

Journal

of One-Name Studies



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City of London Burials - details

First name(s): Frederick
Last name: STOCKDALE
Date of burial: 5 April 1843
Place of burial: St Bartholomew The Great
Age at death: 45
Approximate year of birth: 1798
Address at death: Unton Poor House

Transcriptions © John Hanson and Monica Stevens

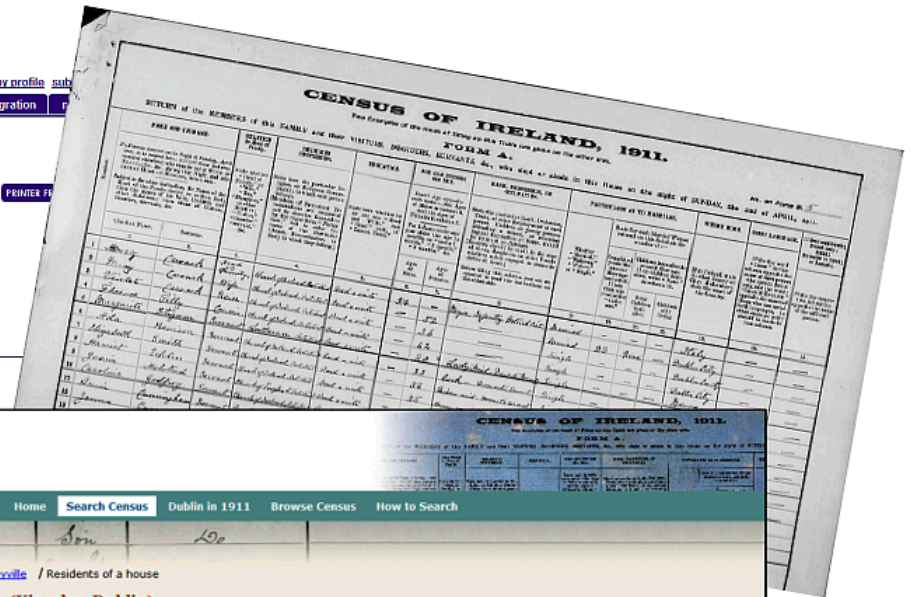
City of London burials results

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Home / All counties / Dublin / Kinsaley / Abbeville / Residents of a house

Residents of a house 5 in Abbeville (Kinsaley, Dublin)

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex
Cusack	Henry G	54	Male
Cusack	Mary	52	Female
Cusack	Violet	36	Female
Tilly	Florence	62	Female
Stigum	Margarite	20	Female
Kerrison	Ada	33	Female
Smith	Elizabeth	23	Female
Hughes	Henry	23	Male
McGee	John	23	Male
Gourley	Caroline	23	Female
Cunningham	Annie	19	Female

What's new on the net? Millions of records are added, including the 1911 census of Dublin

Also in this issue...

- Focus on a one-name study: did the Vayro surname come with the Spanish Armada?
- Rounding up non-conformist registers not in the county record office

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

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From the Chairman's keyboard . . .



By

PETER WALKER

Thorny topic of surname variants and deviants crops up again

from earlier centuries and all we have is what is recorded in parish registers.

The starting point of any discussion of variants and deviants must be that, in former times, not only did names get recorded with a wide range of spellings, but individuals themselves may have used many versions, too. It is said that Shakespeare spelt his own name in six or more different ways over his lifetime, from evidence of his known signatures.

Additionally, many people were illiterate and could not sign their own name, so it is not possible to say that any given spelling was used by the individual. Officialdom will have recorded their name and this may have become the adopted and accepted spelling of the name; indeed, this is the likely method by which variants arose.

It can often be seen that the recorded spelling in parish registers changes with the change of incumbent. Should all such parish register spellings be considered as variants? The best advice here would seem to be that it depends on the consistency with which the name is recorded in official documents.

If the vicar consistently used a given spelling over many years, then it may be considered as a variant, bearing in mind that such records might have been called on as evidence in things like settlement disputes or probate. On the other hand, vicars, like anyone else, might use a large range of spelling variants with no particular pattern. This, for example, is an extract of Hollier baptism and burial records from St Martin's in the Fields that I have collected as part of my own study:

1630 John Hollier

1632 Thomas Holliard (later buried as Hollyer)

1633 Matthew Hollier

1636 Samuel Hollier

SOME TOPICS seem regularly to return to the attention of the Committee. One such is that of surname variants. Recently, a member challenged why there is a limit of five in the number of variants that can be registered.

A fair question. In fact, it was in the past a technical limitation of our membership database. But, thanks to Paul Millington's improvements in the database, we could now remove this limit.

The Committee discussed the issue but decided that in most cases we would prefer that the limit remains. We felt that an unlimited number of variants could pose problems for the paper version of the Register. We also thought that given our advice that only variants in use today should be registered, rarely is more than five needed.

Deviants

Of course, everyone is encouraged to research as many variants as they believe exist. Raising the registration limit could encourage members to register not just their valid variants but also what we have come to call "deviants", although our current Registrar would prefer just to call them "clerical errors". But we then noted that while the issue of deviants had been covered to a degree in the recent Members' Handbook, that advice itself was not perhaps perfect.

Our website, on the other hand, is currently silent on the issue. Even the Guild Knowledge Store (the Wiki) has little to say –

at present.

So what is a deviant and how does it differ from a variant? It was our President, Derek Palgrave, who coined the term, deviant, to describe those apparent variants that were really clerical errors in recording or transcription. His seminal article on the subject was re-published in the January 2004 issue of the Journal (Volume 8 No 5).

The Guild Members' Handbook provides some guidance on the issue of variants and deviants, as follows:

- Variants proposed for a study should be reasonable and derived from the main study name.
- Variants should not overlap with an existing study.
- Up to five variants can be registered.
- These should be true variants, and not deviants, of the main surname.
- Variants should only be registered if they are being studied fully.
- Where more than five variants are known, the five most commonly found now should be registered.

The Handbook goes on to explain that "a variant is an alternative name used by individuals themselves, e.g. when signing a will or civil registration certificate. A deviant is a spelling of a name in an official document or transcription where the writer has written down what they thought they heard or read".

But is that advice sufficient? In many cases members won't have documentary evidence of use

New Guild ideas include collaboration with the academic community and Halsted Trust

1638 Elizabeth Hallier
1639 Susanna Hollyard
1642 Maria Hollyer
1644 Symon Hollier
1646 Edward Hollierd

I therefore recognise Hollyard, Hollierd, Holliard and Hallier as deviants. Hallier is certainly a surname in its own right and, as far as I've been able to ascertain, has no connection to Hollier. In the above list, Hollyer should be considered a deviant, though I recognise it is as a true variant in other branches of the family.

Having discussed the matter in Committee, we concluded that the following approach is appropriate:

- The Guild defines a variant as a name spelling which varies from the primary name spelling (or another variant spelling) used by that person's ancestors and which is:

A name spelling that the person was known to have used, through signature evidence on wills, marriage bonds, marriage certificates or other documents originating from the individual concerned, or...

A name spelling used by officials on a consistent and persistent basis over a period of years.

- A deviant is any other spelling recorded, including cases where the spelling occurs in official records, but only randomly and inconsistently. Deviants will also include spellings derived from enumeration, transcription and indexing errors, both contemporary and modern.

- Having decided what spellings are variants, it may still not be appropriate to register all of them in a one-name study. Such cases include where a variant overlaps with another existing study or where the variant is more commonly found as a surname in its own right and where the variant is only a minority source of that name.

The latter exclusion avoids the problems that would occur if someone wanted to register the surname concerned as a primary

study name. In these overlapping cases, it is hoped that members will collaborate in exchanging information on boundary cases.

This advice will, I hope, be incorporated in our documentation in the future.

There are many other issues being looked at by the Committee as I write. These include some interesting ideas for collaboration with the academic community, for mutual projects with the Halsted Trust and the Guild's archiving policies.

Adding to our challenges are external, unplanned events such as our web-hosting company complaining about the "excessive" load our website was placing on their servers, which has led to the temporary suspension of database name searches on the public's part of the website, though members can still search via the Member's Room.

Delayed

This has regrettably delayed other planned improvements to the website. I hope the situation may have improved by the time you read this. Added to all this, issues relating to individual Guild members have taken up a lot of time recently.

All this brings me to next year's Committee. With this issue you should find the normal form for those wishing to stand for the Committee. But recognising that not all key Guild posts are held by Committee members, we are also allowing everyone to express an interest in being considered for any of the Guild's posts, whether or not you are interested in joining the Committee.

Detailed Job Descriptions are in the Members' Room. Appointments to all posts are decided by the incoming Committee and they may prefer, of course, to see some posts filled by fellow Committee members. But in other cases, if the best person for the job is outside the committee, then that would be the right per-

son to appoint. This does lead to the need for disciplined communication to keep everyone up to speed and each external post-holder is usually assigned a contact person on the Committee. For example, as well as being Chairman, I am the contact for the DNA Advisory Panel and the Forum Manager.

Each year, all posts come up for re-appointment irrespective of individuals' desires to continue. However, it does seem likely that some present post-holders will not wish to continue and these are, at the time of writing, believed to include: Journal Editor, Renewals Secretary, Vice-Chairman and Data Manager. We will probably be seeking a new Chair for the Marketing Sub-committee and, ideally, that person would also be a member of the main committee.

The present Committee would like to see a full complement of 15 on the next Committee and this year we are better prepared, we hope, for the eventuality of a contested election. If you think serving on the Committee sounds dull, you should appreciate we do our best to limit the time taken on administrative matters and try to devote the maximum time to issues relating to the future of the Guild, both our public charitable role and what we can do to improve benefits to members.

I would welcome fresh blood and ideas coming forward to assist us with these challenges. There are also opportunities to assist the various sub-committees and here it is perfectly possible for members outside the UK to make a contribution, as much debate is conducted by e-mail.

I think I should sign off at this point and perhaps try to devote some time to my own study. There always seems to be a new source coming to light, thanks to the Forum, to add to one's worldwide collection of data. You may run out of ancestors to research, but a one-name study is a lifetime's work. ○

Did our surname come to England with the Spanish Armada, as my granddad told me?

FOCUS on a **one-name study**

GUILD member John Rennison Vayro (No. 4374) was born in Willington, a mining village in County Durham, where his grandfather and father both worked at Brancepeth Colliery. Influenced by his woodwork teacher, he followed a five-year course in furniture design but was never tempted to go into industry. Instead, he spent 40 years in teaching, holding various appointments in primary and secondary schools and an art college before finally retiring from Durham University School of Education as Lecturer in Art and Design Technology on undergraduate and post-graduate courses. He has been researching his family history since 1983.

I have been researching the VAYRO family ancestry since 1983, attempting to prove or disprove a casual comment made by my paternal grandfather, Thomas, that we originally came over with the Spanish Armada. Others have said that two brothers came from Italy to help tile the floors of the monasteries.

A third, more recent thought is that the surname may be French in origin, due to the fact that VARRO and VARRON are proper names found in larger French dictionaries, and also the surname VARO was a name of the aristocracy in Savoy in Northern France.

For the moment I have discarded this latter theory after writing to Patrick Pontet, an expert in French genealogy, who suggested that this is highly unlikely as it did not appear in Larouse's book, *Noms et Prenoms de France*.

In over 20 years of researching I have never found anyone rich or famous, but this was never really my intention. However, if large headstones are an indicator of wealth in 19th century Britain, then some of my ancestors who lie in East Witton and Masham churchyards in Lower Wensleydale, North Yorkshire, may well have been more than simple serfs or farm hands.

Whilst I have been concentrating on the surname

Vayro in particular, the further back in time I have reached, I have discovered a wide variety of connections to derivatives such as VARO, VARA, and many others that I shall mention later. However, I have certainly found definite evidence traced back to circa 1736 for the surname, Vayro, in the areas of Coverham, East Witton, Masham and Middleham in Lower Wensleydale and one particular farmstead named Angram Cote, in Ellingstring, had Vayro tenants from 1800 through to 1960.

