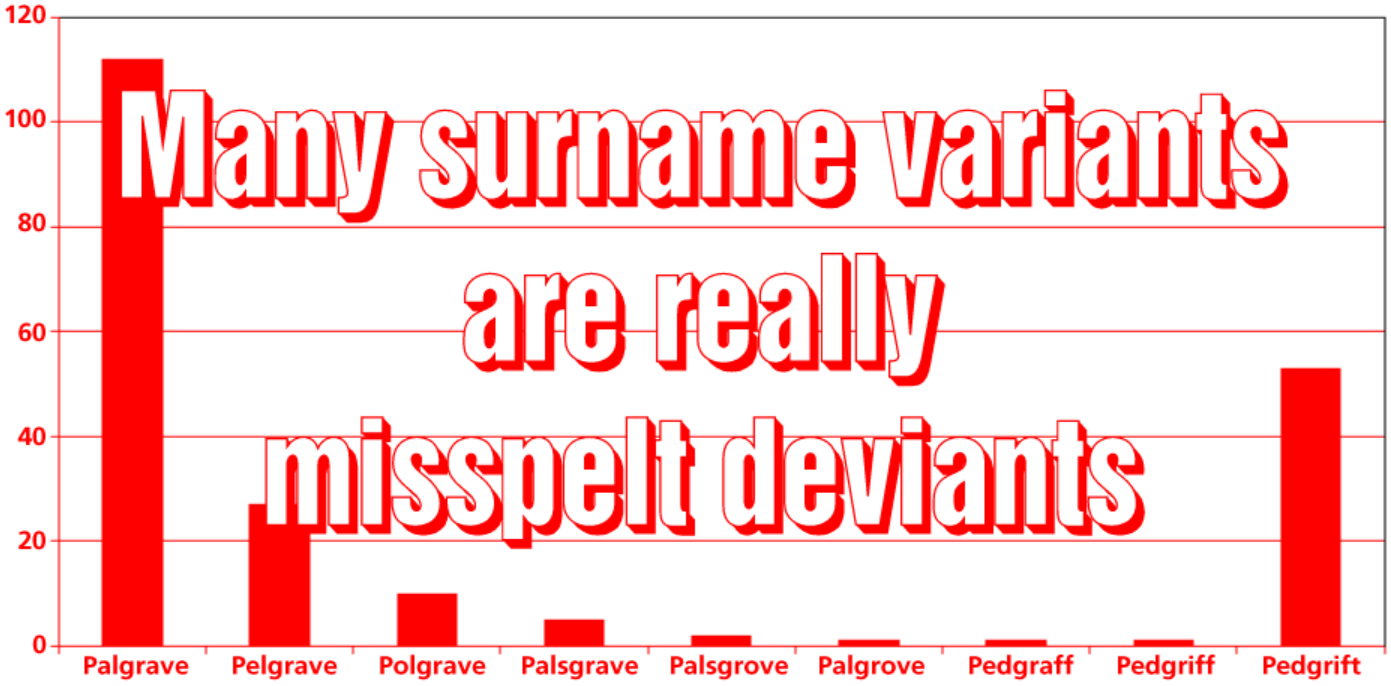
The world's leading publication for one-namers Vol 8 Issue 5 January–March 2004

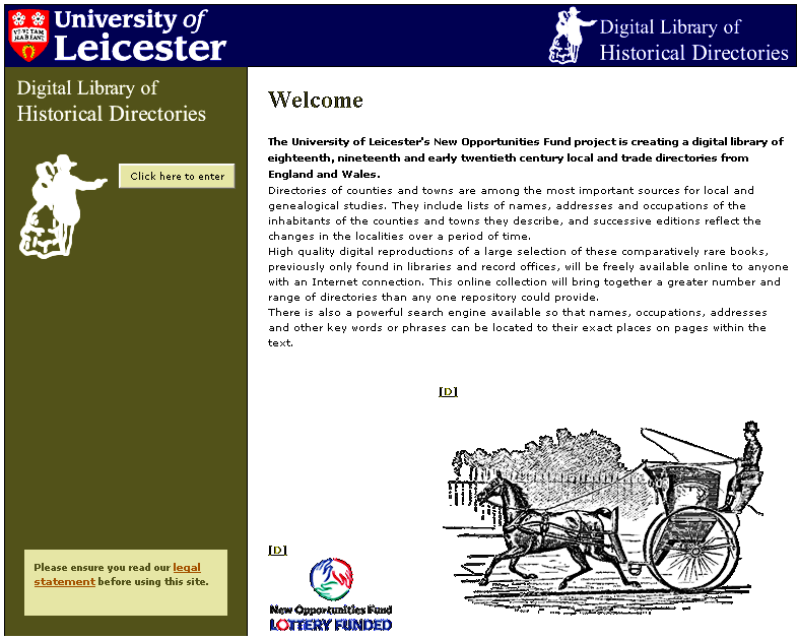
Journal of One-Name Studies

www.one-name.org

FREQUENCY OF VARIANTS/DEVIANTS IN 1881



Many surname variants are really misspelt deviants



Featured in web*watch*...

Digital Library of Historical Directories

Plus...

Making the most of online search engines

Reports of the Epsom Internet and Halsted Trust Seminars

Guild of One-Name Studies

Box G, 14 Charterhouse Buildings
Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA
E-mail: guild@one-name.org
Website: www.one-name.org
Registered as a charity in England and Wales No. 802048

President
Derek A Palgrave MA FRHistS FSG

Vice-Presidents
Peter Goodall
Ernest Hamley
John Hebden
Peter Towey

Guild Committee
The Committee consists of the Officers, plus the following:
Rob Alexander
Jeanne Bunting FSG
John Hanson
Barbara Harvey
Roy Rayment
Geoff Riggs
Peter Walker

Librarian
Vacant
Regional Reps Co-ordinator
Barbara Harvey
Bookstall & Sales Manager
Howard Benbrook
Forum Manager
Peter Walker
Website Manager
Paul Millington
Publicity Manager
Roy Rayment
Data Processing Manager
John Hanson

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
Executive Ken Toll
Publications Roy Stockdill
Seminars Roy Rayment

GUILD OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN
Ken Toll
20 North Road
Three Bridges
W Sussex RH10 1JX
01293 404986
chairman@one-name.org

VICE-CHAIRMAN
Paul Millington
58 Belmont St
Worcester
Worcestershire
WR3 8NN
01905 745217
vice-chairman@one-name.org

SECRETARY
Jim Isard
74 Thornton Place
Horley
Surrey RH6 8RN
01293 411136
secretary@one-name.org

REGISTRAR
Roger Goacher
Springwood
Furzefield Road
East Grinstead
W Sussex RH19 2EF
01342 326663
registrar@one-name.org

TREASURER
Sandra Turner
2 St Annes Close
Winchester
Hants SO22 4LQ
01962 840388
treasurer@one-name.org

EDITOR
Roy Stockdill
6 First Avenue
Garston, Watford
Herts WD25 9PZ
01923 893735/6
editor@one-name.org

www.one-name.org

Guild information

Sales

AS well as Guild publications, the Sales Manager has a supply of Journal folders, ties, lapel badges and back issues of the Journal. The address is:

Howard Benbrook
7 Amber Hill
Camberley
Surrey
GU15 1EB
England
E-mail enquiries to:
sales@one-name.org

Forum

THIS online discussion forum is open to any member with access to e-mail. You can join the list by sending a message with your membership number to:
forum@one-name.org
To e-mail a message to the forum, send it to:
goons-l@rootsweb.com

Regional Representatives

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, Barbara Harvey (address and phone number on the inside back cover).

The Journal of One-Name Studies is published quarterly by the Guild of One-Name Studies.
ISSN 0262-4842
© Journal of One-Name Studies

Journal of One-Name Studies

Vol 8 Issue 5 January–March 2004

CONTENTS

MAIN ARTICLES

6 **Many surname variants are really misspelt deviants – COVER STORY**
DEREK PALGRAVE on difficulties associated with the multiplicity of surname spellings

10 **Make the most out of online search engines to aid your one-name research**
ROB ALEXANDER with the first of a two-part series about online essentials

12 **Business card that travelled across three continents and 100 years**
VALDA SHRIMPTON tells a fascinating tale of a tiny artefact from her one-name study

14 **Impressive directories collection could do with a better search engine – COVER STORY**
In our regular web*watch* feature, HOWARD BENBROOK looks at the University of Leicester's Digital Library of Historical Records

GUILD REPORTS • NEWS • EVENTS

17 Something for everyone at Halsted Trust Seminar on Introducing the Guild

18 A day at the races (or the Internet Seminar at Epsom)

19 Put dates in your diary for Newspapers and DNA Seminars

21 Have your one-name gathering poster at the FRC

22 Guild's 2004 Conference covers topics you have asked for

23 Family reunions – Glenister gathering report • Dates for Jackett and P*rr*tt events
One-Name Publications Award

24 Scottish Association of Family History Societies • President's appeal for armorial bearings wins some support • New Committee member

REGULARS

4 Chairman's Notes — KEN TOLL

5 Just My Opinion — ROY STOCKDILL

20 A View From The Bookstall — HOWARD BENBROOK

21 Registrar's Notes — ROGER GOACHER

25 Reviews of new genealogy books and CDs

26 Letters to The Journal – Your views on issues in the one-name world

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

By Ken Toll

Sometimes sorry can be the hardest word...

This edition is somewhat embarrassing for me, as I have to apologise in these Notes to a number of members for several things that are, to a large degree, outside my direct control.

1881 census maps and discs project

Firstly, I apologise to the small, but significant, number of members who are still waiting for their 1881 census maps or discs that they paid for.

Many of you are aware that this project, which was launched several years ago, has been beset with problems. Your Committee and I have been working with the Project Manager, trying to bring this project to a successful conclusion for far longer than we would have wished.

We thought that, despite the delays, everything had now been delivered. It was not until it was discussed on the Guild Forum in November that it became clear that there were still a few problems.

Contact

If any member believes they are still owed goods or services they have paid for, will they please contact me direct at **chairman@one-name.org**, or to my address in the front of the Journal, with information on what they ordered and when, and I will endeavour to resolve the problems.

At the time of writing (November 23 2003) 21 Forum subscribers were affected. I will give a full account of the size of the problem and its resolution in the April Journal.

Oops – an upside down view from the Members' Handbook!

Now to the second problem that beset us. Thanks to Roger Goacher, Janet Heskins and others, we now have a Members' Handbook, which was delivered to existing members with the October Journal.

Unfortunately, a few of the 2,000 or so handbooks were printed with pages 9 and 16 rotated! I have been in contact with the printer and they have apologised profusely. I shall be meeting them in early 2004 to discuss this and other issues.

While only about 14 copies have been identified so far, I appreciate how irritating it will be the members concerned. I apologise if your copy is affected. Please contact me and I will arrange for a replacement to be sent to you.

Journal mailing

The final problem was caused by a sub-contractor of our printer, who now does the enveloping and packaging of the Journal and the various other items that go out to members with it. This had worked reasonably well until the October mailing.

I am advised that this is an automated process but, unfortunately, two name and address labels were packed into some envelopes. The result has been that at least 34 UK members failed to get their Journal and the situation for overseas members may be worse.

Again, I apologise to those affected. If you still have not received your October Journal, then please get in touch with me, and I'll arrange for one to be sent.

We have, of course, learnt from these problems and will endeavour to avoid them in future.

Change of Sales Manager

At last I can move on to some brighter news. In order to centralise sales activities within the Guild, we have appointed Howard Benbrook as Sales Manager.

He will now use the bookstall stock to increase items available for mail order, so that those unable to attend Guild events can buy from the Bookstall by post.

Howard takes over from Ron Duckett, who has given many outstanding years of service to the Guild. Ron will continue to hold his current stock and will fulfil orders passed to him from Howard.

Ron, a long-standing member, has initiated and participated in many Guild projects over the years and we are deeply indebted to him.

I would like to add my personal thanks to Ron for all he has done – and continues to do – for the Guild. ❍

The pleasures and the pain of deciding between variants and deviants!

AS our Guild President, Derek Palgrave, points out in his fascinating and comprehensive article over the ensuing four pages of this Journal, many of what we believe to be genuine variants of our registered surname are actually nothing of the sort.

They are very often simple spelling mistakes – mishearings deriving from the efforts of a confused cleric or clerk to understand a mumbling parishioner, a strange accent or an unfamiliar name; a difference of opinion between two or more scribes in the days when spelling was far from standardised; a mistranscription when original handwriting, often near illegible, was being transferred to the printed volume; and numerous other opportunities for confusion and misreporting.

Derek has coined the term "deviants" to describe these surname errors. It is perhaps not quite in the strictest dictionary definition of the word, but I can think of none better.

In his fascinating article – which I commend you all to read and digest thoroughly – Derek says he has come across more than 100 versions of his own name, Palgrave, but very few that he would regard as true variants.

I cannot claim to have uncovered anything like an equal number of versions of my name – the root surname of which is undoubtedly STOCKDALE – but there have certainly been some that have given me cause for much thought as to whether or not to accept them.

