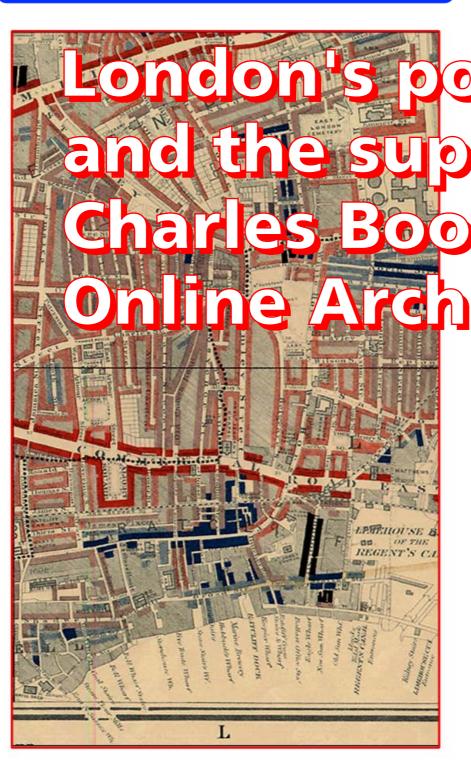
# Journal of One-Name Studies





Online databases set us a new challenge

How indexes have changed genealogy

**Before the Journal** 



100 Top Tips for one-namers – your free supplement with this 100th issue



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**Vice-Presidents Ernest Hamley** John Hebden Alec Tritton

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#### **GUILD OFFICERS**



CHAIRMAN **Peter Walker 24 Bacons Drive** Cuffley Hertfordshire EN6 4DU 01707 873778

chairman@one-name.org



Paul Millington **58 Belmont Street** Worcester Worcestershire **WR3 8NN** 01905 745217 vice-chairman@one-name.org

**VICE-CHAIRMAN** 



**SECRETARY Kirsty Gray** 11 Brendon Close Tilehurst, Reading **Berkshire RG30 6EA** 0118 941 4833

secretary@one-name.org



**TREASURER Cliff Kemball** 168 Green Lane Chislehurst **Kent BR7 6AY** 0208 467 8865 treasurer@one-name.org



**REGISTRAR** Roger Goacher Springwood **Furzefield Road East Grinstead** W Sussex RH19 2EF 01342 326663

registrar@one-name.org



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



#### **Guild information**

#### Sales

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

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

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To e-mail a message to the forum, send it to:

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A LIST of Regional Representatives of the Guild in a number of UK counties and overseas can be found on the inside back cover of this Journal. If you are interested in becoming a Regional Rep, please contact the Regional Representatives Co-ordinator, Sandra Turner (address and phone number on the inside back cover).

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A review of the greatest advance in family history in 25 years by JOHN HANSON

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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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Why the Guild adopts the position it does on the thorny topic of partial one-name studies

elcome to this 100th issue of the Journal. When the Guild first started in 1979, it issued Newsletters once a quarter, but in 1981 we progressed to publishing the Journal and now, 25 years on, we have reached the 100th issue.

Many changes in format and content have occurred over the years and the present Journal has a professional feel in line with leading commercial the genealogical magazines, thanks to the skilled editorship of Roy Stockdill. It has twice won the Elizabeth Simpson award from the Federation of Family History Societies for the Journal making the best contribution to family history. We hope you enjoy this bumper edition with its special features.

The celebrations don't stop here. With our next Journal, we intend to issue a CD with the entire digitised contents of the original eight Newsletters and all 100 Journals, together with an up-to-date catalogue of what's in the Guild Library and Guild e-Library. So even if you are a recent member, you will be able to own all the Guild's Journals over the 25 years. All these files will be fully searchable.

#### **Partial studies**

Earlier this summer there was a vigorous Forum debate about a topic which keeps recurring and is a frequent subject of correspondence with the Guild. Members were discussing the challenges of one-name studies, where the Guild's rules for registered studies require that they are worldwide in scope and time. Many felt that this represented

such a major challenge that it must discourage people from registering their studies. Why couldn't the Guild agree to register partial one-name studies? Or perhaps keep a secondary list of unregistered studies? This might be an appropriate moment to put the Guild's position on this topic on the record.

#### Limited

In 1979 the Guild's founder's were very conscious that if you limited a study to a small area or timeframe, all you were really doing was an extended form of family history. How large does the area or timeframe have to become before you can draw broad conclusions about the name? Our founders saw the distinctive feature of a one-name study being that it addresses the name across all places and all times.

Had I limited my personal study of Hollier to the UK, I might have concluded only that the name "might have had French origins" and, therefore, misrepresent the situation in the USA, where the vast majority of Holliers have proven descendancy from 18th century immigrants from Nantes and, importantly still pronounce the name in the French way ("Ol-yeah").

Perhaps the most important point is that the intended output of a one-name study is rather different from that of normal family history research. In my personal research, I may seek to identify all my direct ancestors and their collaterals and it is important that I prove the connections up and down the generations, as the pedigree is a key output of my work.

#### **Objectives**

One-name studies don't have the same objectives or outputs. It is not necessary to link all your "named" people into pedigrees, although we probably all try hard to do this, especially for our UK families in the 19th century where the census evidence is now so easily accessible. But the Guild doesn't see pedigrees as an essential output of a one-name study. Rather, we see the outputs as being to understand:

- The origin of the name or early references.
- The name's meaning is it patronymic, topographic, toponymic, occupational, etc., or a mix of these?
  - Relative frequency.
- Distribution in geography and time.
- Patterns of immigration and emigration.
- Name variants and deviants and how such changes occurred over time, geography and other circumstances.

To achieve these goals, it would simply not be feasible to restrict one's study to, say, a particular county.

It is worth reminding everyone of the agreement all members

### "Compared with when the Guild was founded, collecting data from the key countries around the globe is no longer a major burden"

enter into when they register a study with the Guild:

- 1. You must agree to collect all references to your registered sumame(s) on a worldwide basis, and strive towards the goal of establishing a substantial body of worldwide data, in particular for countries where the name is relatively significant and where sources are readily available. A study restricted to one country, part of a country or the descendants of a particular individual does not meet our criteria.
- 2. You must agree to deal with all reply-paid enquiries and emails that you receive relating to your registered surname(s).

#### **Exclusivity**

We only allow one person to register any given name, so, in return for this exclusivity, the member takes on these balancing obligations. The issue that most frequently concerns members is the phrase "collect all references/ on a worldwide basis". Many would say: "But I can't afford the time and money to collect all the references in all countries of the world'. And what do you mean by "all" - when do I know I've collected 'all' references - even in the UK? To answer these questions, there are three important points to make.

Firstly, the Guild provides the clarification that "all references" doesn't mean every reference to every person; it means collecting all references you come across. Some will come to your attention by other people providing them to you, others will come from your programme of data collection, while yet others may be discovered through the serendipity of searching the web. In other words, you collect references both on a passive and active basis.

Secondly, as regards active data collection, we recognise the

real challenges in collecting some forms of data across the globe. The UK is fortunate in having BMD indexes that cover all of England and Wales and others for Scotland and Ireland. No similar nationwide indexes exist for many major countries, including the USA and Germany.

So the Guild recognises that in working towards the goal of collecting a "substantial body of worldwide data", this should be interpreted in the light of identifying those countries of the world where "the name is relatively significant and where resources are readily accessible". Unless you know your name is well-known in Peru, we wouldn't expect anyone to try to search out vital records in that country on a speculative basis.

Thirdly, the Guild puts no timescale on when you should complete your data collection. In truth, none of us can ever say we have finished our study! So, while the Guild does not recognise partial or limited studies, we accept that all studies are, in varying degrees, incomplete.

The Guild does expect everyone to start as they mean to go on – by taking a worldwide view of their study. Indeed, we now give recommendations on what data should have been collected before you contemplate registering a name and this includes "a survey to establish the size of the proposed study, the countries that will need to be considered and relevant surname variants".

We do not recommend that data collection is done one area at a time. Some people have asked: "Why can't I just start collecting data in Suffolk and work outwards later?" The answer is that this is not compatible with the worldwide approach, since you are expected to collect, even passively, any references you come across from anywhere in

the world. Limiting your early collection of data to one area will not assist with gaining the insights about the name that were referred to above. Collecting Suffolk references will not assist locating the origin of the name if it was actually in Norfolk.

Compared with when the Guild was founded in 1979, collecting data from the key countries around the globe is no longer a major burden. Even if you never leave the UK, anyone can collect USA references from the 1880 census index, as well as the Social Security Death Index and, of course, the International Genealogical Index.

This will give you a useful insight into the distribution and occurrence of the name in the USA and point to ideas for more detailed later study. Similar online data exists for Australia and many other countries. Our member David Hawgood provides excellent guidance on sources on his website. See... www.hawgood.co.uk/global/

#### **Threefold**

Given the above, you might well comment: "OK, I accept the Guild's position on registered studies, but it still doesn't answer why the Guild can't list partial studies and other unregistered surname studies?" The answer to this question is again threefold: practical, philosophical and legal.

On the practical front, while all registered studies meet the same criteria, there might be a wide range of types of partial studies, e.g. those studying the name in one country, one region, before or after a given date, descendants of one particular branch (e.g. Mayflower descendants) or one excluding obvious name variants (e.g. Collyer but not Collier).

This might require a lengthy description of the scope against (Continued on page 27)

#### Proposing a new Guild resource

# How online databases set a new challenge for the Guild and its members in the future

MAJOR ANNIVERSARY is a good time to take stock and examine how family history is changing and what it means for us as researchers. Even though I've only been a GOON for about one quarter of this Journal's span, my breath is taken away by the changes I've witnessed during that short period – and the pace of change shows no sign of slowing down.

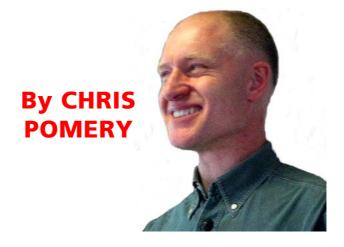
The fundamental shift that has altered the genealogical landscape is the explosion of online data. A decade ago I started dutifully transcribing Pomery entries in the St. Catherine's House registers (as they were then known), until, that is, I met Guild member Tony Pomeroy who, bless him, had already done the entire series. The time I saved by hooking up with Tony more than covered the cost of my Guild subscription for many years to come!

Today, if I was starting that same research exercise, I'd find that half of the work has already been done by FreeBMD; the rest will likely be available online within a few years. Today, a single subscription to Ancestry allows me to transcribe, and sometimes download images, of (so far) seven national censuses of England and Wales. It seems hard to believe, but the first online census, the 1901 created by the then Public Records Office, went live even more recently than 9/11. Buried in a box I still have the LDS's collection of 1881 CDs, no longer looked at and destined eventually for eBay.

#### **Definition of a GOON**

If we're now working in a world where the key, large-scale datasets are easily available, has that changed the definition of a GOON? I think this is happening and that the changes will lead us away from defining ourselves based on what data we are collecting and towards of the level of information we have created and how much of it we have published.

In my project I think of myself as engaged in the process of surname reconstruction, of creating the history of a surname in the same way that a local historian might undertake a parish study or explain the chronology of a particular institution or building. Having a great deal of data at my fingertips has made that a more feasible target than it could have been a decade ago. Yes, a lot of online data is inaccurate, but correcting those errors, as well as filling in the gaps created by my use of complete sets of online records, is the area where I now focus



"Even though I've only been a GOON for about one quarter of this Journal's span, my breath is taken away by the changes I've witnessed during that short period."

my skills as an historian.

In many ways I wish I was starting out on my surname project today. I'd have the chance from scratch to create family trees working back from 1915, the current limit of most FreeBMD records, and then the key census data in reverse order back to 1841. As a second stage, in a few years' time, I'd be able to link to post-1915 BMD data with phone number data from BT and electoral roll data — even better if I could access more the complete roll data that was published up to a few years ago — to build up a list of living surname-bearers. After marrying these two sets, I would have a comprehensive picture of trees in England and Wales from the present day back to 1841, and all from my desktop.

#### **Errors**

Of course, I am following this same basic process within my surname study in any case, though it operates as a process to check the existing trees that the study already holds and then to expand them. As a result, in practice I find that more and more of my time is spent resolving errors in trees that were put together in some cases a decade or more ago.

That is not to criticise the researchers who created them – they could only work with the data that was available to them at the time – but the dangers of making assumptions based upon incomplete data

are still reverberating within the study. And now I've added a DNA project, which aims to verify genetically every tree that has a living male descendant, to this mix. Early results queried many of the long-held trees, much to their owners' consternation, but the process, while a bit painful at times, is gradually clarifying the wider picture of all the trees within my surnames.

My focus on publication may seem premature to many readers – and, believe me, I know how you feel. When I took over Tony's project on his sad death in 2002, I felt overwhelmed. Unless I could find a way to accelerate the research process – to lead it actively rather than waiting for other researchers to submit their own trees – the project would never be completed.

Fortunately, we already had around 200 members paying £10 a year, an annual income equivalent to 285 BMD certificate purchases. Switching our quarterly newsletter from paper delivered by post to PDF via email has saved almost nine-tenths of the old format's costs, most of which money is now reinvested in DNA test subsidies and certificates. By 2006 we've reached a stage where the certificates I buy are able to resolve only relatively small linkage issues because the larger questions have already been answered, and where more than 90% of present-day name-bearers belong in a tree where at least one male has been DNA tested.

#### **Data flood**

The flood of data from three sources - online databases, purchased certificates and DNA results over the past five years has had a huge impact on the shape of my study. As before, it's characterised by a small number of relatively large trees: what's changed is that these are today around two or three times larger than they were a few years ago. At that time I had only one tree approaching the 500 mark; now I have seven families above it, the two largest approaching the 1,000 mark. As my study is tracking only around 2,000 living UK name-bearers and perhaps 18,000 in British history, that's a major change. Tony's tree, for example, has more than doubled in size - how I wish there was a way to show him and to congratulate him on the accuracy of his own research.

