

Journal

of One-Name Studies



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~ Pomerology ~

One-Name Global Study Of The Genealogy & Family History of 'The POMs' :
Pomeroy, Pomery, Pomroy & Pummery

Last major revision: 13th November 2000

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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:

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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, Graham Tuley (address and phone number on the inside back cover).

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

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From the Editor's desk



I HAVE mentioned this subject before but it's one I love, since it seems to affect so many of us as family historians. The word is – serendipity. Where would we be without it? I have yet more instances of this curious phenomenon to relate, if you will forgive me for again mentioning my own experiences.

In the July Journal I related the tale of the Yorkshire Witch, Mary Bateman, whose wicked crimes led to her execution in 1809 for the murder of an unfortunate woman who was born a Stockdale and who, therefore, figures prominently in my ONS. I told how I might, possibly, be related to the victim via another family line. Since I published that article it has now emerged, to my utter astonishment, that I may also be distantly related to the Witch herself as well – and, moreover, I have even seen her skeleton! You can read more about it on page 14.

And here is another tale, involving one of those "Fancy that" encounters we all experience at the oddest times and in the oddest places. Back in May a number of us went to our family reunion in Victoria BC. Five of us from England met up with my sister and her husband from Australia in San Francisco, hired a large vehicle and drove 1,000 miles through California and Oregon to Seattle, where we caught an Amtrak train to Vancouver.

Early on our first morning, we stopped for breakfast at a roadside diner in an obscure small town called Petaluma, about 40 miles north of San Francisco. The waitress, a jolly, friendly lady, on learning that we were on our way to Canada for a family reunion, told us she had visited cousins in England who were "into family history" and that her name was Cakebread. Wouldn't you just know that that happens to be a Guild-registered one-name study? And when later I couldn't resist phoning the lady member who runs it, she quickly recognised our waitress friend from my description. Serendipity – there's nowt like it!

ROY STOCKDILL

Chairman's Notes

By Alec Tritton

I T HARDLY seems that three months have gone by since my last Chairman's notes, but as the Editor wants to get the Journal off to the printers so we can hopefully get it out before Christmas, I am putting pen to paper.

Sadly, last year Mr Raymond Lewis-Jones, one of our members, died, but in his will he left instructions for his Executors to negotiate the preservation and continuation of his research into the name, Halsted.

We have been actively pursuing this and are well on the way to setting up a separate trust for Halsted research that will be managed by members of the Guild.

Once up and running, this will bring considerable financial benefit to the Guild, for which we must thank Raymond's wife Mollie and daughters Pam and Suzan for their kind assistance.

Thanks, Karen

Also on a sad note, Karen Naylor has had to resign from the committee on health grounds, though for the moment she feels able to continue to manage our website. I am sure you will join me in thanking her for efforts



and wishing her well for the future.

Your committee has taken the opportunity to co-opt Mrs Jeanne Bunting. Many of you will know Jeanne from her lecturing on computer-related genealogical subjects and I know she will bring a wealth of experience and expertise which will ultimately be of benefit to us all.

DPA booklet

Further to my October Notes, David Lambert's booklet on the Data Protection Act is now available from the Federation should you wish to obtain a copy.

The Working Group on Categories produced an excellent report to the committee meeting held on November 25, with a number of options. Your committee have, therefore, decided to take the most democratic option and will be producing a questionnaire for distribution with the April journal. I am sorry that we could not produce it for this issue but time is against us.

Although I have expressed my thanks to the WGC, I would like to thank them publicly for taking on this task and producing a result in a very short time scale.

I must also apologise for the fact that there is no supplement to the Guild Register with this Journal. Computer difficulties made it impossible to produce one in time. All newly registered names will, of course, appear in the 2001 Register, which will be published along with the April Journal.

Book early

With this issue is the booking form for our own conference at Woking at the end of March.

Once again we have an excellent program and have this year managed to squeeze in an extra lecture. The annual conference is becoming more popular each year and, although there will be plenty of space for day delegates, accommodation is at a premium, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

I subscribe to the theory that the new century starts at the end of 2000 and so may I take this opportunity to wish you all the best and successful research in this, the third millennium. ○

Secretary's Notes

By Jim Isard

T HE Guild receives a large amount of mail each year, most of which comes through our Box G address at the Society of Genealogists. I thought you may be interested to know more about this mail and what happens to it.

I am writing this at the end of November and to date I have received 574 letters since the beginning of January. For this we are grateful to the SoG for allowing us to use their facilities.



Of those letters received, 219 have been for general information about the Guild. They get a reply and receive a leaflet and the list of names that our members are researching.

Of the remaining letters, I have received requests for

information on 631 names that none of our members are researching. They also are sent a leaflet about the Guild and the list of names being researched.

They are also invited to register the name in which they are interested and become a member of the Guild.

Research

Lastly, the letters included 143 names that our members are researching. The enquirers are sent the name and address of the member and e-mail addresses, if they have one, of the person doing this research

The

Mary



Rumsey

Column

Internet marks
greatest change
in my 15 years as
a Guild officer

FIRST, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Guild members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I have decided not to seek re-election to the Guild Committee at the Annual General Meeting next April. Hopefully, a sale will be completed soon on my house in Hampshire and I will be moving to Devonshire. Here, I will have the opportunity to do more research on my father's family, who I believe were living in Exeter around 1600.

No longer being on the Committee will seem strange, since I joined the Guild, became editor and, therefore, an officer of the Guild, all on the same day in Oxford in 1986!

Then, the Guild was somewhat different from what it is today. It had only been in existence for seven years and was not a registered charity. The Journal had progressed from an A4 newsletter to an A5 32-page litho offset-printed journal, which, like the Journal today, was produced

and invited to correspond with that member. Hopefully, they all do this, although I never get feedback to know if this is done.

Policy

I received letters from 16 different countries and these are all replied to, even if no postage is sent for a reply. Over the year this works out quite expensive, but the policy of the Guild is to reply to all letters.

The Guild advertises extensively. Every month we have an advert in Family Tree Magazine and Practical Family History. We have also just started advertis-

quarterly. I not only edited the Journal, but also produced camera ready copy on an Amstrad word processor

Oh, the relief every quarter when I packed up the pages and posted them to the printer!

My introduction to being editor was not the most encouraging. The previous editor had resigned and a member, a former journalist on *The Times*, had been found to edit the Journal for one edition only. The person in question agreed to bring all the leftover copy to my house – and it only took a few moments to realise why the leftover copy had not made its appearance in the Journal.

Lunatic fringe

When I commented on this I was told: "I think you have the lunatic fringe of genealogy here".

In the early days of my being editor there was a problem as to what each copy of the Journal should be called. This was a Committee decision, and at one time

ing in an American family history magazine called Family Chronicle.

We would be interested in knowing the names of family history magazines in other countries, so that we could do the same there.

Posters

We also advertise in the Genealogical Research Directory and many others. We have posters in many record offices, which list the names being researched, and if you know of a record office that needs a poster, then they can contact Roy Rayment, our Publicity Officer,

they were called by the seasons of the year. However, there were complaints from members in the southern hemisphere, where the Spring edition was, in fact, the Autumn edition. This resulted in the Journal being called by the months in which they are hopefully received, as now.

Changes

Today, the Guild has more members, it is a registered charity and has a flagship Journal. However, in my opinion the advent of the Internet has brought about the biggest change, not only to the Guild but to family history as a whole.

I believe we have a new type of person interested in the subject, whose introduction has been through the Internet and may be the holder of a quantity of erroneous material which it is so easy to proliferate.

Therefore, I think we should all look at ways we can help these newcomers to our interest and try to preserve accuracy of research. ○

and he will supply one.

I also receive on average five e-mails a day from people across the world enquiring about names being researched and information about the Guild. They all get a reply and are directed to our website and given the name and address of researchers if they are interested in a name.

So, you can all see what the Guild is doing in promoting your registered name. As you can see, this is producing results, and hopefully we will all get someone interested in our registered name in time. ○

Strategies for managing the paper to digital revolution for one-name groups

By Chris Pomery

A RECENT discussion in the Guild mailing list revealed that many one-name groups are experiencing a sharp increase in e-mail enquiries after announcing their presence online. This article looks at the



opportunities offered by the Internet for one-name groups and identifies some trends and issues.

The author, CHRIS POMERY, is a marketing and development consultant working in central Europe and a member of the Pomerooy One-Name Study Group, researching the names Pomerooy, Pomroy, Pomery and Pummery.

THE INTERNET is transforming all aspects of communication, data organisation and information distribution on the planet, so it's hardly surprising that it's turning our family history hobby upside down, too.

Just a few years ago we were amazed to be able to buy inexpensive software that generates transferable family trees – gedcoms – and arrays of charts. More recently, free web space and e-mail accounts, including genealogy-flavoured versions like Rootsweb¹ and yourname@one-name.org, gave us an instant online genealogical identity. Today we can place gedcoms on special dedicated sites², access transcribed data as it comes online, find free software to set up discussion groups and build websites and use standard e-mail packages to perform complex mailings. One can even share access via the web to an online collection of bookmarks³ and collaborate in maintaining a website.

Commitment

While the initial technological and social switch triggered by the Internet's arrival is very much under way, we humans are still grappling with the management issue of how to use it effectively. The online world offers real advantages, while in many ways demanding greater commitment in time, planning and organisation. This is particularly true today at the beginning of the transition from paper to digital.

Clearly, a major issue for one-namers is that one doesn't want to exclude or demote researchers who don't have web access or computers. I suspect that many new members of one-name groups, if not most, are arriving electronically these days and thus that the number of non-electronic members will continue to fall, as will their proportion of a group's total membership.

Bearing that proviso in mind, e-mail and the web already offer two major advantages for one-name groups: the research workload can be shared among many co-researchers via e-mail

and a public archive of research findings can be set up on the web. The Pomerooy One-Name Study is starting to experiment with both of these. I have the luxury of not being responsible for administering the ONS and its decades of paper-based archives – which is most ably done by Tony Pomerooy in Dorchester – and as I work abroad and move around, I don't advertise a postal address but communicate solely by e-mail. Far from cutting me off from Tony and the group, this has made me aware of the incredible opportunities created by electronic communication.

After setting up a database in MicroSoft Access of families identified by matching transcripts from the GRO and other sources, I use e-mail to liaise with about 10 self-appointed researchers on several continents who specialise in geographical regions (e.g. north-east England), particular surname variants (e.g. Pomroy, Pummery) and individual families. We work on a collaborative basis in what is basically a peer-to-peer system with the database as reference point and myself as an electronic postmaster. Tony and I swap queries as they come in to ensure the archives and the database are checked through, though generally I don't try to resolve a query directly but pass it on to the best-placed online researcher.

The database itself is organised around several tables holding different types of data (GRO, censuses, parish records, etc.) which currently hold some 18,800 data events linked together to create profiles of around 12,600 people with our surname. It is flexible enough to be able to search and sort on multiple criteria quickly, so I can easily find all those researchers with, say, a Dorset interest, and export relevant event and family data for them from the database into MS Excel.

