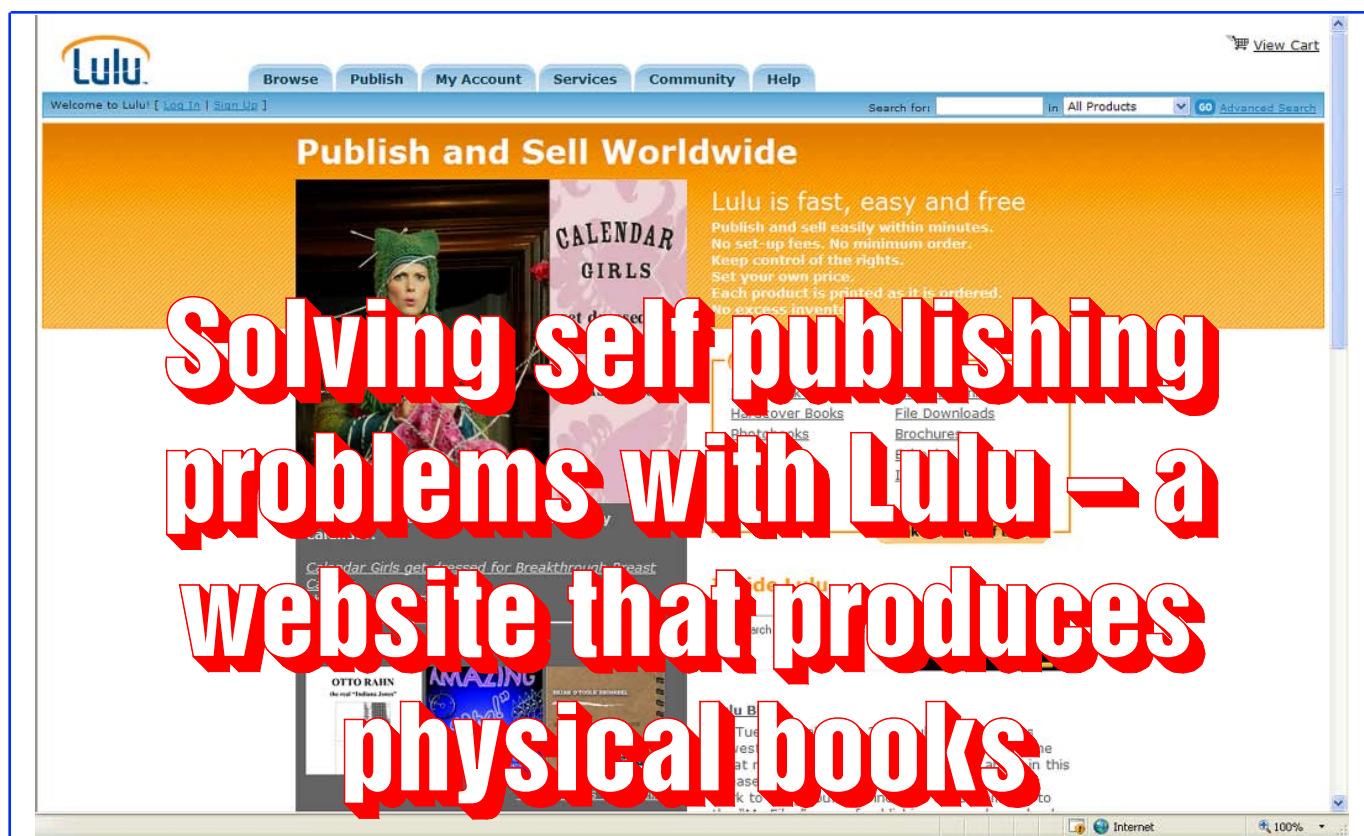


Journal

of One-Name Studies



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Also in this issue...

- Members respond to DNA tests criticism with examples from their own studies
- Focus on the Olby One-Name Study
- Myth of the 100-year census rule

Plus...

Two-page report on Bletchley Publishing Seminar

All the latest Guild news and updates

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on the inside back cover of this
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(address and phone number on the
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ARTICLES, letters and other contributions are welcomed from members, especially accompanied by illustrations, and should be sent to the Editor. Publication dates will normally be the first day of January, April, July and October.

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From the Chairman's keyboard . . .



By
PETER WALKER

Good to see new blood coming forward to assist the Committee

BY THE time you read this, I shall have completed two years as Chairman of the Guild. The AGM and Conference will be upon us once again. As usual, a lot of work has been put into the weekend and this year's event at Basingstoke looks to be up to our usual high standard in terms of speakers.

In the last few years the Guild has made great strides and now offers more services than ever before. As I have said before, we are only limited by the human resources prepared to contribute and, while worried about being seen to be "crying wolf", I have expressed concern about our resources, given that a number of Committee members had expressed their intention of stepping down from their current roles.

For several years now, nominations for the Committee have not exceeded the maximum number of 15, so there has never been an election in recent times. It was, therefore, refreshing to see that no less than 18 members put their names forward this year, triggering an election. This is very healthy on a number of counts.

New blood

Firstly, it is good to see new blood coming forward to assist the Committee. Secondly, it gives you, the members, a real opportunity to influence who runs the Guild. I hope you have all taken that opportunity and used your vote. I also hope that, as 18 into 15 does not fit, the three unlucky candidates will be prepared to assist the Committee in other ways, perhaps through the sub-committees and by performing many of the administrative roles

that don't actually have to be done from within the Committee.

One name not on the ballot forms is that of Roger Goacher, who has decided to step down from the Committee and his role as Registrar. I would like to place on record my thanks, on behalf of you all, for the dedication he has put into this role over the years.

The job demands not only good administrative skills but also knowledge of surnames and their likely variants, as well as tact when dealing with those concerned at a lack of response from Guild members to enquiries. Indeed, while on this topic, let me ask you all to ensure that you keep to your obligations relating to enquiries.

Sometimes we are busy or sometimes an enquiry might take time to answer, but if so, please send some form of holding reply so that the enquirer feels confident that their correspondence has been received and will be dealt with. Remember that your response is part of the Guild's commitment and, as a registered charity, its activities must serve the wider public and not be solely a members' club.

In last quarter's Journal, the Editor kindly published a piece from me about my own one-name study. It was quite a lengthy piece and we debated

whether to split over two issues, but in the end went for a single publication, as there was no obvious place to split the article.

While I used this article to reinforce my encouragement to you all to publish something on your own studies, this was not a case of Chairman's prerogative. Roy has said that he would be happy to publish a similar article from any other member, especially if it contains lessons for us all.

Best practices

Speaking of which, many of you are indeed sharing your own study methods and potential "best practices". This largely happens on the Guild Forum, but a number of members are summarising these discussions and information-sharing exercises on the Guild Wiki. If you have never visited the Guild Wiki, or haven't done so for a while, I would encourage you to do so, as it is increasingly becoming a really valuable resource to assist you with your own studies.

The Wiki is, of course, within the Members' Room of the website. I trust that most of you have now adapted to the change we made in late February whereby every member now has their own unique username (membership number) and password. This avoids the old system of changing the common password each year and the confusion when many members realised that they didn't have this password.

There will, we hope, be long-

What should the Guild's priorities be for the development of new projects?

term benefits to this new system. Since the Guild site will now know who is visiting, we could in future allow you to update some aspects of your own membership details. It might even allow us to hold electronic votes. No promises here: as usual, everything depends on the voluntary resources needed to achieve these goals and these often compete with the day-job. In particular, it is only with the skilled input of Paul Millington that we have been able to achieve all the many recent advances in services hosted on the website.

Indeed, this brings me onto a related topic: if we are limited by our resources, what should our priorities be for project development? First thought would naturally be that we should concentrate on those concepts that would be widely used by members. Currently in train are the new Probate Project – like the Guild Marriage Index but for names occurring in wills – and further enhancements to the Archive facility to embrace census data and perhaps complete GEDCOMs.

Incidence

One member has suggested a project whereby you could check other members' studies for any incidence of your registered name. Would you use such a service? How do we know what would be of greatest interest?

I am toying with the idea of an online voting system so that members can express their preferences for potential future projects, so watch out for details here or in a future Newsflash.

Of course, this begs the question of what constitutes a successful project. The Guild Marriage Index has contributions from 431 members, just over a quarter of all members. The Guild Profile facility is being used by around 15 per cent of all regis-

tered studies, while the Archive facility is being used by less than six per cent of all registered studies. So, clearly the problem is that there is plenty of scope for new projects, but potentially only a small fraction of the membership might use them.

Paul and I are puzzled by these low take-up numbers. Why wouldn't every registered study want the publicity and extra contacts that a Profile would bring? Should the Guild perhaps focus on projects which assist our own internal administration, rather than projects for members?

Profiles

Speaking of Profiles brings me onto the subject of one-name websites. As I write, I have just completed, with my fellow judges Penny Denby and Des Gander, the adjudication of the annual Guild website awards and I will announce the results at the AGM. We will as usual be nominating the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the competition, but have decided this year not to nominate any "highly commended" sites, as we felt the standard this year was lower than in recent years and we didn't feel that any sites beyond the top three qualified to be so commended.

Several good sites that entered in previous years didn't enter this year. Now, you may well believe that as a Guild member you are a genealogist first and foremost and designing a website is not important for your study. There's a lot of truth in that.

However, many members report that they now get the vast majority of new contacts through their website rather than via the Guild's Register or website – though it is has to be said that a Guild Profile can also significantly improve your study's visibility, as noted above.

If your website is important, then making it easy to navigate

and attractive to visitors is likely to gain you more contacts than one that projects a poor image. We have provided guidance for the Web Awards in the Members' Room and this is also included and extended in the Wiki. But maybe we need to do more to encourage better websites. I've no doubt Roy wouldn't refuse an article on the subject in this Journal!

Often, Guild Chairmen have commented how little they were able to do on their own studies whilst being Chairman. It's partly the same for me, but working as a consultant means that my work comes in fits and starts and in between time I have been able to keep the study going.

But I've often been reluctant to spend time away from home in case some work intervened. So I have tended to put off those ventures to record offices that I know I've wanted to do. However, I've just got back from a trip to the Isle of Wight to "do" the record office at Newport and returned with a huge amount of material to work through.

The IOW Record Office is remarkable in that it has indexed all the island's baptism, marriage and burial records, along with wills and land transfers, etc., in a huge card index. This certainly speeded up data collection.

MIIs had to be dealt with separately, but even here most were surname indexed. Will I now be able to link all the IOW families in my one-name study into one big tree? Well, perhaps not. The effect of the many early parish registers that don't survive earlier than the mid-17th century or even the early 18th, plus the Commonwealth gap, still leaves lots of puzzles.

But if any of you have your name present in the Isle of Wight, then a visit to this friendly record office is recommended. ○

The delights of Lulu – how one Guild member found his self publishing problems were eliminated

PUBLISHING seems to be very much the name of the game now where many Guild members are concerned. In the last issue of the Journal, we published a lengthy article by Chairman Peter Walker on his Hollyer One-Name Study. Publishing was also the theme of the Guild Seminar at Bletchley Park in February (see report on pages 17 and 18).

In this article, member ARTHUR CARDEN tells how he found a convenient and satisfactory method of self publishing via the Internet.

IN THE LAST issue of this Journal, Chris Pomery wrote: "There are already websites where you can upload a PDF file and customers can order it printed out as a physical book." Chris was right – if you would like to know more, read on!

I hope this article will interest all those who would like to publish a book about their family or one-

**By ARTHUR
CARDEN**

name study but have never got round to it. If they are like me, they will have been put off by three things...

- The financial outlay, especially because of the need to order a lot of copies to get a good price, together with the impossibility of deciding how many copies to order.

- The need for perfection. Even after making a good many drafts, there are always improvements which can be made – indeed, ought to be made if one is to avoid a barrage of criticism.

- The impossibility of deciding when to stop adding corrections and amendments.

I had to face all these problems when in 2004 I issued a 400-page book, *Carden of Barnane*, about my branch of the Carden family which for



250 years owned a large estate in Tipperary. I had 200 copies printed and, to my amazement, all of them were sold for about £25 each within three months, many through bookshops in the towns where my ancestors, some of whom were notorious, had lived.

