CORRESPONDENCE

Letters intended for publication in **LPS** should be sent to Richard Wall, 27 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1QA.

Editor's note

LPS readers are reminded that the editorial board is always prepared to offer advice on subjects within the scope of **LPS.** Sometimes queries which have been raised are discussed in print in this section of the journal but there are many others which are not published, so if you think we can help do not hesitate to contact us.

Female blacksmiths

Dear Sir,

I see from a directory that there was a female blacksmith at Leigh, near Reigate, in 1851. It would be interesting to check back in the census and discover whether she took over from her father; was he the blacksmith before her? Equally, it would be interesting to know whether or not she was unique. Do you know of any source which would tell me how many female blacksmiths there were in the country in 1851? My father thinks that they may not have been so rare as I reckon. He recalls one who used to go round the flower shows in the Torrington area of North Devon during the early years of the present century.

Yours sincerely,
Alan Gillies.

Sunnymead, Epsom Road, Ashtead, Surrey, KT21 1LD.

Game, set and match. (LPS 22, editor's note)

My dear Editor,

I think that the last laugh is mine. We spell Goa**dby** and not Goa**dy**!!

Yours sincerely,
F. R. L. Goadby.

Gaunt Mill, Standlake, Witney, Oxon. OX8 7QA.

Editor's note. Brigadier Goadby joins the select circle of contributors to **LPS** whose names have been tampered with by mis-spelling or the transposition of initials. This includes such well known personalities as A. E. Wrigley and Leslie Bindley.

An East End immigrant baptism bulge in 1837?

Dear Sir,

I should be grateful if the editorial board of **LPS** could throw light on two matters which arose during the course of some recent genealogical enquiries I have been making.

The settlement of large numbers of 'German' immigrants in the East End of London in the nineteenth century is well attested, but I have not been able to find a study which shows the main dates of the immigration, the origins of the immigrants (perhaps in well-defined parts of German-speaking Europe) or the conditions which drove them to move. The registers of St. George-in-the-East round 1817 show many German names, but I have seen references which imply that these immigrants were still arriving in the 1870s, which seems unlikely. Could you indicate some generally available sources of information?

I have not examined the baptismal registers for St. George-in-the-East very extensively, but I noticed what seems to have been a remarkable upsurge in the number of baptisms at the end of June 1837:

1 — 23 June	105 entries
25	125
28	149
30	163

Perhaps this rush for (belated) baptism had some connection with the statutory birth registration which became effective on 1 July 1837, possibly through some popular misunderstanding. It may, however, have been purely a local phenomenon. Do you have any evidence of its occurrence elsewhere?

Yours sincerely,
E. G. Andrews.

34 Coulsdon Rise, Coulsdon, Surrey CR3 2SB.

Editor's note. One example is provided by the baptism register of Hinckley, Leicestershire: in 1836 75 baptisms were recorded while in June 1837 360 people were baptised, 78 on June 28 and 161 on June 30. (See comment by Roger Schofield in **LPS** 19, p.52.)

The Penarth census project

Dear Editor,

I am a member of the Penarth District Local History Society which is engaged in producing a detailed picture of the town's population during the mid-nineteenth century. We have already completed this year transcriptions of the 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 population censuses and an analysis of each of the four, drawing attention to their salient features. Work is in progress on tracing and obtaining copies of probate material. We have been given permission by the Public Record Office to publish the census and the Registrar General's statistics of births and causes of death during the period under review, and membership of the **LPS** Society might help us to shape our publication so as to give it wide appeal. We will next month begin work on producing an index of all the

people listed in the four censuses. The population of the five parishes which make up Penarth was 352 in 1841 and is now 24,000, so you may see the size of the task.

Yours sincerely,
E. A. Benjamin.

74 Beechwood Drive, Penarth, South Glamorgan CF6 2QZ.

An early marriage certificate.

Dear Sir,

Following the comment by Richard Wall in **LPS** 18, p.57, that marriage lines were comparatively uncommon, I would like to draw readers' attention to the following certificate recording the performance of a marriage. It would appear that the certificate was an attempt by the lady to reduce her tax obligation.

Yours sincerely,
Sybil Jack.

Flat D, 4 Leinster Square, London W2.