Most text, spreadsheet and database programmes can open an Excel-derived file. With the volume of e-mail growing, I am doing very little research myself but our collective knowledge is growing rapidly. One example recently was a lady who e-mailed from Sydney,

Australia, with a Cornish Pomroy query. I forwarded this to the most active Pomroy researcher and within 48 hours, after adding some more details, she was fitted into a family tree back to 1697.

In my online role I behave more as a project manager, co-ordinating others' efforts, than as a researcher – a case of hobby imitating work. I suspect that this is a trend that is hard to avoid as an ONS goes digital. With perhaps 2,500 name-holders in the UK, plus perhaps another 5,000–7,000 worldwide, we're not a huge group, but I suspect it would be very difficult for the co-ordinator of a large surname to outrun the growth of interest that could build up in their ONS as it goes online.

If our ONS were a business, then the researchers around the world would be forced to consolidate all their data into a single online archive – a massive undertaking – or risk embarrassing communication failures. Luckily, this is still a hobby, so we can get away with a hybrid peer-to-peer system with data being swapped between individual researchers as they choose and each keeping their own archives.

Here one runs into four major issues. My database was not designed to generate gedcom files, and retrofitting a gedcom parser (a bit of code that puts Access data in the right places to create a valid gedcom file) is tricky. But efficient data sharing demands a common standard, and in practice that means using gedcom-compatible software. If you can hold all the key data in one database as a central archive and can extract gedcom files from it, you still have the problem that other researchers have their own files, continue to do their own research and would need to commit to updating the central database regularly with their findings.

Digitising data

The third problem is that although a single web-based archive is highly efficient, digitising all those metres of shelving (which means retyping or scanning) and amalgamating that data into the database and online archive is a near impossible task. And fourthly, once created, an electronic website archive is a major undertaking to edit and maintain. This is the sting in the tail of the online revolution: everyone, everywhere can view your website at any time, but the archive/website maintainer faces a huge commitment to keep the data and the site up to date at all times.

Even so, a website is now the best way to publish the results of collective research and to make an ONS archive public. Many sites offering free web space exist that will hand-hold "newbies" through the sometimes frustrating first steps, including Rootsweb, Homestead and the major portals. The crucial issues are structuring the site for easy navigation and deciding how far you want to develop it. There's a technical ceiling between the skill level required to create simple webpages and setting up an online database. There are several ways around this, though hand-authoring data into lots of

individual webpages is a laborious task to be avoided. It is easier to create data in a spreadsheet and automatically convert that into a web page⁴. Setting up an active website database is complex and many freespace websites may not be able to handle them, but Rootsweb now has a generic database service where you can upload your findings for open searching.⁵ To set a database up yourself, the simplest option is probably to choose a web host that supports Microsoft's FrontPage and to use its database link features.

The online ONS person needs to keep abreast of technical developments for the web and the software used, be alert to privacy and copyright issues, and deal with a regular flow of researchers, often expecting instant service. More of a challenge is that you are likely to find yourself running two communication and archive systems – your old paper-based one and an electronic one – in parallel. You'd be right in thinking that this creates extra work, not less. A hybrid peer-to-peer system is one solution, but it falls short of the digital goal of a website hosting a single archive and electronic mailing lists.

Daunting

If the digital goal sounds daunting, the current upside in the electronic world is pretty attractive. Organising a distributed research group via e-mail is a way, as it were, to hire more staff. Creating any kind of public archive on the website means people can find materials without asking you. Both should translate into faster research with more leads to be checked and verified.

The communications goal for an ONS in the digital environment is a system now being used by electronic news services: a regular e-mail sent to members that gives clickable links to webpages that each contain specific items of news or data. Everything originates on the ONS website where data is regularly updated and information is laid out in detail. A newsletter is then no longer thought of as a printed document but as a webpage that can be printed for distribution via a postal mailing.

One debate we've been having in our group is whether putting transcripts on the web will cause people to avoid joining the ONS altogether. And as a lot of our conclusions are conjectural rather than proven, won't we be spreading misinformation as well as cutting off potential membership revenue? The Internet proliferates data good and bad, and bad data can reside in search engines uncorrected for a long time. But in a global system an ONS website is the single most important resource on the name and people will certainly gravitate towards it.

Many pundits feared that the arrival of video would kill the movie business, but it ended up trebling the market. I am sure the Internet will do the same for one-name groups. What's changing is the nature of the service that members pay for and how it is delivered.

Electronic communication offers huge cost-

ings and administration advantages for ONS groups. E-mail is basically free and if members agree to do everything electronically, then the printing and posting costs of membership disappear, too. This opens up the option of offering digital members a "life membership". I know I wouldn't mind paying a bit more if I never had to write another cheque or letter to my bank again. Sending an e-mail if my e-mail address changes is much easier. This approach could also create an up-front cash boost for groups that might be enough to pay a student to set up your website and show you how to maintain it.

Looking forward, I can see two important factors that will impact on online one-namers: the pace of software and Internet development and the legal and privacy issues UK residents face under the Data Protection Act 1998.

As far as software and the Internet goes, the next few years will see the publishing of more data on the web, more features added to existing genealogy portals like Rootsweb and the development of new websites useful to one-namers or targeted at them. The online research experience gets more fun by the day. I feel a frisson of excitement when an e-mail note from MindIt!⁶ warns me that the list of Devon parishes with online transcripts from the 1891 census has increased.⁷ With one click I am looking at a list of parishes whose text colour reveals those I have not already looked at. Within minutes I have been able to check the newly uploaded transcripts and identified some new links for our database.

Online projects

Major transcription projects soon becoming available include the 1901 national UK census at the PRO⁸ (online in January 2002), the National Burial Index project⁹ (beginning in 2001) and the 1662-1689 Hearth Tax returns¹⁰ (online date not known). County groups are doing useful projects and major search facilities like the Scottish Archives Network will set a new online standard.

Calling future trends in software development is not easy, but one may be the upgrading of the gedcom standard to support XML. The gedcom standard for exchanging genealogical data was designed in the pre-web era and XML, a major development from HTML, makes it possible to structure the data in a web page as well as its presentation on it. When a genealogical XML standard is agreed we can expect to be able to export files direct from our genealogy software into hyper-linked web pages with a level of detail and flexibility far, far greater than at present.

The UK data protection issues are more complicated, since there are differing views on how we, as family historians, should interpret the law. I believe that you can hold data electronically on living persons for your personal use without any problem, but as soon as you share that data with others (including placing it on a website) you are required to register with the Data Protection Commissioner¹¹,

pay an annual fee, and give anyone who asks, access to their data record. If so, this is ironic, since any foreigner can transcribe the same data and publish it without restriction. I know others in the Guild feel the law does not and will not take such a strict view and that we are actually covered under a blanket exemption for "recreational" users, but I have not seen this confirmed in black and white.

The year I was born, 1958, my parents invested in a multi-volume encyclopaedia. It does not contain the word, computer. I am self-taught as far as PCs are concerned, yet every day I routinely do things electronically that were impossible to imagine six years ago when I got my first e-mail account or 12 years ago when I bought a 1200-baud modem. I am in no way suggesting that online research or website transcripts are a substitute for primary sources. But for wide publishing and quick sharing, the web and e-mail are hard to beat. The transition from thinking "print first" to "digital first" for archiving and communicating is demanding. However, if handled carefully, ultimately it should propel an ONS to a higher plane with stronger levels of research interest and a wider membership.

I recently started helping a research team at Oxford put together a genetics project using our ONS to identify living members of extended Pomeroy families. We introduced members to each other, defined a methodology, agreed a timetable, shared data and discussed presentation of the results. But as I sent the last files over, I realised I had not actually spoken to anyone on the team and never met them. Everything has been done electronically.

CHRIS POMERY
Member 3400
pomery@one-name.org

• *The DNA research project is investigating the ancestry of people in Britain bearing the names Pomeroy, Pomroy, Pomery and Pummery. Details of the Pomeroy ONS are online at...*

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~allpoms>

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From straw plaits to the City – the rise and fall of an old family business

By Peter Amsden



ONE of the most fascinating areas of family history research lies in stories of commercial ventures, industrial concerns and companies that were once run by ancestors. With a one-name study, of course, they do not even have to have been one's own ancestors! In this article, the author tells of the history of a once important City of London company and some of its luminaries, one of whom was responsible for major innovations in the retailing trade that we take for granted today.

AS A CHILD I was often puzzled by the large hoarding on a City of London building that read simply "Olney-Amsden & Sons". My father had once pointed this out to me, but had never been able to offer any explanation other than that he thought they were shoemakers. As a lad it was not one of those things that I felt very strongly about, and it was not until many years later that an interest in the family genealogy brought the firm to my attention again.

It became apparent that the Amsden associated with Olney was not part of my branch of the family. Looking carefully at the emerging details and meeting other members of the family, a separate and parallel line was uncovered. They most likely merge back in the 1700s somewhere, and I am still working on this aspect.

It was clear that the Olney-Amsden connection was within the parallel branch, but it proved to be none too easy to find information about them. Surviving members of the family had little personal experience of the firm, but an old employees' handbook came to light, as did an article in one of the trade journals. It became obvious that Olney-Amsden & Sons had been a company of haberdashers with some standing in the City, and I decided to look at its roots, the way in which it had grown and what finally caused it to vanish.

The roots took me back to 1760 when a William Amsden had a drapery business in Wandsworth, London. Why? We may never know. His family appears to have had no previous connection with the area, so we may surmise that this was a modest business adventure. If so, it was one that was to go badly for him. Within a few years he and his wife Mary had three children, the last died at birth and Mary died a few months later. The other two children have remained untraced; they certainly do not appear to be with William at his next location.

The tragedy that befell William was, however, one of those strange quirks of fate destined to have a small, but noticeable effect on our world today.

No doubt distraught by his loss, he left Wandsworth and made his way to Tring in Hertfordshire. His move to that area may have been prompted because Tring and Aylesbury had been something of an Amsden stronghold in the past. Going home may have been an obvious choice. Indeed, he may have come from there in the first place.

The next mention of William comes from some interesting meeting records of the Tring Baptist Church. In 1775 he applied for membership, but because he came from the General Baptists his request was deferred. He applied again in 1777 and this time was accepted. In May 1780 he remarried to a Frances Woods, and later in the same year his attendance at church had declined to the point where the Elders had to visit him and admonish him to attend more often.

An interesting incident from 1792 was the reporting to the church that William had been involved in some double-dealing regarding a quantity of lace that had been returned to him and for which he refused repayment. The Church Meeting sent word by messenger "That they thought it would be best for him to make up the loss to the person and to request him to be more cautious in the future" – a clear indication that the church was acting as a moderator in community behaviour.

Such things may not be of immediate relevance to Olney-Amsden, but I include them to show what valuable clues about the past I gathered during my research.