The database system I'm using produces lots of useful statistics that help me target different aspects of the project, but a key one is the number of trees whose members have been found in a particular census. This figure is surprisingly consistent across that 60-year span: between 80 and 90 trees. Most of these are quite small, fragments of larger trees where the link has yet to be confirmed. As selective

certificate-buying whittles those ambiguities away, my guess is that in 1841 there were actually fewer than 40 Pomeroy trees, perhaps as few as 20, in existence. That figure is not quite plucked out of the air: only 45 trees at present have members found in all seven censuses.

Whilst there will always be some unanswered questions, and while eventually the knowledge gained per new certificate will make it seem extravagant to buy them, the project is approaching a new and exciting stage: the reconstruction of the key trees back to 1841 with only a small percentage of post-1841 records left unattached.

#### Parish research

Once this is done, I can then concentrate on detailed parish level research to trace the 1841-era trees back to their origins, and on the much more challenging tasks of tidying up the loose ends of emigration and the unexplained, unlinked records.

At this point I can feel the furrowing of readers' brows and mutterings under the breath: this is what we're all doing, so what's new? And you would be right. However, what has changed is the environment that we are working within.

I think it is now very easy for any family history researcher to upgrade from simply uncovering their own family tree to embarking on an extended study of an entire surname. The mass of available data is such a huge temptation when most surnames are quite rare. I regularly come across people doing, in effect, whole surname studies and who have never heard of the Guild. And now that there is virtually no barrier to entry to starting a surname study, I think their numbers will rapidly grow. As Susan Meates has pointed out, the same is true of genetic genealogy, only six years old but already spawning tens of thousands of surname-based DNA projects, only a few of which are run by Guild members.

I think the changes I've outlined have implications both for the Guild and for us, its members. It seems to me that in the next 25 years we will define ourselves less by how much data we're collecting, or the geographical scope of our study, and more by our progress towards publication.

#### Duty to publish

Initially this worried me a bit, but after a while I've got used to it and it seems less frightening. In 2004 I enrolled in a one-year undergraduate level course in local history, branded by Oxford University and delivered via the internet. One of the strong messages that came from my group's tutor was that the duty of the historian is not to research but to publish. I had been enjoying pottering around with

"In the next 25 years we will define ourselves less by how much data we're collecting, or the geographical scope of our study, and more by our progress towards publication."

### "There are already websites where you can upload a PDF file and customers can order it printed out as a physical book."

my own study for several years, but his strong injunction was a wake-up call for me and I realised that I'd been putting off thinking about publishing my results for almost as long as I'd been working on it — "I'll wait until FreeBMD is done/until I've got each family back to 1841/until the next reunion". Take your pick of which excuse to use!

Within my own study I'm trying now to pack away my excuses for not summarising our results, even though I know they will later be revised. The last newsletter of every year is now a kind of an annual report on the status of the key family trees in the study. Every year I expand it by a number of pages, and my hope is that in a few more years' time it will have become a substantial document. And I'm really looking forward to reducing the project to a small number of very large trees, which will make the task of writing up their social histories much more stimulating.

If publication seems daunting, one advantage is that the barriers are coming down in that area, too. There are already websites where you can upload a PDF file and customers can order it printed out as a physical book. This will become mainstream just as soon as a firm such as Amazon decides it can make money from it.

The extremely rapid development of blogs – which are basically individuals' online diaries — will doubtless have suggested to Amazon that authors don't need to be well-known to sell well, particularly as there is no penalty in helping unsuccessful authors as there is, literally, no stock for the company to hold.

#### **New Guild project**

So, if the environmental changes I've described are under way, what would I like to see us, as Guild members, do to benefit from them? Publication is an individual decision, so let's put that to one side. What I am sure about is that collectively we're sitting on some potentially very interesting comparative surname data.

If we started to pull that together, I think we could build up a resource that would be unique to the Guild, as only its members currently have the data ready to create it. It seems to me that this resource will be crucial in defining the purpose of the Guild in the years ahead.

What I have in mind now is to suggest a potential Guild project that would seek to generate a range of comparative surname data based on members' project results and which could be made available to us in summary form inside the members' room on the Guild website. This could address such questions as...

- At a very basic level, for example, does the name we study look as though it has a single origin in time and space or link back to multiple founding ancestors?
- If we classify our surnames, e.g. those named after an occupation compared to those named after a location, are we able to see if any patterns emerge between the different types of surname?
- Do Yorkshire-origin names behave statistically in the same ways as Cornish-origin ones?
- Do surnames found with similar frequencies in the UK have the same dimensions in terms of the number of family trees they support, or can they be very different?
- Are many surnames getting smaller and can we identify the reasons (apart from the obvious one!) why some surnames decline whilst others increase?

Within studies, too, there exists a lot of potential data. With a near-complete tree picture for my surname, I'm able to generate figures for queries ranging from the number of emigrants per decade leaving our shores to the mortality rate in certain occupations. I've also got data about the reliability of those online data sources (including a list of the dozens of variant renderings of my study's four surnames). The value of any of these statistics grows if I have the results from other studies – your study — to compare them with.

I'm curious to know whether these thoughts resonate with other members. I know that the Guild is ready to support new Guild projects, so if anyone would like to help me to define the kind of comparative data that we might collate please do email me at pomeroy@one-name.org. I don't want to try to prescribe standards of research, but I expect we'll be able quite quickly to work out what kind of comparative data we would find it useful to each to try to create.

With that in mind, I'm hopeful that at a future anniversary we'll look back at this starting point and remind ourselves that we've put together a major new Guild resource that has made membership of the Guild even more attractive to newcomers.

CHRIS POMERY
Member 3400
Slough Enterprise Hub
Thames Valley University
Wellington Street
Slough
Berkshire SL1 1YG
pomeroy@one-name.org
freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/
allpoms/sitemap.html

# How indexing altered the face of genealogy and one-name studies forever

HE ORIGINAL IDEA for this article was to write about census indexes but, in letting it muse over in my mind over a few weeks, I have decided that possibly the greatest advancement in the last 25 years as far as one-namers are concerned is indexes themselves.

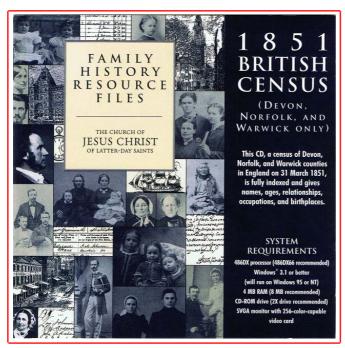
I appreciated that indexes have been around for

many years – in fact only a couple of months ago I went through the entire 160 volumes of the Lancashire Parish Register Transcription Society in book form. However, each of these covers only a small period in time and is very localised.

Many family history societies and others have been producing indexes for as long as the Guild has been in existence, but many of the early ones were only produced in book form. They also tended to be for very small areas – none of the massive indexing projects that we see today.

#### **Microform**

Many went on to produce their material in microform, and some still do. But do these early forms of indexes make them any less useful? Admittedly, you are not likely to go and purchase the entire 160 volumes for Lancashire mentioned above, just on the off-chance that one of your study



The 1851 3-counties CD, forerunner to the 1881

may be in it. You are more likely to if they produced the entire set on CD at a fraction of the cost. However, unless your name is centred in that area you are still less likely to buy.

The advancement of modern-day indexes started with the advent of the computer age. Many societies were involved in those early days and used the

> computer, with its ability to store the material and manipulate it, to help produce the indexes that were still sold in other forms, but it did allow for fewer steps in the process and, therefore, less chance of errors.

The production of an index by the old typewriter and slip processing method could theoretically produce up to errors in 18 stages, but the computer means that this is almost eliminated. However, we are all human and I suspect that the number of indexes that are 100% error-free are very minimal, bearing in mind that in many cases what we are reading is open to interpretation.

In an ideal world, we would all like to have had the 1851 census, produced by most family history societies as one of their first projects, being produced to a standard format. But I suspect that if you had put the 50 project leaders in a room to agree, we would still have been waiting when the first was finally produced! That having been said, these were no small tasks for many of the societies and in some areas I suspect that some still struggle.

#### **Breakthrough**

**By JOHN** 

**HANSON** 

The real initial breakthrough, I believe, came with the release of the International Genealogical Index (IGI and the forerunner to FamilySearch) by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in the mid-1990s. Mind you, these days it is becoming more and more difficult to find it, but it is still to my mind one of the easiest ways of extracting the material for your one-name study.

The next major advance was the release, again by the LDS, in 1998 of the 1851 three-counties census index of Devon, Norfolk and Warwickshire on CD-ROM. This, of course, was the forerunner to the 1881 census – in its time probably the single largest project undertaken by volunteers. I have heard many argue that this must be good, as it was produced by English family historians, but it is a flawed with errors as any other index.

However, it was the advent of the 1901 census going online in 2002 that produced the single,

greatest advent for family historians – and onenamers in particular. It proved, albeit six months late, that major indexes could be put online to enable anyone in the world to access them. Whilst FamilySearch had been online for a number of years, it isn't complete and always left one wondering where your missing ones still were.

There was also the fact the publicity of the 1901 meant that the subject of family history was brought into the minds of many who had thought about it, yet done nothing.

The press at the time made it look easy and the popular BBC television series Who Do You Think You Are? has done little to help. In some ways it has made matters worse, with many thinking that it is easy and wondering why they can't do it all on the Internet. But the Internet is not always the solution to our problems. There are many valuable indexes produced by family history and other organisations and companies. But are they of any value?

#### Coverage

From a one-namers point of view, this is partly answered by the area of coverage of your study. But how many of us can say that the ancestors of their one-name study never moved outside their major county? Until the 1860s my own study was almost all in Suffolk, with the occasional move maybe into Essex or London. Then in the 1860s one of them decided, on the death of his wife, to give up as an Ag Lab and moved to Yorkshire to become a miner!

Having got the marriage certificate of his second

marriage in Yorkshire and found where they were living at the time it was a long slow process of working through the microfilms for the area trying to find them. I'm not sure if your lot were like mine but they were always on the last film in the set!

Since the release of the 1901 we have seen a massive increase in the number of census indexes online. You can now access all of the 1841–1901 censuses via **Ancestry.co.uk**. But is their indexing good? As many who have been involved in indexing know, speed and money aren't everything. What every true one-namer wants is accuracy and, therefore, the ability to find your missing ancestors.

You can, of course, now also access the 1841 and 1871 indexes via the Origins Network and the 1841, 1861, 1871 and 1891 from 1837Online. But even that isn't the limit. You can also access indexes and some transcripts from The Genealogist website. Some family history societies have also put their indexes online with FamilyHistoryOnline, a subsidiary of the Federation of Family History Societies.

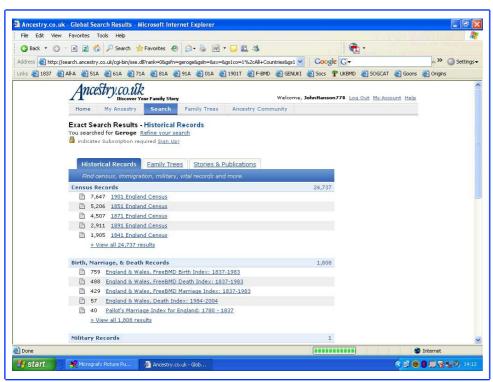
We would all like the information to be free – but take some time to think about the cost of transcribing an entire census. Even transcripts undertaken by family history societies cost money in the fiche or photocopies that you work with, or the volunteer's time. It all needs to be costed in a project. It is estimated that at the present time the cost of putting an entire census online is about £2 million.

That is not to say that one should ignore the family history society indexes. They are often created with more local knowledge and, therefore, one could argue are better – but are they?

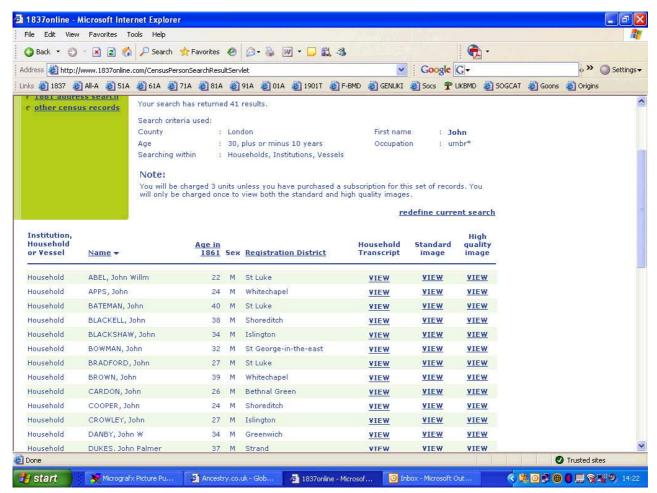
If you are lucky enough that your study never moved out of a county, then buying all the indexes for that county may be better value for money. One of the best I have seen is from the Oxfordshire Family History Society of the 1871 census, which came with a full transcript and a set of cleaned images.

Compare that with the index to the 1851 census for Yorkshire that I saw recently from S&N. You can only enter information in three fields: surname, first name and age range, and not the birthplace. And you have to enter information in at least two fields, including at least three letters of the surname. You cannot simply enter a surname alone and find all occurrences, which is of little use to the majority of one-namers.

In fact, the only way to obtain all occurrences of a



Results of a search on ancestry.co.uk for the first name of GEROGE, a deliberate mis-spelling. All the images consulted by the author revealed the name was actually George – but with Ancestry requiring three characters to be entered, searching can be a problem



The power of the search engine at www.1837online.com is revealed by looking in London for everyone with the first name John aged between 20 and 40 with an occupation that started Umbr\*

particular surname for your study is to enter the name and then make many "passes", collecting lists of people in age groups covering a maximum of 10 years by using the parameters +l- 5 years – a laborious process. Indexes of the type of the S&N 1851 index for Yorkshire may be very useful for finding individual ancestors, but are not particularly user-friendly for one-namers.

