

# Journal

## of One-Name Studies



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**Mapping stability and change in surname distribution**

**Was your ancestor a bellow farmer, baven maker or a harlot (no, not THAT kind!)**

# Guild

## of One-Name Studies

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Journal. If you are interested in  
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tives Co-ordinator, Sandra Turner  
(address and phone number on the  
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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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*Charity Commission's greater scrutiny, so...*

## Be sure to use your vote on Guild's new Constitution

### From the Chairman's keyboard . . .



By  
**PETER WALKER**

**I**N LAST quarter's Journal I explained about the proposed changes to the Guild's Constitution. With this issue you should receive a supplement with the proposed new Constitution and an explanation of the changes we are making. In essence, the reasons we are revising the Constitution can be divided into internal and external drivers.

From the Guild's own internal focus, we wish to change some aspects of the way the Committee, the Executive and the various subcommittees work in order to improve our management of Guild activities, as well as updating some finance, membership and registration procedures to reflect current practice.

Externally, all charities now face the prospect of greater scrutiny by the Charity Commission. They need to demonstrate that they are genuinely charitable in character and are run in a disciplined, transparent way.

Much has been written about "corporate governance" in the commercial world, which has in recent years been wracked by scandals. Charities, too, face the same challenge of demonstrating that they are properly run.

Yet our current Constitution doesn't even mention that all the Guild Committee members are Trustees and legally liable for the operation of the Guild. So we are also making a number of changes to reflect the "best practice" for charities as suggested by the Charity Commission itself.

Given the legal liability that

Trustees face, we also intend to seek agreement to the provision of Trustee Indemnity Insurance, which is allowed by the Charity Commission, but with strict limitations. For reasons explained in the supplement, this has to be the subject of a separate vote.

The ballot process will be undertaken by Electoral Reform Services (ERS) and papers will be sent out separately to all eligible members.

Votes need to be returned to ERS by February 28. To be approved, each resolution requires a two-thirds majority of those voting — so please do use your vote! In the meantime, if there are any changes that you don't understand or you would like further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact me. ○

### *Digitising everything in the Guild Library*

**F**OLLOWING the review of our library material and a trial with three different scanning companies, we have decided to proceed with the digitisation of all our library collection.

This will make it easier to distribute material and, we hope, will make our archived studies and other documents more accessible than ever before.

However, much of the material we have comprises one-name newsletters that have been sent to us over the years by individuals and one-name societies. In this case, the magazines were not

necessarily sent to us with the objective of our making them available to others — for one thing, we don't hold the copyright. Therefore, we would make three pleas to all of you who have sent, or are still sending, your newsletters to us.

Firstly, can you please let us know if you are happy for us to distribute your donated newsletters in digitised format to other members on request?

Secondly, if you are still regularly sending your newsletters to us, can you now please cease sending a physical copy and send us an electronic version instead?

We feel sure you all now use word processors or desktop publishing programs to produce your newsletter and we would be pleased to receive them in Word, RTF or PDF formats.

Thirdly, if you have past copies in electronic format, we would be pleased to receive these, too.

As regards depositing new one-name material with the library, we would now much prefer that this is donated on CD-ROM and Roger Goacher's previous guidance on how to do this has now been placed on the Guild website in the Members' Room. ○

# Why not try receiving the Chairman's e-mail Newsflash with an RSS reader?

**AS THOSE of you with e-mail will know, I try to keep you updated with news in between Journals via the Chairman's Newsflash. When I sent out Newsflash 10 in October, a number of Forum members said they hadn't received it and I went to a lot of trouble to re-transmit the Newsflash again, using a slightly different method.**

This is not a practical move for the future and we have to accept that e-mail is never a guaranteed delivery service. I sent out to 1,572 members and only a dozen of you reported that you hadn't received it. Frankly, this is well within the industry average reliability for e-mail delivery.

## Bounced

Therefore in future, I will send out Newsflashes in the normal way once only, and inform the Forum when each one has been transmitted. Of course, some Newsflash messages get bounced back to me.

Despite our constant pleas to you to keep us informed of any change of your e-mail address, about a dozen or more don't get delivered because we don't have your correct address. This also means your mail via your Guild alias (**yourname@one-name.org**) won't be getting through, either. Please remember to tell us of any changes, either via the form in the Members' Room or by sending an e-mail to **changes@one-name.org**.

Talking of the Forum, some of you don't like to subscribe to it because of the volume of mail it brings. Even if you don't subscribe, don't forget that you can read the Forum via the message archive on the web. But did you know the following? If you go to the bottom of the Rootsworld archive page, you will now see an orange button marked RSS. This allows you to read the Forum

messages via an RSS reader. RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication and is a way of reading messages and news of your choice from a multiplicity of newsfeeds, mailing lists and "blogs" all in one place. It's like having a daily newspaper where you decide which columns are going to appear in your personalised version. For those Forum members who prefer the digest version, this is an alternative way to read the list and avoids the many problems that have recently plagued the digests.

Additionally, I've been experimenting with the concept of providing an RSS feed of Guild news to supplement the Journal, the Forum and Newsflashes. Many organisations have now switched from e-mail communications to RSS because of the unreliability of e-mail and the common problem of mass e-mails being classified as spam.

## Initiative

Although RSS requires you to take the initiative to read your daily RSS feed material, in every other respect this is, like e-mail, a "push" technology where news is fed to you, rather than you having to go look for it.

But there are several other ways of using the web which are gaining in popularity. For my own personal one-name study, I've started keeping a "blog", the web equivalent of a diary. I may not be Pepys, but it's a fun way of recording all the different enquiries you get and new information that comes to light.

Then there are Wikis. A Wiki is a cooperative project to create web-based information in an easy way – somewhat similar to the way many of you have created Guild Profiles. By the time you read this, I hope to have announced a trial of a Guild Wiki, where you can all add your wis-

dom about doing a one-name study. In a future Journal, I hope to describe how all these new web technologies, such as RSS, "blogs" and Wikis can help you with your one-name studies.

## Free publicity

They say all publicity is good publicity and free publicity is even better. Indeed, editorial copy will bring far more exposure than paid advertising. It was, therefore, particularly welcome when Roy Stockdill, our Editor, managed to get a slot in *Practical Family History* for the Guild to explain what one-name studies are about.

Given *PFH* is aimed at relative novices in genealogy, the article was not touting for new members, but rather explaining why Guild members might be able to help readers with their own family history research. For those who would like to read my article, it was published in the December 2005 issue (No 96).

## Ancestry 1851 index

THE FLOOD of new data sources for us to capture for our one-name studies continues. Ancestry has now released the indexed 1851 census, one of the most important sources to link your families back to the 18th century.

Additionally, hardly a week goes by without some new online source being mentioned on the Forum. I had the pleasure of speaking on the topic of sources at our recent seminar at Bransgore, but I found it hard to fit in very many in a relatively short talk.

***Perhaps I can end this column by repeating my plea from last summer. Don't let these new streams of data deflect you from your goal of publishing something on your one-name study. I'm sure the Editor would be pleased to see your article! ○***

# How a DNA Project has produced discoveries in the Meates One-Name Study not possible with paper records alone

By Susan C. Meates



**M**ORE AND more one-namers are fascinated by the "new genealogy" of DNA testing and introducing it into their one-name studies in an attempt to establish whether different families with the same surname can be connected together. In this special two-part feature, one of the Guild's American members, SUSAN MEATES, relates her extensive work on a DNA Project as part of the Meates One-Name Study.

THE MEATES DNA PROJECT now has over 200 participants in 15 countries. Using DNA testing, I have made many discoveries which would not have been possible with just the paper records.

These include:

- Determining who is related and who is not.
- Which surnames are variants.
- Discovering a previously unknown variant.
- Which surnames have evolved from a different origin.
- Identifying errors in the connections in family trees.
- Finding the ancestral homeland for one surname.
- Getting a much clearer understanding of the evolution of the surnames and the number of points of origin.

The project has been very exciting and interesting. The DNA Project has been of tremendous value to my Meates One-Name Study.

## Background

My one-name study evolved from my genealogy research. When I began my family history research, all I had to work with was my father's name and his father's name, and no idea where my grandfather had come from or how or when he travelled to the USA. It took a lot of effort, and some luck, to discover the family had gone from Ireland to Canada, and then my grandfather emigrated to the US.

Meates is a very rare surname. With the advent of the Internet and online phone books, I discovered in 1996 that the only households in the US were those of myself, my mother, and brother. I searched the Internet for six months, and didn't find a single Meates. As the popularity of the Internet grew, I eventually found a few Meates. They were located in Ireland, England, Wales, Australia and New Zealand. The New Zealand Meates all descend from

an immigrant from Ireland and the Australian Meates descend from an immigrant from London.

After years of research, I have determined that there were five Meates lines whose most distant ancestor resided in Ireland, one Meates line whose most distant ancestor resided in Worcestershire and then London, and one Meates line in Wales. Are all these Meates related?

## Starting the DNA Project

In 2000 I had my first Meates visitor, who was then living in London and whose family tree went back to Ireland. It was a shock to discover that we both had the same eyes and we wondered if we were related. Since there were DNA tests for paternity, we wondered if there were DNA tests that would tell us if we were related.

I started hunting on the Internet and found the research by Professor Brian Sykes, utilising DNA testing of the Y chromosome for men with the surname Sykes, and a small company in Houston, Texas, called Family Tree DNA. My impression from the websites was that DNA testing was very complicated, so I just bookmarked the two sites and the priority of DNA testing dropped to the bottom of my list.

In December, 2001, tragedy struck. My brother was killed in an automobile accident just six weeks after my mother died. My brother was the last known male in my family tree back to 1790. As I drove around aimlessly trying to cope with the events, I remembered that I had wanted to start a DNA Project. If I didn't get a sample from my brother, I could never find out about my family tree.

Frantic, I raced back to my computer, to find the bookmarks for DNA testing. Struggling to make sense of the information and choose a vendor, I remembered Chris Pomery's portal and turned to the website for help. I also sent an e-mail to Family Tree DNA, since they were the closest vendor and had the most surname projects listed at Chris's portal. In less than 20 minutes, even though it was a Saturday night just before midnight, I got a response from Family Tree DNA and then a phone call. They would air out a test kit to the medical examiner in Maryland.

At that point in time, in December, 2001, there were two different tests of the Y chromosome available from Family Tree DNA. One test was for 12

markers, and the other test was for 21 markers. Since I could upgrade the 12 markers to 21 markers at a later date, it didn't really matter which I selected. Family Tree DNA stored the DNA samples for 25 years, so I would have my brother Richard's sample on file if any additional tests were developed in the future. I decided to select 12 markers. Today, Family Tree DNA offers a 12 marker, 25 marker and 37 marker test. The standard for my DNA Project is now 37 markers.

