

Journal

of One-Name Studies



www.one-name.org

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 urname-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

Pomeroy's, 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 baptism in Luppitt, Devon shows a Pomeroy. Data by the O show a Cox, but all known through many additional records we need before declaring victory.

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

By CHRIS POMEROY

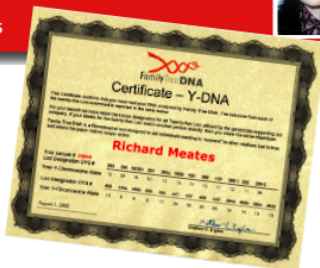


d, tree. Three traced to Devon, the other

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

How a DNA Project has produced discoveries in the Meates One-Name Study not possible with paper records alone

By Susan C. Meates



DNA and genealogy
How genetic testing can advance your research

The Guild and DNA testing – Committee issues policy and guidance document

Also in this issue...

- Focus on the Coningsby One-Name Study and hunt for the surname origins
- Report of TNA Military Records Seminar
- Enjoyment gained from a Marriage Challenge

All the latest Guild news and updates

Guild

of One-Name Studies

Box G, 14 Charterhouse Buildings
Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA
Tel: 0800 011 2182
E-mail: guild@one-name.org
Website: www.one-name.org
Registered as a charity in England
and Wales No. 802048

President

Derek A Palgrave MA FRHistS FSG

Vice-Presidents

John Hebden
Richard Moore FSG
Iain Swinnerton
Alec Tritton

Guild Committee

The Committee consists of the four
Officers, plus the following:

Gordon Adshead
Howard Benbrook
Peter Copsey
Peter Hagger
Barbara Harvey
David Mellor
Roy Rayment
Roy Stockdill
Ken Toll
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Steven Whitaker

Bookstall & Sales Manager

Howard Benbrook
Forum Manager
Wendy Archer

Regional Reps Co-ordinator

Sandra Turner

Website Manager

Anne Shankland

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Executive Peter Walker

Marketing Ken Toll

Publications Peter Walker

Seminar Gordon Adshead

IT Paul Millington

GUILD OFFICERS



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

chairman@one-name.org



VICE-CHAIRMAN
Paul Millington
58 Belmont Street
Worcester
Worcestershire
WR3 8NN
01905 745217

vice-chairman@one-name.org



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

secretary@one-name.org



TREASURER
Cliff Kemball
168 Green Lane
Chislehurst
Kent BR7 6AY
0208 467 8865

treasurer@one-name.org

* * * * *



REGISTRAR
David Mellor
2 Bromley Road
West Bridgeford
Nottingham
Notts NG2 7AP
01159 141838

registrar@one-name.org



EDITOR
Roy Stockdill
6 First Avenue
Garston, Watford
Herts WD25 9PZ
01923 893735

editor@one-name.org



www.one-name.org

Guild information

Sales

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

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

Forum

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send it to:

goons-l@rootsweb.com

Regional Representatives

The Guild has Regional Reps in
many areas. If you are interested in
becoming one, please contact the
Regional Representatives Co-
ordinator, Sandra Turner:

2 St Annes Close
Winchester
Hampshire SO22 4LQ.
Tel: 01962 840388
E-mail: rep-coordinator@one-name.org

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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

I trust you all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer and, now that we are entering autumn, perhaps you will be thinking about further activities on your one-name studies. Well, all except our members Down Under for whom summer is approaching and perhaps a welcome break, too.

At our June Committee meeting, we decided to set up a new sub-committee to deal with the Guild's Information Technology (IT) and I'm pleased to report that Paul Millington, our past webmaster, has agreed to take the chair. In the past, Paul ran the Guild's IT almost single-handed, but now we have a range of post-holders contributing to the Guild's online activities, it seems appropriate to promote coordination amongst us all and give some overall direction.

Skype

The new ITSub met for the first time in August and looks set to perform a useful role. To avoid too many more additional physical meetings, the sub-committee may well meet via Skype Audio Conferencing and it is certainly appropriate that we should use the new technologies that we are responsible for. A good number of Guild members are subscribed to Skype, which allows free phone calls between subscribers. You may know that for some time I've kept a list of such members in the Chairman's Corner of the website. Thanks to Paul Millington, these Skype addresses are now integrated into the member-

ship database, which means you can now add or update your Skype name through an online form which can be found at:

<http://www.one-name.org/cgi-bin/user-maintenance/skypefrontpage.cgi>

Those of you with e-mail will have received my Newsflash No. 21 on July 22. This announced the drafting of a proposed Guild policy paper on DNA studies, which will assist both the Committee and the DNA Advisory Panel in their future activities.

Controversial

Everyone will be aware from recent Journal articles that DNA tends to be a controversial topic, with both proponents and critics holding strong opinions. The same is true within the Committee, so in order that any policy position adopted would represent as far as possible the views of the membership, this informal consultation process was undertaken. Sixty-six of you responded; with 47 being fully supportive of the text as circulated. Another 12 members were supportive but suggested some minor textual amendments. Two members thought the statement slightly too biased against DNA testing and one member thought the opposite. Only one member was completely opposed to the statement, but I feel this stems from a lack of understanding of how Y-DNA testing actually works.

I am grateful to all who responded. I am pleased to report that after including as many of the suggested amendments as

New sub-committee set up to deal with Guild's information technology

possible, the Committee adopted the paper at their September meeting and the full text is reproduced elsewhere in this Journal.

Amongst those who suggested amendments to the paper, there were several of you who are clearly knowledgeable about the use of DNA testing as part of your one-name studies and I would appeal to you to consider joining our DNA Advisory Panel, which would benefit from extra members. It works solely by e-mail, so anyone can participate wherever you live on the globe. Please contact me or Susan Meates if you would like to join.

I should tell you that every time I send out the Newsflash, I get a large number of e-mails that bounce back. In some cases, members are forgetting to inform us of changes to their e-mail address. Please ensure you tell us about such changes: you can use the form in the website members' room, or by sending an e-mail to changes@one-name.org

Other bounces are caused by members having their own bespoke spam filtering which is blocking our mail. If you have such systems, please ensure you "white-list" all addresses within the one-name.org domain. Yet further members don't seem to be reading their e-mail at all and I get reports that their inbox is "over-quota".

Guild post-holders are very busy and we can no longer promise to chase up all failed e-mail communications, so if you are on e-mail but have not received the Newsflashes, then please check what e-mail address you have registered with us and that you are not blocking our mail. You can check out all the Newsflashes I've sent by looking at the RSS feed versions, which can be found here: <http://www.one-name.org/rss/news.xml>

Sad to say, but e-mail is becoming less and less reliable. Some

Sad end to GRO's support at FRC for family historians without computers

major ISPs in the USA, such as BellSouth and AT&T seem regularly to be blocking mail from the Guild. Many other ISPs use very crude domain blacklisting systems to filter spam and these frequently seem to block Guild mail. Our own one-name.org mail is also filtered for spam and viruses and is not giving us as good service as we would like. But given that we operate around 2,000 alias addresses, we are fortunate to get what we do without paying professional prices. However, Gerald Cooke, our Data Manager is continuing to monitor the situation and tries to assist members having problems with their alias addresses. One way to ensure you see the Newsflashes is to subscribe to the RSS feed, using a Newsfeed Reader and the address given above.

Staying with the web, one of our Forum members pointed out that you can find a lot of young people with your registered name on the many social networking websites that are now blossoming. Of course, unlike people who register on Genes-Reunited, they won't all be interested in making contact or have any interest in family history, but it's one more avenue to explore to find all those worldwide references.

Following on from that, several Guild members signed up with the Facebook site – you have to sign up to search it – and I've now even started a Facebook Group for the Guild. None of the brave souls that have joined the group so far are clear what purpose it might serve, but it may be another avenue to publicise the Guild and to exchange gossip which Wendy wouldn't want on the Forum! Mind you, those of us in the "wrinkly" generation probably find most of the chatter on these sites quite inane, but maybe we should all learn to be young at heart. You can find the Guild's Facebook site here:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=4250564090>

As I reported in Newsflash No. 22, the Family Records Centre, or rather the downstairs GRO part – the home of the BMD index tomes – is to close at the beginning of November this year, five months earlier than previously indicated. For those of us who laboured "pulling the books" in earlier times, battling shoulder to shoulder with other family historians, this announcement will be rather sad. It marks the end of the GRO's support for those without computers, unless you are prepared to use the fiche copies they will have on the first floor TNA section of the FRC – not that this will be there too much longer.

For our non-online members, it seems like you will have to bite the bullet and go online at your local library, unless you are lucky enough to have a library within reach which also has copies of the BMD fiches. But don't forget, the Guild continues to support our non-online members through our special FindMyPast look-up service.

Online indexes

As I said in my Newsflash, I suspect that many of our members have long since migrated to using other methods of collecting their BMD records. For me, the more worrying news is that the projects to provide online indexes for the BMDs are running late and/or out of budget. Whatever one may feel about the commercial websites, they do deliver, because they have the financial motivation to do so.

In my last column I mentioned our plans to increase the availability and visibility of committee minutes and papers. Those of you who logged on to try to find these may have been disappointed. Due to pressure of activities and the changeover of webmaster, the new documents did not go up as early as we had planned. I was a little surprised that nobody complained! However, by the time you read

this, you should be able to see more documentation relating to the working of the committee. Please let me know if you find this useful.

When the next Journal comes out in the New Year, the nomination forms for the Committee will be circulated as usual. It's therefore not too early to prompt you to consider whether you can make a contribution to the running of the Guild. It was pleasing that this year we had a contested election (even if it did catch us on the hop) and it would be good to think that this will be a continuing aspect of the Guild.

Posts

As I mentioned in my last column, we intend, separately, to allow members to express their interest in taking up specific posts, now that it is becoming more common for some key posts to be held by non-Committee members. We are expecting to need individuals to take up roles, including Journal Editor, Renewals Secretary, Vice-Chairman and Marketing Manager, although you are open to challenge the incumbents of any post, including mine! I would also ask all our non-UK members, wherever you are, to consider how we might improve the profile of the Guild where you live.

Although the Guild has expanded its range of services in the last few years, the take-up of individual ventures has been variable. Marriage Challenge has been a great success, even if only a minority have used it or volunteered to assist. The web Profiles continue to increase but are still deployed only by a minority of members.

I'd be interested to hear from as many of you as possible concerning the single new idea that you'd like to see the Guild offer. We may not be able to identify the resources that would deliver it, but a substantial wish-list would nevertheless be useful to have. ○

Guild of One-Name Studies and DNA testing – a Committee policy statement

DNA testing has value but maintain a balance with traditional research techniques

• Introduction

The purpose of this document is to set out the Guild's position on the subject of DNA testing as it impacts one-name studies. This position was adopted by the Committee on 8th September 2007, after consulting with the DNA Advisory Panel and a wide range of members. It may be subject to future revision as techniques advance. This document provides some advice to members about the value of DNA studies to their one-name study, but is not intended to comprise comprehensive advice on the use of this technique.

• Why has this document been produced?

AS INDIVIDUALS, members carrying out one-name studies have widely differing opinions about the importance and value of DNA testing for their studies. As a relatively new technique, it is not as widely understood as some other aspects of one-name studies and it can also appear very complex to understand at first sight.



