

Journal

of One-Name Studies



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Digitisation For One-Namers

Plus...

30th Annual
Conference review

A Day With Howard

Collaboration -
The Way Forward For
Marriage Challenges

Also in this issue...

Mings Or Minge?

**New Source For
One-Namers?**

The Twisted Thread

Discoveries For
One-Name
Studies
From
DNA
Testing



All the latest Guild news and updates

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of One-Name Studies

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

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From the Chairman's Keyboard...

By Peter Walker

We seem to suffer from 'swings and roundabouts'. As each month goes by, we discover more and more new data sources (often on the web) just waiting to be harvested for our studies. Then we hear that the government's flagship project for the digitisation of vital records (the birth, marriage and death indexes) has failed, even though this project was key to the replacement of the paper indexes which have already been withdrawn. Given the government's record on computer projects generally, perhaps we should not be surprised. Also, the fact that this now comes within the control of the Identity and Passport Service gives no confidence that the needs of the genealogical community will be given any priority. In the light of all this, the Guild's ability to help ourselves, through projects like Marriage Challenge, makes a lot more sense. Along with many other members, I am extremely grateful to the Challengers for their voluntary efforts in locating our marriage records.

Happy To Help?

There may be other ways in which we can help each other and we've already seen one or two members who regularly visit certain record offices taking on more general requests for 'look-ups'. Indeed, my own study has been helped by another researcher (not a Guild member) who has been photographing signatures on 18th century marriage bonds, marriage register entries and deeds to assist in determining who was who and linking events.

Another series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* has started on the BBC and I'm sure this will lead, as before, to another burst of new researchers joining our hobby.

Indeed, a son of my cousin asked me for the 'family tree' as he wanted to compete with his new wife about who could get back furthest or find a link to royalty. To be fair, his tongue was firmly in his cheek, but Boris Johnson has a lot to answer for! It's encouraging that several magazine and newspaper articles which have recently appeared to assist this new community of family historians have mentioned the Guild as a possible source and short-cut in their research. It's certainly true that many contacts will prefix their enquiries by 'I've only just started and not got very far yet, but...'. I'm always happy to help. We must all remember that we were there once and that the value of a one-name study lies not just in adding to the sum of human knowledge about our particular surnames, but in helping others with their traditional genealogical enquiries. We each have a unique resource, which unlike the datasets formerly collected and transcribed by Family History Societies, won't be overtaken by the commercial websites collections.

New Index for 1851 Census

Speaking of which, I note that Findmypast, Family Search and the Origins Network will be working with FHS's to create an improved index for the 1851 census. It will be interesting to see how this venture progresses. I'm sure that a local pair of eyes is far better than one in India, but the glory days when grassroots family historians created the 1881 census index are long gone and several societies seem to have trouble supporting projects as they used to. Also, despite the present indexing errors, many have found that with a bit of detective work one can overcome these — so I hope this effort will be worthwhile.

New Ideas Need Time

This year's committee is coming up with lots of ideas — which is clearly good — but it does mean very packed agendas for our committee meetings. As always, there's a possibility we agree to do more than we personally have the time and resources to deliver. While some committee members are retired or semi-retired, others have full time jobs to hold down, not to mention family commitments. Added to which, it often seems to be the case that those that are most enthusiastic are also engaged in many other voluntary activities. For myself, I have to report, with some sadness, that I have had to withdraw from my proposed presentations at the 2009 Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Congress in Auckland next January. This is due to difficult family circumstances. I hope you will forgive me if I am not as active as your Chairman as I have been in recent years, but as I have described, we have a strong committee with plenty of ideas.

When you are committed in so many directions, one's own study tends to take a back seat. But, as we all recognise, that can't include stopping reacting to new contacts and enquiries — it's only the proactive work that can be shelved. That said, I've found time to persuade a few folks to take part in some DNA testing having discovered to my great surprise that my own Kent Holyer/Hollyer family is not as 'genetically integral' as the historical record would suggest. Ten years ago, these are problems we never knew about. I wonder what changes we will see in the next ten years. ■

Guild NewsXtra

A Greener option for your register?

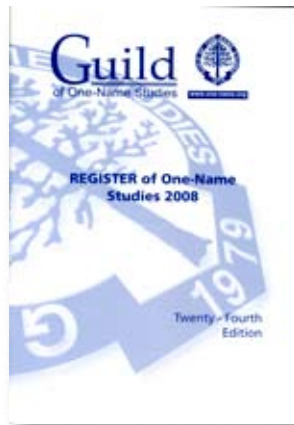
From its earliest days, Guild members have been sent an annual printed register of members names and their interests.

Starting in 1999, this information has been available on the Guild website, though only periodically updated. Since 2004, information has been updated in real-time and is fully searchable.

The availability of current membership details on the Guild website has potentially rendered the printed register of less interest to members.

In recognition of this, the Guild Committee is seeking to determine the level of interest amongst the membership in receiving a copy of the printed register.

A form has been provided in the Members' Room of the Guild website (<http://www.one-name.org/cgi-bin/user-maintenance/registerfrontpage.cgi>) to enable members to opt out of receiving the printed Register. By default, all members will continue to receive a copy of the register.



However, if you do not wish to receive future copies of the Register (starting in April 2009), simply select "I do not wish to receive the Register" on the web form and hit the button labelled "Submit change". You may opt back in to receiving future copies of the Register at any time.

A PDF copy of the Register will be available in the members room (starting in 2009) for any member to download and print if they so wish.

Paul Millington

FFHS Web Award

I hope you've all noticed the gradual improvement in several areas of the Guild website and we are grateful to Anne Shankland for the efforts she has put into this.

The Guild recently won second place in the Specialist Section of the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) annual web awards.

The web site is being constantly updated with news items, new functionality and articles including: notes from the excellent data capture seminar, the booklet 'Making Contact with Relatives', new regional meetings page, and much more. Members are strongly encouraged to check it often.



Distribution of deposited documents in digital form

Many of you will be aware that the Guild has now completed the digitisation of more than 170,000 pages of PDF searchable data from documents deposited in the Guild Library. Much of this material comprises one-name newsletters sent to the Guild over the years by individuals and one-name societies. In the past, if members wished to refer to any Library material, the document could be physically loaned to them. Now, it is far more practical to let members have a digital copy from the scanned version of the document. Such requests are increasing now that the e-Librarian can scan the entire library collection. Technically, however, copying material requires the consent of

the copyright holder and despite our best efforts, many members who have in the past deposited material have not responded to requests to allow us rights to distribute copies of their work. It is frustrating when we can identify references that members want to see, but then have to refer them to the various original authors for access.

To remove this barrier to the provision of digital copies, the Guild intends that from 1st January 2009, the Guild will assume the right to distribute digital copies of any material in the Guild library. We should stress that the copyright will remain with the authors. If you have deposited material in

the Guild library and do not want the Guild to distribute copies in this way, please contact the Guild Librarian Roy Rayment (librarian@one-name.org) no later than 31st December 2008. You may also withdraw this right at any future time.

We would like to stress that all we are trying to do is to provide copies to members who have specifically identified that they wish to access references in these documents, as a modern substitute to loaning the material physically. The Guild will not sell or otherwise distribute library material, but only in response to specific requests based on search results.



Discoveries for One-Name Studies from DNA Testing

By Susan Meates

I enjoy hearing from Guild member's about their DNA experiences, at any time, whether getting started or passing a mile stone in their project or having unexpected results. I thought it might interest you to learn about some of the situations encountered as members get started. Below are the experiences reported by 3 members, presented in alphabetical order.

Each getting started experience is different, although they are all the same in one sense. Guild members discover new information with DNA testing.

If you have a DNA Project, write me at any time for help, or to tell me about your project: DNA@one-name.org



Horsman DNA Project

By Sue Horsman
Horsman / Horseman

For many years I have researched my HORS(E)MAN ancestors in Yorkshire, and still hope that one day I will find the death of my elusive ancestor and 'brick wall', John Horseman who married at Pateley Bridge in 1808.

Through my searches I have amassed a considerable amount of information about the various Hors(e)man families in Yorkshire, and that was the start of my HORSMAN One Name Study.

Within GOONS I noticed the growing interest in DNA testing as part of family history research, but always thought, 'that's not for me'. However late in 2007, I realised that my father was 84 years old, and I knew of one other male member of my confirmed Horsman tree. It struck me that one day, it would be too late, and father would have joined the ancestors, and my female DNA would be no help with my Horsman quest.

I contacted Susan Meates, and with her help, set up the Horsman DNA project with FamilyTreeDNA. When he was younger, Father was keen on family history, and readily agreed to take part; becoming the first project member.

There is a large Hors(e)man family, originally centred on Ripon, which I believe is the initial starting point for many of the different Hors(e)man families in the area.

My first letter was to a person who belonged to a Horsman 'twig' to which I suspect my ancestor John belonged, although there is no proven connection between this family, my family and the main Ripon family. Sadly my letter was totally ignored. If he told me that the test was too expensive, then, I'm sure that the problem could have been resolved.

A new member joined the project, descended from a family in Devon. His DNA was totally different, but at least this provides a starting point for that area.

I was then able to make contact with a member of the 'main' Ripon tree, now living in Australia, and he was keen to take part. He was shortly followed by someone, descended from a family from Leeds, whose results I'm still awaiting.



Thomas William Horsman,
1871-1912.

Sue Horsman's Great-grandfather,
taken around 1895

The 'Eureka moment' came when the results of the Australian Horsman arrived. On the 37 marker test he was an exact match with my father. This means that there is a 99.29% probability that they shared an ancestor 11 generations ago. That sounds like a long time, but makes sense as the analysis of the main Hors(e)man family tree indicates that that is where things became unclear in the Parish registers, and a lack of wills makes it difficult to reconstitute the families.

I was thrilled by this match as it indicates that my ancestors do belong to the 'main' Ripon family; although I realise that I may never discover the exact point of contact.

I am hoping that other male Hors(e)man's are willing to join the project, and not just those with Yorkshire ancestry. Although the project is small — there is plenty of time for it to grow !



Pettypool DNA Project

By Carolyn Hartsough

Pettypool, P'Pool, P.Pool, Pettipool

Becoming group administrator for the Pettypool DNA Project is merely the latest detour on a journey that began nearly 30 years ago. Like most obsessive quests, it all started innocently enough. My mom's family, as is true of most Pettypool descendants, had no knowledge that Pool, the surname by which they had always been known, was originally Pettypool. Upon discovery of this surprising fact, my path was set. Sorting out the tangled family branches descending from the mid-17th century American immigrant became a personal passion.

