisers and participants too. We appreciate the positive feedback from everyone who has thanked the team for getting this series together, neatly summed up by one survey respondent who said 'I have found this webinar series varied and most interesting, combining the approaches of genealogists and those more interested in what bulk data can reveal. The series has been very well organised, and for a newer member an excellent introduction to the group and its interests'.

The next series will take place early next year, so keep an eye on the Seminar events page to keep up with what will be happening then! And if you have some useful skills you would like to share, the SemSub team would be pleased to have you on board, contact [susan.thornton-grimes@one-name.org](mailto:susan.thornton-grimes@one-name.org).

The "Ancestors in Print" seminar originally scheduled for 13 February 2021 will now be a series of webinars in February.

For full details of the programme, information on registering for the webinars and on other seminars planned for 2021, please visit:

<https://one-name.org/seminar-events/>



# FamilyTreeDNA

## Benefits of Guild Membership, DNA kits and Promotions

Do you know about these extra benefits of Guild membership?

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<https://one-name.org/dna-kits-available-from-the-guild/>

The Guild holds a stock of FamilyTreeDNA Y-37 kits and Family Finder kits here in the UK.

These kits are consistently cheaper all year round than the list price on the FamilyTreeDNA website.

Whether you are just getting started with DNA or already run a DNA surname project, then check out our discounted prices on the Guild website. Members and their study participants can buy as many kits as needed.

If you are posting within the UK, your kit will arrive much faster than one ordered from the US and our postage is always charged at cost to anywhere in the world.

Each kit purchased supports the Guild's funds.

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Pharos offers Guild members a discount of 15% on both its Introductory and Advanced online courses for One-Name Studies.

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The author Gill Blanchard offers Guild members a 15% discount on her 12 week "Writing Your Family History" online courses.

### Discover You Ancestors online magazine

A digital online magazine aimed at those starting out in family history research. The annual subscription is offered at £19.99 compared to the usual price of £24.99.

### The Genealogist

The Genealogist offers Guild members a discount of £10 on either a Gold or Diamond subscription, including those who upgrade.

### Lost Cousins

Run by Peter Calver, a Guild member himself, Lost Cousins offers a recurring 20% discount on annual memberships. Enter the census details of your ancestors or One Name Study profiles on this website to see who else is researching them. Membership also includes a very informative newsletter.



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