Straw hats

William and Frances had two children, Enoch and Thomas. Enoch is never mentioned again and it is probable that he did not survive much past infancy. Thomas was born in 1786, and he eventually became a dealer in straw plaits, still living in Tring. Straw plait making was a common cottage industry of the time, the plaits being used in the manufacture of the popular straw hats. Thomas had probably taken the cue from his father that dealing in commodities was more profitable than making them.

In 1814 Thomas married a lady with the unusual name of Arnold Hughes and they produced four sons: John, who became a successful coal merchant in Tring, Benjamin and Alfred, who both entered the business of straw hat manufacture, and Frederick William. Born in 1828, he was the youngest and it is with him that our story continues.

The family lived next door to the Olneys and it must be more than coincidence that around 1848 Frederick found himself employed by Thomas Olney in the haberdashery trade in Borough High Street,

London. He had started his business in 1811 and by the time Frederick joined, it was a successful retail outlet. Frederick, however, set his sights somewhat higher and it was not long before he had discovered ways of selling wholesale quantities in bulk.

In those days retail and wholesale were seen as quite different forms of business and it was somewhat below the dignity for a retailer to be engaged in the wholesale trade. Nevertheless, Thomas Olney saw the potential in Frederick's contribution and around 1853 he took on a small warehouse in Watling Street and made Frederick responsible for that section of the business. This was the first wholesale haberdashery specialist in the City. The year 1853 also saw the birth of Frederick William Amsden junior, who was destined to become a significant figure in the future of the company.

Not long after the move to Watling Street, Thomas Olney died. The business was continued by his two sons Thomas and John, who made Frederick a partner and gave him the management of the entire business apart from the finances. At the same time, the trading name was changed to Olney-Amsden. A major step forward was the negotiation with Brooks, the cotton spinners, to supply small one-penny reels of cotton, a novel idea at that time. Olney-Amsden became the sole London agents for these items, resulting in considerable profit because all the City wholesalers had to purchase through them.



*Thomas Olney, haberdasher,
the firm's founder*

Another innovation of Frederick's was to introduce travellers. Prior to this time, most country drapers would visit London twice yearly to purchase sufficient goods to cover their season's requirements. Olney-Amsden was the first haberdashery house

to put men on the road. Frederick split the country into areas, each being covered by its own traveller who took between two and three months to complete his round.

The rebuilding of Blackfriars Bridge in the 1860s and the construction of a new highway, Queen Victoria Street, necessitated a cut across Watling Street and the demolition of the warehouse. The firm moved to Fountain Court, a cul-de-sac off Aldermanbury, and by that time there were five departments: Haberdashery, Buttons, Umbrellas, Trimmings, and Braids and Sewing silks.

A quote from an early news sheet issued by the firm makes interesting reading: "It was the custom then for buyers and first men to wear silk hats in the warehouse, black frock or morning coats and dark trousers. Apprentices had to pay premiums but they received back £1 a month for pocket money. The

juniors were paid £20 a year and lived in. Hours were much longer, 6 o'clock being the official closing time and 2 o'clock on Saturday, but if we got away much before 8 o'clock it was an early night."

The business expanded rapidly and it was decided to build a new warehouse in Falcon Street. Until its destruction in the blitz, it remained little altered but competed favourably with more modern warehouses. It was said to be among the best lighted in the City and the first to be centrally heated. We can gain some idea of the amount of trade – on the first day's opening of the new premises in 1883 they sold 20 tons of linen thread and six tons of pins.

The Warehousemen's and Draper's Trade Journal devoted several pages to the event, concluding: "As a whole we should say that Olney-Amsden and Sons have one of the largest and most convenient ware-



*Frederick William
Amsden senior*



*Frederick William
Amsden junior*

houses in London and their steady development of the business has placed them at the head of the Haberdashery trade."

Man of ideas

The year 1883 had another significance, as it was then that Frederick William junior became a full partner, having joined the firm some years earlier at the age of 17. At 21 he had become the youngest buyer in the City, and was later known throughout the trade as a pioneer of modern haberdashery. He was a man of ideas and conceived the revolutionary notion of selling buttons, elastic and tapes on cards instead of loose. It was an idea soon adopted by many others and the packet of 10 screws that we now buy in the local hardware store can be traced back to his innovation.

He set about designing everything; from new suspender fastenings to novel methods for display. He patented all of these ideas and inventions, and the list of patents to his name is extensive. A major contribution was his idea that glass-fronted and topped counters would be better for displaying goods than the traditional wooden counters. A simple idea but no one had thought of it before, and traders would be paying licensing fees for a long time for the privilege of incorporating it in their stores.

From these innovations grew the Fittings Department and later they were to fit out shops under licence. The cost was reduced, providing Olney-

Amsden also secured the contract for sale goods. Among the stores refitted in this manner was the Army & Navy Store, whose haberdashery department was completely remodelled by Olney-Amsden. This was not unlike franchising as we know it today.

In 1902 the firm had a disastrous fire and lost most of their premises. However, they seem to have emerged even stronger. By 1904 there were no Olneys left, and it was decided to turn it into a limited company but to retain the name of Olney-Amsden. The Governing Directors were both members of the Amsden family, Frederick William junior (Frederick William senior had died in 1897, leaving a personal estate valued at £84,000), and his brother Ernest. Other brothers and sons also appeared on the Board – a clear case of nepotism, but it worked.

The export trade rapidly developed until it represented over 25% of the business, and up to and during World War I the firm continued to grow. A subsidiary was formed, the Crescent Manufacturing Company, to manufacture needles at Redditch. They



*The Falcon Street premises of Olney-Amsden
in the City of London*

had a printing works in Fann Street, and acquired premises elsewhere for manufacturing everything from dress shields to coat hangers. There were also a number of mansions in the country used as staff hostels and training establishments.

Frederick William junior died in 1921 and his obituary in the Drapers Record gives some idea of the respect with which he was regarded: "From the start he took an interest in the development of the Haberdashery Department and he was the pioneer of that branch of the trade as we know it today. Those who are in the business know his special genius for this work. He was held in very high esteem by all with whom he came in contact and his advice was frequently sought in the City by his numerous friends and acquaintances. He was especially looked up to for the uprightness, which characterised all his dealings, and he will be keenly missed by his friends in the City and by the staff at the firm."

The staff were remarkably consistent, many of

them remaining there all their working lives. The slump and the General Strike of 1926 plunged Olney-Amsden into a state of crisis, along with many others, but the following note from the work force to the Directors might be seen to affirm their loyalty to the company: "In view of the present crisis, the Buyers, Heads of departments and staff pledge to support the firm in every possible way and to this end are willing to accept substantial reductions in salary for the duration of the Strike. We suggest as the basis of reduction of salary 50 per cent on all amounts above £1 per week."

As time passed some premises were shed, but the core business continued to grow. When World War II began, there was a boom caused by customers stocking up on anything they perceived could be in short supply. Even when the warehouse was destroyed, it seems to have had little effect. They had taken the precaution of dispersing stock around the City and renting a large warehouse and other premises in the country. The destruction of the warehouse impeded business for no more than a month and they were soon operating again, this time from premises in Little Britain.

Decline

By 1946 they had moved into premises at King Edward Street, from which they continued to trade for many years. However, the number of Amsdens on the Board declined and information from the family suggests this may have been because there was a general lack of interest. I suspect also that the decline of the affluent life of the Victorian/Edwardian businessman may have made it less attractive. By 1994 there were no Amsdens left on the Board. Probably faced with foreign competition, the company had gone into decline and finally closed its doors in 1996, leaving debts of over £300,000 and many disillusioned shareholders.

It was a sad demise for a company that had been at the forefront of business for nearly 187 years and was the oldest family business in the City of London. Tragically, when the last Directors closed the doors they left behind all the old company records which were destroyed. It has made piecing this story together doubly difficult, but I feel it is one worth the telling.

In all probability few people will have heard of this company. But the next time you buy a card of buttons, a reel of cotton, a small packet of screws or purchase something from behind a glass fronted counter, you might remember Olney-Amsden and spare a thought for Frederick William junior. ○

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Irish studies must draw line between Gaelic and non-Gaelic surnames

By Michael Merrigan



THE Guild's Regional Representative for Ireland, MICHAEL MERRIGAN, continues his special series on Irish one-name studies. In this second instalment, he further examines the complicated issue of changes to Gaelic surnames and explains why one-name studies in Ireland must be undertaken on a different framework to most English-based ones.

IN THE 19th century the Great Famine and the resulting mass emigration stole the heart out of Gaelic Ireland. The majority of the victims of this catastrophe west of a line from Derry to Cork were Gaelic speaking. Emigrants from these areas arriving in the New World were mostly illiterate, and if their Gaelic surnames were unrecognisable to the immigration official, they most certainly were when he had finished processing the new arrivals!

New spellings for Irish surnames emerged in the United States, almost obliterating any resemblance of a link with those of the same surname back in Ireland.

An earlier flood of Irish emigrants to the mainland of Europe to enter into the service of Spain or France resulted in a similar assimilation of their surnames, again making them unrecognisable in some cases as Irish surnames. In many instances the Gaelic prefixes were merged with the body of the surname, as happened with most of the Manx Gaelic surnames in the Isle of Man – Clucas from Mac Lucas, etc. A list of names appended as sponsors to a petition to the King of Spain on behalf of Hugo O'Neill in 1667 clearly shows the change in the Irish surnames in conformity with the sounds of the Spanish language...

Pedro Puber, Cristobal Nugencio, Alberto Farail, Arturo Magcoín, Juan Quirquino, Daniel Quade, Juan Berni, Patricio Muledi, Robert Puero, Tulio O'Conreo, Daniel Queogy, Guillermo Nugencio, Thomas Beary, Andres Porte, Matheo Flanura, Juan Gargan, Juan Henriquez, David Pendergats, Luis Higgins & Pedro Levett!

Whilst emigration resulted in the changing of these Gaelic surnames, another equally difficult situation occurred from population movements within Ireland, mainly towards the cities of Dublin and Belfast. Surnames, distinct in their own areas of origin and now devoid of their Gaelic prefixes, became merged and over the generations any memory of this distinct heritage was forgotten. Therefore, for example, all Connors, Bryans or Hughes were considered to be the same.

The Gaelic Revival in the latter part of the 19th

century and the struggle for independence in the first quarter of the 20th century brought another factor to bear on the issue of Irish one-name studies. Nationalists began using the Gaelic prefixes of "O" and "Mac" before their surnames to a point where, for example, the surname Toole, which was quite common in the censuses of 1901 and 1911, now accounts for about 10 entries in the Dublin telephone book 1999–2000, having been totally replaced by O'Toole in the intervening years.