Like other descendants of 17th century American immigrants, many Pettypool branches were on the leading edge of frontier settlement, their legacy to family historians being one of severed connections and sporadically kept or lost records. While I was aware of the promise of DNA genealogy for bringing order to scrambled lineages, I initially considered the hurdle of learning a new methodology too daunting. There was also the problem of convincing my one remaining male relative (my uncle) to sign on for the project. I suspected from informal conversation that he was concerned about the potential misuses of DNA samples. All this was in my mind when Susan Meates started encouraging Guild members to take advantage of this unique new tool for informing surname studies.

Under Susan's expert tutelage, I decided to take the plunge about 9 months ago. Surprisingly, my uncle agreed immediately to my request for the initial sample. I think he was won over by knowledge that he was my only hope for a sample from our branch of the family. It

probably also helped that I offered to pay for the test. My second recruit, the son of a deceased third cousin, also readily agreed to join the project after brief reassurances about FamilyTreeDNA security and confidentiality procedures. As administrator, I also have been gratified to find that FamilyTreeDNA offers excellent support in web site management, resources for interpretation of results and periodical sales promotions to assist administrators in attracting new recruits.

When my uncle's results were posted, two almost perfect matches among pre-existing participants came to light — one Poole participant with suspected Pettypool connections and the other of a completely unrelated surname. These two also joined the Pettypool Project. Although it's still early in the project's life, the current participants' enthusiasm has been rewarding, as have the improved prospects for resolving some long-standing lineage puzzles. I have enjoyed this new direction for exploration of the Pettypool surname and actually have found it much less intimidating than expected.



Wiley D. P. Pool (Pettypool)
1851-1896

Carolyn Hartsough's Great-grandfather. He is the grandfather of the first member of the Pettypool DNA Project.



Sterry DNA Project

By Robert Sterry

Sterry, Starry, Sterrey, Sterrie, Stirrey, Stirry

Our Project started in mid-December 2007. It actually took quite a while for me to make up my mind to start a STERRY DNA Project and I had been watching developments for the previous 12 months. I had of course read the articles in the GOONS Journal and anything else that I came across. However, having spent the past 15 years pursuing traditional documentary pathways, I was still very unsure about this new tool. Towards the end of last year I decided to contact Susan Meates about starting my own Project. Susan's encouragement helped me to finally 'take the plunge'. My test kit arrived on the 3rd of January 2008. By this time I had only let a small number of the principal STERRY family researchers know about the Project and of course had created a DNA Profile and webpage and linked them to my main STERRY One-Name Study website. Although they were all very supportive of the idea, only one had so far committed himself to directly participating. I was not terribly optimistic that others would be joining for some considerable time. STERRY is not a common surname so the number of people likely to be interested would always be small.

Surprisingly, another one of the main STERRY research group joined the Project at the end of January and a fourth in March. Only one test result was in by then so progress seemed rather slow. My results finally arrived at the end of March but disappointingly did not match with the only other person so far tested who shared my direct line. Our carefully documented common ancestor dated from the early 1700s.

This came as quite a blow. I was of course convinced we were going to match. I discussed it at some length with the other principal STERRY researchers who were following the Project with some interest. Was there an error in the research? Was there an unknown illegitimacy or adoption? Had some unusual variant or even erroneous spelling of the surname led us down a wrong path? In the end we decided there were simply too few people tested so far to draw any conclusions at all and that we would have to wait for more testing to be completed.

In early April another set of results came in. As this person belonged to a different STERRY family line altogether, not surprisingly he did not match to anyone else so far tested. [There are currently only about twelve STERRY trees in total that link the vast majority of the census and BDM data across the UK, Australia, the USA and Canada from the earliest parish registers up to modern times.] However, since all the STERRY family lines originated in England — with the exception of a Norwegian STERRI line — there was always the faint hope that there might have been a connection prior to parish records.

A fifth principal STERRY researcher also joined the Project in early April. Up to this stage I had not embarked on any significant publicity for the Project other than through the website and my closest genealogical contacts. [There are only about six or so principal researchers from the UK, US and Australia.] This was about to change. David Sterry from Cheshire offered to help with some publicity in an attempt to find more descendants of his own Southwold, Suffolk and associated Lowestoft, Suffolk line who might be willing to participate in the Project. He was keen to try and establish any link between them. I hadn't heard about DNA research actually trying to target particular family lines, but it seemed like a good idea.

We put together a brief introductory letter with his contact details rather than mine. We reasoned that not everyone has



Samuel Henry Sterry 1771-1856
[Kindly provided from the family collection of Peter Wasey Sterry]
Samuel was a physician, main benefactor and organizing genius of the School for the Indigent Blind in St George's Fields, London.

email and that more traditional letter writing and phoning might reach potential participants that otherwise would be missed. As I lived in Australia, his contact details were certainly better for this purpose. David did a large mail out of every STERRY in the Lowestoft and area phone book and I contacted the editor of the local Lowestoft newspaper plus the local Family History Society and local Record Office. We got the best results from the Lowestoft Journal who published the letter not only in their local newspaper but also their other regional newspapers as far away as Norwich and Ipswich. The Editor of the Lowestoft Journal has also indicated his interest in writing up a short article on the Project as it develops as STERRYS have lived in Lowestoft for over 400 years and are a well known family in the area. I was more than delighted.

In June we finally got our first DNA match — between myself and another member of the same line — who shared a common ancestor dating from the late 1700s. This was very encouraging as it helped to narrow the location of the presumed break in the line on this particular tree that had been discovered from the very first two

tests completed. It also helped to encourage all of the principal researchers as we were all starting to wonder if anyone was going to end up related to anyone!

Our eighth member joined our Project in early August — a direct result of that Letter to the Editor run in the local newspaper.

In late August we got our second match. This one was not expected but was exactly the sort of link that I had hoped DNA testing might provide. There are two STERRY lines in the London area, both tracing back to the early 1800s, that we have never been able to link to one of the major STERRY lines. Both had reached brick walls despite years of research by both myself and other STERRY researchers. Bingo! A perfect match to one of the members of our Project who belonged to one of the oldest of the STERRY lines: the Longhope, Gloucestershire line. This will now significantly narrow down the search for the supporting documentary evidence that we still hope to find. I was delighted!

Not a bad result I think for a small One-Name Study with its DNA Project still very much in its infancy. DNA testing has already proved a valuable research tool. We look forward to more discoveries ahead.

In addition to connecting previously unlinked STERRY trees, our DNA Study has in addition brought us into contact with a lot of new people who otherwise would never have heard about the STERRY One-Name Study. It has also got us rethinking some of the connections in our established trees. As one of our principal researchers commented, 'perhaps the origins of the STERRY name are more complicated than we had previously thought'.

Journey of Discovery

You can easily add a DNA Project to your one-name study, and make discoveries that can't be made from the paper records. It couldn't be easier to get started today. Contact DNA@one-name.org ■

30th Guild Annual Conference 2009

Your invitation is enclosed — don't miss out!

Barely six months since the fantastic conference held in Devon and already we are looking ahead to next year. But this is no ordinary conference – it's the 30th Anniversary Conference!

Before joining the Guild Committee in November 2003, the conference had never appeared on my radar. Then suddenly in January 2004 as Guild Secretary, it became an automatic assumption that I would attend! The 25th Anniversary Conference (2004) at Wyboston Lakes was my first conference experience; an excellent venue and a superb conference organised by Roger Goacher... I met so many members of the Guild, the President and several Vice-Presidents and was welcomed by all. I've never missed a conference since and indeed, this is the third one I have organised!

So, what's in store for our 30th? **Pearls of Wisdom!** The programme offers something for everyone and takes you through the centuries chronologically from Saturday morning to Sunday afternoon with topics such as 'Records before the Tudors', 'Researching before Parish Registers', 'Interpreting your Family Photographs' and 'Getting to grips with old handwriting'



on Saturday, through 'Coroners Records', 'Digitisation', 'Exploring the 1911 Census for England and Wales' and more on Sunday. We are very grateful to FindMyPast who are not only sponsoring the conference but also providing two of the speakers.

There will be a fair few surprises during the conference so come prepared for an 'action packed' weekend!

The 30th Guild Conference will take place from Friday 17th April — Sunday 19th April 2009..... and where is the wonderful conference, I hear you cry? The location is the Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood in Peterborough. The Holiday Inn has outstanding facilities and can cater for up to 400 delegates. For those of you who have missed the opportunity to meet over a game of pool, rest assured the Holiday Inn will not disappoint! The hotel is situated 2.5 miles from the City Centre and East Coast mainline train sta-

tion and has an 18-hole golf course just across the road. Feel free to bring your wife/husband/partner along..... there are plenty of local places of interest which they can visit during the day if they do not wish to attend the lectures.

Your invitation to the conference (the booking form) is enclosed with this journal. For the first time ever, you are now able to pay for the conference by PayPal. There are links from the Members Room if you wish to book in this way. There is also a map located on the conference page of the website: http://www.one-name.org/Conference_2009_Peterborough.html

I look forward to celebrating our anniversary with you all! ■

Kirsty Gray
Guild Secretary



Digitisation For One-Namers

By Ken Toll

The Assessment

All the ONS material in the ring binders was decanted (still in their A4 punched pockets/pouches) and merged with the other material in the filing cabinet. Apart from a binder of A3 material, most of the items were A4 and "monochrome", with only a handful that were colour or smaller non-standard sizes. The items were generally filed under the country/state/county they related to. The notable exceptions were:

Research from the GRO, Probate Offices, Society of Genealogists, National Archives, British Library, and similar repositories in other countries along with 'Stray' references found in RO's where they would not normally be expected. Also, my rather bulging 'Misc Refs' binders, where the material was from a multitude of non-geographical sources, containing references to individuals from various (sometimes unidentifiable) locations.

I decided to retain the remainder of the 'non-surname' material in the binders. This mainly related to general information on sources, repositories, and local & parish history.

As a general rule, I decided not to scan documents where they were a printout of a source that is *still* available to me in electronic form, I just re-filed the electronic version instead. A revised computer filing system was developed to suit the data. Sub-directories were created to store the files in suitable formats, which were chosen on the basis that they were likely to be supported for the foreseeable future. These included:

- MHT (complete web pages from Internet Explorer)
- DOC & TXT (documents) although there are still some RTF & ASC
- XLS (spreadsheets & tables)
- JPG, BMP & TIF (images)
- PDF (for scanned documents and some websites)
- GED (pedigrees)

The content and structure of my one-name study has developed over about 20 years. Starting from collecting the GRO BMD index entries during lunch-time visits to St Catherines House, it had grown to a sizeable volume of paper based data, currently occupying more than four metres of shelving, two 4-drawer filing cabinets, and, of course, 6 book-cases of background material.

For the first 10 or so years, research results were filed in ring binders: BMDs, Probate, Census, Phone book entries, Data relating to particular Counties/States/Countries, Name origins & meanings & Misc sources.