Sample

After getting a sample from my brother, the next step would typically be to validate the result for the family tree by testing a distant relative in the family tree. Since there were no other known males in my tree back to 1790, I had to skip this step.

The value of the test comes from comparing results of different men. A string of 12 or 25 numbers by itself doesn't have much value. Therefore, I had to find some other Meates to take the test. My first objective was to test descendants from the other Meates lines, before I looked at variants such as Mate, Mates and Meats. I decided to start with approaching the Meates men who had shown interest in DNA testing back in 2000.

I sent off my first e-mail asking a Meates male to participate. In less than a day, I had my first participant, who was representing an Ireland Meates line.

In early 2001 I received the result for my brother, which is shown below:

12 marker result for Richard K. Meates  
12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28

Table 1 – 12 marker result for Richard K. Meates

The result provided from a Y DNA test is a count of short repeats of DNA found at specific locations on the Y chromosome. These locations are called markers. The Y chromosome is found only in men. Men have an X and a Y chromosome, and females have two X chromosomes. Scientists have discovered that a small portion of the Y chromosome is passed from father to son, typically unchanged. By testing this small portion you can compare the results of two men and determine if they had a common ancestor and approximately when the common ancestor occurred.

Figure 1 shows the Y chromosome being passed from father to son in each generation. The progenitor in the example family

tree had three sons and a daughter. The progenitor's Y chromosome is represented by the solid black square. The daughter would not inherit the Y chromosome.

The first son of the progenitor had only daughters, so the Y chromosome was not passed down in this branch after the son. The second and third son had sons, who had sons, so today there are five surviving males in this tree. For this example family tree, the ideal situation would be to test a descendent of the second and third son. Most family trees

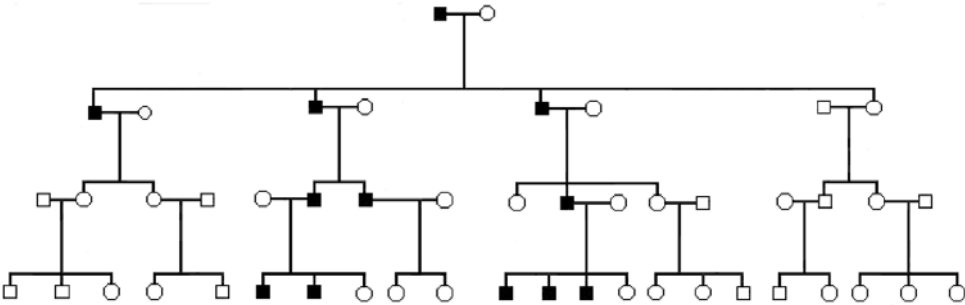


Figure 1 – a small section of the Y chromosome is passed from father to son, virtually unchanged. The solid squares above illustrate the path of this section of the Y chromosome

have more generations and breadth. Therefore, in those cases, the two most distant males are tested for each family tree. The reason to test two males is to validate the result for the tree. In addition, the result for the progenitor of the family tree would be determined.

Brick wall

For Ireland, the five Meates family trees had all hit a brick wall in the genealogy research in either the early 1800s or late 1700s, due to the lack of paper records. A primary relevant parish register was destroyed in the fire at the Four Courts Building in 1922. In addition, except for a few fragments, no census records exist for Ireland prior to 1901. Documentary evidence will probably never be found for these lines to determine whether any of the lines connect. DNA testing was the only hope for us to determine if any Meates of Ireland were related.

In the early days of the DNA Project, when the vendor upgraded their 21 marker test to a 25 marker test, a decision was made to set the standard for my project as 25 markers. The additional cost for the participants was small compared to the additional information available from the test.

It was an exciting day when the second result came back from the lab. My brother and another Ireland Meates line were an exact match at 25 markers, as shown in Table 2 below. This type of match is also called a 25/25 match, or a genetic

The first two results  
Richard Meates 12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15  
Greg Meates 12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15

Table 2 – the first results for two male Meates



distance of 0. This DNA evidence showed that we shared a common ancestor, which the scientist call the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA). Though the DNA does not identify the common ancestor, it does provide a time frame for this person. The time frame is expressed as a probability for different time frames (Table 3, below).

Time to the Most Recent Common Ancestor						
25/25 Exact match						
Time Frame	100 years	200 years	300 years	400 years	500 years	600 years
Probability	61.17%	84.92%	94.15%	97.73%	99.12%	99.66%

Table 3 – time probability to the Most Recent Common Ancestor for a 25/25 match

Since we knew our trees did not connect after 1854, when the one line emigrated to Australia and then New Zealand, we therefore knew that the common ancestor occurred prior to this time. According to the time chart above, the common ancestor most likely occurred between 1500 and 1850.

Participants in a DNA Project are typically provided with a Certificate of Results, as shown in Figure 2 (right), and a page at the vendor's website where they can view their result, see whom they match and get additional information, such as the time to the Most Recent Common Ancestor.

Upgraded

When a 37 marker test became available, the participants upgraded. A 37 marker test provides additional information and will estimate more precisely the time to the common ancestor. The 37 marker test result for the first two participants went from a 25/25 match to a 37/37 match. The probability of the time frame to the common ancestor was impacted by these additional markers matching. At a 25/25 match, the 99% probability doesn't occur until 500 years. At 37 markers the 99% probability occurs at 300 years. This information indicates that the common ancestor between my brother and another Ireland Meates line occurred most likely in the last 300 years.

Figure 3 (below) shows the analysis that is available to the participants, as well as the project

manager. This type of analysis is also helpful in identifying mistaken connections in family trees.

After receiving the first two results, it became easier to recruit participants. Over several months, results came back for all five lines of Meates with the progenitor in Ireland. These results are shown in Table 4 (opposite page).

The two numbers highlighted in blue are called mutations. We know they are mutations, since multiple persons

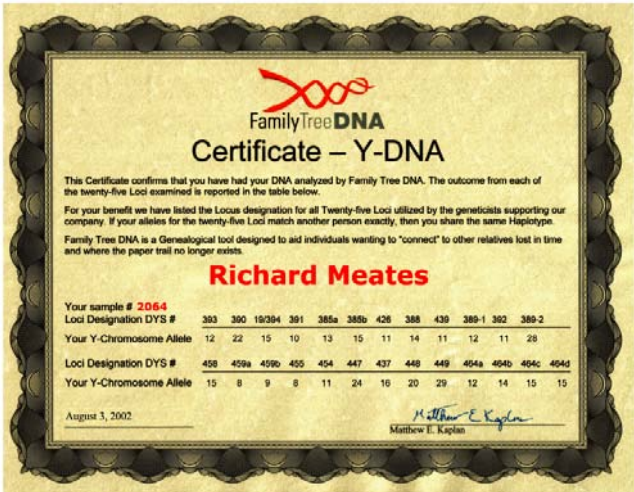


Figure 2 – Results Certificate for a 25 marker Y test

representing different lines have one result for a marker and only one line has another result. A mutation is the scientists' word for change. When a male is created and the segment of the Y chromosome is being copied, occasionally an error occurs, which results in more or less copies of a short, repeated segment of DNA at a location. This mutation is then passed down to the males in future generations.

Mutations can occur in current generations or have occurred in past generations. Mutations are estimated to occur about every 500 generations per marker. Mutations that occur in the distant past are very valuable for identifying branches off the ancestral tree.

Therefore, I needed to investigate these mutations to determine when they occurred. Did the mutations occur in current generations or in the past? If the mutations occurred in current generations we would consider them "resolved" and not factor them in to our analysis of the genetic distance, or degree of relatedness, of the five family trees.

In the beginning of the Meates Surname Project, with

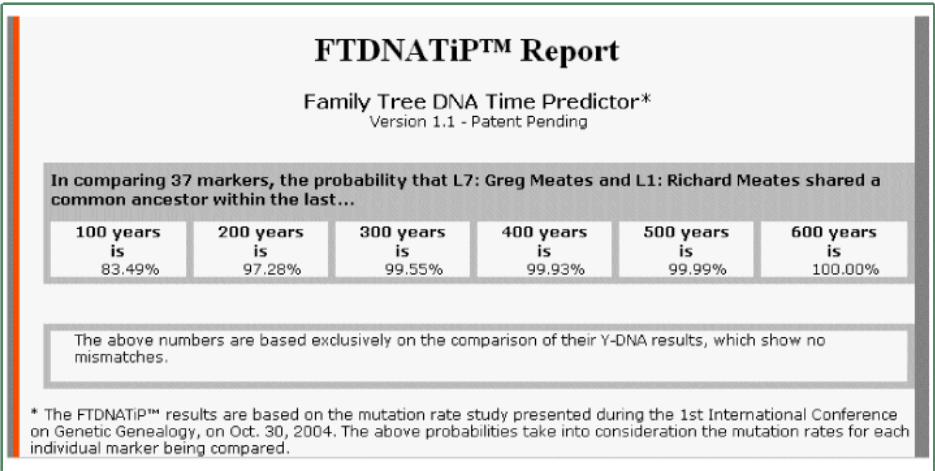


Figure 3 – time to Most Recent Common Ancestor at 37 markers



the first five participants the validation step had been skipped. Validation is where you also test a distant male in the family tree. If this step had been done, then the mutations may have been automatically resolved by testing others when a mutation is found until you identify the result for the progenitor of the family tree.

To accomplish both validation and mutation resolution, the next step was to test additional

you can see from Table 6, the Ireland Meates and the London Meates aren't related. This was very interesting news. Even though they shared the same rare surname, they aren't related.

After these exciting discoveries, the next step was to postal mail those with the surname Mates in Ireland, to find participants. The goal was to determine if the Mates of Ireland were related to the Meates of Ireland. From the parish registers in the

1700s, it looked like possibly some Meates became Mates, but the evidence was inconclusive.

At the same time, there were many migrations in and out of the parish due to the coal mining industry. This factor, combined with the lack of other Ireland records such as wills, made it impossible to

<b>25 marker results: five Meates lines with the progenitor in Ireland</b>	
12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15	
12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 28 12 14 15 15	
12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 16 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15	
12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15	
12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15	

Table 4 – 25 marker results for 5 Meates lines with the progenitor in Ireland

males. As a result of this testing, I was able to determine that both the mutations shown in Table 4 occurred in current generations. One mutation occurred with a participant and the other mutation occurred with that participant's father.

draw a firm conclusion.

There are multiple Mates lines with the progenitor in Ireland. Many of these lines left Ireland during the famine in the mid-1800s, so finding the lines today elsewhere in the world was often difficult.

<b>25 marker results: ancestral result for five Ireland Meates lines</b>	
12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15	
12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15	
12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15	
12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15	
12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15	

Table 5 – 25 marker results, ancestral result for 5 Ireland Meates lines

Therefore, these mutations are not considered in our analysis. These mutations are considered resolved. With the mutations resolved, we have also established the ancestral result for each line. The ancestral result is the result for the progenitor of each line. All Meates lines with the progenitor in Ireland are now a 25/25 match, as shown in Table 5.