Chris Pomery says that he never uses his 1881 Census CDs, but I still do. With them installed on the hard drive, it is still easier to play with the word lists – something you can't do online, and it can be useful in finding those elusive or funny ones.

No index is ever perfect but we all expect a certain amount of checking and flexibility in the search facilities. Ancestry, for example, insist that you enter three characters before you can enter a wildcard yet it is a known fact that many errors occur in the first two letters.

On the other hand, with 1837Online you can enter a wildcard as the first character. If you have lost an ancestor try mis-spelling the first name – some common examples are Geroge, Willaim, Sarha, Jonh, Jospeh.

Try to avoid as well specifying male or female – if you don't believe me look at female Williams or Johns or even male Sarahs and Marys! Yes the odd one is going to be correct but not many! Remember

that an index/transcript is only as good as the people who created it and the thought that went into the whole process in the first place. Yes we are going to see an increasing number of indexes to major datasets going online in the next few years. Ancestry are due to release the start of WO363/4 – the burnt documents for soldiers from WW1 - at the end of 2006 with completion in 2009. 1837Online has BT27 – Outbound Passenger List from The National Archives - going online at the end of 2006, with completion in 2007).

But we should not let them get away with sloppy indexing. If you had trouble finding something and find it incorrectly transcribed, complain and ask for it to be corrected in the next release.

I am going to end on a controversial note. Why are the people at FreeBMD continuing with a project that will be superseded at the end of 2008 with the release of DOVE (Digitisation Of Vital Events) which will completely re-index the GRO indexes. including age at death, spouses' surnames and mothers' surnames all from 1837)?

Surely their efforts would be better spent in looking at other projects. A recent e-mail I saw was trying to find transcribers for FreeREG, a similar project to FreeBMD but with parish records – to my mind a much better project, but in some ways even that is flawed.  $\bigcirc$ 

## Before the Journal – looking back to the Guild's early days and its first Newsletter By President Derek Palgrave



BEFORE the Journal of One-Name Studies existed, the Guild had a publication as a means of communicating with members and bringing them news of Guild activities and one-name studies. This was the Newsletter, founded in January 1980.

Compared to today's Journal, it was a very simple and basic production. However, it played a vital role in the early days of the Guild and, in this specially commissioned article to mark the 100th issue of the Journal, our President, DEREK PALGRAVE, describes the content of those early Newsletters and pays tribute to the early Guild pioneers who produced them and wrote articles for them.

ITHIN THREE months of the inaugural meeting of the Guild, in September 1979, the 200 or so founder members were reading their first Newsletter. The first issue was dated January 1980. It had been compiled by Frank Higenbottam, with some help from David Rose. It comprised 10 A4 pages which had been reproduced using a duplicator by Fred Filby in one of his bedrooms.

It featured a formal message from Fred, the Guild's first Chairman, expressing his delight at the



Pipe-smoking Frank Higenbottam, the Guild's first Editor

positive response from this group of active one-namers. He even suggested that if the number of enquiries continued as they had started, it might be possible to envisage a future situation with a nominated family historian for each and every surname. He also noted that there were almost as many facets to the methods being employed by the members as there were different surnames which they were studying. This meant that vir-

tually everyone had plenty of valid experience to share with colleagues.

#### **Family bulletin**

The choice of Frank Higenbottam as Editor was influenced by the fact that he had been producing the Higginbottom Family Bulletin since 1970. He had always stressed that when people wrote to him with specific queries he felt that it was important to respond with comprehensive answers. In many instances he found he was writing the same infor-

mation to several people, so he started his Bulletin to avoid having to repeat himself. More often than not he was then able to send copies of relevant Bulletins to his correspondents with a simple covering note. In time, the Bulletins became the established means of communication.

From this experience, he had gone on to draft a pamphlet entitled *Running a Family History Bulletin on a Shoestring*, copies of which were eagerly sought after during the 1970s. It seemed natural to serialise this in the first five issues of the Guild of One-Name Studies Newsletter, together with other substantial articles contributed by members. In addition each issue contained reviews of books and journals, especially those published by members, reports, notices and, most importantly of all, readers' letters.

The diagram below gives a very approximate breakdown of the content, based on the actual numbers of items included in the eight issues of the

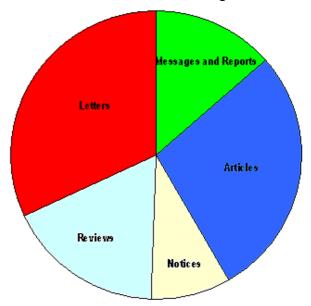


Figure 1 – content breakdown of the eight Guild Newsletters published in 1980 and 1981

Newsletter published during the period January 1980 to October 1981.

Articles, reports of lectures and letters on the actual process of Starting a One-Name Study were much in evidence. For instance, Michael Walcot described how, inspired by his grandmother's remark about the possibility of blue blood, he went off to Birmingham Reference Library where, among many other sources, he found a copy of the Walcots of Walcot, some collections towards a history, which mentioned his grandfather and great-grandfather.

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#### ONE-NAME STUDIES THE GUILD OF NEWSLETTER

Member of the Federation of Family History Societies

Chairman and Acting Registrar: Frederick N. Filby 15 Cavendish Gardens Cranbrook, Ilford Essex IG1 3EA

Hon. Treasurer: Sydney Brewin 23 St Catherine's Rd. Hayling Island Hants.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Pauline A. Saul 37 Seven Star Road Solihull, W. Midlands B91 2BZ

Editor: Frank Higenbottam, BA, FLA 25 Glenside Avenue Canterbury, Kent CT1 1DB

Assistant Editor: David Rose 8 Clover Rise Whitstable, Kent CT5 3HA

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is with a mixture of gratitude, anticipation and pleasure that I send you this message of welcome and goodwill in the New Year of a new decade in this, the first issue of the Guild's own Newsletter.

The gratitude is for the positive response of the two hundred from a total of three hundred "One-Namers", who were invited to become founder members of the Guild. Such active support reflects the enthusiasm that exists for our particular style of researching and recording family history and may it bring the reward it deserves.

The anticipation arises from the continuing flow of enquiries for and about membership of the Guild, which encourages hope for the ultimate objective of a family historian for each and every surname......

The pleasure has come, not only from finding that there are so many others with whom I share this fascinating hobby, but also from the discovery that there are so many different ways of pursuing this mutual interest in helping those whose common link is a particular surname.

Through the pages of this Newsletter it'is hoped that from now on you too will discover the satisfaction of finding some things new and something shared. It is your Newsletter and I am sure our Editor will be pleased to have your suggestions, comments and contributions.

FREDERICK N. FILBY

#### LEICESTER WEEK-END CONFERENCE

The Guild is organising a week-end conference on one-name studies at the Grand Hotel, Leicester, on Saturday and Sunday, 23-24 February 1980. The Conference fee is £2.00, evening meal on Saturday £6.50, accommodation - single room (with bath) £14.50, double or twin room (with bath) £20.50, including service charge, VAT and continental breakfast. English breakfast £2.00 extra. Anyone interested in the subject of one-name studies is welcome to attend. Write to the conference organiser, John K. Marfleet, 4 Robotham Close, Huncote, Leicester LE9 6BB for fuller details (s.a.e. please). Cheques to be made payable to "Guild of One".

Name Studies - Leicester Weekend".

Figure 2 – the cover of the Guild's very first Newsletter, dated January 1980. At the bottom of the page it advertised one of the earliest Richard Crimp of the LDS who conferences in Leicester. Note the prices: conference fee £2, £6.50 for explained how to glean even more an evening meal and £14.50 for a single room, £20.50 for a double!

Very soon he and his brother had enough data to bring the details of their branch up to date in the form of a 25-page booklet. This was soon followed by the publication of a regular bulletin.

Another member, Arthur Tickner, emphasised the need to establish the likely dimensions of a onename study before making a start on a mammoth research programme which, in the longer term, might prove impracticable. Although seven or eight Tickner births per quarter seemed quite reasonable,

it was still important to devise a manageable recording system, which he described. This was a recurring theme also addressed by Ann Chiswell, who advocated compiling a personal card index from civil registration Indexes, a system adopted by many of us at the time.

References to the use of computers in this context were rare, although Michael Dalton, who was involved with computers professionally, contributed an article on The Computerisation of a Family Tree. He pointed out that not only was it possible to generate trees but, perhaps more importantly, it was a very convenient way of storing and retridata without becoming overwhelmed by mounds of paper.

#### LDS data

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the LDS) had already travelled along this route by accumulating data from its members on a large computer in Salt Lake City. This had been sorted and made available in microfiche form known as the Computer File Index (CFI). In an article in Newsletter No 7 Fred Filby describes how he was introduced to this revolutionary resource during a visit to Salt Lake City in 1975. He was so impressed that he made arrangements with the LDS. to acquire a copy of the CFI - subsequently renamed the IGI) covering 32 million references originating in the British Isles. He presented this to the Society of Genealogists in 1976 where, linked to a reader printer, it soon became indispensable. Within a year or so, similar facilities had been installed by many other societies and record offices.

Fred's article was followed up by from the IGI, including details of the individual who submitted specific

data. He pointed out that the person concerned might indeed be a distant cousin, so there was considerable merit in making direct contact. He also referred to the method of coding surnames to link phonetic versions or variants.

The question of variants had already generated several articles and letters, including W. E. P. Broom's survey of versions of his surname which, as he noted, varied markedly from county to county and indeed from country to country. He had uncovered a

very wide range of examples in printed sources, including surname and place name dictionaries, quite apart from original documents.

Wilf Hodgkinson was prompted to compare the frequencies of the different versions of his surname. In telephone directories he found five different variants of which Hodgkinson represented 96%. Another correspondent suggested that there seemed to be a reasonable case for compiling a comprehensive Index of Surname Variants by date and place, in order to discern some general principles.

Many readers were keen to exchange views on how best to make contact with other bearers of a given surname. In Newsletter No 4, James Hodson described how he had circulated personal letters to individuals listed in telephone directories but had been disappointed by the response, even when he had taken the trouble to enclose SAEs. He wondered if sending out a general questionnaire would have been more effective.

In Newsletter No 5, Clifford Bratt responded, detailing the way he had tackled this issue based on several decades of experience. In his opinion, it was best to use a letter to introduce yourself and then seek an opportunity to meet your correspondent. For him, personal interviews had yielded a great deal more information than any other method.

Arthur Inch felt that approaches by letter could be effective but the actual text of the letter (specimen included) was crucial. His letters always offered copies of the family tree on request – this usually guaranteed a reply. However, Henry Dorrell observed that those people who declined to reply to letters often were more than happy to converse at length on the telephone.

#### **Reunions**

Clearly, the process of contacting others is essential if one is contemplating holding family gatherings, accounts of at least two appearing in the Newsletters. Muriel Reson organised a three day event for the Copplestons in Devon during the Spring Bank Holiday weekend 1981. This involved visiting churches, chapels, churchyards and stately homes associated with earlier generations.

An event in similar vein, arranged by John Marfleet a couple of years earlier, was reported in Newsletter No 2. This was a week's coach tour of towns and villages in Lincolnshire with strong Marfleet connections, including, of course, the village of Marfleet itself. In addition to visiting churches and churchyards, the itinerary included Lincoln Cathedral, the County Record Office where Marfleet documents were on display and the premises of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society, where the visitors were treated to a splendid reception.

The Editor was keen to give every member an opportunity to express his or her views so the pages of the Newsletter were not entirely free from controversy. John Heygate-Browne in Newsletter No

5 was of the opinion that the future of the Guild, as it was then constituted, was bleak because its Executive Committee was not truly representative of the membership.

He considered that those with the power to effect change were unaware of the interests and needs of the main substance of the membership. The Guild should operate as a true cooperative, with experienced members providing advice, and resources being made available to assist members with printing, publishing and record keeping.

Another issue which attracted a great deal of attention was the categorisation of membership. In Newsletter No 4, Iain Swinnerton made it clear that he thought Category E, which applied to members whose interests in a specific surname were limited to a specific geographical area, was not acceptable. He felt the Guild should encourage its members to study all instances of a given surname and its variants

His views were largely supported by Chris Barrett, Pauline Litton and Douglas Hamley. However, the point was made that the novice in one-name studies was unlikely to have compiled sufficient data to be in a position to claim a world-wide knowledge of a registered surname, in which there might be a case for categorising such an individual as an apprentice. Furthermore, the criteria for Category C were somewhat arbitrary and needed to reflect familiarity with a wider range of more appropriate source material including the IGI.

#### Relevant

Many of these topics, which were first drawn to our attention in the Guild Newsletter, are still relevant today because the basic tasks that we face are essentially the same. Compiling and recording our data, sharing it with others, publishing our findings, arranging gatherings, etc. remain important components in our one-name studies.

Technology has offered us many changes in the way we tackle our research so it is all the more important to take advantage of the advice now offered by our colleagues in the pages of the Journal, as it celebrates its 100th issue.

However let us also pay tribute to that small group of pioneers who launched the Newsletter and effectively laid the foundations for the Journal, which now has become one of the most outstanding publications in our field. 

O

DEREK A PALGRAVE
Member 103
Crossfield House
Dale Road
Stanton
Nr Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP31 2 DY
palgrave@one-name.org
(Guild Chairman, 1981–1987)

### webwatch internet sources for one-namers

# Take a long, slow, careful look at the magnificent Charles Booth Online Archive website

HOSE OF YOU who have been reading my articles must have realised by now that I have London ancestors – so much so that I can reliably trace my father's line through nine generations in the East End.

There's nothing so remarkable in that, I suppose, as many of us will have a connection with the

millions of people who, over the centuries, have made the trip to "The Smoke" and stayed. It's still happening, of course. But the geography is more than incidental. It has had a profound effect on my family and its fortunes, and it's this that has led me to dig into more detail about the place.

