

Journal

of One-Name Studies



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**Finding criminal
ancestors in
historic Old
Bailey court
records online**



**Ken Toll takes
over as
Guild Chairman**



Sources for one-namers in Australian archives

Report and pictures of the Worcester Seminar

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(address and phone number on the
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• **IMPORTANT REMINDER:** With this issue of the Journal you will find a flyer for the Edinburgh Seminar in June. PLEASE note that this flyer contains your new password to enable you to gain access to the Members' Room on the Guild website. Make a careful note of the password and do not lose it!

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

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES



By Ken Toll

It seems strange writing these notes as Chairman. One minute I was Registrar, the next I wasn't! It was a surprise when Howard Benbrook announced he was unable to continue as Chairman and caught us somewhat unprepared. However, the Committee has faced the challenge and I volunteered for the short straw, though I had planned to take a less onerous role next year. I have agreed to complete the current term of office and have indicated that I am prepared to continue after the AGM, if the next Committee wishes me to.

The good news is that I take over when diligent management by previous chairmen has left the Guild in a sound financial position. We have a financial reserve appropriate to the number of members and a surplus earmarked for next year's activities.

Our previous Chairman set up a Finance and General Purposes Subcommittee to monitor the Guild's income, expenditure and VAT liability and instituted budgets for several of the Guild's activities, such as publications and seminars. I believe these processes have been beneficial and I intend to continue with them.

There has been no sudden change of direction. Howard set new initiatives in motion and the Committee and I will endeavour to see as many through as resources allow. I have decided it would be inappropriate during the last couple of months of the present Committee to launch any more new initiatives; however, I do have some thoughts for the future. The only projects I wish to

instigate myself are related to encouraging members to get more involved in Guild activities.

At present, most of the running of the Guild is undertaken by a small number of dedicated volunteers – principally, Committee members. If we are to have increased services to members, then someone has to organise and provide them. I believe the Guild has now reached the size where the Committee can no longer do everything and the

About me

JUST so you know a little about your new chairman, I thought I'd share a little of my own family history. I was born and brought up in London and did an electronic engineering apprenticeship in the public sector. My initial plans to be a designer were thwarted and I became involved in quality assurance, specialising in testing. My final appointment has been as National Test Manager for a new Police 999 system. I retire in May 2003, when I hope to get back to my own one-name study.

load has to be spread. Only when we have a supply of volunteers can we start to undertake further activities and initiatives. Any new projects will have to be properly set up with appropriate controls – those who have been involved in project management will know what I mean – and resource requirements in the short and long term must be planned for.

Some issues relating to the constitution were identified in the previous Chairman's Notes.

Since taking the chair, it has become increasingly apparent to me that our constitution limits the way in which the Guild can undertake long-term planning. Some of those limitations may be appropriate, others perhaps not. I hope the next Committee will be able to tackle this.

Retiring

Two Committee members are standing down at the AGM, John Colloff and Dominic Johnson. I would like publicly to thank both for their respective contributions to the Guild and for the advice and guidance provided to myself and others. John has been Guild Librarian for four years and given excellent service to members. We will need a replacement, and if one is not forthcoming from the next Committee, I shall be seeking one or more (non-committee) volunteers to take on the role.

Dominic has been on the Committee for at least seven years and was our longest serving Registrar, holding that office for five years. She has made an enormous contribution to the smooth running of the Guild and I am only too aware of how much effort she had to put in to perform the Registrar's job. She also represented the Guild on a regular basis and performed other duties on numerous subcommittees and working groups.

Standards

Following postings on the Guild Forum, I think it prudent to let members know my interpretation of what comprises a Registered One-Name Study. Our constitution defines a one-name study as "research into the genealogy and family history of all persons with the same surname and its variants". To me, this means without limit as to location or time period. That is not to say this has to be done within a specific time-frame. Equally, it would seem inappropriate to reject or discard data simply because it did not fit within one's current plan.

I can quite understand why it

may be necessary to prioritise one's research and set specific objectives for each year. In fact, I have had to do so myself in order to stay within the limited funds and time available. However, I cannot see how one can undertake a study with preset and immovable boundaries, and still call it a one-name study. I know some members have different views and I would be interested to see them aired in the Journal.

Categories

Another issue unresolved is that of categorisation. I am aware a number of members are still not content after the inconclusive survey a few years ago. The Guild has tried several ways to categorise members' studies ever since it was formed. The only place where categorisation appears is in the Register, where the intended recipient cares little about our categories. However, they do need to know if the one-namer registered for the name they are interested in provides any extra facilities over and above responding to enquiries, such as periodic newsletter, e-mail address, web page, one-name society, etc.

And none of these require anyone (or their study) to be "categorised". I am now of the opinion that categorisation serves little purpose within the Guild, and even less in the wider genealogical world. Again, I would welcome constructive comment on how we could finally find a solution acceptable to the majority of the membership.

And finally...

I write this just before the Worcester Seminar. I hope those of you who are able to attend will enjoy the day.

Unfortunately, I will be unable to be with you on this occasion, but several members of the Committee will be in attendance and will be pleased to bring back any issues you may feel need to be addressed. I will, of course, be at the AGM and, hopefully, subsequent seminars. ○



I enjoyed one of the best days in genealogy I've known in a long time at the Guild's Worcestershire Seminar. Listening to such luminaries of the family history world as Iain Swinnerton, Derek Palgrave, Pauline Litton and Jeanne Bunting – all valued friends as well as Guild colleagues – was indeed a rewarding experience.

One shrewd observation of Iain Swinnerton's particularly struck home. "It has to be fun," he declared, "and if it isn't fun it isn't worth doing." That applies to every hobby, of course, but it seems particularly apposite in relation to family history. For me, while I recognise the discipline that genealogical research demands, it is a source of great enjoyment and if it ever stopped being so, then that is the day I would give it up.

We have all met, I am sure, in our perambulations round record offices, those assorted po-faced characters to whom their manic hunt for a long-lost great-grandmother has become a personal obsession. You know the species: features set in granite, eyes slightly bulging, pencil flying across notebook as if demented! Dare to raise your voice above a whisper or crack a small joke and you will be met with a ferocious glare of hostility and resentment.

Why **do** some people take it all so seriously? I am not for a moment suggesting we should not be serious about checking our facts and getting our research right, but if the time ever comes when it stops being enjoyable, then that surely is the moment you should stop and ask yourself why you are doing it.

The intense approach to genealogy is particularly evident

on some of the Internet mailing lists in which I am active. Just now and then, some of us will let our hair down, have a laugh and post the odd joke or a bit of spoof nonsense. Inevitably, this will be greeted with rebukes from some of the "longhairs" on the list and demands to "stick to genealogy".

Pointing out that the occasional spot of light-hearted relief is no more than the online equivalent of a coffee break in the office has little effect. I was once severely harangued by an American lady – no names, no pack drill, but she's quite famous in Internet genealogy – for posting what I thought was a blindingly obvious parody and spoof to a list. Humour, she sternly informed me, was inappropriate, since there were those who would take my joke seriously. Oddly enough, she was the only one who did.

Which brings me to another point made by Iain Swinnerton. "I'm not very fond of the Internet," he declared, "there's an awful lot of rubbish on it." Readers will know that this is a theme I've constantly harped on myself and, of course, Iain is dead right: there *is* an awful lot of rubbish out there in cyberspace.

However, there is some amazing stuff, too. The Old Bailey website I've featured in this Journal is just one example of hundreds of sites that are transforming access to historical records. Iain would argue, and I would be the first to agree, that there is still nothing like seeing the originals.

But the Internet will steadily bring genealogical data to us in a way we couldn't have dreamed of 10, or even five, years ago. Let's give it a chance, eh? ○

Many online records for family historians to be found in National Archives of Australia



By David Weatherill

THE JOURNAL of One-Name Studies is committed to bringing Guild members articles and information on sources for one-name genealogists wherever they are found – and that means worldwide.

In this article, an Australian member looks at the extensive holdings – many of which can be accessed on the Internet – of the National Archives of Australia, including shipping, immigration and military records.

ONE OF THE more interesting set of records to assist and support family history research are those held by the National Archives of Australia (NAA). The records of Australia's Commonwealth Government that can be accessed through the NAA contain a great deal of information that will provide for researchers details of the past of their ancestors and the social, political and economic environment in which they lived.

The main focus of the NAA collection are records created since the formation of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901. There are also various state 19th century records relating to functions taken over by the Commonwealth from the then colonies, such as shipping, post offices, etc., found in the archives.

It must also be remembered that the NAA not only holds record files; they also have holdings of photographs, posters, maps, films and other material.

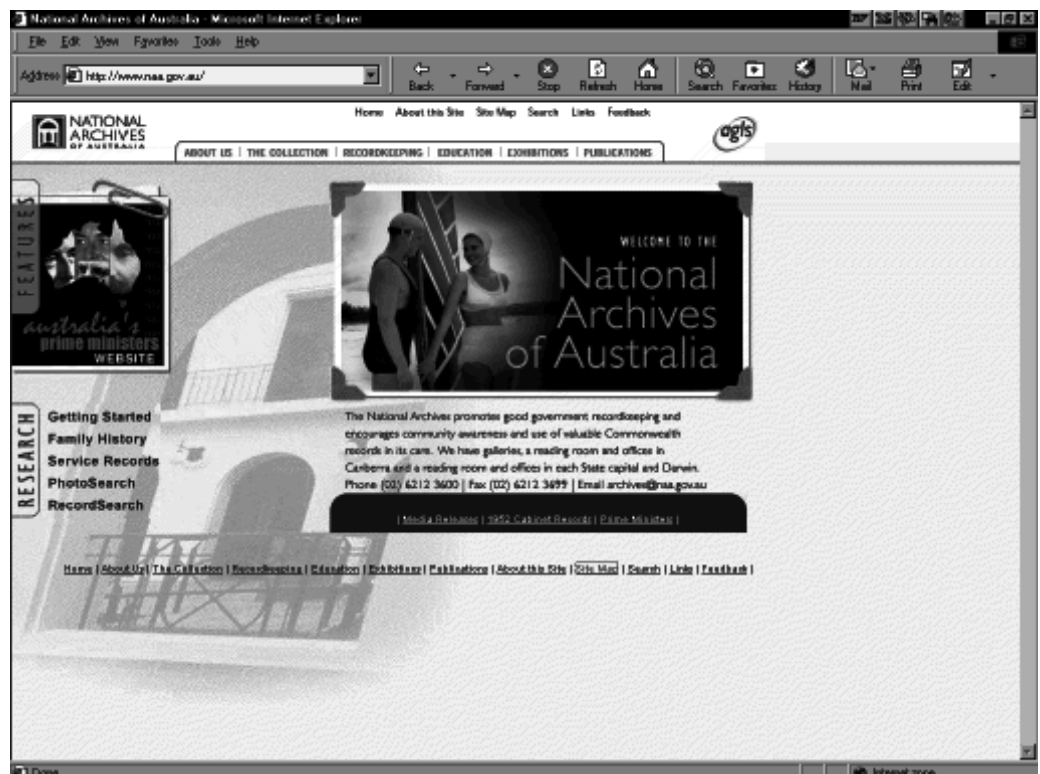
The NAA has offices and repositories

in all Australian states and territories. The Melbourne office has its headquarters in Burwood, where many kilometres of records are housed, with its search centre located at the Melbourne Archives Centre at Casselden Place, 2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. It shares its search room facilities at Casselden Place with the Public Records Office of Victoria.

