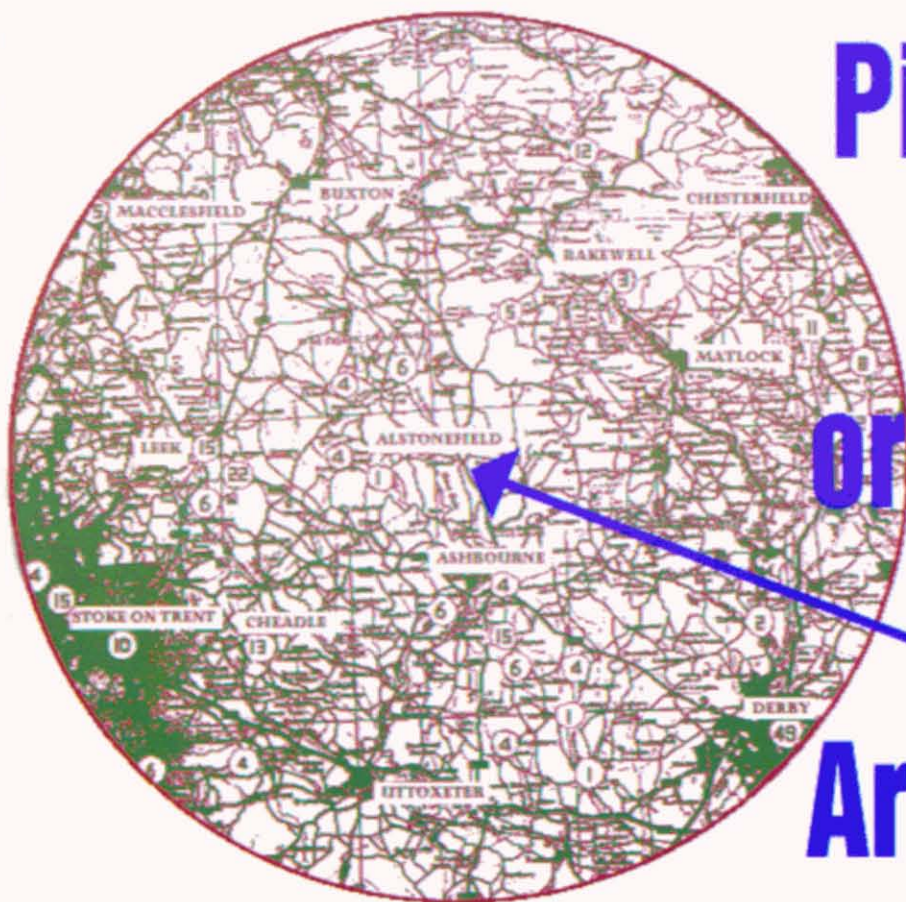


# Journal

of One-Name Studies



**Pinpointing  
surname  
origins with  
Median  
Area Theory**

*Also in this issue...*

**One-name  
sources in  
archives of  
York Minster**

**DNA testing  
and the  
changing face  
of genealogy**

**Slaves in the  
family pose  
one-name  
problems**

# Guild

of One-Name Studies



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## Guild Forum

THIS 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:

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To send a message to the forum, send it to:  
[goons-l@rootsweb.com](mailto:goons-l@rootsweb.com)

## Regional Representatives

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

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# Journal

## of One-Name Studies

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

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

By Howard  
Benbrook



### Think about what will happen to your research

**T**HE SAD loss of two prominent Guild members recently has brought to the fore once again the subject of members' research work and what they should do with their one-name collections when they pass on.

Although we have a limited service managed by our Librarian, this is a problem that I feel we should address. It's not an easy one to solve.

It would be wonderful to have a facility where we can house such collections ourselves, with the implied access and look-up service, but anything more than a few boxes and filing drawers will require significant accommodation and possibly the need for staff to make collections available.

By the time you read these Notes, the committee should have discussed this issue and made a decision on a way forward. I hope to bring you more news on this next time, but if you have views on the subject, please let me know.

#### F&GP Sub-committee

Although our financial position is healthy, it's my belief that we need to be constantly vigilant to ensure that this remains the case.

To support our Treasurer, we have created a Finance & General Purposes Subcommittee

that will set our financial goals and monitor them during the financial year. This will give us early indicators to enable us to make better money decisions.

As I suggested in my last Notes, this may mean launching new services for you, if we feel we have the resources – people as well as money – to support them. Keep those ideas coming on what you'd like to see the Guild doing.

#### VAT update

In my Notes in the previous Journal, I mentioned that the Guild may need to register for VAT (Value Added Tax) some time soon. Since then, we've conducted a thorough re-appraisal of our finances and I'm happy to report that this problem is quite not as urgent as we feared.

Our Treasurer, Sandra Turner, will keep the situation under review, but one thing that your committee insisted on when this was debated was that we will not raise membership fees as a direct consequence when we finally do have to register.

#### Help needed!

It goes without saying that an organisation like this depends on the efforts of its volunteers. Whether it's serving on a committee, or helping on the bookstall or pouring teas at a seminar – everyone who contrib-

utes makes a big difference. What's more, it can be great fun! We're beginning to see that we need more help to carry out some of our aims. If you feel you would like to take a more active part in the Guild's activities, please make contact with me or any member of the committee.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Why not join us at Guild's 2003 Conference in Liverpool?

IF YOU'RE in my generation, then the words "Penny Lane" don't just mean a street in Liverpool, they represent an era, and an influence that means that you can still hum a certain tune 30 years later.

Well, the real Penny Lane is less than a mile away from the venue of our 2003 Conference, which is to be held at Liverpool University next April.

Liverpool, of course, is significant in genealogy as the port where so many English emigrants left for the shores of the United States, but in modern times as the nearest "big town" to Southport, a seaside resort on the north west coast where you can find Smedley Hydro, the home of GRO Certification Services.

#### Civil registration

This is not a coincidence. Our theme for the 2003 Conference is "Civil Registration" and this will include a visit to Smedley Hydro. The Conference is, of course, a terrific opportunity to meet other Guild members, and this one is already promising to be a popular event. I'm certainly looking forward to meeting as many of you as I can.

*You will find a preliminary booking form is available with this issue of the Journal. I urge you to book now to avoid disappointment!* ○



## *Just my opinion...*

A personal view of a genealogical topic

*By Roy Stockdill*

Will the PRO  
beat William  
the Conqueror's  
record and find  
true happiness?

I PENNED this whimsical piece at a time when there was widespread frustration over the non-appearance of the online 1901 census and the PRO's prevarication, and posted it on a couple of genealogy mailing lists. I received requests to republish it on the Internet and in family history journals, such was the interest and amusement it appeared to attract!

At the latest time of writing (early September), the 1901 census was finally online in a testing capacity, but subject to many complaints of inaccuracies. And there is still no sign of the PRO or their contractors QinetiQ admitting that the genealogical community was right all along to warn of potential disaster.

**T**HEY SAY history repeats itself, and so it does, but not always as you might expect.

In the midwinter of 1085, at Gloucester, William the Conqueror issued a proclamation. The Saxon Chronicle records that... "the King had deep speech with his counsellors and sent men all over England to each shire... to find out... what or how much each landholder held, in land and livestock, and what it was worth. The returns were brought to him."

And so it came to pass that in 1086 the King's Commissioners set off on horseback and rode the length and breadth of England – in those times a wild and unruly land with communication extremely limited and danger lurking at every twist of the road – to carry out the King's orders and perform the first known census.

The Commissioners recorded

every manor and estate, the names of those who held it before the Conquest and those who held it since. They counted the number of acres and carucates, the numbers of villeins, peasants, sokemen and slaves, and recorded every church and every mill. William was so thorough that he even sent out a second team of Commissioners to follow in the footsteps of the earlier ones and check that they were performing their task correctly.

### Findings

When this great survey of England was completed, the Commissioners returned to Winchester and reported their findings, whereupon they were laboriously transcribed into a great book by a team of writers and the book was published. It was called the Domesday Book. And the remarkable thing is that, from the time of the Commissioners setting out on their great task to record almost every acre of land in England to publication of the Domesday Book, the entire process took less than **twelve months**.

Let us now move on more than nine centuries, to the present day – the 21st century, in fact. And so it came to pass that the Public Record Office promised to transcribe the 1901 census and place it online for the entire world to access. And they, like William the Conqueror more than 900 years earlier, did hire a team of Commissioners who were known as QinetiQ to perform this great task. This team of Commissioners had no such problems as their mediaeval counterparts, for they did not have to ride the length and breadth of the land on

horseback, facing danger at every mile.

They had wonderful machines called computers and they did hire vast numbers of transcribers who were known as Guests of Her Majesty, and when these proved to be not fast enough or skilful enough they hired vast teams of other transcribers in overseas lands who did not speak English as their first language but who did their best.

And when the returns were all in, the Commissioners known as QinetiQ put them onto these wonderful tools called computers and presented them to the world for inspection. Unfortunately, on the very first day so many people wanted to open the electronic pages of this 21st century Domesday Book that the machines rebelled and refused to co-operate and the book had to be withdrawn from circulation.

And so the Commissioners known as QinetiQ did devote much time and labours to endeavouring to bring the 1901 census back to the miraculous thing known as the Internet, but at the present time of writing almost seven months have passed and there is still no indication from the Census Commissioners – who are now known to the whole world as QineptiQ – as to when the electronic Domesday Book will be accessible once more. Will they manage to beat William the Conqueror's record in getting his census out in under 12 months? It seems unlikely, since the proclamations issuing forth from the PRO are of the vaguest and unpromising nature.

*If he is aware of these facts, William must either be turning in his grave at Caen or perhaps laughing himself silly!*

# Pinpointing the origin of your surname with the Median Area Theory



By John Titterton

*ONE of the joys and, indeed, a principal aim, of running a one-name study is endeavouring to discover where the surname originated.*

*Various methods have been described, and in this article Guild member John Titterton discusses the Median Area Theory, which involves finding the centre of a circle with the greatest density of surname occurrences inside it.*

*John first presented this theory to a Guild Conference and AGM, and we are now delighted to bring it to a wider audience through the Journal of One-Name Studies.*

**M**ost, if not all, members of the Guild will have some theory on the background and development of their surname(s) of interest. Theories are one thing – but proving them is another matter. I have built up the story of the origin of the Titterton surname, using just a few of the documentary references dated before 1550.

However, I believe I have also substantiated this story through analysis of 19th and 20th century data about the name.

Once upon a time – possibly around 1300 to 1350 – a young man from Tydryngton, near Macclesfield, was given an opportunity he could not refuse. He was made tenant of a large area of land based at the settlement of Narrowdale in the parish of Alstonefield, North Staffordshire. He may have been a junior member of the family of the manorial lord of Tydryngton and/or he may have married the heiress of a previous tenant of Narrowdale. It would seem he had the necessary skills for dealing with survival in that part of the country, which was on the outskirts of the Forest of Macclesfield.

## Crops dispute

His family became established. In 1397/8 William de Tydryngton and others were involved in a dispute with Isabella de la Pole of the de la Pole family at Hartington, just across the border into Derbyshire. William was charged with trampling down the crops of Isabella and harming her livestock.

*This should not be regarded as too unusual for the period!*

However, within 100 years a subsequent de la Pole had granted substantial land to four Tydryngton brothers, Edward, George, Henry and Richard. A further court case followed in the 1540s, when sons of three of these brothers disputed the manner of inheritance of the fourth.