I do accept as a genuine variant, and not a deviant, my own surname, STOCKDILL. "Well, he would, wouldn't he?" I hear you cry! However, all my researches in sources like the IGI, census returns and parish registers, etc., tend to show that easily the largest number of instances of variants of STOCKDALE are for STOCKDILL and STOGDALE. Indeed, these are the only three names that appear in Reaney and Wilson's *A Dictionary of English Surnames*.

I believe I can even suggest a possible cause as to how it arose in its principal home, the county of Yorkshire. A cousin of mine was in the North York Moors national park a few years ago, seeking what we regard as our possible "spiritual home" and source of the name, Stockdale Moor. He consulted a local farmer, who looked puzzled for a moment and then light dawned. "Ah," he said in a broad dialect, "you mean "Stockdle?" He pronounced it with a short final syllable, omitting the long "a" sound in "dale". Discussing it later, my cousin and I agreed it was but a very short step from "Stockdle" to STOCKDILL. also pronounced with a short second syllable.

Interestingly, the STOGDALE version, which all the surname dictionaries give as a genuine variant, is not regarded by the LDS as such, but, rather, they treat it as a separate surname altogether. If I want to find the STOGDALEs on the IGI in *FamilySearch*, then I have to enter it separately. However, I feel pretty sure they are wrong.

What, however, am I to make of supposed variants that appear in the 1881 census, like STOCHDALE, STACKDALE, STROCKDALE, STOCKDALS and STOCKADALE? With names like these, I am wholly in Derek Palgrave's camp in believing them not to be genuine variants but errors of spelling and/or transcription or, as Derek calls them, deviants.

And then, of course, we enter still murkier waters when we get names that are similar to, or share an element with, our registered surname. I am sure most of you will know what I mean.

I am often sent by well-meaning people examples of STOCKWELL, STOCKHILL, STOCKILL and even STOCKDEN and STOGDEN. I do not accept any of these, since I believe them to be from quite different roots to STOCKDALE. Indeed, there is a fellow Guild member who has registered STOCKELL and STOCKHILL and we have discussed our mutual interests in the past. However, I cannot put my hand on my heart – and nor can she, I expect – and swear that none of my Stockdills are misspelt or mistranscribed Stockhills!

And then there is the small matter of the alias, a pet theme of my favourite Yorkshire surnames expert, George Redmonds. In his book *Surnames and Genealogy: a New Approach*, he mentions a "Robert Stockdale alias Stockton" in 1651. Now, STOCKTON is not a name I would accept at all in my one-name study. But, as Dr. Redmonds says: "An unaccented suffix was particularly susceptible to change, and could be confused with almost any other frequent suffix." I am quite sure all of you will have had similar experiences with your own Guild-registered surname. What can we do about it?

Not a lot, I suggest, except examine each contentious example on its merits and offer our best judgement on the facts as we see them. ❍

Many surname variants are really misspelt deviants

By Derek Palgrave

ALMOST 20 years ago the Guild's President DEREK A PALGRAVE wrote an article for the Journal[1] describing some of the difficulties associated with the multiplicity of surname spellings.

Re-reading some past issues, we found the article so useful and interesting – and still valid today – that we invited Derek to update it for the newer generation of one-namers.

In the article, Derek makes the point that what we believe to be variants of our registered name may, in fact, be simply deviant misspellings.

All of us who specialise in a single surname are familiar with several versions of our name. We tend to refer to these different versions as "variants" when, in fact, this may not be the case.

In general, many of the versions are mistakes which have come about when the writer has written down what he thought he heard. If the speaker had a broad dialect or a speech impediment and the writer was hard of hearing, then the potential for deviation was considerable. When records are transcribed from original documents written in an unfamiliar hand, or from microfilm of such documents, there is scope for further distortion. Anyone who has used the International Genealogical Index will recognise this problem.

Few genuine

I have come across over 100 versions of the surname PALGRAVE, but only a few of which I would regard as genuine variants. As the surname appears to be locative in origin I checked on the place(s) concerned.

At the time of the Domesday Survey there were two villages in East Anglia with similar spellings which were likely candidates. One was PAGRAVA and the other PALEGRAVA; the former was in Norfolk and the latter in Suffolk

References to people bearing both versions, in records prior to the 16th century, were listed and the places where the references were found were plotted. Two distinct distributions emerged, centred on PAGRAVE and PALGRAVE respectively. To complicate matters, the descendants of the PAGRAVES standardised the spelling of the name to PALGRAVE after about 1600.

In Lincolnshire there are many references to POLGRAVE and in parish registers in that county PALGRAVE is slightly less common. In Surrey the version PALSGRAVE predominates, so I take it to be a genuine variant. Whether it is an anglicised version of PFALTZGRAF, a German name, seems most unlikely. However, I am fairly sure that it has nothing to do with the Elector Palatine, known as the Palsgrave, who married Elizabeth, the daughter of James I.

Having accepted, say, two or three as genuine variants, one needs to consider the status of the many other versions. Rather than list them all, I have expressed them in a two dimensional array (see Figure 1 below).

If all the options represented within

OPTIONAL SPELLINGS OF PALGRAVE

P	U O I E A AR AU AW AY EA OW	LE LL (L) LD D	SE (S) Z X	GG G GGEG KE	R	E I O A AU AY IE	M M U V F FF W	A (E) T	(S)
1	11	6	5	4	1	7	7	4	2

Figure One – this table illustrates the many permutations possible for the surname PALGRAVE. They total more than half a million!

the tabulation actually occurred, they would amount to 517,440, a figure obtained by multiplying together the totals in each column!

This is clearly absurd, but it is a useful exercise for anyone starting a one-name study. By assessing the likely distortion of vowel and consonant sounds before searching, one can carry out a more thorough scrutiny. For instance, I missed some Lincolnshire entries in the GRO Indexes by not looking up POLGRAVE.

Several members of the Guild have handed me lists of the many versions of their surnames for my index of variants and deviants and I have analysed several of them using the above format. Some interesting generalisations have emerged. For instance, vowels lead to more variations than consonants and the letter "E" can occur almost anywhere.

Long and the short

Long and short "O" sounds give rise to several options. In the surname HOLBROOK one can find the first element Hal-, Hool-, Houl-, Howl-, and in the second element -brook, -brock or -bruck. In GOULTY and GOLDRING the "O" sound can be oa, ou or ow, as well as a few more not common to both.

The "U" sound in the surname EUSTACE appears in at least 14 different ways: U, Eu, Eue, Ewa, Ew, Ewe, You, Yow, Yew, Eau, Ui, Yoi, Yu and Yui.

The letters "I"and "Y" are interchangeable when they occur in the middle of a name, so SPILLING can be SPYLLING, SPYLLYNG or SPILLYNG. The letter "Y" at.the end of a name like ALLMEY can have a profound influence on the options one may find, including -ye, -oy, -ay, -e, -ee(?), -ie(?). In the surname POLYBLANK at least eight options have been recorded for the middle syllable: -a-, -i-, -e-, -ay-, -ei-, -er-, -ey- and -o-.

Here are some other factors encountered...

- Final syllables usually receive less emphasis when spoken, so in a surname like DORRELL the endings -rail, -roll and -rill have been found.
- The doubling up of consonants is widespread, as in WOODYER and WOODDYER, both versions of the surname WOODGER, and STOT or STOTT. Some consonant sounds are so similar as to lead to confusion, so a variation on HODSDON is HODGHTON.
- The "B" and "P" sounds may substitute for one another, as in POLLEBLANK and POLLEPLANK, both versions of POLYBLANK.
- The letter "H" may be added to, or dropped from, the beginning of some names, as in HEASEY and EASEY. The adding or dropping of a final "S" is also common: ALLBROOKS is an example of losing an "H" and gaining an "S" in a version of HOLBROOK.

Where different combinations of consonants lead to the same sound, more variations result. A case in point is OSWELL and OZWELL, which are both versions of OSWALD. Similarly, one can find NEX and NECKS, and EUSTICE and EUSTIS.

The foregoing examples illustrate just a small proportion of the possibilities which arise from a consideration of the phonetics. The multiplicity has come about because there were no standardised spellings and no reference works in which a writer could check on the "preferred" version.

Yet more variations arise when records are transcribed from early manuscript sources. Even the experienced palaeographer can make mistakes. I am sure that the version of my surname, PAKEGRAVE, came about because of a confusion between "L" and "K" in the *Placita Coram Rege* of 1283.

In early records the distinction between the letters "V" and "U" is very blurred, so I have seen many instances of PALGRAUE. Of course, a small "u" is not unlike a small "n", so this has given rise to POLGRANE. It seems likely that, by analogy, PAGRAME and PALGRAW resulted from misinterpreting the letters "U" or "V", especially as the quality of handwritten letters towards the end of a word tends to degenerate anyway.

Early handwriting gave the letter "X" a tail, thus making it remarkably similar to a "Y", and I assume that this brought about the transformation of PAYGRAVE to PAXGRAVE in the transcript of the *Red Register of Kings Lynn*, 1372/3.

Perhaps the long "s" is the most common source of transcription error, as it looks very similar to an "f", and quite a lot of printed matter perpetuates this. I suspect that the long "s" may also be transcribed as an "l", in which case this might explain the occurrence of PASGRAVE in Coppinger's *Suffolk Manors*.

Secondary sources

One is bound to conclude that the use of secondary sources, although helpful and time-saving, should be followed up by reference to the original manuscript source. This should allow the elimination of spurious variations. I believe there is much to be gained from a comprehensive study of variants and deviants.

An understanding of the many possibilities needs to be grasped by the one-name specialist fairly early in his or her research programme.

I am also sure that there is considerable merit in putting one's collected data on a statistical basis. In other words, how many examples of each version of your surname have you found? A survey of frequency may assist in distinguishing the genuine variants from those fleeting versions arising from quite simple errors.

The availability of the *1881 Census Data on CD-ROM*[2] and the *Surname Atlas* CD[3] has given us convenient access to statistical data from which we

"An understanding of the many possibilities needs to be grasped by the one-name specialist fairly early in his or her research programme."

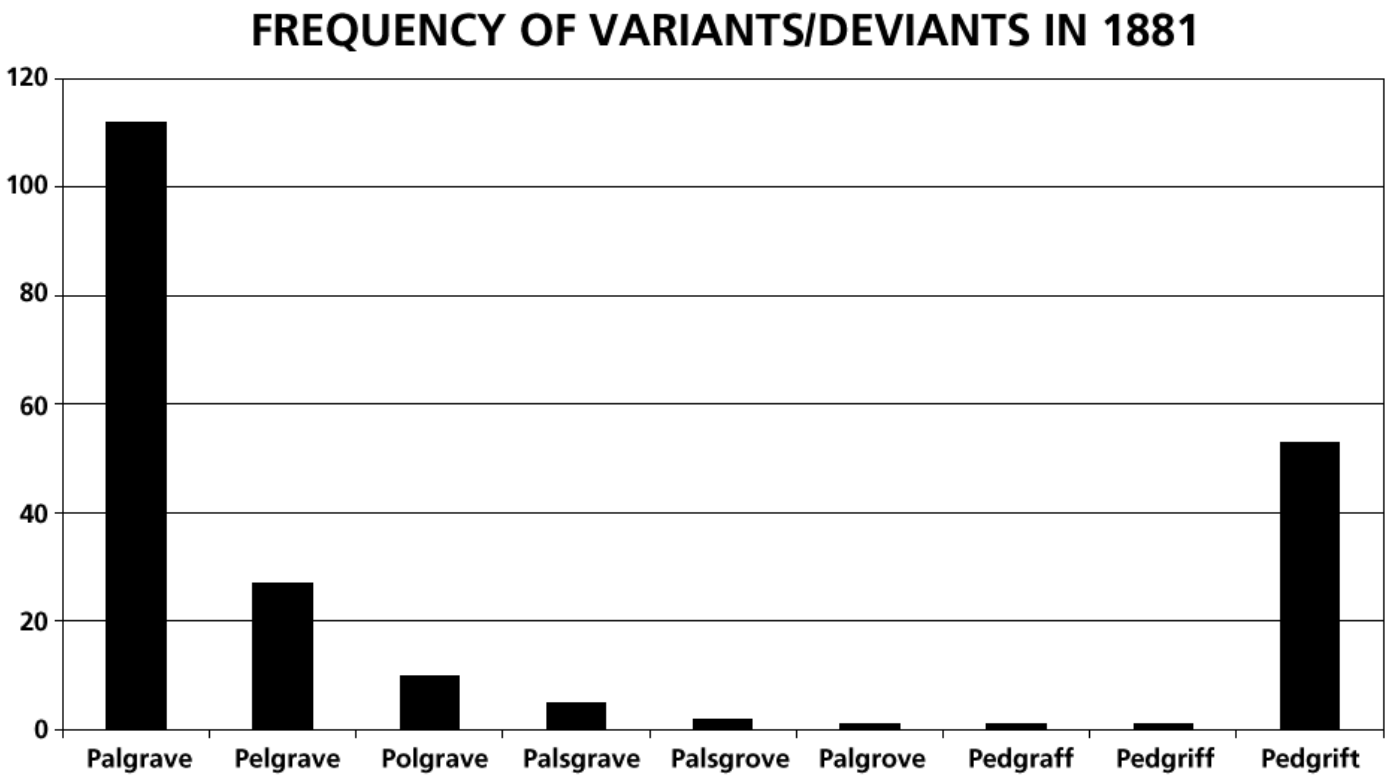


Figure Two – the relative frequency of the surname PALGRAVE and variants, or deviants, in the 1881 British Census

can determine the frequencies and distribution of specified versions. The accompanying histogram *(Figure Two, above)* illustrates that there are really only two main variants, PALGRAVE and PEDGRIFT, although PELGRAVE and POLGRAVE, resulting from quite minor vowel distortion, account for a significant 17 per cent of the entries.