I had to order a second printing, which gave me the opportunity to correct a number of errors. Now sales have dried up and I have a hundred copies left over in my garage. What is more, I have discovered lots more information and photographs. Do I issue a new edition or a supplement or what?

If I had known about Lulu at the time, life would have been so much easier!

Lulu Inc is a company in the USA which prints to order. If you send them a book in computer-readable form they add it to their catalogue at www.lulu.com. Each copy ordered is individually printed. If you visit their website and search for CARDEN you will find my latest two books (see Figure 2).

Benefits

As far as I am concerned, the benefits of using Lulu are...

- There is no need to decide how many copies to print.
- Amendments can be made with great ease by sending revised text.

The second of these advantages means that there is no need for perfection. I now send books full of



Figure 1 – the home page of www.lulu.com

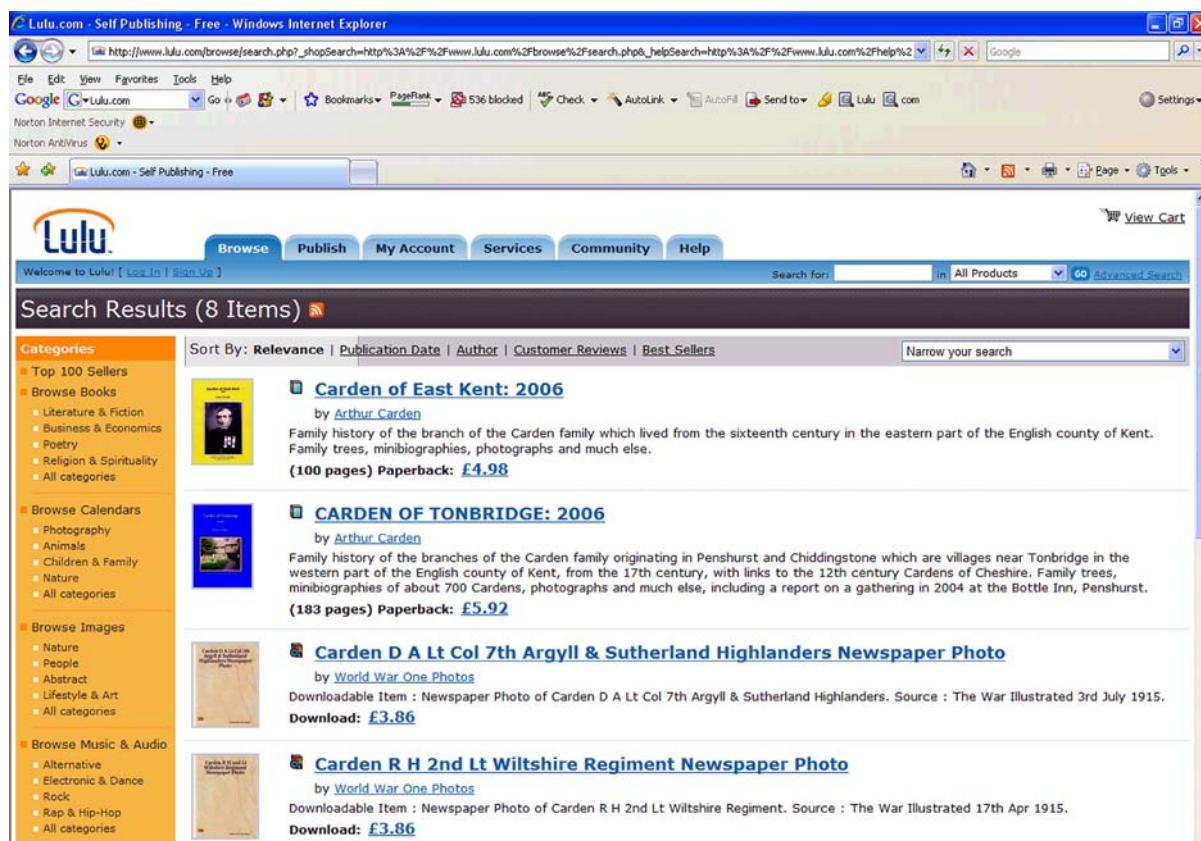


Figure 2 – results of a search for CARDEN at www.lulu.com

remarks like *"A chapter needs to be added here regarding..."* and *"picture to follow"*. I plan to issue, in rapid succession, books on each of the main branches of the Carden family in provisional versions. Given the opportunity I will revise each of them in due course, but at least the information will be in the public domain before my demise.

As will be seen from the illustration above, the prices for my books – £4.98 and £5.92, which includes a £1 profit for me – are remarkably low but

if you decide to buy a copy, shipping cost has to be added, which more than doubles the price for those who live outside the USA. Even so, they are cheaper than the price recently quoted to me for a short run of the same books by a printer in England.

The text can be sent to Lulu in a variety of formats, but PDF is best. I wrote the books in Microsoft Word (with all the trimmings such as headers, footnotes and so on). Fortunately, my son-in-law has the Adobe program and he kindly converted the book to PDF for me without trouble.

One has to be sure to pick the option allowing the fonts to be embedded, but the process is very straightforward. If you do not have a kind son-in-law, there are plenty of PDF converters which can be downloaded, mostly free. Alternatively, you can send the text in Word or other formats and Lulu will convert it for you. I understand that GOONS member Dick Chandler plans to use this method to have a 6-inch by 9-inch book printed by Lulu.

The front and back covers present a bit more of a problem. Unless instructed otherwise, Lulu offers to produce straightforward covers with simple text on them, but I wanted to have colour illustrations front and back, which

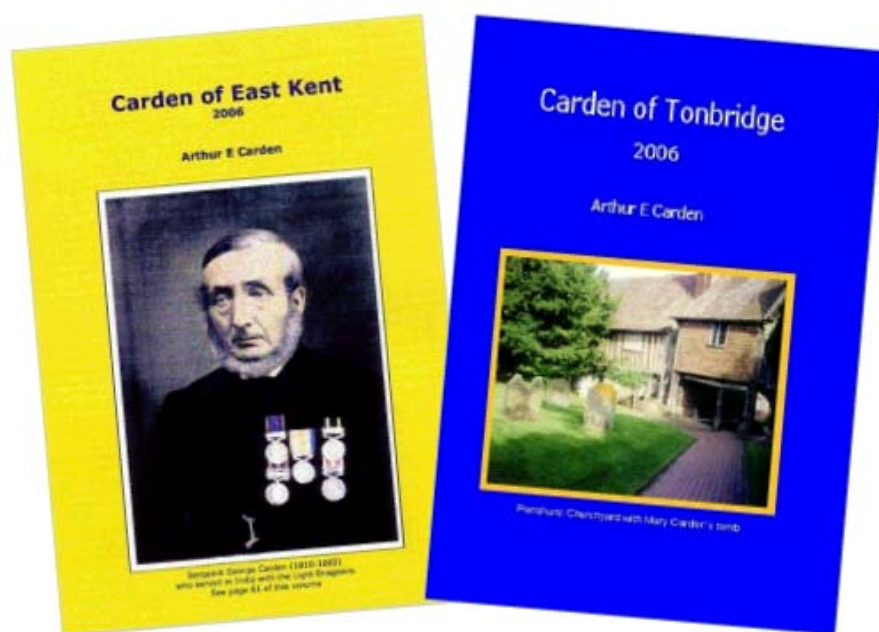


Figure 3 – the front covers of Arthur Carden's books



Figure 4 – the Lulu order page for Arthur's *Carden of East Kent*, with full description of the book

they print at no extra charge.

One-piece covers can be sent as PDFs, but separate back and front covers have to be in JPG, GIF or PNG files. I designed the covers for my books using Word, then transferred them to Paint Shop Pro for conversion to GIF by printing and scanning them, which leads to some loss of quality. Perhaps by the time my next book is ready to be sent I will have improved my technique.

I sent the covers in GIF format, having carefully followed Lulu's instructions about bleed and so on. As for the spine, it is easy to specify the background colour and also to specify your chosen words and their font and size.

Just in time for me, Lulu provided a "stretch as necessary" option to enable the books to be printed slightly larger than A4 size, ready for trimming after the books are bound.

Interface

This may all sound a little complicated, but Lulu provides a very efficient and intuitive interface and help in the form of answers to plenty of FAQs, supplemented by Forums to which queries can be posted, debated and answered. No humans appear to be involved at all.

To return to the original publishing problems I mentioned, they are all totally removed by Lulu. No financial outlay – Lulu charges nothing whatever to receive a book and add it to their catalogue. No need to decide how many copies to print – each copy is printed to order. No need for perfection – mistakes can easily be corrected by creating and

sending a new PDF which Lulu will use for every subsequent copy. No problem about adding to the text – just create a new edition every time you feel like it.

That last point about perfection appeals to me immensely. I am planning to publish a dozen different books as unashamed drafts, just as they are at present in half-baked form on my computer. I am now 78 years of age, so at least my work will be in the public domain, however incomplete, before I die, and if I am given sufficient more years I may be able to revise all of them, even several times!

Lulu website

Have a look at the Lulu website for the many things I have not mentioned, such as the availability of hardback binding, available page sizes, books in colour, music and other CDs, the splendid system for paying royalties and so on. Or just ask me. You could even buy a copy of one of my books and send me your comments. You will be astonished to receive your copy from a Lulu associate printer in England, though at present you will still pay shipping costs as if it were printed in the USA.

I would be very interested to hear from any other member who has used, or is thinking of using, Lulu or knows of anyone, especially in the UK, offering a similar service. ○

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The Olbys – from public records to family tree, tracing 173 descendants of one couple

IN the January–March 2007 Journal we reviewed a book, From Flints to Fireplaces, by Chris Newall, Guild member 4276. Now, in this article, Chris describes how with his Olby One-Name Study he has been able to build a family tree of 173 descendants of one couple who were married in Norfolk in 1790.



A tree of 173 descendants of Robert Olby (1769-1820) and his wife Frances Overed (1766-1844) has been constructed entirely from public records. Over 90 per cent of the Olby birth, marriage and death events reported in England and Wales since 1837 are attributable to descendants of this couple.

I was adopted and had no information about my birth family until 1997 when I started to investigate my genetic roots, discovering that my maternal grandmother had the unusual surname, Olby.

Using the IGI, civil registration and census records, I traced her ancestors through Kent, Middlesex and Suffolk to the marriage of Robert Olby and Frances Overed in Blofield, Norfolk on March 8 1790. The marriage was by banns, both parties were stated to be “of this parish” and they had made their mark rather than signing the register¹.

Apart from a single entry in the Postwick parish register, the next sighting of Robert and Frances was in Brandon, Suffolk, where they baptised several children between 1800 and 1808. The early 19th century registers of St. Peter, Brandon, revealed the presence of several Olby families, all apparently descended from Robert and Frances².

Robert, who was a gunflint maker, died aged 51 years and was buried in Brandon on 26th January 1820. The 1841 census of Brandon recorded 16 persons named Olby, including Frances, a widow aged 70 years³.

The Devon, Norfolk and Warwick 1851

Census CD lists 14 people with the Olby surname living in Brandon⁴ or Thorpe Next Norwich, Blofield⁵. The 1881 Census Index CDs disclosed 29 Olbys and the microfilms of the census enumerator’s books [CEBs] confirmed that most of them were living in Norwich, Penge or Ramsgate. It seemed likely that most of these people might be descendants of Robert and Frances and I decided to test this hypothesis by extracting their records from the GRO birth, marriage and death indexes.

By themselves, the early BMD indexes are of limited use for the construction of a family tree. From 1868 the death indexes show either the reported age at death or (from June 1969) the deceased’s date of birth and many deaths can be linked to the corresponding birth.

Birth indexes from the September quarter of 1911 record the mother’s maiden name and marriage indexes from 1912 the spouse’s surname. This extra information allows clusters of family groups to be compiled, but these cannot always be linked to earlier generations without further information, i.e. from the censuses.