Personally, I never believed my grandfather, Thomas, about the Spanish Armada. That took place in the late 16th century when the Spanish fleet, led by the Count of Medina, sailed through the English Channel to be defeated by Sir Francis Drake, Lord Thomas Howard and a certain Sir Francis Vere (1559–1608). Their task had been "To burn the King of Spain's warships at anchor in Andalusia and Lisbon and therewith destroy victuals and munitions for the Spanish Navy".

Drake was in charge of naval troops and Sir Richard Vere the land forces. Despite this, there is mention of Vere sailing in a vessel called the *Rainbow*, also a Daniel Vere in his regiment and a Captain Horatio Vere sailing in the *Vanguard*.

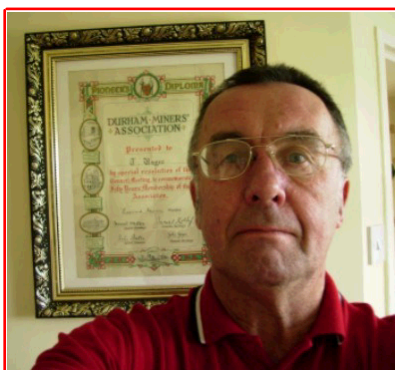
Captured sailors?

There may well have been many Spanish sailors who were captured, swam ashore, or somehow came to Britain to reap the harvest of fish stock in the North Sea, or were shipwrecked, but I still think this was one of my grandfather's stories that would be very hard to prove.

However, on one particular website I found details of surnames such as Varo, Varro and Varol, which were found in the province of Burgos, an area of the Kingdom of Castile which was very influential in the Middle Ages. The website suggested that the origin of the surname, Varo, is Spanish and that the family had a coat of arms.

It contained a shield divided "per fess", the top half silver with blue "fleur de lis", and the bottom half gold with two black wolves "passant", with the top one facing "dexter" and the bottom one facing "sinister". It is still possible, therefore, that grandfather was correct in his theory that we were immigrants from Spain.

So what about the Italian Connection? According to information on a scroll prepared by the Historical Research Centre Incorporated (USA), the earliest references to the surname, VAIRO, date back to



**BY RENNISON
VAYRO**

1533 and are documented in Calabria, but was also recorded near Salento and Naples. It is possibly derived from a nickname that illustrated a personal attribute or physical characteristic of the individual. In this instance, the surname, Vairo, may derive from a Southern Italian word "vairo" or standard Italian "vair" meaning "blackish" and ultimately from the Latin "varius/varios". This was obviously prior to a time when a structured system of surnames was developed and could have indicated someone with dark hair, or with a swarthy or dark complexion.

Italian origin

According to information passed on by Monica Rose, the surname VEARER is certainly of Italian origin, being one of a group of names found in regional or dialect forms which are derived from Varo, Vara, Varro, Varia, and Varino, and the latin word *varus*, meaning lame or crooked legged; or *varios*, meaning freckled or pockmarked, and scarred by smallpox. There was a Spanish family of Vara accepted into the knightly order of Santiago in 1641 and I understand that a Varano family were numbered among the nobility in Ferrara, namely Fabrizio Varano as Bishop of Camerino in 1482, and Alfonso Varano, a poet who died in 1738.

In comparison, a scroll from Name Origin Research of York suggests that the surname, Vayro, may well be of early medieval English origin and a late variant of the more familiar name FARRAR. This latter is an occupational surname for a blacksmith or ironworker, and possibly a derivative of the Middle English and Old French *ferroure*, *ferour* or perhaps even *fer* or *ferrum*, which is Latin for iron.

The modern equivalent surname has variations

ranging from FARRAR, FERRER, FARROW and FARO to PHARROW, PHAROAH, VARAH, VAR(E)Y, VARRROW, VAIRROW and VARO. All of these variations could have developed due to local dialect and the interchange of phonetics and written forms of the letters F, V and Ph, which was common in the late medieval period.

What I found most interesting about this second scroll was that, being based in York, the majority of examples that they gave of this group of surnames were from Yorkshire church registers. Among them were marriages for Agnes Varye and Rowland Revell of Rotherham on June 3 1590, Elizabeth Vayroye and Robert Braithwaite of Sedburgh on November 3 1639 and a christening for Agnes Vayro in Coverham on June 4 1776.

Long before I had acquired this second script I had found many entries in the transcripts, or parish records, for Coverham, with some of the earliest records I have found so far of an identical spelling of the surname, Vayro. Specifically at Coverham I have found christenings for William Vayro 1736, Thomas Pharo 1739, Anne Pharoah 1739, Margaret Varo 1743, and John Vara 1745, and, more importantly, these were all children of two families living in Melmerby and Carlton.

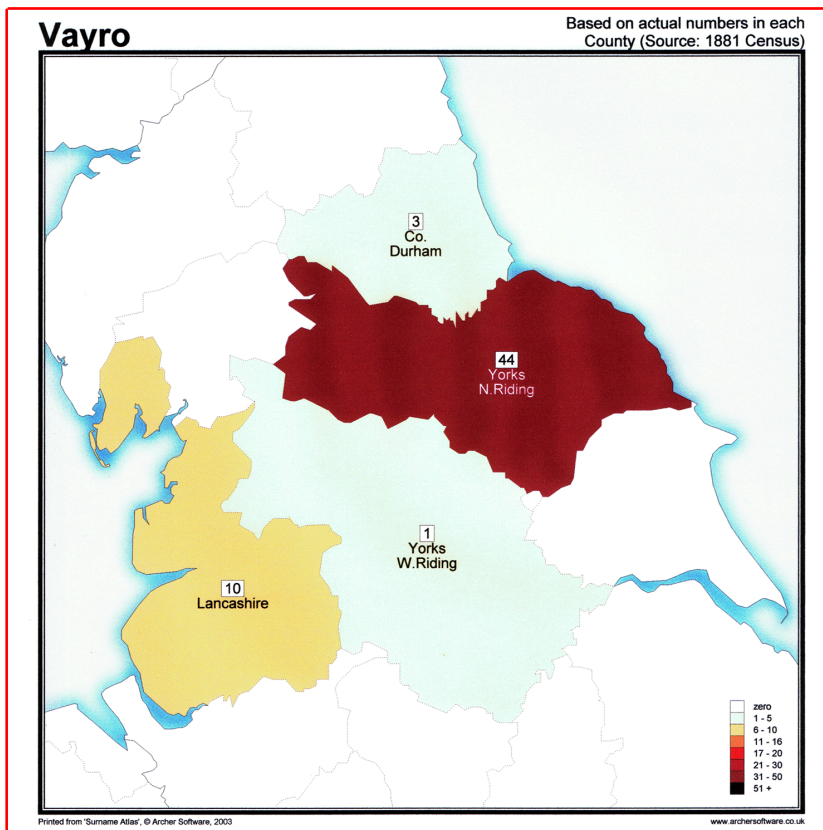
Even earlier than these was a marriage for a Laurence Varr or Varo to Elizabeth Sadler in August 1662. So, if I accept the variations in spelling, even if we were not Italian in descent there was at least hard evidence that the Yorkshire Dales was where some Vayro families had been living in the early 18th century.

On searching through the Internet for Vayro websites I found "Imbiancheria del Vayro" and sent

Distribution of Vayro surname in 1881

LEFT: A distribution map from the program, Surname Atlas, showing that the name, VAYRO, was predominantly found in the North Riding of Yorkshire in the 1881 census of Britain. A total of only 58 entries reveals how uncommon the surname was.

BELOW: A table of the Vayro occurrences broken down into Poor Law Union districts shows the name was most common at Leyburn.



County	Poor Law Union	Actual	per 100,000
YKS	Leyburn	23	278
LAN	Chorlton	10	4
YKS	Bedale	9	109
YKS	Richmond	7	52
YKS	Guisborough	4	9
DUR	Darlington	3	6
YKS	Wakefield	1	1
YKS	Ripon	1	6

© Archer Software 2003

I dug deep into the past for Italian roots to see whether our name could have come from ancient Rome

off an e-mail and a letter to the curator of a museum in the town of Chieri in north-east Italy. Remembering that there is no Y in the Italian alphabet, these are some of the details extracted from a translation of the reply from Armando Brunetti, President of the museum.

Vairo (also in the form Vario) is the name of one of the areas around the town of Chieri, is referred to in old documents and is still in use today. Vairo is also a family surname, as shown in the various old records. In 1276 it appears that several members of the Vairo family lived in the village of San Martino des Stellone (now known as Villastellone) and founded by the Chierisi family.

Other Vairos lived in the Albussano district of Chieri. These were:

- Lacabus Varius, catasto (property/estate) in 1253.
- Guillieirri Vayri transfers the value of his goods as £22 from the Catasto of San Martino in 1276 and Catasto Gialdo in 1289 (sold his house?).
- Vayronus Vayrus in Albussano 1275, and Odonus Vayrus in Albussano 1275.

Historically, Chieri was a walled city with entrances or gateways – not unlike York, I suppose – one of which was the Porto VAIRO, facing north towards Turin. The town is famous for its textiles and furs, and mule trains used to leave for Turin, loaded with furs and continue over the Alps to Lyon in France. The furs were made for magistrates and civic dignitaries.

The museum itself, “Imbiancheria del Vairo”, was opened a few years ago to preserve the history of the textile trade in Chieri. The word *imbiancheria* may mean bleaching, whitening, curing, dying of textiles/furs in particular. There is also apparently a Heraldic Coat of Arms for Vairo/Varo showing the “Winter Coat of The Siberian Squirrel” (honestly!) and Mary Gallo, a research worker in the museum,

suggested that it was not unlike a tiled roof with U-shaped tiles in blue and yellow.

A further website, www.melagnano.net, suggested that the derivation of this surname, Vairo, was uncertain and could have been drawn from a locality or place, in particular around Salerno and Turin. They named Rolando Vairo in 1600 AD and



Thomas Vayro, grandfather of Rennison Vayro

Leonardo Vairo 1587–1603 AD. In digging even further into an Italian website, I found that there are over 140 areas, villages, towns, etc., where there are Vairo families living today.

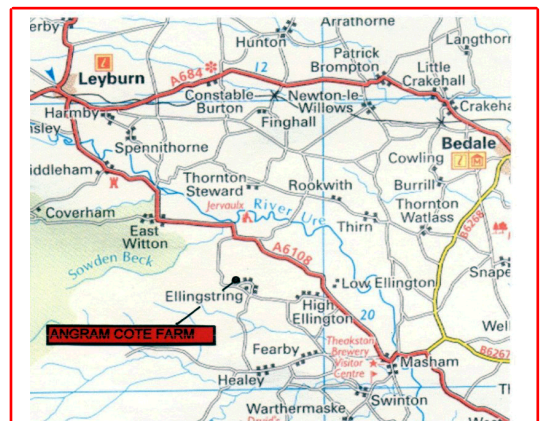
Whilst all of this is proof that there were early Italian variations of the name Vayro, it would not necessarily be proof that some of them came to England as tilers!

If, indeed, there were two Italian Vairo brothers who came over to England, there is a distinct possibility that if they came from Chieri they may have been working on textiles and woven tapestries in the abbeys rather than as tilers. Stretching this idea even further, they could have travelled over the Italian Alps to the cathedral city of Lyons, and onwards across France to Great Britain. Simply myth and legend and another tall tale until it is proved otherwise!

I did however dig deeper into the past for our Italian roots, to a time when Rome conquered all



Angram Cote Farm, North Yorkshire, home of Vayros for 160 years



Location of the farm

IN THE early 1980s I discovered in an old tin box, among many souvenirs, two Victorian funeral invitation cards that turned out to be for my great-grandfather James (1853–1893) and great-great-grandfather William (1825–1907). Finding these was a stroke of luck, but more recently I located a vital baptism record for an ancestor who for over 20 years remained particularly elusive.

