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### **CONTENTS**

DNA for your ONS - Y-DNA Most Distant Ancestor - Part 3 by Susan C. Meates MCG	4-5
Pikes from Bristol to London to Herefordshire by David Pike	6-8
Small Studies Are Easier Are They? by John Firr	9-11
Were the Dones of Gresford, Denbighshire related to the Dones of Utkinton Hall, Cheshire? by Joy Thomas	12-14
Elizabeth Vant 1829-1878 - The Sad Life of a 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Girl by Jean Toll	15
Sharing Distant Autosomal DNA: Low probability is not no probability by Wesley Johnston	16-19
DNA Seminar Report by Caroline Pearson	20
Thomas Horsman of Gargrave - Where was he from? by Sue Horsman	21-22
Marriage Challenge Update - Back to the Record Offices by Peter Copsey MCG	22
One-Name Studies and Church Bell Ringers by Ann Williams	23-24
Lewis Owen Lewis and his descendants by Andy Micklethwaite	24
Who was the father of Fanny Jump's children? by John Clifford	25-26
The Story of Ella Rosa de Montijo Carlin by Colin Carlin	27-30
Interesting People in (almost) 200 words by Pamela Lydford	30
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Forthcoming Seminar

All photos courtesy of authors unless otherwise stated.

### Chairman's Report



Most members who attended our annual conference would have seen our President enjoying his first conference as our President in his buggy.

So it is with a heavy heart I have to tell you about his passing. As many will know, Iain was a founder member of our organisation and has served it for many years. Mainly as a member or as part of a committee, although he did produce some early journals in the mid-1980s. He has been until last year when he was appointed our President, a Vice-President since 2007. Many of you will know of his many other roles within family history organisations, including his own Swinnerton society. Those on our social media and mailing lists will know this already.

We now have to choose his successor as our constitution passes this to the committee to appoint one within two months until the next AGM, if possible, from our existing Vice-Presidents, if they are willing to stand.

After the committee's decision, there will be more news in a future Chairman's newsletter.

The work on the progress to changing our charity status continues. We found our current bank will only allow UK trustees when we have a charitable incorporated organisation. We have found that even in

the bank we have approached, we always will have to have more UK residents as trustees than overseas trustees. We are still waiting for the confirmation of the new bank account.

I should tell you that the officers and committee remain the same as last year, so some continuation of thought and plans will remain in place. At our next meeting, we expect a report from members Charlie Wilson & Doug Beezley on how we might attract younger members.

We will also discuss how we might attract more members by having one-name societies as a class of members, allowing a more significant fee for the registration of the study member but a reduced price for the community members to join.

We are trying to find a way of reducing the emphasis on the worldwide aspect of a study since we think that this frightens off members joining. While we know it is the only way to investigate, we also have to respect the fact that you can only progress a study by researching where most of the records are and when they appeared.

### W. Paul Featherstone MCG





Front Cover Photo: at this year's conference @ Kevin Cole and above photo of our former President, lain Swinnerton again at this year's conference @ Peter Alefounder

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### **DNA for your ONS**

### Y-DNA Most Distant Ancestor - Part 3

### by Susan C. Meates MCG (DNA Advisor, 3710)

The progenitor of each documented tree is known as the Most Distant Ancestor(MDA) or Earliest Known Ancestor(EKA). At Family Tree DNA, the term has changed over time.

Information about the Most Distant Ancestor can be entered at Family Tree DNA for each participant, and it is strongly encouraged that this is done. This information will be of significant assistance to you as you analyze results, and will help participants understand their matches.

At Family Tree DNA, each kit has a set of Personal Pages, and there is a page where the MDA/EKA information is entered. This page has a place to enter the information for both the direct male line ancestor, and the direct female line ancestor of the participant.

A direct male line ancestor is the progenitor for the direct male line of a male participant, which is his father, his father, and back in time. For a direct female line ancestor, this would be the mother of the participant, her mother, her mother, and back in time. Y-DNA follows the direct male line, and is the most valuable DNA test for one-name studies. mtDNA, which is inherited by both males and females, but is only passed on by the mother, represents the direct female line.

Since Y-DNA is the primary DNA test used for one-name studies, this article will focus on the Y-DNA. In addition, unless the participant has taken an mtDNA test, it is not necessary to enter information about the female MDA/EKA. For those that have taken an autosomal test, there is a separate page to enter information about the surnames in a participant's tree.

On the MDA/EKA page at Family Tree DNA, there are two fields for data for the Most Distant Ancestor/Earliest Known Ancestor. The first field is for information about the progenitor and the second is the progenitor's country of origin. See Figure 1 below.

Surnames Ear	liest Known Ancestors		
This information should refle	ct the name and location of	our earliest known direct-line pa	ternal and maternal ancestor.
Direct Paternal Ancestor ①			
Direct Paternal Ancestor ①	Country of Origin		
Direct Paternal Ancestor ①  Name and Birth/Death Date		*	

Figure 1.

In previous articles, the field for information about the progenitor was covered in detail with multiple examples. Links to these articles are at the end of this article. The focus of this article is the other component of information on the Most Distant Ancestor, the Country of Origin.

### Country of Origin

The country of origin appears relatively simple and selfexplanatory, though there is often misunderstandings about this field. This field was designed by Family Tree DNA to be the country of origin of the MDA/EKA, based on documents. Not the probable ancestral country.

This distinction is important for participants whose ancestors migrated to locations before records existed or survive as to where they came from. This lack of documents primarily applies to early migrations to Canada and the USA. Documentation can usually be found for early arrivals to Australia and New Zealand, since they were settled later. You might also run into a lack of documents for the Republic of South Africa, and some other migration destination countries.

When you don't have a documented connection to the ancestral country, the correct entry for Country of Origin is Unknown Origin. Even if you believe, for example, that the surname is only found in England, so the person must have come from England, you still put Unknown Origin, when you don't have a document stating their prior location or birthplace.

In addition, you do <u>not</u> put Canada or USA as the Country of Origin for these MDA/EKA, unless the progenitor's origin is documented there, such as for the USA as a Native American, or for Canada, Aboriginal peoples, such as Indians(First Nations), Inuit and Métis. If the tree ends in a migration destination country, and you don't have a document telling you where the progenitor came from, you put Unknown Origin.

The Country of Origin field is based on documents, no matter how certain you are of the origin.

Even in a situation where all origins for a surname are in a country, such as England, if there are no documents/evidence, you still put Unknown Origin. Surname evolution happened historically, especially with migration. For example, a Ricket progenitor died in Western Pennsylvania. He had migrated to the USA sometime in the late 1700s. It would be so easy to assume he is from England, since no surname origins for Ricketts have been found outside of England. Research found a grave stone, stating he was born in Germany in 1750. With no Ricketts surname origins found in Germany, most likely there was surname evolution from some prior form, such as Reichert. Of course, his father could have migrated from England to Germany, where the man was then born. It is more probable that surname evolution occurred, especially since some German surnames sound like Ricketts and the 1850 Federal US Census shows quite a few German Ricketts, yet no Ricketts arrivals or sightings in Germany. Since a document was found, the grave stone, the Country of Origin entered is Germany.

Eventually, participants with Unknown Origin should have matches with men in the ancestral country. Though this is evidence of their country of origin, you still leave them as Unknown Origin. Their origin is indicated with their matches and their Genetic Group, it just isn't documented.

Another reason the Country of Origin field is important is the impact of this field on Ancestral Origins and Haplogroup Origins, which are options a Y-DNA participant can click on their Personal Page. For both of these, those with Unknown Origin are not included. If you put in a Country without documentation, this will impact the results for these two reports that impact other participants in the Family Tree DNA database, and, if the country is wrong, may influence them to hunt in the wrong place for their ancestor.

### **Progenitor Information**

The two prior articles covered the Progenitor Information field of the MDA/EKA. Here is a very brief review.

The primary field for the MDA/EKA is the field where information is put about the progenitor. This is the male progenitor of the direct male line of a documented tree. Though DNA may indicate a connection to another documented tree, you don't make the connection to another tree and extend the progenitor back in time based on DNA alone. The progenitor is for a documented tree, and the tree ends when you encounter lack of documents, or insufficient documents or insufficient information to make a solid connection.

This field for Progenitor Information is a text field, is quite short, and any information about the progenitor can be entered. It is recommended that you set a standard for the format of this field. The major reason is that the field is so short, and with a standard format you can squeeze more information into the field. Here are some items to consider for the standard:

- If you have tree labels in your one-name study, use them
  as the first item in the Progenitor information. This makes
  it much easier to identify who in a Genetic Group is in
  the same tree. It also makes it easier for participants to
  identify matches in their tree. If your tree labels are long,
  since the progenitor field is quite short, come up with a
  shorthand notation for each tree.
- It is recommended that the format of the progenitor name is Last, First Middle. The reason for this is that you can easily read down the surnames in a Genetic Group and spot any surname evolution.
- Provide information about events for the progenitor with a focus on location.
- Utilizing a standard format enables you to put a large amount of information in a short field.

The most important benefit of using a standard for the Progenitor Information is that when you view a participant's matches, you can easily see who is not in your project, since they wouldn't have the standard format. Then you can easily write them and ask them to join your project.

### How to update Most Distant Ancestor

Either log into a kit, or for kits that are set to Advanced Access, from the Member Information page, right click on the kit number, then open in a new tab. You will be at the Personal Page for the kit. Then in the upper right, under the participant's name, click Account Settings. Then click in the menu bar: Genealogy. Then click Earliest Known Ancestor in the second menu bar. Be sure to click Save when you are done.

If you don't have Advanced Access or the login credentials for the kit, you will need the participant to change their access, so you can enter the information, or provide the participant the information to enter.

### Where Does the MDA/EKA Information Display

The information entered for the MDA/EKA is shown on the reports and webpages listed below. Both the progenitor information and Country of Origin are displayed, except only the Country of Origin is shown on the participant's Y-DNA 700 Block Tree page and the Project Administrator's Country of Origin Charts.

- Y-DNA Results Reports: These reports are available to the Project Administrator, and display for the participants and visitors at the DNA Project web site.
- Paternal Ancestry: This report is only available to the Project Administrator, and is a great tool for you to review the MDA/EKA information for all your participants.
- Participant's Match page: Seeing the Most Distant Ancestor information for their matches will often reduce questions.
- Participant's Y-DNA 700 Block Tree Page: The Country of Origin is shown. An incorrect Country of Origin can influence others.
- Country of Origin Charts: A selection for the Project Administrator.

In addition, the data entered for Country of Origin for each participant impacts the Personal Page selections of Ancestral Origins and Haplogroup Origins, for other participants at Family Tree DNA, not just your participants. Unknown Origin are not included in the results for these two selections.

### Summary

The MDA/EKA information, which includes both the Progenitor Information and Country of Origin for said progenitor are important for your participants, especially when they match someone. This information will display on their match page. You can squeeze quite a bit of information into a short field by setting a standard. The Country of Origin for the progenitor should be based on documents, otherwise the information could mislead matches, and will impact the Ancestral Origins and Haplogroup Origins for other participants at Family Tree DNA, not just your participants, and will impact Y-700 matches. The Progenitor Information should also be based on documents, and trees end when there is no further documents, or insufficient information to make a connection.

#### Links

For more information on format and standards for the Most Distant Ancestor, see:

Guild Journal April 2021:

https://one-name.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/ wpmembers/journal/vol14-2.pdf#page=4

Guild Journal July 2021:

https://one-name.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/ wpmembers/journal/vol14-3.pdf#page=4

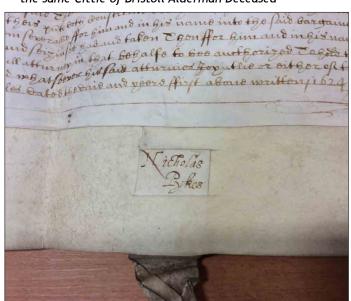
### Pikes from Bristol to London and Herefordshire

### by David Pike (4985)

This article stems from my efforts to trace the descendants of the man who was mayor of Bristol in 1549, namely William Pykes. Researching this family has involved a variety of different records from different places.

The family's surname is variously recorded as Pike, Pikes, Pyke, Pykes as well as other more creative variants, but for the sake of ease of readability I will generally write "Pike" throughout the remainder of this report, except when quoting text. To briefly mention the first few generations, mayor William had sons named John, John and Walter. How William came to have two sons, both named John and both who lived into adulthood, remains a mystery to me. These two Johns were both sheriffs of Bristol in 1553. Their brother Walter was sheriff in 1567 and mayor in 1583. Walter married in 1543 to Katherine Cooke (whose father Roger was mayor in 1535, 1542 and 1552). Walter and Katherine had a son John who was baptised in 1556 at St Nicholas in Bristol. This John appears to have studied at Oxford University, evidently serving for a time as Dean of Arts. John married Alice Thorne (a daughter of Nicholas Thorne who was chamberlain of Bristol in 1584). In 1624, John and Alice's son Nicholas signed an indenture (now preserved as item 4485/1 at the Bristol Record Office) in which he is described as follows:

Nicholas Pikes of the Cittie of Bristoll gent sonne and heire of John Pikes late of the Cittie of Bristoll gent Deceased wch John was sonne and heire of Walter Pikes late of the same Cittie gent deceased and of Katherine his wife whoe was the Daughter of Roger Cooke late of the same Cittie of Bristoll Alderman Deceased



The Visitation of Gloucester in 1623 contains a pedigree for the Thorne family, which includes Alice, her husband John Pyke and son Nicholas. Moreover, Nicholas is listed with his wife Margaret and four children, including a son Walter who is aged 4 years.<sup>2</sup>

Allow me to now digress and mention John Guy who in 1610 established a colony in what is now Cupids, Newfoundland (just an hour's drive from where I live). John was originally from Bristol, to which he returned and became mayor in 1618. He had several children at Bristol, including a son Robert and a

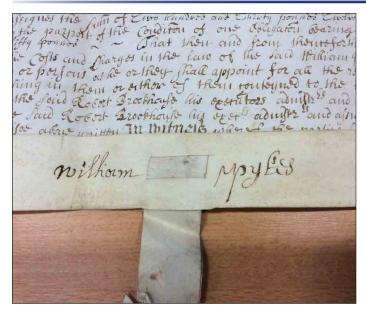
daughter Elizabeth. Although I have not yet found a marriage record, I am confident that Elizabeth married Walter Pike who was the child recorded in the 1623 Visitation of Gloucester. Elizabeth's brother Robert left a PCC will (written in 1651, proved in 1652) in which he named four sons of his brother-in-law Walter Pike, namely John, Walter, William and Thomas. Moreover, Robert Guy bequeathed property in Newfoundland to his nephew John Pike, making this will the first known record that directly associates the Pike family with Newfoundland. It is Robert's third nephew William Pike to whom we now cast our attention.