BY PETER WALKER
Guild Chairman

Members may look to the Guild as a body to provide guidance on this topic. It has been the subject of Guild seminars¹ and Journal articles². Guidance has been placed in the website Members' Room³, while other

members have contributed DNA information to the Guild Knowledge Store (The Wiki)⁴. In order to decide how the Guild should address the subject, the Committee set up a DNA Advisory Panel⁵ to provide guidance to the Committee and this document is an outcome of the Panel's deliberations and the Committee's consideration of the issues it has raised. The Panel provides an occasional DNA "newsflash" to those subscribed to its list⁶ and members are encouraged to raise DNA issues on the Guild Forum.

In order for the Advisory Panel to continue its work and provide further guidance to both the

Committee and members, it is helpful that the Guild clarifies its views on DNA testing and its relationship to one-name studies.

• The Guild's view

DNA testing is a relatively new technique and only during this decade has it been possible for ordinary family historians to be able to afford the tests from the group of specialist testing firms that have emerged. The recent entry of Ancestry into this market will no doubt extend its popularity. This is expected to lead to DNA testing becoming more widely used, especially as part of one-name studies, and possibly cheaper.

The first point to stress is that DNA testing is not, and never can be, a substitute for the traditional techniques used for one-name studies. However, it can provide valuable supporting evidence to assist your one-name study and may be able to provide evidence of genealogical lineage which is absent from the historical record. Equally, it has to be recognised that a one-name study collects all references to a surname whether or not there is any genealogical connection between them; these will include references to wives, adopted children, some illegitimate children, slaves and others who for a variety of reasons have used the name.

No "right" way

The Guild has always recognised that there is no single "right" way to carry out a one-name study. Each is different and techniques will need to vary according to a range of factors, including the relative density of the name and the focus of its historical origins. The Guild does not, therefore, suggest that any particular research technique is essential for a one-name study.

The Guild does however make recommendations about the kind and quantity of surname data that should be collected; both before registering a name and as a goal for all studies. The Guild provides advice on techniques through the Members' Handbook, the website, seminars and Journal articles, while members themselves share information with each other through the Forum and the Guild Knowledge Store (The Wiki). From this collective advice, members can decide how they wish to pursue their own studies.

In principle, DNA testing is no different from any other technique: it has advantages and disadvan-

tages; and its value to one-name studies will vary from one study to another.

There are, however, some reasons to treat DNA testing slightly differently from other research techniques. Genealogists who choose to carry out a one-name study usually do not compete with others. Rather, they work with others interested in the name to gain the widest possible insights and share the research load. With Guild registered one-name studies, only one person can register the name. One-name studies, however, are not so well-known in many parts of the world, such as the USA, despite the fact that the Guild aims to be a worldwide organisation. This has implications for DNA testing, which has to date been more widely adopted in America.

Multiple tests

Most DNA testing firms recognise that Y-DNA⁷ test comparisons are most useful when done amongst people sharing the same surname and offer special rates for those who will be purchasing multiple tests. This has led to the concept of so-called "surname projects". A DNA surname project is not the same as a one-name study and many genealogists who have such projects come from a background of researching their family tree and

"DNA testing is not, and never can be, a substitute for the traditional techniques of one-name studies"

have not yet gained exposure or education about surnames in general and the research techniques associated with one-name studies. They may even be using the surname project for more limited purposes, such as trying

to establish the origin of US immigrants by linking families to those with a known origin⁸.

This situation creates a number of issues for one-namers. Firstly, given that we are expected to collect all references to our name worldwide, if your name is the subject of a DNA surname project, then you should be trying to collect conclusions from that project and integrate them into your study. As mentioned above, most of these DNA projects are probably not part of a one-name study.

Collaborating with such projects can, therefore, be frustrating as the project manager may expect you to provide all your data to the project but be reluctant to share their data with you, since DNA test results relate to living people and privacy laws may restrict what can be shared. Hence, if you value what DNA testing can bring, you may prefer to start your own DNA surname project as part of your one-name study. But it makes little sense to start a competing project and in any event, like the Guild, the testing firm may only allow one project for any given surname⁹.

DNA testing is rapidly growing in popularity and many Guild-registered names are already the subject

of surname projects run by other than the Guild-registered member. So, although the Guild is not suggesting that all one-name studies should have a DNA surname project, if you do wish to include a DNA study at some point in the future, this is a good time to start one if you wish to have the same kind of control over the project as you have today over your one-name study. With firms like Ancestry entering the market, there is a risk that a highly-publicised DNA project might attract more contacts in the future than your own study. It is possible to register a project now and carry out a more extensive surname project later.

Books

Several of the key experts in DNA testing are Guild members and have written books on the subject¹⁰. Given the obvious linkage between DNA testing and one-name studies, it is possible that Guild members, over time, could be the centre of expertise in this new branch of genealogical research, with consequential benefit to the Guild's reputation. However, given that not all DNA testing is being done within the disciplines of a one-name study, it is important that the Guild's association with DNA testing is seen as part of a wider, properly structured approach to surname studies. This can be best achieved by Guild members using DNA testing within a well organised one-name study.

Some people find DNA analysis so fascinating that it becomes the primary focus of their genealogical studies, but we feel it is important that Guild members maintain a proper balance between traditional historical techniques and DNA.

• ***What are the benefits of a DNA surname project to a one-name study?***

DNA testing can complement traditional research techniques in many ways, such as:

- 1 It can confirm, support or challenge hypotheses suggested by traditional research;
- 2 Identify branches of the name that share a common ancestor;
- 3 Overcome gaps in the paper records (e.g. migrations);
- 4 Demonstrate which variants have a common root and possibly identify new variants;
- 5 Support or challenge hypotheses concerning illegitimacy or adoption;
- 6 Combined with research in early records and distribution maps, indicate a common geographic origin;
- 7 Provide evidence concerning single or multiple origins of the name;
- 8 Give pointers to further paper-based research.

• ***What DNA testing can't do***

DNA testing can be of value to a one-name study, but like any other technique has limitations:

- 1 Y-DNA testing can show that branches have a

Starting a DNA surname project will give you greater control over it and avoid someone else starting one for your name

common origin, but not how or when precisely they have that common origin, though sometimes mutations can give branches a distinctive pattern. Proof of a connection may be subject to degrees of probability, which themselves are still not yet fully understood.

2 It cannot prove that any given person is the son of his apparent father, as opposed to, say, his paternal uncle. Closely related males are highly likely to have identical Y-DNA patterns. Y-DNA testing is not like DNA paternity testing and the results contain no information unique to that individual.

3 Mitochondrial DNA¹¹ (mtDNA) testing, which relates to one's all-female ancestry, is of no value to a one-name study, though project members might be able to get a discount on such tests through membership of a surname project.

4 In the case of an illegitimate child of a single mother, where the genealogical father is not known, DNA testing is of limited value, as DNA matches occur regularly amongst people with different surnames¹².

5 It cannot of course help with research into lines where no living male descendants survive.

• Conclusions and Advice

- DNA testing is one of a number of techniques that may assist your One-Name Study.

- DNA testing cannot be a substitute for traditional one-name techniques, but can confirm, support or challenge other research and hypotheses; and perhaps provide evidence which is absent from the historical record.

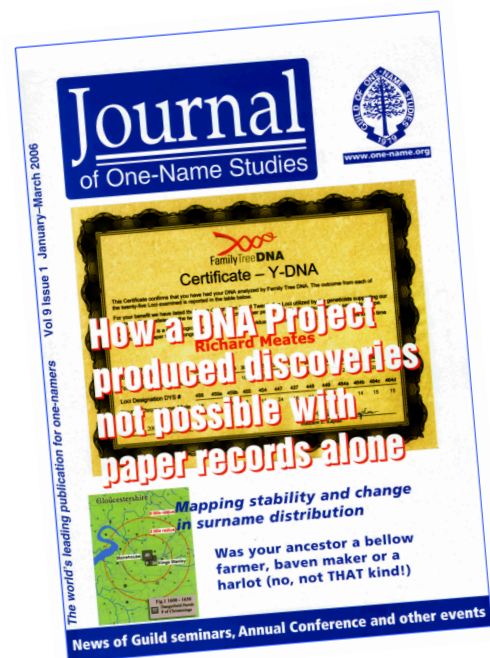
- DNA testing is relatively expensive compared to other one-name study activities and requires a good deal of time commitment and marketing. Some individuals will be resistant to the idea of DNA testing, for a range of reasons, not only financial. Testing of known close relatives is not recommended, unless it is done for specific reasons and where the individuals are fully aware of the possible implications.

- The Guild does not intend that a DNA surname project should be part of the obligations connected to the registration of a one-name study. Equally, those who choose not to do a DNA study are not to be treated in any way differently from those who do¹³.

- One-name studies should continue to collect and study all worldwide references to the name, whether or not there is a genetically-proven connection¹⁴.

- You should check the DNA testing firms' websites to see if your study name is already the subject of a DNA surname project¹⁵.

If your name is not yet the subject of a DNA surname project and you feel that your study would benefit from DNA testing now or in the future, you may wish to consider starting (or at least registering) one, as this will give you greater control over the



A Journal cover from 2006, blurring an article on DNA testing by Susan Meates

project and access to its results, and avoid someone else starting a project for your name.

You could delegate the running of the DNA project to someone who assists with your one-name study. You could register with more than one testing firm. It is possible to register a study now (perhaps purchasing one test) and develop the full DNA project at a later date, though it would be best if you could find someone to take the project forward as early as possible.

Focussed

DNA surname projects can be more efficiently focussed if you have done a reasonable amount of family reconstruction using traditional approaches¹⁶.

If your name is already the subject of a DNA surname project, you are recommended to collect references and evidence coming from the project, as you would with any other worldwide references.

You may wish to collaborate with the surname

project.

It should be noted that DNA surname projects relate to living people and this may bring restrictions on the free circulation of DNA data on privacy grounds, unless it is anonymised¹⁷. Such data needs to be stored securely.

If you do start a DNA surname project, you are advised to test with at least 37 markers, as this will provide greater accuracy of matching and may allow branches to be identified more readily through their distinctive mutations.

Members with DNA projects are recommended to create a Guild Profile¹⁸ (or update their existing one) to include a section on their DNA project.

Members are recommended to maintain an appropriate balance between traditional research and DNA analysis and promote best practice in the application of these new techniques¹⁹. ○

References

¹ DNA was first included in a Guild seminar in May 2002. Seminars focussing on DNA were held in May 2004 and most recently in May 2007. DNA was also featured on the programme of the 2006 Conference.

² The first mention of DNA testing in the Journal was in October 1997. As early as October 2000, Guild Officers were questioning its value. Since then many articles have been published on the subject. The best way to access these is on the Guild's special CD *Celebrating 100 Guild Journals*. Of particular note are:

Does it run in the family? Links between genealogy and genetics by Diane Brook (Vol 7 No 6 April 2001)

DNA testing – a valuable new tool for one-namers by Chris Pomery (Vol 7 No 7 July 2001)

How a surname-based DNA study can be organised and results benefit the one-namer by Chris Pomery (Vol 8 No 9 January 2005)

How a DNA Project has produced discoveries in the Meates One-Name Study not possible with paper records alone by Susan C. Meates (Vol 9 No 1 January 2006)

DNA testing of tremendous value in sorting out variants in my one-name study by Susan C. Meates (Vol 9 No 2 April 2006)

Some tips for establishing a DNA Project for your one-name study by Susan C. Meates (Vol 9 No 3 July 2006)

³ See http://www.one-name.org/members/article_dna.html

⁴ See <http://www.one-name.org/members/wiki/index.php?page=DNA%20Projects>

⁵ Members: Susan Meates, Chris Pomery, Orin Wells and Alan Savin

⁶ You can subscribe to this list here:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Guild-DNA>

⁷ Y-DNA testing reports a result for markers on the Y-chromosome which are passed from father to son, typically unchanged. The surname typically follows the Y chromosome, which makes this test very valuable for a One-Name Study. Only males can take this test, since

females do not have a Y chromosome. This test tells you about the direct male line.