Incidentally, since the late 19th century, when bearers of the PELGRAVE variant landed in Australia, that version has ramified considerably, so there are now over 140 PELGRAVEs qualified to vote there. PEDGRIFT seems to have emerged in the Waveney Valley, Suffolk, around 1800 and is enshrined in several parish registers with entries which include the phrase "Pedgrift alias Palgrave".

Prediction

Several attempts have been made to develop models enabling the prediction of likely variants for any given surname. One of the earliest seems to have been Soundex, which depended on a coding system which neglected all the vowel sounds but was based on the initial letter of the surname and up to three consonants, excluding y, w and h, which could be represented numerically *(Figure Three in the adjacent column)*. Selecting the initial letter "P" and coding the next three consonants, the surname PALGRAVE transforms to P426. Unfortunately, names like Pilgrim, Paliser, Pilchard, etc., have the same code, so there were matches with well over 1,000 possibilities.

More recently, the Metaphone model has been adopted which also suppresses the vowels but codes the following consonant sounds: B X S K J T F H L M N P R TH W Y. G is coded as K and V as F, so PALGRAVE becomes PLKRF. Analysing a large list[4] containing 90 million surname entries reveals only 23 possibilities. There are some obvious misfits, including PALAEOGRAPHIA and PALOKORVA, but most are very plausible.

SOUNDEX CODING

b, f, p, v	1
c, g, j, k, q, s, x, z	2
d, t	3
l	4
m, n	5
r	6

Figure Three – the Soundex table

Other contemporary developments in this field include the NameX model devised by John Challis. It

is essentially a Thesaurus, containing a very large number of variants covering over two million distinct surnames, and organised in name pairs with weightings.

Every one of the 26 letters of the alphabet and the apostrophe are admissible when using NameX, but accented characters are converted to their nearest matching letter. In addition, phonetically encoded versions are generated to yield further comparisons in order to produce match scores. Applying Soundex and Metaphone codings provides supplementary evidence to refine the number of options.

By the NameX procedure, one finds that there are 41 variants for PALGRAVE with a series of scores ranging between 99 and 75. Those over 95 relate to the most frequent variants encountered in archives: those with a score below, say, 85 are rare or very rare. Very much the same pattern seems to apply to the NameX listing for my wife's registered surname, SPILLING and I have no doubt other Guild members will find a similar situation.

Although these methods are remarkably effective predictors, they do have their limitations. For instance, the PEDGRIFT variant, mentioned above, is not listed as a potential variant of PALGRAVE, neither is PALGRAVE listed as a variant for PEDGRIFT. Nevertheless, the latter version accounts for over 20% of the current PALGRAVE variants.

Such comparisons between the variants and variant distributions of different surnames may well lead to the definition of some general principles which will be beneficial to us all and add new components to the study of history.

Variants index

It was with this in mind that in October 1980 I started an index of variants and deviants to which several members of the Guild made contributions. This was publicised in the Guild Newsletter[5] when I invited members to send in 5" x 3" slips, one slip per version of the surname, also giving in parentheses the preferred version. The source of the variant/deviant was to be indicated on each slip.

In 1983 my request was repeated in this Journal[6], in which I suggested that some indication of frequency and dispersion would be helpful. In fact, if anyone had accumulated data in the form of histograms, maps, retrographs, etc., then information in these formats was particularly valuable. I am pleased to say that a few members were kind enough to provide further information.

However, that same year the Guild invited Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges, who were then in the process of compiling their *Dictionary of Surnames*[7], to address its Annual Conference at Leicester. The upshot of this was a remarkable opportunity for members of the Guild to provide information based on their own research into variants, etc., for inclusion in that dictionary.

I believe around 300 members submitted information, much of which appeared in the published work in 1988. A unique feature of the new publication was the inclusion of a separate alphabetical list of variants, linking them to the preferred versions listed in the main part of the dictionary. This seems to have been the first real attempt to generate a comprehensive collection of surname variants, presaging the current project to establish a comprehensive *Thesaurus of British Surnames*[8].

I believe it might help this project if members of the Guild were to consider generating further statistical information based on their own researches. Quantitative data showing the relative frequency of variants derived from any convenient accumulation, such as census returns, GRO entries, telephone books, etc., would be of considerable interest.

In this context, I would strongly advocate the use of Steve Archer's program[3] *(a full review of which appeared in the Journal, Vol 8 (4), October–December 2003)* to examine the statistics of the frequency and geographical distribution of variants which occur in the 1881 census.

This program provides a facility to generate four maps simultaneously and so make rapid comparisons of the ramification of the different versions. It also offers a very easy way of checking on the incidence of any potential variants or deviants.

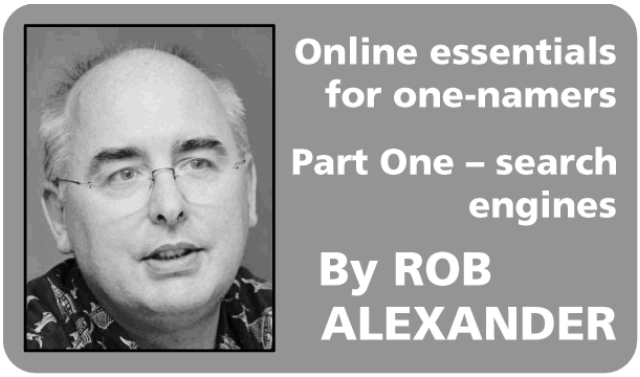
I would welcome correspondence from members who might be prepared to assist. Please send e-mails to president@one-name.org, rather than the 5" x 3" slips I requested before. ❍

References

1 Derek A Palgrave, *Journal of One-Name Studies*, Vol 1 (12) [Autumn 1984]
2 *1881 British Census and National Index*, CD-ROM version, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1998
3 Steve Archer, *The British 19th Century Surname Atlas*, CD-ROM, Archer Software 2003
4 *Surname Thesaurus*, **www.imagepartners.co.uk/Thesaurus/Search.aspx**
5 Derek A. Palgrave, *Guild of One-Name Studies Newsletter* Vol 1 (4), p 47 [Oct 1980]
6 Derek A. Palgrave, *Journal of One-Name Studies*, Vol 1 (6), p 93 [Spring 1983]
7 Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges, *A Dictionary of Surnames*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1988
8 *Thesaurus of British Surnames*, **www.tobs.org.uk**

DEREK A PALGRAVE MA FRHistS FSG
President, the Guild of One-Name Studies
Member 103
Crossfield House
Dale Road
Stanton
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP31 2DY
president@one-name.org

Make the most out of online search engines to aid your genealogy and one-name research



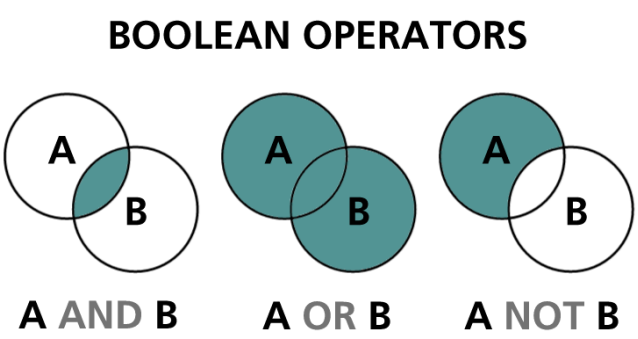
There are many ways to explore what is available on the Internet, but it wouldn't be the same experience without the search engines. We use them so often in such haste to get to the information we need that we often fail to explore the wider services that are often provided by the search engines themselves.

If you are researching a surname which is unusual and infrequent, a basic search may well be good enough to provide a useful list of those sites where the surname appears, and which you can then explore. That's true for me, but what about surnames which are not so rare?

Almost every search engine has additional features or services that can make them more useful than the basic search facility. One useful feature frequently found is Boolean searches.

Boolean logic: Many people remember these words from O-level maths and are put off by them, but the concept is easy enough. Boolean logic should make your searches more efficient and effective. It enables you to "home in" on the sites you are more likely to be interested in.

For example, if you have (A) a number of websites with the word Mowbray in them, and (B) a number of websites with the word Melton in them, then..



- (A) AND (B) will show you all the websites with both Melton and Mowbray in them.
- (A) or (B) will give you all the websites
- (A) NOT (B) will just give you the websites with the word Mowbray in them, and omit any sites which contain the word Melton.

How sites implement Boolean operators: The most popular search engines use Boolean logic slightly differently. The table below lists the most common ones:

Site	Boolean operators	Example
www.alltheweb.com	And Or Andnot Rank (1)	florida **and** golf **andnot** "Arnold Palmer"**rank** LPGA [Results will include "florida" and "golf" without the phrase "Arnold Palmer", preferably including the phrase "LPGA"]
www.altavista.com	AND OR NOT AND NOT NEAR (2)	
www.google.com	+ [Sites listed MUST contain the word following] OR - [Sites which contain the word following will be omitted]	+ MOWBRAY - MELTON would show all sites with the word MOWBRAY in, but omit any with the word MELTON in

(1) Causes those sites which also contain another specified word to be listed nearer the top of the search results – check online help
(2) Specifies that both specified words must be within 10 words of each other – could be useful for searching for people with an unknown middle name or initial

You are the expert on your surname, but here are some examples where Boolean searches can make life easier for one-namers:

• If you are looking for a specific surname/forename combination, you can often enclose the names in parentheses and search for that, e.g. "John Ebenezer Smith"

• If the majority of your one-name study group came from a specific town or county, use the AND operator to look for the surname in pages which also contain references to that location, e.g. Smith AND "Bethnal Green"

• If you were researching the surname Schwarzenegger and wanted to avoid the many sites concerning a certain film star, then you would search for Schwarzenegger NOT Arnold.

• If you are looking solely for sites about family history, try a search for Jones AND ("family tree" OR "family history" OR genealogy).

Search engines such as HotBot (**www.hotbot.com**) and Lycos (**www.lycos.com**) provide forms to fill in which are almost as flexible as Boolean searches, while Ask Jeeves (**www.ask.com**) allows for natural language searches. All are worth a try, but it is perhaps best to select one which you like and stick with that.

Meta Search Engines

A meta search engine searches several other search engines at one time. Meta search engines also offer Boolean logic. Such sites include:

Dogpile	**www.dogpile.com**
Fossick Meta Search	**www.fossick.com**
Mamma	**www.mamma.com**
Metor	**www.metor.com**
MetaCrawler	**www.metacrawler.com**
Vivisimo	**www.vivisimo.com**

Google alerts

Once you have your expression worked out for Google to search, you don't have to wade through everything again every few months – sign up with **www.GoogleAlert.com** and this company (not owned by or otherwise connected to, but an admirer of Google) will notify you of any new sites that come online.

Multimedia Search Engines

Don't forget to search out any images and sounds that relate to your one-name study. The following websites may help in this quest:

AltaVista Image Search **http://uk.altavista.com/image**
Ditto **www.ditto.com**
FAST Multimedia Search **http://multimedia.alltheweb.com**
FindSounds.com **www.findsounds.com**
Google Images **www.google.com/imghp**
Lycos Pictures & Sounds **http://multimedia.lycos.com/**

Database searches

Unlike text pages or multimedia files, a database is structured, a file of information whose records may be searched by defined fields. That means it is often possible to search, for example, for a surname.

A phone directory is an example of a database. They are useful for targeted searching. A regular search engine will not search the contents of a database. The following sites enable searches on a wide variety of databases:

Complete Planet **http://www.completeplanet.com/**
Invisible Web **http://www.invisible-web.net/**
Profusion **http://www.profusion.com/**
Search.com **http://www.search.com/**

Genealogy-specific Search Engines

It would be wrong not to mention search engines and sites that provide access to data specifically related to family history. These include:

Surname Supersearch **http://surnamesupersearch.com/**
Genealogy Links **http://genealogylinks.net/**

Do you have your own website?

If you have a website of your own, you can submit your details to the search engines, usually free of charge, and wait for your web counter to start going up.