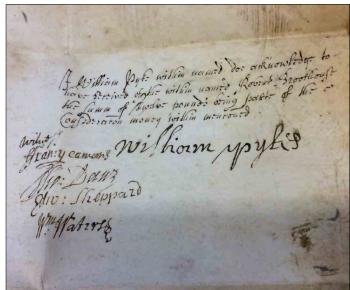
William and his brothers were grandsons of the aforementioned Nicholas Pike of Bristol. Nicholas' mother Alice Thorne had a sister Mirabell who was wife of one William Druce. Mirabell left a PCC will (written in July 1643 and proved in 1645) in which she names several relatives, including her deceased nephew Nicholas Pike. Nicholas' son Walter and several of his children benefitted from Mirabell's will, in which she left property at the Pithay in Bristol to Walter (but only for the duration of his life), then to the first son of Walter and this son's lawfully begotten heirs, and in default of such issue to Walter's second son and his heirs, and in default of such issue to Walter's third son and his heirs, and in default of such issue to Walter's fourth son and his heirs. None of these four sons of Walter are identified by name within Mirabell's will. Indeed, it seems likely that they hadn't yet been born, given that Walter and Elizabeth's son John was baptised in August 1644 at Temple parish in Bristol.

Moving forward to 1690, we find that there is a property dispute in Bristol that went to Chancery. Item C 7/277/31 at the National Archives at Kew documents this case. The defendant is one William Pike. His occupation and place of residence are not stated, much to my chagrin. However, the testimony of the case is compelling. It states that William is Walter Pike's third son, the second son (named Walter) having died about a year earlier without issue, and their father Walter about two years before that. The testimony also notes that the property in dispute had previously been owned by William's father Walter, having come to him (but only for his life) by virtue of the will of Mirabell Druce. A grocer named George Watkins is named as being the present occupant of the property, located in the Pithay at Bristol.

The plaintiff in the case (Michael Pope) had been putting forward a claim for ownership of the property, it having allegedly been sold in 1654 by William's father Walter Pike to the plaintiff's father-in-law Andrew Hooke. The response given by the defendant William Pike was that by the terms of the will of Mirabell Druce, William's father Walter "was but Tennant for life And that he could not sell or dispose of" any portion of her bequest. By this logic, even if there had been a transaction between Andrew Hooke and William's father Walter, it would have no validity beyond Walter's death as the property in question was not his to sell. As noted in item C 33/276 at the National Archives, the Chancery court ruled in favour of defendant William Pike.



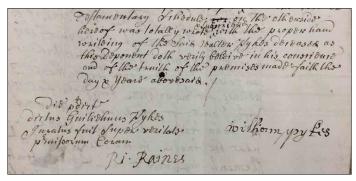




1694 signatures of William Pike

Located at the Bristol Record Office is a document with reference number 00713/6. It is dated 4 February 1694 and records the sale of a property in the Pithay occupied by grocer George Watkins. The sellers are a William Pike and his wife Susanna. William is described in this document as being a citizen and dyer of London. Moreover, the document bears his signature, not once, but twice, as illustrated below. Also party to this transaction is a painter named Ferdinando Verricke from St Martin in the Fields, Middlesex, although his role in the transaction is unclear.

At this point let me mention a PCC will that had intrigued me for some time. It was one that was written in 1689 and proved in 1690 for a Walter Pike of Twickenham, Middlesex who died at sea near Torbay. The PROB 11 collection from the National Archives, consisting of register copies of PCC wills, is readily available online. Something that I learned while visiting Kew in 2019 is that many of the original wills are preserved in collection PROB 10. From the handful of Pike wills that I was able to examine at the time, it was obvious that these original wills are a treasure trove for genealogists. Aside from often having handwriting that is much easier to read than the online scans of the register copies, the original wills sometimes have additional information that has been written on them. In the case of the will of Walter Pike of Twickenham (found in PROB 10/1210), because the will had not been duly witnessed at the time that it was made, it underwent additional scrutiny when being proved. Thus the original document includes a statement from Walter's brother William, affirming that the will is authentic. And because this is the original document, it bears William's signature, shown below.



1690 signature of William Pike

This signature matches those from the 1694 document at Bristol, confirming that this is the same William Pike, and hence the will is for the second son of the elder Walter Pike from Bristol. As for the contents of the will itself, Walter junior named his brother William as well as a brother Henry, for whom there is a corresponding baptism in records from Temple parish in Bristol. The records are damaged, making it difficult to determine the precise baptism date, although it appears to be from the year 1652. The entry itself pertains to two sons named Charles and Henry, with parents Walter and Elizabeth Pyke. Records from the Bristol parish of St Mary Redcliffe show that Charles (son of Mr Walter Pikes) was buried on 15 December 1654.

Recall that the 1694 document from Bristol identified William as a citizen and dyer of London, with a wife named Susanna. William's certification of the authenticity of his brother Walter's will gives additional information, for it identifies William as a silk dyer of the parish of St Martin in the Fields in Middlesex. This is the same parish of residence as Ferdinando Verricke who was party to the 1694 transaction at Bristol. While I do not yet know with certainty, my suspicion is that Ferdinando was a brother-in-law to William.

Married at Petersham, Surrey on 5 March 1676 were the couple Ferdinand Verick and Hannah Parker of Southwark. Almost a year earlier, on 29 March 1676, there was a marriage at St Marylebone between a William Pike and Susana Parker. Parish records from St Martin in the Fields show baptisms for three children of William and Susan Pike, namely Sarah in April 1680, Hannah in January 1681, and Thomas in March 1687.

Held at the Westminster Archives is a collection of settlement examinations from the parish of St Martin in the Fields for the period 1708-1795. In volume F5003 (for the year 1710) are details for the family of a William Pike, aged about 32, of Brick Street. He and his wife Elizabeth are noted to have married "in ye Fleet" on 2 November 1703 and that they have children Rebecca, Mary and Hannah. Some of these details are affirmed by William's mother Susan, who said that he was born in "Marybone" street. It is also noted that "Wm Pike ye father was a Dyer deced about 4 year ago in Herefordshire."

Baptism records for St Marylebone do not appear to be available prior to 1679, which could explain why I have been unable to

find a baptism for the William Pike who is central to this 1710 settlement examination. You may well be asking if his parents William and Susan are the same William and Susan that we have already discussed. It is promising that the examination states that William the father was a dyer. As it happens, the fact that he died in Herefordshire is also reassuring.

There was a Chancery case in 1659 involving Walter Pike (son of Nicholas) of Bristol (C 10/48/106 at the National Archives). It notes that Walter had been living in the county of Herefordshire. Apparently this dispute between Walter and his brother-in-law William Barnes had escalated to the point where Walter was arrested by the Sheriff of Herefordshire. As yet the only records of this incident that I have found are those within the Chancery testimony. Regrettably, the Chancery records don't give a location within Herefordshire for Walter's place of residence there, but the parish of Michaelchurch Escley stands out as a potential location. Hearth tax records show that a Walter Pikes was taxed there in 1664 (for more details on this, see the webpage about Pikes Farm³).

For other potential signs of the family in Herefordshire, a gentleman named Henry Pykes was buried at Michaelchurch Escley in 1719; this could be the Henry that was baptised at Bristol about 1652 and who was named in the 1689 PCC will of Walter Pike of Twickenham. Furthermore, FindMyPast notes that in 1660 one John Pike (son of Walter Pike of Michaelchurch, Herefordshire) was apprenticed to a London grocer named Hugh Coles.

So the death in Herefordshire that is mentioned in the 1710 settlement examination from St Martin in the Fields would seem to be consistent with what is known about the family. Unfortunately I have not been able to find any corresponding burial record in Herefordshire. There is a burial record at St Martin in the Fields dated 1 February 1706 for a William Pike, although I don't know how likely it would have been for a body to be brought from Herefordshire for burial.

I would like to continue tracing this family towards the present day, but am currently stalled at the two sons (William and Thomas) of the couple William and Susan who lived at St Martin in the Fields. Son William and his wife Elizabeth appear to have no further children beyond those mentioned in the 1710 settlement examination. The examination states that this son William was never an apprentice, but was a "Covenant to Mr Blankenship in Cha: Court." Some text that is struck out suggests William may be a tailor.

Son Thomas is mentioned in a 1711 settlement examination (volume F5005) in which his mother Susan is also examined. Thomas' baptism date is stated to be 25 March 1686, which coincides with the 25 March 1686/87 record from the parish of St Martin in the Fields. What looks as though it may be a marriage record for Thomas is one from St James Duke's Place dated 7 September 1713 for a bachelor Thomas Pykes (age 26, house painter from St Martin in the Fields) and a widow Margaret Palmer (age 30, from St James Westminster). But unfortunately I have not yet been able to find subsequent records for this couple.

I would be pleased to hear if any readers have suggestions for how I might find more information about the various branches of this family.

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David is studying the surname Pike with variants Pikes, Pyke, Pykes and can be contacted at <a href="mailto:david.pike@one-name.org">david.pike@one-name.org</a>. David's registered website can be found at <a href="www.math.mun.ca/~dapike/family history/pike">www.math.mun.ca/~dapike/family history/pike/DNA/</a>.



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# **Small Studies Are Easier Are They?**

### by John Firr (8502)

### Introduction

This article is written in connection with the Pharos "Advanced One-Name Studies Course. It is the story of my One-Name Study (ONS) to date. The Firr study includes variants Fir, Fur, and Furr.

My interest in Genealogy stretches back many years although until 2020 (and the "opportunity" presented by the Covid-19 lockdown) the research effort had been sporadic and focussed on family history rather than ONS. The study is young (6 months) and small. Notwithstanding these constraints it is still worthwhile taking some time to reflect on experiences to date as it may assist those considering departing on a similar path.

I grew up knowing my surname was "odd". I rarely met anyone who shared it, and those I did were relatives and close relatives at that. I had to spend my life spelling my surname when asked it, as no-one naturally spells the word Firr that way (little did I realise at the time what this would mean for transcription and spelling errors in my later studies). There was scant information about the family from my parents and grandparents. A story of an uncle who was a famous huntsman, a tale of someone drowning in a ditch and something vague about the family originating by the river Ouse. That was it, and like many I failed to get information out of my near relatives while they were alive. I knew I had a rare surname and believed that I was possibly the last of the line with a surname that was close to extinction.

Initial research quickly revealed the famous huntsman and death in a ditch stories to be true (and possibly subjects for future articles). With the development of Internet sites researching my direct line was relatively straightforward. I could focus on one person at a time, searches tended to yield only a few results to review and notwithstanding the issue of transcription errors I traced back to 1800 reasonably easily. I started to believe that "if I find a Firr they will be a relative". However, I began to come across the odd Fir or Firr that did not fit, single families or individuals in random parts of the country and what seemed to be a specific decision by my ancestors to adopt the double R ending instead of a single R in the mid-1800s. This created intrigue and an introduction to the concept of the ONS. Not being sure what an ONS was I completed the Pharos Tutors "Introduction to One-Name Studies course" and suitably fired up, decided to jump in. The study was registered with The Guild of One-Name Studies in July 2020.

Considering the size of the task in hand to ascertain practicality, a review of the 1881 Census using Archers Atlas yields the following:

Name Variant	Number of Individuals with this surname in England and Wales in 1881
Firr	18
Fir	3
Fur	3
Furr	144

According to the guidance this is a small study (30-300) with all four variants, and if Furr is excluded (as it is possible that this may be a separate name) then the study ranks as Tiny (1-30), in fact it becomes a micro study! Extracting data from the base documents was not going to take long and theoretically the study would yield all the answers needed at least as far as the UK was concerned.

At this point it is worth considering the two other major groupings, USA and Canada and the numbers for these based on all census entries.

	Firr	Fir	Fur	Furr
Canada	0	3	32	17
USA	38	328	880	18355

### Why do it?

The study has two main objectives:

- 1. To understand the origin of the name and where it is from.
- To reconstruct the family groups and see if they are all related (i.e., does the name originate in a single person)

Along with three subsidiary objectives:

- Understand why my direct line, an Essex/ Hertfordshire family with the surname Fir adopted the second R en famille in the mid-1800s (given they were mostly literate, and records exist in their own hand it seems to be a deliberate decision rather than interchangeable spelling).
- Finding the link between the UK Firrs and the rather larger population that exists in Canada and the USA.
- Publishing or preserving the study to provide a legacy for a name that is on the brink of extinction in the UK.

As a new Guild member, I read *The Seven Pillars* booklet carefully and set off in a linear fashion. I trawled the BMD index for Births Deaths and Marriages along with the UK census from 1841 right through to 1939 for three variants of the name. Firr, Fir and Fur. The first two I knew to be used interchangeably and the third cropped up as a frequent possible transcription error. Furr seems to be on a different scale certainly in North America and it seems very separate, so it is programmed for later in the study.

This initial data collection complete and with this being defined as somewhere between a tiny and small study (at least in the UK), it seemed reasonable to expect that the analysis would be straightforward, and everything would fall into place perfectly.

This assumption of course proved to be completely flawed and revealed some of the difficulties that can be associated with small studies and those embarking on them would be well advised to consider them from the start.

### The data emerges

Let us consider the data to date. Although it represents a small number of individuals, it represents good coverage of those documents considered as the foundation for a study and covers three of the variants within the constraints of the UK.

In respect of the name origin, it is too early to tell but the table below shows their earliest existence in the UK:

Earliest Recorded Baptism for each surname variant in the UK - current data.

Surname Variant	Earliest UK Occurrence (to date)	Name	Place
Firr	1665	Susanna Firr	Pluckley Kent England
Fir	1578	? Fir	Alne Yorkshire England
Fur	1605	George Fur	Bourne Lincolnshire England
Furr	1615	? Furr	Liddington Bedfordshire England

In some preliminary research into passenger lists I have found occasional records that show early existence at least of the Fir and Firr forms of the name in Prussia and this may be the root of the North American family groups. The forms all exist as deviants of each other but equally are genuine variants as well.

Analysis of the output from the initial set of key records revealed possibly disappointing results. Such a small number of individuals with a rare name might be expected to yield a simple and tidy result with births and deaths, marriages, and children where appropriate all in place for most individuals.

The table below shows the number of individuals that are revealed by a simple search of FreeBMD on exact spelling and compares it to individuals identified from a range of core records for two variants.

Variant	FIRR		FIR	
	Number indicated using search of Free BMD (exact spelling)	Number of discreet individuals recorded in ONS from BMD, Census and Baptisms/ Burials since 1837. (exact spelling)	Number indicated using search of Free BMD (exact spelling)	Number of discreet individuals recorded in ONS from BMD, Census and Baptisms/ Burials since 1837. (exact spelling)
Births	37	135	15	85
Deaths	39	135	7	85

A search of various record sets (BMD Index, Parish baptisms and calculations from the census on exact spelling) has yielded 130 known individuals with the Firr surname since 1837 but a simple search of free BMD will only yield 37, just 27% of this total.

