

The world's leading publication for one-namers

# Journal

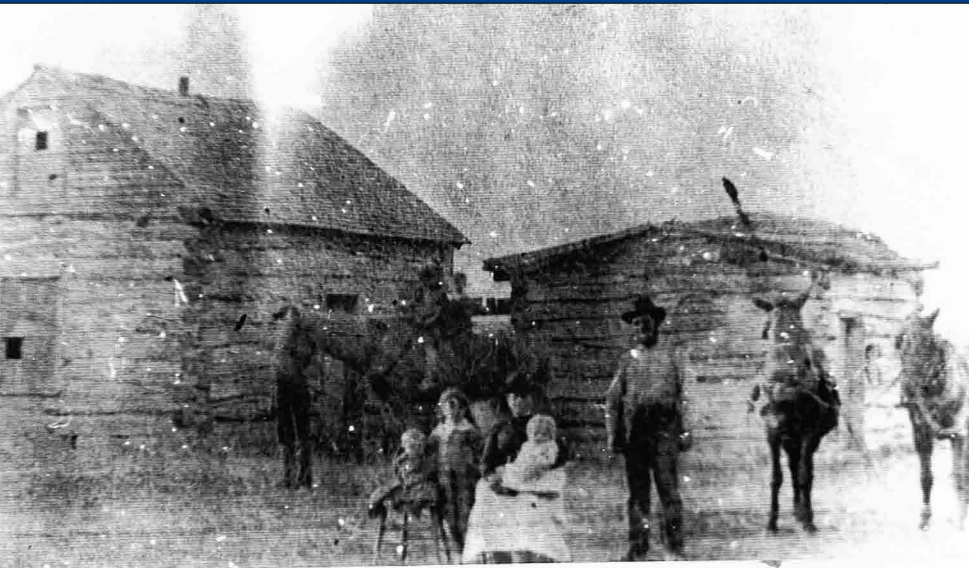
## of One-Name Studies

The quarterly  
publication of the

**Guild of  
One-Name  
Studies**

<https://one-name.org>

Volume 14 Issue 8 • October-December 2022



Log home of George and  
Elizabeth Yoxall on  
Medicine Creek.

As owner of the Yoxall One-Name Study, I have a photo of one particular Yoxall family who lived the American dream. Emigrating to the USA in 1867, George Yoxall rose from plumber to Director & Vice President of Stockton National Bank. Such was his status and contribution to the community, a tribute was paid to him in the House of Representatives on his death in 1940.

### *House Resolution No. 15*

#### *A Resolution relating to the death of George Yoxall*

**WHEREAS, George Yoxall, a member of the House of Representatives in the sessions of 1909 and 1911, departed this life at Stockton, Kansas, October 19, 1940, at the age of ninety years, one of its oldest and most honoured citizen.**

George was one of the original pioneers of the wild West. He and several other families were taken to the end of the railway line where they intended to settle, the engine uncoupled and then left to live in the passenger and freight cars left behind until they built their own accommodation! Their first home was a simple log cabin, their final home a much grander home, as you will see from the attached photos of both homes.



All the latest Guild news and updates



Guild of One-Name Studies CIO. Registered Charity No. 1197944

<https://one-name.org>

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

## Current Postholders

### PATRON

Peter O'Donoghue MA.FSA.  
York Herald of Arms

### PRESIDENT

Howard Benbrook MCG

### VICE-PRESIDENTS

Alec Tritton  
Peter Walker MCG

### GUILD OFFICERS

#### CHAIRMAN

Julie Goucher MCG  
Tel: 01388 329931  
email: [chairman@one-name.org](mailto:chairman@one-name.org)

#### VICE-CHAIRMAN

Marie Byatt  
Tel: +1 502 938 3833  
email: [vice-chairman@one-name.org](mailto:vice-chairman@one-name.org)

#### SECRETARY

Stephen Daglish  
Tel: 01628 666464  
email: [secretary@one-name.org](mailto:secretary@one-name.org)

#### TREASURER

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

### GUILD COMMITTEE

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

Chris Gray  
John B. Lisle  
Karen Rogers

### EDITOR

Jean-Marc Bazzoni  
[editor@one-name.org](mailto:editor@one-name.org)

### MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR

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

### STUDY REGISTRAR

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

## Chairman's Team

### Reporting Lead: Chairman

AGM Organiser  
Constitutional Advisor  
Data Protection Advisor  
DNA Advisor  
Front Office Manager  
Returning Officer

## Outreach Team

### Reporting Lead: Marketing Liaison Coordinator

AFFHO Representative  
AFHSW Representative  
Conference Organiser  
Events Manager  
Production Manager  
Publicity Manager  
SAFHS Representative  
Social Networking Coordinator

## Education Team

### Reporting Lead: Education Liaison Officer

Academic Coordinator  
Members Handbook Manager  
Mentors Coordinator  
National Representative for Canada  
National Representative for USA  
Regional Rep Coordinator  
Seminar Subcommittee:  
Wiki Coordinator

## IT Team

### Reporting Lead: Webmaster

Email System Manager  
Guild Blog Program Leader  
Mailing List Manager  
Members Profiles Administrator  
Members' Websites Program Leader  
WARP Administrator  
WebForum Manager

## Members Support Team

Reporting Lead: Index Administrator  
BMD Vault Coordinator  
Data Store Administrator  
Family Search Liaison  
Global Marriages Coordinator  
Inscriptions Index Coordinator  
Librarian & Archivist  
Look Up Manager  
Marriage Challenge Coordinator  
Marriage Locator Coordinator  
Newswatch Project Coordinator  
Probate Index Coordinator  
Volunteers Coordinator

## Treasury Team

### Reporting Lead: Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer  
DNA Kit Coordinator  
Gift Aid Manager  
Renewals Secretary  
Sales Manager

Julie Goucher MCG  
Alan Moorhouse MCG & Sue Thornton-Grimes  
Peter Copsey MCG  
Chris Gray  
Susan C. Meates MCG  
Roy Rayment MCG  
Alan Toplis

Karen Rogers  
David Evans MCG  
Margaret Southgate  
Alan Moorhouse MCG & Sue Thornton-Grimes  
Vacant  
Melody McKay Burton  
Vacant  
Donald Grant  
Debbie Kennett MCG

Julie Goucher MCG  
Andrew Millard MCG  
Ken Toll MCG  
Sue Thornton-Grimes  
M. Diane Rogers  
Tessa Keough MCG  
Julie Goucher MCG  
Sue Thornton-Grimes & Alan Moorhouse MCG  
Julie Goucher MCG

Chris Gray  
Kevin Cole  
John B. Lisle  
Wendy Archer MCG & Malcolm Austen  
Karen Burnell  
W. Paul Featherstone MCG  
Peter Walker MCG  
Gene Prescott

Marie Byatt  
Cliff Kemball MCG  
Karen Burnell  
Marie Byatt  
Cliff Kemball MCG & Barbara Roach  
Lynne Walker  
Peter Copsey MCG  
Library Team  
Peter Copsey MCG  
Michelle Wood  
Jim Isard  
Samantha Godley  
Cheryl Hunnisett

Tracy Care  
Vacant  
Jo Fitz-Henry  
Vacant  
Bob Plumridge  
Tracy Care



The Journal of One-Name Studies is published quarterly by the Guild of One-Name Studies and printed by Flexpress Ltd, 6 Coal Cart Road, Interchange, Birstall, Leicester, LE4 3BY.

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

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

## CONTENTS

DNA for your ONS - Convergence by Susan C. Meates MCG	4-5
Ancestors on the Road by Ian Macdonald	6-7
You couldn't make it up! by Bruce Margrett	8-9
A One-Name History of the Name Diocletian by Peter Patilla	10-12
Welcome to a New Day by Marie Byatt	13
James A. Gotts RN and HMS Electra by Ian Gotts	14-17
Dukes, Squires and Yeoman - Class interaction through several generations in a Nottinghamshire village by Steve Tanner	18-22
Introducing your Guild Indexes by Marie Byatt	23-24
Conference Write-Ups	24-25
Report on the Y-DNA stream from the DNA Seminar held on 14 May 2022 by David Bicket	25
On board the ship "Rakaia" by Emily Lydford (1848-1930) - submitted by Pamela Lydford	26-27
My Progress in Unravelling the DNA of my Miller Ancestors by Wayne Shephard	28-32
Meet Our Volunteers - Pauline Neil, Membership Registrar	33-34
Marriage Challenge Update - Middle Names by Peter Copsey MCG	34
Forthcoming Seminar	35

All photos courtesy of authors unless otherwise stated.

# Chairman's Report

Hello everyone, Welcome to the latest Issue of JOONS.

First of all, I want to thank W.Paul Featherstone, for his tireless work supporting the Guild and members. Though Paul has stepped down as a Trustee, and as Chairman he continues to volunteer for the Guild in a number of capacities. Secondly, members will have seen the recent Chairman's newsletter regarding our move to a CIO. We have achieved that thanks to the tireless work of both Peter Copsey and Peter Hagger, both former Trustees, and our Secretary, Stephen Daglish; all three have done a huge amount of work, and for that I am very grateful. The Guild we all know and love continues with the same values and ethos of members helping members.

Another significant change that the Trustees reported to members, has been the sad death of the President, Col (ret) Iain Swinnerton. Iain was from a generation that we won't see again. His support of the Guild never wavered and his study lives on, registered with the Guild. A number of Guild members attended the funeral, including Stephen Daglish, who represented the Committee in paying our respects. Howard Benbrook, MCG has become our new President, and we enter a new chapter, moving into the future whilst embracing the past.

It was the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus who reportedly said "Change is the only constant", and that seems a perfect quote for reflecting the Guild just now.

The journal contains some great articles, so please do support our editor, Jean-Marc, by sending in stories about the people in your studies, strategies etc. that other members may find interesting. Don't worry if you have not written articles before, put finger to keyboard, the rest is easy!

The suggestion board recently had a question about other surname interests, and before the Trustees make a decision, we would like to solicit views from members. Other surname interests are where a member may have an interest in a surname, perhaps one with regional focus, or alike. Currently, once a surname that is listed as a registered study, the contact to the member with the interest is removed, and the link is through the registrant.

The question is, would members, like the structure to be that upon registration, the surname interests of another member be removed, as it is now, or would members like to retain that contact on the website? This would be on the members only side of the website, effectively once you are logged in. The Trustees would be interested in hearing the views of members, before making a decision, so please

drop me a note [chairman@one-name.org](mailto:chairman@one-name.org) by 31 December 2022.

By way of an example: Just recently a surname that I had listed as a interest for the name REDHEAD was removed, because the name became a variant of a newly registered study. The registrant wrote to me and I replied, sharing the crux of what I know, though I have more information to send. If you are not sure what a surname interest on the site looks like, do a search for the name VIRICIGLIO.

The wheels of the Guild turn through the support of members volunteering, whether that is someone working as part of the web team, marketing, regional reps and a host of other roles. Offers of volunteering can be sent to [Cheryl\\_volunteers@one-name.org](mailto:Cheryl_volunteers@one-name.org) and that brings me to my next plea.

Each year the Guild Awards of Excellence (GAoE) which you can read about <https://one-name.org/about-the-guild/guild-award-of-excellence/> to those whose articles, books, websites meet the criteria. Sadly, those that were due to be reviewed and announced at the AGM 2022 are still awaiting to be reviewed because of a lack of volunteers. If you have received the GAoE in the past and want to help, please email [gaoe-panel@one-name.org](mailto:gaoe-panel@one-name.org) as soon as possible.

As we head to year end, another set of articles, books and websites will be needing to be reviewed and hopefully awarded at the AGM 2023. Equally, if you wish to ask the panel to review something published in 2022 please email the address shown after you have read the process document <https://one-name.org/gaoeprocess.pdf> Submissions should be received by 31 December 2022.

Submissions for nominating members for the Master Craftsman of the Guild are now open. You can read the details on the website <https://one-name.org/about-the-guild/master-craftsmen-of-the-guild/> And you can see the scheme rules at <https://one-name.org/mcg-scheme-rules/> with nominations sent to [MCGPanel@one-name.org](mailto:MCGPanel@one-name.org) by 31 January 2023.

So, all that remains to be said is please enjoy this journal, and take advantage of your membership by watching seminar and webinar recordings, which can be found on the website under the events tab. Don't forget, all previous journals and newsletters can be found on the website <https://one-name.org/guild-journal/> all available to the public, except the last three years, those are available to members only.

Best wishes,

**Julie Goucher MCG**

Call us free on:  
UK: 0800 011 2182  
US & Canada: 1-800-647-4100  
Australia: 1800 305 184

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

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

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

Front Cover Photo: © James Wignall (6224)

# DNA for your ONS

## Convergence

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

Convergence is where you start with two different Y-DNA results in the past, and the results mutate over time, to where they are an exact match or a close match today.

The higher the population of a Y-DNA result, the more opportunity there is for convergence to occur.

### Impact of Haplogroup on Convergence

Since Haplogroup R1b is the largest population group in Europe, and an even higher population in the British Isles, matches with other surnames are very common. These matches are due to the large population of this Haplogroup that existed when surnames were adopted. Many different surnames were adopted, and convergence has occurred over time.

Haplogroup R1b is the largest population group in the British Isles, and in some locations reaching 80%. Other haplogroups such as I, R1a, and J, have much smaller populations in the British Isles. The Family Tree DNA terminal SNP designation for haplogroup R1b top level SNP is R-M269, I (I-M253 and I-M223), R1a (R-M198), and J (J-M267 and J-M172 ).

The new Family Tree DNA Haplogroup tool will tell you about the population of a haplogroup in their data base for a country, based on the reported ancestral country of the participants. Unknown Origin is not included. For example, according to this tool, the population of haplogroup J-M267 is 1% in the United Kingdom. You can try out this new tool at: <https://discover.familytreedna.com/> Note that scientific literature about haplogroup frequency may be different than the population frequency for a country represented in the database, since participants self-select to test.

Convergence can occur in any haplogroup. Convergence is more prevalent in haplogroup R1b due to the higher frequency of that haplogroup in the population of the persons who have tested, as well as the higher population of R1b in the countries which have a higher level of participants.

### Adoption of Surnames

At the time of adoption of surnames, circa 1250-1450 in England, many men in Haplogroup R1b had the same or close Y-DNA result, and adopted different surnames. Over time their results could mutate so that they are exact or close today.

In the male population, some Y-DNA results are common and have a high frequency of occurrence and some Y-DNA results are less common, with a lower frequency of occurrence.

Many different events occurred in the past that impact the frequency of a Y-DNA result. Some Y-DNA results ramified well, and created a robust quantity of males, and other results became rare as branches of the Y-DNA result daughtered out.

The frequency of a Y-DNA result in the population, and then in the Family Tree DNA database of the results, will determine the number of matches a man has with other surnames. Everyone will eventually have matches with other surnames.

### Convergence Example

The example below shows convergence between the ABC surname and the XYZ surname, using just 3 markers to keep the example simple. Notice how the mutations over time bring two different Y-DNA results to the point that they are an exact match today.

The two surnames start off with a genetic distance of 3 for 3 markers. Then 800 years are shown in 200 year increments. Each mutation is highlighted. You can see that surname ABC had 2 mutations in 800 years, and surname XYZ had one mutation in that time frame. The end result is an exact match today. The same concept applies with more markers and more mutations, such as starting with a genetic distance of 5, and resulting in a close or exact match today.

Year	ABC	XYZ	
1200	13 24 15	14 25 14	Genetic distance 3
1400	13 24 15	14 25 14	Genetic distance 3
1600	<b>14</b> 24 15	14 25 14	Genetic distance 2
1800	14 24 15	14 <b>24</b> 14	Genetic distance 1
2000	14 24 <b>14</b>	14 24 14	Genetic distance 0

### Matches with Other Surnames

The more common your Y-DNA result, the more matches you will have with other surnames.

Y-DNA testing is organized into Surname Projects based on the surname, because the surname is the dominant factor in interpreting results. Rarely are matches with other surnames relevant. On occasion, a match with another surname is the result of infidelity, illegitimacy where the son takes the mother's surname, adoption, or voluntary name change. Before concluding any of these events occurred, there should be significant testing of the surname representing most or all family trees, and some evidence upon which to base the conclusion that the link has been broken between the Y-chromosome and the surname.

Many different situations could have occurred in the past that resulted in a match with another surname. These situations are described below.

1. Adoption: In the past, when a woman was widowed with children, and remarried, the children would often take on the surname of the new husband. There were no formal adoption proceedings, as we have today. The children simply started using the surname. If this informal adoption occurred during the time period of recorded records, genealogy research may uncover evidence of the event,

such as you find the children births recorded under one surname and the children's later marriage under the mother's second husband's surname.

2. Extramarital event: Rare, but this happened, usually more recently due to more opportunity. Testing a distant male from the Y-DNA direct male line should provide evidence of whether this occurred in the documented tree.
3. Illegitimacy where a male son took the mothers surname. You may find genealogical evidence of this event, depending on when it occurred.
4. Voluntary name change: One of the participant's ancestors changed their name for some reason. The reasons are as varied as the ancestors, and could range from looking for acceptance in a new country to personal preference. On occasion, if the wife's line was ending due to the lack of adult males, her husband would take on her surname to continue the Line.
5. An orphan was given a randomly selected surname.
6. Convergence: Mutations over time led to two different surnames having a matching result today. This is the most common situation. The two participants had a common ancestor prior to the adoption of surnames, and the match is therefore not genealogically relevant.

