
THE EVOLUTION & ORIGINS OF A ONE-NAME STUDY & SURNAME RESEARCH



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Disclaimer – I am a member of the [Guild of One-Name Studies](#) and joined the Guild in 2002. I am also an Officer and Trustee of the Guild which is registered as a Charity in England & Wales. The Guild has approximately 2960 members with around 9,900 surnames registered including variants.

Over the course of the presentation you will hear some broad information about One-Name Studies and Surname Research, before moving on to the journey of my study for the Italian surname of ORLANDO.

As someone who has spent many years researching my Italian heritage it is easy to see why a One-Name Study for a European surname has so much appeal, after all as you spot a reference to the surname of interest you would more than likely record it, just in case, and we have all done that, haven't we?

This handout will hopefully signpost you to a variety of further references that you can access and explore. Who knows, you may already have quite an arsenal of material for such a study!

What is a One-Name Study?

A One-Name Study is effectively a project that solely centers on one surname only, and perhaps several variants. In the case of the global Orlando study ([Orlando.one-name.net](#)) I have the variants of ORLANDA and ORLANDE

Why start a One-Name Study?

There can be a variety of reasons, perhaps a brick wall in your own family history, to see if two or more individuals are related, to find the place of origin of a specific ancestor, or perhaps you are curious about your surname? Everyone will have their own catalyst for undertaking a study.

How do I start a study?

As with research in general you break the project down into small, manageable chunks. Perhaps you start in the town, area or Country where you live and then expand outwards, perhaps you start where the name is the most common or perhaps you start from where the name hails from. For my own family, I live in England, my Orlando's hail from a village in Sicily called Sutera and the biggest concentration of the surname as you might expect is in Italy with huge occurrences in the United States and South America. I tell you were I started in the presentation!

The Guild, in their publication "*Seven Pillars of Wisdom*" – *The Art of One-Name Studies* talks about the seven pillars or steps. There is no formal process, in that you must conclude each step in order. In fact,

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Guild member, Tessa Keough in one of her YouTube presentations aligned the process to Fred and Ginger dancing up and down the steps!

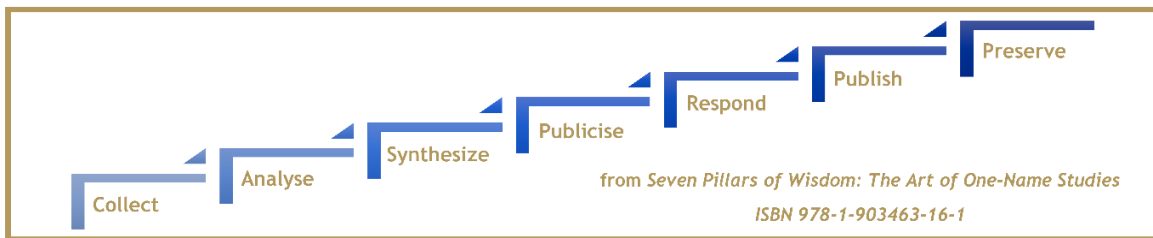


Image produce by Tessa Keough for the Guild of One-Name Studies and used with permission

- **Collect** – Collection of all data relevant to the surname globally – This is a requirement of the Guild, but there are no time constraints. **YOU** work **YOUR** study in **YOUR** time!
- **Analyse** – Close examination of each piece of data, linking to individuals in study and to family groups in the study.
- **Synthesise** – Using the results of your analysis to draw conclusions. Featuring meaning of surname, origin of surname, variants and distribution patterns.
- **Publicise** – Advertising others of your study – website, journals, Social Media, writing to others including those who may not be interested in genealogy.
- **Respond** – A requirement of the Guild if you register a surname is that you respond to all enquires received. Why would you not?
- **Publish** - Share your study by publishing articles, blogs, websites, books, newsletters.
- **Preserve** – Consider back-ups, lodging with the Guild library, bequest after you are gone,