Try these URL's to submit your site:

Google **http://www.google.com/addurl.html**
AllTheWeb: **http://www.alltheweb.com/add_url.php**
AltaVista: **http://addurl.altavista.com/addurl/new**

Google offers the facility to see which other web sites include hyperlinks to yours. See: **www.google.com/help/features.html#link**

I apologise if I have not listed your favourite search engine or site here. My objective has been to give a brief introduction to what is out there and how best to use the services in a one-name study. Using these facilities, it should be possible to locate just about anything! ❍

ROB ALEXANDER
Member 2819
38 Meadside Park Drive
Woking
Surrey GU22 7NQ
tordoff@one-name.org

• Part Two of this series, with information about online auctions and book sales, will be in the next issue of the Journal, April–June 2004.

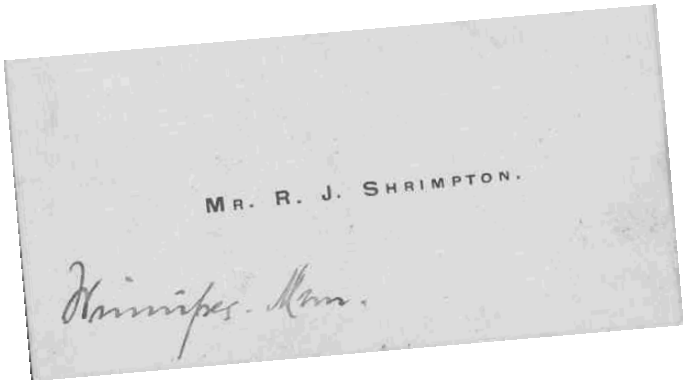
Business card that travelled across three continents and 100 years

By Valda Shrimpton

This is the story of one small cream coloured card, a mere 79 millimetres long by 39 millimetres wide. This business card, sent to me from Canada, came into my possession in 1991. Since then, I have intermittently puzzled over the identity of R. J. Shrimpton, who he was and how this small, insignificant card had survived, travelling across three continents in the process.

Around 1860, George Shrimpton, a young London man of 19 years of age, travelled to New York and later moved to Winnipeg, Canada, as a partner in a general store. It was presumed that some time during his stay in Winnipeg he acquired the card from R. J. Shrimpton, a man he met far from home, who though unrelated, shared his name.

George returned to England around 1870, where it is believed he remained until he and his family emigrated to Australia in 1894. In 1959, on the death of one of George's sons, the card was found among his papers. At a time when most families tended to throw out unnecessary clutter, the card survived, returning once more to Canada when George's grandson emigrated there. Finally, the card was posted back to England and came into the possession of a third but unconnected Shrimpton.



The card that inspired Valda Shrimpton's lengthy detective hunt for its owner

Moving from the card to its owner and from 1991 to the present day, I am at last in a position to reveal the identity of R. J. Shrimpton. *Henderson's Manitoba and Northwest Territories Gazetteer and Directory* for 1897 records R. J. Shrimpton as:

"mgr Man. Mortg & Ins. Co., 228 Portage ave, h 354 Donald"

The 1908 edition of the directory gives the added bonus of:

"Shrimpton Robert J. real est h 310 Anderson"

The March 31 1901 census was checked, but Robert was not resident at either address. From April 1887 to August 1908, Robert was mentioned no fewer than 65 times in the *Manitoba Morning Free Press* – nearly always for his cricketing prowess. The last entry in the newspaper announced his time in the city was finally drawing to a close.

"R. J. Shrimpton, formerly manager of the Manitoba Mortgage and Investment Company limited in Winnipeg, has been appointed managing director of the company at the head office in London England. Mr Shrimpton has also been appointed a director of the Manitoba Land Company limited, and secretary of the Kootenay Valleys Company Limited, and is engaged in other Canadian financial business at 46 Queen Victoria Street, London E.C."

Robert J. Shrimpton had "returned" to England. The only possible candidate with a death registration in this country was Robert John James Shrimpton who was born in Peckham, Surrey in 1863. On the 1881 and 1891 censuses, this Robert, a clerk to a public company, was staying with his parents in Croydon, Surrey. He was far too young to have met George Shrimpton in Winnipeg between 1860 and 1870, but then, the earliest known record of Robert J. in the city was 1887.

In 1903, Robert John James married Marian Sampson on September 10 at Barnard Castle, County Durham. At the time of his marriage, he was a financial agent from Addiscombe, Croydon. Robert and Marian had four known children. The two eldest, born in 1904 and 1906, did not have births registered in England. The two youngest were born in 1910 and 1912 at Walton on Thames, Surrey. Robert James John died on 30th March 1917 of chronic intestinal nephritis and oedema of the larynx. His administration gave his address as Crosswyn, Walton on Thames and 46, Queen Victoria Street, London.

I had been misled for so long because I had naturally assumed the card must have been exchanged in Winnipeg with George during his stay there in the 1860s. In fact, there is now every reason to believe the exchange took place in London in the early 1890s and perhaps not even with George, but through his son Walter Ernest.

The mysterious Manitoban Robert turned overnight into a very English Shrimpton with a lineage that could be traced back through Hampshire into Dorset and the late 17th century. His father William Shrimpton (1812–1895) was born in Guildford, Surrey, though he was not baptised until 1816 at St. Mary's, Marylebone, Middlesex. He was a farmer on his first marriage when at St. Giles, Camberwell, in 1840, he married Julia Jane née Eaton (circa 1820–1854). Their six children were baptised in Camberwell, Marylebone and Lambeth, but by 1853

the family had moved to Warden Court, East Church, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. There on March 9 1854 Julia died of liver disease, leaving four surviving motherless children.

Julia's younger unmarried sister, Sarah Ann (circa 1823–1914), took over the running of the household. William's gratitude turned to attraction and on September 3 1856, a daughter, who lived for only a short time, was born. The couple wrestled with their consciences and their passion for a further year. Under both canon and English civil law, when a man and woman married the two "became one" and a husband's affilial relationships became those of his wife. Such relationships continued even after the death of one party. Any marriage to Sarah Ann would be deemed incestuous.

Only in 1907 did Parliament finally pass the Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Act after over half a century of sometimes acrimonious debate. In 1921, the Act was modified to allow marriage with a deceased brother's widow. The Church of England came into line with the civil law in 1940. But in 1857 at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Middlesex, using the anonymity afforded them by London, William and Sarah Ann married. They returned to Sheppey, where three more children were born and baptised. Three further children followed after the couple moved to Croydon, Surrey.

The legality of William's second marriage and the status of his wife and the four children who survived him obviously worried William. His only son William (1846–1880) from his first marriage, had predeceased him, leaving no children, but his three daughters had all married. From his second marriage, only a daughter and Robert were to marry.

Before his death, William may well have provided for all of them. In his will, he left everything to his daughter "Eliza Jane Shrimpton or Eaton my youngest daughter by my second wife the sister of my first wife." His executors were named as "Edward Henry William Shrimpton or Eaton, and Robert John James Shrimpton or Eaton my two surviving sons". William, Sarah Ann, and four of their children were buried in the family grave in Nunhead Cemetery Southwark. The last to die was Eliza Jane in 1953 buried in a separate grave nearby. Nunhead Cemetery has for the most part returned to woodland after years of neglect and is now a conservation area. Finding the family gravestones even with a plot reference has proved an almost impossible task.

Robert John James Shrimpton had three sons: one an accountant, one a captain in the navy and the youngest, who lost his life at Singapore in 1942, aged only 30.

For over a century, across thousands of miles, two unrelated families have cared for one small, insignificant, and long-forgotten business card. Though seemingly worthless, the artefact's longevity and power to intrigue has finally instigated the writing of this account. ❍

VALDA SHRIMPTON
Member 1533
143A Grosvenor Road
Langley Vale
Epsom Downs
Surrey KT18 6JF
vshrimpton@aol.com

Evidence for and against Robert John James Shrimpton of Croydon, Surrey, and Robert J. Shrimpton of Winnipeg Manitoba being one and the same man

George Shrimpton lived in Winnipeg between 1860 and 1870. Robert John James was only born in 1863 in Peckham, Surrey. Robert J. Shrimpton's business card clearly states Winnipeg	
Robert J. Shrimpton was mentioned in the Manitoba Morning Free Press 65 times between 1887 and 1908	
The Manitoba Directories for 1897 and 1908 gave business addresses for Robert J. Shrimpton in Winnipeg	Robert J. Shrimpton was not at either address in the Manitoba census of March 31 1901
Robert John James was present in Croydon on the 1881 and 1891 censuses (but not census night March 31 1901)	Robert J. Shrimpton was not mentioned in the Manitoba Morning Free Press in the years 1891 and 1901 through to 1904.
Robert John James married in 1903 in County Durham when of Addiscombe, Croydon	Robert John James' first two sons, born 1904 and 1906, did not have birth registrations in Britain
	Robert J Shrimpton left Winnipeg in 1908 (Manitoba Free Press). His next two children, born 1910 and 1912, had their births registered in Surrey
	The Manitoba Free Press in 1908 gave Robert J's future business address in London as 46 Queen Victoria St. Robert John James's administration in 1917 gave the same business address

webwatch

INTERNET SOURCES FOR ONE-NAMERS

Digital Library of Historical Directories

This impressive collection of directories could do with a better search engine

By HOWARD BENBROOK

It was getting late and maybe I'd had one glass of red wine too many, maybe it was the euphoria following the successful Halsted Seminar, or maybe there was something in the olives at the Spaghetti House, but the Editor, Roy Stockdill, did it to me again: "How about doing a review of that Historical Directories website for the next Journal?", he said. "Oh, yes, of course, I can do that," I said with gay abandon. Ha! Remind me to drink less red wine!

So, anyway, here we are. So, what are we talking about? Well, to get things right, the URL is...

http://www.historicaldirectories.org

and it's a website created by the University of Leicester to house a collection of trade directories. And very impressive it is, mostly (see later).

Trade directories are much under-utilised in my view – probably because they don't contain obvious family relationships; maybe, too, because they are not centrally located. But that's exactly what this site sets out to address. In our modern world of globalised corporations, it's difficult to appreciate that, way back then, there were no corporations with thousands of employees. Most of the population worked for a very small enterprise or – and here's the point – worked for themselves. Even those who did have a regular employer were often listed in trade directories with their "other" job.

Valuable resource

These documents are a valuable resource to family history and here I draw a distinction with genealogy – to find that your man was not just a carpenter, but that he's also listed as a french polisher gives you more understanding of the circumstances of that family, I feel.

So, what's on this site? Well, the collection is impressive. I did an analysis of the scope of the directories included so far and the years covered are as follows:

- 1750–1850: 30 directories
- 1850–1860: 42 directories
- 1860–1890: 45 directories
- 1890–1900: 41 directories
- 1900–1910: 19 directories
- 1910–1920: 52 directories

That's a total of no fewer than 229 separate trade directories. And I had to adjust my figures because they even added another seven directories while I was writing this article! The earliest source is a 1906 reprint of an original directory of 1766, *The Liverpool Directory*. This is, in itself, a fascinating study that begins with 25 pages that are a survey of a set of Liverpool directories, 1766–1907 – magic, and worth reading all on its own!

All counties are represented; even tiny Rutland features in 23 directories, although Westmorland is in only three directories. Also, although this is a site dedicated to directories in England and Wales, there is very little that I could find for Wales. Leicestershire is well represented – is this a surprise? – and, of course, there's nothing on Scotland or Ireland.

But now a shot of reality: this is a site under development. Although impressed by the breadth of the data, I'm somewhat underwhelmed by the search capabilities and the interface. To be fair, though, they do refer to the site as a "prototype version" and say that they are expecting to make improvements in Spring 2004. But more of this as we go along. Let's imagine you're entering the site for the first time and you want to find more of those surnames that are registered to you.

Figure One – the homepage of the Digital Library of Historical Directories

Once you've entered the site *(See Figure One, below left, for the homepage)*, you are confronted with a rather plain page with the six date ranges that I mentioned earlier. This is the Catalogue Page. Clicking on any one of the date ranges takes you to the Contents Page, which reveals the true extent of the directories held in that date range.

Each of the directories is listed, and if you click on one of these you are taken to a navigation page, which allows you to navigate through a single directory. Oddly, the title bar disappears and you're confronted with a rather different interface – there is no way to get back to the Catalogue Page from here, for instance.

Searching

But it's much more likely that you will want to get straight down to searching for your chosen surname. There are two levels of search facility: Simple and Advanced. From the navigation page, you can get to the Simple Search page by clicking on the word Search at the left of the screen. You can also click on Search on the main title bar in the Catalogue and Contents Pages.

As you might expect, for the simple search just type the word that you're looking for. You are presented with a list of the directories similar to the Contents Page but now restricted to the directories that contain your chosen word; this is the Results Page.

As soon as you've selected the directory you want to look at, you are taken to the navigation page featuring the directory page that contains the first "hit", nicely highlighted in yellow. From this point, you can go forward and back through the pages by using the page arrows, or you can jump to the next, or previous, hit. You can use wildcards in the Simple Search: use the character "?" for single character substitution and "*" for zero or more characters.

