

## *A message from the President*

A warm welcome to you all in this new academic year, the forty-first of the combined Heraldic and Genealogical Society.

The summer months have brought various advantages to the Society. Most importantly, a safe and permanent home has been found for the library: a report follows in this issue.

The Accession Banquet, held in the Stanley Library of Girton College, was made the more splendid by the continuation of a long-standing tradition. The retiring President, László Á. Kóczÿ de Borgó et Nagy-Sikárló, presented a wooden shield bearing his coat of arms: *Per fess azure and gules in base vert a lion rampant per fess of the second and proper, holding a sabre argent in the dexter and a bunch of grapes proper in the sinister, over all a fess or.*

The Society's world-wide web pages are frequently updated, and now have a most impressive catalogue of related sites, including links to sister disciplines such as vexillography and royal houses of the world. Their Universal Resource Locator is:

**<http://www.cam.ac.uk/CambUniv/Societies/cuhags>.**

Our meetings for this Michaelmas Term are all listed overleaf, and I hope that you will be able to attend at least some of them.

***Nicolas Bell***

## **Society Programme -Michaelmas Term 1997**

- 16 Oct 1997** Robin Millerchip and Eve Logan  
*Introduction to Heraldry & Genealogy*
- 30 Oct 1997** Rev'd Alfred Pryse-Hawkins  
*The Heralds, the Church & some aspects of their work*
- 11 Nov 1997** Outing to the College of Arms  
*meet Cambridge Railway Station at 4-30 p.m.*
- 13 Nov 1997** Dr Marjorie McC Chibnall, F.B.A. (Girton College)  
*The Bayeux Tapestry*
- 27 Nov 1997** Timothy H S Duke, Esq., Chester Herald  
*The Heraldry of the Commonwealth Period*
- 6 Dec 1997** St Nicholas Feast  
*Small Hall, Clare College (Black, College or Society, Bow Tie)*

**Meetings are normally held in the Thirkill Room, Clare College, from 8.45 p.m. unless shown otherwise.**

**It is the custom for members to wear academic gowns to meetings.**

**Members and guests are encouraged to dine with the speaker in which case they should meet in the Thirkill Room, Clare College, at 7-00 p.m. but please give advance notice to the Senior Treasurer:-**

*Dr G Wright (tel: Cambridge 356388) before 5 p.m. on the preceding Tuesday*

# The Society during the Fifties and Sixties

Dr Gordon Wright

One day in the mid-fifties I was demonstrating to a group of medical students in the Dissecting Room of the Anatomy Department. Discussion turned to the inheritance of structural *anomalies*, and thence to research in genealogy. At the wash-basins, one of the students - Anthony Joseph of Trinity - suggested that I should join the Society.

For about a dozen years I went to meetings when not too busy - though never to any, I believe, on heraldry. I had no part in the running of the Society, but was found to be useful - being able to book rooms in Clare, without charge, for meetings. One such was billed for Thursday, 25th April, 1968 when a Talk was to be given, on *The History of the House of Lords in the Middle Ages*, by one of the authors of a new book on that subject. At about 7.20 when I arrived in Clare for Hall, there were 20 or 30 loiterers-with-intent in Old Court. They were not identifiable as members of the College; and they were NOT wearing suits and gowns. Our intended guest, a certain Mr J.E. Powell (who had recently made an important, and provocative, speech on Immigration) had wisely cancelled his visit. In his place a talk was given by Mr Scott-Giles, FitzAlan Pursuivant, on an heraldic subject. I did not wait to hear it - to my *shame*, because Wilf was a wonderfully good friend of the Society, and to my *loss* because he was not only very learned as a heraldist but also most lively and full of fun.

My diary for Wednesday, 19th March, 1969, records: “*Was invited by John Clare, Junior Treasurer, to become Senior Treasurer of the C.U. Heraldic & Genealogical Soc<sup>y</sup>, in succession to Freddie Brittain, who d 15.3.69*”. I had two qualifications for the job: I was an M.A. (the only one ‘in sight’ at the time), and I belonged to a College that made no charges. I took my duties seriously - by regularly attending meetings. especially those on heraldry (of which I was totally ignorant). Many a time did Philippa, the new S.T.’s loyal

and long-suffering wife, gently slap his arm when the lights went out, whispering “Gordon, Gordon, wake up: you’re disgracing us”.

