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*How the events of 1917
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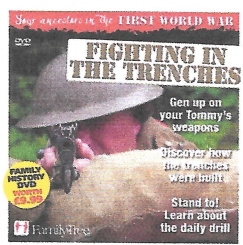
**5 STAR
RESEARCH**



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TOP FAMILY HISTORY PROJECT IDEA



Setting up a one-name study

As family historians we all inevitably collect a huge number of different ancestral names. But what is it that leads some researchers to acquire a taste for one particular surname alone? **Julie Goucher** has been an avid one-name study expert (and addict) for many years now, and here she shows us what a fulfilling addition her study has made to her understanding of her family's history

One-namers – as members of the Guild of One-Name Studies are known – each have their own catalyst for starting their study. Perhaps they began theirs to break down a brick wall in their own genealogy, or to answer a theory about family groups bearing the same surname being connected. My catalyst for starting a study came in two parts.

Firstly, the surname Orlando appeared in my UK area, my native Surrey, as far back as 1900. This was a good 60 years earlier than my Italian

migrated family there.

Secondly, and more importantly, it became apparent to me that I knew a huge amount of information about my maternal line – that had been predominately cocooned in Surrey, Hampshire and Sussex for about 300 years – with branches to the United States, Australia, New Zealand, India and Canada. In complete contrast, however, I knew very little about my paternal line. It felt as though I was sitting on a seesaw that was heavy at one end. It made me question my identity. Who was I? So I set out to discover more about these Orlandos.

Starting my study

Since the late 1980s I had been collecting references about the Orlando surname and those that related to the Sicilian town my family hailed from; Sutera in the province of Caltanissetta. In 2002, I registered the surname of Orlando with the Guild of One-Name Studies. Then in 2013 I registered my already established one-place study relating to Sutera with the Society of One-Place Studies and the Register of One-Place Studies.

These two studies have enabled me to pursue, really thoroughly, my quest in understanding more about who

I was and where I genetically came from. After all, these Italian Orlandos represented 50 per cent of my very being, so there was no way I didn't want to find out more.

Setting up a DNA project

As part of the one-name study I undertook a DNA test. Without an obliging male, the only way I could contribute was to do an autosomal (Family Finder) test. I waited somewhat impatiently for the results. The day I received them I logged into the website and downloaded the results as a spreadsheet. I sat and looked at the spreadsheet for several hours. I was completely fascinated. The way I felt was summed up nicely by Bryan Sykes in *Blood of the Isles*: '... the idea that within each of our body cells we carry a tangible fragment from an ancestor from thousands of years ago is both astonishing and profound. That these pieces of DNA have travelled over thousands of miles and thousands of years to get to us, virtually unchanged, from our remote ancestors still fills me with awe, and I am not alone'.

Indeed, Bryan Sykes is not alone, and neither am I. In 2007 with the help of the DNA adviser for the Guild of One-Name Studies, I formed the Orlando DNA Project. At the beginning things were slow, but now, a decade on, there is a handful of us interested in our Orlando DNA. You might think that in a decade that is slow going, and it is, but for Italians that is about right!

More than just names & dates

There are several of constraints with researching an Italian surname, whether it is a one-name study or not. However, I personally believe that if you are researching a European surname then you are well placed and suited to start

such a study. The constraints are not so hard that you cannot overcome them, it just means that you need to exercise patience – not something I am usually especially good at!

Before I look at the constraints, let me say this, for me, it is about my identity. My Italian heritage represents 50 per cent of me. My one-name study is very personal and perhaps more so than for most people. How you regard it will depend on the catalyst for your study.

My study has led to me gaining a greater knowledge of culture and the effect that religion has on it. Also paramount is consideration of the language, and learning the ability perhaps to speak, but certainly to comprehend, the written language. To understand the driving forces and the links of history to migration are also enlightening.

A study is about more than names and dates. It is about bringing someone to life, to understand the trials and tribulations of their existence and what drove them to do something, how or why they achieved their dream or perhaps simply survived, in some cases against the odds. Of course, it is just not possible to do this for every individual within a study, but there will be those individuals we encounter as part of our study that we wonder about especially – and we just must know more.

Collecting evidence

The book, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom: The Art of a One-Name Study* published by the Guild, outlines the steps of such a study. It is key to remember that the steps are not always followed in order and those with studies will spend a great deal of time at the collection stage of a study before proceeding further. The collect stage is quite simply that, collecting the data.