You can also use several words in the Simple Search. This is treated as a phrase and the directories listed are those containing that phrase. I tried "parish church" and, predictably, there were 11,720 hits in 211 directories.

But I then tried "church parish" and to my surprise there were 544 hits in 104 directories. Not all of these could be explained by phrases like "Christchurch parish", surely? And when I took a look at one of the pages, all was revealed. The word "church" was found in a description of a village in Somerset, Chew Magna, but the text spilled over two columns and the word "parish" was on the same line as "church", but in an adjacent column! *(To understand what I mean, see Figure Three on the next page).*

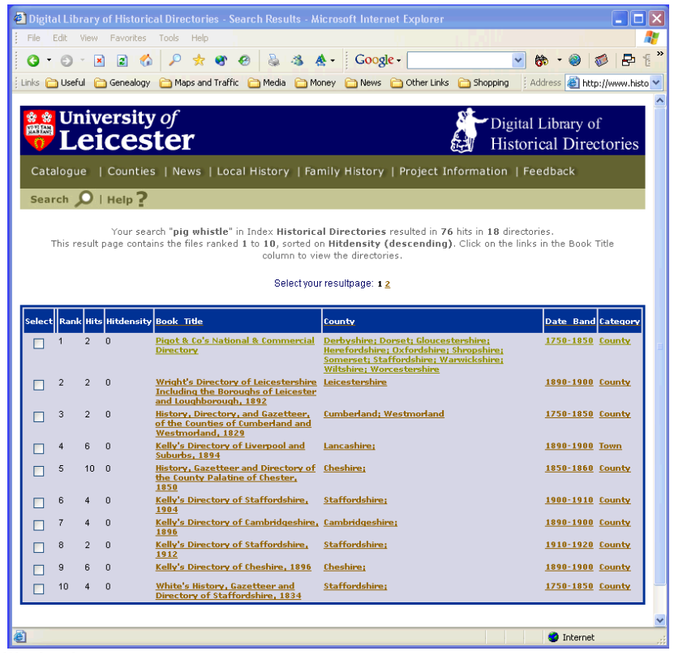


Figure Two – the results page

It's my impression that each directory has been scanned as a single searchable unit and the words contained within it have been identified independently of the structure of the book. Common words such as "the", "but", "of", etc have been excluded but the search engine just treats each directory as a huge string of words, line by line, with no account taken of the columns or any other grouping. So,

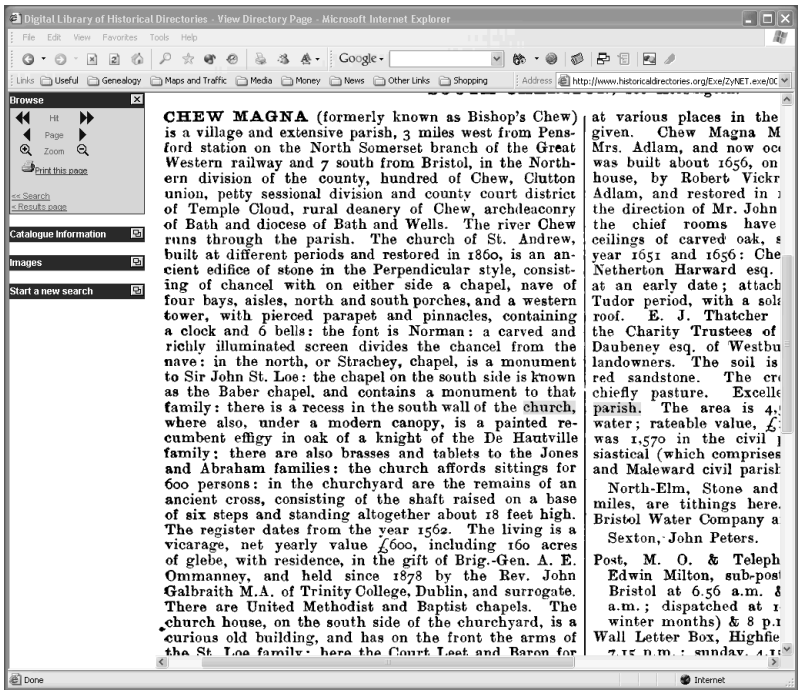


Figure Three – searching on the words "church" and "parish" finds them as a phrase in adjacent columns

when you search, it's probably best if you imagine that you are searching several gigantic strings of words. This principle also applies to the use of wildcard characters, leading to unexpected results where the original text has concatenated words – for example, a search of mine using B*br*k* included hits like "Biddenden, Cranbrook", where the software had not recognised the comma as a separator between two words.

I've used the word "hit" a few times already, but I think its use on this site could do with a little explanation. A "hit" is the occurrence of a search word, even where several words are used in the search criteria. So, in my example of "church parish", above, the 544 hits mean that there were 544 occurrences of either "church" or 'parish', not the occurrences of the phrase "church parish".

The Advanced Search takes a little getting used to. You can use a single word, or a word combination, as with the Simple Search, but the way in which these are used is affected by your selection in the "Look for" field. This has four settings: standard search, all words, any of the words, and exact phrase. I could find no difference between the standard search and the exact phrase, and I'm wary of the term "exact". Using "pig whistle" that way gave me plenty of pubs called Pig and Whistle, for instance. However, using several words and selecting "all words" finds those directories containing all the search words, and selecting any of the words brings back a longer set of directories, each of which has at least one occurrence of one of the search words.

The Advanced Search page also gives you some control over the Results Page, listing anything up to 100 directories and ranking the results in a number of different ways. But now for some confusion – you have a choice of settings of 0 to four for something called "Fuzzy matching"; but in all my experiments, I could find no discernible difference when I varied these settings. I don't think it works.

It's not mentioned anywhere, but I discovered that you can use the standard logical (Boolean) operators in the search criteria. So you can enter, say, "Benbrook or Bambrook" into the Simple Search field and return a list of all those directories that contain either the word "Benbrook" or the word "Bambrook". So searching the site using a string of all of your favourites variants separated by the word "or" will give you a list of directories, each of which will have at least one occurrence of one of those variants. This will achieve the same result as listing all the variants in the Advanced Search and using a search type of "Any of the words". I'd start that way.

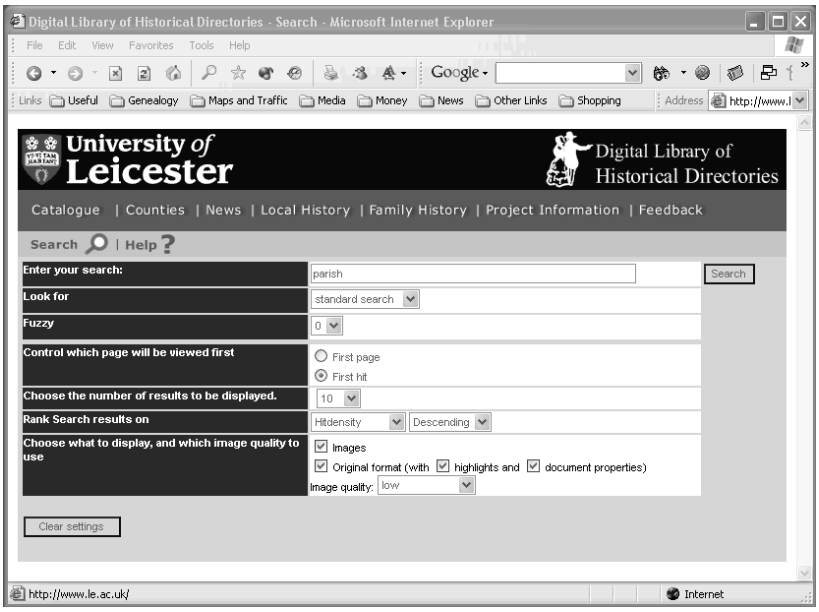


Figure Four – the Advanced Search page

This site is clearly destined for more changes. I noticed that some of the calling scripts contained parameters that were intended for a username and a password. I suspect that one future extension of this facility is to register users in some way.

It's a prodigious resource and not one to be ignored. The interface is unconventional and should improve, but with a little patience you will get some really valuable results. ❍

HOWARD BENBROOK
Member 3112
7 Amber Hill, Camberley
Surrey GU15 1EB
benbrook@one-name.org

Something for everyone at Halsted Trust Seminar on Introducing the Guild

By Carol Page

Where were you on November 8 2003? Had you promised to take the family to see the Lord Mayor's Show? Partly excused. Holidaying in the Seychelles? Enough said. But for those of you who just spent the day doing little at home, one has to ask: where were you? Me – I was at the Halsted Trust Seminar at the Swedenborg Society premises in Central London.

The seminar was entitled "Introducing the Guild" and so was, presumably, intended primarily for newcomers to the Guild and others who may not already belong. A show of hands indicated that about a third of the 60 or so people there were not members. Some, I am glad to say, joined during the day, hopefully having been sufficiently impressed by the presentations, information and ideas given.

If you thought you knew it all and had nothing to learn, I am sure you were mistaken. With such a range of topics and the discussions that followed, there was something for everyone.

Janet Heskins began the morning session with: "What is a One-Name Study?". Examples of the documents she had gathered in her research showed how widely one could range with enquiries, and also how one could work together with others undertaking work on the same name.

Janet was followed by Roger Goacher, who gave us a logical, structured presentation entitled: "What does the Guild Do?", outlining the history of the Guild and the benefits of membership.

John Hanson's lecture on "Sources for One-Namers" gave us a comprehensive and detailed list. These included civil registration, censuses, FamilySearch, parish registers and wills. A final category of "Others" considered websites such as English Origins, historical databases, mailing lists, The National Archives, the British Library and the Newspaper Library at Colindale.

I had attended the seminar at Epsom a couple of weeks earlier and some of the lecture covered some of the same ground. Personally, to hear the same information a couple of times does not concern me, since it reminds me of what was said earlier and reinforces the information. Also, there seemed to be more time this time for people to discuss the sites under discussion and to offer their own suggestions and ideas.

The afternoon session began with a lecture by Paul Millington, carefully constructed and presented as usual. Although stressing that each person knew best his/her own one-name study and how the information could best be presented, Paul's list of requirements – record information, add to it, modify, search, extend, exchange, cross reference, create trees, and annotate – and his assessment of the various possible techniques that could be used (paper, word processors, spread sheets, etc.) left me with an awful lot of thinking and deciding to be done!

Paul finished with an outline of his project for members to put their information on the Internet and the program he is devising.

In the final lecture, Jeanne Bunting asked: "What happens when you die?" and then began by telling us she did not mean the title exactly as stated! Jeanne's concern was that we consider how we organise our information and how we plan for what will happen to it eventually.

Her experience came from trying to organise and sort out information left to the Guild by a member. We were shown photos of filing cabinets, piles of loose papers, booklets, files, etc., that Jeanne had to try and organise, and she described the labelling and sorting undertaken.

Make sure references are written on documents, she begged. I immediately felt guilty! A second guideline was: do not collect more information until previous information has been processed. This second exhortation, by contrast, made me feel less guilty that I had not done as much as I should have done, as now I can always say that I have been sorting out what I already have!

Further guidelines on what sources we are expected to search, how we should label and organise our information, how we should clearly document and validate the information, etc., could well, I suggest, be put in a paper for circulation to members, or be put on the website.

Jeanne's conclusions:

- Mark everything.
- List what is there and its reference and list what is not there.
- List sources and the date ranges covered.
- Make sure sources are cited for every relationship claimed.
- Make sure the media used for records will endure (acid-free folders – no sellotape, paper clips or staples).

What did I get out of the day? Three things, I would say: meeting other researchers and

reinforcing contacts previously made; adding to my knowledge of where to search, and learning about sources that I had not thought of; and adding to knowledge of how to put the information together, and how better to use my computer to formalise the information I already have

If I have any criticism of the seminar, it would be that there was perhaps too much stress on internet sources. Maybe we could have done with more discussion of non-computer sources. We all, I imagine, know about the GRO Indexes at the Family Records Centre, but discussion of other resources available there would be informative to some people. Telephone directories were mentioned for information on those living, but no mention was made of the *Infodisc* (based on electoral rolls), a copy of which is on the first floor of the FRC.

Probate records

There was also no mention of First Avenue House, Holborn, where probate records from 1858 are held. I found these quicker to search than the BMD records, and the information given (the actual date of death and address where the deceased was living, as well as the name(s) and sometimes relationships – e,g, "widow" – of the person(s) to whom the will was probated) interesting and useful. Information as to the contents of the volumes and how these records add to basic information might have helped others.

In addition, information on the NHS database mentioned by Janet Heskins and how to approach that for information would have been interesting, and I am sure there are other non-computer resources also. Maybe this could be a subject for the next (as I hope and assume there will be) Halsted Trust Seminar? If there is another, just make sure you come, too! ❍

CAROL PAGE
Member 3961

A day at the races (or the Internet Seminar at Epsom)

By Colin Ulph

The presence nearby of a famous racecourse must have compelled the organisers to keep the Epsom Internet Seminar galloping along at a fast pace. They packed a lot of good stuff into the day and several times had to crack the whip to ensure all of us made it to the finish in time!