At this time, a second branch of the family was already established in the nearby village of Cauldon and another family of traders was about to establish itself in Ashbourne. By 1600 the surname was now being recorded as

Titterton in Alstonefield, Ashbourne and Grindon, where there was a branch from Cauldon. Over the next 400 years the surname would spread throughout the English-speaking world.

The Median Area Theory estimates the geographical origin of a surname through its application to data on a name's distribution, provided that the surname started from a point source. The theory assumes that, with a point origin, succeeding generations will move away gradually from the initial origin and then establish their own centres. This process will repeat itself until the surname is widespread.

## Concentration

A basic assumption is that there are no social or geographic obstacles to the migration in all directions from the initial source. The theory is simple: one establishes an area of greatest concentration of the surname and the centre of this concentration is the point origin.

The most practical area with which to work to establish the centre is a circle. The Median Area is a circle of minimum radius which has half the surname population inside it. The enclosed area has the greatest density of the surname. The centre of this circle is the point origin of the surname.

The theory was explained in an article *The Diffusion of English Surnames*, by Martin Ecclestone in *The Local Historian* (Vol. 19 No. 2, May 1989). The ratio of 50/50 and the use of a circle is convenient. However, neither are absolute. The essential point is to establish an area of greatest concentration and then find its centre.

I wrote a follow-up article which was published in *The Local Historian* (Vol. 20 No. 1, February 1990). I applied the theory to three different sets of Titterton data: the IGI; central registration of births and marriages; and telephone directories. Both the IGI and the central registration data need detailed analysis to avoid introduction of errors caused by the way the data has been produced.

Subsequent to that article, I have applied the theory to Titterton data

from the 1881 British Census National Index. This article describes the process and gives the results for the 1881 census and UK telephone directories for 1972/3. Both these sets of data are less prone to the introduction of errors than the IGI and central registration. Also, one or both these pieces of data will be available to most members. Obviously, the telephone data does not have to be for the same period as I chose. Members interested in applying the results to IGI or central registration data should consult the article mentioned above to make themselves aware of necessary checks to be made before using the data.

The data from the 1881 census has its own errors and omissions. However, many of these can be covered by checking for known spelling variations, e.g. TITERTON. Also, I included transcription errors of LITTERTON and FITTERTON where I was satisfied they were really Tittertons. With around 500 Titterton entries it was possible to check for, and discard, any duplicate entries, such as grandchildren recorded both at their parents' home and with their grandparents. It was felt that other errors in the data would be small and should have no particular geographic bias.

### Phone data

The telephone data was obtained when I went through all the BT directories in 1973. The plan was to write to all Tittertons. It was seeing the results of this that showed me that there was a geographical bias to the Titterton surname distribution. I was fortunate that this was at a time when a substantial proportion of the population had telephones registered with BT but the diversification between different service providers had not taken place. I have assumed again that any errors and omissions have no geographical bias. Perhaps working on directories of a later date of the late 1980s would be better. The number of Titterton subscribers had doubled by then.

One needs to display the data for each set of data on a map of the UK (or country of surname origin). The scale will need to be such that one can identify villages. It should not be necessary to produce a map at such scale for the whole country. Although I had to include the whole country to make the count of the total numbers, I had no need to plot them all,

as one is looking for a concentration of 50 per cent of the population.

It was clear from the Titterton data that well over half the occurrences for both sets of data were in an area roughly bounded by Manchester, Sheffield and Birmingham. Those living in areas far outside that triangle, such as Kent, Cornwall and Northumberland were not plotted. Most people will already have a good idea of the area of concentration of their surname of interest and can choose a map coverage accordingly. Depending upon the distribution, one may need to plot only about 70 per cent of the occurrences.

I used a road map of the UK. These are widely available with scales of three or four inches to the mile. One can either use A3 photocopies or purchase two copies and stick pages together. One will need to use both sides of some pages. I marked each



Figure 1 - Numbered dots show distribution of Tittertons in target area

place off on the map with small coloured dots. The number of "residents" in each town, village or hamlet of residence was written on the dot (see Figure 1). People living in the suburbs of large towns or cities were identified against the suburb.

Once the distribution is marked out, the object is to draw a circle with the smallest radius which surrounds one half of the total distribution of the name. Drawing of the circle with compasses was difficult. It is a chicken and egg situation! The purpose of the exercise is to find the centre of the circle, but you need to know that to draw the circle! I found the use of circular objects, such as kitchen plates, very successful to start the process. One can easily produce

a variety of diameters. I even raided old plates used as plant pot stands.

With 516 Tittertons in the 1881 census, I was able to identify visually an area of high concentration which contained about 280 people and, thus, produce a first estimate. One can change the diameter of the circle (plate) and one can move the plate up, down, left or right to see which way includes more people under it.

The position and size of the circle should be adjusted by trying to reduce the circle's radius BUT maintaining the population ratio of half and half. The theoretical point origin of the family surname is the centre of the circle with the smallest radius. The centre of the plate is easy to find. Draw and cut out

its outline on a separate sheet of paper. Fold in half and half again. Snip off the very tip of the "pointy bit" and unfold. The hole you have cut is in the centre and can be placed over the map.

The circle containing half of the Titterton references in the 1881 census has a radius of 19 miles and is centred on Milldale, near Alstonefield, Staffs. In other words, half the Tittertons, i.e. 258, recorded in the 1881 UK census lived within 19 miles of Milldale (see Figure 2). A similar treatment of the 139 subscribers from the 1972/3 telephone directories showed that in 1973 one half of Tittertons in the UK with telephones lived within 32 miles of Parwich, a Derbyshire village four miles from Alstonefield.

The analysis of the IGI and central registration data reported in the earlier article also produced points of origin within nine and six miles respectively of Alstonefield. Neither gives a snapshot, however, in time of the surname distribution and the data has to be checked and, if necessary, adjusted, to ensure there is no geographical bias. For this reason, the census and telephone books must be considered the more accurate sources. However, even their true median area will be greater. By 1881 there were approxi-

mately another 100 Tittertons living in Australia, South Africa and USA. With a worldwide population in 1881 of, say, over 620, the circle for 1881 should be larger to enclose 310 entries and not the 258 as used. This should still make no difference to the centre of population concentration as calculated.

This analysis can also be applied to surnames with more than one centre of origin. The surname may have two independent points of origin, or someone may have moved a significant distance at an early date. The analysis is perhaps a little less mathematical. From the distribution of the data one may be able to see more than one area of high surname concentration. These may be able to be analysed separately to produce two or more circles.

Some years ago I was discussing family history with a Mr Winfield from Ewelme in Oxfordshire. He believed his family

had been moved from Wingfield, Suffolk, to Ewelme by

Alice de la Pole, Duchess of Suffolk (d. 1475), from her Suffolk manor as craftsmen to build the church and almshouses at Ewelme. cursory examination of the telephone directories suggests the surname has more than one centre of high population and that Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire could be one such area. Wingfield is also a Bedfordshire place name. Therefore, more exhaustive research is necessary before this concentration can be attributed to the Countess of Suffolk.

The Titterton analysis of the 1881 census data and telephone directories gives consistent results. Both sets of data give a point for the surname's origin within five miles of both each other and the believed actual point of origin (see Figure 3).

*I suggest this shows that the Median Area Theory can be relied upon to give a good approximation to the point source of a surname's origin. For Titterton, it ties in well with the limited documentary evidence. I am, therefore, happy that the story given at the start of this article is a reasonable history of my surname's origin and development. ○*

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Figure 2 - In 1881 half the UK Tittertons lived within this circle

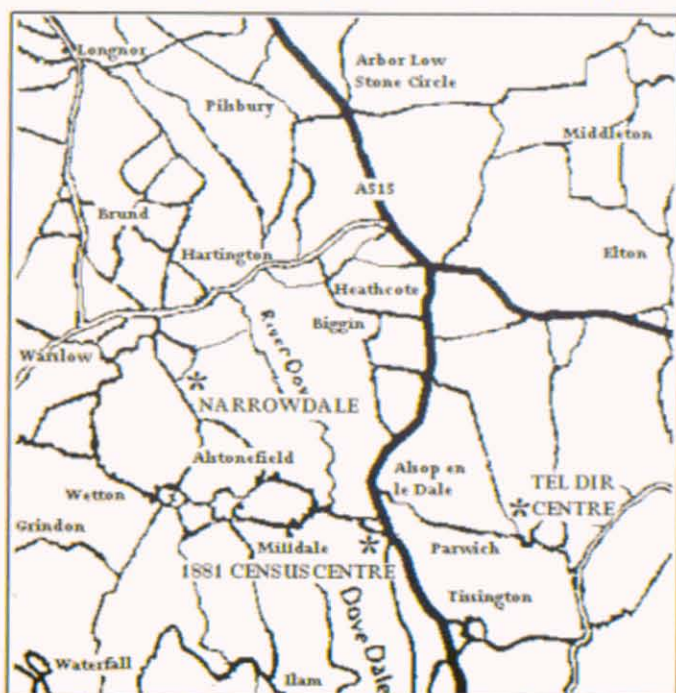


Figure 3 - Centre of Titterton surname as calculated from the 1881 census and 1973 telephone data

# Resources for one-name studies in the archives of York Minster

By Louise Hampson

*AS Guild members will know, we are always glad to be able to bring you, through the medium of the Journal, information on sources for one-namers that you may not have come across previously. In this issue we look at the under-used archives of one of Britain's greatest cathedrals, the magnificent, mediaeval York Minster. Of particular interest is the Minster's Biographical Database of Yorkshire People Before 1550, which has over 500,000 names in it and in which postal searches can be carried out for a reasonable fee.*

*In this article, the resources of the archives are described by LOUISE HAMPSON MA, Manager of Collections for York Minster.*

**M**any people reading this will have no idea that York Minster not only maintains its own archive facility for the study of records dating back to the mediaeval period, but that the facility is open to the public four-and-a-half days a week. This is understandable in part, as many of you will have had no occasion to need our records, and there are hundreds of repositories in the country.

However, many people will find that we have the answers to their questions in our records but will not have realized we were here to ask. This is a position I hope this article will go some way to remedying, and also give you some information about a service we offer which may be of help.

The Minster's archive holdings are primarily the records of the Dean and Chapter generated in the course of their business of governing the Minster and its properties. They span over 900 years and are still accruing, as the modern records of the Minster are regularly transferred for safe keeping. In addition, there are collections of records from allied bodies, such as the Vicars Choral who sang the services in the Minster on behalf of the canons who did not wish to undertake that part of their duties for themselves.

As they were not a monastic order, they survived the Reformation and continued until 1936, when they were finally dissolved. Most of their records of historic interest are from the mediaeval period and give a marvellous insight into ordinary York – more about this later. Lastly, there are the collections which are there almost by chance, often deposited because of historical accident, lack of other facilities at the time or because the breadth of content made it impossible to locate in one or another specific local authority record office.

We are usefully outside the geographical system from that point of view, but reasonably centrally

accessible given the size of Yorkshire. Nowadays, however, we focus very much on material which is directly related to the Minster or existing collections, and do not seek to acquire material which more properly belongs in one of the other local repositories.

So how has this great treasure house of records gone comparatively unnoticed for so long? Well, although we are quite heavily used by academics and overseas researchers, our family history holdings are not of the most obvious categories – we do not hold parish records, for example – so one of the largest groups of users imagine they have little cause to seek us out. As a source for both family history and local history, though, the archive holdings at the Minster have enormous potential.

