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New Years Resolutions
For One-Namers

Tautonomy

An Overview Of
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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 MPhil FRHistS FSG

Vice-Presidents
John Hebden
Richard Moore FSG
Iain Swinnerton TD.DL.JP.
Alec Tritton

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

Gordon Adshead
Keith Bage
John Coldwell
Peter Copsey
Stephen Daglish
David Mellor
Roy Rayment
Anne Shankland
Sandra Turner

Bookstall Manager
Howard Benbrook
Forum Manager
Wendy Archer
Regional Reps Co-ordinator
Sandra Turner
Website Manager
Anne Shankland
Librarian & Helpdesk
Roy Rayment

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
Executive Peter Hagger
Seminar Gordon Adshead

Guild Officers

CHAIRMAN
Peter Hagger
106 Hayling Ave
Little Paxton
Huntingdon
PE19 6HQ
01480 477978
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
Chiselhurst
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
Keith Bage
60 Fitzgerald Close
Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB7 4QD
01353 650185
editor@one-name.org

www.one-name.org

Guild information

Bookstall

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

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

Forum

This online discussion forum is open to any member with access to e-mail. You can join the list by sending a message with your membership number to:

forum@one-name.org

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

goons@rootsweb.com

Regional Representatives

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

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

CONTENTS

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From the Chairman's Keyboard...

By Peter Hagger

By now most of you will have heard that in November Peter Walker stepped down as Chairman of the Guild for personal reasons and he has written a message for this issue of the Journal. In typical Peter style, he has spent much of his article acknowledging others' contributions during his four years as Chairman of the Guild. During this time, the Guild has moved forward with him steering the Committee and the Guild through what for many Family History organisations has been a very difficult period. Most of these organisations have in fact seen a downturn in membership, whereas the Guild has continued to grow. In Peter's own contribution he has mentioned the many changes in the Guild during his time as Chairman so I will not repeat them here, just to say I doubt if many of them would have happened or been so successful without his hand on the tiller. One of the new initiatives not mentioned by Peter was the introduction in May of the facility to be able to join the Guild via the web site using 'Pay Pal'. After just six months we have had one hundred members join the Guild this way.

I was certainly not looking to become Chairman as I hoped I would be able to continue to serve as Peter's Vice Chairman. However, once Peter had made his decision I was, in the circumstances, happy to do my best to try to continue to steer the Guild forward as Peter had clearly been doing. I am fortunate to have a first class Committee to work with who between them have a great range of skills. Please be patient with me over the next few months up to the AGM in April when, of course, the whole Committee is up for election and the new committee will appoint a Chairman.

I expect many of the existing committee will seek re-election, but equally some may well stand down.

For the last few years we have run below the maximum number of committee members permitted under our constitution so there is plenty of opportunity for any member to seek election. In this issue of the Journal, Stephen Dalglish who joined the Committee last year writes on his experiences as a new committee member. Also in addition to committee members, we are always looking for members to take on various tasks. Included with your copy of this issue of the Journal is a nomination form which can be used for the Committee and on the reverse there is the opportunity to nominate yourself for various tasks. Please return this form to the Secretary by 10th February.

Marketing Initiatives

For some time the Committee has been looking to find somebody to lead our thinking on marketing and at our last committee meeting in November we co-opted John Coldwell onto the Committee. At that meeting we agreed that in order to set out our marketing priorities we first

" I am fortunate to have a first class Committee to work with who between them have a great range of skills. "

need to set out our strategic aims for the Guild over the next five years. We decided that these two topics were too important to squeeze into a normal committee meeting, and therefore, we are holding a special meeting on Saturday 6th March at 12 noon in London. If you have views on these two topics – a five year strategy and a marketing plan - the Committee would be delighted to welcome you to their meeting. Please contact Kirsty Gray, our Secretary, if you would like to attend. If you cannot attend but would like to make an input please send it to Kirsty at least two weeks before the meeting.

I hope to meet many of you at our annual conference and AGM at the Oxford Belfry from 9th to 11th April. ∎

New Chairman, Peter Hagger opening his local village fair with Queen Victoria.

Time For Change
From the ex-Chairman's Keyboard...

By Peter Walker

As most of you know by now, I regret that due to personal and domestic priorities, I have felt it necessary to resign as Chairman of the Guild and from the Committee. I hope to be able to continue to support the Guild in other ways which are more consistent with the time available. I shall certainly continue in my WARP role and, in the absence of a Production Manager, will attempt to cover the essential aspects of that role.

I am extremely grateful to Peter Hagger and Paul Millington in their swift decision to fill the void caused by my resignation until the end of the Committee year, but the Guild will need a new Chairman from April as Peter has indicated that this is a stop-gap position. I realise that this will cause some difficulty for the Guild, but in the event, I felt it necessary to put the family first.

Looking Back

At this time, it's inevitable that members, as well as myself, will reflect on the current state of the Guild and what has been achieved since I became Chairman in 2005. I cannot take credit for all the advances that the Guild has made in this time – in most cases my role has been to encourage those coming forward with good ideas, whether it be Marriage Challenge, Guild Profiles, Pharos Courses or the many other services now available to members. I have also tried to move the Guild and its members from a primary focus on data collection to a more rounded 'Seven Pillars' approach to one-name studies and in particular encouraging members to publish the results of their work. I have also been a great believer in the huge benefit that members get through learning from each other and the introduction of the 'Wiki' (the Guild Knowledge Store) was an obvious development from the mutual help we see daily on the Guild Forum.

In terms of Guild governance, I have tried to improve the transparency of what the Trustees and others do for the Guild and aided in particular by Cliff Kemball, have ensured that we are fully compliant with the requirements flowing from our Charity status.

The Guild Conference has gone from strength to strength, emphasizing the value that members attach to the social bonds with fellow one-namers. Overall, our membership remains healthy in contrast to the situation in many other family history societies.

Has there been a downside in all this? I am bound to say that it has been deeply distressing to me and certain other front-line Officers that some members have felt that their criticism of the Guild warrants our being the target of personal abuse – but in most cases these individuals are no longer members of the Guild. It also remains a problem that too much of the running of the Guild is in too few hands. My constant pleas for more help have not brought a significant response, though I have hopes that we might kick-start our marketing activities again in 2010.

Thanks!

It is always invidious to pick out particular individuals for thanks when the Guild will always be a team, so I apologise now if I appear to be ignoring the undoubted efforts of many Committee members and other Guild Postholders. However, I feel that I must express my thanks to Kirsty Gray, who as Secretary has assisted me immensely in making the committee meetings more effective, even if her best efforts have sometimes been offset by my own bouts of loquaciousness. Cliff Kemball, as already mentioned, has brought a discipline to the Guild's finances and governance that is, in my experience of voluntary organisations, 'best in class'. I have always valued the support and wise counsel that has come from my Vice-Chairmen, Paul Millington and more recently Peter Hagger. Paul has continued to develop many new IT-based services, as well as bringing new ideas forward, such as his recent proposals for Master Craftsmen of the Guild. It is always encouraging when committee members contribute well beyond their designated roles. Cliff Kemball has always taken on more than is probably wise, but without that we wouldn't have the current Guild Handbook or the Pharos courses. He has perhaps been a role model for Anne Shankland who has not only made significant strides in developing our website, but has also revitalised our annual Guild Awards. I cannot ignore the immense contribution made by Howard Benbrook. To describe him solely as our Bookstall Manager is to ignore his undoubted prowess as the Guild's public face at so many events – he is a great communicator and has probably done more than any other individual to sell the Guild and the 'one-name message'. As I said, this doesn't mean I haven't appreciated the efforts of our other Officers – I do know how much work is involved in editing the Journal, in the role of Registrar and in organising seminars. There are many Postholders who often seem to live their roles 24/7, such as Roy Rayment manning the Guild's telephone line and Wendy Archer moderating the Forum. Finally, I should also thank the President, Derek Palgrave and the Vice-Presidents for their support. They did not complain when I changed their roles from purely honorary ones in the constitutional changes, nor again when I actually called on them to deliver on those roles.

I shall of course miss many aspects of the Guild but I'm not disappearing completely and will continue to support activities as far as I can. I have no doubt that the Guild will work through its immediate problems and hope that you will all give the Committee the support it needs. ■

TAUTONOMY

By **John Hitchon**

Surnames used as Christian or forenames are not unusual. For those carrying out a One-Name study they can be especially fruitful. The usual explanation for the use of surnames as a forename is to perpetuate the family name of a mother or grandmother (Camin 1997). In the USA, it occurs often in the case of married women when they retain their maiden names and put them immediately before the surname of their husband. George Redmonds (2004) reckons that "use of surnames as first names started as a gentry practice in the middle years of the sixteenth century".

Surnames used as forenames featured frequently in volume 6 of the Guild Journal. Bernard JUBY (1998) and John TITTERTON (1998) suggested reasons for such use, John MARSDEN (1997), Alan WHITWORTH (1998) and Rex WATSON (1998) found examples to be particularly a Lancashire phenomenon, John MARSDEN suggesting in his case it was local to Darwen. Brian ORR (1998) on the other hand claimed it was a particularly Northern Ireland family trait. Rex WATSON went further and claimed that the singular and odd use of instances where the sole forename is identical to the surname is confined to males. More recently Maureen STOREY (2005), writing in the SOLE Society Journal says that "if a family surname is given as the only forename then it is generally to a boy". My HITCHON One Name study agrees with this. However, neither the local nature nor the gender of these tautological examples has been tested. There was also an exchange of correspondence on the subject of surnames used as Christian names during 1921 in Notes and Queries and again in 1929 and 1933 but none of this mentioned using the same names for both Christian name and surname.

Tautonomy is the word used by scientists to describe the use of the same word for the genus and the species. For example Fox - *Vulpes vulpes;* Otter -*Lutra lutra* and Badger - *Meles meles.* The word can also be applied by family historians to describe the use of a surname for a single forename. The word reduplication has an identical meaning but I prefer the more academic sounding word tautonomy.

Thanks to the extensive data sources of surname data available from the Internet it is now possible to test whether tautological naming styles are localised.

Data Analysis

An analysis of births in the magnificent FreeBMD database was made, limiting the results to those with a single identical forename that matched the surname. The number of tautological occurrences were counted for each registration district for the fifty most common surnames in England and Wales (Hey 2000) and another fifty surnames taken from the Guild Register. This revealed that instances of the same word being used as a single forename and surname in combination fall into two groups. The results are shown in Table 1. Of the 447 tautonyms examined, 43.0% were from Welsh registration districts and 28.9% from Lancashire. Therefore these two registration districts results were examined in more detail.

The Welsh group do not appear to be confined to any particular part or area of Wales. On the other hand, the Lancashire group shows a concentration in registration district 8e. Table 3 further examines this in more detail and reveals that Burnley is the area within Lancashire with the most number of tautological occurrences. From **LancashireBMD. org.uk** it has been possible to split the Lancashire births registered in Burnley into even smaller areas (Table 4).

Besides examining the location of tautonomical naming patterns it has been possible to confirm that they are normally given to male children. Using **LancashireBMD.org.uk** it is now possible to examine marriages of tautological people in the county. From 109 tautological marriages examined 107 were males whilst only two instances of females given tautological names were discovered.