A sustained effort at the Family Records Centre provided index references to 478 births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales from the start of

Decade	Births	Marriages	Deaths
-1839	4	1	3
1840-49	11	1	11
1850-59	7	2	6
1860-69	7	3	3
1870-79	14	5	11
1880-89	20	5	9
1890-99	23	3	12
1900-09	16	14	6
1910-19	9	11	8
1920-29	12	10	6
1930-39	21	12	8
1940-49	7	4	11
1950-59	12	12	12
1960-69	18	11	10
1970-79	12	18	6
1980-89	5	10	8
1990-99	13	7	8
Totals	211	129	138

Summary of Olby BMDs in England and Wales by decade

Civil Registration in 1837 until 1999.

One-hundred-and-thirty-two births (71 males and 61 females) could be linked with a marriage, a death or both. Forty-eight individuals (25 males and 23 females) never married. However, most of these (16 males and 18 females) died as children, usually before their second birthday. Most of those dying in infancy did not appear in census returns and cannot be assigned to specific family units, but they were all from the expected registration districts. A few of those not marrying (four males and two females) died as young adults. The rest lived to a ripe old age.

The remaining births (34 males and 46 females) could not be linked to a later marriage or death. Excluding individuals born after 1930, who are probably still alive, 31 unlinked births (11 males and 20 females) remain. Some may have emigrated, but many undoubtedly correspond to some of the 36 unlinked deaths (13 males and 23 females) occurring before 1930. Of course, some of these deaths will be of people born before the start of civil registration or whose birth was not registered.

The surnames of marriage partners were not easy to locate in the early GRO indexes, but some could be deduced from census records and a few were obtained via Guild Marriage Challenges. From 1911 marriages are cross-indexed and most of the spouses' names were easy to look up.

Provisional tree

I constructed a provisional tree from 1790 to 1840 from the Brandon parish registers and used the 1851 and 1881 censuses to extend this for some branches of the family. Birthplace information from the CEBs enabled me to locate most families in the remaining 19th century censuses. The online 1901 census surname index revealed 50 Olbys and when the microfiche were consulted all of them fitted into the tree. Data from the BMD indexes filled in some of the remaining gaps and provided information about collateral branches.

The gap between 1901 and the more informative BMD indexes from 1911 onwards will remain until the publication of the 1911 and 1921 censuses, which should reveal all. Fortunately, the wider range of forenames now used makes identification much easier – no longer do we have clusters of undifferentiated Elizabeths, Johns, and Williams.

This is offset to some extent by the modern tendency towards unmarried relationships. The mother's maiden name is given as Olby for 12 births since 1911 and no Olby to Olby marriage has been found. Several of these children were born between 1929 and 1955. None of them was found in the later marriage or death indexes, presumably they were adopted or took their father's surname.

Other public sources were also useful. Thus, entries in the National Burial Index correlated with the GRO Death Indexes for 15 deaths in Brandon between 1838 and 1881. Probate Calendars listed 39

Olby wills or administrations between 1893 and 2001. In most cases executors or administrators were named and addresses were given, allowing several relationships to be confirmed.

The early years of the marriage of Robert Olby and Frances Overed are shrouded in mystery. They married in Blofield in 1790 and their daughter Mary was born on December 15 1790 and baptised at nearby Postwick. After that, no trace has been found of them until the baptism of their daughter Martha in Brandon in December 1801, but it is clear that they had several other children during the 1790s, including Robert and John, born in 1791 and 1796, respectively.

Documents in the Suffolk Record Office shed some light on the family during the early years of the 19th century⁶.

Removal orders

After Robert died in 1820 the Overseers of the Poor in Brandon claimed that "Frances Olby Widow and William her son aged sixteen years and Anne her daughter aged twelve years did lately come to inhabit the said Parish of Brandon in the said County of Suffolk not having gained legal Settlement there" and applied for their removal to the "township of Mile End Old Town within the said parish of Stepney otherwise Stebenheath in the said County of Middlesex" which was adjudged to be their parish of lawful settlement.

An earlier order, dated November 1817, applied for the removal of "Robert Olby, his wife Diana with their two children Mary of the age of three years and Robert of the age of two years" to Stepney. This refers to Robert Olby junior, the oldest son of Robert and Frances, who appears to have been born in 1791, and his wife Diana (née Garner).

These documents suggest that Robert Olby the elder's parish of settlement was Stepney and that his older children, including his son Robert, may have been born there. No trace of the Olby family has yet been found in Stepney, but the marriages of several Olby females took place in Whitechapel and the surrounding area between 1817 and 1840.

These were probably all daughters of Robert and Frances Olby. Thus, the marriage certificate of Ann Olby, who married James Douglas in Shadwell on December 3 1840, confirmed that she was the daughter of Robert Olby, a gunflint maker. Ann, the daughter of Robert and Frances Olby, had been baptised in Brandon in August 1806.

The tree of the 173 known direct descendants of Robert and Frances Olby accounts for 377 (79 per cent) of the events extracted from the BMD indexes. A further 46 births or deaths were of children who died in their infancy. Their parents have not yet been identified but it may be assumed that they were children of families already known to be living in the districts where their births and deaths were registered. This leaves 55 BMD events unaccounted for, less than 12 per cent of the total. I am confident

that most of these will eventually be attributable to descendants of Robert and Frances.

Thus, in favourable circumstances, civil registration and census records for England and Wales and probate calendars can provide almost all the information required to reconstruct families with unusual surnames from the early 19th century to the present day. This study was particularly rewarding because almost all individuals with the target surname are descended from a single couple and very few of them appear to have emigrated.

Postscript

Since undertaking this exercise I have made contact with several members of my birth family, who have confirmed the accuracy of major sections of the tree summarised below. I am particularly indebted to my third cousin, David Olby, for the loan of copies of conveyance indentures relating to a parcel of land in Brandon purchased by Robert Olby junior in 1829 with the aid of a mortgage⁷.

Four years after his death in 1834 a chapel built on this land was conveyed to James Moss, Primitive Methodist Preacher, for the sum of £100, the ownership of the land remaining in the Olby family. In 1851 the land became the sole property of Robert's son, another Robert Olby, and on the latter's death later that year was placed in trust by his widow, Elizabeth.

Finally, in 1870, my great-grandfather Alfred Olby, the grandson of the original purchaser, sold the land. Evidently, Robert Olby junior, the subject of

the 1817 removal order, had prospered and by the late 1820s was able to buy land on which to build a primitive Methodist chapel.

There was a recession in the Brandon flint-making industry at the end of the Napoleonic wars, thus Robert junior's change of occupation from flint-maker when his children Mary and Robert were baptised in 1814 and 1815 respectively² to furrier, recorded on his son's 1838 marriage certificate², seems to have been a good career move. ○

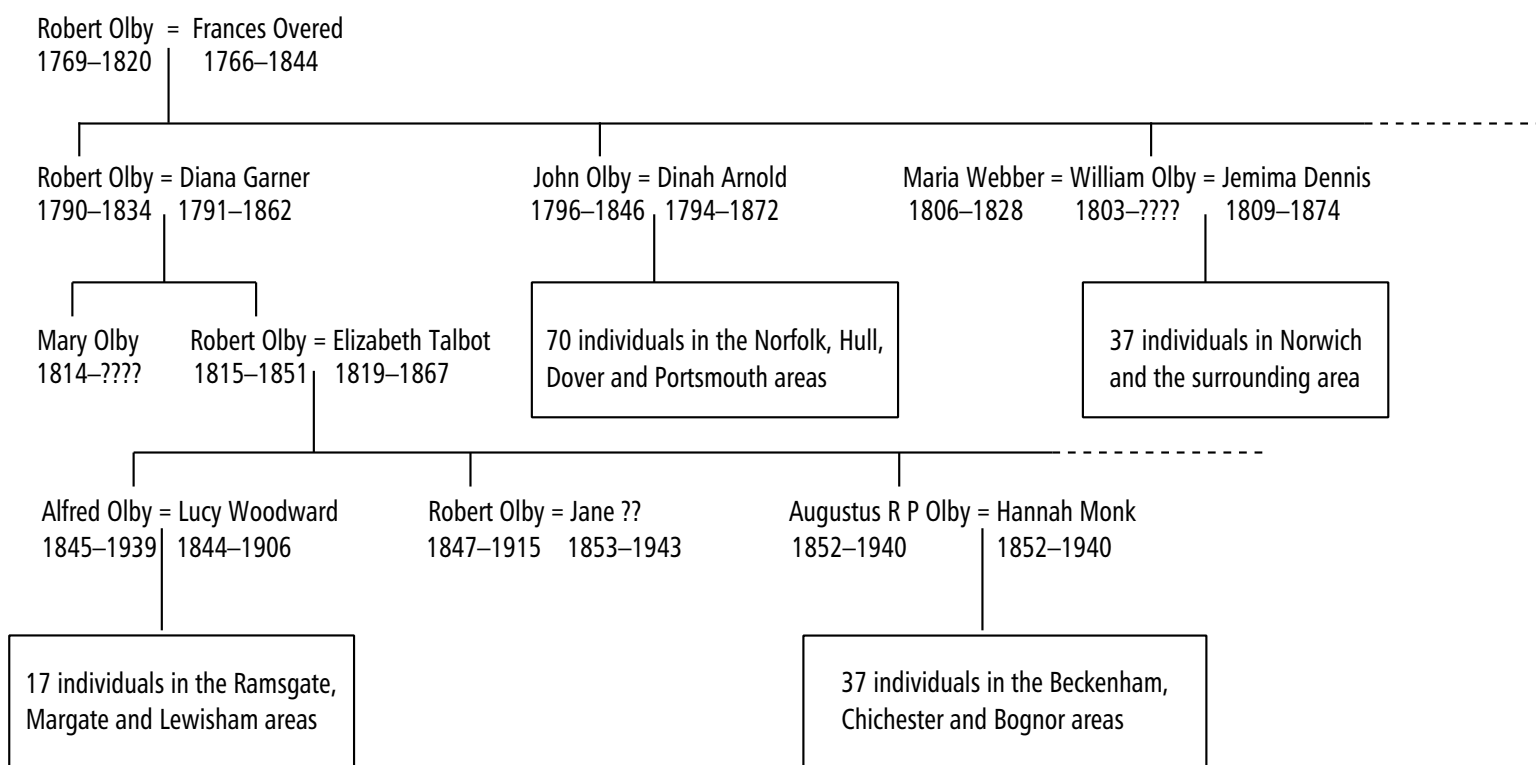
References

- ¹ Blofield parish register on microfilm, Society of Genealogists.
- ² Brandon parish register on microfiche, Suffolk Record Office, Bury St Edmunds.
- ³ 1841 Census of Brandon HO 107/1027/2 folio 29 page 16.
- ⁴ 1851 Census of Brandon HO 107/1832, folios 254R, 256V, 277V and 299R.
- ⁵ 1851 Census of Thorpe Next Norwich, Blofield HO 107/1819 folio 11.
- ⁶ Suffolk Record Office, Bury St Edmunds: Brandon Parish Records, Correspondence concerning maintenance of Robert Olby, jun, Frances Olby and children, at Mile End Old Town ref. FL 536/7/80 - date: 1820-1830.
- ⁷ Suffolk Record Office, Bury St Edmunds: Olby Mortgages, Conveyances, HA 536/RR 5.

Dr. CHRISTOPHER E NEWALL
Member 4276

Descendants of Robert Olby and Francis Overed

Main branches of the family grouped by geographical area



Myth of the 100-year census confidentiality promise

GUY ETHELLS, an expert family historian for many years, is the man who successfully appealed to the Information Commissioner, under the Freedom of Information Act, to get The National Archives to release some data from the 1911 census early. The Commissioner granted him access to one particular record for Bottesford, Leicestershire, despite TNA's attempts to block the release on the grounds of confidentiality. In this article commissioned for the Journal, Guy argues that the so-called "100-year" rule on releasing census data is a widely-held myth.

One cannot be involved in genealogical research for long before being confronted by the refusal of records due to the 100-year rule. What is this "rule" and does it even exist, in fact, or is it one of those myths associated with archived records?

Access to public records is controlled by the Public Records Act 1958 (as

By GUY ETHELLS

amended). Chapter 5 specifies that the records shall not be available for public inspection for a period of 50 years. This period was later reduced to 30 years by the 1967 Act.

