The Journal Of

ONE-NAME STUDIES

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

At the beginning of the new academic year, I find myself in the position which I know some other Guild members will, namely, that of offering a course or courses in family history. This does not really worry me, as a former teacher and history graduate, I feel on firm ground and the syllabus has been on disc for a long time. However, while thinking about the first week's topic, "Getting Started", I gave some thought to what is the most important thing to emphasize and I came up with, "never believe anything, at least until you have checked it"! This is especially true of family oral traditions, where even at times there are genuine attempts to deceive in order that the family skeleton should stay firmly in its cupboard. However, the entries in family bibles may not be quite as correct as one would wish. Recently, I received copies of entries from a family bible in Australia, which was presumed to have come from England with some personal articles, the latter having been described in the Australian ancestor's father's Will. Recorded there were the dates of birth of the Australian ancestor's children, who had been born in England, and then other dates entered with a completely different surname. Although the entries for the children's births were correct when checked against baptismal records a further search has shown that the family does not seem to have had any relations with the other surname living in England at the relevant dates. One now has to question whether this is the genuine family bible from England or rather is it one which was somehow acquired in Australia with some entries already in it? Similarly printed sources should be treated with some suspicion. Those who are fortunate enough to find a printed pedigree for their family should not assume that all is correct and while we are moving away from pedigrees in the "begat" biblical style, one fears the modern narrative style, putting in background details gleaned from social histories, may make way for, to say the least, some fanciful writing and thus there will be new traps for the unwary researcher.

In the Editorial, in the last issue of the Journal, details were given of the criteria for examples of longevity which Professor Laslett requested at the Guild's Tenth Anniversary Conference. There was, in fact, one minor error, namely Professor Laslett has asked for details of persons, who lived to be 85 or older, to the present day and not just prior to 1900 as previously stated. Please send these details to the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, 27 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QA, and not to the Editor.

Finally the Guild receives a number of books and first issues of Journals which need reviewing, normally there are such reviews in every issue. However, I am afraid that from the time I became Editor of the Journal until fairly recently, I had been under the mistaken impression that another committee member was supplying me with reviewers and was arranging for the reviews to be made. I questioned this situation when I found more and more often I

was left with material in need of review and discovered that I was supposed to be arranging for the reviews to be made. So would any members who would be willing to write reviews please contact me and I will send them the books or journals. My own editorial policy is that the Editor should not contribute articles or write reviews unless there is an extreme emergency, for if I did this the Journal could easily become a "one woman band" and it is always my wish that as many members as possible should contribute.

REPORT ON AN INFORMAL MEETING OF GUILD MEMBERS IN NEW ZEALAND AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS HELD AT DUNEDIN - 12TH TO 14TH MAY 1989

Donna Kingan

After leaving our office on Friday afternoon, my husband, David, and I had a quick two hundred mile drive to reach the city of Dunedin in time for the welcome address to begin at 6.30 p.m. From the very first minute it was apparent that this was to be a most informative as well as entertaining evening, which set the tone for the whole Conference. Dunedin is a city with special associations for me and on this visit it certainly turned on its best, with great hospitality, lovely mild weather for this time of year and a well planned Conference. As Dunedin is noted for its colourful past, both in the gold mining era and as a strongly Scottish associated settlement, the theme "The Tartan and the Guild" was most appropriate and led to the wearing of tartan and gold by many of the five hundred and thirty people attending the Weekend Conference. As always, there are so many avenues of family history to explore on these occasions, that many people myself included, seemed to be constantly on the run, with very little time even for meals, in order to accomplish as much as possible in the time available.

Meetings of various groups of interest to family historians took place at every spare minute between the scheduled guest speakers. Unfortunately, our time for the Guild meeting was not until late in the Conference Programme, on Sunday afternoon, and was to clash with the meeting of delegates and the New Zealand Society of Genealogists' Council. On account of this and even though we announced a special meeting time of 1.10 p.m. to allow those people involved with the Council to meet first, some known members of the Guild were apparently unable to attend our meeting. However, we still had a very attentive gathering of about twenty people from all areas of New Zealand and were delighted at the attendance of a U.K. member, M. B. Carolan. I was sorry that her departure from New Zealand was to be the next day, as we would have welcomed more time for discussion with her.

After clarifying several questions on various aspects of the Guild as it relates to New Zealand, the following points were generally expressed and noted from informal discussion.

1) That anyone having any further queries on Guild matters in New Zealand or requiring a copy of the Guild Prospectus, could contact me by writing. (A self addressed stamped envelope to be included to reduce costs.)

2) All interested people listed their names and addresses for any further correspondence on Guild matters in New Zealand that may come up in the future.

3) Concern was expressed at the cost and difficulty for some people to obtain English currency to pay the Guild subscription.

4) Many new people showed great interest in the growing list of surnames registered by Guild members and acknowledged the value of this type of research.

5) It was apparent that the new updated printing of the Register is eagerly awaited. (It was requested that more copies of this be available for purchase, especially for local group libraries.)

6) It was decided that at this point in time there was sufficient interest in the Guild to continue to meet at the very suitable opportunity given by the Annual Conference of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, the next to be held in Auckland during Easter 1990.

At all hours when display rooms were open I was very pleased to have the assistance of Miss Mary Oram, a new member of the Guild, and Mr. David Hooper, a prospective member, both of whom did much to help in setting up and manning our display of items of interest on the Guild. Numerous copies of the most recent Guild Prospectus were distributed to those visiting our stand. I am hoping to have some photographs of our display stand and I will send these on in the near future.

I am personally delighted at the very interested response that we received, to both our display stand and the meeting and it is with great pleasure that I can report that interest in the Guild in New Zealand is definitely alive and well and growing.

As a follow up to this new interest, recently generated, I have submitted to the Editor of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists' Magazine, an article on the Guild and I am hoping they may also find room to publish a full copy of the Prospectus. I trust that this may in turn generate an interest in the work of the Guild, by the many family history researchers, who were unable to attend the Conference.

Donna Kingan, New Zealand Corresponding Member, Member No. 448
[No. 2 R. D. Ashburton, New Zealand.]

THE METCALFE ONE-NAME SOCIETY

[This is a report by Jean Debney on a talk given at the Durham Family History Society Conference, on 1 April 1989.]

The speakers at the Guild meetings, held late on Saturday afternoons at the Federation Conferences, are always interesting and the speaker at Durham on 1 April 1989 was no exception. About twenty-six members listened as John Holden, a lawyer and Chairman of the Metcalfe Society, speaking on behalf of Mrs. N. E. Benson, a Guild member, told us about the growth of his interest in family history and the development of the Metcalf One-Name Society.

The Metcalfes have a strong oral tradition of family history and Mr. Holden's interest began when he was very young. He had seen a photograph of his great-great-grandfather Metcalfe, who had been a shepherd in Wensleydale, where the family had proliferated. So in 1947, when county record offices were just beginning to appear and family historians had not yet discovered them, as a mere seven year old boy, he visited the deserted Lancashire and Westmorland Record Offices to begin his researches. In those days the county archivists even sat beside him to help him to read the old parish registers and other documents and if I heard aright, he was also able to borrow the occasional item - those were the days!

Not being a "joiner" he continued researching alone until about 1980, when he saw a notice from three ladies advertising a Metcalfe Society and decided to join. At that time the membership consisted of the three ladies, himself and just five others. The first overseas members joined about six months later and now they have several from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States. As with all societies, some members join full of initial enthusiasm which then fades. Current membership of the Metcalfe Society is about 300 and the next membership number issued will be 363.

At first subscriptions were purely voluntary but after about twelve months they were established at £1 a year. Two of the ladies started publishing a newsletter called the "Mecca News". This later grew into a journal which is currently published three times a year, with 26 editions so far.

For a long period the Society was run single handed and while the organisation remains casual they now have a simple constitution. Helen Offer is the present President of the Society and the three officers, chairman, secretary and treasurer, were all self appointed, but have been elected for the past two or three years.

An index of all Metcalfe references was started by Helen Offer. It is divided into three parts: individuals, families and locations and now contains about 30,000 entries. Although it has become very heavy, it is still taken to meetings for members to

consult - and add to no doubt. They are now aiming to put it on a computer so that they can create duplicate copies for members.

Another member, Dorothy Pope, suggested that members should submit a birth brief and this has proved to be another useful source of information. Others are also producing a list of Metcalfe Wills found in county record offices. The Society have purchased all the Metcalfe entries in the IGI starting with Yorkshire, which is the main Metcalfe county, and have gradually added the rest.

