

## WORKSHEET - Introduction to Surname Research and One-Name Studies

What surnames appear in your family? Why not insert your Family Surnames into the boxes below (up to 4 generations)?

Paternal Grandfather	Paternal Grandmother	Maternal Grandfather	Maternal Grandmother

### Choosing a Surname

- Is the surname already being studied?
  - Have you checked out?  
<https://www.one-name.org>
- Are there any barriers to studying the surname?
- How much work is there likely to be with researching a surname?

### Things to Consider

- Where did my Surname start? (origins)
- What is the meaning (type) of Surname?
- What is the frequency of my Surname?
- Does my Surname have any variant spellings?
- Does my Surname have any deviants?
- Where has my Surname migrated to?
- Where is my Surname found today?

### Types of Surnames

- **Occupational** such as Butcher, Baker, Carpenter (derived from the occupation of the bearer)
- **Topographical** such as York, French, Licata, Draper, Shoemith
- **Nick name** such as Redhead, Short
- **Patronymic** – Williamson, Robertson, MacDonald (derived from the forename of the father)
- **Matronymic** – Tilliotson, Beaton (derived from the forename of the mother)
- **Genitive** – Manners, Squires (implying ownership by someone)
- **Diminutive** – Towcock, Dykin, (in medieval times this was often a first name altered to be used as a surname by adding -cock, -let, -kin)

### Global Surname Practices

There is a variation to surname types for Countries across in Continental Europe:

- In Spain children typically are given their first name then two surnames, the first of which represents the father and the second the mother.
  - Since 1999 the Gender equality laws have made a provision for surname transposition. In cases where the father and mother cannot agree on the order of the surnames, the matter is decided by the official registering the birth.
- In Germany there are Hofnames. These are where the surname is taken from the owner of a farm and changed if the ownership of the farm changed. In cases where a son in law inherits from his father in law, his surname changes rather than the name of the farm.

**Questions?** – please email me at [julie.goucher@one-name.org](mailto:julie.goucher@one-name.org) or online at [www.anglersrest.net](http://www.anglersrest.net)

## Key Resources

- **Guild of One-Name Studies** – [www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org)
  - Set of pages on starting a One-Name Study - <https://one-name.org/getting-started-with-a-one-name-study/> and a series of pages on DNA Projects and much, much more.
- **Pharos Tutors** – [www.pharostutors.com](http://www.pharostutors.com)
  - **Introduction of One-Name Studies course (901)**
  - **Advanced One-Name Studies course (902)**
  - **Practicalities of a One-Name Study (903) ~ New for 2020**
- **Surname Research Guide** by Julie Goucher, (2019, Guild of One-Name Studies)
- **The Surnames Handbook** by Debbie Kennett (2012, History Press)
- **Find a Grave** – [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) (search for your surname)
- **FamilySearch** – [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) where there is a wiki covering surnames research and location research
- **Archer Software** – Surname Atlas using the 1881 Census data for England and Wales – [www.archersoftware.co.uk](http://www.archersoftware.co.uk)
- **Ancestry** – [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) where there is a wiki, US research guides & records globally
- **FindmyPast** – [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) records and indexes from many parts of the world
- **British Surnames** – [www.britishsurnames.co.uk](http://www.britishsurnames.co.uk) where the focus is on meaning, origin and history of surnames.
- **Family Tree Magazine** – where there has been a monthly column about surnames beginning with the Christmas 2018 issue written by Julie Goucher
- **Family Tree Magazine April 2019** issue which was accompanied by a **Surname Guide** written by Julie Goucher and the Guild of One-Name Studies
- **Family Tree Magazine 2020 Series** Quarterly articles, follow along building a One-Name Study from the March 2020 edition.
- **Surname Origins** – [www.surnameorigins.ca](http://www.surnameorigins.ca) about the meaning & origin of Surnames
- **Forebears** – [www.forebears.io](http://www.forebears.io) an ideal site for surname distribution
- **FreeBMD** – [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)
- **BehindtheName** – <http://surnames.behindthename.com/>

Notes – Use this space to write any notes or questions

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