For my Orlando study, I currently spend time in three different areas for



How to begin gathering details

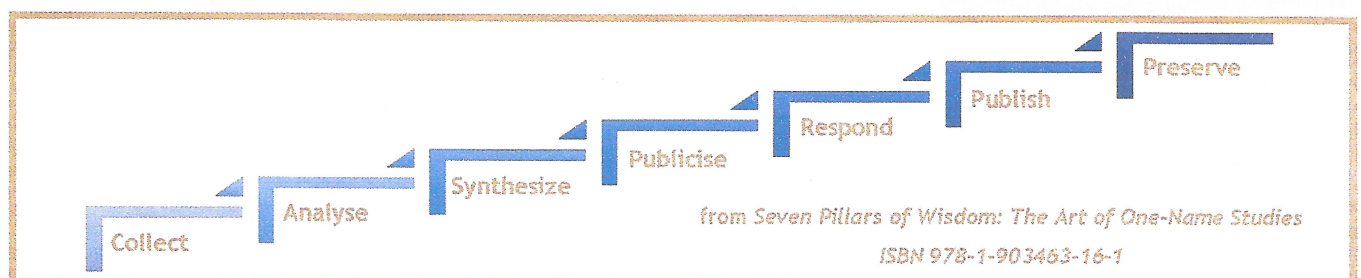
The aim with a one-name study is to make a note of every single instance you find of a particular surname in the records.

This is how you begin:

- ① In the process of doing your family history you'll have found many instances of your surname. Rather than just recording the details of your specific family (as you would do as a family historian), with a one-name study you need to collect *all* instances of the name
- ② Set up a database, such as an Excel file, to make a note of the following details:
 - surname variant (if you are collecting variant spellings);
 - person's first name(s);
 - source/database/website on which you found the entry;
 - record type (ie census, gravestone etc);
 - record date.

These details will ensure that you don't include duplicate entries in your database.
- ③ Having begun collecting details and set up a database, now you can cast your net wider and explore other ways to find instances of your surname (for example, overseas' census records, and DNA testing to find further matches, to name just two

There are lots of different routes to becoming an organised one-namer, but this seven-step approach, as outlined in the Guild's book, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom: The Art of a One-Name Study*, gives a helpful outline of the process





World Profiler is a free website that maps the distribution of surnames globally. The darker the colour, the higher the occurrence of a surname



Find out more

- www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/next-steps/how-to-start-a-one-name-study – FT blog
- www.one-name.org – Guild of One-Name Studies
- www.one-name.org/profile/orlando – Orlando One-Name Study
- www.familytreedna.com/public/orlando – Orlando DNA Project
- <http://worldnames.publicprofiler.org> – World Names Public Profiler
- DNA Case Study, *Family Tree*, Feb 2017, www.family-tree.co.uk/store



Is a one-name study for you?

If the following things apply to you, you could be ideally suited to starting a one-name study:

- 1 You're familiar with how to research family history. You know about the steps to take, and the historic records to look at
- 2 You enjoy collecting large quantities of data
- 3 You have access to core records such as census returns and civil registration records
- 4 You're looking for a new challenge for your family history and the opportunity to discover more about your surname – and maybe even become the leading expert on that name too!

down further to the States for the USA or into the regions.

There is not one style for collating and organising your study and over the last few years I have changed my process more than once, but whatever you decide it needs to be comfortable for you use and enjoy; making sharing easier.

Sharing your information about your study enables you to publicise, publish and preserve your study, hopefully leading to connecting with others researching the same surname and discovering yet more.

Zoom in on World Profiler to get further details about your surname for your area of interest

About the author

An avid history lover, **Julie Goucher** has been researching her family history since the late 1980s and has an interest in Italian ancestry. Julie is conducting several one-name studies and is an administrator for several DNA projects. Julie is the tutor for the Introduction to One-Name Studies course run by Pharos Tutors, and is a Trustee and Secretary for the Guild of One-Name Studies. www.anglers-rest.net



the collection stage:

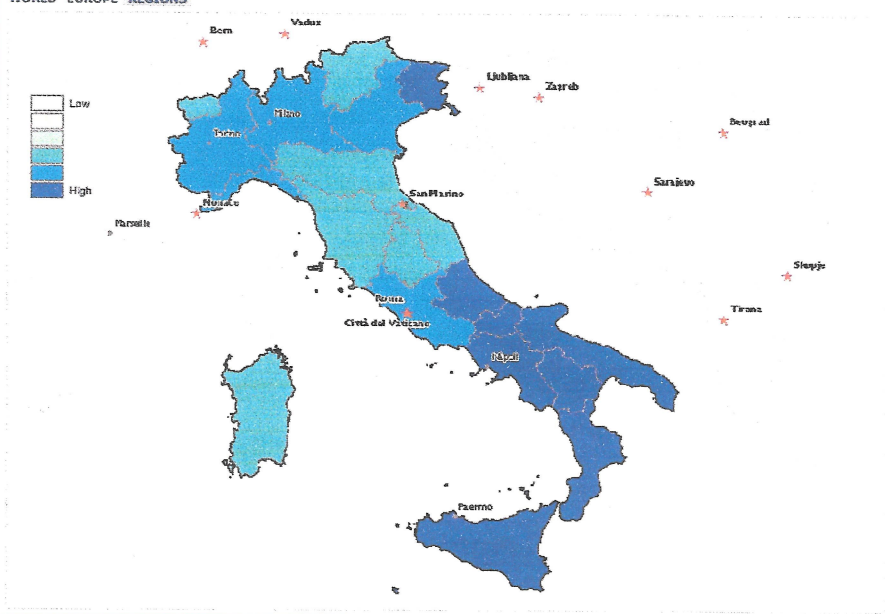
Firstly, where I am, which is the United Kingdom.