If you have a common haplotype or Y-DNA result, and match a lot of other surnames, you probably do not want to investigate these occurrences. If you have an haplotype that is not common, and match another surname, you could compare research with the other person, to determine if you can place any ancestors in the same place at the same time. Depending on your situation, additional testing combined with genealogy research may identify if an event occurred and what event occurred.

DNA testing for genealogy is not a substitute for genealogy research, but is instead a companion. Results that match must be considered in light of the genealogy research. If you match someone with a different surname, most likely your match is the result of convergence. Typically, my recommendation would be to focus on recruiting until each documented tree for your one-name study has tested, and then decide if you pursue any other surname matches.

If you want to pursue an Other surname match, it would be beneficial for both parties to upgrade. In choosing an upgrade, though expensive, Y-700 would provide the most clarity.

Often, when a Surname Project is just getting started, and very few persons with the one-name study surname have tested, it is tempting to pursue other surname matches. Investing that time in recruiting more one-name study surname persons to test will probably result in a same or variant surname match, and be more beneficial to the one-name study.

## Forthcoming Seminars

**February 2023**

### *Researching your One-Name Study Abroad Seminar*

A series of 4 weekly online seminars will look at genealogy research in a number of overseas countries in Europe and beyond. Tuesday 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th February 2023 at 7.30pm.

**Saturday 13 May 2023**

### *Travel and Mobility Seminar*

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

How did our ancestors get around in previous centuries? What prompted them to move around using different methods of transport? And how did the growth of railways, shipping and canal networks impact on the shape of their lives?

**Saturday 8 July 2023**

### *Delving Deep into Family History Documents Seminar*

Venue: Whitmore Village Hall, Coneygreave Lane, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 5HX

How to ... read and interpret wills, date old photographs, read old handwriting, understand heraldry and get the most out of the information provided on birth certificates.

# Ancestors on the Road

by Ian Macdonald (6027)

In 1933 George Orwell wrote *Down and Out in Paris and London*,<sup>1</sup> a highly evocative account of his time living on the poverty line. The section in England is particularly interesting as a first-hand account of life as a tramp and of his experiences in the workhouses. You may take a cynical view of an old-Etonian sleeping rough then getting royalties from writing about it, but it is still well worth reading.

If you have a particularly elusive ancestor, it is just possible that they went on the road as a migrant farm worker, hawker or tramp and Orwell's account illuminates that life. Many workhouses had space for destitute vagrants and would give them a bed and food for a single night as they passed through - in exchange for a spot of menial labour the following day. These people are recorded in workhouse records, often with details of where they had slept the previous night and of their age and physical condition (often linked to the kind of food they would be given). Some of these records are online and happily provided a basis for this encounter.

Mary Jane McGrath was one of those vagrants. She was born in Quebec around 1842 and, at Montreal in 1866,<sup>2</sup> married a British soldier in the Royal Artillery, Christopher George Sparling. The army was not a great supporter of married couples, yet Mary Jane managed to follow Christopher first to Gibraltar, where she had a son, George, in 1868 then to Dublin (where husband Christopher had been born) where she had a daughter, Louisa, on 12 March 1871.<sup>3</sup>

We know about Louisa because Mary Jane gave birth to her in the North Dublin Union Workhouse, and we are fortunate that FindMyPast has a collection of Dublin workhouse records. Mary Jane was evidently destitute and receiving little support from her husband. She appeared at the workhouse again in 1872 and 1873. The infant Louisa died at the workhouse in 1873.<sup>4</sup>

Soon after, the army re-deployed Christopher to England as a gunner in the Coast Brigade of the Royal Artillery.

Mary Jane followed and had a second son, Albert Christopher, on 1 February 1875 and registered the event at Falmouth.<sup>5</sup> Later records give his place of birth as Penzance Castle, a place that does not exist. However, Falmouth does have Pendennis Castle on the Point, which had a barracks, and next to which there still are Coastguard facilities. Christopher was probably stationed there, and Mary Jane may have been living close by or even with him.

Christopher was then posted to Plymouth and by the 1881 census was living at the 'Long Room, Prince of Wales Redoubt', and claiming to be unmarried<sup>6</sup> - not a good sign.

After Falmouth, Mary Jane certainly seemed to be living a life apart from her husband since on 30 September 1877 at St Saviours Workhouse, Southwark (over 200 miles from Plymouth) we have:<sup>7</sup>

*"Sparling, Jane, 35, laundress; slept last night at Holborn; no money; worked at picking oakum;*

*Sparling, Albert, 2 1/2"*

Again, we are fortunate in that Ancestry has a collection of English workhouse records and Jane, as she was then always known, appears over 30 times.

Can we say she was a tramp, or was she simply destitute or sick? The pattern from the workhouse records between September 1877 and May 1879 is distinctive. She appears 15 times in 18 months only staying one night on each occasion. She was listed as a vagrant or field-worker and gave a location for her previous night's stay and where she intended to move on to. It is precisely what Orwell describes, so Mary Jane was clearly a tramp during this period.

Admission	Previous Night		Workhouse		Going on to
30 Sep 1877	Holborn	⇒	St Saviours, Southwark	⇒	Woolwich
21 Nov 1877	Woolwich	⇒	Lewisham	⇒	Croydon
27 Feb 1878	Whitechapel	⇒	Southwark, Newington	⇒	Woolwich
15 Mar 1878	London	⇒	Lewisham	⇒	Croydon
11 Apr 1878	Woolwich	⇒	Lewisham	⇒	London
15 May 1878	Woolwich	⇒	Lewisham	⇒	Croydon
8 Oct 1878	London	⇒	Lewisham	⇒	London
26 Oct 1878	London	⇒	Lewisham	⇒	Croydon
11 Nov 1878	Rorbatton	⇒	Lewisham	⇒	London
21 Nov 1878	Wandsworth	⇒	Southwark	⇒	Woolwich
27 Dec 1878	Woolwich	⇒	Lewisham	⇒	Croydon
8 Feb 1879	London	⇒	Lewisham	⇒	Croydon
20 Mar 1879	Shoe Lane	⇒	Southwark	⇒	Woolwich
28 Apr 1879	Hampstead	⇒	Southwark	⇒	Woolwich
27 May 1879	Vine Street	⇒	Southwark	⇒	Woolwich

*Mary Jane Sparling's tramping (references are similar to No. 7; not given to save space)*

The daily journeys were around seven to eight miles. All the more shocking is that Mary Jane was travelling with her children. At the start of this phase George was nine but Albert was just two and a half. They at least were spared from picking oakum or cleaning wards as their mother was required to do in the morning before being released back on to the road. They must often have slept rough when there was no convenient workhouse, though when Jane found field work there may have been the coarse comfort of a barn.

Active tramping seems to have ended in 1879 though destitution was a regular state through the remaining 30 years of her life. Husband Christopher retired from the army in 1881 and became a Chelsea Pensioner on 13 pence per day.<sup>8</sup> Somehow Jane was still in touch with him at that point and recorded the fact when entering the Greenwich workhouse in March 1882.<sup>9</sup> However, there is nothing to indicate that she received any



support from him and a month later, again at Greenwich, she was listed as destitute.<sup>10</sup>

By then her elder son, Robert, was off her hands. In the 1881 census he was listed on the Shaftesbury Training Ship at, East Ham.<sup>11</sup> The ship was an Industrial School<sup>12</sup> (a precursor to Borstals) for truant or unmanageable boys, typically ones taken for begging on the streets - something that Jane and her boys must have been doing for years. Robert then joined the army and later became a miner before dying at the Chelsea Pensioner hospital in Leatherhead in 1949.<sup>13</sup> It seems unlikely that he had much contact with his mother in her later years.

Mary Jane has not been found in the 1881 census. Thereafter there are just three workhouse records for her in 1882 and two in 1883 so she was still on the move, listed variously as destitute, farm worker and hawker. It may be though that her life was becoming more grounded. She entered the Stepney workhouse twice in 1885 both times because of illness rather than travel and in November 1885 was living at 32 Green Street with her younger son Albert in a sign of a more settled status (and of a continuing devotion as a mother).<sup>14</sup> The use of workhouses then ceased.

By the census of 1891 Mary Jane was living in a cottage at Chislehurst with Albert, then 16 and in 'book cloth manufacturing'.<sup>15</sup> By 1901 she was still in Chislehurst, but on her own (listed as a licensed hawker)<sup>16</sup> while Albert was now a police constable living at Mitcham. He joined the force in 1896 and remained in it at Coulsdon until 1921.

Husband Christopher died in 1897 at the Plymouth Workhouse (though had been living at King Street).<sup>17</sup> As a sign of his relationship with Mary Jane, in the 1891 census at Plymouth he appeared with a Sarah, listed as his wife, and three children listed as Sparling daughters (there are no marriage or birth records to sustain these claims).<sup>18</sup>

Mary Jane died, aged 68, at Albert's house in Mitcham in 1908 of chronic bronchitis.<sup>19</sup> It had not been a healthy life but certainly was an independent one. Workhouse records have provided an intriguing insight to her life in a way that would otherwise have been unknowable. Look out for family vagrants or tramps - the truth is out there.

## References

1. Orwell, George (Eric Blair). 1933. *Down and Out in Paris and London*. Reissued 2013. London, Penguin Books Ltd.
2. Marriages (PR). Canada. Montreal. Quebec. 01 Feb 1866. Sparling, Christopher and McGrath, Mary Jane. Collection: Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).
3. Births. Ireland. Dublin. 12 Mar 1871. SPARLING, Louisa. Collection: Ireland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1620-1911. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).
4. Admissions register. North Dublin Union, 12 Jul 1872. SPARLING, Mary J (SPARLING, Louisa, died 01 Jan 1873). Collection: Dublin Workhouse Admission & Discharge Registers 1840-1919. [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com).
5. Births index (CR). England. Falmouth, Cornwall. Jan-Mar 1875. SPARLING, Albert Christopher. Vol. 5c; page 185. Collection: England & Wales Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).
6. Census returns. England. East Stonehouse, Devon. 03 Apr 1881. SPARLING, Christopher. Collection: 1881 England Census. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).
7. Admissions register. England. St Saviour's Union, Southwark. 30 Sep 1877. SPARLING, Jane. Collection: London, England, Workhouse Admissions and Discharge Records, 1764-1930. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).
8. Service records (army). England. Plymouth, Devon. Aug 1818. SPARLING, Christopher. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).
9. Admissions register. England. Greenwich Union. 28 Mar 1882. SPARLING, Jane. Collection: London, England, Workhouse Admissions and Discharge Records, 1764-1930. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).
10. Admissions register. England. Greenwich Union. 20 Apr 1882. SPARLING, Jane. Collection: London, England, Workhouse Admissions and Discharge Records, 1764-1930. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).
11. Census returns. England. East Ham, Essex. 03 Apr 1881. SPARLING, Robert G. Collection: 1881 England Census. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).
12. Higgenbotham, Peter. 2021. Children's Homes; Industrial School 'Shaftesbury'. Website. <http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/TSShaftesbury/>.
13. Deaths index (CR). England. Surrey Mid-Eastern, Surrey. Jan-March 1949. SPARLING, George. Collection: England & Wales deaths 1837-2007 Transcription. [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com).
14. Admissions register. England. Tower Hamlets, Stepney. 21 Nov 1885. SPARLING, Jane. Collection: London, England, Workhouse Admissions and Discharge Records, 1764-1930. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).
15. Census returns. England. Chislehurst, Kent. 05 Apr 1891. SPARLING, Mary. Collection: 1891 England Census. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).
16. Census returns. England. Footscray, Kent. 31 Mar 1901. SPARLING, Mary. Collection: 1901 England Census. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).
17. Deaths (CR). England. Charles, Plymouth. 20 Jun 1897. SPARLING, Christopher. General Register Office, Vol. 5b, page 170.
18. Census returns. England. Plymouth, Devon. 05 Apr 1891. SPARLING, Christopher. Collection: 1891 England Census. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).
19. Deaths (CR). England. Croydon, Surrey. 02 Aug 1908. SPARLING, Mary Jane. General Register Office, Vol. 02A, page 186.

Ian is studying the surname Mewburn with variant Meaburn, and has explored Mewborn with variants Mewboorn, Mewbourne, Newbern, Newborn. Ian can be contacted at [ian.macdonald@one-name.org](mailto:ian.macdonald@one-name.org).

Ian's registered websites can be found at: [mewburn.one-name.net](http://mewburn.one-name.net) and [mewborn.one-name.net](http://mewborn.one-name.net).

# You couldn't make it up!

by Bruce Margrett (461)

Dear Reader, if you are a Family Historian, your findings from your explorations might agree with the sort of human chaos that Shakespeare set out in his Comedy of Errors. Indeed, some of the things suffered by our ancestors, might make you want to laugh or cry. Perhaps the following might make you smile rather than cry.

Imagine a man of 33 years, tall, of slightly military bearing, and just about to get married. Some would say "late in life" but in the end you are at the mercy of fate in matters of the heart.

It is 1930, on a fine wedding afternoon and everything has been arranged; the caravan hired in Haywards Heath, some 15 miles away, parked nearby to the reception, ready for the "off" on honeymoon. And the photos go well outside the church with the bride's brother as Best Man. But it's a Monday. Who gets married on a Monday? And where are the groom's parents? It's all mysterious.



It's a Monday because the best man runs a butchers shop, and you can't close a butchers shop on a Saturday. It's a Monday because it perhaps allowed the groom to visit his mother and father on his motorbike over the weekend, but not to tell them he was getting married. Why didn't he invite them? His mother is a forceful character, feigning 'heart attacks' when not getting her way. It was she who sent him off to war, or at least family folklore says that his mother paid the £50 to get him through Sandhurst, so that, if killed, she would get the Army gratuity. After four years, he survived the trenches, but ending with what is described in his Army file as 'shell-shock' in 1918. As a consequence it is now 1930 after 12 years of rehabilitation and employment.

It was because of his employment that he met the bride - and his motor bike, of course. He was one of the Barclays weekend bikers, and his best friend, Jack Pratt had a girlfriend, who knew the bride. The weekend picnics then had a new member on the back of his Matchless. Perhaps in 1929, unlikely the year before, he drove up to Devils Dyke, with this young lady on the back, and, as they sat admiring the view, expressed his inability to live without her.

These are familiar words of many who are in love, but producing his revolver from his Army service time, might be considered as "over the top". This young lady was not overcome by threats of suicide and the outcome was an engagement, with a demand from the authorities for her to journey down to Southampton. This journey was to meet the doctors of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley where his rehabilitation had been monitored. Suitably briefed, and self-confident of their love, the engagement held without the approval of his mother.

So, here we are, on this unusual Monday, with the small gathering, who had craftily written in lipstick on the back of the hired caravan, "JUST MARRIED". The happy couple drove as far as daylight allowed, stopping in a quarry near Portsmouth, and waking, found themselves surrounded by amused workmen.

On went the honeymooners, pitching the caravan in a field near Torquay, in pleasant summer weather. They relaxed after all the arrangements had paid off. They were married. At some stage the groom goes into the central post office to collect letters sent on by their landlady. Such "*post restante*" letters awaited collection. Back at the caravan with perfect Hollywood black skies and lightning, the groom blurts out that his mother has followed them and demands he attends her hotel. Did he go? How was the confrontation? Dear Reader, that story was never finished and the writer was not there to see it.

The marriage was a *fait accompli* and the production of a daughter, a grand child for his parents, must have helped. At some stage the bride discovered that his mother was getting his monthly disability pension from the Army. More upset as that was stopped.

Life carried on with work demands sending the new father to a different branch of the bank. We've come so far in life that the world must settle down? No. Just before war broke out in 1939, came the offer of a Managership. Many employees would have been flattered to have a bank branch of their own to manage and order and to become a significant person in the local society. But Shanklin somehow did not appeal. Too near the French coast and trenches?

Instead, little Dyke Road branch where the rain sometimes seeped in through the paving stones into the underground strongroom was plenty to manage as Chief Clerk. And Head Office helped by issuing a sealed package (not to be opened without further instructions) as rumours of the invasion surfaced. This was followed by a strong chastisement that anyone who had opened it was to reseal it and return it to the Bond Safe immediately. The sealed orders were to commandeer a charabanc (motor coach), load all the money





The New Forest, 1930

and book keeping ledgers into it and drive to Wales. Where in Wales? Anywhere, just Wales.

As the war progressed, the ex-army man joined the home guard, and true to form, dug a trench in the back garden, standing guard at night.

Dear Reader, you might find this account difficult to believe, but it is all true, recording a loving father and mother who celebrated their Golden Wedding in September 1980. By then, 60 or 70 years of smoking had caused their damage and this brave soldier resisted the surgeons attempt to remove his legs and he faced death calmly, but anxious as to whether he might have to meet his mother.

Bruce is studying the surname Margrett with the variant Margretts and can be contacted at [bruce.margrett@one-name.org](mailto:bruce.margrett@one-name.org). Bruce's registered website can be found at [sites.google.com/site/margrettancestry](https://sites.google.com/site/margrettancestry).

## ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM CRACKER

For the sake of our newer members, here's an updated guide to some of the initials you may find in genealogy articles. My thanks to Graham Careford for some useful suggestions. I've also added some DNA terms but perhaps you can suggest others that should be here?

atDNA	Autosomal DNA - the 22 pairs of non-sex chromosomes inherited from your parents	MRCA	Most Recent Common Ancestor
BMD	Births, Marriages and Deaths	MWP	Members Website Program
CMS	Content Management System	NARA	National Archives and Records Administration (U.S.)
CRO	County Record Office (possibly UK only?)	NPE	Non-Paternal Event / Not Parent Expected in DNA results
EP	Ecclesiastical Parish	OCR	Optical Character Recognition - used by some transcription websites
FB	Facebook	ONS	One-Name Study
FGS	Federation of Genealogical Societies	OPAC	Online Public Access Catalogue
FHS	Family History Society	OPR	Online Parish Register
FMP	FindMyPast	PID	Personal ID (from FamilySearch)
FONS	Family Origins Names Survey	PR	Parish Register
FS	FamilySearch	RD	Registration District
FSFT	FamilySearch Family Tree	RM	Rootsmagic (genealogy software)
FTM	Family Tree Maker (genealogy software)	RO	Registration Office
FTDNA	FamilyTree DNA	RR	Regional Representative
GEDCOM	Genealogical Data Communication - a specification for exchanging genealogical data between different genealogy software	SOG	Society of Genealogists
GENUKI	Genealogical Data for UK and Ireland	TMG	The Master Genealogist (genealogy software)
GMI	Guild Marriage Index	TNA	The National Archives (often used for the one in London but could be elsewhere in the world)
GOONS	Guild of One-Name Studies	TNG	The Next Generation (genealogy software used on many MWP websites)
GRO	General Register Office of England & Wales	UKBMD	UK Births, Marriages and Deaths
IGI	International Genealogical Index	UKGDL	UK Genealogical Directories and Lists on the internet
ISOGG	International Society of Genetic Genealogy	UKMFH	UK Military Family Histories on the internet
JOONS	Journal of One-Name Studies	WARP	Warning, Advice and Reporting Point (for computer viruses etc.)
LNAB	Last Name at Birth	WDYTYA	Who Do You Think You Are (TV series)
MCG	Master Craftsman of the Guild	WP	WordPress (website software)
mDNA/ mtDNA	Maternally inherited DNA	YDNA	DNA that is passed down the male line, as are surnames
MDKA	Most Distant Known Ancestor		

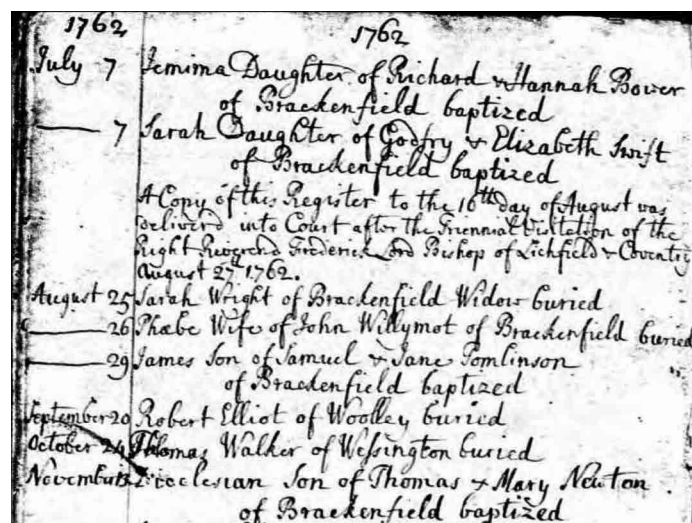
# A One-Name History of the Name Diocletian

by Peter Patilla (8267)

This is a one-name study of the forename Diocletian in Derbyshire. The name Diocletian and its many variant spellings, usually Diocleson, occur in the Patilla family history record from 1762.

Diocletian was the Roman Emperor from 284 to 305. Why would a simple working-class family of the mid 1700s choose that name? How had they heard of it?

Denarii coins showing Diocetian's head were found in the Crich locality in 1778 - this would no doubt have created local interest. However, this date was later than the naming of "Dioclesian" Newton in 1762.



1762 baptism entry for Dioclesian Newton

Thomas Newton and his wife Mary Hay had a liking for historical and biblical names, one of Dioclesian's brothers was named Abednigo.

Since 1762 fourteen Derbyshire men named Diocletian (or its variant) have been identified and all of them are related.

1. Dioclesian Newton 1762-1801
2. Diocleson Milnes 1804-1882
3. Diocleson Saunders 1835-1899
4. Diocleson Patilla 1848-1908
5. Diocleson Saunders 1867-1886
6. Diocleson Nuttall 1889-1890
7. Diocleson Bryan 1896-1963
8. Diocleson Saunders 1889-1975
9. Diocleson Saunders 1886-1886
10. Diocleson Haynes 1905-1906
11. Diocleson Saunders 1903-1980

12. Diocleson Patilla 1910-1944

13. Diocleson Saunders 1910-1979

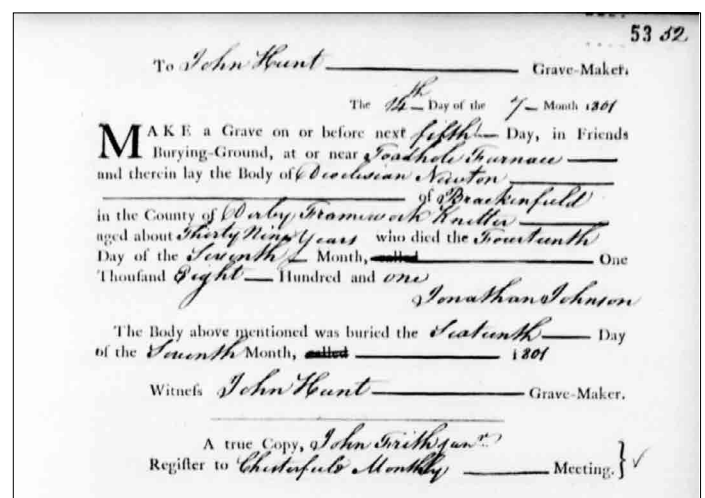
14. Diocleson Saunders 1935-1935

## Dioclesian Newton 1762-1801

He seemed to have been the originator of the name. He married as a Quaker at the Toadhall Furnace Meeting House, near Oakerthorpe, Derbyshire and was buried there in 1801.



Toadhall Meeting House and burial ground in 1980



1801 burial entry for Dioclesian Newton

It was Diocletian's sister Phoebe Newton (1770-1860) and her descendants who were responsible for the continuation of the name. Phoebe married George Milnes (c.1766-1829) and they named a son Diocleson.

## Diocleson Milnes 1804-1882

Although he married three times and had a family with two of them none of his sons were named after him. Interestingly only one of the fourteen Dioclesons named a son after themselves. It seems as if they were not too enamoured with the name.

It was left to his sister Elizabeth Milnes (1800-1880) to continue the name. She married William Saunders (1799-1820), had twelve children naming one Diocleson.

He married Ann Brown (1838-1922), had fourteen children none of whom was named after him. It was left to two siblings Elizabeth Saunders (1821-1861) and John Saunders (1826-1909) to ensure the name was carried on.

Elizabeth Saunders had married William Patilla (1813-1893) and they had six children naming one Diocleson. Diocleson Patilla served twenty-one years in the Royal Marines where he was only known as "Dyer Tiller". His service included taking part in the Anglo-Egyptian War where he earned the Egypt medal and the Khedive's Star, a campaign medal established by Khedive Tewfik Pasha to reward those who had participated in the military campaigns in Egypt and the Sudan between 1882 and 1891. His service record gives a mixed picture as to his conduct, serving five periods in the cells. Nevertheless he was awarded four good conduct badges.

*Derbyshire Times*: 29 August 1908.

... Some little question arose as to the deceased's name. His wife, Betsy Ann Patilla, who gave evidence of identification, submitted his name as Diocletion Patilla. It was pointed out, however, that the deceased, who was 58 years of age, had served in the Royal Marines, and his pension papers bore the name "Dyer Tiller". This, his wife pointed out, was merely a corruption of his right name, and that he had been called that in the service "for short"...

John Saunders (1826-1909) had married Mary Silkstone (1829-1911) and they had ten children naming one Diocletian. He was tragically killed at Brackenfield, aged nineteen, by a freak shot-gun accident on 15 September 1886. The accident and subsequent inquest was reported in the press.

On Wednesday afternoon a young man named Diocletian Saunders was shot dead at Wessington. The deceased lived with his parents in Elaine near the Lindway Reservoir. About four o'clock he left the house with a gun, it is sold for the purpose of shooting small birds or game. About five o'clock several neighbours heard the report of a gun, followed by cries. They shortly afterwards found the deceased lying on the ground. He asked for some water. But before it could be procured death supervened. It is evident that the deceased walked about a hundred yards after the gun was fired. The charge entered the body under one of the arms. Everything points to the supposition that the deceased carried the gun close to his side, and that as he was getting over a low hedge a twig caught the trigger. The matter was reported to Mr Busby, the Coroner for the Hundred of Scarsdale, but he has declined to hold an inquest on the ground that the body was removed outside his district. An inquest was therefore held on Saturday, by Mr Whiston, when a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

11





John Saunders (1826-1909) and Mary Silkstone (1829-1911) had three of their other children, Mary Ann, Elizabeth and John, produce offspring named Diocleson.

### Diocleson Thomas BRYAN 1896-1963

Elizabeth Saunders (1861-1947) married Thomas Bryan (1861-1940) and had a son called Diocleson Thomas Bryan. He never married and it seems was not over enamoured with his Diocleson name. When he enlisted into Lincolnshire Regiment during WWI it was under his middle name of Thomas.

### Diocleson Saunders 1889-1975

Elizabeth's brother John Saunders (1864-1947) married Sarah Nuttall (1867-1915). They named one of their two sons Diocleson. He married Ethel Maud Keeling (1892-1925).

It seems that, as with other Dioclesons, he was not fond of the name. When he emigrated to New Zealand to be with his son and his family he was known as "Dave". He died and was buried in New Zealand.

### Diocleson Patilla 1910-1944

William Patilla (1840-1903) was the brother of Diocleson Patilla (1848-1908). William married Mary Fletcher (1850-1909) and had thirteen children, one of whom, George Patilla (1871-1959) married Mary Ellen Elliott (1873-1936) and named one of their ten children Diocleson.

Diocleson Patilla married Margaret Amy Hunt (1909-1992) and died during WWII. He is remembered on the Tel El Kebir War Memorial Cemetery.

### Diocleson Saunders 1910-1979

Diocleson was the illegitimate son of Mabel May Saunders (1892-1969) and was named after her brother Diocleson Saunders (1886-1886). He married Kathleen Allen (1913-2002) and was unique in that he was the only Diocleson to give a son the same name - Diocleson R. Saunders (1935-1935).

Four Diocleson children died in infancy:

1. Diocleson Nuttall (1889-1890)
2. Diocleson Saunders (1886-1886)

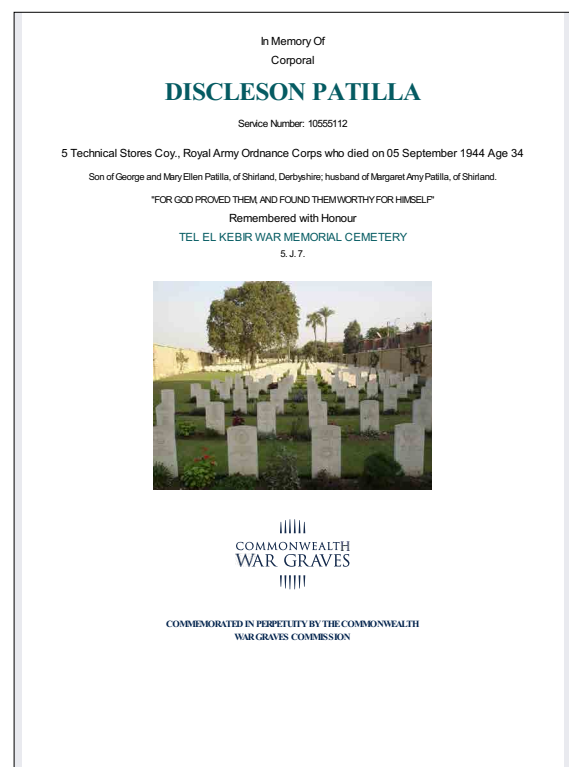
3. Diocleson Haynes (1905-1906)

4. Diocleson Saunders (1935-1935)

It seems strange that in 1762 a framework knitter from Brackenfield was responsible for fourteen Derbyshire men to be blessed with the name of a Roman Emperor whose main claim to fame was that he became the first Roman emperor to abdicate the position voluntarily. However, the recipients of this unusual name did not seem best pleased with it.

The Diocleson name is not widespread. It occurs in the 1840s and 1850s in the Dorset area and there are a few examples in American family histories.

Peter is studying the surname Lynam and can be contacted at [peter.patilla@one-name.org](mailto:peter.patilla@one-name.org). Peter's registered website can be found at [lynam.one-name.net](http://lynam.one-name.net).



# Welcome to a New Day

*by Marie Byatt (Indexes Administrator, 5318)*

Back in 1979, I was giving birth to my oldest daughter and getting my first home computer (TRS-80) so she would grow up familiar with them. Unbeknownst to me a group of forward-thinking individuals were laying the groundwork for the Guild of One-Name Studies. Their vision included registering one study per surname that would undertake the collection of all the information about that name worldwide and the organization would help these registrants with education about methods, location of records and a host of other things as well as providing a social platform to meet with others doing the same thing. Collecting and locating records was difficult, and the worldwide aspect for some of the larger names was a dream for some of the larger names.

Fast forward 40+ years and one pandemic. The entire world is connected or affected by the internet. People can instantaneously have face-to face meetings with others in every latitude and longitude. The possibility of collaborating equally with others to achieve a worldwide study is now feasible even for the largest names. School children discuss how many Gigabytes of memory they need to do something on their phones the same way they discuss cafeteria options. My daughter's pocket computing device ( phone) handles her social calendar, bill payments , casual recreation, health status and provides instant searching of millions of data bases to answer casual questions or highly technical ones.

And on July 11, the Trustees of the Guild voted to set up a new variety of membership and a new category of study recognizing that the new possibilities of collaboration and data access have made it possible for teams to share in doing global studies of surnames - especially very large ones like Smith or Garcia.

This means we will now have two varieties of Membership - the Individual members we have historically had and the new Associate Society members that can now join.

We also now have two ways to register a study - the historic Registrant Study method and a new Cooperative Study method.

And there will be three roles for members participating in a study - as a Registrant ( which remains the same ), as a Study Associate ( who help the people that register a study but have no other commitment) and as a Partner (one of the individuals taking responsibility for a Cooperative Study).

Let's first look at the Cooperative Study. This is designed for two or more members (Partners) to do a study together and share the workload as they see fit.

The Study will be entitled to exactly the same rights, responsibilities and benefits as any other study. However, all Partners will make the commitment to answering contacts and ensuring the Global aspects of the study.

It is expected that the team will handle their own organizational issues in such a manner that the high standards of the Guild are achieved by the study.

Should one Partner cease to function, it is expected that the remaining partners will make provisions to get that partner's work done.

If the team wishes, new Partners can be added on the same terms as the original. The team may also enlist Study Associates (including Associate Societies) should they wish to.

A name registered as a Cooperative Study does not lose its registration until the last Partner leaves.

What is an Associate Society? This category of membership is designed specifically for societies that are focused on specific surnames. They will receive a Journal and one sign-in for the website and they can do a personal Blog and serve as a Study Associate. What they can not do vote, register a Study or become an officer or postholder.

As I write this, July 12, these new categories are not yet codified for the website. You will have to wait for the announcement of when they are ready. However, if you would like to be a Guinea Pig as we develop all the links and permissions, contact either the Chairman or Vice- Chairman and we will talk with you.

Remember - no one has to use these new categories. Everyone can stay just as they presently are. But if you think changing to a Cooperative Study or bringing in your favorite society to be a Study Associate might be a way you wish to go, try it. You can always change back.

And if you are feeling overwhelmed by your study because of age or other reasons, then maybe the Cooperative Study would work for you, bringing on board a couple Partners that you can familiarize with all the aspects of your study and what still needs doing.

All the decisions regarding studies are in the hands of those that are doing them. As Trustees, we are just providing options that may help you.

Marie is studying the surnames Byatt with variants Biart, Biatt, Byart, Byott, the surnames Pepler with variants Beppler, Peplar, Peplo, Peploe, Peplow, Peppler, the surnames Scroop with variants Scroope, Scrope and can be contacted at [marie.byatt@one-name.org](mailto:marie.byatt@one-name.org). Marie's Members' website project websites can be found at: [byatt.one-name.net](http://byatt.one-name.net), [pepler.one-name.net](http://pepler.one-name.net) and [scroop.one-name.net](http://scroop.one-name.net).