As well as very detailed records for long periods, sometimes covering the mediaeval period through to the modern day, about who was employed by the Dean and Chapter, there are also many property records which help to place people in a locality and track their movements and their economic lives. I referred earlier to the Vicars Choral archives and their records are a prime example. People left small pieces of property to the Vicars in return for them



*THE interior of the elegant library at York Minster, holding the Minster archives*

remembering them and praying for their souls after death. This was a less expensive option than establishing a chantry, where a priest was specifically employed to sing masses, as the Vicars could include the names of many on the anniversary of their death when reciting their "bede roll" or list of the deceased to be remembered.

These small properties were often tenements or shops in the narrow streets of York and would be let

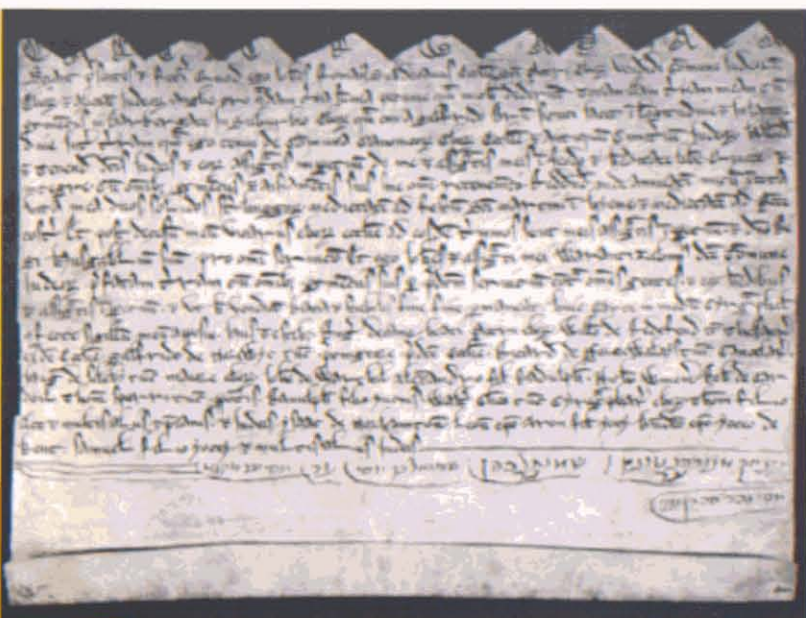


*A benefactor, the wealthy Sir Edward Hailstone. His suit was yellow and green!*

out to generate income through rent. They would be let to tradesmen, craftsmen, the ordinary people of York, and their names and trades recorded as part of the information recited in the deeds. The names and details of many people, particularly for the mediaeval period, who would otherwise leave little or no trace in the written records of history, are preserved in these records. They also

give an extraordinarily vivid picture of the economic life of York at that period.

Some of the most rare items are those which record transactions with the thriving Jewish community of York after the Clifford's Tower massacre of 1190 and before the mass expulsion of 1289.



*A rare item in the archives is this deed of circa 1230 between Sub Dean John Romanus and the Jewish community of York (YMA ref. VC3/Vi/22)*

Researchers are often surprised that these dealings included transactions with the Dean and Chapter, hinting at a much more tolerant and cordial relationship than the larger political histories would have us believe.

One of the most noted of the items is a tiny deed (some 6" x 4") of circa 1230 between John Romanus, the Sub-Dean of York, and the leaders of the Jewish community of York for the provision of a plot of land just outside the walls to be used as a burial ground. It is witnessed by Jewish leaders from all over the country, which gives some idea of the significance of this event to the community at that time. It is in the Vicars' collection because of the subsequent history of the tenure of the land after the 1289 expulsion and this – ironically – helped to ensure its survival in this rather obscure collection.

The mediaeval will volumes for the Peculiar Court of the Dean and Chapter are also stored with us, as are many of the accompanying inventories. These give family history details, of course, but often also give glimpses into the lives and households of York people, some of which are most intriguing.

*Why does a draper – confusingly called Loksmith – feel the need to keep a bow and arrows, a sword and gun in his bedroom? Why does a priest have no books in his house at all? What on earth is a "trynylin"? No, it's not "crinoline"! All these and many other clues to the lives of people past are contained in the records here.*

### Invaluable source

So far the records mentioned have been largely from the mediaeval period. Whilst these are fascinating, and often very useful to genealogists who have "lost" the vital link in their trees, it would be wrong to give the impression that the collections are solely for that period. One of the most heavily used collections is the Hailstone Collection, an invaluable resource for the history of Yorkshire.

Edward Hailstone was a wealthy West Riding solicitor in the 19th century who was passionately interested in the history of Yorkshire. His father, Samuel, had collected political material from the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and passed both his collection and his interest on to his son, but Edward's interests were much broader and his collection reflects this.

So we hold all these fascinating records, full of people's names, but how do you go about finding out if we have something that you are interested in? One of our future goals is that of having the archive catalogues available digitally online to researchers all over the world, but even that will not have every name from every document. Inevitably, there will be manual searching of documents for many years to come, either undertaken by you or paid for

as research, but we do offer a service which goes some way to helping.

The Biographical Database of Yorkshire People Before 1550 now has over 500,000 names in it, and is searchable by post for a flat fee of £12.50 per name (including variant spellings). The electronic database is compiled and maintained by Professor Philip Stell, who has worked tirelessly over several years to create this finding aid. The main bulk of entries start in 1086 with the Domesday survey and sources include probate entries such as wills and inventories, membership of religious guilds, civic officials, musters, charters, legal records and taxation returns, and court and ecclesiastical records.

Early entries were drawn from the myriad printed

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STOKDALL, DOM WILLIAM, M, YORK, NOJOB, 1488, CORPUS CHRISTI, SS/57
STOKDAYLE, DOM JOHN, M, YORK, NOJOB, 1490, CORPUS CHRISTI, SS/57
STOKDAYLL, DOMP MYLO, M, YORK, NOJOB, 1495, CORPUS CHRISTI, SS/57
STOKEDALLE, RICHARD, M, YORK, NOJOB, 1495, CORPUS CHRISTI, SS/57
STOKDALE, JOHN, M, RASKYLL, BALLIVUS, 1473, CORPUS CHRISTI, SS/57
STOKDALL, DOMP JOHN, M, FONTANS, NOJOB, 1474, CORPUS CHRISTI, SS/57
STOKDALE, JOANNA, F, YORK, NOJOB, 1503, CORPUS CHRISTI, SS/57
STOKDAYLE, ISABEL, F, YORK, NOJOB, 1511, CORPUS CHRISTI, SS/57
STOKDALE, DOM THOMAS, M, YORK, NOJOB, 1513, CORPUS CHRISTI, SS/57
STOCKDALE, ELLEN, F, YORK, NOJOB, 1408x1550, OCCURS, SS/57 p. 69
STOCKDALE, JOHN, M, YORK, NOJOB, 1507, OCCURS, SS/57 p. 69
STOCKDALE, ISABEL, F, YORK, NOJOB, 1408x1550, OCCURS, SS/57 p. 130
STOCKDALE, JOHN, M, YORK, NOJOB, 1408x1550, OCCURS, SS/57 p. 130
STOKDAILL, HELEN, F, YORK, NOJOB, 1507, CORPUS CHRISTI GILD, DJFC
STOKDALE, JOHN, M, YORK, MERCHANT, 1476-1477, CORPUS CHRISTI ACCOUNTS, DJFC
STOKDALE, AGNES, F, RIPON, NOJOB, 1452X1459, CHAPTER ACTS, SS/64 P. 47
STOKDALE, EDWARD, M, RIPON, NOJOB, 1452X1459, CHAPTER ACTS, SS/64 P. 47
STOKDALE, ELIZABETH, F, RIPON, NOJOB, 1452X1459, CHAPTER ACTS, SS/64 P. 47
STOKDALE, GEOFFREY, M, RIPON, NOJOB, 1452X1459, CHAPTER ACTS, SS/64 P. 47
STOKDALE, MAURICE, M, RIPON, NOJOB, 1452X1459, CHAPTER ACTS, SS/64 P. 47
STOKDALE, RANDOLPH, M, RIPON, NOJOB, 1452X1459, CHAPTER ACTS, SS/64 P. 37
STOKDALE, RANDOLPH, M, RIPON, NOJOB, 1452X1459, CHAPTER ACTS, SS/64 P. 56
STOCKDALL, JOHN, M, NORTH RIDING, NOJOB, 1548, CHANTRY SURVEY, SS/92 P. 507
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*An example of the kind of printout that can be supplied to one-name researchers from the Biographical Database of Yorkshire People Before 1550*

indexes and lists which had been produced by the various repositories and societies around Yorkshire, but more recent additions have been drawn directly from original manuscript sources, many of which have never been indexed or published. Ninety per cent of the fee is ploughed back into research, and the fee is refunded for an unsatisfactory search. The information can be supplied on a floppy disk, as well as a printout, provided notice is given when writing.

The database was started in 1995 by Professor Stell, a retired surgeon who took an MA in mediaeval history, concentrating on the practitioners of mediaeval York. He is a close friend of Mr. Bernard Barr, who was Minster Librarian for 40 years.

The database includes references from the sheriff's court records of York – one of the very few with a non-county sheriff – from 1398; probate inventories pre-1550 for the whole county; apprentice indentures; Freemen of York; and the bridgemaster's accounts. The latter, contrary to what some might

think, were not tolls paid by travellers for crossing York's bridges. In 1396, power was bestowed by the king for York to spend £1,000 on buying properties and the rents paid for the upkeep of the bridges. There were two sets of accounts, one for rentals and the other for expenses on properties. The surplus went to the city chamberlain, who paid for the upkeep of the city's bridges.

Another set of rare records are the fabric rolls of the Minster, which date from 1360. The Minster owned a lot of properties which it let out. The lists of renters of properties are growing all the time, so even if researchers have previously checked and found nothing, it is worth reapplying.

Requests for searches can be by surname with or

without first name, by place, occupation, sex, and so on, as well as combination searches – e.g. all people called Bloggs in Halifax who were listed as cloth merchants. The printout does not, of course, provide you with a copy of the original document in which the person is mentioned.

Instead, it gives you a very precise reference, often down to a page number, for where that information came from. This means that you can target your research time and money

exactly, and cut down on the frustration of fruitless hours spent scanning indexes for names that are not there.

The database is focussed on before 1550 for two main reasons. First, it is the period before parish registers, which many people find a real stumbling block in searching for their family. Second, many of these mediaeval records are daunting for the researcher for reasons of language, script or format, and if one can at least be sure that the information is in the record you are looking at, it makes it less difficult to access this type of record.

I hope this article goes some way towards explaining what is available at York Minster Archives and what we can offer researchers.

*If you would like more information on the Biographical Database, or an order form for a search, please write to: The Archivist, York Minster Archives, Dean's Park, York, YO1 7JQ, or phone 01904 611118. ○*

# Ancestors reunited – 10 numbers that can trace your family tree

By Chris Gray

*Genealogy by DNA testing is very much the "buzz" phrase in the family history world at the present time. Whatever your personal view, it is undoubtedly a form of genealogy that is going to keep on growing. This article originally appeared in The Independent newspaper, whose kind permission to reproduce it is acknowledged.*

**T**HE UNWELCOME sensation of "hitting the wall" is an occupational hazard for genealogists. After weeks, months or even years spent searching public records for clues to the identity of distant ancestors, it is the moment the written trail goes cold. The roots of the family tree have gone as far as they will go.