This shared concept is an excellent one, as it allows researchers to access both state and federal records. Victoria was the first state to experiment with this joint facilities use. Most records, though, are housed in the National Office at Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.

Free publication

The NAA produces a free publication, three times a year, called, *Memento*. This publication can be picked up from any NAA office or you can request to have it mailed to you. While this publication does provide information for all researchers and



THE opening screen of the National Archives of Australia website

interested people, there are many articles of value to family history researchers.

The main part of this article though, will deal with the online search facilities that are available via the Internet through the NAA search engine, RecordSearch.

References

The NAA has produced a number of references. These include the major reference for family historians to both identifying and locating its records. Initially this publication was: *Relations In Records: A guide to family history sources in the Australian Archives*, published in 1988. But this reference was updated by the subsequent *FINDING FAMILIES: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*, published in 1998. This 330-page text provides an excellent overview of the records and holdings, with a brief outline provided on each. For researchers wanting to use the records of the NAA, this would be an excellent starting point.

The NAA has also produced a number of free Fact Sheets. The general ones for family historians are:

- Fact Sheet 201: Tracing Ancestors in the National Archives.
- Fact Sheet 202: Tracing Ancestors beyond the National Archives.

There are also a number of group fact sheets on specific topics, called a Fact Sheet Index, such as:

- Fact Sheet Index: Migration Fact Sheets.
- Fact Sheet Index: Defence Service Fact Sheets.

These Fact Sheets can be obtained from the State Archives Centres or from the NAA website. The NAA has produced over 200 Fact Sheets on its records.

One other set of references are its Research Guides. To date these include:

- Research Guide 1. *Chinese Immigrants and Chinese-Australians in NSW* (1997).
- Research Guide 9. *The Boer War: Australians and the War in South Africa, 1899-1902* (1999).
- Research Guide 11: *Good British Stock: Child and Youth Migration*. (1999).
- Research Guide 12: *Safe Haven: Records of the Jewish Experience in Australia*. (1999).

There are a number of additional guides in the process of being published. These include: *Postwar Migration to Australia, Records held in Melbourne, Microfilm Collections in the National Archives*, etc.

Records

The NAA records include the following:

- Immigration: includes passenger records, immigration and naturalisation records.
- Defence: including Boer War, World War 1 and World War II records on those who served.
- Security and Intelligence: includes registration of aliens, prisoner of war and internees and ASIO.
- Communication: includes post office records.
- Territories: includes records for Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, Norfolk Island

and Papua New Guinea.

- Transport: includes shipping records, lighthouses and aviation.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

A full listing of the records can be found on the web page of the NAA at <http://www.naa.gov.au> or from the various references and state offices.

With regards to passenger records, the NAA holds a full collection for all Australian ports after 1924 in Canberra, but other NAA offices hold the records after 1924 for ports in their own state only.

Following the 2001 Australian census, the NAA will be responsible for the storing and maintenance of the 2001 census records, providing that Australians did tick the box on their census form for their record to be kept and released in 100 years time.

Record search

The quickest way to access the NAA records is via the search engine, RecordSearch. This can be accessed via www.naa.gov.au

You choose RecordSearch from the main menu and can either log in as a guest or register as a researcher, with a username and password. Registering as a researcher will enable you to order records while online. As a guest you cannot do this. I would recommend that you register as a researcher, as the website keeps tracks of your previous searches, plus if you wish to order photocopies or digitised copies of records.

One of the great things that I found with several of the copies of records I ordered and obtained was the photo attached to some. For some shipping records, such as Incoming Passenger cards and Migrant Selection documents, a photo of the person was attached to the actual record.

The NAA is continually adding to RecordSearch more and more references. Currently, just about all of the World War I service records and World War II service records are listed, as well as the Boer War service records and many immigration and naturalisation records. The NAA is also making changes to RecordSearch to enable it to be more user friendly by family historians and researchers. It must also be kept in mind that not all the records of the NAA are found in RecordSearch, but there is a continual program of adding records to the search engine. There are currently several million records as part of the search program.

RecordSearch is unavailable for searching between 2.0 a.m. and 3.30 a.m. Monday to Saturday and from 11.0 p.m. Saturday to 5.0 a.m. Sunday (Australian Eastern Standard Time) each week for routine maintenance.

One of the important changes being undertaken is the digitising of various records and adding the digitised record file to the specific person or record. When you are searching the records on the website, you will see a box labelled "Request Digitized Copy". When you click on this box your request goes

to the NAA central repository. The NAA will then digitally scan the record and add it to the specific record. The main records being digitised at the moment are World War I service records. Currently requests to late July are being completed, but following discussions with the NAA it is envisaged that this process will now be speeded up. There is no cost for these digitised records. It is a free service offered by the NAA. When the digitised copy has been made an "r" appears at the top right hand corner of the record. You can then click on this "r" and the record will be loaded for you to read and print if you so wish.

It should be remembered that you can also order photocopies of the records that are available, but there is a charge for these. World War I service records are only just over \$16.20 (Australian dollars) for a copy of the full record. The World War I and II service records are housed in the Canberra Archives Centre.

You will find contact e-mail addresses, should you wish to seek further information within the website.

30-year closure

The NAA has a 30-year privacy rule and so more and more records become available each year after the expiration of 30 years. Still, certain parts of records can be restricted under the various provisions of the regulations and acts, and the NAA undertakes a review of each record before it is released.

When searching the records held in RecordSearch, help is available via the Help button and a link to "Tips on searching". It is well worth taking the time to use these resources. Advice is provided as to how to limit or narrow your search so that if you were searching to see if your ancestor, Charles Edward Smith, did serve in World War I and there is a record for him you can enter his name in the "Key Words" box and then in the "Dates" box enter 1914–1918. By narrowing the search you can exclude any Charles Smith outside this time period. With some

searches, I have had over 200 records listed for the specific family name and then needed to narrow my search.

Following discussions with the NAA, it was recommended that there be a box on the search page to chose specific records, i.e. Boer War, World War I, naturalisation, etc, for the search to be made a little easier. The NAA is considering this proposal and hopes to have a decision on it by the end of next year. This way a series of "quick pick" subjects could be chosen to assist with any search.

Searching for the records via RecordSearch can be made via a person's name, record type, location of record, reference number of the record if known, etc., plus you can also exclude any search terms that you wish. I undertook a search for the family name of RZEPKA, and RecordSearch identified that there were 11 records for this name. I only entered the name as it was not a frequent surname like Brown, Smith or Jones. The records listed included data on the following:

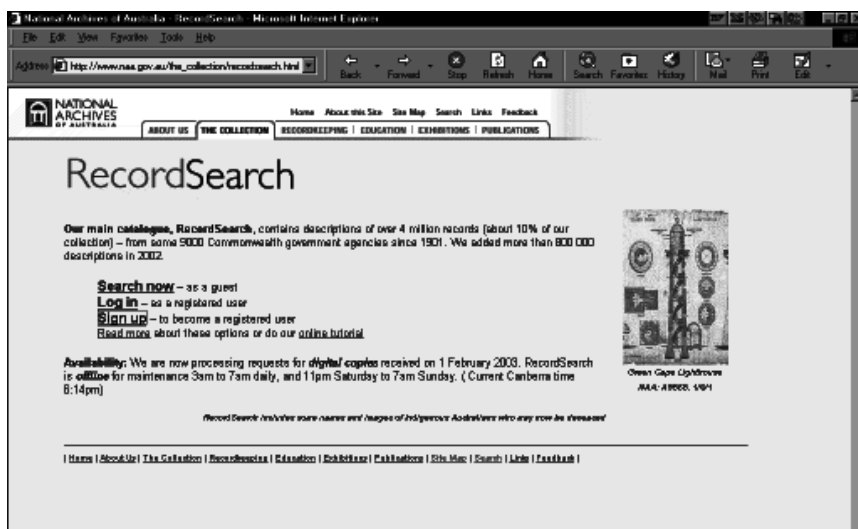
- Kazimierz Rzepka
- F. Rzepka.
- Leon Rzepka (Polish, 2 records – naturalisation, immigration.
- W.H. Rzepka.
- Application for admission of Nusen, Esther and Szyja Rzepka to Australia.
- Pinchos Rzepka – arrival on ship, Anna Salen, August 24 1949.
- Ester Rzepka – Polish, arrived Sydney per Aircraft, December 4, 1954.
- Alice Basile Rzepka – Greek, arrived Fremantle per ship, Oransay, December 14, 1951.
- Michalina Rzepka.
- Zofia Wroblewski (nee Rzepka), Polish, arrived Fremantle per Sydney, May 24, 1960.

I was interested in the records for Leon Rzepka and was able to obtain photocopies of both sets that were listed.

This is an excellent resource for family history research and I would recommend that when using the website for the first time you check out the HELP section and read the Fact Sheets that are available online.

If you have not yet used the National Archives of Australia in your search for information on your ancestors, and relatives who emigrated, I would recommend that you do. You may be surprised with what you find. ○

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THE webpage for RecordSearch to search Australian archives



Tracing slave and slave-owning ancestors in British Caribbean countries

By Guy Grannum

IN Vol 7 Issue 12 (October–December 2002) of the Journal, Malcolm Boyes wrote of the problems of tracing ancestry in slave-owning families when freed slaves took the surnames of their former owners. In this follow-up article, GUY GRANNUM offers some valuable advice to others with similar problems.

READ Malcolm Boyes article and would like to give a response. I have already sent this to Malcolm and thought it might be useful sharing, since many GOONS may well have Caribbean families. Although my response relates to Barbadian families, most of the information is relevant to other British Caribbean countries.

I, too, have been studying my Barbadian family. In fact, my whole Grannum one-name study centres around Barbados because the name originated there in the 1730s as a corruption of Crannum/Cranham. I also specialise in Caribbean family history and I believe I have a good grasp of the complexities of slave and Black Caribbean genealogy, which is slightly different to traditional British studies.

The IGI for Barbados is an excellent resource, though few other British Caribbean countries are included at present. I extracted all Grannum and variants entries and employed a researcher to trawl through the indexes to parish registers. There is over 90% correlation, although I found some in the IGI my researcher didn't find and vice versa. I then checked the entries against the actual registers which have been filmed by the LDS and are available at the Hyde Park Family History Centre in London, or can be ordered from Utah.

One important omission from the IGI – and this is why you should *always* check entries against the original documents – is that it doesn't include the useful information on status, especially for slave and free black families, such as "free black" or "free coloured" or "slave of ...". I also found the double entries in the IGI for Prince, Queen, etc., actually to be single entries.

Barbados was consistent in its definitions for Black (or Negro or African) and Coloured (or mulatto). They rarely used other terms commonly found in other Caribbean countries to denote

degrees of "whiteness" or "blackness". If the register says Black it means of pure African descent, and if it says Coloured it means of mixed parentage. So, if you find someone who is Coloured start looking for a white parent, great-grandparent, etc.