It is quite difficult to determine whether the naming practice of tautonomy belongs to any particular period of time. Although it is possible to obtain crude data for different time periods, each source has its own failings. The IGI for example covers a rather long time period from the earliest parish registers to the twentieth century and includes Ireland and Scotland in the British Isles, but it does not cover an even spread of English counties. However, in the absence of an alternative source for data, I have used it to count the number of births and christenings included for the period up to 1800.

FreeBMD.org.uk is now sufficiently complete for the whole of England and Wales to make a count of births registered up to 1900 worthwhile. This source, although very large and producing large counts, is limited by not including Scottish and Irish registrations.

For the period 1984 to 2005 the number of births can, however, be obtained accurately for England and Wales from the GRO indexes that are available through various commercial web sites. (**thegenealogist.co.uk**, 2009) The results of these counts are shown in Table 5.

From Table 5 it can be seen that tautological naming patterns were in use before 1800 but the Victorians were particularly prolific users of this idea. From recent GRO indexes

TABLE 1 – Number of Tautonyms found in each GRO Registration District 1837-1900												
Reg District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
Total	29	7	7	4	5	19	9	129	43	3	192	447
%	6.9%	1.6%	1.6%	0.9%	1.1%	4.3%	2.0%	28.9%	9.6%	0.7%	43.0%	100

TABLE 2 – Top Ten TAUTONYM Births registered at GRO	
Forename & SURNAME	Births registered 1837-1900
Thomas THOMAS	5813
Lewis LEWIS	861
Morgan MORGAN	485
Isaac ISAAC	32
Smith SMITH	26
Greenwood GREENWOOD	22
Howell HOWELL	21
Robinson ROBINSON	20
Williams WILLIAMS	17
Sutcliffe SUTCLIFFE	14

TABLE 3 – Analysis of Registration District 8e					
Burnley	Blackburn	Chorley	Haslingden	Rochdale	Preston
42	26	1	19	10	1

TABLE 4 – Burnley Registrations Sub-district analysis					
Burnley	Bury	Colne	Padiham	Pendle	Others
17	1	18	2	2	3

TABLE 5 – Chronological Analysis of Tautonyms			
Source	IGI	Free BMD	GRO
Period	Pre 1800	1837-1900	1984-2005
Total Found	297	429	18

the pattern of naming appears to have almost been eliminated. Three particular names were found to predominate. Howell HOWELL was found to be used in early times (87 occurrences), Morris MORRIS took over in Victorian times with 135 instances and now apparently only Taylor TAYLOR is keeping tautonomy alive with 10 examples.

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An Advanced One-Name Studies Course

By **Helen Osborn**

Do you want to be the first to undertake this challenging advanced one-name study course?

Following the success of the Pharos "Introduction to One-Name Studies" online course, Pharos Tutors have just been given the go-ahead by the Guild Committee to develop an "Advanced One-Name Studies" course. The aim for Pharos is to develop a suitable on-line advanced course for the end of April 2010, specifically aimed at experienced Guild members with a registered name, which is however open to anyone.

Previous course

The introductory online course for one-name studies, originally proposed in September 2008, has now run three times, in April, June and September 2009 and proved to be very successful with both the public and members of the Guild. All three courses were fully subscribed. The Guild provided free membership to the Guild for the remainder of the financial year for non members. A total of 88 people enrolled on these courses and some 20 students were given free membership of the Guild of One-Name Studies. The majority of the people provided with free membership in 2008-09 are expected to renew their membership in 2009-10.

Advanced course

Pharos had originally agreed with the Guild that we would hope to develop a further course, depending on uptake of the introductory course. Initial suggestions were for something that covered worldwide studies. Having satisfied ourselves that the demand is definitely there, I had to put my thinking cap on and work out what exactly an advanced course should contain. I was guided by what I have learned are the main gaps in student knowledge judging by the first course.

There is definitely room for more teaching about using computers with an ONS, but I am not necessarily the person to teach that course! As for courses based around records knowledge, I feel that there are already plenty of suitable courses that do this. There are informational internet sites to visit and books to read for all genealogists to learn more about records, whether those are local, national or international. In fact, at Pharos we are continually developing topic specific courses as relevant to one-namers as any other family historian. So, the advanced one-name studies course has to be something different and unique to the Guild.

What has been agreed is also rather different to other Pharos courses and should prove challenging and provide something stretching for the more advanced members of the Guild. The course recognises that one-name studies acts as the glue bringing together disciplines as diverse as population studies, place names, etymology, as well as genealogy and local history. The course will not be about data collection or which software is best to use but will concentrate on extending the specialised elements relating to data analysis, synthesis of data and publication of your one-name study findings.

All students on this course should ideally have a registered One-Name Study with the Guild of One-Name Studies and to have already collected a large amount of data, including their core records in their first country. Students will be expected to be familiar with the seven pillars of Guild wisdom and be ready to move onto worldwide collection of data and/or start publishing their results.

Those students who want to measure their progress will have the option of submitting work and having their work assessed. Students will be able to:

Either:

a. Work on one or two exercises for each lesson (which would be unmarked) – the lower price option

Or

b. Produce a 2-3,000 word article suitable for JOONS or another journal or magazine (which would be marked) – the higher price option

Those taking option b and successfully completing the course will be awarded a "Guild Certificate of Attainment". This has the benefit of giving students something concrete to work towards, plus feedback and assessment on their work. The assessment process will consist of double marking by myself and a senior Guild member. The best articles will also be offered to the Editor of the Guild's Journal for publication and/or could be offered to other family history magazines for publication. The articles could also be stored in the Guild Wiki and the best example could be included in the members' area of the Guild website.

The advanced course will run starting on 26th April for six weeks. There will be a maximum of 18 students accepted on the course. An additional advanced course will take place later in 2010, depending on demand.

Course outline

The course is still being developed, but currently the course is expected to cover the following lessons:

1. Progressing from Category C to Category B or even to Category A. Covering your worldwide surname location, core records, significant worldwide genealogical collections, and a re-assessment of the progress of your study.

2. Analysis part 1. Where your aims will be revisited and issues relating to existing published work on surnames and history, older documentary sources, and learning to ask questions of your data will be covered.

3. Analysis part 2. Covering interdisciplinary studies, global migration, useful case studies and recommended reading.

4. Synthesis & Skills Building. How to add value to your results, expanding your knowledge and developing critical analysis skills

5. Spreading the Word. Covering aspects relating to writing up and publishing your findings.

There will also be a set book: *The Surname Detective* by Colin Rogers, which students will need to have with them as they work through the lessons. The course will be of six weeks duration, five lessons and a research week break in the middle. The anticipated cost of the course to students will be either £49.99 or £59.99, depending on the study option taken by the student.

All students taking the assessed option will be expected to prepare an article on their One-Name Study for possible publication in either the Guild Journal or a Family History magazine.

Repeat of the Introduction course

Pharos Tutors plans to re-run the "Introduction to one-name studies" on-line course on 11 January 2010, and again on 17 June 2010. The course will cost £42.99. As with the previous courses, non Guild members will be provided with free membership to the Guild for the remainder of the financial year. If the course continues

"students on this course should ideally have a registered One-Name Study with the Guild of One-Name Studies and to have already collected a large amount of data"

to prove popular, Pharos will re-run this course in September 2010.

Formal announcement

Keep a look-out for the formal announcement for the Advanced One-Name Studies online course. Full details on how to apply will be provided on the Pharos and Guild websites and included in a Chairman's Newsflash and the Guild's RSS newsfeed.

More information about Pharos and their courses can be found at:

www.pharostutors.com.

Helen Osborn is Managing Director of Pharos and has been teaching and lecturing on historical records and genealogy for more than 15 years. She is the author of a University of Liverpool accredited distance learning course on records management and also runs a genealogy and historical research business. Helen is one of the speakers at the Guild's 31st Annual Conference to be held at the Oxford Belfry Hotel over the weekend of 8th to 11th April 2010. ■

An Overview Of
Army Records for One-Namers

By **Iain Swinnerton**

As far as I am aware, this subject has never been covered before in the Guild journal – certainly not by me, the last article I wrote was when I was the editor way back in 1986.

That is rather strange as more and more family historians are discovering ancestors who have served in the British Army and I am sure One-Namers are no exception.. The enlistment may have been during the reign of King George IV, Queen Victoria, in one of the many campaigns which established the British Empire, or as recently as World War II.

However, we now have at least four generations of whom the great majority have never done any form of military service or had any contact with anyone who has. World War II ended in 1945 and the last National Serviceman left the army in 1961. Thus the only people left with any contact with the military today are the friends and relatives of the members of our small modern army. As a result, the general public is not familiar with military matters except for what they see on television. Army nomenclature, the meaning of the initials used for units and personnel (my wife would tell you after many years of listening to conversations, that the army usually spoke in initials!), and the general organisation and jargon are a closed book to them.

Consequently, when they attempt to use military records to help them in their search for their ancestor, they are confronted with a host of unfamiliar names and terms. The present day textbooks on tracing army ancestry all assume the reader has knowledge of these but, as a well-known author of books on World War I records (a Guild member) found when he attempted his first book, lack of understanding of the basic organisation, history and traditions of the army can be a severe handicap.

Tracing Army Ancestors

There is a myth prevalent in some quarters, that you can only trace a military ancestor if he was an officer. That is not so: it is sometimes slightly easier to trace an officer but, providing you know which regiment he was in, or can find out, it is perfectly possible to trace an ordinary soldier back to the late 1700's.

It is important to understand that although the documents giving details of regular soldiers' careers during the 19th and early 20th centuries until the First World War are held at The National Archives, Kew (TNA), there are no records held there post 1920. After that date, the soldiers' records are still with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and are only available to next-of-kin. The exception to this is that the Army List of officers, published since 1754 up to the present day, which is available on open access

Discharge Papers

The principal records are the soldiers' Discharge Papers for those men discharged with a pension before 1883 (after this date all soldiers' records are included whether they were pensioned or not). Most of the papers for those discharged without a pension before 1883 were destroyed by fire many years ago. So - to find the records of your ancestor, you must search in the period of his discharge.

The records are to be found in WO97 and are grouped by date – those for 1760-1854 are now on the TNA's website as are the two supplementary series consisting of mis-sorts or for the surprising number of men who joined the army under a false name and whose true identity was either declared by the soldier at a later date or was later discovered (despite this, you will still find many records in the ordinary series which include an affidavit made by the soldier giving his proper name). These supplementary series are for the

periods 1843-99 and 1900-13. Happily for One-Namers, these are all indexed alphabetically for the whole of the army so it is easy to pick up all of your name very quickly.

Other periods are not so easy – from 1855-1872 they are arranged alphabetically by regiment and from 1873-1882 alphabetically within the arm of service, i.e. cavalry, infantry, artillery and corps.

For the period 1855-1882, therefore, you need to know whether your soldier served in the Cavalry, Infantry, Artillery, Engineers etc. and, from 1855-1872 his regiment because, as well as the Guards and Household Cavalry, there were 28 Cavalry and over 100 Infantry Regiments so it would be a mammoth task to search them all.

From 1883-1900 and 1900-1913 they are again listed alphabetically for the whole of the army.

Digitisation is proceeding apace and TNA hope to have them all on their website by the end of 2010.

In the documents you should find his attestation papers (the forms he completed when he joined the army), which give his place of birth, age on joining, trade or occupation before joining, and a physical description. You must remember though that his personal details are only what he told the recruiting officer.