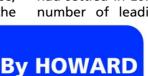
In this Webwatch, I want to introduce you to a website that, although not directly relevant to tracing family history, is a fascinating – and sometimes ghastly – reflection of life in the late 19th century for the London poor. If, like me, your material comfort can sometimes make it difficult to properly understand the circumstances of your ancestors, I recommend you take a long, slow, careful look at the magnificent website, the Charles Booth Online Archive at: http://booth.lse.ac.uk.

#### **Entrepreneur and philanthropist**

Charles Booth was born in 1840, the son of a successful Liverpool corn merchant and, with his brother Alfred, set up Alfred Booth & Company, initially dealing in skins and leather. Their interna-

tional trading, particularly with Brazil, later took the company into activities such as steam shipping. Charles proved to be a highly effective businessman and became very wealthy.

But Charles was not just another "fat cat". At the age of 25, he'd failed in his attempt to be elected as the Liberal candidate for Toxteth, but the experience of canvassing door-to-door in this rundown area of Liverpool had



BENBROOK

left a profound impression on him and he developed a deep sense of social responsibility.

When he was 31, Charles married Mary Macaulay, niece of the historian Thomas Macaulay. Mary was unhappy living in Liverpool and by 1875 the Booths had settled in London. Their social circle included a number of leading activists concerned with the

social problems of the day and Charles became equally involved. By 1886, following an inquiry into poverty the year before which indicated that up to 25% of the people of London were living in extreme poverty, Charles resolved to create his own survey. This

great work, titled *Inquiry into the Life and Labour* of the People in London, was to keep him occupied until 1903 and is a model of socio-economic enquiry.

#### The survey

The survey was extensive and was divided into three broad areas: poverty, industry and religious influences. I don't have space in this article to cover all of these aspects, and so I will focus on the section that is most relevant: the inquiry into poverty.

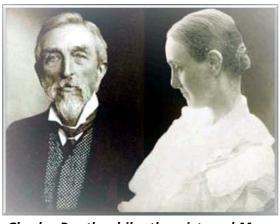
Eight distinct classes of poverty were identified in the survey. Here's the full list as originally stated in Booth's own words...

#### **Booth Classification – description of class**

• A. The lowest class which consists of some occasional labourers, street sellers, loafers, criminals

and semi-criminals. Their life is the life of savages, with vicissitudes of extreme hardship and their only luxury is drink.

• B. Casual earnings, very poor. The labourers do not get as much as three days work a week, but it is doubtful if many could or would work full time for long together if they had the opportunity. Class B is not one in which men are born and live and die so much as a deposit of those who from mental, moral and



Charles Booth, philanthropist, and Mary

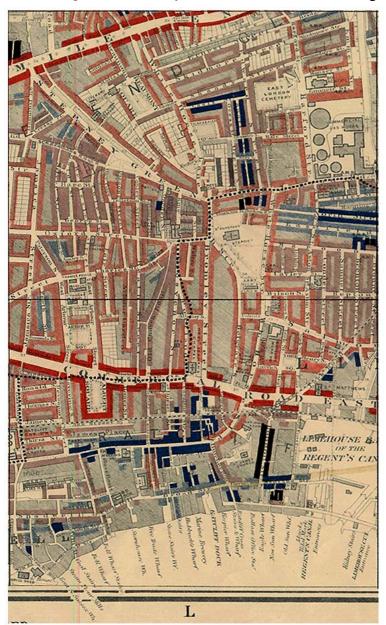
physical reasons are incapable of better work.

- C. Intermittent earning. 18s [shillings] to 21s per week for a moderate family. The victims of competition and on them falls with particular severity the weight of recurrent depressions of trade. Labourers, poorer artisans and street sellers. This irregularity of employment may show itself in the week or in the year: stevedores and waterside porters may secure only one of two days' work in a week, whereas labourers in the building trades may get only eight or nine months in a year.
- D. Small regular earnings, poor, regular earnings. Factory, dock, and warehouse labourers, carmen, messengers and porters. Of the whole section none can be said to rise above poverty, nor are many to be classed as very poor. As a general rule they have a hard struggle to make ends meet, but they are, as a body, decent steady men, paying their way and bringing up their children respectably.
- E. Regular standard earnings, 22s to 30s per week for regular work, fairly comfortable. As a rule

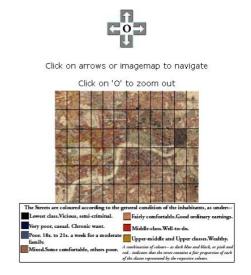
- the wives do not work, but the children do: the boys commonly following the father, the girls taking local trades or going out to service.
- F. Higher class labour and the best paid of the artisans. Earnings exceed 30s per week. Foremen are included, city warehousemen of the better class and first hand lightermen; they are usually paid for responsibility and are men of good character and much intelligence.
- G. Lower middle class. Shopkeepers and small employers, clerks and subordinate professional men. A hardworking sober, energetic class.
  - H. Upper middle class, servant keeping class.

#### **Interviews**

To apply these classifications, investigators conducted interviews with School Board visitors and accompanied policemen on their beats; they interviewed factory owners and workers and trade union representatives; they interviewed ministers of religion and their congregations. Four-hundred-and-



Charles Booth's map showing Ernest Street in 1889

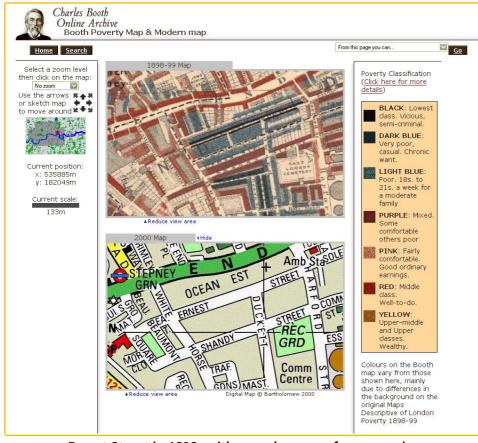




Explanation of colour coding

the street contains a fair proportion of each of the classes represented by the

respective colours.



Ernest Street in 1898, with a modern map for comparison

fifty of the original notebooks survive and are a wonderful resource for reading the background into social conditions (see later).

Perhaps the most evocative illustration of Charles Booth's work is in the maps. The first edition, the

maps. The first edition, the Descriptive Map of London Poverty 1889, originally covered the East End in one sheet but was then extended to four sheets sheets in 1891 to cover an area from Kensington in the west to Poplar in the east. You can gain access to a digitised version of this map at this University of Michigan website:

#### http://www.umich.edu ~risotto/home.html

The basic idea behind the maps is a simple one: each street is colour-coded according to the social standing assessed by interviewing School Board visitors. This map and the ones that followed introduced a slightly different, seven point scale which summarised and slightly overlapped the eight classifications, above. The first maps worked on the categories shown in the chart (previous page).

Ten years after the first map, Charles Booth published a revision: Map Descriptive of London Poverty, 1898-9. This time the investigators walked the streets of London accompanied by a local policeman, recording their impressions. It is these maps, and the notebooks that are their source, that form the foundation of this website.

My grandfather was born in Ernest Street, a short road running parallel to the Mile End Road, in 1894. If you look very carefully at the 1889 map (previous page) you might just make out Ernest Street very nearly at the top of the map. The houses are coloured a sort of muddy reddish purple which, if my interpretation is correct, means that the street is "Mixed. Some comfortable, others poor". But left is how Ernest Street looks when dis-

played on this website using the later 1898 map:

You should be able to see where Ernest Street is by the comparison with the modern map in the lower half of the window. It doesn't take a socio-



Kensington in 1898 and with the modern version – not much change!



Contents >

The Charles Booth Online Archive is a searchable resource giving access to archive material from the Booth collections of the British Library of Political and Economic Science (the Library of the London School of Economics and Political Science) and the University of London Library.

The archives of the British Library of Political and Economic Science contain the original records from Booth's survey into life and labour in London, dating from 1886-1903. The archives of the University of London Library contain Booth family papers from 1799 to 1967.

- Introduction and guides to the archives
- Poverty maps of London: Browse or Search
- Purchase the Poverty Maps of London
- Inquiry into life and labour in London
  - Search the catalogue of original survey notebooks
  - Browse the digitised police notebooks
  - Browse the Stepney Union casebooks and Jewish notebooks
- · Booth family papers
- Contacts

The Charles Booth Online Archive has been funded by the <u>Research</u> Support Libraries Programme



Winner of the Multi-Media and Web category, CILIP / Emerald Public Relations & Publicity Awards 2002.

All material © London School of Economics & Political Science unless otherwise indicated.

<u>Library Home</u> | <u>Archives Division</u> | <u>LSE Experts</u>



#### Home page of the Charles Booth Online Archive website

economist to recognise that Ernest Street has dropped a rung or two on the social ladder. Indeed, on Charles Booth's scale it's gone down three rungs, right to the bottom: "Lowest class. Vicious, semicriminal". Ouch! By contrast, take a look at the screenshot (previous page) which captures the area around Knightsbridge in 1898. So, not a lot of change there, then!

#### **Searching the Site**

The opening page of the website is very straight-



Search the Map screen

forward and is shown above. Let's say you've found an entry in the 1901 census and you'd like to know more about the area. To find a place on the map, select the Search link for *Poverty Maps of London*. This takes you to a page with some simple choices (image below, left).

Here, you're faced with a decision: does your 1901 street still exist? If it does, then you should be able to select the *Streets in 2000* link and be taken to this page to enter your street name (below). If a street by that name no longer exists, I'd recommend



Modern Streets page

you to consult a contemporary map of the area to estimate its position (available, of course, from the Guild Bookstall!) and then use one of the other options to find your street. Once you've successfully focused on a street, you'll be faced with one more choice (below):



Street Found screen

Selecting the link *View on map* takes you to a page like the one with the two maps shown on page 17, from which you can explore by moving position and zooming to the detailed level you need.

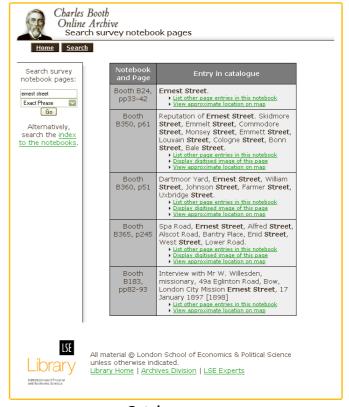
#### The notebooks

But there's a little goldmine lying behind the maps – the notebooks which were used as the source of the information. Top right is the page displayed if you click on the other link, Search for in catalogue, once you've found your street: Notice the second entry that begins: "Reputation of Ernest Street...". One of the links, Display digitised image of this page was too much to resist. It is shown below, right.

Here's an extract from the right hand page concerning Ernest Street: "...now much worse, 2

storied ho[uses], rough class, several unfortunates and criminals living in the street. Shd be dark blue to black, dirty children at play [my grandfather?], litter in street, pieces of bread, etc. children setting fire to paper, one little girl crying for no apparent reason, till its mother found its petticoats smouldering".

And, as if this uncomfortable description isn't enough, the investigator has made a note on the left hand page, also: "A sergeant in the police station of whom I asked, which was the worst street in the sub-division [Stepney], said he thought

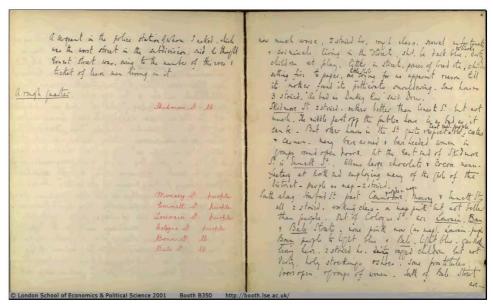


Catalogue page

Ernest Street was, owing to the number of thieves and ticket of leave men living in it". Oh dear. Oh dear, oh dear!

For someone born in a stately home (but that's a completely different story), this took me a bit of time to get used to. But my grandfather was not alone. As a result of his detailed poverty survey, Charles Booth estimated that 30.7% of Londoners were living in poverty in 1891 – was your ancestor one of them?

If you have ancestors living in London in the 1890s – and there were millions of them – you just have to take a look at this website. I thoroughly recommend it.  $\bigcirc$ 



Notebook describing Ernest Street

## Upcate what's now

Your guide to what's new in the Guild world

Four-star hotel in Hampshire is the venue and ...

## "Location, Location: Where to find and how to use lesser known sources" is the theme for 2007 Guild Conference

By Kirsty Gray

NBELIEVABLY, it's nearly six months since the last Guild Conference and AGM and

ence and AGM and already it's time to think about the next one.

The school summer holidays have been a good time to try fine tuning the programme of speakers for 2007, though the venue has been booked for a long time. Next year's conference will have the theme, Location, Location, Location: Where to find and how to use lesser known sources. It will be held over the weekend of Friday–Sunday, April 13 to 15.

The venue is the four-star Hampshire Centrecourt Hotel near Basingstoke. With two indoor swimming pools, five indoor and four outdoor tennis courts, gym, fitness studio, sauna and spa offering beauty treatments, this is a conference venue like no other. Comfort and style

runs through the hotel, from the bedrooms to the lounge areas, and the hotel is conveniently located close to many attractions.

The Hampshire Centrecourt has benefited from a fantastic extension and refurbishment of its facilities, with improvements including 40 additional executive bedrooms (all non-smoking), making a total of 90 rooms, so make sure you book early to avoid disappointment.

#### **Booking form**

A booking form is included in the package with this issue of the Journal. Many of the rooms are double or twin and, therefore, the booking form shows two prices – one for those sharing a room and one for single occupancy. Please do ensure that you write on the booking form WHO you want to share with (unless you really don't mind!).

There is a wide programme of

lectures. including popular speakers and leading genealogists, as follows: Kathy Chater on Black Ancestry; Pamela Horn on Records of pupils in Victorian elementary schools; Alan Ruston, Dr Williams Library; Maggie Bird, Metropolitan Police Records: David Bartram on Postcards to tax returns; Paul Blake, the India Office Library and records; and Nick Barratt, who will be talking about Behind the Scenes on Who Do You Think You Are?