# James A. Gotts RN and HMS Electra

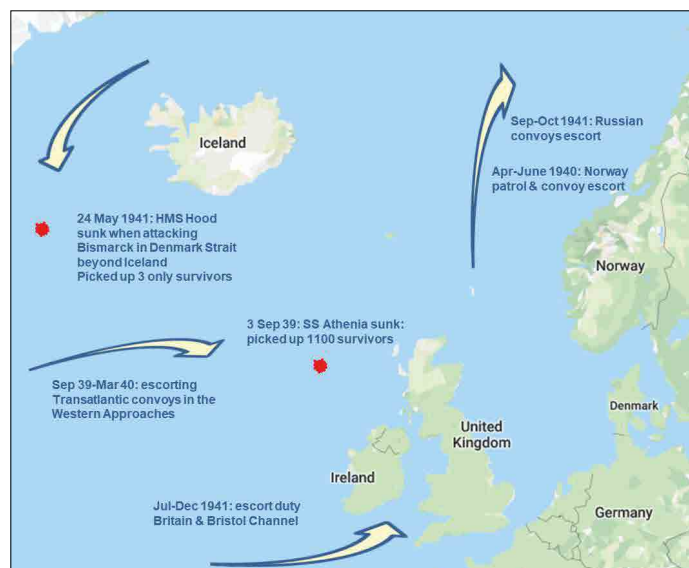
by Ian Gotts (1398)

James Atkinson Gotts was born in 1917, and is my father's cousin, both named after their uncle who died in WWI. Raised in Seaton Delaval, Northumberland, he started playing football for local teams, including Ashington. He was signed up by Brentford, closer to London, before he was called up in December 1940.



James A. Gotts RN © Alan Gotts

In June 1941 Jim joined HMS Electra, an E class destroyer. Reading the history of HMS Electra is like a tour of WWII naval battles! It picked up the survivors from the first passenger ship to be sunk by a submarine, SS Athenia. Thankfully the U-boat captain allowed the passengers and crew to get into the lifeboats before he torpedoed it, though they may have been overcrowded.

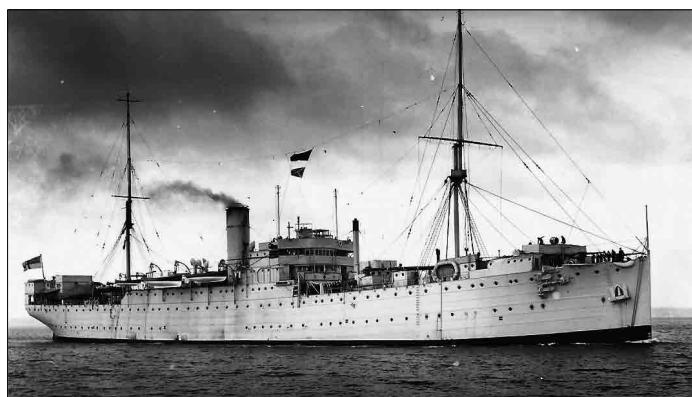


HMS Electra in North Sea

Then Electra was defending convoys in the North Atlantic until March 1940, when it switched to attacking the German Navy using the Norway coastline.

In May 1941 it was part of the taskforce chasing SS Bismarck in the North Sea. When the Bismarck sank HMS Hood, Electra was there to pick up the 5 survivors.

Jim joined it in June 1941, and on 12 August 1941, HMS Electra sailed from Liverpool with two anti-submarine trawlers to escort six merchant ships which included 48 Hurricane planes and their crew to defend Murmansk and Archangel. Jim must have joined HMS Electra before 12 August 1941 when it left on the first Russian convoy. He told his son Alan: 'The sea conditions were so awful that I was pretty much permanently sea sick'.



HMS Cyclops © RJ Mundy

His service record shows Jim on board HMS Cyclops, a submarine depot ship for 7 Submarine Flotilla based in Rothesay on the Isle of Bute, Scotland, from 5 November 1940 to 23 October 1941. Jim spent some of this time training in antisubmarine warfare exercises in the Clyde estuary where HMS Cyclops was the target for convoy attack training in June 1941. (This website, despite its name, contains many records of ships with history built from Admiralty ADM records in The National Archives.)



HMS Electra © IWM



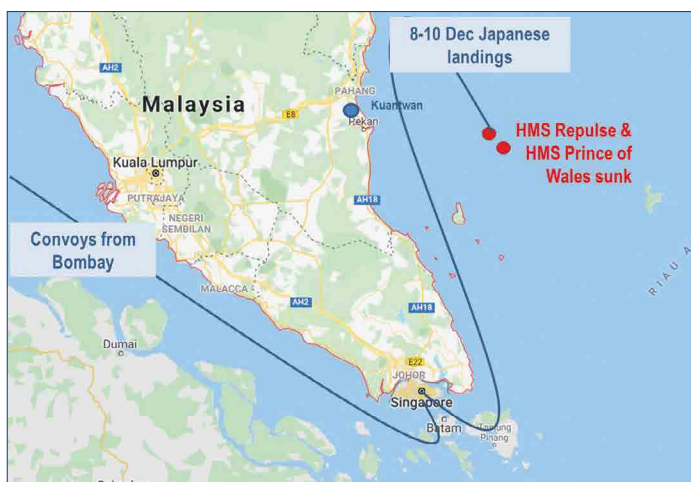
They went to Scapa Flow in Orkney, then Iceland, followed by a wide sweep into the Atlantic to avoid German warships at Narvik. They unloaded at Archangel 31 August as Murmansk was within fighter distance of German planes at Narvik. As it was the first convoy, the Germans did not know about it, and it was uneventful, unlike subsequent ones. Whilst it would be cold, it may not have caused the ships to ice up in the way later convoys would through the winter.

In 1987 Russia issued medals to those who had taken part in supporting them with convoys. This is Jim Gott's medal and the presentation card. The text is: "Forty years of victory in the great war of the fatherland 1941-45".



### Far East service

HMS Electra left Greenock with the battleship HMS Prince of Wales and destroyer HMS Express on 25 October 1941 and reached Singapore on 2 December together with the battlecruiser HMS Repulse who joined them in the Indian Ocean. They had little time for any repairs before they were attacked on 8 December by Japanese planes. Later that month they heard that Pearl Harbour had been attacked and Force Z set sail including HMS Prince of Wales, Repulse, Electra, Express and two other destroyers. They were to investigate Japanese landings in eastern Malaya and protect against the Japanese fleet.



On 9 January they had been spotted by the Japanese who attacked at dawn on 10 Jan. Both HMS Repulse and HMS Prince of Wales were sunk by air-launched torpedoes off Kuantan, while HMS Electra was between them. They picked up 500 survivors from Repulse before heading back to Singapore. Several of the wounded would later become prisoners of war when Singapore fell.



This is HMS Prince of Wales sinking with scrambling nets and lines, probably to HMS Express who came alongside to starboard to take off men. HMS Repulse © IWM

This was a huge blow to lose the Royal Navy's two biggest warships.

### Escort duty from Bombay

For several weeks HMS Electra escorted convoys to and from Bombay, bringing troops and their equipment. On 13 February, recognising that Singapore would fall, HMS Electra escorted several merchant ships to Tanjong Priok harbour at Jakarta, then known as Batavia. On 25 February the naval ships moved to Surabaya, further down the north coast of Java, and joined the Dutch Eastern Strike Force, arriving early on 26 February.

### The Battle for Java Sea

That same evening of 26 February the force set off to attack a Japanese force North of Bawaen Island, 150 km north of Surabaya. They did not know it at the time, but this was the invasion force attacking Java, with 40 transport ships with soldiers, and escorted by battleships, and aircraft carriers.



The fleet was led by Rear Admiral Karel Doorman on board HrMs De Ruyter. The allies could not even communicate easily amongst themselves, with 2 languages, 3 sets of procedures, different flag systems and radio systems. This article describes the problems in more detail.

### Allied forces

HrMs De Ruyter - heavy cruiser  
HrMs Java - heavy cruiser  
HMS Exeter - heavy cruiser  
USS Houston - heavy cruiser  
HMS Danae - light cruiser

HMS Dragon - light cruiser  
 HMS Durban - light cruiser  
 HMAS Perth - light cruiser  
 HMAS Hobart - light cruiser  
 USS Marblehead - light cruiser  
 10 destroyers  
 Brewster Buffalo fighter (antiquated) airplanes

Attacking the East side of Java were 2 heavy cruisers 1 light cruiser 8 destroyers and 41 transports.

To the West of Java were 4 heavy cruisers, 2 light cruisers, 1 light aircraft carrier, 56 transports, Zero torpedo bombers invading from the West.

After spending the night of 26 February and 27 February searching for the Japanese fleet they eventually engaged with them at 1400 hours (2pm) near Bawean Island. In the battle, the heavy cruiser HMS Exeter was bombed and their power reduced significantly, so they withdrew. During the day and night four ships were sunk: 2 Dutch ships and HMS Electra and Jupiter who put themselves in harm's way in order to allow HMS Exeter to withdraw to safety. A hospital ship Op ten Noord was sent out to search for survivors, but was itself captured by the Japanese.

HMS Exeter and Encounter were sunk at 10am the next day trying to escape on a course to the north of Bawean Island and the Sunda Strait, but ran into the Japanese fleet. Many other allied ships tried to fight their way out through the Sunda Strait to the north of Java, but met the Japanese forces, were sunk by them, and the men then had to endure 3 years as prisoners of war.

This naval battle is considered to be one of the biggest since the Battle of Jutland on WWI.

### After the sinking

HMS Electra sank about 1800 hours on 27 February. Yet the battle continued through to midnight. There must have been many sailors in the water from all the ships, even though many had been rescued by other warships.

Jim and the 54 crew of HMS Electra were still alive, though they spent 9 hours in the water in Carley floats. Jim recalled to his son Alan: 'The event was horrendous and when the ship was abandoned, we were in an over-manned Carley Float having to swap places with those hanging onto the side until rescued.'

### The Carley Float

The Carley Float was the standard issue lifecraft.

They were made in 3 sizes which fitted inside each other and had rations strapped inside. The image opposite shows them on the wall on HMS Rodney. They had a copper tube for a watertight frame, covered in cork or kapok to help it float with a waterproof covering and wooden straps or webbing for the floor. They needed little maintenance yet could be thrown into the water quickly.



HMS Rodney with Carley floats on wall  
 © IWM

After nine hours in the sea, at 0315 28 February 54 survivors were picked up by the US submarine S 38. Jim went to sleep in the cramped submarine, on the basis that "If I am going to die at least it will be in my sleep!" The sailors were transferred to a surface vessel, then to Surabaya. They were able to embark for Australia and safety before the fall of Java.



US S 38 © uboat.net

The Allied forces collected in Surabaya were outfought by the Japanese with their superior air power, modern ships with well-trained men and reliable long-range torpedoes from both the air and from ships. As happened in the defence of Singapore the Allies had failed to recognise that Japan's previous 10 years of fighting in Korea and China had allowed them to create good weapons and experienced and highly motivated men.

### After the battle of the Java Sea

Jim's mother never believed he was dead and said she had dream in which he said he was OK. Until Alan Gotts got Jim's service record we knew nothing more, other than he returned to England safely. There is a reference in the additional notes from the RN Disclosure Cell to HMAS Leeuwin, a naval base at Fremantle near Perth, Australia. This must be where Jim and the rest of the survivors were taken, staying from early March 1942 to June. There is another reference to a Norwegian liner SS Bergensfjord (used as a troop ship), presumably returning them to Britain about 30 June 1942.

From 30 June 1942 Jim worked at Rosyth naval base, just North of Edinburgh in Scotland, at least for some of the time. We only have the entries in the 'Pay and Victuals Register' rather than the exact locations where he was based. This continued through June 1943.

Rosyth was a dockyard with a number of buildings and repair and support facilities, along with several dry docks and yards. HMS Cochrane is the naval name for the dockyard.





Rosyth Dockyard © Navalhistoryarchive.org

22 February 1944 Jim is listed as Acting Petty Officer In Charge of the Dock School.

The dock needed to train new sailors or dock workers in the work they would be doing for the maintenance and resupply of the ships. These would arrive both to refuel and to undertake any necessary repair work after battle or the effects of sailing in physically hostile environments. At least he would not be getting seasick working here.

Thanks to Jim's son Alan Gotts for his help on piecing together Jim's career and some of the images.

## References and Notes

1. Jim's football career is listed on Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim\\_Gotts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Gotts) however contacting the club historians I found out more useful information.

It is worth noting that the service record for the navy focuses on who seamen reported to for Pay and Victuals (rations), but detailed activity is in the ship's records if they survive. It is worth using the RN Disclosure Cell as they can interpret the extra sources they know of.

Useful articles and sources for naval ships and sea warfare:

2. Warfare History Network: <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/2016/12/28/famous-navy-ships-the-hms-electra/>
3. Naval-history.net: <https://www.naval-history.net/index.htm>
4. uboat.net: <https://uboat.net/> contains many records of ships with history built from Admiralty ADM records in The National Archives.
5. Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Electra\\_\(H27\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Electra_(H27)) has a history of HMS Electra.
6. Warfare History Network: <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/2020/03/20/battle-of-the-java-sea-desperate-delaying-action/>.

Ian is studying the surname Gotts with the variant Gottes and can be contacted at [ian.gotts@one-name.org](mailto:ian.gotts@one-name.org).

Ian's registered website can be found at [gotts.one-name.net](http://gotts.one-name.net) and his DNA project website at [www.familytreedna.com/groups/gotts](http://www.familytreedna.com/groups/gotts).

**Introducing**  
the database &  
mapping application  
designed exclusively for:

**One-name studies**  
**Local history studies**  
**Family & house history**



**Free**  
two-week  
trial

**name&place**

[www.nameandplace.com](http://www.nameandplace.com)

## Instructions for Contributors

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

Please send your submissions to the editor at:

[editor@one-name.org](mailto: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.



# Dukes, Squires and Yeomen

## Class interaction through several generations in a Nottinghamshire village

by Steve Tanner (4001)

My ONS of Hemsall has found that my ancestors were simple country folk – yeoman, husbandmen or “ag labs”, with a few artisans – cordwainers, wheelwrights, coopers and carpenters. It is a common assumption that such people had little interaction with the classes above them, other than to work for them, make way for them in church, or doff their caps to them as their carriages passed. A mere yeoman, I had assumed, would not have much to do with a Duke, for example, other than in a purely subordinate role, such as a tenant or servant. He might need a favour from an aristocrat, but rarely the other way round.

However, my research has revealed a more complex picture. Contrary to the received wisdom, there were times when a yeoman could do a favour for a Duke.

During most of the period 1600 to 1900, the heaviest concentration of my Hemsalls was in Nottinghamshire, in and around the village of East Markham. The largest landowners in the area were the Dukes of Newcastle<sup>1</sup> (surname Pelham-Clinton-Holles). If we refer to the social classification used by the government’s statistician Gregory King (made in 1688)<sup>2</sup> they were among the topmost class – the landowning elite, consisting of 160 noble families, with an average household of 40 and annual income of £2800. The wealthiest – the Dukes of Newcastle were among these – were worth ten times this, with well over 100 servants. They did not actually live in my study village of East Markham, though owning land there. They actually lived at Clumber Park, a few miles west in the remnants of Sherwood Forest, in the area still known as “The Dukeries” because so many titled families had their seats there.

(For Gregory King’s full classification see the table at the end of this article).

Lower down the social scale, the most powerful family actually living in East Markham during this period were the Kirke family. Originally lawyers, they started buying land in the village from the 1680s and gradually became, in effect, the “squires” by the 1750s, living in a mansion called Mirfield Hall. They were big fish in East Markham, though mere minnows compared with the Dukes of Newcastle. They did however have fairly frequent dealings with the Dukes, through legal work and land purchases, and naturally were keen to keep on the right side of them.

The Kirkes first enter the lives of my Hemsalls through their legal work. They arranged land purchases and wrote wills for several Hemsalls. John Kirke left £1500, according to his inventory of 1711. According to Gregory King’s classification, the Kirkes in 1688 were among the 10,000 “persons in the law” whose average income he estimated at £140. However, by judicious land purchases, the Kirkes rose during the 18<sup>th</sup> century to a higher class – the “Esquires” who numbered 30,000, with incomes averaging £450.<sup>3</sup>

Fortunately for my ONS, the Kirkes kept detailed accounts of their legal work, which are preserved in the Nottingham University Special Collections. I learned, for example, that John Kirke arranged a £100 mortgage in 1750 for my 4 x great grandfather John Hemsall. John was one of 140,000 lesser freeholders, or yeomen, whose average income was £50. (He was not what King called a “farmer”, as that term referred to a leaseholder, although some such men might earn as much or more than some of the poorer freeholders.).