### Expanding the project

It was now time to find out if the Meates family tree traced back to London/Worcestershire was related. Finding out this information would be very

Mates needed for the Ireland Mates trees, whom I found in Romania, we then had the results for the Ireland Mates. In Table 7 the lines have been validated and any mutations found were resolved as occurring in current generations. One result is shown for all the Mates lines that have a progenitor in County Wicklow, since they all match.

As you will see from the chart, the Ireland Meates and Mates are all related, except for the line to County Kildare. This Mates line just appears in Ireland in the early 1800s. I expect eventually, as Mate and Mates are tested in other countries, to

<b>25 Marker Results: Meates of Ireland and Meates of London</b>	
Ireland Meates	12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15
London Meates	15 23 15 10 15 16 13 13 11 14 12 30 16 8 9 11 11 26 15 20 29 11 11 14 16

Table 6 – 25 marker results for Meates of Ireland and Meates of London

helpful, to determine whether to keep looking for documentation of a connection. Two participants were found for the London Meates family tree. Their result matched each other, identifying the result for the progenitor of the London Meates. As

occurred where the male son took on the mother's surname of Mates, or an informal adoption occurred.

Since the above testing, two more Ireland Mates lines have been discovered in the USA. It is believed

<b>25 marker results: Meates of Ireland and Mates of Ireland ancestral result</b>	
Ireland Meates	12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15
Ireland Mates – Wicklow	12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15
Ireland Mates – Kildare	13 24 14 11 11 14 12 12 12 14 13 30 16 9 10 11 11 25 15 18 30 15 15 17 17

Table 7 – 25 marker results for Meates of Ireland and Mates of Ireland

that they both go back to Arklow parish in County Wicklow, for which the parish register was destroyed in 1922. The DNA test result shows that both these new Mates lines are also related to the Meates/Mates of Ireland.

The results from DNA testing Meates and Mates lines of Ireland was very informative. All the family trees are related, except for the Mates whose progenitor was in County Kildare. Most likely, due to the destruction of records, I will never find any supporting documentation to connect these family trees. The participants in the DNA Project were thrilled with finding out that they were related. Some had spent decades looking for any records to take their tree back further or to find a connection to another Meates tree.

The earliest occurrence of the surname I have found so far in Ireland is in 1708. From the start of Ireland civil registration to 1995 there are a little over 700 Meates/Mates events registered. In the early years of civil registration, there were often gaps as long as 18 years with no events. This evidence, plus the population of Meates and Mates in Ireland, indicate they came from somewhere else.

To find the answer to where they came from, it was time to start DNA testing the surname Meats. This surname is found in England and Wales. From research, Meats lines had been established. These family trees were traced to Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Wales. There is also a Meates line in Wales where the surname is recorded as Meats when the family first

line. For example, the surviving male for the Meats of Gloucestershire was found in the Republic of South Africa. The results for the five Meats lines and the Meates of Wales are shown in Table 8.

The Meats of England and Wales are related to the Meates/Mates of Ireland, and share a common ancestor. This was a very exciting discovery. It would be easy to assume from the surname that they were related. It would also be easy to assume the Meates of London are related but they aren't. DNA testing provided evidence that hadn't been found in the paper records. The Meates of Wales aren't related to anyone. This also was quite interesting information.

The next step of the project was to test the surnames Mate and Mates with the progenitor in the UK. One expectation is that a match might be found for the London Meates, who just appear in Worcestershire in the 1700s and later migrate to London. In Worcestershire, the surname is recorded as Mietts, Meiats, and Mates. The Mate and Mates lines tested so far do not match the London Meates.

In a search for a match for the London Meates, the surname Matt and Matts are now being considered as perhaps the prior form, and males with those surnames are being contacted to participate. From a frequency distribution study, the surname Matts appears to have originated in Warwickshire, so a migration to Worcestershire would be feasible.

There are quite a few lines of Mate and Mates in the UK and testing is continuing. For the lines tested to date, there are two Mate lines and one Mates line that match the above Meats/Mates/Meates group, and seven other different results. The majority of these trees that don't have matches just appear in London and migrations from Continental Europe are suspected.

This theory will be verified or determined to be incorrect later in the project when testing is completed for all relevant surnames and family trees globally. It is also possible that some family trees with the surnames Matt or Matts

evolved to Mate or Mates. The next issue of the Journal will carry Part 2 of this article, which covers many more exciting discoveries.

*These include the information from upgrading all tests to 37 markers, where a higher mutation rate results in mutations which define major branches in the ancestral tree back to the adoption of the surname, as well as combining DNA testing with research in early records to discover the ancestral homeland and unknown variants, as well as valuable information discovered about the evolution of the surname.* ○

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#### 25 Marker results: five Meats lines ancestral result

12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15

12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15

12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15

12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15

12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15

#### Meates/Mates of Ireland ancestral result

12 22 15 10 13 15 11 14 11 12 11 28 15 8 9 8 11 24 16 20 29 12 14 15 15

#### Meates of Wales

13 23 14 10 14 14 11 14 11 12 11 27 15 8 9 8 11 23 16 20 28 14 14 16 16

Table 8 – 25 marker results for Mates, Meates and Meats

arrived. There is also a Meats family tree in France who trace their tree back to Nottinghamshire.

The same approach was followed that worked so well for Ireland. For each Meats family tree, at least two distant males were needed to test. Postal mailings were used to find participants who were not already known. Most of the people who responded had e-mail. It is easier when a participant has e-mail, though not essential.

Participants are mailed a test kit by the vendor, with a short release form to sign that enables them to participate in matching, where they see the name and e-mail of whom they match and the other person sees their name and e-mail.

To test all the Meats trees, a global hunt was sometimes required to find a surviving male for a

# Looking at ancient occupations – was your ancestor a bellow farmer, baven maker or a harlot (no, not THAT kind!)

**W**AS YOUR ancestor a bellow farmer, a baven maker or a harlot? The first is a “person responsible for the care and maintenance of the church organ”, and not a very common one in more modern times.

The other two do, however, appear in the 1881 census. A baven maker was a maker of kindling and a harlot has been defined as a loose woman since the 15th century, yet in the 14th century was “a male servant, attendant or menial”

You could be forgiven for thinking that this is going to be an article about occupational surnames but it isn't. While there are a number around us every day – Fletcher, Cooper, Whitesmith, Archer, for example (for a list of some have a look at [www.namenerds.com/uucn/listofweek/jobnames.html](http://www.namenerds.com/uucn/listofweek/jobnames.html)) – they do, however, appear to be the more common surnames and, therefore, unlikely to be the subject of a one-name study. I am not saying that there aren't any occupational names in the Guild – I just haven't had the chance to check each of the names for its derivation.

That is not to say that occupational surnames aren't of interest. Take for example these three names which all have the same basic meaning – Fuller, Tucker and Walker. All have a basic meaning of “a dresser of cloth”. You could be forgiven for thinking that they are common all over the country. However, take a look at the diagram



By JOHN  
HANSON FSG

below which shows the distribution of the names with our old friend *Surname Atlas*, which uses the data from the 1881 census of Britain to draw distribution maps, and you will see that while they appear in most counties, each has its own distinct area.

Don't be drawn into assumptions about a surname, either. I found a marriage only recently to someone with the name HUSTLER – in fact, it is a variant of OSTLER, according to my *Oxford Dictionary of Surnames*.

So where does this lead us? To the point that many who say they are family historians are, in fact, simply name collectors. Our obsession – and most one-namers are obsessed – means that we should be more interested in the family as a whole and look at the social and local issues effecting the family as well.

This obviously covers a wide area of research and I want to look at the occupational side of this and explore some of the places where you may find information to help you on the way.

## CD and books

Let's start by looking at some of the information that is available on CD-ROM. One of the best I have obtained is the *Dictionary of Occupational Terms* from the Open University at...

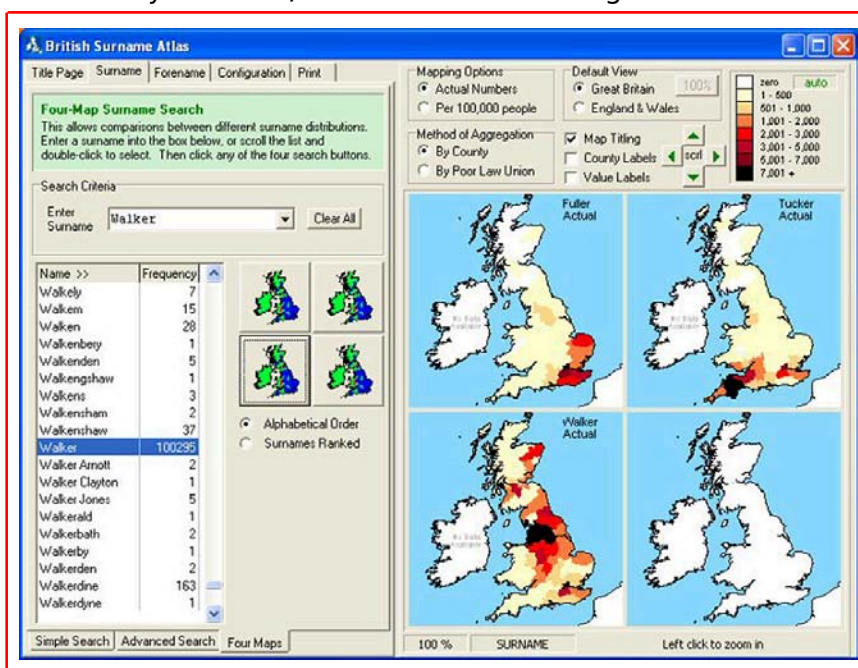
[www.open.ac.uk/socialsciences/osfach/osfachsubset/osfachinfopoposfach\\_dictionary.html](http://www.open.ac.uk/socialsciences/osfach/osfachsubset/osfachinfopoposfach_dictionary.html)

This CD has the full definition and grouping of all of the occupations that were in use in the late 19th and early 20th century and is ridiculously cheap at only £12.95 (overseas postage extra). Another CD-ROM that may also be of interest is *The British Workman 1865*, from...

[www.youoldbooksandmaps.co.uk](http://www.youoldbooksandmaps.co.uk)

...which is “dedicated to the Industrial Classes” and, according to the website, “propaganda and satire at its best”.

Archive CD Books have many CDs covering occupations, including the following for Cornwall, *Fish, Tin & Copper or Cornwall, its Mines & Miners* – a copy of a book from 1869 on the occupations at the time – and



Distribution of Fuller, Tucker and Walker in 1881



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### The University of Leicester's Digital Library of Historical Directories website

*The Miner's Son*, an 1885 story of a tin mining community. Don't forget, either, the range of CDs available from several companies of trade directories, though not a lot of good if your ancestors were labourers like most of mine. But even if your ancestors were agricultural labourers, don't despair – there is always a chance that yours could be like Guild member Jeanne Bunting's ancestor Joseph Shepherd, who turned out to be a lay preacher on Sundays, often walking miles to preach..