It does worry me that family historians are inclined to accept any so-called official document such as birth, marriage and death certificates, entries in parish registers *et al*, as gospel whereas, in fact, they are only what one person told another.

The documents will also give details of his promotions, demotions, medals awarded, places where he served etc. and, finally, the place and date of

discharge with an address where he intended to live. In later documents, you will often find details of next of kin and brothers and sisters and a medical history. You will certainly find his signature, if he was literate, often several times but many soldiers weren't and this was even still true with some men called up in the 50's and 60's for National Service.

Not all the records are complete by any means and the Medal Rolls for various campaigns starting with Waterloo and including campaigns in India, Africa, New Zealand and China can be useful in filling in gaps.

Pay Lists, Muster Rolls and More

Another very useful set of records are the Regimental and Depot Description Books. These were compiled on enlistment and commence in about 1825 following a number of scandals about fraudulent enlistment. They give personal details and were extremely useful for providing information to the police if a man deserted. It was from this date that soldiers were first given personal numbers but these were regimental numbers and if a man transferred to another regiment, a not-infrequent occurrence, he would be given a new number. These Description Books can be found in WO25.

The other main records are the Pay Lists and Muster Rolls which sometimes, particularly for those soldiers who were not discharged to pension because they took an early discharge or died in service, are the only source of information about a soldier before 1883. The early series are Muster Rolls, which start about 1760 and end in the 1880's. They are found under WO10 Royal Artillery: WO11 Royal Engineers: WO12 Cavalry, Guards and Infantry (WO.16 for later Pay Lists) and WO13 Yeomanry, Militia and Volunteers.

Pension Records

Pension Records are to be found under WO116 (Medical Pensions) and WO117 (Service Pensions). Regiments also kept their own records of their pensioners and these are in WO120.

All soldiers admitted to pension were, and still are, Chelsea Pensioners but only a very small minority actually lived in Chelsea Hospital. The great majority lived, and still do, in their own homes, in the UK or overseas. Before 1883 their pensions were paid by District Staff Officers. The payments are all listed in the staff officers returns in WO22 and can be very useful in following the moves of

Chelsea Pensioner

pensioners to different areas and the date of death if this is not known.

There are an increasing number of indexes being compiled by enthusiasts and many are being published or put on the internet. A good example is Kevin Asplin's site where you will find nominal rolls of various regiments who took part in the Boer War including a complete roll of the Imperial Yeomanry: Medal and Casualty Rolls and much else.

For a list of other useful indexes to soldiers see 'Marriage, Census and Other Indexes' by J. S. W. Gibson originally published by the Federation of Family History Societies.

Records of World War I Soldiers

The service records of World War I Soldiers (other ranks, not officers) whose service ended between 1914 and 1920 have now been transferred from the custody of the Ministry of Defence to the The National Archives, Kew. The actual documents, however, remain with the MOD.

The records were originally kept so that the War Office (as it then was) could answer queries about pensions, medals and allowances for disablement.

During the last war, unfortunately, about 60% of them were destroyed in the bombing of 1940. Most of those that survived were badly damaged either by fire or from the water that was used to put out the flames. They have become known as the "Burnt Collection" and contain the service records of roughly 25-30% of the estimated 5 million men who served in the British Army in the Great War. They are stored in a staggering 33,000 boxes on nearly 2 miles of shelving but are in such a fragile condition that they will never be open to public inspection.

The TNA has received a grant from the Lottery Fund to finance their conservation and microfilming.

This has been an ongoing project since 1995. This is now complete and the results can be viewed on Ancestry.com. They are classified at TNA as WO363.

For a fee of £30 the Ministry of Defence will search the records still at Hayes and the search can now be done for anybody, not just the next-of-kin as previously. Write to Army Personnel Centre, Historical Disclosures, Mail Point 400, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow, G2 8EX.

There is another collection of records known as the "Unburnt Collection" which are already available for searching. These were compiled from duplicate records held by the Ministry of Pensions and comprise the records of another 8-10% of the soldiers. These are now also available on the Internet at Ancestry.com They have been classified at TNA as WO364.

Both the Burnt and Unburnt Collections include service records not only for regular soldiers (which can date back to the 1880's) but also for members of the Territorial Force and Special Reserve who had enlisted pre-war and for members of the Royal Flying Corps.

The service records of the WWI officers have now also been transferred to the TNA and became available for public viewing on the 3rd February 1998.

Bibliography.

Army Records, A Guide for Family Historians by William Spencer 2008 published by TNA.

My Ancestor was in the British Army by M.J. & C.T. Watts, Society of Genealogists 2009.

An Introduction to the British Army: Its History, Traditions & Records by Iain Swinnerton, originally published by the FFHS 1996. Currently out of print but a new edition is due in 2010.

In search of the "Forlorn Hope": a comprehensive guide to locating British regiments and their records (1640 - WW1) by John M. Kitzmuller II, Manuscript Publishing Foundation, Salt Lake City 1988.

Army Service Records of the First World War by William Spencer.

Identifying Your World War I Soldier from Badges and Photographs by Iain Swinnerton.

A Guide to the regiments and corps of the British army on the regular establishment by J. M. Brereton, Bodley Head 1985. ∎

Guild NewsXtra

Scottish Association of Family History Societies

21st Annual Conference
Paupers, Physicians and Paraffinalia

150 Years of social history in West Lothian.

Howden Park Centre, Livingstone, EH54 6AE

Saturday 17th April 2010 8:30 - 16:30

Programme includes:

Scottish Poor Law: Painting the Local Picture in West Lothian
Dr. Irene O'Brien

James Young Simpson and his World
Dr. Morrice Macrae

Social Aspects of the Paraffin Industry in Scotland
Prof. Michael L Hitcham

Banners and Benefits: Friendly Societies in West Lothian
Elizabeth Henderson

Conference £10.00 per person with an optional lunch at a further £11.00.

Booking form available at **http://www.wlfhs.org.uk/**

31st Conference & AGM
by Cliff Kemball

Demand for the Guild's 31st Conference and AGM is extremely high with ONE HUNDRED AND TEN people already booked for the Conference to be held at the Oxford Belfry Hotel, Milton Common over the weekend of 9th to 11th April 2010. This compares with 70 people booking for last year's conference by this time last year.

Nick Francis has been added to the Conference programme. He will be talking about Ancestral Atlas - using maps to support and visualise 'one-name' research worldwide. Helen Osborn's session has been renamed to "Do we share the same language? Comparisons between American and British genealogists" to reflect the more contentious angle of her talk.

The Guild plans to arrange for volunteers to meet delegates at the Haddenham and Thame railway station and bring them to the conference hotel. If you are aiming to arrive by train, please let me know the date and time of your arrival so that arrangements can be made for you to be met. If you are travelling by car and consider that you will be able help in meeting delegates at the station, please also let me know.

Two volunteers will be manning a stand at the hotel reception area to assist delegates who will be attending the conference for the first time. They plan to meet with and provide support for these delegates on getting the most from the conference. This service is available to anyone who feels they might need some guidance or just someone to talk to.

Further details about the conference, including the booking form (which was provided with the October 2009 Guild Journal) and a list of attendees can be obtained via the Guild website at: **www.one-name.org/conference.html**. You can also telephone the Guild Helpdesk on 0800 011 2182 or contact the conference organisers at **conference@one-name.org**.

To guarantee a place at this conference please complete the booking form **TODAY!** ■

Obituary - Francis (Frank) Leo Leeson 1926 - 2009

Frank Leeson was well known in genealogical circles. He was one of the early pioneers of the Guild (member 86), studying the name Leeson and its variants. He was also a member of the Society of Genealogists, joining in 1964 and becoming a fellow of the society in 1969. He was a former Editor of the SOG's Genealogists Magazine having co-edited with Jeremy Gibson from 1972-1976 before taking over as sole Editor in 1976 until 2000.

Frank was also a founder member and Chairman of the Sussex Family History Group, and became its Vice President during the 1980's. He also edited the Sussex Family Historian from 1979-1982 and was a pioneer of the Sussex Marriage Index which was published on CD-Rom.

Frank was born on October 10th 1926 in Bournemouth to Charles Leo Leeson and Phebe May Avery. He married his wife Gloria in 1953 and they had three children, Timothy Francis, Antonia Jane and Susan Louise.

He had a long and interesting career beginning in the army as an officer in 1945, and later becoming an interpreter and photographer for National Geographic before stints in a photographic agency and in the insurance industry which he retired from in 1990. ■

From GenMap To Google Earth

By **Howard Mathieson**

Some time ago I came across an intriguing freeware program entitled Earth Plot (**http://www.earthplotsoftware.com/**).

Once installed, I found it to be a useful utility for mapping distributions in Google Earth. Its interface is straight forward and intuitive. It has a number of mapping options, one of which is to map with proportional symbols similar to GenMap. At some point I wondered how it might be used in conjunction with GenMap. The one major difficulty precluding this possibility was the requirement that location coordinates be entered as latitude and longitude values in Earth Plot. GenMap uses National Grid Reference coordinates. Few one name studies will have latitude and longitude attributes associated with their place names. Ferreting out these values one by one would be a laborious process, one which would quickly outweigh the value of the final product.

However the widespread use of GPS devices has led to a proliferation of batch geo-coding sites and conversion utilities. Combining Earth Plot and GenMap, with a batch conversion utility, solves the coordinate issue. After considering a number of options, I settled on a utility called the OSGBConverter which converts Ordnance Survey grid references to latitude and longitude values. (**http://rjdavies.users.btopenworld.com/html/osgbconverter.html**) This utility is also a freeware download.

Why use Google Earth?

Google Earth links your data to the real world enabling you to zoom down to street level and examine the contemporary landscape.

Google Earth and Earth Plot also open up the possibility of mapping distributions beyond the United Kingdom. Canada, New Zealand,
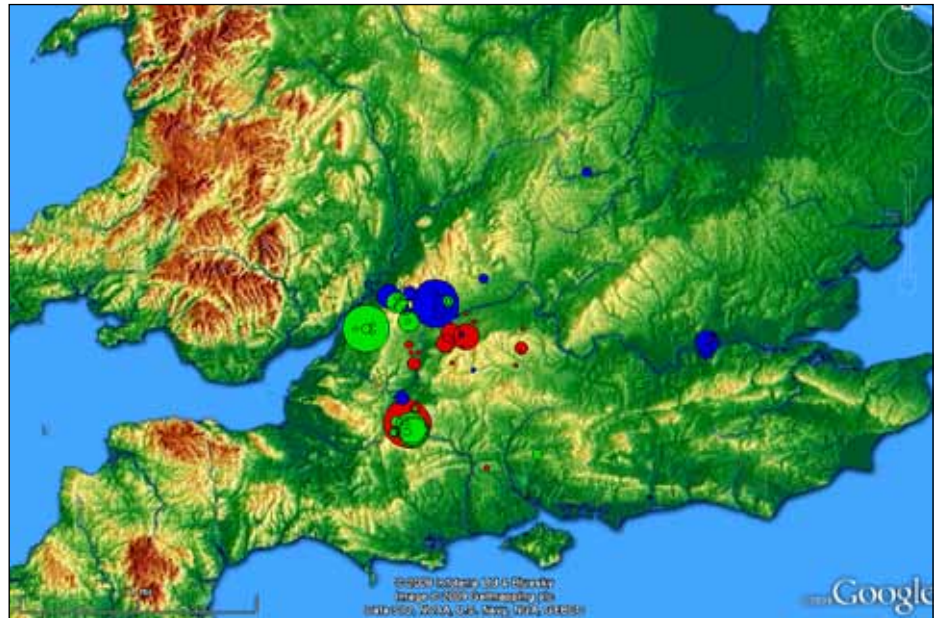

Fig. 1 Eycott spelling variants:1750 -1800 - Eycott ■, Eacott ■, Eccott ■

Australia and the United States could also be mapped.