⁸ Because only a subset of the total genetic diversity of a surname will have emigrated and founded successful lines in the USA, a DNA study embracing all UK and worldwide origins will tend to be more diverse.

⁹ The practice is somewhat inconsistent and, of course, the testing firms are free to duplicate names registered elsewhere – there is no central registry.

¹⁰ For example, *DNA and Family History* (out of print) and *Family History in the Genes* by Chris Pomery, and *DNA for Family Historians* by Alan Savin.

¹¹ mtDNA is inherited by both males and females, though is only passed on by females. This test tells you about the direct female line, which is your mother, her mother etc., and back in time. Since a women's surname usually changes with marriage, mtDNA testing has more limited genealogical applications. Both males and females can take this test.

¹² Of course, it may help where a small number of suspected fathers with different surnames have been identified.

¹³ Similarly, the Guild supports those who choose to carry out their studies without the use of a computer.

¹⁴ Illegitimacy and adoption will break the Y-DNA links, but this should not exclude them from your study. Equally, references to wives are always collected in a one-name study.

¹⁵ Sites worth checking are:

<http://www.familytreedna.com/>

<http://www.relativegenetics.com/>

<http://www.dnaheritage.com/>

¹⁶ Large one-name studies may not have attempted any significant degree of family reconstruction and this has never been a requirement for a registered name study. For such studies, DNA testing may be useful in establishing family groups, but will be more expensive than focussed testing where family groups are already established.

¹⁷ This may seem anomalous, since Y-DNA results, unlike the results of other types of DNA test, contain no information unique to that individual. Nevertheless, where a DNA result is presented alongside that person's name, it is in law personal data, just as the person's age or address would be. It can be appreciated that the fact that someone might have a DNA pattern different from his close male relatives could be a sensitive issue, as it would tend to imply illegitimacy. This is why the testing of close relations is not recommended.

¹⁸ See <http://www.one-name.org/members/profiles/description.html>

¹⁹ The Guild would not consider applications for name registration from those who only want to undertake a DNA surname project, since they would not be seeking to collect all worldwide references to the name. However, we welcome as members anyone with an interest in one-name studies, whether they choose to register a name or not.

During the writing of one of my books about the Coningsby/Conisbee family, I decided to try and trace the origins of the family relying on several well recorded sources to guide me. What follows, therefore, is my attempt to trace our family's origin – a family who now only have about fifty living individuals throughout the world.

The best lead that I had to follow was an inscription attached to a painting in the Tower of London of Lord Thomas Coningsby (1656–1729), which shows him seated on a terrace with his two daughters from his second marriage. A shield of arms in the lower left hand corner has an inscription:-

"This first coat was in this manner born by John Lord Coningsby, Baron of Coningsby in Lincolnshire, who was slain in the battle of Chesterfield, in the Barron Wars in the reign of King John, the which town, and castle of Coningsby being then confiscated, is now in the possession of Lord Sheffield, and this is approved by the Heralds upon perusal of the evidence of Humphrey Coningsby of Neend Sollers who is lineally descended from him the said John."

I also had a quote from Clutterbuck¹ which went:- *"John, Lord and Baron of Coningesbie, which Baron of Coningesby married the sister of the Lord Bartholomew Badlesmere: he was, for his rebellion against King John, disinherited, and after, in a battle which the Barons and disinherited gentlemen gave the King at Chesterfield, in Darbyshire, slayne in the field; and so the barony, which had continued in that name from the Saxons till then was then finished, as by auncient records doth appeare."* Saxon or not?

So if I believed Clutterbuck, the Coningsbys were Saxon and came from Coningsby in Lincolnshire. I could have left it there but felt that I should explore the references I had and try and determine whether or not they were Saxon, for I had my doubts. Not the least being that the first recorded Coningsby, Lord Roger, had a Norman name – Roger!

Despite having over 250 references to the family, they being well recorded due to their being aristocracy and landed gentry as well as Sheriffs, those references did not give me much of a clue as to the origins of the name. So I looked elsewhere for guidance.

One definition of the name is that given by Dunkling² as *"Coningsby - Someone who comes from a place so-named because it was the king's settlement"*. Another reference has it that the name is from the Old Scandinavian *konungr+by*, or *"kings manor or village"*³. This interpretation has some substance as it comes from separate sources, particu-

larly so as they are well respected sources.

This gave no indication that the name was related to Lincolnshire, but was indeed implicit in a general way that the name could be found anywhere where there was a king's settlement. So I had not made too much progress.

Locational origins

This interpretation could, therefore, lead you to a simple conclusion regarding the meaning and geographical origin of the name, but does not lead to a firm conclusion as to whether the name was of Saxon, Viking or Norman descent. I develop below, therefore, an argument about the actual origin of the village carrying the name of the "Kings Village".

Following the view that the name came from the Old Scandinavian term *konungr+by*, my starting point became the Scandinavian Invasion.

History books describe the Scandinavian invasion, the life and conditions of the Scandinavian settlers, their political relations to the English and provide us with a general idea of Scandinavians on English soil. They have, however,

left many questions unresolved, particularly with regards to the nature of the settlements and precise areas of major settlement sites.

Some 1,400 places in England are considered to have Scandinavian names and most of them are in the former area known as the Danelaw. Within this area, the heaviest concentration of Danish place-names can be found in two main areas, the territory of the Five Boroughs (Lincoln, Nottingham, Leicester, Derby and Stamford), where the Danish army base was located, and Yorkshire. Of course, our manor of Coningsby was in the territory of the Five Boroughs, so we begin to see that there was a Danish influence to our town.

Scandinavian place-names can be divided into three groups:

- Names containing Scandinavian inflectional patterns;
- Names derived from Scandinavian sound substitution;
- Names combining Scandinavian personal names with Scandinavian place-name elements.

In the second group, English place names are modified by the adoption of Scandinavian sounds. Many English names contained sounds or sound-groups unfamiliar to the Scandinavians so they substituted those familiar to themselves.

Similarly, the substitution of a Scandinavian synonym for an English place name element was extremely common: i.e. the Old English *cyning* for "king" by the Old Norse *konungr*, as in Coniscliffe (*Ciningsclif* in ASC) and Coniston. So were our early

Focus on a one-name study



By ROBIN WOOD

My search for the origins of the ancient name of Coningsby

ancestors Danish/Vikings?

In the third and final group of Scandinavian place names, personal names are found attached to Scandinavian place name elements such as *-by* and *-thorp*. Place names containing these elements are considered of great importance, as the great frequency of *-by* and *-thorp* in the Danelaw is usually regarded as the most distinctive sign of heavy Scandinavian influence.

The place name element *by* (Old Norse *býr*, Old Danish *bær* and Old Swedish *by*) means "village" or "town" in Danish and "homestead" in Norwegian. Approximately two out of every three place names ending in *-by* are combined with Scandinavian personal names⁴ and others are combined with terms for directions, such as south and east⁵, the nationality of settlers⁶ and topographical features⁷. According to the geographical evidence in the areas of the Five Boroughs and in Yorkshire, place names incorporating *-by* represent the best available vacant land⁸.

Characteristics

In using this place name evidence for Scandinavian settlement, it should be remembered that place names were not generally given by the inhabitants. They arose unconsciously⁹ or they were given by the neighbours out of some local characteristics, the owner's name, or some other circumstance and came to be used in referring to the place; hence Coningsby – The King's Land. Place names are thus likely to reflect the predominant nature or nationality of a district, which was felt by people in the adjacent areas.

It is tempting, or perhaps just convenient, to judge that *-by* is of Scandinavian origin when various maps show these are densely concentrated in a given Danelaw area but quite rare outside the region. It is possible, however, that many of the place name elements, as well as words regarded as Scandinavian in origin, did actually come from the eastern or northern dialects which are not recorded in any literary documents. So, I was still not sure where the name originated from, the name being so similar whether in Old Norse, Old English or Viking.

Interestingly enough, in his book *For the Tongue of the Gael* written in 1896, Tomas O Flannghaile argues:-

"It is strange that though the method of designating men by reference to their father is certainly older in Ireland than the designation by reference to a grandfather or remoter ancestor, yet the O appears rarely, if ever, to have been joined with a non-Celtic name, whereas Mac was freely prefixed to many foreign names. The only doubtful instance of the former sort is O Conaing, which has been anglicised 'O'Gunning' and 'Gunning,' but has sometimes been corrupted into the better known name 'O'Connell,' and is probably the original of some of the northern Irish 'Cannings' and 'Cannons.' Conaing is now generally considered Norse, and is

equated with king: the Norse word is certainly found in such place names in England and Scotland as Conyngham, Coningsby, Conington, Cunningham, &c.—names which are equivalent to 'King's home,' 'King's town,' and the like."

O Flannghaile would have it, then, that Coningsby was perhaps of Norse origin. We, therefore, appear to be drawing to the view that the Vil of Coningsby existed prior to the Norman Invasion and the evidence used above would argue perhaps that it was a Scandinavian settlement established some time after 876 AD.

Alternative Ideas

If we stop with the Danish idea a while longer it helps to explain the name itself. Many villages were established within the Danelaw area using the ending *ing*, meaning "people of"; *by* also means "village or settlement" and both are frequently used in the area, so were our family originally Danish by extraction and living in the "Village of the people of Conna" – Con-ing-by? *By* was most certainly of Viking descent. So we could argue that the village was named after one of the Viking chiefs.

If we then look at the meaning of the Saxon word *Cyne*, or later in Old English *Cyning*, both meaning king, and then the Viking name for king which is, surprisingly enough, *Conaing*, we get the distinct impression that come what may, the name related to people of the King's Land! By merging the Viking *Conaing* and the word for village, *by*, we get Conaingby. Using the old English word *Cyning* we get Cyningbi – not so far removed from our name.

It is clear, therefore, that a place called Coningsby existed in Lincolnshire, probably from at least the Norse Invasion, but were our family of Coningsbys of Danish descent?

I needed to look again at the references to John, Lord and Baron of Coningsby, and his role in King John's affairs. But before that I thought I would look at the Norman Conquest, for if he was a baron he would most probably be a descendant of one of William the Conqueror's army and then our Coningsbys would be Normans.

Norman Conquest

At the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066, the Vil of Coningsby appears to have been under the control of the Manor of Horncastle, some eight miles SE of Coningsby. The view expressed above is that the village most certainly existed prior to the Norman Conquest, but for how long I am not sure. It probably existed several hundred years before, bearing in mind the old English version of the name.

Perhaps the earliest mention of the use of the name as a surname I found was contained in a copy of *Notes and Queries* dated 1852¹⁰, when a long-time English resident of Dinan in Brittany, who had been "vegetating for some time in the remote,

torpid and medieval Ville of Dinan" was prompted to write about Dinan and Brittany's claim to some of the nobles who fought in the Battle of Hastings.