The Metcalfe Society also holds meetings. The first "Mecca Muster" was held about 1982 at Claremont, when 13 people attended. Since then they have held two more "musters" at Boroughbridge and Ripon, attended by about 75 people. They had hoped to hold a "clan" meeting in Nappa Hall which is a large and romantic farmhouse held by Metcalfes for many years past, but which is too small for ordinary "musters". Porch House at Northallerton is also a Metcalfe house.

Most Metcalfes are believed to be descended from a common ancestor thought to be William Dent or William Metcalf of Dent, who appeared on 12th century charters. The fluid state of surnames in that early period makes it difficult to know if this is two names for the same man or references to two separate men. Mr. Holden then went on to tell us of some other early Metcalfe references.

Spelling variations of this predominantly Yorkshire surname include Metcalf/e and Medcalf/e and Leyland, an early writer, said that the Metcalfes were the largest family of "known consanguinity" who "kept many records".

Some medieval Metcalfes held high legal office and were supporters of Richard III (1483-1485) and never wavered in their loyalty. They subsequently married into the Clifford family and many claim descent from this branch. According to family tradition, a James Metcalf was present at the Battle of Agincourt (1415) and although he does not appear on the battle lists, he was granted land in Wensleydale which is still linked to the family and its cadet branches.

Other early Metcalfes include Sir Christopher, who rode a white horse into York when he was High Sheriff of the county. His descendant, Sir Thomas, was apparently responsible for the last domestic civil war in England when he laid seige to a house that he had mortgaged and lost at law.

Further information about Metcalfes is being discovered all the time. Members pass details to each other and at least three found that they were closely related in the first few weeks of the Society's existence. New members are often found to possess copy material not previously known to exist. However, as often happens, some of the most interesting Metcalfe genealogical items

are held by uninterested and possessive people who, on finding out about others interest, refuse to hand it over! This is a problem we all share.

As a result of all researches, one interesting discovery has been the relatively high percentage of inter-marriage between Metcalfes.

The origin of the surname Metcalfe is uncertain. Mr. Holden thought it might be Scandinavian. "Met/med/mete" may mean a moiety, a half, as when a father divided his land between his two sons. Near the village of Dent in Yorkshire, from which many Metcalfes originate, is a hill called "the Calf". The family coat of arms displays calves which is a play on the name. On checking P. H. Reaney's "Dictionary of British Surnames", one sees that he suggests that Metcalfe may be a nickname for a fat man - "mete-caelf" meaning a calf fattened for eating - a derivation ignored by Mr. Holden.

Mr. Holden had to end his interesting talk with one eye on the clock because many members were anxious to return to their rooms to prepare their costumes for the Elizabethan Banquet that evening. This was a pity because he obviously had a great deal more information about the Metcalfes and their various activities both past and present to pass on to us.

Jean Debney, Member No. 307 [*8 Huckleberry Close, Purley on Thames, Reading, Berkshire, RG8 8EH.*]

A ONE-NAME STUDY - YOU MUST BE JOKING!

Margaret I. Lisney

Towards the end of January 1986 a letter dropped on to our door mat. It was from another LISNEY, who had been triggered off into writing to all the LISNEYs in the phone book after seeing the LISNEY name in a copy of Reader's Digest. He said he was hoping to trace his roots and could we help.

My husband immediately replied to his letter enclosing a copy of our very small family tree of about a dozen people, mentioning that he thought his family was connected with the blacksmiths in Cricklewood near "the windmills" (later found to have been a pub) and waited. Then a letter arrived giving the name of another LISNEY who also had connections to the blacksmiths in Cricklewood. He turned out to be an unknown second cousin and we more than doubled our tree at a stroke.

At this stage we decided to seek advice as to how to go about finding out more. My husband contacted a friend who was "into family history" and he came and gave us details of where to find information and how to record it. He also showed us a numbering system which we have used from the start - a great boon!

Until then we did not even know that members of the public were allowed access to the indexes at St. Catherine's House. We had never heard of the census returns or the IGI, let alone all the other records. Our friend departed with warnings of the dangers of dabbling into family history. "It can prove addictive", he said.

Our next move was to visit The Grange Museum in Neasden, where we found a map lying on a table showing the blacksmith's premises. "How do we find out who was living there?", asked my husband. "In here", said the lady of the Grange, casually turning a few pages of a book lying open beside the map. "Here they are", she said, pointing to a page of the census showing great-grandfather, Thomas LISNEY, listed with his wife and family. We collected photocopies and went away bemused. This family history business was easy! Where next?

We went searching for gravestones in the snow! Yes really! I collected laddered tights from hidden brambles and little else. However, eventually we did find a stone in a Neasden graveyard, the first we looked at in that particular graveyard, it was that of great-grandfather, Tom. There was a hailstorm at the time and after a quick dash for shelter while it passed, we knelt on the wet ground and deciphered the inscription which rewarded us with quite a tale.

The next port of call was St, Catherine's House - after opening a few books we made a decision - as there were so few LISNEYS in them we decided to start at the beginning and work our way through recording them all. Working from 1837 forward we had a feeling that we were going the wrong way up a one-way street - everyone else seemed to be travelling in the opposite direction! After several more visits we were finished and had pieced together many trees and fascinating tales, linking onto the IGI and various other records as time went by. At that time we had not heard of the Guild of One-Name Studies.

Our searches through the records showed that young Tom had been left an orphan at the age of nine. We found him living in an orphanage in the 1841 Census just after losing his parents, James and Ann. In the 1851 Census he was living with Thomas JONES and his wife, Mary Anne, as an apprentice blacksmith. It was only in a later census that we realised that Mary Anne JONES was our Tom's sister! She had been born in West Molesey, Surrey in 1817.

It was about this time that my husband got side-tracked - he started collecting information on all the JONES, who were blacksmiths in the area around Cricklewood in North-West London. It turned out that they were all one family. There were not many JONES around in that area in the 19th century, so the task was not as difficult as it at first appeared.

Not to be left out of things I decided to start tracing my own roots - my maiden name, KNIGHT, was a totally different ball

game! I am still stuck in the middle of North-West Dartmoor, Devon, wondering where 3rd great-grandfather, Henry, born circa 1750, came from, possibly Black Torrington, son of James and Ann - but proving it!

Then I started pursuing NOBLEs. Great-grandma, Harriet NOBLE had married John KNIGHT in Radnorshire in 1873. I soon found myself sorting out the family of the Reverend Mark NOBLE of Barming, Kent, noting on my way other surnames connected by marriage. Harriet's sister, Alice Elizabeth NOBLE had married Thomas Gray COLLIER in Camberwell in 1875 and had produced a little tree of COLLIERs. Further back still Edward Moore NOBLE married Ann ALLSOPP in 1805 at St. Weburghs, Derbyshire.

Both my husband and I had HARRIS grandmothers, he had two and I had one. That presented a problem, but I managed to find out that my great-grandfather, Richard HARRIS, had married Caroline PREECE in Wormbridge, Herefordshire in 1856 and her father was John PREECE and she had two sisters, Emma and Annie PREECE.

Going back to the LISNEY family, we found that 2nd great-grandmother was born in the tiny village of Titsey, Surrey, in 1793 , the daughter of William LISNEY and Sarah, formerly QUITTENTON. What a lovely name we thought and got sidetracked again. We had to find out more about Sarah! We found her baptism and traced her tree back in Titsey to about 1600. QUITTENTON changed spelling as it went back but mostly it was spelt QUIDDINGTON or QUITTINGTON. We found this direct line married to TURK, SPENCE, SKINNER and several others in Titsey and that many families seemed to be inter-related. We traced Sarah's line around East Surrey and in and out of Kent and spotted the marriage of a Mary QUIDDINGTON to a Charles STAGG in Sanderstead in 1717. Could this Charles have any connection with Eliza STAGG, who was a witness to the marriage of our Thomas LISNEY to Eliza CROUCH in Bermondsey in 1855 - maybe they were distant cousins? Mary QUIDDINGTON connects to our tree in Titsey in the mid 1600s.

It looked as if we were going to be sidetracked yet again - this time a one-place study of the inhabitants of Titsey, many of whom appear to be related in some way or other to my husband! Incidentally the total population of Titsey at the time of the 1851 Census was only 155.