This revival of the Gaelic prefixes compounded in some cases the earlier merger of the surnames in Dublin by "harmonising" the Gaelic prefix change to make every Connor an O'Connor and every Brien or Bryan an O'Brien. Lost in this process were the original MacConnors and MacBriens, among a host of others. It is also possible that some Williams of Welsh origin became McWilliams in the fervour of nationalism that brought independence in 1922 and following the introduction of an Irish and Gaelic curriculum into the schools of Ireland.

This new interest in things Gaelic and Irish posed another problem for Irish one-name studies, as surnames were rendered in their Gaelic language form with a near total disregard for, or simply ignorance, of the historic or linguistic circumstances surrounding the development of each surname. In a school register for Dún Laoghaire Christian Brothers School, for example, a pupil by the name of Wright was given the Gaelic surname Mac an Cheart – "son of the right" – instead of the more correct Mac an tSaoir, rendered in English as McAteer.

The legacy of this nonsense, coupled with the late 20th century commercialism of surnames and heraldry, is very damaging to the image of any serious study of Irish surnames with the Irish public.

Confusion

Other changes in Gaelic surnames occurred gradually by simple popular re-rendering in their areas of origin; for example, where the Irish O'Mullan becomes MacMullan or MacMillan in County Antrim. Evidently, this change is due to a strong Scottish influence, but it confuses the real presence in Northern Ireland of the Scottish MacMillan surname from Argyllshire with a "bogus" Irish branch².

Similarly, the surname Merrigan (in Gaelic Ó Muireagáin) was rendered locally in Wicklow and Wexford as Mergan or Mergin and sometimes as Morgan, thus blurring the presence, if any, of the Welsh surname Morgan in those areas, and especially in Dublin. However, religious differences and the use of certain Biblical forenames amongst

those of the Morgan surname in Dublin highlighted their Welsh origin.

Before deciding on the parameters of Irish one-name studies, it may be useful to demonstrate the development of Gaelic surnames in Ireland with reference to Uí Néill of Ulster. The Uí Néill trace their ancestry back to Niall of the Nine Hostages (Niall Noígiallach) and his sons Conall Gulban, Enda and Eoghan giving us the northern branch, with Coirpre, Laoghaire³, Maine, Conall Cremthainne and Fiachu giving us the southern branch of the Uí Néill.

Of the northern branch, the descendants of Conall Gulban occupy most of Donegal or Tír Chonaill and are known as Cenél Conaill which includes the O'Donnells; the descendants of Eoghan become Cenél nEoghain and, over a period, occupy the centre of Ulster or Tír Eoghain (present Tyrone, parts of Derry and the Inishowen peninsula); and Énda's descendants, Cenél nÉnda, occupying lands around Raphoe in Co. Donegal⁴.

Eoghan's grandson Muirheartach Mac Earca (d. 536 A.D.) is the ancestor of those of the O'Neill, McLoughlin, O'Devlin and O'Donnely surnames and, through Clan Connor of Magh Íthe, he is also the ancestor of those of the surname O'Kane, McCluskey, O'Mullan, O'Carolan, O'Duddy and McCooey, amongst others later down the line. So, put simply, the root of a Gaelic surname may provide a number of links to other related surnames, each breaking off from the original line at points down to the collapse of the Gaelic Order in the 17th century.

Related surnames

Maybe therein lies the essence of the parameters of Irish one-name studies – the study of the descendants of a particular person who gave rise to either one or several related surnames or, whilst cognisant of its origin and links, the study of a particular branch from its "branching" origin down to the present. This would mean that an Irish one-namer could, in fact, deal with a number of related surnames and yet still be considered as undertaking a one-name study. If we look, therefore, at the Ulster Septs of the Uí Néill, we have many research avenues open to the Irish one-namer, from a study of the various branches of the whole tribe Uí Néill to the selected branches of the Ó Néill Sept itself.

A study of the whole tribe of the Uí Néill would involve researching many surnames, some of whose links go back to the 5th century and would, in essence, cover most of the Provinces of Ulster and north Leinster. But, realistically, it would be preferable to choose to start at a later date, possibly the 11th century, and confine one's research to a section of the whole tribe with a common ancestor or Ceann Fine⁵. A later date, possibly the 16th century, would still involve a number of related surnames even if we confined our research to the Ó Néill Sept. We would have, for example, O'Neill, McHugh, McShane, McRory, O'Neillan, McBarron

and other surnames to deal with.

A person dealing with the McHugh surname in Ireland, for example, would have to determine the true origin of their "own" McHugh surname before embarking on any one-name study. English one-namers, in most cases, don't need to confront this challenge before they undertake their research. However, failing to do so in Irish one-name studies would produce misleading and erroneous results.

If we look at the distribution of the McHugh name in the Birth Indexes for 1890 and published in R. E. Matheson's Special Report on Surnames in Ireland⁶, we find 176 entries for the surname McHugh. The counties in which the surname was principally found were Mayo, Donegal, Fermanagh, Galway and Leitrim. These various locations readily identify possible origins of the McHugh surname amongst the Maguires of Fermanagh, the O'Rourkes⁷ of Leitrim, the O'Conors of Galway and possibly the O'Donnells of Donegal, though those listed for County Mayo possibly combine elements of all these various origins through the transplantation of the 17th century.

Not variants

Indeed, many McHugh surnames became, simply, Hughes, of which there were no fewer than 334 entries in Matheson's Report of 1890⁸. The entries for Hughes covered Counties Armagh, Antrim, Dublin, Tyrone, Monaghan, Galway and Mayo. However, the greater number, 180, came from the Ulster counties of Armagh, Antrim and Monaghan.

It must be remembered that the various branches of a Sept in Irish one-name studies are not variant surnames but actual surnames with a common ancestry. Variants, on the other hand, are different renderings of the same surname, e.g. Riley, Reily, Reilly, O'Reilly etc. from the original Gaelic surname Ó Raghallaigh of East Bredne or modern County Cavan where the name is still very numerous, if not synonymous with that county.

Therefore, in providing a definition of Irish one-name studies to suit our particular circumstances as outlined above, we could say: "it is concerned with the genealogy, history, distribution, numbers, occupations and general biographies of persons of a particular surname or branches thereof; or the study of surnames developed from a single patronymic root."

Taking this definition as appropriate, we clearly draw a line between our Gaelic and non-Gaelic surnames in Ireland. In so doing, it is understood that the Guild's published guidelines for English surnames should be adhered to for all non-Gaelic surnames, including most of the Anglo-Norman surnames in Ireland. However, care must be taken to treat those Anglo-Norman families that adopted the Gaelic system – for example, the Burkes – according to the Irish definition of one-name studies.

By identifying the place of origin of our particular surname through our own family history research,

working from the known, back to the unknown, we bring ourselves back to our earliest known ancestor in the place of origin of our surname. Thus, for example, we know that our O'Connors are from Kerry and not Sligo, etc., and we must provide ourselves with the clearest description of our own Irish one-name study. For example, O'Connor Faly or O'Byrne Sleaty etc., or branches thereof. This will both focus our own research and allow others to clearly understand the scope of our one-name study.

The basic structure, therefore, of Irish one-name studies should encompass the following:-

1. The history and origin of the surname.
2. Its links to historical events and personages.
3. Its development and changes over the centuries.
4. Its "branches" and related groups of surnames.
5. Its possible variants in Ireland and overseas.
6. Its distribution in Ireland, especially in the areas of origin, and overseas.
7. Its numerical strength.
8. The genealogies of each group identified.

Irish One-Namers must seek to encompass and acknowledge the Native Histories and Genealogies as the primary sources for their early research, accepting the validity of Native Successional Law, when used by the subjects of our research and primogenitor where it too was applied. Therefore, a comprehensive understanding of Irish History and, at the very least, a working knowledge of the Irish language, are the essential requirements of an Irish one-namer dealing with Gaelic surnames. ○

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I see the actual skeleton in my family cupboard!

By Roy Stockdill

FAMILY history is a funny thing. We are always talking about skeletons in the cupboard, but how many folks can claim that they have SEEN the actual skeleton in their family cupboard? Believe it or not, I can!

In the July Journal I told the sad tale of Mary Bateman, the infamous Yorkshire Witch, who was hanged in 1809 for the murder by poisoning of Rebecca Perigo, née Stockdale, an episode which naturally looms large in my one-name study. I told how, as far as I knew, poor Rebecca was no relative of mine via the Stockdales, but it was possible we did have a distant connection, as her mother Sarah Ann Midgley came from Pudsey, Yorkshire, where my maternal ancestors were Midgleys.

I have made no progress down that avenue, due to lack of time, but since that article appeared events have taken a rather curious turn.

In late June I was at the York Family History Fair, helping to man the Guild stand. I stayed on to give a talk and also to do some research in West Yorkshire record offices. While in Leeds I took the opportunity to visit the Thackray Medical Museum which has the remains of Mary Bateman on loan from Leeds Infirmary, where they resided for 190 years after her execution. The museum plans to have a mask made of the Witch's face. The skeleton itself is not on public show, but I was allowed to see it as a bona fide researcher. It was indeed a curious feeling, gazing at the remains of someone who was hanged almost two centuries ago.

Soon afterwards I was helping a television company with research for a programme on Mary Bateman. They sent me some research they had had done by a firm of professional genealogists – and in reading through this I suddenly sat bolt upright when I realised I had a possible connection to the Witch herself!

Born Mary Harker in 1768, her mother was an Ann Duning from the village of Felixkirk near Thirsk, North Yorkshire, where I had ancestors called Yellow. The name Duning rang bells, so I scurried to my files. Sure enough, a Thomas Duning married Elizabeth Yellow, the sister of my gt-gt-gt-grandfather Lancelot Yellow in 1764. Further research has persuaded me that Thomas was probably an uncle or cousin of the Witch's mother.

So I may be related to both the Yorkshire Witch AND her unfortunate victim. And I have seen the actual skeleton in my family cupboard! ○

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Mystery of my bigamous grandmother led to a one-name study

By Kit Leitch

I WASN'T until my sister became seriously ill and was in a coma that I realised I knew very little about my family, particularly on my mother's side as she had died when only 50. Over the years, mother had dropped snippets of information which were to become golden nuggets in my later search.

Like many of my generation, our grandparents were known to us as Gran and Grandad – no Christian names were used. Grandfather Phelps died two months before I was born and Granny Phelps died when I was nine. Ringing round my cousins was fruitless, as none knew our grandparents' names.

Getting death certificates by searching the Births, Marriages and Deaths Indexes at Birmingham library was simple, as the grandparents had lived in a small village near Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Finding Harry W. T. Phelps in the 1881 census was even easier. Nugget No.1: he had lived in Slimbridge and this gave me his parents, David and Harriet Phelps.

Grandmother Mary Jane was more difficult. My mother had grown up in Bridgend, South Wales. Nugget No. 2: Mother had mentioned that Chin-



MARIA Jane Chinnock went to America, but does she bear a likeness to author Kit Leitch (right)?

nock's, the local chemist's, must be related to us, hence Mary Jane Chinnock. Armed with this information, I went to our library in Solihull where my husband Doug, who is the computer user, searched the I.G.I on CD-ROM and found a family in South Wales, James and Jessie Chinnock with their children, Elizabeth, Mary, Maria Jane and William – right area and right age. In my eagerness and ignorance, I grabbed this family as mine.