However the Lord Chancellor has the power to extend the embargo on access to records by specifying them in a Statutory Instrument. It is this that prevents access to records such as the 1911 census, not some mythical rule.

It was not until 1966 that the Lord Chancellor's Instrument No. 12 established the 100-year embargo rule on censuses under the 1958 Act.

Freedom of Information

That is not the end of the matter. In 2000 when the Freedom of Information Act became law, the relevant parts of Chapter 5 of the Public Record Act 1958 were repealed by Schedule 8 of the Freedom of Information Act. When I challenged The National Archives, they admitted in their submission to the Information Commissioner that the 100-year rule was "non-statutory".

The Information Commissioner, in his decision, first mentions in Section 12, page 3, "the so-called 100 year rule". He later notes in Section 15, page 4: "Although the maintenance of this position has been government policy since 1966, the Commissioner notes that there was no such explicit assurance given to the householders in respect of

the 1911 census." Furthermore, the Commissioner notes that the Statutory Instrument was revoked by the FoI Act in November 2000.

Laying aside the legal rights and wrongs, some people suggest that it is morally wrong to release census records as our ancestors were promised the census would be closed for 100 years – but that is simply not the case. No such promise was EVER made!

No promise

The Victorian censuses certainly never contained any promise of confidentiality at all and the census of 1911 only promised confidentiality without mentioning any time period.

No census until that of 1981 contained a specific promise that it would not be released for 100 years. On top of this the censuses that did carry that assurance (1981, 1991 & 2001) did so due to the unauthorised actions of the Registrar General. He did not have the authority to make that promise and, as a result, the promise is not worth the paper it is written on.

Our ancestors would not even have expected the census to be closed for 100 years, as earlier censuses had not been closed for that length of time.

In 1871 census officials in London divulged the names and addresses of all children aged between three and 13 and their parents to the London School Board to help enforce compulsory education.

Other censuses were released early to provide proof of age for proof of entitlement to pensions.

The 1841 and 1851 records for England and Wales were both released in 1912, with Irish and Scottish censuses being released earlier than 100 years as well, in one case in as short a time as 46 years.

No law

There is nothing in law to say that the 1911 census cannot be released now. It all depends on whether the Lord Chancellor wishes it to be or not. However, it is one thing to say the 1911 census is being released for access and quite another when we consider the practicalities of actually accessing that census.

It will take time for this to be arranged (scanning, indexing, etc.) which means there is little chance now of it being released before The National Archives' 2009 guideline date. ○

GUY ETHELLS

Anguline Research Archives

<http://anguline.co.uk>



DNA analysis and genealogy – keeping a sense of perspective

By JOHN CREER

THE article in the January–March 2007 issue of the Journal by ELSE CHURCHILL, of the Society of Genealogists, casting sceptical doubt on the value of DNA testing to genealogy, inevitably stirred up quite a little hornet's nest!

We received several e-mailed letters and responses to Else's views. On the next four pages, two Guild members present their own experiences of how DNA tests have helped solve problems in their one-name studies.



JOHN A CREER (member 4421) has been researching the history of the Creer family on the Isle of Man for a number of years and it is now a full one-name study. John has an extensive database with 20,000-plus records and has assembled a number of Creer family trees.

NO, DNA testing is not the answer to all our genealogy problems – BUT I am stimulated to write in response to the article by Else Churchill, published in the last edition of the Journal.

I have recently completed what I would describe as a highly successful and personally rewarding Y-DNA project in support of my Creer One-Name study – but I would still agree wholeheartedly with the above words. DNA testing is not the answer to all our genealogy problems, but I would argue that it can provide answers to questions of family relationships and connections within a genealogy time-frame that cannot be resolved in any other way, if applied in the appropriate way and in the right circumstances, and by that I mean usually in conjunction with a One-Name study.

We have to recognise that the science of DNA measurement and analysis is in its infancy and is still evolving rapidly. It is

only in the last four years that the potential impact in the area of genealogy has become recognised.

Experience tells us that it takes time for all new technologies to become developed and stable and find their appropriate place. There is still a lot more yet for us all to learn about DNA and genealogy. The personal computer, for example, was introduced some 25 years or so ago and even after this period of continuous change, its level of usage and application is still evolving.

• Only Y-DNA analysis is of relevance

Incidentally, I think it is important at this stage to emphasise that, from a genealogy standpoint, only Y-DNA analysis is of any relevance. The Y chromosome is passed from father to son and tracks the paternal line (and hence the surname). MtDNA, or mitochondrial, DNA analysis is used to track the maternal line. At each conception there is a finite chance that a small part of the parent DNA may be changed or mutated when it is copied into the child. It is this fact that makes DNA analysis relevant for genealogists.

There is a growing body of evidence which details the observed mutation rates for the various measured elements of the Y chromosome and mtDNA. The female mtDNA shows mutation rates which are much lower than the male Y-DNA.

Therefore, in the case of two people who have identical mtDNA values, except for one mutation, it is possible to conclude that they are genetically related – but that it is not possible to identify when that connection might have been with any accuracy less than 5,000 years!

On the other hand, the rate of Y-DNA mutation is much higher and a mutation between related men can be identified to within 50-300 years. This brings the identification of such connections to within the last 800 years or so, and within the genealogical time-frame



Else Churchill

I'm not convinced DNA tests are the answer to all our genealogical problems

THE headline on Else Churchill's article in the previous issue of the Journal, which some members took issue with

Creer One-Name Study

THE name, CREER, originates in the Isle of Man. It is a low frequency name, with fewer than 1,000 name-bearers worldwide living today who can all trace their origins back to the Isle of Man.

My ONS has produced a large database of 20,000-plus¹ records from all published sources of family history information – parish registers, birth marriage and death indices, wills, censuses, land records, etc., as well as from other Creer family members – which identifies approximately 70 distinct Creer family groups, the largest of these having been documented back to around 1600 until the present day.

This database is sufficiently comprehensive that all Creer family groups are included, at least in part. Contact has also been established with Creer family members around the world through the medium of the Creer family history website, www.ballacreer.com

This conventional genealogy research has identified and developed a significant number of Creer family trees, the earliest of them being documented from the 17th century in the Baldwin valley in the parish of Braddan until the present day.

In the 16th century the family name was McCrere, typical of most of the Manx Gaelic family names of the time in its use of the prefix *Mac* (Gaelic: son of). By the end of the 17th century, again in common with most other Manx names, the prefix

Mac fell out of use and the name became known as Creer.

Early Manx land records, IoM Manorial Rolls 1511–1515², also show that there were several Creer families around 1500 occupying a number of named farms in the centre of the Isle of Man. However there is no genealogical evidence to connect these early families with the later Creer families occupying these same farms from 1600 onwards, although logic suggests strongly that they were the same families.

Subsequent records show that various Creer families continued to farm a number of the major farms in Baldwin for several centuries after then, whilst at the same time multiplying elsewhere on the Isle of Man, spreading to other parishes and then later on to England and ultimately the rest of the world.

Looking at the Creer demographic trends over the last 500 years, it seemed reasonable to postulate that perhaps:-

- All living Creers are descended from the small group identified in 1500–1600.
- The original small group of families were all the descendants of one man but the surviving written records are insufficient to prove any of this. The objectives of the Creer DNA study were, therefore, set to try and provide some corroborative proof of these beliefs. ○

¹ Records from all published sources.

² Isle of Man Manorial Rolls 1511–1515

when surnames entered into use.

Scientists and genealogists alike, to some extent, have all been dazzled by the insights into the past that analysis of our DNA promises to reveal. Most of the early published DNA studies demonstrate that this technology can provide a greater understanding of genetic family connections, but so far few, if any, have really solved any genealogy problems.

Sykes DNA marker definition imprecise

The Sykes study quoted by Else Churchill is a prime example of such a work. The level of DNA marker definition in this large study was so imprecise and only very general conclusions can be drawn from it. It certainly revealed very little useful about the Sykes family and its origins. The reason for this poor precision is that at the time the study was carried out the 12 marker Y-DNA tests were the most accurate available.

When I decided to start my Creer Y-DNA surname study in 2005 I faced the problem that there were

numbers of scientific papers describing how and what Y-DNA analysis could do, but very few, if any, provided anything useful in a genealogy context to guide me in designing my own study.

Most showed that some groups of men with the same or similar family name might be genetically related (and others with the same name were not related) but there was no overlay of genealogy research to put this information into a family perspective and to understand the DNA results alongside the genealogy. Where there was some genealogical context it was mainly anecdotal.

Why carry out a Y-DNA study?

I started thinking about a DNA study because my one-name study had really come to a standstill, with there being no further early family history record sources to access. However thinking more about this, it soon became apparent that Y-DNA analysis has the best chance of providing fruitful results when undertaken within a family population

covered by a one-name study, namely backed by extensive genealogy research. This is indeed what my own Y-DNA study has shown.

Creer Y-DNA Study

Having chosen a DNA testing company and decided that 25 marker tests provided the best balance between precision of result and cost, I proceeded to seek candidates to be tested. I identified 14 distinct Creer family groups for which there was a substantial body of documented genealogy evidence and where there were still male descendants alive today.

All candidates who were invited possessed at least eight generations of documented family history to provide context against which the DNA results could be evaluated and assessed. A minimum of two males from each Creer family group were invited for validation purposes, but no-one was closer than at least third cousin to each other.

Full supporting information was provided to candidates both in written form and on the Creer DNA study website (www.creer.co.uk).

So far, 22 Creer males have been tested and while this sample represents only about five per cent of all adult Creer males living today, the Creer family groups included in the testing so far covered 50 per cent of all Creer males living today. So any results would be significant.

And indeed the results have been very significant. Seventeen from the 22 males (described as genetic

event might not have been a welcome result, more helpful genealogy knowledge was gained.

Statistical analysis of the results has provided some indication of the date when some of the possible unsuspected connections between different Creer family groups might have occurred, as well as an assessment that this common ancestor probably (95% confidence) lived around 1250–1400. All of this fits very well with what one can deduce or might suspect from the historical records. A full report on this study can be found at www.creer.co.uk

Conclusions

So, in my experience Y-DNA analysis can solve genealogy problems that it has not been possible to solve hitherto by using conventional research. The DNA results fitted very well indeed with what I suspected from the genealogy picture – but could not prove! This shows clearly that DNA data can add a new dimension to our understanding of our historical family relationships.

Y-DNA analysis has the real capability to transform our genealogy research in future, assuming that any study is properly designed and focussed. It is particularly important to support any DNA exercise with a large body of supporting genealogy evidence against which to validate the DNA evidence. This makes Y-DNA analysis an obvious tool to be used in conjunction with a one-name study.

Hype

So, DNA testing is not the answer to all our genealogy problems, BUT, despite the hype and over-claiming, Y-DNA analysis can answer questions which could not previously be answered and hence has the potential to transform our one-name studies.

Meaningful results are most likely when the following success factors are present:-

- Use a low frequency name if possible.
- Align the selected candidate population with a single geographical origin.
- Back it with a one-name study
- Candidate selection is critically important, especially with regard to...
 - i. Build on significant known family history.
 - ii. Choose at least two from the same family group – but not closer than third cousins.
- Use a minimum of 25 marker tests.
- As large a sample population as possible.

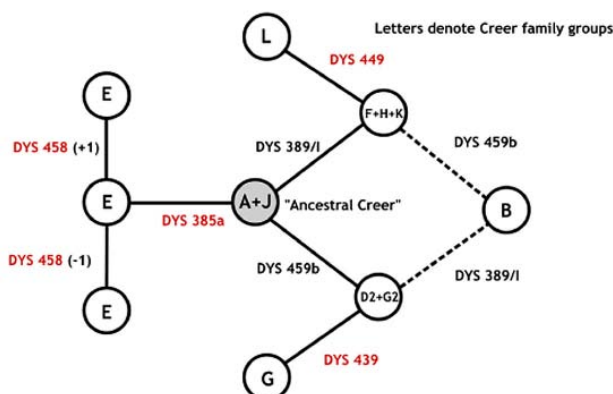
And, finally be sure to set focussed, realistic and clear objectives – do not try and achieve too much.