Hopefully, there is something for everyone in the programme and, if nothing else, it's a good time to get together with other Guild members, share stories, ideas, experiences over a drink of your choice.

I am sure we will see some familiar faces, but I look forward to meeting more Guild members at the conference. Please complete the booking form as soon as possible, as I am sure places will be snapped up quickly!



The Hampshire Centrecourt Hotel



The lounge area

### Presentations of high quality at Halsted Trust Seminar in Worcestershire

By Gordon Adshead

ONLY DECIDED to attend the Introduction to One-Name Studies Seminar at the Hundred House Hotel, near Worcester, on Saturday August 19, at the last moment, but found it exceedingly worthwhile.

This seminar, which runs annually, is sponsored by the Halsted Trust with the prime objective of introducing the Guild and the subject of one-name studies to potential members. In practice, out of 25 attendees only three were non-members. However, the four presentations were of the highest quality and provided good information for all.

#### **Changing scope**

I would recommend any member to attend one of these seminars every three or four years, as the scope and perspective of one-name studies is constantly changing.

Alec Tritton set the scene with a broad and comprehensive introduction to the subject, covering, among other things, the workings of the Guild, the categories, the various benefits of membership, basic tools and methods and the mysteries of Marriage Challenges and the Guild Marriage Index.

Derek Palgrave then gave his very interesting talk on *Variants* and *Deviants*. He discussed a very wide range of ways in which a surname can be mis-spelled, mis written, mis-pronounced or just evolved over the years.

A pleasant buffet lunch followed, which gave opportunity to meet old and new friends. Monica Bush was running a small bookstall. Polly Rubery demonstrated her study material on her laptop and it was interesting to see her long rolls of trees printed with the aid of Excel. The Halsted Trust display board had also been recently refurbished with several interesting case studies of elusive Halsteds.

Geoff Riggs' talk was entitled *The Apprentice*. What came over was the sheer enthusiasm of chasing up every aspect of references to one's surname, focussing on his study of Riggs: everything from purchasing ill-fitting "Riggs

Jeans" on e-Bay to putting together the three-dimensional jig-saw puzzle of BMDs, censuses, parish records, vital records, wills and data from all sorts of websites. Geoff illustrated his talk with many screen shots of the databases and file structures he uses to put the data into some sort of order.

John Hanson gave the last presentation to describe the work of the Halsted Trust. Things have moved on considerably since I last heard a similar talk three years ago. John gave the reasons why the structures and methods of documenting the Halsteds had been completely revised and demonstrated many of the data files which are now very much influenced by the recent Ancestry releases.

#### **Exemplar**

To some extent, the Halsted objective is to come up with an exemplar of how to manage a large one-name study and I very much hope some written specifications will be produced. My only regret on the day was that there was not enough time to compare and contrast his work with what Geoff Riggs had presented.

Following a tea-break, Alec Tritton chaired an open forum. Most of the discussion concerned the pros and cons of the proposed move of The National Archives out of the Family Records Centre.

In summary, this was a well organised event, but clearly the Halsted Trust and the Guild need to be more co-ordinated on how to advertise and reach a larger audience. I entered into some email correspondence to help one of the non-members who had greatly enjoyed the event and was very interested to join the Guild, but found herself rather bewildered by the wealth of acronyms and jargon used. I found myself agreeing that there would be great merit in producing some summary handouts.

Nevertheless, many thanks to all concerned who were involved with this seminar.



## Excitement of spotting a famous name during a Marriage Challenge

OMMENTS made by Challengers continue to impress me. The thought of spending hour after hour examining films of marriage registers may not appeal to everyone, but Challengers are finding delights amongst the records that add to their interest and remove any tedium.

In a registration district where one particular one-name is popular, the Challenger begins to get a feel for the family, with brothers and sisters sometimes marrying into the same family. Partners die and the widow or widower remarries. You begin to get a picture of the family tree.

Another familiar occurrence is for the groom and the bride's father to have the same occupation, so you begin to imagine the scene. "After work, John, why not come back with me, and have a bite to eat. Our daughter Mary is a fine cook".

Another excitement occurs when a famous name jumps out of the page at you. "Is this the real Charles Dickens or a namesake?" One who was the real person was found recently in the Pancras Repeat Marriage Challenge. This is the marriage of Richard D'Oyly Carte to Blanche Prowse on August 24 1870 at St John the Baptist, Kentish Town (entry shown below). Richard D'Oyly Carte was, of course, the impresario and theatre manager who promoted and produced the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, later to form the D'Oyly Carte Production Company.

From the Prowse expert
Page 2

among our members, I learned that Blanche's father Richard Prowse, in conjunction with Robert Keith, founded the Keith Prowse empire with one of their first kiosks selling theatre tickets at the Savoy Theatre, not surprisingly run by Richard D'Oyly Carte.

Coincidentally, it appears that Richard's sister, also Blanche, married Thomas Monnington at St Andrew, Haverstock Hill, St Pancras in 1873, another marriage sought by one of our members and now found.

Marriage Challenges mencing in the coming months are given in the table. If you would like to request a search for your marriages (registered names only) send the details from the GRO index (1837-1911) either by e-mail or to the Challenger's postal address given in the Guild register. Also, keep a watch on the Guild webpage for Marriage Challenge as further Challenges are announced. I am now aiming to update the webpage regularly early in each month.

For more information on Mar-

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Vather's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Fath
3	August 24th 1870	Rich and Hoghy Carte Blance Julia Pornose	26	Machelon Bachelon Spinster	NESE NEL CONTROL CONTROL	2. Darsmath P. D. Strond Green	Richard Carke William Armse	Mesical Instrument Maken Music Palei
	riage (Rich	and Dufy Carle		in the Presence of us,	THANK TOOLS	Established Church, by Laco	lune or etter	by me

Registration District	Deadline for Requests	Challenger	Challenger's e-mail	
Hoxne	31 October	Sam Block	samblock@btinternet.com	
Winslow	5 November	Graham Taylor- Paddick	francs2000@yahoo.com	
Oxford (Repeat)	10 November	Sue Hedges	sue.hedges1@btopenworld.com	
Worthing / East Preston	30 November	Colin Ulph	colin@ulph.fsnet.co.uk	
Thanet	1 December	Shelagh Mason	sam1@cant.u-net.com	
Wayland	1 December	John Pepperdine	john@robertpepperdine.free serve.co.uk	
Thetford	1 December	John Pepperdine	john@robertpepperdine.free serve.co.uk	
Mildenhall (Repeat)	1 December	Sandra Stevens	sandra.stevens@btinternet. com	

riage Challenge, what it comprises and how it works, see the article in the Journal of October–December 2005.

Anyone who would like to become a Challenger, or would like to know more about what it involves, please contact me on: -

marriage-challenge@onename.org

> PETER COPSEY Marriage Challenger Coordinator

### Seminars update...

THESE are the seminars the Guild Seminar Subcommittee has arranged for the next two years...

COMPUTER SEMINAR
November 25 2006
Venue: Montague Hall
30 Montague Road
Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1LD
You are invited to hear an
overview on keeping records.
This will be followed by how
four one-namers keep their
records in various programs,
pointing out the advantages
and disadvantages of their
methods.

PUBLICATIONS SEMINAR
February 17 2007
Venue: Bletchley Park
Wilton Avenue, Bletchley
Milton Keynes MK3 6EB
The programme will consist of
three lectures on publishing a
book, newsletter and on the
web and a question and ans-

wer session. The fourth lecture time will be taken up with a tour of Bletchley Park or, for those who aren't interested, a chance to chat.

DNA SEMINAR
May 19 2007
Venue: The Nuthall Temple
Community Centre
Nottingham Road, Nuthall,
Nottingham NG16 1DP
We are attempting to obtain
the services of Guild members
who have undertaken DNA
studies to speak at this seminar
and inform us of their
progress.

SERVICE RECORDS SEMINAR August 18 2007 Venue: The National Archives, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DU We have obtained the services of some specialist speakers and there will also be opportunities to undertake a behind the scenes tour of The National Archives. Overseas members might wish to note this event for their summer visit!

COMPUTER SEMINAR
November 17 2007
Venue: Essex Record Office
Wharf Road
Chelmsford CM2 6YT

NAMES SEMINAR February 2008 Venue: Solihull Methodist Church Hall Station Approach Solihull B93 8JE.

PALAEOGRAPHY SEMINAR May 2008 Venue: TBA

PRACTICAL COMPUTER SEMINAR August 2008 Venue: TBA

> ROD CLAYBURN Seminar Subcommittee Secretary

### No to Guild ONS by Peter Copsey

IN THE April edition of the Journal I put forward the suggestion of a collaborative one-name study undertaken by the Guild itself. A more common name would be selected, one that could attract publicity and hopefully make those interested in genealogy more aware of the Guild and our objectives.

It would require many volunteer members who would need co-ordinating and directing. I asked members to give me comments, not just ideas for the name to be selected, but views on the proposal as a whole.

The suggestion lead to a flurry of messages on the Guild Forum which has led to the Guild Committee looking at the proposal in greater depth and to assess the likelihood of a successful project.

The majority of the Forum messages were about the best

name to select and a wide diversity of names were put forward. Several would have resulted in too small a study or a study that would have required concentrated effort in one part of the country. Two acceptable names were popular, Churchill and Spencer (as in Princess Diana), the latter being a Committee suggestion.

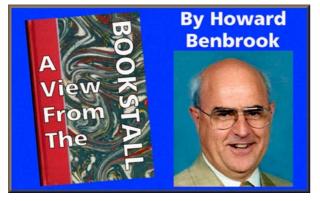
However, those messages that discussed the purpose, the merits and the likelihood of success were more valuable to the Committee. Comments were made that members were engrossed in their own study and could see no direct benefit to them in a collaborative study, so there could be reluctance to donate time to it. Only two members made definite offers of help in such a study.

The purpose of the study was another topic discussed. Some considered that the purpose should be to set a standard for an exemplar study, making the publicity value secondary. The

Committee were also not of one mind and uncertain whether any demonstration of good practice, suitable for incorporated into a future Guild book, is knowledge not already available. Were we really going to learn anything new? The time-scale was another matter. A study that extended over many years may not be so attractive as one where early milestones can be set.

Lastly, the Committee looked at the effort needed to manage the study. It seems unlikely that a volunteer would be found for such a daunting task. Overall, the Committee, although they could see several benefits in a collaborative study, were wary of the risks involved in undertaking such a project. Last, but not least, was the problem of finding a study manager who could devote enough time to it.

Therefore, the Committee has decided not to proceed at the present time but will keep the idea in mind for the future.



# Guild reputation is spreading and we are looking to new horizons

HE VIEW from the Bookstall seems to stretch to the horizon this time. We've been seeing an increase in Guild co-operative action, our reputation has never been higher and the commercial suppliers are investing in online resources that will make the access cost per source cheaper than ever. It's great to be part of it all. Or is it just that time of year?

I had a really good time at the fair that was part of the recent family history conference in Northampton, *Putting Flesh on the Bones*. It marked the start of the "season" and we did good business, which always gives me a lift. But – and I think this is important – we met a lot of people who wanted to know a lot more about us. Was it my imagination? Had someone spread the word?

Our reputation seems to be moving up in the world. I even heard the word "professional" mentioned. What do you think? Send me your opinions – email address at the foot of this piece. I can only say that my throat needed a really good holiday afterwards; all offers considered, a warm climate preferred...

#### **Future of the Bookstall**

I've been thinking very seriously about the Bookstall recently. Those of you who read these mumblings of mine will know that it's important to me that the Bookstall makes a contribution to the Guild. For me, there's not much point unless it does. And let me be plain – by "contribution", I mean what other people call profit, a means by which we can make forward investment and help the organis-

ation deliver more. It doesn't matter if the organisation is commercial, or a not-for-profit charity – both need to generate cash for the future, and that's what I'm trying to do.

So – given that you know there's something in it for the Guild, what would you, the members, my most important customers, like to see from the Bookstall? Would you like me to stock a wider range of products? I've been emphasising things like data CDs and software, but would you prefer me to offer a wider range of books?

I can tell you that the return from books is not significant and that the most important cost to the Bookstall is in unsold stock, but if you want more books, then tell me. Or maybe I should be going further into software sales? Either way, I'd be interested in your views.

#### **Guild deliveries**

These thoughts have been motivated by a prosaic consideration: I will need to replace my car in about a year. The car, you have to understand, that I bought knowing that I would be using it for the Bookstall. I've got less than 12 months to consider the alternatives. I could hire a van:

well, yes, it's more expensive (than driving my car into the scrapyard?), but it will have more capacity and, in theory, the increased income could offset the increased costs. This always assumes that I buy the right products in the first place! Or, just maybe, we could buy a second-hand van (Howard's fantasy is to become a white van man! – Editor).

On the same theme, I think I'm approaching the point where I should create a web-based outlet for the Guild Bookstall, equipped with shopping basket, secure credit card authorisation, PayPal account and the rest. But the key question is: would you be tempted to buy? Your response to the address below, please.

#### Heat is on

Looking back at my article in the last issue, I'm tickled to see that things are really heating up in the competition for your online business. In the last issue, I used the subject of census vouchers to compare several suppliers and suggested that competition would bring about plenty of change. In just a few months, 1837online has announced they'll be launching the 1841 and 1871 censuses and introduced a subscription scheme, GenesReunited



How a Guild Bookstall van might look

has quietly slipped the 1851 census on to their site and they're dropping hints that they may lower their inflated 75p per page, British Origins have tried to tempt you with free access for a day (only to come a cropper demand overwhelmed when them - sound familiar?) and I had a whisper from Ancestry that there's a large UK archive on its way which sounds like it will be very useful for one-namers. By the time you read this, who knows what may have changed?

