

Welcome

Welcome to a belated second 2008 issue of the Hagger One Name Study Newsletter. We have been so involved in many other things during the summer we have only just got round to turning our attention to producing a Newsletter to tell you something of what has been going on with regards to the One Name Study.

You could help the study by either collecting data and sending it to us in a form that it can be directly loaded into our database or by transcribing data for us. If you would like to help please contact [Peter Hagger](#) - he would be delighted to hear from you.

One Name Study Data

When we produced the last Newsletter some 10 months ago we had over 30,000 individual records in our master database with probably upwards of 5,000 records still to load. Now we have 33,000 records loaded without any reduction in the quantity of the data still to be loaded. We also have over 120 families in some stage of reconstruction.

Significant increases in our data have been in the area of probate records, particularly a more or less complete extract of the probate records index for Hagger and its variants from 1858 to 1990 (1,124 entries). We also have a large number of Hagger wills from before 1858, which require transcribing - if you would like to volunteer please contact [Peter Hagger](#). We have also added new data from Parish Registers, particularly Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire.

Hagger Origins

Recently we got Nameswell to give us their opinion of the origin of the Hagger name and their research confirmed many of our own findings (see Origins page). Nameswell refer to the 1881 census distribution and various surname text books.

The Dictionary of Surnames by Hanks and Hodges includes Hagg*r as a variant of Haggard, which is said to be a nickname from Middle England (1100 -1500) from old French meaning 'wild' or 'untamed'. The term could also refer to an untamed hawk so could have been used for a falconer. However, Nameswell point out that there is no supporting evidence to show that Haggard and Hagg*r are connected.

Reaney and Wilson, in a Dictionary of English Surnames, lists Hagg*r under Hager as a derivative of Middle English 'haggen' to cut or chop, indicating a woodcutter.

Nameswell point out that in the 1881 census Hacker had a very different distribution to Hagger. They draw no conclusion from this.

They also pointed out that Hagger was to be found in the IGI in Methley, a village in Yorkshire as early as 1564. By 1881 there were just 29 Haggars in Yorkshire, but none in Methley.

Annual Gathering of Hagger researchers

In the last Newsletter we reminded you of the meeting in March of the North Hertfordshire Village Research Groups when a number of Hagger researchers meet up. This year we had the following folk present:

Peter Hagger, descended from Edward Hagger of Therfield (born abt 1763), his son Henry (1804) and his son Arthur.

Martin Hagger, also descended from Edward and Henry, but then from Henry's son Alfred who married Eliza Anderson.

Andrea Humphrey with her husband Paul. Andrea is also descended from Edward and Henry and then from Henry's son William Henry.

Jean Kelly, descended from Edward and his son Thomas (1790)

Doreen Oakman descended from Edward and his son John (1793). Doreen was born in Therfield and still lives nearby at Meldreth.

Mike Hagger descended from Lavender Hagger (born abt 1767) in Therfield.

Audrey Green and David Robertson both descended from Thomas Hagger and his son William (born abt 1798) in Therfield. Audrey was born in Therfield and lived at the Vicarage where her father was the gardener.

Paul Hagger descended from William Hagger (born abt 1750) in Kelshall.

Dennis Hagger descended from George Hagger who was buried in Barley in 1840.

We were also joined by Janet Robinson, her two daughters Lucy and Sarah plus a great niece Amy Elliot from Australia. Janet is not directly descended from a Hagger as she descends from John Robinson and Jane Anderson. Jane was the sister of Martin's 2xGt Grandmother, Eliza Anderson, who married Alfred Hagger (see Martin above).

Next year's meeting on 14th March will feature a talk on the Hagger One Name Study and its connection with the North Hertfordshire villages. So if you can travel to Kelshall / Therfield book the date now and we will let you have more details in the new year.



The picture shows, going around the table from front left – Audrey Green, Doreen Oakman, Mike Hagger, Jean Kelly, David Robertson and Dennis Hagger in the Fox and Duck, Therfield.

Princess Alice Disaster - 1878

One area of work that is ongoing is the transcribing and cross referencing of extracts from Newspapers from the British Library files between 1600 and 1900, although we have been concentrating on those of the 1800's.

In the September 2008 issue of Family Tree Magazine there was an article about the Princess Alice disaster. At about the same time we had found several newspaper articles featuring the disaster and reporting that Hannah Hagger and her five year old daughter Elizabeth Hannah had died in the disaster with more than 640 others. The Princess Alice was on the return leg of a day trip to Sheerness from London and was approaching North Woolwich pier when she collided with the much larger ship the Bywell Castle. The Princess Alice was split in two and within four minutes sank, the passengers being either trapped or thrown into the river. At the time the river was not very pleasant with raw sewage being directly dumped into the river at nearby Beckton.

Hannah (nee Parsons) was married to Arthur Hagger, an oilman from Putney. They had married in 1871 and just had the one child Elizabeth Hannah. Arthur did remarry in 1882 and had three more children – Nellie, Arthur and Sidney. Arthur (senior) had been born in 1846 at Mortlake and his parents were George and Elizabeth. We are not sure when George was born as the evidence is conflicting, but probably between 1788 and 1796 in Hertfordshire.

Having just finished writing the above, a letter from Neil Haggard in Melbourne, Australia dated 1986 came to light. In the letter Neil mentions this very family as two of Arthur (seniors) siblings emigrated to Australia and Neil is descended from one of these - Matthew, Arthur's brother.

If you know any more about this branch of the Hagger's please contact [Peter Hagger](#) who would be delighted to fill some of the gaps.

Harold Hagger

One of our own relatives who can only be described as infamous is Harold Hagger, who died at the gallows at Wandsworth Prison in 1947, having been convicted at Kent Assizes of the murder of Dagmar Perzywalski, aged 48. The case was investigated by one of England's most famous detectives Fabian of the yard and took place at Wrotham in Kent.

Harold had a criminal record going back a good number of years and was once known as 'Basher Hagger'. There are lots of interesting bits in his story and although his death certificate is in the name of Harold Hagger he was tried under the name Sidney Sinclair, a name that first cropped up when he bigamously married his second wife, Daisy Oakley, in 1940.

Harold was one of fourteen children of William Hagger and Annie Bullard. Harold was born in 1901 at Holloway, his parents having been married in 1892 at West Ham. However, William and Annie were both born in Therfield - William in 1869 and was the son of Alfred Hagger and Eliza Anderson. As you can see elsewhere, Martin Hagger one of our researchers is also descended from Alfred and Eliza.

Hopefully, we will soon compile a page all about Harold on our Ancestors part of the web site.

DNA Project

As you will see from our DNA results page we now have ten participants in our project and the results suggest nine of these are related. The nine that are related all have ancestors from Hertfordshire or Essex. However, we need more male Hagger participants before we can draw any real conclusions.

So if you are a male Hagg*r or know a male Hagg*r please contact [Peter Hagger](#) who would be pleased to explain what is involved. Basically you take the sample yourself just wiping a swab in you mouth and the DNA tested is commonly referred to as 'Junk DNA' or a Y DNA test. It is painless and cannot be used for medical purposes or to identify an individual, but can give an indication that two males are related down their male line.

[An occasional Newsletter for those interested in the study of the surname Hagg*r and its variants.](#)