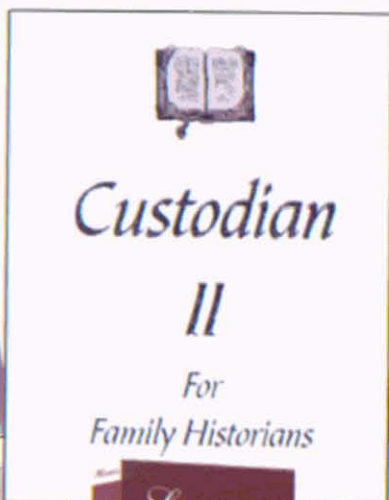
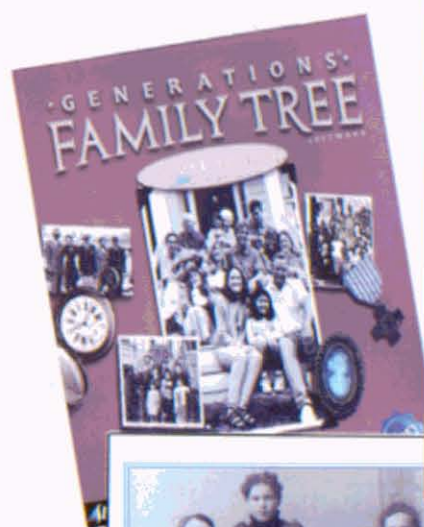


Journal

of One-Name Studies



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Which software is best for one-namers?

**Researching a
mapmaker in
manorial court
records**

**A witch's
murder victim
and a one-
name study**

**US member
finds new data
on a birthday
website**

Guild

of One-Name Studies



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A LIST of Regional Representatives of the Guild in a number of UK counties, and overseas, can be found on the inside back cover of this Journal. If you are interested in becoming a regional rep, please contact the Regional Representatives Coordinator, Graham Tuley (address and phone number on the inside back cover).

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Journal

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

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From the Editor's desk



SERENDIPITY. Lovely word, isn't it? It sort of rolls off the tongue with mellifluous charm. My dictionary defines serendipity thus: "The faculty of making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident." And, surely, there can be few pastimes with which the word is more auspiciously and appropriately associated than genealogy and family history.

In this issue of the Journal I bring you two outstanding examples. One concerns myself and my own one-name study – well, surely an editor is permitted to be self indulgent occasionally and write about himself! The other is offered by our Hertfordshire regional rep, Barbara Harvey, who had an interesting experience of serendipity at the Guild's London Seminar in February.

Virtually all family historians experience serendipity at some time in their researches. I have had so many instances of it I couldn't recall them all. How to describe and explain it, exactly? Personally, I regard it as a combination of coincidence and what I can only put down to instinct.

Family historians are like good detectives and good journalists in that they have a "nose" for these things. Indeed, where we would be without it? It is our constant search for new data and truth, our passion for accuracy, that drives us on to ferret out the facts.

Some might say it is precisely the fact that we tend to pursue so many enquiries, putting out "feelers" in so many different directions, that causes serendipity – a case of making your own luck, perhaps. Statisticians would no doubt argue that on the sheer law of averages some of one's chickens are bound to come home to roost!

But, speaking as both a journalist and a family historian, I have so many times successfully played "hunches" when there has been no logical reason for going in a particular direction I can't help thinking there's a bit more to it than that. I would be interested to know what members think. ○

ROY STOCKDILL

Chairman's Notes

By Alec Tritton

The wonders of modern technology are such that I am currently sitting in a hotel room in Chennai writing these notes. As if we don't have enough to worry about in name changes and variants, what problems might there be for future family historians when maps show names that are nothing like those that they are looking for?

Chennai was formerly Madras and later this week I shall most likely be visiting Mumbai, formerly Bombay. Sadly, though, I will be unlikely to get into the far north of India where a number of individuals from my own one-name study lived and died during the 18th and 19th centuries.

These last three months have been very busy, with the Guild always uppermost in my mind. We had, I feel, one of our most successful Conferences and AGMs ever, and John Titterton must be congratulated for finding us such an excellent venue and putting together a great program of lectures.

Same place next year

In fact, such was the outstanding nature of the venue that we have already booked at the same venue and the same weekend for next year, and I am promised that the plumbing will have been improved by then! So if you are looking for a fruitful, reasonably priced family history weekend amongst friends and colleagues, mark the weekend of March 30 to April 1 2001 in your diary now.

At the AGM, our president Derek Palgrave presented the awards for the inaugural Guild publications award. There is a further report elsewhere in this issue of the *Journal*. Suffice to say that the standards of entry were very high and everyone should be congratulated for their efforts.

In fact, so should our Editor, Roy Stockdill, as our own *Journal of One-Name Studies* was



awarded third place in the Federation of Family History Societies' prestigious Elizabeth Simpson Award.

It was also suggested at the AGM that we set up in our 21st

Twenty-first birthday fund is set up to aid publications and one-name records storage

year a 21st birthday fund. The committee has taken this on board and, thanks to the generosity of one of our members, we have started two funds which members may like to contribute to.

The first is a publications fund, which in the first instance will be used to fund the book of our 1881 Surname Distribution project. There is also a pressing need to update a number of our own publications and further funding is needed in order to complete this work.

Unique

The Guild possesses what is probably the most unique collection of one-name publications and newsletters anywhere in the world and this is becoming a major storage headache. So the second fund is a premises fund,

which is a long-term project to provide a unique repository for this collection.

This fund would be the ideal beneficiary for a legacy in your will if you wish to help ensure your work is kept as a unique collection for others to use and to maintain our current collection. The change in the Government's charity-giving laws makes it an ideal time to consider a gift or bequest, large or small.

We also have two new committee members, as well as a new Treasurer. Sandra Turner has taken over as Treasurer and both Ken Toll and John Hanson have joined the committee.

As I stated in my April notes, the new committee needed to make some hard decisions regarding our finances. You will see from the enclosed insert that if it weren't for the activities of our bookstall, we would not have made any surplus for the year.

At our first meeting, it was decided that we need to concentrate on our core activities and maintain a dynamic journal as our flagship publication.

Difficult choices

The difficult choices left to us, and after taking into account the views of those members who attended the AGM, mean from January 2001 we will no longer be supplying the Federation News & Digest as part of your subscription. We will, though, make this an optional extra available to all at a cost of £4.50.

The new distribution process will ensure that all members who take up the option have the magazine posted to them on the date of publication, rather than being received with the *Journal* some weeks later. ○

• **NOTES from the new Treasurer Sandra Turner can be found on page 16 and from the Registrar Dominic Johnson on page 15.**

The Mary Rumsey Column



Medieval records can be great and easy sources for a one-name study

Although many of us when researching our own family history will never trace a line back to the Middle Ages, it is a completely different matter with our one-name studies. We are looking for any reference to our registered names and medieval records can provide a great and easy source to research, and you don't need to have a knowledge of Latin.

These sources are printed catalogues in English, which are usually indexed under person names and place names. They may be found in larger libraries, university libraries and the PRO. They relate to the business of central government and may extend beyond the Middle Ages to more recent times. The majority are covered by the list below.

Catalogue

Once you have a catalogue, use the index to search for the name. Expect to find variants – and as there are numerous volumes, don't forget to note each volume searched, even though that search may have been negative.

The records can be divided into three categories: secretarial, Chancery; financial, the

Exchequer; and judicial, Courts of Law.

Chancery Records: Charter Rolls 1199–1516; Patent Rolls 1201–1920; Close Rolls 1204–1903; Liberate Rolls 1200–1436; Fine Rolls begin in 1199, but continuous from 1216 to 1641; Gascon Rolls 1253–1467; French Rolls 1342–1674; Scotch Rolls 1290–1515; Parliament Rolls 1327–1885.

Exchequer Records: Great Rolls of the Exchequer or Pipe Rolls. The oldest is for 1129–30, but continuous from 1155–1832; Receipt Rolls 1196–1782; Issue Rolls 1220–1797; the Cartae of 1166, the first returns of knights' services are to be found in the Red Book of the Exchequer; other Knights' Returns for the 12th and 13th centuries are in the Testa de Nevill, edited in 1921–31 as The Books of Fees; other Returns are in the Hundred Rolls 1273–1279.

* Note: Records of The Wardrobe, part of the Royal Household, survive among the Exchequer records from 1275 onwards.

Also in connection with finance are taxes, known as aids and subsidies, which have been partly published in six volumes of Feudal Aids 1248–1431 and Inquisitiones Post Mortem. The latter were taken locally on the death

of a tenant-in-chief and run from 1235 until the abolition of knight service in 1600. These can be a source for very humble people, as the names are given of those who gave oral testimony and can be quite entertaining. In one instance the heir, a John Rumsey, was alleged to be an idiot and the testimony by local men was that he was normal until he was nine, when he fell out of a tree on to his head!

Courts of Law: Curia Regis Rolls begin in 1193; Court of Chancery Records of Equity proceedings date from 1385; in 1272 civil pleas known as De Banco Rolls and criminal actions known as Coram Rege Rolls begin; Rolls of Pleas from the Court of Exchequer begin in 1236; the work of the Itinerant Royal Justices, which absorbed cases from the baronial, shire and hundred courts, is found in the Assize Rolls and begin for several counties at various dates from the 13th century; Land Conveyance is recorded in the Feet of Fines from 1182–1834; for a time private deeds could be entered on the back of the Close Rolls and this became common after the Statute of 1381, which followed the Destruction of private deeds during the Peasants Revolt. ○

Secretary's Notes By Jim Isard

In my notes for the last Journal I reminded everyone to let the Guild know when they change their ISP. Well, quite a few of you did.

But this in turn created a few problems for me. My computer decided to go on the blink and, as a result of a mix-up with my



ISP, 450 mails were deleted without me reading them. I can hear many of you saying: "Glad I am not online,"!

But that said, how many of us can be certain that letters put in the post arrive at their correct destination? So to be certain in future that all e-mail reaches the Guild, I have asked everyone on the committee to acknowledge receipt of an e-mail within 5 days of receiving it. If you fail to get this acknowledgment, then send it again. This should ensure in future that all e-mails are received by us. ○

Using manorial records to trace Thomas Alefounder, schoolmaster and mapmaker

By Peter Alefounder

When he made his will on February 6 1721/2, Thomas Alefounder, yeoman of Weeley, Essex, "being somewhat indisposed as to bodily health" may not have expected to live long. He left his land in Weeley and Boxted, also in Essex, "to such Child as Mary my Wife is now bigg with". However, he did live long enough to see his son, Thomas, who was baptised in Weeley some two months later on April 8 1722. The elder Thomas was buried at his family home, Dedham, Essex, on August 2 that year. His will was not proved until 1745 but was used in 1724 by Mary, the sole executrix, to establish a claim to the land in Boxted.

The entry in the manorial court rolls provides much information:

- A list of lands in the manor held by the deceased.
- The date he took possession (the entry for that date gives the details: inheritance from Thomas Sadler, a maternal relative).
- The date of the surrender to the use of his will, a requirement if the land was to form a bequest, rather than being inherited according to custom.
- A note of his death since the court's last sitting.
- The claim itself (see box on opposite page).
- A note that Mary was to have custody of the child and to hold the land during his minority.

Under the terms of the will, Mary could take the income from the land until the child was 21, providing she did not marry again. If she did, then the income and care and education of the child would pass to Mary Crouch of Stratford, a cousin of the testator. By the time Mary proved the will she had indeed remarried, to Samuel Day who was probably a Quaker, since she affirmed rather than taking an oath – this may have been after her son had reached his majority.

