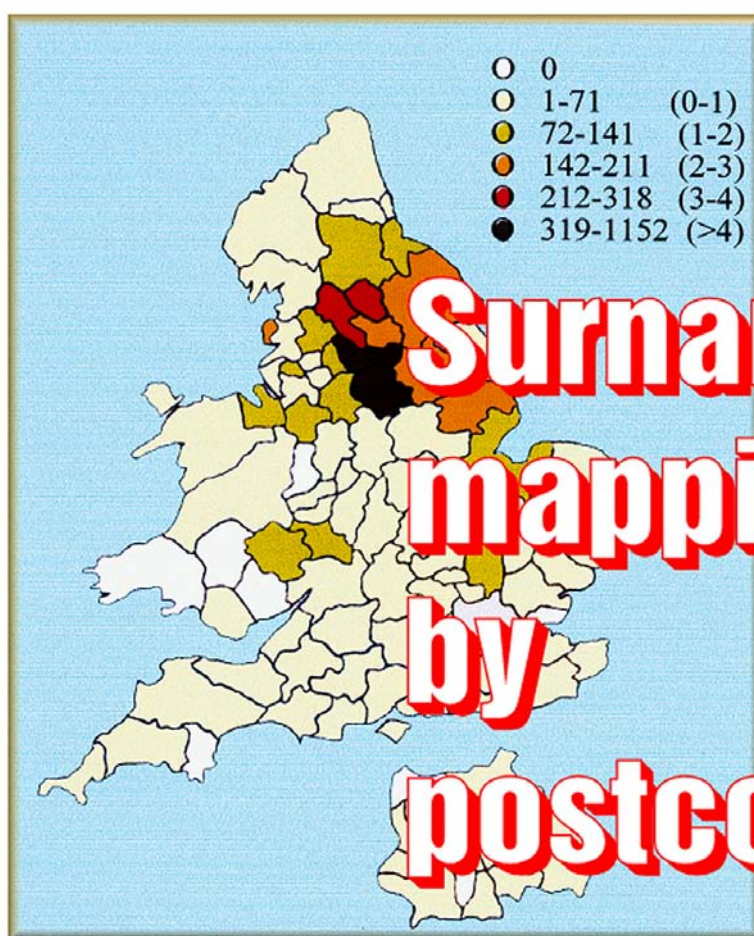


# Journal

## of One-Name Studies



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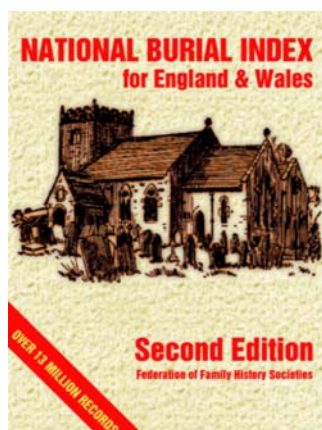
**Surname  
mapping  
by  
postcode**

**Converting  
data from  
MS Access  
to GEDCOM**

**Early history  
of the Guild  
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Box G, 14 Charterhouse Buildings  
Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA  
E-mail: [guild@one-name.org](mailto:guild@one-name.org)  
Website: [www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org)  
Registered as a charity in England  
and Wales No. 802048

### President

Derek A Palgrave MA FRHistS FSG

### Vice-Presidents

Peter Goodall  
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### Guild Committee

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**Executive** Ken Toll

**Publications** Ken Toll

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## GUILD OFFICERS



**CHAIRMAN**  
Ken Toll  
20 North Road  
Three Bridges  
W Sussex RH10 1JX  
01293 404986

[chairman@one-name.org](mailto:chairman@one-name.org)



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

[vice-chairman@one-name.org](mailto:vice-chairman@one-name.org)



**SECRETARY**  
Kirsty Maunders  
11 Brendon Close  
Tilehurst, Reading  
Berkshire RG30 6EA  
0118 9414833

[secretary@one-name.org](mailto:secretary@one-name.org)



**REGISTRAR**  
Roger Goacher  
Springwood  
Furze Field Road  
East Grinstead  
W Sussex RH19 2EF  
01342 326663

[registrar@one-name.org](mailto:registrar@one-name.org)



**TREASURER**  
Sandra Turner  
2 St Annes Close  
Winchester  
Hants SO22 4LQ  
01962 840388

[treasurer@one-name.org](mailto:treasurer@one-name.org)



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

[editor@one-name.org](mailto:editor@one-name.org)



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

## Guild information

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on the inside back cover of this  
Journal. If you are interested in  
becoming a Regional Rep, please  
contact the Regional Representa-  
tives Coordinator, Barbara Harvey  
(address and phone number on the  
inside back cover).

*The Journal of One-Name Studies* is  
published quarterly by the Guild of  
One-Name Studies.

ISSN 0262-4842

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

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES



By Ken Toll

## New Newsflash facility enables us to communicate quickly with e-mail members

**I** 'LL START with some good news this time. I've just returned from the Federation of Family History Societies Conference where the Guild won the Elizabeth Simpson award for the second time. Well done, Roy.

We were well represented at the Conference and it was good to be able to meet so many Guild friends. I hope we can meet even more of you at the Guild Conference next April. Our Conference sub-committee has now booked Wyboston Lakes again, as it was an excellent venue last year, and we have already lined up some excellent speakers.

### Gremlins

Now the bad news. Despite our best intentions, the gremlins conspired again to thwart our plans to have the correct Guild Accounts sent out by our printers, Flexpress. Pages one, two and four were correct, but page three was from an earlier draft set and contained several errors. On this occasion it was an own goal, as we sent the wrong page to the printers. Humble apologies from myself & the gremlins! The correct pages will be with the printers in time to go out with this Journal.

In the previous Journal I announced the intention to set up a NewsFlash facility. Thanks to Alec Tritton recommending suitable software, Peter Walker implementing it and John Hanson generating a compatible membership database extract, we now have a working system. It allows me to communicate rapidly with all members who have advised us

of their e-mail address. Unfortunately, it is not practical to mail copies to other members.

The first edition was generally well received by the 1,400 or so members it was sent to, although a few deleted it erroneously, assuming it was spam. We also learned several valuable lessons and identified numerous members who had not advised us of a change of e-mail address.

The first issue of NewsFlash contained details of completely free access to Ancestry.com via a third party website. As the offer was time-limited it was an ideal subject for a NewsFlash – by the time this Journal is distributed the offer will have expired.

The second issue contained additional details of the Nottingham Seminar and advised that Paul Millington has redecorated the member's room in our website and he had added the bookstall pages. Further issues will be distributed as and when the need arises.

### Constitution

I would be delighted to be able to send NewsFlash to all members with access to e-mail facilities, but we will need your current e-mail address. To add an e-mail address to your current membership details, either visit the Member's Room on our website and fill in the Changes Form, or send an e-mail with your name, membership number and e-mail address to **changes@one-name.org**

During the last few months I, with the help of a small working group, have been reviewing our Constitution. Over the past five

years or so we had not implemented some of the Charity Commission's recommendations as and when they have been made available, so we have a bit of a catching-up exercise to do. We are also taking the opportunity to propose changes to make running the Guild easier and less onerous for Committee members, whilst preserving the safeguards required by the membership and the Charity Commission. I plan to provide more detail in a future Journal – hopefully, in January.

Since the last Journal there have been a few changes on the Committee. Paul Millington has stood down as Vice-Chairman, but continues as webmaster and Committee Member. Roy Rayment has stood down as Publicity Manager, but continues as a Committee Member. They have both made a huge contribution to the Guild in their respective roles. On a more positive note, Kirsty Maunder has taken on the additional role of Marketing Manager. Hopefully, I shall be able to announce further new appointments in the next Journal.

I have decided to stand down as Chairman at the AGM in 2005 in order to have a little more time to pursue my own one-name study and to allow someone else the opportunity to take the reins. I have offered to stay on the Committee in another role if required, perhaps to continue with managing the revision to the Constitution.

*Meanwhile at home, we had a major genealogical event. My daughter married in August and thereby acquired an even rarer surname. ○*

# Should we be obsessive about rare surnames disappearing?



**D** ID you read that story in the papers a while back about a fellow called Mike Pimbury, who believed he was the last person of his surname in the entire world? At 73, he has never married and, therefore, the name will die with him.

Sad, what? But he can hardly be alone in this situation. There must surely have been thousands of names that have come and gone and had nobody to carry them on and, no doubt, there will be many more surnames with bearers in single figures that face extinction.

You have only to look at the *UKinfo* 2003 CD, based on the electoral registers and telephone directories, to find scores of names with only a tiny handful of entries – and I am talking about British names, not foreign ones.

I am sure Mike Pimbury's story must have fascinated many family historians, but the thought occurred to me that perhaps he was being a little obsessive about it in scouring the world trying to find somebody else who shared his very rare surname.

## Variant

It seemed to me that, beyond a doubt, his name is simply a variant of PEMBURY. When the story appeared, I did a quick check in the IGI in FamilySearch and discovered that the PIMBURY version appeared to have come entirely from one small area of Gloucestershire around Minchinhampton and Stroud, seemingly originating in about 1666 with one William Pimbury at Bisley, who had children in the 1690s.

Clearly, this was the usual case of a vicar's misspelling and the variant appears to have been

confined to this one family – in which case one might say it's a wonder the name has lasted as long as it has!

I looked on the *UKinfo* disc for people called Pembury and found over 50, half of them in Bristol, which suggests they are possibly distant relatives of Mike Pimbury.

However, perhaps he does not wish to acknowledge this fact, preferring to stick with his belief that, as the last of the Pimburies, he has no living relations.

I used to think like this myself before I became a family historian about 30 years ago. Growing up, the only other Stockdills I ever knew of were my parents and my father's brother, my Uncle Albert Stockdill, who I only met after my father died because the two brothers were estranged for years after some family squabble. My dad had two sisters, my aunts, but they, being married, had other surnames.

Then one day when I was about 14 a chum and I were cycling from Halifax to York and, while riding through the centre of Leeds, I suddenly saw the name, Stockdill, on a sign over a newsagent's shop window. I was so startled by this totally unexpected sighting of my surname that I almost fell off my bike!

Unfortunately, my friend was well down the road ahead of me, so I had no time to stop and go into the shop and find out who the owner was.

However, I actually had the great pleasure of meeting him many years later when I had begun to trace the family history and came across other living Stockdills. His name was Jack Stockdill and we turned out to be third cousins once removed. He

was a lovely man and we kept in touch until he died.

Later, I found other Stockdills also related to me in Yorkshire and Hertfordshire and a family in Scotland who were not, as far as I know, connected to me because they had come from Ireland. However, they joined enthusiastically in my tracing of the family history and surname, since I have little doubt that their family, like mine, originated in Yorkshire.

From there I found some Stockdill distant cousins in Canada and other Stockdills in America who, though I have not yet tied them in to our family, share the name.

## Reunion

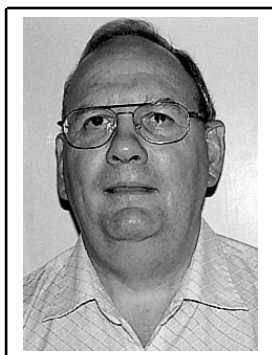
It was my great joy in 1997 to organise a big family reunion in Leeds, at which out of the 60 people present over one-third were called Stockdill. I could not help thinking back to all those years earlier when I had thought my parents and I were the only folks in the world with the name.

Of course, I recognise that there must be hundreds of people also distantly related to me who possess the far more common root name of STOCKDALE. Organising a family reunion of them would probably require me to hire the Royal Albert Hall!

It seems that Mike Pimbury employed a genealogist to try and find someone else of his name, somewhere in the world, and she failed to do so. I hope she explained to him that he was really a Pembury and, therefore, not necessarily the last of his line.

*Perhaps if he had done a one-name study and discovered this for himself he would not be quite so forlorn about his name disappearing.* ○

# Converting your one-name study data from Microsoft Access files to GEDCOM



By Cliff Kemball

**MANY** Guild members will have amassed copious amounts of data over the years they have been involved in running a one-name study.

What to do with all this information and how to store it is something that one-namers tend to approach in different ways. Some may wish to preserve their records in more than one format. In this special article, member CLIFF KEMBALL describes his method for converting data held in a Microsoft Access database to GEDCOM files, ready for importing into a family tree program such as The Master Genealogist.

**T**his article describes the approach I took to convert the data I held on a Microsoft Access database to The Master Genealogist (TMG) via the creation of GEDCOM files.

One thing that will be common with all Guild members who are undertaking a one-name study is that they are likely to have accumulated a large number of records concerning the births, marriages and deaths of people with a common surname. How this information is held will vary. It may be held manually, but more often than not it will be held on some sort of computer software, i.e. on a family tree program, a flatfile program, a relational database or on databases using ready-made templates.

In practice, most one-namers maintain two or more sets of their data to take advantage of the different strengths of the programs, as no single program fulfils the needs of one-namers. At some stage we are likely to want to transfer our data from one program to another program – usually a family tree program – to take advantage of the increased facilities for

linking individuals, producing reports and printing family history charts. How can this best be achieved without the need to key in all the information again, with all the inherent risks involved of making mistakes?

The approach I adopted for transferring data to TMG (Figure 1) was to create an Access enquiry to select the records I needed to convert. I combined this information with the appropriate GEDCOM tag information to produce a file similar to a GEDCOM file.

I then transferred this file to a text file and edited it in Word, mainly to put in the appropriate carriage returns, take out any extraneous characters or unwanted spaces and add in the header and trailer information. I then named the text file as a .ged file.