Soon after joining the Guild of One-Name Studies I spotted Kelvin Warth's piece about the Marriage Index and after dutifully sending him all 96 of our LISNEY marriages, I decided to send all the KNIGHT marriages from the IGI for Devonshire. There were more Mary KNIGHTs than the total number of LISNEYs. I am still collecting marriages for the Index as I come across them.

It was a few months after joining the Guild that we joined our local family history society and got sidetracked again, this time with graveyard activities and somehow we also found ourselves

taking on the editorship of their journal - all thoroughly enjoyable.

Yes, family history research is addictive, in whatever form it takes, but we were warned weren't we! I really must hoover the carpet and clean the windows! What do we do with our spare time? Answer correspondence about LISNEYs? You've guessed it - we haven't had any enquiries!

A one-name study - you are joking aren't you?

Margaret I. Lisney, Member No. 952 [*119 Draycott Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, HA3 0DA.*]

SPODE - A UNIQUE FAMILY NAME? **Peter F. C. Roden**

The family name SPODE is both relatively uncommon and widely recognised for its association with world famous bone china. But how uncommon is the name and where did it come from? This article summarises what is known and what is unknown about the name and the families who bear it.

Books and articles about SPODE are invariably concerned with the products invented by Josiah SPODE (1733-1797) and developed by his son, Josiah, 1755 - 1827). For those interested in the SPODE business and its products, the authoritative work is by Leonard Whiter. Simply called "SPODE", it is sub-titled "A History of the Family, Factory and Wares from 1733 to 1833". It was published by Barrie and Jenkins of London in 1970 and is now out of print, copies already commanding substantial prices as prized collectors' items.

After the death of the founder's son in 1827, the SPODE business passed through the next two generations of the family in the next six years before being sold in 1833 to the COPELAND family, who had previously been partners in the firm. Since then, the descendants of the founder have had no part in the business, although it still continues through several recent changes of ownership to produce the highest quality products for which the name is justly famous.

The fame of the name, therefore, was established by two generations of the family in the two quarter centuries either side of 1800. Fortunately for historians, there is abundant material from this period to study. Many of the business documents from this period have survived and are now at Keele University, while much of their contents is covered in Whiter's book. But for family historians taking a broader view, only two generations were famous and there is still much to be discovered about the earlier and later generations of the family.

The senior male line died out when the heir to the business, Josiah SPODE, born in 1823, died childless in 1893 and left his fortune at Hawkesyard Park to the Dominicans to become Hawkesyard Priory. However, the junior male lines and the female lines have been prolific. There are over 350 known descendants from the founder of the business, Josiah (1733-1797), spread over eight generations. Two of his grandsons emigrated as free settlers to Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania) in 1821; one became Chief Police Magistrate while the other, from whom I am descended, returned to England with his family in 1826. Today there are still a few SPODEs in Australia and many more descendants there through female lines. So far as it is known, there are no SPODEs in England today descended from the founder of the pottery business, but many descendants through female lines.

However, there are SPODES in England still, but are they related to the famous potters? To answer that question, one must look back at least to the end of the 17th century or earlier.

The Josiah who was baptised at Stoke upon Trent in 1733 is referred to in the potteries literature as "the first" or Josiah I to distinguish him from the other Josiahs in each of the next three generations, who in turn inherited the business. However, Josiah I was not the first Josiah in the SPODE family. His father, who was baptised at Biddulph in 1695, was named Josiah and it was this Josiah who first moved to Stoke upon Trent from Biddulph, a village on the Staffordshire/Cheshire border about 8 miles north of Stoke upon Trent.

Biddulph parish registers, which start in 1558, contain a continuous record of SPODEs from the middle of the 16th century to the end of the 17th century, except for the period 1606-1654 during which there are only two entries. This has led at least one researcher, the late John A. Yates, to assert that Biddulph is the "original" home of the SPODEs and that the name is unique to a family emanating from this parish. As ever, his view has been echoed subsequently by others without checking.

John Yates himself lived in Coventry and died in the early 1970s. He spent many years researching the SPODE descendants of the famous potters from whom he believed he was descended. He particularly researched the Australian descendants and deposited a summary of his findings in the archives there together with his correspondence with the Archives Office of Tasmania which is very useful. Unfortunately, the whereabouts of his working papers are unknown and there are certain errors in some of his conclusions. In particular, it has recently been discovered that he was not "descended from" the SPODEs as he claimed, but only "related to" them through a GARNER marriage. The SPODE daughter from whom he assumed a descent died in infancy when only three days old. His conclusions, therefore, form a useful starting point but need treating with caution until proved or disproved.

Of the forty English counties in the IGI, twenty-nine have no SPODE entries at all. There are 3 counties with single entries, Norfolk in 1569, Suffolk in 1596 and Northumberland in 1720, which can probably all be discounted as "strays". Another, Shropshire, has two entries in 1772 and 1781 which are late enough to discount as "sources" of the name. Then there is London, as one would expect, but the earliest entry there in the IGI is an isolated female marriage at Wandsworth in 1756 - so London too can probably be discounted as a source of the name.

If one ignores the lines of the county boundaries, the IGI entries in the other six counties are in three separate and distinct small geographical areas. One group, as expected, is in the Staffordshire/Cheshire border area, the second is about 30 miles north in south Lancashire, whilst the third is about 30 miles south between Tamworth and Hinckley and covers the counties of Staffordshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire, with a single later entry in Northamptonshire.

The southern group consists of a male marriage at Narborough (LEI) in 1636, two generations 1690-1728 at Mancetter, Baxterley and Polesworth (WAR), a single female marriage at Tamworth (STS) in 1721, several generations at Hinckley from 1742 onwards plus 19th century marriages in Birmingham and Leicester. The IGI is clearly not complete in this area, but contains sufficient information to indicate one or more SPODE families in the area from early in the 17th century. Where they came from I do not know, but there is clearly the possibility of an early migration of a member from the family a little further north.

The northern group have over forty entries for Lancashire in the IGI. They start at Winwick in 1593 and continue in the area at Winwick, Leigh, Wigan, Deane and Standish and later at Manchester throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. Their appearance in Lancashire in the 16th century, only slightly later than the start of the Biddulph registers, was a surprise discovery. An assumption that they came from Biddulph could be the reverse of the truth.

The largest group by far is in the Staffordshire/Cheshire border area. For sheer volume, three parishes in this area stand out from the rest, Biddulph, Stoke upon Trent and Audley. The Audley SPODE family still lives in the area and Pat SPODE has traced her descent from this branch back to the early 18th century in the same parish. Frustratingly, all attempts to link the Audley and Biddulph branches have so far failed to reveal the presumed connection.

Apart from two thoroughyly researched branches of SPODEs from Audley, Biddulph, and Stoke, the IGI shows there were also several more branches of the SPODE family in this area. Over a dozen parishes in the area have IGI SPODE entries before 1770. All of these parishes are within 10 miles of Wolstanton, the border parish between Biddulph and Audley, which itself has

boundaries with eleven other parishes in Staffordshire or Cheshire. Furthermore, within this area, there are several parishes which are not included in the IGI and which are still to be researched.

In this area, Biddulph parish registers have the earliest entries, but only by ten years. There is a male SPODE marriage in 1572 which appears in the Marton (CHS) registers and also Prestbury (CHS) three days later. It is possible, therefore, as one correspondent suggested recently, that the SPODE family originally came from Cheshire not Staffordshire.

To sum up then, it does seem likely that SPODE is a rare family name which had only developed in three small areas by the end of the 17th century. Furthermore, these three areas are sufficiently close to one another to suggest the distinct possibility that the name SPODE did develop from a single family. It is an interesting challenge for the future to find the true origin of the SPODE family. A complementary challenge is to find all the subsequent connections in order to relate all SPODEs to one another and to study the differences in life-style of different parts of the family.

In seeking the origin of the family, it is also revelant to ask how they got their name. So far as is known, the name SPODE is not mentioned in any published reference book on surnames. When the "Dictionary of Surnames" (Penguin 1970) was published, John Yates wrote to the author, (Basil Cottle, Reader in English at Bristol University) and asked why SPODE had been omitted. The author replied that the family was too small in number for inclusion, but he did suggest that the surname was probably of the locative type from SPOAD or SPOADE near Clun in south-west Shropshire, about 25 miles south west of Shrewsbury.