Thomas appears to have been well educated. He is known as a mapmaker (Tooley, 1979), though few examples of his work survive. Mason (1990) suggests that the main occupation of Thomas Alefounder was schoolmaster, as he incorporated in his maps drawings of a hand holding a pen, a device used by writing masters of the time. This was indeed the case. His wife died in 1791 and is recorded in the parish register as "Ann Alefounder Wife

of Thos Alefounder 50 years school master of Nayland". He is also referred to in manorial records as a schoolmaster of Nayland.

At the time of their marriage in Colchester, both Thomas and Anne were "of Boxted", although Thomas must already have been practising as a schoolmaster in Nayland, Suffolk, just across the river. The family moved to Nayland in 1753/4, as can be seen from the places of baptism of their children. I can find no evidence that he ever owned property there. He appears in rentals of 1756–1760 as occupying "a Tenement" in Town Street with "a backhouse" and "piece of ground before the door", property of Mr. Quarles. He was still there in 1764–5 when Mrs. Quarles was the owner, and in 1772 after Samuel Gibbs, Lord of the Manor, had purchased it.

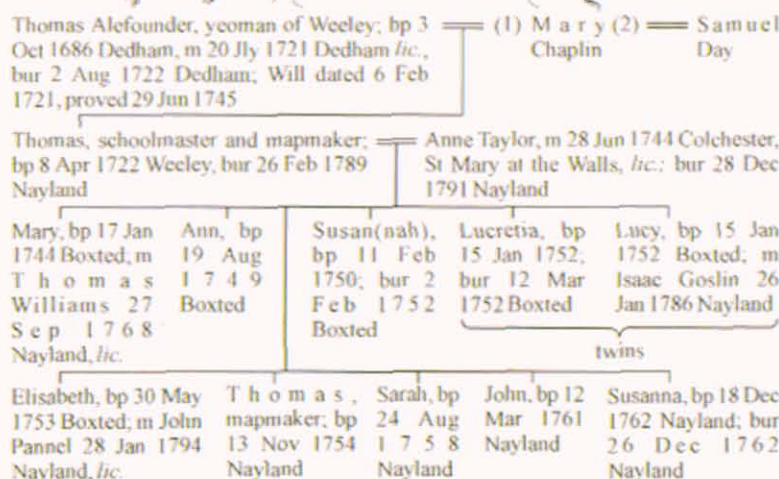
In 1764–5 Thomas was also the occupier of the Market Cross, renting it from the trustees. Sier (1952) notes that it was demolished by the Lord of the Manor and is marked "down" in this entry, but that word was clearly added later. In the Nayland manorial court rolls for 1742 Samuel Warren is recorded as being admitted to the "Market Cross with the Chamber over the same". He immediately gave it up to Richard Holland, weaver, Robert Partridge, grocer, William Wright and Thomas Coale, carpenters, for the use of the Lady of the Manor to hold Courts Leet, Baron and Pyepowder. In 1768 Thomas Coale, then the only survivor of the four, surrendered it to the Lord of the Manor, so it was still standing at that date. Why did Thomas Alefounder want the Market Cross? Maybe he used it as a school-room or for drawing maps.

Emmison (1964) describes the drawings on the 1765 map as "crude". The maps themselves are of a higher quality and feature shading in coloured ink, except for the 1764 map, which was perhaps produced cheaply, or

free, for the Vicar of Boxted. The finest example of his work that I have seen is the map made with his son Thomas of Abraham Reeve's estate, drawn in black, red and green and decorated with a hand holding a pen above the title.

Neither the Nayland parish registers nor manorial records give any clue as to the fate of the younger Thomas or his brother John. Even the elder map-

Hedigree, Alefounder of Nayland



maker had left the house he occupied in Town Street by the time of the 1788 rental. His property in Boxted and Weeley was first mortgaged and then sold. A mortgage of copyhold property appears in manorial court records as a conditional surrender, to become absolute if a sum of money plus interest is not paid. It is not to be expected that the actual loan will be mentioned there, as that was not manorial business; a record might be found among relevant deeds. To give just one example, on July 29 1763 it is recorded that Thomas Alefounder conditionally surrendered all his land in Weeley (about 30 acres, then occupied by

Use of unproven wills in the manorial courts

IF a will was used in a manorial court, the fact that probate had been granted was generally noted in the court roll. For example, Robert Alefounder (an uncle of the Thomas who died in 1722) appearing at the manorial court of Dedham Hall: *"Modo ad hanc Curiam venit Robtus Alefounder Clcus filius natu maximus p^efati Johis defunct Et p[ro]tulit hic in Curiam quoddam Scriptum continen in se Testum et ultiman voluntatem p^efati Johis Alefounder patris ejus defunct Debito modo sub sigilla Curiae approbat gerens datum decimo octavo die Martij Anno dni Millimo Sexcentesimo Septuagesimo secundo Tenor cujus quidem Testi quoad legacoem p^emissor sequitur in hec verba Anglicana viz^t [Manor of Dedham Hall, Court books, 29 April 1673, Essex Record Office D/ DU 457/1/1 fo 125v]. "Now to this Court comes Robert Alefounder Clerk the eldest son of the before mentioned John deceased And he brings forth here in Court certain writing itself contained in the testament and last will of the aforesaid John Alefounder his father deceased Having been bound now under the seal of the Court approving while bearing date the 18th day of March AD 1672 Indeed the content of which Testament as to the bequeathed premises follows in these English words namely..."*

The present case is the only instance I have found of an unproven will being used in this way: *"Modo ad hanc cur seu Thomas Alefounder Infans p[er] Mariam Alefounder mrem in hac p[ar]t p[ro]x amicu & p[ro]lert hic in cur Testum & ult volunt p^efat Thome geren dat sexto die Februar Anno Dni Millimo Septingentimo Vicesimo primo cujus tenor quo ad p^emissa sequitur in hec verba scilt...[Manor of Boxted Hall, Court rolls, 22 April 1724, Essex Record Office D/DTs M33, p49] "Now at this court the suit of Thomas Alefounder Infant by Mary Alefounder mother, in this party the next friend [in the legal sense of the nearest relative] and she brings forth here in court the Testament & last will of the aforesaid Thomas bearing date 6th February AD 1721 of which the content as to the premises follows in these words namely..."* — with no mention of a Court's seal of approval. In both cases, the relevant portion of the will is then quoted. It follows that a search of the probate records for a particular surname may not reveal all the extant testamentary records, a point of possible interest to "one namers".

Susannah Cole, widow) to Mr Lay on June 14 1760 for £400 plus interest.

I have not found any will for Thomas Alefounder of Nayland. Maybe his children had moved away and he preferred to give them money raised from mortgaging

Maps produced by Thomas Alefounder (a) and son (b)

Year	Description	Present location of map	References
1762a	Little Horkesley, Essex, part of the estate of Dr William Blair	Essex Record Office, Colchester, D/Dot P1	Emmison (1964)
1763a	Little Horkesley Hall, part of the estate of Dr William Blair	Essex Record Office, Colchester, D/Dot P2.	Emmison (1964)
1763a	Estate called Parocks in Chapple, Essex, belonging to John Lay gent.	Unknown, probably lost. Mentioned in deeds, Essex Record Office D/ DPb T60 & T67.	
1764a	Pebmarsh, Essex, estate belonging to Boxstead Vicarage	Essex Record Office, Colchester, D/P 155/3/14.	
1765a	Little Horkesley, Essex, estate called the Viness, belonging to Dr William Blair	Essex Record Office, Colchester, D/Dot P3.	Emmison (1964)
1776 a & b	Estate of Abraham Reeve, gent., in Shelly and Layham, Suffolk.	Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich, HB432/2/2; photocopy in British Library, Maps 188.o.1.(8)	British Museum (1967)
1781b	Boxted, Essex, estate belonging to Mr Thomas Sadler of Great Horkesley.	Essex Record Office, Colchester, D/DE1.	Emmison (1947); Mason (1990)

and selling his land before he died. From a genealogical point of view, bequests of land would have been more useful: manorial records might have shown where the legatees lived and given their occupations.

My own ancestor, Daniel Alefounder, was a schoolmaster in Faversham, Kent, born about 1780. His parents, John and Mary, are buried nearby at Davington. I have yet to determine whether this John, father of a schoolmaster, is the same as the John baptized at Nayland in 1761, son of a schoolmaster. ○

Acknowledgements

I thank the staff of the Essex and Suffolk Record Offices, especially their respective branches at Colchester and Ipswich, for their efforts to preserve, conserve and make available for use the original documents.

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The best software programs for one-namers — a Forum survey

By Jean-Baptiste Piggin



One-namers are often asked what sort of computer software they use and the answers usually come down to four types. When the question was put to the Guild's online Forum this year, many one-namers said they were soldiering on with programs designed for regular family histories. But some were unhappy that their data was now locked up in programs they were no longer satisfied with.

Others said that genealogical software was not the right choice for a one-name study in progress, which differs from a family history in two ways: the mass of data can be 10 or 100 times larger and the quality of guesses about who all those Johns and Anns are is much poorer.

If you are reluctant to laboriously enter and manipulate all your data in a traditional genealogical package, a general-purpose office database program may well be an alternative (see the bottom half of the diagram below).

In recent years, one of these office programs, *MS Access*, has spawned two special programs, *Custodian* and *Clooz*, that provide ready-made templates for all the main classes of source (top right in the diagram). Both *Custodian* and *Clooz* save their files in Access format.

Family tree programs

Simon Martin <SMartin258@aol.com> is one of those who swears by a standard family program, *The Master Genealogist* (TMG). "I think it is fabulous and use it for all my linked trees," he told the Forum. "Okay, it may be a sharp learning curve, but I think it is the best."

Patrick Dunbar <Dunbarclanuk@tesco.net> found TMG's online help excellent, and the user forum "revealed many different and novel ways of utilising the database. I thought it quite refreshing to be able to email TMG's boss Bob Velke and get a reply from him."

Starting up was not so easy: "Did this cause me headaches! So much so that I obtained demo copies of similar software, but becoming more confused

and frustrated, I decided to plod on with TMG.

"I am now quite comfortable in using TMG and see no reason to change to any other software. I particularly like (1) being able to allocate surety values of zero to 3 to data (zero for a guess, 3 for best); (2) the wide range of standard report formats that can be modified for individual needs; (3) the virtually unlimited file size; (4) being able to use multiple dates for single events and allocate surety values to these dates; (5) the ability to import from a wide range of sources; and (6) to link text files to store these internally or externally."

Not so Peter Simpson <simpson@extra.co.nz> who was a long-time user of TMG. "In our part of the world TMG appears to have lost it," he said. "At the last three genealogical group meetings where I helped promote the software, I regret that Legacy was outselling us 20 to nil." Among disadvantages: its "clunky non-Windows interface and lousy picklist". TMG also "fails miserably when recording a census."

Mike Kingston <digweed@kingsway-assoc.demon.co.uk> was among those using *Legacy* "for its editing capabilities", noting that he was "pleased to find that it has a good Windows feel."

Flatfile programs

Not-quite-Windows family tree programs frustrate many one-namers, who are keen to see graphical user interface software that fully exploits capabilities provided by the computer mouse. It lets you drag and drop small or large pieces of information anywhere in a database with the same ease that you sort index cards or jigsaw puzzle pieces on a tabletop.

A "flatfile" database — one arranged in columns, with one line per entry — makes ideal use of the mouse and is simple to understand: it can be sorted in date, alphabetical or any other order at will.

The author of this article, Jean-Baptiste Piggin <piggin@one-name.org> keeps his main database as a 5,000-line *MS Works* flatfile because of limited time. He was able to assemble a complete database

in just a few weeks instead of taking months, and believes the file will be easy to convert later into a relational database or even the do-everything one-name programme, if such a thing is ever invented.