Similarly, for FIR births we get only 15% from BMD and for FIRR deaths 28% and FIR deaths just 8%.

There were problems too with initial family construction. For such a small study one might expect almost everyone to fit into a small number of "multi-generation trees" (in fact just one if my earlier "all Firrs are related" theory held). Currently, though, there are far more loose ends than expected - a phenomenon I call 'fragmentation' and which is illustrated in the table below.

Family Fragmentation (Firr, Fir, and Fur dataset)

Grouping Description	Number of Individuals in this group
Part of a multigenerational Tree. (The individual fits in a tree that extends beyond a simple parent/ Child group)	103
Part of a One Generation tree (The individual fits in a tree that consists of one or two parents and one or more children but has no other links beyond that)	50
Part of a Couple (The individual can be identified as part of a couple relationship but with no evidence of children or any further external links)	40
Orphan The individual exists as a single name with no data that supports a link to any other individual in the study.	58
TOTAL NUMBER OF DISCREET INDIVIDUALS CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED IN THE STUDY	251

### The Jigsaw Dilemma

Small studies are not as easy as may at first appear. This clearly depends on the objectives of the study. If the objective is merely to gather a list of all the individuals bearing the name, then in truth the task is simple. However, the opportunity and challenge of a small study is that the small numbers create an expectation that analysis will be simple and reveal a complete picture - like attempting a child's jigsaw with very few pieces.

Extending this analogy. It is inevitable that the genealogical records have missing or incorrect records, and as such our jigsaw is in an old box. Some of the pieces are missing and, in some cases, the wrong pieces have been put into the box as well. To compound things, the picture is also missing.

A large study is a jigsaw with several thousand pieces, as such if there are a few hundred missing then although the picture might be messy it is possible when put together to see the whole and understand it. However, with a jigsaw with limited pieces then even a small number of records can be enough to make the resultant picture unintelligible.

Clearly large studies have problems of scale and some surnames are so prevalent that embarking on an ONS would be a fool's errand. However, it is clearly not as simple as "bigger equates to more difficult", both ends of the spectrum bring their own challenges so perhaps the "sweet spot" is somewhere in the middle?

### Palaeontology comes to the rescue!

Where next? The genealogical concept of the "brick wall" does not feel helpful. In family history this tends to be focused on individuals as it represents a blockage on a single line preventing progress further back. An ONS is a broad study and yields potentially hundreds of "brick walls" which to the novice can feel daunting and sap confidence. Is there another way to approach the problem?

It was at this point I happened to be watching the Royal Institute Christmas Lectures (BBC 2020) and there was a small section where a Palaeontologist (Dr Chris Dean University of Birmingham) was describing the use of "The Rock Record" and the concept of "rock record bias" which can lead to misleading results when examining an area for evidence of early life.

#### To illustrate:

Take two geographic areas that are being sampled for evidence of earlier life. Both had similar numbers of living creatures and species (albeit possibly different species). The results of research however suggest that one area had far more creatures and separate species than the other. Why should this be?

In sampling palaeontologists are using what they see in the "rock record" i.e., fossilised remains and then extrapolating this to form a view on the facts about that area. However, the use of this as your tool contains inbuilt bias that can skew the actual results. In our example the first area offered unencumbered access to the whole area and the species that existed there all had skeletons which were able to form fossils. Our second island had inaccessible areas due to tree cover, areas of private land which we could not get access to and some of the original species that were there were soft bodied and therefore did not form fossils. Each of these blockages result in the impression that the second island had less life when in fact it was remarkably like island number 1 and these obstructions are known as "rock record bias". The debate continues about how to resolve these issues and the use of "proxies" i.e., use evidence other than fossils which will indicate the presence of life.

The similarity between the palaeontologist trying to read "rocks "and the one-namer reading record sets leads to the idea of "genealogical record bias". Understanding this could lead to strategies to deal with these biases and feels less obstructive than the "brick wall" The information you seek is not obstructed by an immovable object but hiding possibly in plain sight, you just need to change your glasses!

### Genealogical record bias will include things like:

Transcription bias

The name has a difficult spelling or pronunciation which leads to it being misspelled by those making the original record or transcribing it for indices etc.

### Mobility bias

The individuals carrying the surname moved around more than expected or over greater distances. Meaning that it is difficult to use the typical tools of distribution analysis or links with certain geographic areas to reconstruct families. Are the three Jane Smiths you have in very widespread parts of the country the same person or not?

### Conformance bias

Perhaps people carrying the surname under study were just not good at conforming to requirements for registration and form filling either by omission or intent (they just did not want to be on the radar).

#### Gender bias

Your ONS study has a preponderance of women and we know that historically women tend to be far less visible in the historical record than men.

### **Educational Bias**

The study may contain several individuals who were not educated and able to read and write their own names leading to an increase in transcription errors (see above) and errors on ages and dates because they just did not understand these topics and relied on others.

These and other "Genealogical Record Biases" have led me to use many of the strategies that I know are common in family history, but I find that thinking about them as proxies aids my understanding. For example, my raw data set contains several individuals who are included as name "Unknown Unknown". This is because a shadow exists that says that person must be there (e.g., all the unlinked individuals must have had parents at some point). These shadow proxies are given a unique identifier as if they were individuals recovered from the records. I can then build onto this shadow things that I can deduce such as range of possible birth and death dates and sometimes locations until eventually I have enough deduced evidence to match them with an individual, I have found. Equally where there is a suggestion of a marriage, but the wife's name is unknown then a record can be started using an unknown unknown name or say an unknown (Firr) entry. This may not be routine, but it helps me to create shadow individuals where I have some clear indication of their existence, I just have yet to find names and dates to fully acknowledge their humanity.

### Conclusions

Small studies may offer a practical way in to ONS and are less daunting but in truth they are no more ever finished than larger studies. The data may seem easier to collect but the holes are proportionately bigger, and this make the synthesis stage of the study a particular challenge. It is like a research study on a small number of samples, it is difficult to get to statistically significant answers and as such it is easy to drop into speculation.

The study is incredibly sensitive to the fact that omission of small datasets can make family reconstruction exceedingly difficult. Furthermore, this omission can be better understood by thinking about the reasons that these records are inaccurate or incomplete. A concept I have dubbed "genealogical record bias".

I am aware that this is in no way original, all the inherent problems outlined above are well covered in any number of books on genealogical brick walls. It perhaps gives a different way of thinking about the issues and offers a more positive way of coming up with potential answers, Understanding the biases that affect your own studies can lead to pointers that may help to further your research plans and objectives.

It is my intention to develop my thinking as I continue the ONS journey and the answer to the question "small studies are easier" I would suggest is: Perhaps not as easy as you think!

John is studying the surname Firr with variants Fir, Fur, Furr and can be contacted at john.firr@one-name.org.

# Were the Dones of Gresford, Denbighshire related to the Dones of Utkinton Hall, Cheshire?

by Joy Thomas (6863)

I started my family history research in 1973 well before the age of the computer and the availability of online resources. I discovered then that most of my research would initially centre on the historic counties of Denbighshire, Flintshire, and Merionethshire with Welsh surnames Thomas, Jones, Kendrick, Pritchard and Davies. Both my maternal grandparents were Davies but not related and I have five Jones lines. I started ordering certificates and visiting record offices to view the available census returns on microfilm.

At that time, the county records offices in Wales were not allowed to hold parish records. The only repository for parish records was the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, which was the Diocesan Record Office for Wales. 1974 was also the year of local government reorganisation in Wales and the historic counties of Denbighshire and Flintshire and the area of Edeyrnion were merged to form the county of Clwyd. In 1976 an agreement between the Representative Body of the Church in Wales and all the Welsh County Councils designated county record offices as repositories for ecclesiastical parish records and Diocesan Advisors on Archives were appointed. Parishes in Clwyd were encouraged to deposit their records and a programme of microfilming was initiated.

I had acquired the marriage certificate of my paternal greatgrandparents John Jones and Elizabeth Piercy who married at St Mary on the Hill parish church in Chester on 23 June 1874. Elizabeth was described as a widow aged 26 having previously married Charles Phoenix and her father was Joseph Piercy Farmer. I have in my possession the Jones family Bible which records Elizabeth's birth as 24 April 1848. The 1861 census for Burton shows Elizabeth Piercy aged 13 as a scholar living with her widowed aunt and born Broughton, Flintshire. Searches in the 1841 census returns identified Joseph Piercy as a farmer living in Broughton, Hawarden Parish. As I started my research, I discovered that the parish registers for Hawarden were available at the Flintshire Record Office which was located next to the Church in the Old Rectory. For this reason, I decided to do further research into my great-grandmother Elizabeth Piercy. I found Elizabeth Piercy's baptism recorded in the parish registers for Broughton on 14 May 1848 born 6 April d/o Joseph and Martha Piercy née Done residing at Broughton with Joseph's occupation recorded as a Farmer. I have never been able to find a birth certificate for Elizabeth Piercy so cannot confirm if her date of birth was 24 April as the family bible or 6 April as the parish register entry but feel that the bible entry may be the correct one.

I now had a non-Welsh surname to research so who was Martha Done? She was recorded in the 1871 census for Hawarden, Flintshire at Wint or Wynt Cottages. She is described as a widow aged 66 born Gresford, Denbighshire living on 'some small means in monies left'. In the 1861 census she was living with her widowed sister-in-law Elizabeth Done on the farm at Honkley, Burton, Denbighshire and described as a widow and dairymaid. Also, in the household were three of her children. Once the Gresford parish records were available

for consultation at the Denbighshire Record Office in Ruthin, I visited and extracted all the Done entries. The first search was to find the baptism entry for Martha Done who was baptised on 3 April 1808 at All Saints Church, Gresford. She is recorded as having been born on 14 March 1808 at Burton, Denbighshire and her parents were Thomas Done Farmer and his wife Barbara.



Figure 1. Gresford Parish Register Baptism of Martha Done 1808

Joseph Piercy and Martha Done did not marry at either All Saints Church, Gresford or St Deiniol's Church Hawarden. After a negative search in the Dodleston parish registers, a search in the parishes of the city of Chester located a marriage at St John the Baptist Church. They were married on 7 May 1834. Martha Done died at Hawarden on 14 January 1889 and is buried at St Deiniol's Church, Hawarden. I have been unable to find a death certificate or burial for her husband Joseph Piercy.

In the Gresford Parish Registers there were three families of Dones, John Done Snr, children Richard 1764, William 1767 and Ann 1771, John Done Jnr, children Mary 1785, John 1788, Ann, 1791, Martha 1793 and William 1796. My 3 x greatgrandfather Thomas had children Elizabeth 1794, Robert 1797, Ann 1799, Jane 1801, Thomas 1802, James 1805 and Martha 1808. Thomas and Barbara Done also had children baptised at St Cynfarch's church, Hope, Flintshire namely John 1788, Mary 1790 and Sarah 1792. The baptism for John Done 1788 recorded Barbara's surname as Lewis and the connection of the family to Burton Hall.

I applied for copies of the wills of John Done Jnr who died in 1825, his brother Thomas Done who died in 1828 and Thomas's son Robert Done who died in 1853 from the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. The Welsh wills are now available to view free of charge on their website and the Ancestry website. This enabled me to compile a list of children and married daughters' names. I also located family gravestones on the south side of Gresford Churchyard.

I looked at the Poor Rate Assessment for Burton Township Parish of Gresford. The first entry related to the family was for John Done Snr in 1762, so this indicated that the family moved as tenants of Burton Hall, the same year as my 3 x great-grandfather Thomas Done was born. John Snr is listed until his death in 1779.



Figure 2. Tithe Map Burton Township, Gresford Parish 1845 showing Burton Hall.

The tenancy is taken over by his son John until his death in 1825. Thomas Done is only listed in 1805. I also looked at the Land Tax Assessments of Burton Township Gresford John Done Snr is listed in 1778 and 1779, John Done Jnr is listed from 1780-1796 with owner listed as Mr Goodwin and from 1789-1791 with Owner Parson Tythe, Thomas Done is listed with Owner Mr Goodwin 1794-1796. The tenancy of Burton Hall was taken over by John Jnr's son William Done. However, William gave up the tenancy and their two sales at Burton Hall on 20 April 1829 and 1 January 1830. This ended the Done connection to Burton Hall. The last male Done who lived in Burton was Robert Done who died in 1853.

So where did John Done Snr and his family move from to Gresford? My theory was that they came from Cheshire but where in Cheshire? I was aware of the Done family of Utkinton Hall, Cheshire who were Master Foresters of Delamere Forest situated near their home in Tarporley and could trace their ancestry back to the Norman Conquest. The male line of the Dones of Utkinton Hall ended in 1630 with the death of John Done. It is generally agreed that the name is topographical relating to a hill, a 'down' or 'dune' that is a person living on a hill. The name Done is pronounced to rhyme with 'Bone'. Could my Done branch in Gresford parish be connected in any way to them?



Figure 3. Utkinton Hall, Tarporley, Cheshire

As I was researching this in the 1980s, to progress my search I visited the Cheshire Record Office in Chester to view the parish registers. I found the marriage of Thomas Done and Barbara Lewis in the parish of Dodleston, Cheshire the adjacent parish to Hope. They married by licence on 18 September 1787 with Thomas described as of Gresford parish.

My next quest was to find where the older children of John Done Snr were born namely Robert, John, Thomas, James and Mary who would have been born prior to 1762. Where were John Done Snr and his wife married and where were they buried? Also where was John Done Jnr married which would have been before 1785. I had identified the parish of Farndon, which was the residence of Robert Done, eldest son of John Done Snr at the time of his marriage in Gresford in 1796, the parish of Little Budworth where Sarah Done, wife of John Done Jnr was residing at the time of her death in 1835 and the parish of Acton by Nantwich where she was born for my initial search.

Robert Done was buried in Farndon churchyard in 1831 but he was not born in the parish. I found the marriage of John Done to Sarah Done in the parish of Acton by Nantwich. They were married by licence at St Mary's Church, Acton by Nantwich on 6 January 1780. I thought that they might be cousins and they

proved to be third cousins. There were Done baptisms in the parish around the right period, but these were not the family I was looking for and they proved to be Sarah Done's siblings. So, having failed to find the family in these registers, I followed the advice of moving systematically to neighbouring parishes.

The next parish I tried was Aldford which was the neighbouring parish to Farndon but no luck. Moving on I searched the Bruera parish registers and it was here I found the family baptisms of Robert 1754, John 1756, Mary 1759 and Thomas and his twin James 1762. These baptismal dates and the burial ages confirmed that this was the correct family. However, there was no baptismal entry for John Done Snr, so once again I was up against a brick wall. I found the marriage by licence of John Done to Anne Harrison at Chester Cathedral which also served as St Oswald's Parish Church on 6 December 1753. John Done was described of St Oswald's Parish Yeoman and Anne Harrison Spinster of Aldford Parish.