## • Run an enquiry to select records

My database holds over 19,000 records of the births, marriages and deaths for the Kemball surname, including all its variants, and each record has a unique iD, meaning that an individual will have up to three different iD numbers. I make no attempt to link these individuals in my database, preferring instead to carry

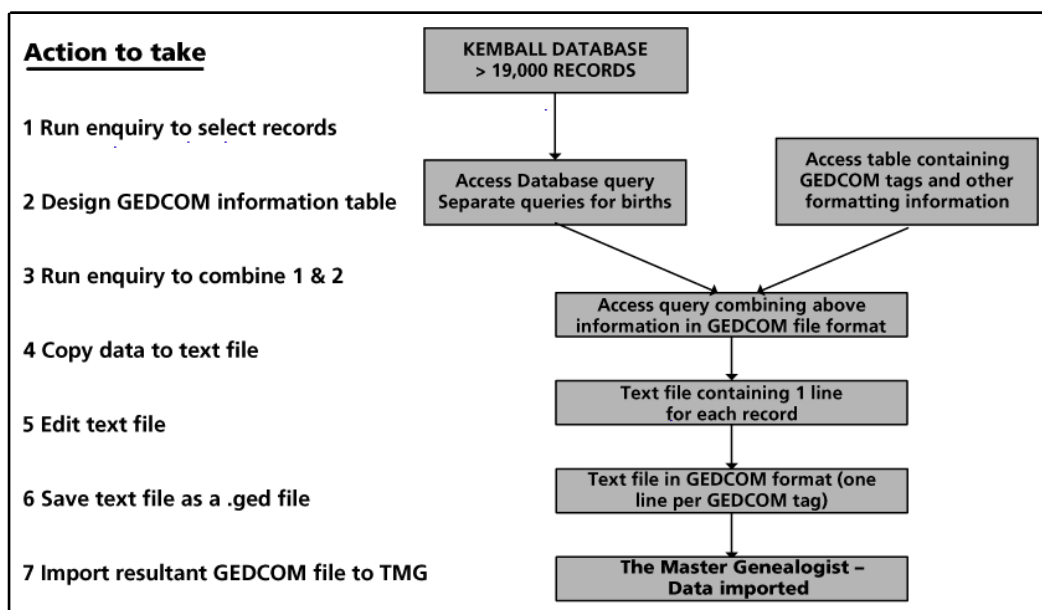


Figure 1 – steps taken to convert data from Access to GEDCOM

Birth data		GEDCOM information		
Data field	Data extracted	Record content	Type/Size	Field No.
		0 @1	T/4	2
ID	972			
		@ INDI	T/5	3
		%1 NAME	T/7	4
Christian name	Joseph Colin			
		/	T1	5
Surname	Kemble			
		/	T1	5
		%1 SEX	T/8	8
MF (Male/Female)	M			
		%1 BIRT	T/7	7
		%2 DATE	T/8	8
DD	1			
Month	October			
Year	1991			
		%2 PLAC	T/7	8
Location	Colchester			
		... Note 2	T/3	9
		%2 SOUR @S1@	T/12	10
		%3 DATA	T/7	11
		%4 TEXT Birth source	T/21	12
Source	4691DD63C0732			
		%2 QUAY	T/7	13
		2	B/1	14
		%1 NOTE Mother's maiden name	T/29	15
Fname (Note 1) *	Jane			
Fsurname (Note 1)	Smith			
Notes: 1 Mother's maiden name in birth records. Field type key: T = Text B = Byte 2 I have put three commas on the line after the Place tag to ensure that TMG places the town in the correct position				

**Figure 2 – combining data and GEDCOM information**

out this linking function in TMG.

Many people undertaking one-name studies will structure their data differently, but they should still be able to apply the principles involved in transferring data. I have a "record type" indicator that I used to produce an enquiry of Kemble records to distinguish between births, marriages and deaths and many other record types.

This article deals only with the process of transferring birth records to a GEDCOM file, but the process can be used to transfer all other record types.

#### **Example of output from birth enquiry...**

0 @1    **9721**        @ INDI    %1 NAME        **Joseph Colin**        /        **Kemble**        /  
          %1 SEX    **M**            %1 BIRT   %2 DATE 1        **OCT 1998**        %2 PLAC   **Colchester**  
          ...        %2 SOUR @S1@    %3 DATA%4 TEXT   Birth source: **4691DD63C073**    %2 QUAY2  
          %1 NOTE   Mothers maiden name:        **Jane**        **Smith**

Having run the enquiry, you now have an Access file of all your birth records for a particular surname. Detail of the data fields and their content are shown on the left hand side of Figure 2 (left).

#### **• Design a GEDCOM information table**

The next stage is to produce a table to provide all the GEDCOM tag information. GEDCOM is an acronym for **GE**nealogy **D**ata **COM**munication. It was developed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and has evolved as the de facto standard for data exchange between most genealogy software programs and systems.

A GEDCOM file contains a set of genealogy data in a structured format, utilising numbers to indicate the hierarchy and Tags to indicate individual pieces of information within the file.

You need to create a GEDCOM information table for births that contains only one record, details of which are shown on the right-hand side of Figure 2.

#### **• Run an enquiry to combine GEDCOM information and Genealogy data**

The third stage is to combine the GEDCOM information with your genealogy data. This is achieved by running another Access enquiry, using the GEDCOM information table with the initial enquiry file containing the birth genealogy data. I have listed the results of this birth enquiry showing the genealogical data for one record in bold. How the data is combined in the enquiry is demonstrated more clearly in Figure 2. The left-hand side has the genealogy birth data (shown in bold), while the right hand side has the GEDCOM information.

You now have a combined file that can be used to produce a GEDCOM file.

- **Copy data to text file**

The next stage is to copy the data from the birth enquiry to a text file by clicking the top left-hand square of the Access query sheet, then right-clicking and selecting copy. In Word *paste special (Edit, Paste Special, Unformatted Text, ok)* and save it as a text file. You now have a text file showing each record on one line.

- **Edit Text file**

The fifth stage is to edit the text file to put in the appropriate carriage returns and take out the extraneous spaces, etc. The text file has to be edited in Word, as the edit facility is not available within Notepad. As the first record will be the header details from Access, this needs to be deleted. To edit the text file, press [Ctrl]+F to enter "Find and Replace" and press "More" tab to reveal the "special" tab needed to apply the special characters. Figure 3 lists all the "Find and replace" actions undertaken for births records. Figure 4 shows the results of the editing – a listing for one birth record in GEDCOM format.

You will see that I have replaced all the % characters with carriage returns to put each GEDCOM tag on a separate line. The rest of the editing takes out the extraneous spaces and other unwanted information. You may need to change the degree and type of editing, depending on your data structure and content.

Now that the main editing is complete, all that is needed is to add the header details (Figure 5 in respect of the birth GEDCOM) and the trailer [0 TRLR] as the last line.

Find	Replace
^t[Tab]	[Space]
@ [Space]	@ [No space]
[Space]@[Space]INDI	@[Space]INDI
/[Space]Kemble	/Kemble
[Space]%	^p
[Space] [Space]	[Space]
Keep repeating to take out all extraneous spaces	
^p = Paragraph Mark ^t = Tab character (click "special" to find special characters)	

**Figure 3 – editing of the text file**

0 @19721@ INDI
1 NAME Joseph Colin /Kemble/
1 SEX M
1 BIRT
2 DATE OCT 1998
2 PLAC Colchester
2 SOUR @S1@
3 DATA
4 TEXT Birth source: 4691dd63C073 2
2 QUAY 2
1 NOTE Mother's maiden name: Kemble

**Figure 4 – the text file after editing**

```

0 HEAD
1 SOUR ACCESS
2 VERS V 9.0.2720
2 NAME Cliff Kemball
3 ADDR 168 Green Lane, Chislehurst, Kent
2 DATA Access Kemble Database
3 DATE September 2004
1 DEST TMG
1 DATE 12 September 2004
1 FILE MASTER DATABASE
1 GEDC
2 VERS 5.5
1 CHAR ANSI
0 @S1@ SOUR
1 AUTH Cliff Kemball's Indexes
1 TITL Index of National Archives births

```

**Figure 5 – header details**

- **Save the text file as a GEDCOM (.ged) file**

Once you have completed all the text editing and added the header and trailer information, you need to save the text file as [Name].ged. In my case I named my birth text file "Kemble gedcom.ged". When saving the file, Word provides a warning *If y[filename] may contain features that are not compatible with text only format. Do you want to save the document in this format?* You just need to click Yes.

- **Import resultant GEDCOM file to TMG**

The final stage is to import the resultant GEDCOM file to the appropriate Family Genealogy program – in my case to TMG. Within TMG select *File, Import, Simple wizard, Next*. Select GEDCOM v4, v5.5 (\*.GED from the Import file type and press locate. Select the appropriate folder in which the .ged file was saved and select the file. Next select *Open, Next, Next* and *Finish* and follow the instructions for loading the data set.

This method of transferring data works with TMG and Family Tree Maker. The procedure described above for transferring birth data works also for marriage and death data and many other types of data, such as census, burial and address data. If any Guild member would like further details, please contract me at my home/e-mail address given below. Alternatively, a longer article, which included details of converting marriage and death records, can be found on the Guild's website at <http://www.one-name.org/members/articles.html>

*My thanks go to John Liddle and Teresa Pask, both TMG users. and to John Stark, Member 4068, who provided help and assistance in commenting on this article and testing out the methodology. ○*

CLIFF KEMBALL  
Member 3389  
168 Green Lane  
Chislehurst  
Kent BR7 6AY  
[cliff.kemball@virgin.net](mailto:cliff.kemball@virgin.net)





# Why do some surname variants become fixed?

By Steve Tanner

*IN the January–March 2004 Journal [Vol 8 Issue 5] our President, Derek Palgrave, described some of the difficulties associated with the multiplicity of surname spellings. In this article, Guild Member Steve Tanner, who works in the Centre of Applied Language Studies at Swansea University, gives a sociolinguist's view of surname variants.*

**B**rowsing through the Guild's list of registered surnames, one is struck by the bewildering number of spelling variants. They seem so unpredictable that the temptation is to put them all down to random chance. During a one-name study, however, we often come across a point in time or space when a particular variant becomes fixed. What can we deduce about the processes bringing this about? Why does one particular spelling triumph in certain places at certain times?

The following is an attempt to make an "orderly" classification of spelling variations, while acknowledging that we are dealing here with an area where several processes may be at work at one and the same time and place. Such changes may be grouped into two main categories – "internally induced" and "externally induced" – according to whether they are caused by the preferences of the name-bearers themselves or the preferences of the people with whom they come in contact.

## (1) Internally induced change

In this category, we may include changes brought about by the wishes of the name-bearers themselves. Often this involves *homonymie facheuse*, a French term meaning "annoying similarity of name". It refers to the common phenomenon whereby a word, through changes of pronunciation or meaning, comes to resemble something else which has unfavourable connotations.

One thinks of the word "ass" (i.e. donkey) in modern standard British received pronunciation (RP). It used to be the standard word for the animal

in question until the vowel in all words ending in -ss and other fricative consonants became lengthened and retracted further back in the mouth, a process which began in southern England about 1700. As RP is based on southern English, it became standard in words like "grass" and "path". Coincidentally, those same areas of England had also previously lost the pronunciation of "r" before consonants. The result was that "ass" and "arse" tended to cease to be distinguished in normal speech if they followed the rule. Hence, "ass" appears as an anomalous exception to this phonetic change, as it still rhymes with "mass" rather than "grass".

A possible example of *homonymie facheuse* is provided by the varying fortunes of names containing the element -BOTTOM over the past century (see table below). Most of these names have declined, presumably because some of their bearers have abandoned them. Only Higginbottom has held its own, perhaps because the first element (HIGGIN-) is "semantically opaque" i.e. it does not have any connotation and, therefore, does not exacerbate the effect of "-bottom". It seems that verb (SHUFFLE)+bottom is the worst case scenario for survival, followed by adjective (LONG)+ bottom, and then noun (RAMS)+bottom faring slightly better. Some, of course, may have gone over to the spelling BOTHAM, as in the cricketer Ian Botham.

A variant of *homonymie facheuse* occurs where total replacement of the original term takes place to avoid unwanted vulgar connotations. An example is the replacement of "cock", the male farmyard fowl, by "rooster" in American English and by the lengthened form, "cockereel", in British English.

I came across one example by chance in the course of tracing a family named LOCKETT or LOCKITT in the parish registers of Ashill, Norfolk. This family's name had been spelt in either of these ways for several generations prior to the 1870s. Then, in the course of only five years, they all went over to the spelling, LOCKWOOD. What is interest-

ing about this example is that the change can be observed actually taking place in the register, as in the following marriage entry on October 15 1875:

*John Lockit, shoemaker (father John Lockit, shoemaker)*

SURNAME	Grammatical formation	1901 census	UKinfo 2003	UKinfo (+33%)*	Change (%)
Bottom	Noun	796	462	616	-10
Shufflebottom	Verb	542	258	344	-36.5
Ramsbottom	Noun	2036	1406	1874	-8
Higginbottom	Opaque	1961	1624	2165	+9.5
Longbottom	Adjective	2661	1576	2101	-2.1

\* Assuming 33% not on electoral roll, under-18s, etc.

**A possible example of *homonymie facheuse* involving -bottom names**

and Elizabeth Ashby (father, Robert Ashby, labourer).

But the witnesses, the brother and sister of the bridegroom, both signed as Charles LOCKWOOD and Elizabeth LOCKWOOD.

The following year, Charles, a baker, was married in the same church by the same vicar, the Rev Bartholomew Edwards. He was one of the longest-serving incumbents on record, dying a few weeks short of his 100th birthday. He had known the parishioners concerned for half a century and used the old spelling for the main entry, evidently having no truck with what he perceived to be an incorrect – even pretentious – innovation. He wrote LOCKITT, though the groom defiantly signed as LOCKWOOD.

By the time of the 1881 census five years later, despite the vicar's rearguard action, all the numerous LOCKI(E)TTS in and around Ashill had gone over to LOCKWOOD. Why? One can only assume this was a coordinated step by the whole family. With mass education making headway in the 1870s, such rural artisans could generally read and write. At the same time, cheap printed editions of children's nursery rhyme books became popular. Perhaps younger members of the family had been tormented at school with the rhyme...

*Lucy Lockett lost her pocket*

*Kitty Fisher found it*

*Not a penny was there in it*

*But a ribbon round it*

...and determined to be rid of a name which had become a source of ridicule.

A variant on this theme occurs where, while the surname in question may have no unpleasant connotations, it is felt to be too common, and attempts are made to make it "posher". Thus, we find SMYTHE for Smith and the various extra final "e" surnames like BROOKE, BROWNE, COOKE, etc.

One might expect spelling variants which avoid, or at least lessen, an unwanted connotation to have gained preference during the last century, with mass literacy. However, the following example shows that this is not necessarily the case:

## (2) Externally-induced change

In this category we may place changes occurring through the speech habits of people other than the name-bearers themselves, i.e., by those they come in contact with. These fall under several sub-categories and may be exemplified in my one-name study of

SURNAME	1901 census	UKinfo 2003	2003 (+33%)	Change %
Giggle	103	49	65	-36.5
Giggal	119	58	77	-35.5

HEMPSALL and variants. This name probably originated in a place-name, Hempshill, near Nottingham, representing an Anglo-Saxon personal name "Hemma" or "Hemmed", plus "Hill", with an epenthetic medial P added for ease of pronunciation. The place from which the name originated had ceased

to be known outside its immediate area soon after the main period during which surnames became hereditary in the East Midlands area (1300–1400).

We may distinguish two sub-categories of externally induced change affecting HEMPSALL:

### (a) Reetymology.

This refers to the re-analysis of the parts of the surname into units other than those of its original etymology. This often happened when a family moved into an area where the locals were unfamiliar with the surname. Thus, the name HEMPSALL when its bearers moved into the Lindsey area of Lincolnshire in the late 1600s and early 1700s tended to be re-interpreted as HEM(P)SWELL by clerks and vicars who were familiar with two local place-names, the twin villages of Hemswell and Harpswell, 15 miles north of Lincoln.

Interestingly, this particular reetymology had not occurred earlier in that area, despite the fact that there are a number of records of HEMPSALL families in the North Lincolnshire area as early as the mid-1500s. This may be because Hemswell, the place in question, was then HELMESWELL, and hence less likely to be confused with HEMPSALL.