Locations can be easily queried by place name, by postcode, or by address and plotted on the map. A variety of place markers and lines can be added directly to the map. Notes and observations can be associated with these markers.

A wide range of distributions, BMD, the Census, and the IGI, can be viewed, one at a time, or simultaneously. For example the distribution of different spelling variants can be viewed at the same time (figs.1,2).

Historical map overlays can be viewed in Google Earth providing a

Fig.2 England & Wales 1809 (map by John Cary)

Journal of One-Name Studies, January-March 2010
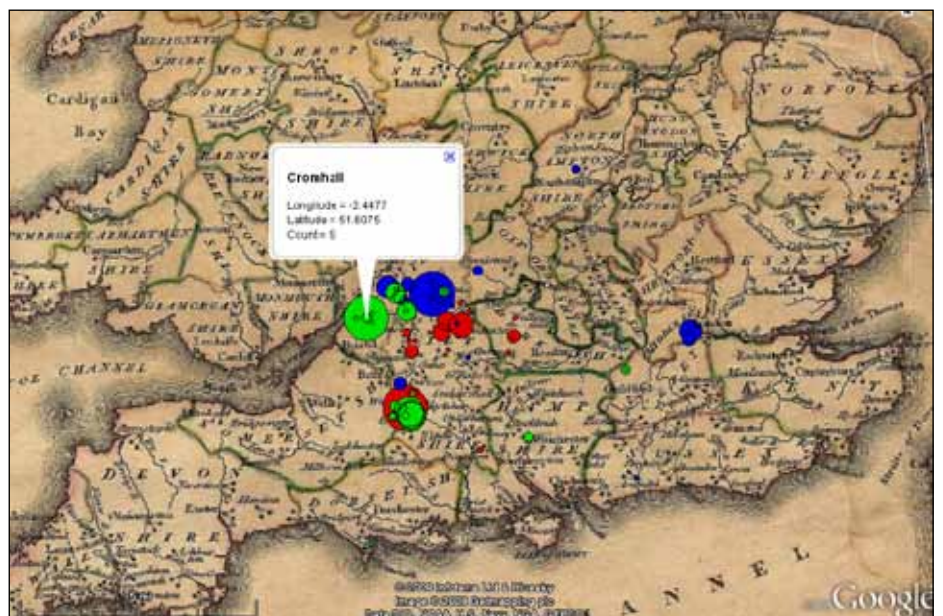
window into the world your ancestors experienced 100 or 200 years ago (fig.2).

Using a map overlay also solves a Google Earth viewing issue. Google Earth's strength lies in its ability to view the landscape at the local level. At the national or regional scale its images are indistinct and don't provide a particularly attractive backdrop for your data. Boundaries cannot be viewed and generally surface features cannot be distinguished aside from the shape of the country. To overcome this shortcoming I have created a series of map overlays that can be downloaded from the following website. (**www.members.shaw.ca/ geogenealogy/goons/maps**). You can download a digital elevation model (fig.1), historic county boundaries, and several late 18th and 19th century national level maps.
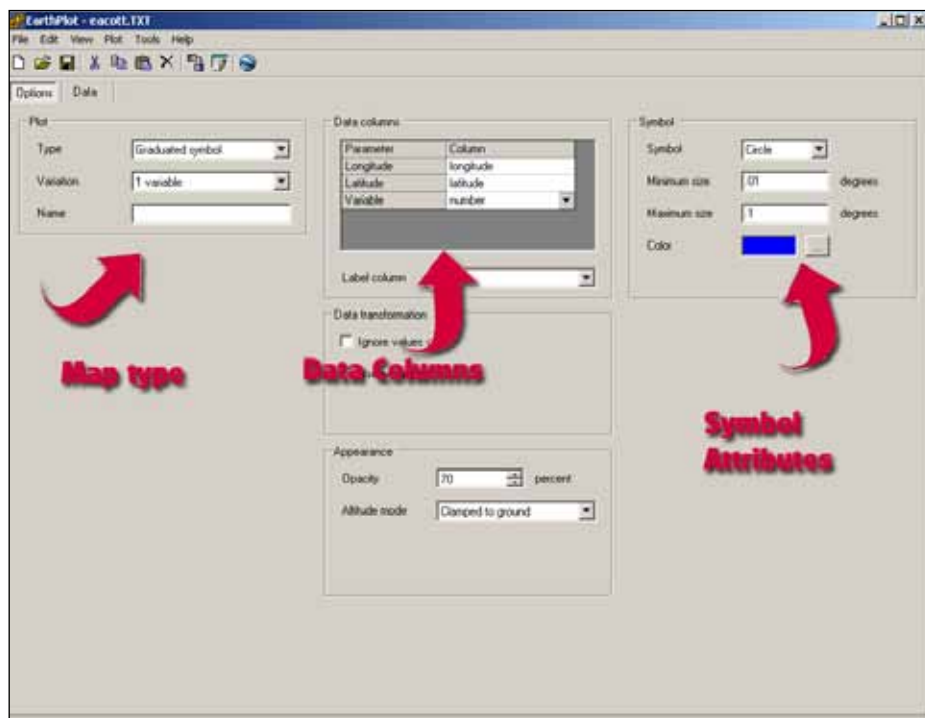
Preparing and Mapping your GenMap data:

1. Open a map in Genmap

Export the data table using the *File/ export/table/* feature as a comma separated text file.

2. Open the file in Excel:

*   Retain the place, num, and grid ref columns.

*   Delete the remaining columns.

*   Highlight the grid reference column.

*   Edit/copy the grid reference column.

*   Name and save the file.

3. Open the OSGBConverter:

*   Paste the grid reference column into the "**OSGB ref**" column. To convert the values in the OSGB ref column, first place your cursor in column 1 then click the latitude/longitude column on the right and the latitude/longitude values will appear. Repeat the process for each grid reference. Once the latitude/longitude values have been computed, save the OSGBConverter file as a separate CSV file. Open the CSV file in Excel, copy the

Fig.3 EarthPlot's Interface

latitude, longitude, OS Grid reference columns. Paste them back into the GenMap/Excel file. (confirm the OS Grid references match). Name the columns in the GenMap/Excel file, **place, frequency, latitude and longitude**. Delete the two NGR grid ref columns.

*   Re-save the file.

4. Open Earth Plot

*   Open the Genmap/Excel file in Earth Plot.

*   Select the map type. (proportional symbol)

*   Select the latitude and the longitude fields.

*   Select the variable you want to plot. (frequency)

*   Select the Label column. (place)

*   Select the symbol type. (circle, square or diamond)

*   Select the minimum and maximum symbol size, (start with values .01 and .1). If the symbols are too small or too large, once the map has been plotted, simply adjust the minimum and maximum values in Earth Plot and remap.

*   Select a colour for your map symbols.

*   Select an opacity value of 100% in the appearance box. (optional)

*   Select the altitude mode "relative to ground" and set an elevation for your map symbols. This will enable you to stack multiple maps and determine their order of display. (optional: Use if you have images overlays active, multiple data sets, or if you have the terrain mode active in Google Earth)

*   Hit the Google Earth Icon and map! ∎

Your Committee Needs You!

By **Stephen Daglish**

This is the time of year when the Guild is looking for nominations from members to serve on the Committee. Have you considered whether this might be something for you? Being part of the Committee gives an opportunity to be involved with the future of the Guild and to bring new ideas to the table for discussion and consideration.

The process of standing for Committee is quite simple. You need to complete a nomination form (enclosed with the Journal) and be proposed and seconded by two other Guild members. If more than 15 members put themselves forward, an election takes place – with the results announced at the AGM. If there are less than 15 nominations, these are duly appointed without an election. The serving committee members need to stand each year.

The committee is currently made up of 13 Guild members – the maximum being 15. Unfortunately not enough people came forward last year to fill all of the available positions. The committee can operate effectively with less than the full complement of members – although there have been some problems with some important roles not being filled. The committee can co-opt members to fill vacant positions where this is appropriate – recently John Coldwell was co-opted to help with the vacant Marketing position.

Getting Involved

So what is the commitment? There is no definitive answer to this and it can be quite flexible. In my case I joined the Committee this year on the understanding that my available time is currently limited through work commitments – but this gives an opportunity for me to "grow into" the Committee until I do have more time to dedicate to the Guild.

The minimum requirement is to be able to attend the meetings of the committee and to be available to read and respond to e-mails that are circulated between meetings.

However, most members of the Committee are also postholders, taking on specific roles. There are four key roles which must be held by Committee members – these are the Officers of the Guild, being the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Other Committee members hold roles including Registrar, Editor, Webmaster, Librarian, and so on. However these posts could be held by members who are not members of the Committee.

The Committee holds four meetings during the year in London and one at the AGM. The venue for the London meetings is a pub called the Sekforde Arms in the Clerkenwell area of London – an area which will be known to those who have visited the London Metropolitan Archives or the old Family Record Centre. The pub is something of a rarity in this part of London – a traditional street-corner local.

Meetings take place on Saturdays starting in late morning and finishing at around 5 pm, with a break for lunch which gives a well-earned break and the opportunity for some informal discussions over a pub lunch.

Committee members can claim travel expenses for attending meetings. Depending on their circumstances, some Committee members feel able to donate all or part of these expenses back to the Guild as a welcome contribution to Guild finances.

The agenda for the meeting is circulated in advance by the Secretary, along with any papers. A wide variety of subjects are discussed. The November 2009 meeting agreed to hold a brainstorming session on how we see the Guild in five years time and how this might drive our marketing strategy. Other recent meetings agreed proposals for the 2010 Guild competition "There's More Than One Way To Do It" and the Guild Fellowship Scheme, as well as suggestions from members to record next-of-kin details and the provisions for their study after their death. For those interested, the agenda and minutes of Committee meetings are published in the Members Room of the Guild website, under the Guild Administration section. Do take a look!

My experience of the Committee has been that meetings have been full of lively discussion and debate covering a wide range of topics and issues. The Committee is made up of a good mix of members with a wide range of interests and experience, and I have been impressed by the number of new ideas and initiatives that are being introduced. However to succeed these need resources – the Guild is always looking for help from its members. The objective is to ensure that the Guild is providing the best possible service for its members, whilst ensuring that the Guild runs smoothly and conforms to its obligations as a registered charity.

New members will be sure to receive a warm welcome and an induction on how the Committee operates, so there is nothing to fear.

It would be wonderful if the Guild needed to hold an election for Committee this year – because enough members have put themselves forward for nomination. I would encourage any member who thinks they could serve on the Guild Committee to put themselves forward.