Thousands of people who have taken up the increasingly popular pursuit of genealogy have hit the wall. Family trees tend to die out around the 1790s when the industrial revolution and growing population movements meant records were either lost or not kept. But genealogy is undergoing a revolution of its own, thanks to DNA technology. It will soon be possible to overcome research problems that would normally take years or decades to settle, simply by typing a DNA code into an Internet site.

The technology, which is being developed by a company spun off from Oxford University, will allow genealogists to get past the point where the written trail dies and will give millions of amateur historians a head start never available before.

## Drawing board

George Redmonds, a historian specialising in surnames, caught the mood at a get-together of more than 100 genealogists at the Public Record Office. He thought he had taken his studies as far as possible, he said. Now, because of the DNA breakthrough, he would have to go back to the drawing board. "It is the biggest step forward for generations. I thought I had finished what I had to say about surnames but now I find I have to go down a new corridor," Redmonds said. "We are at a key time for the study of genes, genealogy and surnames. We are looking at a number of revolutions."

The centre of the revolution is an anonymous business park in Kidlington, outside Oxford, where a staff of four are developing a new service to go live on the Internet before the end of the year. It is based on the Y chromosome, which is held only by men, who pass it down unchanged from father to son, like a surname, and which has already been used by Brian Sykes, Professor of Human Genetics at Oxford University, to establish the origins of his own

surname. The company the professor founded, Oxford Ancestors, has collected thousands of samples of Y chromosomes to build the database that will be made available on the Internet.

So far, the company has been providing Y chromosome analysis for genealogists unable to resolve gaps in their ancestral history through the written records. In most cases, the process was used by two people who suspected they were descended from the same person but could not prove it through the records. If their Y chromosomes were tested and were identical, their question was answered. Interest has been mushrooming and Oxford Ancestors' customers have grown from about 1,000 to 4,000 over the last year. Once the Internet service is running, its chief executive, David Ashworth, expects the numbers to double every year.

The service can be used by anyone who knows their 10-digit code for their Y chromosome, which is easily found by sending the company a swab taken from the inside of your cheek and £150. When the code is typed into the website, it will bring up the matches for a person's surname and DNA and the country where they live. Once some confidentiality issues are settled, it may narrow the location down to a county.

The snag appears to be that it only works with others registered on the site. There may be those out there with your DNA who are not registered and cannot be found. However, if you find someone by conventional means who you think might share your DNA, the match can be confirmed through the website.

There is immense demand from Americans, Canadians and Australians who believe they are descended from a particular Briton but have been unable to make the transatlantic link. If a Bennett from Massachusetts types in their DNA and finds it is an identical match to a Bennett from Lincolnshire, their search is over. It can also help those who have done no previous research beyond providing a swab. They may instantaneously find they have blood relatives across the Atlantic.

Mr Ashworth warns against assuming DNA is a replacement for painstaking research, and says that even when a match is established, relevant documentation may be needed to prove it beyond all doubt. "DNA is a tool to allow you to do something. It's not an end in itself, it is a means to an end," he said. "However, genealogists talk about hitting the wall when you have the circumstantial evidence to say that you have the same ancestor but you can't prove it. Now they can have the genetic analysis done and they might find it supports their theory. It

helps genealogists to find the links they are unable to prove using written records, so when they hit the wall we might be able to help them get over it."

The service can also destroy illusions genealogists might have about the nobility of their ancestry. Mr Ashworth added: "It could be that two people have traced their history to the same person. We do the analysis and find their DNA is completely different. That means one of the paper records is incorrect. Some people say it is a disaster and they have wasted 20 years' work, others are happy because they had got stuck and now they know to go off in a different direction and they have another 20 years' work ahead."

Sometimes the truth may hurt, as family historians can find that the piles of documents they have collected over years to prove their lineage conceal an illicit encounter. As George Redmonds told scores of researchers anxious for a way round historical dead ends: "The potential that DNA has through the Y chromosome is enormous for genealogy. It will not replace it but it establishes a context within which you tie up all the leads and establish your own family history."

*"The negative side is that you might not like the results. They might show that a female member of the family was playing away from home and covered it up."*

## How to find your DNA code

*EVERY man (but no woman) has a Y chromosome, whose unique characteristics can be expressed as a 10-number code. Only close relatives have a Y chromosome with the same code. The code can be identified by taking a swab from the inside of the cheek that will pick up DNA-bearing cells. Their DNA can be extracted and put in a test tube after a few hours of work in the laboratory. To that is added a cocktail of 10 DNA "primers", which each look along the double helix (the shape of our DNA) for a specific sequence of the four "base pairs" that stand like steps on the staircase of the helices.*

*The primers cut out those sections, known as "Short Tandem Repeats" (STRs); the cocktail is then mixed to produce thousands of those 10 sections, each a perfect copy of the original. Standard lab work then measures the length in base pairs of each particular section. The length of the STRs varies subtly between men of different descent. At each point it can range from zero to an unlimited number, though in practice the difference tends to range from about eight to a maximum of around 30. A typical reading might be 12-14-10-23-13-13-11-16-12-12. For someone unrelated to the person whose DNA provided that reading, the figure might be 12-14-11-24...and so on. The difference may be tiny but it's enough to prove whether two people are related or not. ○*

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## Tracing your surname roots

GUILD MEMBERS who were at the West Yorkshire Regional Seminar last year will know Dr. George Redmonds as a leading expert on the origin and distribution of surnames, especially Yorkshire ones. He gave an enthralling talk on the subject. He was also the presenter of a five-part BBC radio series, "Surnames, Genes and Genealogy", which featured a number of Guild members. The following is taken from a series of fact sheets on the BBC's website, detailing the series.

"We can sometimes identify the actual man or woman whose personal name became a surname several centuries ago. A 13th century Oddi de Gasegill is likely to be the ancestor of all the Oddys/Oddies, and evidence suggests that Dionisia, a formidable woman who once lived in Linthwaite in the Colne Valley [in Yorkshire] is the ancestor of the Dysons. If we can trace a family tree back to



George Redmonds

the Middle Ages and if we map the distribution of the surname at different points in time, we can get a clear idea of where it came from. Where it started with a woman such as Dionisia, the surname identifies her male descendants, who can be traced by DNA inherited through the Y chromosome, but female lines can be followed, too, through the patterns formed by mitochondrial DNA, which passes from mothers to daughters.

"Spectacular results have been achieved with the DNA samples that proved the identity of the female descendants of Priscilla Mullins, who left for America on the Mayflower. Now the Great Migration Study Project, sponsored by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, is attempting to trace the genealogies of the 5,000 or so families that crossed the Atlantic in the 1630s, and American genealogists have a powerful new tool to use alongside traditional ones.

"Some families had several sons, who in turn had several sons, and so their surnames became prolific in the areas around their origins. The distinctive names of thriving districts such as West Yorkshire and East Lancashire multiplied as the population expanded in the 16th and 17th centuries, becoming even more common as population levels soared during the Industrial Revolution.

"Migrations have traditionally been traced by genealogical methods, but DNA tests and maps showing the distribution of a surname at different points in time are powerful new aids to research. For example, DNA analysis on the surname Blencowe clearly shows a move for the name from the village of Blencowe in Cumbria down to Marston St Lawrence near Banbury in Oxfordshire in the 15th century. Tracing a family name has become a multi-disciplinary activity." ○

# Slaves in the family and the problems of tracing ancestral lines

By Malcolm Boyes

**I**N ABOUT 1643 a John Boyce of Middlesex is believed to have arrived on the Caribbean island of Barbados. He married and his family appear in later records as plantation owners, mostly in the parish of St. Lucy.

In the will of Michael Boyce, John Boyce's great-grandson, probated in 1754, he leaves his wife Sarah "the place where I now dwell, two negroes, all my household goods, a horse, a cow and a heifer calf." Also, in the same will, he states that his two negroes, a boat and craft be sold to pay his debts, while his executors had to purchase a negro "for the use of my father's estate which he left me every other year for 12 years." Presumably, either of his two negroes were a more valuable asset than the one required for the estate!

Three years later when his wife died, she left their daughter Martha a slave, while daughters Mary, Ruth and Olive each received three slaves. Her horse and cow were to be sold and the monies divided between the daughters.

In 1790 Benjamin Boyce in his will left £150 and a slave to each of his three daughters Mary Boyce, Dorothy Jordan Boyce and Susannah Boyce. His brother's wife, Ann, a widow when she left her will a year later bequeathed her daughter Karenhap-puch Boyce a slave, two standing bedsteads with curtains, a gold ring, silver tea spoons and the household furniture. There is also the seemingly callous statement that the executors are to sell the slaves and the monies to be divided amongst her three surviving children.

In the will of Andrew Boyce, received for probate on February 11 1817, he bequeathed £1,412, a very large sum of money in those days and he owned many slaves. The estates mentioned in these wills were Summer Villa and Glendalough. Slaves appeared in wills as possessions and were sold or bequeathed as any of the other assets of the deceased plantation owners in the Caribbean.

In Britain in 1807 the slave trade was made illegal by Act of Parliament. In 1833 an Act was passed, emancipating the existing slaves in the British Empire, which came into force on August 1 1834, although the existing slaves had to serve their old masters as apprentice labourers until 1838. The slave owners received in total £20 million in compensation.

Now comes the problem for those of us who are one-name researchers. All those emancipated slaves who were formerly owned by the Boyce family carried on the surname of their former owners, I suspect, probably because the slaves' original names were unknown. I have traced a Boyce line on the

island back to Sambo Boyce who had five children between 1839 and 1848 with his partner Elizabeth (Betsy) Hall, but I can get no further. Were slaves not allowed to marry or baptise their children in Barbados before 1838? If this is the case, can I assume that any baptism or marriage before 1838 is to a non-slave?

I have another Barbados line traced back to a Betsy Nelia Boyce who had a son Obed Boyce, and a daughter Elizabeth Ann Boyce, baptised on November 29 1828. Obed – presumably a shortened version of Obadiah – is a name that occurs a number of times in the Boyce family in Barbados. Obed married Nancy Farley Griffith on June 22 1843 at St. Lucy and had children with the distinctive names of Richard Martyn Moriss Lynott Boyce, baptised November 10 1853; Amelia Eleanor Bokerham Boyce, baptised May 14 1850; and Obed Fitzgerald Boyce and Delilah Anna Rachel Boyce, baptised November 2 1848.

Many of the former slaves also gave their children unusual names. John Thomas and Catharine Jane Boyce called their child, baptised on June 13 1847, Prince-Prince Albert Boyce. Was the double reference to Prince written in to ensure he wasn't mixed up with Queen Victoria's consort? While Prince-Prince Osborne Boyce, the son of Timothy Boyce and Mimba, baptised on December 12 1841, could only be confused with Queen Victoria's house!

Kitty Ann Boyce, when she had her daughter baptised on April 25 1841, called her Queen-Queen Boyce. And Queen-Queen Elizabeth Ann Boyce was baptised on December 13 1863, the daughter of William Farley Boyce and Julia Ann Boyce.

On the IGI for the Caribbean there are many seemingly illegitimate births between 1840 and 1860. I wonder if some of these could have been adult baptisms (although they are not marked as such on the IGI) where only the mother's name was known or one of the parents was sold by the owner, thereby splitting the family?