On Friday, 18th April, 1969, I recorded in my diary: “*With Peter [son] to meeting of Heraldic & Geneal. Soc. at the Graduate Club, Mill Lane: lecture by Enoch Powell on the House of Lords in the Middle Ages. He had just finished when we were told by 2 plain clothes policemen (v. quietly and discreetly) that a meeting of Rev<sup>y</sup> Socialists (? in Kings) had got wind of Enoch’s visit. He left within a minute or so, & so did several members. Peter and I left after 5 mins, went to the Pantons Arms for a pint then back to Mill Lane ca. 10.35 (deserted)*”.

## Book Review

***Surnames and Genealogy: A New Approach***, George Redmonds, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, USA. 1997. 150 x 230mm pprbk, 292pp, ISBN 0-88082-052-2

George Redmonds has been involved in surname research for over thirty years so this newly published work is the product of his considerable experience and knowledge in this field. He deals broadly with origin and meaning, heredity, changes of name, the linguistic development of surnames and, in his final chapter, he discusses his findings from a very detailed study of seven specific examples, drawn mainly from Yorkshire and adjacent counties.

He takes issue with many of the traditional explanations of the meanings and origins of names, emphasising that it is essential to study their historical development from earlier forms. He also stresses the importance of using the evidence from aliases to demonstrate both changes and variant forms of a surname, illustrating this by reference to a wide range of archival entries. It seems likely that, as a local historian, his familiarity with so many documents, including Estate Papers, Probate Records, Manorial Rolls, Hearth Tax Returns, Deeds, Quarter Sessions Papers, Parish Registers, etc., has given him a unique insight into the amazing variability of surnames over several centuries.

In addition to the obvious variations associated with the distortion of vowel sounds and the confusion when pronouncing consonants, the author draws attention to the remarkably high incidence of elision and truncation, as well as the introduction of so-called prosthetic consonants such as *Y*, *W* or *S* to preface some surnames beginning with a vowel. He also notes that the final consonant of a first name may transfer to the surname, citing *Thomas Anderson alias Saunderson* and *John Nellis alias Ellis*.

Eleven pages are devoted to a discussion of dramatic changes in the final syllables of surnames. Examples include *Bilburghe alias Bylbroke*, *Whithalghe/Whitalk/Whitack* and *Astmough/Astmall/Asman/Asmond*. The changes seem to stem from the way the name was pronounced with very little stress on the final syllable - the listener could never be certain of the spelling - so there was plenty of scope for mistakes which were often perpetuated.

The book is well written and profusely illustrated with detailed extracts both in the main text and in the five appendices. It is a most valuable contribution to the study of surname corruption particularly from the genealogist's viewpoint. Whilst it is recognised that the analyses have been confined to surnames in the North Eastern region of England there seems little doubt that the types of variation discussed by George Redmonds have strong parallels in other parts of the country.

*Derek A Palgrave*

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## **Members' Interests**

In previous issues of the Escutcheon it has been possible to print details of some of the names being researched by Society members, and it is hoped that any members who have not yet taken advantage of this option will do so in time for the next issue. By indicating the surnames in your ancestry, together with their geographical locations and historical time-spans, the way is open for others with the same interests to collaborate with you.

## *The C.U.H.& G.S. Library.*

It is very pleasing to be able to report that the Society's library is now not only securely and permanently housed, but also available for consultation by and loan to members. Our former President Nicholas Rogers has kindly agreed to look after the collection in the Muniment Room of Sidney Sussex College.

Members of the Society are encouraged to make use of this valuable resource. Nicholas Rogers is normally available during office hours, but you are advised to telephone beforehand to confirm. His number is (3)38824.

The catalogue was published in *The Escutcheon*, vol. 2, no. 1, but has grown considerably since then. A further list of additions follows this notice, and a few copies of the complete catalogue are available on request from the President, for those who did not receive the earlier lists.

The occasion of the permanent establishment of the library seems a good opportunity to fill a few noteworthy gaps in the collection. Two of these, Burke's Landed Gentry and Fairbairn's Crests, have recently been bought from members who had duplicate copies, but we still have no copies of Papworth's Ordinary, Boutell's Heraldry, Burke's Peerage or Debrett's Peerage. If any members have spare copies of these or other important books which do not appear in the catalogue, then the President (who happens also to be the Junior Treasurer this year) would be pleased to negotiate a reasonable price for them.

### **Additions to the CUH&GS library excluding list already published.**

These lists supplement the catalogues published in *The Escutcheon*, vol. 2, nos. 1 & 3.

ALLISON, Ronald, and Sarah RIDDELL (eds.), *The Royal Encyclopedia* (London: Macmillan, 1991) presented by Dr John Horton.