However if this is not something that you can do, there are many other ways that you can help the Guild. As mentioned, there are many posts that can be undertaken without needing to be on the Committee and regardless of your location. And if you have ideas or suggestions, please do use the Suggestions box (which can be found in the Self Service area of the web site) or contact any Committee member. ∎

Marriage Challenge Update

By **Peter Copsey**

Marriage Challenge Reaches its 4th Birthday

It was an exchange of messages on the Guild Forum some four years ago that sparked off Marriage Challenge. It was clear that members were not visiting Record Offices (ROs) to develop their Study because the ROs near to them were the "wrong ones" and to travel to the "right ones" was too expensive or just plain impracticable. In particular, this applied to those with disabilities or living overseas.

From my own one-name research, I knew that one of the most successful and useful searches one can undertake is looking for marriages after 1837. From the GRO index, you know what you are looking for, you know whereabouts to look and you know the date within a 3 month period. So I threw down the first Challenge in February 2005. It was meant to be a one-day task at the London Metropolitan Archives looking for marriages in the Pancras Registration District. I asked for requests and within 3 days, 36 members had sent in their lists; I was inundated. I had to limit the search by stopping at 1880 and not looking for any marriages on the IGI. D-day was 10th Feb and I was hoping to find and record 100 marriages - how optimistic was I! Fortunately on the day, I was helped by Howard Benbrook and between us we found 66. But it was so satisfying I could not resist spending several further days at the LMA finding as many as I could from the search list.

I was hoping that once I had finished Pancras, someone else would, as I called it, "take the baton" and do a Challenge in their own local RO - that my start would not also be the finish! Gratefully Ian Preece "took that baton" and did Worcester. And so Marriage Challenge began. Offers to do Challenges flowed in and the idea of passing the baton became impracticable; it became clear the approach had to change. Soon several challenges were being done at the same time. I tried to limit the number to 2 per month by asking Challengers to delay their start. But soon it was 3 per month, then 4.

Four years on, Marriage Challenge continues and is relatively healthy. We are back to 3 per month now but the offers from Challengers come in fairly regularly and I am hopeful that this rate can be maintained. It all depends on you. Marriage Challenge cannot exist without members volunteering to do a Challenge. Challenges can be tailored to suit the Challenger, in the sense the size of the task can be limited by limiting the time period of the Challenge. So please, those of you who can easily get to a County Records Office and have thought of performing a Challenge, let me know and we should be able to sort something out. Do not be put off if you realise that a particular Registration District has been selected in the past (there is a list on the website of past and ongoing Challenges). Repeat Challenges can be as useful and rewarding (and often easier) as the original Challenge. Contact me, the Marriage Challenge Coordinator, on **marriage-challenge@one-name.org**.

Upcoming Marriage Challenges

Below is the list of forthcoming Challenges. All members are encouraged to send their requests to the Challengers by e-mail, hopefully using the standard "requests.xls" spreadsheet on the MC web-page. However many Challengers will accept requests in any form (for postal addresses, see the Members' Handbook). Send the listing extracted from the GRO index (FreeBMD will give almost all of them) for the named Registration District between the years given (Year, Quarter, Surname, First names, Full GRO reference). Challengers will search for and often find your marriages in the deposited Anglican Church registers and then send you the full particulars.

Gerald Cooke points out that Westbury on Severn and Newent RD's marriages can be reviewed on the Forest of Dean FHS website (**http://www.forest-of-dean.net/**). If you are unable to find the marriages you are looking for on the website then the Gloucestershire Marriage Challenge Team is willing to check these at the GLS FHS / GLS Archives and let you have any additional information available. It is probable that these will mostly be Register Office marriages where the incremental detail will be restricted to the spouse's name. For these marriages you should contact Gerald Cooke at his e-mail address given in the table below. ∎

Registration District and Period	Deadline	Challenger	Challenger's e-mail
Kidderminster (Repeat), 1837 - 1911	31st January	Ingrid Salkeld	medlam@one-name.org
Stow On The Wold, 1837 - 1851	31st January	Gerald Cooke	gerald.cooke@gmail.com
Tewkesbury, 1837 - 1911	31st January	Gerald Cooke	gerald.cooke@gmail.com
Winchcomb, 1837 - 1911	31st January	Gerald Cooke	gerald.cooke@gmail.com
Axminster, 1837 - 1911	5th February	Des Gander	gander@one-name.org
Winslow (Repeat)	7th February	Graham Taylor-Paddick	paddick@one-name.org

A View From The Bookstall

By Howard Benbrook

History is Bunk!

s history really "bunk"? What Henry Ford actually said was: "*History is more or less bunk. It's tradition. We don't want tradition. We want to live in the present, and the only history that is worth a tinker's damn is the history that we make today*." (Chicago Tribune, May 25, 1916). Henry Ford was uncompromising in his commitment to live in the present and the rest is erm... well, history...

Perhaps Henry was so engrossed in his own personal industrial revolution that he'd no time to study his family's history because, if he had, he'd have learned significant, often uncomfortable, lessons - if he could only hear them above the clatter of the machine shop. I'm sure you've found that your research can take you to places that you could never have imagined. I find it's so difficult to cast myself back to a world that is so utterly different from my own. Can I really, but really, imagine what life was like? Would I have actually *liked* my ancestors? Did they wash behind their ears? What was it like to do a day's work? How would I have coped with all those infant deaths? Would I have found their beliefs, values and opinions unacceptable, looking back from my comfortable 21st century world?

The Australian and UK governments have found the values of *their* predecessors so unacceptable that they've apologised for the Child Migrants Programme, which sent thousands of poor children from the UK to a "better life" in Australia, Canada and elsewhere in the late 1940s to mid 1960s. But weren't the care agencies trying to act in the best interests of the children, at a time of great privation in the UK? It provokes an uncomfortable thought: will future generations, my own grandsons and granddaughters, feel they should apologise for some of my actions, well-intentioned though I think they might be?

Where to now for London Marriage Challenges?

There's good news and bad news. The good news? Ancestry has now launched its collection of London parish records, and I think their images are great - they are so much easier to read than peering through a poorly adjusted and dusty reader at an indifferently captured image on a scratchy microfilm!

But - there's a bit of bad news. Apart from the usual doubt about Ancestry's indexing, I'm afraid it's those images. They're good, alright but, (ahem!), they're not all there. I'm convinced that, stung by FindMyPast's 1911 Census coup, they've rushed out the London parish records collection too early, (or maybe their recent flotation on the stock market was to blame..?). It really didn't take me long to find pages missing from the marriage registers. Try browsing the registers for St John the Baptist, Hoxton in 1874; I reckon there are about 45 pages (=90 marriages) missing in that one year alone. That may be a worst case (and I really can't know), but - if the images aren't there, they won't be in the index either. And please remember that Ancestry's agreement is with the LMA, and not all London parish records are held at the LMA. Some are still held by the incumbent (e.g., St Peter ad Vincula, in the Tower - a Royal Peculiar), some have been lost (St Benet, Mile End was damaged in the Blitz) and some are held by Westminster City Archives. If you'd thought that, with such exhaustive coverage, you'd be able to track down that Scottish or Cornish migrant to London, think on...

At first, it looked like I'd be wasting my time to proceed with the next stage of my Marriage Challenge - everyone's online, right? But no - it looks like there's still work for me to do, and it's time to announce Stage 3 of my Shoreditch Marriage Challenge.

Please send me your requests, using the usual GRO Index reference (I don't care about the format; I can handle most), of marriages featuring your registered surname in Shoreditch RD between 1881 and 1911. I won't start until the New Year, so you should have plenty of time.

Calling all Bookstall Managers!

Still no approaches to take over the must-have job of the year. H'mm... I really hope this isn't because I've painted too grand a picture of running The Guild Bookstall. At its heart, it's really very simple: because the Guild has no products of its own (with some minor exceptions, like the Register), it's just a buy-it-in, sell-it-on sort of business. Nothing difficult in that; then, as you start to build up stock, I guess it can get to be a stretch. But there's no need to emulate the previous incumbent here - you can grow the thing along with your own confidence; it's what I did, after all.

And the world is changing, as if you hadn't noticed. There are fewer fairs, which means there's less travelling. Instead, everyone's moving online and so is the Guild Bookstall. With Anne Shankland's help (thanks, Anne!), we've moved a few things online already, like the online vouchers. Take a look, and let us have your reactions; here's the link to the vouchers page: **www.one-name.org/vouchers**.

Some Old Favourites from the Bookstall

Because I don't want to lumber my successor with too many of my poor purchasing decisions, I'm going to slow down Bookstall buying; this means I won't have a lot that's new. Instead, and particularly for the benefit of any of our newer members, I'm going to take the opportunity to remind you of some of the interesting and useful items on The Guild Bookstall over the coming months.

First up this time: one of George Redmonds' excellent books: '*Surnames and Genealogy - A New Approach*'. Those of you seduced by the etymological analysis presented in surname dictionaries really need to read this book! Presenting work collected over more than 35 years, George argues that each surname is unique and you'll catch his drift when he says that "*without some sort of genealogical evidence it can be unwise to link modern surnames with those found in mediaeval sources.*" The book is now out-of-print so it's difficult to track down, but I'm able to set a ridiculous members' price of £5, plus postage.
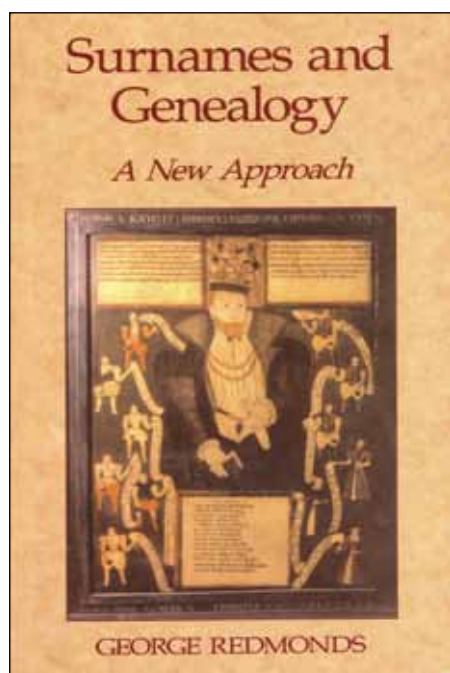
Sometimes it's difficult to convey the importance of something without my seeming pompous or full of sales-talk, but George Redmonds really is a leading expert on surnames. Equally, Edward Stanford was a renowned Victorian map-maker and he created at least two wonderful maps of London - one in 1862, the other thirty years later in 1891. These are powerful tools for family historians researching, and searching in London; I can't count the number of times I've referred to them - the last time just a few weeks ago to help a Guild member. Both of them have been beautifully reproduced by MOTCO, a small company which specialises in maps on CD. The important thing here is that, as well as reproducing the original images, MOTCO have added a full index - not something you'll find online! Here's a sample of the images...