The remembrance cards pinpointed places and dates in North Yorkshire and East Witton in particular, where my ancestors had lived and worked as tenant farmers on the Jervaulx estates in Lower Wensleydale. In the village of Ellingstring several generations had lived at Moorcote, Tranmire and Angram Cote Farms between 1800 and 1960. This meant many of the births, banns, deaths and marriages for my Vayro ancestors were found in the East Witton parish registers. But I was never able to find the baptism of another James Vayro/Varo/Varah, one of about a dozen with the same Christian name, until June last year.

There was a William Varo/Varah and Esther Lye who married at East Witton in August 1795 and were known to have a son James, born 1795, who married Mary Walker in 1816, had been mentioned in his father's will and died at Angram Cote in 1863, aged 68. However the baptism register for 1770 to 1810 had gone missing in the mid-1960s and never been deposited at the North Yorkshire County Records Office. I heard rumours of a fire in 1796, that the vicarage had been burned down and the register may have been destroyed.

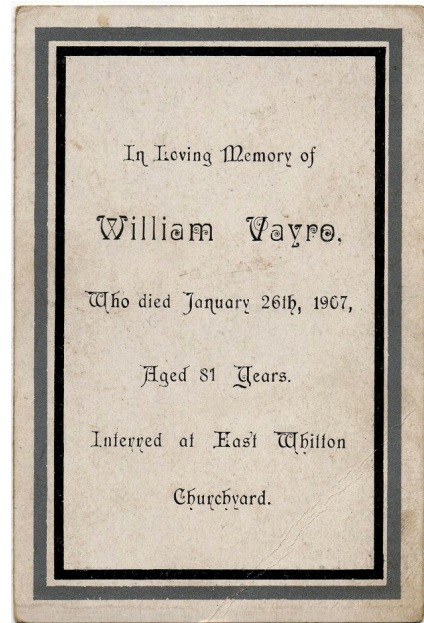
However, a visit to the West Yorkshire Archives in Leeds allowed me to examine the bishop's transcripts for East Witton, 1737–1799, in an attempt to trace James's baptism. Even then, a page or two were missing and there was a "gap year" from June 1795 to June 1796, which covered the period when James could have been baptised. But it proved that a register had existed and I found the records for the baptisms of Mary 1797, William 1799, Thomas 1801, John 1805 and Richard 1808, James's younger siblings.

I had given up on finding a baptism record for James when I received a message through the Upper Dales Family History Group. An article had appeared in the Northern Echo, with the headline "Mystery parcel is final piece in parish records jigsaw". An anonymous donor had sent a volume of East Witton parish records for 1771–1813 to the record office in Northallerton. They were believed to have been lost when the vicar handed over the records 30 years ago, that volume being missing.

I was excited by this news and paid a visit to the NYCRO. I was not allowed access to the actual register, but the assistant archivist was kind enough to examine the entries in the period in question and assures me that there is indeed an entry for a James, son of William and Esther Varah, baptised November 8 1795. So, with this evidence I can now trace back through three further generations of ancestors to circa 1700.

and found two possible links. The first was CAIUS TERENTIUS VARRO in 216 BC. This particular Varro was a Roman statesman and general, as well as a Roman Consul who apparently opposed Hannibal in the battle of Cannae.

Most of the Roman army was destroyed but, according to history, this disaster could have been due to the Roman system of alternating command



Funeral memorial card for William Vayro in 1907

than to Varro's incompetence. Thank God for that – we don't want that piece of responsibility on our family shoulders, do we? As one of the few survivors, Varro rallied the remnants of his army at nearby Canusium (now Canosa di Puglia) and for this received official commendation from the Roman Senate.

The second was a certain MARCUS TERENTIUS VARRO, 116–29 BC, who was a celebrated writer "whose vast and varied knowledge in many fields earned for him the title of the most learned of the Romans." He held a high naval position in wars against pirates and Mithridates, a famous Grecian ruler. He served in the legation of Pompeius in Spain in the Civil Wars but was compelled to surrender to Caesar.

Later, after service for the Pompeian party in Greece, he asked forgiveness from Caesar who employed him in superintending the collection and arrangement of a great library designed for public use. He composed at least 490 books but of these only two are extant, namely *De Re Rustica* (37 BC) (Reprint "On Horticulture", Harvard University Press, published 1934), and *De Lingua Latina*. The first was written in his 80th year and was addressed to his wife with the professed objective of enabling her after his death to carry on the estate she had inherited or purchased

To return to the variations or derivatives of the surname, Vayro, I was contacted by Hazel Martell, who has Varray ancestors, following an enquiry I

had made in the *Dalesman* magazine in May 2003. Hazel was one of several new contacts made through this magazine and she informed me that in the parish registers for Birstall alone there were eleven different spellings of the surname. The first mention was for a William Varray of Adwalton who married Isabel Brogden on July 4 1640.

The other versions of the surname were Vairey, Vara, Varah, Varay, Varey, Varo, Varray, Varrey, Varry, Vary, and Verah, but notice no recordings for Vayro! There is a record of a Joshua Veary of Birstall marrying at Adel (North Leeds) in December 1701 and, even earlier, a Peter Varr whose two children were christened at Tong in the chapelry of Birstall parish.

Both Hazel Martell and Marion Moverley of the Dales Family History Society had mentioned George Redmonds as a leading expert on genealogical research and Yorkshire surnames in particular. Hazel had extracted the following information from George's book on surnames in the Bradford area:

"Varey, Vara(h), Varo – Reaney (another expert on surnames) said of these surnames that they were 'clearly a late development of Farrow' and drew his examples from 18th century Suffolk sources. Locally, however, the name first occurred c1640 at Adwalton in Birstall parish and it was spelt in a wide variety of ways. The origins and meaning are not clear, but there are similar surnames in the 16th century in South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire."

Different origin

Redmonds went on to say: "The substitution of initial V for F would be very unusual in the West Riding of Yorkshire, so these names may have a different origin to the one suggested by Reaney, possibly outside the county". Examples he gave were: 1566–75, Richard Varay/Vayray/Vayrie in Rotherham; 1640–77, William Varray/Varah/Varo in Adwalton; and 1674–76, Edward Varey/Varah in East Bierley.

When I first started my research into my family ancestry I was not aware that genealogy was one of the fastest growing hobbies or pastimes, and ini-

tially I relied on close friends and relatives. But over the years I have made many contacts with individuals who have shared the same interests, both in the origins of our surname Vayro/Varo and also who were/are attempting to put together the evidence leading backwards in time, through the generations to who-knows-where.

These really are too numerous to mention, but I owe thanks in particular to Marjorie Powner, Barbara Massam, Irene Parker, Stanley Varo and Steve Walker in the UK, Ian Ross Vayro in Australia, Sophie Vayro in Canada, and several members of the Dales Family History Society e-mail group. All have given their help and assistance freely and, as well as many having been proved to be long-lost relatives, they have also become close friends through a common interest in finding out more about our family history.

Through requests in magazines I have also found researchers as busy as I am, but on surnames that are close derivatives of Vayro, either in spelling or phonetically, as follows:

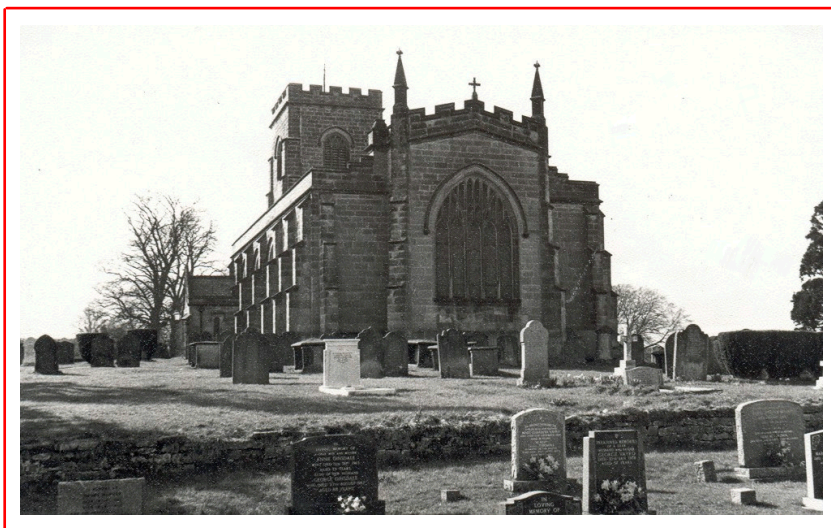
VEARER	Monica Rose in Middleton, Suffolk.
VARO	Stanley Varo in Bingley, Yorkshire.
VEROY	Graham Veroy in Kent.
VARRAY	Hazel Martell in Keighley, Yorkshire.
VAREY	E. Varey in Thatcham, Berkshire.
VARAH	Suzanne Langford in Waddington, Lincoln.

The search is never-ending, and despite all of these discoveries, I have come to understand that it may be impossible to find the true origins of our surname and that at some point in time I will be searching the records not simply for a particular Vayro entry, but for links through the years to a multitude of other surnames that are similar to my own.

However, if the International Genealogical Index is correct, then there was a baptism for a Francisca Vayro in 1650 in Peru and a marriage of a Maria Vayro in 1654 in Santiago, Bolivia.

At the present time, these are the earliest records I have found for an identical spelling of the surname, and it may be necessary to begin again and reconsider the Spanish or even Portuguese links from South America. ○

J. Rennison Vayro
Member 4374
vayro@one-name.org



East Witton Parish Church, scene of many Vayro events

- The account of how the author located the missing volume of the parish registers of East Witton appears in a longer version in the January 2008 issue of the magazine, *Practical Family History* (www.family-tree.co.uk), to which thanks are due for permitting its re-publication here.

Millions of new records go online at TNA, Find My Past, Ancestry and other Internet websites

IN THIS special webwatch article I want to bring members an update on what is new and interesting on the web over the past six–nine months, also some of those sites that may have escaped the net and have been mentioned on the Guild Forum. Millions of new records have been added recently.

The Guild Forum is one of the best places to keep track of what is happening on the web and often mentions sites before you see them anywhere else.

• **The National Archives**
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The documents online database has been expanded to include, amongst others, WO 373, War Office and Ministry of Defence: Military Secretary's Department: Recommendations for Honours and Awards for Gallant and Distinguished Service (Army) 1935-1990; ADM336, WW1 Women's Royal Naval Service ratings; AIR50, Air Ministry Combat Reports 1939–1945; and the fascinating documentation on Southwell Union

Workhouse, 1834–1871. You can visit Southwell Workhouse's own website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/workhouse/

• **FindMyPast.com**
www.findmypast.com

Find My Past continues to add more new material to its website. Apart from expanding the counties from the 1871 census, they have added further years to the BT27 (Board of Trade: Outwards Passenger Lists) set of records which now goes as far as 1939. It was interesting to note during her talk at the Computer Seminar in Chelmsford that Elaine Collins, FMP's commercial director, mentioned that they will have all the censuses online by the end of 2008.

In addition, they now have the City of London Burial index with over 400,000 burial records within the City and surrounding parishes, predominantly from the period between 1812 and 1853. Being a full transcript it contains the full details of the burial, including age, abode and any supplementary notes.

You may be aware that the company has acquire Family History Online from the Federation of Family History Societies and over the next few months it is hoped that a lot of the material will be moved over.

Already, there is most of the National Burial Index that was on FHOL and a lot of it has been updated with corrected records. Bear in mind, though, that not all material that is on the CDROM version is on the Internet and vice-versa. Finally, they have also added the Civil Service Evidence of Age from



Cover feature

The screenshot shows the findmypast.com website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for home, family trees, births, marriages & deaths, census, migration, military, living relatives, and occupations. The main content area displays a search result for 'City of London Burials - details' for Frederick Stockdale. The details include: First name(s): Frederick, Last name: STOCKDALE, Date of burial: 5 April 1843, Place of burial: St Bartholomew The Great, Age at death: 45, Approximate year of birth: 1798, and Address at death: Union Poor House. There is a 'PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION' button and a 'useful links' sidebar with options for payment options, getting started, resources, and order BMD certificates. The footer contains contact information, legal notices, and various service links like 'family tree explorer', 'BMD', and '1841 census'.