JOHN A CREER

Member 4421

creer@one-name.org

- John Creer will be one of the speakers at the Guild's forthcoming DNA Seminar in Nottingham on May 19. For fuller details of the programme, see the Seminars Update on page 19. ○



CREER phylogenetic tree connecting family groups

Creers) show DNA profiles clustered very closely to each other. Analysis of these results shows unambiguously that that they are all closely related to each other within the last 800 years and are all descendants of one common ancestor. With this new knowledge, a number of genealogy problems have already been solved and more questions will be answered in time.

The five non-genetic Creer results indicate a level of non-paternity event which seems quite high and was surprising. Nevertheless, when reviewed against the supporting genealogy evidence it proved possible to identify the probable date of three of these events. So, while identification of a non-paternity

Bastardy and aliases in Devon

Finding out what happened in Farway with DNA testing

I'M REGULARLY asked how DNA testing actually works for genealogists "in real life". The following story is one of my favourites..

Back in 2000 when the Pomeroy DNA project got under way, our 850-odd adult male surname-bearers were catalogued in more than 300 family trees, most of them lonely two-three generation twigs. Among the DNA results for 51 of them, five (with an unusual result) stood out as a distinct "genetic family" and potentially members of a single, as

By CHRIS POMERY

yet undocumented, tree. Three traced their origins back to Devon, the other two to Hampshire and Worcestershire. Only one went back further than 1850.

Spurred on by the DNA findings, two of the five testees picked up their research again and over the next five years pushed their trees back a bit further, a process that linked the three Devon-origin trees to a common ancestor baptised in Luppitt, a Honiton area parish, in 1830.

Brick wall

Facing a collective brick wall, early in 2006 I reminded them that the low-resolution DNA tests using just nine markers in 2000 had now been improved. Would they like to test on 43 markers and see if their results diverged or matched? Our association offered 75% of the costs from our research fund, then growing with the savings made after switching that year from printed quarterly newsletters dispatched by post to (free) e-mailed PDFs.

Near-identical DNA results for all three confirmed the theory that they stemmed from a single male Pomeroy ancestor and, after a bit more research, we reached the conclusion that we had now had to link just two trees from the Honiton area.

The first tree was headed by a couple, William and Christian Pomeroy, with their first child baptised in Farway in 1754. The second tree was headed by a Robert Pomeroy and his wife, Elizabeth, whose first baptised child, also Robert, was baptised in nearby Luppitt in 1818.

While the 1851 census reveals six Luppitt-born

Pomeroy, no baptism records were found in transcriptions for Robert the younger's siblings, Ann and Thomas. Based on census ages up to 1871, Robert the elder was born around 1787–8 in Luppitt. However, no parish transcription shows a Pomeroy baptism in Luppitt around this time.

Data by the Online Parish Clerk does, however, show a Robert Cox, the base son of Anne Cox, baptised in 1789. Ah, dear reader, we all know the frisson of hope that flutters through us at this point as we decide how many additional layers of corroboration we need before declaring victory.

Tucked away on the Luppitt website are the trees that local researchers have built up as part of a parish reconstruction project. Under one headed by Robert and Elizabeth Pomeroy can be seen an Ann and a Betsey Cox (baptised in 1815), Robert Pomeroy (baptised 1818), Thomas Cox born 1820 and a Mary Cox alias Pomeroy, born 1823.

These last two were baptised on the same day, removing any lingering doubt about a Cox/Pomeroy link.

Who was Robert?

So if Robert Cox was fathered by a Pomeroy who might he be? One of William and Christian's children listed in the IGI is a Robert Pomeroy baptised in 1763. No further record is found of him again.

My best guess is that he was the father of Robert Cox. Yes, there are many bits of corroborating evidence missing, but looking at the whole picture it is the best hypothesis today. Intriguingly a bastardy order is visible for a Robert Pomeroy in Luppitt, but relating to an Ann Puss in 1810. Was this the Farway father or his Luppitt-born son?

At every stage the DNA results have made new connections, inspired us, helped us prioritise and direct future research and underpinned each hypothesis we've refined over the years.

The documents, incomplete as they are, are always the proof, but the DNA results make me confident that, even with the gaps, the current hypothesis is right. ○

CHRIS POMERY, a pioneer of DNA testing in the Guild, will be one of the speakers at the DNA Seminar in Nottingham on May 19 (see page 19).



Successful Publishing Seminar on newsletters, websites and books at historic Bletchley Park

HAVING FOUND a baby sitter, I was very excited about attending my first-ever Guild seminar, on publishing, with my husband David on Saturday, February 17, in the wonderful surroundings of Bletchley Park.

We started the day meeting and greeting over coffee and

By TRACY BARRALL

all included.

Next was the lovely Teresa Pask, who is also an award winner for her Pask and Uridge/Euridge websites. Teresa's talk on starting websites was one of the main reasons we wanted to attend the seminar and we weren't disappointed.

Teresa showed us the different options available, ease of use and possible costs involved. A great piece of advice included starting a blog to get you out there on the Internet and, as they are free, good value for money.

Teresa included easy step-by-step guides to show how easy it could be and, as both David and I have just started our own websites, we

were pleased to find out that we had invested in the latest technology, php-based websites.

We broke for a tasty buffet lunch, with a chance to mingle



Maurice Hemingway, John Hanson and Sandra Turner



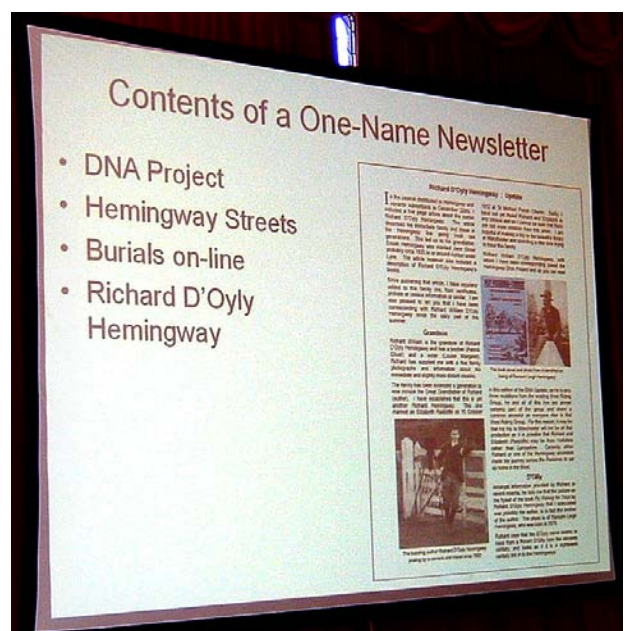
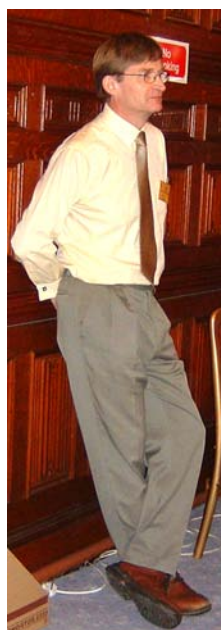
Teresa Pask talks about websites

making new friends, people who understand our obsession. We then moved to the magnificent wood-panelled ballroom for an introduction by John Hanson as to what the day would bring.

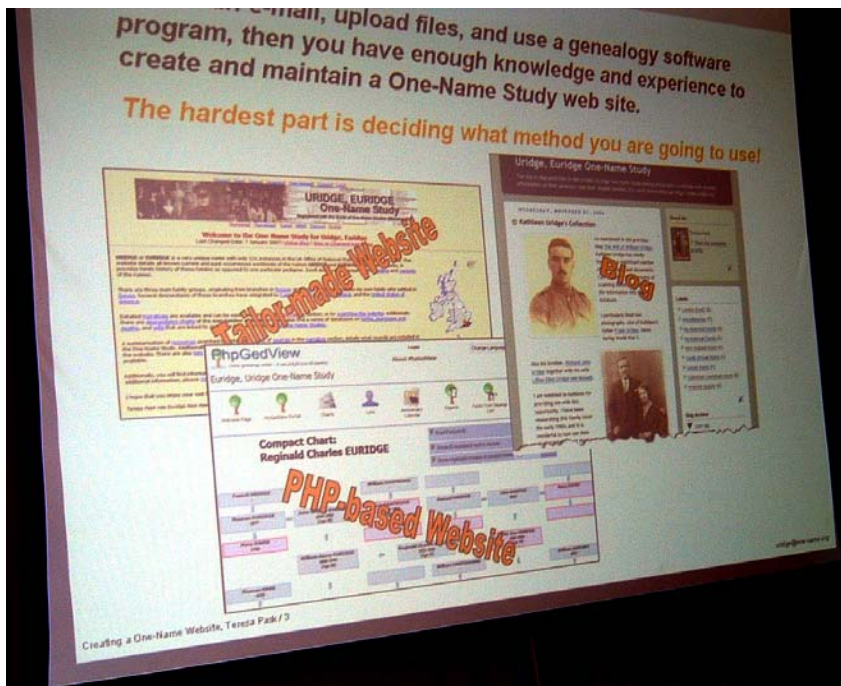
Awards

The first expert lecture was by Maurice Hemingway, whose one-name journals have won awards with the Guild. His talk was packed with information on how to start a journal or newsletter, with advice on contents, layout, packing, distribution and even costing and publishers.

Things you might not always think about, like your journal will always have multiples of four pages and right and left hand margins for opposite pages, were



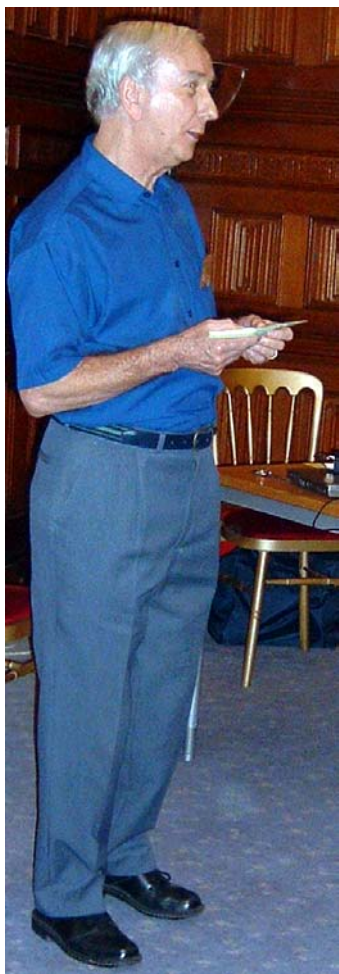
Maurice Hemingway and a page from his presentation on one-name journals and newsletters



Teresa Pask's presentation on web publishing

and talk with our new friends. We also had time to look at the Guild's bookstall, which was kept busy and gave good value for money on publications.

Our last speaker of the day



Colin Ulph on book publishing

was Colin Ulph who has recently published his own book on his one-name study of Ulph and variants. He gave an informative and humour-filled talk on all areas of publishing, including why we should publish, tips before you start, contents, drafting and printing, publicity and follow-ups.

We were reminded publishing our results fulfils part of the Guild's aims and that we should never underestimate the effort and time that would be involved in publishing to book form. I felt the passion Colin had towards his efforts and understood the pride he felt when he held the first copy of his book.

All three speakers were then called back to the front for a question-and-answer session in which copyright featured quite heavily. Very important if you don't want to be sued!

Advice was given from many people, not just the speakers but those who had come across issues in their own studies. After a big thank you to the speakers we broke for tea and coffee, where we could again mingle and talk about the day.

Those of us who chose to stay for a guided tour of Bletchley Park were honoured to be shown around by Dr Tony Sale, the orig-

inal founder and curator of the Bletchley Park Museum.

Code-breaking

His tour proved how little we knew of what went on in the Second World War. We learnt how much influence Poland had to do with code-breaking, and were shown The Bombe and Colossus code breakers.

We were also told how they needed to pass messages from one hut to another by building a small tunnel and using a tin tray and broom handles – oh, the joys of modern technology!

We had a great day and returned home with plenty to think about.