And, sticking to technology, it's about time I reminded members that they will get 10% off the usual price for Custodian 3, the only software specifically designed for one-namers. Originally crafted for the benefit of one of our members, it enables you to enter data from records in a form just like the original; the information is then stored in an underlying database (MS-Access) which can be queried in any number of creative ways. Extracts from that data can then be used to produce distribution maps in, say, GenMap UK, which I'll discuss next time.
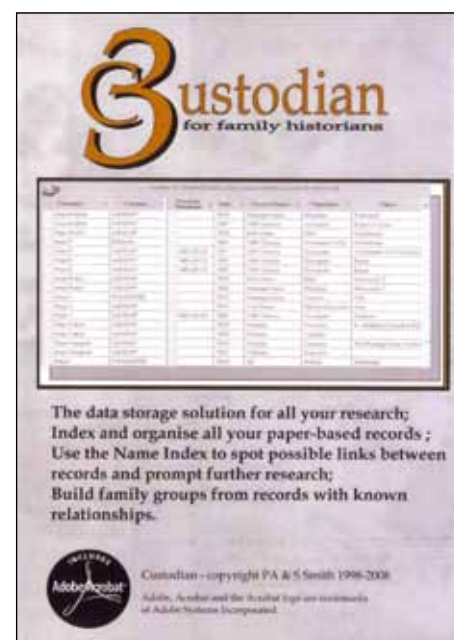
Where We've Been, Where We're Going

Since my last article, The Guild Bookstall has been to: Debenham, Scarborough, Winchester, Liverpool, Hull, Woking and TNA at Kew. For the future, the schedule is shown in the table below. Come and say hello!

Thanks to My Helpers

As you will see above, Ron Woodhouse and his wife, Gwen, have been working overtime - thanks, Ron! And a couple of the events were quite small, so Pam and I managed on our own, but I should like to say a big 'thank you' for the others to: David & Brenda Horwill, Mike Walker, David Probett, Barbara Harvey and Susan Atkins (twice!). ∎

Event	Place	Date
East of London FHS Fair	Barking, Essex	Sat 23rd January
Bracknell FH Fair	Bracknell Leisure Centre, Berkshire	Sun 31st January
Crawley FH Fair	K2 Arena, Crawley, Sussex	Sun 14th February
Guild DNA Seminar	National Star College, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire	Sat 20th February
Kidlington FH Fair	Exeter Hall, Kidlington, Oxon	Sun 21st February

Finding Out What We're About

Changes in the field of DNA testing

By **Chris Pomery**

I took some time away from my ONS this autumn to write up a long article for an online journal that is read by thousands of genealogists. In it I described how people running surname projects will find they get better results if they actively try to document their family trees as well as collecting Y-chromosome DNA tests.

If you did a double take just now, don't worry: you read that last sentence correctly. The majority of visible surname-defined genealogy projects worldwide are DNA projects, not the documentary histories laboured over devotedly by Guild members. To us, the logic of documenting a surname — to reconstruct its trees as part of a process historians label as surname reconstitution — is self evident, but in truth we are just one niche in a much wider spectrum of surname endeavours worldwide.

Of course the DNA projects don't look much like ours. There are projects for surnames found so frequently among the general population that it would be nigh on impossible for anyone to attempt to document them. Most DNA projects are relatively newly formed and have collected only a few results compared to the total number of name-bearers in the surnames they study. And perhaps the biggest difference of all, most surname-based DNA projects are focused on genetically linking same-surname individuals living in North America with the goal of identifying the specific emigrant ancestors who founded the surname in the USA. Relatively few projects are actively prioritising the same process to test their surname's UK-origin trees, or to identify its ultimate ancestor(s) in the country of origin. The US focus among DNA projects is more accidental than purposed; we in the UK generally need more persuasion to spend the money to buy a test than our North American counterparts, and we certainly feel much less positively about governmental or free market use of DNA data. Very few surname DNA projects have more results from UK-based participants than from those living in the USA, not least because I suspect few projects target Britons to ask them to do so.

Journal of Genetic Genealogy

The piece I wrote for the Journal of Genetic Genealogy (JOGG), viewable at **www.jogg.info/52/files/pomery. pdf**, was aimed at DNA project managers, and the central point that I wanted to lay out is that actively researching and documenting a surname has never been easier than it is today. Given that this is so, a surname project using a dual approach – combining documentary reconstruction and DNA testing -- is bound to be superior to one using either method on its own. In fact, it's becoming hard to imagine starting a surname reconstitution project today without committing to a methodology that integrates documentary and DNA data to build up a consistent picture built on both its parts.

The presence of JOGG on the web is itself very interesting. It bills itself as a free, open access journal; it has an editorial board, and submitted pieces are anonymously reviewed with comments fed back to authors prior to publication. Nothing quite like this exists in our documentary world. In fact, I'm not aware of anywhere that the graduates of our MA courses, or other long-standing researchers, can publish their work online under peer review conditions.

Most of the material in JOGG is very esoteric, and its stress is on the genetic more than the genealogy side of its title. But it's also true that many non-professionals and untenured experts in different countries are researching and writing up highly original material, much of which is then absorbed into mainstream population genetics research. That's also true of the companies selling DNA tests. Their research, for example into new genetic markers, is often well ahead of the published work of the academics, as is the International Society of Genetic Genealogy's (ISOGG) haplogroup tree.

I'm hopeful that my paper will encourage at least a few DNA project managers to seek out, approach and start to work with documentary researchers who are experts in their surname(s). As far as I can see, about 10% of Guild members are already either running a Y-chromosome DNA project or are associated with one, and I think only a few surname DNA projects exist that appear to have no connection with the Guild member already documenting that surname.

Project Statistics

But writing the JOGG piece made me aware of a second issue, which is how little data exists on the status of Guild members' ONS projects. Drafting it I had to guess not only how many documentary surname projects exist outside of the Guild, but also how advanced Guild members' projects are and how we are going about them. I am regularly impressed reading posts on the Guild forum at the knowledge and expertise of individual members. This seems to me to be one area where we are underselling ourselves and where the Guild is much more than the sum of its parts. As we are so active in this specific genealogical niche, and further online papers will want to cite and define our activity, it would clearly be useful if we collated some quotable data about our projects' status and methods.

The summary sections of my piece highlight a third feature: the

implications for our research niche of the results of DNA projects now underway. This, I think, is truly exciting. As more dual approach surname projects report their results the collated data should yield a great deal more information about economic change, internal and overseas migration, and social change from one generation to the next. In effect we are creating longitudinal studies of change and continuity within an extended family rather than at the more traditional level of the parish. Guild members are leaders in the dual approach method, but few findings have yet been published.

Closer to home, I am expecting that as we access an increasing number of Y-chromosome results it will become possible to identify links between surnames that have not hitherto been recognised. This will shed new light on the process of surname evolution in the medieval period. We already have data from the 1841 census that can be used to pinpoint surnames' area of likely geographical origin, and as more pre-census data sets such as the seventeenth century hearth taxes are published we'll be able to take this baseline even further back. It should be much easier in the near future to establish which surnames were present in a particular location around the time of surname formation. Then on top of that we'll be able to add genetic data from their modern name-bearing descendants. I anticipate that these comparisons will suggest that

some surnames share the same DNA signature(s) because they stem from the same localised gene pool some seven hundred or so years ago, while in other cases different surnames will be revealed as linked because they share the same genetic ancestor through the linguistic evolution of the surname that had not previously been recognised. One researcher I know of is working on such a project; their results are eagerly awaited, and I'm sure others will follow this route.

Advances in DNA Testing

While this all sounds exciting, there's more afoot. For the first time in the decade since genealogical DNA testing entered the mainstream there are technical advances in the offing that are about to transform the business of DNA testing. The first of these is a programme by Family Tree DNA called 'Walk through the Y'. In a nutshell, this is identifying a number of new 'deep ancestry' type SNP markers to complement the firm's existing range of 67 STR markers. The discovery of these unique SNP markers is growing so fast that many of them have clearly appeared only in the past thousand or so years. In other words, we're approaching the time when surname projects might be able to define the DNA signatures associated with their trees by using one or more unique SNP markers, a much more precise process than a series of variable STR values. This will make the handling and analysis of Y-chromosome surname projects much easier than today.

The second innovation – as with buses, we wait for one for ages and then two come along together – is being delivered by a relative newcomer. 23AndMe, which has family links to the Internet giant Google, has recently unveiled a new service called Relative Finder. Their test is different from the familiar Y-chromosome test used by surname groups. As its name suggests, it looks at all twenty-three pairs of our chromosomes. This is not yet a 'whole genome' test -- an individual's personal genetic code from A-Z – but it's not far from it. The promise behind the service is that users will be able to start identifying distant cousins throughout their personal tree, possibly further back than four or five generations. Up until now, the traditional Y-chromosome and

mitochondrial tests were only able to look at the direct male and female lines respectively. The new test can look at all the lines in between. This may not seem like a huge advance for one-namers, but it is what most genealogists have been seeking for years. The test is relatively expensive at $399, and success stories about the automatic matching process are not yet collated and written up, but the anecdotal evidence is bubbling up to the surface that it works. I suspect that it portends a fresh expansion of DNA testing within the mainstream, and when the price heads downwards it could quickly become a clear first step for anyone new to family history research.

> *" there are technical advances in the offing that are about to transform the business of DNA testing "*

All this activity and change is redefining what is meant, outside of the Guild, by a 'surname project'. After watching this arena for a decade my view is that change is surely unstoppable, and our best option within the Guild is to embrace it and see where it leads us. With the core British documentary datasets increasingly available online, and in multiple locations, collecting data isn't an issue any longer (except perhaps in terms of the perils of data overload). What differentiates us within the Guild is how much effort we put into using our data and how much success we've had doing so. Doubling back to my earlier comment, that we need some figures to describe what Guild members are doing and how we're doing it, my feeling is that a regular, short, online survey is the best next step. Over time we could gradually build up a picture of the skills we collectively have, how we're using them in our projects, and how our projects stand. And as a bonus, I think when non-members see those results they'll see some compelling reasons to join the Guild. And that's surely a good thing. ∎

Chris Pomery acts as a consultant for Family Tree DNA and here expresses his personal views as a Guild member.

Seminar Report -
Finding Further Less Used One-Name Sources

The National Archives, Kew, Nov 21st 2009

By **Sue Ashton**

Travelling to the 'One Name Sources' seminar held at The National Archives (TNA) at Kew (21st November 2009) the weather forecasters had unfortunately got it right this time. Gordon Adshead had thoughtfully e-mailed members in advance, warning of possible disruptions to rail services. However, once arrived and settled, I didn't have time to notice the deteriorating weather outside due to the packed day of interesting lectures.

The Hearth Tax

After the welcome, housekeeping, and programme for the day, not forgetting Howard's plug for the bookstall bargains, we launched into the first presentation by David Annal on The Hearth Tax.

Charles II introduced this tax during the restoration of the monarchy.

I view myself as a lifelong apprentice in this 'ONS' game, and was aware I would have to tackle this source at some point in the near future, but for some reason slightly wary of it. Whether this was because I would need to dedicate more time to the task or transcribe handwriting, I cannot say, but the presentation certainly took away any fears I had, and has greatly encouraged me to dip my big toe in the water, but I will need to have some serious negotiations with my diary!!

Civil War Sequestration Papers

Adrian Ailes followed with his presentation on Civil War Sequestration Papers.

At this point I recalled a school project I had done in my last year at Primary School on Roundheads and Cavaliers, in fact winning 1st prize. Now, if I had had half the knowledge Adrian has, then, what possibilities for the prize!

One interesting point I wasn't aware of, is that when the King declares war he raises his standard, which Charles I did in August 1642, and had his Royalist capital at Oxford, which is near to the venue of the April 2010 conference.

Adrian directed us to many sources within the archives, which contained some rich pickings for one-namers.