SPOAD can be found on a 1:50,000 Ordinance Survey Map (Sheet 137). It consists of a hill top farm at 401 metres and areas marked Upper Spoad and Lower Spoad on a steep north facing hillside running down to the valley of the River Clun. The map also shows Offa's Dyke running through Spoad. Offa's Dyke was a great earthwork built from the River Wye to the River Dee by Offa (757-796), King of Mercia, to form a national boundary to keep the Welsh out of England. Later the English built defensive castles on this boundary and John Yates reported that the remains of one of them forms the basis of Spoad Farm. The map also shows that a mile to the north of Spoad Farm, in the river valley, is a village called Newcastle. Presumably at some time Newcastle replaced the old castle in the area which is now Spoad Farm.

In the absence of any alternative theory, the locative origin of the family name SPODE seems most likely. It means that at some time during the period when surnames were being adopted in England, (generally in the 13th and 14th century), a man came SPOAD moved north to the Biddulph area and was known by his place of origin, which became his surname. You may say that the

spelling is different, but up to 200 years ago, names were spelt phonetically with no standard spelling. SPOAD, SPOADE and SPODE are all found in the early Biddulph registers, SPOARD is found at Wolstanton and SPOOD and SPOODE are found with the SPODEs in Lancashire and elsewhere. However, the meaning of the word remains a complete mystery. Its occurrence at an ancient fort on Offa's Dyke obviously suggests an ancient origin, possibly Welsh, but probably the truth will never be known.

Peter F. C. Roden, MA, FCIS, Member No. 1254 [*6 Yew Tree Avenue, Bradford, BD8 0AD.*]

IT'S YOU WE ANSWER TO --- B.T. **M. K. Venables**

I knew that my grandfather, who died in 1931, had four brothers, but what of their children and my second cousins? I hoped that if I could trace the latter, they might give me some information in tracing the Venables family tree.

I only knew of one living retired cousin, whom I managed to trace through the British Telecom Directory Microfiche, and he gave me some information on his side of the family. Then in 1988 I noticed in the Daily Telegraph the death of Janet Venables, aged 96, who could have been an aunt of mine. I wrote to the undertaker mentioned for details. A week later I had a letter from one of her nieces, called Maxine, endorsing my enquiry and reminding me that the last time we had met must have been 50 years ago.

So now I had found another second cousin and sent her a questionaire on her branch of the family and from her reply I was reminded that her father, when in Tripoli had a copy of the birth certificate of his cousin, Herbert Venables, dated 1898. Herbert's father was a missionary in Tripoli, but what had happened to Herbert? Could he have followed in his father's footsteps? I searched editions of Crockford's Clerical Directory at various libraries without any luck and, leaving no stone unturned, I decided to consult the Church Missionary Society and the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. I was in luck!

The C.M.S. Archivist, in reply to my enquiry (not forgetting the stamped addressed envelope and donation) told me that Herbert was employed by them as Area Secretary for the Diocese of Hereford, Litchfield and Worcester in the late 1940s and resigned in 1951. So once again I visited various libraries asking for Crockford's 1951/52 and found that Herbert was the Vicar of Headless Cross Church at Redditch.

In the meantime while awaiting a reply from the incumbent of Redditch, I found in my late father's correspondence mention of "Ada", a spinster, who had moved to Redditch. Was she Herbert's

sister? Not hearing from the incumbent, I telephoned the number of A. Venables at Redditch and asked to speak to Miss Venables. The male voice who answered said, "Which one?" and I replied, "Ada". He told me that Aunt Ada had died in 1970 and that his name was Anthony Venables and he was married with two daughters. So thanks to British Telecom, I discovered, in the very next county, another living cousin, whom I did not know existed.

Mr. M. K. Venables, Member No. 806 [*"Arrow Lawn", Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3AL.*]

IS YOUR SURNAME DYING OUT? **Norman & Vicky Uffindell**

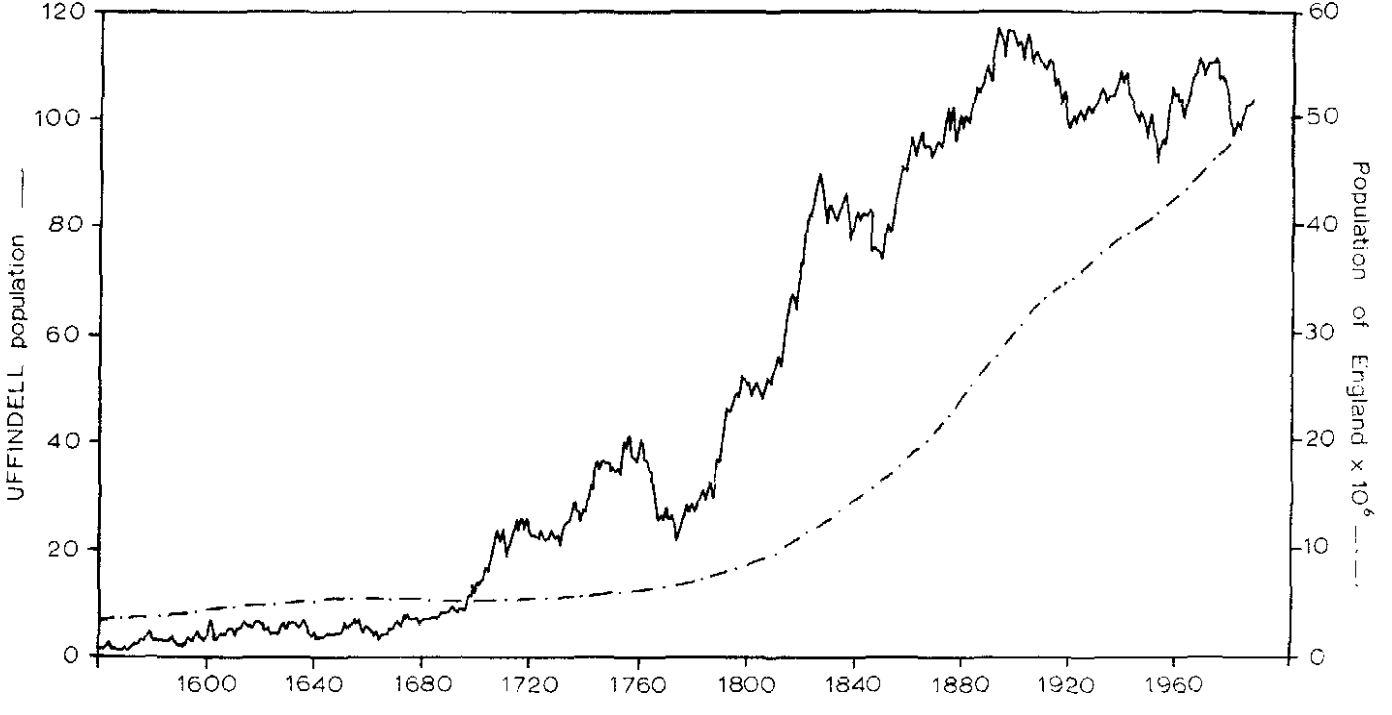
There have been a number of reports in the Journal in the past of attempts to determine the size of a surname population and to estimate whether it is growing or in danger of dying out. These studies have mostly relied on comparing ratios of telephone subscribers to the general population of the ratio of birth rates over two periods of time.

The surname population at any point in time depends, however, on a number of factors apart from birth rates. For example, death rates, life expectancy, proportion of males marrying, their average age of marriage and the number of male children resulting from these marriages will all affect the surname population.

One-namers are in a unique position to study these factors for their surnames as they have already collected the data. Bearing in mind that the data may not be complete, especially as one extends one's study backwards beyond the General Registration Act, some general demographic trends can be found.

Our UFFINDELL study shows that between 1650 and 1900 the proportion of males surviving beyond their tenth birthday remained remarkably constant at around 50%. The first half of this century saw the proportion surviving to 96% and today it is essentially 100%. In each of the half centuries between 1650 and 1800 some 30 males were born and this birth rate jumped to around 100 males born in each of the half centuries between 1800 and 1900 and today has fallen to 60 males per half century. The age of males at marriages has remained constant since 1650 at around 24 to 28, whereas the number of males born (who survived beyond 10 years) per marriage has fallen from 1.5 for 1650 - 1880 to 1.1. for the first half of this century, but has now climbed back to 1.5.

Thus, our ancestors have lived through a complex series of demographic changes which means that the only realistic way to answer the question: "Is your surname waxing or waning?" is really to count the number of individuals living in each year.