By contrast, across the Trent in North Nottinghamshire, where HEMPSALLs also moved north into new territory, vicars and scribes frequently opted for the variant HEMPSEED. Viewed from our modern standpoint, this at first sounds like an attempt at humour – as if it were a kind of deliberate *homonymie facheuse*. One recalls the use of "hayseed" as a term of scorn for a country bumpkin.

Yet it may not have been so. Hemp was an important part of the regional economy and may not have had pejorative connotations. After the drainage in Charles I's reign of the Isle of Axholme, on the northern boundary of the HEMPSALL homeland, a large acreage was given over to the cultivation of hemp – not for marijuana, but for its fibre used in making sacks. Thus, an association of an individual with such a vital commodity might have been almost a compliment or, at least, a neutral designation.

Only one other -SALL name was similarly affected in the area: LOVERSALL occasionally became LOVERSEED. One hesitates to imagine what was the understood meaning in this case.

An alternative explanation might be the presence of some incumbents from Scotland, where the name HEMPSEED had an independent origin. However, significantly, this variant died out among its bearers by the late 19th century. After all, who would want to be called after food for cage-birds?

### (b) Influence of similarly-composed names

The above variant, HEMPSEED, may also fall into this category, as it may well have arisen as a reaction to the names HEM(P)STALK and HEM(P)STOCK, both of which were common in Nottinghamshire in the same general area as HEMPSALL. While it does not appear to be the case that any HEMPSALLs went over to HEMPSTALK/

HEMPSTOCK, or vice versa, the two names do seem to have influenced each other. Indeed, there are two cases of intermarriage between Hempsalls and Hempstalks or Hempstocks, in 1722 and 1890. The fact that HEMPSTALK/HEMPSTOCK provided a clear example of a “semantically transparent” second syllable put pressure on the name HEMPSTALL to adopt a more definite meaning, even a spurious one.

As so many names like HEMPSTALL end in unstressed syllables, there is a tendency for variation in the vowel. Thus, one finds HEMPSELL, HEMPSTALL, HEMPSTALL and even HEMPSTALL, all with or without the “P”. The area where the present majority spelling, HEMPSTALL, became fixed was the central Nottinghamshire area. Here, there may well have been an influence from several place-names ending in -STALL, such as Kneesall, Kelsall and Bothamsall.

## Long vowel

The first two of these were usually pronounced with a full, long vowel, rhyming with “Paul”, whereas Bothamsall had the reduced vowel known as “schwa” to phoneticians, rhyming with the last syllable of “castle”. HEMPSTALL probably oscillated in pronunciation between these two possibilities, but, either way, the spelling tended to be fixed as -STALL.

Other -STALL names in Notts which may have mutually reinforced each other were: INKERSALL, SOMSALL, UPSALL, SARSALL, KEMPSALL, BERDSALL, BEARDSALL, BONSALL, BURSALL, HASSALL, CAMPSALL, LOVERSALL, ADENSALL and STANSALL.

By contrast, in the Lincolnshire villages of Saxilby and Long Bennington, only 10 miles away on the other side of the Trent, two prolific families finally fixed on HEMPSHALL in the late 1800s. Here, it seems that the prominent landed estate of Tattershall, and the surname associated with it, may have provided a model. In both cases, there may have been a partial reetymology, interpreting “sall” as “s+hall”. Thus Tatter’s Hall, so Hemp’s Hall.

Alternatively, the name MARSHALL – particularly common in this area, with several Hempsalls marrying Marshalls – may have been a strong influence. Descendants of these families became so numerous that in areas where both were quite common, East Nottinghamshire and the Lincoln area, individuals were pulled this way and that in a linguistic tug-of-war persisting into the 20th century.

I can remember my mother, a HEMPSTALL born in 1909, considering HEMPSHALLs an inferior breed! She objected to being occasionally called Hempshall, whether in speech or writing, saying it was a “drunkard’s pronunciation”. Yet the HEMPSHALLs in the 21st century, though in a minority, are holding their own, with 176 HEMPSHALLs on the electoral roll in 2003 as opposed to 408 HEMPSTALLs.

Meanwhile, in the Gainsborough and Rotherham areas, the spelling HEMPSELL or HEMPSELL became fixed among a small group of families in the 19th century. This may have reflected a desire to repre-

sent less ambiguously the neutral schwa vowel by avoiding the -STALL spelling, which could stand for either Hemp-SALL or Hemps’ll. “-SELL” was more likely to be unambiguously pronounced “Hemps’ll”, which is, in fact, now the preferred pronunciation of most HEMPSTALLs and HEMPSELLs. In the case of the Rotherham HEMPSELLs, there may have been an influence from the large number of -SELL names in the area, e.g. RUSSELL and MANSELL.

## (c) Dialectal influence

Surnames may share in the various sound changes which affect words in general. For instance, there is and has been for some time a tendency to insert a “glottal stop” (that constriction at the back of the throat common in many parts of Britain in combinations like “I’ve got to”, where the first “t” is replaced by a glottal stop). In HEMPSTALL, the “P” generally is realised in speech as a glottal stop. It could well be that the absence of this feature in certain areas, such as the Lincolnshire fens, may account for the variant HEMSELL, which became fixed in the early 19th century in the Bourne area. Finally, one family in the Boston area opted for HEMSTALL, of which there are still a few around today. These may have been similarly influenced by dialect or by analogy with BUSSALL, BISSALL, TRUSSALL, TATTERSALL and MANSALL.

It is interesting to compare the rise and fall of spelling variants over time. Pie charts in my ONS compare the proportions of the various spellings of HEMPSTALL between the IGI, the 1901 census online and the 2001 electoral roll. Of course, one is not comparing like with like, since the IGI largely reflects the spelling of scribes other than the subjects themselves, whereas the electoral roll is based on self-reporting in a fully literate society. Also, the IGI covers a long period, so the chart reflects a rough average of the period 1600–1870, while the 1901 online census notoriously contains a lot of errors.

However, the charts do hint at some trends which may hold true for other surnames. There seems to be a trend for the more common variants to increase their share of the total at the expense of the rarer ones. Thus, HEMPSTALL and its nearest rival, HEMPSHALL, have both expanded, while the others have lost out. This may be because individual families have “corrected” their spelling through the influence of people in their area named with one of the two majority spellings. Or it may be because these minority spellings were never correct in the sense of being used by their owners, but simply scribal errors.

*I would be interested to hear from other one-namers who have subjected their names to similar analysis to see if there are common trends. ○*

STEVE TANNER  
Member 4001  
Beili-glas, Rhydargaeau  
Carmarthen SA32 7HY  
hempall@one-name.org

## One-name studies without a computer



*WE are pleased to bring you some more contributions from Guild members who answered the challenge to tell us how they are happily running a one-name study without the aid of a computer*

# Using a portable typewriter, ring binders and shoe boxes to record 32 generations of Carews

By Joan Richardson

**M**AY I report that Member 1217 is still using a portable typewriter, ring binders and shoe boxes? I remain in the same groove I was in when I gave an address to members of the Guild of One-Name Studies at Newquay, Cornwall, as part of the fifth British Genealogical Conference, on April 1 1990, entitled "At the Sign of the Three Black Lions: An Introduction to the Carews."

I joined the Guild in 1988, perceiving that there might be an application from someone else interested in the name CAREW, but with less material than I held. Prior to that, I was on the List of One-Name Studies.

I have two charts, one which mentions all armigerous lines of Carew from the Domesday book to the present, and another which traces the Beddington, Surrey, branch from the 14th century to its extinction. Information concerning these families was gleaned over many years from volumes of State Papers, ecclesiastical records, county record offices and numerous libraries, including Lambeth Palace. The material fills 13 bulging ring binders covering 32 generations of the Carew descendants of Walter FitzOther. I have not attempted to count the individuals.



### Cards

More than 8,000 non-armigers, including my own ancestors, are recorded on cards filling six shoe boxes. Until the end of the 18th century variant spellings such as CAREWE, CARO, CAROO, CARRO, CARROWE and CARUE are treated as if they were CAREW, cards being filed by alphabetical order of Christian name and then by date order in a series of five boxes.

The sixth box contains post-1799 variant spellings, aliases, double-barrelled names and persons bearing Carew as a forename, these latter being filed by alphabetical order of surname. I am listed here under my maiden name of Buckett.

Each card in all six boxes indicates the geographi-

cal file containing details of that person. These files cover the UK, Ireland and many other countries, including Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Canada, West Indies and, not least, Newfoundland, where Carew is the dominant surname.

I do not extract names from telephone directories and I no longer cull birth and marriage records from the Family Records Centre. I make an occasional visit there to extract recent Carew deaths which enables me to process what I know about those persons, inserting them on their appropriate pedigrees. I seldom find time to do this, however.

### New DNB

Work of mine has been made available to the Mary Rose Trust, to the compilers of the new *Dictionary of National Biography* and to *Burke's Peerage*, the latter in order to correct and amplify their coverage of the earlier generations of the Carew Baronets of Hacombe, this with the consent of the present head of the family.

I neither seek nor accept remuneration. I reply to all enquiries, irrespective of return postage being supplied. Overseas enquirers are seemingly ignorant of International Reply Coupons and several to whom I have sent copious material failed to render thanks.

In September 1999 my "The Origins of the Carews: An update" appeared in the *Genealogists' Magazine*. It brought enough post to keep me busy for weeks!

***My own ancestors of the name appeared in Bristol in time to be head-counted as Papists in the late 18th century. The head of the family was a cooper by trade. He had no doubt gone to Bristol, then a thriving port, in order to find work. The likelihood is that he and his wife had crossed by the ferry from Waterford.*** ○

JOAN RICHARDSON  
Member 1217  
3 Sycamore Close  
Court Road  
Mottingham  
London SE9 4RD



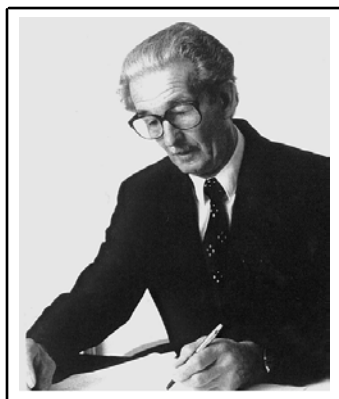
# Original records and hand-written family trees were basis of my study

By Eddie Pollikett

**A**S ONE of the Guild's earlier members (Number 1013) I have, over 28 years, collated 47 separate family trees based upon an original entry for our adopted surname from one of the earliest Court Rolls, where I found, in 1234, a Ralph POLECOT.

I regard him as the family "Godfather" who was to spawn over 1,000 descendants to date. My own surname is one of four main variants to the original which, like many others, was formed around the end of the 12th and beginning of the 13th centuries – a time when Edward I introduced his Act through parliament giving his male subjects the right to choose a surname for their families.

In my earliest beginnings, I did not have a clue where to start, so I joined an evening class in genealogy. I learnt a lot, but one particular remark the tutor made has always stuck in my mind: "There are no short cuts in family research." He also told us to make every effort to view originally recorded facts first, before referring to those which have been extracted by someone else.



He meant, of course, at the time, the collection of Mormon records available on microfiche (the IGI), material in books and other extracted sources. Today we have the Internet to assist us, carrying worldwide information – but all of it is reproduced from those originally penned records made during the course of hundreds of years and, with respect, not always with 100 per cent accuracy.

Internet research has been with us only a few years and it will take a long time before everything is available in this medium. I am so pleased I took the advice of my tutor way back in 1975 and can honestly say that my extractions have always been taken from first-hand information at record offices. A greater portion of these came from St. Catherine's House in central London, where all GRO births, marriages and deaths were formerly indexed. These are now at the Family Records Centre at Islington.

Two minutes' walk away was the census search room off Chancery Lane and a five-minute walk saw me in Somerset House at Aldwych, where all probated wills and finalised divorce papers used to be held. Wills were – and still are – a valuable tool for extending family lines, for they not only contain full

details of the deceased person but can show beneficiaries and sums or chattels left to them, relationship to the deceased and, if lucky, addresses. Wills are on record from the mid-13th century and are, as we know, a gold mine for genealogists.

Another "must" visit is to the Public Record Office (now The National Archives) at Kew. Any genealogist with military interests can gather information on those serving their country, while transportation lists to the colonies and passenger lists of emigrants are also kept there and much, more more.

Next came the parish registers, which can take one back to 1538, though there are many gaps because some records were destroyed by rats, water and civil disturbances. From there I was able to reach further back to 1234 through the Court Rolls.

## Trees

My family trees were all hand-written at first. Having so many eventually, I then proceeded to the laborious task of typing them all out on my trusty IBM electric typewriter to give tidiness to them. Three years ago I upgraded them through one of my daughters who used her computer to make them all uniform. These are now in a compact binder and, for all-time safe keeping, I have willed everything I hold on our family histories to the Guild.

My extractions are mostly in one book as I took them down. I call it my "Bible of extractions". I also hold around 100 certificates, which were purchased to establish a given line, and six lever arch files containing all correspondence sent and received over 28 years. They, too, are numbered. I use 5" by 3" cards to record all information located on those 1,000-plus people, all kept in the proverbial box. Call me old-fashioned, but it works for me.

My original surname, POLLICOTT, derives from two hamlets in Buckinghamshire called Upper and Lower Pollicott. My earliest ancestor recorded in 1234 was living not more than four miles from these hamlets and, I believe, chose the place name as his newly bestowed surname. These hamlets were mentioned in the Domesday Book. They have changed little over the years and there are no landmarks by which they can be recognised.

***We Polliketts are fairly rare, too – fewer than 300 of us worldwide. ○***

EDWARD C POLLIKETT  
Member 1013  
42 Beresford Road  
Chandlers Ford  
Eastleigh  
Hampshire SO53 2LY

**FINALLY**, after months of anticipation, the **Second Edition of the National Burial Index** has been released and early indications on the Guild Book-stall suggest that the publisher, the **Federation of Family History Societies**, has a major success on its hands.

So, what's it like? Is there something in it for you? Is it worth its cover price of £45? Is there a market stall where you can buy it much more cheaply? Or can you get it on the internet? Can you get your friend with a CD burner to run you off a copy? I've been fortunate to be one of those who have been able to get an early copy and so I'd like to give you an honest appraisal (well, hopefully), based on my admittedly early reactions.

## First impressions

I'm impressed! This is a beautiful piece of packaging – if the FFHS wants to encourage sales, this is definitely the way to do it. Member societies who have contributed to this product should be pleased. When you work a bookstall you learn that, while you may not be able to tell a book by its cover, it certainly helps to sell it. The four CDs that make up NBI 2 are neatly contained within what I can only call a "wrap", unfolding like a swiss roll. The wrap is then encased in a sturdy box, about the same size as a decent novel.

What's in it? That's the thing – lots of stuff. Thirteen million burials, if you read the blurb. That's a heck of a resource, and a lot more than the previous version. But it's worth emphasising that, while that's a lot, it's still just an index, not the burial records themselves, despite what it says on the box.