TRACY BARRALL

Member 4520

Researching Gayford

Reunion news

P*RR*TTs meet

MEMBERS of the P*RR*TT Society are holding their Annual General Meeting and Get-Together at St Nicholas Church Hall, Church Green, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, on Saturday, May 12.

President and founder Peter Perrett says: "All P's, however spelt, are very welcome to come along and meet us. The society's large database will be available.

"We also invite anyone in the area to come and see us."

The event will take place from 10.0 am. to 4.0 pm.

Filby Association

THE 13th Triennial Reunion of the Filby Association will be held on Sunday, July 1, at 2.30pm, at Filby Church, in Norfolk. All people with an interest in any spelling of Filb(e)y, Filbee, Philb(e)y etc. will be welcome to come and join our family. Refreshments will be served after the service in the church hall. All our computer and other records will be available for members and guests to look through. Contact Ruth Smith, 2 Barrington Close, Little Clacton, Clacton on Sea, Essex, CO16 9PN, or e-mail, ruth@filby.org.uk, for full details. ○

Seminars update. .

DNA SEMINAR – MAY 19. Venue: The Nuthall Temple Community Centre, Nottingham Road, Nuthall, Nottingham.

This seminar will not limit itself to explaining what DNA is and how to set up tests. The second half will be hear from Guild members who have taken part in DNA tests and who will be sharing their experiences and findings. The projects range from small one-name studies in a specific locality to countrywide names found all over the world. Descriptions will include the most startling findings and the biggest hurdles they still have to cross.

Here is the programme...

9.30–9.55: Registration and coffee.

9.55–10.00: Welcome.

10.00–10.40: Introducing

Genetics – Clare Harvey.

10.45–12.00: Test & Result Applications & Questions – Chris Pomery.

12.00–13.30: Buffet lunch.

13.30–13.45: Members' Experiences, an Introduction – Chris Pomery.

13.45–14.00: Creer Study – John Creer.

14.00–14.15: Mycock Study – Ken Mycock.

14.15–14.30: Pomeroy Study – Chris Pomery.

14.30–14.45: Dalton Study – Michael Dalton.

14.45–15.15: Collective Results from Guild Members – Chris Pomery.

15.15–Tea and biscuits.

15.45–16.25: Speakers' Panel Question Time

16.30 – Close of Seminar

By the end of the seminar you should have a clearer understanding of how to go about organising a DNA study, and also will know if others have found it a worthwhile exercise and a useful tool for their one-name study. The seminar will close with a Question and Answer Session and discussion time. Applications are welcome from Guild mem-

bers, family historians and genealogists with an interest in the subject. Members of the public are also invited to attend.

Cost of the seminar will be £12 per person, which includes a buffet lunch. Please advise of any special dietary requirements. Places are limited and allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Closing date for applications is May 4. Please use the booking form which is available from the Guild website: <http://www.one-name.org/May2007-seminar.pdf> or telephone 0800 011 2182.

For further details please contact the booking secretary, Sandra Turner, 2 St Annes Close, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 4LQ; tel 0800 011 2182; e-mail: seminar.bookings@one-name.org

We would like to ensure any disabled delegate can participate fully in this event. The Guild would be happy to provide specific information on access, services and disabled facilities or any other requirements.

SERVICE RECORDS SEMINAR – AUGUST 18. Venue: The National Archives, Kew, Surrey.

We have obtained the services of two specialist TNA speakers and two non-TNA speakers. There will 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!

CENSUS INFORMATION ONLINE – NOVEMBER 17. Venue: Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford.

Following the success of our last joint seminar with the Essex Society for Family History, we will again be joining with them for our next computer seminar. This time, the subject will be *Census Information Online*. The sessions will include what is available, where and how to use it, anomalies and why you can't find

people, and also a humorous look at the censuses. The highlight will be a talk by a member of the *Find My Past* team on the problems and logistics of putting a census online. Full details in the June Journal.

NAMES SEMINAR – FEBRUARY 2008. Venue: Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Station Approach, Solihull.

PALAEOGRAPHY SEMINAR – MAY 2008. Venue: TBA.

We are still looking for a record office or library with good natural lighting in order to carry out this seminar. Can anyone assist please?

PRACTICAL COMPUTER SEMINAR – AUGUST 2008. Venue: TBA.

Owing to the difficulty of finding a university of college with a computer suite available in the summer holidays, we may use a venue with up to five computers, each running a separate FH program with a tutor on hand. Can anyone assist please?

PRE-19th CENTURY ONE-NAME STUDIES – NOVEMBER 2008. Venue: TBA

NEW SEMINAR – FEBRUARY 2009. Venue: Yorkshire area, Leeds, York or East Riding. Subject: TBA

If any member has a more specific location they would like to suggest for any of the above, please contact the Seminar Subcommittee Secretary, Rod Clayburn, on rod.clayburn@one-name.org

• The Guild Committee has agreed with the Treasurer that the expense of printing flyers containing application forms for 2000-plus members was not justified based on actual returns. A form will be available as a download from the Guild website or by post by contacting the Guild Front desk on the Freephone 0800 011 2182 and a copy will be posted to them.

Treasurer's Comments by CLIFF KEMBALL



Guild gets good value for money in managing increased activities

I AM NOW into my third year as Treasurer for the Guild and I believe I have introduced some useful changes to our financial control procedures and in the structure and content of the Guild's Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Accounts. You will find included with this issue of the Journal a copy of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended October 31 2006.

The Guild has had another successful year financially although, as budgeted for, the Guild's reserves were reduced by £14,334. The principal sources of the Guild's income are subscriptions, registration fees, profits from the Bookstall sales, donations and the associated gift aid refunds, totalling some £51,000. Income from the Guild conference is broadly matched by the costs of this activity and the Guild aims to subsidise its seminar activities by up to 50%, excluding food and refreshments.

Resources

The production of the Journal of One-Name Studies and the annual Register of One-Name Studies continues to absorb the majority of the Guild's income. Additional resources are allocated to various Guild projects and activities, including an additional look-up service, the Guild Marriage Challenge and the activities of the regional representatives in the UK and overseas.

As a result of my campaign to increase the number of UK members who sign Gift Aid Declarations (GADs), income received from the UK government has increased by over £4,500 to £8,712. There are no plans to increase the Guild's subscription

rate for the foreseeable future.

You will see that the accounts for 2005–6 provide more information than in previous years and that the format of the accounts is in line with the requirements of the Charities Commission. I hope to continue to increase the amount of information in the accounts to make the Guild's financial activities transparent to our members. With this in mind I have included some additional information below which provides some further details of the Guild's financial activities.

While the income to the Guild has been steadily increasing in recent years, despite no increase in the membership subscription, 2005–6 saw a £10,000 drop in income over the previous financial year. This was almost solely due to a drop in sales via the Guild's bookstall, a trend that is being experienced by a number of family history societies. I am pleased to say that the Bookstall Manager, Howard Benbrook, has been reporting a reversal of this trend in the first half of the financial year.

The reduction in Bookstall sales has been partly offset by a significant increase in income from Gift Aid, as mentioned above. As at the beginning of March, some 61% (1,051 out of 1,736) of UK-based Guild members had signed GADs.

So if you have not yet completed a GAD and you currently pay income tax, taxes on share dividends or capital gains, then please do so now. A copy of the GAD form can be downloaded from the Guild's website either in PDF format [GiftAid2006.pdf](#) or in Word. Just complete the form, sign it and e-mail it to me at treasurer@one-name.org or post

it to Treasurer, Guild of One-Name Studies, 168 Green Lane Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 6AY.

The Guild Committee decided, on my recommendation, to reduce its surplus to a level that is closer to the Guild's stated reserves policy, which is to hold a general reserve which is equivalent to approximately six month's unrestricted fund expenditure. Consequently the Guild has been able to fund additional activities without increasing the membership fee.

In 2005–6 the Guild have digitised 120,000 pages of ONS material, continue to provide a storage facility, pay Marriage Challenge expenses, increase its look-up services, enhance its regional representative activities as well as substantially increasing the level of marketing and advertising of the Guild.

The Committee are currently budgeting for a much smaller deficit in this financial year and, because of the optional nature of this additional activity, they can reasonably expect to budget future Guild expenditure in line with anticipated income.

Value

I am continuing to keep an eye on the level of expenditure on governance expenses and I am satisfied that the Guild obtains good value for money for managing our increasing activities. As an example, Committee expenses – the cost of holding the Committee and Executive meetings during the year – fell by over £270.00 last year to £1,483. In addition, various Committee members donated some £625.00 to the Guild last year.

I plan to continue to look at ways of increasing the Guild's income while at the same time maximising the value for money our members obtain for their annual subscription. I would be interested in hearing from members who have suggestions or additional information which could be included in the accounts or improvements in the financial management of the Guild. ○



End-of-term report as I leave to concentrate on my own study

This is my last column as Guild Registrar. As the second longest serving Registrar in the history of the Guild, I am well past my sell-by date. It really is time for me to concentrate on my own, long neglected, one-name study.

During the last four-and-a-half years I have processed more than 700 membership applications and, with the help of my wife, made up and sent out Joiners Packs to these new members. I have actioned more than 2,000 amendments to members' details in the Guild database, and followed up 100-plus complaints about members not responding to registered name enquiries.

In that time I have also been involved with organising the 25th Anniversary Conference and two new members' seminars, as well as co-authoring the Guild's first Member's Handbook. Well time for a rest I think.

Dedication

It may seem that I am blowing my own trumpet here but that isn't my intention. I am merely trying to point out the amount of work that goes on to run our organisation. When I joined the Guild Committee I was amazed at the dedication of Committee members and other post holders, many of whom have full-time jobs or significant work and domestic commitments.

Anyone who has ever been involved with a voluntary organisation will know that much happens behind the scenes that most members may not be aware of. In the Guild we see the outward face of this work – improvements to the layout of the Guild

website, the award-winning Journal, the Bookstall or lively and interesting Conferences and seminars. These require considerable work and organisation, but there are also all the tasks of which there are few visible signs. Post holders such as the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Renewals Secretary handle heavy day-to-day workloads for the Guild.

It is interesting to reflect just how far the Guild has come during the last four years. Many new facilities or services have been introduced to help members or publicise their studies – the Guild Electronic Archive, Members' Profiles, the Marriage Index, the Guild Knowledge Store (Wiki) and the Marriage Challenges.

Improvements

There have also been less publicly visible improvements. How many of you remember that only a couple of years ago it could take up to six weeks for a change to your details to appear online? Now the change is usually made within 24 hours of notification.

The introduction of the new online database last year, after nearly a year of work by the Webmaster, enabled much more timely updates and the provision of all kinds of supplementary information to help run the Guild, for example to Regional Reps. These enhancements continue with, for example, the new password system for the Members Room.

As facilities and services expand, there is an ever-greater need for ordinary members to become involved with the running of the Guild. I was heartened to see that, for the first

time for many years, there were more candidates prepared to stand for the Committee this year than there were places.

I believe Committee elections should be the norm rather than a rarity. An organisation is in danger of dying if it doesn't have a regular injection of new blood and new ideas. So I am more than happy to stand down from the Registrar's post and the Committee and hand the work on to others.

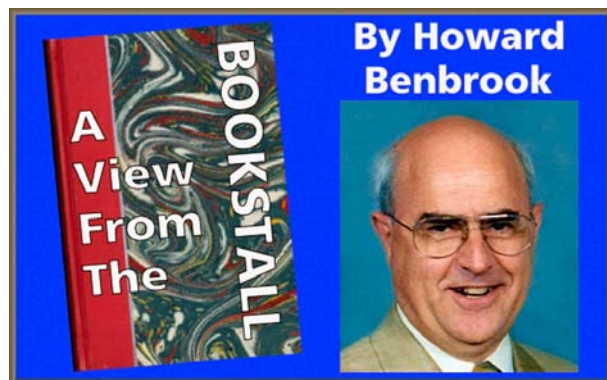
Correspondence

As Registrar I have had much interesting correspondence concerning membership and registration issues with many Guild members over the last few years, not only those who have just joined. I would like to take this opportunity to thank members for their letters and e-mails.

