

ONE-NAME STUDIES

Many LostCousins members are carrying out One-Name Studies, many with dedicated websites, but not everyone is aware how LostCousins can be used as part of their study.

What is a One-Name Study? Here is one definition, taken from the Wikipedia entry for the Guild of One-Name Studies:

A one-name study is a project researching all occurrences of a surname, as opposed to a particular pedigree (ancestors of one person) or descendancy (descendants of one person or couple). Some "one-namers" may restrict their research geographically, perhaps to one country, but true one-namers collect all occurrences world-wide. The Guild only accepts true one-name studies for registration, although anyone with an interest in one-name studies is welcome to become a member.

Typically, the researchers will also study the etymology of the surname, and its geographical distribution. Sometimes, especially if the surname is also a place name, they will try to identify the place or places of origin of the surname, employing the normal methods of genealogy.

At LostCousins we will accept not only global studies that meet the standards laid down by the Guild, but also well-organised One-Name Studies that are geographically-restricted. For example, a name which is common in the country of origin could be rare in other countries.

HOW THIS WILL WORK

(1) From the point of view of an ordinary LostCousins member

Members who are not conducting studies won't need to do anything differently, and that's one of the key advantages of the way that One-Name Studies (and One-Place Studies) are implemented at LostCousins.

When a member clicks the Search button on their *My Ancestors* page we'll not only look for their living relatives, or 'lost cousins', we'll also look for other members with whom they have a common interest, including the compilers of One-Name Studies and One-Place Studies.

(2) For the compiler/co-ordinator of a One-Name Study

As the compiler of the study you need to identify the people covered by your study by entering them on your *My Ancestors* page at the LostCousins site. If you are running a very large study you may wish to enlist the help of other interested parties - see the FAQs.

We match members who have common interests by comparing the persons they have entered on their respective *My Ancestors* pages. All data must be taken from censuses supported by LostCousins – you can find a full list on the *Census Links* page on the website – but you are advised to focus on the 1881 censuses so far as possible.

Before entering information from your study please contact LostCousins with details of the study, including the surnames and geographical area covered; please include the address of your website, if you have one. If we are satisfied that you are conducting a properly-constituted study we will give you permission to start entering data.

Note: if your study is registered with the Guild of One-Name Studies approval will be automatic, but you should still contact us first.

If there are a large number of people covered by your study you may prefer to enter only the heads of household, or to restrict the geographical area that you cover - but a better solution is to enlist help from other interested parties (see the FAQs).

It is very important to select the correct relationship – this should be *One-Name Study* unless they are relatives of yours, in which case treat them like any other relatives.

CONDITIONS

You must provide a secondary email address in case your primary address fails. Please complete the *Secondary Email Address* box on your *My Details* page if you have not already done so; this is particularly important if your primary email address is a **one-name.org** address. If there is someone else who assists you with the study, or will take it over in due course, please include their email address in the *My Beneficiary* box on your *My Details* page.

Misuse of the LostCousins system, or failure to respond in a timely and courteous manner may result in your account being closed. If you will be unable to respond to enquiries within 14 days due to an extended vacation (or for any other reason) please let us know so that we can advise members accordingly.

FAQS

Can I use my existing LostCousins account?

There is no reason why you can't use the same account for the study if you wish, though it is not advisable if you are running a very large study.

I am running a very large study, and don't have time to enter thousands of names from the census - how can I take part?

The results you get will be in proportion to the number of entries, so in many ways it's an advantage if you're running a large study. However it can appear very daunting, and in this situation the best solution is usually to enlist the help of others who have an interest in the same surname.

If you do plan to ask others to help open a separate account for the One-Name Study (or for each study if there is more than one). This will enable you to give the log-in details to those who have agreed to help you, without giving them access to your personal *My Ancestors* page.

Will I need to pay a subscription to LostCousins?

No - unless you want to initiate contact with another member. In most cases it would be more appropriate for you to wait for interested members to contact you.

Can I simply direct people to my website?

When a member contacts you it is entirely up to you how you respond (though we do, of course, expect that you will respond politely and promptly). You may find that the best approach is simply to refer the other member to your website - although you should bear in mind that they may come back to you with questions or comments