Secondly, where they are, which is Italy, and specifically Sutura, Sicily.

And thirdly, where the most instances of the surname are outside of Italy, and that is the United States. I also have a branch of my Orlandos that migrated to the United States.

The maps shown here are from World Profiler. The site is free to use and works by marking the countries with the most occurrences of the surname with the darker colour, so for Orlando this is Italy, Argentina and United States. You can also drill

WORLD EUROPE REGIONS



Members at the Port and Starboard Guild conference last spring, in Southampton

START A STUDY

Tempted to begin your own one-name study? Turn to page 22 this issue to read Julie's guide to getting started



Spotlight on...

The Guild of One-Name Studies

Julie Goucher talks to **Rachel Bellerby** about the work and activities of the world's largest organisation for one-name studies and surname research

Founded in 1979, The Guild of One-Name studies has more than 2,800 members, and to date has registered an impressive 2,469 surnames, with 6,250 variant names.

The process of undertaking a one-name study is at the heart of the Guild's work, with members exploring and researching surnames, many of which are connected to their own ancestry.

So what does this have to do with family history? Well, a one-name study is an attempt to data capture

all people wherever and whenever who held this name, meaning that it is possible to discover whether a surname originates from a particular area, and to follow people with that surname from region to region or country to country.

Such a study might concentrate on the geographical distribution of a particular name, the origins of that name, its relative frequency, and variants or deviants of that surname. Some studies take things even further, with the researcher attempting to study the genealogy and family

history of all people carrying that surname, or undertaking a DNA study of the surname.

The five key Guild principles

A name registered with the Guild as a one-name study is expected to be studied using a worldwide approach, which utilises the five key Guild principles of one-name study, namely that:

- 1 the study will be global in scope
- 2 it will include research within countries where the name is relatively significant and

- genealogical resources are available
- 3 it will research and store data available in core genealogical databases and transcripts
 - 4 it will store and may research other data where the surname is mentioned
 - 5 the member will maintain an accurate description of the scope and progress of the study.

Current Guild projects

At any given time, hundreds of Guild members will be involved in undertaking a one-name study, giving advice and assistance to fellow members with their projects, and meeting regularly to share their findings and any new discoveries within the field.

The Guild publishes an annual register of surnames registered, which is distributed in paper form to genealogical institutions and libraries around the world, and is also available in searchable format on the Guild's website.

Benefits of membership

One of the main benefits of membership is being able to access the knowledge of Guild members, via a quarterly colour journal, an annual conference and quarterly seminars, which are also open to non-members.

Members are entitled to access the Guild indexes, which are an ever-growing resource of surnames, and can also use the members' Wiki and members room on the Guild website.

The website also has an extensive section on DNA and one-name studies, some of which is accessible to non-members. Members who start a registered study are encouraged to create a profile page on the site, which allows them to share their findings, and enables other members to contact them.

If you have a surname in your family tree which is currently being studied by a Guild member, that person might well be able to provide you with valuable information about that name. And if the name hasn't yet been researched, you might consider starting a one-name study. ✿

SEE THE SITE

For more information or to join, email: guild@one-name.org or visit: <http://one-name.org>

How to join

- As well as welcoming members interested in starting a one-name study, membership is also open to: anyone undertaking a DNA surname project; family historians researching a particular surname on a limited basis; and also local historians and academics who may benefit from the knowledge and learning opportunities that the Guild offers.
- Annual membership is based on an initial joining subscription which is based on a sliding scale, depending on which month the membership was taken out. New members can take advantage of a joining rate which offers up to 23 months of membership for a single fee, and thereafter renewal subscriptions run at £18 per year from 1 November to 31 October.
- Payment is accepted in six currencies on the Guild website, and new and renewing members can pay online, by cheque, bank transfer or direct debit.
- The fee payable on registering a one-name study, currently £14, is a one-off payment at the time of registration, and does not have to be renewed annually.



Guild members manning their show stand



This year's Guild seminar, which took place in May