He wrote in his article *Dinan, Legends and Traditions*: "Of the Breton warriors who took part in the battle of Hastings, and were richly rewarded by the Conqueror were the Counts of Leon and Porhuet, the Sires of Dinan, Gael, Fougeres, and Chateau-giron; and, amongst those attracted to the Court of William by the fame of his munificence, and who believed that 'lands in England were to be had for the asking,' mention is made by the Chroniclers of a certain Seigneur William de Cognisby (not Coningsby), who came all the way from the lowest end of Lower Brittany, and brought with him (as help to the Norman army), his old wife Tifanie, his servant girl Manta and his dog, Hardi-gras. "

This is further supported by another reference which goes:-

"Now that he was fairly settled in England (William the Conqueror), swarms of people came from the continent; for they looked upon England as a new country where, if a man was only a good soldier and vassal, he might receive broad stretches of land. Whole families came.

Rhyme

An old rhyme says:-
*William de Coningsby
 Came out of Brittany
 With his wife Tiffany
 And his maide Maufas
 And his dogge Hardigras*

This reference gives some credence to an old Conisbee tradition that the name – Conisbee being a variant – came from France at some stage. However a brief look at the Falaise Rolls, produced to record those who were alleged to have been present at the actual battle shows no mention of the name Coningsby or anything like it. So if the Coningsbys (a generic name I will use in all cases in the future) did come with William, they either came after 1066 or under another name. So perhaps they did come with William but after the battle and took up residence in Coningsby in Lincolnshire.

It is interesting to see a Coningsby arriving at William's court from deepest Brittany, an area to where the early Saxons fled a few hundred years before the Vikings. So had a Coningsby family fled their home area and settled in France only for a descendant to return some several hundred years later?

Interestingly enough, some family historians who

peddle crests and details of the family owning them argue that 20 years after the battle the name is to be found in the Domesday Book of 1086, and they also go on to say:-

"The name Coningsby being found in Lincolnshire, where they were anciently seated as Lords of the Manor of Coningsby, a parish 8 miles north of Horncastle. At the time of the taking of the Domesday Book in 1086 Coningsby was the King's land, held in tenancy by Earl Hugh, Drogo, and Robert the Steward."

This reference is in two parts; the first relating to the existence of the family in Coningsby, a fact we know to be true; the second part relating to the fact of the town of Coningsby at the time of the Domesday Book also being true! However, they did not say who "they, who were anciently seated" were, where, when or for how long they were

seated! But like all these peddled pedigrees, there is some substance but little detail.

Domesday Book

The recent release of the Domesday Book on the Internet enabled me to take a look at the pages relating to Coningsby. However, the book does not show any record of an individual named Coningsby, although the village itself is recorded as *Cuningesbi*, not too far removed from the old English/Danish name of Conaingby.

The village of Cuningesbi appears to have been in part a sokeland to the Manor of Horncastle and indeed did record several ownerships of land in and around Coningsby, some lands owned by the king and his queen. There appears to have been several interests in the Coningsby area, that of Horncastle, Hagwortham and West Keal. However, throughout the records and the names of owners there are no Coningsbys mentioned. So it looks like the family did not exist at the time or, if they did, they were just ordinary folk or serfs.

It was, therefore, somewhat frustrating that I simply could not be sure how our family came into existence or what their actual origins were! They certainly did not appear to own lands at Coningsby at the time of the Domesday Book.

Whether the Coningsbys were of Viking, Saxon or Norman descent is unsure and I am fairly certain that we will never know (DNA tests notwithstanding). In a simple twist of fate, conjecture really does not appear to matter, as the Vikings under their Chief, Sturgud the Stout, and later under their Earl, Thorfinn Rollo, invaded France about 910 A.D. The French King, Charles the Simple, after Rollo laid siege to Paris, finally conceded defeat and granted northern France to Rollo. Rollo became the first



A Coningsby coat of arms

Duke of Normandy, (the territory of the North Men). Duke William – William the Conqueror – who invaded and defeated England in 1066 was descended from the first Duke Rollo of Normandy and possibly so were many of his supporters.

Therefore, we can conjecture that whichever way the name entered the country, it was more than likely Scandinavian in origin. Even if they were there before the Vikings, the area was populated with the Danish Saxons, so we can draw the same conclusion.

I have some serious doubts as to the validity of an argument for the establishment of a baronage called “Coningsby” in Saxon times, despite the quote by Clutterbuck⁵ which goes:-

“John, Lord and Baron of Coningesbie, which Baron of Coningesby married the sister of the Lord Bartholomew Badlesmere: he was, for his rebellion against King John, disinherited, and after, in a battle which the Barons and disinherited gentlemen gave the King at Chesterfield, in Darbyshire, slayne in the field; and so the barony, which had continued in that name from the Saxons till then was then finished, as by auncient records doth appeare.”

So were they Saxons, as Clutterbuck would have it? I have found no other evidence to back up his claim, so fear that he merely repeated an old fable. So, returning to the family and our name, in the 100 years between the assembly of the Domesday Book 1086 and our first real reference of a Coningsby name in Debrett’s, the name emerged with a “Lord” – Roger de Coningsby, Lord of Coningsby in Lincolnshire in the reign of King John, 1199–1216, Roger being “alive” in the second year of John 1st (1205).

So what did happen between 1086 and 1186 to give rise to the Coningsby family? Particularly as the Vill of Cuningesbi was most likely very small indeed and probably did not have more than 50 inhabitants.

Link

However, before continuing, I thought I would take a look at the final link to Coningsby in Lincolnshire which came from the inscription attached to a painting in the Tower of London. The coat of arms on the painting had on it the arms of the following families: Caterby; Coningsby; Solers; Clifford; Bagot; Chetwode; Atwell; Corbett; Stukley; Darwood; Bloor and Woodville”.

Heraldry tells us that coats of arms generally come about by the merging of various families’ crests. To date, I have recorded connections between the families of Solers, Baggot and Corbett but have yet to find the connections with the families of Caterby, Clifford, Chetwode, Atwell, Stukley, Darwood, Bloor and Woodville. It must be said that I believe the coats of arms described above were established some time after John Coningsby who was slain in the Baron Wars, as some of the families were not associated with the Coningsbys until some time later.

However, nearly all the families mentioned on the

coat were of Norman descent. The reference did not help other than to confirm my growing view that the family were indeed Norman. But if so, why no reference to them in the Domesday Book, the Falaise rolls or other records of the 1066 Conquest?

Alternative theory

My researches through the archives and sources on the Internet have also led me to an alternative theory on the origins of the family. This theory developed as I researched Coningsby, the town, its origins and its owners. I believe that I was too hung up on trying to associate our family with the town of Coningsby as the only source of the name to consider other options. After all, my first reference was to Roger de Coningsby, Baron of Coningsby. In this case, Roger of Coningsby merely implied that he came from Coningsby” and that he may have held the manor and lands at Coningsby. This is the first clue to my alternative theory:-

1) Looking at the Domesday book for Coningsby I found Æthelstan; Ulf; Robert, Drogo’s man; and Robert Despenser as land owners, but, as I have previously said, NO Roger de Coningsby is mentioned. Quite clearly there was no family there with a Coningsby name at that time, however a Roger de Marmion held lands at Coningsby.

2) Robert de Marmion, son of Roger Marmion, held the manors of Winteringham, Willingham, Coningsby, etc., in Lincolnshire in 1115–1118, and he rendered account for relief of his father’s lands in 1130.

3) The lordships of Tamworth, Winteringham and Coningsby were held by Robert de Marmion in 1217 and before that held by Robert de Marmion in 1115–1118, together with Scrivelsby, Winteringham and Willingham, all in Lincolnshire. They continued to hold the estates through to 1180; they, therefore, owned the estates of Coningsby continuously from 1115 to at least 1224¹¹; how, then, could our Roger and his son John also hold them at the same time?

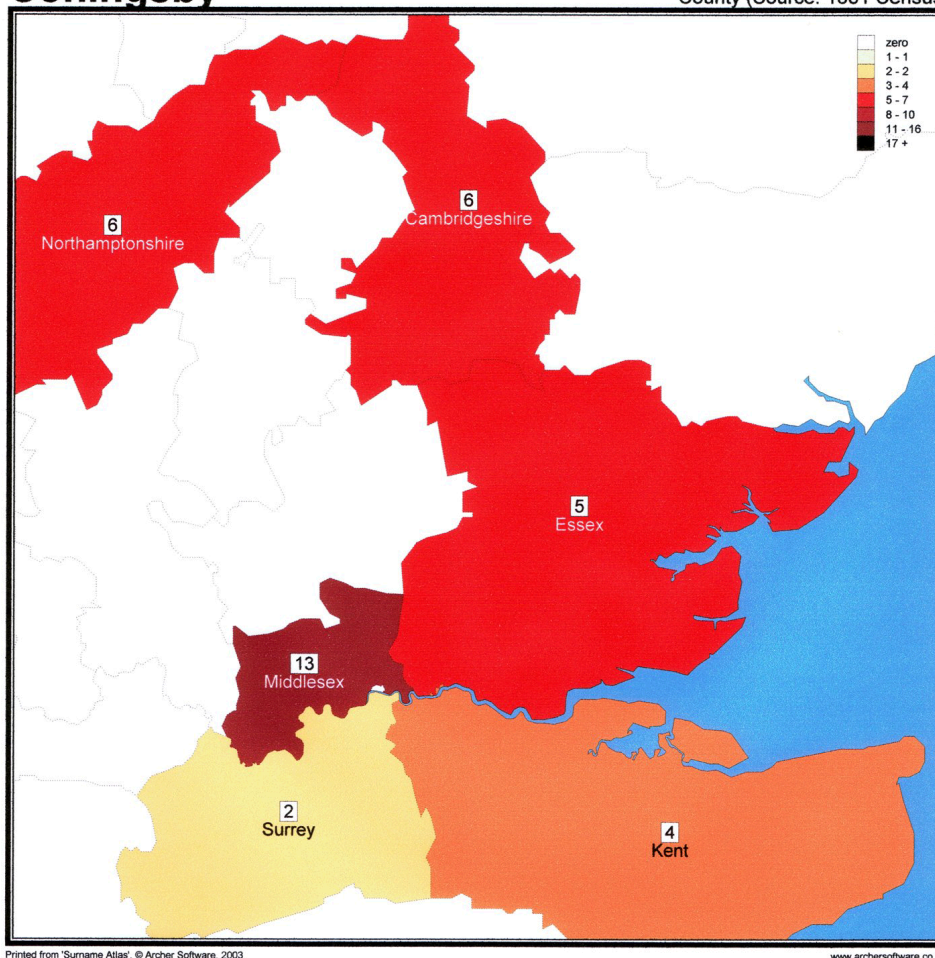
The Marmions were a powerful Norman Family hailing from Fontenay-au-Marmion near Falais. During the time of William the Conqueror, William and the Marmions had a common ancestor, Rollo the Granger. They acted as Champions to the Dukes of Normandy. When William arrived in England, he did so with his Champion, Sir Robert Marmion, the Lord of Fontenay. For his services Robert received grants of land in Lincoln, Gloucester, Warwick and Hereford; this also included Tamworth Castle. In England, as in Normandy, Robert acted as the King’s Champion.

Clearly, whilst it is known the Marmions held Coningsby in 1115, there was no record shown of it in 1086.

4) The first Robert Marmyon, Lord of Fontney in Normandy, has also been referred to as Roger, although this is later refuted as a clerical error, there being no evidence to back up a Roger. It is thought that he was born about 1040 and was for his services

Coningsby

Based on actual numbers in each
County (Source: 1881 Census)



Distribution of the Coningsby surname in the British 1881 census. There were a total of only 38 people of the name, most of which are shown on the map above. There were two others in Yorkshire West Riding

to the Conqueror granted substantial lands in Lincolnshire, including Scrivelsby, near Horncastle. Both forenames are French and sometimes transposed and used as one name.