An entry from the City of London Burials at findmypast.com

the Society of Genealogists. This dataset, whilst only containing about 65,000 records, is irreplaceable material. The material given to the Society was about two per cent of the total – the remainder was destroyed by the Civil Service – provides often irreplaceable evidence of birth for which other sources are unlikely to be available. With about 28% Irish, it is well worth delving into and it is well worth reading the background information.

- **Ancestry**

www.ancestry.co.uk

Ancestry continues to add to its long list of online resources. It is well worth going back on a regular basis to check the list of latest additions. As well as completing WO364 WW1 Pension Records, they have now added (at the time of writing) surnames A–C of WO363 WW1 Service Records (Burnt documents). Also take a look at the Australian Convict Index, 1788–1868. I understand as well that they have signed an agreement with The National Archives to index and put online BT26 (Board of Trade: Inwards Passenger Lists)

- **BMD Registers**

www.bmdregisters.co.uk

The site is part of the S&N network and comes about from an agreement signed with The National Archives to index and make available access to “various unpublished registries from 1534 to 1865”. At present, it contains RG4 (GRO: Registers of BMDs surrendered to the Non Parochial Registers Commissions of 1837 and 1857) and RG5 (GRO: Birth Certificates from the Presbyterian, Independent, Baptist & Methodist Registries).

However the plans disclosed say that it will also include: RG6 (GRO: Society of Friends’ Registers, Notes and Certificates of Births, Marriages and Burials); RG7 (GRO: Registers of Clandestine Marriages and of Baptisms in the Fleet Prison, King’s Bench Prison, the Mint and the May Fair Chapel); RG8 (GRO: Registers of BMDs surrendered to the Non Parochial Registers Commission of 1857, and other registers and church records); RG32 (GRO: Miscellaneous Foreign Returns 1831–1869).

Other records planned for this site include: RG33 (GRO: Foreign Registers and Returns 1697–1960); RG34 (GRO: Miscellaneous Foreign Marriage Returns 1826–1921); RG35 (GRO: Miscellaneous Foreign Death Returns 1830–1921); RG36 (GRO: Registers and Returns of Births, Marriages and Deaths in the Protectorates etc. of Africa and Asia 1895–1965); BT158 (Board of Trade: Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen and predecessor: Registers of Births, Deaths and Marriages of Passengers at Sea 1854–1890); BT159 (Board of Trade: Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen: Registers of Deaths at Sea of British Nationals 1875–1898); and BT160 (Board of Trade: Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen: Registers of Births at Sea of British Nationals 1875–1891).

- **National Archives of Australia**

www.naa.gov.au/The_Collection/gift-to-the-nation.html

The National Archives of Australia has digitised the service records of 376,000 Australian men and women who served in the First World War and made them available online free of charge as a “gift to the nation” (and the world).

- **British History Online**

www.british-history.ac.uk

This site contains some of the core printed primary and secondary sources for the medieval and modern history of the British Isles. You will find here complete Victorian County Histories and much more.

- **WILLS – several new sites online**

<http://apps.buckscc.gov.uk/eforms/wills/search.aspx>

Although the wills themselves have not yet been digitised, the index will give you the reference number for the will, which you can then view at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies in Aylesbury.

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/record_office/our_collection/derbyshirewills

Derbyshire Record Office holds wills proved in the civil registry from 1858–1928, and has made available on its website portable document format (PDF) indexes of wills and also administrations (1858–75).

<http://history.wiltshire.gov.uk/heritage>

A detailed catalogue of wills 1540–1858 is now available free of charge in the first stage of Wiltshire and Swindon Archives’ online catalogue. There are digitised images online for around a quarter of the wills, currently available free of charge. You can also order a colour copy of any of the wills from the Archives at a charge of £5 for the first page and £1 for each succeeding page, plus p&p.

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/leisure_heritage/libraries_archives_museums_galleries/lma/aims_policies/Volunteers.htm#WorkDone

Over the last six years, volunteers at the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) have been indexing around 31,000 wills and administrations proved at the Diocese of London’s Consistory Court from 1514–20, 1540–1641 and 1671–1858. The index is now online in the form of PDF files.

- **New Irish Genealogy Centres**

Armagh Ancestry Online

<http://armagh.brsgenealogy.com>

Swords Heritage Centre (North part of Dublin)

<http://dublinnorth.brsgenealogy.com>

North Tipperary Genealogy Centre

<http://tipperarynorth.brsgenealogy.com>

Roscommon Heritage and Genealogy Company

<http://roscommon.brsgenealogy.com>

A number of genealogy centres now have records

Home Search Census Dublin in 1911 Browse Census How to Search

3 James Augustin Joyce Son 29c

Home / All counties / Dublin / Kinsaley / Abbeyville / Residents of a house

Residents of a house 5 in Abbeyville (Kinsaley, Dublin)

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex
Cusack	Henry G	54	Male
Cusack	Mary	52	Female
Cusack	Violet	36	Female
Tilly	Florence	62	Female
Stigum	Margarite	20	Female
Kerrison	Ada	33	Female
Smith	Elizabeth	32	Female
Echlin	Harriet	25	Female
Halstead	Jessie	23	Female
Godfrey	Caroline	23	Female
Cunningham	Annie	19	Female
Curran	James	18	Male

[View census images](#)
 (Click here for [help on image contents](#))
 Household Return (Form A), Page 1

Transcript of the 1911 census for Dublin, now online

available online as part of the Irish Family History Foundation's Online Research Service (ORS). At all of these sites, you can search the indexes free of charge but it will cost you about £7 to view a detailed record.

- **New local BMD website for South Tyneside**
www.southtyneside.info/communitysupport/register/search/default.aspx

South Tyneside (covering South Shields and Jarrow) is the latest area to have a free BMD website. There you can search the local registers of births, marriages and deaths.

- **Derbyshire prisoner records**
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/record_office/our_collection/prisoner_records/default.asp

This is a free index by Derbyshire County Council to prisoners' records. The index will eventually cover the period 1761–1888, as well as including some earlier and later prison records, although only the period 1800–19 is available online so far.

- **Lost Cousins**
www.lostcousins.com

You can now make contact with distant relatives by entering details of your ancestors and relatives listed in the 1841 census at the Lost Cousins website. Previously, the site accepted only information from the 1881 census.

- **One million Dorset online**
www.dorset-opc.com

The Online Parish Clerk scheme has recently added the Dorset OPC scheme with something approaching a million records online, all transcribed and donated by their volunteers. If only more counties did the same!

- **Indian biographical details**
<http://indiafamily.bl.uk/UI/>

The British Library has launched a new free online

resource: 300,000 biographical entries of births and baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials from its India Office records collection. Mainly the records cover Europeans in India and Eurasian Christians up to 1947.

This index, though, represents only 10 per cent of the biographical sources available in the India Office records. I can't wait for the next batch.

- **10 million records for £100**
www.theoriginalrecord.com

Since its launch in 2006, the Original Record website has put over 10 million carefully hand-indexed records online and is still uploading a further 50,000 new entries every week.

To make access to this wealth of records a bit more affordable, the Original Record is introducing an "open access" scheme, whereby for a one-off payment of £100 (for 12 months' access) you can view, save, print and download as many of the records as are relevant to you. Great for a one-name study and with imagination you can get every record that matches your search criteria. H*LST*D* gets all of the material for the Halsted research and over £1,000-worth for the £100.

- **South African records**
www.genealogyworld.net

Post-1820 correspondence for British settlers in South Africa, transcribed from records held in The National Archives, Kew, are searchable online on the Genealogy World website. Visit to search items such as distressed settler reports from 1822 and land claims from 1825.

- **New Zealander family tree**
www.nzgdb.co.nz

A site by and for people with New Zealand ancestors, New Zealand Dead Famous People is another of the burgeoning number of online family tree and database websites.

The website aims to create a "New Zealand Family Tree", "a living repository, yet with the internet's advantages of linking, publishing and collaborating". It's free to join and already there are over 650,000 individuals with 3.7 million facts recorded in its databases.

- **Ireland 1911 census**
www.census.nationalarchives.ie

And finally, the Irish 1911 census has just started to come online. This has access to the transcript of images for Dublin at the moment, with more to follow. ○

MY WIFE, Cheran, and I are avid marriage challengers. Having been fired up by one of Peter Copsey's earlier articles in the Journal and having benefited from challenges carried out by other members, we decided to do our bit for the Guild by offering our services at the beginning of 2006.

The registration district we chose first was Steyning, mainly because it was the one that covered the area where we live. We quickly received an offer of help from fellow member Marion Woolgar, which we gratefully accepted and proved invaluable.

However, we soon regretted choosing Steyning as our first challenge because we found its parish registers are spread over two county record offices. Steyning covered not just the small West Sussex towns and villages we had expected but also a large chunk of Brighton and Hove, which were then in East Sussex. So our research had to be done at both Chichester and Lewes.

Although this added somewhat to the challenge, we found, and still find, marriage challenge to be a highly enjoyable and satisfying experience. We have since completed challenges for Worthing, East Preston and Thakeham, and overall have found 84.8% of the 864 marriages that Guild members were seeking. With a few notable exceptions, the Anglican marriage registers we needed for the years up to 1911 have all been deposited at the appropriate record office. Not all have been filmed or fished, so sometimes we have suffered the time-consuming process of ordering and waiting for original documents.

The main satisfaction comes from finding the marriages that other members request – the "Eureka" factor – and so it follows that we feel frustrated when we fail. After studying the page numbers and "cardinal points", we usually have to conclude that the missing marriages took place in either the register office or in a non-conformist church. The latter category includes Roman Catholic, Jewish, Methodist, Baptist, Congregational and probably other denominations that were around before 1911. Why, we wondered, are nearly all Anglican registers deposited but not those of the non-conformist churches?

Regulations

Registers of Anglican churches are the subject of the Parochial Registers and Records Measure, passed by the General Synod in 1978. This stipulates that a Diocesan Record Office (usually the county record office) should be designated for each diocese. All non-current registers over 100 years old must be deposited there, as well as all other registers in which the earliest entry is more than 150 years old.

However, it seems there are no similar regulations pertaining to non-conformist registers, so these precious documents are held or deposited at the whim of the church, chapel or denomination concerned. Consequently, very few get deposited at a secure, central site where you and I can easily consult them.

As a member and preacher of the Methodist Church, I felt rather ashamed to discover that West Sussex Record Office held virtually no registers for the Worthing Methodist circuit which, over the years, has embraced some 16 places of worship and still has ten. As a regular user of the record office I felt I needed to do something about it.

I soon found out that several registers were still lurking in church safes, despite having been "closed" many years ago because they were full. It transpired that, as far as marriage registers were concerned, there was a printed instruction on the first page of each register, directing that they should be retained in the church safe and ministers over the years had interpreted this as being for ever and ever – Amen.

Guidance

In the early days of my enquiries, Guild member Marilyn Marshall drew my attention to some guidance just released (in 2007) by the Connexional Archives Liaison Officer of the British Methodist Church. This stated that the archivist for each Methodist District has responsibility to advise where Methodist archives should be deposited. It went on to say that "for church and circuit records this is usually the local authority record or archive office which covers the area of the main circuit church". Suitable records for deposit "would usually include completed baptismal, marriage and burial registers", plus other items such as minute books and membership rolls. The guidance concluded with the following paragraph detailing why records should be deposited:

"To survive, records need to be stored in very well regulated environmental conditions which cannot be maintained in a church or home. Record offices also usually have special arrangements to guard against fire and flood and to rescue any records should such an event occur. They also have the facilities to allow researchers to use the archives."