Until the 1790s slaves were rarely permitted to attend church or to be baptised. I have not found any instances of slave marriages until the 1820s, but am happy to be proved wrong. Slaves were baptised earlier but the owners could be threatened with fines or even deportation. From the 1790s, and especially from the 1820s, slave laws were relaxed to permit baptism and, indeed, this was encouraged. However, my examination of the registers does not show many baptisms until after apprenticeship ended in 1838. Then there was an explosion, especially in Nonconformist churches, as adult free blacks were baptised and for the first time could marry – both may have happened on the same day.

When a register shows slave baptisms it will always give the owner, which will help to search for further information in private papers or slave registers (see later). They don't, though, give parents' names even when children were baptised, and when adults were baptised they rarely give the age, just "adult negro of..." or "adult slave of..."

Illegitimacy

Illegitimacy is not a term usually seen in Barbadian parish registers because, unlike in England, the church had no jurisdiction on the morals of the population. The church was limited to appointing clergy and very little else – probate, marriage licences and morals lay in the hands of the governor through the courts, many of who themselves had quite relaxed (hedonistic!) attitudes to morals.

Common-law relationships are the normal type of relationship. An analysis of Caribbean censuses for the 1940s shows that some countries could have up to 70% of children born out of wedlock. Orlando Patterson in his *Psychology of Slavery* uses the term "unstable relationships", whereby a man may have several "wives" and a woman may have several children by possibly different men before settling down. I have not seen any studies into this type of relationship and it may be the result of plantation

slavery whereby fathers were kept separately from their family – or even on different estates – or a matriarchal family structure carried over from West African practices.

The major problem in my study is that I have entries to Grannum births but no corresponding marriage or death, or a Grannum marriage or death but no birth. It seems children born outside legal marriage would be baptised or registered with their mother's name and later take their father's name, who may have been with the children all along. Unfortunately, marriage information only gives the father, and death or burial record neither unless of an infant. So without further information you may never find both parents.

Slave surnames

It is commonly believed freed slaves took the surnames of their former owners. Although this did occur, it was not the only way they could adopt a surname. I haven't been able to link many of the black Grannum people to Grannum slave owners. I have two baptismal entries for slaves with the surname Grannum where the register says that they were from John Thomas Ellis's plantation. He was married to a Grannum and it is possible the slaves were his wife's until marriage, or gifted to them as a wedding present from her father or a sibling. They may have chosen the name in honour of her.

Most slaves in the Barbados slave registers do not have last names, so the question is: when did they take a surname? Was it chosen on freedom, was it one they used but was not used by the owner, or was it given to them by government or church authorities? There are many ways that a slave or former slave could take a surname:

- Former owner.
- Earlier owner.
- Mother's surname.
- Father's surname – this is likely to be the case for the offspring of slave mothers and white fathers, such as the owner, overseer, administrator, etc.
- Forename – many slaves had more than one forename and the second or last forename could be used as a surname.
- Chosen by the slave based on a popular or influential individual or family.
- Given by the church or the state.

People of African Caribbean descent often have imaginative first names and have a much larger pool of names to choose from and will adapt European, American and African names, but on freedom when it came to choosing a surname – especially one to remove the stigma of slavery – they chose ones that were common to the parish or country.

Researchers should look in the Barbados slave registers and papers of the Slave Compensation Commission at the Public Record Office (in series T71). Following the abolition of the slave trade in 1808, Caribbean governments were encouraged to set up slave registries, so the authorities could

monitor illegal imports and exports of slaves. The first registry in Trinidad was set up by order in council in 1812; a second order in 1814 set up the registries in St Lucia and Mauritius. The other Caribbean countries established their own registries from 1817. A few did not start until the 1830s. For slaves to be inherited, sold, purchased or taken on or off the country, the owner had to provide a certificate of registration. The registers run about every three years until 1832 or 1834 when slavery was abolished in the British West Indies. It was not abolished throughout the empire at this time.

The Barbados registers start in 1817, with re-registration in 1820, 1823, 1826, 1829, 1832 and 1834. They are arranged by parish but there are indexes to owners. The first register is the most detailed, with columns for name, sex, colour, age, occupation and where born. The later registers only record increases and decreases for example purchases, sales, grants of freedom (manumission), gifts, bequests, inheritances, births and deaths. They also provide some information on the owners; for example, if the owner is deceased or a minor. They may show family members who received slaves as gifts or inheritances – on marriage, slaves were often given as a dowry or the slaves were transferred from the wife to the husband. For one of my ancestors the slave register provided evidence of a marriage in the absence of a church record.

Unfortunately, in the Barbados registers the slaves are listed by gender and then by age and I have not seen any returns which give family relationships. Other countries have more useful returns. For example, St Lucia and Trinidad have slaves listed in family groupings and describe familial relationships with others in the slave schedule. Jamaican registers are again listed by gender and then age but often give slave name as well as Christian name and familial relationships.

The registers were later used to assess the value of slaves and as evidence of ownership when compensation was issued.

The records of the Slave Compensation Commission are also in T71 and include proceedings and correspondence of the commissioners and assistant commissioners, claims, counter claims, papers relating to registration of slaves born after the last register, or where slaves had not been registered, and exhibits such as sales and sums awarded.

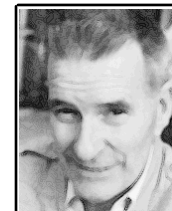
Happy hunting! ○

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- Guy Grannum is the author of *Tracing Your West Indian Ancestors*, published by the Public Record Office.

Your Guild e-mail address alone is worth the subscription

By John Colloff



THIS article is aimed at newcomers to computers who may not yet have availed themselves of the valuable Guild e-mail address facility. Thus, it is deliberately basic in the information it gives.

BY THE time I joined the Guild five years ago I had already had three different e-mail addresses, and in the following boom years for personal computing I have had at least three more. More importantly, in that time numerous Internet companies providing these facilities have been founded, grown and vanished.

Before the advent of the Guild, unless you were very astute each change had the same effect as moving house has on your postal address. Further, because there are no e-mail equivalents to telephone directories, anybody you do not contact after such a change could then be lost forever. So you have to let all your friends know, advise lots of organisations of the change and alter all your personal stationery. Because I publicise only my Guild e-mail address, I have avoided such problems.

For electronic communications your Guild membership gives you the equivalent of an accommodation address. You can get an unchanging e-mail address, which invisibly and seamlessly redirects all such messages to whatever e-mail address you are using and to which you have currently asked the Guild to redirect your messages. This means that for the last five years I have been able to confidently give out an unchanging e-mail address, knowing that as long as I am in the Guild it will be valid.

This, for me, is the item that, almost alone, is worth my subscription to the Guild.

IMHO is a bit of shorthand widely used in computer communications for "In My Humble Opinion", and IMHO I am unable to understand why every member does not use this priceless facility of their own Guild e-mail address. To use it you have to have a working e-mail address as an electronic mailbox for such re-direction, but many people do not realise they do not need to have a computer to have just such an address. There are many companies that willingly provide free personal e-mail accounts in exchange for the small amount of free publicity it can generate for them. All you need is access to a computer connected to the Internet to set it up, and access thereafter whenever you want to check your mailbox. In the UK such access is generally available, again free, at your local public library. Worldwide there are Internet Cafes that provide personal access, as do most hotels, educational establishments and similar places, possibly for a small fee.

From my experience of teaching the elderly to

use computers I have realised that to the beginner the most baffling thing about them is that there are so many different ways to do the simplest things. I will describe the principles of obtaining a free Hotmail address, to which you have to tell the Guild Data Processing Manager to redirect all the e-mails sent to your Guild – **yourname@one-name.org** – address. Note that, again as part of your membership, this is publicised on the Internet and in the Guild Register with details of your one-name study.

From your borrowed or hired computer you log on to **www.hotmail.com** and the screen that appears asks you to sign in if you are a member, or register if not. Elect to register and fill in the personal details requested and be ready to choose your electronic name and password. For the former, bear in mind all the people who have registered before you and try to choose something that is likely to be unique but easily memorable to you.

The same applies to your password, which you have to memorise as it does not appear on the screen when you type it in. Instead, for security, an asterisk appears for each character. On completion of these details, when you press the transmit button, if something is missing or a chosen name is already in use, the screen will ask you to resubmit with the added data. You then have to go round this data input loop again, checking all your details. Eventually they are accepted and a screen appears that seems to make it essential that you pay for this service. Do not be put off, but read on, scrolling down the screen, and you will eventually find an alternative provision that is free. Because they would like you to become a paying customer, you have to read the following screens fairly carefully to find this option.

Select it and the next screens should confirm your new e-mail address. The one problem with Hotmail is that your address must be used at least once every 30 days in order to stay valid. However if you sign up for the Guild forum, you will find, like so many other members, that the discussions and information are so interesting that you will be finding the means to log on at least once a week! Alternatively, with Hotmail, this can be avoided by paying about £20 a year and getting additional facilities.

IMHO my brief description above is not sufficient for a complete beginner to achieve this on their own. However, with the help of a computer literate friend, who will most likely have a preferred alternative to Hotmail, it is easily achieved and you will be able to start using this wonderful Guild facility that, for me, is worth the Guild subscription on its own. ○

I was interested in Roy Stockdill's piece in the last Journal on the entries from the 1901 census for surnames of days of the week and months of the year. I also have a fascination with such census trivia and my reaction was: "How do these figures compare with the 1881 census?"

So out came the 1881 census, which has one advantage in that you can check for first names as well as last. We all know the frustration of searching the 1901 for first names only.

The following table shows the figures you get by searching for days of the week. However you need to bear in mind that with the 1881 census you get all the name groupings that the LDS want to

include, which you don't in the 1901. The figures for 1881 also include some entries for Scotland, which aren't always easy to exclude. Using Excel, however, and a couple of easy exchanges, the true number of people with the surname Monday is 721. There are 3,504 Mondays on the 1881 and one does wonder,

bearing in mind the frequency with which vowels are mistranscribed, as to the correctness of some of these entries. But Roy's figure of 630 for 1901 was on the right lines. Here are my figures for the 1881 census for weekday names:

Day	First	Last
Monday	6	7022
Tuesday	0	6
Wednesday	1	1
Thursday	2	2
Friday	21	498
Saturday	0	9
Sunday	3	27

The Tuesdays provided an interesting entry with someone by the name of Shrove Tuesday, from Africa, serving as a "Seedie" in the Royal Navy on the *Euryalus*. None of the unusual names Roy specifically mentioned can I find in the 1881, but are we really surprised? There is an Air Thursday and at least three families with the surname Saturday. I haven't yet had the time to go to the FRC to check these out, but I will do so one of these days. Among those with first names based on the days of the week there is a Monday Plumber, Friday Eke and a Friday Handslip (wouldn't employ him, would you?) but my favourite is Sunday TA TA, again from Africa.

Month	First	Surname
January	3	76
February	1	0
March	109	3,263
April	6	2
May	18,741	30,756

June	1,436	200
July	85	12
August	0	200
September	0	0
October	1	1
November	0	0
December	2	0

As you will see from the figures in the table for months, it bears out Roy's problem regarding March and May. Mind you, again it isn't made any easier with the LDS grouping of names. The figures for August are almost in line with Roy's, but do include Augustus as a surname. June's surname figure of 200 is mainly Jeune.