#### **Marriage Challenge**

These Marriage Challenges are really addictive, aren't they? I love helping people with their family reconstructions in this way, but I also get a real buzz out of doing it. Have you taken advantage and put in your requests yet? Because you're missing out if you don't! And there's no need to feel guilty because you won't be able to return the compliment you can always show your appreciation with a contribution to Guild funds. How about 50p per marriage found? That's a pretty good deal against £7 for a full GRO certificate when the information is identical.

#### **Cardinal points**

I think we're getting closer to the realisation that we'll have to get these cardinal points organised. For those of you new to this, the term "cardinal point" is used to refer to the pair of marriages that took place in a church (or other marriage place) at the beginning and end of each quarter. By matching these marriages against their entry in the GRO Indexes, it's possible to determine the range of pages used to record each church and therefore find that marriage at the local County Record Office – thus saving £7.00.

I use cardinal points to support my Marriage Challenges and I've personally assembled a substantial number of them covering several East End registration districts – I think it's now over 9,000 entries – and I know that there are other members who have done something similar.

The data has been submitted for inclusion in the Guild Marriage Index, so Guild members have free access, but this information deserves to be made more widely available. If I can extract a few pennies for providing the information from the Guild Bookstall, then the Guild will benefit. If you have any opinions on the matter – or if you have some cardinal points you'd be willing for me to include – then get in touch.

#### Seasonal touch

I thought I'd have some fun with some graphics software in a spare moment and came up with this (below): I could probably make it up into a tasteful Guild Christmas card and get some



Guild's seasonal logo?

printed off. Is there any interest out there? Let me know and I'll get some prices together. Oh – and in case, I don't see you before then, a Happy Christmas!

#### Royal Mail all change

I've had to do a lot of work to bring you the Bookstall Price List this time (pause for violins). You can blame it on the Royal Mail who, desperate to maintain a position akin to their previous monopoly, have changed the way they charge for postage.

We all have to consider the size and thickness of our mailing now, as well as the weight. So-ooo...please consult the Price List carefully before you buy. Actually, some of the prices come down with this new regime, so maybe this is just the right time to make that longed-for purchase, with

Christmas coming soon? Time to talk to your loved-ones, perhaps?

#### Where we're going

By the time you read this, the Guild will have been represented at: York Family History Fair, GRO Open Days in Southport, the Open Days for Kent FHS, Bucks FHS, Hants GS and West Middlesex FHS in Maidstone, Aylesbury, Horndean, and Hampton, the Guild Seminar in Worcestershire and the family history conference in Northampton.

And then, we're off to:

- Hastings & Rother FHS Fair Hastings, Sun, October 8
- Eastleigh FH Fair, Eastleigh, Hants, Sun, October 15
- Oxon FHS Research Open Day Kidlington, Oxon, Sat. October 21
- Cheltenham FH Fair Cheltenham, Gloucs, Sun, October 22
- Doncaster FHS Open Day Doncaster, Sat, October 28
- Aintree FH Fair Liverpool, Sun, October 29
- Scarsdale FH Fair Chesterfield, Derbys, Sun, October 29
- West Surrey FHS Open Day, Woking, Sat, November 4
- Guild Computer Seminar Hounslow, Middx, Sat, November 25
- Wimborne FH Fair, Wimborne, Dorset, Sun, November 26

As usual, I need to thank all those selfless people who've helped me in the past months behind the Guild Bookstall. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone, but the roll of honour this time includes: Jim Filby, Ron Woodhouse and his wife Gwen, Susan Atkins, Cliff Kemball, Victor Medlock, Richard Heaton, Barbara Harvey and a special thank you to Michael Bunting for running the Bookstall at the Guild Seminar in Worcestershire.

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



# Registrar's Notes by ROGER GOACHER

#### NOW is the time to start thinking about backing up your one-name study before it's too late!

HY DO we do a onename study? There are many different reasons why Guild members start an ONS, but why do we continue to collect worldwide data from any new sources we hear about?

Why do we continue to try to build family lines and find the corroborative evidence to support suppositions? Why does our Study become a life-long obsession for many of us?

We wouldn't continue with our study if we didn't enjoy it, but I think for most of us there is a wider purpose. We believe we are carrying out valuable work to gather information about our name, not only for others currently linked to our families, but also for future researchers.

If this is so, then it is important that we carry out our ONS to the highest standards and ensure the preservation of the material we collect for the future.

Recently a Guild member asked on the Forum why the Guild hasn't formulate "best practice" standards for carrying out an ONS. Don't need to – we've already got them!

The Guild Committee supports the standards for genealogical research formulated by the American National Genealogical Society. These are printed in the Guild Members' Handbook and are displayed on the Guild website at www.onename.org/members/

#### article ngs.html

Most of these Genealogical Guidelines are obvious – record the source of data; seek original data sources; use index and transcriptions with caution and as a finding aid to original material; don't distribute inaccurate information and acknowledge the use of other researchers' work.

However, one guideline struck me as particularly interesting in the light of recent experiences: "Recognize the collegial nature of genealogical research by making the work available to others through publication, or by placing copies in appropriate libraries or repositories."

"Ensure that your nearest and dearest know what you want done with your study material, should the proverbial bus arrive a little earlier than expected."

Although the wording is somewhat Americanised, I think it could be summarised and expanded as "Recognize the need to store safely and disseminate your genealogical research."

We may lodge parts of our data in the Guild Archive or the Marriage Index to make it available to others. We may have a Guild Profile or our own website to encourage others to contact us about our Study. But is all our ONS data safely held for the future? If we hold much of our information on a computer, we back up regularly – don't we? But do we store the back-ups safely? We recently heard of a

member who has had to give up his study because he had a computer crash and his back ups were corrupted, too – the majority of his data gone!

I can't think how many times I have said to my wife, "When I've got time I'm going to sort out my study. I am going to digitise and label all the odd photos hanging around. I am going to ensure my contact file is up-to-date. I think I had better copy all the B/M/D certificates I have collected over the years and perhaps have them digitised.

"I must sort out the odd notes hanging around of data to find, leads to follow-up and places to visit. Oh, and one day I am going to sit down and write up comprehensive notes about the work done and areas still to explore – perhaps even write a book.

"But first I must sort out that problem with Reuben's family, and there are those odd Goachers in Kent that don't seem to fit in anywhere, and...". Does that sound familiar?

Well, by the time I get round to this list of jobs it might be too late. Another member has recently given up his study because he had a disastrous house fire and all his ONS material was destroyed. He wrote: "It took me so much time and effort to build up the information that I haven't the will to make a fresh start". Unfortunately, it could happen to any of us.

So what can you do to guard against such a catastrophe? If you have significant amounts of ONS data on your computer,

back it up TODAY and give a copy to a friend to store in case you should ever need it.

Even better, send a copy to the Guild Librarian; label it as an interim back-up; you can always ask for it back in the future or send him a more up-to-date copy periodically. Think about all the information you hold that isn't computerised. Is it vital to a full understanding of your one-name study? If so, plan to digitise it or copy it and deposit the copies somewhere safe, just in case.

#### Respite

Perhaps it is time to take a short respite from collecting or processing data and do a little housekeeping on your study. Not the most exciting job in the world, but necessary sometimes.

Finally ensure that your nearest and dearest know what you want done with your study material, should the proverbial bus arrive a little earlier than expected.

To end with a more cheerful case study, one of our long-standing members, now in his 80s, decide to do something about his ONS data whilst still able. Over the last few months he has been copying all his paper information and sending folders of the copies for safe keeping with the Guild.

He has nearly finished his selfimposed task and wrote: "It is such a great relief to me to know that my 56 years of research will survive my death, as I have no confidence that my executors would have the faintest idea what to do with these papers and they would most probably be dumped.

"It would break my heart if that should happen, and I gain such peace of mind to know that all those years of hard, diligent and costly work will be saved for posterity."

I will be more than happy if I can emulate this member's foresight. My interim disc is on its way to the Guild Librarian. What about you?

#### Chairman's Column Continued from page 5...

each name. There might be several such partial studies for a given name. If the Guild supported such secondary registration, we could not provide any guarantee of how helpful a study owner might be to external enquirers.

Since there would be no exclusivity, we could not expect any return obligations. Indeed, they might not reply at all. This could then have negative consequences for the Guild's reputation.

Also, some secondary registrants might feel they have a right to stop anyone else registering the name, either as a primary registration or as another secondary one.

Finally, at a practical level, the complexity is not one that anyone seems to be willing to take on – the Registrar has a large enough job to do already.

#### **Unfortunate**

At a philosophical level, we feel that any recognition of such partial studies would give out an unfortunate signal to members and the genealogical world as a whole. It might seem to give equal recognition of partial and full one-name studies and might cause many members to opt for partial studies to begin with.

Registering or listing partial studies would probably end up being no different from other surname interests lists – yet there are many places where you can already register your surname interests, including county family history societies, Genuki, Rootsweb, Cyndi's List, British-Genealogy.com and County-surnames.co.uk, to name just a few.

From the legal perspective, the Guild's governing constitution requires all our activities to relate to one-name studies, defined as being "research into the genealogy and family history of all persons with the

same surname and its variants". To deviate from this key requirement could put our charitable status, and the valuable Gift Aid we earn, at risk.

So, in conclusion, I encourage all registered-name members to ensure that you are taking a worldwide approach to your study.

When I was judging the Guild web award last autumn, I was disappointed to see some websites that made no reference to the name outside the UK. Yet many of our non-UK members have made significant efforts to collect data from the UK

#### **Committed**

It's not hard to start collecting worldwide data and nobody is expecting as much depth as in countries with such good civil registration as the UK. But we do reaffirm that the Guild is committed to a worldwide approach to one-name studies.

Some of you might be disappointed at this policy. In truth, the Guild can only do what a majority of its Trustees can agree on – and this topic brings forth various shades of opinion even on the Committee.

#### Interest

Let me stress, however, that you don't have to register a name to be a member of the Guild. The Guild welcomes as members all those who have an interest in one-name studies, even if you don't feel able to undertake a registered study at present.

Even if the Guild doesn't keep a list of the other names you are interested in, you can always add them to your web Profile Page – as I have done!

This has been a rather longer Chairman's Column than usual, but I thought this topic was worth giving a full explanation of Guild policy. I hope you enjoy this special 100th edition of the Journal.

PETER WALKER Chairman

#### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Guild members fly the flag at Australasian Congress

By DAVID EVANS, South-East Australia regional representative

EVEN GUILD members were amongst 280 delegates who attended the 11th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, was held in Darwin, Australia, from June 1-4.

Congress is held every three years under the auspices of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) and is sponsored by one of AFFHO's member societies. Australasia? No, it is not a misprint, as Australasia includes Australia and New Zealand and AFFHO is the main genealogy body for both countries.

The Guild members in Darwin are pictured in the photo on the back cover of this Journal. They were, left to right: Lily Baker (NZ), Garry Stubbs (NT), Helen Smith (Qld), David Evans (Vic), Pam Herrington (Vic), Andrew Peake (SA), Sherry Irvine (Canada)

#### Remote

Darwin is the capital of Australia's Northern Territory and is a remote location. To give you some idea of the distances we had to travel, it is 3500km from my home in Melbourne. That equates to almost five hours flying time each way (and an airfare of almost \$800 or £320), although it was worth every penny to escape Melbourne's winter and spend some time in Darwin during its Dry Season.

We Australian members (and, no doubt our Canadian and American colleagues, too) smile when we hear our British Guild members talk about the difficulty in getting to Guild events. Put in a British perspective, it was as if six of our Guild members lived in

Cairo and went to London for the Congress!

The theme of Congress was "The Access Revolution" and, as the title implies, many of the presentations by the 29 speakers related to the explosion of information available to modern researchers and how to make best use of that information. The programme included old favourites like Michael Gandy from England, David Webster from Scotland and the Guild's own Sherry Irvine from Canada. Other overeseas speakers were from The National Archives at Kew and the Genealogical Society of Utah.

Other speakers were Australian experts in subjects as diverse as Security and intelligence records at the National Archives of Australia", Cheers: researching Australian hotels & publicans, The changing world of BDMs in Australasia, Linking family history with genetics, Australian rural lands records, and Indigenous



Garry Stubbs, Regional Rep for N&W Australia, at the Guild's information stall

family history. A panel session of eminent Territorians described what life was like in Darwin and how it had changed since the late 1930s (Darwin was almost destroyed by air raids in 1942 and by Cyclone Tracy in 1974).

The Guild members, plus 10 interested others, met during a lunch break and introduced ourselves and our respective studies. We described to the nonmembers the benefits to them of checking the Guild's website for their names of interest, and of the benefits and obligations of being a Guild member. Sherry mentioned the Guild in one of her presentations and that raised the Guild's profile and probably resulted in a few "sticky beaks" at our gathering.

#### **AGM**

I attended the AFFHO AGM as the Guild's representative. AFFHO meetings are usually held by teleconference, as are committee meetings, so it is not often the members have the opportunity to meet together. The AGM, like most AGMs, was all over and done with in just over an hour. The most significant items raised during the AGM were:

- Save the Census campaign AFFHO has been at the forefront of changing Australian government policy in regard to retaining census information. Up until the previous census, the census books were destroyed after the statistics were extracted. The census form now asks if the person would like his/her information to be retained and released in 100 years' time.
- Family History Week the inaugural event will be held in August. This is in the week before the next Australian Census and is timed to give publicity to the "Say 'yes' to Q60" campaign. The response to the similar question in the last census resulted in just over 50% of the population agreeing to their information being retained; this time we hope for a marked increase.

Throughout Congress, there were a number of information stalls on the concourse, with many

genealogical societies and commercial organisations selling a wide range of materials and dispensing advice. The Guild was one of the stallholders and our stall was organised and run by Garry Stubbs, our Regional Rep. for North and Western Australia. The stall generated a number of enquiries and many brochures were handed out.

One long anticipated event which did not occur at Congress was the launch of Ancestry.com.au, as unexpected last minute difficulties resulted on it being put on hold.