There are also many books around on occupations including the Society of Genealogists ([www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk)) excellent *My Ancestors* series. These include, Policeman, Coalminer, Merchant Seaman and the new *My Ancestor worked in the Theatre*.

The first port of call with the Internet is a site for definitions. I have several bookmarked, including:  
[www.gendocs.demon.co.uk/trades.html](http://www.gendocs.demon.co.uk/trades.html)

and [rmhh.co.uk/occup/](http://rmhh.co.uk/occup/)

If you can't find what you want there, then try entering the name of the occupation and "definition" into a search engine. If you get too many hits, then try adding the word "occupation" as well.

### Digital directories

There is the extensive range of trade directories available online at the Digital Library of Historical Directories – [www.historicaldirectories.org](http://www.historicaldirectories.org). You may also find details of some elusive publications and occupational lists in the Society of Genealogists' catalogue that is now online at [www.sog.org.uk/sogcat/](http://www.sog.org.uk/sogcat/). If your ancestor was on the railways, then you may also want to try the Railway Ancestors FHS at [www.railwayancestors.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.railwayancestors.fsnet.co.uk).

In doing the research for my talk at the seminar in Sunderland in August, even I was surprised at the

amount of information that one could find on the Internet. Yes, it is a great source for background information but there are some real gems out there. For example, I found a list on quarrymen employed in the West Country at [freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~stonemen/](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~stonemen/) ..or there is the National Database of Mining Deaths and Injuries at...

[www.cmhrc.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk](http://www.cmhrc.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk)

I mentioned at the beginning that two of the occupations were listed on the 1881 census. It is, of course, possible to search for an occu-

#### Quarrymen, Portland 1735

On Dec 16th circa 1735 Portland was rocked by a small earthquake. It occurred near the quarries at the north end of the island. A mile of cliff fell into the sea, the road to the pier and the pier itself were destroyed, along with a crane. This meant it was impossible to take stone from the quarries to the waiting ships. The quarriers therefore petitioned the Lord's Commissioners for His Majesty's Treasury asking for the road to the pier and the pier itself to be repaired so that stone could be shipped again. (NB. the Treasury received a revenue of 4d for every ton of stone shipped).

This is the list of the quarrymen who petitioned the Treasury. The information is taken from Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries, Vol 17, 1923. The spellings and abbreviations are exactly as given. They are in the same order, reading from left to right, as in the original list. I do not know if the order is significant, I have not sorted them in any way. The reference given is T. 1/288/fo. 167 but it does not say what these papers are. Treasury papers?

Name	Name	Name	Name
John GILBERT	Benjn. STONE	John ELLIOTT	Shad. STONE
Thomas CHILES	Robt MITCHELL	Benja STONE	Philip HENDEY
Richard FLAN	Henery PEARCE	John COMBEN	John BENFIELD
Richard MASTERS	William MASTERS	William GILBERT	William MUDDLELL
Siles COMBEN	John FLAN	William PEARCE	Juell STUDLY
Abell SWEETT	Robert PEARCE	John ALLEN	William BENFIELD
Henery STONE	The mark of William STONE	George COMBEN	The mark of John STONE
John PEARCE	Roben PEARCE	Dick MITCHELL	William STONE
Thomas ELLIOTT	Andr. STORY	Owen LANE	John BYATT
The mark of John MITCHELL	John ROOD	William PEARCE	William MITCHELL
John GILBERT jun	Mickell RAYMENT	Robert COMBEN	John ATTWOOL
John STONE	Robert WHITE	Robert WIGGETT	Robt PEARCE
John HELLYER	John STONE	Thomas PAINTER	Thomas FLEW

*A petition to the Treasury from Portland, Dorset, quarrymen in 1735*

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**Exact Search Results - 1881 England Census**  
[Refine your search](#)

All Census Results Viewing 1-4 of 4

View Record	Name	Estimated Birth Year	Birthplace	Relationship	Residence	View Image
<a href="#">View Record</a>	John Cooper	abt 1839	Warwickshire, England	Lodger	Barras Bridge Hotel, Jesmond, Northumberland, England	
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Emila Dalimonico	abt 1857	London, London, Middlesex, England	Visitor	33 Broad Street, Stamford St Michael, Lincolnshire, England	
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Roger Dalimonico	abt 1851	Mnea (F), Arabia	Visitor	33 Broad Street, Stamford St Michael, Lincolnshire, England	
<a href="#">View Record</a>	Alexander Day	abt 1852	Acton, Middlesex, England	Boarder	23 Priory St, Bedford St Paul, Bedfordshire, England	

Results per page 10 Viewing 1-4 of 4

You are here: [All Search Results](#) > [Census](#) > 1881 England Census

[View printer-friendly](#)

[Refine your search of the 1881 England Census](#)

Henry Baker of Bethnal Green who described himself as "Artist of Fireworks".

Unfortunately, with Ancestry the 1881 is the only census that you can search for occupations in, but you can search for them on the 1861 census using 1837Online at [www.1837online.com](http://www.1837online.com)

I could only find five prostitutes living in London but found 390 with an occupation starting with "watch" and 1,843 starting with "shoe".

Now, just because you don't want to use the 1881 census on Ancestry (and using the indexes are free), then you are not lost. It is possible to search for

*A search for lion tamers on the 1881 census at Ancestry reveals four entries*

using the online version at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk). The figure shows the listing of lion tamers and if you look for "Tiger" there is Charles Bigtop, the tiger slayer, and 16-year-old Sarah Martin who was a tiger head mounter! Interestingly, you will also find over 400 prostitutes, two concubines and over 130 people whose occupation contains "Sagger Maker".

You will find all sorts of obscure ones as well – Jules Qulard, Christmas card maker, a number of cosaque makers (bonbon or Christmas crackers) and over 100 with "firework" in the title, including

occupations on the CD-ROM version of the 1881.

You do, however, need at least Version 3.0 in order to be able to access the advanced search. Having called up the advanced search screen, you enter "occ:" followed by a space and then what you are looking for in the occupation.

### Wild card

You can of, course, use a wild card at the beginning but if you are doing it using CD-ROMs, then it can take a time for the result to appear. The figure shows the search screen looking for "watch\*" and you can see some of the terms that it has found.

Hopefully, I have given you food for thought and something else to while away those odd moments when you are lost for ideas.

Finally, if you want to have some fun have a look at the quiz at...

[edsitement.neh.gov/lesson\\_images/lesson482/occupational.pdf](http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson_images/lesson482/occupational.pdf)

**Advanced Query**

Word: watch Records with hits - 3479

watch  
watcham  
watchcase  
watchell  
watchen  
watcher  
watchers  
watches  
watchet  
watchett  
watchfd  
watchfield

occ - 605956  
watch\* - 4428

Query For: "occ: watch\*" Prev

[ ] [ ] Checked branches Apply To All Help OK Cancel

*Searching for occupations including the word "watch" on the 1881 census CDs*

JOHN HANSON FSG  
Member 2572  
16 Audley Mead  
Bradwell Village  
Milton Keynes  
Buckinghamshire  
MK13 9BD

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



**By Howard  
MATHIESON**

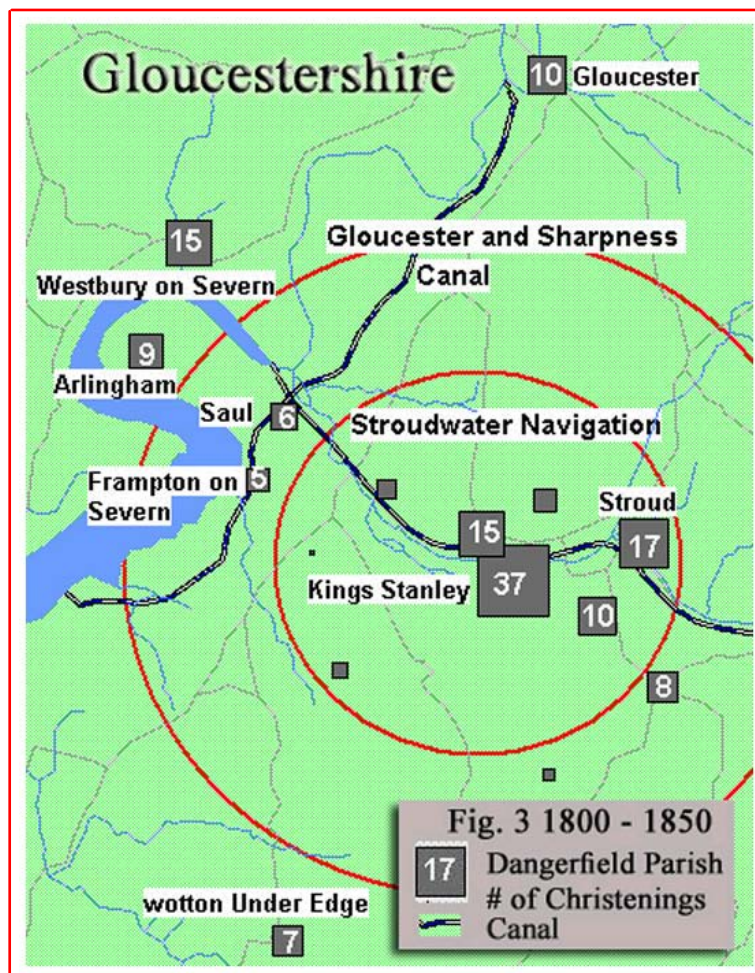


The map displays Gloucestershire with the Stroud River and several towns labeled: Wotton Under Edge, Dursley, Coaley, and Stroud. Two concentric red circles represent the Dangerfield Parish boundaries. Grey squares with numbers indicate the number of christenings in specific areas: 13, 20, 11, 50, 33, 17, 3, 11, 24, 6, 5, and 3. Red stars indicate rugmaking references, with numbers 3, 11, 17, 5, 6, and 3 placed near them. A legend in the bottom right corner explains the symbols: a grey square with the number 17 for '# of Christenings' and a red star with the number 3 for 'Rugmaking reference'.

The 19th century was a period of change in the textile industry of the Stroudwater valley. Mills became larger and more mechanised. The larger mills increasingly employed power looms and relied

15





relied less on cottage weavers<sup>6</sup>. The 1851 and the 1881 census reflect these changes. The numbers of Dangerfield individuals involved in occupations related to the textile trades declined from 29 to 17 respectively. Many of the smaller mills failed to adjust to the changes in technology and the mills were adapted to other uses. Ironically, the Gussage Mill and Bliss Mills were later to be used by William Dangerfield in his stick making business<sup>7</sup>.