*Also, there are a number of baptisms coinciding with the same person's marriage. I presume this was the clergy catching up with non-baptised former slaves? I would welcome advice and information from our elite Category A and B researchers who have obtained all the information on their families in the Caribbean. ○*

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# New BIVRI CDs have 13 million records

By Richard Eastman

**I**N 1998 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints released the British Isles Vital Records Index on five CDs. These discs contained nearly five million names from parish registers, civil registration and other record collections in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, spanning more than three centuries from 1538 to 1888. This set has become a best seller for the Family History Department of the LDS.

The original announcement said: "This vital records index will be an ongoing project which will also be updated periodically." Now they have lived up to that promise by releasing a second edition containing 13 million records, compared to the previous five million. The new release includes the latest version of Resource File Viewer software, which has numerous improvements over the 1998 edition. The records generally contain names of individuals, parents, date and place where the birth, christening or marriage took place, the name of a spouse, and reference information which allows you to locate the original record on microfilm.

Names have been standardised. This means variant name spellings are listed under a common name. For example, SMYTH, SMITHE, and SMEITH would all be indexed under SMITH. This allows you to search a name without the exact spelling. However, you are still able to search under the exact spelling if you wish.

Records in the index are extracted ones, which means someone copied selected pieces of information from the original record. However, not all of the genealogically important information was extracted. Therefore, you should use the reference information provided in this index to locate the original record on microfilm and evaluate the original record yourself.

Be aware that this is not a complete index. Your ancestor may not appear, even though you know he or she lived in a time and place covered by the index. The BIVRI will continue to be updated, adding millions of new names with each update.

The index includes records from England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man (but not the Channel Islands) from as early as 1530 and as late as 1906. Time spans vary greatly.

For one parish, the period 1538–1598 may be extracted, while another parish may only include 1850 to 1875. It never contains all the records, simply those that have been found and indexed.

Installation of the required Resource File Viewer version 4.0 software was easy. I entered my last name, clicked on "Birth/Christening" records, and was soon looking at a long list of individuals. In fact,

it was too long: 904 people. Three-and-a-half years ago the same exercise produced only 251 records. Obviously, the number of records available in the second edition has increased dramatically.

I narrowed the search to display only those records for Wiltshire, the county where my ancestors reportedly originated. Again, a lengthy list appeared: 230 individuals (versus 56 individuals listed in the first edition). I then specified to search only those Eastman records for Downton, Wiltshire, a village. To my surprise, 123 matches were displayed. I could have specified a first name and/or date range or even the names of the parents. However, I elected to scroll through the list of names and quickly found the one I was looking for:

EASTMAN, Roger  
Christening  
Gender: Male  
Christening Date: 4 Apr 1610  
Recorded in: Downton, Wiltshire, England  
Father: Nicholas EASTMAN  
Source: FHL Film 1279375  
Dates: 1601–1904

In this case, Family History Library microfilm 1279375 has an image of the original record, which I can rent at any LDS Family History Centre. The BIVRI itself is not the source of the information and should not be listed as a source. Instead, it is a pointer to the true source as recorded on microfilm.

While looking at the record above, I clicked on the father's name, Nicholas Eastman. I was able to find many of Roger Eastman's siblings. Again, all referred to the same reel of microfilm, so I can find records on the entire family. The above is only one small example of a search on the new discs. There are 13 million more examples, including marriage records as well as birth and christening records.

Records can be saved as a Gedcom file. To create a Gedcom file, all I had to do was display a record and then save it, using commands on the toolbar. I could save up to 100 records at any time. The end result was a new file that I can import into almost any genealogy program.

The software operates on Windows 95, 98, ME, XP, NT, or 2000, but not Windows 3.1. It probably will operate on Linux or on a Macintosh with a Windows emulator, although that is not guaranteed and not supported by the CD-ROMs' producers. You will need a modest amount of disc space and at least 8 megabytes of memory, with 16 megabytes strongly recommended (probably more on Windows XP, NT, or 2000), and a VGA monitor with a video card capable of producing 256 colours or more.

• Review adapted from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, ©2002 Richard W. Eastman.

• The British Isles Vital Records Index on CD-ROM: Second Edition can be bought in the UK from: LDS Distribution Centre, 399 Garretts Green Lane, Birmingham B33 0UH Tel: 0121-785 2200 Fax: 0121-789 7686. Direct Line for orders by debit/ credit card: 08700 102052. Price: £22.95, inc p&p. ○

# REPORTS • NEWS • EVENTS

Your guide to what's happening in the Guild world...

## Civil registration will be the theme for Guild's 2003 Conference

By Roy Rayment

**A**NYONE who has attended a Guild weekend conference will tell you that they're well worth the trip – and, of course they are always a wonderful opportunity to meet other Guild members.

The next one, together with the Guild's AGM, will be at Liverpool University on April 25–27 2003, and the theme this year is "Civil Registration". The programme is nearly finalised and you will receive the full booking form with the January Journal, but we know that some of you would like to make sure of your place sooner and we have included a preliminary booking form with this Journal.

The Conference kicks off smartly on Friday with an early lunch (12 noon), because the first event is a conducted tour in the afternoon of Smedley Hydro, Southport, where the GRO certificates are prepared.

The subsequent programme is already looking very full, as we are planning to include civil registration topics from countries other than England and Wales. One highlight, however, should be a talk by Gwyn Hughes.

### Radical changes

As you know, the UK government is proposing radical changes to civil registration in England and Wales (see the article by Roy Stockdill in the July–September 2002 Journal), and Gwyn has recently been appointed Head of

the Registration Review Body. This will be a wonderful opportunity to question Gwyn, hear the reasoning behind the plans and make your views known directly!

The basic price of the conference will be £150. This covers accommodation, meals, transport from the university to Southport, and all presentations from lunch-time on Friday until 5.0 pm on Sunday. Bedrooms are arranged in pairs with a shared bathroom between (so you only have to share a bathroom with one other person), but if you prefer to have the private use of the bathroom this will be an additional £10 per night.

### Extra nights

There is also a limited opportunity for people to book an overnight stay on Thursday and/or Sunday night, and this is £25 per night (£35 with the private bathroom). If you want to see what it looks like, we've put a photograph of the University on the Guild website at:

[www.one-name.org/agm.html](http://www.one-name.org/agm.html)

We'll update this page as more information becomes available.

Please use the preliminary booking form included with this Journal to reserve your conference place. You can pay the full amount now, or you can send a non-refundable deposit of £50, with the balance paid before the end of January.

If you prefer to wait until you know the full programme, then please use the full booking form

that will be included with the January Journal.

Guild conferences are always enjoyable events, but they depend on the support of willing volunteers. Some people feel that helping out actually heightens the occasion for them and if you would like to help, then we would be pleased to hear from you.

There are so many small jobs to do – stewarding, showing people around, helping on the bookstall, giving advice or a myriad of tasks – that we would welcome any assistance. Only an hour of your time would help! If you'd like to help please send an email to:

[conference@one-name.org](mailto:conference@one-name.org)  
or phone: +44 (0) 1962 840388.

We would very much like to try and bring together members who would like to reduce the cost of getting to Liverpool by sharing a car journey. It's pleasant to make new friends and have company on the journey. We have, therefore, put a space on the form for you to indicate if you would like to share with someone.

If you are travelling in a car on your own, then why not share the ride? Let us know and we will connect you with someone in a location close to you who is also going to the conference. If you would like to talk to us about this, please feel free to telephone: +44 (0) 1727 865631.

*We are looking forward to seeing many of you in Liverpool next April!* ○

## Guild web award proves popular – 30 entries so far

AT the time of writing, there was still more than two weeks to go before the closing date for entries for our Best Website Award.

Yet, we have already had 30 entries submitted, so the judges will be kept busy over the winter months, judging all of them.

If you sent us an e-mail to enter your site for judging but haven't had its receipt acknowledged, please send a copy of your original e-mail to: [web.award@one-name.org](mailto:web.award@one-name.org)

Judges of the website award are Vice-Chairman Geoff Riggs, Webmaster Paul Millington, and Penby Denby, a Guild member who is a professional website designer.

## Jeanne is made a Fellow of the SoG

WE are always delighted when Guild members are honoured in the wider genealogical world. Our congratulations, therefore, go to Jeanne Bunting, a member of the Guild Committee, who was elected a Fellow of the Society of



Jeanne Bunting

Genealogists – one of the most prestigious titles in genealogy – at the annual general meeting of the SoG in June.

After persuading her five children finally to leave home, Jeanne started her family history in 1986 and it has been an all-consuming passion ever since. She lectures widely on family history subjects, especially computer-related ones. She is a member of the SoG's Executive and Lectures Committees and a columnist for *Practical Family History* magazine.

### Executive

Also at the SoG AGM, Journal Editor Roy Stockdill was elected to the Society's Executive Committee, joining Jeanne and John Hanson as the third member of the current Guild Committee to serve on both bodies.

## Tony Pomeroy

GUILD members who knew Tony Pomeroy (Member 616) will be saddened to learn of his death towards the end of August, especially as we had been told previously that he was responding to chemotherapy following his operation.

Geoff Riggs attended the funeral at Charminster, on the outskirts of Dorchester, Dorset, to represent the Guild as its Vice-Chairman, and other Guild members who gathered to pay their last respects included our former Registrar, Dominic Johnson, Somerset Regional Representative Ken Dilkes, Dorset RR Dr. Phil Sherwood, and Chris Pommery.

Tony, as well as being a larger-than-life figure at Guild seminars and conferences, served on the Education sub-committee of the Federation of Family History Societies and was the FFHS representative on the South West Regional Archive Council. Until last year, he had also been Chairman of Somerset and Dorset FHS.

So it is little wonder that it was standing room only at Charminster church, or that so many accepted the invitation of his son and daughter to return to the Hall at Poundsbury after the service to reminisce about Tony and the way he always lived his life to the full. ○

## Guild logo and crest available for journals and websites

WE would like to remind members publishing one-name and family journals, or web pages about their one-name study, that they are permitted to use the Guild logo and crest on those publications. Indeed, we want to encourage you to do so!

However, we would ask that you use the latest versions, which can be downloaded from the Guild's website. To obtain copies of the files, go to the following URL..

<http://www.one-name.org/members/logos.html>

You will first have to obtain entry to the members' room by entering your user name and password when prompted to do so. If you have forgotten the User-ID and/or password, this was in the centre of the flyer for the South-West Regional Seminar that was issued with the April-June 2002 Journal. You were urged at the time to remember it or write it down!

Once you have obtained entry to the appropriate page, you will find a number of versions of the "Guild of One-Name Studies" logo, plus the Guild's crest, either with or without the URL of our website below it.

To download any of the images, just right-click on the chosen one and select "Save target as..." You will then be able to download the image to a chosen directory on your computer.

One more thing – we would also ask that you put your Guild membership number underneath whichever image you use on your publication or website as a stamp of authentication. ○

# How the Guild can help with your one-name or family gathering

## Treasurer's Notes By Sandra Turner



**A**S YOU will guess, most of my notes are again talking about renewing your membership of the Guild. But before you turn over the page, I want to tell you a couple of things that you may not have realised are available to you as members.

I know a number of you are also members of one-name societies and hold gatherings. This year I was approached by two members who were holding such events and they asked about name badges. Many of you have been to our seminars and conferences and know that we have badges. I was able to post out to these members our badge holders on loan. We make no charge for this service but are, of course, pleased to receive donations to the Guild Fund.

One of these members also enquired about Public Liability insurance, as he was hiring a village hall for the weekend. The insurance the Guild has is only available for Guild events, but I was able to put him in touch with our insurers. He told me the cost was less than he had been quoted elsewhere. He took £1,000,000 cover for two days for a maximum 250 people and the cost was £52 (premium £42 and the fee £10).