UFFINDELL population
Population of England x 10⁶
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
1600
1640
1680
1720
1760
1800
1840
1880
1920
1960

For a rare surname this is a fairly simple task. It involves drawing up a table of years and recording against each year in separate columns, the number of births, deaths and female marriages occurring in each year, ensuring that a death or a female marriage is recorded for each birth. If a death date is not available, then the latest date that person was known to be alive should be used as a death date. For example, if the birth date is the only date known for an individual then the death should be recorded as being the same year, but if he was also mentioned in a census then the census date should be used. Once the table has been completed, it is simply a matter of counting the number of births in a year and subtracting the number of deaths and the number of female marriages occurring in the year. This gives the increase or decrease in the surname population during the year and this is added to the population alive in the previous year. In this way, one builds up a table of the number of people carrying the surname, who are alive in each year. (Ideally one should also include the number of females marrying into the family, and their subsequent deaths, as they also carry the surname. Although this has not been done for the data shown here, it should not materially alter the population trend.)

The graph shows this data for the UFFINDELL one-name study and compares the UFFINDELL population with the total population of England at a scale ratio of 1:500,000. Interestingly, the UFFINDELL population shows a distinct 35 to 40 year cycle which has persisted right through from 1700 to the present day. Also the marked growth in the surname population started some one hundred years before that in the general population of England, but since 1900 has stabilised at around 100 individuals in contrast to the continued growth in the general population.

References:
"The Population History of England 1541 - 1871, A Reconstruction" by E. A. Wrigley and R. S. Schofield, Edward Arnold, 1981, pp.531-5 and "Abstract of British Historical Statistics" by B. R. Mitchell, C.U.P., 1982.

Mrs. V. E. J. Uffindell, Member No. 552 *[21 Gaveston Drive, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 1JF.]*

THE JEPHCOTT SOCIETY

Jess Jephcott

It has been quite some time since this category B man had a mention in the Journal and so I thought I would put fingers to the keyboard of my Amstrad PCW8512 and enlighten my fellow one namers as to what this particular one namer's experiences have been since I formed 'The Jephcott Society' in 1983.

In Volume 1 No.12, our first newsletter of April 1983 was modestly reviewed. The review looked forward to other issues, of

which we have now published twenty, covering 120 A4 sides of paper.

As seems to be the usual way in which to get started, I was sending a standard format letter to people with my surname, shown in the UK telephone directories, to try to find out more about the name and where it came from. I found that, on average, I was getting a one in ten success rate. In the meantime, I was gathering information from parish records and the like and it became apparent that the name JEPHCOTT was common to Warwickshire, whereas in Essex (where I come from) there were only a very few mentions of the name. It also became clear that I could not discount such names as JEPHCOTE, JEFFCOTT, JEFFCOAT, JEPHCOAT, JEFCOATE, etc.

The membership of the society grew steadily to over 100 households throughout the world. I discovered several other researchers of the name, and we currently list 33 variations for which we hold records and can answer enquiries about.

We held our first gathering of the clan in Shilton, near Coventry, in August 1983 and about 50 people came along, including the local press who did us proud with coverage that brought in a lot of enquiries and new members. We have since held three more gatherings and another may be on the cards before too long.

To a degree, I have now run out of steam. The membership are ever willing to pay a subscription to assist with the funding of the printing and postage and to send in the occasional article, but unwilling to take any active part. This apparent apathy does not surprise me in the least and has never deterred me in the past, and I am sure that many of you will have experienced this same situation.

I have now ceased production of the quarterly newsletters, mainly due to a lack of articles of sufficient interest (not raw data of which there will never be a shortage), but have replaced them with a simpler to produce news sheet, that will hopefully keep us all in touch. The newsletters themselves are deposited in various libraries across the world and from that point of view, other researchers should always be able to get in contact with us.

I am currently compiling a book about the family, which promises to be a lengthy process. At the age of 35, retirement (and more leisure time) seems a long way off.

Jess Arthur Jephcott, Member No. 469 [*73 All Saints Avenue, Colchester, Essex. CO3 4PA.*]

SO THE AMERICANS ARE KEEN ON ROOTS

Gillian Bedingfield

For Christmas 1987, an American relative knowing that I am researching the name, Thunder, worldwide, sent me a book entitled "The Amazing Thunder New World Registry" published by Halberts. There has recently been some adverse comment about similar publications now available in England, but I was very pleased to receive the "Thunder" book.

The book has six sections, but I was only interested in the last one which lists the names and addresses of Thunders in Australia, Canada and the United States. I had already searched overseas telephone directories, but had found only a few of those listed in the Registry. Throughout 1988 and the beginning of this year I sent off family history questionnaires and covering letters with the promise of information about any known ancestry and return air mail postage.

The Registry lists 68 addresses for Thunders in the United States, four of whom are my known relatives. One person had two addresses and two people had the same address which left me with 62 letters to write.

From the first 33 letters I had 8 replies. One said his name was Tunder and that he was of Hungarian extraction and two others said that they were Thunders by deed-poll. Of the other five, four were related and gave me a great deal of information and I was able to identify their earliest American ancestor and take their pedigree back a further three generations. The fifth response was from a member of an Irish Thunder family. From these replies I was able to identify another seven Thunders in the Registry to whom, therefore, I did not need to write. Then I sent the remaining 29 letters and to date no one has replied. However nine letters have been returned to me marked "unknown", "forwarding order expired" or something similar. Since the Registry was dated 1986 and was presumably compiled some time before that, it is not surprising that some of those listed have moved on. I am still hoping that I may get some more replies.

To summarise the present situation: 55 letters sent, 8 replies, 9 returned and 38 not heard from. Of the 62 "unknown" Thunders 3 are not true Thunders and 12 I can identify. A very disappointing response, although worthwhile because of the marvellous amount of information sent me by a few, but I no longer believe that Americans are particularly interested in their ancestry!

For those members intending to carry out a similar American survey, I offer one or two tips. Try to obtain American airmail stamps for return postage, if at all possible. (I was asked to buy some certificates for an American, so I requested payment in stamps.) Do write your name and address on the back of the envelopes, as if the letter cannot be delivered it is returned unopened and the contents can be re-used. If the letter is not

returned at least you know that it reached its intended destination and if there is no reply that the person concerned is not interested.

Mrs. Gillian Bedingfield, Member No. 873 [*Honey Hall, Congresbury, Bristol, BS19 5JX.*]

ENGLISH LAW REPORTS Brian Christmas

Although a number of Guild members may be familiar with the official series of Law Reports which date from 1866, they may not be aware of the series of 176 volumes of cases for the period before then, which were published in 1932.

The Courts and periods covered by the various volumes are as follows:

Vols. 1-11	House of Lords, 1694 to 1865.
Vols. 12-20	Privy Council including Indian Appeals, 1809 to 1865.
Vols. 21-47	Chancery, including Collateral Reports. 1557 to 1865.
Vols. 48-55	Rolls Court, 1829 to 1865.
Vols. 56-71	Vice-Chancellors' Courts, 1815 to 1865.
Vols. 72-122	King's Bench, 1378 to 1865.
Vols. 123-144	Common Pleas, 1486 to 1865.
Vols. 145-160	Exchequer, 1220 to 1865.
Vols. 161-167	Ecclesiastical, 1752 to 1857; Admiralty, 1776 to 1840 and Probate and Divorce, 1838 to 1865.
Vols. 168-169	Crown Cases, 1743 to 1865.
Vols. 170-176	Nisi Prius, 1688 to 1867.

The cases from the volumes listed above are indexed in two volumes, A-K and L-Z and cover approximately 242,500 entries. As is usual with legal records the cases are indexed only by the name of the plaintiff or first party, so finding a defendant of the name you are interested in is difficult, but not impossible. It just needs a little dedication and perseverance, which most family historians seem to be well endowed with! The numerous surnames are indexed by the spelling shown in the cases, so variants of your surname should be definitely checked when looking through the index. There is a microfilm of the above in the Law Section of Holborn Public Library, 32 Theobald's Road, London, WC1.

While on the subject of the Law, members may like to know of two books which they will probably find of use in finding out more about Case Law and Enacted Law (Statutes). They are Sweet and Maxwell's "Guide to Law Reports and Statutes" and Maxwell's "Where to Look for Your Law". The first of these two books has an alphabetical list by Reporter of English, Irish and Scottish Law Reports, giving the period of time covered and a

chronological list of English Law Reports arranged under Courts, which enables one to look up Reports on particular types of case. e.g. Admiralty, Divorce, Settlement, Bankruptcy, Poor Law, etc., reasonably easily. It also includes a list of abbreviations which will identify which Law Report is referred to in any case of interest found in the English Law Reports above.