The Dangerfield population in Gloucestershire fell by 40% between 1851 and 1900, with an increasing proportion of its numbers found in larger urban centres such as Bristol, Cheltenham and Gloucester (Figure 4.) In the future, urbanization would continue to destabilize the long established population pattern.

*As the twentieth century began to unfold, the impact of rail transportation and the resurgence of a neglected highway system would continue to shrink the world and expand the country of the Dangerfield surname. ○*

#### References

1 British History Online. Source: Stroud: Economic history. *A History of the County of Gloucester: Volume XI*, N. M. Herbert (Editor) (1976). URL: [www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=19061&ndstrquery=stroud#s3](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=19061&ndstrquery=stroud#s3)

2 Ibid

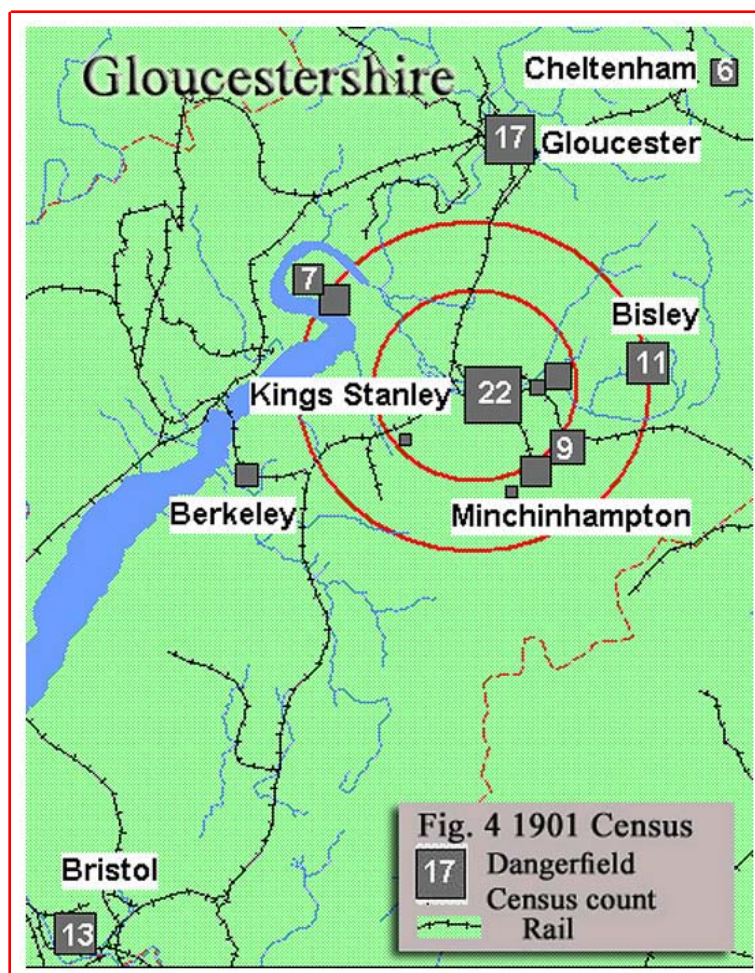
3 Gloucestershire Records Office  
URL [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/genealogy/genealogy.dll](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/genealogy/genealogy.dll)

4 Ibid

5 The Cotswold Canal Trust  
URL [www.cotswoldcanals.com/history.htm](http://www.cotswoldcanals.com/history.htm)

6 British History Online. Source: Stroud: Economic history. *A History of the County of Gloucester: Volume XI*, N. M. Herbert (Editor) (1976). URL: [www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=19061&ndstrquery=stroud#s3](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=19061&ndstrquery=stroud#s3)

7 *Stroud News and Journal* Thursday, December 14, 1976. Topic of the Week, *The Dangerfield Family*



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# How my Bradleys inter-married with Bulls, Boars, Birds, Butchers, Bakers, Berrys, Bodys and Broads (A totally frivolous exercise from the warped mind of a Lincolnshire GOON)

By John Bradley

**H**AVING CONDUCTED a one-name study for many years and, in the process, accumulated thousands upon thousands of BRADLEY births, marriages and deaths, I decided to take a look at the range of surnames that have connected with mine over time.

Having discovered betrothals to Bishop, Knight and Rook, it seemed that perhaps some kind of generic grouping was possible. For no reason at all, save amusement value, I have taken the time to analyse the "other halves" to see whether any insight might be gained into the motives, interests or proclivities of my namesakes' suitors.

## • Food and drink

Many bearers of the Bradley name evidently married with a view to pursuing gastronomic interests by wedding spouses called Cook, Burn, Fryer, Butcher, Baker, Rolls, Wheatfill and Bunn, Cheeseman, Dinar, Chew, Salt and Pepper, Potts, Hobbs and Kettle, Cadbury, Bars, Dunks, Wafer, Fudge and Candy, Walker, Crisp and Pringle, Sage and Onions, McDonald, Burge and Pounder, Walls, Topping and Spong, Roast, Legge and Lamb, Trotter, Grills, Veal, Fry and Rice, Smedley, Podds, Marrows and Leek, Salmon, Rainbow and Trout.

Not content with all of that, there were those who preferred to round off their repast by taking partners named Glass and Ware, Meade and Cork, Beer and Hopps, Yates, Stones, Tetley and Stout.

## • Fauna

I have yet to find any BRADLEY marrying an Attenborough, Oddy, Irwin, Morris or Adamson, but there are those who coupled with the animal kingdom by marrying Bull and Boar, Hogg, Lion, Lyons, Woolf, Fox and Gibbon, Buck, Hind, Hart, Roebuck, Mare and Bridle, Lamb, Catley and Purr, Fido, Cock, Bird, Dove, Drake, Mallard, Goose and Gull, Lark, Nightingale, Peacock, Raven, Robin, Rook, Sparrow and Swallow, Swan and Swift, Wildgoose, Coot, Finch, Hawkes, Kite, Fish, Fowls and Eels, Haddock, Mullett, Pike, Rake, Roach and Rudd, Salmon, Chubb and Bass, Codd, Webb, Finn and Gill, Seal, Bugg, Moth, Bee and Leech, Whitby and Whaling.

## • Plantlife

I have yet to find any BRADLEY union with Titchmarsh, Dimmock or Thrower, although we have the usual suspects of Violet, Daisy, Rose, Ivy and Lily,

but perhaps eco-warriors of days gone by tied the knot with spouses called Flowers, Flora, Plant and Hedges, Seeds and Berry, Woods and Trees, Forrest, Groves, Holly, Beech, Oak, Elms and Redwood.

## • Slightly smutty

Marriage ceremonies have occurred whereby Bradleys have become espoused to Allman, Chippendale, Body, Broad, Pert and Boobier, Crutchley, Jiggles, Ruff, Cockram and Seed, Pett, Whipp, Ramsbottom and Bliss, Savage and Mycock, Justin, Cock, Tinkler and Peed, Gotobed, Laycock, Trollope, Fanny, Gobin, Blewitt and Spittle, Overy and Coyle, Sleep and Lovegrove, Nock and Rumble, Peaker, Winks, Gripper and Nutter, Laycock, Dearlove, Cockin, Daddy and Kid, Allcock, Dicks and O'Toole, Umpleby, Longbottom, Sidebottom and Moon.

By way of digression, I have noted that a John Bradley lived at Boca Chica and Ellen Bradley lived at Muggers Nook, both in Bedlington, Northumberland. Joseph Bradley resided at Mr Cropper's House at Brimington and the census enumerator found Henry Bradley and his family at Cock Alley, Chesterfield.

## Procreation

A Leaseawed Bradley came from Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Elf Bradley from Middlesex. In terms of procreation Sarah Marsh (who married Andrew Bradley of Shropshire) gave birth to 10 children the youngest being Edward, born 1913, who himself fathered twenty-two children. According to his obituary, he received a letter from the Pope – no prizes for guessing his religion.

Curious occupations have been followed by Ann Bradley ("keeps a mangle") and Thomas Bradley ("railway no. taker"). The latter was a train spotter, perhaps?

*Having accumulated these musings, it is fairly evident that it comprises nothing more than mass of totally useless information but I would be interested to see what surnames other genealogists have discovered in their researches. ○*

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## Wide variety of interesting talks at Lesser-Known Sources Seminar in Plymouth

By Liz Clayburn

**F**OR THE Guild's first return to the West Country since Tiverton in May 2002 there was a fair showing of around 40 people, mainly Guild members, for the Lesser-Known Sources Seminar at the Woolwell Community and Resource Centre, Plymouth, on Saturday, November 19.

The number of displays was one of the largest I have seen at a seminar. Guild Vice-President Peter Towey and his wife Jennie brought along the Anglo-German FHS Stand. The Braund Society, the Devon Police Museum and the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office all had stands while the Guild and Devon FHS brought their bookstalls.

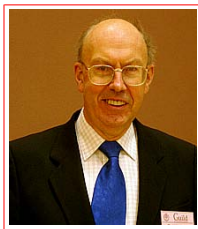
Peter Towey started the lectures with a talk on the material he has gathered for his new book, *Where to Find Records of Anglican Clergy after the Reformation*. Peter informed us that the formal garb of clergymen, cassock and dog collar,



Peter Towey as we know it today, was not the general standard until Victorian times. Likewise, listing of clergy was not officially started until the Clergy List for 1820, which became more detailed as it attempted to match Crockfords, the more recognised listing that started in 1858. Various other sources were mentioned, especially the Oxford and Cam-

bridge Alumni listings, as most clergy attended these universities. The Church of England has started an online database up to 1838. This was a very informative talk with plenty of leads.

Second speaker was another Guild regular, David Hawgood. His subject was *Sources for Overseas Surnames* and matched the material on David's website, [www.hawgood.co.uk/global](http://www.hawgood.co.uk/global),



David Hawgood

which presents plenty of leads for those researching in UK countries other than England, plus foreign countries and not just in the former Commonwealth.

David also mentioned his work on braille maps for the vision-impaired, using Google Images to source photographs of persons with your research name and the new facility, print-Google, to search for your research name in material stored in written form.

After lunch we were given a talk on *Lesser Known Sources for Family Historian in Records Offices* by Alan Barclay, of the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office. While Alan focused on his own bailiwick, the subject matters of local authority, church, business, estate and personal records apply to record offices anywhere.



Alan Barclay

With Plymouth, a list of war

bombing and civil defence records and famous local hero Sir Francis Drake were mentioned. Alan also recommended family historians look to the local taxation records in their area of research. These are on open shelves and fill gaps between 1901 to date and cover the 20th century in lieu of census records.

Our last speaker, Dr. Todd Gray, Hon Research fellow of Exeter University, who has written around 40 books on Devon, is President of the Devon Family History Society and Chairman of the Devonshire Society. Dr. Gray, a Canadian, chose the subject, *World of Fishing in Plymouth Around the 17th Century*.

