

Seasons Greetings,

You are receiving this e-mail because at sometime in the last 7 years you have been in contact with me concerning my Hollyer, Holyer and Hollier One-Name Study.

This year I thought I would revive my former practice of sending out a newsletter to all those who have corresponded with me concerning the Hollyer, Holyer and Hollier families. Some of you may have contacted me quite recently, others many years ago – and probably some of your e-mail addresses may no longer be active. It will be interesting to see how many of the 340 addresses are still correct.

I suppose I have been a lot busier over the last few years and have overlooked this seasonal message. I changed my job three years ago and have since become an independent telecommunications consultant which has taken me abroad quite a bit. Also since 2005 I have been Chairman of the Guild of One-Name Studies so have had to devote a lot of time to this rather than my own study. It goes without saying that the family also make demands on my time.

So what has been happening over the last few years? In autumn 2006 I launched my updated website, which I hope you have all seen. <http://www.hollyer.name> This features much new information and articles, as well as an updated Art Gallery. To this I have added an online database of all the families that I have managed to connect together, which can be found here: <http://www.hollyer.info/tng/>

You may well be on it yourself, although it's designed to hide details of all living people. You can apply online for an account which will allow you to see the full information on your own close families. If you can help me with any missing dates, places, professions etc, please get in touch. I would particularly like to increase the number of photographs of family members, so if you have photos of Hollier forebears, please let me have a copy.

As you may know, I regularly publish news on what is happening on the study via my 'Blog' which can be found at: <http://hollyer.blogspot.com/>

Over recent years, the wider availability of 19th century censuses and other online records has allowed great progress to be made in linking families together and tracing many difficult ancestral lines. If you contacted me some years ago and I was not able to assist you, it may be that I now have more information to share with you, so please make contact again. Equally, you may have made breakthroughs yourself, in which case do let me have details of what you have found.

In the last year, I took a trip to the Isle of Wight to research the many unlinked families from this pleasant island and managed to achieve most of what I had hoped. Thanks to assistance from Carol Eden, I have also made great strides in linking the various Oxfordshire Hollier families together, though conclusive evidence of how the major Sydenham Hollier family connects is still absent.

It's not only UK families that have been researched. I now have more details of the Virginia Holliers, the Illinois Holyers and the Montana Holliers. Of course, for such

families I am indebted to researchers in other countries and if you are outside the UK, I am always keen to have research assistance for sources and repositories I cannot reach myself. I am grateful to David Evans for assistance with Australian data and Bernadette Siebert for New Zealand sources.

About a year ago I launched the Hollyer, Holyer and Hollier DNA project. DNA testing is a technique which is growing in popularity and can assist sorting out which families are connected with one another and which are separate. So far, 6 people have taken the test. This has shown that two lines which I have always thought must descend from the major North Warwickshire family group do indeed have very similar DNA patterns. Although based on just one result, it seems that the Hampshire Holliers are not connected to the others and the Kent Holyer family have a relatively uncommon 'haplotype' which again shows they are a separate family. It would be good to see more male Holliers etc coming forward to be tested to extend our knowledge in this area. For example, it would be good to see what DNA results emerge from the Somerset and Oxfordshire Holliers, as well as testing more branches of the Warwickshire Holliers. If you are male and hold the Hollyer, Holyer or Hollier surname, would you be able to assist? If you are not in this group, you could assist the study by making a small contribution towards a fund to assist those who cannot themselves afford to take the test. To make a donation, go to the Hollyer DNA page at <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Hollyer/>, click on the last link on the left, entitled "Contribute to the Surname Project General Fund". If you decide to donate, please specify "Hollyer Project General Fund" in the top box of the Donation form. If you would like to take the test, but cannot afford it at present, please let me know and I will see what assistance may be possible now or in the future. I am grateful to Susan Meates for her support on the DNA project.

On the 12th July 2008, there is an exhibition at Woodchurch Village Hall in Kent, UK, on the theme of Woodchurch in 1871. As you know, Woodchurch is the ancestral home of the Kent Holyer family and although most Holyers had left the village by then, I am hoping to be there and put on a small display. It would be an excellent opportunity for all Holyers and descendants to meet one another and if there's enough interest, we can lay on other activities during that weekend. Indeed, it needn't be restricted to Holyers – I would welcome seeing anyone who is interested in any of the families. If you plan to attend, do let me know.

I hope you are all continuing to take an interest in your family history – an activity that has become ever more popular since I started out on this project back in 1990.

I wish you the very best of the season,

Peter Walker
Hollyer, Hollier and Holyer One-Name Study
www.hollyer.name