Another use for flatfiles was discovered by

Specially designed software for genealogists

Traditional genealogical databases, e.g. The Master Genealogist, Legacy, Family Tree Maker	Multi-template databases, e.g. Custodian, Clooz, both of which use MS Access design (see below)
Low-tech approach using flatfile databases or spreadsheets, e.g. MS Works, MS Excel, Claris Works	Relational databases, e.g. Corel Paradox, MS Access, SmartWare, Filemaker Pro, Lotus Approach

General-purpose, non-genealogical software

Polly Lawrence <rowberry@one-name.org> who uses *MS Excel* to hand-draw family trees: "All those events that I have allocated to a tree have a cell following them with a hotlink to the appropriate tree."

She has published such trees on the Internet. They have to be scrolled because they are many times wider than the screen. "Drop-line trees drawn on Excel 97 are comprehensible to most people, as they are a 'picture' of the family and can be shared with anyone."

Relational Databases

The principal limitation of flatfiles is that they become unwieldy when they extend to dozens of columns. The answer is to keep the various lists separate and link the data using a relational database program.

Such software "lets one construct any number of flatfiles for the collection of source data in formats suitable to the data. These are usually, but not necessarily, event files," explained Bill Bunning <bunning@pacbell.net> who believes relational databases are the perfect tool for the one-namer. Such programs can "find relationships among the records" and discover multiple records about the same person.

Bill uses a little-known program, *Smartware*, that can highlight likely matches in a bright colour. "It lets me add to the definition of any field one or more formulas that compare the contents with other fields and change the field colour depending on how the formula is satisfied. I can scroll through a file of 1851 census records and see how the various data items for each person compare with the entries of other census years by how the fields change colour."

A file for the person found can then be equipped with "pointers to the source data in other files. These pointers allow references in any and all files to be called and viewed together."

One-namers' main apprehension about relational databases comes from their complexity. "I have Access 97 but I have never learned to use it. I know that the learning curve is complicated and time-consuming," commented Ralph Games <gamesri@redshift.com>

Patrick Dunbar uses Access as his number two system for lists such as BMD extracts, "but I wasted much time updating fields, deciding, writing and modifying report definition files." He said: My data-gathering time was being limited by continual software-tweaking."

Ready-made templates

Custodian, which is available from the Guild at a discount, comes with its definitions ready-made. Custodian was first mentioned on the Forum in mid-1998 and caused a sensation in the Guild. Chairman Alec Tritton <alec.tritton@one-name.org> has described it as "the first successful commercial

attempt to write a program specifically for one-namers".

Users say it can take over an existing study without a great deal of work needed for the conversion: it imports Access, Dbase, FoxPro, Paradox, Btrieve, Excel, and text (CSV) files and it will also accept some information from gedcoms, the standardised files that are created by family tree programs.

Its principal fault – a word that Custodian's defenders say is unfair for a promising two-year-old – is that it cannot read the lineage information contained in a gedcom. Nor can it write a gedcom containing lineage information that would instruct a family-tree program how to show the descent.

Sonja Smith <PandSSmith@aol.com>, the wife of its author and a member of the Guild, said there was a long-term plan to make import/export of gedcom data possible but stressed that the Smiths are not committing themselves to a time-scale on these plans.

Peter Simpson is one who has now partly embraced Custodian, which "appeared to fit a gaping hole in citation of sources that TMG could only do in the most complex and frustrating fashion," but adds: "I find Access the most convenient method of trawling lists."

The broad consensus in the Forum discussion remained that a one-name study needed different pieces of software for different tasks.

Peter Simpson said: "I'm left with the sad conclusion that for my purposes, no one piece of software can do it all. Hence my preoccupation with gedcom and 'standardised' data entry that hopefully will allow some future portability. The template concept of Custodian goes some way, if only it could be linked to a family tree-type program."

Mike Kingston agreed on this point: "All the discussions over the years about 'which program?' have been largely inconclusive as far as I know. There is not yet one ideal program."

Alongside portability and reliable backup, he said one of three guiding principles in choosing software was to use "more than one program – two is sufficient – so as not to be locked into the idiosyncrasies of any particular program."

Mix and match

Most one-namers appear, in fact, to practice a form of double book-keeping, maintaining two or more sets of their data to take advantage of the different programs' strengths. They are simply happy if they can find two programs that complement one another well. Examples include Custodian supplemented by a standard family tree program, or flatfile databases supplemented by drawn charts.

David Smart <david.smart@one-name.org> described to the Forum how he uses no fewer than six programs: "I use the MS Works database for marriages because you can ask it to match any string rather than search individual fields. My main database has been *Filemaker Pro*. It has got a particularly

useful move-up feature: each page of my PCC Wills database stretches over two pages, but where there's only a bit of text it all shoves up into a few lines. I really like being able to set up clickable drop-down menus for fields (e.g. parish names).

"For trees I use the Draw module in Claris Works. I use Excel to give me grids with drag-and-drop, and Word for word processing – its table facilities are excellent. Eighteen months ago I got Reunion (a family tree program), and I'm very pleased with it. I like the level of customising and the control over reports and trees it gives you and import/export facilities."

Reunion also won plaudits from Robert Young <KempAssn@worldnet.att.net>, a faithful user of Macintosh computers. "The premier program for Macintosh is Reunion 6, which has a marvellous

Software pros and cons

TRADITIONAL genealogical databases allow individuals to be connected into lineages, so that ancestry and descent can be seen at a glance. Information fields are ready-made. **Disadvantages:** Do not offer a good way of loosely associating stray individuals who make up the bulk of a one-name study. Layout does not allow 30 or more individuals to be shown on one screen. Cope badly with the lists of names (telephone directories, Internet pages, census transcripts) that one-namers concentrate on; these have to be entered word by word. Rearranging information is often arduous.

Flatfile databases are often cheapest. MS Works often comes free with the computer. Importing lists is easy: you only need to tabulate your text files and reopen them as spreadsheets. New editions of the lists can later be imported just as easily. Combining lists is easy: any dataset or sub-item can be dragged straight to a new location. Up to 30 facts about 30 individuals can be displayed on one screen, so guesswork doesn't have to be conducted with pencil and paper. **Disadvantages:** spreadsheets cannot show lineages, so "Henry numbers" (a decimal classification) have to be used as a makeshift. You have to devise your own field names and formats. Special utilities are needed to extract information from gedcoms and the process is only one-way. Large numbers of fields make the file unwieldy.

Relational databases have the same advantages as flatfile databases, but, in addition, dozens of lists can be coordinated with one another, so that persons in census lists can be correlated with those in birth-marriage-death indexes, etc. **Disadvantages:** The leading package, MS Access, is expensive to buy. The time spent learning to use them is longer than for other databases. No ready-made fields. No proper lineages. Special utilities are needed to extract information from gedcoms and the process is one-way.

Multi-template databases such as Custodian and Clooz come with their information fields ready-made. Data can be saved in its original layout and spelling without alteration. All names from the forms are included in the Master Index, which you can browse, search and then access any record. **Disadvantages:** Data entry is slow. Makeshift methods are needed to create lineages. These programs are not good at displaying a large number of sources and individuals simultaneously. ○

Windows companion in *Generations 6*," he said. "We have found that, with only minor tweaking, full files may be freely shared across platforms without the need to zip or convert to gedcom."

Making the teapot

Some one-namers lose a lot of time fiddling with data and trying to get the maximum benefit from their chosen software. Setting up a database design and writing formulas will waste days if you go the Excel or the relational database way. It's like having to make the teapot first before the tea. Others have chosen time-consuming ways of inputting the one-namer's four standard sources, BMDs, census, IGI and directories. That is the tribute extracted by TMG, Legacy and so on, and it can be tricky with Custodian, too, unless Excel or Access files are used as the source. Worse still is that some of the potential yield of the one-name study is probably lost.

If no single program fulfils the needs of one-namers, is there at least a way of creating a unified main file that can be tended using the different tools currently available? Possibly, but the solution does demand software sophistication.

John Bending <John@jbending.demon.co.uk> has a relational database of his study, managed by Paradox, and has managed to create a gedcom file directly from it. This can be viewed on his website <http://www.jbending.demon.co.uk/> and naturally it can be downloaded and viewed in almost any family tree program, giving the best of both worlds. This database almost meets the definition of portability, though not quite, because the gedcom "translation" cannot complete the round trip. The database can only be altered in Paradox, not in its gedcom dress.

The path that he has begun seems to offer the most promise if one-namers are to beat the bugbear of double book-keeping. Beyond that, there is at least the hope that one day there will be single programs that will import long lists of uncorrelated data, help us to explore it and display the sorted areas of the data as family trees.

Perhaps the Guild should offer a prize to the first software developer to devise a solution. ○

Some websites for lesser-known software:

Custodian: <http://members.aol.com/pandssmith/Custodian.htm>

Clooz: <http://www.ancestordetective.com/clooz.htm>

TMG: <http://www.whollygenes.com>

Legacy: <http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/Index.asp>

Reunion: <http://www.leisterpro.com/>

FileMaker Pro: <http://www.filemaker.com/>

SmartWare: <http://www.angoss.com/main.htm>

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Using USA website birthday data in a one-name study

By Peter Fifield Wells



The website www.anybirthday.com purports to provide the birth date of any person over the age of 20 years in the United States. The idea behind it is that after looking up someone's birthday you send them the present recommended on the list. Vendors of the presents provide support for the list. Since telephone listings had previously indicated around 1,000 of my Fifield surname in the country, I decided to see what the *anybirthday* data would provide for my one-name study.

The first problem was to obtain a complete list. To do this, you must choose a time with low usage. I did it on a Sunday morning. The result after about two hours was a printed list of 1,587 names. My next step was to transfer the data to a spreadsheet with columns for first name/middle initial, date of birth, city, state and zip (mailing location) code. The spreadsheet would allow me to sort the data in various ways for analysis. As I went through the list it was obvious that it contained duplicates, some of which I was able to omit as I typed. I also put in a column for page number. This allowed me to find the original entry and check for possible typing errors on my part during subsequent analysis.

Next I sorted the spreadsheet by first name and found more duplicates. Duplicates were defined as same name (with or without middle initial) and all other columns the same. Where the same person appeared with differences in location, the multiple entries were kept in the list. After this process, I was down to 1,385 names. Duplicate listings for a person, which were pages apart, often suggested different birthday presents!

The occurrence of the duplicates gave me a chance to evaluate the accuracy of the data. While quite good, there were a few errors. Dates are in dd-MMM-yy format, and I found five obvious date discrepancies: JUL vs. SEP, year '36 vs. '38, '26 vs. '36, 02-AUG vs. 08-FEB and 05-JUL vs. 10-JUL. In addition to the presence or absence of a middle initial, I also noted one individual with David S. on one record and Steven D. on another. Nine states out of the 39 with my surname listed accounted for all of the duplicates. My own state of New Hampshire was a prime duplicate provider.

Next I sorted the list by date of birth. The youngest person on the list had been born in 1979. There were entries with years such as '98, but these were for the year 1898. In one case I was able to identify the entry as a person who had died in 1981. That gives an indication of the age of some of the data. The concept of sending such a person a birthday present is certainly an interesting one!

I sorted by state to check for completeness of data. There are a lot of my surname in the state of Vermont, but not one Vermont resident appeared on *anybirthday.com*. Recent newspaper articles have discussed the sale of automobile registration data by some states and I suspect this to have been the source of the data. It is often used for marketing purposes. Apparently, Vermont is a state which has not sold its registration data. While licences to drive are issued as early as age 16, marketers would have little interest in advertising to teens, hence a possible explanation for the age cutoff of 21.

Next I did a multiple key sort, first by zip code and second by date of birth. One of the first groups that showed up in the town of Hatfield, Mass. was Roderick H., born 24 Aug 1943, Marilyn L. born 18 Jan 1949, Christine A. born 12 Sep 1968, and Stephen G. born 17 Dec 1970 – a complete family, as I was able to confirm from my data. It would not be a safe assumption that all such groups constitute one family. For example, the wife of a son could be misinterpreted as a daughter, and it is possible to have people from multiple families in one location. Conversely, I found other instances where not all members of a family were present in the listing.