The fishermen of Greater Plymouth sailed the known world in search of their catch, mainly cod for salting. Their range stretched from the North Sea, Norway and Iceland across to Newfoundland, establishing communities where, even today, Devon and Cornish names can be found in Newfoundland and Labrador.



Dr Todd Gray

The fishermen tended to ignore places that gave no return. Finance was the criteria with the question, "Why set up a base if there is nothing to reap rewards from?", used to explain why fisher folk chose the coast of Canada adjacent to the Grand Banks, rather than Maryland or other places on the American coastline with little to offer them.

We may have thought populations were pretty stagnant until the railways came, but not if you have marine ancestors.

**The day was a success and the Guild's thanks must go to the Devon FHS for helping out. ○**

• Photos by Rod Clayburn.



# A newcomer's first seminar and introduction to the Guild

By Shirley Smith

**F**OLLOWING a discussion with a Guild member at the Worthing Family History Fair in April, I decided to take the plunge and join, making the name ST. JOHN the subject of my research.

I was pleased to be able to attend an *Introduction to One-Name Studies* seminar so early in my membership before becoming too bewildered and overwhelmed by what I had taken on. It was the term "world-wide study" I found particularly daunting!

On Saturday, October 15, I arrived at Bransgore Church Hall, Hampshire, in plenty of time and was looking forward to a cup of coffee. As I collected my name badge at the hall door, I was accosted by Lynda Goacher who said: "Just the person I'm looking for."

If the floor could have opened up and swallowed me I'd have been delighted! Who was this person and why me? She wasn't frightening at all, really, just asked me if I'd write an article on the seminar for the Journal – so here goes.

I rushed for the comfort of a coffee and chatted to several other seminar attendees, while watching the setting up of a computer system, overhead projector, microphone, etc. Unfortunately, when Roger Goacher, Lynda's husband, started his presentation the microphone wouldn't work, but he had no trouble making himself heard. Eventually, the problem was resolved.

The day was divided into four presentations, two tea/coffee breaks and lunch, with everything being informal, friendly and very helpful and interesting. Howard Benbrook was managing the bookstall with a cheerful mix of energy, enthusiasm and expertise.

Roger Goacher began with a talk entitled *What is a One Name*



Roger Goacher



Paul Millington



Kirsty Gray

*Study?* and explained the what, why, when, where and how of our interest. We were all encouraged to join the Guild, reminded of the Annual Conference in April and, to end on a daunting (or was it stimulating?) note, Roger said: "You will be the global

expert in the name you are researching". Hmmm...

Paul Millington followed, giving plenty of advice and ideas about how to organise a one-name study. He discussed the pros and cons of paper and computerised records, and systems within these media, emphasising the need to back up your data.

Then came Peter Walker with a seemingly endless list of sources for one-namers. Is one lifetime long enough to exhaust all the possibilities? I concluded that keeping a record of sources searched is just as important as organising the actual information gathered.

Last, but by no means least, was Kirsty Gray talking about preserving our records. I am sure I was not the only person present who wished we'd started our research at her youthful age! We were asked to think about how we organise and store our records, who can access them and how to ensure their long-term preservation.

After a final cup of tea/coffee, we enjoyed a lively Questions and Answers session that was chaired by all four presenters. It was interesting to discover that the majority of members remain in "C" category and about five per cent of us don't have a registered name and are known as co-researchers.

At the close we were invited to take a free CD of the four presentations (which I have already referred to several times) and after a chorus of thanks to the presenters, helpers and refreshment providers we went our separate ways into what was left of a glorious late summer day.

**For anyone who hasn't attended such an event, I would say "Do!". You won't be disappointed. My thanks to all concerned for their hard work. ○**

Shirley Smith  
Member 4428  
Rivendell

133 Upper Shoreham Road  
Shoreham-by-Sea  
West Sussex BN43 6TA

## Seminars update. .

### Successful computer seminar at Epsom is to be repeated

**O**N SATURDAY, February 11, we will be repeating the very successful computer seminar we held in Epsom two years ago. The venue is Rosebery School, White Horse Drive, Epsom, Surrey.

We are offering hands-on practical sessions with guidance from the more experienced, as well as an initial lecture on the kinds of Internet sites that are useful for one-namers. We will hopefully have free access to website **1837online.com** (which carries all the GRO Births, Marriages and Deaths Indexes and the 1861 census) as well as **ancestry.co.uk**.

The content of the practical sessions will depend on the abilities of the delegates and it is, therefore, essential that you state your Internet ability on the booking form. However, all will be catered for, from the raw beginner who will need to know how to connect to the Internet and how to configure their browser, to the more experienced user who may even be able to give us all a hint or two.

#### Practical

All delegates will attend the initial lecture and will then rotate around two practical sessions and a second lecture. This lecture will give hints and tips on searching

for the elusive, followed by techniques for extracting the data to use in your database. This ranges from "screen scraping" into Excel to copying and pasting the data from the source code into a document.

For practical reasons, we must limit the numbers to 75, so bookings will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Because of the complexity of the programme, no bookings will be accepted after February 4 to give us time to allocate the practical sessions.

#### Value

The cost has remained at £10 per delegate to cover the cost of the extra facilities, and we think this is still good value for money. It does include teas and coffees on arrival, in the lunch break and during the afternoon.

You are advised to bring a packed lunch, as you may continue to use the computers during part of the lunch break.

*We hope you will enjoy the day, but we can't emphasise enough that you cannot do your entire family history on the Internet, no matter what the media would have you believe!*

JEANNE BUNTING  
and JOHN HANSON  
Seminar Organisers

### SOURCES IN THE NORTH-WEST SEMINAR

27 May 2006

Venue: the John Rylands Library, Manchester

WE TRAVEL north again in May. The venue is the prestigious John Rylands Library and subjects include *Sources in the Record Office for One-Namers*. This library holds the Methodist Archives, plus an extensive list of special collections. Peruse the library website at...

<http://rylibweb.man.ac.uk/data2/spcoll/#alphab>

There's bound to be something to interest you. Why not make your visit long-stay, based around this seminar, and enjoy a weekend in Lancashire?

### Gearing up for the Guild Conference

By Kirsty Gray

**E**NCLOSED with this Journal you should find the booking form for this year's Guild Annual Conference and AGM at Yarnfield Park Conference Centre, near Stone, Staffordshire, from April 7-9.

Many bookings have already been received and those who have paid their deposit should now be looking at paying the balance for what promises to be an interesting, entertaining and enjoyable weekend.

The Conference Centre is located between Stoke-on-Trent and Stafford main-line railway stations and taxis can always be found outside both stations. There will be a map with detailed driving directions on the Guild website from February.

#### Speakers' topics

The programme of speakers has been finalised and a wide variety of topics will be covered. We are also lucky enough to be sponsored by 1837online.com and the Halsted Trust. Speakers include:

Peter Higginbotham (pictured below) creator of the website **www.workhouses.org**, which contains over 2,000 web pages, 4,000 photos and



illustrations, and 1,000 maps and plans. Peter first became interested in workhouses while researching his family history, having discovered that his great-great-grandfather had died in a workhouse and that his death had been registered by the matron. He has managed to research hundreds of former

# Guild NewsXtra

## How about becoming a Regional Rep?

By Sandra Turner

**I**N APRIL I was appointed the Guild's Regional Representative Coordinator. Since then I have appointed 10 new Regional Reps in the UK. Already, some of the RRs have sent out newsletters and some have also arranged group meetings.

If you get questionnaires from them, please remember all the answers are optional but they are trying to find out what you want from the Guild and if you would like to help others in some way, too. Informal meetings are good, since we can all learn from one another.

We still have vacancies in a number of regions, so if you would like to help do get in touch with me. For details of vacancies and the full list of Reps, see the inside back cover of this Journal. If you live close to another region and would like to join in their meetings, contact the RR for that area.

I went to the Sunderland semi-

nar and was pleased to find two members had volunteered to help. I was very thankful because when there is a break everyone gathers round the bookstall, so one person isn't enough. If you know the bookstall will be at a family history fair in your region, do think about helping for an hour or two. Those on the stand would welcome a break!

In Australia we now have three Regional Reps. They will be working in their own areas, but keeping in close touch. They plan to meet up at the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Congress in Darwin in June 2006. They are excited about the prospect and hope to meet other Guild members there. We will be supporting them with leaflets and other items. Our newest RR is Lynette Begg, who was busy promoting the Guild at her local fair only a week after being appointed. We sent promotional material, but the table banner she organised for herself. You read her account in the last Journal.

If your local FH group is holding an open day or fair, do let us know. It may be Howard Benbrook will be able to take the Bookstall, or perhaps they might like a talk on the Guild. It might

be somewhere you could go yourself to promote the Guild, even if its too far for Howard or he is committed elsewhere.

*If so, do please get in touch. We can give you leaflets and other promotional material and I am sure you will enjoy the day as much as Lynette did.* ○

## Guild One-Name Publications Award

WITH this Journal you will find an entry form for the Guild One-Name Publications Award.

The Guild Committee has decided to make an important change to the contest. Instead of being in two categories as in previous years, there will be just one category for all entrants.

Entrants should send three copies of their publication to the address given on the form, and they must be identical copies of the same issue, which must have been published in 2005.

## Scottish conferences

THE SCOTTISH Association of Family History Societies is holding its 17th Annual Conference on Saturday, April 22, at the Visitor Centre, New Lanark, hosted by the Lanarkshire FHS. Speakers will give talks on the theme *Education & Recreation*. Full details and a booking form are available from: [www.safhs.org.uk](http://www.safhs.org.uk) or [www.lanarkshirefhs.org.uk](http://www.lanarkshirefhs.org.uk)

THE 27th INTERNATIONAL Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences is to be held in historic St Andrews from August 21–26 2006, returning to Scotland for the first time in 44 years. Theme is *Myth and Propaganda in Heraldry and Genealogy*. There will be speakers from around the world, plus a spectacular opening ceremony, entertainments and excursions, including trips to Edinburgh and the Military Tattoo, a family history fair and closing banquet. Full details can be found at: [www.congress2006.com](http://www.congress2006.com)

workhouses from Truro to Thurso, Dover to Donegal and his work is totally self funded.

Chris Pomery, is author of the book, *DNA and the Family Historian*. Chris (left) launched his own DNA study on the POMEROY name in 2000 and it is reputed to be the largest DNA project of its kind in the world.