John Hemsall’s mortgage deed was accompanied by a detailed list of the named open field strips which he owned. One of these was situated adjoining a field belonging to the Duke of Newcastle. Here Kirke, with meticulous lawyer’s precision, inserts the revealing caveat:

*“The hedge belongeth to the Duke of Newcastle, and is hereby specifically excepted”<sup>4</sup>*



Thomas Pelham-Clinton-Holles, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyne (1693-1768)

This conjures up an incongruous image of my ancestor or his children perhaps trespassing on the Duke’s hedge, whether in search of firewood, hazel rods or blackberries, and being confronted by an irate Duke on horseback, yelling: “I say there, Hemsall, lay orf my hedge!” But this would have been a most unlikely scenario. It is doubtful that George was personally known to Thomas Pelham-Clinton-Holles, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyne (1693-1768) – (pictured above). He was the most powerful man in England, arguably more powerful than the King. As Secretary of State, he made the partnership with William Pitt (the elder) which led Britain to victory in the Seven Years War, and the conquest of America and India. His nephew General Clinton was less successful as a commander of the British Army in the American war of independence.

With all these concerns, it is doubtful that the Duke worried about goings-on in East Markham, least of all the hedge adjoining this piece of his property. But John Kirke, who was

a big fish in East Markham, but a mere minnow to the Duke, would have done business with the Duke or his agents, so would have wanted to make a good impression, by inserting the clause about the hedge, thereby protecting the Duke's interests - however unnecessarily.

Two years later, John Hemsall died aged just 33, leaving a will written by John Kirke, and to pay his debts his widow had to sell up his 20 or so acres - to the same lawyer, John Kirke, the largest creditor, who paid £290.<sup>5</sup> This was probably a fair price - Kirke was not, it seems, taking advantage of the widow, vulture-like. John Hemsall's male line survived through his baby son, though he lost his yeoman status and became a carpenter.

Meanwhile, in the same village of East Markham, there lived another branch of the Hemsall family - headed by another yeoman, cousin of the one discussed above. We shall call him Thomas Hemsall (I) to distinguish him from three eponymous direct descendants who came after him. I discovered one interesting fact about Thomas (I) (1676-1734): he was sufficiently literate to write a will for another villager in 1729.<sup>6</sup> It was not as polished as a lawyer-composed will, with some errors: he wrote "personable estate" instead of personal estate, "testymnt" for testament, but reasonably competently written, apart from the lines wandering at an angle across the page. It seems that he had received some decent schooling, and sent his son (Thomas II) to school for long enough for him to be considered competent to teach others.

### The West Markham Hemsalls - fingers in many pies

Thomas II (1708-63) owned a few acres in East Markham. However, his will of 1762, proved 1763, describes him as a schoolmaster in the neighbouring village of West Markham. Archbishop Drummond's Parish Visitation Returns for 1764 stated that:

*"There is a publick school to teach children of the parish to read and write. The schoolmaster is put in and paid by William Kirke esq. The master takes care to instruct them in the principles of the Christian religion and brings them duly to church. His name is Thomas Hemsall."*

This must have been Thomas's son, Thomas III, as Thomas II had died the previous year, 1763, and his son had taken over the post. William Kirke was the son of John Kirke already mentioned. The salary, £8 per year, was paid out of the interest on a charitable sum of £200 left by a Richard Miller about 1721, administered by the Kirke family. The interest rates provided by government stock remained remarkably stable throughout the 18th century at around 4%. This would have given the £8 needed to pay the schoolmaster's salary, whereas with today's (2022) interest rates, £200 would produce just 20p!

This post seems to have become, in effect, hereditary. A report by the Charity Commissioners in 1828 states that Thomas Hemsall (III) continued to receive his £8 salary until his death in 1823. Yet in his will he describes himself as a "cordwainer" i.e. shoemaker. Indeed, he had been apprenticed to a cordwainer in 1750, so would have qualified as an independent cordwainer about seven years later, i.e. 1757. He may have let out his few acres, or perhaps farmed himself in addition to shoemaking and teaching schoolchildren. His son (Thomas IV, 1776-1849) in his answers to the commissioners' enquiries,

stated that on his father's death, the vicar had appointed him (Thomas IV) to these offices:

*"He also states that he occupies a small farm, and that he has never taught the children himself, but that they were taught by his mother until her death, which took place about four years ago, and that his younger brother John, who resides in his house and is boarded by him, now instructs in reading and writing, and the Church catechism, as many children of poor persons of this parish as are sent to him for that purpose, the average number of children thus taught free of expense being about 15. This mode of performing the duties of schoolmaster by deputy does not appear to be correct."*<sup>8</sup>



A village school in the nineteenth century

Clearly, the charity commissioners had misgivings about the Hemsall family's unorthodox sharing out of the teaching among family members, but nevertheless John Hemsall continued to perform his duties as schoolmaster till his death in 1858. So the three generations of Hemsalls, aided by their wives, had taught the children of West Markham for over a century. This arrangement seems to have been given the nod by the Kirke family, who administered the charity - and there is a very strong hint of the reason why this was so in another document, from a surprising source - The House of Lords. Before continuing, it is necessary to give a little background to what happened, and how Thomas Hemsall IV of West Markham came to play a small but very revealing part in parliamentary history.

### Bribery and corruption in the "rotten borough"

In 1832, years of political turmoil came to a head with the Great Reform Bill. This represented a victory for the rising industrial magnates and middle classes, who challenged the centuries-old monopoly of power of the landed aristocracy. The most prominent of these aristocrats were the Dukes of Newcastle. Through their extensive system of patronage and influence, the Duke was able to fix elections in many constituencies - making sure that MPs were elected who were of the "Newcastle Interest" (in other words, men who could be trusted to do what the Duke approved of in the House of Commons, like preventing Catholics from holding public office). These constituencies were called "rotten boroughs" owing to the systematic and blatant corruption that went on at election time. One of the rottenest boroughs of all was East Retford, which owing to the bizarre parliamentary system of the time, sent two MPs to Westminster, despite its population at the time of a mere 3,000. By contrast, great new industrial cities like Manchester with 200,000, had no MPs at all! Small wonder that people like the Duke, who supported this outdated system, and who rigged so many elections, became very unpopular - in 1829 an angry mob burned down one of his properties, Nottingham Castle (though, fortunately for him, he was not there at the time).

What made the system of election especially open to abuse was that the number of people qualified to vote was very small - in Retford's case, in the election of 1820, about 150 electors. This - combined with the fact that, in the days before the secret ballot, voting was public, so that everyone knew whom you had voted for - meant that the electors could easily be bribed into voting for whichever candidate could afford to buy their vote.

At the elections of 1818 and 1820, the going tariff was 20 guineas for a vote, and the freemen (having two votes each) received 40 guineas for their votes.

Thomas Hemsall (IV) qualified to vote because he had served an apprenticeship to a burgess in Retford - a shoemaker like his father. That made him automatically a "Freeman" of Retford, and hence a voter. In 1830, shortly before the Reform Bill, a committee of enquiry was set up by the House of Lords, in connection with a Bill entitled:

"An Act to prevent Bribery and Corruption in the Election of Burgesses to serve in Parliament for the Borough of East Retford;"<sup>9</sup>

Witnesses had to travel from Retford to London, where they were boarded and lodged while they waited to be summoned, among them Thomas Hemsall (IV). For most of them, it must have been their first and only trip to the capital. When his turn came to give evidence, Thomas Hemsall admitted that he had promised his vote to two candidates in each of the elections of 1802, 1806, 1807, 1818 and 1820. In each case, he said he had later received two packets, each containing 20 guineas. He was then questioned about his apprenticeship. The interrogation went on:<sup>10</sup>

*"Did you serve your Apprenticeship to get your Freedom, or to learn to make Shoes?"*

*"Both."*

*"Did you ever serve in the Trade as a Shoemaker?"*

*"Yes; and I followed it as a Master Shoemaker in the Country."*

*"Was it a very thriving Concern you formed?"*

*"Yes; a very small one it is."*

*"I am very sorry for it."*

Clearly, the questioner was sarcastically implying that Thomas had served his apprenticeship not because he wanted to become a shoemaker - if so, he could presumably have been trained at home by his father, who was also a shoemaker, rather than in Retford - but because he thought being a Freeman of Retford might prove profitable, as indeed proved to be the case. Further questioning revealed that both Thomas and his father before him were tenants of the Duke of Newcastle, and counsel questioned him searchingly about what he knew about "the Duke of Newcastle's Interest" in Retford. In his replies, Thomas was evasive:

*"Is that not notorious in Retford?"*

*"I do not understand the Meaning of that."*

*"Is it not well known in Retford; have you not heard it said by other Freeman?"*

*"No. I do not know the Meaning of the Word, and so I shall not answer."*

Thomas's replies at times reveal his lack of education. Perhaps it was just as well for the grammar of the children of West Markham that he had deputed his school-teaching to his mother and brother:

*"I see'd him often enough".....*

*"Did The Duke of Newcastle's Steward promise you a new Lease, or not, of your Farm?"*

*"No, he never promised me nothing, nor nobody else.".....*

*"Did he promise to reduce your Rent?"*

*"No, nor I never axed him.".....*

*"You voted without any Promise of any Reward?"*

*"I never had no Promise of nothing; nor I never received nothing."*

It was also mentioned that "Mr Kirke" had called at his house to canvass for the Duke's candidates. Although the Kirkes by now owned 700 acres, and as we have seen, were prominent in the affairs of East and West Markham, in effect, "squires", they were still subservient to the Duke, and clearly eager to do his bidding.



Retford old town hall (above), where the 200 voters gathered during the election of 1826 and where Thomas Hemsall received bribes for his vote. The present writer in his youth used to drink in the "White Hart", the building behind the town hall.

That is probably why the Kirkes had allowed the Hemsalls to continue their cosy little arrangement, sharing out the teaching of the village children for 100 years. By looking after the Hemsalls, the Kirkes ensured that their vote went to the Newcastle faction - and the Kirkes kept "in with" the Dukes.

Thomas Hemsall (IV), having received by his own admission, in the five elections between 1802 and 1820, at least £200 in bribes from the Newcastle party, would hardly have needed to work, as £20 was an average yearly wage. However, after the abolition of the corrupt constituency of East Retford, in 1830, his source of extra income dried up. Elections could no longer be won by bribery. When he died intestate in 1849, he was



described as a “cottager”, a lowly label. Perhaps he had forgotten how to work?

As for his mentors the Kirkes, who had purchased East Markham hall in 1681, fought Bonnie Prince Charlie’s Scots at Culloden, the Russians at Sebastopol, and also had one member killed in the Indian Mutiny - they kept their predominance in East Markham for most of the nineteenth century, but eventually had to sell up and moved away. Their final interaction with the Hemsalls was a rather comical one (to us at least):

## Nottingham Evening Post - Monday 20 May 1878

### A Markham Trespass Case

*George Hemsall and Wm Adamsall were charged with trespassing on lands belonging to Major Kirk, in search of conies, at Markham, on the 23rd of February. Mr. Thomas Wagstaff represented Major Kirk, and Mr. Bescoby defended. George Barlow said on the day in question he saw the defendants come on land belonging to Major Kirk, and put a ferret into a rabbit-hole, Cross-examined by Mr. Bescoby: The defendants did not tell him they wanted a rabbit for anyone. Nothing came out except the ferret. William Franks saw the men on Mr. Thompson’s farm ferreting. Cross-examined: Only saw them cross the grass field. They were rabbiting. Saw them go down a plantation. Mr. Bescoby said his defence was one of a peculiar character. Mr. Hemsall was a respectable inn-keeper. It was customary when any person found a nest of partridge or eggs, and gave them to the keeper, for such person to be rewarded with a rabbit.*

(The case was dismissed).

One Kirke descendant is still an army officer. His wife is a keen genealogist and has corresponded with the present writer.

### Postscript: the tables turned?

In 1918, Cecil Hemsall, my grandfather (2 x great grandson of the John Hemsall who had been warned off the Duke’s hedge) bought 10 acres in East Markham for £500. Interestingly, the vendor was none other than Henry Pelham Archibald Douglas Pelham-Clinton, 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Newcastle under Lyne, one of the family whose dealings with the Hemsalls we have analysed. By the end of the war, in which farmers had done rather well, the social tables had turned: the Hemsalls were on their way up, while the Dukes of Newcastle fell on hard times and had to retrench and sell off land.

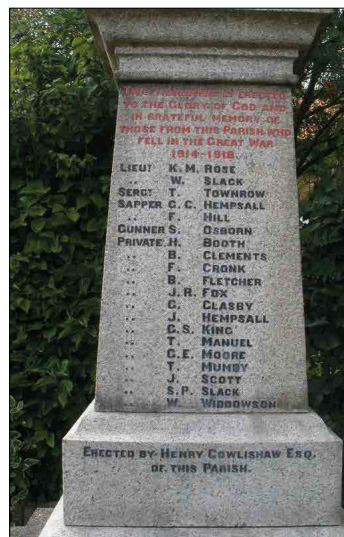
### Profligacy leads to ruin Clumber House on fire, 1879

The 7<sup>th</sup> Duke had spent a lot of money on a magnificent rebuilding of his seat Clumber House which had been partially destroyed by a disastrous fire in 1879. The title passed in 1928 to his younger brother, who enjoyed an extravagant lifestyle and had to sell the famous Hope Diamond in a vain attempt to settle his debts. The family had to strip Clumber House of its contents, including paintings by Rubens, Gainsborough, Hogarth, Reynolds, Van Dyke, Poussin, Rembrandt, Titian, Brueghel, Holbein, to name a few. Sadly, they could no longer afford to keep up the house, which had to be demolished in 1938, with the Duke blaming taxation. How are the mighty fallen!

Meanwhile, Cecil Hemsall, after industrious cultivation of the former Newcastle fields and others he had acquired, was

able to build a somewhat less grand house among his thriving orchards, and moved there from his old farmhouse after WWII.

Clumber Park, owned by the National Trust, remains a popular destination for a day out, as it was in the 1950s for the writer, and many local people, including Hemsalls, who have survived longer than their aristocratic patrons. This despite losing three young men in the two world wars, whose names are on the village War Memorial.



East Markham War Memorial

The last remaining Hemsall in East Markham, 4 x great grandson of the John whose widow had to sell up in 1752, is a retired fruit farmer, cultivating some of the former Newcastle and Kirke land. He is the local councillor. In his retirement, he has planted a “Millenium Orchard” with over 70 varieties of traditional apples.



John Hemsall in his  
Millenium Orchard,  
East Markham

This narrative, as well as exemplifying social mobility, both upward and downward, also shows that people from widely different social classes needed each other and functioned as an organic whole.

### References

1. Originally they were Dukes of Newcastle-on Tyne but later also were styled Dukes of Newcastle -under-Lyne.
2. <https://www.york.ac.uk/depts/maths/histstat/king.htm>.
3. Ibid.
4. (Notts Archives reference: Ki 49/21 (Kirke family papers).
5. Notts Archives REF:Ki 49/26-28).
6. Notts Archives PR/SW/128/20, Will (26/10/1729) of Alice PICKERING of Dunham.
7. Fisher, Howard (ed.) Church Life in Georgian Nottinghamshire: Archbishop Drummond’s Parish Visitation, p. 190.Returnes, 1764. (Thoroton Society Record Series Volume 46).
8. Report of Charity Commissioners, 1828 (available on Google Books).
9. House of Lords Journal Volume 62 - 22 June 1830 [www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=16372](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=16372).
10. Ibid.

Steve is studying the surname Hemsall with variants Hemsell, Hempshall, Hempshell, Hemsell, Hemshall and the surname Mimmack and can be contacted at [steve.tanner@one-name.org](mailto:steve.tanner@one-name.org). Steve’s DNA project website can be found at [www.familytreedna.com/public/Hemsall](http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Hemsall).

**Gregory King's estimate of population and wealth, England and Wales, 1688**

Number of families	Ranks, Degrees, Titles, and Qualifications	Heads per family	Number of persons	Yearly income per family	Examples from this article
160	Temporal Lords	40	6,400	2,800	Dukes of Newcastle 1680-1930
26	Spiritual Lords	20	520	1,300	
800	Baronets	16	12,800	880	
600	Knights	13	7,800	650	
3,000	Esquires	10	30,000	450	Kirke family 1750-1850
12,000	Gentlemen	8	96,000	280	
5,000	Persons in Offices	8	40,000	240	
5,000	Persons in Offices	6	30,000	120	
2,000	Merchants and Traders by Sea	8	16,000	400	
8,000	Merchants and Traders by Sea*	6	48,000	200	
10,000	Persons in the Law	7	70,000	140	John Kirke 1710
2,000	Clergymen	6	12,000	60	
8,000	Clergymen	5	40,000	45	
40,000	Freeholders	7	280,000	84	Cecil Hemsall (1877-1952)*
140,000	Freeholders	5	700,000	50	John Hemsall 1750 Thomas Hemsall (1) 1728
150,000	Farmers	5	750,000	44	Thomas Hemsall (3)?
16,000	Persons in Sciences and Liberal Arts	5	80,000	60	
40,000	Shopkeepers and Tradesmen	4.5	180,000	45	
60,000	Artisans and Handicrafts	4	240,000	40	Thomas Hemsall (3)? 1800
5,000	Naval Officers	4	20,000	80	
4,000	Military Officers	4	16,000	60	Kirkes, several e.g. 1745, 1854, 1858
511,586		5.25	2,675,520	67	
50,000	Common Seamen	3	150,000	20	
364,000	Labouring People and Out Servants	3.5	1,275,000	15	
400,000	Cottagers and Paupers	3.25	1,300,000	6.5	Thomas Hemsall (4) 1849*
35,000	Common Soldiers	2	70,000	14	
849,000		3.25	2,795,000	10.5	
	Vagrants		30,000		
849,000		3.25	2,825,000	10.5	
511,586	Increasing the Wealth of the Kingdom	5.25	2,675,520	67	
849,000	Decreasing the Wealth of the Kingdom	3.25	2,825,000	10.5	
1,360,586			5,500,520		

\* For those persons in the right column who lived long after Gregory King, the social status and income would clearly not correspond closely with the 1688 estimates. They are added here as tentative comparisons.