Md that I Robert Stokes vicar of Hackney in the county of Myddlesex doo certyfye all men to whom these presentes shall come that I fynde upon searche made in the register booke remayning in the church ther that Sir Robert Lytton Knight now decessed by the name of Robert Lytton gentylman was maryed unto Elizabeth Burgon widow late wyfe of Robert Burgon esquyer decesyd which was married in the church of Hackney the xvj day of February in the xxxvij yere of the reigne of the late kying of famous memorye Henry the viijth. In wytness whereof I the sayd Robert Stokes clerk vicar ther have wryten these presentes with my own hand & subscribed them with my name Robert Stokes vicar witness that they did see the register examyned with the certifycate by the said vicar.
Thomas Twynyho
& Ellis Thomas

E199/76/1 Sheriffs petitions for allowances (4-5Ph&M)
Essex and Hertfordshire f42

A bigamous marriage?

Dear Sir,

In reply to Mrs. Freda M. Wilkins-Jones' letter (**LPS** 22, page 61) suggesting a bigamous marriage, may I suggest that Mary Hunt's husband John may have died during his transportation voyage as so often happened, or at some time afterwards?

In a parish census at Bawdeswell, Norfolk, the vicar noted that Harriet Adcock's husband Edmund was transported for stealing wheat. Among the parish documents is a form from the Secretary of State's Office, Home Department, Whitehall, which the vicar filled in with the details of Edmund Adcock's transportation in 1837 to obtain information about him. The form was dated 20th October 1845 and the Home Office reported that Edmund Adcock 'Died 15th April 1843.'

Is it not possible that the Rev. John Mickle received similar information before marrying Mary Hunt and George Bell?

Yours faithfully,
Joy Lodey.

Fieldfare, Etling Green, East Dereham, Norfolk.

Unbaptised children in the registers of St. Saviour's, Southwark.

Dear Sir,

While working on the parish register of St. Saviour's, Southwark, recently I came across an unusual naming practice which may interest the readers of **LPS.** In St. Saviour's, Southwark, children that died unbaptised in the closing years of the reign of Elizabeth were entered in the parish register in the following way: 'Feb. 27 1602 John Taplin a child not baptised.' Between May 1597 and December 1602 61 children died unbaptised; of these 27 were female, 29 male and 5 anonymous. All but 7 of these cases fell in the years 1600-1602. After December 1602 unbaptised children are not distinguished in the burial register.

Starting in May 1597 all the 27 female children that died unbaptised were given the christian name Jone (or Joan, Joane, etc.). The equivalent practice is not followed with male children. The 29 unbaptised males were given one of 12 christian names (though there is a predominance of 10 Johns). Presumably male children were more highly thought of than female children and parents were quicker to name their sickly male offspring, leaving female children to be given a 'dummy' name by the parish clerk. Jone was probably chosen for the females as it was then in widespread use, though it was not to remain so (**LPS** 19, p.31).

This practice is to be seen as an idiosyncrasy of the keeper of the parish register. This is underlined by the fact that the custom coincides neatly with a change in the style of handwriting that occurred in May 1597 and finished towards the end of 1602 when, as we know from the vestry minutes, a new parish clerk was appointed.

I wonder if any other readers of **LPS** have come across similar naming practices?

Yours faithfully,
Jeremy Boulton.

Darwin College, Cambridge.

Official murder?

Dear Sir,

This story was told me recently by a friend who was in fact relating his grandfather's memories.

A servant girl working at a farm not far from Beer in Devon was friendly with a travelling tinker who went everywhere with his dog. One day he turned up without the dog and said that he had lost it. He asked the servant girl to look after it, if it turned up. She saw the dog the next day or so, attempted to catch it and it bit her. It was rabid and she in due course contracted hydrophobia. When she was in the final stages of this affliction two policemen came out from Beer and proceeded to smother her.

This story is echoed by what happened to Shirley in Charlotte Bronte's novel of that name. Shirley was also bitten by a dog and says at one point, 'do not let them smother me.' In fact, she escapes the disease as the dog was not rabid.

Can it be assumed that this way of getting rid of sufferers from rabies (in fact a form of official murder) was normal in the last century? Was it officially recognised as the way to deal with those afflicted or was it just done and no one said anything? Were there any other afflictions dealt with in the same way? How is it that rabies, evidently known and recognised in this country, later disappeared? Why did it not at that time get into the fox population? It cannot have done or we should presumably still have it. Are there any other instances of this method of dealing with hydrophobics?

Yours sincerely,
Robin Stanes.

Culver House, Payhembury, Honiton, Devon.