In terms of the months as first names – they are much easier to extract from the 1881 – there are no interesting entries: no March Winds or April Showers. However, there does appear to have been a dramatic increase in the number of May Days in 1901. Roy says that there were 110, as opposed to 33 in the 1881 Census, so is that an indication of the problems of a sinking ship with the 1901? I did find 11 May Flower(s) but no May Flies.

There is a July Day and this got me thinking about the seasons of the year. It's not much use looking for them as surnames, Spring and Winter being too common with about 15,000 each, and Summer producing about 1,500 and no Autumns. But there are far fewer with them as first names. For example there are Summer Brooks, Summer Rust, an Autumn Say (one of only two Autumns) and Winter producing the greatest number, including Cook, Day, three Frosts, a Munday (sic), Rose, Snowden (but no Snow!) and White to end with.

The other surname that had interested me from the 1901 was the name INFANT. A quick trawl of the 1881 shows only 3 people with that surname and yet the 1901 has 94 of them. Having checked them all, not one is a correct surname. The vast majority are only days old and have no actual surname yet clear, say son or daughter, in the relationship to the head of the household.

There are, of course, the obvious funnies like the one-month old fishmonger from Exelby or the one-week old from Devenport whose occupation was given as "No name yet"! But looking for Infant as a first name is almost impossible in the 1901. There are over 10,000 in the 1881. Mind, a quick look for those born in London showed an entry for an Infant Hughes, whose occupation was "Boron On Cencus Knight Just Before Midnight", which should read "born on census night just before midnight" and a one-day-old train driver in Hackney. Having looked at the original, it is a true transcript, but the occupation is an arrow to the entry for the person above and the surname is wrong, anyway.

As a parting shot, I just had to mention Patience Felt the Domestic Servant, Blanche Felt the Ladies' Maid, Joseph Felt the Servant and finally Elizabeth Felt the Servant to John Balls! ○

Was your ancestor a criminal, victim or trial witness?

Eighteenth century records of the famous Old Bailey court go online

IN this issue of the Journal we launch a new occasional feature, focusing on a particular Internet website which carries valuable data for those undertaking a one-name study. We begin with a site that made its appearance only very recently, www.oldbaileyonline.org, which is publishing the historic proceedings of Britain's most famous criminal court. So far, the website carries trials from 1714 to 1759. There are some 22,000 cases to be found on it, with many thousands of names of interest to one-namers, and more are due to be added later this year.

JUST BECAUSE you find the name of an ancestor in the 18th century accounts of trials at the Old Bailey, it doesn't necessarily mean, of course, that he or she was a criminal. Many thousands of other names are mentioned in the reports, too, including victims, witnesses, judges, jurors, lawyers and other parties to the trial proceedings – which makes this website fertile ground for those of us involved in one-name studies.

Equally, though, you may just find an ancestor who was sentenced to death, transportation to the colonies or given a punishment like being branded by burning on the hand. First, some historical background...

Between 1670 and 1834 the Proceedings of the Old Bailey – It became known as the Central Criminal court in the latter year – were published as a periodical eight times a year. These records detail 100,000 trials and include over 60,000 pages of text. They represent, say the creators of the website, the largest single source of information about non-elite lives ever published and provide a wealth of detail about everyday life, as well as hugely valuable evidence on the history of crime.

The website currently covers cases from December 1714 to December 1759. Trials from 1760 to 1799

will be available in the late spring of 2003, from 1674 to October 1714 in the autumn, and from 1800 to 1834 in the spring of 2004. The project is a joint collaboration between departments of the Universities of Hertfordshire and Sheffield. Digitisation of the material has been made possible by grants from the New Opportunities Fund and the Arts and Humanities Research Board.

Historic material

As well as transcripts of 22,000 trials between 1714 and 1759, the site currently holds a large amount of fascinating historical material on many aspects of life and crime in 18th century London. This includes background features on such socially significant topics as black people, homosexuality, the Irish, Jews, and gypsies and travellers. Inevitably, there is an academic slant to the website, but it will be of great interest to family and social historians, as well as crime experts.

A particularly useful feature is that with each trial there is a link to a scanned image of the original publication, enabling readers to see how the case was originally reported and how it appeared in print over two centuries ago.

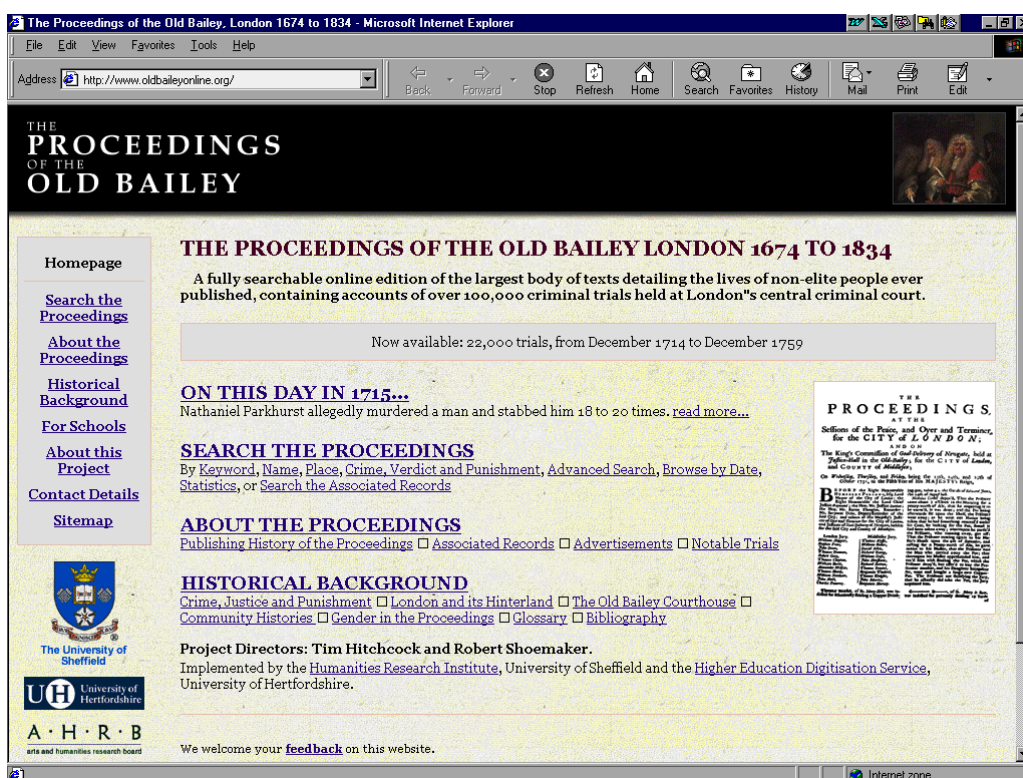
The crimes tried, as reported in the Proceedings, were mostly felonies, predominantly theft, but also included some of the most serious misdemeanours, including murder. The first published collection dates from 1674 and from 1678 accounts of the trials were published regularly each time the sessions met, which was eight times a year. In 1834 the publication's name was

changed, but it continued to appear until 1913.

The trial accounts were targeted initially at a popular audience and were successful commercially – hardly surprising, since it has to be observed that crime has always held a prurient fascination for most people. Accounts of the lives and exploits of notorious criminals were published as ballads, chap-books, and broadsides from the 16th century. These



By **ROY STOCKDILL**



THE opening homepage of the Proceedings of the Old Bailey website

inexpensive publications were designed to entertain – not unlike today’s tabloid newspapers – and reached a wide readership. In the 1670s there was an explosion of crime literature, including criminal biographies and the last dying speeches of executed criminals. Thus, accounts of racy trials were guaranteed a good market.

The first surviving published accounts of trials at the Old Bailey were from the April sessions of 1674. Entitled *News from Newgate: or an exact and true account of the most remarkable tryals of several notorious malefactors...in the Old Baily*, this account, like many early editions of the Proceedings, described only some of the more interesting trials.

In 1679 London’s Court of Aldermen ordered that accounts of proceedings could only be published with the approval of the Lord Mayor and the other justices present. A more or less standard title was adopted: *The Proceedings of the King’s Commission of the Peace and Oyer and Terminer, and Gaol-Delivery of Newgate, held for the City of London and the County of Middlesex, at Justice-Hall, in the Old Bailey*. With minor variations, this remained unchanged for decades.

Salacious

Early editions carried brief summaries of trials and were not comprehensive. However, by the mid-1680s most trials seem to have been reported. Around 1712 the Proceedings began to include some verbatim reports, especially in trials which were thought to be salacious, amusing or otherwise entertaining. By the early 18th century, the Proceedings were an established periodical, read enthusiastically by Londoners seeking news, moral

instruction or entertainment. A French visitor reported in a letter published in 1726, but written up to 30 years earlier, that “the printed accounts...are in the opinion of many people one of the most diverting things a man can read in London.”

Ordinary trials were treated briefly in order to allow more space for the racier crimes, including murders, sexual crimes and thefts from the person, which often involved prostitutes.

By the late 18th century, however, public interest in the lives of criminals was waning. As accounts of what happened at the Old Bailey were reported in increas-

ing detail in the newspapers, the Proceedings came to provide less sexually explicit testimony and the number of trials reported increased significantly. The Proceedings ceased to be commercially viable and in 1787 a subsidy had to be paid by the City of London to ensure continued publication. Earlier, publishers had paid the City for the privilege of publishing the Proceedings.

Having dealt with some of the historical background, we turn now to what the family historian and one-namer can expect to find in these accounts.

Firstly, there is an excellent search engine that makes navigating one’s way around the site a doddle. The opening homepage offers links that take you to much background material, both historical and technical. However, most visitors, I imagine, will go straight to the “Search the Proceedings” link and start looking for specific names. You are presented with the following options...

- Keyword Search
- Name Search
- Place Search
- Crime, Verdict and Punishment Search
- Browse by Date
- Advanced Search
- Statistical Search
- Search the Associated Records

Entering my own surname, STOCKDILL, produced no results. However, entering STOCKDALE, one of my Guild-registered names, scored nine hits. Two of these – and by far the most interesting case – concerned one John Stockdale, a youth of about 18 originally from Leicester, who was convicted in July 1753, along with another man, with highway robbery and the murder of a postman at Enfield Chace

in Middlesex. Both were sentenced to hang.

I was able to download a transcribed account of the trial, running to some 6,500 words, giving chapter and verse on the entire affair, including witnesses who testified to the previous good character of John Stockdale – not that it saved him from the hangman's noose.

A bonus

However, then came a real bonus. By clicking on the "Search the Associated Records" link I discovered that there are apparently two documents in existence about the case, one a pamphlet in a bound volume in the Senate House Library, University of London, called *The genuine lives of Christopher Johnson, John Stockdale, and William Peers, executed for murder, July 23, 1753*. The other is in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and is also a pamphlet in a bound volume, entitled *John Taylor, The Ordinary of Newgate's account of the behaviour, confession, and dying words, of the three malefactors, who were executed at Tyburn on Monday the twenty-third of June 1753*.

Continuing my trawl, I looked at other Stockdales my search had thrown up. These included...

- Eleanor Stockdale of Clerkenwell, sentenced to be transported in 1720 for stealing a shirt, shift and handkerchief.