Doug also posted the particulars on the Internet and back came a reply from Ron Chinnock in America, who also claimed James and Jessie. He told me that they had emigrated to the USA after the death of their daughter Elizabeth, taking Maria Jane with them. I was back almost to square one,

with the sobering thought that this family history isn't so easy after all!

The main group of Chinnocks seemed to originate in Somerset, so after a couple more errors and some suggestions by kind researchers, I finally found Mary Jane's birth certificate. She was born in Lovington, near Street, Somerset. Her father was Albin Chinnock, her mother Ann née Hoar. The whole family were in the 1881 census for Somerset, minus Mary Jane, but she was found with a nearby family as a servant. Albin is an unusual name. He was Albion on his birth certificate, Allun in the 1881 census and Albert on his daughter's marriage certificate, but mostly he is Albin.

Nugget No.3: I was taken as a small child to visit "Uncle Joe" near Bridgend. Joseph proved to be Mary's youngest brother. Recently I have discovered three other brothers, all in Glamorgan in the 1891 census, and a sister married to a Colston Reakes.

I am now at the hardest part: where was Mary Jane married? When I lived in Merthyr Tydfil my mother mentioned that this was where Mary J. had married. But which marriage? In reminiscing mood, mother confided that Mary J. had married a Mr X and borne him two children when one day a woman knocked on her door and demanded her husband back! Where, when and who this was, I've no idea. Was it in Somerset, Glamorgan or Gloucestershire?

No amount of visits to the Family Records Centre or Gloucester and Taunton Record Offices, or talks with my sister, have shed any light on the mystery. Nor has any trace of the Phelps-Chinnock marriage been found. Mary and Harry Phelps' first child was registered at Dursley, Gloucestershire, in 1895, as were the following six offspring. Did Mary Jane marry Harry using her bigamous name or did they just not marry, fearing repercussions? Time alone will tell – or not, as the case may be.

Ron Chinnock is desperately trying to trace his James's grandparents. This led me into noting down every Chinnock in Somerset and surrounding areas and ultimately led me to do a one-name study of the CHINNOCKS. This has accumulated me a lot of friends, acquaintances and even relatives.

Recently, Ron snail-mailed a photograph taken about 1907 of his Maria Jane Chinnock who, according to Doug, and you may agree, has more than a passing resemblance to myself in the 1960s. ○

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REPORTS • NEWS • EVENTS

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

Why not enjoy the benefits of having a Guild alias e-mail address

By John Hanson, Data Processing Manager



MY NAME is John Hanson and I am the current holder of the job of Data Processing Manager (DPM). I was co-opted (having had my arm twisted!) onto the Guild committee at the first committee meeting in May of this year. Having said that, I have been doing the job since the April 1. I wonder if there was any significance in the date? I work for one of the country's leading banks, working on mainframe databases, and have done so for the past 15 years. I am 52 years young and have had an interest in family history for the past 12 years, but I only joined the Guild in 1996.

The role of DPM sounds a very grand one but is far from it. The purpose of this article is hopefully to enlighten you as to some idea of what is carried out in the background, what benefit it has to you, the members, and the public, and how you can make my job and the committee's easier.

It is safe to say that the job revolves around the central membership database. This database is the lifeblood of the Guild and its proper use, and its maintenance is as essential to the Guild as any organisation's database. The database holds the majority of the information about each of you and is used solely for the Guild's purpose.

Under no circumstances will the Guild's database be passed to any outside organisation. The only information not held here is that relating to your membership payments to the Guild, which are held by the Treasurer.

Telephone

The data includes the obvious things, such as name, address and surname interests. However, it also contains details such as whether you are a Regional Representative or not and your phone number, should we have it. It may seem strange in these days of high technology but some of us do still resort to the telephone to resolve problems, it being quicker sometimes to telephone a member to resolve a problem than it is to write and wait for the reply.

One other essential piece of information held in the database is the indicator as to whether your personal information is displayed on the Guild website. I would ask those people who do not have

their information displayed there (and they amount to a very small percentage) to reconsider. The information that is held there is openly available in a number of sources these days and you may be missing out on contacts.

Please also bear in mind that this only affects the details being displayed on the website. The information is still printed in the Guild Register every year.

The principal use of the database is to provide on an annual basis the information necessary for the publication of the Register. In addition, the information on the Guild's website is taken from this database on a regular basis and information is also provided, as required, to other committee members and the Regional Representatives. However, the database is only as good as the information that it contains and if your details are not correct, then you may not receive your next copy of the Journal.

Member's room

It is essential, therefore, that you notify the Guild as soon as possible of any changes to your details. The easiest way to achieve this is to visit the member's room on the Guild website and change your details there. This ensures that your details are passed to the relevant members of the Guild who need to be told.

Please do not write to members using their personal e-mail addresses, as they may no longer be doing the job that you thought and that will only delay things. The three people who need to know of any changes are the DPM, the Treasurer and the Registrar. All have one-name addresses: **dpm, treasurer and registrar@one-name.org**

For those who do not have a password to enter the member's room, an online form is provided to enable you to get one. There are obviously going to be those of you out there without e-mail and you should always write to the Registrar.

There are, however, two other pieces of information in there, whether you have an e-mail address and/or a website. Websites are fairly straightforward, assuming, of course, that they are kept up to date. In a recent exercise I found that of 200 websites listed, about 30% had incorrect addresses and of the remainder about 20% just could not be

resolved. This obviously meant time and effort being taken in resolving these.

The remainder of this article I want to spend on looking at e-mail and the benefit that it can provide to members of the Guild and, in particular, the use of the Guild e-mail address system.

We are all familiar these days with e-mail addresses. They crop up in so many places and can often be heard at the end of television programs and in radio programs. However, from people I have spoken to one of the biggest problems that people seem to have is keeping pace with which e-mail address you have given to which person!

If you have only ever used one Internet Service Provider (ISP) and have never changed it and think that you are not likely to, then you are extremely lucky. For those of us who have more than one ISP, or who have changed their ISP, you will remember the problems of trying to remember which of your contacts you had given which address to. Very much like trying to remember who you sent Christmas cards to last year.

The use of alias e-mail addresses has been around for a number of years and there are a lot of people these days who use them. One of the more common in everyday use is Hotmail. The concept behind an alias e-mail address is very simple: you register your required name with the company providing the service and tell them which e-mail address you want you mail forwarded to. You can then give out your new alias address to whoever you want, knowing that any mail sent to it will always be forwarded to your correct e-mail address.

One thing that should be stressed is that no one in the Guild can read any of your mail, for as soon as it reaches the Guild's ISP it is automatically forwarded to your own ISP.

The beauty of the system, however, comes when you want to change your normal ISP. No more having to remember who you gave the address to, sitting there thinking: "Have I forgotten anyone", or "Did I give that address to Aunt Maud in Australia?" All that is required is to let the company, which in the Guild's case is the DPM – in other words, me – know your new e-mail address. When a new e-mail is received the details are changed and your e-mail will be forwarded to your new address. However please do remember that some of us do have jobs outside of what we do for the Guild and would occasionally like to do some of our own family history, so do give us a little notice.

A couple of months ago I had a mail from someone in the Guild, who should have known better, saying that he had change his ISP a month ago, that the old one expired the next day and would I amend his alias address. Luckily, I was at home and not away for a few days and we made the change in time. Had I not have been at home, then he could have lost a lot of e-mail.

The system itself is extremely easy to work. You are permitted to have two forms of e-mail alias

addresses. Either in the form of your registered name (if you have three registered names then you can have three addresses) or as your personal name. Therefore, my two addresses are: **fosker@one-name.org** and **john.hanson@one-name.org**

The fosker one I use for contacts are to do with family history and I use the other for all other contacts. Both mean that I never have to worry about changing my details with an outside organisation or individual again. All new members of the Guild are automatically given an alias address, for their first registered name, and that is the only one that will appear in the Register and on the Guild web site.

There are a number of points that you should be aware of that may convince you to change to using an alias e-mail address. Firstly you can use it on any mailing list and this means that you will never have to tell the list of a change of ISP. Secondly, if used as your normal e-mail address for contact with anyone, then you need only contact one person for a change of address, the DPM of the Guild.

Missing contacts

Thirdly, and more importantly, you may be missing out on possible contacts. It has become apparent over the past few months that a number of people out there have realised how the Guild alias e-mail address system works and they are just submitting requests to the server in the hope that it will reach the correct person, if the name is registered. However, due to the low number of people who use this facility, this generates a large number of rejected e-mails that have to be looked at. Each one has to be checked against the Register and the originator of the mail contacted if necessary to inform them of the details of the person who has the name registered or an appropriate message sent saying that the name is not registered.

Can I, therefore, make a plea, on behalf of every member of the committee, for you all to consider using the e-mail alias address system? If you wish to take advantage of it, please complete the necessary change request form in the member's room. The alias address will be set up in a couple of days, but please don't start to use the name until you know that it has been set up. That only creates more work.

Should you have any further queries regarding either the alias e-mail system or the Guild membership database, please e-mail me or write if you are not on e-mail. But one final plea: if you change your details in any way, please, please let us know. ○

JOHN HANSON
Member 2572
16 Audley Mead
Bradwell Village
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire MK13 9BD
fosker@one-name.org

EXPECT as you are reading this Journal it is now 2001 and I wish you all a very happy year ahead.

For me it is a New Year as I am writing these notes (and they are only a few thoughts this time). It is the new accounting year. Blue forms surround me. As you can guess, it is a very busy time of year for me. I want to thank so many of you for renewing your subscription during November and a big THANK YOU to those members who kindly sent the Guild a donation this year.

We have had many members take out new standing orders for the subscription. If you haven't already done so, perhaps you would consider taking one out for next year. Standing orders do make this job a little quicker.

Gift Aid

I would also like to thank many of you for sending back the Gift Aid Declaration form signed. There has been some confusion over this and even at the time of sending out notes to be printed in the October Journal, I was still having telephone conversations with the Inland Revenue.

I did try to explain the system further on the Guild Forum, but I know that many of you do not belong to the Forum. This is something that I would recommend if you have e-mail. It is a very helpful place to turn for advice on many aspects of research.

But to get back to the Gift Aid Scheme: there used to be a covenant scheme, but the Govern-

Treasurer's Notes

By Sandra Turner

Thanks for subs renewal and your donations

ment changed the ruling in April 2000 and that no longer exists. Instead, the Gift Aid scheme for giving to charities has been extended.

If you pay any form of tax to the UK – and this does not have to be a large amount – we can, if you sign and return the form, claim the tax back on your £12 subscription and also on any other money you choose to donate to us.