I have to confess to a little impatience with the title. A National Burial Index it is not – sorry. A number of Welsh counties are not represented at all. Oh, and in case it slipped your notice, this is an index to burials in England and Wales – not a Scottish or Irish record in sight. Perhaps, understandably, the counties are also not uniformly represented. There's a splendid set of Yorkshire West Riding entries, which I'm sure will please Roy Stockdill [*He's just jealous!* – Editor] but Middlesex, where so many of my immediate ancestors were buried, is pitifully represented with just 15,000 burials, and there are even fewer Hampshire and Devon entries. Before you buy, please make sure you check the county list on the back of the box.

## Installation

To be able to use NBI 2, you'll need to install the NBI Viewer program. I found this to be quite straightforward, following the instructions inside the opening layer of the "swiss roll". Don't expect

things to run automatically from the CD, though; you'll have to find and run the program called **setup.exe**, on disk 1.

Once I'd installed the software, I had a small problem. Each time I started up the NBI Viewer program, I was presented with the message: "Please insert NBI Disk 1, select OK and restart application", even when disk 1 was already inserted. I ejected the CD and re-inserted it. Same thing! Then I realised that I should wait for the little green light on the CD drive to go out before I clicked on OK, and re-started the NBI Viewer. The software clearly had to read something from the CD to be able to continue – this must be the famous copy protection we've heard about. I had to go through this procedure every time I started to use NBI 2. I found this very clumsy and it's a pity. Being a bit bloody-minded, I put the copy protection to the test and tried to copy the annoying disk 1. I failed!

Once you get into it, there's a familiar feel to the NBI Viewer. Ah, yes – It's a Steve Archer program! And users of NBI 1 will be immediately at home, as the buttons seem to be identical.

The records are arranged chronologically: disk 1 covers the 16th century to 1760, disk 2 has records from 1761 to 1825; disk 3 has 1826 to 1860;

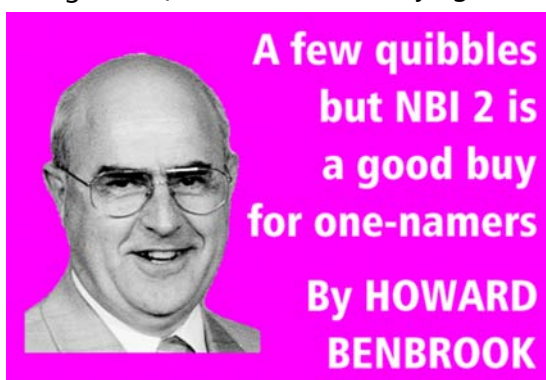
and disk 4 contains entries from 1861 to 2003 (yes, really!). Unfortunately, this makes for lots of ejecting and inserting, especially if you're looking for ancestors in the years covered by several CDs.

But there's a facility to copy the CDs to your hard drive, and that seemed like a good idea. From the menu I selected Tools > User Setup and then clicked on Help to find the instructions. I needed about two gigabytes to copy all the data, but the disk copy utility was easy to use and it was much quicker to move through the years after that. I really recommend that you do this, assuming you have the space on your hard drive, of course. But I still had to insert disk 1 into the CD drive every time I wanted to start up NBI 2. Blimey! Even Bill Gates isn't this paranoid!

## Searching

When you start it up, NBI 2 looks very plain indeed and, although there's a menu bar with a few options, there's really only one significant function: Search. I did the obvious thing. I clicked on the Search button (you can also use F2) and typed BENBROOK into the Surname field of the Search window. Wow – 256 entries! What? Just BENBROOKs? Well, actually, no. I'd left the option set that included variants, so I got BENBRICK and BAMBROOKE, etc. Still – doing it again gave me 23 entries, even with the exact spelling.

Now, I know BENBROOK is pretty unusual, but I could have expected more than 23 entries over a



465-year span. The answer is, of course, that not all the BENBROOKs are there. I can't, of course, expect full coverage (see my later remarks) and heck, where else could I get all this data collected together? I went back to the list of my variants.

As an ex-actor, I was instantly attracted to Mary Hathaway BANBROOK. Was there – perhaps, a tenuous link with Shakespeare's wife? Both were from Warwickshire, after all. A double-click on that entry brought up a window with the details of the record and showing the distribution of all the BENBROOK variants, with a spot for Mary Hathaway highlighted in red. Clicking on some of the yellow spots nearby revealed other local burials spanning several hundred years – further confirmation that the likely source of my surname is the Warwickshire/Staffordshire border. One thing's for sure, I'm going to have to explore Mary Hathaway BANBROOK some more! That alone makes NBI 2 valuable to me.

## Backwards step

One thing that seems to have gone backwards from NBI 1 is that you can now only display 500 entries at a time, rather than the previous limit of 2,000. When you have a body of records, it's probably a good idea to sort your list into some sort of sequence, and clicking on the heading at the top of each column will use that data to sort on. If you need to sort on, say, date within county, use the Multi-Column Sort button:

Perhaps the most perplexing part of this resource is in the Unique Surnames Search tab of the Search window. What this reveals is that there are lots of –

and I mean well over a thousand – surnames that begin "...". In other words, entries that have been difficult to transcribe. Make sure you examine these entries carefully, using whatever criteria you need. And by the way, you can use the usual wildcards, \* for zero or more characters, ? for a single character, when you search for a surname.

## Exporting data

It's all very well looking at all this data, but you'll want to do something with it. You have two choices: you can print a report or save the information in another format ("exporting"). You can choose to print all your entries if you have a short list, but you might like to use the tagging feature to mark all those entries that you'd like to report.

One of the strengths of NBI 2, though, is that you can export your chosen entries to a GEDCOM format, a .dbf (dBASE III) file or a table in an html (web) page. Now, that is what I call useful.

So – is it worth £45? For some, of course, this is simply a must-have item (bless them), but it really depends on your expectations and how you intend to use it, not to mention the depth of your pockets! The problem I find with a data-on-CD product is that it's very much like buying a haystack in the desperate hope that your needle is somewhere in it.

Let me offer some tentative analysis. Between 1538 and, say, 1900 there were perhaps 15 generations who lived and were buried. Across all those generations, the average population of England and Wales would have been – shall we say 10 million?

If you accept my figure, this means that over that

period there would have been something like 150 million burials. If that is so, then NBI 2 is an index to less than 10% of the total, which means you have no better than a 1 in 10 chance that you'll find your ancestor. This doesn't seem to be good value to the casual family historian.

But to a one-namer I think this is an attractive proposition. Ten per cent of all the people with my study name in just one purchase? None of that endless trawling through county-based indexes, just in case I come across that special surname?

*It sounds like good value to me, especially as I shall discount it to members. I, therefore, have no hesitation in recommending NBI 2 to you. ○*

Burial Date	Forename	Surname	Age	County	Place / Details
132 21 Oct 1575	William	BANBRICKE		Suffolk	Trimley St Martin, St Martin
133 4 May 1649	William	BENBRICK		Surrey	Guildford, St Mary
134 17 Aug 1683	William	BANBROOK		Staffs	Wolverhampton, St Peter
135 5 Oct 1645	[widow]				
136 21 Nov 1619	[wife]				
137 5 Jan 1774	Amey				
138 11 Dec 1776	Anne				
139 24 Oct 1808	Anne				
140 2 Oct 1823	Anne				
141 25 May 1825	Anne				
142 16 Dec 1821	Anne				
143 24 Nov 1823	Anne				
144 17 Oct 1814	Christian				
145 17 Jul 1816	Edward				
146 2 Jul 1763	Eliz				
147 28 Jan 1814	Elizabeth				
148 20 Jan 1814	Elizabeth				
149 30 Mar 1761	George				
150 7 Jun 1778	Henry				
151 20 Jun 1780	Henry				
152 10 Jul 1823	Henry				
153 11 Jun 1761	James				
154 14 Feb 1773	James				
155 15 Sep 1781	John				
156 19 Mar 1813	John				
157 19 May 1815	John				
158 21 Aug 1820	Joseph				
159 3 Dec 1769	May				
160 2 Apr 1776	May				
161 3 Feb 1780	May				
162 23 Jan 1794	May				
163 5 Jul 1797	May				
164 1 Sep 1801	May				
165 12 Dec 1802	May				
166 11 Jan 1818	Mary Hathaway	BANBROOK	15	Warwicks	Birmingham, St Martin
167 16 Nov 1788	Rebecca	BANBROOK		Essex	Purleigh, All Saints
168 16 Nov 1788	Rebecca	BANBROOK		Essex	Purleigh, All Saints
169 17 Jun 1767	Richard	BANBROOK		Staffs	Wolverhampton, St Peter
170 22 Sep 1778	Richard	BANBROOK		Warwicks	Birmingham, St Martin

**A view of the NBI 2 screen showing the results of a search for Benbrook and variants, with an individual record for Mary Hathaway Banbrook in detail**

• HOWARD BENBROOK is the Guild's Bookstall Manager.





By Dr David Heppenstall Mellor

# Modern mapping of your ONS surname by postcode compared with mapping from 1881 census data

**S**urname mapping is a valuable tool for the one-namer. Not only does it show clearly those parts of the country which call for his or her detailed attention, but it often gives clues as to the origin of the surname in question.<sup>1</sup>

If the surname is mapped more than once over a period of time, the pattern of any migration can be easily made out. Finally, the mapping of the different variants of the surname in question can show striking regional differences, which may sometimes be related to local variations in pronunciation.

One major problem is being sure that one has as complete a sample of the surname as possible, preferably at one point in time. The International

Genealogical Index has been used for mapping but suffers from the fact that parishes are only variably represented both in place and in time.

The GRO Indexes, especially those of births, should lend themselves well to surname mapping by registration district. However, by their very nature they are not able to give true point prevalences, although they will give very informative incidences over set periods of time.

Modern telephone directories are unreliable as an index of surname prevalence, as in the past telephone ownership was not universal and also as nowadays more and more people elect to be ex-directory.

## 1881 best source

The 1881 census is the best source of surnames for mapping, as the data is readily available, virtually complete and reflects a single point in time. This is now particularly true with the publication of Steve Archer's *British Surname Atlas* program, which uses the 1881 census figures and allows any surname to be mapped by county or Poor Law Union. Other censuses may become useful sources in the future as electronic transcripts become available.

Electoral rolls for the whole of the United Kingdom are published annually by i-CD Publishing as UK-Info Disks. Surnames and their variants can be easily extracted and counted. In theory, these numbers should represent the total people over 17 years of age in the UK in a given year with a particular surname. This statement was probably reliable until recently, when it has been possible for a person to be on the electoral roll but to request his or her name not to appear in the published lists. However, limiting usage to the electoral rolls before 2002 should avoid this problem.

## Advantages

Mapping for surnames extracted from the electoral rolls can be by county or by postcode. Postcode mapping has definite advantages...

- The postcode is always given for every entry, whereas the county is often not recorded. It could be ascertained from the town or city, but this would be time-consuming and, since reorganisation of county boundaries in 1974, metropolitan areas have been designated and many counties are now very different from before that date. Yorkshire for example is divided into North, West and South sectors which bear

little relationship to the old North, West and East Ridings.

- Another advantage is that the populations in postcode areas tend to be much more uniform than the widely differing populations of the various counties.

To explore these considerations further, I have looked

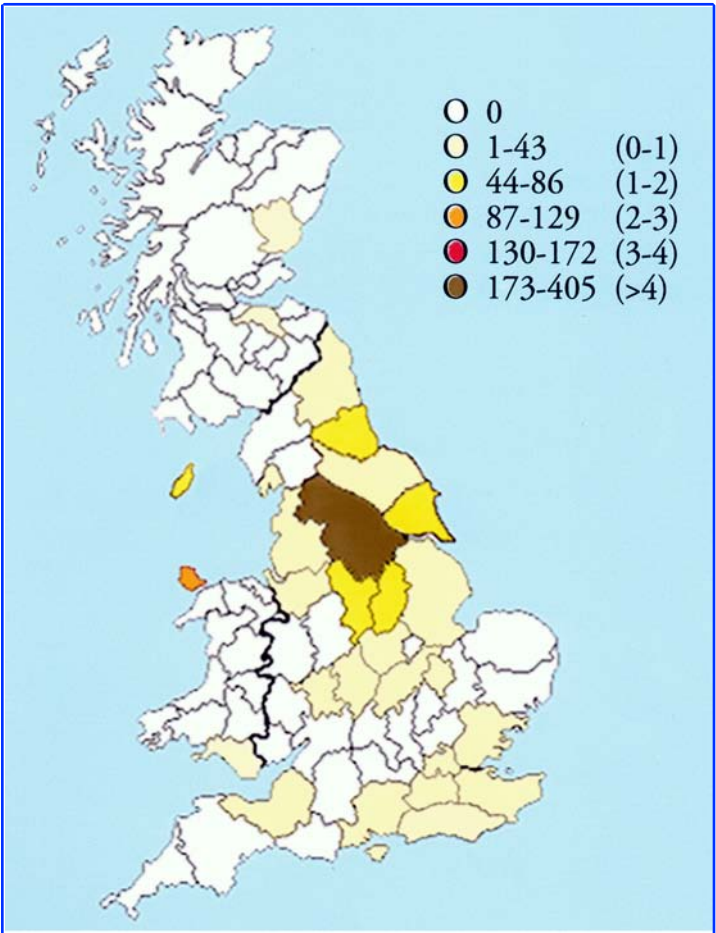


Figure 1 – 1881 census map illustrating the prevalence of the surname Heppenstall and variants per million population by county. Key shows prevalence groups, with corresponding Branwell indices in brackets

at my Heppenstall and Variants One-Name Study. I had previously extracted the figures for the surname and variants in the 1881 census. I obtained the 1881 census population figures for each county in the whole of Great Britain from the 1881 House of Commons Parliamentary Papers<sup>2,3</sup>. This then allowed me to calculate the prevalence per million population of Heppenstalls and Variants ("Heps") and the Branwell indices<sup>1</sup> for each county.

The results are shown in Table 1, far left. The grand total of all Heppenstalls and variants in the 1881 census

was 1,291 in a total national population of 29,875,026. Due to space reasons, it was not possible to publish the full table, so only those counties where Heps actually occurred are shown. For all other counties, the figures are zero.

The Branwell index is the prevalence of a surname in a given area, divided by the prevalence in the whole country, and allows the prevalence of different surnames to be compared. A Branwell index of <1 means the surname is less prevalent than the country average and an index of >1 means it is more prevalent.

For example, a Branwell index of 3 for a county means the surname is three times more prevalent in that county than in the country as a whole. Figure 1 shows a map of Great Britain with the counties coded in proportion to the prevalence of Heps. The greatest prevalence of Heps is clearly in the West Riding of Yorkshire – 405 per million population – with a surrounding penumbra (Durham 71, Yorkshire East Riding 63 and Nottinghamshire 61 per million population) and low prevalence elsewhere in the country.

## Rogue results

The relatively high prevalences in the Isle of Man and Anglesey probably represent "rogue" results as in the former, three visitors, and in the latter, a single Hep family of six persons, occurred within very low population counties. The overall prevalence in Great Britain was 43 per million population.