*So if anyone is interested in getting details for a proposed gathering please feel free to get in touch.*

If you contact our Webmaster Paul Millington he will be happy to put details of these one-name events on the Guild website. This will be on the unrestricted part of the site, so available to all. You should send Paul the date and a brief description of the event –

name, date and venue – with an e-mail and/or postal address and a web page where more details can be found, if appropriate. Paul can be contacted by e-mail at [webmaster@one-name.org](mailto:webmaster@one-name.org)

Now for the money! In the last Journal, Howard Benbrook mentioned VAT in his Chairman's Notes. As Treasurer, I have been watching this closely and I have been in discussion with the Customs and Excise. The Guild is a charity registered in England and Wales and treated as an educational body. Because of this all our income from seminars and the conference does not form part of our qualifying income for VAT. In view of this it is less likely (although still possible) that we will reach the threshold for VAT registration within this coming financial year. I will of course still monitor this closely.

*VAT has been discussed fully in committee and the decision made that there should be no increase in subscriptions in the first year for the EU members who will be affected by our registration. So the Guild will absorb any VAT liability in the first membership renewal after we register.*

### Annual subs

Your annual subscription is due on November 1 for the year 2002–2003, as you will see from the renewal form. That is the paper that had the address label on that came with the Journal. If you have already thrown this away then just send £12, your name and membership number, or you can download a renewal form from the members room on the Guild website at:

[www.one-name.org/members/membership.html](http://www.one-name.org/members/membership.html)

If you normally pay by cheque, you will see from the form that this year, instead of sending me the money, it should be sent to Roger Goacher, our Membership Secretary.

Some of you who have already arranged standing orders will find that I have noted your numbers in a table on the renewal invitation, if you are one of these people, you will not need to send us a cheque as your bank will give us the £12. I do hope I haven't missed anyone out, but if you think you have a standing order and your number is not on the form, please go to your bank and check that they will be taking the money out of your account at the beginning of November this year.

### Standing order

If your standing order is due to start this year for the first time, please keep a check on your statement to ensure that your bank handles this correctly. This last year I have had to inform two members that their bank had been giving us £12 each month rather than just once!

If you wish to pay by credit card you may do so by Visa or MasterCard only. Please just add £1 to the amount you wish to pay and send the details on the form back to us.

Some members have asked if we can keep their credit card number and take the money each year. This is now possible but I do need your written authority to keep the information and to use it again. So please sign and return this additional part of the renewal form.

Can I ask overseas members who choose not to pay by credit

card to be sure to send us the money in Sterling. We cannot accept any other currency.

You have the opportunity of subscribing to several magazines through the Guild. One is *Family History News and Digest*, published by the Federation of Family History Societies. This publication is issued twice a year and if you subscribe through the Guild, we can offer this at £4.50, which is a discount on the published price. We are also offering this to our overseas members at the same rate, which is an even greater discount. If you subscribe to the *News and Digest* it will be posted out to you by the Federation at the time of publication.

You also have the opportunity of subscribing to *Family Tree Magazine* and the PRO magazine *Ancestors* through the Guild. The subscription for these will be the same price that you would pay the publishers but for each subscription they will give the Guild a small commission.

### Gift subscription

If you have a standing order and wish to subscribe to one or both of these magazines, would you please pay for these items separately? Please do not add the cost to your standing order, as the cost of these could rise each year. If you wish to order one of these magazines as a gift subscription, that also can be arranged through the Guild.

You will see there is also room on the form for donations. As you know, we started a Publications Fund. If you would like your donation added to this fund, please add the word "publications" next to the amount. We would like to produce some new publications relevant to one-namers and your donations will help with this. Please remember also that we are always pleased to receive ideas for new publications.

Can I ask all UK taxpayers (who have not already done so) to sign and return to the Guild the Gift Aid Declaration form which forms part of the flyer sent with this

Journal? This will then enable me to claim the tax back. This will apply to your annual subscription and to any donation that you make to the Guild, but not to the subscription for magazines or, indeed, any purchases you make from us. There is no minimum time that you have to pay your subscription and you can use any method of paying you choose. You will need to inform us if you move or no longer pay UK income tax. If you are a higher rate taxpayer you will now be able to claim the extra tax back. You do not have to pay vast amounts of tax – if you only pay £3 or £4 a year we can still claim the tax back on your subscriptions.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of you who have already signed the form and sent it back to me. But I am sure many more of you are probably paying some form of tax to the UK government. Even if you have no earnings but have a small amount of savings you are probably paying tax on the interest these savings are earning and we can claim that tax back!

So please just take a moment to read the form, then sign it and return it to me. You do not commit to anything. All you are saying is that you are a UK taxpayer and you want the Guild to claim the tax back that you have paid. It is as simple as that!

### Reminder

Please can I ask that you treat this as a reminder? If we do not receive your money this may be the last Journal you will receive from us! Earlier this year I had to send out e-mails to over 150 people who were late paying. This was quite time-consuming, so I do hope this year everyone pays on time. I then sent out letters to about 100 who had no e-mail or whose e-mail had bounced (please let us know if you change your e-mail address).

Also, don't forget if we have not received your money by the end of January you will not be in the Register, which will be avail-

able in April. We will then treat you as a lapsed member and your "name" will be available should anyone apply to Register it.

It may seem a long way off but the programme is now being finalised for our next Annual conference. I look forward to meeting many of you at our 2003 Conference in Liverpool on April 25–27. I am especially looking forward to the visit to Smedley Hydro in Southport, as I've never been there before.

It should be an interesting weekend, a time to meet many friends and make new ones. If you have never been to one of our annual conferences, I do hope you will be able to join us. I have always found that our conferences are special, as we are like one big friendly family. Do see the notes about the conference elsewhere in this Journal and reserve your place.

### Volunteers

Last, but not least: have you considered helping the Guild in any way? Volunteering to help at the conference or at a family history fair, where we take the guild bookstall, would be a good way to get to know more people and it can be fun, too. Also, if there is no regional representative in your area please consider taking on that role. Just get in touch with Barbara Harvey (Member 2616) or e-mail her on: [rep-coordinator@one-name.org](mailto:rep-coordinator@one-name.org) and she will tell you what it entails.

There could well be committee positions vacant in April, so give that some thought too. There are also some subcommittees that may well be pleased with some fresh ideas and help. If you feel you can help in any way please get in touch.

If you are not sure who to talk to, one of the officers will be pleased to hear from you. The full contact details of all the officers, including telephone numbers, are in the front of this Journal.

*Finally, this may be somewhat early, but I do wish you all a very happy Christmas. ○*

## Family reunion reports

### Tittertons gather in ancestral home of 600 years ago

ON other pages of this Journal, John Titterton tells how he pinpointed the ancestral home of the Tittertons, Alstonefield in Staffordshire. John organised a family gathering there earlier this year and we hope this account will encourage others brave enough (or foolish enough!) to be thinking of doing the same.

**T**HE Titterton Family Gathering took place over the weekend of May 25–26 2002 at Alstonefield, Staffordshire, the village where the family originated over 600 years ago. Planning had started about 18 months earlier when the date was set and the Village Memorial Hall booked.

How many would turn up? That was the worrying question. Would I be on my own with just a handful of interested people? Very few were prepared, apart from overseas visitors, to make a definite commitment until 4–5 weeks before the event. Bookings then started to come in and were still being received three days before. Some attended both days, but others could only make Saturday or Sunday. In the end I had about 70 attending each day, with about 100 people in total. There were three couples from the USA and a long-lost cousin of mine from Australia.

Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon were spent looking at

displays, together with short talks about various aspects of Titterton family history by myself and others. Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning were free time to explore Narrowdale Farm and visit churches and villages where their own branches had lived.

Narrowdale is a remote farmstead where the family had become established from about 1400. The hall was also open so that the less able and those who disliked rain could spend more time looking at displays. Sunday afternoon included a session on "Where do we go from here?"

I had produced family trees which were laid out on tables or stuck up on walls. Everyone was encouraged to add their own updates. Several people brought along their own family trees into which they had incorporated photographs and other memorabilia.

The trees provided a focus for discussion. One couple arrived on Saturday with only a general idea of which tree might be theirs, but returned next day after "grilling"

mother who had remembered cousin Caleb Titterton. Finding Caleb enabled them to find the right George Titterton to add themselves to the tree. I left them talking to another Titterton, who was adding himself to the

same family tree. He had lived near Caleb some years ago.

One Mrs Titterton explained to me that her husband had identified as a distant cousin someone who almost certainly was a lad he had sat next to at school. Later that afternoon another Mrs Titterton told me that her husband had been delighted to meet the lad he had sat next to at school who had turned out to be a distant cousin! Yes, two halves of the same story.

TV's Victor Meldrew would have said: "I don't believe it!" at least twice. One of the displays related to George Titterton, a Birmingham safe maker. In recent years I have been e-mailed pictures of two of his safes and have a brass nameplate from a third. The venue of the gathering is now the village hall but had been the parish school until it closed about 20 years ago. Our "kitchen staff" decided to move the fridge to make it more accessible and pulled it away from the wall. Behind it was the old school safe made by – yes, the same George Titterton!

The other instance was even more personal. Gwenn Selvaggio came from the USA with a friend and spent the previous week in the area. Her grandmother was a Titterton from Wales who emigrated. Our common ancestry is from two brothers, John (c.1710–1769) and William (1718–1781). She called to see me on the Friday for a chat.

#### Tale of two clocks

Gwenn told me she was going to Matlock to find out more about a family heirloom, a grandfather clock. I became rather excited and asked her who the maker was. When she told me the clock maker's name was James Bown, I was dumbstruck. We both have family heirlooms of grandfather clocks made by James Bown of Matlock! Gwenn's photograph shows they have almost identical casings and very similar faces. A book on Derbyshire clock makers dates them as about 1770. Did the two families



ONE of numerous family trees at the Titterton event

go off and buy virtually identical grandfather clocks together?

It pays to advertise. There were people arriving unannounced on the Sunday afternoon as late as 2.30 pm. I had sent a press release to the local newspapers within a 15-mile radius of the venue. A brainwave prompted me to extend this to towns further afield where I knew Titterton families had lived in the early 20th century. This brought visitors who had travelled 30-40 miles.

I also paid for a notice in the Journal of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry, which paid off in an unexpected way. One visitor who had seen the advert had no



*THE Titterton  
T-shirt*

Titterton relationship. His connection was a miniature he had bought in an antique shop some years ago. It was for a William Titterton, a Birmingham varnish and paint maker who died in 1859, aged 29. Members of this Titterton family were delighted to see this item.

The weekend was amazing. I was presented with a number of records by the operatic singer Frank Titterton. One person volunteered to set up a PA system, but I didn't realise he was also recording the event, so the proceedings are now available on CD or tape. I have a large number of family trees to update and perhaps 40 people interested in being part of a Titterton Family Society. I need to substantially update the website AND think about the next event.

I tried to keep costs low. One fund raiser was a T-shirt and tea towel decorated with Titterton memorabilia. These were pre-ordered, although I produced a few extra of each which were sold on the day. We also provided ploughman's lunches both days. This was taken on by two friends,

a task that neither myself nor my wife could have taken on due to pressure of other activities. Someone searching for their family tree may have needed to look for it under someone else's plate!

This is one thing I might do differently next time. Though we provided lunches, those attending were left to make their own accommodation arrangements. They could choose between a B&B or more expensive hotel. I visited Polly Rubery's gathering in April, where the venue was a hotel. Most of those attending were resident in the hotel which also provided lunch. More convenient, but at what cost implications?