5) Roger Marmion, born about 1133, married about 1153 Maud de Beauchamp, daughter of Sir William de Beauchamp and Maud de Brause, and eventually died about 1181. A Roger Coningsby who was alive 1296–1316, and probably slightly earlier, put himself under the protection of Guy de Beauchamp, 2nd Earle of Warwick¹² (Earl of Warwick, Knight, b 1278, Warwickshire, d 10 Aug 1315) "his kinsman, and was steward of his house". Guy de Beauchamp is described as being a "kinsman", although we have been unable to trace the "kinship", but there is clearly some relationship as yet undiscovered. Did Robert Marmion (born 1133) have a brother, Roger, who was Roger of Coningsby?

Here is a clear link to the Beauchamp family by the Marmions, so do we have evidence emerging of a Coningsby relationship via the Marmions? Guy de Beauchamp was a direct descendant of Sir William Marmion and Maud de Beauchamp.

6) Robert Marmion the Younger, born about 1190, of Lincolnshire, died about 1241/42, was

known as Robert the Younger to distinguish him from his elder half-brother of the same name. On May 15 1218 he made a fine with the King to pay an amount for having the custody of the castle of Tamworth, and the lands of which Robert his father had died, seised, to hold until Robert the Elder, his brother, should make his peace with the King and recover his father's lands in England, in which event he was to retain the vills of Winteringham and Coningsby in Lincolnshire.

Hides of land

On November 26 1224 his right to five hides of land in Quinton and to the manor of Berwick was acknowledged by his half-brother, Robert the Elder, to whom he granted two carucates (240 acres) of land in Coningsby. They clearly owned Coningsby during the period 1115 through to 1224 and beyond.

7) There are conflicting suggestions about the Marmions in Winteringham. Some suggest that Robert Marmion's son Roger was born at Winteringham "about 1065". Clearly, it would be after the Battle of Hastings and if Roger was born at Winteringham it would be more likely to be 1067 or later, as William took some while to reach London and

was only crowned there on Christmas Day 1066. Others have Roger being born at Scrivelsby, in Tamworth Castle and in Normandy with dates of birth ranging from 1060 to 1065. Note the Roger born at Scrivelsby!

8) Did indeed Roger de Marmion also become known as "Roger of Coningsby"? It would explain many shortcomings, particularly the Marmions' holding of the Coningsby estate at the time that Roger and John de Coningsby appear also to have been Barons of Coningsby. The one thing which stands in the way, however, is the known descendants of the Marmions. None of them seem to fit our Roger, but there are many similarities. However early records usually only show one child, the heir to the estate in the records, an unusual situation when most families had several children at least. So perhaps there are more unrecorded children?

9) In favour of this argument is that we do not know of any siblings of either John de Coningsby or his father Roger de Coningsby. If they were truly of Coningsby, they most certainly did not exist prior to 1086 (Domesday Book). It is quite conceivable that Roger de Marmion, born in Normandy and coming over with William the Conqueror, settling in Tamworth and being awarded lands throughout Lincolnshire, fathered another Roger, brother to Robert de Marmion, who then took on the title "of Coningsby"

10) In some ancient papers I acquired is a mention of Dugdale's Manuscripts¹³, in particular a manuscript which has a reference in Latin:-

"Rob; Marmion - de Whiteacre concept : Johi Coningesby terr in Midleton Com warw. P eastam sans date".

I have roughly translated that as Robert Marmion of Whiteacre allowed John Coningsby to fence in land in Midleton, County Warwick, in the Parish of Eastham. The reference is without date.

Middleton is a small village two miles south of Tamworth, in the North Warwickshire District of the county of Warwickshire. At the time of Domesday, Middleton was under a Norman Overlord, Hugh de Grantmaison, who had several holdings in Warwickshire. When he died, it passed to the Marmions of Tamworth. By 1185 Geoffrey Marmion had already made a grant to the Templars from his land there.

So it looks as if we are talking about the period between 1185 and 1241 when Robert Marmion was alive. My guess is that we are talking about the first John, Baron of Coningsby, who lost his lands by confiscation and who must have gone back to his kinsman to seek land for himself and his family.

11) The English genealogy web site GENUKI has, under the Lincolnshire pages for Coningsby, the following information:-

"Manors: Coningsby Castle no longer remains. A painting of it existed at Hampton Court (Herefordshire) in 1882.

"The manor was the former seat of the Marmyon family, then later the seat of the Coningsby family."

So, once again, how did the Coningsbys come to own the manor unless they were related? Purchased the seat? Or gained it by marriage? What is clear is that they are inextricably connected.

Hypothesis

If my hypothesis is true, then the family can be traced back even further in time via the Marmion pedigree. The idea of Norman families taking "new" names is not unknown. A family who later married into the Coningsbys, the Bagots, became the Staffords, due to the fact that Henry de Bagot, Baron Stafford, adopted the Stafford name and his descendants became the Staffords.

Another family marrying into the Coningsbys was that of William of Steyning who had a son who became known as Roger de Solers (see later) and I have come across many other instances of early Norman nobles taking the names of the locality.

So there I am. I concede that the evidence is irrefutable that the family came from Coningsby in Lincolnshire, I believe that they were of Norman descent and am of the view that they were related to the De Marmyons, William the Conqueror's champions. ○

Robin J C WOOD
Member 2899
conisbee@one-name.org

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- 6 Cameron. K, English Place Names (1961) Denby and Denaby (village of the Dane or Danes), Ingleby (village of the English), Scotby (village of the Scot), Frisby (village of the Frisian), Normanby (village of the Norwegian), regards these place names as valuable sources because they indicate that the settlers in various districts were not homogeneous
- 7 Aby (Old Norse: ár, "river"), Lumby (ON: lunder, "grove"), Mickleby (ON: mikill, "large"), Raby ON: rá, "boundary mark".
- 8 Loyn. H., The Vikings in England. 1994: 85.
- 9 Ekwall, E, 1924: 72, The Scandinavian Element.
- 10 Notes and Queries Vol 5 3rd S. (118) Apr 2 1864 Page 273.
- 11 Known as Robert the Younger, to distinguish him from his elder half-brother of the same name, he was the son of his father's second marriage to Philippe.
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More than 60 members enjoy Guild's Service Records Seminar at TNA

ON SATURDAY, August 18, 2007, over 60 of us went along to the Guild's Service Records Seminar at The National Archives, Kew.

It was the fourth GOONS seminar that I have attended. I have enjoyed and benefited from each one of those, including finally being given the confidence to set up my own website. However, I think it's true to say that I came away from this one with more information than any of the others, in the form of pages of references and sources to check.

Full day

It was a full day, indeed, with five speakers and an optional tour behind the scenes at Kew.

The introductory speaker was Mark Pearsall, who gave us an overview of what resources are

BY DAVID BARTON

available to the visitor to both Kew itself and TNA websites. This was a useful context for the specialist contributions later in the day.

Highlight

After coffee and the invaluable networking that invariably takes place at these gatherings, Paul Blake spoke on *Naval Records for One Name Studies*. This illustrated talk was probably my personal highlight of the day.

Paul led us through the extensive range of records available, at each stage giving examples from his own family history research. If only more of my ancestors had served in the Royal Navy rather than as ag labs!

After a lunch break I spent at the Guild bookstall and TNA

bookshop rather than eating, we heard from Mark Dunton on *Soldiers' Records 1760–1918*. I was grateful that he provided us with a printout of his slide show, which made note taking much easier.

Again, a wide range of sources were identified. In the Q & A session at the end of his talk, he dealt valiantly with some very tough, highly specific questions.

Tour

At this point some delegates went on their tour behind the scenes. I am sure that was fascinating but I'm glad that I stayed back to hear Ian Waller on *Service Records for One Name Studies*. He covered not only Army, Royal Navy and RAF records, but also the Merchant Navy, East India Company and the Metropolitan Police. Again, I took pages of notes!

The tourists returned after tea to join us to hear Ken Divall on *Muster Rolls and Militia Sources*, ranging from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century.

Rewarding

Once again, the seminar had been a really rewarding day. I had enjoyed and learned much from the talks, had interesting conversations and, as ever, emerged with a renewed enthusiasm for the project.

I am now looking forward to the next Guild seminar which will be in Chelmsford, Essex, in November. Details are on the Guild website and in this issue of the Journal. ○

DAVID BARTON
Member 4255



Delegates at the Service Records Seminar gather round with queries for Paul Blake

Census Online Seminar

Essex Record Office, Wharf Road
CHELMSFORD, Essex CM2 6YT
Saturday, November 17 2007

In conjunction with Essex SFH
Programme

- 10.00 – 10.25 Registration and Coffee
- 10.25 – 10.30 Welcome to the Seminar
- 10.30 – 11.30 What's Available Where – Howard Benbrook
- 11.30 – 12.30 Putting A Census Online – Elaine Collins (FindMyPast)
- 12.30 – 13.45 Lunch
- 13.45 – 14.45 Why Can't I Find Them? – Jeanne Bunting FSG
- 14.45 – 15.10 Afternoon Tea
- 15.10 – 16.10 The Rich, Famous and Bizarre – John Hanson FSG
- 16.10 Close of Seminar

This is a joint seminar with the Essex Society for Family History, using the excellent lecture theatre at Essex Records Office. The Seminar will be completely free of charge to both societies but you will be required to make a small donation towards refreshments. You are also reminded that the cost of the car park adjacent to the venue is £3.40 per day

Howard will tell you what you can find and where as well as how best to use it. Jeanne will give you hints and tips for finding the seemingly un-findable and John will end on a humorous note with odd entries from the census. The highlight will undoubtedly be the lecture by Elaine Collins, of the Find My Past team, on the problems and logistics of putting a census online.

It is recommended that delegates provide their own refreshments, so that during the lunch recess informal discussions can continue. However there are places nearby where you will be able to obtain lunch, as well as liquid refreshment. You can browse any displays, as well as the Guild and Essex Bookstalls. Delegates will also be able to use the Essex Research Rooms during the lunch period, which is slightly longer than normal.

Places will be strictly limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis. The purpose-built lecture theatre has all the latest projection equipment and there is an overflow room with a video link. Those booking late may be allocated a place in this room.

The closing date for applications is November 10. To book, please fill in a booking form and send it to the booking secretary: Jeanne Bunting, Firgrove, Ash Vale, Surrey, GU12 5LL. Further information may be obtained by contacting the booking secretary at the above address or by email at Seminar.booking@one-name.org or phoning the Guild Help Desk on 08000 112182.

The booking form may be obtained from the Guild Website at: http://www.one-name.org/Seminar_Essex_BookingForm.pdf or by phoning 08000 112182 to ask for a form to be mailed to you.

A map of the venue can be found at:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/newmap.srf?x=571439&y=206407>

Disabled delegates. We would like to ensure that any disabled delegate can participate fully in this event. If you need any special requirements, please phone 08000 112182.

MORE FUTURE SEMINARS

ONE-NAME STUDIES – November 24 2007. Venue: Skipton Castle, North Yorkshire BD23 1AW.

This seminar has been organised by the Halstead Trust. Speakers will be: Alec Tritton, Derek Palgrave, Geoff Riggs, Else Churchill, Jeanne Bunting and John Hanson.

Details and booking form at: <http://www.halsted.org.uk/BookingForm2007.pdf> or from Marion French, 30 The Pastures, Hardwick, Cambridgeshire CB3 7XA

MIDLANDS NAMES SEMINAR – February 16 2008. Venue: Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Station Approach, Solihull.