So far, I have received 253 signed forms back. If you have not returned the form to me and you pay UK tax please do so. You will not commit yourself to anything. There is no time limit.

For every one we receive we can claim back just over £3 (that is the tax you have already paid on the £12 you send us). Last month I received over £1,000 from the Inland Revenue for covenanted subscriptions made in 1998. As our membership numbers increase, so hopefully will the amount of tax we should be able to claim back.

This, in turn, will help to avoid an increase in subscriptions, and this is something that we really want to avoid. If you need another Gift Aid Declaration

Form to sign and return to me, I can post you one. I will also try and arrange for it to be put on the Web site, then you can print it and post it to me. If you have any queries, the quickest and easiest way to communicate is to email me at: treasurer@one-name.org If this is not possible, I do reply to letters but it does take longer.

Meeting members

It was good to meet a few more of you at the Guild Seminar in October and when I attended the Federation Conference in Lincoln in September and the Cornish Family History Society AGM in November I met a few more Guild members on those occasions, too.

I look forward to meeting more of you in 2001. I would like to add: if you are able to attend these seminars and conferences it is well worth it, both for the presentations and talks and also for the opportunity to meet fellow members, people with interests like your own. So much can be learned from others, and maybe others can learn from you. Happy New Year and see you soon! ○



Guild Award for journals

WITH this Journal you will find an entry form for the Guild Award for One-Name Publications 2000. The very first competition last year attracted a good entry – but we are hoping for many more entries this time! The Guild Committee launched the Award to encourage members to produce regular newsletters and journals to a high standard.

Once again there will be two classes: for Category A members and for Categories B & C

combined. Last year, most of the Category A entrants were one-name society publications. Judging will take place in February or March and the winners will be announced at the Guild's Annual Conference and AGM from March 30–April 1 at Wokingham, Berkshire.

In order to qualify for the contest, you must send three copies of your publication to the address given on the form. Please note that they MUST be three copies of the same issue – not different ones – and must have been published during the year 2000. ○

Registrar's Notes By Dominic Johnson

I WAS voted in as Registrar in 1996 by a postal ballot, the last one to take place, there never being in subsequent years more people volunteering for the job than the number required on the committee. It was never my intention to make a career out of being Registrar.

But the one year stretched to two and then to three, and now as I come towards the end of my fifth year I tell myself: "Let someone else have a go. Why should I have all the fun?"

Ideas

Make no mistake, I really have enjoyed my spell as Registrar, and while it has not resulted in my getting to know vast numbers of Guild members, I have appreciated the free flow of ideas and discussion that has



resulted when members have phoned and, or, written seeking to rationalise variants.

Demanding

The job of Registrar has been, at times, very demanding, a fact that has been instrumental in influencing my decision to walk away. What shall I do with my new-found time?

Hopefully, some of it will be devoted to my own ONS which has for the last five years been sorely neglected.

While I would not presume as retiring Registrar to lay down any new rules for members, I would exhort you to remember

that the Registrar really does need to know such things as changes of address, e-mails, addition of variants, removal of variants to mention just a few.

It really is not up to me, nor to my successor, to scour the Guild Forum looking for the members who advertise their changes of address therein, nor to seek your whereabouts if Journals are returned with "Addressee gone away."

Thank you

To those who remembered the above and did write to me with your changes, and included your membership number, a great big thank you again. To those of you who think the receiving officer of the Guild should fathom out your number, I can only say yet again: could do better.

I shall, of course, miss being Registrar but shall enjoy some of my new-found freedom before, no doubt, I become swamped by other things. ○

Archiving of Guild Newsletters and Journals completed and indexing work goes on

I HAVE now completed the archive of Guild Newsletters and Journals and work has started on the indexing of the last two completed volumes.

This indexing work will take some time, but when it is completed I anticipate that these "backdated" indexes (of volumes 5 and 6) will be made a free issue to members and sent out with suitable issues of the Journal.

For the fiche record, the FFHS is updating its fiche of family history society newsletters that they have received over recent years and this includes our Journal.



Librarian's Notes by John Colloff

As was done previously, they are offering us a free copy of the fiche of our own Journals and so we will shortly have a copy of their fiche covering the Journal, helping to bring our archive up to date.

Information

There is a wealth of information in our past Journals and I still hope to see the indexes for volumes 1 to 4 put in the members' section of the web pages.

I think that these would have to be in Adobe Acrobat's PDF

format, which will need the Adobe Acrobat reader to access them. However, as this is used for the forms and information on the Gov.uk web pages and can be obtained there as a free download, I cannot see that this should cause any problems.

If I am wrong in this, please let me know before we invest too much effort in such a scheme.

One-Name Awards

The forthcoming Guild Award for One-Name Publications competition should be even better than last year's, as several of you have taken up my offer of a loan of the journals and newsletters which made up last year's entry, including, of course, the winners. The borrowers appear to have gained a few tips to apply to their own publications.

I hope that the Editor and his fellow judges are able to cope with these improvements in standards when it comes round to judging time again! ○

Guild reports and news

FORUM Feedback

Somerset and Gloucestershire members' joint get-together

The two Kens, Dilkes of Somerset and Grubb of Gloucestershire, organised a joint two-counties meeting of members at the Mormon Church and Family History Centre, Whitchurch, Bristol on Saturday, October 28. The River Avon conveniently divides the City of Bristol between the two old, but friendly, rivals of Somerset and Gloucestershire.

Ours was an attempt to provide a meeting for members in the Bristol area who find difficulties in getting to meetings further into the hinterland of their respective counties.

We heard two presentations, the first by Tony Pomeroy, a Dorset member, Chairman of the Somerset & Dorset Family History Society and currently the focal point of "Pomerology", the worldwide Pomeroy society.

Tony, who has arranged two highly successful gatherings of "Poms" at Berry Pomeroy Castle, Devon, took us through the stages of arranging, publicising and mounting a large one-name gathering.

The second presentation on the 1901 Census Project was by Steve Wilkinson, a member of the S&DFHS, who is Data Input Quality Control Manager with the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA). They are under contract to the PRO in connection with the 1901 Census digitisation and Internet project. Steve gave his excellent presentation by kind permission of the PRO. Ken Grubb closed this part of the meeting by updating members on recent happenings and decisions from the Guild's Executive.

Finally, members were able to avail themselves of the first class facilities of the Whitchurch LDS Family History Centre. We had sole access to it for several hours after the public had gone.

A particular vote of thanks is due to the elders of the church and the Director of the Whitchurch FHC for allowing us to use their excellent facilities – at no charge! ○

KEN DILKES
Member 2318
Somerset Regional
Representative

South Wales Regional Seminar

A MODEST-SIZED but keen audience attended the South Wales Regional Seminar at the YMCA Conference Centre in Newport, Gwent, on Saturday, October 21 and heard several interesting talks.

In the morning session, archivist Tony Hopkins spoke on "Migration in Monmouthshire and the Welsh March: A Millennium of personal names." He was followed by Guild member Dr. Keith Meredith, with a colourful talk entitled: "What's in a Name: My name is Meredith, what's yours?"

After lunch, Eirionedd Basker-

ville spoke on: "Off to Patagonia in the morning", a revealing look at the unique Welsh colony in South America.

Finally, Dr. Diane Brook concentrated on inherited characteristics with a talk called "Does it run in the family? Genetics for Genealogists." ○

SoG to be closed for a month

THE Society of Genealogists at Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London, will be closed for major refurbishing works from February 4 to March 6.

A digest of the Guild's online mailing list by ROGER STATEN

□ Growth of an ONS

FROM a discussion, the feeling was that the smaller you are as a ONS the fewer problems occur with enquiries from the Internet. Some reasonable-sized studies with website details received very few, whilst one ONS with several hundred pages received enough enquiries to call it a part-time occupation in answering them. We all agree to give information, so the more publicity we have the more enquiries we get. I guess the secret is to provide website information in a format that the viewers can see for themselves.

□ FONS Archive Service

THIS organisation searches old records for your name and charges you by the number of hits. However, some have found the service expensive because they generally charge for variants and their interpretation of a variant may be different to your own. An entry found under this system would cost you £2.00 a hit. If you are careful and register specific names the cost becomes £3.00 per hit but eliminates the variant problem. It can be complicated and has deterred some from using the service. FONS seem to be targeting the Guild membership, so be careful.

□ One-Place Studies

MANY thought it would be useful to have a list of places studied – a sort of Guild of One-Name Places. Most areas have local history societies, but the task of indexing would be a mammoth task before adding the index to the Internet. Trevor Ogden (2807) advised that in November The Society for Name Studies in Britain held a conference that included a

debate on a project called the English Place Name survey. It will be interesting to see what comes out of that.

□ Genealogy Software

THERE was a debate regarding family history programs, some three months after a Journal article concluded that no single program fulfilled the needs of all one-namers. No favourite emerged but it was important that the purchase be able to import and export GEDCOM files.

□ Parachute look-ups

WAS your ancestor a parachute instructor in the RAF? Rowena Card (2387) has a father-in-law Alfred Card who is in possession of a book containing a list of instructors from 1941 and is willing to do look-ups. Contact Alfred through Rowena.

□ Rare Names

DAVID Hawgood (193) is interested in anyone who is studying rare names and invites contact.

□ Wills values

JUDGING the value of money left in Wills with the current money values proved to be interesting. Most thought it would be fascinating to be able to assess their ancestors' wealth by today's standard. No printed data was given but there are some good website's available.

□ Royal Scots in the Boer War

FRANK Brownhill (258) has a diary of dead and wounded and numerous photographs. He is willing to do look-ups (SAEs, please).

□ Statistic

JOHN Colloff, the Guild's Librarian, gave me an interesting statistic. The number on the Forum is around 10% of the membership and there are around 40% with e-mail addresses. So think about joining the Forum please – you have a lot to offer and we all have a lot to learn! ○

Family reunions...

Shoosmiths in Sussex

I ORGANISED entirely from South Africa a three-day reunion in July for my one-name study of Shoosmith in the village of Laughton, East Sussex, where Shoosmiths lived continuously for 400 years.

Roy Stockdill gave me the idea of a service and dedicating a memorial to former Shoosmiths. The church is Grade One-listed, and we were perceived by the Diocesan Advisory Committee as an inconvenience, though the family supplied three of six bells hanging in the church and 12 church wardens. Designs were rejected before we got a framed text by a traditional signmaker.

However, it was a magnificent service and the prayers related to the family. To my surprise, some Americans did not know the hymn Jerusalem. One said she knew it from the film *Chariots of Fire!* The Guild and Sussex Family History Group ran bookstalls and a busy itinerary took in Shoosmith homes and churches.