Papers were added to the files in no particular order. Much of this early research was also put on computer in a variety of formats, migrating to new applications and computers every few years. Unfortunately, insufficient thought was given to organising the data, most of it being filed under the repository where it was found, (such as GRO, PRO (now TNA), SoG, and numerous County RO's & Libraries).

Later research results came in faster than I could cope with, partly due to increasing numbers of correspondents, increased frequency of research trips, and the ever increasing amount of 'data' on the Internet. Papers were just stored in plastic pouches in order of date of acquisition. These in turn were stored in foolscap wallets in the filing cabinets, either by correspondent or by geographic location (Country, State/County) where the records were found. I continued to adopt a similar geographical approach for my computer files, but subdivided by source or subject rather than date of

acquisition. Unfortunately this became extremely unwieldy as more and more items had to be filed under multiple categories.

For quite a while I've wanted to digitise my paper records for three very laudable reasons:

1. To provide on-site & off-site backup copies in case of loss or damage of the paper records
2. To share with relatives & other researchers
3. To provide an archive version for eventual deposit in the Guild E-Library

Before undertaking any other action I conducted an assessment of the material I already had - some on the PC, some on paper, and some in both formats! It soon became very apparent that I also needed to determine how the material was to be identified and organised, resulting in a major re-think & revision of the computer directory structure.



Fig. 1 - Just some of the authors files to be digitised

I'm uncertain whether the MHT is a good idea as it may not be an 'open standard' and it might not be supported in the future. During the process of re-acquiring web-based data, I discovered many sites that appear to use "frames" do not save correctly in IE (Internet Explorer). A useful alternative was to save as PDF (Portable Document Format). Whilst this was once unique to Adobe, many other companies now support the format and it is fully accepted as a standard. However, I'm unsure of whether the alternative products install themselves in IE as simply as Acrobat does. For widest compatibility, I have used Office 2000 standard for DOC and XLS files, and Adobe Acrobat 6 for PDF files (although I'm actually using much more recent programs). This ensures others are more likely to be able to read my files.

I have created numerous databases (BMD, IGI, Probate, Misc Refs, etc.) in a variety of versions of Microsoft Access. This gives me the greatest cause for concern, as it is not an open standard and databases created in earlier versions do not necessarily behave correctly when viewed with later versions - although I can usually read the tables. I'm closely watching the development of 'Base', the open source database from Open Office, which appears to be based on 'open' standards (XML) and the files should therefore be readable for the foreseeable future.

I have also created many simple single table databases in Excel (e.g. my Australian BMDs). These are not too much of a concern as the files can be opened in Open Office as well as Excel. Ultimately they will be transferred to a 'proper' database and, perhaps, PDF.

The Directory Structure

Two of the better genealogy portals are GenUKI & CyndisList. Having examined their structure (as examples of 'best practice') and that of mine, I have developed a solution that is primarily hierarchical by location, then subdivided by data type, see Fig.2. Whilst my solution may not be universally applicable, it does fit the majority of my data quite well.



Fig. 2 - The authors directory structure

Selecting the Scanner

My 6 year old Xerox flatbed scanner gives excellent results, but only scans one page at a time. A visit to the local retail park revealed a wide range of scanners and All-in-One printers (with built in scanners), several including scanning facilities with sheet feeders. Searching the internet for prices and details of the scanner performance of these multifunction machines enabled me to eliminate several suppliers and end up with a shortlist of 4, (two Canon and two Lexmark). The Lexmark had the user manuals and a training video on their website, which enabled me to get a better idea of how the 'bundled' supporting software worked. They came with Abbyy Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Software and PageManager, which permitted storage in a number of formats

including PDF. The ability to scan up to 35 pages straight into a PDF file clinched it and I ordered a Lexmark X8350, an obsolete model and heavily discounted by some suppliers (still under £100).

The real world is often different to what you expect, and the Lexmark was no exception. I had *assumed* that the sheet feeder loaded paper onto the flatbed. Not so. It utilises the functionality of the in-built Fax Machine. Not quite what I expected, but nevertheless very effective, I can even scan most 'long' certificates! Annoyingly, the OCR software is run every time you create a PDF file, even if you opt not to OCR the scan, slowing down the process and randomly rotating the pages where there is no typed text. On the occasions I did want to OCR some A4 landscape printouts, the results were not as good as I'd hoped. With hindsight, I may have fared better saving the scans as images and using OCR as a later process.

The size of the PDF files created by the Scanner was much larger than I was expecting. Fortunately, I discovered that my aging version of Adobe Acrobat could reduce the size of the PDFs after scanning. It also enabled me to add extra notes to the file such as the data source and the location of the paper copy after scanning.

If I was starting again, I'd look carefully at the HP Officejet J5780 & Lexmark X5495, both about £70. There are also some good deals on multi-function printers at our local Tesco superstore, but it was unclear what software was bundled with them, if any. As usual, buyer beware.



Fig. 3 - Lexmark X8350 scanner

Scanning

Initial experiments indicated that scanning several printouts and manuscript pages as "black & white" led to unsatisfactory images (particularly for pencil notes on off-white paper), and scanning as "full colour" led to excessive file sizes. The general standard to be used was therefore set as 'Greyscale', which seemed a good compromise, although a few documents that had been marked-up with coloured ink were scanned in colour.

The choice of resolution (in Dots Per Inch, or dpi) was somewhat simpler. A setting of 300 dpi gave acceptable results (and a file size of 100K to 7MB depending on content) for good quality typescript, whereas I had to increase this to 600 dpi for manuscript notes and lower quality typescript in order to achieve similar results. Note that doubling the resolution quadruples the file size, typically to a range of 400K to 30MB. However, one particular document (10 pages of A4) in very poor condition was scanned at 1200 dpi, which resulted in a file of over 1GB! Clearly I'll have to re-think that one.

I had already decided that PDF would probably be the best format to keep most of the scanned images in. It is adequate for most items and has the added benefits that typescript pages can be made searchable once they have been processed by an OCR program. With the Lexmark, PDF scans using the supplied Presto PageManager have to be 'named' before the scan starts (compared to some HP scanners, where the scan is automatically named scan01, scan02, etc., and have to be renamed afterwards).

Problems

Despite configuring the scanner software NOT to attempt to OCR on the scans of the handwritten documents, it does so anyway (for PDFs). This slows down the process and annoyingly rotates each pages to random orientation (to where it thinks there is the best chance of 'seeing' characters). Fortunately Acrobat Standard edition (as opposed to Acrobat Reader) has the facility to rotate individual pages, but those without the

DO

- Spend time deciding how & where to store your files. Write down your decisions (and reasons) and review them regularly.
- Decide on a standard naming convention, and stick to it.
- Give the files meaningful names - finding them's so much easier.
- Take notes on thicker paper - they 'feed' through more easily
- Use soft pencils that are 'blacker', they scan better than light grey!
- Sort photographs by size, and scan in size order (if possible). This avoids have to preview each photo first. Just preview it for the first one of a particular size and then scan the others of that size in turn before moving on to the next size.

DON'T

- Use obscure files types
- Use programs whose files might be unreadable in a few years time.

luxury of this application may have difficulty. Other useful Acrobat facilities that I exploited to the maximum are the ability to shrink the file size and add comments to the file, such as clarification on the source, content, and where the paper copy has been filed.

One solution discovered rather late in the process, was to scan hand written documents straight into Acrobat (writer). This enabled the OCR software to be by-passed, but did require the files to be renamed after scanning (the files are automatically named with the current date & time). As the program asked for a file name when reducing the file size it was simple to combine the two processes, although you do have to remember to go back and delete the original files before they start filling up your disc.

The only practical way to scan the volume of material I had was to break it up into manageable batches of 20-50 documents of 1-20 pages each. The resulting files were initially stored in a "My Scans" folder until the batch was complete. In order to sort out the scans easily, I chose to use a rather verbose naming system. Freed from the old 8+3 character file/directory name constraint of my original system, I developed a fairly descriptive naming convention. For my UK research, filenames start with the 3 character Chapman Code (or GEN if I really can't identify the location), followed by a description of the material, the source and date found, e.g. "BDF - VCH - Pavenham - Bath Central Library - 1999Jan26.pdf". This enables the content to be readily identified without

having to open the file, and it is then a fairly simple job to drag the files off to their (hopefully) final destination. Similar schemes have been developed for non-UK and non-geographic records. Whilst writing this article, I've observed that the naming convention I've used has been progressively refined and I will soon have to return to the earlier files and rename some of them.

Progress to date

I have now scanned in all my UK county based data, miscellaneous data, non-UK data, and some of the irreplaceable photographs, the equivalent of a 2 metre shelf of ring binders and 1 filing cabinet drawer. This has taken 3 months of a couple of hours each evening. The scanned documents now occupy 2 filing cabinet drawers, freeing a metre of shelving for other material. The down side is the amount of disc space occupied. This has grown from about 600 MB in early 2007 to nearly 7 GB in May 2008. Removal of some duplicate files, and further compressing others, might reduce this to about 6 GB, but overall it's a significant increase.

And Finally...

So what's left to do? I still have 6 large ring binders of A4 wills the UK BMD index and certificate collection, phone book entries, more photographs, and of course, the A3 wills & misc documents.

It is the last item that is currently occupying my thoughts. I'm investigating making a frame to support & illuminate the documents whilst taking digital photographs, but that's next winter's project! ■



A Day Without Howard

By **Corrinne Goodenough**

The date of the Wiltshire Family History Society's open day clashed with a talk scheduled to be given by Howard Benbrook so I (foolishly?) volunteered to (wo) man the Guild's bookstall at the event.

Apart from helping Howard out for an hour a year or so ago I hadn't run the Guild bookstall before, so what was I letting myself in for?

Due to holiday commitments I was out of the country until 3 days before the event, so I wasn't really prepared for my first time as Bookstall "manager", let alone demonstrate Surname Atlas from my laptop after only 10 minutes tuition!

Precision Planning

Howard and I had been in touch previously and discussed the logistics and supplies so all that was needed was some help or volunteers so that I could at least take a comfort break during the day. I sent an e-mail to all the Wiltshire GOONS asking for help and (apart from hubby - also a GOON- who didn't really volunteer but was press ganged!) received one promise of help and a further offer from someone who would be hotfooting it back to Wiltshire early on the Saturday morning after a London dinner the night before. I couldn't really push him to come, although I would have been most happy to have seen him during the day.

Meanwhile, emails were flying backwards and forward from me in Munich, Cologne and Bonn to Howard in dear old Camberley and as a consequence Howard "appealed" to some GOONS who had helped him on previous occasions.