Mr. Brian Christmas, Member No. 570 [*174 Oakwood Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8AL.*]

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

Dear Mrs. Rumsey,

I was horrified to read in the last issue of the Journal, Vol.3. No. 7, that Commander Wildy had re-keyed all his data when transferring from a non-IBM compatible computer to a PC. Please do not let Guild members get the idea that such a laborious task is necessary!

True, you cannot take a disc from a BBC Micro, such as mine, and expect a PC-Compatible machine to read it. It will not. But almost any computer can be made to output its file contents in ASCII, the ideal form for information exchange between computers of different types. The computers need only to have an RS232 port or something similar. The RS423 port on the BBC-Micro will suffice. Even something as simple as a "Serial Printer Port" can usually be pressed into service on the "source" computer.

The FIRST STAGE can be done in two ways:

EITHER:

1) Rent an Electronic Mailbox from your telephone company.

2) Upload the file contents (as text) from the old machine into the mailbox using a modem.

3) Connect the modem to the new machine and download the mailbox contents into the new machine.

OR:

1) Place the two computers back to back with their respective serial ports cross-connected. A typical connection might be thus:

   "DATA OUT" on the source machine goes to "DATA IN" on the destination machine.

   "DATA IN" on the source machine goes to "DATA OUT" on the destination machine.

"CTS" on the source machine goes to "RTS" on the destination machine.

"RTS" on the source machine goes to "CTS" on the destination machine.

"SIGNAL GND" connects to "SIGNAL GND".

Try to avoid connecting "CHASSIS GROUND" to "CHASSIS GROUND" in instances where both machines are already earthed via a 3-wire mains lead. The resulting "earth loop" could pick up stray radio transmissions on the computer's clock frequency; this may corrupt the data.

The lead length should be as short as reasonably possible. If the idea of soldering up such a lead horrifies you, you should be able to buy one ready made for about £10 sterling. The connections are the same as used to connect a simple modem to a computer.

2) Now the source computer can export the contents of the file as text via its serial port straight into the destination computer, which must store the arriving information on disc. A little DIY programming is needed here, setting Baud Rates, opening a file and so on.

THE SECOND STAGE involves the "carving up" of the arrived text to fit the fields of the new database. If the original database stored each field written backwards (some do!), now is the time to rectify that. Again it requires DIY programming, but not of a very difficult nature.

A day or two spent trying out such a process might save many weeks of re-typing. Also it will teach you a lot more about your computer!

Christopher M. Eley, Member No. 1387 [*8 St. James' Court, Gayton Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2LX.*]

Note: Members should realise that although the methods set out in this letter are perfectly correct. Connecting two computers together requires a high level of technical expertise, otherwise the advice of a person with expert knowledge is needed.

Dear Editor,

Having just received my copy of your Journal (Vol. 3, No. 7), I made a quick scan to see if it contained any information to further my own study, not so, but I was able to associate myself with two articles, namely, your "From the Editor's Desk" and "Computing and the One-Name Study" by Ted Wildy, both of which referred to the subject of computing in genealogy.

First, your remark about age, which I can endorse, it may take me at sixty, days to work out a new operation and then another day to find out how I did it, whereas a six year old would do it in minutes and often lose the work as fast. I installed and built my first database without help or even a printed manual and this still forms the basis of the one I use today.

Forunately, I was persuaded from the start to have an IBM compatible PC with hard disk, which cost more, but I have no regrets as it makes operating much easier and programmes more available. Also like Ted Wildy, I found that the genealogical programmes on offer were alright for family records, but not for one-name studies and I was delighted to read that we had both chosen to use PCFILE for this work.

I started with PCFILE 4 which is a superseded file programme which is available from clubs and P D suppliers for a few pounds. It can legally be given away free or for just the cost of a disk. It has its own built in manual that enables one to form and use a database. I have now updated to PCFILE+ which is not available from P D suppliers, but does not cost the earth to buy.

Using PCFILE+ I have found it much more user friendly than Lotus, dBaseIII and other big name programmes and its facilities are ideally suited for one-name studies. I feel sure that it will not be long before someone produces a package to enable family trees to be printed from the data held, it may even be already available. Think of the advantages, when at the press of a few keys we could be given the answers to where all those unattached Ducketts belong and then be given a few dozen more to sort out.

Obtaining information through the use of a modem has got to come, but will this not take away some of the enjoyment of the search?

Mr. Ron Duckett, Member No. 1333, [*Outwood Hills Farm, Lower Outwoods Road, Burton-on-Trent, DE13 0QX.*]

Dear Editor,

I was most interested to read Eric Banwell's article, "The Result of the Project 'Is Your Family Waxing or Waning?'" in the last edition of the Journal (Vol. 3, No. 7). Personally, I feel that the Guild should be doing much more work of a similar nature and I am glad to see Eric leading the way.

Eric wonders why the change in the number of birth registrations between 1851 to 1980 and 1951 to 1980, submitted by Guild members, should be different from the national average. Although there clearly is a difference, we do need to ask ourselves whether or not it is significant.

Let me explain "significant". Imagine that I had a coin which I suspected might be biased towards coming down heads. I could try to find out whether or not it was biased, simply by tossing it, say, 100 times. If it were not biased then I would expect it to come down heads 50 times and tails 50 times. Of course I would be most surprised at the coincidence if it did come down heads exactly 50 times: even if not biased it would be more likely to come down something like 55 times heads and 45 times tails. The difference between 55 heads and the expected 50 would not be significant since it could not be reasonably taken as a genuine sign of bias. If the coin came down 95 heads and 5 tails, then that would be completely different. The chances are overwhelmingly against that happening with an unbiased coin: the difference between 95 and 50 is very significant indeed.

Given any number of heads it is easy to calculate the chances that an unbiased coin would come down with that number of heads or less. The normal guideline which is used is that, the difference between what happened and what was expected to happen is called "significant" if the chances are 1 in 20 or less that an unbiased coin could give that result.

This is exactly the position in which we find ourselves. We know what happened (there was a drop of 13% in birth registrations); we know what was expected to happen (there should have been a 3% drop); the two differ, so we need to find out whether or not that difference is significant.

From the information in Eric's article, I have calculated the chance that an average drop of 3% could have given the results obtained. It turns out that there is about 1 chance in 15 that a result might be obtained which is as far away from the national average as was actually obtained. Since this is more likely than the 1 in 20 which had to be reached, we cannot conclude that the difference is of any significance. It might be, but the information presently available does not support such a conclusion.

Incidentally, some more calculations show that 100 people would have needed to reply to Eric's request for information before any conclusions could have been reached. Just a few more replies could have made all the difference!

Roger Lovegrove, Member 628, [*11 Marlborough Road, Bowes Park, London, N22 4NB.*]

Dear Mrs. Rumsey,

I was interested to read Mr. J. Pepperdine's letter regarding the name, Aquilla (Vol. 3, No. 7). May I remind readers that I keep an index of rare and unusual Christian names and I am always delighted to have new additions and to exchange information. A search for an unusual Christian name will be made if a stamped

addressed envelope is sent, but it must be remembered that the index only develops through additions. (Ideally additions should be on 5" x 3" slips or cards with the Christian name in the left hand corner and contain full details of entry and sender).

The earliest entry I have for Aquila, supplied by Mrs. Susan Bourne, is:

> Parish Registers: Roydon, Essex, baptisms:
> 1648/9 Thomas son of Aquila Wall and Elizabeth his wife was borne February 18th and baptised the 25th day thereof.

and one from Kent:

> Aquilla Jancock widower married Ann Marshall spinster 1678 Sept Saltwood Bishop's Transcripts. (K. Hollingbee)

There would also seem to be these additional variants:

> Aguila Betts (Bates) and Sarah, wife. Old Romney Bishop's Transcripts 1804/5. (K. Hollingbee)

> Ann daughter of Joseph and Acquilla Edwards, labourer, baptised 8 Sep 1828. Bishop's Transcripts Somerton, Somerset.

> Joseph Edwards and Acquilla Dade both of this parish married 19 Apr 1829 at Somerton. Witnesses John Parker, Samuel Lewis.

> Buried at Somerton Acquilla Edwards of Somerton aged 25 years, 13 Jan 1830.