As I identified possible families and entered them in my database, I used a column of the spreadsheet to indicate this. I could then sort by name and birth date and track the movement of people from place to place. This could provide an indication of the wife vs. sister question in a family group. If the same pair showed up together in a different location, the female would more likely be wife rather than sister. Unfortunately the data gives no indication of the date that a person was in a given location.

You might wonder why, since zip code identifies location, I also entered the city and state in the spreadsheet. The website www.ancestry.com regularly lists obituaries from various newspapers and the obituaries sometimes give the names and residences of family members. This name and residence information gives me the possibility of further identifying family members using the spreadsheet without having to convert between zip code and name. Conversely, I found instances of people in the same city with different zip codes, and the zip code gave me a better breakdown of possible family groups. ○

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An evil witch's tragic murder victim and my one-name study

By Roy Stockdill

Like many family historians, I have often longed – somewhat perversely, perhaps – to find an ancestor who went to the gallows. Even one who was hanged for something as mundane as horse-stealing would do! But no such luck. However, I am able to report that, through one of those chance discoveries that we all experience now and then, I have at least been able to collect a murder victim for my one-name study.

How it came about is a tale in itself, one that illustrates graphically how we should never dismiss that strange effect we call serendipity. I have experienced it several times in the course of 25 years' researching family history – and I bet most Guild members have been touched by it at some time also.

But let me tell the story as it unfolded...

The Witches of Pendle, Lancashire, attracted historical legend in 1612, but a lesser known case illustrating that belief in the powers of witchcraft continued for 200 years afterwards was that of Mary Bateman, known as the Yorkshire Witch. She was born Mary Harker, the daughter of a small farmer at Aisenby, near the market town of Thirsk, in 1768.

Mary went into service when she was 13, but from an early age she was dishonest and was dismissed for pilfering. She was a compulsive liar, thief and confidence trickster. She was also a consummate actress and later was to deceive her victims by persuading them she had supernatural powers.

Fortune telling

In 1788, aged 20, she turned up in Leeds where she worked as a dressmaker and also began telling fortunes. In 1792 she married, after a three weeks' courtship, a wheelwright called John Bateman. But the poor fellow came to regret the marriage when he discovered his wife's criminal tendencies. John, too, came from Thirsk and once Mary persuaded her husband that his father – the town crier of Thirsk – was seriously ill. He rushed off to Thirsk, only to discover he had been hoaxed. While he was away, his wife sold his clothes and all their furniture to repay a victim who was threatening to go to the authorities.

Another time, Mary tricked her own mother out of £10 by telling her she needed it to secure the release of her brother who had been arrested for deserting from the militia. She stole from a fellow lodger a watch, silver spoon and two guineas, and after a disastrous fire in 1796 she tramped the streets of Leeds gathering sheets, clothing and money from well-wishers, pretending she was collecting for the victims. But she sold everything for her own benefit.

Then she took to fraud on an impressive scale. She became a professional fortune teller and invented

mythical helpers called "Mrs. Moore" and "Miss Blythe", who were claimed to be able to solve all problems. One victim was frightened into believing her husband was in jail and only "Mrs. Moore" could secure his release. She handed over money to Mary Bateman and was delighted when her husband returned home. Too late, she discovered he had never been in jail at all.

Another victim, a soldier's wife, was tricked into believing her husband was contemplating an illicit affair. She was instructed to place pieces of coal in front of her rival's door and set fire to them, thus consuming his passion. When the unfortunate woman discovered she had been duped she tried to kill herself.

By now, Bateman had become known throughout Leeds as a fortune teller, warder-off of evil spirits and a miracle worker. Her most infamous trick involved a hen said to lay eggs bearing the words "Christ is coming." Mary produced the eggs with the slogan on them from beneath the hen and charged the gullible a penny to view them.

Her activities gradually became more sinister. Two unmarried Quaker sisters and their mother died mysteriously after taking medicine prescribed by her. Bateman stripped their house clean, telling neighbours the women had died of the plague.

By luck and cunning, Bateman managed to keep out of the authorities' grasp. But the case that was to bring her to the gallows involved William Perigo, a clothier of Bramley, near Leeds, and his wife Rebecca, who believed she was cursed by an evil spirit. By telling them she could get rid of the spirit, Bateman milked the Perigos of all their worldly possessions.

When Rebecca Perigo complained of chest pains, Mary supposedly sewed four money notes into the couple's bed and said they were to give her four



A 19th century drawing of Mary Bateman, the Yorkshire Witch, who was hanged for murder in 1809 (courtesy of the Thackray Medical Museum, Leeds).

golden guineas for "Miss Blythe" to replace them and that instructions would follow. Letters from "Miss Blythe" duly arrived, telling the couple to fasten horseshoes over their door and demanding more money to restore Mrs. Perigo to health. When the Perigos began to ask questions, Bateman decided to end their lives. She told them they were to eat puddings, to which she had added poison, otherwise they would die of a terrible disease. William Perigo could not stomach more than a spoonful of the foul mixture but his wife ate it, dying in agony in May 1807.

Even after this terrible event, the hapless William Perigo went on being fleeced by Mary Bateman. Finally, he decided to retrieve the notes from the bed and found they were worthless pieces of paper. Realising at last that he had been duped, he arranged a meeting with Bateman at which she was arrested. Her trial for fraud and murder took place at York in March 1809. It didn't take the jury long to find her guilty and she was sentenced to hang.

To the end, Bateman tried to cheat justice. She pleaded she couldn't be hanged because she was four-and-a-half months pregnant. But the judge empanelled a jury of 12 married women to examine her. They decided she was lying and on March 20 1809 the Yorkshire Witch was led to her execution at York before a large crowd, still pleading innocence. After execution, Mary Bateman's body was given to Leeds infirmary for dissection and part of her skeleton still exists, having been loaned to the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds.

If you have read this far, you are probably wondering by now what this tale has to do with my one-name study. Well, having first come across it in a couple of books, I found the story so intriguing that I posted some details in YORKSGEN, an Internet group devoted to Yorkshire genealogy. A couple of days later I was browsing idly through my printouts of IGI Stockdale/Stockdill entries for Yorkshire when I chanced upon a marriage on May 19 1794 of a Mary Stockdale and James Perigo at St. Peter's Church, Leeds. I thought this coincidence enough, but, having a strange feeling in my water, as they say, I whipped rapidly through the IGI to the "R" first names and found another wedding entry.

On October 2 1786, a marriage took place, also at St. Peter's, the main parish church of Leeds, between Rebecca Stockdale and William Perrigo!

Surely, I thought, this must be the same Rebecca Perigo who was murdered by Mary Bateman? Perigo, whether spelt with one 'r' or two, is not exactly a common name, and her husband's name was William. And did she also have a sister called Mary who married William's brother, James? Rebecca's birth/baptism is not on the IGI but I found a Mary Stockdale baptised to Joshua Stockdale at Bramley, near Leeds, in 1771, which made her a likely candidate for the Mary who married James Perigo in 1794.

A little gobsmacked by this discovery, I wondered what prompted me to tell the story of Mary Bateman when I did and then to come across those marriage

entries on the IGI only two days later, especially as I had been through the Yorkshire IGI for Stockdales and Stockdills umpteen times but the name Perigo had not registered with me before. Mind you, there are around 3,000 Stockdale/Stockdill IGI entries in Yorkshire alone – it is the principal home of the surname – so it's hardly surprising.

Funny, though, that the two events should happen so closely together. And how can I explain the feeling that made me rush on to see if there was a Rebecca Stockdale, having found a Mary Stockdale married to a Perigo, when there was no logical reason why there should have been? Coincidence? A hunch?

Whatever the truth, there was still one more act to be played out in this saga, involving yet another interesting coincidence. In May 1999 I was in charge of the Yorkshire stand at the Society of Genealogists Family History Fair in London when a charming man introduced himself and asked to join the Stockdill Family History Society. He was Professor John Todd, a professor of chemistry at the University of Kent in Canterbury – and a direct descendant of James Perigo and Mary Stockdale!

Absorbed

By now I had become absorbed with the story of Mary Bateman and I learned that Professor Todd, too, had been researching the same events, for the unfortunate Rebecca Perigo, née Stockdale, was a distant great-aunt of his. He was able to confirm the ancestral details I had speculated on from the IGI and supply me with the appropriate parish register references. It transpired that Rebecca was born at Bramley on May 29 1760, the eldest daughter of six girls and two boys born to Joshua Stockdale and Sarah Midgley, who were married on December 12 1756 at St. Peter's, Leeds.

And here is yet another strange aspect of the story: Joshua Stockdale was a stone merchant at Pudsey, which is immediately adjacent to Bramley where the family lived. A future task is to try and discover whether his wife Sarah Midgley also came from Pudsey – because my mother's paternal ancestors were Midgleys from Pudsey!

Is it just remotely possible that I, too, am in fact distantly related to the tragic Rebecca, though she was no relation at all in the Stockdale line as far as I know? I have yet to pursue this line of enquiry, but nothing would surprise me now.

The tale of Rebecca Stockdale/Perigo is indeed a sad one. But family historians can be a perverse lot and a discovery such as this does bring an unexpected dash of piquancy to an otherwise mundane study. ○

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Serendipity, the Guild's London Seminar and my father's old home

By Barbara Harvey

I experienced a remarkable piece of personal serendipity at the Guild's excellent London Regional Seminar in February. I was born in the village of Bretby in Derbyshire, which used to have a population of only about 400 inhabitants. During the lunch interval my attention was caught by a poster of the Derbyshire World War I Roll of Honour and I got into conversation with its exhibitor, Dennis Nadin.

At the mention of Bretby he showed me one of the Nadin newsletters and there on the cover was a photograph of the house where my father had spent his formative years! There could be no doubt about it being the same house because of its very unusual design. It is called Brizlincote Hall.

At the time of the Domesday Book, Brizlincote was in the possession of Burton Abbey. At the dissolution of the monasteries, Sir William

Paget bought it. In 1706,

Lord Stanhope, third

Earl of Chesterfield,

whose main

residence was at

nearby Bretby

Hall, bought it

and demolished

the original

house, replacing

it with one of

his own design,

which is unique

as it is a perfect

square with five

bays on each side.

The earl intended it to be the

residence of his heir, but he died before it was

completed and the family never lived in it. It was

inhabited by a distant cousin, William Barnes, whose

son Philip married the daughter of Sir Humphrey

Trafford of Manchester. She died childless and left the

remainder of the lease to her agent, William Nadin.



Brizlincote Hall, Derbyshire

William's youngest sons, Joseph and Nathaniel, founded the colliery firm of J. & N. Nadin Ltd.

By the mid-1870s Brizlincote Hall was occupied as a farm by my great-grandfather. The house has fantastic views, but no longer as rural as they used to be, due to the encroachment of Burton-on-Trent. Being built on a promontory, the house was exposed to the wind and having a symmetrical design, the passages transverse it. As a result, my father always described it as "the draughtiest house in the kingdom." When my great-grandfather died in 1909, his family owned other farms, so the tenancy was not transferred. In 1923 the remainder of the Chesterfield-Carnarvon estate was sold and

Brizlincote was bought by the Lomas family, who still farm there today.

When the sixth Earl of Chesterfield died, his unmarried son and the widowed Countess lived together at Bretby Hall. In 1871 the seventh Earl and the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, both contracted typhoid fever. The Prince of Wales recovered, but his friend did not. The estate was not entailed and so devolved on the Countess. After the death of his wife, Benjamin Disraeli became a frequent visitor to Bretby Hall and is said to have proposed to the Countess, but she gracefully declined. When Disraeli died, she erected a memorial plaque to him in Bretby Church. After her death, the estate was inherited by the descendants of her daughter, who had married the Earl of Carnarvon.