Resources

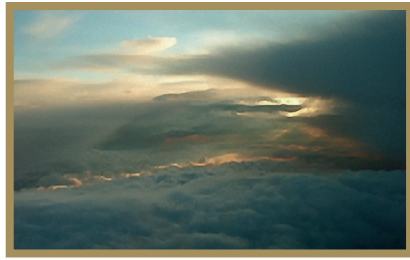
- **Books**
 - [“Seven Pillars of Wisdom” – The Art of One-Name Studies](#) – Published by The Guild of One-Name Studies 2012 (ISBN 978 -1 – 903463161)
 - Genealogy: Essential Research Methods by Helen Osborn (ISBN 978-0709091974)
 - Surnames Handbook by Debbie Kennett (ISBN 978-0752468624)
 - Putting Your Ancestors in their Place by Dr Janet Few (ISBN 978 -1 -906280437)
 - Churchill’s unexpected Guests (Prisoners of War in Britain in World War II by Sophie Jackson (ISBN 978 -0-752455655)
 - Italian Surnames by Joseph Fucilla (ISBN 978 – 0806311876)
 - Genealogists Guide to Discovering Your Italian Ancestors by Lynn Nelson (ISBN 978-1558706934)
 - Italian Genealogical Records by Trafford Cole (ISBN 978-0916489588)
 - Finding Your Italian Roots by John Colletta (ISBN 978-0806317410)

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- Sicilian Genealogy & Heraldry by Louis Mendola (ISBN 978-0615796932)
- **Podcasts & Presentations**
 - Guild of One-Name Studies YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bO7Fsb-K8Is>)
 - An Introduction to One-Name Studies [Part One](#) and [Part Two](#)– by Guild Member Tessa Keough
 - Who Does that? – An Introduction to One-Name Studies by Guild Member Tessa Keough (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvXIJkXqWA>)
 - What’s the Point of a One-Name Study? By Guild Member Helen Osborn (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ae95uMNEB8Q>)
- **Societies & Organisations**
 - Guild of One-Name Studies – www.one-name.org
 - Anglo Italian FHS – www.anglo-italianfhs.org.uk
 - Catholic FHS – <http://www.catholic-history.org.uk/cfhs/>
 - Italian Gen – www.italiengen.org
 - Pharos Tutors - <http://www.pharostutors.com/> with two courses on One-Name Studies – [Introduction to One-Name Studies](#) & [Advanced One-Name Studies](#)
 - Register for One-Place Studies - <http://register-of-one-place-studies.org.uk/>
 - Society for One-Place Studies – www.one-place-studies.org
- **Websites**
 - FamilySearch – Italian Ancestors - <https://familysearch.org/italian-ancestors/>
 - European Ancestors – www.european-ancestors.info
 - The Immigrant Ancestors Project – immigrants.byu.edu
 - DNA Surname Projects - <http://www.familytreedna.com/projects.aspx>
 - Pathway to my Sicilian Heritage - http://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2017/10/pathway-to-my-sicilian-heritage.html
 - Starting Your Italian Research Journey - http://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2017/10/pathway-to-your-sicilian-heritage.html

Hopefully the presentation and this syllabus has gone some way to inspiring you to consider a One-Name Study and to recognize the value of one. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at orlando@one-name.org

Remember, each study will be as individual as we are!



educate
engage promote
surnames publish
support encourage
preserve inspire



Who We Are

The Guild is a charitable organisation that serves to inform, educate and support the interests of individuals and groups engaged in one-name (surname) studies.

What We Do

Guild members study surnames! Guild members study a surname worldwide and seek all occurrences both past and present of their registered surname. However members are welcome to start with a less ambitious target and work towards a full worldwide study over time.

The Guild offers a number of resources and benefits to help its members and the wider public learn more about one-name studies.

How We Do It

It's a process that includes the collection of data (birth, marriage & death records, and census data is just the start) to analyse it and draw conclusions. Some members reconstruct families and conduct DNA studies. Some members focus on the distribution, migration, socioeconomic status (including education and occupation), origin, and/or medical history of all those sharing the same surname. A one-

name study can be as broad or as narrow as the researcher chooses to make it. Members use technology, online and offline resources, and share best practices.

Where We Are

With over 3,000 members throughout the world studying over 9,000 surnames from all over the globe, the Guild is truly a worldwide organisation.

What We Offer

Quarterly Journal
Regular Seminars
Annual Conference
Monthly Online Meetings
Guild Wiki
Online Forum
Tutorials/Videos
DNA Experts
Regional Representatives
Online Library, Profiles, Archives and Indexes
Members' Websites
Member Handbook
Register of One-Name Studies
Seven Pillars of Wisdom - The Art of One-Name Studies
Regional Newsletters

And much much more!

We are on Social Media:

Facebook
Google+
LinkedIn
Twitter

The Guild will strengthen its position as the centre of excellence for surname studies by educating the worldwide genealogical community in one-name studies and empowering members to share their knowledge and expertise.

Learn more about us and find out how to start your surname research at:
www.one-name.org

Contact Us

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