Mr. Duncan W. Harrington L.H.G., [*Ashton Lodge, Church Road, Lyminge, Folkestone, Kent, CT18 8JA.*]

Dear Editor,

I totally agree with Colonel Swinnerton on the first two meetings on the Guild of One-Name Studies which preceeded the General Meeting at Leicester. I was there and have photographs to prove it! In fact I felt intimidated at the first meeting as I was the only woman there, I am glad to see that this situation has improved.

The fact that I am fully occupied with RAF research does not mean that I have opted out of my Thirkill/Threlkeld research in anyway. However, I think that, I have come to the end of the "continuous flow" and must now try to fill in the gaps, link families together and get a better system of filing. Re the latter - everyone else is much better at this than I am, but please do not offer advice, though I thank you in advance if you

were going to. Everyone's method is different and as long as it is legible and understandable, I do not think that it matters.

Although everyone must have had military forbears in one way or another, I would suggest that anyone of the post World War II generation should do a little RAF investigation. I had no idea my kin were ever airborne never having met any who were, but now I have a long and interesting RAF list of my own and a large gaping hole in one tree was rapidly and accurately filled in for me by a helicopter navigator, who was one of the rescue team on the Piper Alpha Disaster. For many years I had wondered how and why there was a little Thirkell clutch in Cornwall, with the "e" spelling, and I found it had come from the north-east branch. The navigator's ancestors had gone there in the early 1800s. So leave no stone unturned. Nominal Rolls of RAF stations - not squadrons - are mines of information and it was probably through mining that Flight-Lieutenant Thirkell's family went from Darlington to Cornwall.

On page 212 of the last issue of the Journal, Vol. 3, No. 7, a *query was made as to why there are fewer births in later family* groups. Many reasons were given, but the main one contraception was omitted. However, I have another possibility - in my family line through several generations, first cousins married each other. Is it an old wives' tale that this has dire consequences, as from then on, and before contraception, their families declined from fourteen or fifteen live births to two or three? Genealogy has after all a "gene" root meaning, is this what it really means?

One last point of interest to members, apparently if data is on a word processor it is not covered by the Data Protection Act and registration is not necessary, while if on computer - it has to be. I have just de-registered mine as I have a word processor and not a computer. Models such as the Amstrads are both word processors and computers and one tends to refer to both as computers.

Miss Eunice Wilson, Member No. 143 [*143 Harbord Street, London, SW6 6PN.*]

Editorial Note: *The following letter was originally sent to Mr. Frank Leeson, Editor of the "Genealogists' Magazine" and it was sent for publication in the Journal at his suggestion.*

Dear Members of the Guild of One-Name Studies,

According to P. H. Reaney, the surname CUSS with its many derivatives - CUSSE, CASS, CUISH, etc., is possibly derived from COUSEN(S), COUSIN(S), COSIN, and CUZON and are liable to be confused with COUSANS, CUSSEN, CUSSON(S). The Middle English word "cosin" or "cusin" was used not only for an actual cousin,

but for any kinsman. The name is occasionally found with a double "s", but such a form usually indicates a different origin. CUSSON may be a local surname from COUTANCE (Peter de CUSAUNCE 1305) or a metronomic from CUSTANCE (Constance), with pet forms CUST and CUSS, one origin of both CUSSON and CUSSEN (Robert CUSTSON, 1332, SRCu; Richard CUSSON, 1379, "son of CUST") which may also be "son of CUTT (Cuthbert)" Henry CUTTESONS, 1329, ColchCt.

Reaney refers to the name later in his book "The Origin of English Surnames" by suggesting that CUST and CUSS could be the popular form of Constance from CATON, CATTEL, CATLIN and CUSTANCE, or again that KISS, CUSS, CUSSE and CUSH occur as Thomas William KISSE, 1327, SRSF; William KISSE 1328 FFSf; Lawrence KYSHE, 1537, Bardsley. This was explained by Riley as "a maker of 'cushes' - armour for the thighs". But A. H. Thomas suggested that the kissers were leather dressers or dealers. In support of this , Ekwall notes that John Tilli, in 1292, was alternately described as 'kisser' and 'cordwainer' and that Edward Haringele, leather merchant, (1386) was a brother of Ralph atte Brom, kissere, (1349). The names would appear to derive from the Old French cuisse 'thigh' and Riley's explanation is supported by Godefroy's Old French cuissel, Quissel 'partie de l'armure qui portege les cuisses' and by Cotgrave's Old French cuissaux 'cuisses, armour for the thighs'. It may be that this was protective armour of leather and that KISSMAN, CUSHMAN and KISSER denoted makers of this, whilst KISS, CUSS and CUSH are metronomics cuisse with the same meaning.

The Castle of Falaise in Normandy will probably be best known by those who may aspire to be the descendants of the knights who fought with William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings, than for being the oldest fortress in Normandy and the birthplace of William himself. I would refer to Anthony J. Camp's "My Ancestors Came with the Conqueror" published by the Society of Genealogists, in which he refers to the "Genealogists' Magazine" of December 1931. In this issue of the magazine Dr. T. R. Thomson had written an article "The Falaise Celebration". Briefly this describes and refers to a bronze plaque that was set up in the Castle of Falaise in July of that year, containing the names of "The Companions of the Conqueror", who fought with him and whose descendants may exist today. It was Dr Thomson's conclusion, backed by other eminent historians, including Mr. G. H. White, F. R. Hist. S., that only 15 of the 315 names on the memorial can be proved to be "Companions".

P. H. Reaney in his diagnosis of the family name makes no mention of CUSSY (le Sire de Cussy) one of those named on the Falaise memorial, but not one of those 15 proved by Dr. Thomson. It is this name that is of great interest and could have been the origin of my family name, rather than any of the numerous rather vague and uncertain reasons of its origin set out by Reaney. It is a matter of speculation why Reaney, or indeed Bardsley before him, made no mention of le Sire de Cussy - on the face of it - a

far more likely contender. The transference to the trailing "e" from "y" - the "e" disappeared in the late 17th century - appears to be readily understandable, but this may be too simplistic an answer.

I wonder if any member may be able to throw further light on this rather baffling mystery.

Mr. H. W. J. Cuss, [*Cloven Rocks Cottage, Simonsbath, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 7JU.*]

Dear Mrs. Rumsey,

The article "How Big Is a One-Name Study" in the Winter issue of the Journal (Vol. 3, No. 5), mentioned that a possible result of a one-name study is to find people prepared to look at archives that would otherwise be unreachable.

I have another solution to what I think is a common problem. I live near Bristol and my one-name study is of a name that appears mainly in Sussex, Kent and around Dublin in Eire. Other family history research needs work doing in Yorkshire and Suffolk. Family responsibilities severely restrict trips to far away record offices - at present Sussex is out of the question, Yorkshire impossible and London difficult.

My answer, for several years, has been to find "exchangers". By answering advertisements or by placing my own in appropriate Journals of family history societies, I have contacted people in a similar position to my own; those who are able to research in their home areas, but not far afield. I research in Avon and the surrounding counties in return for research in Sussex, Kent, Suffolk, Norfolk, Yorkshire and London. No money changes hands and I hope that those in receipt of my efforts are as satisfied as I am with theirs.

By these means my one-name study now goes back in part to the 15th century and my other family history has been considerably extended. I have been working with some of my exchangers for several years and have become almost as involved with their families as with my own and just as pleased as they are when I find their "lost links". I have also been asked, on occasions, to search documents that I would have had no call to search in my own family history, or perhaps would not have considered, so extending my own knowledge and experience

To those of my exchangers, past and present, who may read this I can only say "thank you very much" and to other frustrated family historians "try exchanging - I have found it very worthwhile".

Mrs. Gillian Bedingfield, Member No. 873 [*Honey Hall, Congresbury, Bristol, BS19 5JX.*]

REVIEWS

MERRITT INTERNATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL
Vol. 3, No. 1. April 1989. Published twice yearly. A5. pp. 48. ISSN 0955-1883. Editor and publisher: David C. Merritt, 12 Edgar Court, Edgar Close, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7JJ, England.

This Journal is outstanding for the vastness of its source material, not only the historical, but also the international. It reflects the concerted effort of several persons researching around the world and culminating in a very interesting Journal.

Two points the Editor might consider: (1) printing maps illustrating some of the material covered, and (2) specific grouping of material according to the country referenced. These two points are not mandatory but could improve an already near perfect Journal

R.C.R.

"B" - Boag Newsletter. Vol. 1, No. 1. June/July 1988. A4. pp. 18. Editor and publisher: Mrs. Raema J. Gooch, 44 First Avenue, Rossmoyne. Western Australia 6155.