Global Data Stores

Global Marriages

SURNAME CLOUD

INDEXES

Newspaper

PROBATE

Inscriptions

Both indexes have similar templates that have a few required fields at the front (CORE) with a large number of following

Date	Surname	Forename	Study	Dist. Type	Place	Country	Detected	Contact	Notes
1881	SMITH	May	<del>2000-1900</del>	german	Ulmgen St. John	UK, ENG	Unlocated	<a href="#">None</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
1881	SMITH	Ann	<del>1800-1850</del>	german		UK, ENG	England and Wales, Probate	<a href="#">Elizabeth Hobbs</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
1920	SMITH	Harold	<del>1860-1900</del>	german	West Derby	UK, ENG	England and Wales, Census	<a href="#">Anne Bennett</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
1911	SMITH	Thomas	<del>1860-1900</del>	german	West Derby	UK, ENG	England and Wales, Census	<a href="#">James Bennett</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
1963	SMITH	James S.	<del>1800-1850</del>	british	North-Bucks	UK, ENG	214 North England and Wales	<a href="#">Michael Hedges</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
1963	SMITH	Philip David	<del>1800-1850</del>	british	Worham	UK, ENG	214 North England and Wales	<a href="#">Richard Hedges</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>

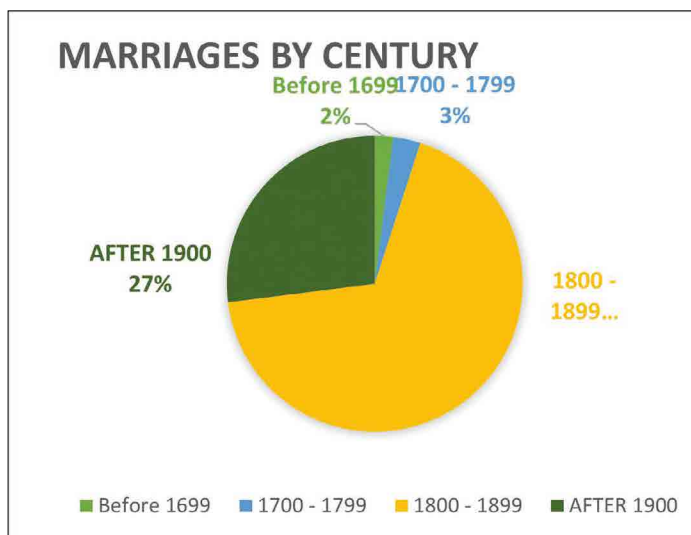
Database Details	
CORE INFORMATION	
Record ID:	28756
Study:	Godland
Member:	1927
Data Type:	Census
Date:	1881
Surname:	SMITH
Forenames:	Mary
Place:	Glasgow St John
Country:	SCOTLAND
Dataset:	Scotland Census
MORE DETAILS	
Status:	Un
Gender:	F
Relationship:	Boarder
Age:	20
Birth country:	Lancashire
Birth place:	Glasgow
Occupation:	Cotton Weaver
Household id:	1881fam006
Page:	644-3
Page:	1
Schedule:	6
Unit:	02
Place:	Glasgow St John
Address:	28 Bedford St
County:	Lancashire
Head of Household:	Elizabeth Brown
Notes:	[JLDS CD-R246]
Do another search	

Groom Marriage Details		GROOM INFORMATION	
Marriage ID:	5038-8		
Marriage date:	14 Sep 1837		
Groom surname:	WELLINGTON		
Groom forenames:	Joseph		
Bride surname:	HAYCOCK		
Bride forenames:	Esther		
Place:	St Benedict, Wombourne		
Country:	ENGLAND		
Contributor:	Dad Hillington		
Bulk file:	Global Marriages GMI RG 201-473 - part 7.csv		
GW ref. address:	1020		
GROOM DETAILS			
Groom age:	Full age		
Groom marital status:	Bachelor		
Groom occupation:	Tailor		
Groom address:	Wombourne		
Groom father:	Thomas Wellington		
Groom father occupation:	Miner		
BRIDE DETAILS			
Bride age:	Full age		
Bride marital status:	Spinster		
Bride occupation:	Milliner		
Bride address:	Wombourne		
Bride father:	John Haycock		
Bride father occupation:	Mechanic		
CHURCH DETAILS			
Church location:	Wombourne St Benedict		
Witnesses:	Elizabeth HeadGeorge Phipps		
GRD REFERENCE (England & Wales)			
GRD year:	1837		
GRD quarter:	3		
GRD volume:	17		
GRD page:	264		
Registration district:	Wolverhampton		
Registration district:	420		
NOTES			
Notes:			

We are now at 1,660,000 marriages in the Global marriage index from over 90 different countries with a timespan of over 500 years.







When we finish moving all the material in the Datastores, we will have statistics for them as well. Enjoy your new indexes. Find new connections and share your names to help others.

Marie is studying the surnames Byatt with variants Biart, Biatt, Byart, Byott, the surnames Pepler with variants Beppler, Peplar, Peplo, Peploe, Peplow, Peppler, the surnames Scroop with variants Scroope, Scrope and can be contacted at [marie.byatt@one-name.org](mailto:marie.byatt@one-name.org). Marie's Members' website project websites can be found at: [byatt.one-name.net](http://byatt.one-name.net), [pepler.one-name.net](http://pepler.one-name.net) and [scroop.one-name.net](http://scroop.one-name.net).

## Conference Write-Ups

*by Alison Jones (8891), Alfred Gracey (7789) and Pat Adamson (3762)*

### Guild of One-Name Studies AGM and Conference

As a non-member I arrived at Jury's Inn in Oxford with some trepidation, although, having met a few people at the tour of The Bodleian Library, I was beginning to think this might be OK. I was greeted warmly by the registration ladies and left with my arms full of goodies and bumped into the only name I knew, Alan Moorhouse, who although looking very busy also welcomed me with a friendly handshake. My courage grew! I thought I would be the only newbie, but, no, there were many other 'pink badged' people.

During the next two days, I attended as many sessions as I could and talked to as many people as I could. The members of the Guild were very friendly; everyone took the time to answer my questions and make me feel part of the 'family'. One talk made me realise how totally amazing the Guild members are as they used their skills to create tools to help others with their one-name or one-place studies, i.e. the Name&Place software. A talk on the Guild's website by Kim Baldacchino made me realise that the website is an excellent resource and her enthusiasm was as infectious as Covid!

After the first day I hastily joined the Guild and went to the Gala Dinner as a member. I even won a gift in the raffle. It was great to be amongst others that are as enthusiastic as me about family history and one-name studies. I always knew I was destined to do this as I am so intrigued by my maiden surname and its origins.

Alison is studying the surname Cressey with the variant Cressy and can be contacted at [alison.jones@one-name.org](mailto:alison.jones@one-name.org).

### My impressions of the Guild Conference and AGM, 22-24 April 2022

My hopes for attending were to meet enthusiasts, hear experts, make friends, improve skills, and build enthusiasm for continuing with my study. I accomplished all this and more - because unexpectedly I met the assiduous researcher of my wife's surname, met a researcher married to a nephew of my second cousin once removed (who knew some of my third cousins) and won a charming raffle prize. These bonuses will enrich my research pleasure in years to come.

By attending all 9 plenary sessions and 5 of the 15 parallel workshops, I saturated my intellectual appetite to the threshold of indigestion. Thankfully not the case with the attractive food provided by competent hotel staff. The accommodation was very comfortable, and fitness facilities were tempting but would have needed me to play truant from workshops. I plan to take some of the lectures again when their recordings appear on our Guild website, because their advice was so valuable and detailed, and some are more timely than others in my current focus.

I simplified my near-term ambitions down to improving the source and citation quality of an initial small batch of persons in Ulster, then uploading them to my member's website, thus proving that path (which I'm least skilled at). I am grateful that Guild colleagues will be there to help me when I call.

Air conditioning in the meeting rooms was good on Sunday (after being poor on Saturday), assuaging my fear of Covid infection. The AGM faltered a little in presentation when there is so much achievement to celebrate and be thankful for. Overall, the conference organisers created an excellent technical and hospitable event. I felt welcomed and valued by everyone's friendliness.

Alfred is studying the surname Gracey with variants Gracie, Gracy, Graicie, Greacy, Greece and can be contacted at [alfred.gracey@one-name.org](mailto:alfred.gracey@one-name.org).

I decided to drive to Oxford on Thursday to ensure I arrived on time for the conference that I had booked to attend pre-covid; as a person who was in general still avoiding mixing being there was quite a challenge. The hotel was easy to find clean and spacious, the car park was large, check in was quick, beds comfy and the swimming pool, although not large, was empty of others.

Friday saw a good choice of food for breakfast even for one with allergies and this continued all weekend which was welcome. It was lovely to catch up with friends I only see at conference as well as meet new ones, some who I knew from two years of Zoom and some who started as strangers. Someone said they were surprised everyone was friendly and talks to you but then we all have a common interest and a fascination with obscure names. Some delegates went on one of the organised afternoon visits whilst the rest of us went to two interesting talks. After dinner Friday evening the AGM was held, followed by Alan Moorhouse's quiz with its usual questions designed to challenge our grey matter.

Saturday started well swim, breakfast, then talks on name sources in the Oxford University archives and then military sources; I was already aware there is hardly anything Chris Baker does not know. The Guild bookshop was open with people bringing books and taking others away for a donation, certificates were scanned for us at a rapid rate. After lunch

Kim Baldacchino walked us round the website, Peter Towey took us round Europe and Jackie Depelle found us non-conformists, all giving us lots to go home and research. After the conference dinner, where we all put on our finery and enjoyed chatting over good food, Angela Buckley, the amusing Victorian supersleuth, entertained us before the raffle in aid of the people of Ukraine with its many prizes made an incredible amount and it seemed almost everyone won a prize.

Sunday started well with an ecumenical service with more people there than we get at our service at home, a good organist and hymns we all knew. More breakout rooms happened I learnt about research in private papers with Sue Paul and wrote my profile page as I was walked through it with Melody McKay Burton in the next one. Choices of which lecture to attend was the only difficult thing at this very well-run conference so I was so glad that I could watch other sessions which had been recorded. We then had information from Simon Draper about The Victoria County history and US records for foreigners by Paul Howes before the close of conference. I look forward to the next one and thank you to the organisers.

Pat is studying the surname Gustard and can be contacted at [pat.adamson@one-name.org](mailto:pat.adamson@one-name.org).

## Report on the Y-DNA stream from the DNA Seminar held on 14 May 2022

*by David Bicket (4268)*

There were four consecutive sessions in the Y-DNA stream, given by two excellent speakers, in talks which had been coordinated to create a joined-up whole. The two speakers were James Irvine and John Cleary, both well-known experts in DNA, although they modestly refuse to call themselves that. For me it was a welcome update from the same two people who at Rootstech London in 2019 put me on the right track to using Big Y to crack my own surname tree.

The four sessions were:

- ONS and Y-STR tests (James Irvine).
- Strengths and weaknesses of using Y-STRs within Y-DNA projects (John Cleary).
- ONS and SNP / Big Y tests (James Irvine).
- Haplotrees, mutation history trees and a peep into the future (John Cleary).

This short report cannot do justice to several hours of excellent presentations. Anyone interested should review their presentations and notes at <https://one-name.org/dna-seminar-2022/>. What follows is just my personal assessment of some of the main take-aways from the day.

The obvious take-aways, which are probably known to most Y-DNA testers, but were reinforced by these sessions were that

- STRs are good for grouping, but poor for determining trees.
- SNPs are good for determining trees, but expensive, and they can be wasteful if you already have one Big Y tester who is already known to be closely related.

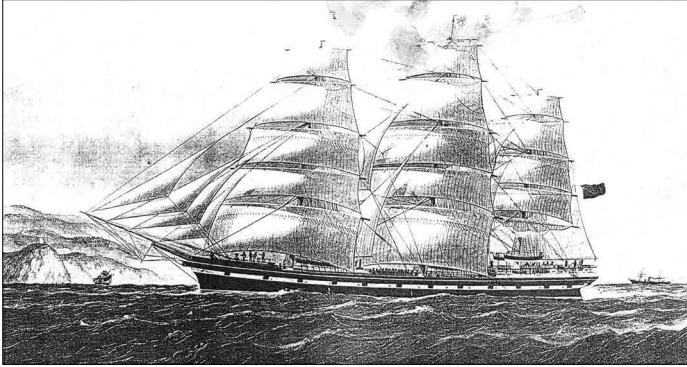
Some more unexpected take-aways (for me, at least) directly from the presentations and subsequent discussions were:

- Demonstrations as to how STRs can potentially provide some additional granularity to a tree determined by SNPs, e.g., they can potentially indicate sub-groupings within a group of testers all with the same SNP.
- How there is uncertain reliability about SNPs in certain regions of the Y chromosome. This was behind the way that YFULL was initially more assertive at calling SNPs than FTDNA, but with Big Y 700, FTDNA has become more assertive than YFULL.
- How much the techniques of DNA testing have developed since 2000, and similarly how much attitudes towards DNA testing, and the various forms of Y-DNA testing, have changed both within the Guild, and also more generally in the world. Furthermore, both techniques and attitudes continue to evolve, and we are likely eventually to see much more wide-spread acceptance and use of both NGS tests like Big Y, and of whole genome sequencing, while STR testing will decrease in importance.

# On board the ship “Rakaia”

A poem written by Emily Lydford between May-August 1879

Submitted by Pamela Lydford (5686)



Upon the last bright day of May  
There sailed from Plymouth Sound,  
The ship “Rakaia” with emigrants  
For a far distant clime.  
In this good ship for three long months  
Three hundred souls or more  
Would try to make a happy home  
Until we reach the shore.

Old England’s shore we grieved to leave  
And all kind friends so dear,  
But in New Zealand we will try  
Friends as kind to make.  
Some have friends to meet them  
And how jolly they will be  
And what a lot there’ll be to tell  
Of friends far oe’r the sea.

Now we will try and tell you  
Of how we spent the time  
And tried to make things pleasant  
Before we crossed the Line.

The Captain was a jolly man  
As you’d ever wish to see,  
He did his best to please us all  
And well he did succeed.  
On Sunday morn he always held  
A service for us all  
That though upon the sea so wide  
We might not heathens be,  
And in the evening of that day  
A lecture he would give,  
And hymns we’d sing so very sweet  
And so would end the day.

A Doctor, too, we had on board,  
And very kind was he.  
The people’s wants he would supply  
From his small surgery.  
With Castor Oil, powders, pills,  
And such like things as these -  
Beef tea, Mutton broth, Sago, Arrowroot,  
And nice large tins of milk.

On Monday we would have our stores  
Served out to one and all,  
But many could not make them last  
Until the week was o’er.  
These stores consisted of such things  
As Sugar, Butter, Treacle, Mustard,  
Pickles, Pepper, Tea and Coffee,  
Salt and Biscuit hard.

On Tuesday and on Thursday  
Some washing we could do,  
And o’er the tubs and soapsuds  
There’d sure to be some fun,  
And long before the hour of noon  
Up in the rigging high  
These clothes would be upon the line  
And in the sun to dry.  
Clear starching - that we could not do -  
Ironing was just as bad,  
So we would fold them up so smooth  
And home-made mangling do.

On Wednesday and Saturday  
Some flour and fruit we’d get,  
And puddings, pasties, pies and cakes  
We’d set to work and make.  
And when these things we had made up  
To the galley we would go  
And ask the Cook to bake them well  
And we would thank him so.

Sometimes he baked them very nice,  
And we enjoyed them much,  
At other times he’d bake them black  
As any coals could be.  
Chance time the cakes would not be done  
And just like dough they’d be,  
We could not eat a little piece  
So we threw them in the sea.  
But this we knew he could not help,  
For if there was no wind  
The flues to draw he could not make  
And get the ovens hot.

One day while making pies and cakes,  
Into a passion grew  
A woman, she’s so very nice,  
And at her husband threw  
First a can of water clear,  
Then a tin of flour,  
The fruit and suet followed soon  
But all went on the floor  
For breakfast porridge we would have  
And rice for tea there’d be.  
For dinner we could have a change,  
But this is all t’would be -  
Boiled beef and carrots,



Potted meats and onions,  
Salt pork and pudding,  
Tea soup and bread.

And those who had young babies  
Bottled stout would get,  
And this would cause dissension  
Amongst this fair bright sex;  
They thought that they should also have  
Their share of bottled stout,  
But if enough was brought for all  
The weight would sink the ship.  
Our bunks we'd like for you to see  
You would admire them much.  
Our mattress and our pillows are  
As hard as boards could be.  
And oft' at night when it is rough  
We roll from side to side,  
And if the boards we did not hold,  
On to the floor we'd pitch.