Broken up

The 5th Earl of Carnarvon was more interested in Egypt and the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamen than the Bretby estate and it was broken up. Bretby Hall became an orthopaedic hospital, renowned for the treatment of tuberculosis when rest, fresh air and good food were the traditional regime and for which the 600-acre park was ideal. Many modern buildings have been built in the grounds.

Bretby Church was a chapelry of Repton and both are dedicated to St. Wystan. The baptism register from 1766 to 1813 was written in a parchment folio volume of unlined paper, with an average entry in the early years of five per annum. The pre-printed baptismal register runs from 1813 to 1897. Only members of the Chesterfield family were buried near to the church before 1895 when the churchyard was enlarged. For some reason, the church was not licensed for marriages until 1911.

I had great difficulty in finding my great grandparents on the 1881 census CDs, as they are indexed as Martin instead of Startin – not a spelling variation that I had thought of. But as I knew they lived at Brizlincote Hall, I managed to locate them. ○

References:

A Brief History of Bretby by H. J. Wain.

The Perfect English Country House, photographs by Christopher Simon Sykes.

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REPORTS • NEWS • EVENTS

Your guide to what's happening in the Guild world...

One-Name Award journals and newsletters available for loan

By John Colloff, Guild Librarian



Following the very successful Guild Award for One-Name Periodicals, the Editor has passed to me all the journals and newsletters that were entered, so that I can make them available for inspection by members. So, if you want to see what the competition is like, either the total entry or just the winners, I have these set aside as a separate package for loan.

Well, packages, really. Because the entry was so large I have split it up into smaller packages as detailed below, to reduce the cost of postage that you would have to send to me at my address, as given in the register.

- The two winners, 160 gm. – £1.
- All 29 entries, 1100 gm. – £4.
- All 21 A4-size entries, which includes both of the winners, 800 gm. – £3.
- All eight A5-size entries, 290 gm. – £1.

The above costs are in pounds sterling, and are what you will have to send to me to get them posted to you (or the next higher equivalent in I.R.C.s) and also what you are likely to pay in return postage. I regret that I do not see any point in trying to transmit these electronically as this could lose most of the layout that was such an essential element of the judging process.

It was when I was preparing the above that I saw that both of the winners used A4 format and realised that this did not surprise me. In my first year in office I have handled many newsletters now, both from the Guild and when cross-checking at the

Society of Genealogists, and it did not take me long to see how restricted in layout the A5-sized magazines were in such a small format.

This is a purely personal opinion, and I had nothing to do with the competition, but I find myself more inclined to glance through the larger format productions, with their much greater scope for varied page layouts, and different sized panels. In fairness, I suppose that I should add that whilst I support the larger format of the register on the grounds of scale and economy, it shows how dauntingly boring this format can be when used purely as a record document.

Guild Archive

Meanwhile, I have been trying to complete the archive of Guild material and have to thank our ex-editor, Mary Rumsey for supplying the full archive of the eight original Guild Newsletters from which this Journal sprung. Now I only have to fill in one or two gaps in volumes 5 and 6 of the Journal, with help from my fellow committee members, for that collection to be complete. With that done, I am looking for ideas from both you, the membership, and the committee, for anything else that we should be archiving, and what media should be used.

Currently, I am only working with the original documents and fiche copies of them on behalf of the Guild, although, as I have made clear in an earlier article, I think that more up-to-date electronic media should be being considered. As ever, your comments are invited. ○

From the Guild Registrar...

TO those of you who write and always include your number especially when you have changes for the Registrar, a great big thank you from me (and other members of the committee).

To those of you that do not bother including your number, adopting the tones of a school teacher I can only say – could do better!

To those of you that do not write to me and yet still expect your changes to be accomplished in some miraculous manner, how am I to do this if I never receive anything?

In all my research I always expect to read primary sources. I use secondary sources only when the primary are non-extant or unfit for production. Please remember this fact – that all

changes must come to me. It is not up to the rest of the committee to pass them on to me; it is not up to me to scour the Forum; it is not up to me to hunt for someone who has apparently disappeared. You know if you have changed your name or moved to a different location – please tell me! ○

DOMINIC JOHNSON

Treasurer's Notes By Sandra Turner



HELLO! Those of who who read the April Journal will realise that David Abbott ceased to be the Treasurer of the Guild from April 1. If you attended the AGM, you will know that I am now the new Treasurer. But many of you were unable to attend, so I thought I would introduce myself.

My name is Sandra and I live in Winchester. I have met a number of you at our seminars and also at family history fairs and I look forward to getting to know more of you. As our membership numbers continue to grow, so will my task as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. One way you can all help is by paying your subscriptions on time! Several people have told me that they don't get notification when the subscription is due. This is sent out with the October Journal and the sub-

scriptions are due on November 1 each year. Part of the form is a Standing Order form, which can be used if you have a UK bank account. As you can appreciate, to send individual reminders is quite costly and for the sake of your subscriptions costs is something that I would like to avoid.

Funds low

If you attended the AGM you will have heard from our previous Treasurer that we are very low in funds when looked at in relation to our membership numbers. As the Chancellor has changed the rules regarding giving to charities, if any of you feel able to make a donation to the Guild we

would much appreciate it, and if you are a UK taxpayer we can claim back the tax that you have paid.

To add a further point about meetings and seminars, I have heard it said that those who have been researching for years think they will not learn anything from the speakers. But genealogy or family history research, whether personal or a one-name study, shouldn't be an isolated pastime.

We can all learn from each other. If you have been researching for years, even talking to others over a cup of tea may help them and you may even learn a new way of doing something. So when you have the opportunity, do attend a Guild meeting or seminar.

As I said earlier, I am looking forward to meeting more of you. I have spoken to a number on the telephone and by e-mail, so it is always good to put a face to a name. Now you know who I am, just come and say hello and introduce yourself when you see me. ○

Excellent entry and high standard for Guild's first one-name journals award

THE inaugural Guild Award for One-Name Periodicals drew a gratifying number of entrants, particularly from members in Categories B and C. The judges were pleasantly surprised, not only by the number of journals and newsletters entered, but also by the high standard of most publications.

Chairman of the judges Roy Stockdill, Editor of the Journal of One-Name Studies, is also a member of the judging committee for the FFHS's Elizabeth Simpson Award and, in his opinion, the standard of the best entrants in the Guild Award was well up with the journals produced by county family history societies.

There was a grand total of 29 entries for the 1999 Award, 21 of them in the combined B and C Categories and eight in Category

A, which were mainly society publications.

Here are the winners and runners-up:

Category A – first prize to "Grubbing Around", the journal of the Grubb Family Association, edited by Ken Grubb (Member 2970).

Runner-up – "Delichon Urbica" (also called "The House Martin"), journal of the Martin Family History Society.

Joint 3rd – the newsletters of the Braund Society and the Bliss Society.

Categories B & C – first prize to "Hemingway and Variants," journal of the Hemingway One-Name Study, edited by Maurice Hemingway (Member 2806).

Runner-up – the Northmore and Narramore journal.

Joint 3rd – the Shreeve and Ulph newsletters.

In his report to the Annual Conference, Roy Stockdill said the judges thought the general standard of the entries was high and most of the journals and newsletters met the Award criteria. However, a few let themselves down in a couple of areas.

Firstly, one or two were still using the old-fashioned method of originating the journals in A4 size and then reducing them by photocopying, or having a printer reduce them, to A5. This often meant the typeface ended up at a point size that was too small for easy reading.

Secondly, a number of publications did not have an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN). It is recommended that you should have one, since this enables your journal to be listed in library catalogues and similar sources.

The other judges of the Guild Award were Mary Rumsey, Vice-Chairman, and Jane Morson, books reviewer for the Journal. ○

Guild reports and news

2000 Conference and AGM is judged a winner *Second millennium records theme*

THE Guild's 21st Annual Conference and AGM, held in a beautiful country mansion over the weekend of March 31-April 2, was adjudged by all who were there to be one of the best we have ever held. Certainly, it was one of the best attended.

Appropriately for the opening year of a new Millennium, the theme was "Centuries: Records of the Second Millennium," and there were some excellent lecturers who developed the theme splendidly.

The venue, Easthampstead Park, Wokingham, Berkshire, is a fine Jacobean mansion built in 1860 for the Marquess of Downshire, standing in 60 acres of rolling parkland. It was agreed to be an ideal setting – the only slight grumble being about the antiquated plumbing in the annexe! However, this was more than compensated for by quite outstanding food, a well-stocked bar and the pleasant and helpful staff.

In fact, the whole event was so popular and successful that we have booked next year's Conference and AGM at the same venue. Local Guild member John Titterton, who found it for us, also put together the lecture programme – even somehow finding the time to be one of the speakers himself.

The AGM took up the Saturday morning, with an introduction by President Derek Palgrave, who then handed over to Chairman Alec Tritton. Once again there was no contested election for the committee, so the following were elected unopposed: John Colloff, Pat Fleming, Jim Isard, Dominic

Johnson, Paul Millington, Karen Naylor, Roy Rayment, Geoff Riggs, Mary Rumsey, Roy Stockdill, Ken Toll, Alec Tritton, Graham Tuley and Sandra Turner [John Hanson was subsequently co-opted onto the committee at the May meeting].

At a committee meeting held during the Conference, officers elected for the forthcoming year were: Chairman, Alec Tritton; Vice-Chairman, Mary Rumsey; Secretary, Jim Isard; Treasurer, Sandra Turner; Registrar, Dominic Johnson; Journal Editor, Roy Stockdill.

A popular move was the election of Ernest Hamley, who has given many years' service to the Guild, as a Vice-President.

During the AGM, the results of the first-ever Guild Award for One-Name Periodicals were announced and President Derek Palgrave presented the two winners with framed certificates.

The formal business over, it was on with more entertaining matters, like the lectures. Opening speaker of the Conference was Guild member John Titterton, who talked about "Records from before the Tudors – What Chance?" In a lively talk, John said the chances of finding pre-Tudor records were better than those of winning the National Lottery, which is nice to know!

He drew attention to government records like Calendars of Fine Rolls, Close Rolls, Patent Rolls, Inquisitions Post Mortem; manorial records; ecclesiastical records; numerous miscellaneous records at the PRO, the Historical Manuscripts Commission and British Library; and heraldic visitations and printed genealogies.

John was followed by Robert Harrison, Archives Officer at the House of Lords Record Office, who spoke on "Protestation Returns and Other indexes."

In an entertaining lecture, he referred to records which many family historians may not know about which are held at the House of Lords, especially the Protestation Returns of 1642 and some Papist returns. The House of Lords Record Office provides an archive for both Houses of Parliament and enables public access to several million records held in the Victoria Tower repository.

On the Sunday there were three more lectures. First, Joan Dils, a former lecturer in History and Local History at the University of Reading, told us about "Town Records for Family Historians."

Another often neglected area, this covered the period from 1680 to 1835 and included records like council minutes; records of borough officials such as the treasurer and Constable; court records, including the Clerk of the Market and quarter sessions; rolls of freemen and apprentices; property deeds; poll books; and charities like schools and almshouses.

Mrs. Dils left us with much food for thought and new sources to explore.

She was followed by Guild member Jean Debney, who spoke on "Dating Your Victorian Photographs." Using examples, she showed how to identify old family photos from costume styles and studio settings.

Finally, Lesley Wynne-Davies, Volunteers' Co-ordinator for Friends of the PRO, talked on "The PRO and the Third Millennium," addressing the question: "The Millennium is supposed to be when our troubles will melt away – will this depend on how computer literate we are?"