Eighteen pages of good humoured family research. It is well layed out and the Editor's sparkling wit makes an easy journey through many formidable facts. It is liberally sprinkled with eye catching cartoons. Certainly a keepsake for anyone searching Boag or its variants, not only for its humour but also for the serious research published therein. Well done!

However, the Editor might obtain an ISSN number and give more prominant display to her name and address.

R.C.R.

NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

NEWSFLASH FROM NORTH LONDON!

Just over a year ago, the Islington Branch of the North Middlesex Family History Society started work on indexing two very important collections of records held by Islington Libraries. The first being the Clerkenwell Settlement Examinations (deposited at Finsbury Library) covering the period 1777 - 1851 and, secondly, the St. Mary, Islington, Rate Books (Central Library) which run from 1729 through to 1960. A cut-off year is presently being established as 1900.

Both of these records could be of inestimable value to family historians as they cover the difficult period prior to the 1841 census returns and therefore help to bridge the gap from civil registration back to parish registers. Until now the records have been little used and this can largely be attributed to the lack of suitable indexes.

Two teams of enthusiastic branch members are now involved in transcribing from the originals and entering the records into a data file on Apple Macintosh computers. It is the intention that on completion the result of this work will be published, but until that stage is reached the Islington Branch is offering a service of computer searches. Funds raised by this method will be directed toward offsetting publication costs.

To date, the progress on the index for the St. James, Clerkenwell, Settlement Examinations is almost complete in its first phase, some 13,000 names (1777 - 1831) of examinees (christian and surname) having been entered on computer out of the total 15,000 for the whole work and searches could prove productive. Progress on the Rate Books is also providing a workable index with a total of approximately 37,000 records already transcribed with some 25,000 entered. Currently, priority is being given to the early Rate Books up to and including 1845. The work on the Rate Books is at present being conducted in two periods i.e., 1729 - 1795 and 1800 - 1835; three separate years are also in production, 1840, 1841 and 1845. Thus, because of this coverage it is possible to establish the period and address of any Islington ancestors. The first published edition of the indexes will be for the year 1841 which holds approximately 14,000 records.

Family historians and researchers wishing to avail themselves of this service will receive a computer printout of every mention of their requested surname in the section selected.

Rate Book search periods are as follows: 1729-1770, 1775-1795, 1800-1820, 1825-1835 and 1841; while the Clerkenwell search periods are 1777-1814 and 1815-1831. It should be noted that Rate Books are initially being indexed at five year intervals (except 1841) and the Clerkenwell Settlement Examinations are for the periods 1777-1814 and 1815-1831.

Inquirers should write to : James Sanderson, 16 Fountains Crescent, Southgate, London, N14 6BE.

"MISCELLANEOUS POEMS" BY EDWARD M. MANDEVILLE

Mrs. I. R. Veecock of 71 Queen Anne's Grove, Ealing, London, W5 3XP, writes that the book "Miscellaneous Poems" by Edward M. Mandeville was printed and sold by John Veacock in 1798 in

Waterford, Ireland. She has copied out the list of subscribers to this book and found that some names also appear in the Register of One-Name Studies and the latest Supplement. These entries are as follows:

AGAR, HON. MRS; CAREW, R. T. ESQ., 10 copies;
CAREW, REV. PONSONBY MAY; DALTON, MR. PATRICK;
DALTON, ROGER, ESQ., 4 copies; HEASSY, MR. EDMUND;
DUCKET, J. PARSONS, ESQ., 4 copies.

If any member has any entry with Veacock, Veecock or similar spelling in his or her index, Mrs. Veacock would be delighted to hear about it

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BID TIME RETURN

"Bid Time Return" by Beryl Hurley and Jean Cole, published by Wiltshire Family History Society, is a play written to encourage new, and not so new, family historians to use their imagination. It is a teaching aid - an entertainment - tracing the history of a fictitious family.

A Young Family Historian starts to research her ancestors with the help of her elderly Aunt and her progress is seen through the events themselves -the 1851 census, the registration of a death, making a will, a marriage, problems with meeting house certificates, an indenture, a settlement examination, a baptism, a penance and a bastardy examination. Finally she writes to her Aunt with the information she thinks she has found.

The play lasts for 45 minutes and has a cast of approximately 6 men, 4 women and 1 girl, plus extras. Scripts of the play are available and there is a video, for sale or hire, made by members of Wiltshire Family History Society, plus a background book with documents supporting the research. If a group wishes, a speaker is available to talk about the background to the play, when the video is shown.

Scripts, tapes and books are available from Mrs. Beryl Hurley, 21 Elizabeth Drive, Jump Farm, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 3SR, England, from whom details of fees and permission to perform the play should be obtained before a performance of any kind is given.

WOOLVEN FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The inaugural meeting of the Woolven Family History Association (one-name group) was held at Worcester on 24th June 1989.

Founder members comprise Sue Brown, Rob White, Dave Woolven and Richard T. Woolvin. Discussion at the meeting ranged from the original home of the Woolvens, namely, the county of Sussex, to a programme of co-ordinated action to find and collate information on all aspects of Woolven history and individuals.

Name variants include WOOL(L)VEN, WOOL(L)VIN(E), WOL(L)VIN(E) and WAL(L)VIN(E). Anyone who has information on these names and wishes to share it with the group, please write to Sue Brown, 25 Homecroft Drive, Packington, Ashby de la Zouch, Leics., LE6 5WG.

RICHMOND IN THE CENSUS OF 1851

The Richmond Local History Society is pleased to announce the publication of "Richmond in the Census of 1851" by Simon Fowler, Officer in Charge, Census Office, Public Record Office. This is the first in a new series of occasional papers based on original source material and comprises a complete index of the surnames and streets of Richmond in Surrey as they appear in the 1851 Census, together with a full introduction and a contemporary map. Copies are priced at £3 plus 50p. postage and may be obtained from James W. Green, 10 Topiary Square, Stanmore Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 2DB.

DEADLINES

The deadline for the Fourth Quarter issue, now to be known as the January 1990 issue, is Monday, December 4th, 1989 and for the April 1990 issue, Monday, March 5th, 1990.

Those members with an Amstrad PCW8256, may if they wish, send their contributions for the Journal on disc, which will be returned by post.

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THE GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES was formed in September 1979 to encourage the exchange of ideas and co-operative liaison between the growing number of family historians who concentrate their research on all references to a single surname including proven variants.

In the majority of cases this activity is carried on by an individual working alone and not as a member of a One-Name Society, although many such societies have been established and admitted to the Federation of Family History Societies as formally constituted organisations. Such a group, whether or not formally constituted, may become associated with the Guild through an individual member. Anyone with a genuine interest in this type of research is welcome to join, membership not being restricted to those who register specific surnames.

The Aims and Objectives of the GUILD are:

(a) To advance the education of the public in the study of genealogy and family history of persons with the same name and its variants.

(b) To promote the preservation and publication of the resultant data, and to maximise its accessibility to interested members of the public.

In furtherance of these aims the Guild:-

(i) Provides a forum for individuals and groups of people engaged in the collection of ALL references and occurrences of a single name and its variants worldwide.

(ii) Arranges conferences, meetings and similar gatherings for Guild members and others interested.

(iii) Encourages one-name research, particularly from original documents, and publishes or assists in the publication of the useful results of such research.

(iv) Produces a Journal and other literature, helpful to One-Name Studies.

(v) Maintains and publishes a Register of the surnames being researched and of the places where members have deposited the result of their researches, and through close association with the Federation of Family History Societies, the Society of Genealogists, the Association of Scottish Family History Societies and similar organisations worldwide secures the greatest possible awareness of One-Name research. *By means of the Register each member becomes the publicised contact and expert in the name(s) he or she has registered.*

(vi) Encourages and ensures, by a written undertaking, that members deal with all reply-paid enquiries, which relate to their registered names. *This undertaking is a primary requirement and should not be given lightly, particularly with the more common names.*

New applicants for membership of the Guild should send a stamped addressed envelope to the Registrar, requesting a Registration Form. Overseas applicants should send three International Reply Coupons.

The Registration Fee is £4.00 for each name registered; each registration may include up to five variants. The Annual Subscription, payable 1st. January, is £6.00, and covers four issues of this Journal and two issues of Family History News and Digest. On joining members receive a copy of the current edition of the REGISTER OF ONE-NAME STUDIES and supplements and new editions as they are issued.

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