Another speaker will be Alan Savin, author of a booklet also called *DNA and the Family Historian*, exploring the potential use of DNA for family



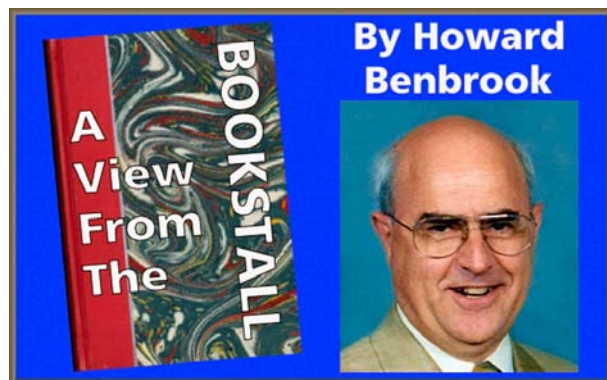
history research. Alan has done a great deal of DNA research into the SAVIN surname (see [www.savin.org](http://www.savin.org)) and is a regular speaker on the subject.

We are also joined by other popular speakers Colin Chapman, David Hawkings, Richard Ratcliffe and Gordon Read.

*If you have any questions, please get in touch on [conference@one-name.org](mailto:conference@one-name.org). I look forward to seeing you there!* ○

KIRSTY GRAY  
Guild Secretary  
Conference Organiser





## Regional manager's situation is still vacant!

has swelled the data to more than 100,000 marriages. Additionally, I've been keen to accumulate data which will reveal the structure of the GRO indexes, showing the range of page numbers used to record each parish.

This effort, which I usually combine with a Marriage Challenge, aims to identify for each church the marriage that took place at the beginning and end of a quarter and matches them with GRO Index page numbers by looking up the surnames on services FreeBMD and 1837online. These marriages are referred to as "cardinal points". The best way to handle them is to take one church at a time and simply work through the quarters. If there's an archive near you, you could do this, too; we might call it Adopt-a-Church. If you have a church you'd like to "adopt", and contribute to the Cardinal Points project, let me know.

### Tales from the tables

It's Wimborne, Dorset: November, late-morning, a decided chill in the air. Throat already sore, but creating some interest, and this chap asks me to examine the name WITCHER. A quick flick of the touchpad on *Surname Atlas*. Definitely Hampshire, just up the road. Discussion about whether WHITCHER was a variant. Try it. Much the same but a stronger indication of New Forest, especially around Lymington.

"You know", I said, "surnames ending in -er are frequently occupations. Some of these may be old trades that have now died out, like PARMENTER. Maybe that could be true of WITCHER/WHITCHER, local to the area. Why not take a look at the book we've got on the stall that describes old trades"?

A few minutes later, the chap comes back and says, with a big grin on his face: "A witcher is a maker of wooden, woven or basketware chests or similar containers" (*A Dictionary of Old Trades, Titles & Occupations*, by Colin Waters). Sometimes, you get this real feeling you've done

**M**AYBE I WAS too adventurous? Maybe I was asking too much? Or just a bit too tongue-in-cheek? I've got to face up to it. My first recruitment campaign has been a disaster. No applicants. *Mea culpa*, presumably (you can tell I gave up Latin at school, can't you?). Or is it my after-shave?

So what should I do? I simply can't do any more without help. What I need is the sort of support I got from the intrepid Pete Redwood, Ron Woodhouse and Malcolm Boyes, who combined forces to support us at the North Yorkshire Coast Fair, Scarborough.

Cautiously, I'd sent lots of bumpf that would help to promote the Guild. They created a lot of interest, but they would have liked one or two items to sell as well. And that is how it begins. If you think you could handle an event near you, with the option to take on more as time goes on, please get in touch. It's not difficult. It just takes an understanding of your customers, a little organisation and perhaps a bit of charm.

### More challenges

For me, the outstanding Guild project of the moment has to be the Marriage Challenge. It serves to illustrate what can be achieved if we work together on a common aim. If you haven't caught on to this yet, it's an offer from one Guild member to other members (the challenge) to find marriages listed in the civil registration indexes, using the marriage registers available in a repository near to them. That way, requestors get the details of

a marriage but don't have to spend money on the certificate, although a donation to the Guild would be welcome. I've already had a go, finding marriages in the Stepney and Mile End registration districts between 1837 and 1911. If you missed my earlier effort, I'm still willing to find details of marriages bearing your registered surname in those districts – just forward me the full GRO Index details.

But now I want to extend my offer to another part of the East End of London. I'm ready to take on the registration district of St George in the East, along the northern shore of the River Thames. It's a smaller area than my previous effort, but I shall break it into two stages. The first will cover 1837–1880 and the marriages in the later period of 1881–1911 will form my Stage 2.

If you'd like details of a marriage of someone with your registered surname that took place in St George in the East, let me know. By the time you read this I shall have begun Stage 1, but my deadline for requests is January 31, so get in touch soon if you'd like to take up the offer. I should be able to get you the details before the end of March. I'll have more details about Stage 2 in the next Journal.

### Guild Marriage Index

Have you taken a look at the Guild Marriage Index (GMI) recently? If you haven't, point your web browser at: [www.one-name.org/members/GMI/gmi.html](http://www.one-name.org/members/GMI/gmi.html)

This data, originally submitted from members' one-name studies, has now been amplified by Marriage Challenges and this

something that helped.

## What's new, what's big

You've probably heard me bang on about Phillimore's Historical Atlas series. Each of these county-based books is crammed full of maps that are fascinating illustrations of a county's history. Now it's Norfolk's turn and the *Historical Atlas of Norfolk* is the latest title. The list is growing. I don't expect Middlesex soon, but there's hope for Warwickshire. Watch this space.

Other new titles I've taken into stock include: *Basic Record Keeping for Family Historians* by Andrew Todd, *Genealogical Jargon* by Stuart Raymond, *Dictionary of Saints' Days, Fasts & Festivals* by Colin Waters, *Family Skeletons* by Ruth Paley and Simon Fowler, and the 3rd Edition of Peter Christian's impressive book, *The Genealogist's Internet*.

## Price list

This is my usual exhortation to take a look at the Bookstall price list. There's not a lot of change this time, but it's always sensible to check before ordering.

## Where we've been

Did I miss you at one of these places – Needham Market, Suffolk; Hastings, Sussex; Bransgore, Dorset; Eastleigh, Hants; Chelten-

ham, Gloucestershire; Woking, Surrey; Norwich, Norfolk; Woolwell, Devon; Wimborne, Dorset? If you were there and you said hello, thank you. It's nice to meet other members. If you weren't, then maybe you might find time to pop along to one of these forthcoming events...

## Where we're going

As 2006 unfolds, I'm planning to be at these venues:

- Bracknell FH Fair, Bracknell, Berkshire, Sunday, January 29.
- Guild Computer Seminar, Epsom, Surrey, Saturday, February 11.
- Crawley FH Fair, Crawley, Sussex, Sunday, February 12.
- Kidlington FH Fair, Oxon, Saturday, February 18.
- Bath FH Fair, Bath, Somerset, Sunday, March 5.
- Guild AGM & Conference, Yarnfield, Staffs, Friday–Sunday, April 7–9.
- South Coast FH Fair, Worthing, Sussex, Sunday, April 23.
- SoG Family History Show Westminster, Saturday, April 29.

Will I see you? I hope so. I had a day at a fair recently when I was completely on my own. No-one to talk to, no-one to help and no-one to look after the stall so I could take a break. So, If

you're free on one of the days above, make a note to pop along and say hello. Of course, if you're feeling adventurous you could join that magnificent band who help out behind the tables. You know you'd be very welcome.

## Credits

I want to recognize the contribution made by the following members who, without any arm-twisting, gave up their precious time to help: Cliff Kembell, Andrew Millard, Fiona Mitford, Sue Walters, David Gash, Ian and Anne Shankland, Colin Roberts, Anni Berman, Barbara Harvey, Michael Bunting, Peter Copsey, Roger Goacher, Ann Clarke, Barbara Cromack, Sheila Rahr Weston, Gay Crommelin, Judy Cooper, John Stark, Terry Silcock, Paul Millington, Monica Bush, Ken Grubb, Jean Normington, Jan Cooper, John Fisher, Peter Lockwood, Michael Walker, Maureen Mitchell, David Witt, Roger Harvey, Laraine Hake, Ken Mycock and Kirsty Gray. Phew! What an impressive roll-call. If I've forgotten anyone, please forgive me.

**If you'd like to contact Howard about any of the items he holds on the Bookstall or to volunteer to help, you can write to him at [guild.bookstall@one-name.org](mailto:guild.bookstall@one-name.org), or 7 Amber Hill, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1EB, U.K. ○**

## Marriage Challenges update...

Marriage challenges commencing in the coming months are given in the table, left. If you would like to request a search for your marriages

Registration District	Deadline for requests	Challenger	Challenger's e-mail
Newmarket	12 January	Michael Debenham	<a href="mailto:michael@debenham.me.uk">michael@debenham.me.uk</a>
Steyning	31 January	Colin Ulph	<a href="mailto:colin@ulph.fsnet.co.uk">colin@ulph.fsnet.co.uk</a>
St George in the East 1837-1880	31 January	Howard Benbrook	<a href="mailto:howard@benbrook.org.uk">howard@benbrook.org.uk</a>
Billesdon	1 February	Joan Rowbottom	<a href="mailto:joanrowbottom@hotmail.com">joanrowbottom@hotmail.com</a>
Lewisham	1 February	Phil Warn	<a href="mailto:philwarn@ntlworld.com">philwarn@ntlworld.com</a>
Aylesbury	5 February	Graham Taylor-Paddick	<a href="mailto:francs2000@yahoo.com">francs2000@yahoo.com</a>
Southampton	12 February	Terry Pook	<a href="mailto:terrypook@breathe.com">terrypook@breathe.com</a>
Midhurst	17 February	Stephen Allberry	<a href="mailto:s.allberry@britishlibrary.net">s.allberry@britishlibrary.net</a>
Kidderminster 1837-1880	28 February	Ingrid Salkeld	<a href="mailto:ingrid@medlam916.freeseve.co.uk">ingrid@medlam916.freeseve.co.uk</a>
St George in the East 1881-1911	30 April	Howard Benbrook	<a href="mailto:howard@benbrook.org.uk">howard@benbrook.org.uk</a>

(registered names only) send the details from the GRO index (1837 to 1911) to the challenger, either by e-mail or to his or her postal address given in the Guild Register.

For more information about Marriage Challenge, what it comprises and how it works, see the article in the last issue of the Journal (October – December 2005).



# Wanna job? Your Guild needs YOU to help out with various tasks

**D**O YOU remember the BBC TV series *Boys from the Blackstuff* and Yasser Hughes' plaintive cry, "Gizza job! I can do that"? Well, in the same vein, I want to cry, "Wanna job? You can do that!"

In almost every issue of the Journal, there is a request from the Chairman or another post holder for help. We really do need more volunteers to help run the Guild. It is our society, run by the members for the members. Without further help and new blood the Guild may just about plod along, but it can't expand and bloom. There are many initiatives that the Guild Committee would like to introduce, such as increased online services, new facilities, an expanded seminar programme, better marketing of the Guild and members' studies, but without more help none of these will be possible. We've got the ideas – what we haven't got are the bods to implement them.