D-Day Arrives

Saturday 21 June dawned wet and foggy; it was midsummer's day - what did we expect? After a detour to avoid Stonehenge and the 30,000 or so Solstice revellers who WEREN'T going to Trowbridge and the Wiltshire Open Day we arrived at the Civic Hall. This was where hubby Tony came into his own as he made countless journeys from hall to car unloading all the items we were hoping to sell that day. As he made each journey I'm sure he was inwardly hoping that the boxes would be empty and all the freebie mouse mats would have been given away by the time it was due to be packed back into the car at the end of the day.

By opening time the stall was looking good - luckily Howard wasn't there as I'm sure he would have changed things around a bit, but we did manage without him nevertheless. Giving advice on all things asked. Not once were we stumped and many a visitor left the stall with a smile on their face as well as a Guild carrier bag with a sale item and of course the ubiquitous freebie mouse mat

A United Front

What a super bunch the GOON helpers were, they all turned up at their volunteered time, stayed much longer than promised and did a sterling effort with a pleasant sales total at the end of the day. The real highlight of the day was shortly after my "Wiltshire GOON" had undertaken a search of his registered surname on the computer demo of Surname Atlas showing on the stall. Leaving his details on the screen he had moved away and nearly fell over when a visitor walking past the stand said "Oh look they have my name on the screen". Needless to say we literally pounced on the visitor

explained we had a GOON "in residence" who was researching her name, introduced her to the GOON and watched the whole scenario unfold.

Who says attending an Open day and (wo) manning the Bookstall isn't exciting? Perhaps you may wish to try it sometime (volunteer to Howard please) not only will you meet up with some of your fellow GOONS and spend pleasant "quiet" moments talking with them but you never know who might walk past!!!!

My grateful thanks go to Ken Dilkes, Ken Mycock, Liz Winney, Peter Winney, Tony Goodenough, and Tony Munday who turned up to help me sell books and talk to visitors on the bookstall. They were such a happy band of helpers, easy to work with and so interesting to talk to. I do hope we will all meet up again, next year perhaps? ■



Watch out Howard!



Tony Mingay poses the question

MINGS or MINGE?

How did this question arise? Well, certainly not in one place or point in time but in stages, the explanation needs a bit of background information. First of all it must be stated it occurs in the one-name study of MINGAY and that MINGE is of the earlier (in time) variants. Perhaps it would be more correct to say that MINGAY is a modern variant of MINGE as most of the earliest records show many deviants of the latter. Such as MYNGE & MYNGY with the 'Y' being interchanged with 'I' often within the same document. So over the years of research such various spellings are expected and accepted as the norm.

Following up data from a Will of a Matheus MINGE of Orsett, Essex dated 1615 in which he names his four brothers as Thomas, David, Christopher and Henry together with a statement that his place of 'nativitas' (birth place) was Bedlow, Buckinghamshire, one might say is the actual start of the question. Whilst the parish registers of Bedlow produce no results, those of High Wycombe and Hughenden did, (viewed in light of other data held). The actual viewing of these proved to be difficult as they were not in very good condition, very fragmented due to their age. However matches to the given names of the first three brothers were identified but the surname was variously spelt MINGE, MING and MINGS, the last two causing some consternation.

The Net Is Cast

So it came about that the 'net was cast' for other instances of those names, needless to say there were endless references to MING but fewer for MINGS, the most eye catching was for a Sir Christopher MINGS. He turns out to be a mariner and rose from a cabin boy to a



Sir Christopher Mings

Knighted Admiral, with a most colourful career in between (just 'Google' his name for more details). More importantly his Will dated 1665 which was found on 'Documents On-line' BUT is indexed under MINGE; it should be stated it is the registered copy not the original which one presumes would have been in his own handwriting. Here it was found to have inconsistencies in the handwriting see below for the various forms of 'MINGS/E'.



Fig. 2 - Various 'Mings/e' spellings

Now let's pursue the investigation into whether or not the end letter is an 's' or 'e' and it can be seen that the heavier gothic style is only one in doubt. As this is written in the margin from which the indexing may have been made one might excuse the error. Further examples taken from the same Will are:-

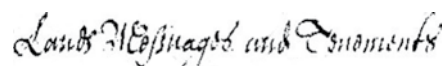


Fig. 3 - "Lands, Messuages and Tenements"

Which illustrates, (together with the example of "MINGS/E" above) that the writer uses a different form of 's' depending upon whether or not the preceding letter has an ascender or descender. Notice the double 's' and in particular the 'es' of messuages, which suggest that an 'e' and 's' are similar in form.

The next examples are intended to show how an 'e' is formed. Again notice the subtle differences between the 'e' and 's'.

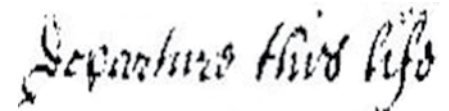


Fig. 4 - "departure this life"

Hence one can conclude that the end letter of the surname is an 's' and not an 'e'. So from these very brief samples the argument that the surname is MINGS and not MINGE.

To add weight to this statement the distinction between the two letters is even more pronounced. In the Will of Lady Rebeckah MINGS of Hereford, the widow of Sir Christopher, dated 1678. It is however in a different 'hand' and thirteen years later. Also it must be assumed that the original was written by a 'scribe' as the good lady 'makes her mark', but because of her status and the widow of a famous Admiral, the surname would have been well known.

At this point it should be stated that the Wills analysed were registered copies of the original. Which may prompt another question, 'Was the copier able to distinguish the letters correctly?' One must argue that they could, as they themselves would have been 'au fait' with the handwriting style of those times.

The confusion over the spelling of Sir Christophers' surname has been a worry for sometime, an example of which appeared in "Notes & Queries" of The Oxford Journal dated 1921. The various statements made within this article have, in the main, been validated over recent years.

Parish Registers

One rather vague fact being finally established and that was the date and place of the baptism of, then, Christopher MINGE being the 21 November 1625 in the parish church of Salthouse in Norfolk. Also note that the consensus of opinion of the spelling of the surname was MINGE and not MINGS.

For a long time the parish registers had been in a very bad condition so much so they could not be consulted. Very recently modern technology has been applied to them with the result that they have been restored, filmed and recorded on a CD upon which is also included the whole history of the parish registers and their restoration. Like many other things within the MINGAY study it has not been a total success, because the very entry required is at the bottom of a page which is only partly there.

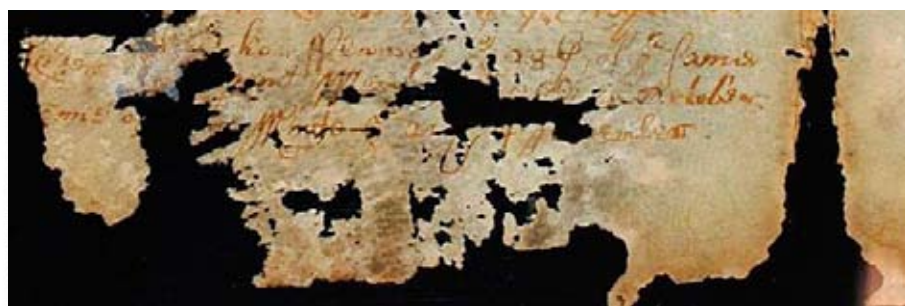


Fig. 5 - A badly damaged Salthouse parish register

The transcribers have identified the words 'sonne of' and 'M-ne' and the date as above. However this entry can be found in the Bishop Transcripts in a much clearer state, and again the surname has an 'e' at the end.

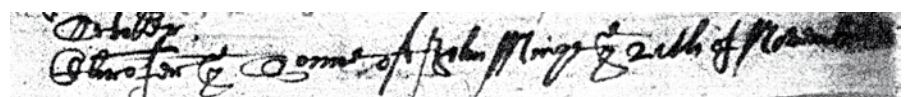


Fig. 6 - Bishops transcript for the damaged entry at fig. 5

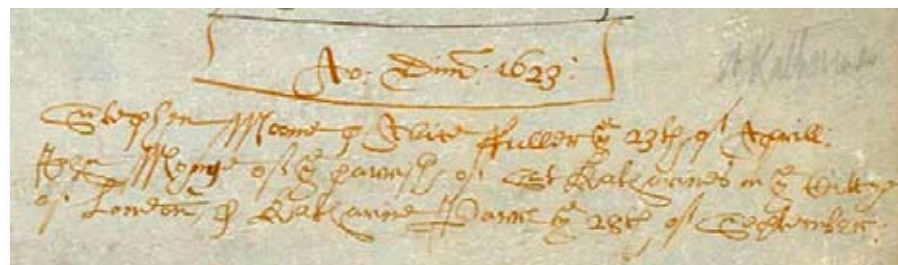


Fig. 7 - The marriage of John MINGE

Also revealed in a positive manner is the marriage entry between a John MINGE, of the parish of St. Katherine in the City of London and a Katherine PARR of this parish (no not that of the more famous lady), this occurs on 28 Sep. 1623.

Now the registers of St. Katherine by the Tower had previously been searched in a previous investigation, these show a number of baptismal entries for what appears to be the same couple. Here the spelling of the surname is quite varied from MINGE to MINDGE, this concurs with that article written in 1921. But it has been concluded that they are the siblings of Christopher, in particular when compared with other information gathered about the father John MINGE. This data is drawn from, firstly the Will, dated 1622, of Richard MINGE, cordwainer of the City of London, in which a bequest is made to a

above mentioned Richard MINGE. There is sufficient evidence to say that the deceased husband is John MINGE one time mayor of New Romney and a Baron of the Cinque Ports and also that Richard was at least a cousin but more likely a brother of the said John. So it appears that Christophers' father John MINGE was at one time apprentice cordwainer but became a shoemaker when he finished his training.

More Questions

Like any other puzzles, whilst some questions have been answered, there are many more to be asked. For instance, why did John MINGE of the City of London marry in Salthouse, Norfolk? Also if Christophers' surname is MINGE, how is it that he is universally known as MINGS/MYNGS. An opinion held is that how he was taught to write his name, presumably in the Royal Navy, another far more contentious is that 'transcribers' of the past got it wrong.

Whatever the reason a conclusion that can be drawn is that the surname of Sir Christopher is MINGE and not MINGS. If so, there is grave doubt the history books will ever be rewritten? ■

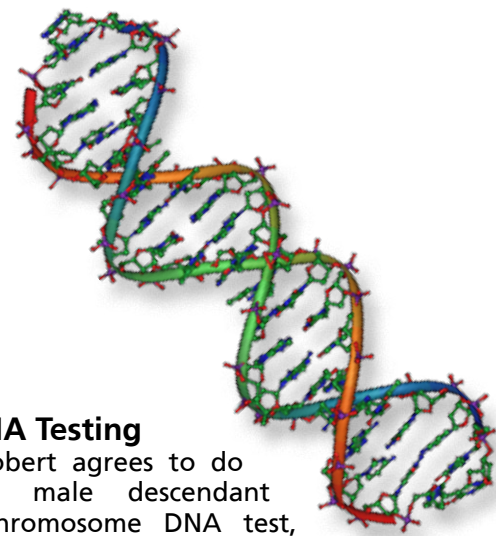
Acknowledgements.