So, armed with this valuable ammunition, my next step was to speak to our Circuit Superintendent, the senior minister, who agreed unequivocally that such important records should no longer be kept in church safes and gave me authority to round them up and deposit them at the record office. Of course, I undertook to give each church a formal receipt for any registers surrendered to me and to

Rounding up registers not in the County Record Office



By COLIN ULPH

obtain a receipt from the record office when the books were deposited.

I also offered to create a computer database of basic details from each register and provide printed indexes for each church. In the event of an enquiry, they then would be able to say with certainty whether or not the relevant event was recorded in a register now held at the record office. I next contacted the County Archivist at Chichester, who confirmed that they would be delighted to take "on permanent loan" any registers I brought in for deposit.

The Superintendent advised his ministers of my project and I began to contact them or their church officers to collect the registers. I soon discovered that, although baptisms always began soon after the church was built and dedicated, this was not the case with marriages. The earliest Methodist church marriage I found took place in 1899, and it looks as though these churches were simply not licensed to conduct marriages before that. I found also that burials did not seem to have been recorded at all, as none of the churches had its own burial ground.

Although the recording of marriages was a legal requirement, some ministers were notoriously neglectful at recording baptisms

Among other interesting things I discovered as the project continued were that, although the recording of marriages was a legal requirement from which there was no exception, some ministers were notoriously neglectful at recording baptisms. Fortunately, most Methodist churches maintain a separate "cradle roll" of babies brought for christening and, in one case, it was possible to enter these details into the baptism register retrospectively, with appropriate notation.

Break-ins

At one church, built in 1904, I discovered that marriage registers dated only from 1992 and the only baptism register was still in use! I learned that in the 1990s there had been a break-in at the church and thieves had stolen the complete safe with the registers inside. The safe was later found empty, at the bottom of Shoreham Harbour. Around the same time, there was a break-in at a neighbouring church, but the safe had been "cracked" on the premises and only blank pages taken from the current marriage register.

Most ministers co-operated readily in the exercise, although there was one who told me emphatically that there were no closed registers in his churches, while telling his church officers that it was his duty to retain the registers for posterity in the church safes. In this case I was able to wait until the said minister had retired, after which the church

officers willingly surrendered the registers for deposit. Another officer questioned the need to deposit registers 30 miles away at Chichester, saying that it would deprive his church of valuable income derived from copying register entries for enquirers. When I asked how many such enquiries there were, he replied that he remembered having one, once!

Indexing did not take long, as the basic details I recorded were only the date, surname, Christian names, spouse's surname and church for marriages, and just the date, surname, Christian names and church for baptisms. From these I produced print-outs by name and date for each church. Ministers and churches alike were delighted to have these for their safes!

I have also compiled a central index in name order for the entire circuit and produced a spreadsheet showing full details of marriages – 71 of them, mostly post-1911 – for registered surnames that GOONS members had asked for in earlier marriage challenges. I e-mailed this to the members concerned who were delighted with this bonus. One of them was a 1901 marriage we had searched for, unsuccessfully, in the Steyning marriage challenge.

Missing registers

Technically, the exercise is not yet over, as there are missing registers I have not yet located. I expect soon to begin a search of miscellaneous cupboards where they may be hiding! However, so far I have deposited with a grateful county record office 68 registers of different sizes, containing 3,883 baptisms and 2,443 marriages. I have also given the record office copies of the name indexes for use by researchers as finding aids, and a potted history of each church or chapel and the registers held.

This exercise has taken only a few months to reach near completion. I believe it has been well worthwhile. It will have been of value to researchers, it has added to the resources of the record office and it has awakened awareness among the churches of the need to provide a safe environment for priceless records.

I just wonder how many non-conformist registers nationally have not yet found their way into our county record offices? There must be thousands of them out there, deteriorating because they are not kept at the correct temperature and humidity, not to mention being at risk of fire, flood or theft.

Those of you who are connected with non-conformist churches may like to initiate enquiries in your chosen denomination and, if necessary, offer to do something about it. But you don't have to be a church member to get involved in this kind of "rounding up" exercise.

All you need is the ability to persuade the people responsible of the need to care properly for such records and then do something about it! ○

- Marriage Challenge update – pages 18 and 19

Over 120 attend successful Census Online Seminar at Essex Record Office, Chelmsford

THE CENSUS Online Seminar, held at the Essex Record Office on Saturday, November 17 2007, was a joint seminar with the Essex Society for Family History, using the excellent lecture theatre at the Record Office in Chelmsford. Over 120 people were present, of which about a third were Guild members.

Howard Benbrook (Member 3112) opened the proceedings with a comprehensive look at what census records are available online as well as how best to use them. He presented a very interesting comparison of quality of images and of the different pricing methods used. He concluded that the best value for money when it comes to paying for images of census pages is with Find My Past, although he did emphasise that it was useful to check other online providers of census material as their coverage did vary.

Jeanne Bunting (3472) gave a whole host of hints and tips for finding the seemingly un-find-

By SANDRA TURNER
and LARAINÉ HAKE

able – well worth thinking of how some letters can be mis-transcribed.

Highlight

One highlight was undoubtedly the lecture by Elaine Collins, of the Find My Past team, on the problems and logistics of putting a census online. Elaine took us through some of the technical indexing options and gave us an insight into some of the high costs involved. She explained a little of the bidding process behind bringing the 1911 census to the Internet, where the cost of creating the set of images of all pages will be in excess of three million pounds.

John Hanson (2572) ended on a humorous note with a description of a wide range of interesting and odd entries to be found in the UK census.

We have two of the presentations on the Guild website in

their entirety and a sample from Jeanne Bunting and John Hanson, too. Go to the members' room of the website and on the left-hand side you will see a section entitled Seminar Proceedings. Click on Census Online Seminar and you will see the presen-

tations given by Howard Benbrook and Elaine Collins. This will be of special interest to those members not living in the UK who cannot attend our seminars.

You will, of course, miss out on any questions and answers but it will certainly give a taste for what has been said. A warning, though – if you do not have a broadband connection the presentations can take a while to open.

It does seem that even experienced Guild members gained a lot from this seminar. Here is a report from Laraine Hake (1174):

Opportunity

HAVING been born and lived in Essex until 1998 when we moved to Norfolk, I eagerly grasped the opportunity of attending the joint Essex FHS/Guild of One-Name Studies Seminar in Chelmsford. Mary Griffiths, (62) a founder member of the Guild, joined me on the drive down from Norfolk, along the A140, A14 and A12, approaching roads I used to know so well.

Chelmsford had changed, although I managed to find the Army and Navy roundabout, and recognise its immediate environs. Then came a shock – the last time I was at the ERO it was at County Hall! We hastily dug out the programme and actually read the address – Wharf Road! Never mind, we arrived at our destination and were suitably impressed by the apparently purpose-built building of which I had previously been unaware!

Once arrived, there were various faces, both from Essex and GOONS that we each recogn-



The purpose-built Essex Record Office

ised. I was impressed by the badges with which we were issued; not only were our names clearly shown but as members of the Guild of One-Name Studies, so was the surname of our study. Excellent! It makes talking to people so much easier if you do not have to try to dig their name out of the recesses of your mind!

Impressive

The lecture theatre was impressive, as were the lectures themselves. I use censuses online as a matter of course and have subscriptions with the main providers, so would not have believed that I had very much to learn on the subject. However, I can honestly say I found the day informative as well as entertaining. Mary was impressed, too. She has never used censuses online previously, despite owning a computer, but she said that she was reassured by the style of the day; it was not over-technical but clear and easy to understand.

Splendid day

The comparisons between providers, which was part of Howard Benbrook's talk was of especial interest to me as was the presentation by Elaine Collins of Find My Past. When the tips from Jean Bunting and the humour provided by the finds of John Hanson were added to the mix, it equalled a splendid day on many counts.

I spent the following day at the East Anglian History Fair in Norwich, manning the Guild of One-Name Studies information table, along with David Witt (4172) and Bernie Guymer (3871). David had also attended the seminar in Chelmsford and we both referred to it regularly as an example of one of the advantages of being a member of the Guild. ○

Laraine Hake, Member 1174
Regional Representative for
Norfolk

Seminars update. .

Interesting line-up of talks for Guild's Midlands Seminar at Solihull

THE NEXT GUILD SEMINAR will take place on Saturday, February 16 at the Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Road, Solihull B91 1LG.

This is going to be a very interesting day. We will be looking at some of the local Midland Industry and how it influenced the people in the area. In some cases, it was the other way round – the people influenced the industry.

The first speaker is Guild member John Frearson (Member 4688), who is the honorary archivist of the Rugby Cement Archive and his talk will show the influence of families and canals on the lime industry in North Warwickshire from the 1760s onwards to the present day, and the families involved with the ownership.

Then Christopher and Judith Rouse will talk on "The Midland Railway and its staff records". Although Christopher has told me that of the 28,000 names in his index only a third are staff, there are many other names mentioned including those who had accidents on the railway and those who committed crimes

During the light lunch (which will be provided and included in the cost), there will be time to browse the Guild Bookstall and chat to fellow members – there will also be some indexes to check.

In the afternoon we will have three more talks. First, Peter Lee will give a slide presentation on the Nuneaton Brickyards, Collieries and Quarries, then Graham Sutherland will be talking about Warwickshire/Midland Crimes and Criminals. We finish the day with another talk from a Guild mem-

ber. Richard Heaton (3231) will tell us how to research local newspapers for our names and will also tell us about the digitisation project of the British Newspaper Library.

Even if your names interests do not originate in the Midlands, these talks can show how you can look at local industry and where and how to search for the names you are interested in.

Accessible

This will be a great opportunity to meet with fellow researchers and, as the venue is central and easy accessible to many, we hope this will prove a popular seminar, so please do book early. The venue is close to Solihull railway station and there is plenty of free parking if you travel by car.

The cost of this seminar will be £18 per person, to include lunch. The closing date for applications is February 9 2008. Please use the booking form which is available from the Guild website: Just click on "Events" and you can download the booking form. If you have difficulties with this, please phone the Helpdesk Tel 0800 011 2182 and a form can be posted to you.

You can also pay online using PayPal or you can pay by cheque in the usual way.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the booking secretary: Sandra Turner, 2 St Annes Close, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 4LQ, e-mail: seminar.bookings@one-name.org

Sandra Turner
Member 3038

Progress with Billericay Marriage Challenge in my home town

IN THE LAST edition of the Journal I announced my intention to carry out a challenge for the Billericay Registration District. This area is very familiar to me, as my home is in Billericay.

The announcement was also made on the Guild Forum and on the Marriage Challenge web page. The cut-off date for requests was November 18. I am writing this at the end of November when my challenge is well under way.

By the start of the challenge I had received 264 requests. Mary Rix had sent me the Guild Marriage Index for Billericay, asking me to keep a look out for the marriages on the GMI where details were missing. Many of these marriages were already on my search list, but there were 47 that were not.

Although it is not essential to include these additional marriages, I added them as I know it takes little time to note down the bare essentials required for the GMI. So, in total, I am looking for 311 marriages.

Records check

Before the challenge started I spent a few hours at Essex Record Office checking on what records had been deposited and producing a definitive list of Anglican churches within the registration district. There are 24 Anglican churches, three with records still at the church.

So far, I have spent two full days at the record office, taking advantage of their long opening hours, 9.0 am to 8.30 pm on Mondays. In all, I have found and recorded 177 marriages.

There is only one more Anglican church to examine, plus there are two non-conformist churches that have deposited registers for

some of the challenge period. Checking through the search list and consulting FreeBMD on the

Marriage Challenge



By PETER
COPSEY

likely page numbers of the non-Anglican marriages, I guess that about 50 more marriages are still to be found including about 10 that I may have missed.

Church visit

One more full day at the record office should be adequate to finish the challenge before posting out certificates – unless, of course, I visit the three churches that have not released their registers. The nearest is within walking distance, so I have little excuse not to go.