The best part for me was a cricket match. We put up 12 Shoosmiths – six Englishmen, four Americans (none of whom had played before) and two South Africans – with a village 12. The teams were mixed, six Shoosmiths and six villagers a side, and over 330 runs were scored in 60 overs, with the match result depending on the last ball. *If you plan a reunion, throw in a cricket match!*

Dr. ASH EMERY
Member 1536

Northmore/Narramore

THE 3rd Northmore and 1st Narramore Reunion took place in July at the College of St Mark and St John, Plymouth. In 1999 I attended the Narramore Reunion in Crossville TN, and six American Narramores came to mine, also two English couples called Narramore, another with Narramore ancestors, and a Mrs. Northmore from South Africa. Altogether, about 45 people were at the reunion. Many brought family

trees and had an enjoyable time exchanging information. I introduced the American and English Narramores and explained the link between the names.

Some of us drove across Dartmoor to Sampford Spiney, where my great-grandmother Mary Ann Northmore lived as a little girl, and went into the church where my five-times great-grandparents Richard Northmore and Mary Whitbourn married in 1724. We visited a Narramore Farm to look at the house and lovely garden. As far as we know, no Narramores ever lived there, but it may be possible to find more on its history in Exeter Record Office. Next year's project! We also went to Ideford to see the floor stone of Walter Narramore, grandfather of Richard Northmore, who died in 1659 aged 99 years.

DOREEN M. HEATON
Member 1950

Cliffords in Normandy

A COACHLOAD of Cliffords spent five days in Normandy in September, tracing the ancestors of the Clifford and Poyntz families. The first recorded man to whom we relate was named Pons or Poncius. Genealogists have placed his origins in different places, but it is fairly certain he was connected to the Norman ducal line.

The Clifford Party based themselves in Rouen for three days, visiting the Cathedral where are the remains of Rollo, 1st Duke of Normandy and his son William Longsword, 2nd Duke. An outing to Monet's Garden at Giverny was enjoyed and other trips took in Fecamp Cathedral, where Richard I & Richard II are buried, the Castle at Arques-la-Bataille, originally built by Pons, Bellencombre, the Warrene stronghold, the lovely Abbey of Jumieges, and Eu where William the Conqueror was married to Matilda of Flanders. A visit was also made to the romantic Chateau of Rambures, near Blangy.

DAVID CLIFFORD
Member 309



Reviews

Friendly societies and postcards are among new books and editions from Federation of Family History Societies' Publications

IN this issue we highlight the latest books and new editions of old favourites, especially in the "An introduction to..." and "Basic Approach to..." series, from the Federation of Family History Societies (Publications) Ltd. Full details of where to obtain them are given at the end of the reviews.

An introduction to . . . FRIENDLY SOCIETY RECORDS, by Roger Logan, A5 soft cover, 46 pages, ISBN 1-86006 115 X. Published 2000 by the Federation of Family History Societies (Publications) Ltd. Price £3.95.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES were first given legal identification in Great Britain by an Act of Parliament, which received Royal Assent on June 21 1793, although many societies pre-dated the Act, some by up to possibly 75 years.

The aims of these societies were to provide for its members "mutual relief and maintenance" in old age, sickness and infirmity,

or for the relief of the widows and children of deceased members. This arrangement continued until 1948 with the introduction of the Welfare State.

These records can provide the family historian with knowledge of their ancestor's lives, which might not otherwise, have been recorded.

These records could also prove to be a very valuable tool in trying to sort out individuals and which family branch they belong to. The book gives all the essential information that the researcher requires when using friendly societies records and is a useful addition for every family historian's bookcase.

Basic Approach to . . . ILLUMINATING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY WITH PICTURE POSTCARDS, by Philip J. Chapman. A5 stapled soft back, 16 pages, ISBN 1-86006 122 2. Published 2000 by FFHS (Publications) Ltd. Price £3.95.

THIS publication is an addition to an already popular series of

Our round-up of some interesting new genealogical publications

By Jane Morson

booklets. The author considers the importance of using postcards in not only bringing our family histories to life, but also the wealth of information that their pictures can contain.

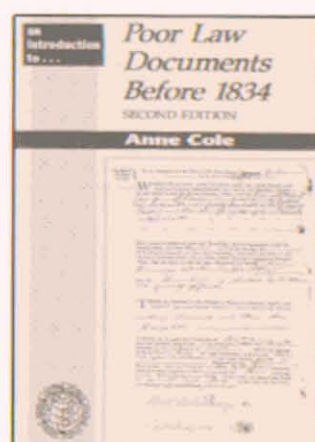
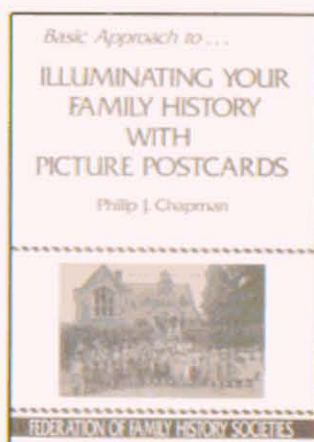
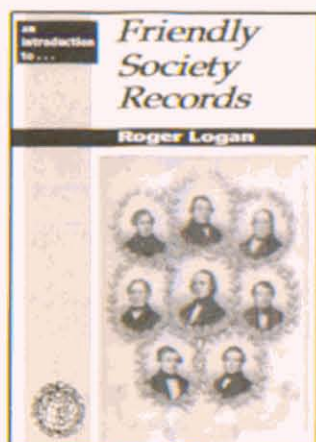
Golden age

The picture postcard was first published in Britain around 1894, although the Golden Age when millions of cards were published was between 1902 and 1914. The majority of cards found today are from this and later periods.

Philip Chapman gives ideas on the types of postcards to collect, where to look for them and the recording of those purchased and the ones needed. This booklet provides all the basic information needed for using postcards to illustrate a family history.

An introduction to . . . POOR LAW DOCUMENTS BEFORE 1834, by Anne Cole. A5 soft cover, 44 pages, ISBN 1 86006 127 3. Second edition published 2000 by FFHS (Publications) Ltd. Price £3.95.

POOR law documents are an important source of information for family historians, as not only from their use can relationships between family members be proven but also those between families and places. Even those of



pauper ancestors can be proved.

Although the Poor Law Act was passed in 1601, records mainly survive from the 1680s through to 1834 when the responsibility for the poor passed out of the hands of parish control.

First published in 1993, then reprinted in 1996, this book is now in its second edition. The reader will find it a wonderful introduction to the use of poor law documents.

Settlement

Each area is explained carefully, which enables the family historian to be able to understand the phrase "place of legal settlement" and be aware of the types and contents of poor law documents.

The usefulness of overseers' and churchwardens' accounts in family histories and the coverage of vestry minutes and their importance in the search for pauper ancestors are well covered. Quarter Session records are also very important and we introduced to their coverage.

If you are exploring this area of research, you will find this book a useful tool and a valuable addition to the bookcase.

An introduction to . . . **BRITISH CIVIL REGISTRATION**, by Tom Wood. A5 soft cover, 83 pages, ISBN 1 86006 116 8. Second edition published 2000 by FFHS (Publications) Ltd. Price £4.50

FIRST published in 1994, this second edition has brought the information, location, prices, etc., of these sources up to date.

This book is clearly written, well set out and gives the family historian all the information needed to not only understand, but also obtain copies of these documents. It might even be called "an idiots guide to purchasing a certificate"!

MARRIAGE and CENSUS INDEXES FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS, by Jeremy Gibson and Elizabeth Hampson. A5 soft cover, 52

pages, ISBN 1 86006 124 9. Eighth Edition published 2000 by FFHS (Publications) Ltd. Price £3.50.

IT is a pretty safe bet, that when a publication gets to its eighth edition, you are on to a winner. This is certainly the case with this book.

The guide was originally the idea of Michael Walcot and Colin Chapman and was an amalgamation of their two separate publications *Marriage Indexes: How to Find Them; How to Use Them; How to Compile Them and Census Indexes and Indexing*.

Trying to find a couple's marriage, or where a person was on census night? Then this guide to these indexes could be just what you need.

County order

The main section covers the counties, in alphabetical order, of England and Wales. Marriage and Census indexes are listed separately under each county. There are then separate sections for the indexes in Scotland, Ireland, and the offshore islands and there is even one regimental index.

SPECIALIST INDEXES FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS, by Jeremy Gibson and Elizabeth Hampson. A5 soft cover, 72 pages, ISBN 1 86006 125 7. Second Edition 2000 published by FFHS (Publications) Ltd. Price £3.95.

THIS guide was published between 1984 and 1996 as part of the *Guide to Marriage Indexes and Census Indexes* and as a quite separate guide entitled *Unpublished Personal Name Indexes in Record Offices and Libraries*.

By 1998, there were so many specialist indexes that it was felt they warranted their own separate guide. It was, therefore, decided to combine the two separate publications into one guide.

The aim of this guide was to bring to the attention of family and local historians the existence of finding aids to classes of records not already covered by other guides in this series. This, I

feel, has certainly been achieved and is yet another "must have" for the bookcase.

New edition of Gibson Guide to militia lists and musters

MILITIA LISTS and MUSTERS 1757-1876, by Jeremy Gibson and Mervyn Medlycott. A5 soft cover, 48 pages, ISBN 1 86006 123 0. Fourth Edition 2000 published by: FFHS (Publications) Ltd. Price £3.95

WHAT would we all do without these Gibson Guides? This is indeed another little gem for the bookcase.

This guide was first published in 1989 with the intention of bringing unrealized records to the attention of not only the researcher but also of their custodians.

This has most definitely been achieved. It says a great deal about the usefulness of this guide that, for such an obscure class of record, it has required a fourth edition.

The availability of records are listed under four main sections, England by county alphabetically, next Wales and Monmouthshire in county order, then Scotland and lastly Ireland.

All the above books can be ordered from: FFHS (Publications) Ltd., Units 15-16, Chesham Industrial Estate, Oram Street, Bury, Lancashire BL9 6EN.

www.familyhistorybooks.co.uk
E-mail: sales@ffhs.org.uk

• *DO you know of any genealogy books we should be reviewing? Authors and family history societies who have published recent books are invited to submit them to: Jane Morson, Upperneatham Mill, Upperneatham Lane, Holybourne, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4EP. ○*

Letters

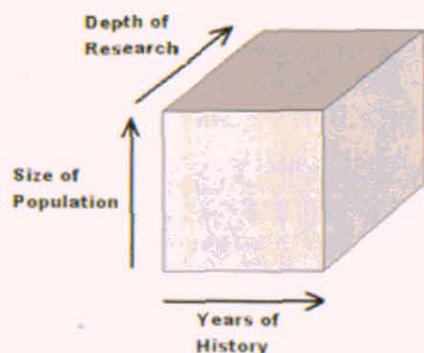
Your views on issues in the one-name world

Guild category issues

I READ the discussion on the categorisation of studies and members with great interest. I feel that it coincides with a parallel issue I have been studying. That is, how to measure the completeness of a one-name study in terms of the historical population one has captured.