Congress was very well run, with many interesting speakers and it was wonderful to renew old friendships and make new ones. The next Congress will be in Auckland, New Zealand, in January 2009 and I am already saving up to go. O

#### Guild also in Boston

I BELIEVE the exposure received by the Guild at the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference in Boston from August 30–September 2 was quite valuable. Attendance was estimated at 4,400. The opportunity to network with dozens of other organisations, especially those of interest to Guild members, was fantastic.

However, the constant flow of visitors to our booth did point out one glaring fact. On this side of the pond, the Guild is essentially unknown. And those who had heard of the Guild were mostly of the impression that it is a UK-only special interest group.

I would hope that the discussions we had with attendees will result in an increase in membership. I had 1,000 membership application trifolds printed, and we ran out of them midday on Saturday. I also want to thank the fellow Guild members who freely gave of their time to help staff our booth. They were Steven Whitebread, Elizabeth Kipp, Peter Wells and Barbara Nethercott.

BOB YOUNG Ranger ONS (2940) NE USA Regional Rep

### Ancestors in the Attic – how I met my sixth cousin on Canadian TV show

By Karen Tayler

A FREE flight to Canada? For four days? This was the trip of a lifetime. When my sixth cousin emailed in April to say that she had submitted our "dead end" ancestor William Pattenden to a new show on the History Channel called *Ancestors in the Attic* and they would be filming her, I thought: "Great, we might find out a bit more about his life" and I didn't think any more of it.

In May, I received a phone call from a researcher for the show, asking if I'd ever met Nanci Pattenden. Nanci had replied to an e-mail I'd sent out in 1997 calling all Pattendens to have a look at my then new web page with the family tree on and we had been e-mailing each other ever since.

Since we hadn't met, Ancestors in the Attic asked if I would like to fly out to Canada, so they could film our meeting as a surprise for Nanci. Good thing they mentioned the surprise as my first instinct would have been to let Nanci know!

In June we flew to Canada on a Thursday morning and spent the afternoon exploring downtown Toronto. The production company couriered the shooting script over to the hotel, so I knew what was expected of me the next day. On Friday the film crew met us at our hotel and filmed some scenes of me getting ready to meet my cousin; walking out of the hotel room, into the elevator, getting into the car and driving along towards Aurora, looking for suitable filming backgrounds.

We met the director, the host and the rest of the film crew for lunch to discuss and plan the afternoon "reveal" scenes as there were two film crews, one with me and one with Nanci.

While one crew set up in the house to film Nanci and tell her what the researchers had discovered about William Pattenden, we were hiding outside with the other crew, listening in and waiting for our cue. Once the host said he had another surprise for Nanci, I walked in. It didn't take Nanci long to recognise me as she had seen my photo on our website, but it was a real surprise that I was there in Canada. It was wonderful to finally meet my sixth cousin. Everyone said there was a resemblance, even though our families diverged seven generations ago.

On Saturday we explored more of Toronto, including Fort York, where to my surprise, I saw an exhibition showing a photo of another Canadian cousin, but not

a Pattenden this time.

We met up with my Pattenden cousins again on Sunday until the car arrived to take us to the airport in the afternoon. When we arrived home on the Monday morning, we had certainly packed a lot into our four day trip.



Karen Taylor, second from left, with her sixth cousin Nanci Pattenden, on her right, and Nanci's mother and sister

Mrs Karen C Tayler Member 1001 56 Yew Tree Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 0BN pattenden@one-name.org



#### How GOONs may come across on GenesReunited

THERE has been much discussion over the last couple of years, notably on the Guild e-mail forum, of the various contacts members have had via family history sites. Genesreunited, in particular, seems to elicit a wide variety of reactions. Many Goons have expressed feelings ranging from mild surprise, through amusement, to irritation, owing to the frequent lack of response from posters on that site.

This has set me wondering how an approach from a GOON appears to a typical Genes-Reunited punter (if there is one). I sometimes fear it resembles the following:

#### **Earnest**

Imagine if you were on a train, quietly doing the Daily Telegraph crossword. An earnest chap sitting next to you leans over your shoulder and says:

"Hello! May I introduce myself? I have done a detailed study of all the Daily Telegraph crosswords for the past 150 years. I am a member of the Guild of Telegraph Crossword writers (see my web page). I am sure I can help you.

"Look, here I happen to have the solution to today's crossword! (pause to savour fellow passenger's awe). I have also got a sneak preview of tomorrow's crossword, through a friend who works for the paper. Ah – I see you have made several errors in today's crossword so far. Naughtynaughty....but don't worry – I can help you because I am considerably cleverer than you are.

"Shall I send you back copies

of all the last 2500 crosswords? That way, if you have saved all your back copies you can check whether you got them right or not . You haven't saved them? Oh, well, I am surprised, I thought you would have because I have a large pile of them at home ......."

OK, this may be an exaggerated analogy, but I feel we need to constantly be aware that not all family historians want us to help them finish their genealogical crosswords!

> STEVE TANNER Member 4001 HEM(P)S(H)ALL ONS

#### Animadverting on the use of OCR

A SEARCH for POTIER in the 1841 census index failed to raise the name of John Baptiste POTIER, which was strange as we knew that, as a Poor Rate collector, he was an enumerator in St George the Martyr parish in Southwark.

The London papers, *The Weekly Dispatch* of 4 May 1851, page 12, and *The Daily News* of 6 May 1851, on page 5, report a meeting on 29th April 1851 at the Equestrian Tavern, at 124, Blackfriars Road, of enumerators for the 1851 census.

"Mr Potier of St George's Southwark said he had been an enumerator in the 1841 Census and that then the remuneration was better, though there was less work to do than at the present Census. He thought it would be un-English and cowardly if the present attempt at imposition on the part of the Government was allowed to pass unnoticed. After further animadverting upon the conduct of the Government he

concluded by moving a resolution:- 'That this meeting is of the opinion that the remuneration fixed by the government for the enumerators of the census for 1851 is inadequate for the onerous and responsible duties which they have to perform, especially in metropolitan districts where the returns were heavy and the pay diminishing.'"

Perhaps his duties in 1841 had kept him out all night looking for unfortunates sleeping on the street, but the absence of his wife and eldest daughter also suggested a more modern explanation. All three were found as the last entries on the previous page but the dreaded OCR had read and indexed them as PATIER. The OCR had misread what was probably written by his own hand!

HUMPHREY NYE Member 2401

#### I saw GOONS on a shed!

I am so frustrated. I'm a resident of Ottawa, Canada, and back in the winter, with the temperatures way below zero, I drove through an area on the outskirts of the city, one that I hardly ever visit. Suddenly across a field I saw a large shed with a huge banner on the side with "GOONS" on it! I didn't have my camera with me but I made a mental note to come right back and photograph it and send you a copy.

#### Blizzard

But we had a blizzard the next day and then another one, and somehow I didn't get back there. I finally drove past it again last week and it isn't there any more! The shed is still there but there's nothing on the side of it.

I would so much have liked to photograph it and send you a copy to include in the Journal. The caption would obviously have been "The Guild claims that it has no permanent premises but here is proof to the contrary!"

I still can't work out what GOONS might be an acronym for over here, important enough for someone to want to emblazon it on a shed so it could be seen from three or four hundred yards away. Acronyms are dangerous. Back around 1960 when I was up at Pembroke College, Oxford, the university modern jazz club met in a large upstairs room above a local pub. On the mantelpiece was a plaque labelled OAS.

Well it wasn't the Organization of American States, which is what one thinks of nowadays. Back then OAS was the acronym of the Algerian separatists, and what were they doing in Oxford? But when I went closer I could see that it was actually the Oxford Aquarium Society.

TONY WOODWARD Member 3049 tony.woodward@one-name.org

#### Whalebelly?

IN the July–September Journal, Roger Lovegrove, referring to Ken Toll's article on the *Surname Profiler* website in the previous issue, asked whether anyone could find a surname for which 99 per cent (or more) of people had a higher status surname. Roger tried MOLECATCHER but there were no hits. Member Bernard Juby responded...

"I haven't tried it but would WHALEBELLY be a contender? According to Boyd's MI, a Thomas Whalebelly married a Mary JUBY at Wilton/Witton, Norfolk, in 1677."

> Dr BERNARD JUBY Member 2171

THERE were no hits on the site for the surname, WHALEBELLY – hardly surprising, since Surname Profiler does not have any names in its database with fewer than 100 occurrences in the 1998 electoral register, which means that many rarer Guild-registered names do not feature in it.

However, intrigued by Bernard Juby's mention of this most unusual name, I found 46 occurrences in the 1881 census of Britain, 44 of them in Norfolk and almost all of those at Wayland and Swaffham. It still seems to exist today as well. A name begging for a one-name study perhaps? Editor.

## Can Guild members help with Northumberland and Durham surnames?

I WONDER whether Guild members can help with my project? I am writing a dictionary of surnames from Northumberland and Durham and would be grateful if anyone whose registered surname "comes from" these two counties would get in contact with me to ensure their name is included.

I would also be interested in members' opinions as to how to define where a name comes from. If it is an unusual name, as most names registered with GOONS will be, but migrates and proliferates away from its place of origin, particularly at an early date, does the name "come from" its area of origin or the place where it is known? This conundrum seems to me a case of theory, the true place of origin. verses practice, the perceived place of belonging, but I would be interested to know what other people think.

ROSALIND MOFFITT Nameswell Surname Research 17 York Lane Knaresborough HG5 0AJ names@nameswell.info www.nameswell.info

#### Free cover CD for the January 2007 Journal

By CLIFF KEMBALL, Guild Librarian

My responsibilities as the Guild Librarian include managing the small Guild paper library, as well as overseeing the work undertaken by the E-Librarian, Colin Pattrick, and the Guild Archivists, Barbara Harvey and Peter Copsey. I am also managing the project to produce a cover CD with the January–March 2007 Journal, the 101st issue.

The CD will include the following:

- Eight editions of the Guild Newsletter 1980-1981. These Newsletters were the precursor to the Journal (see the article by Derek Palgrave on page 12 of this issue).
- All 100 editions of the Guild Journal 1981 to 2006. Yes, for the first time all 100 Journals will be available to our members in a digitised format, enabling you to read (or re-read) any of the very interesting articles produced over the last 25 years.
- Guild Library catalogue. This catalogue will provide an up-todate listing of all the books currently held in the Guild's library and will provide details of whether the book can be loaned out, searched for a specific surname or simply for reference to answer any queries sent to the Librarian.
- Guild E-library catalogue. This will show all the items that have been digitised under the recently completed Guild digitisation project. The catalogue will identify whether the digitised image can be provided to Guild members or whether authority from the originators of the material has either been refused or it's still awaited.

All these documents will be PDF searchable and a copy of Adobe reader will be included on the CD for downloading. Adobe reader 7.08 (the most up-to-date version which requires Windows XP) has a comprehensive search facility, which will enable our members to search either a single PDF document or all the PDF documents on the CD – an extremely useful facility.

The production of this CD is yet another improvement in the services provided by the Guild and I hope you will find it useful. O



#### **New genealogy books and CDs**

## Useful new books from FFHS Publications on Crimean and Zulu Wars

THE CRIMEAN WAR 1854–56 by Phil Tomaselli. ISBN 1 86006 195 8. Price £4.95, published by the Federation of Family History Societies (Publications) Ltd., Units 15–16, Chesham Industrial Centre, Oram Street, Bury, Lancashire.

THE ZULU WAR 1879 by Phil Tomaselli. ISBN 1 86006 194 X. Price £4.95, publishing details as above.

PHIL TOMASELLI is an experienced family historian who writes regularly for magazines like *Ancestors* and *Family History Monthly*. These two titles are part of a series entitled "Military History for Family Historians" from FFHS (Publications) Ltd. Others in the series deal with the Boer War, Nelson's Navy and the Second World War.

The Crimean War is, of course, best remembered for the heroism of Florence Nightingale, the "Lady of the Lamp", and the ill-fated Charge of the Light Brigade, while the Zulu War is most famous for the memorable stand of a small unit of British troops at Rorke's Drift, depicted in the film Zulu, which starred Stanley Baker and Michael Caine.

The formula of both books follows a set pattern. First, there is a chapter giving some general background to the wars, followed by another with advice on how to find out whether an ancestor fought in one of the conflicts. Particularly important is the guidance on how to search the Medal Rolls at The National Archives at

Kew – according to author Tomaselli, these should be your starting point when looking for a Crimean War ancestor.

There are further sections on the British Army – and each book has an appendix near the end, detailing a full list of regiments that served in the respective conflicts. The Royal Navy and Royal Marines also have a section to themselves, since they, too, played a vital role in both wars, especially in the Crimea.

Other chapters focus on Other Sources, Further Reading and Making the Best Use of Your Time at The National Archives.

Of course, one doesn't expect

Military History Sources for Family Historians
The Crimean War 1854-56





to find many names in these slim (each are 48 pages) volumes, since that is not their purpose. Where their value – to one-namers as well as ordinary family historians – lies is in the fact that they offer expert advice and guidelines as to where to find ancestors or bearers of your Guild-registered surname.

It was during the Crimean War that the Victoria Cross (VC) for conspicuous gallantry was first awarded and 111 men were so honoured for their actions in the conflict. These are listed at www.victoriacross.net/camp.asp

Eleven VCs were won at Rorke's Drift, the highest number ever

The Zulu War 1879

Phil Tomaselli

awarded for a single incident. In all, 23 VCs were awarded in the Zulu War. The recipients are listed, too, at the above website.

deration of Family History Societies

In the Other Sources sections, both books list resources like despatches and diaries, regimental museums and newspapers. The Crimean War was the first to be covered in depth by war correspondents, such as the celebrated William Howard Russell of *The Times* whose vivid accounts did much to bring to the public's attention the desperate state of the soldiers during the winter of 1854/5. The Crimea was also the first theatre of war in which photographers operated.

Both these books list a number of websites for research, as well as lists of books for further reading. If you believe you had an ancestor in either the Crimean War or the Zulu War, then they are an excellent starting point.