With every marriage challenge there is usually the curious or celebrity marriage that adds a special interest or excitement. Billericay is no exception; here, the curiosity is the marriage of John PARSK. From the request list, it seemed that John married twice, initially in Q3 1839 (GRO ref. 12–14a) and then a year later in Q3 1840 (GRO ref. 12–21).

I began feeling sorry for John, as I assumed that his first wife must have died soon after they married; but then he recovered quickly to find someone new.

I found the marriage in the register for Vange parish church and, lo and behold, it seemed that he only married once. The

marriage was originally dated August 26 1839 but the year has been crossed out and 1840 written above. John married Sarah Ann BYFORD and a check on the GRO Indexes gave the same two marriage references for her, demonstrating that there was only one marriage.

John's marriage was entry No. 2 in the register. Entry No. 1 is dated June 27 1839 but entry No. 3 is, surprisingly, dated February 18 1840. So which year did they marry?

But that is not all – the plot thickens. Entry No. 3 is a marriage between William WENLOCK and Eliza COOPER. Again, checking the GRO entry for this, I find it not in Q1 1840 but in Q4 1840. Entry No 4 is, for once, correctly indexed also in Q4 1840.

I cannot find any logical explanation for these double entries, corrections and errors but they certainly add to the fascination of marriage challenge.

If you would like to become a challenger, or would like to know more about what it involves, please contact me on:

marriage-challenge@one-name.org

For more information on Marriage Challenge and what it involves, see the article in the Journal of October–December 2005.

New challenges

On the opposite page is the list of forthcoming challenges. All members are encouraged to send their requests to the challengers by e-mail or post (address in Register). For the Lambeth Challenge, there is no need to re-send your requests to me if you have already sent them to Marion.

Send the information extracted from the GRO index for the named registration district between the years given (Year, Quarter, Surname, First names, full GRO reference).

Challengers will search for, and often find, your marriages in the deposited church registers and then send you the full particulars. ○

Guild suffers problems with membership database and website searches

By Peter Walker

LAST OCTOBER we found that all our website functions that interact with the Guild membership database were failing.

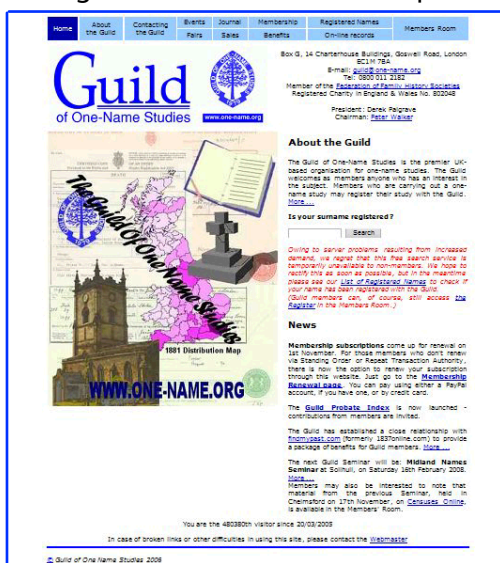
Initially, our hosting company claimed that we hadn't paid the bill for the website, which was not true. Then it transpired that they had disabled all our database functions as our site was overloading their servers.

Load

In order to reduce the load, we have regrettably had to suspend all the surname search facilities on the public part of the website. Searches for members from within the Members' Room are still available.

We are now embarked on moving to a different kind of server which we hope has the

capacity to deal with the many complex IT functions that the Guild provides. However, this is not as straightforward as you might think and much re-pro-



The Guild's website

gramming is needed.

This is, of course, rather embarrassing for the Guild and is delaying not only other planned improvements in the website but also several marketing initiatives which can only go ahead once the public search is available again.

Attacks

These are not easy issues to address. It could be that the cause of the overload has been automated attacks on the Guild's website and in future we may need to implement facilities to ensure that only search requests from real people are accepted.

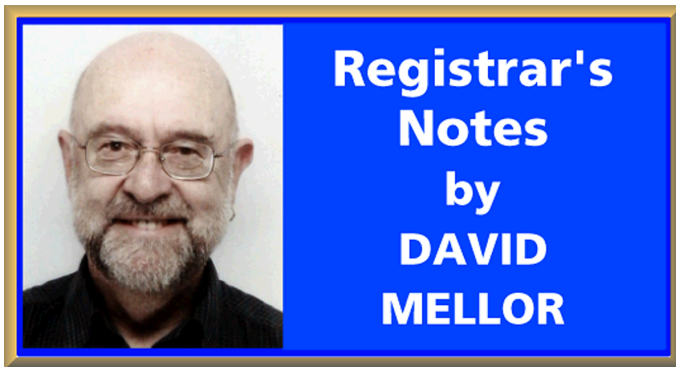
No doubt many of you are familiar with sites that ask enquirers to copy a test word from a distorted image.

When problems like this arise, I trust that members appreciate that everyone involved in providing the IT facilities are volunteers, many with day jobs to hold down as well.

We are all working towards the early restoration of the website's full functionality, but patience and a disciplined approach must prevail. ○

Registration District and Period	Deadline for Requests	Challenger	Challenger's e-mail
Poplar 1876 - 1911	31 January	David Horwill	DMHorwill@aol.com
Exeter (Repeat) 1837 - 1911	5 February	Des Gander	gander@one-name.org
Swaffham 1837 - 1911	10 February	John Pepperdine	john@robertpepperdine.freemove.co.uk
Shoreditch 1837 - 1860	10 February	Howard Benbrook	howard@benbrook.org.uk
Lambeth - Stage 3 1891 - 1911	24 February	Peter Copsey (taking over from Marion Hopkins)	copsey@one-name.org

Details of forthcoming marriage challenges



I don't enjoy dealing with complaints concerning non-answered enquiries to Guild members

"MAN INVENTED language to satisfy his deeply rooted need to complain..." (Lily Tomlin, American actress, comedian and writer). "...but when complaints are freely heard, deeply considered, and speedily reformed, then is the utmost bound of civil liberty attained that wise men look for." (John Milton 1608-1674, British poet and writer, quotation from *Areopagitica*, 1644).

Complaints

The work of the Guild Registrar is varied and generally satisfying, but the one activity I do not enjoy is that of dealing with complaints from the public concerning unanswered enquiries. All Guild members who have registered a study surname have agreed to respond promptly to all e-mails and reply-paid letters relating to their one-name study.

Despite the pledge we all have made, I receive on average four complaints a month from members of the public who have not received a reply to an enquiry sent to one of our members. This may be only the tip of the iceberg, as I have no way of knowing the number of unanswered enquiries where no complaint is made to me.

Non-response

There are of course many different reasons for non-response. An e-mail does not always reach the intended recipient, it may have disappeared into the ether, it may have been identified as

junk mail and filtered out, or the message may have been received but then overlooked. Likewise letters can go astray in the post, they may be the victim of a postal strike or, like piano music, get eaten by the family dog.

Many Guild members are busy people who can get behind with their mail. Illness or some family upheaval can interfere with anyone's best intentions to reply to enquiries as quickly as possible. A response may have been sent by e-mail or letter but have never reached the enquirer.

Process

Some enquirers will send me a complaint if they have not received a response just a short time after they have sent a single e-mail, in keeping with Lily Tomlin's thesis about complaining. Other enquirers will have sent several e-mails and letters before complaining to me, often many months after their first attempt at contact.

However, I feel obliged to investigate all complaints I receive by writing to the Guild member concerned both by e-mail and letter. I usually get a satisfactory response from most members and the matter is then closed. However, if I have had no response after 4-6 weeks I send a further letter by recorded delivery, so that I know whether or not it has been received.

If there is no reply to this letter, I will try to make contact by telephone and ask the member's Regional Representative if they know of any reason for non-response. If all has failed after a

period of several months, the Guild Committee is asked to decide whether or not to de-register the member's study. The Committee does not like to recommend this action, but takes the view that members of the public should expect to receive a reply to an enquiry about any of the one-name studies listed in the Register.

About three members have their studies de-registered in this way every year. Someone who has had his study de-registered remains a Guild member and can apply to have his study re-registered at any time in the future. That is assuming the study name has not been taken over by someone else, and providing he can commit himself once more to responding promptly to all e-mail and reply-paid letter enquiries, and on payment of a further registration fee.

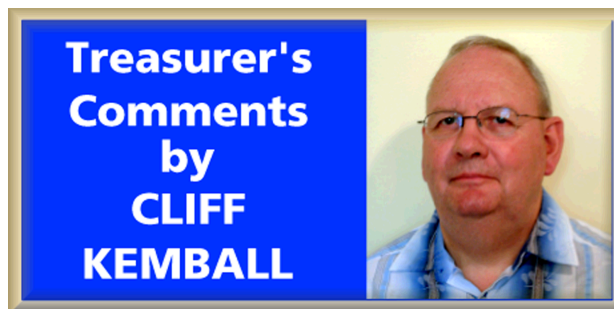
Prevention

I hope this description of the process set in motion when a complaint of non-response has been received will encourage members to take preventative measures so that I do not have to bother them with complaint investigations.

The most important means of prevention include informing the Guild of changes in street and e-mail addresses and a prompt response to all enquiries.

I also hope that John Milton would consider the process described above at least approaches "the utmost bound of civil liberty attained that wise men look for." ○

Busiest time of the Guild year for the Treasurer



THIS IS THE busiest time of the year for the Guild Treasurer. Not only is it the end of the Guild's financial year, when I am busy preparing the 2006–07 draft Trustees' Report and the Guild's financial accounts, it is also the time of the year when subscriptions are coming in and deposits/payments are being made for the Guild Conference for April next year. In addition, I shall soon be putting together the Guild's Gift Aid claim for 2007–08.

Guild finances

The Guild finances continue to be well managed (even if I say so myself) and the Guild is continuing to expand on its activities and on the facilities it is making available to its members. Anne Shankland, the Guild Webmaster, has developed an online PayPal system which provides members with an alternative method of paying their annual subscriptions.

At the time of writing, 191 Guild members have taken advantage of this facility and paid £2,310 in subscriptions via PayPal and donated a further £168 to the Guild. Further donations have been made by members paying by other means and I would like to thank all of them for their kind generosity.

Near the end of November 2007. Findmypast.com kindly agreed to extend their Guild promotional code to cover subscriptions as well as purchasing units. This meant that the promotional code for Findmypast had to be changed, details of which were given to our online members via the Chairman's latest Newsflash.

The Members' area at www.one-name.org/members/

[promotional.html](#) gives details of these promotional codes and they are also shown on the reverse of the address label flyer that came with this Journal. Please note that the promotional codes cannot be used in addition to any other special Findmypast offers. For example, members will not be able to gain an additional 10% in addition to the 20% loyalty discount available to all renewing members for a Findmypast subscription.

The extension of the promotional code means that Guild members can save £6.50 on the £64.95 "Discovery" package and £9.00 on the £89.95 "Explorer" package. The latter package has recently provided access to UK



Outbound Passenger Lists (BT27), the National Burial Index (NBI) and the Civil Service Evidence of Age (CSEoA). Further details of what can be searched on Findmypast.com can be found at www.findmypast.com/home.jsp

In the coming year I hope to be able to approach some of the other online organisations to see if we can negotiate a similar promotional arrangement with one or more of them. Watch this space!

Gift Aid

I would like to thank all those Guild members who responded to my last campaign to get more members to sign a Gift Aid Declaration. HM Revenue & Customs have recently refunded the Guild £2,600 as a result. Since the claim was submitted, I have continued

to receive a trickle of further Gift Aid Declarations on the basis of which I will be able to claim additional back dated Gift Aid refunds.

I have received another cheque from everyclick.com – www.everyclick.com – as a result of the 43 Guild members who have signed up with this site and used their search facility. The more members who sign up to this site and search the web, the more money the Guild will receive. Every bit helps! ○

Halsted Trust Seminar

A FREE seminar on One-Name Studies, organised by the Halsted Trust at Skipton Castle, North Yorkshire, on Saturday, November 24, heard a variety of talks from experts, most of them Guild members.

