

## How to get the most benefit from the *BIGWILL Register*

The *BIGWILL Register* is compiled by the British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois from data submitted by its members and other interested genealogists. It lists surnames being researched, along with relevant time period and location (country/county) information. Entries are restricted to locations within the British Isles, defined as England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. Entries pertaining to these same surnames following emigration to other parts of the world, including the United States, are *not* included. This is the third printed edition of the *Register*; nearly 600 different surnames are included in its listings.

As with any listing of names, there are many ways it can be used for research purposes. One use of this *Register* is to see if anyone else is researching the same surname you are researching. The idea is that if anyone else is searching for the same name, ideally in the same part of the British Isles, then contact with that other researcher may produce results of mutual benefit. If you find a surname match, check the Member Name. At the back of the *Register* is a list of the members who have submitted surnames. When responding to a listing in the *Register* it is much better to contact the original submitter directly, rather than sending a query (for the newsletter) to BIGWILL. When you write to a submitter, remember to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE).

Another use is by looking in the section that is arranged according to country and county, to see if anyone else is searching in the same localities as you. To help you decipher the location codes, the Chapman County and Country Codes are listed in the back of the *Register*. Again, contact the submitter and inquire if she or he has found any particular resources especially beneficial for research in the locality. Find out if the researcher belongs to the local Family History Society, and if the membership has been helpful. Find out if the person has any of the research tools published by the local Family History Society. If you have access to “the web,” you should be able to find a listing of all Family History Societies in the British Isles on the Federation of Family History Societies web site (current URL for the societies listing is <<http://www.ffhs.org.uk/General/Members/>>).

If you still find no matches, then blaze a trail by being the one to join the Family History Society in the section of the British Isles of particular interest to you. Let us know what successes you obtain.

The *BIGWILL Register* is also available on the BIGWILL web site; the URL for the BIGWILL home page is <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wiilbig>>. Due to easy worldwide access to the web (usually that’s good, but when publishing home addresses and phone numbers, that’s bad), member contact information in the web version is limited to email addresses.

BIGWILL invites you to register the surnames you are researching in the British Isles, for inclusion in the online version and in future editions of the printed version of the *Register*. A data submission form (which can be photocopied as needed) is included at the back of this *Register*.

Every effort has been made to insure accuracy. However, BIGWILL cannot be held responsible for errors and omissions. If you find errors in any of your entries, please contact BIGWILL with the correct information. Corrections are made to the web version as soon as practical; corrections will be made to the printed version in all future printings. For additions or corrections, please use the *BIGWILL Register* Form; at the top of the sheet write “Additions” or “Corrections.”

Thank you for your contributions to the *BIGWILL Register*.