1. To the Guilds forum members, in particular Dr.A.R. Millard, K. Cherrett and E. Sinker for their most helpful assistance in 'finding' or 'pointing the way to' various data.
2. To the Salthouse History Group, in particular Val Fiddian for all their efforts in producing the most admiral CD "The Salthouse Buried Records, 1538-1713". For further details see <http://www.salthousehousehistory.co.uk>



The Twisted Thread

By **Jim Benedict**



I've met two new cousins online. We're related; kind of, well, distant really, in fact just barely connected by a thread. Actually two threads; twisted, spiralling threads, passed down by our common ancestors. Yes, Robert and Susan and I are related, but that's getting ahead of the story.

A Brick Wall

Susan was frustrated. She and her brother Robert knew their grandfather, Robert James Benedict, came from Canada and worked in Nebraska as a ranch hand, finally settling in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In fact, they have a family treasure - a genuine first-person handwritten biography, rambling on through thirty pages of personal history.

The problem was Canada. This border to their north was to be the brick wall and nothing was breaking it down. Their living in South Carolina didn't make the researching any easier for them. One clue was tantalizing; grandpa Benedict's father had a name, an uncommon one: Caleb, and also a location: Manitoba.

So two years ago I receive a brief and unexpected query by e-mail; *"Hello, I am trying to find out more about the Benedict family. My father was born in Nebraska and his father was from Manitoba, I believe."* — from a Susan Benedict. Not a lot to go on, but I responded anyway.

The Internet airwaves started crackling immediately. Next day, Susan writes back and informs me of her grandfather's name, spouse

and whereabouts. And, that he was born in Manitoba around 1866. But there lies the next mystery. You see, Manitoba did not exist then, not until March of 1870. It was the North West Territories before that, mostly being Hudson Bay Company land and also the Red River Settlement near today's Winnipeg, set up by his Lord Selkirk in 1811. The population was around 12,000 rough-cut characters, mostly Aboriginal, French, American and Scottish settlers. There was very little agricultural or community activity at that time and almost no government agencies to record people. The Manitoba census of 1901 had no Benedicts, nor the contemporary local newspapers found online at Ancestry.

But then, Susan's brother Robert knocks another brick off the wall. He reports that the grandfather, Robert James Benedict, instead comes out of Grey county in Ontario and not Manitoba.

We just knew we were cousins. The connections were getting closer. Their great-grandfather was a Caleb Benedict of Grey county, living around the 1850's. My own website lists a Caleb Benedict, born in 1830 and living with family in Owen Sound². Named after Captain William Fitz William Owen of the British Navy who was assigned to survey Georgian Bay in the Canadian Great Lakes, Owen Sound was founded in 1840 and is located in Grey County of Ontario. So, is that now satisfactory evidence of a family connection between us? No, not yet. Now we will find out if science will close this oh-so-near gap for us.

DNA Testing

Robert agrees to do the male descendant Y-chromosome DNA test, which I had already done a year before. In fact, Susan had 'discovered' me through a posting on the FamilyTreeDNA website. The Benedict surname had a benchmark of markers for comparison: 37 numbers that you match to and determine your Benedict bloodline. My 37 markers were close to the benchmark; off by one count on two of the 37 markers, the result of a mutation inside of ten generations since 1640.

Finally, after a four-month wait, the results are in. Robert also missed the Benedict benchmark by one count at the same two markers, the EXACT SAME SPOTS as myself. See Table 1, showing the first 25 markers of the tests. Each column is a DNA marker; the number is a count of the repeats of that DNA sequence at that marker location. The more markers that are an exact match, the closer you are in relationship. The first line is for the Benedict benchmark. The second line is my DNA result and the third line is from Robert's DNA. The full DNA results for ourselves and others can be found at Benedict Topics³, a website run by Bob Benedict in Colorado. We are indeed cousins of the same branch.

So is doing DNA worthwhile for family searches? In the right situation and to answer certain types of questions, it is a definite YES.

B-mark	14	22	15	10	16	17	11	12	11	12	10	30	16	9	9	11	11	25	16	21	29	13	13	14	14
Jim	14	22	15	10	16	17	11	12	11	12	10	30	16	9	9	11	11	25	16	21	29	14	14	14	14
Robert	14	22	15	10	16	17	11	12	11	12	10	30	16	9	9	11	11	25	16	21	29	14	14	14	14

Table 1: DNA Results for Benedict Benchmark, Jim Benedict and Robert Benedict

Diary Excerpts

For Robert and Susan, the news couldn't get any better. From being just a dubious and sketchy short stub of a family line, they have leapt back ten generations. For myself, I have gained two third-cousins in South Carolina. I have also inherited a rousing narrative by my new family member: great granduncle Robert James Benedict. What a story he writes! I have to share a couple of passages with you, with his original spellings intact.

On growing up in Upper Canada in the 1830's:

"Now that don't mean a thing to be born in Canada, I suppose its like being Born any Place, only to be born in the back woods of Canada does mean something it means you were 25 miles from a doctor, 25 miles from a Post office, or store. it means that you had know transportation Except - your 2 legs."

"Also it was absolutly necessary. that your eyes were of the very best as all you had to guide you were a Place cut on a tree about Every Hundred yards. Also it was necessary that you always carried a gun. for you never could tell what minute you would be face to face with an Indian or a Bear or Panther or most any wild animal as the woods were full of Timber Wolf and all kinds of animals and snakes."

On homespun clothing:

"We made all our own clohes I can see mother yet as she used to work with the old spinny wheel. I remember when I was a boy. Oh I was quite a Case I had begin to look sidewise at the girls tete Well mother made me a new suit out of what we called fullcoth. Now realy that material was 1/2-inch think and as stiff as a branch. In our way it was real handy, for I could just slip out of it when I went to bed. and it would stand by my bed all night all I had to do was just sep right in and I was dressed."

He starts making his mark on the world as a salesman in Nebraska:

"Well I got along Pretty well for a couple of years, when a real slick

traveling man came in the store one day, and he said I was very foolish, Well I found out afterwards that I was, but not they way he ment it."

"Why he sayes a young man with your Personality and Education, I wonerd then if he Knew about the High School Education I had, Why he sayes you have the makings of a first clas salesman. Your Exceptionly good looking. and will be sure to take well with the ladies. Well when he said ladies that convinced me, I was sold. Now he sayes we have an opening at Present in our Imboerdia dep., The salesman was taken sick so I can give you the Position it is 50.00 a week and Expenses. So I Excepted his Proposition and started at once well that was a long in 1913 and Every thing was going OK when the war started."

"Pretty soon I got a letter from the bosse complaining that I wasnt getting Enough Buisness so I just wrote to him and told him conditions were in my territory I just told him the ladies here were wearing there dresses up to there knees and that they had no more use for Embrordia and that was the reason for slow sales."

"Well the old Boss was sore he wrote me a long letter and wanted me to find out if the ladies in my territory were wearing lace or Embrordia Now I thought that was going just a little bit to far he Knew just as well as I did that I was a single man. Now how in the world could I know, so I just up and resigned. Aint that what you would have done."

On his new boss on the Nebraska ranch. Note the various spellings of Colonel:

"Now most people call Him Kurlmel. I don't know how he gost that Kernel hung on him. of course he was in the army during the World War. I heard him tell a fellow that he was where the bullets were the thickest. and thad buddy of his says oh yeh, I Remember. Now, you were under the amunation truck, Well any way they call him Kurnel, all but his wife she calls him Honey. She Probely gets the Honey Part



Robert James Benedict & wife Nellie

from Kissing him right square on the mouth. They learned that from going to the movies. because I have known the Kurnel a long time and he never used to do that. Maybe he learned it when he was over in France you know the little French girls are what you would say up to date."

And it goes on for another two dozen pages like this. ■

Footnotes

1. The Benedict Surname website URL is: <http://www.genealogwiki.com/bin/view.cgi/Benedict/>
2. The webpage for Caleb Benedict is at: <http://www.genealogwiki.com/bin/view.cgi/Benedict/CalebBenedict1830>
3. The Benedict Topics website has an extensive source of information on the original Benedicts of the New World and earlier generations in England. The DNA results table is found at: http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~benedicttopics/24-dna_test_results.html
4. A transcription of the full diary is at: <http://www.genealogwiki.com/bin/view.cgi/Benedict/RobertBenedict1860Biography> The original diary images can be viewed by clicking on the photo album icon at the top of this page.



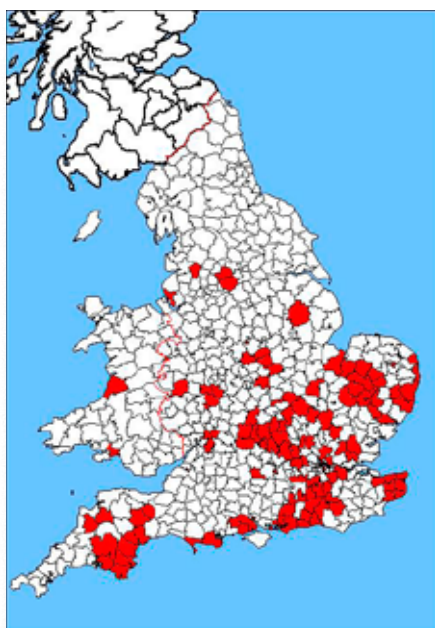
Collaboration - The way forward for Marriage Challenges

By Roger Goacher

I think that Marriage Challenges are one of the most useful services introduced by the Guild. Challengers have provided me with the full details of many marriages that would have been difficult for me to research personally, and purchasing the certificates would have cost a fortune.

My wife, who is also a Guild member, and I enjoy doing Marriage Challenges. We have undertaken five so far, and have provided members with the details of over 1,200 marriages.

If you look at details on the Guild website of the Marriage Challenges that have been completed or are planned, you will see that certain parts of the country have been well covered, for example, West Sussex, Kent, Surrey, Suffolk and London. But there are whole swathes of the country that are still 'barren'. We need more members to undertake Marriage Challenges, especially in under-represented areas.



Marriage Challenges England & Wales. Completed, In Progress or Planned

Have you benefited from an Marriage Challenge? Have you considered undertaking one yourself? There may be very good reasons why you can't — you may not live in England or Wales or you may have mobility or eyesight problems.

Perhaps you are daunted by the time commitment of a Challenge, or your local Record Office is difficult to access. Could you spare just a few hours to help other members? Then read on. I suggest that there are ways round problems.