Perhaps some statistics may help other Guild members to gauge the potential interest if they are thinking of holding an event of their own. In the UK 1881 census there were 500 Tittertons. A trawl of UK sources in 2000 produced 500 addresses. A similar Internet search in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the USA produced a further 100 addresses. These 600 letters produced about 120 responses eventually. There was perhaps a higher proportion from overseas and many chose to correspond over the Internet rather than by letter. Most exchanged family information but this was how I made the initial contact with many of those who attended. Others just appeared

The Guild provided help in two areas. Public Liability Insurance was obtained from the same company that provides insurance to the Guild. This was £52 for £1 million cover and something you shouldn't overlook when budgeting. I also borrowed Guild badges. Help and advice from members through the online Forum was also appreciated.

**So if you are not already think of arranging a gathering, why not? I found it hard work and could not have managed without the help and support of my wife, family and friends. BUT it was very rewarding and has taken my research forward considerably. ○**

## **Braund Society wins lottery grant**

*MEMBERS of The Braund Society are celebrating a grant of £770 from the National Lottery to help them mark their 21st anniversary in spectacular style. The Society are planning to repopulate the ancestral village of Bucks Mills, North Devon, with some of its 19th century inhabitants. The Times once described Bucks Mills as "the village of a single surname", but it will not only be Braunds who will be there next May. Visitors will be able to meet Simon Crews, the miller, Judith Acland, the artist, Samuel Harris, the limeburner, and the Rev. Wickett, as well as numerous Braunds.*

*A living history event will illustrate the history of Bucks Mills and the people who lived there and visitors will experience life in a Victorian fishing village. There will also be displays, a village trail, competitions and children's activities. The pageant is to be staged on Friday 23rd, Saturday 24th and Monday 26th May 2003 and all events are free of charge.*

*It's hoped many locals and visitors will join The Braund Society for this event. Thirteen overseas members have already booked to meet their ancestors. Society chairman Chris Braund will be playing his gt-gt-gt-grandfather Captain James Braund (1808-1898), who went to sea at 11, spent most of his working life piloting ships over the notorious Bideford Bar and was commended for several rescues. Chris said: "We welcome the opportunity to share our knowledge of Bucks Mills and the families who lived there and are looking forward to bringing the community back to life".*

*Further details from: The Braund Society, 12 Ranelagh Road, Lake, Isle of Wight PO36 8NX.*

*E-mail: braundsociety@fewiow.freeserve.co.uk*

## More tales of emigrants in bondage and adventurers

**MORE EMIGRANTS IN BONDAGE, 1614-1775**, by Peter Wilson Coldham. 6" x 9" softback, 217 pages. ISBN: 0 8063 1694 2. Published: 2002 by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 101 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, Maryland, 21202-3897, USA. Fax: 410-752-8492. Phone: 410-837-8271. Freephone: 1-800-296-6687 for Visa and MasterCard orders only. Website: [www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com). Price: \$30.00.

THIS is a beautifully produced book with a wealth of new information that was not included in *Emigrants In Bondage*, published in 1988 or its Supplement in 1992. The main English sources for the additions and amendments in this publication were the Central Criminal Records. These included the Midland Circuit Criminal Process Book 1739-1742, and the Sheriffs' Cravings 1718-1776, which itemised the expenses incurred by County Sheriffs for the administration of justice.

For some unknown reason, the counties of Cheshire, Durham and Lancashire did not claim any expenses they incurred when transporting felons. The transportation documents in county record offices that had not previously been included were also examined, but there are still some gaps. Newspapers and journals were checked for their Assize and Quarter Session Trials and details were abstracted from the following: the Bristol Journal 1752-1765; the Gloucester Journal 1737-1760; the Hereford Journal 1770-1775; the Ipswich Journal 1739-1742; the Northampton Journal 1739-1742; the Northampton Mercury 1720-1730; the Oxford Journal 1753-1775; the Reading Gazette 1752-1769; the Reading Mercury



# Reviews Reviews Reviews

*New genealogy books and CDs*

By JANE MORSON

1738-1754; and the Worcester Postman and Worcester Journal 1739-1775. There was a review in 1996 of the manuscript resources in the Maryland State Archives to find court and land records relating to the landing of convicts and this information is also included.

Over 50,000 English men, women and children were sentenced to transportation to the American colonies. Years of meticulous research attempting to uncover the destiny of these individuals have resulted in this book, in which another 9,000 of these people are listed in alphabetical order, showing the charges against them, the dates and places of sentencing, the ship's name and the place of arrival in the colonies.

While editing the book, the author included a Memento Mori to the events of September 11, 2001. This is a most welcome addition to the bookcase.

**MORE ENGLISH ADVENTURERS AND EMIGRANTS, 1625-1777**, by Peter Wilson Coldham. 6" x 9" hardback, 122 pages. ISBN: 0 8063 1683 7. Published: 2002 by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. (details as before). Price: \$25.00

USING abstracts from the High Court of Admiralty records, this book contains in chronological order the names of passengers and crew, with references to the ships, dates and ports of arrival and departure. Details obtained from these cases give an interesting insight to the voyages and daily life on board ship. This book is the third volume in a set. The first, *English Adventures and Emigrants 1609-1660*, published in 1984, and the second, 1661-1733,

published in 1985, are both now out of print.

This is an excellent book produced to the highest standard, which will withstand the ravages of time. The three separate indexes for persons, places and ships make locating information simple. Another interesting addition to the bookcase.

**EAST KENT PARISHES: A Guide for Genealogists, Local Historians and other Researchers in the Diocese of Canterbury**, by David Wright MA, PhD. A5, 170 pages, softback, ISBN 0 9517580 1 2. Second edition, published by David Wright, 71 Island Wall, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1EL. Price (inc p&p): Inland £17.50; overseas surface £18.00; Airmail £20.50.

SINCE the first edition of this publication 10 years ago there have been many changes in the world of genealogy – so many, in fact, that it has been necessary for the author, using his 30 years' experience and local knowledge, to rewrite and reset this edition.

This book is indeed hot off the presses, as all archive deposits to Spring 2002 from Canterbury and Maidstone Archives have been included in this marvellous guide, along with a historical introduction to the Diocese of Canterbury, including its jurisdictions and parishes; descriptions and locations of dozens of classes of records; studies of all known parish records, bishop's transcripts and Kentish Indexes; a master gazetteer and map to all the parishes in the diocese, a bibliography and an index to over 1,000 Kent manors.

The book is clearly set out and very easy to use. Whatever your

level of experience, if you are researching in Kent then this is a "must". You just might be able to find that needle in the haystack! The author is a Guild member.

### Welcome to California

*FEATURED society this time is the California Genealogical Society, which was founded in 1898. I must take this opportunity to thank Laura Spurrier, receptionist, and Bette Kot, Librarian, for showing myself and my son Myles around their wonderful society, situated in downtown Oakland on the ground floor of an office building (disabled access), where there is a wealth of resources including hundreds of state and county histories, family histories, reference books, microfilm, microfiche and CDs. There are also maps, periodicals, passenger lists, manuscripts and lineage charts with extensive San Francisco, Bay Area and California references. The holdings also cover the entire USA, especially New England, Mid-Atlantic, Southern and Midwestern states.*

*I recommend a trip to this very hospitable society, which has a website at [www.calgensoc.org](http://www.calgensoc.org) and I look forward to reviewing their future publications. Here are two of their books.*

**CALIFORNIA SURNAME INDEX – Biographies from Selected Histories**, compiled by Barbara Ross Close. 8½ ins x 11ins, Hardback, 323 pages. ISBN 0 9672409 1 3. Published 2000 by California Genealogical Society, 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 2000, Oakland, California, 94612-2152, USA. Price: Californian residence \$47.50; non-residence \$43.00 (includes shipping and handling, and sales tax for Californian orders).

THIS book is not only an index to the biographies of early Californians included in the 42 volumes in the Dorman Collection at the California Genealogical Society Library, but is also intended to be used as a guide to enable the reader to refer to the actual bio-

graphy. It only contains the volumes that were published after 1900; even so, over 18,000 articles have been indexed. The entries are listed in surname alphabetical order and each entry also contains the first name, birthplace and date, the volume title and page number where the article can be located.

After the Civil War, county histories became very popular and subscribers would receive a bound book which usually contained a general history of the state, a county history and biographical sketches, so articles are not just about leaders and dignitaries but included anyone who had the money to subscribe.

Once an individual has been located, it is possible to obtain a copy of the biography, with the title page, by sending in \$5 for each name, plus \$1 postage and handling, directly from the CGS.

For example, looking at the name Whaley there are four entries: two for a Henry Whaley born in California on October 26 1871, a J. H. Whaley also born in California but on July 18 1870, and a Rufus M. Whaley born in Indian Territory on February 7 1887. The book is well bound in its royal blue cover and clearly laid out and very easy to use. A very useful tool.

**A USEFUL GUIDE TO RESEARCHING SAN FRANCISCO ANCESTRY**, by Kathleen C. Beals. 8½ins x 11ins, Soft back, 70 pages. First Published 1994, Second edition with Addendum in 2001 by California Genealogical Society (address as before). Price: Californian residence \$17.25, non-residence \$14.00 (includes shipping and handling, and sales tax for Californian orders).

TOWARDS the end of the 19th century, almost half the Californian population lived in San Francisco, so with the earthquake and following fire of 1906, which devastated much of the city, churches and many vital documents were reduced to ashes. All of the recorded births and marri-

ages were lost, as well as many of the deaths. Although all the probate files were also burnt, a few charred receipt books did manage to survive. Also, there were further losses of most of the Deeds, Grantee Indexes and many other official ledgers.

Due to the massive losses of records, without excellent family information the researcher was faced with a very difficult job. The author tried to rectify this situation with this book when it was first published in 1994. After seven years, this updated second edition was produced with an 11-page addendum which gives updated sources and addresses. By doing this, the book has two different typefaces, which some readers might find a little annoying. Even so the book is still a very valuable tool.

**CALENDAR 2003: Featuring some West Middlesex Churches, by West Middlesex Family History Society.** A4 landscape, spiral bound, 12 pages, card cover. From: Membership Secretary, Mrs. B. Purr, 9 Plevna Road, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2BS. Website: [www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk)

WHAT a great idea – well done WMFHS! This calendar would make an ideal Christmas gift for anyone with an interest in Middlesex and not just for those researching in the area. The front cover carries two sepia drawings, one of the Old Church Of The Holy Cross, Greenford, the other of Teddington Church. Each month has its own page and different illustrations. On the back page of the calendar, the black and white sketches, by either Ken Huckle or E. Dunstall, are repeated in miniature. A wonderful item to hang next to any bookcase!

• Please send books and CDs for review to: Jane A. Morson, Upper Neatham Mill, Upper Neatham Mill Lane, Holybourne, Hampshire GU34 4EP.

E-mail: [reviewer@one-name.org](mailto:reviewer@one-name.org)



# Letters

## Potential size of a one-name study

FOLLOWING my article in the April-June 2002 Journal on the probable size of a one-name study, I've received a number of interesting comments on the relevance or otherwise of the calculation to a small study.

In particular, I have had figures from Lilian McGuckien, studying the surname ENTICKNAP, who has total births to that name of about 2,000 and, importantly, a good record of births per year.