Lecturers will focus on Midland names and sources.

PALAEOGRAPHY SEMINAR – May 10 2008. Venue: London Metropolitan Archives.

A growing challenge for GOONS members is making proper use of early documents. Dominic Johnson has organised a study day of lectures and workshops to help the beginner and more experienced to understand and read more fluently the hands (Secretary in particular) in use throughout the 16th to 18th centuries.

• *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.* ○

Resolve which Anglican churches are included in your registration district

ONE OF THE first questions a Challenger must resolve is which Anglican churches are included in their chosen registration district.

The first port of call should be the Genuki pages on the district and, in particular, Brett Langston's listing of parishes. Look at: www.ukbmd.org.uk/genuki/reg for these. But this is only the first step. The information is not necessarily complete, often being based on the ancient parishes, and there is the occasional error.

However, from Brett Langston's listing one can create a little map of the RD to show its extent and one can search a modern gazetteer for residential areas within this area that do not appear on the parish listing. A check against the holdings of the county or local record office may show that a church was built in these communities within the period of the Challenge.

"Find a Church" at www.findachurch.co.uk may also be helpful, although the denominations may not always be clear. The Genuki churches information may also be searched at: www.genuki.org.uk/big/Britain.html. From these, you may find the later churches within the towns, some of which may well have been in existence before 1911, normally the finish date for the MC.

Lastly, as a check, use can be made of Card-

Marriage Challenge

BY PETER COPSEY

inal Points (see Update in the last Journal). Full Cardinal Points for only one quarter are necessary (I usually take Q3 1910). If a gap is found in the GRO page numbering system (ignoring even-page omissions), this is an indication that there is still another Anglican church to be identified.

For more information on Marriage Challenge, what it com-

prises 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

Below is the list of forthcoming Challenges. All members are encouraged to send their requests to the Challengers by e-mail or post (address in Register).

Send the information extracted from the GRO index for the named registration district between the years given: year, quarter, surname, first names and full GRO reference.

Challengers will search for, and often find, your marriages in the Anglican Church registers and then send you the full particulars. ○

Registration District and Period	Deadline for Requests	Challenger	Challenger's e-mail
Buckingham 1837 - 1911	21 October	David Barrell	davebarrall@hotmail.com
Cuckford 1837 - 1911	31 October	Roger Goacher	goacher@one-name.org
Bromsgrove 1837 - 1911	31 October	Ingrid Salkeld	ingrid@medlam916.freemove.co.uk
Portsea Island Stage 2 1861 - 1880	31 October	Michael Bliss	michaeljfbliiss@btinternet.com
Ashby De La Zouch 1837 - 1880	1 November	Sue Horsman	horsman61@yahoo.co.uk
Plomsgrove (Repeat) 1837 - 1911	1 November	Bernie Guymer	guymer@one-name.org
Wellington, Somerset 1837 - 1911	4 November	Barbara Roach	gimlett@btinternet.com
St Albans 1837 - 1911	4 November	Anni Berman	anni.berman@btopenworld.com
Bristol Stage 2 1852 - 1871	7 November	Derek Allen	derek.allen@blueyonder.co.uk
Billericay 1837 - 1911	18 November	Peter Copsey	copsey@one-name.org
Brighton 1837 - 1880	31 December	Colin Ulph	ulph@one-name.org

THE DEADLINE for my Portsea Island Marriage Challenge passed on July 31. However, to accommodate members who missed it, later entries are still acceptable.

At the time of writing – late August – I have already found 215 of the 535 requests received and hope to find the remainder by November. For those who have not yet enjoyed doing one, I thought I would explain the why, what, when and how of my Marriage Challenge.

I started family history research about ten years ago. It made my wife a “family history widow”, but as a result I now have over 3,000 people on my family tree. Most of the lines are stuck in the 1700s, with ancestors arriving in parishes but leaving no clues as to their origins. Lately, I have been doing some research for friends and during this time I visited the Records Office at Portsmouth.

Card index

A local family history society has set up a large card index system recording baptisms and marriages. This, together with entries on the IGI and index books of the principal church, St Mary's, Portsea Island, means that marriages are quite easy to locate in the registers, which are nearly all held on microfiche. Using these is much quicker than having to load up films and wind all the way through them to find the entries.

A short time before visiting Portsmouth RO, I had been reading an article in the Journal on Marriage Challenges and realised how simple it would be to do a Challenge at Portsmouth RO. When I contacted Peter Copsey, the Marriage Challenge Co-ordinator, he pointed out that there could be 2,000 entries from members in such a large registration district as Portsea Island and suggested that if I wanted to go ahead, I should divide it into 20-year periods.

I do not have a registered

name of my own as a Guild member, although I have considerable information on several surnames in different parts of this country and also in the Netherlands, where a large number of my mother's ancestors lived.

I do enjoy a challenge, but I also like to experience success and it seemed to me that undertaking a marriage challenge could be more enjoyable than trying to guess who ought to be added to my family tree. It could also do something useful for Guild members with one-name studies.

I started by sending a message



Enjoyment gained from doing a Marriage Challenge

By MICHAEL BLISS

to the Guild Forum, then my challenge was listed on the Guild website and finally included in the last edition of the Journal. Only a handful of those I have looked for so far have not emerged and I am looking forward to tackling these later, perhaps using the Cardinal Points system already described in an earlier edition of the Journal.

IGI information

Handling such a large number of entries has been time-consuming, although from the outset I realised that members with entries could help by supplying any information on their marriages from the IGI.

Most were happy to do this, but I was surprised to find that a few had not considered collecting IGI data to include in their studies. It was less surprising to learn from some who had done them, or helped with challenges, that the IGI data had not featured in their task, as the IGI does not cover many parishes after 1837 and the coverage of London in the IGI is quite small.

This very useful aid together,

with the locally prepared indexes makes my challenge much easier, although the volumes involved will make it time-consuming. Perhaps readers might like to visit their local Record Offices and see what local indexes are available and look into coverage of the IGI of the parishes involved. You, too, might be tempted to join the still rather small number of Marriage Challengers and find a new exciting way of spending your time and really feel a sense of achievement.

Some of the marriages are quite interesting, e.g. Stephen Grubb marrying Charlotte Slugg! But my favourite is Frederick Kemble, Commander R.N., son of Gideon Kemble, Comptroller of Customs, who married Georgiana Eliza Ximenes, daughter of David Ximenes, Lt General, K.C.H. on May 8 1848. I would loved to have been at St. Mary's, Portsea to see this spectacle.

Customs men

I can see the Comptroller of Customs as a portly gentleman, dressed in his white, blue and gold uniform, proud of being in charge of all those much disliked bands of customs men who hunted down smugglers, wreckers and beachcombers who were just trying to make a living from the sea shore.

His new son-in-law in the splendid navy blue and gold uniform, was no doubt supported by a collection of similarly dressed senior naval officers, who would have formed a guard of honour as the happy couple left the Church.

There may have been a detachment of Royal Marine bandsman present in their red tunics and white hats (no white pith helmets in those days), to provide musical accompaniment to the grand occasion.

Then there's the Lt. General, in his red, black and gold uniform, *(This article is concluded on page 21)*



Registrar's Notes by DAVID MELLOR

Create a timeline to put your one- name study into perspective

"A N OUNCE of history is worth a pound of logic" (Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr, 1841–1935, quotation from *The Common Law*, Boston: Little, Brown & Co 1881).

Until I checked the details of this saying so I could quote it here, I had always attributed it in my mind to Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809–1894) the American physician, writer and poet. Now I know to attribute it to his son, also called Oliver Wendell Holmes, who was considered one of the greatest Justices of the United States Supreme Court.

He used the phrase to emphasise the importance of case law when compared with legal theorising. Subsequently, the quote has been used in a more general way to highlight the value of a knowledge of history when assessing human affairs.

History knowledge

Anyone who has been involved in family history for a number of years, and particularly those of us with one-name studies, comes to realise the usefulness of a knowledge of history in putting things into perspective. The history required is far-ranging and extends from the local history of the areas in which the ancestors lived, through to the history of their country and even world history. In fact, all historical events that would have impinged on their ancestors' lives are of interest to the family historian and the one-namer.

This can present quite a challenge for those of us who, like myself, have had little formal history education. The construc-

tion of a timeline is a very valuable exercise and one which I can strongly recommend. The time period covered should be from about a hundred years before the earliest known ancestor to the present day.

I have found it helpful to divide my timeline into the periods of the British monarchs but family historians in other countries might prefer presidents, some other epochs or no divisions at all.

Regnal years

Regnal years can be listed and this helps with some old documents which are dated in this way. Dates when legislation of particular interest to family historians was introduced should be included, for example Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1754.

Dates relating to censuses and parish and civil registration are invaluable, for example the inclusion of the spouse's surname in the GRO Marriages Index beginning in 1912. Local events should be put in relevant to one's own ancestors or one-name study. For example, if one had family in or near Sheffield in the 19th century it would be important to list the Sheffield Flood of 1864.

Below is an excerpt of my timeline from the accession of George III in 1760 to the death of William IV in 1837.

• **George III (Hanover) George III's grandson (1st regnal year October 25 1760–October 24 1761; 60th regnal year October 25 1819–January 29 1820).**

1776 (to 1783) American War of Independence.

1779 First iron bridge at Coalbrookdale, Shropshire.

1789 George Washington became the first president of the United States of America.

1789 (to 1795) the French Revolution.

1798 Irish rebellion.

1801 Act of Union joined Great Britain and Ireland as the United Kingdom.

1803 (to 1815) Napoleonic wars.

1805 Battle of Trafalgar (near Cadiz). Horatio Nelson in HMS Victory defeated the French and Spanish fleets under Admiral Villeneuve and established British naval supremacy for the next 100 years.

1807 Slave trade abolished.

1811 The King lost his sanity for the second time and his son George, the Prince of Wales, was sworn in as Prince Regent.

Luddites

1811 Luddite unrest began in Nottingham and spread rapidly to Yorkshire and Lancashire. Ended with show trial in York in Jan 1813.

1814 First steam locomotive, George Stevenson's "Rocket".

1815 Battle of Waterloo. Napoleon's final defeat by the Duke of Wellington's allied forces (British, Belgian and Dutch).

1815 Introduction of the Corn Laws to tax grain imports to Britain.

• **George IV (Hanover) George III's son (1st regnal year January 29 1820–Jan 28 1821; 11th regnal year January 29 1830–June 26 1830).**

1825 Opening of the Stockton to Darlington passenger railway.

1829 Metropolitan police force set up by Sir Robert Peel.

• **William IV (Hanover) George**

IV's brother. (1st regnal year 26 June 26 1830–June 25 1831; 7th regnal year June 26 1830–June 20 1837).

1832 First Reform Bill abolished some rotten boroughs, redistributed seats and extended franchise to include middle class men. Electoral registers of those entitled to vote published for the first time.

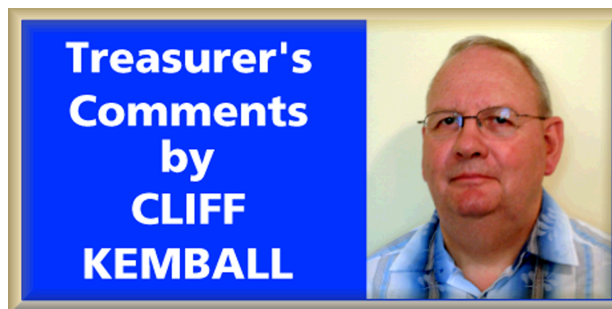
1836 Tithe Commission started to record land ownership in 11,800 parishes and townships so that tithes in kind could be converted into money payments. The work was finished about 1848 and the tithe maps became an important historical source.