- Robert Stockdale, a Whitechapel innkeeper who in 1756 accused a man of stealing a pepper box worth 1s. 6d. from his pub, but the defendant was acquitted.

- Three Stockdales who appeared as witnesses in robbery and theft cases.

Using wildcards, an underscore (representing one

character) and the percentage sign % (representing multi-characters), I also found a Daniel STOGDALE, a pickpocket who was sentenced to transportation in 1740 for stealing a handkerchief; a pawnbroker Henry STOCKDELL who was a witness in two cases in the 1750s; and an Elizabeth STOCKDEL, a shop-keeper who was the victim of theft in 1722.

Speaking as one who is definitely *not* an expert user of search engines and wildcards, I found the site very easy to navigate, with clear and helpful instructions. However, others more knowledgeable than I may find flaws in it. If you do, there is provision for feedback to the website creators.

Place-surname confusion

One thing I did find was that when doing a place search on a place which is also a common surname, you can come up with a large number of entries containing one or the other. For instance, entering Bradford – my birthplace in Yorkshire – in the place search box produced only 36 entries for people with the surname! However, clicking then on the "List of places" link, I discovered Bradford was not listed as one of the places mentioned in the accounts at all. The same problem applied to other common place and surnames, such as York and London. Perhaps there is a method of separating out places from surnames, but if there is I didn't discover it.

Another intriguing feature of this website includes the facility to do a statistical search – say, for crimes of a particular type or categories of punishment – and then construct a pie or bar chart or table with the results, which is obviously of substantial value to crime and social historians.

There are also useful instructions for tracking down members of a particular community in the records, such as black people, Irish, Jews, gypsies and travellers, and homosexuals, all accompanied by interesting background accounts of the history of these groups in 18th century London.

All in all, then, this is an outstanding website and one which should provide endless fascination, as well as much useful material for one-namers. ○

- My thanks are due to the directors of the project, Professor Tim Hitchcock and Dr Robert Shoemaker, for permission to use material and screen dumps from the website in this article.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing a search query. The page title is "THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE OLD BAILEY". The main content area displays "SEARCH RESULTS" for "The Proceedings of the Old Bailey". It indicates that the search was for people with a surname containing the text string "Stockdale". Five results are listed, each with a brief description of the case and a link to the full record.

Result Number	Case Description
1.	John Stockdale, defendant, theft with violence: highway robbery, killing; murder, 18 Jul 1753.
2.	John Stockdale, appears in Punishment summary from Old Bailey Proceedings: Sir Crisp Gascoyne, Session VI, Wednesday 18th July 1753, Parts I-II, 199-238
3.	John Stockdale, defendant, in Old Bailey Proceedings: Sir Crisp Gascoyne, Session VII, Thursday 6th September 1753, Parts I-II, 239-276
4.	Thomas Stockdale, appears in trial of Charles Fleming, theft with violence: highway robbery, 11 Sep 1754.
5.	Henry Stockdale, appears in trial of Mary Carr, theft: specified place, 22 Oct 1755.

Results of a search for the surname STOCKDALE

update

Your guide to what's new
in the Guild world

Worcestershire Seminar is voted a rousing success for new formula

THERE WERE those who, it has to be said, had their doubts...well, perhaps not so much doubts as slight concerns! Would the new, upmarket formula for a Guild seminar of a venue in a nice country hotel, with a buffet lunch and top speakers, bring in sufficient numbers to justify the hike in price to double the normal charge?

Moving away from the traditional village or church hall atmosphere, with the usual bring-your-own-sandwiches lunch and tea or coffee brewed in the kitchen, was an experiment that could have flopped. That the Worcestershire Seminar *didn't* flop – but was voted by all who attended it a resounding success – was due in no small part to the sterling efforts of organiser Roy Rayment, Chairman of the Seminars Subcommittee. However, it was principally a tribute to the all-star team of speakers that Roy had lined up.

Around 60 Guild members, relatives and friends flocked to the Hundred House Hotel at Great Witley, in the charming Worcestershire countryside, on Saturday, March 1 for the seminar. A number had stayed the previous night at the hotel, enjoying a convivial social evening.

After registration and tea or coffee, Roy Rayment introduced the first speaker: one of the Guild's founding members, Col



Col Iain Swinnerton – "If it isn't fun, it isn't worth doing."

Iain Swinnerton. In a mostly light-hearted talk entitled *Fifty Years A Genealogist*, Iain looked back over half a century of research. He told how his mother died when he was only three and he learned his family history from his grandfather. The first book he ever read on the subject was Leslie Pine's *Trace Your Ancestors*.

He spoke of researching at Somerset House, "when the next nearest person was many yards away and it was mostly lawyers," and admitted he made many mistakes "because there was nobody to tell me how to do it."

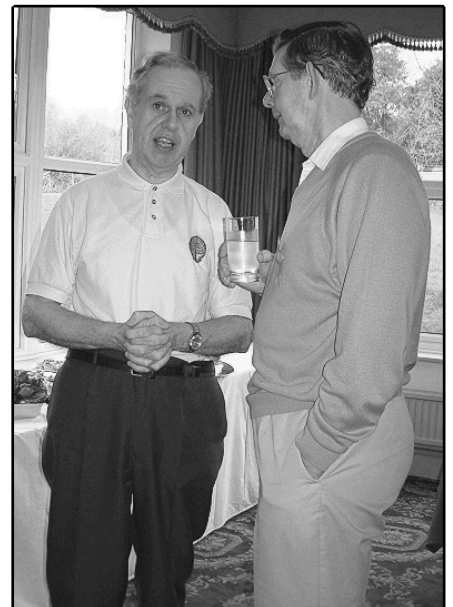
Iain recounted tales of examining parish registers when they were still with the incumbent and recalled being locked in a freezing cold vestry for two hours, "absolutely bursting!"

In the days when Iain began in genealogy, there were no family history societies except the Society of Genealogists. He was a moving spirit in the founding of the Federation of Family History Societies and chaired the very first meeting at which the Guild was formed, also serving as first editor of the Journal.

Internet rubbish

He told how he still had his first card index and added that, though he now uses a computer, he was not a great believer in the Internet. "There is an awful lot of rubbish on it," he declared.

"It was always a great thrill to me to find an original docu-



Seminar organiser Roy Rayment (left) and Michael Bunting

ment," Iain said, "with an ancestor's actual handwriting. It's not the same seeing it on computer."

However, he added: "Attitudes have changed a lot and there is no point in being dog in the manger about it." His closing



Pauline Litton

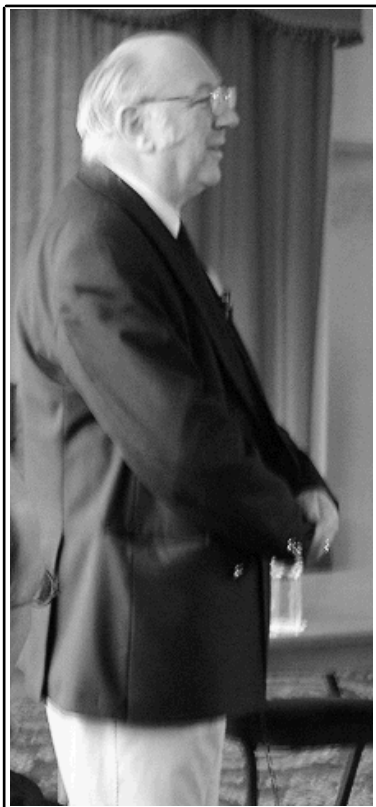
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message: "I have enjoyed my 50 years and I hope to go on enjoying it. However, it has to be fun, and if it isn't fun, it isn't worth doing. Don't get too serious about it."

Next speaker was Pauline Litton, well-known *Family Tree Magazine* columnist and doyenne of Yorkshire genealogists, also a



Derek Palgrave

long-standing Guild member.

Pauline's talk was called *Fact, Fiction and a Foundling* and focused on her long search for the origins of Thomas Ethell, born in the 1750s and whom family folklore had it was an illegitimate son of George III and

Hannah Lightfoot. Pauline kept the audience intrigued with her account of a fascinating detective-style chase, involving a branch of the London Foundling Hospital at Ackworth, Yorkshire, until she eventually found Thomas Ethell's birth in 1759 in Shropshire – as a Smith!

Excel demo

Lunch was an excellent buffet, enjoyed by all. During the break, the Guild Bookstall was available for seminar delegates to browse and buy books and computer software. Also during the lunch break, there was an addition to the programme when Polly Rubery gave a presentation of drawing family trees with Excel.

First speaker after lunch was Committee member Jeanne Bunting, who spoke on *What Happens When I Die?* This is a topic that has occupied the minds of many family historians, with the question uppermost being: What should I do with my research?

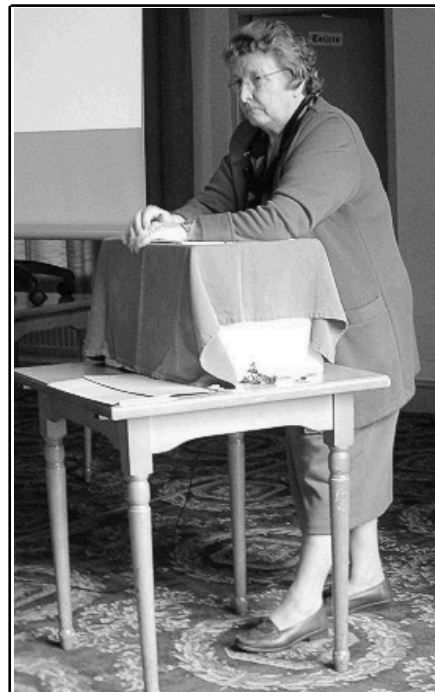
Jeanne spoke of the importance of documenting your sources and said you should ask yourself the question: Would anyone else picking up your notes understand them?

She emphasised that you should index everything – notebooks, notes, references, etc., mark all your research clearly and list your sources for relationships.

As a final point, Jeanne mentioned the importance of leaving your research in a form and on media that would endure.

Final speaker of the day was

the Guild's President, and another founding member, Derek Palgrave, whose talk was called *A One-Name Study Before Computers*. Derek's research, like Iain Swinnerton's, goes back to the early days of family history, and he spoke of finding Palgrave family memorials, writing countless



Jeanne Bunting

letters to possible contacts, knocking on doors and introducing himself to new-found relatives, and avidly collecting newspaper cuttings and family ephemera.

The final session of an enthralling day saw all four speakers answer questions from the audience in a free-for-all debate.

Overall impressions of the seminar? Well-organised, entertaining, informative and a resounding success, as mentioned earlier. However, there is one final, somewhat ironic point that has to be made.

Roy Rayment pointed out: "We organised this event particularly as a seminar for non-computer users, in response to requests from members who complained there was too much emphasis on computers. Every single person who attended had an e-mail address!" ○



All the speakers gather together for a question-and-answer session

ROY STOCKDILL

Good news on credit cards – the £1 fee will no longer apply

Treasurer's Notes By Sandra Turner



I have a piece of good news for those members who like to use credit cards. From April 1 2003 we will no longer be charging £1 fee.

This of course did only ever apply when the cardholder was not present, but at least you will know that in future you can pay your annual subscription to the Guild without incurring any additional charge.