Not all Marriage Challenges require a lot of work. In May we undertook a Challenge on the Westbourne Registration District, the smallest RD in West Sussex. My wife and I visited the West Sussex Record Office (WSRO) just twice, looking for the 133 marriages requested by 28 Guild members. Spending about 16 hours in total we found nearly 90% of the marriages. Two delightful days out — a drive through the Sussex spring countryside, a picnic lunch on the green behind the RO, and a lot of satisfied customers. Summer is not the time for us to undertake an Marriage Challenge — too much else to do. But come the autumn we shall be on the road again for our sixth Challenge.

You may be able to do some of the research for an Marriage Challenge locally. The Church of the Latter Day Saints (LDS) has microfilmed many of the British parish marriage records, though many have not been done. Local Libraries, especially those with Study Centres, often hold copies of these for their local area. If you have a local LDS centre they will also hold copies and can obtain, on loan, any parish records microfilmed that they don't have.

The LDS films don't usually cover the whole period from 1837 to 1911; perhaps only to the 1880s or 1890s depending on the Registers available when the microfilming was undertaken.

A check on a website such as that of Hugh Wallis will show whether the marriages in a particular parish have been filmed by the LDS and for what period:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hughwallis/>

When we undertook Marriage Challenges on both the East Grinstead and Horsham RDs we were able to visit local Libraries and search for requested marriages between 1837 and 1881, before visiting the WSRO to complete research to 1911.

Perhaps the way forward is for far more collaboration between Guild members in an area. For London RDs, which often generate large numbers of requests, often the Challenger gets together a team to blitz the records. We had help from another Guild member when we undertook the Horsham RD Marriage Challenge, and have had offers of help for other Challenges.

Limited Period Only?

The size of a Challenge can also be limited by the period covered. There is no requirement to cover the whole period 1837 to 1911 in one go. You could make the work more manageable by limiting the period of the Challenge to say 1837 to 1871 or an even shorter period. You could then undertake a second Marriage Challenge for the next period once you have had a break and feel refreshed enough to tackle some more.

Perhaps you are nervous of taking on the responsibility of a Challenge alone. Working together with other members would be supportive, and cut down the work involved. You could divide up the work. One person could coordinate the work, another could examine the locally available records, and another visit the local RO. Or you could get a team together for a day out at the local RO and each search one

or more parishes. Why not contact your Regional Rep, or other members in your area directly, and discuss carrying out an Marriage Challenge together?

The Marriage Challenge Coordinator, Peter Copsey, will happily give advice to any individual or group considering an Marriage Challenge. Please do consider undertaking one. Start with a small

RD; see what records you can research locally; or get together with other members in your area.

Undertaking an Marriage Challenge IS an enjoyable experience. You will learn much about the local area and the families who lived there, even if you have no personal connection; and you will help many other Guild members in the process. ■



Marriage Challenge Update

By **Peter Copsey**

Marriage Challenge was originally intended for finding marriages entries in deposited church registers within a particular Registration District in England and Wales and over 150 such Challenges have been performed since Marriage Challenge began over 3 years ago.

During this period there have been two Challenges in the USA carried out by Bob Young (Member No 2940). Bob searched for requested names, not only amongst the marriage entries, but also the birth and death entries in the vital records for Massachusetts and Connecticut.

A Challenger has now come forward to tackle one of the Districts of Scotland. Iain Kennedy (Member 4552) is attempting Blythswood, Glasgow for the period 1855 to

1880 - deadline for requests was 30 September. The cost of extracting full marriage information from the registration documents found on scotlandspeople.gov.uk, is far cheaper than obtaining a copy marriage certificate from the GRO and so it is possible that many members have collected their Scottish marriage data already. For those members who had not yet explored scotlandspeople, it was necessary to spend a few units extracting the basic marriage data from the index to send to Iain. There are, therefore, two reasons why the number of requests for a Scottish Challenge could be less than an equivalent English one. I am waiting to hear whether this Challenge is going to be as successful; hopefully it will.

Why not volunteer to become a Challenger. If you are interested

and would like to know more about what it involves, please contact me on: - marriage-challenge@one-name.org

For more information on Marriage Challenge see the article in the Journal of October - December 2005.

Here is the list of forthcoming Challenges. All Guild members are encouraged to send requests to the Challengers by e-mail or post (address in Register). Send the information extracted from the GRO index for the named Registration District between the years given (Year, Quarter, Surname, First names, Full GRO reference). Challengers will search for and often find your marriages in the deposited church registers and then send you the full particulars. ■

Registration District and Period	Requests Deadline	Challenger	Challenger's e-mail
Eton 1837 - 1911	13th October	Brian Horridge	brian.horridge@btinternet.com
Cheltenham (repeat) 1837 - 1911	1st November	David Mowbray	mowbray@one-name.org
Lexden 1837 - 1911	10th November	Peter Copsey	copsey@one-name.org
Guildford 1837 - 1881	23rd November	Shirley Forster	elwick@one-name.org
Faversham 1837 - 1911	30th November	Shelagh Mason	stead@one-name.org
Brighton 1881 - 1911	30th November	Colin Ulph	ulph@btinternet.com



A View From The Bookstall

By
Howard Benbrook

And We're Off!

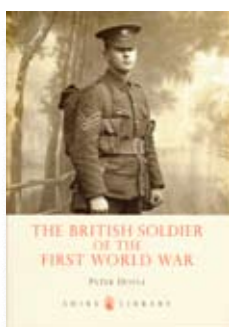
Yes, the new 'season' begins again! And, of course, The Guild Bookstall will be making its way through the English countryside, peddling its wares at every opportunity. Take a look opposite to see if we're coming near you...

And since this is the Journal issue that precedes the Christmas season I should really enthuse you all with the wealth of new items on the Bookstall but, before I do that, I hope you'll be able to read Corrinne Goodenough's article, written after she stood in for me at the Wiltshire FHS Open Day, recently (thanks, Corrinne!). Reading between the lines, it looks like I'd better look out for my job!

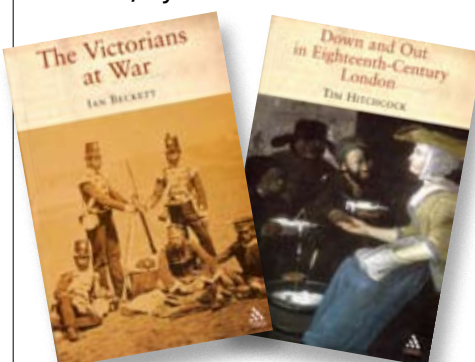
And There's More...

I was so busy, in the previous issue, with chit-chat about the Olympia event, I completely forgot to mention quite a few new items that now grace the Bookstall tables. So, it's high time I did an update. I don't have the space here to give you too many details (for that, see the Bookstall web pages), and you'll find prices on the Bookstall Price List, but here's a brief overview...

New editions of Shire Books titles now come in the livery of their new owner (Osprey Books), as well as the new (i.e., higher) prices. Here's one I've taken which leans on Osprey's background in military history.



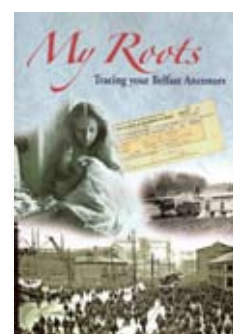
There are a couple of bigger books that I've had on the tables without telling you. These are not for glancing at, and both are written by Professors of History so cover their subject very thoroughly. They are 'Victorians at War', by Ian Beckett and, picking up a theme you may find familiar: 'Down and Out in Eighteenth-Century London', by Tim Hitchcock.



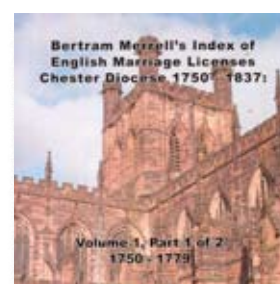
I've re-stocked with some of the old favourites from Archive CD Books, now sold by Eneclann in Ireland. Making contact with them opened my eyes to the opportunity for some Irish titles and so I've taken advantage of this with a few of their home-grown products. Two of these are the results of considerable research into Irish names, and the other is a comprehensive list of the names and addresses from the Dublin City Census of 1851, taken before its destruction in 1922. This latter CD also contains 33 Town Plans of Dublin from 1847.



And speaking of 'things Irish', at Olympia I picked up some copies of a book that looked useful for those of you with Belfast ancestors - a 64 page introductory guide to sources available for researching in Belfast, published by the Ulster Historical Foundation.

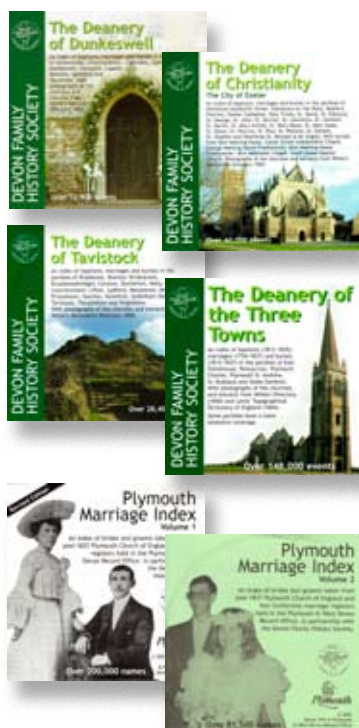


And here's some good news for those of you with ancestors in the area covered by the Diocese of Chester - Bertrand Merrell's Index of Marriage Licences, 1750 - 1779: 30,000 marriages in Cheshire, Lancashire and Flint. This CD came to me from Guild member Darris Williams - thanks, Darris!



And, in a new departure for The Guild Bookstall, I'm pleased to offer some data from the nice people at Devon FHS. I shared a room with them at the Guild Conference in April, and I very much liked the presentation of their CDs; if you have Devon connections, take a look: there are tens of thousands of CMBs from 4 Deaneries and post-1837 marriages from Plymouth parishes - including some Non-Conformists. There's even a small

discount to their normal prices, under this agreement.



But that reminds me that I didn't mention some more CDs I'm now taking from West Surrey FHS. Knowing that I get about more than the folks from Surrey, I offered to take some of their CDs to a fair in Plymouth. They went down well. (It's a similar idea for the Devon FHS CDs, of course). There are several hundreds of thousands of people mentioned in the Burial and Marriage Indexes, and nearly 12,000 names from the St Botolph Aldgate Settlements.



And, if that's not enough, I'm pleased to announce the arrival of a new CD with London maps. This time, it's John Rocque's 1746 map showing 10 miles around London at 5½ inches to the mile, showing, with remarkable clarity, significant

details about the capital at the time. It's normally £15.00, but just £13.50 to Guild members.