All in all, the 2000 Conference was a fascinating and valuable one, that must surely have sent everyone home enthused and full of new ideas for conducting their research. ○

On the...

FORUM

A digest of the Guild's
online mailing list

Compiled by MARY HALLETT

WELCOME to a new regular feature summarising some of the topics and queries which have recently been discussed on the Guild's e-mail Forum. A recent discussion on the list highlighted the fact that many interesting topics are raised on the list and discussed which may be of interest to members of the Guild who do not subscribe to the mail list or who do not use the Internet.

The aim of this feature is to bring you a flavour of the discussions and also highlight any interesting items for the benefit of all Guild members. I am a relatively new GOON and offered my services to be the editor of this new section. I hope you enjoy this column.

CONFERENCES: the question was raised of reporting the goings-on at a conference for the benefit of those who could not attend. There was a feeling that more members could attend the conference in the first place and this generated a flurry of e-mails responding to the straw poll of "Why did you NOT attend the conference?" Most popular reasons were expense, too far to travel and family or work commitments.

The southern England bias of conference venues was highlighted and Alec Tritton (Chairman and Member 2415) pointed out that this often depended on where the organiser lived. The question of reporting on the talks given at conference is more difficult. Full transcripts of some talks would be very lengthy,

while others would make no sense without accompanying illustrations. The consensus of opinion seems to favour a short report summarising the main points of talks and details of where to look for more information: a book, previously published article or a website, enabling those with a particular interest to follow up the subject.

• Common male ancestors

An article in the Times on April 4 outlined the results of genetic research which had indicated that men sharing the same surname were likely to have a common male ancestor. The research supporting this was based on men named Sykes, where 43% of the men in the sample shared the same DNA pattern on a section of the Y chromosome (which is passed from father to son unchanged), indicating that they were all descended from one common male ancestor.

April Fool?

This report prompted many e-mails ranging from "Is it an April Fool joke?" to "Is the research sound?" Alan Savin (Member 2033) is himself engaged in similar research along with a team from University College, London. Their research has been based on the name SAVIN and concludes that there is strong evidence that the name arose from a multiple origin of ancestors. However, Alan points out that more research with other names needs to be done before any general conclusion can be drawn.

This topic was revisited by Dr Brian Sykes's recent claim that all Europeans are descended from seven common female ancestors

nicknamed the Daughters of Eve by Dr Sykes. Is Dr Sykes being over-exposed asked one member? What are the implications for the Guild? Should we change our name to the Guild of Seven-Name Studies and can this type of genetic research have implications for one-name studies?

• National Archives of Canada

Peter Amsden (Member 1053) posted this message concerning the National Archives of Canada, who have expanded their ArchivariaNet to include more descriptions of material they held. There are also some searchable databases. The web address is <http://www.archives.ca/>

• Missing 1861 census

Hugh Kearsley (Member 791) posted a message about some missing 1861 census pages for the Woodstock Registration District – have you come across them hiding in the 1861 census in your area of research? Hugh would love to hear from you if you have.

• Extracting 1881 census data

Rowena Card (Member 2687) asked how she could extract information from the 1881 census discs and import it directly into her Custodian database. The answer – a piece of software called LDS Companion written by Guild member Stephen Archer, available to members at a discounted price.

• 1901 census news

John Colloff (Member 2922) passed on the information that the PRO are holding a series of regional discussions and also have a web site giving up-to-date news of the project at <http://www.pro.gov.uk/census>

• New South Wales convicts

David Weatherill (Member 2486) advised that a completely new index to convicts arriving in New South Wales and the ships that transported them has been produced by the Genealogical Society of Victoria. The index is available on an 11 microfiche set costing \$65.00, 10% discount to members, from the Society at Level 6, 179 Queen Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia.

The society's library can be accessed at <http://www.alphalink.com.au/~gsv/>

• **LDS American Census Films**

Edward Sinker (Member 2820) asked if the London LDS library had the American microfiche available at the London premises, rather than have to order them from the USA. Ann Cossar (Member 1806) advised that the Hyde Park FHC in Exhibition Road, Kensington, does have a permanent collection but to check what is held she suggested ringing them on 020 7 589 8561.

• **Emigrants to America**

Doreen Heaton (Member 1950) posted a list of references to published information on immigrants arriving in America, made while she was researching in the Boston City Library.

• **Grades of Membership**

John Colloff raised the question of different grades of membership. Further contributors asked: do they really help people outside the Guild or are they only a useful internal guide; do they encourage people to join the Guild with a view to building up their collection of information? What are your views?

• **Guild Committee**

Stung into action by a number of e-mails criticising Guild activities, such as the AGM and conference (venue, choice of speakers etc), Tony Leeming (Member 3210) praised the hard work of the Committee and pointed out the Chairman's last letter in which Alec wrote of the shortage of volunteers to fill committee posts. As Tony says: if you want to influence what goes on then, volunteer to help!! Roy Rayment (Member 2882) pointed out that there is the opportunity for members to suggest topics for talks on most of the Seminar flyers which are sent out with the Journal.

• **And finally...**

On the subject of us all being descended from just seven female ancestors, David Smart (Member 2027) asked: "What are their names? I don't think they are on the IGI." ○

Warwickshire Seminar on computers in genealogy

THE Guild held another of its successful regional seminars, this time in Warwickshire, with a theme of "Computers in Genealogy".

Whiteacre Heath Village Hall, near Coleshill, was crowded on Saturday, May 13, for a programme of lectures and workshops.

After an introduction to Warwickshire by the Guild's web manager Karen Naylor, Karen's husband Simon Naylor talked about computer basics.

Other talks were given by Jeanne Bunting on scanning and retouching photographs, and by Polly Lawrence, who spoke about family history on the Internet.

Both illustrated their lectures well with visual displays.

Throughout the day there was a series of workshops at which attendees could see computer genealogy programmes being demonstrated and pick up helpful tips.

These sessions were: Custodian, demonstrated by John Hanson; Reunion on the Mac, Paul Millington; The Master Genealogist, Jill Dixon; Excel trees, Polly Lawrence; Family Tree Maker, Karen Naylor; and Family Origins, Jeanne Bunting.

Newport Seminar

THE next Guild seminar will be held on Saturday, October 21, at the YMCA Conference Centre, Mendalgies Road, Newport, Gwent.

There is no particular theme to this seminar, but a diverse programme of lectures has been arranged, with four speakers on a

variety of topics. These are:

- "Migration in Monmouthshire and the Welsh March: A Millennium of Personal names", by Tony Hopkins, an archivist.

- "What's In a Name? My Name is Meredith, What's Yours?", by Dr. Keith Meredith.

- "Off to Patagonia in the Morning", by Eirionedd Baskerville, a librarian.

- "Does it Run in the Family? Genetics for Genealogists", by Dr. Diane Brook.

There is an application form for the seminar with this copy of the Journal.

- *The next seminar after the Newport one will be in Hampshire in February 2001, with a probable theme of occupations. Further details should be known by the time the October Journal is published.* ○

Journal wins 3rd place in Elizabeth Simpson Award

THE Journal of One-Name Studies has been awarded a third place in the 1999 Elizabeth Simpson Award for family history journals, held by the Federation of Family History Societies. This is the first time the Journal has been placed among the leaders in this contest. The results were announced at the Federation's AGM at Bath in April.

It must be mentioned that Roy Stockdill, Editor of the Journal, is also a member of the judging committee for the Elizabeth Simpson Award – a fact which caused Guild Chairman Alec Tritton to joke at our own AGM that we had shot ourselves in the foot! However, Roy was not allowed, understandably, to take any part in the judging of the Guild's entry.

The overall winner of the competition was the Berkshire Family Historian, journal of the Berkshire FHS. ○

Family reunion reports...

St. Legers invade Normandy

MEMBERS of the St. Leger family – whose ancestor came to Britain with the Conqueror – invaded Normandy in May for a big reunion...the first since Robert de Saint Leger left in 1066!

Thelma Ware writes...

Our travel by Super Sea Cat from Newhaven to Dieppe took only two hours in great comfort. It was impossible not to compare it with the journey some 930-odd years ago by our ancestor between the Normandy beaches and Pevensey in Sussex. This was the first large gathering the family has had since then and was effected through modern technology and the website <http://www.destleger.com>. Over 300 members from all over the world gathered together.

Our ancestor, Robert de Saint Leger of St Leger au Bois, near the town of Eu, had met William the Conqueror at Eu in 1066 before they embarked on the Channel crossing. Robert's sons, William, Jean, Guy and Ralph were possibly also involved in the battle and certainly in the later occupation. Robert's cousin and suzerain was the Comte d'Eu and William knew Eu well, as he had married Mathilda of Flanders there in 1050 when he was 23.

Our destination was the 16th century Chateau D'Eu, site of the *Entente Cordiale* signed by King Louis Philippe of France and Queen Victoria. The chateau now incorporates the Town Hall and archives. We were greeted by banners depicting the St. Leger Coat of Arms, "Azure Frette Argent a chef d'Or." known since the 13th century. One of the earliest English examples is in Canterbury Cathedral.

The head of the French family is Baron Maurice de Saint Leger, born in 1922. His family are descended from Robert de Saint Leger, as are we all, but his ancestor Matthew St. Leger was born in 1695 in Kilkenny, Ireland.

He was a captain in the army of Bonnie Prince Charlie and was killed at Culloden in 1746. His wife Marie Louise du Bois was French and the family remained in France.

Other Irish branches spread to England, where St. Legers had been established in Kent since 1066. Some went to Devon and Yorkshire, where the famous race was founded, while others left Ireland during the famines for America and more recently to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

After a reception in the chateau, where we were welcomed by the Mayor of Eu, we attended a service in the Collegial Chapel of St. Laurent O'Toole, a 13th century Bishop of Dublin who retreated to Eu. Also there at that time was a Thomas Saint Leger. Special tribute was paid to Leger, Benedictine Bishop of Autun, martyred for his faith after 675 AD, from whom we take our name. We were guided to an ancient passage at the rear of the chapel called "Passage de Robert de Saint Leger", where a plaque was unveiled by the Mayor and Baron Maurice and his brother Bernard, authors of "Les Saint Leger a travers L'Histoire", published in 1989.

A toast was taken back in the chateau and we moved on for a leisurely lunch at the Domain de Joinville, a lovely hotel in the woods. The hospitality and superb arrangements allowed us to enjoy every aspect of the day. It was easier to understand the immense organisation that William the Conqueror would have needed for his Invasion, and the Norman attention to detail that resulted in the Domesday Book which defines our heritage. Those qualities still exist in Normandy today. ○

THELMA WARE
Member 2608
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Devon EX17 4PR

And Stockdills invade Canada!

MEMBERS of the Stockdill FHS from the UK, America and Australia headed for Canada, where a Millennium Reunion was hosted in May in Victoria, British Columbia, by the Canadian Stockdills. It was the second reunion for this Yorkshire family, the first being in Leeds in 1997.

The Canadian branch was founded by Frederick Stockdill (1851–1940), born in London of Yorkshire parentage, who went to Boston in 1878 and then to Canada. From a railway family, he had a 50-year career with the Canadian Pacific Railway in Montreal and his numerous descendants today live in Victoria and Vancouver. Frederick's son, Charles E. Stockdill (1881–1960), also rose to high office in the CPR and even had a tiny rural station named after him on a branch line in Saskatchewan. Few ordinary families, surely, can boast they once had a railway station bearing their name!

US relations

The Ambler family of Virginia, who descend from the marriage of Frederick's sister Fanny Jane Stockdill to James Ambler of Leeds in 1885, was well represented. The UK contingent was led by Roy Stockdill, founder of the Stockdill FHS, of Watford, Hertfordshire, and included his sister and her husband from New South Wales, as well as Stockdill cousins from Yorkshire. Special guests were Jim Stockdill, a descendant of the Irish Stockdills, and his wife from Boulder, Colorado.