Alec Tritton, Halsted Trust chairman and a Guild vice-president, gave the introductory talk on One-Name Studies and was followed by Guild President Derek Palgrave, who spoke on "Variants and Deviants".

Geoff Riggs introduced the audience to his remarkable selection of Riggs memorabilia in his talk, entitled "The Apprentice". Then Else Churchill, of the Society of Genealogists, spoke about "Special Collections for One-Name Studies" in the SoG's library.

Jeanne Bunting introduced the attendees to new websites in a talk entitled "What's New on the Internet", followed by John Hanson, who spoke about the Halstead Archive.

A number of Guild Committee members were present, along with ordinary members and members of the public. ○

Guild NewsXtra

College of Arms records lecture at Guild's Annual Conference

By CHRIS BRAUND and JANET FEW

PLANS FOR the 29th Guild of One-Name Studies Annual Conference – the theme of which is “The Rich Man in his Castle, the Poor Man at his Gate” – are nearing completion, with just one speaker still to be finalised.

The conference is being held at the Durrant House Hotel, Bideford, Devon, over the weekend of April 4–6.

We can now confirm that Peter O'Donoghue, Bluemantle Pursuivant will speak on “The Records of the College of Arms”. We also have Friday night entertainment from Master Jake and friends from Torrington 1646 – definitely not to be missed.

Ancestors on display

A Bunch of Quays will provide musical accompaniment for the Saturday night banquet. We would like to encourage as many banquet-goers as possible to attend in ancestral costume – anything from 1970 BC to 1970 is acceptable and we may even

find a reward for the best effort.

In our capacity as committee members of the Braund Society, we have taken our display to several Guild conferences. We would like to encourage others to put their ancestors on display.

All members, not just conference attendees, are invited to produce a single display panel (maximum 34 inches x 24 inches) illustrating an aspect of their one-name study. These will be shown at the conference and a prize will be awarded for the most informative and visually pleasing entry.

Those attending the conference may bring their panels with them but it is essential that an “intention to enter” is received no later than March 15, so that space can be allocated. If you wish to take part, please e-mail to this effect to conference@one-name.org.

All e-mails will be acknowledged, so if you do not receive a reply please resend. Members who are not attending the conference may send panels to Janet Few, Coles Manning, Buckland Brewer, Bideford, Devon EX39 5LP to arrive between March 1 and 15. These will be returned if postage and packing costs are provided.

All those who

expressed an interest in attending pre-conference outings should receive details during January. There will be a sailing to the island of Lundy (www.lundyisland.co.uk/) on Wednesday, April 2, leaving Ilfracombe at 10.00 a.m. and returning at 6.00 p.m., allowing four hours on the island.

Scenery

Lundy has spectacular scenery and is ideal if you enjoy walking but is unsuitable for those with mobility problems. There is a climb up a steep hill from the ferry and a single pub and shop, so little to do for those unable to walk round the island.

The maximum cost will be £30, payable on booking. If we get sufficient numbers to qualify for a group discount the difference will be refunded. If the sailing is cancelled due to bad weather, all monies will be returned.

On Thursday, April 3, we have an appointment at Torrington 1646 (www.torrington-1646.co.uk/). This is an amazing 17th century experience where one can wield a pike, learn about herbal cures and “enjoy” the ministrations of the barber surgeon. Just beware you are not accused of witchcraft if you produce a camera!

Gardens

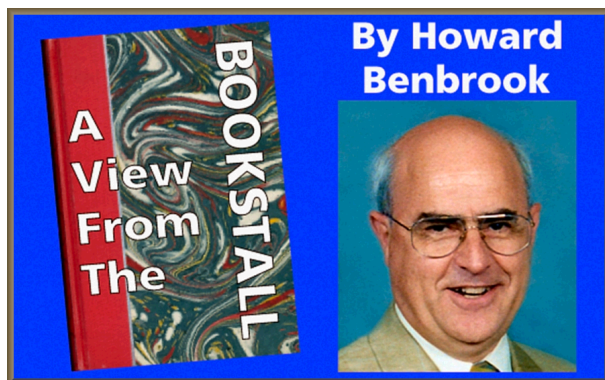
Other planned outings include the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Rosemoor (www.rhs.org.uk/rosemoor) and the picturesque village of Clovelly (www.clovelly.co.uk).

At the time of writing, more than 60 delegates have returned their booking forms and many are extending their stay either at the conference venue, the Durrant House Hotel (www.durranthousehotel.com) or elsewhere. We hope you will join us.

CHRIS BRAUND, Member 594
JANET FEW, Member 1136
Conference Organisers



Durrant House Hotel, conference venue



Changes to the way we celebrate the end of each year is history in the making

HAVE YOU NOTICED the slow, subtle change in the way that we approach the various festivals that characterise the end of each year?

Brought up in the south-east of England, I was always encouraged to wish everyone a "Happy Christmas". It never occurred to me that this might not, actually, be appropriate for some of the people I met. Not that we had many Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus or Jews in the class of 4S; Roman Catholics, yes, but those others?

Later, I marvelled at the ability of my local corner shop to be able to open on December 25, as I stumbled in to ask for something for my rebellious stomach.

But here's the point – this is, without realising it, history in the making. Isn't this just a modern example of the historical lessons we must all try to learn about, like, say, the place of women in society, the dominance of the church in legal affairs, the inevitability of class structures and so many more?

History wasn't my subject at Uni but, my goodness, if I want to understand, it has to be my subject now. Christmas will be over by the time you read this but, whatever or whoever you trust, believe or have faith in, I would like to take this opportunity to offer you my very best wishes at this significant time of the year...

Cardinal Points

For a very long time now, I've been espousing the cause of the so-called Cardinal Points (CPs). If you haven't met these before, they are, quite simply, a record of

the marriages performed at the beginning and end of each quarter in each church after civil registration was established in England & Wales. The trick is that the GRO Marriage Indexes entries for a pair of CPs will establish the range of pages used for that church so, if you have a marriage on a page in between, you can identify the church!

This is a powerful tool and offers the opportunity to find the information (usually free) at a local record office rather than spend £7 on a GRO copy certificate. Beyond some enthusiastic individuals' efforts, little has been done to move this forward and so I think it's time to escalate this to a real project.

My plan will be to populate a proper research database with online query access but, unlike the Guild Marriage Index, I'll be deliberately looking for a commercial edge to benefit Guild funds. I hope to bring more details on this next time, once I've worked up a formal proposal to the Committee, but if you're interested to make a contribution – which could be, say, recording the CPs for a single church at your local record office – let me know.

Never mind the quality...

Remember my Business News item in the previous Journal? Did you catch the point about consolidation in the Heritage Market? Well, here we go again...

The Federation (of Family History Societies) has capitulated to the inevitable – that the commercialisation of this sector is an obvious consequence of, whatever you call it, the Baby

Boom, the Grey Pound, the History Freaks, with plenty of disposable money to explore their chosen pursuit.

In this world, the key skill is to know your customers and have the ability to reach out to them (well, of course, in any world, actually). Clearly, the FFHS has decided they can't hack it on their own and, after the clearance sale of the outstanding stock of their publications, Family History Online has been sold to Find My Past and GENfair has fallen to Nigel Bayley's S&N empire.

A reflection on the changing times, perhaps, but this will be good news to those societies who have supported the FFHS, as the new arrangements should yield significantly more income from the increased marketing promotion. How this leaves the FFHS financially is a mystery to me, but for those groups who didn't join the party (this includes the Guild, by the way, as we had nothing to offer), they're still on their own. Maybe they prefer it that way. Me? I have to look for another supplier.

What's new, what's big?

One of my tasks over the recent holidays has been to explore new items to tempt you in the New Year. One of these is an extension to an existing range – a new voucher from **findmypast.com** (FMP).

You may be aware that FMP have two levels of annual subscription – Discovery, which costs £64.95 and offers access to all their census and BMD records, and Explorer (£89.95), which gives you carte-blanche to

12 months' unlimited access to over 550 million records

Return as often as you need to find your family history. Subscription includes access to:

- Census records
- Birth, Marriage & Death indexes for England and Wales from 1837-2005
- Birth, Marriage & Death indexes for British nationals overseas from 1761-1994
- Military and service records from 1656-1994 and Migration and outbound passenger lists 1851-1960
- Plus all new records which go live during the year



Register now at www.findmypast.com to start using your voucher

SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES 12 MONTHS AFTER FIRST USE
REDEEMABLE VALUE: 0.01p

FOR OFFICE USE

explore all their holdings, including those wonderful passenger lists. I've been offering their Discovery voucher at a discount to members for some time now (£58.50), but now I'm able to offer a voucher to give members full access, for a year, to all FMP resources at a price of: £81.00, plus p&p.

London ancestors

I've been successfully selling a number of items at fairs which appeal to those people who have London ancestors – things like

detailed, indexed London maps on CD. Is this clever marketing insight? Not really. Pretty much everyone has someone in their family tree who went to London, of course. But I've now decided that I should escalate this and create a

special table for them. I'm toying with the name: "London Roots and Routes". As I write this, I have plans to buy in a range of books, CDs, maps and lots of things that have the word, London, in their title. Below are a few things I'm tempted by, but if you have an interesting request that might sell well, please let me know!

Another challenge

By January 21, the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) should have re-opened after their

refurbishment. Within days, I'll be straight through those doors looking for marriages that took place in the Shoreditch Registration District. Yes, I'm doing another marriage challenge!

Shoreditch is a big RD, (about the size of my earlier onslaught on Stepney and Mile End), so I'll need to take it in stages. Stage 1 will be between the years 1837 and 1860, so, if you need to find the details of marriages in Shoreditch RD for your registered surname between those dates, let me have the full GRO Index reference and I'll do my best to transcribe the content of the marriage register for you. It's quickest if you send your requests by e-mail to: benbrook@one-name.org, but I certainly don't turn my nose up at "snail mail".

Blue van man

I was unsure, I prevaricated, I hesitated, but eventually I took the plunge. Yes, there is now a Guild van! But it's not white, it's blue. I did this, of course, to spite Roy Stockdill with his Fleet Street remarks about my ambitions to be a "white van man"!

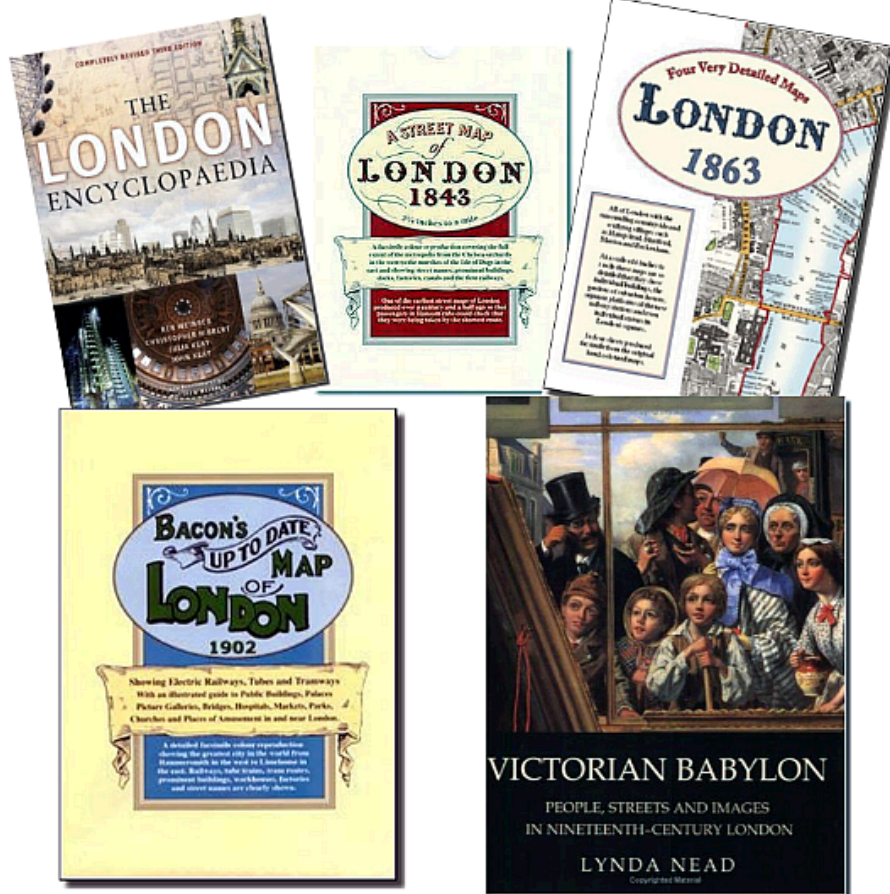
In time, we might be able to put the Guild logo on the sides, so I'd like to believe that this will make us instantly recognisable when we turn up at fairs. In the meantime, say hello to the Guild's latest recruit. (*I reckon it should be called Benbrook's Blue Batmobile!* - Editor).