These results support Dr George Redmonds' contention that Heppenstall and variants are locative surnames derived from Heptonstall, in the Calder Valley near Halifax, with subsequent ramification particularly in the West Riding of Yorkshire.<sup>4,5</sup>

I have recently extracted the figures for the surname and variants from the 2001 electoral rolls, together with the associated postcode districts. Total and under-18 years of age population figures for postcode districts in England and Wales are given in the Geoplan Postcode Marketing Directory<sup>6</sup>, from which it is easy to calculate populations of over-17-year olds in each postcode district. From the data I calculated the prevalence per million population of Heps and variants and Branwell indices for each postcode district (Table 2, page 18).

Figure 2 (page 18) shows a map of England and Wales with the postcode districts coded in proportion to the prevalence of Heps. The greatest prevalence of Heps were in the postcode districts of Wakefield (1,152 per million), Huddersfield (995), Halifax (675) and Sheffield (407) with a surrounding penumbra (Bradford 281, Harrogate 229, York 171, Leeds 169, Doncaster 167 and Lincoln 151 per million).

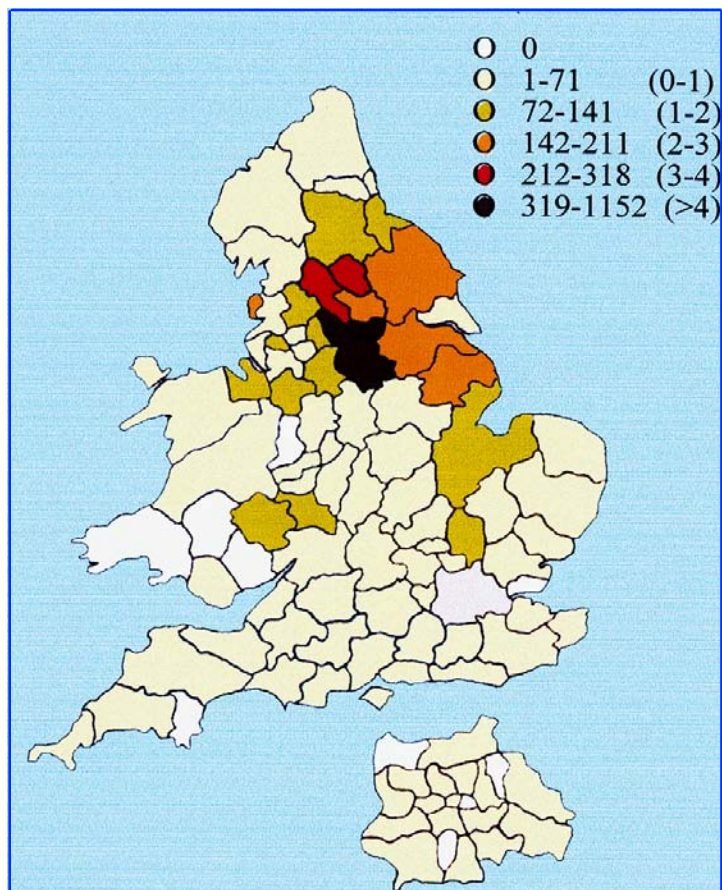
The overall prevalence in England and Wales was 71 per million population. This is higher than the figure obtained from the 1881 census and is partly explained by the exclusion of Scotland where Heps are very infrequent, but must also represent a genuine increase in both the absolute numbers and relative proportion of Heps in the country as a whole.

As well as showing the West Yorkshire hotspots, the 2001 prevalence map demonstrates a more generalised

County	Heps	Population	Heps/million population	Branwell index
Yorkshire West Riding	883	2175134	405	9.4
Anglesey	6	50964	117	2.7
Durham	62	867586	71	1.6
Yorkshire East Riding	23	365028	63	1.5
Nottinghamshire	24	391984	61	1.4
Isle of Man	3	53492	56	1.3
Derbyshire	20	461141	44	1
Lancashire	136	3454225	39	0.9
Lincolnshire	15	469994	32	0.7
Leicestershire	10	321018	31	0.7
Warwickshire	17	737188	23	0.5
Worcestershire	7	380291	18	0.4
Cheshire	11	643237	17	0.4
Huntingdonshire	1	59614	17	0.4
Sussex	8	490316	16	0.4
Northumberland	6	434124	14	0.3
Middlesex	33	2918814	11	0.3
Kent	10	977585	10	0.2
Somerset	3	469010	6	0.1
Yorkshire North Riding	2	346147	6	0.1
Hampshire	3	593487	5	0.1
Angus/Forfarshire	1	268653	4	0.1
Glamorganshire	2	511672	4	0.1
Northamptonshire	1	272524	4	0.1
Midlothian/Edinburghshire	1	388649	3	0.1
Essex	1	575930	2	0
Surrey	2	1435842	1	0

Table 1 – the 1881 census of Britain, with the actual numbers of Heppenstall and variants, total county populations, Heppenstall and variants per million head of population, and Branwell indices by county, ordered by prevalence





**Figure 2 – England and Wales 2001 electoral rolls: prevalence of the surname Heppenstall and variants per million population by postcode district. Key shows prevalence groups with corresponding Branwell indices in brackets. For clarity, London and its environs are shown enlarged and displaced at the bottom of the map**

Postcode	District	Heps >17 years	Population >17 years X1000	Heps/million population	Branwell index
WF	Wakefield	417	362	1152	16.3
HD	Huddersfield	181	182	995	14.1
HX	Halifax	77	114	675	9.6
S	Sheffield	406	998	407	5.8
BD	Bradford	106	377	281	4
HG	Harrogate	22	96	229	3.2
YO	York	66	381	171	2.4
LS	Leeds	91	540	169	2.4
DN	Doncaster	91	544	167	2.4
LN	Lincoln	29	192	151	2.1
FY	Blackpool	32	222	144	2
OL	Oldham	38	332	115	1.6
WN	Wigan	27	234	115	1.6
DL	Darlington	26	267	97	1.4
SG	Stevenage	26	267	97	1.4
WR	Worcester	18	195	92	1.3
SK	Stockport	40	461	87	1.2
CH	Chester	15	190	79	1.1
TS	Cleveland	35	442	79	1.1
CW	Crewe	16	212	76	1.1
HR	Hereford	9	118	76	1.1
BB	Blackburn	25	349	72	1
PE	Peterborough	40	574	70	1
BL	Bolton	18	274	66	0.9
PO	Portsmouth	38	574	66	0.9
SR	Sunderland	13	203	64	0.9

diffusion of people with the Hep and variants surname than in 1881. In the 1881 census 30 of the 53 counties in England and Wales were without a single Hep, but in 2001 only nine of the total of 104 postcode districts in England and Wales were without one.

*In conclusion the mapping of surnames obtained from pre-2002 electoral rolls plotted by postcode district seems to be a satisfactory way of looking at current surname distributions in England and Wales and complements the information shown on maps obtained by using the 1881 census data plotted by county or Poor Law Union.* ○

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#### Acknowledgements

Harry Wykes kindly provided a bitmap image of Britain showing the historic counties. The staff of Nottingham Central Library gave valuable advice on sources for the population figures used in this study.

DAVID H MELLOR  
Member 3823  
2 Bromley Road  
West Bridgford  
Nottingham NG2 7AP  
mellor2@ntlworld.com

*Left: Table 2 – England and Wales 2001 electoral rolls: Heppenstall and variants aged over 17 years, total population of postcode district over 17 years, Heppenstall and variants per million population and Branwell indices by postcode district ordered by prevalence. Only those districts with an index figure of 0.9 and over are shown*



# History and development of the Guild from its early days

By Derek A Palgrave, President

*DEREK PALGRAVE, President of the Guild of One-Name Studies, was among the founder members who met at a historic meeting in Leicester in 1978 to discuss establishing a body for one-namers. Since those days, the Guild has grown and developed probably beyond the wildest imagination of its pioneers. This article is based on Derek's address to the Silver Jubilee Conference at Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire, in April this year. We felt that, as we celebrate our 25 years of existence, members who were not privileged to hear Derek's talk, including many who have joined only recently, would like to know something of the Guild's early history.*

**T**HE CONCEPT of concentrating on the study of a single surname is not entirely new but the techniques now adopted by practitioners in this field are radically different from those employed, say, 170 years ago.

I am sure Robert Palgrave (1812–1841), who was probably the first to look into the origins of the Palgraves, would have found progress a great deal more tedious. Nevertheless, he accumulated sufficient genealogical data about various bearers of his surname to inspire his brother, Thomas, to petition for a grant of Armorial bearings. The College of Arms asked for more evidence, which resulted in a comprehensive investigation by a local antiquarian in Norfolk and Rouge Croix Pursuivant. Their research became a one-name study<sup>1</sup> which a younger brother, Charles Palgrave, considered worthy of publication in 1878.

The Palgraves were by no means alone. In Staffordshire, the Rev Charles Swynnerton produced a number of articles and papers during the 1870s, featuring the Swinnertons, which later were published in part of Volume VII of *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*.

In the United States in 1892, Francis P Rathbone launched a 16-page monthly magazine called the *Rathbone Family Historian*. This ran for only 30 issues but was revived by descendants in 1991. Since then there have been many other U.S. initiatives<sup>2</sup>, especially from the late 1930s onwards. Two or three decades later there were corresponding develop-

ments in the UK, with newsletters and magazines from the Butlers, Filbys, Olivers and Higginbottoms<sup>3</sup>. At the same time, a more general awareness of family history was beginning to emerge.

Genealogical Societies were set up at Cambridge University and in Birmingham, Manchester and Norwich. Those responsible included people like Don Steel and Fred Markwell, whilst in Canterbury Cecil Humphery-Smith had founded the Institute to foster the study of Genealogy and Heraldry. By the early 1970s the seeds of future co-operation had been sown. There was a proposal to hold the International Congress of Heraldic and Genealogical Sciences in England in 1976, so clearly the time was ripe for interested parties to support this initiative. A major conference was arranged on June 8 1974 to establish a Federation of Family History Societies. There were 11 founding societies, including at the outset representatives of one-name studies.

## Supporter

A strong supporter was the Swinnerton Society, so ably represented by Iain Swinnerton, who was also President of the Birmingham and Midland SFGH and was elected the first Chairman of the Federation. He subsequently approached several other one-name societies to seek their involvement.

By 1977 one-third of the members of the FFHS were one-name societies, so a sub-committee was set up of Iain Swinnerton, Michael Walcot and Michael Dalton, with myself as chairman, to address the needs of this significant group. Its duties were firstly to generate a Register<sup>4</sup> of surnames which were being comprehensively studied and, secondly, to draft some guidelines<sup>5</sup> on forming and managing a one-name group. These tasks were accomplished by the end of 1977.

Whilst we recognised that many family historians were sympathetic to our approach, we were conscious not all of them were keen to establish a one-name group. Many felt they might not be able to devote the necessary time to the organisational aspects. The sub-committee were of the opinion that the way forward might be to set up a new structure to accommodate individual one-namers.

We proposed a conference, with a programme of lectures and discussions, to ventilate all the issues likely to appeal to those involved in one-name studies. We involved several other individuals with relevant skills and knowledge, including Fred Filby, John Marfleet, Frank Higginbottom and Eunice Wilson, and we chose the Grand Hotel at Leicester over the weekend of May 13–14 1978, when we



*Charles Palgrave, an early pioneer of one-namers*

attracted 66 participants to the first One-Name Conference. We covered a wide range of topics from *How To Start* to *Producing a Newsletter* and *Organising a Gathering*. There were formal and informal discussions, culminating in a final session to discuss *Future Developments*. This was very productive and the outcome was a formal resolution, carried unanimously, to establish a Guild of individuals engaged in one-name research.

The meeting went on to set up a steering committee, charged with drafting a constitution and arranging an inaugural meeting. Those proposed were Fred Filby, Frank Higenbottam, David Rose, Pauline Saul, Hugh Cave and Sydney Brewin – who had not gone to Leicester to attend the conference but was staying at the hotel and decided the meeting might be interesting!

## Guild launch

The Guild of One-Name Studies was launched the following year on September 1 1979 at the College of St Mark and St John in Plymouth, where the Federation held its Autumn Council Meeting during a conference hosted by the Family History Societies of Devon and Cornwall. Within a few months, approximately 200 members had enrolled and in 1980 the first Newsletter was circulated, edited by Frank Higenbottam, author of *Running a Family History Bulletin on a Shoestring*, assisted by David Rose. Fred Filby became the first Chairman, also taking on the role of Registrar. Pauline Saul (now Pedersen) was Secretary and Sydney Brewin, whom we discovered was a chartered accountant, filled the office of Treasurer.

One of the first priorities was to publish a fully revised version of the Register of One-Name Studies and to define the criteria for inclusion. The committee believed that to qualify for registration one needed to have a significant body of data relating to the given surname and its variants. It was suggested that entries be extracted from current telephone directories, civil registration indexes of births, marriages and deaths and national probate

indexes such as the Prerogative Courts of Canterbury and York.

Provided they had such information to hand, members would be better placed to deal with enquiries from the public who had consulted the Register. In addition, there was a view that enquirers needed to know if the individual registrant represented a one-name group, published a regular periodical, lived overseas or had some other attribute limiting his or her study, so categories A, B, C, D and E were introduced – although many questioned their usefulness.

A further priority was to provide opportunities for members to meet on a regular basis. The support for the 1978 conference at Leicester suggested the venue had been well chosen, so it became a natural choice for the Annual Conference and AGM. However, with so many members living in the Home Counties, Leicester was alternated with suitable venues in London. Each year additional meetings were arranged to coincide with the Spring and Autumn conferences in conjunction with FFHS Council Meetings. This was not entirely satisfactory owing to the inevitably overloaded timetables at such events, so the Guild instigated a series of stand-alone regional meetings, the first of which was held at Canterbury in Autumn 1982.



FRED FILBY, first Guild Chairman

## Logo

Others followed at venues around the country, with the intention of providing every member of the Guild with an opportunity to attend a meeting within reasonable distance of his or her home.

As the proliferation of meetings far and wide was raising the profile of the Guild, the committee invited members to design a distinctive logo. David Pulvertaft came up with an outstanding design



An early gathering of one-namers at Stourbridge, Worcestershire, in 1977. Left to right: Michael Dalton, Royston Gambier, Derek Palgrave, Kenneth Grubb, Iain Swinnerton, Eunice Wilson, Fred Filby, Michael Grazebrook, Duncan Harrington and Michael Walcot

incorporating a monkey-puzzle tree and the ace of spades to emphasise the "one" in one-name. One of its early applications was on the cover of the *Journal of One-Name Studies*, which replaced the Newsletter which hitherto had been duplicated by Fred Filby in a bedroom. The Guild went on to commission lapel badges, ties, magazine binders and even beer mats bearing this unique device. David Pulvertaft also offered members the chance to add a scroll beneath the emblem

featuring their registered surname, so it could be used on their own headed notepaper.