Applying my table to her results gives the correct average with an error range of plus or minus 33 per cent. Now, some may consider this a large error range but considering it only represents one or two births per year and a total population of 60 in the 18th century years, it is as close as you are going to get.

My tables were derived from the total changes in the England and Wales population since the 1500s and, as such, average out all regional and family demographics. For example, the ratio of male to female births averages 102:100; if a particular family has a genetic history of more or less than the average male births, then their total population of that surname can rapidly get higher or lower than the average.

Similarly, if the family generations happens to live in an area of higher or lower child mortality than average, we again can get large variations from the average.

The main purpose of the tables was to enable anyone starting off on a study to have some idea of what they were letting themselves in for. However, for those with a smaller study they can be used to identify variations from the norm in particular periods. This then leads to the interesting

question as to why? Trying to understand the demographics for that period may then lead to some observations on the social history of the family at that time.

We now have a marker for the possible error for a total study of about 2,000 as noted above. I would appreciate additional data from anyone who has a fairly complete record, of say, England and Wales GRO births and the 1851 and 1881 census – just a total of the people of that surname in each year. In the census just count surnames. It is assumed females marrying out and marrying in cancel each other.

Alan Bardsley  
Member 1769  
Roseland  
Woodhouse Lane  
Gawsworth  
Macclesfield  
Cheshire SK11 9QQ

## Civil registration changes

I HAVE just read your item on civil registration (*Journal of One-Name Studies*, Vol 7 Issue 11, July-September 2002, page 6). I have some comments to make which might be of interest.

1) What happens for somebody whose birth registration is not with the ONS? I was born in India and am one of the fortunate people whose birth is registered at the British Museum. How will my "facts" be linked with my birth date?

2) You mention the difficulty of sorting out family members in the same area. I have an example of this. I knew that my husband's first cousin twice removed, Charles Doust, died in June 1921 and that his widow was Florence (from probate indexes), but there are two Charles Dousts of similar age who died in the same quar-

## Your views on issues in the one-name world

ter. I got the two death certificates: both widows were called Florence, both Charleses died within a week of each other and both deaths were the subjects of inquests. I looked up the inquest reports in the local press at Colindale [the British Newspaper Library], where I found that my husband's first cousin twice removed died on a bus. The other apparently had a stroke while waiting to cross the road and fell onto the back of a vehicle and later died in hospital.

I have since discovered that the latter Charles is my husband's second cousin twice removed. I discovered this as I have been in touch with one of his relatives.

3) What happens in the case of an intestacy where it is necessary to go back up to three generations to find possible heirs?

I am writing to my MP.

Sabina Doust  
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## Interested in the Habgood ONS?

SOME years ago I registered my one-name study of the name HABGOOD with you and completed a large body of research.

As I am no longer able to continue the study, I am looking for someone who would like to continue it and would be particularly pleased to find someone who wished to put the information so far gained on the Internet, and perhaps found a one-name group. There is also sufficient information contained within my research to compose a very large family tree.

My research includes complete lists of birth, marriages and deaths for the name Habgood

from 1837 to 1960; details of all PCC wills for the name Habgood and its variants; a resume of all Habgood wills from 1868 to 1960, with many of these wills read and the main details noted; wills from many local courts, especially Wiltshire; many parish records for Habgood and variants, mainly concentrated in Wiltshire and London; an exceptionally large record of legal documents for the name and its variants; a complete record of apprenticeship documents from indexed sources; the IGI records for the name and variants; and many miscellaneous records such as protestation returns, hearth tax, directories, and some BMD records for Australia.

Further details of records searched can be found on my website. I also have correspondence from many people with Habgood ancestry.

I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would consider taking over the one name study.

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## Two electoral registers

WE have just received our form for the register of electors in the London Borough of Ealing. I believe that different Electoral Registration Officers may be using different methods to satisfy objections from some people to having their electoral details used for direct mail, etc. So here is what Ealing says:

*"The two versions of the electoral register*

*"The Electoral Registration Officer now makes and keeps TWO versions of the electoral register – the full register and the edited register.*

*"The full register*

*"The full register shows the names and addresses of everyone who is entitled to vote.*

*"All voters must be included in the full register. You can check it at the Town Hall, libraries or main post offices. The law states who can have it and what purposes it can be used for. These include electoral purposes, the prevention and detection of crime and checking your identity when you apply for credit. It is a criminal offence to pass on copies of the full register to anyone else or to use it for any other purpose.*

*"The edited register*

*"The edited register can be bought by anyone and used for any purpose. For example, direct mailing companies may use it to send you information about goods and services.*

You can now choose to have your name left off the edited register.

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## New system is a bad idea!

I AM grateful to David Hawgood for bringing the above matter to the attention of Guild members, though I imagine most UK members will already know about it, having either read about it in the press or, in fact, having themselves received an electoral registration form to complete.

I want to make it absolutely clear that I am writing in my personal capacity – and NOT as Editor of the Journal or in any way representing other Officers or Committee members – since I expect there will be some members who will disagree with my views.

The whole business of having two electoral registers has arisen as a result of the Robertson v. Wakefield Council case, in which a member of the public took his

local authority to court under the Human Rights laws for having sold his details to commercial concerns. He won the case, which is why the entire system has had to be changed and we now have two versions of the register.

I wonder if members have quite realised what a disadvantageous move this could prove to be to one-namers and, indeed, other genealogists? For it will, presumably, prevent the sale of a national set of full electoral registers to organisations like 192.com for their online directories and CD-ROM, *UK Info Disk*, listing the entire country. They will, one imagines, be able to buy the edited registers only, from which beyond doubt millions of names will be missing.

## Database of living

How are one-namers now to compile and keep updated a database of living people with their research name, or ordinary family historians be able to trace and contact living relatives who may not know of them? In my view this is a blow to democracy, since the full electoral registers have been completely open public documents ever since they were first introduced under the historic Reform Act of 1832. Having two versions, one of them censored, makes some people less contactable than others, which is nonsense.

So-called human rights and privacy concerns are, in my opinion, leading to some absurdly over-zealous and politically correct actions which may appear to uphold the rights of a few but which, in truth, simply diminish the rights of all of us.

As for the argument about not wanting junk mail, I have always employed a very simple device to deal with this. It's called a waste paper basket!

Roy Stockdill  
Member 2534  
6 First Avenue  
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# "Hypocrites, outwardly sanctified but inwardly ravenous wolves"

**T**HE Vicar of Felixkirk, North Yorkshire, in 1810 was obviously not a man with much time for the beliefs of Nonconformists.

In his parish registers, when christening Elizabeth Peat on August 13, he launched the following extraordinary tirade against her parents...

*"Peat - Eliz, d. of John and Ann of Kelmer Grange. born 6 Aug (11 weeks after their marriage). These hypocrites, outwardly sanctified but inwardly ravenous wolves, while they were zealous promoters of the building of Pandemonium (otherwise Calvinist Chapel) in Sutton, under a pretext of religion, have, as recited above, been like all dissemblers and true disciples of the devil committing deeds of darkness, which providence and time have exposed and brought to light. So much for Calvinists and Methodists - abominable."*

One wonders why, if he despised the parents so much because of their Calvinism, he agreed to baptise their daughter - and why they asked him to!

## Baked the Good Bread

AND, by contrast, here is a 17th century cleric who said nice things about his parishioners...

*"Mrs. Jane Browne, the wife of Mr. Ralfe Browne, 30 May 1672; she was the wife of him that baked the Good Bread in Coney streete" - from the burial registers of St Martin, Coney St, York.*

Roy Stockdill  
Member 2534

*It's a funny old genealogical world*

*A celebration of the  
comic and curious*



## Strange, half-witted vagabond who lived in a wretched filthy hovel

WE KNOW the earliest UK census of real value was that of 1841, but there were many unofficial censuses before then, often conducted by the local vicar. These can be a fund of entertainment, especially if the cleric didn't think much of some of his parishioners or their houses. Here are entries from a census of Rothbury, Northumberland, about 1816...

*"Isabella Urpeth is a strange half-witted vagabond. She lives in a wretched filthy hovel with two grown up daughters whom she will not suffer to work or to learn anything. She gives all imaginable licence to her tongue, & her hands, & her character is like her dress, all in tatters. She has a prayer book and a Bible, which she never uses, though she's asked for others!"*

*"Joseph Hodgson & his family live in a state of filthiness which corresponds well with the foulness of their lives. His wife states they have 3 bastard children in the house...one by her husband, another her son's, & the third her daughter's...but the daughter is not home. They have 1 Bible."*

However, an elderly couple who were poor but uncomplaining met with approval...

*"James Tues, aged 78, and his wife, live by themselves in great poverty & yet are contented. They only have 2 shillings a week allowed to them by the Parish & the old woman earns about 2 pence a day by spinning, & on this they live without a murmur. They have 1 Bible and 1 Prayer book."*

Another elderly pair were obviously doing their best...

*"George Arkle, aged 70, and his wife, 69, have a Bible and a*

*Prayer book. Their cottage is as clean as could be expected under an open roof which is covered with cobwebs."*

## Attacked in bed by naked widow

WHAT a way with words some clerics had - as in this entry from Angmering, Sussex, registers...

*"Baptism, James, son of widow Crossingham - and confessed to have been begotten by her late husband's son, Nov 20th 1757. Upon examining the lad he solemnly declared the hussey attacked him on his bed, first in his clothes then naked. He did not comply, but afterwards she rushed into his bed naked and seized the premises."*

And the following entries are culled from the baptismal register of Middleton, Norfolk...

June 14 1818 - *"Jane, illeg. dau. of John Bartell & Sarah Farrer, Farmer & Concubine."*

January 23 1820 - *Sarah, illeg. dau. of Teddy "the Grinder" and Sarah Forster, Whore & man-trap."*

May 21 1820 - *Elizabeth, illeg. dau. of Tom "the Town Bull" & Elizabeth Claxton, Whore or man-trap."*

August 27 1820 - *"Thomas, son of Thomas & Elizabeth Hammond, Farmer & Fortune Hunter."*

• The above are taken from an entertaining collection called "Ancestral Anomalies", compiled by Michael Southwick and available from: Kingpin, 21 Meldon Way, Hanover Estate, Winlaton, Tyne & Wear NE21 6HJ, price £5.50 including p&p. Ten per cent of the profits go to cancer research.

# Regional Representatives as at September 1 2002

## E-mail contact

To contact a Regional Representative by e-mail, use the alias in the following format:- **rep-scotland-north@one-name.org**, with the name of the region replacing "scotland-north" as appropriate (put "-" instead of a space).

Where there is no e-mail contact, the message will go to **rep-coordinator@one-name.org**

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**WE have vacancies for Regional Representatives in the following areas:**

## BEDFORDSHIRE

BERKSHIRE  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

## CHESHIRE

## CORNWALL

## CUMBERLAND

## DEVON

## HAMPSHIRE

## LANCASHIRE

## LONDON

## MIDDLESEX

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

## SHROPSHIRE

## SUFFOLK

## SUSSEX

## CANADA EAST

## USA NORTH EAST

## USA NORTH WEST

**WHY not devote just a little of your spare time to the Guild by becoming a Regional Rep? Contact the Coordinator.**



*If you go down to Bucks Mills in North Devon next May, you're sure of a big surprise! Members of The Braund Society plan to repopulate the village with some of their 19th century ancestors in a special celebration to mark the society's 21st anniversary. The Journal is pleased to bring you a sneak preview, with Braund Society Chairman Chris Braund dressed as his great-great-grandfather Captain James Braund. See page 21 for details.*

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