As you will have read in the last Journal, the Committee closed the 1881 Book project. All the money paid as advance orders has now been returned to those who ordered the book. Geoff Riggs does still intend to continue with the book himself, but it is no longer a Guild project.

Conference

The time for our 2003 AGM and Guild Conference is now fast approaching. This year I have been one of a small team helping with the organisation of the Conference, and I am sure it will be an enjoyable event.

If when you read this you realise that you have forgotten to book, do contact us as we may be able to find a place for one or two more. Details did go out with the last Journal and you can download the full information, including a booking form, from our website www.one-name.org.

Gift Aid

Thank you, again, to all who have signed a Gift Aid form. This does enable us to reclaim any UK tax that you have paid, and does help to keep the subscription down, and any money received from this and donations (for which I also thank some of you) is not counted towards our VAT

threshold. That is one thing I have to monitor closely, as by law we need to register when we reach the threshold with our income.

During the last year a number of our members have died, and again I have to remind you (as I did last year) that this is something that we all need to plan for.

Hopefully someone will take over your research, but do try to leave things so others can understand your work and take over easily knowing all the sources of your information. Do leave clear instructions regarding any standing orders you have. I have had to send refunds of standing orders to two widows of past members this year, and ask them to stop the standing orders, and this is now several months after the members' death.

It is good so many of you now have standing orders, as this saves us sending out reminders, but do please remember that we cannot change or stop your standing order – that is something that you have to do with your bank.

Volunteers wanted

The Guild does need more volunteers to help in many ways. I so often hear of members asking: "Why doesn't the Committee do x y or z for the members?"

I have now been on the Committee for three years and I will say that the members of the Committee are all volunteers and spend many hours working hard on behalf of the members, but there is only so much time that they can give.

The Committee have ideas and are also aware of ideas from the

membership but these cannot be carried out unless others come forward and volunteer. Please give this some thought! You may not want to join the Committee yourself, but have you got some spare time? Is there some way you can help? If you think the Guild should be doing something, please remember that YOU are part of the Guild. If you are willing to help, please contact any member of the Committee (contact details are inside the cover of the Journal).

Come to Edinburgh

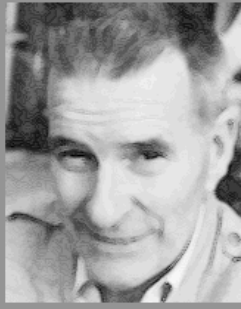
As you will see from the flyer with this Journal, we will be holding a Seminar in Edinburgh on June 1 this year. We do not have many members in Scotland, so I do hope some will travel to this event. It may seem quite a distance for some to go for just one day, but why not take the opportunity of spending a little time in Scotland?

Have you checked your BMDs in Edinburgh? If not, why not spend a day in the record office there? It is a good time of year to spend in Scotland and there are lots of places to visit in Edinburgh, but why not travel further? If you have other interests, why not combine them: bird-watching, walking, golf, etc.? There is also an annular eclipse the weekend before and I understand there is also whisky to taste! I do hope you will consider making this trip, with the Guild Seminar the catalyst that gets you to Scotland.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the Annual Conference and AGM, and the other seminars throughout the year. ○

Librarian's Notes

By John Colloff



Handing over with gratitude for what I have learned as Guild Librarian

As I have stated before, I will no longer be a Committee member or Librarian after the AGM in April and am busy packing the library material ready for transportation to my successor in that post.

As I do this, and see the material that has passed through my hands, I realise how much I have gained from my experiences in both posts.

In particular, had I not seen the flow into the library of other members' ONS newsletters, I would not have started (and completed volume one of six issues, last year, no less!) my own ONS

newsletter "Colloff Cousins". I would not have dared to apply to the British Library for my ISSN for it, and those issues would not now be saved for posterity in their archives.

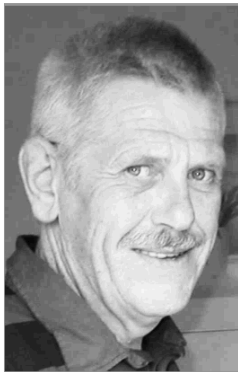
The returns from the effort of issuing my newsletter have been amazing. People who were just names in a file are now firm friends, with whom we make and return visits throughout the year. In between I am sent family news from all over.

I am proud and delighted at the success of my newsletter and hope at last to have time to get my web pages, that have been in abeyance for the last three years,

up and running. I anticipate even greater returns then, as I hope that they will also give details of, and access to, my newsletters and many other family members.

I understand from our chairman, Ken Toll, that so far the position of Librarian is vacant. For anyone hesitating about offering their services, I would recommend their giving it a try. I am sure that they will find it as rewarding as I have.

Finally, for the time being, keep sending your newsletters to me, and I will ensure that they are forwarded until the details of the next Librarian are published in this Journal. ○



Registrar's Notes By Roger Goacher

study for more than 20 years.

With this Journal you will find the 2003 Guild Register. This is based on the Guild database that holds information on all members and their interests. This database is also used to keep the information on the Guild website

up-to-date.

Please check the entries that relate to yourself very carefully. Although we try very hard to ensure errors don't creep in, inevitable we don't always succeed.

Errors

If you do find errors or omissions please let us know. You can either contact me personally – details are on the inside front cover of this Journal – or, if the error relates to your personal details, you can use the change

form in the Members' Room on the Guild website. Errors in any name registration details should be sent to me – they cannot be corrected through the change form.

If you use a computer, do we have your current "real" e-mail address, which underlies your guild alias? Members often fail to inform us when they change their ISP.

This means that whenever we send out large numbers of mail messages to members, as we have done several times in the last few months, we always get some that cannot be delivered.

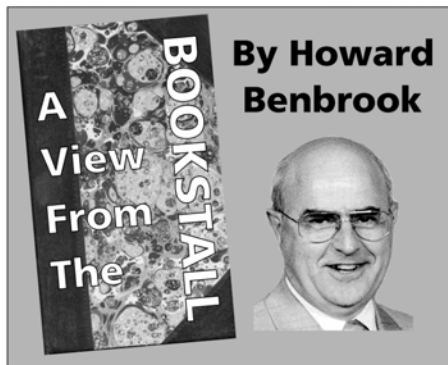
It also means that people trying to contact you using your Guild alias also get a bounced message.

If you have any doubts as to whether we have your current e-mail address, send yourself a test message at your Guild alias. If you get a "cannot be delivered" message, then we haven't! ○

Your new Registrar

NOW that I have taken over from Ken Toll as Guild Registrar, you might want to know a little about me.

I trained as an accountant and worked for more than 30 years in the public service. I took early retirement six years ago from my last post as Director of Office Services at the National Audit Office. I now have time to pursue my hobbies, including genealogy. I have been researching my own family history and my one-name



Life with the big blue boxes!

THIS IS the first in what I hope will be a regular feature where I let you know some of the items we have on the Bookstall, plus some anecdotes about Life With The Big Blue Boxes as I travel to the fairs and open days around the UK, representing the Guild. I shall aim to make it interesting and informative, but if there's anything you'd like to see in a forthcoming article, let me know.

You may not be aware of the range of stock we now carry on the Bookstall. I counted over 120 items – and it's not just books, of course. We have census vouchers, software, data CDs, and Guild merchandise (ties, key rings, badges, pencils, etc.) as well. No wonder my spare bedroom looks a mess! The range of books covers not only those of interest to the one-namer, but also items for the first-timer, since I need to carry stock to appeal to the people who usually come to the fairs.

Surname Atlas

The big hit of recent months has been *Surname Atlas*. This is a soon-to-be-released product from Steve Archer, the programmer behind *GenMap UK* and *LDS Companion*. Steve's been talking to me about this for months and he's been kind enough to let me play with it. Imagine a combination of the clever graphics behind *GenMap* and the data from the 1881 census CDs, and you'll get the idea. The software enables you to type in any surname and, at a click of the mouse, show its

distribution in the UK in 1881. With a few more clicks you can print a nice colour map.

Steve has allowed me to use it to print maps at £1 per surname on the Bookstall and this has proved a major attraction, with queues forming in the aisles! The software is easy to use and I suspect it will be very popular. I will let you all know when it is released. If you're interested in placing an advance order, (the price will be in the range £8-£12), then please get in touch with me.

Archive CD Books

Another new line I feel sure will be popular is a selection from Rod Neep's Archive CD Books. Following some interest on the Guild Forum, I approached Rod to be able to sell some of his range. The titles I selected, with their prices to members, are as follows:

- Return of Owners of Land (England), £10.40.
- Return of Owners of Land (Wales), £10.40.
- Cassell's Gazetteer of Great Britain, £26.50.
- London Marriage Licences 1521-1869, £8.00.
- Faculty Office Marriages 1543-1869, £10.40.
- Vicar General Marriage Licences 1660-1694 (4 vols) £15.90.
- Universal British Directory 1791, £27.90.

These titles are my first tentative pass at what may interest you. If you'd like to see other CDs, let me know, and if enough of you are interested I'm sure I can offer an attractive price. Take a look at Rod's catalogue on www.archivecdbooks.co.uk and let me know what strikes your fancy.

1901 vouchers

You remember that 10% discount you get for census vouchers? The one where you dig deep for £50 worth and you get 10% off? Well, no more! Now you can order any amount and, as a Guild member, you can have that 10% discount. You'll find the new order form in the Members' Room on the Guild website.

Where we've been

Let's see – which of the towns we've been to gets the prize for architecture? Could it be Bracknell (Roundabout City)? Crawley (Gateway to Gatwick)? Grays Thurrock (Container Port)? No – it must be...ah yes, Bath. Oh, The glory of those Nash Terraces! It's an extraordinary town, seemingly frozen in an era when Britain had colonies in America and with reflections still further back to yet another empire. Well, the buildings in the town may be impressive, but the hall where the Bath Family History Fair was run would win no prizes for architecture, I can tell you, and as for the car parking charges...!

Where we're going

By the time you read this, we'll have been to the Worcestershire Seminar. I'm told there are over 50 people expected. Interesting, as the Guild is trying a new formula with this one – a higher price, but lunch included. It's also being held in a hotel. I wonder how many will stay over and take advantage of the opportunity to explore the Malvern Hills?

After that seminar, we'll be at the family history fairs in Watford and Kidlington, Oxfordshire, and the Cambridgeshire FHS Fair at Impington, and then the big one will be the Guild's AGM/Conference.

Before I end, I must thank my recent volunteers, Roy Rayment, Ken Toll, Sandra Turner, Barbara Harvey and Ken Grubb, who have all helped out in recent months. If you have a couple of hours to spare one weekend and the Bookstall is coming near you, why not come along and help? You get to meet a lot of people, all of them interested in genealogy, and it can be great fun, too!

I hope by the time you read this, there will be new pages in the Members' Room on the Guild website, with an up-to-date list of all the items we have on the Bookstall. If you have any queries on any of the things on offer, please e-mail me at guild.bookstall@one-name.org. ○

Scottish Regional Seminar takes Guild to Edinburgh

By Roy Rayment

THE SCOTTISH REGIONAL SEMINAR will be held at St John the Evangelist Church Hall, Princes Street, Edinburgh, on Saturday, June 7. You will find an application form with this issue of the Journal.