The British and US members were meeting most of their Canadian cousins for the first time. After a reunion dinner for 45 people at the Oak Bay Golf and Country Club, Victoria, two dozen of the party enjoyed a two-day trip from Vancouver to Calgary through the stunning scenery of the Canadian Rockies on the Rocky Mountaineer train. ○

Guild officers at Bath Millennium dinner



FOUR officers of the Guild pictured at the formal dinner of the Millennium British Family History Conference, organised by the Wiltshire FHS at Bath University in April. From left to right: Treasurer Sandra Turner, Chairman Alec Tritton, Registrar Dominic Johnson and Journal Editor Roy Stockdill. The Federation of Family History Societies held its AGM during the conference and Alec Tritton and Dominic Johnson were elected to the FFHS's Executive Committee. (Picture by Tony Pomeroy)

You must have been a beautiful baby...

A REPORT in the London Evening Standard claimed the so-called Millennium Bug hit thousands of new-born babies – making them 100 years old at birth! Computers at register offices failed to recognise the year 2000 and instead printed birth certificates with the date 1900.

They have been rewritten by hand, with a promise that printed certificates will be sent later on when new software, sent to all 382 register offices in England, has been installed. A spokesman for the Office for National Statistics said: "In some cases the date was a jumble of odd characters." The bug may have hit registrations for more than 25,000 babies born in the first two weeks of January.

Ah, what joys lie in store for genealogical researchers of the future!

Some forthcoming events...

EAST Midlands Family History Conference, The Year 2000: Recollections of 100 Years, hosted by Derbyshire Family History Society at Pears School, Repton, Derbyshire, Saturday August 5 2000.

Toseland Clan Society AGM, September 23 and 24 at The Village Hall, Little Harrowden, Wellingborough, Northants. Entrance fee £1 per adult, doors open 10.00 a.m. both days and close 6.00 p.m. Sat, 4.00 p.m. Sun. AGM

itself will commence at 2.00 p.m. on the Saturday. Canteen operates all weekend. We look forward to seeing you.

C A TOSLAND
Treasurer Toseland Clan Society
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Smallpox records information wanted

THE Journal has received a request for any member who has amongst his or her records any information about smallpox to pass it on to the Edward Jenner Museum at Berkeley, Gloucestershire. The museum is established in the old home of Dr. Edward Jenner (1749–1823), the discoverer of vaccination and father of immunology.

It was through work begun by Jenner that smallpox, once the greatest killer of mankind, was eventually eradicated, and it was at the house that the doctor carried out his very first vaccination in 1796. Jenner knew of the belief of country people that those who caught cowpox, a mild disease, would never catch smallpox. He vaccinated a local boy, James Phipps, with cowpox taken from a milkmaid and showed that the boy was then immune to smallpox.

Professor R. A. Shooter, of the Jenner Educational Trust, says: "Any records at all that any of your members may have, however trivial, to do with smallpox is of interest to us. I would like to think that visitors to the museum will be able to learn about smallpox and take something away that helps in the eradication of another disease."

The kind of records the museum is interested in are death certificates of those who died from smallpox, burial entries from parish registers and vaccination certificates, also any records of those who were vehemently opposed to vaccination.

We are sure Guild members come across lots of references to smallpox in their researches, so pass them on, please, to: Professor R. A. Shooter, Jenner Educational Trust, the Jenner Museum, High Street, Berkeley, Gloucestershire GL13 9BH. ○



Reviews

New edition of Gibson Guide to south-west England and Wales Poor Law records

POOR LAW UNION RECORDS 3: SOUTH-WEST ENGLAND, THE MARCHES AND WALES, by Jeremy Gibson and Colin Rogers. Second Edition. A5 soft cover, 72 pages. ISBN: 1 86006 040 4. First published 1993, second 2000, by: FFHS (Publications) Ltd., 2-4 Killer Street, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire BL0 9BZ. Price: £4.50, plus 50p UK p&p.

THIS book covers a wide-ranging area, taking in the counties of Berkshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Herefordshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Somerset, Wiltshire and Worcestershire, plus Wales, including Monmouthshire.

The Poor Law Union records that have survived are listed and their location is also shown. A brief sketch map is given for each county entry showing Poor Law Union boundaries and county overlaps.

Detailed references are provided for the records of the Unions created under the New Poor Law of 1834, to their abolition in 1930. Also given in the book are the whereabouts of records of earlier combinations of places to relieve the poor, under Gilbert's Act of 1782 and other private Acts. The Old Poor Law records of individual parishes have not been included.

This publication is well presented, easy to use and is an invaluable tool in helping to unlock the information in a wealth of records for the family historian. It is certainly an excel-

lent addition to any bookcase and library of home reference material.

Preserving photos for posterity

IMAGES FOR THE FUTURE. A guide to the selection & preservation of photographic & electronic images for personal archives, by Peter C. Amsden ARPS ABIPP. A5 card cover, 44pages. ISBN 0953501922 Published 2000 by ASAT Productions, Dunstaffnage Mains Farm, Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1PZ, Scotland. Telephone & Fax: 01631 567192. E-mail: amsden@btinternet.com Price: £3.95

THIS booklet is a must for anyone wishing to preserve his or her photographs or films for future generations to enjoy. The reader is guided, stage by stage, from the selection of photographs, to their preservation and labelling, to the suggestions of useful addresses and further reading.

Visual history

Photographs are a relatively new medium as a resource for providing vital clues to any family history, as it was only after 1900, thanks to Kodak introducing inexpensive and simple cameras, that people started creating a visual history of everyday family life by happily snapping away and filling albums and boxes up with a very reliable source of information.

How many of us can honestly say that we have properly stored

Our round-up of some interesting new genealogical publications

By Jane Morson

all this valuable information? Guild member Peter Amsden has given us some vital information to rectify this situation.

This booklet can also be obtained from the SoG bookshop and amazon.co.uk

Finding your way around GENUKI

GENUKI: U.K. & Ireland Genealogy on Internet, by David Hawgood. A5 soft cover, 48 pages, ISBN 1-86006-111-7. Published March 2000, jointly by the Federation of Family History Societies and David Hawgood. Available from FFHS (Publications) Ltd, 2-4 Killer Street, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire BL0 9BZ or on-line at www.sog.org.uk Price £2.80 + p&p.

THE Tower of Babel, the World Wide Web – call it what you will – has not replaced the printed word. David Hawgood, in this guide to www.genuki.org.uk, tells us there are 20,000 pages in the GENUKI web pages alone and countless others in the links to different websites. How do you find your way into this?

I count myself fairly computer literate, use the web and e-mails, but absolutely hate the trauma of stumbling through Web sites and links, hoping to find something of value. I have never dared enter the world of GENUKI before.

This book explains it all quite simply. An hour or two browsing the book saves many hours on-line. A useful start is an explanation of the tricks to get the best from your browser (Internet Explorer or Netscape).

GENUKI is a genealogical information service, maintained by volunteers, for the United Kingdom and Ireland. It contains a

great deal of information itself and also links to many other sites. A primary virtue is that all the pages are to a published standard structure, so easing finding your way around.

Structure

The recommended way is to follow the geographical structure of the pages by starting with the British Isles and following down through region, county and place. At each level there is a list of topics covered, such as directories, census, newspapers. There you will find details of all the sources you would be able to search in your lifetime.

A nice final touch in the book is an index, not done often enough, in spite of indexing facilities in many word processor programs.

ALAN BARDSLEY

YORKSHIRE: The Genealogists Library Guide 2. YORKSHIRE PARISH REGISTERS, MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS AND WILLS, by Stuart A. Raymond. A5 soft cover, 87 pages. ISBN: 1 86006 113 3. ISSN: 1033-2065. Published 2000 by: FFHS (Publications) Ltd., 2-4 Killer Street, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire, BL0 9BZ. Also from: S. A. & M. J. Raymond, P.O. Box 35, Exeter EX1 3YZ. E-mail: stuart@samjraymond.softnet.co.uk Website: <http://www.soft.net.uk/samjraymond/igb.htm> Price: £6.50

Yorkshire: The Genealogists Library Guide 5. YORKSHIRE OCCUPATIONS, by Stuart A. Raymond. A5 soft cover, 47 pages. ISBN: 1 86006 114 1. ISSN: 1033-2065. Publication details as for Guide 2. Price: £4.60

Yorkshire: The Genealogists Library Guide 6. YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORIES AND PED-

IGREES, by Stuart A. Raymond. A5 soft cover, 100 pages. ISBN: 1 86006 112 5. ISSN: 1033-2065. Publication details as for Guide 2. Price: £6.50

THESE guides by Stuart A. Raymond were formerly the British Genealogical Bibliographies. I found all the guides very well produced and clear to read. The front covers are eye-catching and each has a different delightful black-and-white picture of an appropriate Yorkshire scene.

The information contained in each guide is easily located with the use of the contents list, or the author, family name and place name Indexes that have been very adequately supplied.

If your research includes the county of Yorkshire these three guides could very well be the tools to help make the task of locating the whereabouts of information a little easier. ○



Your views on issues in the one-name world

Mary Rumsey Column and researchers

I WRITE regarding the above column in the April Journal, and also the piece in the January issue, about professional researchers. As a part-time professional researcher myself, I was not happy that the instructions in the January issue suggested that only researchers who are AGRA members be used. I have chosen not to join AGRA, but if I had, this would not have made me a better researcher. I would still have offered the same service and still would have been as conscientious as I am now. I hope that no-one read your column and then overlooked my advertisement because of this!

I would also like to point out that not all researchers ask for money to be paid in advance. I

certainly do not. If a client wishes to pay a deposit I accept it, but do not ask for it. Even though I have been stung once or twice by non-payers I still prefer to ask the client how many hours they wish me to work and then ask for the money when the work is complete. Some of my clients are of the older generation who believe that something should only be paid for when received and I would not wish to offend them.

I also feel that the article made the researcher sound too business-like, like a solicitor or an accountant. The majority of my clients like my chatty, friendly approach – sometimes I can't get them off the phone. It makes them feel I am treating their family history as my own, taking a personal interest and giving them confidence that every care is being taken to ensure the information is accurate. In fact I have

already been 'adopted' as a cousin and spent two wonderful weeks in Canada last year at the invitation of one of my 'families' over there.

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Using prisoners for 1901 census

I HOLD no brief for anyone who has been sentenced by the courts to a term of imprisonment but I cannot let Phil Sherwood's uninformed comments [April Journal] pass without putting the record straight. I write from a basis of over 24 years experience of family history, including 15 years' Guild membership; 19 years employment at the Home Office, mainly

associated with prison industries; and nine years working as a member of the Board of Visitors at one of the 135 prisons in England and Wales. BOVs consist of volunteers appointed by the Home Secretary to oversee the running of each prison and act, in effect, as his eyes and ears on a continuous basis.

Phil appears to question the use of prisoners in the transcription work for the 1901 census on the basis of their illiteracy and lack of interest in the project. He may take the view that all prisoners are illiterate and unsuitable for this type of work. The truth is far from this. The 1901 census project will occupy only a very small percentage of the 66,000 prison population and many of those are lawyers and company directors, etc., who are eminently suitable. All operators will be fully trained and will have had to demonstrate consistent accuracy before being allowed to take part in the project.

Professional

Enterprise Supply Services, the Prison Service Agency who will be undertaking the work, already operate a number of data processing workshops that are run to fully professional commercial standards. They are fully ISO9000 quality approved. All 1901 census entries will be double-keyed – i.e. typed in twice – by independent operators and software will be used to check inconsistencies. Trained personnel will seek to resolve differences. The transcript will then be checked by ESS. A team led by a professional quality engineer from the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, contractors to the Public Record Office, will make a second quality check. A further quality check will then be carried out by the PRO's own Quality Assessment team led by expert staff.