I cannot get excited about tinkering with the existing one-dimensional A, B and C categorisation, except that the issue of a newsletter and/or website is irrelevant to the state of the study itself. Contacting people alive today is only relevant if one is taking the study into the 20th century. The other issue of communicating the results to the live population is irrelevant to the quality of the study itself. I do advocate such communication but feel it is worthy of separate assessment. The Guild already awards a prize for magazines excellence. This should be extended to websites, such awards acting to raise the standard of the media.

The basic problem is that the measure of the worth of a one name study is in three dimen-



sions, depicted in my diagram. "Depth of Research" broadly coincides with the present definitions, less the newsletter. However, a study could qualify

for category A with research back just to 1837. Conversely, I have contacted a Category A study with a 19th century intersection query and got: "We're only interested in the 15th/16th century." So that justifies the need for a "Years of History" yardstick.

The other yardstick is "Size of Population". This is a two-edged sword. Firstly, how big a family have you chewed off? There is the Martin One-Name Study with a database so large they are publishing a CD-ROM, to the notional Farquhar-Critchley-Pugh ONS that may only contain 100 people going back to the formation of the triple-barrelled name! The other side of the sword is how well one has covered the chosen ground: has one captured 10% of the population or 99%?

Research depth

One might argue that the depth of research should reflect such completeness, especially in view of the difficulty of estimating the percentage completion. Having said that, I am currently researching techniques for extrapolating such a figure from national demographic statistics against the number of people alive today.

I appreciate that at first sight what I propose is a vast complication on the current system. Simply, however, what I do suggest is that in addition to the current categorisation system (adjusted as the Committee sees fit, but less the newsletter qualification) that one-name studies are required to declare the following attributes:

- What is the time period of their study (e.g. All, 1400-1600, 1550-date)?
- How many people do they have in their database, of the

surname + spouses, to the nearest one-hundred?

The former attribute will avoid people enquiring about Great-Aunt Elsie's husband of a dedicated Middle-Ager. The second attribute would give an indication of the scale of the study; i.e. 500 of a Category A would indicate a pretty rare name, 25,000 of Category B a gargantuan task, whilst 100 for a Category C Smith study need not be taken very seriously.

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DNA testing

DURING November a thread developed on the Guild's e-mail forum on the above subject, as a result of which Roy Stockdill reminded me of Mary Rumsey's comments in the October Journal and suggested I pen this letter, as only about 10-20% of our membership subscribe to the list.

Ash Emery started the ball rolling with a rebuttal of the latest ramblings from the renowned Professor Sykes. Ash had seen a report in South Africa of an interview with Sykes in the Sunday Times. Roy Stockdill responded with one of his wonderfully amusing pieces, but I noticed that while knocking the esteemed prof's penchant for publicity (the "rentaquote" prof) Roy also perceives that there could be something in it.

Trevor Ogden sent an excellently concise précis of his understanding. I am nearly converted, Trevor. The sceptic in me

says maybe there *is* something in it. As the science of DNA testing progresses, I see this "genetic fingerprinting" becoming a key foundation for future generations of family historians. After all, our hobby is called "genealogy" – or perhaps Ash would prefer "genie allergy"! After we're long gone, will our children's children's children be routinely using DNA samples to drive their family research?

Can I encourage more of the science professionals among our members to send their thoughts to the Journal? It seems to me it's useful to be well informed about what tomorrow's world probably has in store for us.

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Going for the prize

AFTER reading Jean-Baptiste Piggin's article in the July issue, I decided to go for the non-existent prize he suggested. I store my one-name data using a program, Fam20y, that I wrote myself. This is not a commercial product but over the years I have supplied earlier DOS and Windows versions of it to a number of users.

My approach to storing family data is to enter each birth, marriage or death entry as a separate record. People in the records are identified by reference numbers and the program uses these reference numbers to create trees, pedigree charts, etc. from the data. The program also has input and output interfaces in Gedcom and CSV database formats, but the general database format is rather restricted.

I contacted Jean-Baptiste and he kindly sent me a sample of his database containing 400 records. It was a fairly straight-forward job to create a dedicated interface program which read the sample database records and converted them to Fam20y format. This entailed choosing which of

his fields went where and in some cases decoding the contents. Jean-Baptiste has forenames and surnames together in single fields, so these had to be separated. The date contents also had to be converted into a standard numerical format. Once the program had been written, the conversion of the 400 records took six seconds and resulted in 600 entries in my format. I have sent Jean-Baptiste a copy of my program, including the dedicated conversion routine, for him to try out on his full database.

The two important factors in this type of data conversion process are:

1) To be able to convert a database into another format, there must be consistency in the way the data is entered. With a general purpose database there are no constraints on what is put into a field. However, if any decode operations are to be done, there must be a definite way of putting in the data which is capable of being logically defined for inclusion in the conversion software.

2) The master database must contain all the required data. Extra data should not have to be entered into the converted version, since this extra data must be added every time a conversion is done. In Jean-Baptiste's case, this would mean adding a further four fields to his record structure to contain the reference numbers.

General purpose

I am now in the process of converting the conversion program into a general purpose format in which the user can interactively define the conversion routine by indicating which fields go where and selecting from a menu the decode routines to be used. Currently, the program includes the decode routines that are needed for Jean-Baptiste's format, but I am anxious to know what other ways people use to store their data so that I can enlarge the scope of the program. If any other member would like to see if their database can be con-

verted and, in fact, want it converted, will they please contact me?

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All the eights

MY grandmother was born Mary Jemima Cobbett on May 12 1879 in Cobham, Surrey, married James Rugman on July 23 1904 in Cobham and died in Heckington, Lincolnshire, on August 8 1967. Nothing strange about this, you might think. But I married on August 8 1969, not realising when I booked the wedding that my grandmother had died exactly two years before. I chose the 8th day of the 8th month as an easy date to remember.

When I started investigating my family history in 1986, I quickly realised that my grandmother was 88 years old when she died on the 8th of the 8th but thought no more of it. However, on my wedding anniversary in 1988, as I was about to leave home I noticed that the mileage gauge in the car read 8888 and the date was 8.8.88. I thought I should have a bet on a horse or something. The 8th horse in the 8th race, perhaps – but it would probably come in 8th! Stoke's Not being a gambler, I did not have a wager and the day passed without incident.

Recently, I was thinking about this coincidence when I had the idea of calculating my grandmother's exact age when she died. As I suspected, my grandmother was exactly 88 years and 88 days when she died on the 8th day of the 8th month. Does anyone else have any strange coincidences with numbers?

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A lazy fellow
and a toothless,
wriggling hag
were wed...

It's a funny old genealogical world

A celebration of the
comic and curious



THOMAS PATTEN, vicar of Seasalter, near Whitstable, Kent, for 50 years, was renowned for acid comments on his parishioners in the registers. Many were obliterated by later vicars, but the odd one slipped through...

12 Aug 1734 – *Jacob Willet and Sarah Kemp were shackled at Seasalter Church.*

29 Oct 1734 – *Old Tom Taylor, Smoker of Whitstable and a deaf old woman called Elizabeth Church were marry'd at Seasalter with two rings.*

30 Jan 1743 – *Buried James Ellis, a very strong young fellow, and a great smuggler.*

6 Jun 1744 – *John Housden, widower, a young gape-mouthed lazy fellow and Hannah Matthews, an old toothless wriggling Hagg, both of Faversham were hammel'd by Licence at the Cathedral of Seasalter.*

27 Sep 1744 – *Little Oziah Oakham and Sarah Slater, both of Seasalter were married by Licence. Sarah was his first wife's sister and now very pregnant.*

However, he could occasionally be nice, too...

16 Nov 1740 – *Buried Paster William Trice, the Old Oaken Pin.*

5 Feb 1744 – *Martha Chambers, the most accomplished woman that ever lived in a Country, was buried in Seasalter churchyard at the head of the Chancel.*

Shelagh Mason
Member 2519

William Tell does it again

"The Tribunal of Correctional Police of Spire, in Bavaria, tried last week a weaver of that place under the following circumstances:- Wishing to emulate the renown of William Tell, this man had placed a potatoe on the head of his son, and, discharging a pistol at it at the distance of fifteen paces, struck the potatoe in the centre without injuring the boy. His neighbours, to whom he recounted this feat, refused to credit it, when, to convince them, he repeated the trial, placing however, as it was dark, a lantern instead of the potatoe. The weaver was again successful in his attempt. He was condemned to five days' imprisonment and a heavy fine."

Kelso Chronicle April 15 1853

Viv Dunstan
Member 2847

And now is the time for
my will in rhyme...

NORMALLY, we don't published poetry in the Journal. However, an exception can surely be made in the case of the poetical will of William R. Shipling of Suffolk...

*As this life must soon end, and my frame will decay,
And my soul to some far-distant clime wing its way.
Ere that time arrives, now I am free from cares,
I thus settle my worldly affairs.*

*A course right and proper men of sense will agree,
I am now strong and hearty, my age forty three;
I make this my last will, as I think 'tis quite time,
It conveys all I wish, though 'tis written in rhyme.
To employ an attorney, I ne'er was inclin'd,
They are pests to society, sharks of mankind.
To avoid that base tribe my own will I now draw,
May I ever escape coming under their paw.
To Ezra Dalton, my nephew, I give all my lands,
With the old Gothic cottage that thereon doth stand;
'Tis near Shimpling great road, in which I now dwell;
It looks like a chapel or hermit's old cell.*

*With my furniture, plate, and linen likewise,
And securities, money, with what may arise,
'Tis my wish and desire that he should enjoy these,
And pray let him take even my skin if he please.
To my loving, kind sister I give and bequeath,
For her tender regard, when this world I shall leave,
If she choose to accept it, my rump-bone may take,
And tip it with silver, a whistle to make.
My brother-in-law is a strange-tempered dog;
He's as fierce as a tiger, in manners a hog;
A petty tyrant at home, his frowns how they dread,
Two ideas at once never entered his head.
So proud and so covetous, moreover so mean,
I dislike to look at him, the fellow is so lean.
He ne'er behaved well, and, though very unwilling,
Yet I feel that I must cut him off with a shilling.
My executors, too, should be men of good fame,
I appoint Edward Ruffell, of Cockfield, by name;
In his old easy chair, with short pipe and snuff,
What matter his whims, he is honest enough.
With Samuel Seely, of Alpheton Lion,
I like his strong beer, and his word can rely on.
When Death's iron hand gives the last fatal blow,
And my shattered old frame in the dust must lie low,
Without funeral pomp let my remains be conveyed
to Brent Eleigh churchyard, near my father be laid.*

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**Why not devote just a small
amount of your spare time
to helping the Guild? Apply
to the Co-ordinator (see
under Scotland North).**



Shoosmith Reunion in Sussex

THESE pictures were taken at the Shoosmith 2000 Reunion in Sussex in July. Left are: Glenn Shoosmith and Bonnie Salamanca, helping to cement UK/US relations. Below, left to right: Lisa Robinson, Dorothy Shoosmith and Jan Shoosmith (Report on page 21).



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