Workhouses

1834 Poor Law Unions set up, each providing a workhouse and becoming a registration district with a superintendent registrar.

It is easy to add, remove or alter items in a computerised timeline such as this. The important thing is to construct it yourself so that it has the maximum relevance to your own ancestors or your own one-name study.

This makes sure that your one ounce of history is worth even more than a pound of logic. ○



HAVE provided below some information on the progress made relating to Gift Aid and the use of *everyclick.com*, both of which are providing income to the Guild.

I have undertaken the Gift Aid campaign to get more Guild members to sign a GAD. I have e-mailed 519 Guild members and written to a further 136 members to encourage them to sign Gift Aid Declarations or to let me know if they are ineligible or unwilling to sign such a declaration. Twelve e-mails bounced and I am in the process of writing to these members.

So far, 112 members have signed Gift Aid Declarations and 34 members have let me know that they are ineligible to sign GADs. Only two members have informed me they are unwilling to sign the form. Whilst this means some 500 members have

yet to respond to my e-mails and letters, this is an encouraging start. This means I will be able to claim over £2,100 in additional Gift Aid covering the last six years. Future Gift Aid claims will also be increased.

In the last Journal I mentioned that *everyclick.com* – <http://www.everyclick.com/> – was one further way of generating additional funds for the Guild. I am pleased to say that so far 35 people (presumably Guild members) have signed up to *everyclick.com* and at the time of writing this article they had generated £86.03 for the Guild.

Donations generated by *everyclick.com* members are exceeding £40 a month and this figure is increasing.

So I urge more Guild members to sign up to everyclick.com and increase the money the Guild will receive. Every bit helps! ○

Ron Hall

WE ARE sad to report that Ron Hall (Member 3522) passed away on September 4, aged 75. He had been a member of the Guild and of the Hampshire Genealogical Society for a number of years. He held the position of chairman of the HGS until he had to give up through ill health two years ago.

He was an enthusiastic Guild member, attending our conferences. He readily gave his time to those who needed help with genealogical problems, especially with the ever-changing technology surrounding family history computer programs and databases. He was more than happy to share his ancestral researches, especially into the Hillier family. His enthusiasm and knowledge will be sadly missed.

(Continued from page 19)

proudly displaying his insignia of the Knight Commander of the Hanoverian Order, presented to him by William IV himself. And what about the ladies? I will leave their appearance to your imagination.

Next stage

You will find listed elsewhere my next stage of the Challenge: Portsea Isle 1861–1880, entries by October 31, with any information additional information from the IGI, etc., you can supply.

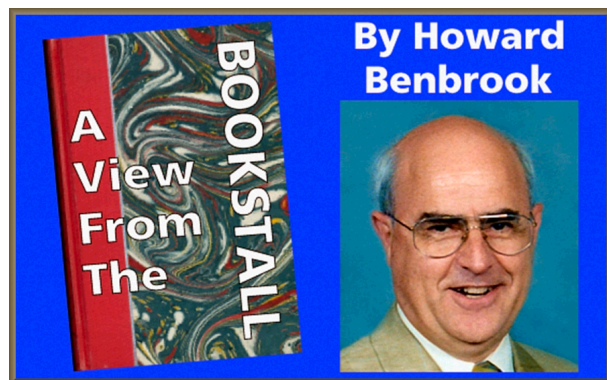
I am expecting up to twice as many entries for this period as for the first stage, so the more information you give me, the sooner you will have the details from your certificates.

To make it easier for me to create the search lists necessary for a challenge of this size, those of you who are members of the Forum will receive an e-mail with a format for entries on October 1. Others should e-mail me for one to: michael.bliss@one-name.org.

Those who do not have the computer facilities needed for this method can e-mail or write to me with their entries.

Results as with the first stage, will be sent on an Excel spreadsheet by e-mail when I find the last of each member's entries. ○

Michael J F BLISS
Member 4515



Consolidation and takeovers continue to dominate the heritage market

WELL, you read it here first. I did tell you that there was bound to be more consolidation in the "heritage market" and it's continuing.

I told you that Phillimore had become an imprint within NPI Media, but a few days ago I received a note that told me Shire Books, who publish those small, attractively-priced books with a historical focus, has been sold to Osprey Books, a publisher of military history titles based in Oxford. "Business as usual", they've assured me, but we shall see...

Stepping Stones has been absorbed by S & N and now we read that Rod Neep is selling his Archive CD Books operation. I wish him well. I feel sure that this has something to do with the inevitable shift in digital technology as the Internet overwhelms everything else. You may also have seen recently that findmypast.com has jumped at the opportunity to absorb Family History Online, the online datasets provided by the member societies of the Federation of Family History Societies, as the Federation runs down its publishing operation.

Some may feel that the Federation has sold out to the commercial sector but I believe this is a good move. I know myself the impact that fat marketing budgets can bring to a sales effort, so it should be good news to the contributing family history societies. Now, why didn't the Guild have something of its own to contribute?

And while I'm talking about findmypast.com, readers of the

Telegraph.co.uk home

Sunday, 09 September 2007

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The Daily Telegraph's family history website, courtesy of findmypast

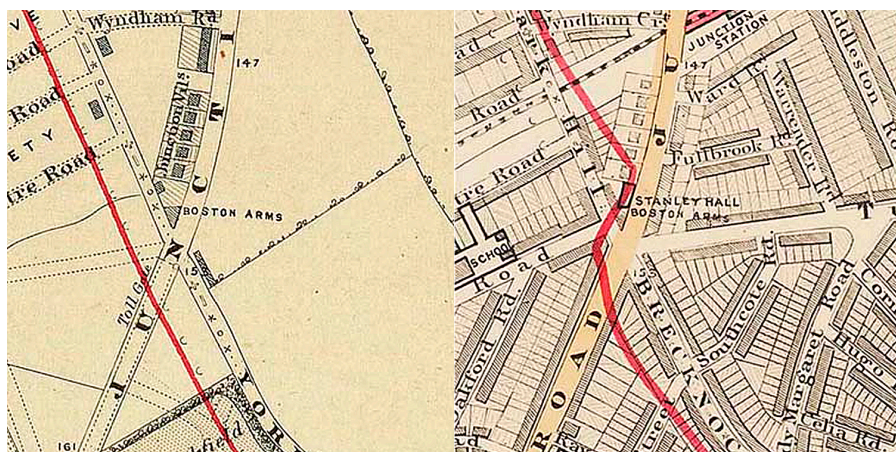
Daily Telegraph website may have noticed a "Family History" link on their home page. And what happens when you click it? You're taken to a carefully-crafted version of findmypast.com, with "Telegraph.co.uk" across every page. This is known as a "white label", where one company supplies a version of their product so that another company can re-brand to make it appear their own. It happens a lot in the electronics world and it's the way that "own brand" supermarket products are sourced.

But it's interesting that findmypast have partnered with the Telegraph group – they were the media sponsors of "Who Do You Think You Are? LIVE" at Olympia in May, if you recall, and I feel sure they're trying to reach more eyeballs, to coax back the adver-

tisers who've deserted their paper editions. Should we expect a consolidation of this partnership, I wonder?

What's new, what's big?

And since I've struck this commercial note, it's time for my own advertisement. This time I want to indulge one of my little weaknesses. You've probably guessed that I like maps, especially maps of London. I'm particularly impressed by MOTCO's maps, and the good news is that there's a new title in their range – Edward Stanford's map of 1891 – and, honestly, it's superb. It's not exactly cheap at £27.50 (less 10% for Guild members), but for people with London ancestors at the end of the Victorian era this is a must-have, in my opinion. For your delight, I'm showing you a



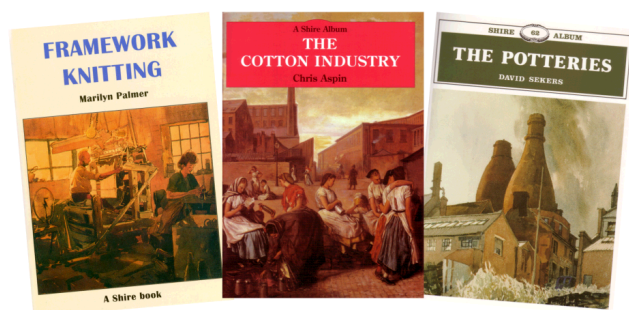
Edward Stanford's London maps of 1862 (left) and 1891

comparison between Stanford's earlier 1862 map and the new map of 1891. Notice what a difference 30 years can make! It helps to explain why research in London is so challenging.

I mentioned Shire Books and, despite the change in ownership, I'm still keen to stock these attractive little books and I've recently added a few titles. They are: *Framework Knitting* by Marilyn Palmer, *The Potteries* by David Sekers and *The Cotton Industry* by Chris Aspin.

For more detail on these and other items on the Bookstall, take a look at the website, at:

www.one-name.org/members/bookstall.



New titles from Shire Books

Top Tips

A surprise seller over the past few months has been the supplement sent to all members with the Journal's 100th issue, "100 Top Tips". Perhaps it was the fact that it was a distillation of some very sensible advice gleaned from the experience of our members, or maybe it was the colourful glossy cover or maybe my attractive asking price (£1), but whatever it was we certainly sold 'em and we're now sold out of the extra copies I asked for. So, thank you, the members, for making this possible.

I'm hopeful I should be able to get a reprint available very soon, albeit an A5 size version to keep costs under control. It would make a useful insert in any Christmas card you send to your family history friends, so if you'd like a copy (or two, or more), just let me know. I wasn't quick enough to include it in the Price List, but I'm sure you know how

to find me!

Marriage Challenge

I've just completed another area of the East End in my ongoing Marriage Challenges. Stage 3 of the Whitechapel project is now complete, making it the fourth district within Volume 1c. If you're expecting results from me and you've heard nothing, let me know. I'm planning to do more, but the London Metropolitan Archives close on November 2 until January 21 and that gives me the opportunity to take a bit of a break.

Where we've been

The Bookstall has been quiet recently (thank goodness!). Since I last wrote, I've only been to Aylesbury (Bucks FHS Open Day) and the Guild Seminar at Kew, but a dedicated team led by Polly Rubery turned out at the recently flooded Worcester

Racecourse and, by the time you read this, I should have turned up at the Open Days of Oxon FHS at Kidlington and Hants GS at Horndean. In the meantime, Ron Woodhouse will have rolled out the blue tablecloths at the National Family History Fair at Gateshead.

Where we're going

The season picks up in the weeks before Christmas and the Bookstall plans to visit the following:

- Hastings & Rother FHS Fair, Hastings, Sunday, Oct 7.
- Eastleigh Family History Fair, Eastleigh, Hants, Sunday, Oct 21.
- Cheltenham Family History Fair, Cheltenham, Sunday, Oct 28.
- West Surrey FHS Open Day, Woking, Saturday, Nov 3.
- Guild Computer Seminar, Chelmsford, Saturday, Nov 17.
- Norwich Family History Fair, Norwich, Sunday, Nov 18.
- Hull Family History Fair, Hull, Saturday, Nov 24.

• Wimborne Family History Fair, Wimborne, Dorset, Sunday, Nov 25.

If you're nearby, how can you possibly resist the opportunity to come and see us?