I then put my research to one side because of working full time and not having time to visit record offices. This changed in 2011 when the Cheshire Collection consisting of parish registers, bishop's transcripts, marriage licences and wills became available on the FindmyPast website. The first search I did was to find the burials of John Done Snr and his wife. I discovered John Done was buried 8 March 1779 at Tarporley and described as of Burton in the parish of Gresford. His wife Ann of Gresford Parish aged 49 was buried on 10 May 1782. Further searches located the burials of his parents Robert Done buried 10 June 1767 and described as of Gresford in Wales and Robert's wife Sarah buried 20 October 1759 described as the wife of Robert Done of Saighton in the parish of Brewery. Brewery was Bruera parish and Saighton was an area within the parish.



Figure 4. Burial of Robert Done Tarporley 1767

From the marriage licence of John Done Snr in 1753, I was able to find that he was 32 when he married, and I found his baptism in the Tarporley parish registers on 13 August 1721 son of Robert Done of Utkinton. His parents Robert Done and Sarah Gresty were married on 5 October 1718 at St Chad's Church, Over both described as of the parish. Robert Done was the son of John Done of Utkinton later of Darley Hall and baptised on 22 September 1689 at Tarporley. With the marriage of Robert Done and Sarah Gresty I could now link into the printed pedigree compiled by John Sutton Done. The Dones of Burton, Gresford Parish were descendants of the Cotebrooke branch of the family founded by William Done born c.1532. William was the younger brother of Ralph Done 12th Master Forester. I had now proved that the Dones of Utkinton Hall, Cheshire were my ancestors and could take the pedigree back to the time of William the Conqueror. This sparked my interest in further research into the Done family. There were Done families in the detached part of Flintshire connected to Bangor on Dee, Overton and Worthenbury. It was a member of the Overton family who allowed me to photocopy the printed pedigree.

In 2015, I joined the Guild at the NEC in Birmingham, after attending a Guild seminar at Ironbridge, Shropshire. At that time there was already a Done study registered with 8000 individuals included. I intended to contact the registrant, but ill health prevented me doing this. When in 2017 the registrant died, I registered the Done study with variants Doan(e). Peter Copsey, Guild Librarian contacted the family on my behalf to

see if there was any research that could be passed to me but sadly nothing was forthcoming. I started my research with the data I had collected for my own family and the photocopy of a printed pedigree compiled by John Sutton Done  $c.1935\,\mathrm{I}$  was also able to access Martin Done's book Done family of Cheshire at Cheshire Record Office. This has biographies of the Master Foresters of Delamere Forest to 1690 and later pedigrees.

Although an experienced family history researcher, I took some time to decide how I was going to run my one-name study and how I was going to record the data. I read back numbers of the Guild journal and watched videos on the Guild website. Every researcher had their own methods of recording data, so I decided to just start extracting information. I was clear in the aim of my study to find out how many Done branches I could link to that main line in Cheshire. Initially I am concentrating on research in the United Kingdom and Ireland but if any member of a branch I am investigating emigrated to another country I follow that line.

Steve Archer's Surname Atlas used data from the 1881 Census and from this I found that there were 1032 instances of the Done surname, with the highest concentrations in Cheshire 287, Lancashire 199, Staffordshire 118 and Shropshire 99. As recommended, I extracted the Birth, Marriage and Death events from the Free BMD website and put them in a spreadsheet.

This BMD spreadsheet has been updated with data from the GRO website adding Mother's maiden name and age at death back to 1837. Also, I have been crosschecking both indexes for

mis-transcriptions. I created a spreadsheet from the National Probate Index for wills, and those diocesan indexes available online. Currently I am working on extracting parish register entries, which I keep as Word documents by county and parish but eventually might be put into a spreadsheet, and census returns, which I will enter on a spreadsheet.

Early in my research, I decided to start Family Reconstitution and use the Family Historian program to do this. A particular feature I use is the saved charts that I can open and add more individuals to as I go along. There are 2532 individuals in the program and I will add more as I extract data from parish registers and census returns but I am careful not to add too many unlinked individuals.

Unfortunately, due to lockdown restrictions caused by the COVID pandemic during 2020/21, plans to visit record offices and churchyards have had to be put on hold. On the positive side with time on my hands, I have been able to take the three Pharos courses on one-name studies - Introduction, Practicalities and Advanced, ably led by tutor Julie Goucher. I increased my knowledge of the art of one-name studies which I will now implement in my further research. I enjoyed interaction between the other participants in the chat room and written exercises.

Joy is studying the surname Done with variants Doan, Doane and can be contacted at <a href="mailto:joy.thomas@one-name.org">joy.thomas@one-name.org</a>







Speakers receiving thank you presents for giving presentations at this year's conference

Conference organisers Alan Moorhouse and Sue Thornton-Grimes

14 © Kevin Cole

### Elizabeth Vant 1829-1878

### The Sad Life of a 19th Century Girl

### by Jean Toll (6183)

Elizabeth Vant was born on 6 April 1829 in Lower Halstow, Kent. She was baptised on 27 December 1829 in St Margaret of Antioch Church in Lower Halstow. Her parents were John Vant (Vaunt - 1786-1833), a Waterman and Sarah Tapley (1792-1831). John seems to have deserted the family soon after Elizabeth was baptised. Her mother Sarah died when Elizabeth was 2 and then when she was 4, on 4 July 1832 her father John Vant was sentenced at the Kent Assizes to be transported for Life for Sheep Stealing. In August 1832 he died on board the Convict Ship Retribution [Prison Hulk] moored at Woolwich. According to Royal Navy Medical Journals 1817-1857 John died of Cholera.

Orphaned Elizabeth was sent to the Milton Union Workhouse at North Street in Milton Regis (also known as Milton-next-Sittingbourne) now demolished.

In December 1839 eleven-year-old Elizabeth was still residing in Milton Union Workhouse.

Life in the workhouse for children was harsh - in 1839, for committing the crime of 'using indecent language in chapel on Sunday', Elizabeth was given the punishment of:

24 hours in the Black Hole [In this case the black hole was a coal hole], and

Her only food & drink was to be bread and water only for three days.1

Also, in 1839 eleven-year-old Elizabeth was offered money for intercourse by the Porter of the workhouse, William Weatherhead which she declined. Weatherhead was later sacked for that and other crimes against the inmates. <sup>1</sup>

In the 1841 census Elizabeth is listed as being a 14-year-old inmate of Milton Union Workhouse.

Elizabeth must have been a rebel she was in trouble many more times, often for disorderly conduct.

One of her offences was that in 1842 together with three other girls she 'wilfully and mischievously spoiled and destroyed Chamber Utensils' [chamber pots].¹ For this offence they were all brought before the Magistrate. No record of their punishment has been found.

A year later in 1843 a Warrant was issued against Elizabeth for 'stealing a workhouse shirt'. No record has been found regarding capture and punishment for this.

Would she have left the workhouse and be working, perhaps in service?

In 1853 Elizabeth gave birth to illegitimate daughter Mary Ann Vant.

Elizabeth married Charles Marden on 13 February 1854 at Milton-next-Sittingbourne. Charles was of full age, a bachelor and a brickmaker. His father was John Marden, a labourer. Elizabeth was of full age and a spinster. Her father was John Vant (deceased) a Waterman. Married after Banns. Witnesses were Daniel Hart & Sarah Hart.

Mary gave birth to their daughter Sarah A. Marden in 1856.

At some point Charles abandons his family because in 1861 Elizabeth was again a pauper inmate in Milton Workhouse, this time with her two children, Mary Ann Vant, 8 and Sarah A. Marden, 6. By this time, a new Workhouse had been built to house the ever-growing number of paupers.

Charles was not found.

In 1871 Elizabeth and three of her children were living at Baker's Row, Milton-next-Sittingbourne. The Census records that Elizabeth was a Widow [Charles did not die until 1903] and a charwoman. Also at the address was lodger Sarah Clarke, 79. No record found for Charles.

Elizabeth died in 1878 aged 50 at Milton-next-Sittingbourne and was buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard in Milton.

In 1901 Charles was a pauper inmate in Milton Workhouse. Census records that he was a widower and an Ag Lab. He died in 1903 at Milton

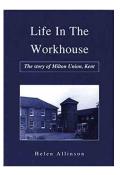
Charles must have been very good at hiding because very few records were found for him.

### Sources

- Ancestry and Find My Past Parish Records, Census records and BMDs
- Ancestry UK Royal Navy Medical Journals 1817-1857
- Ancestry England & Wales, Criminal Registers 1791-1892
- Jean Toll's spreadsheet of BMDs gathered mainly from the IGI and Family Search
- · The Genealogist
- My Heritage

### Reference

 Allinson, H., (2005) Life in the Workhouse - The Story of Milton Union, Kent, Synjon Books.



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# Sharing Distant Autosomal DNA: Low probability is not no probability

### by Wesley Johnston (6398)

### **Abstract**

The "Birthday Paradox" befuddles most people: if 23 people are together, the odds are 50% that two will share the same birthday, even though 23 is only 6% of the 365 days in a year. The same Mathematics that underlies the "Birthday Paradox" underlies the reality that far fewer distant cousin DNA kits than expected by most people are needed to provide 99% probability that at least two of those kits will match at 7 cM or more. This primarily benefits DNA projects that include many kits from the same families who are probably related in the 1700s. It is of little benefit to the lone researcher who is not part of a project. The application of this reality in three projects includes one that disproves the assumption that all people with 1600s colonial American ancestors are related to each other due to a highly restricted marriage pool.

# Probability of Sharing Distant DNA with a Cousin

We inherit 50% of our autosomal DNA from each parent and roughly 25% of our DNA from each of our four grandparents. Each generation back reduces it by half. So, you have roughly 1.6% of your DNA from each of your 64 4th great grandparents.

Your 4<sup>th</sup> great grandparent may have many living descendants in your generation (your 5<sup>th</sup> cousins), but each of them has only about 1.6% of their DNA from that 4<sup>th</sup> great. And their 1.6% may be completely different DNA from your 1.6%.

So, the odds of you and any one of those 5<sup>th</sup> cousins sharing the same DNA are small. But they are not as small as 1.6%. At the ISOGG Wiki Cousin Statistics web page, you can find the "probability that two cousins will share enough DNA for the relationship to be detected".<sup>1</sup>

The table below shows how these numbers (using the 23andMe detection probabilities) determine the number of pairs of testers needed and thus the number of kits needed to provide 99% probability that at least one pair of testers will share detectable DNA from their common ancestor at that cousin level. (See the end section for the details of the Math.)

Cousin Level	Percent Inherited	Detection Probability	Pairs Needed	Kits Needed
1	25.000%	100.000%	1	2
2	12.500%	100.000%	1	2
3	6.250%	89.700%	3	3
4	3.125%	34.900%	11	6
5	1.563%	14.900%	29	9
6	0.781%	4.100%	111	16
7	0.391%	1.100%	417	30
8	0.195%	0.240%	1917	63
9	0.098%	0.060%	7,673	125
10	0.049%	0.002%	230,257	680

The 23andMe web page "DNA Relatives: Detecting Relatives and Predicting Relationships" tells what they detect: "Our simulations have concluded that we can confidently detect related individuals if they have at least one continuous region of matching SNPs ... that is longer than our minimum threshold of 7cM ... long and at least 700 SNPs." And on 23andMe's page "The Probability of Detecting Different Types of Cousins", they write: "Note that even though there is a relatively low chance of detecting more distant cousins, DNA Relatives will likely find quite a few given the large number of distant cousins that exist."

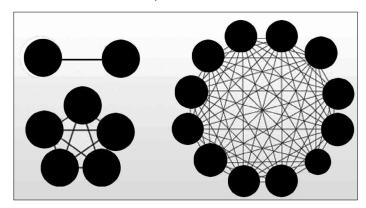
The number of testers needed to find two of them who share enough DNA for their relationship to be detected with 99% probability is surprisingly low. You only need nine  $5^{th}$  cousin descendants of their common  $4^{th}$  great grandparent to have 99% probability that at least two of those 9 kits will share detectable DNA inherited from that  $4^{th}$  great grandparent.

And with sixty-three 8th cousins, you have 99% probability that at least two of them will share detectable DNA inherited from that  $7^{th}$  great grandparent.

Of course, you can also be lucky and find the right pair with fewer kits, but with the number of kits in the table, you have 99% probability of succeeding.

### The power of numbers: pairings of individuals

The diagram below shows three different numbers of individuals: 2, 5 and 12. And it shows all of the ways in which those individuals can be paired with each other.



Two individuals make only 1 pair. Five individuals make not 5 pairs but 10 pairs. And 12 individuals make 66 pairs. The number of pairings increases far faster than the number of persons.

The precise number of pairings can be easily calculated. You take the number of people and subtract 1 and then add up all the numbers from 1 to that number. So, for 12 people, subtract 1 to make 11, and then add all the numbers from 1 to 11, making 66. You can more easily calculate this by taking the number of people and multiplying that by one fewer people and then dividing the result by 2. Thus, 12 \* 11 / 2 = 66.

For the case of  $5^{th}$  cousins, where you need 29 pairings to have 99% certainty, you really only need DNA for nine of those  $5^{th}$  cousins. This is because nine people connect with each other in 36 different pairs, and you just need 29 pairs for a  $5^{th}$  cousin match to be detectable.

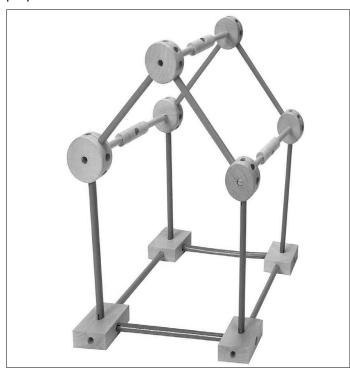
Even for the extreme case of 10<sup>th</sup> cousins, where you need 230,257 pairs, you would need only 680 10<sup>th</sup> cousins for there to be 99% probability that at least one pair of them would have inherited enough shared DNA to be detected as 10<sup>th</sup> cousins.

### The power of numbers: project groups

The problem with many statements about using autosomal DNA for finding relatives who connect you to distant ancestors is that they are looking from just one perspective. Yes, it is true that if you have only 16 people of the 6<sup>th</sup> cousin generation who test, at least two of them will be detectable as 6th cousins. But if I am not one of those two people, it is useless to me, isn't it? Wrong!!

Here is a simple example. Three sisters all test, but only one of them matches a cousin in Germany. And only another one of the three matches a cousin in the USA. And the third sister matches a Canadian cousin who does not match the other two. All three of them are equally related to all those cousins. But if each one of the sisters had used only their own results, then instead of matching three cousins, they would only have matched one.

Think of a set of tinker toys. A rod fits into a hole in a hub piece. You make a building by connecting several rods to a single hub and then connecting each of those rods to a different hub. People are like the hubs, and their DNA matches to other people are like the rods.