We have all read about the series of errors, mis-spellings and downright disasters shown in the transcription of the 1881 census, and my own surname appears as CULLEY, HULBY and HUXBY in

various returns. Some members of the Guild will have even more horrendous examples. I am confident that ESS will produce a high level of quality transcriptions and that the final result will be as good as, if not better than, that produced by family history volunteers for the 1881 census.

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Phil Sherwood received a copy of the above letter from Ray Hulley, and asked to make the following reply...

MAY I say that I respect the views of Ray and agree with him that some prisoners in the categories he mentions are, with training, eminently suitable for transcription of census returns, and I would not wish to deny them the opportunity of contributing to this project.

However, my concern remains that there are insufficient numbers to complete the transcription phase within the very tight timescale imposed by the contract, which should have commenced much earlier if an online index is required by January 2002. I write from a basis of ten years' experience as census indexing co-ordinator for my local FHS and believe that there is no substitute for local knowledge of surnames and place names to ensure an accurate index – that was part of the problem with errors in the 1881 indexing project!

So far the PRO have declined to give any details of the number of prisoners working on transcription or the estimated number of man-hours required to transcribe and input over 32 million records, so I have done a few sums of my own. To make a full transcript, input and proof-read an average page from the 1891 census takes at least an hour, and probably longer if the data is to be double-keyed by individual operators.

With 1.5 million pages, that makes a minimum of 1.5 million man-hours to provide the as-enumerated data files which DERA will probably require by September next year so that they can prepare the index and web pages. I suspect that only about 300 prisoners will be found suitable for transcription duties (approx. 0.5% of the prison population) and with only about 70 working weeks as I write in which to complete the task. That means some of them will be burning the midnight oil – hardly a recipe for accuracy. I hope that the results of the pilot 1891 project for Norfolk will prove me wrong, but if they do not, then public confidence in the project will be seriously undermined.

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Surnames used as forenames

FINDING one's registered name used as a forename is normally a matter of luck. There are very few indexes sorted alphabetically by forename, the one exception being an old IGI Scottish edition.

However, help is now at hand in the form of the 1881 British Census CDs which can be interrogated for a specific forename. Of course, an experienced GOON will have already found their Hitchon Hitchons and Marsden Marsdens, etc., through collecting them as surnames. A quick check through the two Lancashire discs produced the following...

HITCHON	8 forename entries
CHADWICK	31
FISH	14
MARSDEN	37
ORR	2
SAGAR	47
WHITWORTH	5

A trawl through the complete National Index may reveal more, but I chose Lancashire because it is "my" name's county and is apparently rich in this naming practice. Other names, not of

Guild members, emphasise the use of this technique...

HARTLEY	579	forename entries
HAWORTH	326	
WHITAKER	130	
SUTCLIFFE	117	
HOLDEN	71	
RUSHTON	31	
PICKUP	7	
ALRED	5	

I commend to all members a dip into the 1881 census for examples of their registered surname being used as a forename.

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Family reunion help needed

I am considering holding a Titterton family reunion in 2002. The main thing I need to know is: how many are likely to attend? I am assuming that two important factors affecting this are: what size is the total Titterton population, and what percentage of these do I manage to contact?

Perhaps this is a problem other members have had or are struggling with. I am assuming that the size of the total Titterton family population is related to the number of entries in the 1881 census. I am therefore inviting members who have held reunions to provide me with the following information...

- The total population of their one-name in the 1881 census.
- The number of people who attended their reunion.
- How they contacted their one-name population worldwide.
- What percentage of those who attended were already known to them before they advertised the event.
- Any other useful comments.

I will put these figures together to see if there is any correlation of the 1881 census figure with the numbers of people attending a reunion. The

results I can report back to members through the Journal.

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More on Land Tax as a source

I WOULD like to write a small follow-up to Janet Heskins' article in the January 2000 issue. I agree that Land Tax records are a fruitful source, also that given luck they can provide valuable data about an ancestor's holdings. For almost 100 years from 1735 my branch of the Northamptonshire Holdich families lived in Elton, Huntingdonshire, and in 1798 Edward Holdich was assessed for Land Tax. For some reason he decided to pay by transferring the annual interest due on money invested in government stock. At least, that's what I think he did, though the wording does not fit with Janet's definition of redemption. The wording of the contract issued by the Tax Office is as follows:

The Commissioners [both churchmen] agree that they have contracted with Edward Holdich to pay the tax on his estate, consisting of twenty three acres more or less of land and a cottage and homestead in the occupation of himself and Thomas Robinson, charged with Land tax to the amount of One pound eleven shillings and three farthings. Also a moiety of a messuage with the outbuildings and twenty acres more or less of land in Elton, the entirety of which is in his occupation, is charged with Land Tax to the amount of fourteen shillings and six pence three farthings. Which sum amounts together to the sum of two pounds five shillings and seven pence halfpenny. The consideration of the redemption is declared to be Eighty three pounds, twelve shillings and eleven pence farthing of Capital Stock in the Consolidated three

per centum Bank Annuities, to be transferred to the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt at the Bank of England. Dated at Stilton this thirteenth day of February 1799."

The mention of a moiety, or half, of a house, dates from the marriage of Edward's father in 1740. Francis Holdich married Mary Arthur, widow of Elton. She and her sister Alice were the only children of William Moyses, who died in 1746 at the age of 74, bequeathing the family home to his daughters. Alice married John Paul of Eye, and their son eventually became the owner of the other half of this house. It appears in marriage settlement papers and indentures and has proved invaluable in helping to track these two families.

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Ah so!

I WAS intrigued by your article headed "My, isn't this sweet?" (Journal, Vol 7, No 1, January 2000), mainly regarding the names of Chinese seamen. AH, as stated there, is *not* a surname. Having consulted one of my former colleagues at the University of Hong Kong Library, I am told that according to Mathew's Dictionary AH is an initial particle used as a prefix to names.

From the examples you gave, WHY, SAM, JIM, etc., are romanised versions of the third name (of a three-character name), which is usually the name by which the person is known. So Ah Why could well be more correctly called Chiu Sung-wai, using an obsolescent form of romanisation, but would be known on ship as Ah Why or Ah Wai. So one of his mates could well be called Ah Hoy!

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Some curious and colourful tales from Yorkshire Puritan registers

Researchers in Yorkshire have long enjoyed what are known as the Northowram Registers, the work of two remarkable ministers of the Presbyterian/Congregationalist Church at Northowram, near Halifax. The registers cover over 100 years between 1644 and 1752 and tell, often in bizarre detail, curious and colourful tales.

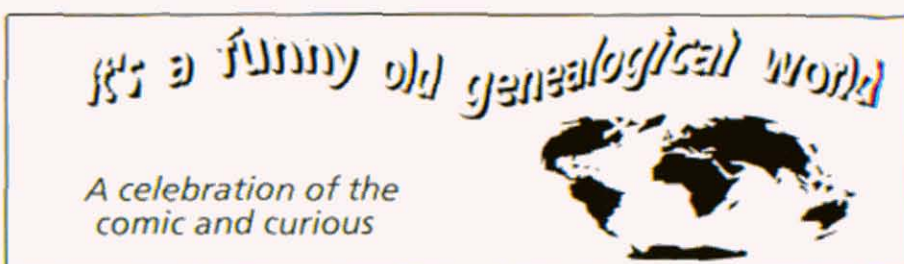
The registers were published in 1881 with the title *The nonconformist register of baptisms, marriages and deaths, compiled by the Revs. Oliver Heywood & T. Dickenson, 1644-1702, 1702-1752*, generally known as the Northowram or Coley Register, but comprehending numerous notices of puritans and anti-puritans in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, London, &c., with lists of popish recusants, Quakers, &c.

Comments

Oliver Heywood was a diarist and included many forthright comments about his parishioners. When Heywood died in 1702, his successor Dickenson continued the style for another half century. Their observations ranged far beyond Northowram, taking in other parts of the West Riding and sometimes national events, recording the deaths of royalty and the famous.

The introduction to the printed registers says: "Popes, Kings, Princes, Peers, Judges, Justices, Parsons, Peasants, Doctors, Lawyers, Schoolmasters, Soldiers, Conformist and Nonconformist Ministers, Quakers and Centenarians find equal admission to these pages. The whole is spiced with remarks on character or possessions, notices of runaway weddings and incidents too numerous to mention."

Heywood held strong views on the evils of drink and had little sympathy for those who succumbed to it. Here are some of his



Death of a chief constable who "prejudiced himself by brandy"

burial entries...

1678—Danl Mitchell of Horsley Green near Halifax died July 17, was drunk there Saturday before aged 71, a sad man.

1682—Tim Starkey of Shelf drunk 4 Jacks of Brandy with D.M.O. it dried up his body, was in horrible pain, died in 8 days buried Dec 4, aged 60. [What was D.M.O.?]

1683—Mary Greenwood Danl G. widow buried May 9 aged 50 Her heart broken by a bad son in Prison at London.

1684—Capt Taylors wife of Brig-house died Oct 28 buried in their garden with head upwards standing upright by her Husband, Daughter, &c., Quakers, aged 60.

1686—Mr. Jonathan Maud of Halifax buried Aug 4, confest he had killed himself with drinking. [Precisely how he "confest" is not explained!]

1695—Robt Leach, poor and wicked, had been drinking on Lords Day, came home, fell into raging fitts, died in 2 or 3 days, Nov.

Even a law official did not escape Heywood's censure...

1696—Mr Joshua Dearden (chief constable) of Sowby dyed March 26, 1696, buried at Halifax March 30 1696, aged 36, prejudiced himself by brandy.

And there was this tart comment on a lawyer...

1695—Mr Gregson the Attorney of Bradford that had ruined many to enrich himself dyed on Lords Day morning July 21 '95. buried at Bradford July 24.

Heywood also recorded his disapproval of certain marriages...

1682—Mr. Starky stole away Mr Hilton of Park Dau (was to marry Mr ffarrington that week) married about 12 a clock in the night at Dr.

Lows in Bolton, Sept.

1692—Widow Turner married her man at Coley Ch. Nov. 14 calld Lancashire a poor lad and a bad one, not 20 and she above 60.

1696—Dec 9 Isaac farrar and Phoebe Clay married at Halifax Church without the knowledg or consent of parents on either side he had stolen her affections being but 17 years of age a sad grief to her tender-hearted father.

Dickenson's entries were often equally descriptive...

1709—Mr. Thomas Kitson of over Briar in Northowram bur. Dec 1. A very big fat man.

A tragic drama is told in this entry...

1711/12—Mr. Watson's wife of Wakefield stay'd in the Lodging Room a little after her Husband was gone to bed Feb 15. She fell upon the fire burnt one breast, one Arm off and her head almost to Ashes, the noisomness of the Smell was felt by some of the neighbours, at last her Husband awak't and found her in this dismal condition, an amazing Spectacle. She was buried ffeb 17.

And drama of a different kind...

1713—Abraham Frank of lower Willow Hall near Wareley was at Rochdale Oct 26, came home about 8 a clock at night died about 3 a clock next morning Oct 27, it's supposed that he Poyson'd himself, having his maid servant with child.

Finally, a warning about the perils of over-exercising...

1742—John Scott Junr. died in Northowram Dec 9 having overstrain'd himself with running.

• The complete registers can be found on the Genuki website at: <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/ngl/YKS/northowram> ○

Roy Stockdill, Member 2534

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GUILD AWARD WINNERS



THE winners of the Guild Award for One-Name Periodicals received their certificates at the Annual Conference and AGM (see report, page 17). Left to right: Maurice Hemingway, winner of the award for combined Categories B and C; Guild President Derek Palgrave, who made the presentations; Ken Grubb, winner of the Category A award.

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