*British Tourist Authority & FFHS, Tracing Your Ancestors* (leaflet, 1995)

BROOKE-LITTLE, J.P., *Royal Heraldry: Beasts and Badges of Britain* (Derby: Pilgrim Press, 1994) presented by Dr John Horton.

*Burke's Landed Gentry* (Centenary edition, 1937)

COLLINS, Audrey, *Basic facts about using the Family Records Centre* (FFHS, 1997)

CORNWALL, Julian, *An introduction to reading old title deeds* (2nd ed., FFHS, 1997)

DAVIES, Bill, *Basic facts about Irish family history research* (FFHS, 1997)

FFHS, *FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES Structure and Organisation* (FFHS, 1996)

FOX-DAVIES, Arthur Charles, *A Complete Guide to Heraldry* (New York: Dodge, 1909, reprinted New York: Gramercy, 1993) presented by Dr John Horton.

GIBSON, Jeremy, *Bishops' transcripts and marriage licences, bonds and allegations: a guide to their location and indexes* (4th ed., FFHS, 1997)

GIBSON, Jeremy, and Pamela PESKETT, *Record Offices: how to find them* (7th ed., FFHS, 1996)

GIBSON, Jeremy, and Colin ROGERS, *Coroners' records in England and Wales* (2nd ed., FFHS, 1997)

*GUILD OF ONE-NAME STUDIES, Prospectus* (1995) and *Register* (microfiche, 1996)

HEIM, Bruno B., *Or and Argent* (Gerrards Cross: Van Duren, 1994) presented by the author, 11 March 1995

HEIM, Bruno B., *Liber Amicorum et Illustrium Hospitum quem Bruno Bernardus Heimo Archiepiscopus tit Xanthiensis dilectis suis sibi que in Monumentum Armorum Insignis Ornavit* (Privately printed by the author; no. 15 of an edition of only thirty copies, [1996]) presented by the author, 9 March 1996. A 'working copy' has been made (with permission) and the original has been deposited in the University Library on permanent loan, for safe-keeping.

HOLDING, Norman, *World War I army ancestry* (3rd ed., FFHS, 1997)

*HOUSE OF LORDS RECORD OFFICE, General Information* (leaflet, 1994)

HUMPHERY-SMITH, Cecil, *Hugh Revel: Master of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, 1258-1277* (Chichester: Phillimore, 1994) presented by the author, 10 March 1995.

JONES-BAKER, Doris (ed.), *Hertfordshire in History: papers presented to Lionel Munby* (Hertfordshire Local History Council, 1991) presented by the author, 20 January, 1994.

MONCREIFFE of Easter Moncreiffe, Iain, and Don POTTINGER, *Simple Heraldry Cheerfully Illustrated* (Markinch, Fife: Tullis Russell, 1953, reprinted Leicester: Bookmart, 1993) presented by Dr John Horton.

*POST OFFICE, The Post Office Archives* (leaflet, 1992)

RAYMOND, Stuart A., *Kent: a genealogical bibliography. Vol. 3: Kent family histories and pedigrees* (FFHS, 1997)

——, *London and Middlesex: A genealogical bibliography. Vol. 2: Family histories and pedigrees* (2nd ed., FFHS, 1997)

WAGNER, Anthony, *Heraldry in England* (Lond: Penguin, 1946) presented by Dr John Horton.

WEIR, Alison, *The Princes in the Tower* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1994)

### **Periodicals:**

*Family History News and Digest: the official journal of the FFHS*, vol. 10, nos. 2-3, vol. 11, nos. 1-2 (Sept. 1995, April 1996, April & Sept. 1997)

*Lancashire* (Journal of the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society), vol. 18, nos. 2-3 (May – August 1997)

*Root and Branch* (Journal of the West Surrey Family History Society), vol. 24, nos. 1-2 (June – September 1997)

*The Society of Heraldic Arts Newsletter*, 11 (Winter 1992)

## **Forthcoming Conferences and Other Events**

2-3 May, 1998

**Fifth Family History Fair**  
organised by the Society of Genealogists

17-19 May, 1998

**Family History Weekend - Joint Cheshire FHSs**  
incorporating FFHS AGM & Council Meeting *Manchester*  
*University: Crewe Campus*

4-6 September, 1998

**Weekend Conference - Nottinghamshire FHS**  
incorporating FFHS Council Meeting  
*Nottingham University*

## **Editor's Postscript**

I would like to thank readers for their many kind remarks about *The Escutcheon*. I hope members will continue to support its production so that it will be a worthy reflection of the activities of the Society and its membership. Short articles relating to heraldry, genealogy and associated topics are always welcome, so please send them to me at the address shown below.

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