You do not build the building expecting that there will be rods connecting every single hub. But that is the expectation that some people have when they try to go it alone with autosomal DNA matching. They want to find the most cousins, but instead of a structure, they wind up with a bunch of pairs or trios of hubs connected in barbells or triangles but not connected

much further - not a structure but just a collection of many pieces.

The reality is that you do not connect genetically with every one of your distant cousins. Just as with the three sisters and the tinker toys, you connect to some of them, while some who you connect to also connect to others with whom you do not share DNA. This is how an autosomal DNA project brings the power of numbers of kits to bear on putting distantly-related family members together.

Ancestry's now-abandoned DNA Circles was a good example of this. Autoclustering tools, In Common With tools, Ancestry's Thru Lines and MyHeritage's Theory of Family Relativity give major help in this. Make no mistake about it, you can do powerful analysis with these tools, if you are willing to do the work to verify everything. But all of these tools only let you do analysis with your own kits as the reference point. You need to be able to robustly manage a project where you can see how all the kits - yours and all the others in the structure - relate to each other.

The only tool that allows you to fully manage a project of related kits, is GEDmatch's Tier 1 tag group feature in their Multiple Kit Analysis (MKA), where you can apply the full array of GEDmatch analytical tools to compare all the kits to each other with a single mouse click.

The ultimate power of a project though comes from a committed group of researchers on the specific focus of the group - a surname, a place, a surname in a place, a specific common ancestor or couple. You can do a great deal on your own, but a well-managed project with a dynamic discussion by researchers who share not only DNA with each other but the willingness to dive into the challenges of the documentary and DNA research, robustly enabled by GEDmatch tag groups and MKA - this is a very real power of numbers.

# The power of numbers: pairings of individuals in group projects

So, to reap the fullest benefits of your autosomal DNA, you need projects of multiple kits that inter-connect with each other, empowered by GEDmatch multiple kit analysis of your tag group. And it takes relatively few kits or descendants of even a distant ancestor for you to detect distant relationships in at least one pair of those kits.

And the other more-recent relationships that connect members of the project let you build a larger structure from those smaller connections.

The key point is that LOW PROBABILITY DOES NOT MEAN NO PROBABILITY. If you have enough (and the number to make "enough" is not that large) descendants of a distant relative who have DNA-tested and you put them together into a project for group analysis, you can have a great deal of success with even distant connections. While it may look horribly small when you see that you only inherit 0.2% of your 7th great grandparent's DNA, the reality is that you need only 30 descendants on different lines to test to have 99% certainty that at least two of them would share DNA detectable DNA inherited from that 7th great grandparent.

### **Practical Applications**

Interpretation of autosomal DNA for distant ancestors has potential problems. Most significantly, autosomal DNA evidence alone is not sufficient to prove a family tree. Documents and other forms of DNA evidence can and should be used to make the case for any interpretation of autosomal DNA.

There are other problems, beyond the scope of this paper. But, just as low probability does not mean no probability, so the problems in interpretation of autosomal DNA do not mean that it cannot be properly interpreted to make part of the case for modern DNA testers matching through DNA they share from distant ancestors. This section examines three such successes.

Dr. Tim Janzen was the first to publish his findings in his presentation "Tracing Ancestral Lines in the 1700s Using DNA" which he has now presented several times. His January 2021 slides are at:

# https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TwliXAKolB0TpwS6ptLMAXzW6lz8xOqF/view

In 97 slides, he covers in great detail how he leveraged autosomal DNA, among other forms of evidence, to make solid connections: "Autosomal DNA testing may allow you to break through some genealogical brick walls in the 1800s and possibly the 1700s that exist due to the lack of genealogical records."

Martin McDowell and colleagues from the North of Ireland Family History Society began the Ballycarry DNA Project to examine in depth the DNA of those living in that County Antrim parish who have deep roots there. The project website is at:

### https://www.nifhs.org/dna/ballycarry-dna-project/

Martin has made several presentations, one of which is available to Legacy Webinar subscribers at:

### https://familytreewebinars.com/download. php?webinar id=1497

DNA has allowed them to make many connections where no documents exist, including identifying maiden names of wives.

The third project has yet to publish any results publicly. The Loyalist Lake Family History Project has brought together a robust e-mail researcher discussion group who have made many breakthroughs, including using DNA to connect over 100 descendants of common ancestors from the mid-1700s. They have made solid DNA connections where no documents exist and have identified the maiden name of a key ancestor of the largest sub-group.

Being a colonial American project, this project also demonstrates the exception to what has come to be a rule among some genetic genealogists. That rule is that pedigree collapse was the norm among American colonialists because the marriage pool was too small as families remained in the same area for generations. But the Lake family proves the exception to this "rule". And probably the majority of Loyalist families' movements also make the "rule" clearly irrelevant in their case.

The reality is that the Lake family moved often and did not stay in the same marriage pool for long and then went their separate ways to far-flung places. The living descendants of these branches have little worry about pedigree collapse or about the confirmation bias of mistaking the triangulation of kits from five different lines for connecting on the wrong ancestral line when there is only one common ancestral line of the five kits. So, the colonial marriage pool "rule" simply does not fit with the reality of the Lake family - and probably most Loyalist families.

The common theme in the success of all three of these projects is that with sufficient numbers of testers gathered into a unified and focused project, the reality of the probabilities in the tables of this paper have been realized.

Low probability does not mean no probability. And the existence of numerous challenges with interpretation of autosomal DNA for distant ancestors does not mean it is impossible to do proper interpretation and succeed in connections of testers whose common ancestors lived in the 1700s. It is very difficult work to do accurately, which is why so little has been published about it. But it is happening, as will become obvious over the course of time because the reality of the underlying Math in the probabilities is far better than most people are aware: you really do need far fewer kits than most people would think.

# The Autosomal DNA Analog of the Birthday Paradox

This is very much the autosomal DNA analog of the counter-intuitive Birthday Paradox. In the birthday paradox, if you have 23 people in a room, the odds are 50-50 that at least one pair of those people will have their birthday on the same day. While 23 is only 6% of the 365 days in the year, it is enough people to give 50% probability of a match.

And if you have just 50 people, it is very nearly certain that at least two of them will share the same birthday. The formula for the probability is:

$$p(n) = 1 - (364/365) ^ ((n * (n - 1))/2)$$
 (1)

where n is the number of people and p(n) is the probability that at least one pair will share the same birthday. It works by subtracting from certainty (1 = 100%) the probability that NO pair share a birthday. (See https://youtu.be/Jn2s1BSMQyM for an excellent explanation of the birthday paradox.)

It all goes back to the complexity diagram in the first part of this paper: the number of pairs grows much faster than the number of people. So, you do not really need huge numbers of people to detect DNA connections with even distant cousins.

### The Math: Low Probability is not No Probability

In this paper, I aim to share understanding, without going into the Math. But for those wanting a clearer view of the Mathematics involved, this section is for you.

The following table uses the 23andMe percent probabilities of detectable matches, from the ISOGG Cousin Statistics Wiki web page. The 23andMe probabilities are used as a worst-case scenario, since they are the lowest probabilities on the ISOGG web page.

С	Inherited	Detect	NoDetect	Pairs	Kits
1	25.000%	100.000%	0.000%	1	2
2	12.500%	100.000%	0.000%	1	2
3	6.250%	89.700%	10.300%	3	3
4	3.125%	34.900%	65.100%	11	6
5	1.563%	14.900%	85.100%	29	9
6	0.781%	4.100%	95.900%	111	16
7	0.391%	1.100%	98.900%	417	30
8	0.195%	0.240%	99.760%	1917	63
9	0.098%	0.060%	99.940%	7,673	125
10	0.049%	0.002%	99.998%	230,257	680

"C" is the degree of cousin: 1st, 2nd, etc.

"Inherited" is the expected average percent of one's own DNA inherited from the common ancestor by two cousins of degree C. "Inherited" does not figure in the calculations of kits needed and is only included for comparison.

Inherited = 
$$0.5 ^(C+1)$$
 (2)

"Detect" is the 23andMe probability that two cousins of degree C will share enough DNA for the relationship to be detected.

"NoDetect" is the opposite of "Detect". It is the probability that two cousins of degree C will NOT share enough DNA for the relationship to be detected.

NoDetect = 
$$100\%$$
 - Detect (3)

"Pairs" is the number of pairs of descendants of the common ancestor needed to give 99% probability that at least one of those pairs will be detectable. The formula for the probability that the number of Pairs for cousin level C will have at least one pair whose shared DNA is detectable is:

$$p = 1 - (NoDetect ^ Pairs)$$
 (4a)

The similarity of this situation and the Birthday Paradox can be seen by comparing this formula to formula 1 above.

To have 99% (= 1.00 -.01) probability of a match, we set

and solve for "Pairs", using logarithms or natural logarithms and round up to the next whole number:

**"Kits"** is the number of kits of descendants on different lines of the common ancestor needed to reach 99% certainty that at least two of them will share detectable DNA from the common ancestor. If you have some number of Kits, then the number of Pairs that those Kits contain is:

Pairs = 
$$(Kits * (Kits - 1)) / 2$$
 (5a)

So, to find the number of "Kits" needed to make the necessary number of pairs to give 99% probability of a pair that match at cousin level "C", we use the quadratic formula to solve for the positive value of "Kits" and round up to the next whole number:

$$Kits^2 - Kits - (2 * Pairs) = 0$$
 (5b)

Kits = Ceiling
$$(1 + \operatorname{sqrt}((1+(8 * \operatorname{Pairs}))/2)))$$
 (5c)

The Ceiling is not appropriate for C<4, so that the values for C<4 in the table are filled in.

#### Conclusion

Low probability does not mean no probability. It means that you need to have enough kits to deal with the low probability. And the number of kits needed for 99% probability of at least one detectable matching pair is smaller than most people might think.

### References

- 1. <a href="https://isogg.org/wiki/Cousin\_statistics">https://isogg.org/wiki/Cousin\_statistics</a>
- https://customercare.23andme.com/hc/en-us/ articles/212170958-DNA-Relatives-Detecting-Relatives-and-Predicting-Relationships#detecting a match
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### **Instructions for Contributors**

We welcome articles, photographs, letters, and news from members.

Please send your submissions to the editor at:

editor@one-name.org

The deadline for the following editions are:

- 15 February
- 15 May
- 15 August
- 1 November

Please note that the Editor reserves the right to amend an article due to various reasons/restrictions and cannot guarantee which edition submissions will appear as this is due to space limitations along with ensuring diversity of content.

## **DNA Seminar Report**

### by Caroline Pearson

I attended the Guild DNA Seminar at Beauchamp College in Oadby Leicestershire on Saturday 14 May 2022. I had never actually heard of the Guild of One Name Studies, but quite by chance found a link to the Seminar - also open for non-members to attend - on a DNA Facebook group run by Donna Rutherford. Immediately I was very excited as it was being held in the County where I live and only a 45 minute journey by car. The Seminar programme also sounded very appealing to me because for years I have been working on building my family tree. I have an extensive paper trail going back generations with records found "the old way" by visiting records offices and searching through micro fiche reels!.

It is only in recent years that I have "delved" into DNA testing and as a "retired" lifelong learner was enthused to have the opportunity to learn more about what I could indeed do with the masses of DNA matches that I have, not only in my own family tree but also for friends whom I help with finding their roots.

The day came and upon arrival and registration I was made to feel very welcome; it was certainly a good feeling that I was going to be spending a whole day with likeminded people who also have a passion for DNA research. The next task was not so easy: I had to choose which presentations to attend! All the choices appealed to me but as I didn't want to get out of my depth, I chose to follow three presentations on Autosomal DNA.

The first presentation, 'Researching with your DNA results' was delivered by Donna Rutherford. Donna showed us different techniques for sorting our DNA matches to try and group them in order to identify whether the matches are on maternal or paternal lines. She explained why methods such as building genetic networks (clustering) and building trees (quick and dirty trees) for our matches would help us.

She explained how shared matches are important and how to find these matches from different DNA sites namely Ancestry, ftdna, My Heritage, 23andMe, Living DNA and Gedmatch. Donna then spoke about ways to get around finding the identity of unknown matches without trees. The reasons why they are unknown could be because the matches are using a nickname, a woman could be using her married name, or people just use initials. Sleuthing and detective work can be done by looking on social media platforms, Electoral Rolls, Linked-in and other people-finder sites.

After clustering our matches, a quick and dirty research tree can be built in order to find common ancestors among our matches. Once the established common ancestors are found from a group of matches, we can work forward to try to establish how a match could possibly be related to us. Using a hypothesis is a good idea and to test the hypothesis it is important to check the amount of cm matches with the suggested relationship.

The second presentation 'Hunting through Matches' was delivered by Mia Bennett, who used example match lists to demonstrate how to put into practice the methods and techniques that Donna had mentioned. She explained what each column in the match list in Ancestry meant and how notes can be added to a match to help further research. Lots of advice was given on how to group matches; one example used a known match like a cousin to

Recordings of the Introduction to DNA talks, Debbie Kennett's presentations and Y-DNA slides are available for members to view at <a href="https://one-name.org/dna-seminar-2022/">https://one-name.org/dna-seminar-2022/</a>

determine which side of the family shared matches with them. Then we were shown how to colour code the matches and add them to a group which could then be filtered.

Mia mentioned how looking at matches who have public linked trees can be useful as you can see if there are any familiar names which could help to lead to more clues. She talked us through the common ancestor feature and through lines on the ancestry matches and how useful that is to help identify common ancestors with a group of shared matches.

We were given examples and explanations about how some matches could be assigned to more than one group because the match is either a close relative to us, or could be related to other shared matches via a different line. We were shown how to link a DNA match into our tree so that we can see how that match is related and which common ancestor or ancestors we may share.

This session was very informative and should help us to understand how using DNA results can help to research our family History. Mia shared with us a comprehensive list of further reading, including books, ISOGG wiki, Websites with "how to" pages, Blogs, and Facebook groups about DNA and genetic genealogy.

The final presentation by Debbie Kennett was 'Third party tools for autosomal DNA'. She began the presentation by explaining how we can download our raw DNA data from Ancestry and then upload it to third party tools websites for further manipulation. We were shown the new features and tools on DNA Painter website, the first one being ancestral trees. Ancestral trees allows you to create a colourful fan chart and family tree. Using tags can help determine the line for DNA such as mtDNA and XDNA. Another feature in ancestral trees is a pedigree collapse report which identifies people who appear more than once in your tree.

We saw how the WATO (what are the odds tool) can be used to find how we may be related to a particular match by putting matches into the tool and generating hypotheses. Next, we were shown several websites like 23 and Me, Family Tree DNA, My Heritage and Gedmatch. Once our raw DNA is uploaded to these sites, we can use tools on each of them to convert our match list to csv files in excel and sort the data however we like.