The venue was Rosebery School, which had kindly made computers available for us, so we could gain hands-on experience. Being a girls' grammar school, there were other bonuses, including a staff room for refreshment breaks, a cavernous hall with walls inscribed with hundreds of names of head girls and university scholars – a one-namer's delight – and a toilet with 10 cubicles for us gents to use, which must be a first for any seminar!

It was a cold day, but the welcome was warm from those hosting the event. Jeanne Bunting got about 40 of us under starter's orders, mentioning first her disappointment that there was not a bigger field, especially as the previous year at Ash delegates had been very keen on the idea. Maybe the date was inconvenient, maybe the venue was not ideal, or could it have been that the other 2,000 GOONS members think they don't need an Internet seminar?

Personally, I'm always anxious to grab opportunities to learn from people more experienced than me and, let's face it, when it comes to the Internet, that's just about everybody. Oh yes, I have a computer, I have Custodian and Pedigree databases, and I send and receive loads of e-mails. But when it comes to the Internet, other demands on my time get in the way of finding out what's out there, let alone surfing it.

John Hanson got us off to a sprint with his quick-fire guide to Internet sources for one-namers. Fortunately, he had printed a list for us to use when we got home, so we were able to concentrate on the examples he put on the screen. John's progress was halted a few times by novices wanting technical jargon explained – URL, browsers, search engines, etc – and I detected signs of panic as John saw his allocated time slipping away. However, it was an extremely useful introduction that stood us in good stead later on.

The organisers had asked us in advance to define our level of experience. Only four came into the expert category and they denied it as the day went on. For the next three sessions the field split into three, so that all could get individual help.

Jeanne first took my third into a computer room to try out some of the websites for real. She quickly got us to find our way from the Homepage (which, appropriately, depicted a monkey) to various Internet sites, and used the session to demonstrate some of the pitfalls she had discovered in her own research. Did you know, for example, that the reason some of us may not find an individual on the 1901 census is because he might have had "Junior" added to his surname, or that the Ontario cemetery index includes people who are still alive because they've indexed every name on the gravestones and not just the deceased?

Over lunch, we were invited to browse Howard Benbrook's excellent bookstall, where the recently published *Surname Atlas* was selling well, and Jenifer Edmonds' collection of indexes on CD. Both deserved a longer inspection than we were able to give.

After lunch, Chris Broomfield, webmaster of the Society of Genealogists, gave a quick guide

to setting up one's own website. He warned it could be time-consuming and costly and then outlined some points to ponder during the planning stage, one of the most valuable to potential users being "keep it simple". It must be very rewarding to get your own site on the web, but the work doesn't end there because it needs maintaining.

Practical

Then came another action-packed practical session with Jeanne, with the chance to browse some informative sites. Among others, we looked at poverty lists, workhouses, churches and maps, and discovered how to order BMD certificates online. I also managed to find my own house on an aerial photograph and unearthed some namesakes on the Ellis Island immigration records.

The whole field came down the final straight together, as we heard Paul Millington, the Guild's webmaster, explain his proposal for making our one-name birth, marriage and death extracts available on the Guild website. Having already decided that an ULPH website is not on, at this stage anyway, I could see the merits of Paul's plan, and I shall look forward to hearing more.

We headed towards the finish line with the usual general question and answer session. The fact that our tutors and helpers stood at the front to field our questions seemed appropriate in a day that was hardly relaxing, but was full of new information and practical tips. I was left a little breathless when it was all over, but I had enjoyed my day at the Epsom races. I learned a lot and was encouraged to try some of the sites in the more relaxed surroundings of my own den.

Speakers and content were good, the organisation smooth and the mix of lectures and practical workshops just about right. If a similar seminar is organised in future, be there! ❍

COLIN ULPH
Member 501

SEMINARS UPDATE...

Newspapers and DNA seminars should be dates for your diary

By Jeanne Bunting

Come along to our next seminar and learn how newspapers can add interest as well as information to your one-name study.

Genealogical "trainspotting" of names, dates and places is a worthwhile pastime, but "putting the meat on the bones" can be even more rewarding. Newspapers and periodicals often do this is a way no other source can. In fact, if it were not for an article in a periodical, I would never have got into family history at all.

Picturesque

The seminar will be held on Saturday, February 21, at Otford Village Memorial Hall in the picturesque village of Otford, near Sevenoaks, just a few miles from the M25. The Memorial Hall is a bright modern hall with a large car park and has a pub right opposite. See picture at...

http://www.otford.info/ovmh/images/Dscf0130.jpg

It is half a mile from a mainline railway station.

Speakers will include the well-known genealogist Dr Colin Chapman, who will be speaking about the Newspaper Library at Colindale; *Journal* Editor Roy Stockdill telling of his experiences as a journalist; and Jeanne Bunting on "Reading Between the Lines" – finding family history in newspapers". How many of you can claim they know that their 2x-great-grandfather had a dog and can even tell you it's name?

The fourth speaker will be a local man, Bob Ogley, Editor of the Courier Group's *Sevenoaks Chronicle* who also worked on the *Tonbridge Free Press*. He is now an author of popular historical books, which began with *The Day the Wind Blew – the 1987 Gale*. His lecture, "The Spirit of Invicta", traces the 20th century history of Kent.

If you have any interesting newspaper cuttings, please bring them along for display. Full details of the programme are on the Guild website.

Oxford DNA Seminar in May

RECENTLY there has been a great deal of interest, genealogically speaking, in DNA. A number of one-name societies have had tests done to prove whether or not members are all related. Because of this interest, and also that shown at a previous seminar, we are devoting a whole seminar to the subject.

The seminar will take place on May 29 at the Headley Lecture Theatre, the Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford.

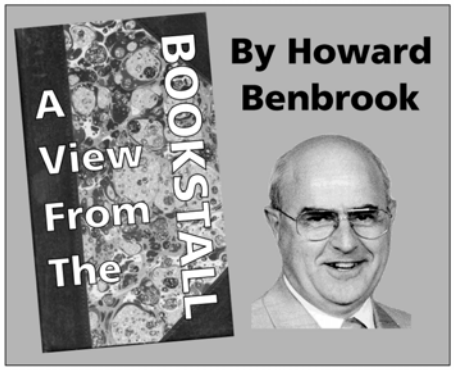
DNA authority

The main speaker will be Chris Pomery, an authority on DNA. You can read all about DNA, and more besides, on Chris's website...

http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~allpoms/genetics.html

Full details will be on the Guild website as soon as the programme has been finalised and the flyer for the seminar will be in the next journal. I am certainly looking forward to this seminar, as it promises to be a very interesting one.

JEANNE BUNTING
Acting Chairman
Seminar Sub-Committee



Goodbye to the big blue boxes

DO YOU remember my telling you about the big blue boxes? They've been everywhere with me. They've travelled thousands of miles and carried hundreds of books. Well, they're not so big any more. One of them was showing the strain and I decided it was more flexible to switch to smaller boxes. They fit better in my car and I'm less likely to develop a hernia this way. Pam's relieved. But, true to Guild colours, they're still blue.

What's new

Two new books from FFHS Publications have attracted attention: Alan Bardsley's *First Name Variants*, now in its third edition, and a book by Susan T. Moore, *Family Feuds – An Introduction to Chancery Proceedings*, which looks at the fascinating world of claim and counter-claim in Chancery.

Of course, some of the bigger books were snapped up by people for Christmas – *Ancestral Trails* by Mark Herber, for instance, and Phillimore's *Atlas & Index of Parish Registers*, now in its third edition.

However, my best new find recently is for those of you with London connections. Most people seem to have at least one branch of their surname camped out in London at one time or another. If you're like me, with generations of Benbrooks in the East End, then you'll need a season ticket at the London Metropolitan Archives! My attention was drawn via an e-mail from Jeanne Bunting to a new CD, *Atlas & Guide to London 1908*. It sells at £11.00 but is £10 to Guild members from the Bookstall *(see a review of the CD on page 25)*.

Where we've been...

You meet a variety of people behind the bookstall and I'm often intrigued by how some folks get a genealogical bee in their bonnet and won't let go, despite all the evidence – like the man who insisted that PIPER must have Scottish origins (it's a distinctly Southern name, mostly Sussex). The other week, I was doing my *Surname Atlas* demo on the bookstall and this chap asked if I could find the name STYRING. He reckoned the only possible explanation was an immigrant from Styria in Austria.

I'd never heard of significant immigration from Austria, but I plonked the name in, as usual. The surname had an obvious concentration around Sheffield in Yorkshire. He seemed genuinely disappointed that the origin of his name might be so prosaic. I didn't sell him anything, more's the pity!

There's quite an itinerary to report this time around. It's interesting to note the subtle differences, from others, at three open days we attended run by the family history societies of Oxfordshire, Hampshire and West Surrey at, respectively, Kidlington, Horndean and Woking. They had a different atmosphere to the normal family history fair, with fewer complete beginners for a start. This probably accounts for more commercial success – the people attending are ready to spend more on their hobby.

But the other fairs were successful, too: at Eastleigh, Norwich and Wimborne. We also took the bookstall to the two Guild events, the Internet Seminar at Epsom and the introductory Halsted Trust Seminar in London. It's good to be part of these Guild events, as it seems to make the day more valuable to those attending.

Where we're going...

The family history fair season is well under way. We'll try and get to the best ones and we plan to be at the following events...

- Bracknell FH Fair, Bracknell, Berks, Sun, January 25
- Sussex & South London FH Fair, Crawley, Sun, February 8
- Guild Newspaper Seminar Otford, Kent, Sat, February 21
- Bath FH Fair, Bath, Wiltshire Sun, February 22
- West Midlands FH Fair, Wolverhampton, Staffs, Sun, February 29
- Essex & East London FH Fair, Brentwood, Essex, Sun, March 7
- Oxfordshire & Bucks FH Fair Kidlington, Sun, March 28
- Guild AGM/Conference Wyboston, Beds, April 2–4

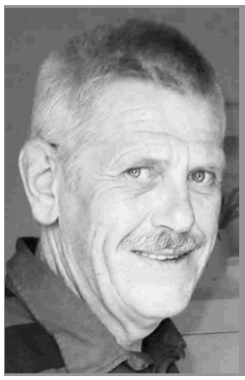
It's a real treat when a Guild member turns up and says hello. Do please drop by if you're at any of these events. My only regret is that we're so busy we can't spend much time for a prolonged chat. Of course, if you're willing to put in a couple of hours selling and contributing to Guild funds, then know you would be welcome!

You're needed

We're now using three tables consistently at each fair and I really need three people behind the stall. Don't be shy – it's very simple, and my tutorial on the credit card machine is a revelation!

My thanks this time are due to Ken Toll, Barbara Harvey, David Cuffley, Kirsty Maunder, and Sandra Turner, each of whom gave up their valuable time to help me. Ladies and gentlemen, you are stars!

If you'd like to contact Howard about any of the items he holds on the bookstall, you can write to him at ***guild.bookstall@one-name.org****, or 7 Amber Hill, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1EB, UK.* ❍



Registrar's Notes By Roger Goacher

Handling membership renewals is a small cottage industry!

Problems make my work harder! Although I have registered a number of new members during the last few months, my main task has been handling the annual renewals.

I am grateful to those members who sent their renewals promptly. However, many of you couldn't do so because of the October mailing despatch problems, which are detailed elsewhere in this Journal.

Unfortunately. these problems resulted in much extra work for me. As the keeper of the "spares", I was lumbered with sending out all the replacement packs. At the time of writing – late November – my wife and I have made up and sent out over 70 replacement packs. If you still haven't received your October Journal, please let me know and I will arrange a replacement as quickly as I can.

So what does the annual renewals exercise involve? Well, 975 members have standing orders and receipt of these has to be checked against the Guild bank statements, entered into a payments database, and any queries or omissions resolved.

Over 50 members have signed RTA forms to pay their subscriptions by credit card. I need to gain telephone authorisation for each payment. Unfortunately, the credit card authorisation company has now moved its operations to India and only five payments can be authorised at a time. So, much phoning – especially when I have written out one of the credit card numbers with a wrong digit!

This leaves over 800 possible renewals by post. We have a little cottage industry going here in West Sussex. My wife opens the envelopes each day, checks the value of the cheque sent against the member's instructions, identifies any errors, writes the member's number on the back of the cheque and pins the cheque to the renewal form. That way we don't lose any cheques.

I then record the details of each payment against the members' database. This identifies any members who have paid twice – yes it does happen. I then have to make up payment batches of cheques to take to the bank, gain authorisation for credit card payments and schedule all payments for the Treasurer to record in the Guild's accounts. We also have to send off your orders for magazines, action any changes to members' details, e-mail or write to resolve any queries and send out reminder letters and e-mails to those who haven't responded.