After lunch Liz Hore shared her knowledge of Chancery Records, and what is available with in the 'C' series. In 2003 some (C13 – C16) of the series where sent to the salt mines in Cheshire for storage, and if access is requested, will require three days notice. Liz explained how the records were indexed under the plaintiffs name, not the defendants, although more recent cataloguing is including far more information.

Our final speaker, Michelle Hockley, spoke about Certificates of Residence, which are held in TNA series E115, years 1547 – 1685.

The local tax commissioners issued these documents to a taxpayer, to confirm a move of address, and avoid double taxation. They are searchable on the web site, go to the online catalogue, class E115 and put in a surname.

Other Activities

There were two other activities that were available to members.

The first was a series of 4 tours, one of which I am led to believe only went into the public rooms, and felt to be of little value to those who visit TNA regularly, but I imagine would have been welcome for those that do not visit so often and have had difficulty finding their way around.

And the second was a display of 6 document samples, supporting the presentations of the day:

To round up, there was question time, where the four speakers responded to questions from the audience. It quickly became apparent how much is being done, almost daily, to update and enhance the TNA website.

Another facility available through the web site, is the online palaeography and Latin courses.

General advice would be to review the contents of the web site regularly.

So the question I ask myself is what value do I get from attending GOONS seminars such as this one? For me the subjects come alive through presentations and knowledge of how archives were created, gathered and recorded, and how they assist me in my field of research. More importantly, it gives me ownership of my own social history. ∎

*Readers can find some good technical summaries of the presentations at **www.one-name. org/members/seminars.html***

Forthcoming Seminars

DNA Develoments,
20th Feb 2010, National Star College, Ullenwood, Cheltenham, GL53 9QU

15th May 2010

MAPS AND MAPPING SEMINAR

Maps and Mapping Seminar at the Helsby Community Centre, Lower Robin Hood Lane, Helsby, Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 0BW. This seminar will cover all aspects of maps and mapping for your one-name study starting with a talk on digital mapping by Paul Newman, Senior Archivist, Cheshire Record Office.

We shall also be covering all of the techniques evolved by Guild members in their mapping of One-Name Studies. Plus pointing out interesting developments in mapping on the Internet, Book maps and Gazetteers that may assist in filling those areas not yet covered and much more.

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7th Aug 2010

COMPUTER SEMINAR

The seminar will be held in the excellent hands-on computer suites at the Rosebery School Epsom, Surrey KT18 7NQ. Separate streams will cater for beginners, intermediate and more advanced users, and it is planned to cover a very wide range of subjects ranging from basic data capture, use of the best Internet sites to interesting data manipulation techniques.

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20th Nov 2010

BORN ABROAD?

A 'must attend' seminar for those researchers with ancestors born abroad; particularly in the Caribbean, India, Europe and those with Jewish or Huguenot ancestry.

Sevenoaks Community Centre, Cramptons Road, Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN

Programme

09:30 - 09:55 Arrival - Registration and Coffee
09:55 - 10:00 Welcome to the Seminar - Alan Moorhouse

Part 1: Project Results And Conclusions
10:00 - 10:35 What A (nearly) Completed Study Looks Like - Chris Pomery
10:35 - 12:05 Blair Study - John Blair
               Cruwys Study - Debbie Kennett
               Rowberry Study - Polly Rubery
12:05 - 12:30 Q&A Implications For Surname Studies - Panel
12:30 - 13:30 Buffet Lunch

Part 2: Administration Process
13:30 - 14:40 Marketing & Promotion - Debbie Kennett
               Tracking Down Living Ancestors To Test - Polly Rubery
               Fundraising & Subsidies - Chris Pomery
               Interpreting Group Results - John Blair
14:40 - 15:15 Tea and Biscuits
15:15 - 16:45 Q&A How To Run Bigger & Better Projects - Panel
16:45   Close of seminar

This Seminar will build on the previous DNA discussions with much emphasis on practical experience, the interpretation of results and the implications for surname studies in general. The morning sessions will focus on actual projects' results and consider how DNA testing is changing the way we are now able to study surnames. The afternoon sessions will focus on the administration process, how we run our projects and interpret their results, and how we can run a more effective project.

There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion but to make the most of the day, as well as taking questions from the floor we'd also like to work with questions and queries submitted in advance (via **dnaquestions@one-name.org**) in order to end the day knowing the panel has been able to answer as many of them as possible within the time available.

Delegates who are already undertaking a DNA research project are invited to put up posters or a display describing their project and results to share with others and, if they wish, to hand out materials relating to their project.

Book on-line at one-name.org under Events. Forms may also be obtained by phoning the Guild Help Desk Tel: 08000-112182

New Year Resolutions For
(or, confessions of)
a One-Namer

By **Ken Toll**

Every New Year starts with good intentions... and 2010 is no exception!

Several of last year's resolutions have rolled forward and new ones have appeared from nowhere. I thought perhaps the only way to ensure I stick to them this year is to share them with you. So here goes:

1 I really must back up my data – straight away, and regularly thereafter. I KNOW it is essential - I lost 3 months of research when a hard disc crashed some years back – but far too often it still gets left to fate. I do have 'belt and braces' methods – I.e. I keep both the paper research notes and the electronic copies, so one can be recreated from the other. However, they are in the same room and a small fire could destroy both. I do have back up copies in USA and Australia, but they are at least a year old.

2 I really must sort out my files on the PC. I do have a fairly organised directory structure, but things STILL get misplaced. Drag and Drop seems to have been replaced by the occasional Drag and Lose. Once sorted, yet another backup will be required.

3 I really must update my Guild profile. It's got me far more contacts that the Register alone ever did – but I've got more good info to add, which might just convert a casual browser into a contact.

4 I really must complete the digitisation of my Study. Two full filing cabinet drawers have been done, covering all my Geographic and Miscellaneous Sources. All that remains are the probate records (a mere 14 shelf inches), my BMD indexes and Certificates (10"), and four A3 binders of oversized material.

5 I really must re-enter the (at least) 37 Family Trees into a proper FH program. These are currently languishing in an old DOS word-processor. It was great for drawing large trees in 1986, when no other program could do anything like it - but time has moved on – and so should I !

I have, of course, bought copies of all the major Family History Programs, but every time I've almost decided which on to use, another new version arrives...

...I'm currently torn between Family Tree Maker, The Master Genealogist, and Family Historian – and I'm still tempted by Legacy and RootsMagic - so perhaps a mini resolution (5A?) should be to finally decide on which program to use and just get on with it.

When re-entering the Trees, I really must validate the data and record the sources of information. So much early research was based on the probability of being correct, whereas the more recently available data enables far more accurate assessments of relationships to be made.

6 When gathering new data, I really must record the sources and context. I am getting better at it, but I still occasionally find the odd scrap of paper with data on it. But as I have absolutely no idea where it came from or how trustworthy it might be, I can't convert it from data to information, let alone knowledge or wisdom.

7 I really must review and update my research plan. This is stored in a spreadsheet as I'm too busy (lazy?) to write a bespoke database. It currently has over 900 tasks still marked as outstanding. Many have probably been completed by other research results and can be deleted, many more probably now need to be added (most problems solved generate 2 more...).

8 I really must create a "list of contacts". I think I now have around 600 people I've corresponded with about my One-Name Study and I'm ashamed to say can no longer remember who is researching what, how to contact them, or what I've sent them. I feel another database approaching rapidly.

9 I really must be more systematic about collecting data. Every week there are new goodies mentioned on the Guild Forum – and off I go and harvest the relevant entries. I had started working through the online data I already subscribe to and really ought to finish that before moving on the latest freebie.

10 I really must look at the Guild Wiki more often. Someone may have already suggested solutions to some of the above. Perhaps I even ought to contribute my solutions!

11 I really must set up a One-Name Society, so there are others to continue my one-name study after me. I also need to deposit my research with the Guild periodically – just in case my plans don't come to fruition.

12 I really MUST get my One-Name Study website up and running. I've registered a domain and rented the webspace, I've also bought the software and the manual. I have absolutely no excuse for not doing it, except the thought of publicly making a mess of it terrifies me! However, the software chosen (TNG) may well force me to implement some of the resolutions above - and it may, of course, create new opportunities for resolutions for next year!

It will be interesting to see how I progress in 2010 and how many of the above are STILL on my "to do" list in 2011... ∎

Could You Do A Marriage Challenge?

By Sue Horsman

Doing a Marriage Challenge for fellow Guild members, can be a very rewarding exercise on one part, but extremely frustrating on another. I always really appreciate receiving envelopes containing 'Certificates', or e-mails containing marriage details. Sometimes the contents contain details of a marriage, which suddenly connects up several bits of the jigsaw. It was for that reason, that when I retired, I decided that I ought to do my own challenge, as thanks to those who had in the past provided me with so much useful information.

But what does doing a challenge really entail? I have just completed my third, and largest challenge, so I thought I'd explain the process that I go through.

Getting Started

First, you have to choose your District. You need to be easily able to get to copies of the records. I live in North Leicestershire, quite a way from the county Records Office, but am lucky in that Leicestershire libraries have copies of local records in the larger libraries. Likewise Derby City has a wonderful Local Studies department. You should first check that you can occupy a reader all day, as only certain fiche readers will read post 1837 marriage fiche. In one library I was told that I could not book such a reader all day, as they felt that looking at fiche for over 6 hours was not good for me from a Health and Safety point of view.

Once your district is chosen, and you have spoken to the Marriage Challenge Coordinator, you should announce the challenge to other members. Most members will pick this up from an announcement on the Guild forum or from the Web Site. Then the hard work begins, compiling a master spreadsheet of requests. In my recent challenge I almost lost the will to live, as people were sending their names and reference numbers in any sequence, ignoring the format shown on the Guild web site.

Please think about the person who you are sending the information to, and the fact they are processing information from dozens of people. Most members have databases or spreadsheets, so can quickly manipulate the data into the format required. There is now a template spreadsheet to use on the web site. When people don't adhere to the specified format, it can create a lot of extra work for the person doing the challenge. Likewise, could submitters please consider the name of the file they are sending? You may only have one file called 'Derby Marriage Challenge', but I received dozens. I was really appreciative of people who gave their files sensible names containing their membership number or registered name. It made life so much easier.

Many counties have marriage data on the IGI. If you can provide the name of the church from that source, it also helps. I found it quite frustrating when the information was available but not provided.

Once all the requests are in, the master spreadsheet can be sorted into Year, Quarter and Page Number, and you are ready to go, or are you? I don't have a laptop, so had to print out hundreds of sheets containing blank certificates, ready to complete. Then, it is off to the library, pencil and paper at the ready.

How on earth do you remember all the names? We are all used to looking for one or two names, but 50 or more! I break my list into quarters and then try and memorise all the names I am looking for within that quarter. Great – I've found one, so I fill in a blank certificate and tick it off the list, then start again. By the way, if anyone has found a better solution to remembering the names, please let me know. On returning home, it is also important to update the master spreadsheet with all the information that will be submitted to the Guild

Marriage Index, and while doing so, ensure that what you have written is legible. I'm afraid that I always end up with my clipboard balanced on my knee.

