



# Rowberry One-Name Study

Polly Rubery, Out on a branch, 18 Challenger Close, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2PW

Tel: 01531 632703 Mobile: 07774-245436 Email: [polly@rowberry.org](mailto:polly@rowberry.org)

Web site: <http://www.rowberry.org/index.html>

Member No: 0278

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Dear All

Thankfully I am a little better organised for Christmas than I was last year, mainly due to the fact that the Family History evening class that I teach at the Herefordshire College of Technology finished on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec and since then my only other distraction has been my B&B guests. The B&B has been busy this year, perhaps due to the fact that Herefordshire Council, in their wisdom, decided to close all the Tourist Information Centres – this in a county where tourism is one of the major sources of income! However as I was not registered with the TIC, this may have actually helped me to gain customers.

Nicky and I managed to complete a week researching in Cornwall, meeting modern day Rs and visiting the past haunts of the Rs, such as Constantine and Ludgvan. The research was inspired by the Y DNA match between the RUBERRYs of Cornwall and the ROWBERRYs on Tree Two, based in Leigh, Worcestershire. As both families are found in their respective areas only from the mid-1600s, it would appear that their common origins lie before that date and elsewhere. So our research in Cornwall was to try and establish how, why and when the RUBERRYs actually appeared there. The earliest reference to them we found was a Richard RUBERIE listed in the Poll Tax for Mabe in 1660 as paying £10 4s – while most people in the parish only paid a shilling or so.

He also appears as Richard REWBERRY in the 1662 Hearth Tax for Mabe as one hearth “exempt” – a strange contrast! However we failed to find any extra parish register entries to those listed on the Cornish Online Parish Clerk website – the gaps in the information being due to missing or illegible entries. Closer to home I also spent some time in a similar examination the early parish registers for Leigh, but found nothing to add to the excellent research which Hedley Ramshaw kindly shared with me many years ago.

The results of the most recent test in the Y DNA Project, from the RUBBRA Tree of Northampton, were disappointing. As there is a possible link back to an R family in Gloucestershire, which died out in the early 1700s, I hoped that this might also show a match with these two trees, because there are also possible links, such as weaving, between Tree Two and those in GLS. However like all negative “matches” at least one more test is needed from the RUBBRA Tree to ensure that it is a typical result.

The volume of information available via the internet continues to grow apace, and so my hip, which has limited my mobility, has not brought all research to an end. It would help though if I did not fall asleep whilst sitting at my desk! My first visit to the consultant in April resulted in a steroid injection in my hip on 1<sup>st</sup> June which worked effectively until the beginning of October. Now however I am having trouble walking, driving and sleeping, and as of 22<sup>nd</sup> November I was placed on the Official Waiting List for a hip replacement operation. Hopefully I will have had this by April, allowing me to have recovered enough to enjoy the Family Gathering which is being held 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May. Joyce has volunteered to push me around if I need it, so I will be there whatever! But I will welcome any other volunteers to help with the organisation beforehand or at the event.

You can read more about it here: [www.rowberry.org/2012.html](http://www.rowberry.org/2012.html) and you will also find a link to a Booking Form on that page which you can print off and return - I am hoping to see you there as well!

You can also read more about the ROWBERRY Y DNA Project and the results so far; apply for a test kit or make a donation on the Project website here:

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Rowberry/default.aspx>

This leaves me just enough space to say Happy Christmas and all Best Wishes for 2012; and to repeat that we hope to see you in May, or of course whenever you can visit.