The talks will be:

- *The Amen Glass* by Dorothy Spottiswoode.
- *Continuation Of Surnames Through The Female Line* by Leslie Hodgson.
- *Scottish Testaments* by Hazel Anderson, of the Scottish Archive Network.
- *The Problems With The Napier Clan* by Charles Napier.

The Scottish Archive Network, commonly known as SCAN, supply Internet access to the Written History of Scotland and are currently digitising Scottish Wills. They have a website at: www.scan.org.uk

The following notes appear on the booking form for the venue:

"St John's is one of architect William Burn's finest early 19th century buildings and it has, for the past 12 years, been an award winning Fringe Venue as part of the Edinburgh International Festival. It is, however, best known for its eminent position in the heart of Edinburgh's West End and for having one of the finest collections of stained glass in the country. Its bustling Princes Street location, featuring Edinburgh Castle as a backdrop, together with the Edinburgh International Conference and Financial Centres just a stone's throw away, provide St John's with an appealing setting for a Guild seminar."

During the lunch recess there will be various displays and bookstalls for delegates to browse, including the Guild Bookstall, where 1901 census vouchers will be on sale. Members are reminded that the usual discount will apply to the purchase of computer software. It is recommended delegates provide their own refreshments, so that informal discussions – often a most enjoyable part of the day – may continue through the lunch period. Complimentary hot drinks and biscuits will be included in the £7 enrolment fee.

All Guild members, together with family historians and genealogists having an interest in the programme, are welcome to attend. Those wishing to learn more about one-name studies will find it an enjoyable and worthwhile day. Details are also available on the Guild's website at www.one-name.org/sems/html and further information can be obtained by e-mail from edinburgh.seminar@one-name.org or by phoning 07956 271886. ○

Epsom Internet Seminar

THE Epsom Internet Seminar on October 25 2003 will be another departure from our normal format. We will have access to two IT suites, each with 25 networked computers, and will be able to provide supervised hands-on experience of the Internet. The seminar will cater for both beginners and the more experienced user and will open with a general Internet lecture. This will be followed by three sessions, comprising a lecture on producing a website and two practical sessions. Delegates will attend all three sessions during the day. Numbers will, therefore, be limited to 75. Booking forms will be in the July Journal and will not be accepted before the Journal has been sent out. It promises to be an interesting day. ○

MARY RUMSEY

AS THE Journal was about to go to press, we learned the sad news that Mary Rumsey had passed away in hospital in Honiton, Devon, at the end of February. She had been in failing health for some time.

Mary Rumsey (Member 796) was a very long-standing and distinguished member of the Guild, who served on the Committee for many years and also as Editor of the Journal of



One-Name Studies. Latterly, she had been one of the Guild's Vice-Presidents.

There were two church services, one in Honiton and another at Alton, Hampshire, where Mary had lived for many years. The Guild was represented at the second service by President Derek Palgrave and Treasurer Sandra Turner.

Mary, who had a BA degree, joined the Guild in its early days and became Editor of the Journal until handing over the reins in 1999. She then served as Vice-Chairman for two years until ill health forced her retirement. She was then elected a Vice-President at the Annual General Meeting in 2001. She was presented with a framed certificate in recognition of her long service to the Guild.

There will be a fuller obituary and tribute in the July issue of the Journal. ○

Beware the early morning knock on the door from the Goons Heavy Squad!

By John Colloff

IN MY final year as Librarian, I feel I must reveal what really goes on at the highest levels of the Guild. These truths nearly leaked out some time ago when a tenacious members caused a stir by objecting to the elitism rampant among Guild officers, who were frequently to be seen enjoying a luxurious life style.

This was only brought to the attention of the general membership on the cover of the July 2001 issue of the Journal, which showed the Chairman and Editor in white dinner jackets enjoying one of their frequent nights out. Cleverly, the Editor fabricated a good cover story about the Journal winning some award or other, but lurking suspicions remain.

My first experience on being elected to the Committee was to be invited to the sumptuous bi-monthly banquets discretely held in an upstairs room of a pub near the Family Records Centre. There I learnt to cope with the many delicious dishes and cases of red wine that flowed freely at the behest of the Chairman.

Here, I must express my admiration for the Secretary who arranges these extravaganzas, then fabricates his smoke screen minutes that give the impression of such hard-working meetings.

But there is far, far more – for instance, the secret enforcement departments you only learn about when you fail to meet one of the Guild rules.

This starts with the Goons' Secret Police, with its two branches which investigate members' claims of work done in their one-name studies. There is the Burglary Branch (known as the BBs) who stealthily break and enter unwitting members' homes and rifle through their papers to

ensure they really have completed their requisite quota of births, marriages and deaths and issued the right number of newsletters. Make no mistake, they soon find who has been making exaggerated claims and report back to the Disciplinary Committee. That is, unless the member is able to silence the BBs with bribes, a proportion of which go to swell the Committee's funds for their nights out.

Then there is the Social Branch (the SBs) who meet members at seminars and family history fairs. They chat to unsuspecting victims and secretly note all the exaggerated claims made with respect to their studies, for later investigation by the BBs.

Punishment

The further back a descent is falsely claimed, the harsher the punishment. Soon we hope to nail the rogue who falsely claims descent from a 1066 invader. Then we will be able to have a gala banquet on his fines.

Transgressions are reported to the Committee and the Registrar arranges for one of our colourful Dismissal Ceremonies. The member's formal drumming out of the Guild concludes with the confiscation of all files and electronic appurtenances (computer, mobile phone, etc.) and him or her being showered with the confetti of their shredded family tree.

Sometimes, the investigations of the BBs and SBs trigger action by the Goons Heavy Squad (GHS). These are the muscular gentlemen who are sent round to "encourage" slow and reluctant members to make more visits to record offices and other depositories and also to investigate spurious claims of one-name society membership. The GHS are

also open to bribery, turning a blind eye to blatant feet-dragging by a member with his or her research. The usual excuse given by laggards is lack of time, and the GHS swells the coffers even further by selling extra time for work on studies to be continued, almost indefinitely.

Woe betide members who fail to realise this is the best way out of their difficulties. The GHS enjoy a really hard nut to crack and are quick to invoke the computer confiscation rule when records have not been kept in good electronic order. The better the computer the more likely it is to be confiscated, so that the Chairman can always be supplied with an up-to-date machine.

Opinions differ as to whether it is best to confiscate a computer or enforce its exchange for one of the Committee member's discs. Certain Committee members have an amazing knack of imbuing their computers with mysterious faults that are seemingly impossible to resolve. It is now the practice to exchange these faulty machines with the newest ones confiscated. This leaves the delinquent member with a machine that will let him nearly complete all his records, then lose them all overnight so that the work has to be started all over again.

It is believed this scheme occurred to one of the Committee when he found one of his forebears had spent two years' penal servitude on a treadmill. This seemed to him to be the nearest modern equivalent of a repetitive pointless task as punishment.

I know this will be a sorry tale for the membership to read but I do feel you should know about the revels, investigations and punishments that go on behind that mask of a hard-working Committee and a friendly, well-regulated Guild. Please make sure you do not fall foul of the SBs or BBs, or invoke a visit from the GHS! ○

• *This is, of course, the April issue of the Journal – Editor.*



Your views on issues in the one-name world

Traps for the unwary in using the 1901 census

I AM doing a one-name study of the Brewis family name and currently have a database of about 20,000 people. Brewis is my maiden name and stems from Northumberland in the 16th Century and possibly Scotland before that.

It is not a very common name and is quite manageable, unlike the Smiths for instance. Because I live in Australia and have limited access to source documents and data, I was looking forward to online access to the 1901 census. I was hoping it would prove as useful as my CD-ROM version of the 1881 census is.

Consequently, I was disappointed when online access "fell over" in January 2002 before I even managed to log on. However, late last year access finally was obtained. What follows is a brief description of my experiences so that others may benefit.

Strategy

Before retirement I was a librarian and so I planned my search strategy before connecting. In order to accommodate the restrictions on the time for a search query imposed by the system, I divided the search geographically. First I looked for all instances of Brew* (using the wildcard) with keyword "Durham". This would capture people born in or living in Durham. This search timed out, so I modified it to all Male Brew* with keyword "Durham", which produced 164 names. I then repeated this process for female Brewis and then each gender with keyword Northumberland,

and ended up with 520 people.

I then did searches on the common variants Bruis and Brewes etc., and after eliminating duplicates found another 220 people, giving a total figure of 740.

For comparison purposes, I converted the search results into tables in a word processor and used the cut, paste and sort tools to identify and eliminate duplicates.

Missing

This you would think would cover everyone. Wrong! In doing the data entry for these records it became obvious that some people were missing from family groups. Living away from home? Perhaps, but surely not young babies? So I did some supplementary searching on specific names and found some missing people.

This encouraged me to try a comparative search strategy as follows...

I searched separately for all Brew* entries, combined with each known given name in turn, and gathered 601 people (less than previously) but of which 160 were new. I then searched by census location for each of the individual locations identified in the original search. This produced 983 people (more than originally) of which 243 were new. I have ended up with a total of 1240 people.

Most of these "new" people do not have anything in their record to account for them being omitted from other searches. From this I have concluded that there is either a flaw in the search software, in the way that it accepts or rejects matches, or

that some records are not searchable on all fields. Either way, these are serious limitations for a publicly funded system, especially after such a long wait for access. What it means is that you may not find what you are looking for, even though all the data in the record is correct, unless you persist with a variety of search strategies.

To close on a more positive note, and give credit where due, I have been able to place in location another 1240 Brewis people, in a very short period of time, without even leaving home.

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A curious error on the 1851 census CD

ONE family in Great Yarmouth are shown on the 1851 census CD-ROM [the 3-counties disc] as Ann and Henry JOOLEY OR TOOLEY. Looking at a microfilm of the census (HO/107/1806 Folio 333, Page 3), it is easy to understand why two surnames are suggested.

Both Ann and Henry are indexed as JOOLEY OR TOOLEY and TOOLEY OR JOOLEY, which helps in finding the household in which they live. If you search for the household using either of them and JOOLEY OR TOOLEY, then this produces a household of just the two people.

But using TOOLEY OR JOOLEY there are three people. The TOOLEYs have a 16-year-old servant Eliza DURRANT, whereas the JOOLEYs do not.

If you search on either of the JOOLEYs you get the following...

- Henry JOOLEY OR TOOLEY, head, married, age 50, male, occupation Serjeant At Mace, birthplace Yarmouth-Nfk.

- Ann JOOLEY OR TOOLEY, wife, married, age 48, female, [no occupation given], birthplace Yarmouth-Nfk.

- Address: Gaol Street, Yarmouth; Census Place: Great Yarmouth, Yarmouth, Norfolk; PRO Reference: HO/107/1806 Folio: 333; Page: 3; FHL Film: 0207457.

However, If you search on either of the TOOLEYs you get...

- Henry TOOLEY OR JOOLEY, head, married, age 50, male, occupation Serjeant At Mace, birthplace Yarmouth-Nfk.

- Ann TOOLEY OR JOOLEY, wife, married, age 48, female [no occupation], birthplace Yarmouth-Nfk.

- Eliza DURRANT, serv, unmarried, age 16, female, occupation servant, birthplace Gorlestone-Suf.