Derby Marriage Challenge was less physically tiring than some, as the records were on microfilm, which meant less getting up and down for the next fiche. The library has comfortable chairs and electric readers – what luxury. It was also interesting, as on a couple of instances I was able to spot one of the Peregrine falcons, which nested on the Cathedral opposite. Libraries are noisier than Archives offices, but during the Ashby challenge I rather enjoyed singing along to 'The wheels of the bus go round and round'; along with several different sets of nursery children who were visiting the library. How times change – when I was a child it was always 'Quiet – you are in the library'.

Phasing

It is always good to reach a cut off point. I initially intended to go to about 1880 as a first phase, and then complete the remainder as a second phase. As I progressed it became clear that it was easier to do all the available records for the largest churches, and then do the minor churches as phase 2.

Having completed a phase, it was time to despatch all the 'certificates'. I do hope everyone received the correct ones, as sorting hundreds of bits of paper on the lounge floor was rather chaotic. Then it was off to the post office with a multitude of different sized envelopes all needing weighing. I don't think the people in the queue were very impressed.

The hard work is now over, but was it worth it? I think the answer is a resounding yes, judging from the e-mails I have received, confirming that the postman had been. Oh yes, please remember to acknowledge the fact that you have received your envelope.

Seriously though, doing a Marriage Challenge is very rewarding, and through doing them I have 'met' many wonderful fellow members of the Guild. If you can spare the time, do give it a try, but take my advice, 'don't bite off more than you can chew' on your first attempt. Also don't be afraid to ask for advice from people who have done one before. ∎

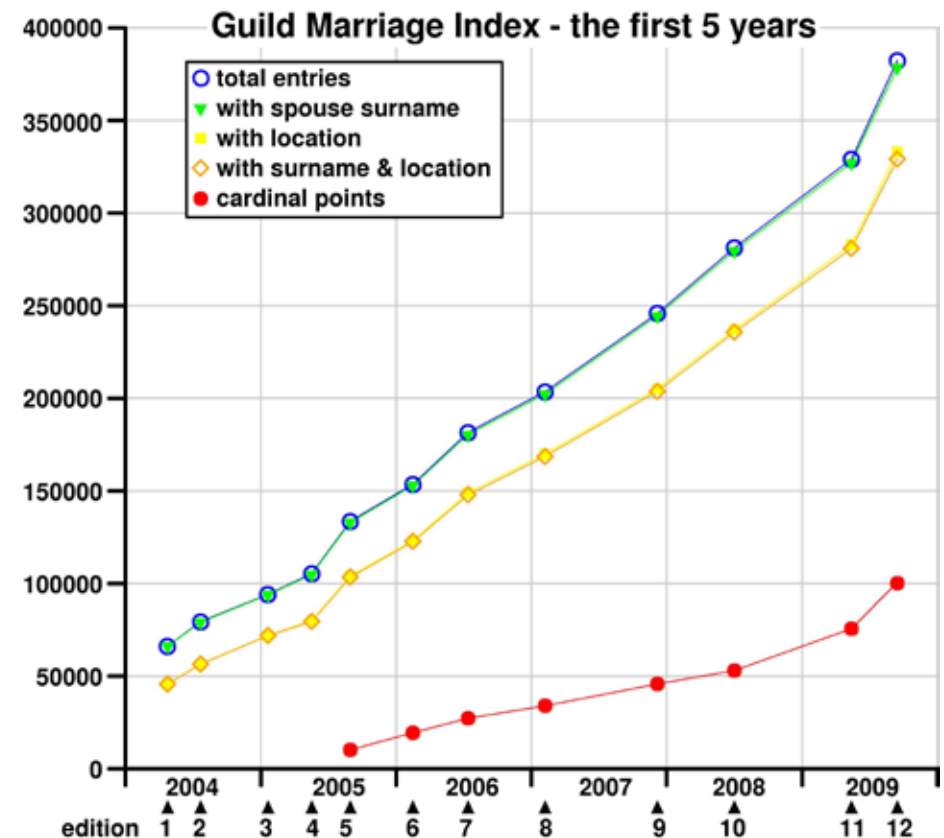# Guild Marriage Index 12th Edition

By **Peter Alefounder**

The current (12th) edition of the Guild Marriage Index has 382469 entries on-line, an increase of more than 53000 in just 4 months.

In addition to enabling Guild members to publicise their One-Name Studies to other members and to find where their interests might coincide, the GMI can also be used to locate the parish where a marriage took place, given just a GRO reference. Cardinal Points, of which there are now over 100000, are particularly useful for this. These give the first and last page number in which marriages for a particular parish and quarter year were recorded by the GRO. Where a complete set has been collected, any Anglican marriage can be located. A GRO page number greater than that of the last Cardinal Point will be for a Jewish, Quaker, Roman Catholic, non-conformist or civil ceremony.

A Useful Tip

A useful refinement to the basic method of marriage location was posted by Andrew Millard in the Guild email forum last September, in response to a question posed by David Vooght. The GMI and GENUKI listings gave 8 possible churches for the marriage he was trying to locate. Andrew Millard pointed out that by downloading all the marriages for the relevant registration district and quarter from FreeBMD, sorting by page number, and then counting the number of entries for each page, it would be possible to narrow down the list to just two likely candidates. In the event, David Vooght was happy to report that the marriage had been found in the first of these to be searched. The details have been added to the GMI examples page, **www.one-name.org/members/GMI/gmiexample1.html**, and the marriage to the GMI.

The discussion sparked a debate on the benefits of Cardinal Points versus the effort required for their collection. For districts with few marriages, a complete set of CP's might be a large fraction of all the marriages, and their collection would not be justified. The same can not be said for areas with a large population where marriages in just one parish might require several dozen pages in the GRO index. Here, a set of CPs is of great help in locating marriages, and it is more likely that marriages would be sought in these areas. Most of the CPs in the GMI are in fact for highly-populated regions. Over 36% are for just 5 registration districts: Whitechapel, Medway, Stepney, Lambeth and Mile End.

It is of great help to Mary Rix if those undertaking Marriage Challenges report their findings direct to her, including any Cardinal Points that may have been collected. This enables them to be systematically recorded and so made available to anyone doing a repeat Marriage Challenge.

The Guild Marriage Index can be found at **www.one-name.org/members/GMI/gmi.html** ∎

Guild Marriage Index - the first 5 years

Reviews
Reviews
Reviews

New genealogy books and CDs

By **Keith Bage**
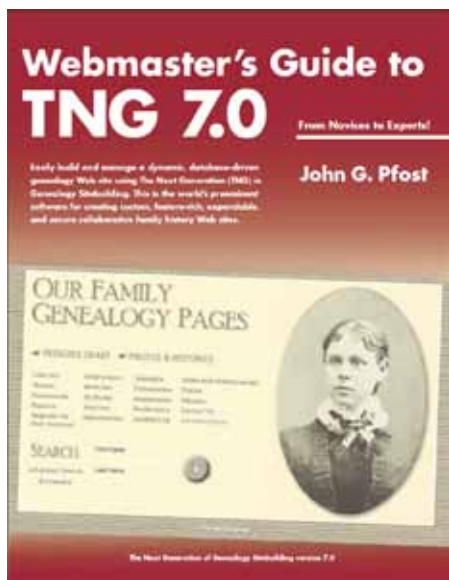
**Webmaster's Guide to TNG 7.0
By John G Pfost**

As a one-namer many of us want to have an online presence and to put much of our data on the Internet for other researchers to use. Traditionally, family historians have accomplished this through the use of what are termed "static" web pages, often created through a variety of genealogy related software packages such as Family Tree Maker, RootsMagic, Legacy & Reunion. However, there are a number of problems with this approach, for instance the need to regenerate pages each time you want to update your website, and the inability of others to interact with your data.

Over recent years however a move towards the use of "dynamic" online genealogy software packages has increased and by far the best known of these is The Next Generation, or TNG as it is known. TNG is a feature rich programme offering much of the functionality seen within desktop genealogy packages and is based around PHP scripting with a MySQL database at the backend. However, it is terms such as these which find people worrying about using such a programme.

e-Book

Enter The Webmaster's Guide to TNG 7.0, an all encompassing guide to TNG. The Webmaster's Guide comes in the form of a 768 page e-book. Now, I have to say I am not a big fan of e-books and have always resisted the urge to buy them, especially where a "real" version is available. Unfortunately though no paper version is available so in this case an e-book is your only choice.

There are of course several advantages to e-books, not least of which is the speed with which you can acquire them. Another nice feature is (as used within the PDF version of the Guild's own Journal) the ability to click on hyperlinks within the text and be taken directly to the associated website. This is of particular use in this e-book with its wealth of hyperlinks to the various websites, wiki's, and forums.

Comprehensive

The book itself is no slouch in terms of content, with some nineteen chapters and ten appendices making up the considerable 768 pages mentioned earlier. Whilst the author John G Pfost states he has no affiliation with TNG, there is clearly a strong link between himself and TNG developer Darrin Lythgoe with the latter contributing a foreword to the book.

The opening chapter provides an overview of TNG and begins to explain some of the terminology you will encounter when using TNG before moving on to discuss planning your website in chapter two. This is a very useful chapter in which the author leads you through a number of things you should consider before diving in.

One of the key chapters of course addresses not only the installation of TNG, but also post installation tasks, reinstallation, and the handling of TNG updates.

There are other nice chapters on using and modifying TNG templates, configuring settings, importing and exporting data, and managing other data such as places, sources & cemeteries.

Being a Joomla user myself I was particularly interested in a chapter on integrating TNG into my existing Joomla (a content management system) website, which provided some useful information. Other personal highlights were chapters on media management and the integration of Google maps into TNG.

There is much to applaud this book for. It takes a very comprehensive look at planning, installing and customising your TNG installation and achieves this in a well structured and clear manner. There is something for everyone interested in TNG, from the beginner to those who have been using it for some time but want to modify the look and feel, or perhaps make a coding modification. You can use the book to take you as far as you want to go with TNG.

If I have one complaint about the book, it is the price. At $35.00 its a rather hefty sum for essentially a PDF file. Of course there has obviously been an awful lot of work put into the book, and its clear this is a topic that the author is passionate about, but it seems a little strange to me that the book should cost more than the programme itself (TNG is priced at $29.99 USD at the time of writing).

That said, the book is an excellent companion to TNG itself and whilst there is some good information on the Internet on TNG, having it all in one "structured" place has a lot to be said for it. If cost is not a major concern I'd recommend it. ∎

Available from:
www.tng-resources.com
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More Pictures from the Guild's TNA Seminar
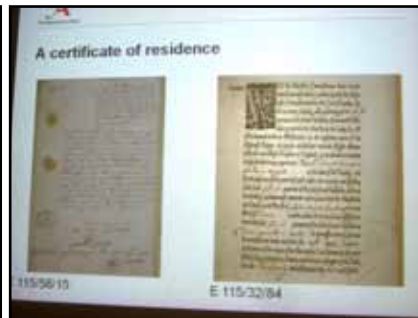
Main inset: Howard Benbrook promoting the Guild Bookstall's wares. **Top left:** Dave Annal presenting his talk on the Hearth Tax. **Middle left:** One of several documents which were on display: The 1662 Hearth Tax returns showing 60 persons from the Parish of Amwell Magna. **Bottom left:** Keith Jacobs asks the panel a question. **Bottom Centre:** A slide showing a Certificate of Residence. **Bottom Right:** The panel of speakers; Dave Annal, Michelle Hockley, Liz Hore & Adrian Ailes.

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