Yes it is all a lot of work, but it is rewarding to know we are doing it to ensure the Guild has the funds to continue. We are particularly grateful to all those members who have generously added a donation to their membership renewal payment. This helps to stave off the need to raise the membership fee.

I am often heartened, too, by the e-mails and letters you send me indicating your appreciation of the work Committee members do on your behalf. Where appropriate, I pass such comments on.

We are all unpaid volunteers, working extremely hard to provide the services and facilities you gain from your membership. Thank you, all. ❍

Have your one-name gathering poster at the FRC

ARE you arranging a one-name gathering? Then why not put up a poster at the Family Records Centre at Islington?

The Guild now has its own notice board, where the list of all the names being researched by members is displayed on three A3 sheets. There is space for some A4 posters as well.

If you would like to design one to advertise your one-name gathering, then send it to me at **loverock@one-name.org** and I will be responsible for putting it up for you.

The poster must have a small Guild logo on it and also your membership number, otherwise the FRC is likely to remove it from the board. This is to prevent anyone else from encroaching on our space.

The poster will be laminated by me and should be pinned onto the board within 10 days of my receiving it. I can accept them by snail mail, or in an e-mail attachment, but will let you know if there is a problem with the latter.

I do not open dubious e-mails, so please make sure that the covering message leaves me in no doubt as to the content.

If you have a deadline date for booking a place at your gathering, please let me know, so that I can take down your poster when the time has expired and use the space for someone else. There is no point in advertising something which is already too late!

BARBARA HARVEY
Committee Member

Guild's 2004 Conference covers topics you have asked for

By Lynda Goacher

WITH this issue of the Journal you will find a full booking form for the Guild's 25th Anniversary Conference. This will be held from April 2–4 at the Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre in Bedfordshire.

A big thank you to those members who have booked early. A number of you have raised questions other members contemplating coming to the Conference might also like answered.

• What's the programme?

This Conference is very much FOR members BY members, covering topics members have requested. All the speakers are "home grown" – Guild members with experience in a particular area. Details of speakers and topics are on the booking form.

For many of the sessions, there will be two speakers presenting alternative or complementary views, followed by general discussion. For example, many members expressed interest in a talk on designing a website. Penny Denby, a professional website designer, will talk on the principles of good design. Judy Elkington has recently created a one-name study website and will talk about her experiences of the process, and the decisions she made about material to include. Members will then have a chance to ask questions and give others the benefit of their own experience.

• What's Wyboston Lakes like?

Wyboston is a modern, purpose-built training and conference centre. All the facilities are very close together and on the level. They are of a high standard and are being constantly up-dated. Over the last 12 months that we have been planning the 2004 Conference, the bar, restaurant and coffee lounge areas have all been rebuilt or refurbished, even though we thought they were pretty swish before they started!

• What's the residential accommodation like?

The bedrooms are in two blocks – one directly connected to the reception area and another just 40 yards away. Each block is two storeys high with a lift between floors. Each bedroom has a double or twin beds with an en-suite bathroom. Each room has a colour television, tea and coffee making facilities and a hair dryer. A number of bedrooms have been specially adapted for those with disabilities.

• Do I get a reduction for sharing a double room?

No. We have negotiated a very special rate for the Conference with Wyboston Lakes – less than half the normal cost. Because the centre is often under-booked at weekends and the accommodation empty, the additional costs to Wyboston will largely be for labour and food. They are not willing to give us any further reduction for double occupancy of a room. We shall, therefore, allocate a double room to each person paying the Conference fee. You are, of course, welcome to share a room with your partner if you wish, but the cost is the same for both attendees.

If you have any special physical or dietary requirements, please detail them on the booking form, and we will do our best to make appropriate arrangements.

• How easy is it to get to Wyboston Lakes?

The Centre is just off the A1 in Bedfordshire near St Neots. Access by road is relatively easy from all directions. St Neots station is situated on the West Anglia Great Northern line, and the station is under 10 minutes taxi ride away from the centre. A detailed map will be sent to all conference delegates in advance.

• What are the start and end times of the Conference?

If you are attending the whole Conference, registration starts from 3.0 p.m. on Friday, April 2. However, should you arrive early, conference organisers will be around. For those attending from Saturday morning, the Guild AGM will start at 9.0 a.m. and the first talk at 10.45 a.m., following coffee. The Conference is scheduled to finish about 3.30 p.m. on Sunday, April 4.

Those travelling a long distance may like to consider spending an extra night before or after the Conference at Wyboston. Rooms are available and can be booked direct with the conference centre.

• What else is going on?

On Friday afternoon at 5.0 p.m. there is a meeting for Regional Reps, a chance to meet members of the Committee and discuss areas of concern and interest. On Friday evening there will be entertainment in the bar, following dinner. The Rev David Gynes will lead an Ecumenical Service on Sunday morning at 8.0 a.m. for those not wishing to miss Sunday morning worship.

Social

The principal social gathering will be the reception and dinner on the Saturday evening. Afterwards there will be live music in the bar, which will remain open until midnight. We are also planning a number of, hopefully pleasant, surprises for the Conference, but to find out what they are you will need to be there!

If you haven't already reserved your place, please send back your booking form quickly. This Conference is sure to be popular. If you have any queries, please e-mail **conference@one-name.org** or write to me:

LYNDA GOACHER
Member 4100
Springwood
Furzefield Road
East Grinstead
West Sussex RH19 2EF

Family reunions

Glenister gathering in Bucks

THE first worldwide gathering of the Glenister family drew over 160 members to High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, on June 28 2003 for a programme of talks, displays and social events.

Organisers Andy Glenister of Winchester, Hampshire (Member 1822), and Francis Glenister of St. Albans, Hertfordshire had spent two years preparing the event. For many of those attending – including 24 from the USA and 16 from Australia – this was their first meeting with distant cousins or with people only known from long-term correspondence.

Among those present were John Glenister, a retired accountant from Chelmsford, Essex, in his eightieth year, and Benjamin Glenister, just 14 days old, the son of Gordon and Jessica Glenister of Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire.

A group of family historians told of their work to find the origins of the surname, locate all the members of the family and track the spread of the family throughout the world. This work has identified over 50 separate lines, covering the Glenisters and variant spellings of Glanister, Glennister, Glennerster, and Glinister. Families with the surname are known to be in the UK, USA, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Samoa.

The earliest known reference to the surname is one William Glenester, whose name is listed on a prayer roll dating from between 1282 and 1349, which forms part of the records of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. By the time of the 1881 census the surname was concentrated in the counties of Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire. Today the surname is relatively infrequent – there are only around 1,050 people with the surname in England and Wales, making it about the 5,000th most common in the UK.

The spread of the name was described by Dr. Ruth Glenister of Oswego, New York, and Bronwen Thomas of South Victoria, Australia. Ruth told how her great grandfather Joseph Absalom Glenister (1846–1939) emigrated from Aylesbury, Bucks, to the USA in 1868 and of the subsequent spread of the family across America. Bronwen told of her quest to trace the descendants of her great-great-grandfather John Putnam Glenister (1792–1867) who emigrated from Cheltenham, Gloucs, to Australia in 1853.

Displays included material from family members and local organisations with an interest in the family. Malcolm and Leslie Glenister, descendants of William Montague Glenister (1828–1894), founder of both the Hastings Police Force and the Hastings Fire Brigade, displayed many of William's personal possessions.

A display from the Wycombe Chair Museum included a chair from the Royal Albert Hall, made in High Wycombe by the Thomas Glenister Company, founded by Daniel Glenister (1811–1891). Glenisters who died in two world wars were commemorated in a display listing all their names, with photographs of the soldiers, their graves and war memorials recording their sacrifice.

Following the gathering, there was a coach trip to nearby Woburn, the birthplace of John Putnam Glenister in 1792. Visitors to the United Reformed Chapel were shown original church baptism records from the late 1700s. The day finished with an evening dinner and a final opportunity to swap telephone numbers and addresses. The whole event was captured on camera, with the aim of publishing a video and a DVD.

For further details of the gathering and the Glenister One-Name Study, contact Andy Glenister, Borrowdale, Barton Stacey, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 3RH, tel: 01962 761444, email: **andy@glenister.org**, or visit the website **www.glenister.org**

Jackett gathering

THE 2nd UK Jackett Family Gathering will be held at Truro, Cornwall, from May 1–9 2004. Full details from: John & Marjorie Jackett, 4, Rose Meadows, Goonhavern, Truro TR4 9LB, tel: 01872 572449; e-mail: **jackett@one-name.org**. Closing date for bookings, March 1, 2004.

And P*rr*tts

THE P*rr*tt Society is 20 years old this year and will be holding its AGM in Bath, where the inaugural meeting took place. Started for the surname PERRETT, the society now covers 25 alternative spellings. Location and date: Abbey Church House, Westgate Buildings, Bath, Saturday, May 1. Contact: Miss Terry Perrett, 4 St James Square, Bath, Avon BA1 2TR

One-Name Publications

WITH this Journal you will find an entry form for the Guild Award for One-Name Publications 2003. The Award was instituted in 1999 to encourage members to produce regular newsletters and journals. However, in the last couple of years the number of entries has been disappointing and unless there is an improvement the Committee may have to consider the Award's future.

Once again there will be two classes: for Category A members and for Categories B & C combined. The winners will be announced at the Guild's 2004 Conference at Wyboston Lakes from April 2–4. To qualify you must send three copies of your publication to the address given on the form. Please note that they MUST be copies of the same issue, not different ones, and they MUST have been published during the year 2003. Journals from years other than 2003 will be disqualified. ❍

Report from Scottish Association of Family History Societies

THE GUILD, as a member of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies, is represented at council meetings every six months and has a stand at its annual conference.

At the October 2003 meeting, Robert Orr Blair, Lord Lyon King of Arms, Patron of SAFHS, attended his first meeting. Martin Tyson, Departmental Record Officer, General Register Office for Scotland, gave an update of what is happening. GROS are to provide slim indexes (surname, forename, age and sex) for the 1841 to 1871 censuses which will be available on the website. They will be employing contractors and the work is to be completed by end of March 2004 to the same standards as the 1891 and 1901 censuses. Some sections will be refilmed and all entries double keyed and subjected to quality control procedures, including using indexes produced by family history societies.

A discussion document is to come out soon about the registration system in Scotland but it will not be proposing the 100-year restrictions as in England and Wales. All public documents can be consulted at the offices in Edinburgh because GROS have a duty to make public information available to callers. There is no duty to make it available via the Internet and it is unlikely that restrictions on more recent information being available on the Internet will be changed.

There is to be a reorganisation of the National Archive and the aim is to have it completed by 2006. All family history services will be provided in one area and it is planned to separate short-term people from long-term researchers who have different needs. They are reviewing opening hours and slightly longer hours might be implemented soon. The trial of opening one evening a week appears a success (I understand the Guild chairman was the first person to make use of the evening opening!).

The SAFHS 15th Annual Conference will be hosted by Central Scotland FHS at The Albert Halls, Stirling, on Saturday, April 24.

Entitled *In Loving Memory: A Celebration of Graveyards*, the theme of the conference will be graveyards and their importance to family, local and social historians. Full details are available from **www.csfhs.org.uk** or e-mail: **csfhsconf2004@aol.com**, or by sending an A5 SAE to the Conference Co-ordinator at Central Library, Corn Exchange Road, Stirling FK8 2HX.

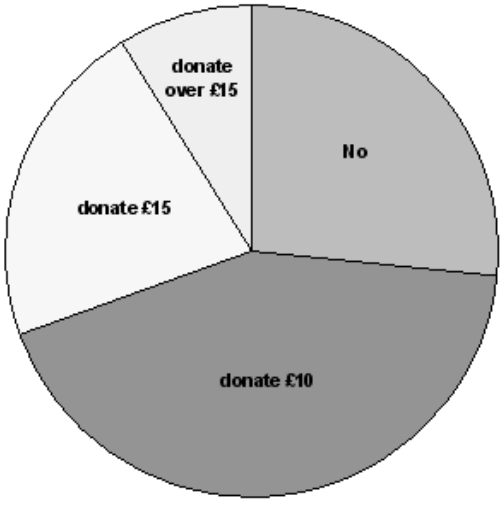
GRAHAM TULEY

President's appeal for arms on our 25th anniversary finds some support

I HAVE received just over 100 responses to my appeal that went out as a flyer with the last issue of the Journal.

There is little doubt that a majority of those who replied are in favour of a petition to the College of Arms for the Guild to be granted Armorial Bearings in its 25th anniversary year.

The results are as follows: Those in favour represent approximately 75%, made up of 43% prepared to give £10, 22% prepared to give £15 and 10% prepared to give more than £15. Those against represent approximately 25%



Slow

The rate of response is quite slow – it has take well over a month for us to hear from 100 members.

Unless we hear from the rest of the membership over the next three or four months, it will not be possible for the Guild to receive its grant during its 25th Anniversary year.