What an interesting organisation we belong to and what an amazing group of members we have. Unlike local family history societies, we don't concentrate on one particular area; our interests are worldwide, like our spread of members.

We are united in our interest in chasing elusive members of our clan, many of whom may have no specific link to our own ancestral line. The breadth of knowledge of Guild members about their own name, and research in general, is phenomenal.

I have rarely seen a genealogical query raised on the Guild Forum that some other member could not answer with great authority. Let's celebrate our knowledge, experience and commitment to one-name studies and the Guild. ○



How do we fit it all in when we are supposed to have retired?

DO YOU ever get the feeling you're doing too much? By common consent, family history is an absorbing and addictive pursuit and, for some, the idea of finding time for any other interest is simply unimaginable.

This seems to go some way to explain why a lot of people only get round to it when they are "retired" – an over-worked and misleading word, in my view.

But hang on! Nothing's that simple. The idea that, once you're in complete command of your time, you'll be able to allocate

on the theatrical boards.

Those of you who are gainfully employed have a great chunk of your lives to keep your feet firmly on the ground – airline crew excepted. It may seem like burning the candle at both ends, but now that I've given up working for money and this other "work" is my main occupation, I need my other world to keep me grounded. I wonder how many of you are the same?

What's new, what's big?

I've not searched out any new titles recently but, during one of the many stimulating debates on the Guild's Forum, mention was made of a particularly useful book on the census, *Making Sense of the Census Revisited*, by Edward Higgs. There was sufficient interest from members for me to take a shot at ordering a few copies. The first batch quickly disappeared, and so this has given me the confidence to include it on the latest Bookstall Price List.

This comprehensive account is an update of an earlier work by

the same author and now includes material relating to all the Victorian censuses in England & Wales, including material on pre-1841 censuses. Details on the structure and geography of the census are included, and it has comprehensive information on the houses, households, individuals and occupations that appear in the returns. I recommend it to you as a source of more insight into the census than just a list of names and places.

More marriage challenges

In the last Journal, I mentioned Stage One of my latest Marriage Challenge, covering Whitechapel RD for the years 1837 to 1860. I'm pleased to say, as I write this, that this first stage is nearly complete and so I'd like to invite you to send me marriages for the second stage, covering the years 1861 to 1890. Please let me have your requests, for your registered surname only, in the same form as a GRO Index entry: Year, Qtr, Surname, Forename, RD, Vol, and Page. I'll try and find the marriages for you before the next Journal drops through your letter box.

Using the GMI

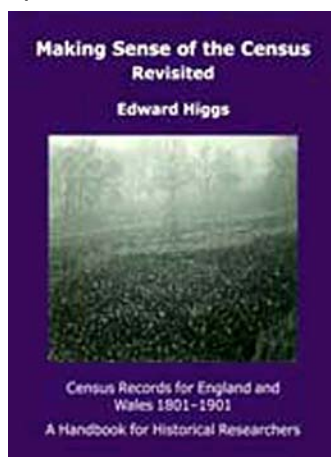
Related to Marriage Challenges, I thought I'd take this opportunity to remind you of the Guild Marriage Index (GMI). Although there's strictly no direct link between the two, I always submit marriages found in a Marriage Challenge to be included in the GMI. This makes a lot of sense to me, as it helps to build the GMI database into a significant resource. There are now more than 200,000 entries that include



Is actor Howard studying his (hearth) tax returns?

significant amounts of your waking hours to genealogy needs more careful examination. For a start, how much is a "significant amount"?

And does this mean to the exclusion of other interests? Not to mention the reasonable demands of family, friends and housekeeping, shouldn't we maintain an interest in something else? Won't it, at the very least, keep us balanced? I think it will, and so I'm still strutting my stuff



Making Sense of the Census Revisited - update of a classic

both spouse names, so you can see where this is heading.

In other articles, I've mentioned cardinal points (the first and last marriage that took place in a church together with their equivalent page numbers in the GRO Marriage Index). With a comprehensive set for a registration district, you can de-code any page number in the GRO Marriage Indexes and identify the church – particularly useful for big towns. I already have these for several East End RDs, for instance. But did you realise that you can get quite close to this by using the GMI?

Take a look at the GMI Search page at www.one-name.org/members/GMI/search.html. Notice the left hand side of the box, labelled "GRO place search". If you identify the RD and quarter, you'll get a list something like the table below. You will get more details if you check the box with the label "Full details required".

Some of these marriages are

the outcome of a Marriage Challenge. Pancras was the very first MC, for instance, and two of the St Giles entries are cardinal points, but the entries for St Martin-in-the-Fields are just normal GMI entries and you can get a really good idea of the range of the page numbers used for that church in that quarter.

Each MC request will normally offer a GRO page number and, using this query, it's possible to identify the church or get close to it. If a request for this quarter contains a page number between 135 and 169, for instance, it certainly took place in St Martin-in-the-Fields. If the page number is, say, 405, then it will be either St Clement Danes or St Mary le Strand or one other that sneaks in the gap between pages 402 and 407.

Notice the sequence of churches in the Strand district, by the way – they're alphabetical. The church in the gap might be one with a dedication to a saint

that has an initial letter between C and M.

Since the last Journal, the Bookstall has been at the East of London FHS Fair at Barking, family history fairs at Bracknell, Crawley and Kidlington, the Guild Publications Seminar at Bletchley, Dorset FHS's open day at Poole, Dorset (thanks, Kirsty!), and Ron Woodhouse took the Northern Bookstall to the Pudsey Family History Fair.

And for the future? As you might expect, there are many more events to choose from. Here's the list over the coming months at the time of writing:

- Stockport FH Fair, Stockport, Sunday, April 1.
- Guild Conference & AGM, Basingstoke, Hants, April 13–15.
- Gloucs FHS Open Day, Gloucester, Sat April 21.
- South Coast FH Fair, Worthing, Sussex, Sun, April 22.
- Who Do You Think You Are? LIVE, Olympia, London, May 5–7.
- Kent FH Fair, Maidstone, Kent, Sun, May 13.
- Guild DNA Seminar, Nuthall, Notts, Sat, May 19.
- Central England FH Fair, Buxton, Derbys, Sat, May 26.
- Wilts FHS Open Day, Salisbury, Wilts, Sat, June 16
- Yorkshire FH Fair, York, Sat, June 30.

I will spare you the usual exhortation to come and say hello because, of course, you've already made a note in your diary, haven't you? We'd love to see you, all the same. I can't complete this note without pointing out the unselfish efforts of the lovely people who turned out to help me: Bernard Shambrook, Roy Rayment, Michael Walker, Richard Heaton, Ken Toll, Jan Cooper, Cliff Kembell, Sonia Turner, Ken Grubb, Bill Corser and, of course, Ron Woodhouse. I hope I've included everyone.

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. ○

Year: 1849 Quarter: 3 Volume: 1

District	Page	Location	Exact date
St Geo Han Sq	57	St George Hanover Square	12 Jul 1849
St Giles	65	Bloomsbury St George	1 Jul 1849
St Giles	73	Bloomsbury St George	19 Aug 1849
St Giles	83	Bloomsbury St George	26 Sep 1849
St Jas Westminster	91	Westminster St James	9 Sep 1849
St Jas Westminster	112	Westminster St James	26 Jul 1849
St Jas Westminster	129	Westminster St James	30 Sep 1849
St Martin	135	St Martin in the Fields	1 Jul 1849
St Martin	159	St Martin in the Fields	20 Aug 1849
St Martin	166	St Martin in the Fields	6 Sep 1849
St Martin	169	St Martin in the Fields	10 Sep 1849
Marylebone	218	St Mary Bryanston Sq	5 Jul 1849
Pancras	311	St Pancras	8 Jul 1849
Pancras	312	St Pancras	10 Jul 1849
Pancras	317	St Pancras	15 Jul 1849
Pancras	327	St Pancras	24 Jul 1849
Pancras	338	St Pancras	8 Aug 1849
Pancras	344	St Pancras	16 Aug 1849
Pancras	350	St Pancras	23 Aug 1849
Pancras	362	St Pancras	9 Sep 1849
Pancras	363	St Pancras	10 Sep 1849
Pancras	365	St Pancras	16 Sep 1849
Pancras	371	St Pancras	23 Sep 1849
Pancras	374	St Pancras Old Church	24 Sep 1849
Pancras	379	All Saints Gordon Square	10 Jul 1849
Strand	395	St Anne Soho	9 Sep 1849
Strand	402	St Clement Danes	3 Sep 1849
Strand	407	St Mary le Strand	17 Jul 1849
Pancras	540	St Pancras	12 Aug 1849

New Marriage Challenges are in the pipeline

By PETER COPSEY

I AM pleased to announce some new Marriage Challenges that will begin in the coming months.

As you will see in the table below, some Challengers are taking my suggestion of attempting only a proportion of the specified period 1837 to 1911.

In this way, the Challenge becomes much more manageable and the Challenger is not overwhelmed with requests. If the Challenge is enjoyed – and so many of them are – then the Challenger can proceed with a second period whenever it suits.

If you would like to request a search for your marriages (registered names only) in the Registration Districts and period listed in

the table, send the details from the GRO index either by e-mail or to the Challenger's postal address given in the Guild register.

Also keep a watch on the Guild web page for Marriage Challenge, as further Challenges are announced. For more information on Marriage 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@one-name.org

PETER COPSEY
Marriage Challenge
Coordinator

Registration District and Period	Deadline for Requests	Challenger	Challenger's e-mail
Whitechapel 1861 - 1890	22 April	Howard Benbrook	howard@benbrook.org.uk
Ongar 1872 - 1911	28 April	Rosalind White	threader@one-name.org
Poplar 1837 - 1911	30 April	David Horwill	DMHorwill@aol.com
Marylebone 1837 - 1846	30 April	Sian Plant and Mary Ghist	plant@worldonline.co.uk
Bedford 1837 - 1911	25 June	David Thomas	dads.shed@gmail.com

Arthur Richard Inch

A GUILD founder member, Arthur Richard Inch, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, has died, aged 91. He was member number 75.

He passed away on February 2. He kept extensive records on the Inch clan.

We are grateful to his grandson, Alistair Furze, for letting us know the sad news and extend condolences to the family.

OBITUARIES

Vice-President Ernest Hamley

WE ARE sad to have to report that Ernest B. Hamley, a Vice-President of the Guild, died on February 3 2007.

Ernie, as he was widely known, had been in poor health for some time and died in hospital. Members of the Guild Committee heard the sad news halfway through a Committee meeting.

Though he had a low membership number, 64, Ernie was not, in fact, a founder member. He originally joined the Guild in 1992 as member 2054, the Hamley registration at that time being held by a cousin, Douglas Hamley. However, the Hamley Family History Society were founder members and when Douglas Hamley died in 1992, the number 64 was transferred to Ernie.

A former civil servant, Ernie worked extensively in the Far East. He was a delightful man and a charming host at his South London home, where he regularly invited the Guild's Seminar Subcommittee to hold its meetings. He was elected a Vice-President of the Guild at the Annual Conference in 2002.

Elizabeth Simpson

ELIZABETH SIMPSON, a near-legendary stalwart of the family history movement, died in early February. She was one of the pioneer founders in the 1970s of the Federation of Family History Societies.

She had remained prominent in the FFHS virtually right up to the present day, despite failing eyesight, and was a Vice-President of the organisation. She was also a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists. She was a Guild member for four years in the early 1980s, having the number 214 and studying the very unusual surname, Foinquinos.

Her name will live on in the Elizabeth Simpson Award for journals, which the Journal of One-Name Studies has won twice. ○

Guild's exciting new Probate Index project to go ahead

By BARBARA HARVEY

THE GUILD'S exciting new wills project is now going ahead, so don't miss out. It is fascinating what wills can reveal and even the Calendar (index) can provide plenty of other surnames.

So please take the time to submit your entries as soon as some of them are ready. You do not need to wait until you have a complete index. Please seek advice from me (contact details at the end) if you are unable to send your index in either an Excel or csv format.

In some cases, the surname of the testator will be the same as all the other persons mentioned in the will, whether they are beneficiaries/legatees, executors/executrixes, witnesses or have any other role in the will.