But we must not omit to tell,  
Of the rows we hear at night,  
Amongst the tins and teapots  
When rolling off the shelves.  
We soon found out a better plan  
Than leaving them to fight,  
We got some string and lashed them on  
To post and shelf so tight.

We had some watchmen for the night,  
To see that all was safe,  
And every half hour you would hear  
"All's well in the Main Hatch".  
It took us some three weeks or more  
Some strong sea legs to find,  
Before we could with pleasure walk  
Together on the deck.  
But now we can with easy grace  
Our bows and curtsies make  
To everyone and everything,  
When walking on the deck.

Now these three hundred people,  
Were divided into three,  
To keep in peace and quietness  
Us people on the sea.  
The single men to the Fore were sent,  
The single women Aft,  
And all the married people  
In the centre place were put.  
The single girls like prisoners are  
For they may never step,  
Unless a "matron" with them was,  
Upon the Quarter Deck.  
One day a screen there was put up  
Across the Quarter Deck,  
And we the reason thus were told -  
"The men are looking Aft".

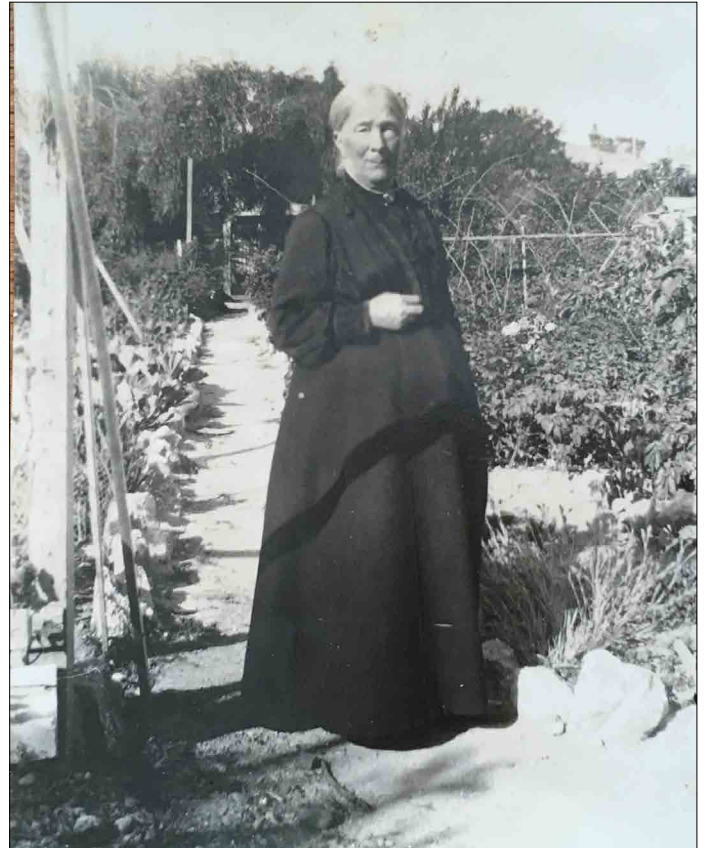
Now these dear girls would like some fun,  
And what a noise they'd make,  
They'd "Thread the Needle" round the port,  
And all the babies wake.  
Two single men to have some fun,  
To the top of the Mast would go.

They were enjoying it so much  
Then up the sailors flew,  
They caught them and they lashed them  
Up on the mast so high,  
And oh! What fun it caused to all  
The people down below.  
No more would try this little game,  
They had seen quite enough  
Of how the sailors would them serve  
If up the Mast they got.

Now this short ditty we must close  
For Wellington is near,  
And we have much that we must do  
Before we go on shore.  
Everything must look its best  
And faces must be bright,  
Or when our friends on land we meet  
They'll think that all's not right.

To Captain, Doctor, Mates and Crew,  
Our heartiest thanks are due,  
For all their care and kindness shown  
To us whilst on the sea.  
Now to the Lord our God,  
Our prayers and praise we give  
For all His mercies to us shown  
While on the wide, wide sea.

Emily



Emily Lydford (née Day) 1848-1930

# My Progress in Unravelling the DNA of my Miller Ancestors

by Wayne Shephard (Member 6744)

**NOTE:** The surname Miller, or variations, is not registered with the Guild, nor is it likely to be, as it is one of the most common surnames in the world. It is the number one last name in Germany. This piece is a summary of the journey I took down the DNA paths to search out the origin of a 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather. Parts of it have been taken from my blog posts on the subject at [www.DiscoverGenealogy.ca](http://www.DiscoverGenealogy.ca).

In 2013, I asked my first cousin, Don Miller, to take a Y-DNA test. We have always had a brick wall with our 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather, John Conrad Miller, who was born in Germany and came to the USA probably in the 1830s. I thought a Y-DNA test, which comes through a direct line of males like Don, might help in finding out more about the Miller line. My own relationship is through my mother, so my Y-DNA test would not do us any good. Don died in 2016, so I am very happy that I got him to test when I did, although sorry he is no longer around to share in my discoveries.

We don't know precisely when John arrived in America. A few passenger manifests from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century offer possibilities, but none confirm him on any of the ships. He also died very young, in 1846 according to his widow's obituary, so few US records of any kind exist that would shed light on his origins.

I did find a marriage license from Tippecanoe County, Indiana, for John C. Miller and Hannah Mayfield dated 25 March 1838. John and Hannah initially set up their household in Jefferson County, Indiana (about 130 miles southeast), where Hannah's family lived. Their first child, Matilda, was born there. Shortly afterward, they moved to Cincinnati, Ohio.

There is an 1839 Cincinnati city directory listing "*Miller, John (Ger), black-smith, res, Canal b[etween] Water [Walnut?] and Vine.*" Three more children were born there, or near there, including my great-grandfather, Isaac Mayfield Miller.

The family was recorded on the 1840 US census (Figure 2), living in Cincinnati, where John was engaged in "manufactures and trade." The summary only shows age ranges with both John and Hannah each being between 20 and 29 years of age, and their daughter, Matilda, a female under five (she would have been just one). There was also an older woman, between 60 and 69 years of age, living with them. She has not been identified as being a family member but was certainly old enough to be John's mother which offers some intriguing possibilities about his immigration. Hannah's mother was deceased by then. The age bracket for John on this record would put his birth year between 1811 and 1820.

Isaac Mayfield Miller stated on the 1880 US census that his father had been born in "*Wertemberg*" [sic] so that gave us our first clue as to where in Germany John may have originated. Mind you, Isaac said that was where his mother was born, too, which was not accurate. I took the name of the German district as being correct for John. How would Isaac have known the name if he had not heard it from his parents?

## DNA Testing

The goal of using DNA tests was to find other German descendants of John's ancestors or relatives that would point the way to finding his birthplace and parents.

Don's test was initially completed for 37 markers. Matching fewer markers gives a large number of people, most of whom are probably too distant to make any sense. At 12 markers, there are almost 2,500 people, but at the 37-marker level there are only 18. Even those did not offer a great deal of

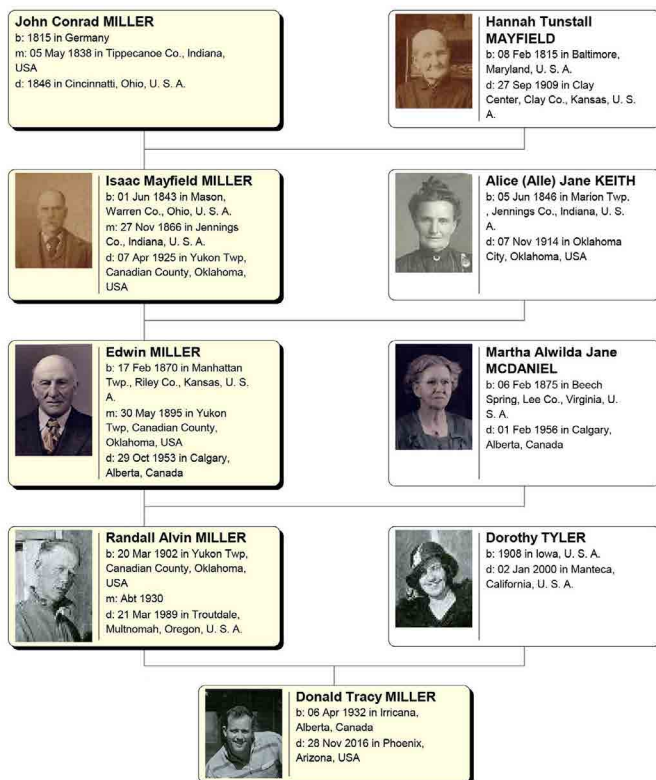


Figure 1. Ancestors of Donald Tracy Miller

Figure 2. 1840 US Census showing John C. Miller family

Name of County, City, Town, Ward, Precinct, Township, or District.	NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES.	FREE WHITE PERSONS, INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES.																										NUMBER OF PERSONS IN EACH FAMILY EMPLOYED IN																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
		MALES.													FEMALES.													Mining.	Agriculture.	Commerce.	Manufactures and trades.	Navigation of the coast.	Navigation of the foreign seas, lakes, and rivers.	Learned professions and other occupations.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
		Under 5	5 under 10	10 under 15	15 under 20	20 under 30	30 under 40	40 under 50	50 under 60	60 under 70	70 under 80	80 under 90	90 under 100	100 and up- wards.	Under 5	5 under 10	10 under 15	15 under 20	20 under 30	30 under 40	40 under 50	50 under 60	60 under 70	70 under 80	80 under 90	90 under 100	100 and up- wards.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
John C. Miller														/				/					/																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														

information, though, as the people who tested did not know a lot about their ancestors. Only one had a Miller surname - Richard. He thought his family had come from Germany but could not then pinpoint the location.

I had Don's test redone at 67 markers which would give me a much better comparison of DNA between relatives. Richard Miller was the only person to match at this level.

Subsequent to the DNA testing, Richard Miller put up a family tree on *Ancestry*, based on information mostly gleaned from his parents and grandparents and a few other Miller family researchers. It showed a direct line back five generations with his 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather, Jacob (1825-1905), born in Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> great-granduncle, Gottlieb (1824-1896), born in "Worten" (Wört?), also in Baden-Württemberg. Another brother of these two individuals, Friederich (1821-1907), along with their parents, David (1798-1871) and Dora (1789-1873), were recorded as just having been born in Germany. Now I had something to work with.



Figure 3. Map showing the territory of Württemberg, 1810-1945

Richard did not have documents that confirmed the German relationships, so we had some way to go to prove the Württemberg connection.

I asked for Don's sample to also be retested for autosomal DNA. Hopefully these results would give us additional family matches that included females. If we could winnow out the non-Miller lines, then hopefully we would have additional data about our German roots.

Richard also had his sample tested for atDNA. Unfortunately, though, he and Don were not matches using this test analysis likely because their relationship was too far apart (i.e. more

than 5<sup>th</sup> cousins) or their family branch connection was too long ago.

## Müller/Miller Families in Germany

Using Richard's data, along with other information I found on *Ancestry* and elsewhere, I was able to piece together his ancestral roots with some confidence. Some online information about David Müller, his wife and his children on *Ancestry* trees is suspect or just wrong, but I did manage to correlate most names and dates with records from church records in Germany.

The family were all born in Ilsfeld parish, Württemberg, which is about 20 miles north of Stuttgart. *Ancestry* has an extensive collection of birth, marriage and death records from Ilsfeld, and I was able to find David's family and trace his roots in the area. I have been informed by a professional genealogist in Stuttgart that the church records for Württemberg parishes are very complete. Those for the Baden region are not as good.

The German parish records proved very helpful for correlating events, with baptism entries having, in many cases, death information, death records having information about birth dates and marriages, and marriage records having information about birth dates and parents. Using a coordinated approach, I put together what I think is a reliable family tree for Richard back to the late 1600s.

The baptism entries of David's children all had notes that stated they emigrated to "Amerika" in 1831. Below is part of the baptism record, showing the note about emigration, for one of their sons, Christian Friederich, who was born in 1821.

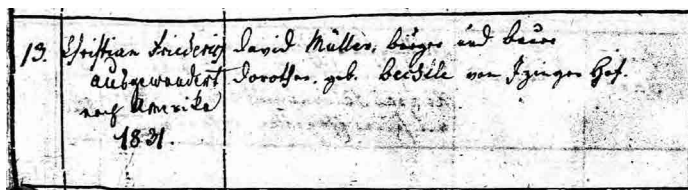


Figure 4. 1821 birth record for Christian Friederich Müller with a note: "ausgewandert nach Amerika 1831" which translated means "emigrated to America 1831"

I found a passenger list that appears to confirm the emigration date. The ages of the children and the order of their births fit reasonably well.

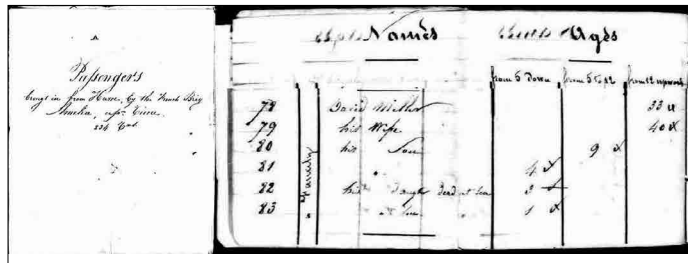


Figure 5. 1831 passenger record for David Müller family aboard the French brig Amelia

David and Dorothea (Dora) had five children according to the Ilsfeld birth register. Their first son died at five months of age. The other four accompanied David and Dora to the United States. Their daughter, however, died on board ship during the voyage. The three remaining sons all married and had families after they settled in Illinois.



The parish register entries took me back four generations, from David Müller to Richard's 7<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, Leonhard (1645-1718). I compared that information with what I knew about our own Miller line.

There was no Johann Conrad Müller of the age of my 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather in Richard's line or, indeed, in any family from that area. It appeared we would have to go back to at least Johann Michael Müller (1671-1753), or further, to find a possible split of family lines and a potential connection.

There appears to be no birth register preserved for Ilsfeld for years prior to 1660, and no marriage or death registers for years prior to 1716. That makes tracing families in the area more difficult.

The absence of a possible birth record for my ancestor in Ilsfeld may indicate he was born in another parish. Either individuals from the Ilsfeld Müller families migrated to other parts of Württemberg, where my John Conrad was born, or the families moved to Ilsfeld from another area.

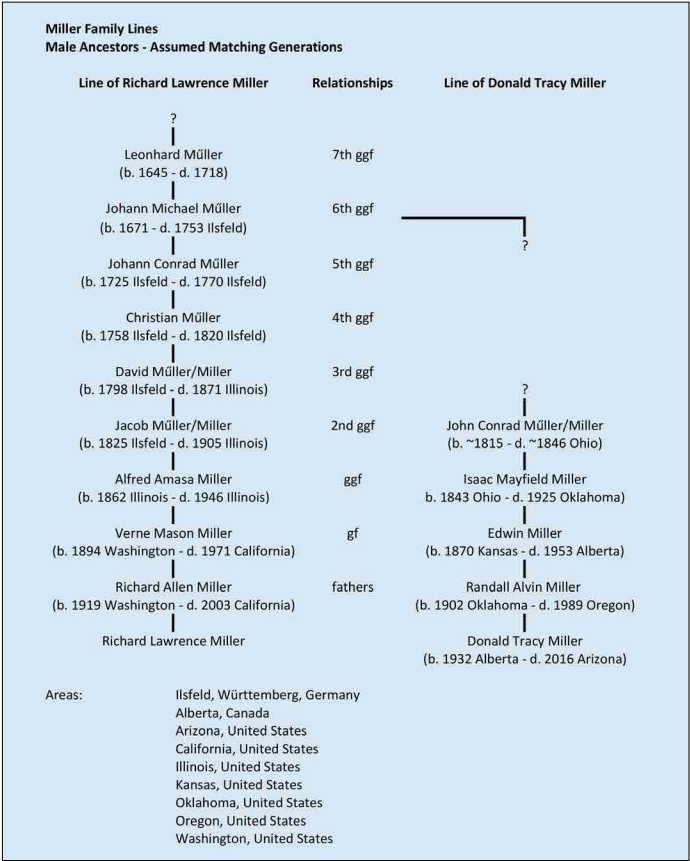


Figure 6. Comparison of family lines of Richard Lawrence and Donald Tracy Miller

On Ancestry, there is a searchable database named, *All Württemberg, Germany Emigration Index*. This publication lists thousands of German and Prussian people that left Germany from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to 1900. Approximately 60,000 people applied to leave the country during that period. The collection of records includes their names, date and place of birth, their residence at the time of their application and the application date. The application dates may have been close to the time they left.

The index was constructed and published in eight volumes, in 1986, by Trudy Shenk, Ruth Froelke and Inge Bork from the original German government records. As described on Ancestry, "these records are not alphabetized nor are the pages numbered, which makes a search through them complicated and time consuming. In many cases, as many as eight pages were written on one person, including a birth certificate or a family record, military release, and renunciation of citizenship rights."

One individual looked promising, with the same name as my 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather and of the right age. He is shown on the Emigration Index as Conradt Mueller, born in Großbottwar, Württemberg, in 1808. His destination was listed as Vienna, but I thought it might be possible that he later decided to travel to America, either directly from Germany or from Vienna.