DEREK A PALGRAVE
President
Guild of One-Name Studies
president@one-name.org

Kirsty joins the Committee

AT a recent meeting of the Guild Committee, Kirsty Maunder was co-opted onto the Committee. Kirsty, member 4014, lives in Reading, Berkshire. Her registered one-name study is of the surname SILLIFANT.

Meredith book is heavy and pricey but worth it

Reviews
Reviews
Reviews

New genealogy books and CDs

SEEKING MEREDITH ANCESTRY WORLDWIDE, Editor: Keith E. G. Meredith. Published by Meredith Miscellany, Hillside View, The Hollies, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire GL6 0AW, ISBN 0 945 3739 0 1. Price £40 (minimum) + p&p.

MY first reaction when Roy Stockdill asked me to review this book, as I was waiting to give my talk at the Halsted Seminar, was that it looked rather daunting and heavy. I was wrong on the first count but checked the second, the result being 1.335kg.

My thoughts were tempered considerably when I found the author lived in Nailsworth, well known to me through my own researches. The foreword by Derek Palgrave, who spoke of Keith Meredith as a fellow scientist and one-time member of the Guild Executive, further warmed me to the task. Still having reservations about the content, being entirely lacking in Welsh ancestry and Meredith ancestry in particular, I dipped in.

The book is divided into four parts, written by three authors:

- Part I – Traps to avoid in Welsh genealogy.
- Part II – A study of the history of the author's family,
- Part III – Memoirs of a coal miner turned chemist.
- Part IV – Memoirs of a metallurgist.

The first part by Keith Meredith deals with family history research in general and problems concerning Welsh research in particular. An example is the use of patronymics until well into the 18th century. If this naming system was still in use, the author would be known as Keith ap George ap George ap James ap John. The Meredith name is centred either side of the Welsh Marches, radiating out from this focus, as illustrated by the 1881 distribution map. Suggestions are made for further reading, including mention of a few websites, including the Guild's.

Part II is the work of the editor's wife Mary. This section could be a model for the presentation of a family history, with many photographs of documentary sources, individuals and artefacts. Included in this section is the autobiography of Alfred James Meredith, printed using a typeface that mimics handwriting.

Part III, *Coal Miner to Chemist*, was provided by Haydn Meredith as a tribute to his father, Evan C. Meredith. Haydn Meredith and the editor had played together as little boys. Evan Meredith was held in high regard in Abertillery, where life expectancy was short for miners and steel workers, as one who had achieved success in London. Evan's memoirs are published with very little editing. Towards the end of the account he mentions his nephew Keith, who he describes as, "one of nature's products, wild and uncontrollable" but later adds: "I have reason to be proud of him."

This section can be read as a social commentary on the life of one who lived from 1895 to 1973, starting in a world where, "Contact beyond these [South Wales] hills was practically nil," to the recipient of a Fellowship of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain in 1969 – truly a remarkable story.

The editor continues with the theme of autobiography in Part IV, pulling no punches. He does not minimise difficulties, whilst giving an insight into the many successes in his life, including the award of a PhD for work in metallurgy, with special reference to nuclear fuels, in 1968. Following retirement, and in need of a new interest in Mary's estimation, family history took over. The editor's complex family life as a small child may help to unravel mysteries for others. Inevitably, the section closes with a number of family trees.

The book is beautifully produced on high quality paper, which enhances the numerous diagrams and photographs scattered throughout the 529 pages. The dust cover bears the Guild badge, but what is missing is the price. A phone call to Keith established that the production cost was £80 per copy but the books can be purchased from the above address for a minimum of £40 plus postage and packing. It is thoroughly worth the price.

JANET HESKINS

ATLAS & GUIDE TO LONDON Circa 1908. CD-ROM. Published by Cyrene Publications, 17 Lane End, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2QQ. Price £11 (but see A View From the Bookstall on page 21).

THIS is a delightful rendition of a small book that must have been a tourist guide in its day, comprising 24 detailed maps of Central London and 20 of its environs, which reach out over 25 miles.

Each page has been scanned and converted to Adobe Acrobat format (pdf), so each map is very clear. The entries for over 7,000 streets in the index have been directly linked to the maps, so that if you click on a street name like, say, Downing Street, the appropriate map is displayed with Downing Street in the centre. Additionally, the Acrobat document has been bookmarked, so you can select the correct index page before you search for your ancestor's street. You can export the maps to other programs.

I recommend this CD, especially as it's a convenient fit with any London research you do with the 1901 census. ❍

HOWARD BENBROOK

Letters

Your views on issues in the one-name world

Privacy arguments were anecdotal

I READ David Weston's letter on the subject of privacy with interest but found his statements anecdotal, with little fact or cogent argument to support his case. I strongly encourage the retention of the current UK open availability of BMD information. My reasons for this are:

1) I have seen no evidence that genealogy research has been used for any illegal or unethical purposes.

2) Family history research is now one of the most popular hobbies and it would be wrong to allow a vociferous minority to limit the enjoyment of the majority.

3) The question of individuals wishing to trace their true parents is one for individuals to decide and is no part of general family history research.

4) We must recognise the rapidly changing world culture of sharing and collaboration catalysed by the Internet. I am always amazed to find the vast amount of information freely available on a massive range of subjects originating from many countries. I have no doubt that the world will become a better place for this.

5) There is a wide range of information available on individuals, such as electoral records and credit worthiness, and this seems reasonable to me because individuals who wish to enjoy the benefits of being part of the community should also be prepared to justify their rights to these privileges. The adverse consequence of allowing secrecy is that people hiding behind anonymity abuse their privileges which can lead to fraud and other anti-social behaviour.

I wish the Editor Roy Stockdill and those members who support continued access to GRO records every success.

Prof John Coldwell
Member 2073
Granary House
Hampsthwaite
Harrogate HG3 2 HA

How many variants?

I'D like some clarification on the issue of the number of surname variants permitted for registration on the GOONs list. When I registered my Hempsall interest last year, I confined my variants to the maximum of five, as specified on the form. Thus, for my £12 fee, I have Hempsall, plus Hempsell, Hempshall, Hemshell, and Hemsell. By so doing, I have missed out on possible fruitful contacts with Hemsalls, Hemshalls, Hempshills, Hemsills, Hempsolls, Hempswells, Hemswells and Hempseeds

However, I now find, on consulting my 2003 Guild Register, that some are more equal than others in this respect.

For example , we have study 2619: Floid, Flood, Floode, Floody, Floud, Floyd, Floydd, Floyde, Flude and Fluden, which I make 10 variants. There are other similar cases in the list, e.g. Glibbely – 8 variants. Has this member paid £12 or £24?

If space is an issue, could I suggest that we might adopt a bracketing system? Thus, my study could be abbreviated as :

Hem(p)s(h)(w)e/a/i/oll

or perhaps with superscripts:

Hem^{p}s$^{h/w}$a$^{e/i/o}$ll

Steve Tanner
Member 4001
Beili-glas
Rhydargaeau
Carmarthen SA32 7HY
hempsall@one-name.org

Heraldic insignia

I FEEL very strongly against the President's proposal that the Guild membership consider obtaining the above, as I have advised him by e-mail. In his leaflet, he suggests that it would cost of the order of a year's subscription from each member. at a rough guess, taking 2,000 members and £10 donations, ths gives a cost of £20,000.

In my opinion, there is something of far greater importance to almost every member on which half that sum could usefully be spent: an electronic archive of members' work. Over and over again, the topic pops up – what happens to me work when I die?

Could I make a counter proposal? Let the guild purchase two computers to be located at two different locations to hold duplicate identical records, run by volunteer active archivists in their own homes. They accept and store members' records in electronic format only, upgrading as and when needed to the latest economical storage format. Currently, I would suggest records being sent in by members on home-burnt CD-ROMs and amalgamated for storage on data CDs as well as on the Guild computers. Thus, there would be four copies of the records at any one time.

This is far from ideal but it would be a lot better than anything there is at present, and I am sure it would be used by a large proportion of the membership.

John Colloff
Member 2922
3 Milford Gardens
Appleton
Warrington WA4 5EF
colloff@one-name.org

Regional Representatives as at December 1 2003

E-mail contact

To contact a Regional Representative by e-mail, use the alias in the following format:- **rep-scotland-north@one-name.org**, with the name of the region replacing "scotland-north" as appropriate (put "-" instead of a space).
Where there is no e-mail contact, the message will go to **rep-coordinator@one-name.org**

ENGLAND

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
See Oxfordshire

DERBYSHIRE
Ron Duckett
Outwood Hills Farm
Lower Outwoods Road
Burton on Trent DE13 0QX
Tel: 01283 561557

DEVON
Elizabeth Holliday
Caradon
Jubilee Road
Totnes
Devon TQ9 5BW

DORSET
Phil Sherwood
Rock House
20 Belfield Park Avenue
Weymouth DT4 9RE
Tel: 01305 770820

DURHAM
Dr David Higgitt
36 Hill Meadows
High Shincliffe
Durham DH1 2PE
Tel: 0191 384 3979

ESSEX
Jess Jephcott
73 All Saints Avenue
Colchester CO3 4PA

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Ken Grubb
5 Victoria Mansions
Malvern Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL50 2JH

HEREFORDSHIRE
Polly Rubery
Medwam
Edwyn Ralph
Bromyard HR7 4LY
Tel: 01885 483318
Mobile: 07774 245436

HERTFORDSHIRE
Barbara Harvey
15 Park Avenue
St. Albans AL1 4PB
Tel: 01727 865631

KENT
David Cufley
55 Broomhill Road
Dartford DA1 3HT
Tel: 01322 223292

NORFOLK
Mrs. Mary Griffiths
20 Knyvett Green
Ashwellthorpe
Norwich NR16 1HA

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Dominic Johnson
33 Redhill Lodge Drive
Red Hill
Nottingham NG5 8JH

OXFORDSHIRE
Dr. Wendy Archer
The Old Nursery
Pump Lane North
Marlow
Buckinghamshire SL7 3RD
Tel: 01628 485013

SOMERSET
Ken Dilkes
Clematis Cottage
Whitstone Hill
Pilton BA4 4DX

STAFFORDSHIRE
See Derbyshire

SURREY
Martin Gegg
4 Little Orchard
Woodham
Addlestone KT15 3ED

WILTSHIRE
Richard Moore
1 Cambridge Close
Swindon SN3 1JG.

WORCESTERSHIRE
Derek Gallimore
The Grange
30 Pinewoods Avenue
Hagley, Stourbridge
West Midlands DY9 0JF
Tel: 01562 883908
Fax: 01562 885101

YORKSHIRE EAST
Frank Hakney
19 Church Street
Elloughton
East Yorkshire HU15 1HT.
Tel: 01482 668340

YORKSHIRE WEST
See Yorkshire East

IRELAND

Mick Merrigan
11 Desmond Avenue
Dún Laoghaire
Co. Dublin
Tel: (353.1) 284-2711

NEW ZEALAND

Mrs. Lily Baker
905 Wall Road
Hastings

SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN
Peter Bellarby
13 Westfield Road
Stonehaven
Kincardineshire
AB39 2EE

SCOTLAND NORTH
Graham Tuley
26 Crown Drive
Inverness IV2 3NL.
Tel: 01463 230 446
Fax: 01463 230 446

SCOTLAND SOUTH
Dr. James Floyd
84 Pentland Terrace
Edinburgh EH10 6HF
Tel: 0131 445 3906

SOUTH AFRICA

Brian Spurr
32 Newport Avenue
Glenashley
KwaZulu Natal 4051.

UNITED STATES

USA SOUTH EAST
Dr. John Cookson
13203 W. Heritage Woods Pl.
Midlothian VA 23112

USA SOUTH WEST
Bill Bunning
PO Box 5632, Irvine
CA 92616-5632

WALES

WALES NORTH & MID
See WALES SOUTH & WEST

WALES SOUTH & WEST
Geoff Riggs
Peacehaven
Badgers Meadow
Pwllmeyric
Chepstow
Gwent NP6 6UE.
Tel: 01291 626417

COORDINATOR

See Hertfordshire

WE have vacancies for Regional Representatives in the following areas:

BEDFORDSHIRE
BERKSHIRE
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
CHESHIRE
CORNWALL
CUMBERLAND
HAMPSHIRE
LANCASHIRE
LEICESTERSHIRE
LONDON
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
SHROPSHIRE
SUFFOLK
SUSSEX
WARWICKSHIRE
YORKSHIRE NORTH
AUSTRALIA
CANADA WEST
CANADA EAST
USA CENTRAL
USA NORTH EAST
USA NORTH WEST

WHY not devote just a little of your spare time to the Guild by becoming a Regional Rep? Contact the Coordinator.

Venue for 2004 Conference & AGM

ABOVE is an exterior view of the Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre in Bedfordshire, venue for the Guild's 2004 Conference and Annual General Meeting from April 2–4. With this issue of the Journal you will find a full booking form, also more details about the Conference on page 22.

Vol 8 Issue 5 January–March 2004

Journal of One-Name Studies
January–March 2004
Quarterly publication of the
Guild of One-Name Studies
ISSN 0262-4842
£2.00 when sold to non-members