The death of Frank Higenbottam in 1982 not only deprived us of an outstanding editor but highlighted the perennial problem faced by all genealogists in general and one-namers in particular: the fate of their accumulated research data. Frank had already arranged for his collection to be deposited at a library in Lancashire in the area where the Higginbottoms and variants had evolved. An appeal was launched within the Guild to provide a suitable memorial for Frank, which eventually raised sufficient funds for the purchase of cabinets to house such one-name material in the Society of Genealogists Library.

Although Basil Labouchardiere volunteered to take on the task of editor for a few issues, it was Iain Swinnerton who faced the challenge during the period 1983–1986. The magazine more than doubled in size over this period, increasing from 16 to 36 pages. Clearly, this represented an expansion of the Guild's publishing activity, reflecting the overall growth of interest by its membership. This was further enhanced by regular editions of the Register and specialist publications such as *Surname Periodicals* by Joan Marker and Kelvin Warth, which appeared in 1987, and *Organising a One-Name Gathering* by Colin Ulph in 1988.

## Outstanding

During its first 10 years the Guild had made outstanding progress. By 1989 it was well established with a membership around 1,500. At the Tenth Anniversary Conference, held in Swindon, I was invited to make some predictions about its future. It seemed clear membership would continue to expand and, hopefully, would include more from overseas. I expected our regional activities to become more ambitious and more of our members would participate in Guild functions.

We needed to share our expertise more widely by offering specialist lectures to other organisations, publishing booklets derived from our practical experience in one-name research, and developing indexing projects with a more universal appeal. I felt there were many other facets of one-name study we had not addressed and that we ought to be collaborating more effectively with linguists, lexicographers and those in other academic disciplines. Most of all, it was important we grasped the opportunities open to us through improved and widely available information technology.

I am very pleased to note that most of my predictions have come to pass. Our membership has continued to expand, regional events have proliferated and one-name studies have been more widely promoted through lectures and publications. The role of regional and international representatives, which was encouraged by the efforts of Keith Meredith and others, has proved particularly beneficial. Our marriage and other indexing projects have

made considerable progress, especially as the web has gained in importance following the appointment of a data-processing manager and webmaster. In fact, the ease of communication via the Internet has been spectacularly successful within the Guild, which differs from most other family history societies because its members never see one another at regular monthly meetings.

It has given me a great deal of personal satisfaction to have facilitated the Guild's collaboration with the lexicographers Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges. As a result of their attending one of our Annual Conferences, to explain the methodology behind their new dictionary, followed by circulating a questionnaire with our Journal, 300 hundred Guild members were able to make valuable contributions which were included in the final publication<sup>6</sup>.

We also collaborated with Professor Gabriel Lasker and Dr C G N Mascie-Taylor, whose interest was in the distribution of surnames as indicators of the genetic structure of populations. The outcome of this was an *Atlas of British Surnames*<sup>7</sup>. More recently there has been much interest in DNA comparisons and their implications within one-name studies. In a BBC series on Radio 4, presented by George Redmonds in 2001, members of the Guild were able to take part.

We have much to celebrate. Our members have pioneered the one-name approach to family history, tackling the problems of interpreting variant spellings and estimating the sizes of specific populations, including those of the high frequency surnames. We have devised convenient methods of recording information, making contact with other bearers of the selected name and bringing them together.

***The research methodology is now widely appreciated and the Guild is seen as an important strand in the network of institutions which foster family history and its related subjects. It has been an honour and a privilege to have been involved.*** ○

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DEREK A PALGRAVE MA FRHistS FSG  
President, the Guild of One-Name Studies



## Nottingham Computer Seminar lived up to expectations

By Robert Golder

**T**HE GUILD'S regional seminars are a way for members to meet and exchange ideas. The seminar held at the Nuthall Temple Community Centre, near Nottingham, on Saturday, August 23, lived up to expectations and provided a welcome break from the Olympic Games. On this occasion, it also gave members from other parts of the country the opportunity to see the Midlands.

The emphasis of the day was upon different aspects of the use of computers in genealogy and one-name studies. The 50-plus members present included a cross section of beginners and experienced users of computers.

Jeanne Bunting started the day with a presentation of the different ways in which computers can be used by one-namers. It was amusing and even experienced computer users picked up some tips from this presentation.

### Package

John Hanson gave the next presentation on "Genealogy Programs for One-Name Studies". It's clearly impossible to cover all programs in depth in one hour, yet he gave a good overview of the different features of packages that should be taken into account when deciding which software package to choose.

He used examples from two widely used packages, Family Tree Maker and Family Historian, although he did mention and provide examples from other packages.

As a user of Pedigree myself (a blue-screen DOS program) who

has not yet upgraded to a windows based program, I found this presentation extremely helpful.

An excellent buffet lunch was provided and there was plenty left for those who wanted seconds.

The session after lunch is always my downfall! After an excellent lunch, I have been known to rest with my eyes closed at such events. Howard Benbrook drew the short straw for the after-lunch presentation, when it is not always easy to



*Helen Williams spoke on  
Service Records Online*

keep the attention of an audience. However, there was no problem on this occasion. For the benefit of members who have not met Howard, they will not be aware that in an earlier period of his life he was a thespian (or actor). This came over in his presentation of "Census Sources and Pitfalls Online", using material and examples provided by Jeanne Bunting.

I remained awake and learned of a lot more reasons why people

cannot easily be found in the 1901 census. I personally gave up trying to trace my great-grandfather and his family in the 1901 census online. I was confident that he had moved from Kent to Warwickshire by 1901, but resorted to a blanket search of the 1901 census microfiche for Warwickshire before I eventually found him. I will try again online to see if I can trace him, trying some of the different types of errors that Howard showed in his presentation.

The final presentation of the day was "Service Records Online" by Helen Williams, another excellent presentation with examples of the different websites. Helen provided the audience with a helpful handout of the sources mentioned in her presentation. It was not a definitive list but a personal selection, which even experienced users would appreciate and gain ideas for further research.

Over the years I have attended a number of regional seminars and have found that it is often the question-and-answer sessions during the various presentations and at the end of the day that are so helpful. I certainly picked up some new ideas from these sessions on the day.

*On a personal note, all the people who gave their time to organise and take part in the seminar, provide the buffet lunch and welcome mugs of tea and coffee, should be congratulated. The location close to junction 26 of the M1 and parking next to the Centre also contributed to an excellent day. ○*

## Seminars update...

# Unusual Studies Seminar at Swindon in November

By Jeanne Bunting

**I**N A lecture at the Federation of Family History Societies' Loughborough Conference, *A Flight of Yesterdays*, in August, Roy Stockdill asked whether one-namers were the anoraks or aristocrats of family history. I have found that many of us start by collecting names dates and places but quite often go off at a tangent to investigate something interesting that we have uncovered in the process.

Often, putting the meat on the bones can be very rewarding and transform you from an anorak to an aristocrat. This is the premise of a rather special seminar we are holding at Swindon, Wiltshire, on Saturday, November 27. This event is called the "Unusual Studies Seminar" and came about because of four such aristocrats.

Marjorie Moore will be talking about her Belaney One-Name Study, reputedly one of the rarest names in the country. This led her to the discovery of Grey Owl, a Red Indian who she describes as "an alcoholic, womaniser and charismatic speaker".

### Jacobite glass

Guild Member Dorothy Spottiswoode discovered that there was an "Amen Glass" in the Spottiswoode family. These glasses were manufactured in Jacobite times and often bore a toast to the "King o'er the Water." Dominic Johnson will tell Dorothy's story.

Guy Grannum, usually to be found behind the help desk at the National Archives at Kew, found he had slave-owning ancestors in his family. Working in just the right place to research them, he became an expert on what records were available and

what you could find out about the slaves and their owners. He will share some of this knowledge. He will also give an update on the National Archives.

Beryl Hurley, in the course of her research into the Peapell name, came across a group of records containing letters written by those living away from their place of settlement to apply for relief. She is using them as the basis for this lecture and we will be privileged to be the first to hear it.

It promises to be a very interesting day, so make a note of the venue and date: Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Cricklade Road, Swindon, Wiltshire, Saturday, November 27.

## Maps and Directories in Chelmsford

IN a completely new initiative, we are joining with the Essex Society for Family History for our February Seminar on February 19 2005, when the subject will be maps and directories for family historians.

Speakers will include Evelyn Cornell, Director of the Historical Directories Project at Leicester University, and Clive Paine, well known author, broadcaster and lecturer in his native Suffolk, who will talk about tithe, estate and town maps.

Guild member David Hawgood will outline his project for preparing tactile maps for the blind, John Hanson will describe Computer Maps and Mapping and I will tell you how you can use maps and directories to help you find census entries more easily. It

will be completely free of charge to both societies and held in the Lecture Theatre at the Chelmsford Record Office. This is a purpose-built lecture theatre with all the latest projection equipment and there is an overflow room with a video link.

Because of the limitation on numbers, booking a place will be essential and to make it fair to both societies, booking will open on December 13 2004 and no applications will be processed before that date. Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

There will be a form on the Guild website nearer the time. Go to: <http://www.one-name.org/timetable.html> and select "Essex Seminar".

Further details will be obtainable by e-mailing me at [essex.seminar@one-name.org](mailto:essex.seminar@one-name.org) or writing to me (stamped addressed envelope please) at Firgrove, Horseshoe Lane, Ash Vale, Surrey GU12 5LL. No more details will be available until the beginning of December. There will also be a reminder in the January Journal.

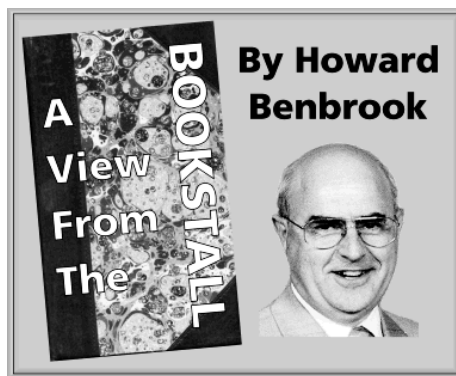
If this new venture proves successful, we will look to join with other societies for occasional similar seminars in the future.

## Right to move seminars around the country

The Computer Seminar in Nottingham proved that we are doing the right thing in trying to move around the country. We do have a few "groupies" who travel about the country with us, but in the main those attending were from within a 50-mile radius of Nottingham.

Seminars planned for the future in various parts of the country include Designing and Creating Web Sites, Occupations and Unusual Sources, to mention but a few.

JEANNE BUNTING  
Chairman, Seminar Sub-Committee



**I**T OCCURRED to me as I sat down to write this article that I had just passed my third anniversary. Three years running the Guild Bookstall! Three years of loading and unloading, driving across the country, setting up and taking down, counting, balancing and banking the money, checking and ordering more stock in time for the next event. And all this more than 20 times a year.

But there are joys, too, like the delighted smile as you explain to some stranger that their name probably has an origin in the heart of the English countryside, or that half-whispered remark as they finally tear themselves away: "That's fascinating!" When I examine all the scars I've got from bashing those blue boxes about, I have to wonder why I'm doing this. But then I remember all that help we must have given to novice genealogists, and I know there's a point to it.

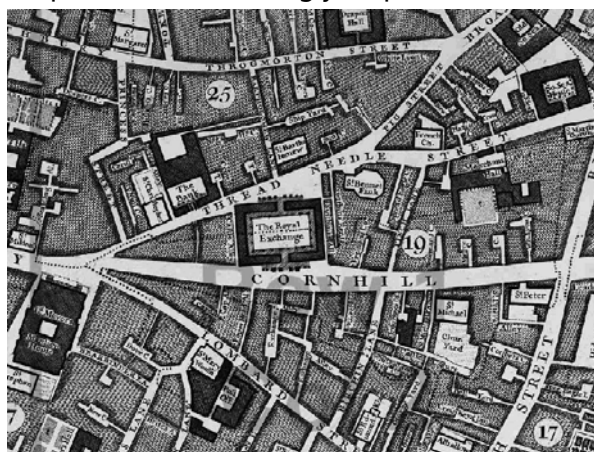
### What's new, what's big

Do you really have to be told what's new and big? As trailed in the last issue, the Big One this season has to be the Second Edition of the National Burial Index. If you haven't heard about it already, you must have been consulting the archives on Mars! The new NBI has over 13 million records and I'm undercutting the competition by offering this £45 article at a bargain basement price of £36 to Guild members. If you have the First Edition, though, you'll need to contact FFHS Publications who will upgrade it for £25. If you missed it the first time round and you'd like to purchase the Second Edi-

tion, then just fill in a Bookstall order form. For my full review of the NBI, see page 14.

My ancestors were Cockneys, at least nine generations of East Enders, so I am interested in anything about London sociology, history and geography. A couple of issues ago I was enthusiastic about a delightful little 1908 tourist map of London on CD. Now, I am just as enthusiastic about a pair of maps, also on CD, that take us further back in time.

Each CD is a reproduction of a map by an esteemed cartographer of their time and displays with your web browser. The first is by John Rocque, who in 1746 published a 26-inches-to-the-mile map that extended from Hyde Park in the west to Limehouse in the east. This incredibly detailed map has been lovingly repro-



*John Rocque's map of London, 1746*

duced and is available to members for £20.25.

The other is for mid-Victorian enthusiasts. created in 1862 by Edward Stanford. His map is a little more extensive, from Shepherd's Bush in the west to Canning Town in the east. This is another lovely map, this time in colour, and reproduced at a high resolution, so you can see every detail. Members' price is £24.75.

### Price List

You should find a new, pink price list with this Journal. There are very few changes apart from the colour, but it's my intention, unless there are no changes at all, to reissue the list with each new Journal to allow me to make

adjustments. You should destroy the old price list when you get a new one. The web pages will also be updated to reflect the changes.

### Where we've been

It's a bit quiet at this time of year, and there are only a few events to report. The York Family History Fair was, as usual, very busy, and it was even busier for us this year because I'd secured a site on the ground floor where there is more activity. On a personal note, for the very first time I met my second cousins, Peter and Joan, who I'd found after some Internet sleuthing. We spent a pleasant evening in a restaurant, tying up all those missing family links. We're still in touch, I'm pleased to say.

A clash with an important date in my domestic calendar meant I handed the Bookstall over for the Kent FHS Open Day, but we were very busy for the Guild's Computer Seminar at Nuthall, in Nottinghamshire. And we were at the FFHS Conference, *A Flight of Yesterdays*, in Loughborough, where I can report that my first efforts at selling that new edition of the NBI were very successful.