Bookstall logo

And while we're on the subject of logos, what do you make of the one on the opposite page? I'm proposing to use it on my forthcoming literature, including the latest Price List that you should find with this issue. I hope you agree that it captures the Guild's image, while trying to establish the Bookstall's own "brand". Your opinions are, of course, welcome.

Boy, can he talk!

I was invited to make a contribution recently to the Guild's Computer Seminar at Chelmsford,



London maps and books available soon on the Guild Bookstall

The Guild

Bookstall



www.one-name.org



Benbrook's Blue Batmobile, aka the Guild Bookstall van

a joint event with the Essex Society for Family History, on the subject of the day – Online Censuses. Speaking to audiences is basically what I've always done and this one seemed to go down really well.

If you'd like to take a look at the content, Anne Shankland has kindly put a copy of my presentation slides in the Member's Room. I've done a few other talks locally, too, including my version of the Guild's talk on One-Name Studies.

The response has encouraged me to do more, so I've started to develop a few subjects and accept invitations to give talks more widely. Get in touch with me directly if you think I could make a contribution to your local group.

Strengths

None of this comes without further demands on my time, and I've belatedly recognised that I should really play to my strengths and interests to make the most significant contribution. If I'm truthful, committee work was never my strong point and it does

take up a surprising amount of time so I have, a little reluctantly, resigned my position on the Guild's Committee. I should say straight away that this doesn't affect my position as Bookstall Manager and I will continue to devote just as much energy there.

And I would like to assure all those members who voted for me at the Committee elections that, despite my resignation, I will continue to promote the Guild, its activities and objectives wherever and whenever I can. Oh! And if you fancy taking my place on the Committee, don't hold back!

Where we've been, where we're going

Yes, we've been out and about again. Since my last piece, the Southern Bookstall has been to Hastings, Eastleigh, Cheltenham, Woking, the Guild's Computer Seminar at Chelmsford, and Wimborne, and Our Man in the North, Ron Woodhouse, has been at Doncaster and Hull. We also had a presence at Norwich.

The New Year brings new opportunities and this is where

you might catch us if you fancy a trip out:

- East of London FHS Fair, Barking, Essex, Saturday, Jan 19.
- Bracknell FH Fair, Bracknell, Berks, Sunday, Jan 27.
- Crawley FH Fair, Crawley, Sussex, Sunday, Feb 10.
- Guild Midland Seminar, Solihull, Saturday, Feb 16.
- Oxfordshire FH Fair, Kidlington, Oxon, Sunday, Feb 24
- Dorset FHS Open Day, Poole, Dorset, Sunday, March 9.
- Merseyside & Cheshire FH Fair, Wirral, Merseyside, Sunday, March 9.
- FFHS AGM & Fair, Plymouth, Devon, Saturday, March 29.

Come on! You know you'd love to come and say hello. Tempted to buy something? Let rip!

Thanks to all

I'm really grateful for all the help I get and I know that people make a special effort to turn out for The Guild Bookstall, so it's always reassuring when they offer to help a second time or more.

My thanks are due, and not for the first time for several of this list, to: Cliff Kembell, Ian and Anne Shankland, Alan Moorhouse, Pat Wilson, Ken Grubb (who is now getting close to a Long Service Award), David and Brenda Horwill, Jean Normington, Mike Walker, Laraine Hake, Peter Copsey, Graham Walter, Kirsty Gray, and Ken and Celia Mycock.

A special mention is also due to Laraine Hake's helpers at the Norwich Fair, David Witt and Bernie Guymer, for their day promoting the Guild's interests. And I mustn't forget Ron Woodhouse's selfless efforts, together with his wife, Gwen, to promote the Guild's interests in the North of England. Thanks, thanks, all of you!

If you'd like to contact Howard about any of the items he holds on the Guild Bookstall or to volunteer to help, you can write to him at bookstall@one-name.org, or 7 Amber Hill, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1EB, UK. ○

Reviews Reviews Reviews

New genealogy books and CDs

Betty's book is a choice read

By CLIFF KEMBALL

THE CHOICE COMPENDIUM, 1,075 pages, format 8½ x 11 hardback. Price: United States: \$95, Overseas: \$122.00 (from the author, address in the Guild Register of e-mail choyce@one-name.org).

THIS extensive, and hefty hardback book is clearly a labour of love by the author Mrs Betty Choyce (Guild member 192). Betty made a few attempts at putting her family tree together during her early teens but found the British were somewhat preoccupied with World War II to respond to her queries!

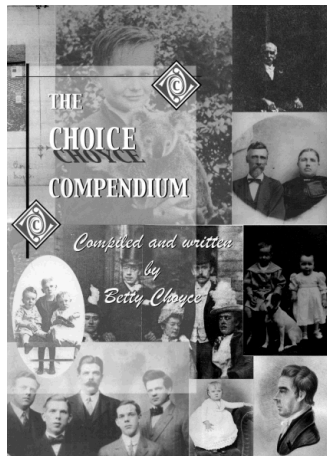
Some 40 years later Betty resumed her enquires and this book is the result of almost 30 years of research, searches and correspondence with other members of the Choyce/Choice family.

The objectives of the book are to preserve the collection of Choice and Choyce statistics for posterity, generate a genealogical interest in individual Choice/Choyce families and to unite such worldwide families with their common heritage. Among the family treasures which motivated Betty in undertaking her researches was a mid-1800s mahogany mantle clock, solid silver jewellery in the shape of a five-pointed star and a very old parchment will for a Richard Choyce, dated 1771. How many of we genealogist one-namers have such treasures to empower our researches?

The book contains 24 main chapters, with each chapter conc-

entrating on a specific Choice family. Each chapter contains the earliest progenitor, his spouse, and children, discussed first. Then the family of the oldest child of the earliest progenitor is taken down through each generational level to the present day where possible. The same style continues with the family of the second and subsequent children.

Family chapters are divided into three sections: a narrative including family history, photographs and document; a schematic family chart; and a thumbnail sketch proving a brief family history and genealogy of



the collateral line. There are over 350 family photographs and documents, most of which have come from the families they portray.

The written style is informal, detailed and scholarly, but not stuffy and quite easily to read. It goes into a fair amount of detail where appropriate but has lain off in the delicate areas where individual feelings may be involved. The book is generally geared towards the person who has no knowledge of family genealogy but is written with the intention of helping to develop

that interest. There is also a bibliography for those who wish to go into further research.

Throughout the book, comments are given on the level of assurance which can be gained from the evidence located and guidance is given on where further research is needed and the direction that the research could take. This encourages future genealogical research by other members of the Choice family.

From a one-name study perspective, I was disappointed not to see an analysis of the volume of Choice/Choyce births, marriages and deaths over time, either in the United States or the UK or in any of the other main countries where these families have lived.

Such information could also help to identify the extent to which this book had managed to research the name internationally. Interestingly from a look at www.taliesin-arlein.net/names/search.php it appears that the name is fairly rare in the UK.

Name	Number	Ranking
Choice	10	143,714th
Choyce	106	31,959th

This book includes an array of indexes (214 pages) covering a distaff index, a cross-referenced index and a spouse index which between them include a number of Guild names, amongst which I identified Bolling, Banks, Billsborough, Featherstone, Law, Rix and Tulley.

The Choice/Choyce compendium is far from being a finished work. It is acknowledged to be rampant with speculation and rife with unrelated vital statistics, but it is, nevertheless, the most extensive collection of genealogical material on the Choice and Choyce families.

Should you be interested in reading extracts from this book you can visit Betty's website at www.bettychoyce.com/2007/, where a limited number of selected pages taken from the book are presented and the pages are frequently changed to provide a different selection of pages. The choice is yours! ○

One-Name MAIL



Get yourself a Guild Profile now – and get on the Internet!

I HAVE a confession to make. I should have done it a long time ago, but there was always a reason why it never got done. But, as these things happen, I did finally get around to it one wet June weekend...and I have to say that I am mightily pleased with the result.

Simple

I speak of the incredibly useful system we as members enjoy to set up a Guild web profile. I found that the entire process of setting up an online presence took only a few minutes and is really very simple indeed.

At the end, what I have is a well-structured description of my study, categorised under helpfully supplied headings, that will be found by the web's top search engines. And as an added bonus, the profile's web address is considerably shorter than the equivalent at Rootsweb or other free website providers.

Ideal

The profile is ideal for those Guild members just venturing onto the internet who want a quick and simple system to create a credible and easily found web page. Power users will also see benefits: judging from the hit counters of some of the early profiles there is clearly a lot of traffic coming in.

I'm told that only 15 per cent of members have created a profile so far so if, as I was, you're

one of the ones who hasn't yet looked at it, I can heartily recommend the process.

CHRIS POMERY
Member 3400

Crests v shields and an issue over coats of arms

AT THE risk of sounding pedantic, could I clear up a common misconception vis-a-vis coats of arms, a trap recently fallen into in Robin Wood's excellent article.

A coat of arms consists first and foremost of a shield, without which nothing else can exist. In some very ancient families often it was the only part. Then came helms (denoting the rank of the owner) and a crest for those of tournament rank – the origin of the term "crestfallen", perhaps, when it was knocked off during a tournament?

This was held onto the helm by



Illustration from Robin Wood's article on the Coningsby surname in the October–December 2007 Journal

a torse – a ring of twisted cord which held the mantling (to protect the expensive armour from the sun and rain). During battle this often became cut and ragged so the tradition evolved to show it thus, as is the case today.

A motto, which may be changed at will, sat below the shield (sometimes above in certain heraldry) and the whole thing held up by supporters for those entitled to them. The whole thing becomes the achievement of arms.

Important

It is a mistake therefore to describe simply "the family crest" when it is actually the shield which is the important part, for without the shield the rest cannot exist. It is the merging of family "shields" (in a specific way) rather than "crests" that enables us to read the various families that are depicted in impalements (side by side with spouses) and quarterings (for offspring) that forms much of the family heraldry that we see today.

Dr BERNARD JUBY Hon. F.H.S.
Member 2171

Do likes attract?

I HAVE a completely unscientific theory that people with very common names – SMITH, WHITE, GREEN, BROWN etc. – marry each other and, conversely, people with uncommon names marry each other.

My one-name study is of WHITTOME and I also have the following names in my tree, all of which are registered in the GOONS by other people who I did not know existed: BLISS, BRACKSTONE, CHILVERS and HANDSCOMB. I also have BAVEYSTOCK, which is a variation of BAVERSTOCK. Incidentally, Mr. and Mrs. BLANCHARD lived next door when I was a child and Bert POMEROY was my Dad's best man. Both these names are in the Guild also.

PATRICIA PORTSMOUTH
Member 3658

Devon delights await delegates to Guild's Annual Conference



DELEGATES to the 2008 Annual Conference at Bideford, North Devon, will be able to enjoy several day outings before the conference begins, if they extend their stay in the area. They include trips to picturesque Clovelly (above) and (inset) Lundy Island. See page 22 for details.

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