Shoreditch

Just a quick word about my latest Marriage Challenge... I've managed to complete Stage 1 of my Challenge for Shoreditch Registration District, despite receiving more requests than ever before. One thing's clear: the idea has really caught on! Now I'm planning the second stage, which covers the years 1861 to 1880; so, if you'd like details of a marriage that took place in Shoreditch between those years that features your registered surname, send me the GRO Index entry and I'll try and track it down.

Where We've Been, Where We're Going

By the time you read this, The Guild Bookstall will have been to Trowbridge, York, Aylesbury, Chatham, Gateshead, Kidlington,

Malton, Horndean, Thornbury, and Twickenham since the last Journal. And then the forward schedule continues as shown in the table below.

Thanks to You - Yes, that's You!

Yes, I know I always say this. But, you know, it would be really silly to try and do this on my own. So, my grateful thanks are due to all my helpers: Corrinne Goodenough (and her husband, Tony), Ron Woodhouse (also spousely-accompanied by Gwen), John Coldwell, Richard Heaton, Anni Berman, Judy Cooper (and husband Graham), Andrew Millard, Victor Medlock, Phil Taylor, Bill Corser, Mike Walker, Alan Moorhouse, Gerald Cooke, Pat Wilson and anyone else who I may have missed from the list because of my poor record-keeping. You're all wonderful!

If you'd like to contact Howard about any of the items he holds on The Guild Bookstall or to volunteer to help, you can write to him at bookstall@one-name.org, or 7 Amber Hill, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1EB, U.K.

Suffolk Family History Fair	Debenham, Suffolk	Sat 4 th Oct
Scarborough Family History Fair	Scarborough, North Yorkshire	Sat 11 th Oct
Hastings & Rother FHS Open Day	Hastings, East Sussex	Sat 19 th Oct
West Surrey FHS Open Day	Woking, Surrey	Sat 1 st Nov
Guild Seminar	Poundbury, Dorset	Sat 15 th Nov
Doncaster Local History Fair	Doncaster, West Yorkshire	Sat 22 nd Nov
EoLFHS Family History Fair	Barking, Essex	Sat 17 th Jan
Bracknell Family History Fair	Bracknell, Berks	Sun 25 th Jan



Seminar Report - Data Capture for One-Name Studies

Durham University, 9th August

By **Stephen Daglish**

The latest Guild seminar took place on August 9th in North East England, when forty people gathered at the Computer Centre of Durham University for a day looking at techniques to capture data from internet sites and how this can be manipulated to make it useful for a one-name study.

With the amount of data available online by both commercial companies and local groups ever increasing, this is likely to become an important subject for GOONS members in the future - something that was reflected by the level of interest shown in this particular seminar.

The seminar was a hands-on, practical experience with active participation and the sharing of ideas and experiences encouraged alongside the lectures provided. With everybody assigned a computer terminal to work on, this had a different feel from other Guild seminars.

As with most things, there is no single way of tackling these problems and different approaches were discussed during the day.

Chris Broadhurst began by demonstrating some programmes that he has developed to extract and store data as tables,



in particular his programme Web Tabular Garner (WTG). This includes useful features such as capturing data from multiple pages and to include web reference links. Chris showed how sites used different ways to display data and how WTG can be used to deal with and resolve these. Chris later talked about how to use regular expressions to manipulate the downloaded data.

Andrew Millard introduced a useful add-on to the popular Firefox browser which allows data to be copied as tables as an introduction to a practical exercise in how to manipulate downloads in Excel. Later Andrew showed an interesting example of how it is possible to use data from FreeBMD in conjunction with other sources in order to identify the likely church or churches for a particular marriage.

Polly Rubery took the group through ways to capture data from Genes Reunited. This site vividly demonstrates the growth in online records: in March 2003 it had 2.3 million names but five years later in

March 2008 it had grown to more than 500 million records, and is continuing to grow. Polly showed how she extracts data for her ONS names and variants and then uses this to link to her one-name study, to establish contacts and to gather useful information. She then runs regular updates to capture new entries. Polly also showed how she uses Excel to draw family trees.

In addition to successfully ensuring that the day ran on time, **Gordon Adshead** also provided insights into the use of macros, comparing large files and other techniques and tools plus an interesting exercise in matching surnames against the Guild database.

This was an interesting and challenging day. The seminar covered a wide range of subjects and techniques and, with a large group, some of the practical exercises were perhaps difficult for everyone to follow. Nevertheless I am sure that everyone found this a very useful and stimulating day and could take away some tips and ideas that can be applied in their own studies. Congratulations to the organisers and to the Guild for its support of this seminar. ■



Forthcoming Seminars

21st February 2009

GOT A ONE-NAME STUDY PROBLEM — NETWORK A SOLUTION

Guild Poster Seminar:
London. We can all learn from each other. Along the lines of international workshops, every attendee will mount a poster or laptop display or make a mini-presentation, either posing a question or plea for help or demonstrating something they feel will be of use to other Guild Members.

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16th May 2009

RESEARCHING YOUR NAME OUTSIDE THE UK

Guild Non-UK Sources Seminar: **Hampsthwaite Hall near Harrogate, Yorkshire.** This seminar will be focusing on the material available outside of the UK with special attention to details sought by people with a one-name study.

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8th August 2009

THE ART OF ONE-NAME STUDY

New Members Seminar: **Amersham.** A number of short talks by several speakers will cover the workings of the Guild and the seven key aspects of a one-name study. Although primarily directed at members who have joined in the last few years, there will be much to help all put their study into context.

Pre-19th Century Sources, November 15th The Brownsword Hall, Poundbury, Dorset

Programme

10.00 - 10.25	Registration and Coffee
10.25 - 10.30	Welcome to the Seminar
10.30 - 11.30	Kingston Lacy Manorial Records — Mr. David Smith
11.30 - 11.45	Comfort Break
11.45 - 12.45	Birth and Baptism in the early 1800s — Tom Doig
12.45 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 15.00	How We Used To Live In The 17c — Janet Few BA
15.00 - 15.30	Tea and Biscuits
15.30 - 16.30	Ancestry Sources in Dorset - Jane Ferentzi-Sheppard
16.30	Close of Seminar

The seminar will be delving into Taxation Documents, Protestation Returns and Association Rolls, all tricky documents to track down. Tom Doig is a well known writer and broadcaster and will share his expertise on birth and baptism records. The first afternoon presentation by Janet Few BA will give a light-hearted view on how our ancestors lived in the 17th Century. David Smith, our final speaker of the day will be presenting an illustrated lecture on the Kingston Lacy manorial Records, concentrating on Medieval, Tudor and Elizabethan farming families. The Manorial Records of Kingston Lacy are a fabulous collection of documents from Saxon times right up to the present day. David will be bringing copies of Manorial Rolls, Landscape Plans and other documents for you to look at. The talk (through the illustrations etc) provides insights into variety and richness of documents created as a result of the manorial system.



The cost of the seminar will be £20 per person including drinks and a light buffet lunch. There will then be an opportunity to chat with other delegates and browse the Guild Bookstall. There will also be interesting books and indexes to study during the breaks.

To reserve a place please go to the Guild website at www.one-name.org where you can book on-line and pay using PayPal. The site gives more details of the Seminar, including a map showing the location of the venue and the ability to download a further copy of the form. Booking forms may also be obtained from Sandra Turner or by phoning the Guild Help Desk on 0800 011 2182



Registrar's Notes

By
David Mellor

A New Styled Register

**"When change is not necessary, it is necessary not to change" Lucius Cary, 2nd Viscount Falkland (1610-1643)
English politician, soldier and author.**

Your committee has been discussing the need to change the style of the Guild's paper register for over a year now. Well aware of the need to avoid change for change's sake, we have nonetheless decided that changes are really necessary. What are the reasons that have led us to this conclusion?

User-friendliness

First was our concern to make the register more user-friendly, particularly for members of the public. Many of you who have helped out on the bookstall will have seen puzzlement on the faces of some people when trying to use the register to see if their surname is being researched by one of our members. Often, they look at the member's list in part 3 and assume that the member's study would be that same surname. They then may have difficulty retaining the membership number to look up the study in part 2, but, if successful, are confused by the fact that the study listed under that number may not be the same as the member's surname. To help in this area, the committee's proposal is to reduce the register to just two parts. Part 1 would be an alphabetical list of all studies and variants, but with the contact details for each study included. Part 2 would be a list of all members in alphabetical order with contact details given for those members who do not have a registered study.

Study Codes

Secondly, we wanted the register to concentrate more on the actual studies being carried out by our members. The proposed new part 1 will achieve this in large measure by listing studies and variants in alphabetical order and including contact details for each study. Where a variant is listed, the root study will be given alongside so that the study properties and contact details can be looked up without having to refer to a different part of the register. Study properties will be coded so that a lot of information can be given without using much room, in the way that is often used for hotel listings. The planned study codes are as follows:

- **A, B, C** : study category.
- **D** : has a DNA project.
- **G** : has a Guild archive.
- **N** : produces a regular one-name study newsletter or journal.
- **O** : has other published material.
- **P** : has a web profile (via www.one-name.org).
- **R** : has reconstructed trees -
R1 : a few,
R2 : quite a lot,
R3 : a majority,
R4 : nearly all.
- **S** : has a one-name study society.
- **W** : has a website (check at www.one-name.org for address).

Some of these study properties will be able to be self-edited on-line for the subsequent paper edition.

Cost Efficiencies

Thirdly, we are the victims of our own success; as more members join the Guild and more studies are registered, the register has become bigger and heavier. We reduced the thickness of the paper in 2006 but it is not felt that further reductions in paper weight are feasible. Our printers have had difficulties binding such a large document and had to outsource this task which led in turn to errors such as missing pages. Some surname and DNA project website URLs are two lines long and so a member with three registered studies may currently have URLs taking up to six lines. Replacing these by a code will save a lot of space and a lot of confusion. The costs of paper, printing and postage have risen dramatically over the last few years. By changing the format of the register we should be able to actually get more for less; it will be possible to cut the number of pages thereby reducing printing and postage costs but at the same time give more information in a more accessible form about a member's study.

Rollout

The committee plans to roll out the new format register next April but a preview of how your entry will appear has been put at the following location: www.one-name.org/cgi-bin/members/registerpaper.cgi so that you can see and judge the improvements for yourself. We think you will agree with us that on this occasion change was necessary and that it was necessary to change. ■



Treasurer's Comments

By
Cliff Kemball

Breaking Even

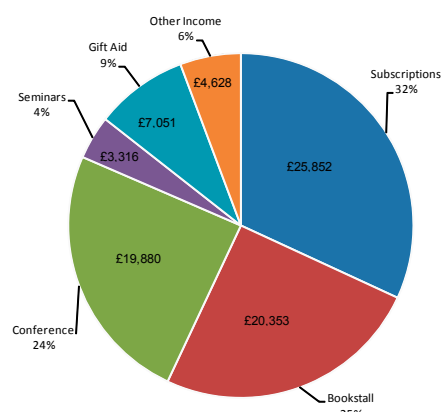
The Guild is aiming to break even this financial year — meaning that our income will match our outgoings. Much, of course, will depend on the level of expenditure in the final month of this financial year and our ability to maximise our income.