### Where we're going...

The season begins again in earnest and, as we go into the autumn, those blue boxes will see a lot of miles. Coming up:

- Guild Introductory Seminar, London, Staffs, October 2
- Warwickshire FH Fair, Leamington Spa, October 3
- Hastings & Rother FHS Fair Hastings, Kent, October 10
- Eastleigh FH Fair, Eastleigh, Hants October 17
- WSFHS Open Day, Woking, Surrey, November 6
- Norwich FH Fair, Norwich, Norfolk, November 21
- Wimborne FH Fair, Wimborne, Dorset, November 28

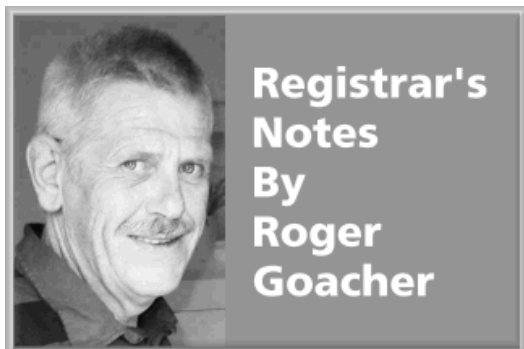
If any of these places are in your neck of the woods, pop in and say hello. I'd be especially pleased if you could add your own special brand of "one-nameness" behind the tables for an hour or two. Let me know if you're interested (address below).

Once again, I'm grateful to members who turn out to help

on the Bookstall. We promote the fascination of surname studies and, at the same time, make a contribution to Guild funds. It seems to me a win-win situation, because people just seem to have a jolly good time! This time round I want to thank Roger Goacher, Ken Toll and Bob Cumberbatch, who ran the whole

affair at Kent FHS Open Day, but also Barbara Harvey (twice!) and at Maidstone Peter Copsey, Phil Warn and Victor Medlock.

*If you'd like to contact me about any of the items on the Bookstall, e-mail me at [guild.bookstall@one-name.org](mailto:guild.bookstall@one-name.org), or write to 7 Amber Hill, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1EB, UK.*



**I**n conversation with members I know there are various reasons why you value your Guild membership – some welcome the arrival of the Journal with its varied mix of articles, some the convenience of the one-name.org e-mail address, some the lively interchanges, helpful advice and sources given on the Forum.

However I have rarely heard praise for the esteem in which the Guild is held amongst the general public, the wide publicity given to members' one-name studies and the number of contacts received as a result. I have even heard it said: "I have never received any contacts as a result of my membership of the Guild".

This surprises me. The Guild advertises members' studies widely, both through our website and the Register, which is circulated to all record offices and principal libraries in the UK and some repositories in other countries. If you are studying an uncommon name, it may be the level of enquiries you receive is small. But can you be sure that enquiries you do get have not been generated in some way as a result of Guild publicity?

In the last year as the Guild "policeman", I have received more than 40 messages from members of the public complain-

ing about Guild members not replying to enquiries. Almost all the letters or e-mails start: "I found Mr X was studying the X name on your website/in a copy of your Register at my local Record Office/from enquiry at your Bookstall at a recent FH Fair.." They often continue: "I wrote to Mrs Y enclosing a reply-paid envelope. I understand from your membership terms that Mrs Y is obligated to reply to my query"

Many complaints are easily resolved. Often the letter has never reached the member – mail seems to be increasingly going astray – or the member has changed their e-mail address without informing us. Sometimes the member has short-term problems responding to enquiries: an extended holiday, working away from home, an illness or family crisis. When I know about these, I can correspond with the complainant accordingly.

But occasionally the member not only fails to respond to the original enquiry but also fails to respond to my increasingly severe letters asking for an update. The Committee takes very seriously the reputation of the Guild and its members. We won't hesitate to remove a registration if a member fails to respond to queries from the public and Guild Officers.

So don't be aggrieved if you get a letter from me about a complaint I've received. Usually it will just be a misunderstanding that it is easily resolved. But please don't ignore such letters hoping they will go away – they won't!

Almost all members welcome

enquiries and would love to have more. They provide the opportunity to learn more about our "family", swap information and extend our researches. All members, and the Guild as a whole, are judged by the response to enquiries. So there are a few rules we should observe:

1. Respond to enquiries promptly. If you are unable, for whatever reason, to provide a detailed response immediately, send a "holding" reply, acknowledging receipt.

2. Don't promise what you can't deliver. Don't say you will provide a full response within a month unless you can do so. Complainants often raise this point, "He/she promised to send me a reply within four weeks; three months later I have heard nothing and he/she doesn't reply to e-mails".

3. If you don't have any information, don't ignore the enquiry or fob it off with an "I can't help you" reply. Suggest alternative sources and any guidance you think may be useful. Many enquirers are just starting out on tracing their family history and the last thing they need is a "stone wall" at that stage. You may even gain an ally in research.

4. Keep in touch. By doing so you may gain valuable information if the enquirer continues their researches.

*If much of the above seems doom and gloom, I am heartened by correspondence that says: "Despite my problems with Mr X, I have had enormous help from Miss Y. We have been able to exchange much information and she has pointed me in the direction of a number of sources that I wouldn't have considered." ○*



# Guild area meeting is addressed by FONS man

By Gordon Adshead

**A**N INTERESTING Guild area meeting, organised by the Derbyshire Regional Representative, Ron Duckett, was held in Stretton, Burton-on-Trent, on Saturday, September 18.

Most of the afternoon was taken up by a fascinating presentation by David Bethell of the FONS organisation. This was followed by a useful discussion with Ken Toll our hard-working Chairman, covering what the Guild is up to and the issues concerning the Committee.

David is a professional genealogist, learned Latin at Maccles-



*GUILD Chairman Ken Toll (left) chats with David Bethell of FONS at the Derbyshire area meeting*

field Grammar School and studied Medieval History at Cambridge. He professes to be very interested in the local history of North Staffordshire and East Cheshire, but not very interested in his own family history.

David spends a lot of his time transcribing medieval records written in Latin (or Abbreviated Latin) and building up a cross-reference index by the surnames he encounters. Most of David's talk was about his interest in the Ordination Registers. Starting in

## Guild NewsXtra

about 1200, the bishops found it necessary to try to keep records of who was a genuine priest, as opposed to impostors. These are mostly English records, as the Scots and Irish churches were in decay and the Welsh records have been lost.

### Registered

Four times a year, virtually everyone who learned Latin or wanted to be a clerk would be registered by suffragan bishops, whether they were acolytes, subdeacons, deacons or priests. Most would be around 21 years of age. If they came from outside the diocese, they would come with a guarantee from some worthy gentleman or householder able to give them a job.

There were strict rules for eligibility but in practice these were self monitoring. They would be excluded on grounds of homicide or bigamy, but bastards of various degree could get a special dispensation from Rome.

Nearly all records for all the English dioceses have survived in remarkably good condition. David has completed several indexes including the whole of the Lichfield diocese, which covered a wide area from the Midlands to Lancashire. Starting in 1300, Lichfield records cover 233 years and total about 30,000 references.

David told us a little about his FONS operation. The acronym for Family Origin Name Survey was only invented as a joke when pressed about the choice of name for his surname search operation. He is very much a one-man band, apart from enlisting a bit of help from his family.

To keep things simple, he

charges £2 or five dollars (USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada) for each reference he finds, and generally likes to work with an advance credit of five 10, or 20 references in any of four time periods. He uses the address 67, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AF to avoid the impression that he only covers Staffordshire, but in practice most of his customers contact him at: The Strines, Leek, ST13 8UL.

To cover the variant problem, he prefers customers to fill in a form that indicates a range of surname spellings that are to be searched and also a range of alternatives that are to be excluded.

*David earned an extra bonus point from me, as he had a fair degree of interest and knowledge of the origin of the ADSHEAD surname. ○*

GORDON ADSHEAD  
Member 3331

## Guild 2004 Website Awards

HERE is a reminder that the Guild Website Awards, a competition for the best one-name website, is being run again for members.

As before, the contest will be divided into two categories: entries from Category A members and those in Categories B and C, as with the Guild One-Name Periodicals Awards.

### Closing

Closing date for entries is November 30 and the results will be announced at the Guild AGM during the Annual Conference at Wyboston Lakes in Bedfordshire next April.

Full details of the competition can be found on the Guild website at:

**[members/web\\_award.html](http://members/web_award.html)**

# Guild's Journal wins FFHS's Elizabeth Simpson Award for second time

**T**HE Journal of One-Name Studies has won the Federation of Family History Societies' Elizabeth Simpson Award for the best genealogical journal of 2003.

It is the second time the Journal has carried off this award, having won in 2000. However, because under the competition rules we were barred from entering for two years after our first win, we have, in effect, achieved back-to-back victories.

## Founder

The Award was presented to Editor Roy Stockdill by its founder, Mrs Elizabeth Simpson, at the FFHS's 30th Anniversary Conference, "A Flight of Yesterdays" at Loughborough University in August. In their report, the Judges said the issue of the Journal, Vol 8 No. 2 April-June 2003, was "simply a thoroughly professional, eye-

catching presentation."

Runners-up were the Leicestershire & Rutland Family History Society and in third place were the Alberta Genealogical Society of Canada. The judging panel comprised: Colin Dean (Chairman), Editor of the Somerset & Dorset FHS's journal, a previous winner; Fred Feather, Chairman of Essex FHS, last year's winners; and Simon Fowler, Editor of *Family History Monthly* magazine.

In a message to the Guild Committee, copied to the Forum, Roy Stockdill said:

*"Producing the Journal is a team job and I want to thank personally every member of the Committee for their support throughout my term as Editor, and especially those who contribute regular columns, reports and articles for the Journal, plus, of course, all those Guild members who have also contributed articles and interesting items for it."*

*"It is your help and support*

*that has put us right at the top of the family history tree and I am sure will keep us there."*

Our printers, Flexpress Ltd of Leicester, sent an e-mail message saying: "Congratulations on winning the Elizabeth Simpson Award again. You deserve it for all the hard work that goes into compiling the Journal. Flexpress are proud to be associated with such a deserved winner."

Many Guild members attended the Anniversary Conference, marking the FFHS's 30 years, which assembled the largest and most distinguished line-up of speakers ever seen at a genealogical event in the UK.

From the world of television there came Carenza Lewis, one of the presenters of Channel 4's *Time Team*, and Dr Nick Barratt and Mac Dowdy of *House Detectives*, while Sarah Tyacke, Keeper of Public Records and Chief Executive of The National Archives, gave a Keynote Address.

Other well-known genealogical lecturers included Dr George Redmonds, the outstanding expert on Yorkshire surnames, and David Hey, Emeritus Professor of Local and Family History at the University of Sheffield. ○

## SAFHS Conference 2005 will be in Paisley

THE 16th Annual Conference of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies will be held at Paisley Grammar High School, Glasgow Road, Paisley, hosted by the Renfrewshire FHS, on Saturday, April 23 2005.

The theme will be "Surfing The Past" and speakers will be: Martin Tyson, the General Register Office, Scotland; Alan Steele, local historian; Pete Wadley, National Archives for Scotland; Gordon Urquhart, historian; Janet McBain, Scottish Screen Archive; and Elizabeth Carmichael, the Mitchell Library.

There will be workshops and

bookstalls, too.

Further information available from: [www.renfrewshire.org.uk](http://www.renfrewshire.org.uk), or by e-mail to [tigsco@aol.com](mailto:tigsco@aol.com) or [i.mccully@tesco.com](mailto:i.mccully@tesco.com), or by sending an A5 SAE to: The Conference Coordinator, Lesley Couperwhite, 34 Corlic Way, Kilmalcolm PA13 4JD.

*Do come along and help me man the Guild display.*

This year's SAFHS Conference was hosted by the Central Scotland FHS in Stirling on April 24, the theme being "In Loving Memory", a celebration of graveyards.

There were guided walks round two graveyards outside Stirling on the Sunday, but I opted instead to go to Stirling Castle, as Historic Scotland allows free entries to its properties on one weekend a year – and this

was the one! The Great Hall was recently restored and a massive hammerbeam roof re-created, and I had been waiting for a chance to see it. The massive oak timbers were appreciated by a forester.

Stirling has some graveyards on steeply sloping sites and stability of the upright stones is a problem, not helped by a large rabbit population, but they are making them safe without laying the stones flat or, worse, removing them completely. We were shown photos of where unstable stones had been re-erected with a concrete base, where all text was visible.

GRAHAM TULEY  
Member 437  
26 Crown drive  
Inverness  
Scotland IV2 3NL

# Top speakers and a names theme for our Guild Conference in 2005

By Sandra Turner



**T**he Guild's 2005 Annual Conference and AGM will be held at Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre in Bedfordshire from April 1-3.

The purpose-built venue was so successful and popular with those attending this year's Conference that we decided to hold next year's event at the same place.

The theme next year will be "Names" because that, after all, is what we as one-namers are all about – finding out about them, tracing their origins and why some surnames moved and some stayed where they were.

The AGM will be held on the Saturday, as usual, that is April 2. There will be the opportunity for attendees who only wish to come for the day, should you not be able to come for the whole weekend. The booking form will be issued with the January Journal, so please look out for it and send in your booking early, as we will be limited as to numbers.

## Expert

We have some well-known and expert speakers booked. They include:

- Dr George Redmonds, who some of you will remember spoke at our Wakefield Seminar in October 2001.

Perhaps the world's foremost authority on the surnames of Yorkshire, he has written a number of books, including "Surnames and Genealogy: A New Approach" and "Christian Names in Local and Family History", as well as numerous articles and booklets on different aspects of local

and family history.

- Professor David Hey, Emeritus Professor of Local and Family History at Sheffield University, who writes for The National Archives' *Ancestors* magazine and whose latest book is "Journeys in Family History".

- Rod Neep, of Archive CD Books, has agreed to talk to us on "Data Sources for One-Name Studies", touching also on preservation of genealogical data. This is a subject of particular interest to many of our members, who often ask the best way to preserve their data.

- Roger Kershaw will be telling us about the migration records held at The National Archives.

- Sharon Hintze, Director of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' Hyde Park Family History Centre at Kensington, London, will be speaking about the records the LDS have which will be of interest to us.

## Dates

Full details will be available with the next Journal. If you are interested, please mark the dates in your diary for 2005 now.

I urge you to book early this year, as space will be limited. There will also be a booking form on the Guild website and more information about the speakers will be there nearer the time of the Conference.

***I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Wyboston Lakes again next year.***

SANDRA TURNER  
Conference Organiser

# No danger of this House of Ushers falling!

**A MUSTER OF USHERS**, by Jemma Ussher, published by the author, PO Box 1126, Southport, Qld 4215, Australia; e-mail: [jusshe@exp.com.au](mailto:jusshe@exp.com.au). A4-sized hardback, 637 pages, ISBN 0-646-43289-3, Price \$A110-00, but overseas purchasers should e-mail the author to obtain the price + p&p in sterling or US dollars.

THE first thing that has to be said is that this is a big, BIG book. No, make that prodigious...or, better still, GINORMOUS! Merely carrying it around for a couple of minutes made my arm ache.

The statistics alone are impressive – 637 pages of A4 size, 62 chapters, 49 illustrations, 78 pages of genealogical tables, 12 appendices, and a 27-page, triple-column index. Lord alone knows how many words have gone into this massive publication. I wouldn't dare hazard even a guess.