Gedmatch is a very useful site as it is free and has several tools that can group matches for you automatically. Some of the tools do require a small subscription but it is worth it as it takes away all the hard work! Auto clusters and chromosome browser are particularly useful as it is visual and easier to understand. Gedmatch also allows you to compare your matches via three free tools namely, one to many, one to one autosomal and Admixture (heritage) which is an analysis tool for identifying biogeographical ancestry, or ethnic background. The final site that Debbie shared with us is the Geneanet website which has a new tool to identify your haplogroups.

Overall, the whole day along with the other presentations was excellent. I came away with much food for thought and will certainly be using some of the advice and tools to further my family research.

### Thomas Horsman of Gargrave

### Where was he from?

### by Sue Horsman (3446)

The surname Horsman first appeared in Gargrave in Yorkshire in 1796, when Thomas Horsman married his first wife Catherine Burely by licence. The marriage licence tells us that Thomas was from Gargrave and he was a Miller.

Sadly Catherine died in 1799, but in 1802 Thomas married Sarah Conolly at Giggleswick, and that marriage licence tells us that he was a Miller and widower, aged 34 from Moulding [Moulden] Water, Blackburn.

Sarah died on 17 April 1804, but Thomas did not grieve for long, for on 28 May 1804 he married Alice Grey in Blackburn. Once again he married by licence, which states that he was a 'Badger' [Corn Miller or Dealer], from Blackburn.

This rapid third marriage is interesting as Thomas did not appear to have a large brood of children who needed a mother.

In 1805 Thomas and Alice were in Gargrave, where their only child Francis was born and baptised.

So where was Thomas from? He did not appear to be from Gargrave, so could he be from the Blackburn area? Close scrutiny of Blackburn registers provided no clues. Thomas became a Brick Wall.

A big area of interest in my ONS is Masham in North Yorkshire as there are many Hors(e)man records there. I've extracted all the relevant baptism, marriage and death records into a spreadsheet, and colour coded the obvious families. One day I was looking at this spreadsheet, wondering if a particular person could be connected to a branch which had appeared at Kirkby Ravensworth.

Suddenly something struck me; there was a baptism in 1766 of Thomas Horsman, the illegitimate son of Ellen Horsman of Fearby.

From his burial record at Gargrave in 1827, aged 61, Thomas's year of birth appears to be 1766. Could the Thomas from Fearby be our man?

Interestingly there appeared to be no sign of either Thomas or his mother at Masham after 1766. However better proof was required, so Thomas remained a Brick Wall.

However there was something nagging at the back of my mind. I had once seen a list of people in the same plot as Thomas at Gargrave, St Andrew. This was on the Gargrave Heritage Group website. The first name against the plot was an Ellin Horsman, who died in 1803. At the time, I'd wondered who she was, but had not found the burial of an Ellin Horsman at Gargrave in 1803.

I rechecked the Gargrave burial records and the only suitable person was an Ellen Scar who was buried in December 1803, aged 72. However, I was unable to find a Horsman / Scar marriage anywhere.

When Thomas died in 1827, his will mentioned properties in Redmire. How had he got those?

The North Riding of Yorkshire is fortunate in that it has a Registry of Deeds, which registered property transactions. Fortunately a project by Teesside University and North Yorkshire Record Office has extracted references for some of these transactions onto their website.<sup>2</sup> There I had found a reference to Thomas, which a friend looked up for me at North Yorkshire Archives (which is where the Deeds Registry is located). At the time, none of the names mentioned in the document appeared to have any connection.

The transcript was in my 'waiting filing' box. I had another look at it, and there was the clue. The transaction in 1790 had been between Edward Scarr, a Yeoman, late of Castle Bolton, but now of Coverham; and Thomas Horsman of Coverham, a Miller. The transaction related to properties at Redmire. Could Edward Scarr be related to Ellen Scar?

We are very fortunate in the majority of North Yorkshire Parish Records are now online, courtesy of Find My Past.

I started looking for a marriage for Edward Scarr and an Ellen (with any surname).

In 1783 there was a marriage at Bolton cum Redmire of Edward Scarr and a widow called Hellin Reynold.

Further research showed that in 1775, James Reynold had married Ellen Horsman at Wensley. James died in 1782. Looking at locations, Wensley is only about 8 miles from Fearby.

As well as finding Thomas's baptism at Masham, I also found the baptism of Eleanor Horsman, daughter of Thomas (of Fearby) at Masham in 1735.

Looking at ages and dates, and lack of any other Eleanor / Ellen Horsman's in the surrounding area, it would seem that Eleanor, had given birth to an illegitimate son Thomas, then had married twice. After her second husband (Edward Scarr) died in 1798, she had ended up in Gargrave, with her son Thomas. This could explain why she was named as Ellen Horsman on the list of people in the plot. Her son would have purchased the grave.

Gargrave burials also provided another mystery. A John Horsman, of Gargrave, (aged 17) was buried in 1807. Who was he? I could find no suitable candidates.

However, whilst looking at Coverham records, I found the baptism in 1790 of John, the base son of Katherine Beverley of Low Mill. We all know how spellings varied in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, so I suspect that John is the son of Catherine Burley, who became Thomas's first wife. Whether John was the biological son of Thomas is unclear, although we know Thomas was in Coverham in 1790. It would seem that John had taken the Horsman surname when his mother married Thomas.

To conclude, it has been a great relief, that after over 15 years of Thomas being a 'Brick Wall', I finally worked out where he came from. It has also been greatly appreciated by two of his descendents. Now I need to work out the ancestors of his grandfather at Masham (another Thomas).

A member of Gargrave Heritage Group kindly sent me the photograph opposite of the grave location at Gargrave St Andrew. Sadly many years ago, there had been a clear out of Gravestones in the churchyard, so no stone exists. However the plot reference is in this very distinctive triangular area

### References

- 1. http://gargraveheritagegroup.co.uk/
- 2. <a href="http://www.registerofdeeds.org.uk">http://www.registerofdeeds.org.uk</a>

Sue is studying the surname Horsman with variants Horsaman, Horseman and can be contacted at <a href="https://horsman@one-name.org">horsman@one-name.org</a>. Sue's registered website can be found at <a href="https://horsman.one-name.net">horsman.one-name.net</a> and her DNA project website at <a href="https://www.familytreedna.com/public/Horsman">www.familytreedna.com/public/Horsman</a>.



# Marriage Challenge Update Back to the Record Offices

### by Peter Copsey MCG (Marriage Challenge Coordinator, 1522)

As life slowly gets back to normal and fears of COVID-19 are receding it is time to think once more of helping Guild members with their marriages by undertaking a Marriage Challenge. This will usually involve visiting a local County Record Office.

Let's just remind ourselves about Marriage Challenge (MC). A volunteer (usually called the Challenger) comes forward who selects an England and Wales Registration District (RD) and a date range. The Challenger asks members to send a list of their one-name marriages within this District and these dates. Searching FreeBMD (<a href="www.freebmd.org.uk/search">www.freebmd.org.uk/search</a>) is a good way to create the list, if a member does not have the data available already. The Challenger is then challenged to find these marriages in the deposited marriage registers at the Record Office. Full details are recorded and sent to the members who sent the requests.

Selecting a suitable Registration District can be a challenge in itself. A District that has not been covered before is best, but repeat Challenges, bearing in mind MC is now 17 years old, is very suitable. A list of completed MCs can be found on the web-page <a href="https://one-name.org/In-progress or">https://one-name.org/In-progress or</a>

Completed Marriage Challenges. It is not suitable to select a Registration District where the marriage registers can be found on Ancestry or Findmypast. The terms of use for these organisations preclude using results except for personal use. But I have several times suggested that a Challenge can be based on a date range for a period after the period available on these provider's websites. For instance Ancestry; its marriages usually end about 1933.

I am pleased to announce a new Challenge - see below. It is a small RD in Westmorland. The date range selected is broad to balance the small size of the District. Please send in your requests to Helen.

The Guild is always looking for volunteers to do a Challenge. 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, then becoming a Challenger is an opportunity to help others. Please email me at <a href="mailto:marriage-challenge@one-name.org">marriage-challenge@one-name.org</a> if you think you can contribute.

Registration District and Period	Request Deadline	Challenger	Challenger's Email	Key
West Ward (Westmorland) 1837-1937	1 August 2022	Helen Brooke	helen.brooke@one-name.org	В

Key B: Requests using the standard Excel template much preferred, but willing to accept other formats.

# One-Name Studies and Church Bell Ringers

### by Ann Williams (1580)

Some one-name studies will include an English-style change ringer or two - my study has four (including myself). This article explores online sites and identifies bell ringers in some one-name studies registered with the Guild.

Having a church bell ringer in a one-name study can add a focal point to a reunion or an outing. Visiting the church itself, hearing the bells on a Sunday morning are all good reasons to visit and, with advance planning, it should be possible to visit the Ringing Chamber where there may be "peal boards" inscribed with the name of your bell ringer.

### Change Ringing - A Timeline

In England in the 1550s, bell hangers devised ways to make bells swing in wider arcs (to produce a fuller sound) and give bell ringers control of when a bell "speaks". They achieved both aims with a design, still used today, that allows a bell ringer, two floors below, to slightly pause or speed up a bell to change its position in the ringing order - hence changeringing, ringing the changes etc.

- 1668 first "how-to" book on change-ringing published
- 1715 first peal of over 5000 changes (3 hours of continuous ringing) (St, Peter Mancroft, Norwich)
- 1745 first change-ringing bells installed in America (Old North Church, Boston)

England has about 6697 sets of change-ringing bells. Current figures for other countries are: Wales (228), Australia (65), USA (50), Ireland (39), Scotland (23), South Africa (10), Canada (8) New Zealand (5), Belgium (1) - St. George's Memorial Church, Ypres.

# Online source for locating change-ringing bells worldwide

Dove's Guide for Church Bell Ringers: <u>dove.cccbr.org.uk</u> typing places of interest in the search box at the top of the page.

### Online searches to identify bell ringers

Bell ringers who died in WWI and WWII have been identified by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR), linked to their Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) entries, and posted to the Council's website <a href="mailto:cccbr.org.uk">cccbr.org.uk</a> under their "Resources" tab, as "Rolls of Honour" in four digitized (and searchable) War Memorial Books, all A-Z, some with addendums beginning again at "A".

# Following up on a one-name study name found in WWII records

Balaam, E.D. of Wootton St. Lawrence, Hampshire belonged to the bell ringers' organisation, the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild. His CWGC entry has his name as Edgar Donald who served in the RAFVR. An internet search "Balaam Wootton St. Lawrence" did not lead to further information on Edgar but a search "Balaam bell ringer" uncovered a Henry (or H.E.) Balaam who rang peals in

Middlesex (published in The Bellringer). His peal in February of 1907 was rung as a farewell to him on his leaving for the Hemel Hempstead area.

Another online source is the Ancient Society of College Youths. Their fully searchable membership lists 1637-2000 are posted to the website <a href="https://www.ascy.org.uk/">https://www.ascy.org.uk/</a> under "Membership" in the menu on the left. The same website, same menu, under "History", has a link to a Gallery of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ringers with photographs and histories. One-name study names in the Gallery are: Cockerill, Greenleaf, Truss and Raven.

These are one-name study names from the first series of membership lists:

### 1668

Bostock, Thomas, Esq. Member No. 123 became Steward [secretary] of the Society in 1681 and Master of the Society in 1686. Nothing further was found on Thomas Bostock but an internet search "Bostock bell ringer" led to a 2016 newspaper report of a Chris Bostock ringing a peal to commemorate the 750<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the civil war Siege of Kenilworth.

#### 1677

Featherstone, John. Member No. 144. An internet search for "Featherstone bell ringer" led only to the Featherstone Brewery.

### 1664

Stedman, Fabian. Member No. 105. An internet search of his name reveals he is one of the fathers of change-ringing and wrote two books on the subject. He was born in 1640 in Yarkhill, Herefordshire and died (without descendants) in London in 1713.

More recent membership lists include where the member lived, making identification easier:

#### 1955

Astridge, Derek George. Member No. 6099 of Huish Episcopi, Somerset. An internet search of "D.G. Astridge bell ringer" came up with a link to a fully searchable 1958 report in The Ringing World (a weekly journal for church bell ringers) on his conducting the 300<sup>th</sup> peal on the bells of St. Giles, Ashtead, Surrey. As he is part of my one-name study, I emailed the Ashtead ringers (contact information on the church website) asking if the peal is recorded on a peal board. It is, and I was forwarded this photograph.



In bell ringing terms, a conductor memorizes a composition and calls out commands when a change in the ringing pattern is needed to keep to the composition (thus ensuring that all 5040 changes are rung and no change is repeated)

Finally, I tried some random searching of "[surname] bell ringer" and learned that in 1873 Frank Bazzoni was a bell ringer in the City of New York; in 1870 R. Daglish of Acton Hall donated a bell to the church in Helsby, Cheshire; in 1907 John Goucher rang in a peal in Sheffield and that the church of St.

Mary's Hundleby, Lincolnshire has three change-ringing bells, one dating from the late 1400s.

For further information, assistance or translation of bell ringing "speak", I can be reached through my Astridge study alias.

Ann is studying the surname Astridge with variants Asteridge, Astriage, Astriage, Astride, Austridge and can be contacted at <a href="mailto:ann.williams@one-name.org">ann.williams@one-name.org</a>.

### Lewis Owen Lewis and his descendants

### by Andy Micklethwaite (5753)

When I was first recruited into the Guild over a decade ago by the late Roy Stockdill, I thought 2 things were missing from the Guild's offerings: web site hosting, and collaborative study projects. With the Members Website Project MWP, the first of these was fulfilled. Now the Ruby and Lewis studies are showing the way on the second.

I looked at Stephen Archer's Surname Atlas and I was surprised how big the Lewis study is going to be. On the 1881 British census, there were more than 74,000 entries, with Lewis being the 25th most populous surname. There are even more in the USA! I noticed that I had a few entries for Lewis in both my own tree and in my Micklethwaite study, so how could I help add to the Lewis collection? I thought that Lewis Owen Lewis, who married Sarah Dawson Micklethwaite, looked a good place to start as the forename wasn't too common, but the geographical spread of his family did surprise me. I have used FamilySearch Family Tree to collect data on this family.

Sarah Dawson Micklethwaite was the 5th child of Robert Watts Micklethwaite and Ann Tetlow, born 1849 in Huddersfield. Yorkshire. She was a first cousin of Frank W. Micklethwaite, the renowned Canadian photographer. In November 1881 Sarah became the third and last wife of Lewis Owen Lewis who was at the time vicar of Lindal in Furness (then in Lancashire, England now in Cumbria). In the census earlier in 1881 she was listed as housekeeper to the family, How Sarah from Yorkshire became housekeeper and wife to a vicar in Furness is not something I have been able to shed any light on. Sarah had 2 children with him: Percy (born 1883) and Bertram (born 1884). Sarah and Lewis stayed in Lindal then moved to Carlisle when he retired. He is commemorated by a plaque in Carlisle Cathedral. Sarah was a boarder in Carlisle in 1911. Percy moved to Kent, married Mabel Shrubsole there and had 2 daughters Phyllis and Daphne. Sarah and Lewis' other son Bertram became a noted music teacher, violinist and conductor, having married Kate Breeze in Canterbury, Kent in 1909. I have not found any children for Bertram and Kate.