Conradt Mueller	
in the Württemberg, Germany Emigration Index	
District:	Marbach
Name:	Mueller, Conradt
Birth Date:	3 Feb 1808
Birth Place:	Grossbottwar
Application Date:	Sep 1834
Destination:	Vienna
Number:	838265.00

Figure 7.

I looked at the baptism record for Großbottwar and found him shown as Johann Conrad Müller. Seeing his full name was even more exciting and gave me confidence I was on the right track.

Figure 8. 1808 baptism record for Johann Conrad Müller, in Großbottwar, Württemberg

1808.								
Zahl der Geborenen.	taufnamen des Kindes.	Eltern.	Ort der Geburt.	Zeit der Geburt.	Ort und Tag der Taufe.	Wer die Tauf-Handlung verrichtete.	Tauf-Beugen.	Seitenzahl des Familien-Registers.
12.	Johann Conrad.	Herr Johann Adam Müller, Rapphorst- wälder und Gärtnersmann allhier, wangel. Religion. Elisa Rosoffen, wot, Weigler, wangel. Religi- on.	Großbottwar.	5. Februar 1808.	6. Februar.	Past. M. Weigler.	Lutherij, Sonnar Weigler, Bürger und allhier. Kath. Maria Weigler, Gorn. Weigler Daniel Weigler, Gärtnersmann all- hier, wot; Christina Weigler, Mayfeld- Weigler, Gärtnersmann allhier, wot.	125.

There is a slight discrepancy with the birth dates shown on the two records, but they are close enough to suggest the emigration entry might have been mis-transcribed. The baptism entry says he was born on 4 February and baptized on the 5<sup>th</sup>. His forename likely did not contain a 't'. The transcription is probably in error in that regard as well.

## Further Work on European Records

A friend put me in contact with Max, a professional genealogist in Stuttgart, who I hoped might be able to sort out some things for me and help establish whether this Johann Conrad was mine. Max right away found a family record I had missed. I had found almost all the birth, marriage and death entries for this particular family line but missed this particular summary.

Details on the family record for Johann Conrad not shown on his baptism entry, were that his Lutheran confirmation was in 1822 and then “*in Wien verh[eiratet] 1833*”, which means “*married in Vienna in 1833*”.

John Conrad	5. febr. 1808.	1822. . . .	in Wien u. 1833, -
-------------	----------------	-------------	--------------------

I thought (hoped), “Well, maybe Johann’s wife died and he went on to move to America.” Not so!

To further confirm this was not my Johann Conrad, Max also found the actual 1833 marriage entry and a baptism record for their youngest child born in 1848, both in Vienna registers. It was clear this was not my ancestor since we believe he was dead and buried in Cincinnati, Ohio by 1846.

I had chased this Johann Conrad down a rabbit hole. He was not who I thought or, more to the point, **WANTED** him to be.

The emigration record indicating he was moving to Vienna was right after all; he did not later travel to America.

What I did get was some reminders in doing genealogical research: always seek out more than one source of information and do not make assumptions without good evidence. Relying on only partial information might have convinced me this individual was related and I could well have included him and his whole line in my family tree.

### Additional DNA Analyses

Richard and I (for Donald's sample) both had a fuller analysis of the Y-DNA done - the "Big Y". As Family Tree DNA states, the Big Y analysis is meant to "explore deep ancestral links on our common paternal tree. This test examines thousands of known branch markers as well as millions of places where there may be new branch markers. The Big Y test is intended for users with an interest in advancing science. It may also be of great interest to genealogy researchers of a specific lineage."

I have been hoping that we might be able to find out how far back the mutations happened and give us a better idea of who our common ancestor might have been.

The results do show that Don and Richard are close matches, which is a relief. They are still the only two people connected. And they are still the only people in the subgroup of the Miller DNA Project. The terminal SNP branch for both is R-FTB63071, with eleven variants. Each man has three additional and unique variants.

The block trees for both individuals look almost the same. On the diagram the branches of both Richard and Donald are shown as originating in Germany, which is good since our information so far confirms that supposition. The main branch point for us goes back to 18 SNPs on the timeline scale which tells us about 1,440 years ago, based on an estimated 80 years per SNP. Unfortunately, that is beyond the time when parish records start. That time takes us back to about 580 AD which is, according to my own studies, hundreds of years before when surnames came into use.

Scholars generally agree that German surnames began in the Early Modern Period, about 1400 to 1500 AD. So, while our two branches now have the names Miller or Müller, they may not have actually had any family name when the genetic break occurred. There seems little doubt that they were related, though, and lived in the same region.

I believe the use of surnames in Britain, and likely in much of Europe as well, became common about the same time, that is during the 14<sup>th</sup> century. By 1500 almost every family was recorded with a last name (Shepherd, Wayne. (2022). Determining the Origin of Surnames. Family Tree, 38(6), pp. 40-47).

### Where to go now

I am back almost to where I started again although I now know a lot more about the Württemberg area and the Müller families who lived there. Presently I am going through all the lists to find every Conrad or Johann Conrad born in the region that would be the right age for my 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather. I am

cross-checking these against marriage and death records to eliminate any of the individuals who did not leave the region.

I am also examining what passenger lists are available to see if I can find a match.

I will enlist the help of Max at some point to check records he has more familiarity with to see which ones might make sense.

With luck and persistence, I will find my 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather!

Wayne is studying the surname Shepherd and can be contacted at [wayne.shepherd@one-name.org](mailto:wayne.shepherd@one-name.org).

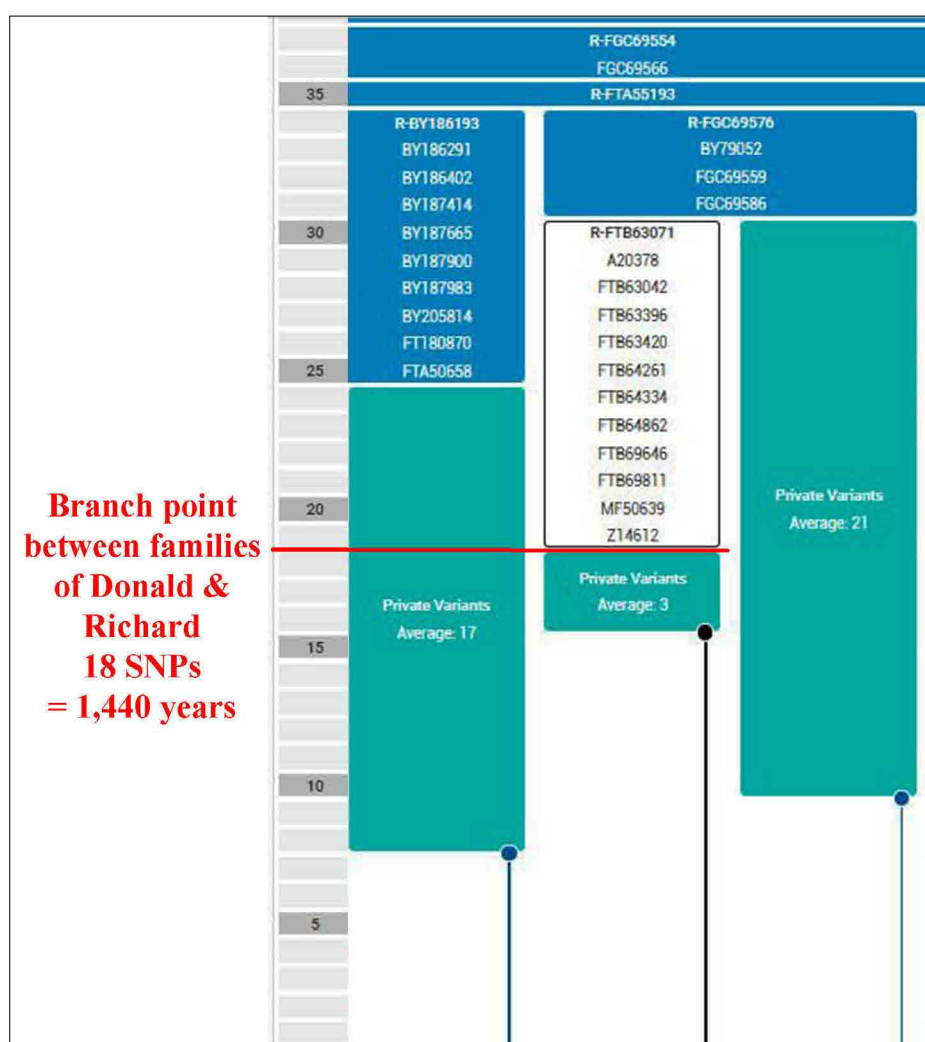


Figure 11. Block tree (Big-Y SNPs) for Donald Miller showing family branch and connection with Richard Miller.





Many Guild members give up their time to carry out various roles. These volunteers are often unseen and unknown. Find out more about them and what they do. This edition we're highlighting someone many members will correspond with at some point - our Membership Registrar, Pauline Neil.

**JOONS: Tell us a little about yourself.**

**Pauline:** I was born in Workington, then Cumberland, and I've lived in Newcastle upon Tyne or Northumberland since I was eight weeks old, apart from seven years in the Middle East in my 30s. That was an education and a hair-raising experience. I still have my Gulf War gas mask!

*I am a retired midwife and nurse and I'm currently refurbishing my home, so I guess that DIY is an interest. I also enjoy Scottish Country dancing, which I've done since I was four years old.*

**JOONS: What surname are you studying and why did you start your study?**

**Pauline:** I'm studying the name Menelaws. This is the surname of my biological 5 x great grandmother and can apparently be spelled about 50 different ways! Indeed, every record that I have found for her is spelled differently.

*I joined the Guild in 2015 but my study registration is quite recent. It took me several years to decide which of my family names I wanted to research. This was more complicated because I'm an adoptee. So, I had the emotional pull of my adopted family, complete with photographs, anecdotes, and 'knowing' them, versus my biological family, from which I feel totally disconnected.*

*I found it relatively easy to research my biological tree - even without any oral history to go on, as I haven't made contact with anyone yet - due to a number of uncommon names and*

*some unusually detailed adoption records. I made several interesting discoveries along the way, including that my birth parents were 4<sup>th</sup> cousins. So, that has thoroughly messed up the interpretation of my DNA test results. Additionally, my maternal great-grandmother appears to have been a bigamist, and she married a man who also appears to have been a bigamist!*

*At the same time, I have researched my adopted family tree, aided by my mother's wonderful recall of dates and other details, input from cousins, and lots of great letters and photographs.*

**JOONS: Why did you start your one-name study?**

**Pauline:** Both of my family trees are peppered with brick walls, characters with the same names, and those who were brought or abducted by aliens. I've performed several mini one-name studies in my attempts to identify individuals, and this led to an interest in an 'official' ONS and prompted me to join the Guild. I then decided that it needed to wait until I had retired, which I did in March 2020.

**JOONS: Do you have specific research goals for your study?**

**Pauline:** In addition to trying to find out about my relative who bears this name, I am keen to identify the origins. Also, linked to my study surname is an unusual forename, so one of my parallel research goals is to identify the origins of this, and look at the repetition of the name down the generations.

**JOONS: Tell us about your post in the Guild.**

**Pauline:** I have been the Membership Registrar for just over two years, and I am now also Study Registrar. My role involves managing all Guild membership records, mainly consisting of new applications, changes to details, and members who leave. This involves communication with members and other post-holders within the Guild, as well as outside organisations, including Guild Register and Journal subscribers. Then there are a several 'smaller' involvement and liaison tasks, which all contribute to a varied and interesting role. As Study Registrar I am responsible for the proper registration of one-name studies, and the handling and resolution of complaints relating to studies.

**JOONS: What is the most enjoyable part of your role?**

**Pauline:** Being part of a team of diverse individuals, making connections, and supporting the Guild in its aims.

**JOONS: Do you find anything difficult or troublesome about the job?**

**Pauline:** Like several of us, I find the membership renewals process particularly frustrating. This is because of those who don't respond to reminders to renew their subscription. They end up being lapsed at the cut-off point together with the de-registration of their study, and then suddenly realise that their membership, and all of its benefits, are no more.

**JOONS:** What advice would you give to a new member of the Guild, just starting out with their first one-name study?

**Pauline:** Join the New Members Group! Explore the website thoroughly - the advice, instructions, and a wealth of tips

and tricks are all there. If uncertainty still prevails, sign up for some structured learning with one of the established genealogy education providers. Online courses are very convenient and accessible by most of us. Investigate the Guild Mentors Scheme. Enjoy your research!

You can contact Pauline at [membership-registrar@one-name.org](mailto:membership-registrar@one-name.org).

If you'd like to volunteer to help, please get in touch with the Volunteer Co-ordinator: [volunteers@one-name.org](mailto:volunteers@one-name.org).

## Marriage Challenge Update

### Middle Names

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

At the start of each Marriage Challenge, Guild members (requesters) send to the Challenger a list of marriages that the Challenger will try to find in deposited marriage registers of a selected Registration District. If the Challenger finds a listed marriage, all details of the marriage given in the register are recorded and send back to the requester. The rules are that only marriages of one's one-name study should be included on the list. A few Challengers are flexible and are willing to accept non-registered surnames - that is surnames that are not part of the member's one-name study - but only if they are very few in number. The question has been asked of me - what about a bride or groom where the one-name is one of the forenames, not the surname? My answer is clear - these marriages should be part of the one-name study and therefore accepted in Marriage Challenge.

There are those members whose registered surname are also conventional forenames and this makes the question above inappropriate. The studies of Raymond, Benedict and Ramsey come to mind. Here it would not normally be possible to determine whether a middle name was based on a surname or was simply a standard forename.

I have recently been sent a list such marriages which a helpful researcher believed would be useful for my Copsey study. The marriages did not have Copsey as the bride or groom's surname but had Copsey as a middle name. The list was most comprehensive and much appreciated.

I understand the list was developed from various sources but the majority came from FreeBMD and from Ancestry. On both websites a search on a first name (in any position) can be achieved by putting \*youronename in the "First Names" search

box; prefixing your one-name with an asterisk. In these searches the "Last Name" or "Surname" search box is left empty.

The list threw light on some of problems in my study. There was one case where the man seemed to swap around middle name and surname. Once he is Samuel Thurlow Copsey, then he is Samuel Copsey Thurlow - no wonder I was having trouble finding him. Usually the middle name can be explained. Quite often it is the mother's maiden name; sometimes it is earlier maiden name that has been taken on through the generations. Occasionally it is the sign of an illegitimate birth when the child was given the surname of the father as a middle name - so the father would not be allowed to forget! And there is always the odd one. If someone could tell me who Copsey was in James Copsey Childerstone (born Q1 1842 Cambridge, mother Elizabeth Allen, married 1 Jul 1867 Cambridge), I would be delighted.

Away from my own study and back to Marriage Challenge. I regret there are no new Challenges to announce, although the Challenge for West Ward that was announced in the last Journal is continuing.

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 [marriage-challenge@one-name.org](mailto:marriage-challenge@one-name.org) if you think you can contribute. You can read all about Marriage Challenge and what a Challenger does on the Guild website <https://one-name.org/marriage-challenges/>.



# Forthcoming Seminar

## “A Web Presence for Your One-Name Study” Seminar

Saturday 15 October 2022

Beauchamp College, Ridgeway, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5TP

Following on from the 2016 “Creating and Developing Your Website” we return once again to this popular venue near Leicester which allows us to run three parallel streams, **Options for a Web Presence**, **Establishing Your Web Presence** and **Enhancing Your Web Presence**. The seminar will cover different options for getting your first web presence - Guild profiles, different types of websites, TNG (The Next Generation), WordPress, and the Members Website Project.

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

### Programme

09.30 - 10.00	Registration and coffee
10.00 - 10.10	Welcome to the Seminar - Brian Audley
10.10 - 10.40	<i>Why you need a web presence for your ONS</i> - Paul Featherstone MCG
10.50 - 11.40	<b>Session 1:</b> Options for, Establishing, Enhancing Your Web Presence
11.50 - 12.40	<b>Session 2:</b> Options for, Establishing, Enhancing Your Web Presence
12.40 - 13.50	Lunch Break
13.50 - 14.40	<b>Session 3:</b> Options for, Establishing, Enhancing Your Web Presence
14.50 - 15.40	<b>Session 4:</b> <i>Keeping safe and telling your story</i> - Chris Gray or <i>Don't Make Me Struggle</i> - Melody McKay Burton
15.40 - 16.00	Tea Break
16.00 - 16.30	<i>Ask the Experts</i> - Panel Session with all the speakers
16.35 - 16.40	Close of Seminar

This programme is subject to change.

Seminar cost, including refreshments and buffet lunch £25.00

Beauchamp College is in Oadby, a town 5 miles south east of Leicester on the A6 and is easily accessible by train, bus, road and air; please contact us for help in finding a lift from Leicester station.

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

Bookings close on 2 October 2022



# 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.

After their study has been registered, members may update their categorisation as they wish.

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.



Journal of One-Name Studies  
Quarterly publication of the  
Guild of One-Name Studies  
ISSN 0262-4842  
£3.00 when sold to non-members



**Guild**   
of One-Name Studies