What has to be admitted is that it is not only an obvious labour of love but a considerable work of research and scholarship, though whether it is a book that will interest a wider readership outside those who bear the surname USHER/USSHER or one of its other variants is perhaps somewhat more debatable.

I do hope the author manages to recoup some of her investment in sales, since the outlay must have been substantial, even though the book is self published. It has been produced with digital printing in a limited edition of 500 buckram-bound copies and is quite superbly presented. It would certainly make a



## Reviews Reviews

### *New genealogy books and CDs*

very handsome addition to anyone's bookshelves.

Jemma Ussher is a Guild member (No. 1690) and a New Zealand-born genealogist who has lived in Australia for over 40 years. She has also lived in America and travelled widely in Europe, Africa and Asia. A professional genealogist for many years, she retired in 1999 to concentrate on researching and writing this book, so her efforts during the last five years have clearly been well employed.

It is, in fact, two books in one, being divided into an examination of the known descendants over 600 years of one Arland USCHER, who became Mayor of Dublin in 1469, and other Ushers and Usshers either not known or not proven to be linked to him.

In an introduction and historical preamble to the main work, the author claims the Ushers were of Norman descent and were traditionally descended from the Neville family, great northern nobles who played a leading role in much of English history. She suggests a Neville – or de Nevil, as the family's original name was – was granted the office of Usher of the Court.

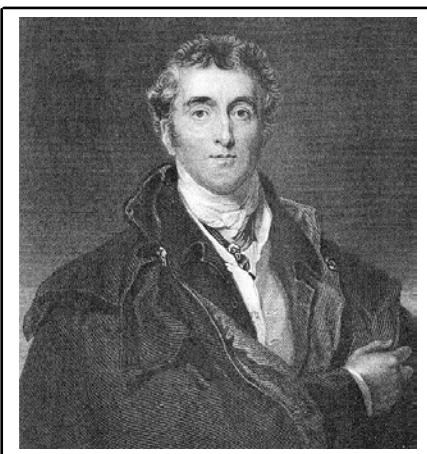
The Usher was chief gentleman of the court, charged with daily attendance on the king, carrying out his orders and with allowing only the most important people into the royal presence.

The Nevilles were deeply involved in the Wars of the Roses and the author theorises that some found it more convenient during those troubled times to become known by the surname of Usher. She also postulates that much earlier, in 1184, Henry II sent his younger son Prince John (later King John) to Ireland, that he took with him a John Nevil as Usher of the Court and this brought about the introduction

of the surname into Ireland.

Personally, I find this supposed descent from the Nevilles to be very speculative, though it is mentioned in the *Oxford Dictionary of Surnames* by Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges, who say it is a tradition among Irish bearers of the name USSHER. The first recorded instance of the name in Ireland occurs with John le Ussher, who was Constable of Dublin Castle in 1302.

The author reports it as "popular tradition" that Arland



*Military genius Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, whose great-grandmother was an Ussher* Uscher, the man whose descendants constitute Book One of her prodigious work, was the grandson of this John le Ussher, who was supposedly of either the Yorkshire or Westmorland branch of the Nevilles.

This surely cannot be, since Arland Uscher was apparently born about 1420, and the gap from someone who was presumably of advancing years in 1302 to 1420 is much too great to make them grandfather and grandson. However, this is a minor quibble and, to be fair to the author, she concedes that the descent is unproven and that Arland Uscher, a Dublin merchant in the reign of Henry VI, could just as easily have been

descended from some other Usher who was an early entrant into Ireland.

Book One is itself sub-divided into four parts, covering the descendants of Arland Uscher's two sons, John and Christopher, in the Old World and the New. Two of these were Primates of Ireland, another was Sir William Ussher, who caused the first Irish version of the New Testament to be published in Ireland, and yet another was Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington and the hero of Waterloo, whose great-grandmother was an Ussher.

As well as a whole string of famous and distinguished Ushers and Usshers, the author also introduces us to some less salubrious members of the clan, like 16-year-old John Usher, who in 1785 was found guilty at Kent Assizes of stealing cloth and sentenced to be transported. He sailed on the *Alexandra* as part of the First Fleet in 1787, thus becoming the first Usher to arrive in Australia.

There are literally hundreds of people mentioned in this book, which spans several continents and a huge time-frame. Some are given whole chapters to themselves, while others earn only a few paragraphs.

The author presents much historical background to her cast of characters, being especially strong – one might say gruesome, even – on man's inhumanity to man, with graphic descriptions of the "ethnic cleansing" of the Irish and horrific massacres of the Armenians in Turkey, the excuse being to follow the fortunes of specific Ushers.

Quibbles? Personally, I found the 78 pages of genealogical charts in their continuous format very difficult to follow until I eventually got the hang of it. And some of the typesetting is eccentric, with over-large gaps between words.

**However, on the whole this is a remarkable book and I wish the author well with it. ○**

ROY STOCKDILL

# A tree of Crabtrees – a Yorkshire labour of love

**CRABTREE: DWELLER BY THE WILD APPLE TREE**, by Peter Crabtree, published by the author, 1305 Cambridge Drive, Oakville, Ontario L6J 1S2, Canada; e-mail: [peter.crabtree@sympatico.com](mailto:peter.crabtree@sympatico.com). Paperback, 352 pages, ISBN 0-9734347-0-8. Price £18 + £7 p&p.

THE moment I retrieved this book from its packaging and saw the title, I knew without even opening it that I would enjoy it! Why? Well, as a native of the West Riding of Yorkshire and former resident of the Calder Valley, near Halifax, I knew that Crabtree is a surname that is overwhelmingly prominent in that area. Along with Greenwood, Crossley and Sutcliffe, it is one of the most prolific surnames around Halifax.

My anticipation was further heightened when I dipped into the opening pages and discovered the foreword is by Dr George Redmonds, the foremost expert on West Yorkshire surnames. Dr Redmonds says the Crabtrees had their origins in Bradford and Sowerby some time in the 1300s and the name then crossed the Pennines into Lancashire. However, West Yorkshire is probably still its principal home.

Peter Crabtree, Guild member number 2000, has been studying

his surname for many years and this book is the culmination of his work – and a very impressive piece of research it is, too. He begins by reviewing the origins of Crabtree as a place-name, undoubtedly meaning a spot where the crab apple tree grew.

Though Yorkshire is the centre of the surname, there are other places with a “Crab-” element in Essex, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire and Surrey. However, Peter comes to the conclusion, due to the paucity of families of the name in records, that none of them were a source of the surname.

## Origins

From early origins, the author examines the appearance of the Crabtree surname in early (pre-1538) records like Lay Subsidies, Manor Court Rolls, Assize Court Rolls and wills, before moving on to parish registers.

He offers many detailed charts and tables of Crabtree baptisms and marriages, property transactions and wills in Yorkshire and Lancashire, but does not forget the rest of the country, with a nod towards other English-speaking countries.

A section is devoted to some Crabtrees of note but I looked in

was restricted to those who had lived before 1850.

One interesting feature of the book I had not seen used anywhere else before is a device by which, when the author is indulging in speculation, rather than factual evidence, he presents his comments in a different typeface. Certainly, an unusual and intriguing arrangement!

He also gives a very useful glossary of old English words, and there are chapters on heraldry, employment and economics and family life, which help to set the story of the Crabtrees in their social context.

This is one of those books that, even if you have no personal interest in the surname, Crabtree, you can dip into at almost any point and find something of interest. As a model for how to write a book about a one-name study, this is it!

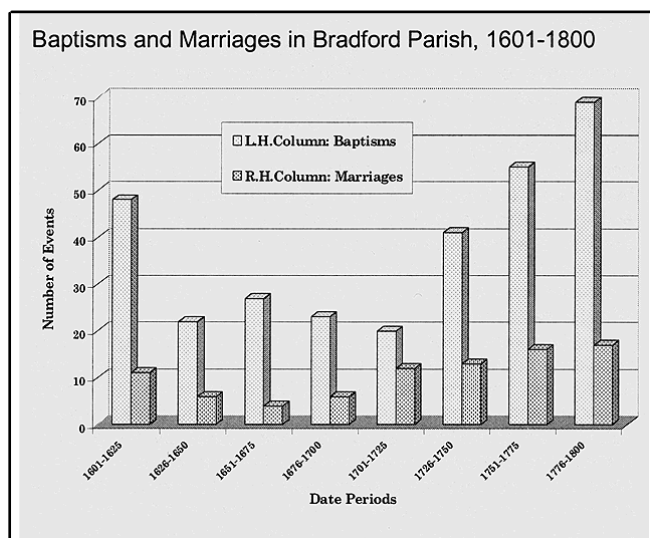
ROY STOCKDILL

**BAXTER'S GUIDE: BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES IN THE INDIA OFFICE RECORDS (3rd Edition)**, by Ian A Baxter, published by the Families in British India Society, in association with the British Library. paperback, 80 pages, ISBN 0-9547-116-0-2. Price £5.95.

THIS work has become an essential reference tool for those family historians who are researching ancestors who served in India, among whom will be many one-namers.

First published in 1979, Baxter's Guide has been updated by FIBIS, in conjunction with the author, to include his glossary of terms used in the administration of British India, which covers 12 pages.

For those who have not used it before, the Guide indicates biographical sources, scattered throughout the India Office records, that are of primary importance to family history researchers. It is arranged according to categories of persons to enable researchers, armed only with a basic occupational description and date, to pursue further information on an individual.



A Crabtree baptisms and marriages chart

vain for any mention of perhaps the most celebrated Crabtree of them all – Shirley Crabtree, the heavyweight wrestler who was better known as Big Daddy. Shirley, who died a few years ago, was a gentle giant and I knew him when I worked on a Halifax newspaper in the 1950s. However, I then realised the list



# Regional Representatives as at September 1 2004

## E-mail contact

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

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

## ENGLAND

BERKSHIRE  
Peter Tanner  
7 Reading Road  
Burghfield Common  
Near Reading RG7 3PY

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
See Oxfordshire

CHESHIRE  
H Gordon Adshead  
2 Goodrington Road  
Handforth  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 3AT

CUMBERLAND  
Anne Nichols  
4 Drovers Way  
Burton  
Carnforth  
LA 6 1HU

CORNWALL  
Sharon Symons  
Joanlea  
The Mount  
Par  
Cornwall PL24 2BY

DERBYSHIRE  
Ron Duckett  
Outwood Hills Farm  
Lower Outwoods Road  
Burton on Trent DE13 0QX  
Tel: 01283 561557

DEVON  
Elizabeth Holliday  
Caradon  
Jubilee Road  
Totnes  
Devon TQ9 5BW

DORSET  
Phil Sherwood  
Rock House  
20 Belfield Park Avenue  
Weymouth DT4 9RE  
Tel: 01305 770820

ESSEX  
Jess Jephcott  
73 All Saints Avenue  
Colchester CO3 4PA

GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
Ken Grubb  
5 Victoria Mansions  
Malvern Road  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire GL50 2JH

HEREFORDSHIRE  
Polly Rubery  
Medwam  
Edwyn Ralph  
Bromyard HR7 4LY  
Tel: 01885 483318  
Mobile: 07774 245436

HERTFORDSHIRE  
Barbara Harvey  
15 Park Avenue  
St. Albans AL1 4PB  
Tel: 01727 865631

KENT  
Clifford Kemball  
168 Green Lane  
Chislehurst  
Kent BR7 6AY

LINCOLNSHIRE  
John Laws  
4 The Hardings  
Welton LN2 3FE

NORFOLK  
Mrs. Mary Griffiths  
20 Knyvett Green  
Ashwellthorpe  
Norwich NR16 1HA

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
Dominic Johnson  
33 Redhill Lodge Drive  
Red Hill  
Nottingham NG5 8JH

OXFORDSHIRE  
Dr. Wendy Archer  
The Old Nursery  
Pump Lane North  
Marlow  
Buckinghamshire SL7 3RD  
Tel: 01628 485013

SOMERSET  
Ken Dilkes  
Clematis Cottage  
Whitstone Hill  
Pilton BA4 4DX

STAFFORDSHIRE  
See Derbyshire

SURREY  
Martin Gegg  
4 Little Orchard  
Woodham  
Addlestone KT15 3ED

SUSSEX EAST  
Richard Akhurst  
95 Sea Road  
East Preston BN16 1LN

SUSSEX WEST  
Richard Chilvers  
56 George Fifth Avenue  
Worthing  
BN11 5RL

WARWICKSHIRE  
Trish Bliss  
22 Cheshire Avenue  
Shirley, Solihull  
West Midlands B90 2LJ

WESTMORLAND  
See Cumberland

WILTSHIRE  
Richard Moore  
1 Cambridge Close  
Swindon SN3 1JG

WORCESTERSHIRE  
Derek Gallimore  
The Grange  
30 Pinewoods Avenue  
Hagley, Stourbridge  
West Midlands DY9 0JF  
Tel: 01562 883908  
Fax: 01562 885101

YORKSHIRE EAST  
Frank Hakney  
19 Church Street  
Elloughton  
East Yorkshire HU15 1HT.  
Tel: 01482 668340

YORKSHIRE NORTH  
Pete Redwood  
The Garden Flat  
36 Albemarle Crescent  
Scarborough  
North Yorkshire YO11 1XX

YORKSHIRE WEST  
See Yorkshire East

IRELAND  
Mick Merrigan  
11 Desmond Avenue  
Dún Laoghaire  
Co. Dublin  
Tel: (353.1) 284-2711

NEW ZEALAND  
Mrs. Lily Baker  
905 Wall Road  
Hastings

SCOTLAND  
ABERDEEN  
Peter Bellarby  
13 Westfield Road  
Stonehaven  
Kincardineshire AB39 2EE

SCOTLAND NORTH  
Graham Tuley  
26 Crown Drive  
Inverness IV2 3NL.  
Tel: 01463 230 446  
Fax: 01463 230 446

SCOTLAND SOUTH  
Dr. James Floyd  
84 Pentland Terrace  
Edinburgh EH10 6HF  
Tel: 0131 445 3906

SOUTH AFRICA  
Brian Spurr  
32 Newport Avenue  
Glenashley  
KwaZulu  
Natal 4051

UNITED STATES  
USA SOUTH EAST  
Dr. John Cookson  
13203 W. Heritage Woods Pl.  
Midlothian VA 23112

USA SOUTH WEST  
Bill Bunning  
PO Box 5632, Irvine  
CA 92616-5632

WALES  
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WALES SOUTH & WEST  
Geoff Riggs  
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Gwent NP6 6UE.  
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# Elizabeth Simpson Award



*Journal of One-Name Studies* Editor Roy Stockdill was presented with the Elizabeth Simpson Award on behalf of the Guild by its founder, Mrs Elizabeth Simpson, at the Federation of Family History Societies' 30th Anniversary Conference, "A Flight of Yesterdays", at Loughborough University from August 26–30. It was the second time the Guild has received the award for the best journal, having won previously in 2000. See report on page 27.

Journal of One-Name Studies  
October–December 2004  
Quarterly publication of the  
Guild of One-Name Studies  
ISSN 0262-4842  
£2.00 when sold to non-members