Lewis himself was born in Cambridgeshire to Abraham and Martha Wood in 1832. His first wife was Bithiah Adelaide Cox whom he married in 1855 in Grantchester, Cambridgeshire. Bithiah and Lewis' first 3 children were born in Liverpool, then a daughter was born in Nottingham, and their last 2 born in Birkenhead. Bithiah died in 1868 in Westmorland.

Lewis then married Mary Railton from Penrith in 1870 in Westmorland and they had one daughter, Edith Mary born

1874 in Long Marton, Westmorland, but Mary died in 1881 after which he married Sarah. In the censuses Lewis is initially described as a scripture reader, then in 1871 curate of Long Marton, and then after that vicar of Lindal.

Lewis' first son (by Bithiah) was Owen Wiclif Lewis, born 1857 in Liverpool. Owen married Fanny Shaw in Wakefield, Yorkshire in 1882 and their first 2 children were born in England. The third was born in Cleveland in 1891 (the sources said Cuyahoga County, Ohio, USA - I had to Google to find where on earth that is!)

Lewis' second son William Edward Lewis (also born Liverpool) had Isle of Man connections (perhaps following his uncle Abel who lived there) before emigrating to the US, marrying in New York, then moving to Galveston, Texas. William's son was the first of 3 generations called Richard Edward Owen Lewis.

Lewis' eldest daughter Laura Bithiah Lewis (aren't unusual names helpful!) (also born Liverpool) also emigrated to Cleveland and married John Jones (aren't common names unhelpful!)

So that briefly describes how descendants of Lewis Owen have spread across England and the USA. Next steps - how to transfer this information into the ONS, and a look at the siblings and ancestry of the Rev. Lewis Owen Lewis.

Lewis Owen Lewis is on FamilySearch Family Tree ID: KG86-LF6

Andy is studying the surname Micklethwaite with variants Michaelwhite, Mickelthwate, Mickelwait, Micklethwait, Micklewhite and can be contacted at <a href="mailto:andy.micklethwaite@one-name.org">andy.micklethwaite@one-name.org</a>. Andy's registered website can be found at <a href="mailto:micklethwaite.one-name.net">micklethwaite.one-name.net</a> and his DNA project website at <a href="mailto:micklethwaite.one-name.net/dna-me.htm">micklethwaite.one-name.net/dna-me.htm</a>.



# Who was the father of Fanny Jump's children?

### by John Clifford (7354)

### **Fanny**

Fanny Ellen Jump (1844-1931) is recorded in the 1851 and 1861 censuses living with her parents in Litcham Norfolk. Births of Fanny and all her 7 siblings were registered in Norfolk. The family seems to have split up after their father died in 1868 and I cannot find her in the 1871 census.

In 1881 she is recorded as Ellen Hulbert married, living in Bath, born in Scotland and mother of 6 children called Hulbert, with her sister Jane Jump, born in Westmoreland, visiting.

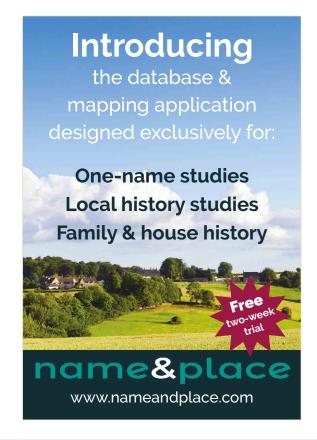
In 1891 she is listed as Ellen Jump unmarried living in Bristol and housekeeper for 7 children called Hulbert, with the same forenames as in 1881 but completely different places of birth.

In 1901 she is Fanny E. Hulbert widow, living with her eldest son and his wife and son.

In 1911 she is Fanny Ellen Hulbert widow, living in Berkeley (near Bristol) as housekeeper for an unmarried physician and surgeon with a housemaid.

In 1931 the death of Fanny E. Hulbert aged 86 is recorded in the Chesterfield Registration District.

### Her children's alleged birth places



	Registered (as Jump)	1881 census	1891 census	1901 census
Charles/ Frederick	Not found	Scarborough	Whitby	Whitby
Ernest	Not found	Scarborough	Beaumaris	Bath
Gertrude	Not found	Scarborough	Beaumaris	dead
Reginald	Not found	Kensington	Beaumaris	Beaumaris
Ethel	Not found	Kensington	Brook Ferry	Not found
Edward	Bedminster RD	Kensington	Bedminster	Not found
Fanny	Camberwell RD	Not found	Kensington	Not found
Edith	Camberwell RD (and died there as infant)			

### Suspects

At first, the widely separated birth places of the children in coastal areas suggested that their father might be an officer in the Royal Navy and I suspected that this could be Henry Charles Bertram Hulbert 1852-1914 who spent most of his life in the Navy.

But a number of things did not fit and I decided to buy marriage certificates for some of the children. I found that for Reginald his father was named Thomas Charles Hulbert gentleman and had died before 1898; for Ernest his father had been Charles Thomas Hulbert gentleman. There was one Thomas Charles (but no Charles Thomas) in my Hulbert database who fitted the necessary time frame; he had been baptised in Bristol in January 1834 and died near Bristol in 1895.

There appeared to be a number of problems with this second identification, such as the fact that he had married in 1859 and his wife outlived him, he had stayed close to Bristol all his life

whereas Fanny had travelled widely around the country and he was a clergyman.

But on closer inspection it became clear that:

- Thomas had married Louisa Haynes in 1859, just before going to Cambridge University to study and they had one child born in 1865 after he had completed his degree. In 1871 and all subsequent censuses his wife and son were not living with Thomas.
- All the birth places for Fanny's first five children seem to have been invented so we cannot assume that she ever visited those places, or was born in Scotland. In the censuses she called herself Hulbert except in 1891 when she was living in Bristol.
- 3. As a Church of England clergyman, it would have been difficult (probably impossible) for Thomas to divorce. So

he could not have legally married again after he separated from his wife (or she left him taking their child with her). In the 1871 census his occupation is "Curate without care of souls and landed proprietor". In the 1881 census he is "clergyman of the C of E without care of souls". In 1891 he is "Living on own means". In all three censuses he is described as Married but living with his mother or one of his sisters.

4. Thomas's wife Louisa Haynes is very difficult to trace. I know that the 1861 census entry says she was born in London, Thomas married her in Brighton, their son married a woman who owned a hotel in Brighton and Louisa died in Brighton.

Thomas and Louisa married in April 1859 and shortly afterwards Thomas started his studies at Cambridge University. They were recorded as living together at Cambridge in the 1861 census, with Louisa's younger sister Henrietta.

Thomas completed his degree at Cambridge in 1862 and went to Felixstowe in Essex as a curate. His and Louisa's son, another Thomas Charles, was born there in September 1865. By 1871 Thomas was back in Bristol living with his widowed mother and his sister.

5. It is also interesting to note that Thomas's lawful son was named after him but none of Fanny's children were called Thomas. Neither Thomas nor Fanny seem to have made a will or to have been the subject of a grant of probate.

### Conclusion

I think that it is very likely that Thomas Charles Hulbert did start a long-term relationship with Fanny Ellen Jump at some point between the conception of his son in early 1865 and 1870, and that he was the father of all her children. They took care to be recorded at different places at every census and Fanny never used the surname Hulbert when she was living in Bristol where other people might know Thomas.

The births of their first 5 children were not legally registered and the last three were registered misleadingly.

I have found no other possible explanation.

### Another mystery (or more lies)

Louisa Hulbert made a will in December 1897 in which she leaves £99 and a diamond bracelet to Annie Louisa Burrage. Three months later she added a codicil to change the bequest given to "my daughter Annie Louisa Burrage" from £99 and a bracelet to £149. Probate of the will was granted to the son Thomas Charles Hulbert.

In March 1862, 11 months after Louisa was recorded in the census as living in Cambridge with Thomas, a child was born in London, Annie Louisa Hulbert Haynes, registered as the illegitimate daughter of Harriet Haynes. This was more than 3 years before the birth in Felixstowe of Thomas Charles Hulbert, the only recorded child of Louisa and Thomas.

The evidence of Louisa's age and place of birth given in the 1861 census suggests that she was one of the children of Joseph Haynes and Mary Ann Hill born in Cowley or West Drayton in Middlesex. This is confirmed by the census including her sister

Henrietta. The eldest daughter in this family was Harriet Haynes of the same age as the alleged mother of Annie Louisa. However, on her marriage to Thomas Louisa gave her father as James Haynes Esq. and Louisa is not listed as a member of the Cowley family in the 1841 or 1851 censuses, but Mary Ann Haynes the same age as Louisa is listed.

In 1889 Annie Louisa Haynes Hulbert (sic) married William Burrage, giving her father as Thomas Charles Hulbert clergyman, with Thomas Charles Hulbert (presumably the younger) as a witness.

It seems to me that the only way of making sense of all this is to assume that Annie Louisa was the daughter of Louisa, but Thomas was not her father. Perhaps Louisa left the inconvenient child with her sister and rejoined Thomas at Cambridge or Felixstowe but then left him again.

I also suspect that Louisa was actually named Mary Ann by her parents but changed her name when she left home.

John is studying the surname Hulbert with variants Holbert, Hulbart, Hulberd, Hurlbutt, Hurlebat and can be contacted at <a href="mailto:john.clifford@one-name.org">john.clifford@one-name.org</a>. John's registered website can be found at <a href="mailto:Hulbert.one-name.net">Hulbert.one-name.net</a>.

## Forthcoming Seminar

15 October 2022

A Web Presence for your One-Name Study

Venue: Beauchamp College, Ridge Way, Oadby, Leicestershire LE2 5TP

At this much-requested seminar we aim to guide members who wish to create their own ONS website, and help those wanting to develop an existing site further. We will help you to clarify your aims in having a website and from there to consider site content and the design. The Members' Website Program will be explained for those yet to join, and existing participants will be able to look at further developments.

### The Guild Vision

The Guild will strengthen its position as the centre of excellence for surname studies by educating the public and worldwide genealogical community in one-name studies and empowering members to preserve their knowledge and share their expertise.

# The Story of Ella Rosa de Montijo Carlin

by Colin Carlin (2591)

"You don't know what these Spanish Princesses are like," ... "they have the devil inside them, and people have always said that unless we make haste the baby will be here before the husband."

(Lytton Strachey, Books and Characters)

On a damp Sunday morning in a grey Scottish town a pony trap flashes past. The driver is wearing a white sombrero and leaning forward urging on the horse. Next to him is a striking woman dressed in bright colours with a vibrant Spanish mantilla around her laughing face. Captain James Carlin and his wife Ella Rosa were late for Kirk in Nairn. This may be an apocryphal version of events, but that Charleston lady in Spanish costume in eastern Scotland in 1875 had quite a story.



Ella Rosa de Montijo Carlin

Ella Rosa de Montijo Carlin née Jenkins, was a woman of mystery. She affected a very Spanish style and castanets would appear at the flash of an Andalusian eye.

Many years later on her "deathbed" in England (she later recovered) she claimed that the Empress Eugénie, consort to Napoleon III of France, was her "aunt" and the source of the funds that had enabled her to educate her ten children and send three of her sons to university in Germany.

How could it be that Ella's mother was a sister of the world-famous Empress? What could connect her to the Empress of France? Eugénie was born in Granada, Spain her father being Cipriano Portocarrero y Palafox, Count de Montejo. Her mother was Maria Manuela Kirkpatrick y Grivégnée, the daughter of William Kirkpatrick a Scotsman who was United States Consul in Malaga at the time of the Napoleonic invasion of Spain. Given Empress Eugénie's status and worldwide fame, Ella Rosa's assertion was extraordinary.

Research has shown that the Carlin family's vague stories about her husband's gun running were only a fraction of the truth. The archives of the South Carolina Historical Society reveal the English born James Carlin running supplies through the Federal fleet in support of the Confederacy during the Civil War. We also know of his evasion of the British Royal Navy in the Bahamas when he ran munitions through the Spanish Navy to the Cuban insurgents on the north coast of Cuba.

This article examines an old family tradition that has been passed down by their descendants emerging in various versions in the scattered Carlin families some of whom have been out of contact for at least 100 years. Family legends come in many guises, but lurking within usually lies a vein of truth, although the reality may be distorted by romantic addition, lack of historical context or just the conflating of associations and generations.

Over the years a little of Ella Rosa's life has emerged. There are two stories about her courtship that the family saw as a "Gone With the Wind" romance of the Old South. James and Ella Rosa are thought to have met on a waterside plantation when James was in the US Coastal Survey Department. Later, when approaching harbour, he spied Ella Rosa on the shore walking with her girlfriends and doubtless twirling their parasols at the sailors. He turned to his shipmates and declared, "There's the girl I am going to marry" to cries of derision from his friends but wed her he did.



Captain James Carlin

They were married in Charleston S.C. the 5<sup>th</sup> of May (Eugénie's birthday) 1857. The Rev. William Yates of the Seaman's Mission conducted the ceremony at 12, Tradd Street. This was confirmed by Sharmer's diary of Charleston social events and the Rev. William Yates's record. No marriage licence or official record has emerged. Yates seems to have been her mentor and was trustee for their Charleston properties.

It was assumed that Ella Rosa was from one of the Jenkins families from the plantations on the coast of South Carolina, but no connections have emerged. Her sister-in-law, Mary Moorer Joyner who married James's younger brother Charles, was raised on a plantation near Goose Green inland from Charleston. Mary Moorer knew Ella Rosa and connected her to New Orleans.

Ella Rosa is next recorded in the 1860 Census of New Braunfels, Texas. Here she is shown as born in Louisiana in 1840/1. A brother, step or half-brother, Edward Jenkins, was with her and her husband. Edward was born in Louisiana in 1846 and died in Columbia SC towards the end of the Civil War.

In the last few years more stories about her have emerged. These tell of Ella Rosa being an orphan her mother having died in childbirth. Whether this was giving birth to Ella Rosa in 1840/41 or Edward in 1846 is unclear. Ella Rosa said that she was raised in a convent and that the nuns tied to "steal her money". Re-interpretation suggests that the infant girl was left in a convent with a dowry intended to secure a good marriage. It seems that the convent denied her the dowry when she married the Protestant Englishman James Carlin in what was said to be a run-away, "mixed" religion marriage.

Searches in Louisiana have not revealed Ella Rosa. However, an echo of her story was found in the records of the Sacred Heart Convent of Grand Coteau, St Landry Parish La. The 1850 census shows an Elizabeth Jenkins aged 15 with her sister Sarah aged 16. The convent archives show that a Mr F. Hardy paid for their school fees and expenses in barrels of molasses. Sarah took the veil becoming a nun but died of yellow fever in 1853 aged 20. Nothing more has been found about Elizabeth. Ella is of course a diminutive of Elizabeth.