This is the time of year when the Guild budget holders have to submit their budget requirements for the 2008-09 financial year. It will only be after I receive this information, and the Executive Committee deliberate over what the Guild will be able to afford, that I will know whether we will be able to break even again next year. The demands on the Guild's finances however continue to grow as the Guild provide more facilities for its members and more ways are developed to meet our charitable objectives of advancing the education of the public in one-name studies and promoting the preservation and publication of the resultant data.

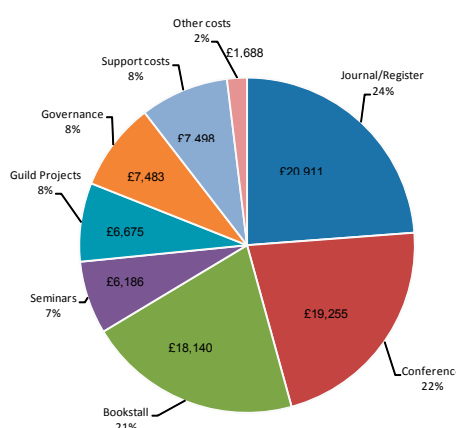
Guild Activities

The Guild is currently considering the introduction of training courses on one-name studies, our archival policy, an expansion of the collection of cardinal points, the level of marketing required to expand the size of the Guild (especially internationally) and the further digitisation of the Guild Library and administrative material. All these additional activities plus our ongoing activities will need to be paid for and the Guild will need therefore to maximise its income.

To demonstrate where our money comes from and where it is spent I have produced two diagrams showing the split for the 2006-07 financial year. In that financial year we incurred a deficit of £6,755.



Guild Income



Guild Expenditure

The greatest demand for our money is in the production of the Guild Journals and the Guild Register and the costs involved in the distribution of these publications. At present the cost to the Guild of sending out four issues of the Guild Journal each year plus the Register is £7.38 (£6.15 Journal/Register plus £1.23 distribution costs) per UK member and £15.10 per international member (£6.15 Journal/Register plus £8.95 distribution costs).

As you can see this means that the cost of producing and distribution such material to our international members is greater than the cost of their membership subscription. The Guild has always had a policy of having a single membership

subscription and the Committee have recently re-confirmed the policy of not having a separate International subscription rate. This is at a time when the Guild is attempting to increase the level of our international membership. However the more members we attract international the greater will be our financial loss.

giftaid it

We therefore need to consider how we can maximise our income. One way is to increase the numbers of our UK members who sign Gift Aid Declarations so that we can maximise our income from Gift Aid. This is especially important as the percentage gift aid we will receive from our UK subscriptions and donations will fall from 28% to 25% in a year's time as a result of the reduction in the basic rate of Income Tax.

By the time you read this article some of you will have received either a letter or an email from me asking you to sign a Gift Aid Declaration or to let me know that you are ineligible or unwilling to sign such a declaration.

There are currently 582 UK members who have not signed Gift Aid Declarations or let me know if they are ineligible or unwilling to sign such a declaration. By the time you read this article I would have emailed 497 Guild members and written to a further 85 members to encourage them to sign Gift Aid Declarations. I am pleased to say that I have already got positive responses from the letters I have sent out and expect many more when I issue the emails.

To put the value of Gift Aid to the Guild into perspective we are currently budgeting to receive £9,000 via Gift Aid this year! Every signed Gift Aid Declaration is important to us. ■



New Source For One-Namers?

Michael Merrigan, FGSI, discusses the possible release of the 1926 census for Ireland.

One-Name Studies in Ireland is often hindered by the lack of census data available to the researcher as unlike Great Britain, Ireland has only two sets of census returns available for research — the ones for 1901 and 1911. These census returns for the entire island of Ireland have been open for public research for over forty years and indeed, through the fine work of the National Archives of Ireland, the 1911 census returns are currently being digitised and made freely available on the internet. After completing the digitisation of the 1911 census, the National Archives plans to commence work on the 1901 census returns and eventually, have this wonderful resource freely available via the internet (www.nationalarchives.ie).

However, the current restriction on public access to the census returns taken since independence stems from Section 35 of the *Statistics Act, 1993*, which provides for a closure period of one hundred years. This hundred year rule is in stark contrast with other western democracies with the exception of the United Kingdom. In the United States, for example, the census returns for 1930 are available online along with those for each of the preceding decades for which census returns exist back to 1790.

In 1993, during the debate on the *Statistics Bill* in Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) and on behalf of the then Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society (now the *Genealogical Society of Ireland*), I urged Senators to reduce the closure period to between fifty and seventy years to allow for the opening of the 1926 census for genealogical research. Indeed, the importance of census returns to genealogy was recognised by Mr. Noel Dempsey, TD, Minister of State, when he introduced the Bill's Second Stage on June 17th 1993.

Opposition Senator, Maurice Manning, put down an amendment at Committee Stage reducing the period of closure to fifty years however this amendment was withdrawn at the request of the Minister who would consider a seventy year closure period. The amendment was not pressed and the Bill finally passed all stages in Dáil Éireann (Lower House of the Irish Parliament) on July 7th 1993. The Genealogical Society of Ireland has campaigned ever since the passing of the *Statistics Act, 1993* for a reversal of this hundred year rule.

Documents Destroyed

The Irish census returns for 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851 were all destroyed in the fire at the Public Record Office in June 1922 at the beginning of the Civil War. Unlike Great Britain, the other census returns for 1861 and 1871 were officially destroyed by the UK authorities in Ireland following the extraction of the statistical data and those for 1881 and 1891 were pulped by the UK authorities during the First World War. The census which was due to be taken in 1921 was abandoned during the War of Independence in Ireland.

Between the 1911 census and that of 1926 was arguably the most turbulent period in modern Irish history, both politically and socially, with the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914, in which circa 49,000 Irishmen were killed and the Easter Rising in 1916 followed by the General Election in 1918 leading to the establishment of the First Dáil in 1919. The Declaration of Independence by the first Dáil on January 21st 1919, a date peculiarly not officially marked in Ireland, was immediately followed by the Irish War of Independence until a truce was declared in 1921. After very difficult negotiations the Treaty with Great Britain was

signed in 1921 which established the Irish Free State in 1922. The establishment of the Free State was greeted by division and a bitter Civil War which finally ended in 1924. This traumatic period in Irish history also was marked by severe economic depression, high emigration and some population shift on the island.

Statistics Bill 2008

Therefore, on behalf of the Genealogical Society of Ireland, I drafted the *Statistics (Heritage Amendment) Bill, 2008* which Senator Labhrás Ó Murchú has enthusiastically agreed to sponsor. It is hoped to have the "*Ó Murchú Bill*" which affords a "special heritage status" to the 1926 census published in the autumn. Many people recorded in the 1926 census were born before the civil registration of births, marriages and deaths began in Ireland in 1864, however, it is entirely likely that every adult recorded in 1926 is now deceased. Though, the ideal solution would be to scrap the hundred year rule altogether for all census returns and replace it with, say a fifty year closure period, we must appreciate the sensibilities that may surround such a proposition. Therefore, the creation of a "special heritage status" for the first census taken since independence should allay any fears for the confidentiality of later census returns.

The release of the 1926 census would be an enormously significant contribution to our understanding, knowledge and appreciation of the early years of an independent Ireland and its people. The "*Ó Murchú Bill*" would provide a wonderfully important resource for genealogy, including one-name studies, not only in Ireland but for anyone researching Irish ancestry and surnames or any surnames associated with Ireland. We wish Senator Ó Murchú every success. ■

One-Name MAIL



Is This A Record?

We GOONS are used to finding our ancestors with a variety of surnames. Below are the number recorded for Frederick, probably my tenth cousin twice removed. He was born in the parish of Hinton-on-the-Green, Gloucestershire, but his family soon moved over the border into Worcestershire. He lived most of his life in the village of Wick near Pershore, where he died, and was buried. I have found him recorded sixteen times in official records, from his baptism, to his burial, and they are listed below. If you count up the number of different surnames you will come to ten.

1828 baptism
1841 census
1851 census
1855 1st marriage
1859 1st child bapt
1859 1st child regist
1859 1st wife's death
1861 census
1862 2nd marriage
1863 2nd child bapt
1863 2nd child regist
1871 census
1881 census
1885 2nd wife's death
1885 death regist
1885 burial

Verinder
Fellender
Fellinder
Felender
Felender
Verender
Verender
Felander
Felender
Felender
Velender
Velender
Vellender
Vellender
Vellender
Vellinder

I claim for Frederick the record for the number of different surnames, unless you know differently.

But, as Juliet put it in Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*,

What's in a name? that which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet.

And, Shakespeare should know, because he spells his name differently each time in all the six known examples of his signature. I am ignoring the argument that they are not his signatures, but those of law clerks, and the more extreme argument that he could neither read nor write.

Stan Verrinder, #1813

Tips from Durham - Data Capture from the Internet

Most of the original presentations and associated notes are still available on the Durham website, and may be reached via the pointers on the Seminar Section of the Guild website.

During this interesting seminar, several more tips were raised. We plan to publish soon a full structured list of all the tips, tools and suggestions that came out of the presentations and discussions. Here is a very brief hint of some of the tips:-

- Use Firefox with AddOn Table2Clipboard
- Use Notepad++ with AddOn HexEditor
- Use Dragnifier
- Change Ancestry Defaults to greatly increase the number of records returned
- Use Google Alerts — Not Google Alert
- Employ Mail Merge to convert outputs to GEDCOM

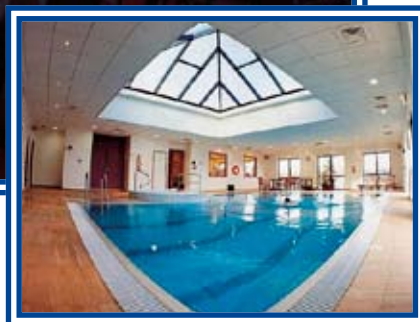
In the NEXT Issue...

- One-Name Surname Searching at the Society of Genealogists
- Mapping One-Name studies with Google Earth
- A comparison of online British census transcriptions
- Erroneous Death Records!
- Poundbury seminar review & much more

The excellent venue for the Guild's 2009 Conference



The Holiday Inn at Peterborough is the setting for the Guild's 2009 Annual Conference, the theme of which is "Pearls Of Wisdom". See page 9 for full details.



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