These are of no interest to the Guild Probate Index, as they only refer to your own study. However, some wills may include anything from one other surname to 20 or more. Each surname which is different from that of the testator needs a separate line entry in the Guild Probate Index.

The Guild database will include wills and administrations from earliest times to 1967 and from all parts of the world. The data you submit may be extracted from the documents themselves or from the Calendars. Data is being accepted now, although it is not anticipated that the data-

base will be on the Guild Website until the autumn. I will check for surname matches already in the Guild database for any member who sends their index in early.

The aim is to create surname links between Guild members. I did a random check on my own index and looked at 391 other names. Matching these against the Guild Register, I found that 28 were registered ones – over seven per cent. There must be an enormous potential for breaking down some of those brick walls which we all have.

It has been decided that deceased persons (testators) may be included who are not from your ONS, thus giving you the opportunity to further your own family research and not just your ONS. Data will be accepted, provided that the surname of the testator is different from that of the other person mentioned in the will.

I am well aware that it will take time to create your index, but I hope you will think it worthwhile. I estimate that my own index will run to about 4,000 entries, so I do understand what commitment is required.

If you have not collected probate data for your ONS, why not? You don't know what you are missing! ○

Contact: Barbara Harvey, 15 Park Avenue, St.Albans, Herts AL1 4PB or e-mail loverock@one-name.org or phone 01727 865631.

HERE ARE guidelines for submissions to the Probate Index – also see the sample at the bottom of the page. All those columns marked with a * are compulsory

*Year of Probate – the year in which the probate or administration was granted.

Year of Death – fill in this column if you know the actual year of death. Do not include ranges of dates..

Court – after 1858 a court may be included, if known, for probate in England and Wales. Specify all other courts.

*Before 1858 a court must be shown, but keep it simple, e.g. Lichfield, rather than Consistory Court of Lichfield. For the two higher courts in England, use PCC for the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and PCY for that of York.

*Deceased Surname – essential.

*Deceased Forename – essential.

County or Country – use the Chapman Codes for the UK.

*Address of Deceased – at least some idea of location should be included, even if the actual full address is not known. "At sea" is acceptable for a mariner.

*Surname of Referenced person – essential, but do not include banks and other institutions.

Forename of Referenced person – use the full forename but if not known, use initials and/or title.

*Role in will or Admon – beneficiary or legatee (whichever term you prefer), witness, executor/executrix, vendor (of land), appraiser (of an Inventory) etc

Relationship – uncle, sister, cousin, godchild, etc., but also including solicitor, accountant, vicar, servant, tenant, friend, son of late friend, etc. ○

Year of Probate	Year of death	Court	Deceased surname	Deceased forename	County or country	Address of deceased	Surname of Referenced person	Forename of Referenced person	Role in Will or Admon	Relationship to the deceased
1798	1784	Chester & PC	Fernyhough	Francis	MDX	Hatton Street, Holborn	Wilson	Thomas	executor	ex-partner in trade
1845		Lichfield	Bakewell	Ann Mary	MDX	23 Ray Street, Clerkenwell	Thornton	John	beneficiary	uncle
1856		PCC	Startin	George	SSX	Frant	Thompson	Henry (Sir)	commissioner	vicar of Frant
1875	1875	Birmingham	Startin	Anne	WAR	Nuneaton	Marshall	Jabez John	executor	half brother
1922	1922		Startin	Edward Miles	SOM	56 Stackpool Road, Bedminster	Chambers	Arthur B	witness	solicitor

Reviews Reviews Reviews

New genealogy books and CDs

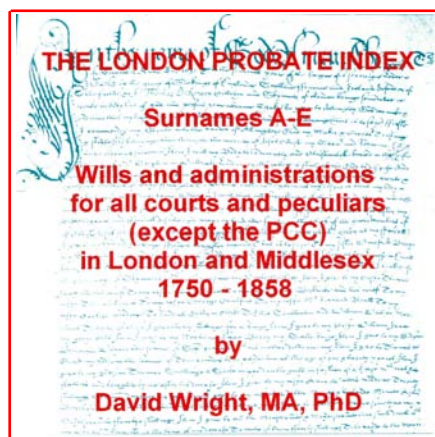
New probate index for London researchers

THE LONDON PROBATE INDEX Surnames A-E, CD-ROM, price £20 (p&p free) from Dr. David Wright, MA, PhD, 71 Island Wall, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1EL, e-mail davideastkent@aol.com

THIS index, compiled by professional genealogist Dr. David Wright, comprises some 18,000 surnames in the A-E range, covering wills and administrations for all courts and peculiars, except the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, in London and Middlesex from 1750 to 1858. A further 50,000 surnames from F-Z are also held by Dr. Wright and will be transferred to disc in due course. In the meantime, enquirers can write to him at the address above for a search (minimum fee £5).

In the Introduction, Dr. Wright says: "The only court not covered is the PCC series held at The National Archives and Family Records Centre. The wills for this vast series are now fully searchable online, but be aware that the equally valuable administrations (often more informative than a will) are indexed only in hard-copy form at the FRC and that at the time of writing (October 2006) the period 1801-1850 is not indexed at all – you will have to search the laborious annual calendars for this half-century."

A glance at the contents reveals that the index is as rich and varied as the PCC, albeit on a smaller scale. There are entries from all over England – and particularly Essex and Hertfordshire as the jurisdiction of the Consistory Court stretched into those counties – plus Ireland, Scotland and Wales; but strength also lies in prodigious numbers of people domiciled or dying abroad, and



of soldiers and sailors on active service, where in virtually every case the regiment or ship's name is given. Most entries in the index relate to wills and administrations, but the calendars to the smaller courts also reveal a few bonds, caveats and other associated documents, all of which have been included, as have occupation, parish and other details, if shown.

Among the perhaps lesser-known courts covered are the Royal Peculiar of St Katherine by the Tower, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Peculiar of the Deanery of Croydon and Peculiar of the Deanery of the Arches.

ROY STOCKDILL

Fancy naming baby Mahershalhashbaz?

700 BABY NAMES (anonymous) Foulsham & Co. Ltd., 2001, ISBN 0-572002647-1. Paperback, £4.99. ONE-NAMERS will have encountered numerous mutations of the Christian names in the records. These are often the results of a whim by the informant in census returns, deaths and burials and marriages. I have observed the following categories...

- Spelling variations, e.g. Col-

lette and Colletta.

- Reversal of order of two or more given names, e.g. William James for James William.

- Contraction of names, e.g. Jame for James.

- Latinisation of names, e.g. Jno. for John.

- Substitution of diminutives, e.g. Willie for William

- Substitutions of nicknames, e.g. Betsy for Elizabeth, Polly for Mary.

- Omission of one or more given names, e.g. Thomas for Thomas Samuel.

- Transcription errors, e.g. Narquis for Marquis

It is sometimes necessary to know which variants are derived from which names, so *7,000 Baby Names* has an honoured place in my bookshelves, although the book is a few years old and primarily for parents at a loss as to what to name their new child.

I have not actually counted them but it really does list about 7,000 names divided about 50/50 between girls and boys. A brief note of the origin is given for each name followed by its meaning in that language. It is difficult to assess the accuracy of these but I noted that Dallas as a girl's name was said to mean "wise" but as a boy's "skilled". For the common English names there follows a list of nicknames and other variations. Thus, Mary is followed by 30 variations including Molly and Polly. It is cross-indexed so that Polly takes you back to Mary.

It includes most names that I can think of, including Maher, but omits Mahershalhashbaz, A name borne by three generations of my distant cousins. I once used to publish a short newsletter on this name and discovered from informants that in the last three centuries, at least 17 people had been given it. *The Guinness Book of Records* claims it is the longest English name, so it is perhaps just as well it is not included among the possible names for baby.

TED G. RICHARDS
Member 2300

Surname as Christian name

THE *100 Top Tips for One-Namers* booklet, which came as a supplement to the scintillating 100th issue of the Journal, has at tip no. 6 "Middle Names", about searching The National Archives for a surname being used as a Christian name. For the last seven years my co-researcher Sue Kirby (née Verinder) and I have been studying this facet of our ONS. It started when Brigadier General John Henry Verinder Crowe (1862–1948) cropped up in an Internet search of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

Our major sources have been a special version of the IGI and the multiple Christian name parts of a special version of the BMD Indexes of the General Register Office, both searchable by Christian name only. Newspaper indexes for *The Times*, the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* have been fruitful, and there have been other indexes too numerous to mention.

The majority of our discoveries were easily assigned to one of our 10 separate branches, back to the 17th century and Gloucestershire, being the maiden names of brides. More difficult were those where the paternal grandmother's maiden name was used and, even more difficult, the maternal grandmother's. A great aid was our practice, with the aid of censuses and the GRO BMD Indexes, of following female lines where a married surname of an unusual variety was involved, sometimes down to the present day. However, buying certificates was often the only way forward.

In three cases Verinder was found as a sole Christian name, apart from those surnames linked to India where it is a favoured forename. All three were tracked down to one of our branches. One solution was by sheer good fortune because a Verrinder woman had used a false name on marriage, and this discovery brought joy to an Australian, whose grandmother it was and who had been searching for her antecedents for 20 years. In one



case we would never have found the link if we had not been approached by the Christian name bearer of our surname, which had gone through three previous generations of her family. She had done her family history back to the 18th century and one surname and location, the island of Guernsey, leapt out. We saw that her great--great-grandmother's sister had married one of us in 1830, so there was no blood tie at all. In another case a present-day descendant, whose great-uncle had the Christian name, came to us and it was only by helping him with his family tree that the answer was found five generations back.

One intriguing investigation started with Gertrude Verrinder Butcher, born in 1894, who was married in 1917 as Gertrude Vallender Butcher. Vallender is one of our variants and all her spouse maiden surname references in the GRO births was Vallender, but on her death in 1975 she was back to Verrinder. We never did find out why she had Verrinder/Vallender as a Christian name, the stumbling block being that her father was illegitimate.

Currently, we have six intractable cases that defy resolving, including an Australian one and the brigadier general who started it all off. The search as to why our surname has been used as a Christian name continues to be a fascinating and richly rewarding aspect of our hobby.

STAN VERRINDER
Member 1813

DNA article

I READ the article by Else Churchill (Vol 9 Issue 5). She seems to be highly critical about the use of DNA analysis and why members of the Guild should be using it. I have just launched a

DNA Project for The Cave Family History Society. My main reasons are to find common links between my many family groups. I have very little interest at this stage with origins of the Cave family. Rumour has it that we are all descended from Jordayne and Wyamarus de Cave who "came over with William the Conqueror". But that is out of our hands and records. I am more concerned with 1450 onwards.

My project is based around 12 "core" members. Through the organisation I am using, another participant, not a member of the society, has joined in. Of these, with results so far, five are proven to have a common ancestor. Five results are still awaited. I did not expect the Y Chromosome tests to be so definite in the answers. They all have a 12/12 match.

Yes, we are all aware of illegitimacy. I have just advised a new member who wanted to join the project that it would be inadvisable as his 3x-great-grandfather was illegitimate!

Else also states that more sophisticated test are not available on the general market for genealogists. Oh! I am using a company who provide 12, 25, 37 and 67 marker tests on the general market. Within a project the costs are reasonable. Two of us have asked for a 37 marker test. The cost is about £100.

HUGH CAVE
Member 25

Grants

RECENTLY I came across an enterprising surname group (not a GOONS member) that has received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Could I ask anyone who knows of any surname groups that have applied for grant funding before, whether successfully or unsuccessfully, to drop me an e-mail? I'm interested specifically in surname groups or family societies, not county FH bodies and the like. If I can find out anything more, I'm happy to share that with respondents. Thanks!

CHRIS POMERY
Member 3400

Bletchley Publishing Seminar



Vol 9 Issue 6 April-June 2007

SCENES from the Guild's successful Publishing Seminar at Bletchley Park, the famous former World War II decoding centre. Top left: Bookstall manager and actor Howard Benbrook uses his stage style to address the audience; top right: speakers Teresa Pask, Maurice Hemingway and Colin Ulph; lower picture: some of the audience. A full report with more pictures is on pages 17 and 18.

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