Further research has suggested that there may be a link to Mobile, Alabama though James Carlin's close association with Captain John Newland Maffitt the Confederate Naval Officer and fellow gun runner. Ella Rosa also had links to a Richardson family.

James and Ella Rosa came into substantial funds some three years after their marriage in 1857 implying that the nuns released her dowry. James was able to leave his post with the Survey and they moved to Texas where they part-paid for a farm. Carlin was no farmer and was soon back at sea in a schooner he half owned. Ella Rosa and her family returned to Charleston. This episode may merely have been an exercise to convince the Convent of his respectability.

Once James Carlin was running the blockade and earning thousands of dollars a trip, Ella Rosa gave sizeable donations to the Charleston Orphan's Fund and to soldier's charities. We next we find her in Liverpool, England where she and her family had moved having sailed from the Confederacy in an exciting night run out of Charleston harbour under the gunfire of the blockading US fleet. Her husband had been appointed Superintending Captain of the South Carolina Importing and Exporting Company (the Bee Company) and commissioned to build blockade-runners on the Clydeside. Ella Rosa then appears regularly in British records although her age seldom corresponds with a birth date of 1840/41. In one London Census she is listed as born in New York.

Ella Rosa never returned to America and died in London in 1913 leaving seven sons and three surviving daughters. She is to be credited with bringing up and educating a large family with a usually absent husband and an uncertain source of funds.

All this is a far cry for the Empress Eugénie and her husband Louis Napoleon III Emperor of France and nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte. If taken literally, Ella Rosa's claim that Eugénie was her aunt implies that her grandmother was Eugénie's mother Maria Manuela Kirkpatrick y Grivégnée. Washington Irving,

the American commentator called her the "most remarkable woman in Europe". Her husband Cipriano was a renowned Liberal who in 1820 was detained for some years in Santiago de Compostelo by a revisionist Spanish government. Their daughters Paca and Eugénie were born in Granada in 1825 and 1826.

When archival records gave substance to the stories about her husband, attention moved to Ella Rosa's myth. Detailed enquiries in Malaga and among the Kirkpatrick and de Grivegnée descendants provided no obvious tie to Eugénie's Scottish, Flemish and Spanish relations. Early research suggested that Ella Rosa might be Eugénie's daughter born in the itinerant years when Maria Manuela and her daughter toured the spas of Europe and Eugénie earned a reputation for being amiable, if difficult. Nothing more was known of Ella Rosa's story or the history that lay behind it nor was anything made of it socially in London. Until recently it was all thought improbable.

Interest then turned to Eugénie's' Mother Maria Manuela who was known for living an extravagant life in Madrid as a principal lady in Court and was rumoured to have had lovers in this earlier period when her husband Cipriano was detained for some three years after their marriage in 1817. If Maria Manuela had an inconvenient child during this time, she would have consulted her Aunt Catherine de Grivégnée married to the French diplomat count Mathieu de Lesseps. An untimely child could have been spirited off to de Lesseps cousins in New Orleans, to become, in due course, a half-sister to Eugénie and perhaps Ella Rosa's mother. Maria Manuela was close to her aunt having lived with her in Paris.



María Manuela Kirkpatrick y Grivégnée Countess de Montijo

Maria Manuela lived a Bohemian life and there were persistent rumours around her longstanding friendship with George Villiers later Earl Clarendon, British Foreign Minister and the parenthood of Eugénie. Their friendship seems to have started when Villiers was a young diplomat in Madrid and continued into later life. Napoleon III even asked Maria Manuela whether Villiers was Eugénie's father. She replied sharply, "the dates do not correspond sire". Clarendon took an interest in Eugénie and warned her about Louis Napoleon and his reputation as a womaniser. Perhaps the dates did correspond with an earlier child.

In 1874 Ella Rosa and James named a child Maria Eugenia Montijo after the Empress and on four subsequent British birth certificates of her children she declared her former surname as de Montijo. Her eldest son James Cornelius Carlin adopted Montijo as a middle name as did her youngest daughter Louise. Prior to 1874 Ella Rosa had registered births as "Ella Rosa Carlin formally Jenkins". It may well be significant that the Empress had come to live in England in 1870 having fled Paris in alarming circumstances after the disaster of the Battle of Sedan and the loss of the Franco-Prussian War. Eugénie had been secreted out of Paris by Dr. Evans, her American dentist. Evans later wrote that Eugénie had used him to send funds to "poor Spanish refugees in America". Ella Rosa may have felt that she was now free to acknowledge a relationship that had been a state secret. Or she may have just felt sympathy for the exiled Empress who had became a close friend of Queen Victoria and continued to live in England until her death in 1920.

There is another possibility although the dates are harder to correlate. It is a curiosity that two other English families, without international connections, hold a tradition of descent from a secret child of Eugénie or her sister Paca.

How could this have come about? Maria Manuela was so anxious to secure good marriages for her daughters that in the summer of 1840 she allowed them to go on a riding expedition with their beaus through the campo of Spain escorted by servants but no chaperones. The Dukes de Sesto and de Alba were among the most eligible bachelors in Spain. Eugénie was enamoured of Sesto who was cynically using her to get closer to her sister Paca. A report has Eugénie, and Sesto falling some way behind the main party and tells of how Eugénie was flushed and flustered when she caught up with the others some hours later. The date of this expedition fits neatly into the traditions of these two families even if the idea that any resulting child might be hidden in provincial England seems problematic. However, the dates seem to exclude Ella Rosa or her mother.

How much is coincidence and how much conjecture? It is clear that there was a Montejo family in Louisiana that was prominent socially. They crop up in two incidences that provide some credibility to elements in Ella Rosa's legend.

In 1865, Miss Florence J. O'Connor, who had managed to escape from occupied New Orleans, published a romantic novel in which she had a Señorita Inez Montijo from Cuba portrayed as the belle of the ball. Other distinguished visitors to the ball are Lord Ethelred and a Miss de Villerie suggesting that Miss O'Connor knew all about the rumours around Maria Manuela and the red-haired George Villiers.

An anonymous typescript in the library of the Daughters of Texas in Austin Tx. records a tale by Mr. Barksdale that links the family of a Miss Montejo of New Orleans to the ancient Spanish hero Bernard del Carpicio whom Eugénie also counted among her distant forebears. This Miss Montejo becomes the subject of a duel between a Count de Wantein and the frontiersman James Bowie where Bowie was wounded in his shoulder. The Count suffered a more serious wound through a lung. Despite these excitements or perhaps because of them the young Miss Montijo continued to favour Bowie and in desperation her parents agreed to her entering a convent in France where she eventually took the veil and became a nun.

Another possible answer lies in Captain James Carlin's link to the Cuban Liberation Junta in New York in 1867. He was commissioned by the Junta to run munitions and men into the north shore of Cuba. The secretary of the Junta was Mercedes Montejo Sherman. Mercedes was born in Cuba on the 10 June 1843. Her brother was Don Mauricio Montejo, a sugar production engineer and President of the Junta in Philadelphia; another brother had a plantation in Louisiana. Mercedes married Judge Samuel Sherman.

These Montejos (the difference in spelling is immaterial) were from a prominent family in Havana and Camaguey Province of Cuba who had Conquistador ancestors and educated their children in the United States. New Orleans Census returns show them in Louisiana from at least 1850. Ella Rosa may have had connections to this family. In 1869 James leased a plantation in St Mary's Parish, Louisiana just a few miles from the Montejo plantation in an apparent attempt to tempt Ella Rosa back to the Louisiana parish she might have known as a girl.

The Empress Eugénie boasted of her connection with Conquistadors, and it may have influenced Napoleon's disastrous intervention in Mexico. A biography of Cipriano shows that Eugénie was right to think that her father was of the same family as the Conquistadors.

When her husband returned to England after his Cuban adventures in 1867/8 James would have told his wife of his contact with the New York Junta and the Cuban Montejos. Ella Rosa may already have known this family or even suggested that her husband contact them in New York. In either case, she would have associated them with Eugénie and perhaps herself, in the same way that Eugénie did with the Conquistadors. There are more than 200 articles about the exiled Empress in the US press 1870 and long commentaries appeared in European newspapers and across the world. Ella Rosa's grandson John Carlin has written about the sense of loss that the old lady still felt though the early years of the twentieth century about the death of Eugénie's son. The heir to the French Empire, the Prince Imperial, was killed in a mishandled affray in the Anglo-Zulu Wars in South Africa in 1879.

Carlin DNA matches with prospective 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> cousins who are descended from a Villiers ancestor, the Earl of Clarendon's family, may offer a solution that would be truly astonishing and of historical interest if they showed that Ella Rosa's grandmother was Maria Manuela and her father George Villiers. This is long way from Charleston, but surely somewhere there is a document that links it all up.



Ella Rosa (centre) in Kensington, London in 1912

Was this all a fantasy that emerged in a "deathbed" delirium; a story Ella Rosa had to maintain thereafter? Was she trying to reveal her secret before it would be too late? Or was it all just a story designed to establish Ella Rosa within the complex class hierarchies of Victorian England? Until we find her birth records and the names of her parents all these questions are unlikely to be resolved.

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Colin is studying the surname Carlin with variants Carlan, Carolan, Karlin and can be contacted at colin.carlin@one-name.org.

## Interesting People in (almost) 200 words

### by Pamela Lydford (5686)

I don't really know my great-grandmother Emily Lydford, born Emily Valentina Day on 14 February 1848. She and my great-grandfather Richard Lydford were married on 26 May 1879 and three days later were on a ship bound for Napier, New Zealand, where Richard's twin brother Samuel had emigrated to 3 years earlier.

I do know Emily was well educated as she wrote a long poem of the ship's journey, as well as having a sense of humour which shows in the poem, along with a long letter written to her mother shortly after they arrived, both of which are very informative (next Journal). These are where I have got a sense of her character and abilities from.

Dick and Em went on to have seven children, the second one being semi-crippled. The fifth and sixth children were twin girls, one dying shortly after birth, and the seventh was a boy born blind, who also led an interesting and very full life.

I have several photos of Emily with her adult children, with grandchildren and one with my father as a small child which I treasure. She was surely a strong-willed and feisty lady who survived many sorrows, enjoyed many happy events and lived a long well-earned old age, dying at the age of 82.

Pamela is studying the surname Lydford with variants Ledford, Lidford, Ludford and can be contacted at <a href="mailto:pamela.lydford@one-name.org">pamela.lydford@one-name.org</a>. Pamela's registered DNA project website can be found at <a href="www.familytreedna.com/public/lydford">www.familytreedna.com/public/lydford</a>.



With my father, Emily's grandson.

# Forthcoming Seminar

# 'The Invisible Roots: finding the women in your family history'

Saturday 30 July 2022

Swindon Village Community Hall,

Church Road, near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL51 9QP

The women in our family history stories often take a back seat, and were described by Margaret Ward in *The Female Line: Researching Your Female Ancestors* as the 'strong but invisible roots of the family tree'. But for Guild members who adopt a strict approach to surnames, they either disappear or appear on the occasion of their marriage.

This seminar will discuss techniques and sources for tracking women, and options for recording them in a one-name study. It will explore the impact of legal changes, look at examples of 'invisible women', investigate women's work inside and outside the home and identify some of those who flouted convention. There will be a chance to hear other members' stories of significant women in their family history.

For further details of the individual sessions please go to <a href="https://one-name.org/seminar-events/">https://one-name.org/seminar-events/</a>

### **Programme**

09.30 - 10.00	Registration and coffee	Book online from 29 May 2022
10.00 - 10.10	Welcome to the Seminar - Alison Boulton Bookings close on 17	
10.10 - 11.10	Searching for hidden women - Mia Bennett	
	Discussion - how to record women in your ONS	
11.10 - 11.15	Comfort break	
11.15 - 12.15	Even invisible women have to work! - Adele Emm	
12.15 - 13.15	Lunch Break	
13.15 - 14.15	Researching women and law - Prof Rosemary Auchmuty (Univer	rsity of Reading)
14.15 - 14.20	Comfort Break	
14.20 - 15.20	Forgotten Women - Dr Janet Few - President of the Family Hist	cory Federation
15.20 - 15.40	Tea Break	
15.40 - 16.40	Interesting, inspirational and indomitable women - A selection	of stories from Guild members
16.40 - 16.45	Close of Seminar	

This programme is subject to change.

Seminar cost, including refreshments and buffet lunch £25.00

Swindon Village is just off the A4019 (Kingsditch) in the north of Cheltenham and within easy reach of the M5 junction 10.

We would like to ensure that any disabled delegate can participate fully in this event. Anyone with any special requirements should telephone the Guild Help Desk on 0800 011 2182 or email <a href="mailto:seminar-booking@one-name.org">seminar-booking@one-name.org</a>.

# How do I register a one-name study?

A one-name study may be registered either when joining the Guild or subsequently as a Guild member by visiting the Guild Shop. A once-only registration fee is payable for each study registered, although the fee includes the registration of a reasonable number of variants.

The Guild recognises that a one-name study can represent a considerable amount of work to research and maintain. Before registering a study name, members are recommended to have at least established an understanding of the expected size and extent of the study, and the likely geographical areas to which research should be directed.

Each study listed in the Register of One-Name Studies is classified into one of three categories, 1, 2 or 3. The category designations are intended to give a rough idea of the progress and maturity of the study. The study principles may be helpful here.

The designations of the categories used at present is as follows:

- Category 1: A study where research using core genealogical datasets and transcriptions is in its early stages.
- Category 2: A study where research using core genealogical datasets and transcriptions is well under way, but currently in some countries only.
- Category 3: A study where research using core genealogical datasets and transcriptions is well under way on a global basis.

Guild members are currently allowed to register no more than three separate one-name studies, though it is recommended that only one name is registered by new members. A reasonable number of variant surnames can also be registered within each study. Registered variants may be names held by living name bearers or where all lines are now extinct, and should be registered only if the member is studying them as fully as the principal registered name. Your view of which spellings are genuine variants of your registered study name may change as your study develops, and you can add or drop variants within your study at any point. It is good practice to register only the most frequently-found variants, and almost all one-name studies are, in practice, researching or monitoring more variants than those formally associated with the registration of the surname.

Any given surname may be registered as a study or variant by only one member, on a "first come, first served" basis.

The Registrar has the responsibility of assessing one-name study registration requests, according to agreed criteria for registrations. Members registering a name with the Guild should be aware of the study principles of one-name studies registered with the Guild.

The registration of any one-name study surname and variants will lapse when membership ceases. Any individual re-joining the Guild and wishing to re-register any surnames and variants (if they are still available for registration) will be required to pay the appropriate Registration Fee, although the Committee, or the Registrar acting on its behalf, may waive the fee if this is deemed appropriate.



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