Rod Clayburn, Secretary of the Seminar Subcommittee (and the Renewals Secretary and a main Committee member – see how individuals have to double up roles?) recently carried out a mini-survey of members. Many good ideas were put forward, but responses often highlighted the difficulties members feel there are in volunteering to help or participating further in Guild activities.

- "I don't have the skills needed to volunteer for any job."

Of course you do! You undertake a one-name study. You are an able researcher, a skilled administrator, a librarian, IT-literate and have honed communi-

cation skills from contact with others. You may have particular work skills – perhaps you are an IT professional, a solicitor, accountant or marketing executive, journalist or writer. Maybe you are good at giving presentations for work or are a home-maker used to juggling the myriad responsibilities of running a home and family. Any of these skills – and many more – could be useful to the Guild.

- "I don't have spare time to take on any other work."

The old adage says: "If you want something done, ask a busy person." Some Guild jobs, especially where they involve being a member of the main Committee, are time-consuming. But there are very many jobs that require much less time. Could you find the equivalent of 4–5 hours a month to spare to help the Guild? If so, there is a job for you.

## Specific

Subcommittees such as Marketing and Seminar need new members to take on specific jobs. Each of these subcommittees meets maybe three or four times a year for perhaps three hours, and then individual members carry out specific tasks liaising with the subcommittee chairman. Many jobs, such as taking and circulating the minutes of meetings or following up a particular initiative, can largely be done by a member from home.

- "I live along in the north of Scotland/outside of Britain and can't help because everything happens in the south-east of England."

We are grateful to Regional Reps who can help in their area,

but there are always jobs that other members could take on.

Could you perhaps give an informal talk at a meeting of your local family history society? We can provide advertising material and even the text and Powerpoint slides for an Introductory talk about the Guild.

Could you make contact with the organisers of any significant genealogical conference in your area or country and see whether they would take Guild publicity material for circulation?

How about writing an article for the Guild Journal about some interesting aspect of your ONS research? It doesn't have to be a polished Dickens novel. The Journal Editor is always looking for interesting pieces for inclusion, however short, and, as an experienced journalist, can sub-edit if necessary.

- "Why can't seminars be repeated in several different parts of the country to reach a wider number of members?"

We'd love to! But could you – perhaps with a group of other local members – find a suitable venue in your area and be responsible for booking the hall, and handling the administrative arrangements? It is very difficult to action such work from a distance, and there are only so many meetings a year that the existing subcommittee members can personally arrange.

- "I live outside of Britain and miss out on seminars and conferences. Why can't they be videoed or put on disc for us to see?"

Nice idea – but there are some difficulties. We often have difficulties in even finding members to write up meetings. Why not



offer before we have to press-gang someone into the job?

Commercial reproduction services are expensive and there are copyright issues. Anyone prepared to video meetings in their area? Anyone able to reproduce, package and post material to distant members? Anyone stepping forward to take on negotiation with professional speakers concerning the recording and distribution of their talks?

• "I've have received lots of wonderful information from the Guild Marriage Challenges. Why can't we have more Guild projects like this?"

Yes, the challenges have been a great success, and long may they continue. Peter Copsey deserves considerable thanks for coming up with the idea initially and for nursing it through the early stages, and for continuing to organise new challenges and help and support new challengers.

## Marriage Index

Likewise the Guild Marriage Index was largely the inspiration of Mary Rix, and Paul Millington instigated the highly successful Guild Archive and Members Individual Web Pages. Without them, none of these projects would have seen the light of day.

Maybe you've got a good idea for Guild project, but would you be prepared to organise and run it? As I have said, ideas are of little use without the manpower to implement them.

I hope that I have given some ideas on the possibility of increasing the pool of members helping to run the Guild. Yes there are significant posts that need filling, as the Chairman indicated in his column in the last Journal, but even if you could only give a small amount of time, we can find a job for you! Have an influence on how the Guild is run and moves forward. Contact me or any Committee member if you can help.

**2005 was the Year of the Volunteer. Better late than never – why not volunteer today? ○**

# Reviews Reviews Reviews

## New genealogy books & CDs

**WEST KENT PROBATE INDEX, 1750–1858. CD-Rom from Dr David Wright, 71 Island Wall, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1EL, e-mail: [davideastkent@aol.com](mailto:davideastkent@aol.com). £12.50 + 50p postage inland; £15 airmail.**

KENTISH researchers are tolerably well served by probate indexes inasmuch as the wills for the Diocese of Canterbury (East Kent) are more or less fully indexed, although the equally valuable administrations are not. Hitherto, those with ancestors in the Diocese of Rochester have had to make do with a card index to some, but not all, wills in the Maidstone search rooms, while the administrations have remained completely inaccessible unless one is prepared to brave long and slow searches in the probate act books.

## Master index

All is now changed with this master index of wills and administrations to the two probate and two peculiar courts of the Diocese of Rochester. The 6,300 or so entries have been brought together into a single alphabetical sequence, each entry showing the name and surname of the testator or intestatee, parish of residence, occupation and/or marital status, year and month of the grant and the issuing court.

The index is preceded by a comprehensive and lucid account of the material indexed (citing CKS references), a summary of abbreviations, and further valuable indexes of parishes, other locations and occupations. All original wills and administration bonds have also been checked

and, as Dr Wright says, some entries accidentally omitted from the probate act books have now been rescued from oblivion. The compiler has further given us the bonus of the entire text of his *Kent Probate Records – A Catalogue and Practical Guide* (2004), a masterly overview and full catalogue listing of all the probate records for the historical county of Kent. Armed with an entry of interest from the index, the book will supply the court class references and thus enable rapid location of the will or administration.

The book makes the important point that some groups of Kent probate records are by far the best for any English county, particularly the depositions and probate accounts. A good deal of this material is little known and even less used, and is epitomised by the author reminding us that there are Kentish Tudor probate records which will reveal a man's age and birthplace.

Everyone is probably aware The National Archives have produced an online index to the national PCC series of wills (class PROB11) in which many Kentish people appear. With the publication of this index, the century leading up to the advent of the Principal Probate Registry in 1858 is well-nigh complete for the Diocese of Rochester, and many pedigrees will now have to be revised, and almost certainly expanded, in the light of this important finding-aid. ○

DUNCAN HARRINGTON  
Professional genealogist



## Percy William Filby and wartime code centre

I READ the report of the Bletchley Park Seminar (Vol 8 Issue 11). The late President of the Filby Association, Percy William Filby, worked at Bletchley on both Enigma and Ultra. He died in 2002, aged 91, and was very prominent in genealogy. His widow, Vera, is still one of our USA members. His daughter, Jane, also a member, lives in Cheltenham.

Bill Filby was born in Cambridge in 1911. He was a chorister at Trinity College, Cambridge, and joined the university library, taking a course in German as well as becoming a member of the rare books division. In 1935 he became secretary and amanuensis to Sir James Frazer, author of *The Golden Bough*, later director of the scientific laboratory in the atomic period at Cambridge.

In 1936 he married Nancie Elizabeth Giddens and they had four children, Ann, Jane, Guy and Roderick (Roddy). He assisted in the development of radar and in 1940 volunteered for the Army. Knowledge of German led to his transfer to the Intelligence Corps and the cryptographic team at Bletchley Park. Throughout most of WWII he was head of the German Diplomatic Section, rising to captain. From 1943 the section broke the double additive and one-time pad systems. After the war he worked for the Foreign Office in Cyprus, America and Germany.

After a divorce, he married Vera Ruth Weakleim and in 1957 emigrated to America, where he worked at the Peabody Institute Library, Baltimore, as librarian and assistant director. In 1965 he became librarian at the Maryland Historical Society and director in 1972. It was there with the late Edward G. Howard that he wrote the definitive study of *The Star-Spangled Banner*, hailed by the New York Times as the most important work on the Banner. He was a Fellow of the Maryland Genealogy Society, National Genealogy Society, Manuscript Society, Utah Genealogy Association and Society of Genealogists. American Correspondent of the Filby Association for many years, he was made Honorary President in 1997. In 1998, Scholarly Resources, of Wilmington, Delaware, awarded an annual prize of \$1000 named the *Filby Prize*, to be awarded to a genealogical librarian.

MARION PHILBY  
Member 49  
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## No comment!

MEMBERS doubtless have their favourite version of their family history as garbled by an enthusiastic enquirer. This is mine, a new "take" on the history of the Pomeroy family. I give no clue as the age, gender or country of birth of the correspondent!

*"My grandmother told me a story about my family, it was like this, my family originally started in France, my ancestor was the king of France until the French revolution. Then France went into war with England and one of my ancestors were in the war, he became the owner of the Berry Pomeroy castle, also that I am related to the Duke of England and when he dies my grandmother's cousin will be the new Duke of England (or something like that)."*

CHRIS POMEROY  
Member 3400

## Roy Stockdill



## the last word

**S**O WE ARE told we shall see Jeremy Paxman, renowned hardman TV interviewer, shedding a few tears when the BBC's new series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* starts in February.

Can it really be that Paxman, who has been known almost to reduce politicians to tears, wept over the discovery that a female ancestor died, aged 36, in poverty and of tuberculosis? Where on earth has the normally abrasive Paxman been all these years not to realise that in previous centuries life was very often an unending nightmare of deprivation, hardship and early death for millions of people?

What a pity Jeremy didn't get round to doing his family history sooner, then perhaps he might have been able to face the shock of such a revelation with a bit more aplomb. Maybe he will need help to get over it, it having been suggested in an earlier press story that people who make unwelcome discoveries in their family history might be traumatised by them and need to seek counselling – a thought that had most family historians splitting their sides with mirth!

I recently published in *Practical Family History* magazine the ancestry of Baroness Betty Boothroyd, the former Speaker of the House of Commons and the first woman ever to hold the post. I discovered her maternal grandmother had an illegitimate child before marriage which died at only a few months old. After marriage, she then lost another child in infancy and died herself at only 25 of TB.

When I related this to Betty Boothroyd and asked if she minded whether I mentioned it in the article – especially the illegitimate child – she replied with characteristic Yorkshire bluntness: "Of course not. Tell it like it is, warts and all."

*In Jeremy Paxman's case, if I were of a more cynical nature I might suspect a mocked-up scene for the cameras, so the BBC could have a nice story to give the papers to launch the new series with! ○*



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*THESE pictures were taken at recent Guild events. Top are the members of one of our Marriage Challenge teams getting together – left to right: Howard Benbrook, David Evans, Ann Cossar (team leader), Roy Rayment, Tony Munday, Steven Whitebread and Peter Copsey. The bottom picture shows some of the audience at the Introduction to One-Name Studies Seminar at Bransgore, Hampshire, on October 15 (see report on page 19).*

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