- Address: Gaol Street, Yarmouth; Census Place: Great Yarmouth, Yarmouth, Norfolk; PRO Reference: HO/107/1806 Folio: 333; Page: 3; FHL Film: 0207457.

Looking at the microfilm, there is one clear entry in the middle of a page with a household of three people. I do not understand how the servant is lost when the family is indexed with JOOLEY first. Indexes are a great help but this example is a clear message to always go back to the original sources to make sure that they are accurate!

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Not all Mays were female!

I READ Roy Stockdill's amusing article in the Journal and the assertion about "May Day – all females, of course" [Vol 8, Issue 1, page 10]. Not necessarily so! Michael Milner, a farm labourer

of Storrington, West Sussex, and his wife had 15 children in the 19th century, each of whom had just a single Christian name beginning with the letter "M".

By the time they got towards their 15th child, a boy in 1846, they had run out of suitable boys' names and he was christened "May" and May Milner ran a pastry cook's business in Storrington for many years and was also the proprietor of The Railway Inn. His entry in the various census returns is not, therefore, an enumerator's or transcribers error!

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• *Editor's Note: Intrigued by Mr. Aslett's letter, we checked the 1881 census CDs – and, sure enough, there is May Milner, male, a 35-year-old baker, at No. 1 North Street, Storrington, Sussex.*

More about Thomas Thetcher's "small beer" memorial

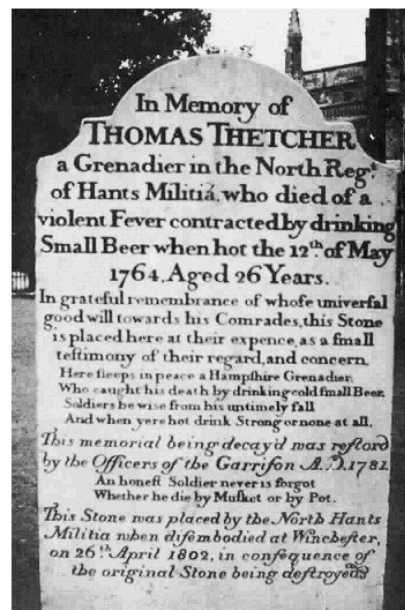
A member has responded to our appeal for further information about Grenadier Thomas Thetcher, whose curious memorial stands in the grounds of Winchester Cathedral, Hampshire [Vol 8, issue 1, p 26, "It's a funny old genealogical world"]

THOMAS Thetcher's memorial stands in the Outer Close which served as a churchyard for the military and citizens of Winchester. By the 1880s, it was getting full and there were a great many tombstones leaning at all angles.

The Dean and Chapter protested that too many soldiers were being buried there, which was leaving no space for townspeople. They began a clearance, but were keen to leave Thetcher's in place. It was not to everyone's taste, but the Regiment still

maintains it and when necessary sees that the lettering is made legible. The line, "Whether he die by Musket or by Pot" is considered to be incorrect and should read "...or by Shot".

"Small beer" is a light ale that has no hops and very little malt and was safer to drink than the suspect water. It was considered dangerous to have a cold drink when the body was still hot and perhaps Thomas Thetcher had been working hard and too hasty



Grenadier Thomas Thetcher's memorial in Winchester Cathedral churchyard

in quenching his thirst.

The lists of balloted men for Hampshire do not survive before 1798 and little is known of him, but his memorial is visited by thousands each year. Within the cathedral there is another reminder of those difficult days. A few years after Thomas died, another soldier in the Militia left his graffiti on one of the columns in the nave.

In 1917, a young American soldier visited the cathedral and afterwards walked around the Outer Close. He was attracted by this stone and many years later, was still able to recall some of the inscription. Back home, he had difficulties of his own, which led him in the late 1930s to found Alcoholics Anonymous. The first page of the AA book, is said to include part of the inscription on

this memorial.

Finally, there is a line, "And when yere hot drink Strong or none at all." The capital 'S' is significant. Many will remember, years ago, travelling by rail from Waterloo to the West Country and the advertisements along the line. They proclaimed: "You are entering Strong Country". Strong's was a brewery at Romsey, a town a few miles from Winchester.

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Ideas for taking the Guild forward

THIS reply to the Chairman's Notes in the January-March journal was compiled before news came out regarding the position change. However, as my points still apply, I am forwarding it for consideration.

While scanning through the Journal, my eye caught a comment in the Chairman's Notes requesting suggestions for using surplus funds and listed one idea of having our own premises.

This took me a little by surprise, as his Notes then go onto state "It is only the same few officers and Committee members who are called on for subcommittees and to organise events." Would it not be the same few who have to run a permanent office, or would we employ someone? Which to my mind would not be practical in both cost and organising terms.

Image

Then, remembering a conversation regarding the Guild's image I had with Howard before he became Chairman, he pointed out that companies and organisations spend big money changing their livery to keep them ahead. Are not these same big players now disposing of establishments,

which are coming under ever-increasing regulations?

Although I am of the age that finds understanding computer technology and its complications hard to keep up with, I still consider this an area that holds answers to a number of Guild requirements that we regularly hear being discussed.

The Guild was at the forefront in the genealogy world when they made the "one-name.org" e-mail address available to its members. Could we not now look into long term leasing of web space from universities or other Institution, so this could be allocated or charged to members for their website and a password controlled archive storage space?

The latter would go a long way to eliminate the problem of what happens to a member's study when they become a statistic in it.

There are those who will now be saying: what about non-computer, non-Internet users? These could benefit (if they wished) by the Guild recruiting a new breed of Regional Representative to act as cyberspace post offices for them.

Constitution

Continuing on this theme, a few years ago the Guild used this media for a subcommittee to look into constitution changes. Could not funds be used to extend this to conferencing for general committee meetings? We would then not only attract members to stand from north of Watford Gap, but also from overseas, making the Guild truly International.

My experience of dealing with members goes back to Peter Towey's chairmanship, when he first suggested holding local meetings. We have three groups to cater for...

1) Those who enjoy meetings and usually go on to make their study into a society. I have had many arguments about these belonging to a Guild of One-Name Studies, but without them there would not be a Guild,

especially if left to the second group...

2) We loners, who like to run our hobby in our own way. I know of some very big studies not registered with the Guild, so with it seen to be more international and offering extra advantages, it might attract some of them.

3) The third group members I have come across give two reasons for belonging: a) They have only registered their name to stop others doing so; b) They enjoy getting our journals

To conclude this saga, I must confess to having a small vestige of interest in the Guild's money, as I spend some time most weeks helping to raise it in my capacity as the Guild's Sales Manager.

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Our reviews and letters pages

THE Journal welcomes letters from members, especially on matters of Guild activities but also on any issues of interest to genealogists and family historians generally.

They should be addressed either by e-mail to: editor@one-name.org, or to the address given for the Editor on the inside front cover.

We regret that, due to space and other reasons, there are no reviews in this issue of the Journal. However, we do encourage individual members, as well as family history societies, to send us their publications for review.

Please send books and CDs for review to: Jane A. Morson, Upper Neatham Mill, Upper Neatham Mill Lane, Holybourne, Hampshire GU34 4EP. E-mail: reviewer@one-name.org

Sad irony of one man's monumental achievement

Researchers in the city of Bradford in Yorkshire have long been familiar with the celebrated Blackburn Registers, but they are probably unknown to other family historians with no interests in that city.

However, they are worthy of bringing to the attention of a wider audience, for behind them lies a story of one man's extraordinary work and dedication – and a sad, ironic footnote to that work.

Arthur Blackburn has been variously described as an "eccentric" and, perhaps somewhat unfairly, a tramp. Whatever he was, family historians with Bradford ancestors owe him an enormous debt of gratitude, for during the 1920s and 1930s he made it virtually his life's work to go all over the city recording and indexing monumental inscriptions in the graveyards of churches and chapels and some of the city's numerous cemeteries.

Major source

These inscriptions were painstakingly and lovingly copied by hand into books, and this monumental – if you will pardon the pun – collection is held in about 120 volumes in the Local Studies Library of Bradford Central Library. It goes without saying that they are a major source for genealogists with forebears in that city.

Precisely what Blackburn's motives were in carrying out this task is not clear, for he presumably was not a family historian in the conventional sense. However, he achieved totally alone what most family history societies would take an entire team of volunteers to perform. And the

It's a funny old genealogical world

A celebration of the comic and curious



sad irony? Arthur Blackburn died in a Salvation Army hostel in Bradford in the 1930s and was buried in West Bowling Cemetery.

It is pointless to go looking for his own monumental inscription, for he lies in an unmarked grave. Thus, the man who recorded thousands of MIs does not have one of his own.

A couple of years or so ago, when I recounted this tale on a Yorkshire genealogy mailing list, there was a move by some members to raise a fund to erect a gravestone with a memorial. I made some enquiries and discovered that, though the location of his grave is known, no-one could erect a stone without the permission of Arthur Blackburn's next of kin, his son – whose whereabouts have not been known since about 1940.

However, I am pleased to report that a few years ago the Bradford Family History Society erected a plaque to Arthur Blackburn in the Local Studies Library, so at least his remarkable achievement was recognised.

Roy Stockdill
Member 2534

Three's company

And talking of monumental inscriptions, how about this intriguing one at Sittingbourne in Kent?

*Here lies Tom on top of Nell
Waiting for Daphne to join
them as well*

*Certainly in heaven and not in
hell*

*His second wife wishes Thomas
well*

Three's company? Incidentally, Thomas Moran died only in 1994.

Colin Ulph
Member 501

Alas, poor John Bardsley, what had he done?

HENRY Bardsley in his will of 1828 wrote...

"I direct that my loving wife Betty shall have...all and singular my messuages and dwelling houses. In case my said wife shall happen to marry again....I revoke the provision hereinbefore made for her and in lieu thereof do give her the sum of one shilling only. [After her death as a widow or her remarriage all assets should be]...divided equally between my children share and share alike excepting unto my son John Bardsley and to him I bequeath the sum of one shilling only."

The Will of Thomas Bardsley, also in 1828, brother of Henry above and having no issue himself, directed that...

"....the monies that shall arise from such sale to pay and divide the same unto between and amongst all my nephews and nieces then living except John the son of my brother Henry."

What had poor John done to upset everyone?

Alan Bardsley
Member 1769

A poetic parson

IN the parish registers of Skipton, Yorkshire, there appears the following marriage entry in 1629...

Dec 2nd – *"Francis Falis and Alice Walis, without any malis and both of this parish."*

Obviously, the vicar not only had a sense of humour but was a poet, too!

Posted to the YORKSGEN
genealogy mailing list

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THE Worcestershire Seminar at the Hundred House Hotel, Great Witley, attracted an excellent attendance of Guild members and friends, who enjoyed a buffet lunch and some fine lectures from top speakers. A full report, with more pictures, is inside this issue of the Journal (pages 16 and 17), but here are some images from the event.

Clockwise from bottom left: Col. Iain Swinnerton, one of the speakers, with Pauline Saul; Vice-Chairman Paul Millington, Treasurer Sandra Turner and Committee member Geoff Riggs; Bookstall Manager Howard Benbrook; Member Polly Rubery, who gave a presentation of family trees in Excel.