

## Guild of One Name Studies Presentation

One Name Studies are a neglected resource for family historians.

Often a One Name Study (ONS) is started almost accidentally, as the researcher, doing their family history, is trying to sort out family relationships in an area. This is particularly required when so many families use the same forenames among the family. They collect all the instances of the name in that area and continue collecting until one day they look back and realise they have started a One Name Study in that area.

All instances of the surname are collected regardless of source. My ONS is on the name Quested, seen primarily in Kent England until the mid-1800s. I look at all the usual sources such as birth, marriage death indexes, censuses, directories, probate and many other printed sources. When I am collecting I extract any instance of the name and store these in a database program such as Custodian (<http://www.custodian3.co.uk/>). I also collect other ephemera such as photographs taken by a Quested photographer, PDF copies of books written by a Quested and pictures of Quested sports-people.

One name studies look at their surname in a variety of ways:

- Early references to the name
- The name's meaning and type of origin
- Its links to variant and 'deviant' names
- Its frequency relative to the general population of its country of origin
- Its distribution in time and space
- The patterns of immigration & emigration associated with its development and spread around the world

Surnames, as we know them, really started around the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries in England and later in Scotland and Wales.

Surnames were acquired in different ways, based on:

- Patronymic
  - O'Brien, MacDonald, Jones, Richardson, Williams, Bowen, Pritchard
- Matronymic
  - Margetson, Dyson, Megson
- Genitive
  - Squires, Manners
- Diminutive
  - Alcock, Watkin, Bartlett

- Locative (topographical)
  - Green, Hill, Langridge, Townsend
- Locative (toponymic)
  - Stepney, Helmsley, Beckham
- Occupational
  - Baker, Fletcher, Thatcher, Pargeter, Smith
- Postholder
  - Hayward, Bailey
- Nicknames/Physical Appearance
  - Redhead, Fox, Longfellow, Cruikshank, Toogood

How many surnames are there? In the UK today almost 270, 000 names while in the 1881 census there were over 400, 000 surnames. Even allowing for transcription errors and variants this shows that there are a number of names that no longer exist in the UK. This is often due to a decrease in males carrying on the name while the daughters have taken on their new married name.

To determine how unusual your surname is in the UK

<http://www.taliesin-arlein.net/names/search.php>

Shows there are 301 Quested in 2002 in England (Smith 652563).

Starting a study is not hard and I would strongly recommend joining the Guild if you do want to do a worldwide ONS as they are very helpful. You will have access to a range of resources and benefits but most of all you will be in contact with many other people also doing ONS who can give you ideas about how they do their studies. The email list often has new websites listed that will be of interest to members and there is a regular Journal.

You don't have to start a ONS to be able to use them in your own research so how do you find a ONS for your name?

First have a look at the Guild of One Name Studies site:

<http://www.one-name.org/>

**Guild**  
of One-Name Studies

www.one-name.org

Home The Guild One-Name Studies Reg.Names Event Calendar Journal Sales Members Room

**The Guild of One-Name Studies**

... is the world's leading organisation for one-name studies. A one-name study is a project researching facts about a surname and all the people who have held it, as opposed to a particular pedigree (the ancestors of one person) or descendency (the descendants of one person or couple).

Currently, over 2,500 people have registered over 8,000 study surnames with us.

Is your surname registered?

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Is your surname registered?

If your surname is registered with the Guild you will be shown contact details for the study.

<b>No:</b>	4300
<b>Name:</b>	Miss Helen Smith
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:quested@one-name.org">quested@one-name.org</a>
<b>Studying</b>	<b>Quested</b> with variants <b>Questead</b>  DNA project website: <a href="http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Quested">www.familytreedna.com/public/Quested</a>

Don't despair if you don't find your surname listed on the Guild website. One of the requirements when joining the Guild is that you are prepared to do a world-wide ONS. Many people are not prepared to sign up to this as they only wish to do a study in a set area or are already running a large study eg the Metcalfe Society.

Google is one of the best ways to find these other studies. Try your surname in Google with 'One Name Study' or 'Name Study' or try it with the geographic region of interest. You will be surprised what you find.

Remember to also search using Google Blog search as many people are writing blogs about their family research.

ONS participants are always delighted to hear from other people who are interested in their name. They are individuals who work, go on holidays etc so do allow a reasonable length of time for a reply and do try again as unfortunately emails the most common form of contact today, do go astray at times.

There are many Surname gems of information to be found. You may be able to fill in some of their blanks and they may be able to provide you with information.

Good Luck and if you happen to come across a reference to the Quested surname I would be delighted to hear from you!