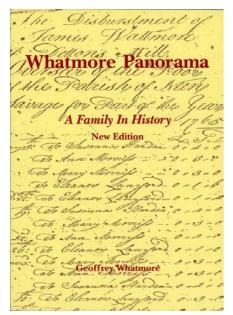
**ROY STOCKDILL** 

### Chronicles of the Whatmores in book and on CD

WHATMORE PANORAMA: A FAMILY IN HISTORY (new edition) by Geoffrey Whatmore, 180 pages, ISBN 0 9522529 3 7. £12 plus postage, available from the author at Morewood House, Abbey Place, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 1JF.

THE SUBTITLE is a good description of this book, as the author has interleaved national and local historical events into the story of the various branches of Whatmores on the supposition that the protagonist might have been affected by them.

It makes the book a much more interesting read for those



who are not closely connected to the Whatmores of whatever variety. It is obvious that a great deal of research has gone into the study of the surname and that much more information can be gleaned about the successful branches than those who remained behind to till the soil.

The consideration of spelling variants is made more believable by the reference to the various spellings of occupations. The movement from the main "centre of gravity" in Shropshire from Lancashire and to Berkshire, Hampshire, Kent and, inevitably,

London shows how mobile some families were even in Tudors times and also how helpful will are in proving the family links before the introduction of parish registers.

The only criticisms I have of this otherwise excellent book as a stand-alone item is that some of the "abridged" family trees have lost their clarity and the index is rather brief.

WAT'S BROTHER-IN-LAW: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE WAT-MOUGH, WATNER, WATMORE AND WHATMORE FAMILY, by Geoffrey Whatmore, ISBN 0 9522529 4 5. £12 including postage, available from the author (address as above).

THIS CD contains the material in two versions: a Microsoft Word document and another in PDF format. The title is derived from the surname Watmough, where "mough" can mean brother-in-law. Compared with the book, which has 180 pages, this CD has the equivalent of 589 and would

#### WAT'S BROTHER - IN - LAW

A social history of the Watmough, Watmer, Watmore and Whatmore family

by Geoffrey Whatmore

Prepared and edited by Rhys D Whatmore



First prepared: 1982 This edition: 2005

have been very expensive to produce in printed form.

It is a compilation of a previously prepared edition in 1982 with all the new discoveries made since then. It is lavishly illustrated with family trees, original documents, relevant places, coats of arms and much more. There is an extensive index. O

**BARBARA HARVEY** 

#### **Roy Stockdill**



S I EXPECT you have noticed by now, this issue of the Journal, besides being extralarge in the number of pages, contains elements of the past, present and future – the past, present and future, that is, of both family history and the Guild.

It is perhaps very appropriate that, in celebrating the 100th issue of the Journal, we should look both backwards and forwards – back to the Guild's earliest days and forward to where we are going in the next 25 years.

As the major features by Chris Pomery and John Hanson point out, computer databases and indexing have changed genealogy and one-name studies out of all recognition during the years since many of us first started out in it.

Guild President Derek Palgrave will also have struck a nostalgic note with older members when he writes about the forerunner to the Journal, the early Guild Newsletters.

Though the Journal has also changed out of all recognition since its launch all those years ago, I am conscious, as Editor, that without the work and efforts of those early pioneers who launched the original Newsletter I would not be here today, presiding over what I hope members will consider to be one of the best family history society publications around.

Who knows where genealogy and family history are going in the next 25 years? However, I believe of one thing we can be certain – that the Guild will be right at the forefront of developments.

#### Regional Representatives as at September 1 2006

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE CO-ORDINATOR:

Mrs Sandra R Turner 2 St Annes Close Winchester

Hampshire SO22 4LQ. Tel: 01962 840388 E-mail: rep-coordinator@one-name.org

BEDFORDSHIRE: Mr Peter W Hagger, 106 Hayling Avenue, Little Paxton, Huntingdon PE19 6HQ. Tel: 01480 477978 rep-bedfordshire@one-name.org

BERKSHIRE: Mrs Kirsty Gray, 11 Brendon Close, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire RG30 6EA. Tel: 0118 956 0410 / 0797 rep-berkshire@one-name.org

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE: Dr Wendy Archer, The Old Nursery, Pump Lane North, Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 3RD. rep-buckinghamshire@one-name.org

CAMBRIDGESHIRE: Mr Peter W Hagger, 106 Hayling Avenue, Little Paxton, Huntingdon PE19 6HQ. Tel: 01480 477978 rep-cambridgeshire@one-name.org

CHESHIRE: Mr H Gordon Adshead, 2 Goodrington Road, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 3AT rep-cheshire@one-name.org

CORNWALL: Mrs Sharon Symons, 10 The Orchard, Gunnislake, Cornwall PL18 9JZ. Tel: 01822 834243 rep-cornwall@one-name.org

CUMBRIA: Ms Anne Nichols, 4 Drovers Way, Burton, Carnforth LA6 1HU. rep-cumbria@one-name.org

DERBYSHIRE: Mr Ronald S Duckett, Outwood Hills Farm, Lower Outwoods Road, Burton-on-Trent DE13 0QX. Tel: 01283 561557

rep-derbyshire@one-name.org

DEVON NORTH: Mr C Braund, c/o 12 Ranelagh Road, Lake Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 8NX. rep-devon-north@one-name.org

DEVON SOUTH: Mrs Maureen Selley, Windyridge, Plymouth Road, Horrabridge, Yelverton, Devon PL20 7RL. rep-devon-south@one-name.org

DORSET: Col Iain Swinnerton, Cobwebs, Longburton, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 5PD. Tel: 01963 210630 rep-dorset@one-name.org

DURHAM: Mrs Fiona Mitford, 23 Welbury Way, Cramlington NE23 6PE. rep-durham@one-name.org

ESSEX AND EAST LONDON: Mr Kevin H Cole, 167 Ramuz Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SSO 9JN. rep-essex@one-name.org

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Mrs Elizabeth C Cooke, Arcadia, 90 Queensmead, Bredon, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire GL20 7NE. rep-gloucestershire@one-name.org

HEREFORDSHIRE: Mrs Polly M Rubery, 18 Challenger Close, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2PW. rep-herefordshire@one-name.org

HERTFORDSHIRE AND NORTH LONDON: Mrs Barbara Harvey, 15 Park Avenue, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 4PB.

Tel: 01727 865631

rep-hertfordshire@one-name.org

ISLE OF WIGHT: Mr C Braund, do 12 Ranelagh Road, Lake Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 8NX. rep-iow@one-name.org

KENT AND SOUTH EAST LONDON: Mr Clifford R Kemball, 168 Green Lane, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6AY. Tel: 020 8467 8865 rep-kent@one-name.org

LANCASHIRE: Miss Susan A Atkins, 19 Elm Road, Seaforth, Lancashire L21 1BJ. Tel: 0151 474 2772 rep-lancashire@one-name.org

LINCOLNSHIRE: Mr John P Laws, 4 The Hardings, Welton, Lincolnshire LN2 3FE. Tel: 0167 863114 rep-lincolnshire@one-name.org

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: Mrs Jenny Reeve, 30 Foxgrove Avenue, Northampton, Northamptonshire NN2 8HQ. rep-northamptonshire@one-name.org

NORTHUMBERLAND: Mrs Fiona Mitford, 23 Welbury Way, Cramlington NE23 6PE. rep-northumberland@one-name.org

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: Dr David H Mellor, 2 Bromley Road, West Bridgeford, Nottingham, Notts NG2 7AP Tel: 0115 9141838 rep-nottinghamshire@one-name.org

OXFORDSHIRE: Dr Wendy Archer, The Old Nursery, Pump Lane North, Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 3RD. rep-oxfordshire@one-name.org

SHROPSHIRE: Dr Colin H Stevenson, Orchard House, Wall under Heywood, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 7DU. Tel: 01694 771882

rep-shropshire@one-name.org

SOMERSET: Mr Kenneth W Dilkes, Clematis Cottage, Whitstone Hill, Pilton, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 4DX. rep-somerset@one-name.org

STAFFORDSHIRE: Mr Ronald S Duckett, Outwood Hills Farm, Lower Outwoods Road, Burton-on-Trent DE13 0QX. Tel: 01283 561557
rep-staffordshire@one-name.org

SUFFOLK: Mrs Mary A Rix, Clapstile Farm, Alpheton, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 8BN. Tel: 01284 828115 rep-suffolk@one-name.org

SURREY AND WEST LONDON: Mr Martin P Gegg, 4 Little Orchard, Woodham, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3ED. rep-surrey@one-name.org

SUSSEX EAST: Ms Theresa M Ellmer, Dougalls Delight, 2 The Manse, South Street, South Chailey, East Sussex BN8 4 BJ. Tel: 01273-401801

rep-sussex-east@one-name.org

SUSSEX WEST: Mr Richard W Chilvers, 56 George Fifth Avenue, Worthing, Sussex BN11 5RL. rep-sussex-west@one-name.org

WARWICKSHIRE: Mrs Patricia A Bliss, 22 Cheshire Avenue, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B90 2LJ. rep-warwickshire@one-name.org

WILTSHIRE: Mrs Glenys A Bettley, 1 Dovetrees, Covingham, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 5AX. rep-wiltshire@one-name.org

WORCESTERSHIRE: Mrs Polly M Rubery, 18 Challenger Close, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2PW. rep-worcestershire@one-name.org

YORKSHIRE EAST: Mr Frank Hakney, 5 Bainton Close, Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 7DL. Tel: 01482 887371 rep-yorkshire-east@one-name.org

YORKSHIRE NORTH: Mr Pete Redwood, The Garden Flat, 36 Albemarle Crescent, Scarborough, North Yorks YO11 1XX. rep-yorkshire-north@one-name.org

YORKSHIRE WEST: Mr Ron Woodhouse, 100 Daleside Road, Pudsey, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS28 8HA. rep-yorkshire-west@one-name.org

IRELAND: Mr Michael Merrigan, 11 Desmond Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co Dublin Ireland rep-ireland@one-name.org

SCOTLAND ABERDEEN: Dr Stephen D K Baguley, Dept GU Medicine, Woolmanhill Hospital, Aberdeen AB25 1LD. Tel: 079 8446 4403

rep-scotland-aberdeen@one-name.org

SCOTLAND NORTH: Mr Graham Tuley, 26 Crown Drive, Inverness IV2 3NL.

rep-scotland-north@one-name.org

SCOTLAND SOUTH: Dr Jim D Floyd, 84 Pentland Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 6HF. rep-scotland-south@one-name.org

WALES (NORTH AND MID): Mr Geoff Riggs, Peacehaven, Badgers Meadow, Pwllmeyric, Chepstow, Gwent NP16 6UE. rep-wales-north@one-name.org

WALES (SOUTH AND WEST): Mr Geoff Riggs, Peacehaven, Badgers Meadow, Pwllmeyric, Chepstow, Gwent NP16 6UE. rep-wales-south@one-name.org

AUSTRALIA NORTH AND WEST: Mr Garry K Stubbs, PO Box 434, Palmerston, Northern Territory 0831 Australia. rep-australia-north-west@one-name.org

AUSTRALIA NORTH EAST: Mrs Lynette Begg, PO Box 289, East Maitland, New South Wales 2323 Australia. rep-australia-north-east@one-name.org

AUSTRALIA SOUTH EAST: Mr David K Evans, 8 Mortimore Street, Bentleigh, Victoria 3204 Australia. Tel: 03 9557 6174 rep-australia-south-east@one-name.org

CANADA EAST: Mr Dick Chandler, 1351 20th St NE, Salmon Arm, British Columbia V1E 2V5 Canada.

Tel: (1) 250 832 3179

rep-canada-east@one-name.org

CANADA WEST: Mr Dick Chandler, 1351 20th St NE, Salmon Arm, British Columbia V1E 2V5 Canada. Tel: (1) 250 832 3179

rep-canada-west@one-name.org

NEW ZEALAND: Mrs Lily C Baker, 905 Wall Road, Hastings, New Zealand.
rep-new-zealand@one-name.org

SOUTH AFRICA: Mr Brian P Spurr, 32 Newport Avenue, Glenashley, 4051, KwaZulu, Natal, South Africa. Tel: +27 82 5532029

rep-south-africa@one-name.org

UNITED STATES CENTRAL: Dr Toni R Turk, PO Box 667, Blanding, Utah 84511 USA.
rep-usa-central@one-name.org

UNITED STATES NORTH EAST: Mr Robert J Young, 18 Golden Hill Road, Danbury, Connecticut 06811-4633 USA. rep-usa-north-east@one-name.org

UNITED STATES SOUTH EAST: Dr John H Cookson, 13203 W. Heritage Woods, Pl., Midlothian, Virginia 23112 USA. rep-usa-south-east@one-name.org

UNITED STATES WEST: Mrs Shirley Saunders, 6147 Ocean View Drive, Oakland, California 94618 USA. rep-usa-west@one-name.org

HAMPSHIRE: Vacant LEICESTERSHIRE: Vacant NORFOLK: Vacant

If you would like to become a Regional Representative and fill one of the above vacancies, then please contact the Regional Representative Co-ordinator (details at the head of the previous page).

• PLEASE note that it may not always be possible, due to space reasons, to publish the full list of all Regional Representatives in such detail – i.e. with full addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses – in every issue of the Journal. It has been done this time because this is an extra-large issue, with additional pages. However, the format may have to change again, so it is recommended that you either keep this issue of the Journal in a safe place or photocopy these pages.

When changes are made and new Regional Representatives are appointed, these will, of course, be published in full, so that the list is kept as up-to-date as possible. O

#### The Guild around the globe



THESE pictures illustrate what a truly international body the Guild has become. Top left: USA North-East Regional Rep Bob Young manning a Guild stand at a major genealogy conference in Boston; top right, a reflective Derek Palgrave at the Halsted Seminar in Worcestershire; above: Australian members at the 11th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry, which was held in Darwin. Reports on all these events are inside this issue of the Journal.

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