White van man

I've been threatening this move for some time and I even alluded to it in the last Journal, but now I've gone and done it. I no longer have an estate car. With more than 20 events a year and thousands of miles on Guild business, it had given good service and had the bumps to show for it. But it came to the end of its purchase agreement and it was time for a decision. So now each time I take the Guild Bookstall to an event, I shall have to hire a van.

I don't mind driving a van. No, really. It fits the job. It doesn't have to be white but there's this thing, you see, about profit. Hiring a van costs money – enough to make big holes in any profit (or "contribution", as we say in the non-profit world), or even turn it into a loss. Making a contribution to Guild funds is important to me and the alternative to hiring is to buy a van. Spreading the purchase over several years' use should actually work out cheaper – so, if you have a small, reliable van going cheaply, get in touch!

Thanks

I'm grateful to Anni Berman, Judy Cooper and her husband, Graham, Susan Atkins, Barbara Harvey, Polly Rubery, Paul Millington, Sandra Turner, Roger Whitworth, Alex Christison, Steve Whitaker, Colin Stevenson, John Woodger and Pat Gundish, Polly's fourth cousin once removed. I hope you all had a good time; you know I couldn't do it without you.

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.

Guild NewsXtra

Guild Annual Conference 2008

The rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate

By CHRIS BRAUND and JANET FEW

"THE RICH MAN IN HIS CASTLE, THE POOR MAN AT HIS GATE" will be the theme for the 29th Guild of One-Name Studies' Annual Conference, to be held over the weekend of April 4-6 2008 at the Durrant House Hotel, Bideford, Devon.

The Durrant House Hotel, Bideford, is the largest hotel in North Devon and is conveniently situated just off the A39, within easy reach of the M5. The hotel has a sauna, fitness room, sun shower and, for the hardy, an outdoor pool. Free Wi-Fi high speed Internet is available throughout the Hotel.

Set close to the beautiful Devon countryside and spectacular coastal scenery, this is an ideal opportunity to extend your conference visit into a longer stay. With this in mind, we are offering non-delegate rates for partners sharing a room with a delegate. It is also hoped to arrange group

outings in the week prior to the conference, which may be especially appealing to those who are planning to attend the Federation of Family History Societies' AGM and family history fair in Plymouth the previous weekend. Likely destinations include the Royal Horticultural Society gardens at Rosemoor, Lundy Island, Clovelly and Torrington 1646.

Speakers

One-namers are often wrongly accused of being the train spotters of the genealogical world; i.e., name-gathering with little regard to context. This conference, with the theme *The Rich Man in his Castle, the Poor Man at his Gate*, is all about context; looking at the localities, village life and occupations that members of our families may have experienced.

Our speakers include some names new to the family history

conference circuit, as well as some old friends. Simon Dell will be looking at research resources available through the local police archives. David Hawkings will then take us through the records of transportation, thus considering what happened when the police were successful!

Of course transportees take our one-name studies to another continent and, ever mindful that our research should be world-wide, we are pleased to welcome Dr Michael Braund from Canberra. Sponsored by the Halsted Trust, Michael will be helping us to fill in the Australian gaps in our studies by suggesting sources that we can access without a trip Down Under.

We are presently trying to arrange a talk on the Records of the College of Arms, encompassing the "rich men" of our families. Caroline Verney is speaking on the servants at the other end of the social scale and Dr Alan Dodge will consider the role of the parish officials who had to deal with all walks of society.

Janet Few will then encourage us to put our ancestors and members of our one-name studies into their local context by looking at some well-known and less well-known sources, which can help to build up a picture of the environment in which they lived.

A preliminary booking form is enclosed with this journal and further information can be obtained by contacting conference@one-name.org. We always reply so if you appear to be being ignored it will be a quirk of the service provider, so please try again, or if all else fails write to: Janet Few, Coles Manning, Buckland Brewer, Bideford, Devon EX39 5LP.

• Durrant House Hotel, Heywood Road, Northam, Bideford, Devon EX39 3QB. Tel: 01237 472361.

info@durranthousehotel.com
www.durranthousehotel.com

CHRIS BRAUND, Member 594
JANET FEW, Member 1136
Conference Organisers



The lovely Bucks Mills Beach, Bideford Bay

Submit your wills data to the Guild Probate Index

By BARBARA HARVEY

HAVE YOU submitted your data yet to the Guild Probate Index? If not, why not? Details and a sample layout are on the Guild Website in the Members' Room under Services to Members, or on page 25 of the April-June 2007 issue of the Journal.

Please do not wait until you have finished entering your data. If you are like me you will never finish; there will always be something new to add. I would much rather receive many small contributions, as this way we can make sure that we are both on the same wavelength.

Submissions in Excel are preferred, but comma separated variables (csv) and other conversion systems are also acceptable. Most submissions so far have come in as e-mail attachments,

but one has arrived in the post on a floppy disk.

The master database is not yet large enough for it to be worthwhile making a searchable version available on the Guild website.

Until it goes live, all those who submit data, even if it is only half a dozen lines, will have their surname(s) checked in the master database and given the details of any connections there might be to other people's research.

Advice is given freely and assistance is available whenever possible or practicable.

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

• International News •

Dexter brothers give Guild ONS presentations in Wisconsin



USA GUILD members Richard and David Dexter gave a presentation on surnames and the Guild of One-Name Studies at the July 21 meeting of the British Interests Genealogy Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL). They had previously given the presentation to the Fox Valley Genealogy Society of Wisconsin.

"We had received a sample PowerPoint presentation from the Guild office, which really helped us to organise and illustrate our talk," said David Dexter. "We inserted examples from our own research to personalise the talk."

The Dexters did not have access to a projector to display the presentation directly from a laptop computer. Instead, they printed the frames onto transparencies, using a desktop inkjet printer, and displayed them using an overhead projector. "It wasn't high-tech, but it worked," said Richard Dexter.

In the photo above, David Dexter (left) and his brother Richard explain aspects of a one-name study to members of the British Interests Genealogy Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL) at their July 21 meeting.

A nice surprize for Guild's Susan!



GUILD member Susan Atkins, Member 1961 (*above, right*), who runs the SCOTCHMER One-Name Study and is the Guild's Lancashire Regional Rep, was helping out on the Guild Bookstall at the big *Who Do You Think You Are? LIVE* family history show at Olympia back in May when she filled in a form on the British Library's stand.

She thought no more about it until three weeks later, when she was contacted by Trish Arathoon of the British Library to let her know she had won a prize of a "Family History Box". Susan opted to collect her prize in person and was also given a free tour of the British Library, which she says was a "very enjoyable day".

Regional Representatives as at September 1 2007

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE CO-ORDINATOR:

Mrs Sandra R Turner
2 St Annes Close
Winchester
Hampshire SO22 4LQ. Tel: 01962 840388
E-mail: rep-coordinator@one-name.org

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

BERKSHIRE : Mrs Margaret J Young, 376 The Meadway,
Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire RG30 4NX
rep-berkshire@one-name.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

DEVON NORTH : Mr Christopher W Braund,
140 Stucley Road, Bideford, Devon EX39 3EL
rep-devon-north@one-name.org

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

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

DURHAM : Dr Andrew R Millard, 1 The Terrace,
Meadowfield, Durham DH7 8RU
rep-durham@one-name.org

ESSEX AND EAST LONDON : Mr Kevin H Cole, 167 Ramuz
Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 9JN.
rep-essex@one-name.org

GLOUCESTERSHIRE : Mrs Pat Wilson, 11 Ardmore Close,
Tuffley, Gloucester GL4 0BJ
rep-gloucestershire@one-name.org

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

HERTFORDSHIRE AND NORTH LONDON : Mrs Barbara
Harvey, 15 Park Avenue, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 4PB.
Tel: 01727 865631
rep-hertfordshire@one-name.org

ISLE OF WIGHT : Mr John C Moxon, 1 Pinetree Close,
Cowes, Isle-of-Wight PO31 8DX
rep-iow@one-name.org

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

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

LEICESTERSHIRE : Mr David H Barton, The Willows, 5 Rockley
Avenue, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottinghamshire NG12 1AR
rep-leicestershire@one-name.org

LINCOLNSHIRE : Mr Kenneth M Reid, Honu Whenua,
Meadow Close, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire LN8 3DH
Tel: 01673 849490
rep-lincolnshire@one-name.org

NORFOLK : Mrs Laraine Hake, Tollgate Cottage, The
Turnpike, Bunwell, Norwich, Norfolk NR16 1SR
rep-norfolk@one-name.org

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

NORTHUMBERLAND : Dr Andrew R Millard, 1 The Terrace,
Meadowfield, Durham DH7 8RU
rep-northumberland@one-name.org

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE : Mr David H Barton, The Willows,
5 Rockley Avenue, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottinghamshire
NG12 1AR Tel: 0115 933 2633
rep-nottinghamshire@one-name.org

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

SHROPSHIRE : Dr Colin H Stevenson, Orchard House, Wall
under Heywood, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 7DU.
Tel: 01694 771882
rep-shropshire@one-name.org

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

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

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

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

SUSSEX EAST : Ms Theresa M Ellmer, Dougalls Delight, 2 The
Manse, South Street, South Chailey, East Sussex BN8 4 BJ.
Tel: 01273-401801
rep-sussex-east@one-name.org

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

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

WILTSHIRE : Mrs Corrinne A Goodenough, 11 Wyndham
Lane, Allington, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 OBY
rep-wiltshire@one-name.org

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

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

YORKSHIRE NORTH : Prof John K Coldwell, Granary House,
High Street, Hampsthwaite, Harrogate HG3 2HA
rep-yorkshire-north@one-name.org

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

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

SCOTLAND ABERDEEN : Dr Stephen D K Baguley, Dept GU
Medicine, Woolmanhill Hospital, Aberdeen AB25 1LD.
Tel: 079 8446 4403
rep-scotland-aberdeen@one-name.org

SCOTLAND NORTH : Mr Graham Tuley, 26 Crown Drive,
Inverness IV2 3NL.
rep-scotland-north@one-name.org

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

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

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

AUSTRALIA NORTH AND WEST : Mr Garry K Stubbs, PO Box
982, Darwin, Northern Territory 0801 Australia
rep-australia-north-west@one-name.org

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

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

CANADA EAST : Dr Graham Orpwood, 17 Douville Court,
Toronto, Ontario M5A 4E7 Canada Tel: +1 416 703 2927
rep-canada-east@one-name.org

CANADA WEST : Mr Dick Chandler, 1351 20th St NE,
Salmon Arm, British Columbia V1E 2V5 Canada.
Tel: (1) 250 832 3179
rep-canada-west@one-name.org

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

SOUTH AFRICA : Mr Brian P Spurr, 32 Newport Avenue,
Glenashley, 4051, KwaZulu, Natal, South Africa.
Tel: +27 82 5532029
rep-south-africa@one-name.org

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

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

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

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

HAMPSHIRE: Vacant

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

• PLEASE note that it is not possible, due to space reasons,
to publish the full list of all Regional Representatives in
such detail in every issue of the Journal, so it is recom-
mended that you either keep this issue of the Journal in a
safe place or photocopy these pages.

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

Smart Devon hotel venue for Guild's 2008 Conference



Vol 9 Issue 8 October–December 2007

THE Durrant House Hotel at Bideford, the largest hotel in North Devon, will be the setting for the Guild's 2008 Annual Conference. Theme of the conference will be "The Rich Man in his Castle, the Poor Man at his Gate. See page 24 for a full account of what those attending can expect.

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