

*Burton & District Family History Society Newsletter



* Burton & District Family History Society is a branch of the Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry

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Editor's Comments

Happy New Year everyone. Your Editor hopes that you all had a very Happy Christmas and that the New Year will be a happy and healthy one too. Firstly, your Editor sends you her apologies that there was not a Newsletter produced in December 2012 – this was owing to her succumbing to one of the viruses that were circulating at that time. However, this first Newsletter of 2013 is hopefully full of items that are of interest to you. Your Editor would like to record a huge thank you to Delia for her hard work in arranging our very interesting programme for 2013.

BMSGH's 50th Birthday

BMSGH will be 50 years old this year and in celebration the Trustees have two major events planned.

The first is a Local History Fair combined with the Federation of Family History Societies' AGM/GM which will take place on 23 March 2013 at the Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham. There are speakers lined up for the day, but BMSGH Birmingham would like all branches to come along, man a table and put on a display detailing the activities of the respective branch. BMSGH Birmingham is intending to invite Record Offices/Archives from our three counties to come along, again to have a table, and put on a display. *(Editor's note: if you are interested in helping our Branch at this event, even if it is only part of the day, please speak to Delia as soon as possible.)*

The other event will be a celebratory lunch on

Sunday 23 June 2013 at the Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham. This lunch will be open to all members, spouses and friends. The cost will be £30 each and further details were published in the December journal, page 388. If you have never been to the Botanical Gardens, it is a lovely venue and hopefully with good weather, you will be able to wander around the gardens afterwards.

Birmingham Archives and Heritage

CLOSURE OF THE ARCHIVES SEARCHROOM IN PREPARATION FOR THE TRANSFER OF STOCK TO THE NEW LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM:

From the week commencing Monday 26th November 2012, the archives search room of Birmingham Archives and Heritage Service was closed to enable the preparation, packaging and removal of stock to the new Library of Birmingham. It will re-open on 3rd September 2013. A new Library of Birmingham website will be launched soon and this will include contact details for the new Library.

Lost Cousins' website

Our member, Roy, subscribes to this website and sends the following information that he has received:

"New year, new beginnings - and another chance to collect your free credits from findmypast!

New Year resolutions for family historians

Good news - findmypast offer extended

Free credits offer also extended

Three days left to save at Family Tree DNA

Birthday Book mystery deepens

Who was Mary Ann Thompson?

Was Queen Victoria a good mother?

Earl of Essex's legacy lives on

Preserving your family's history

Peter's Tips"

(To read the newsletter you can access the website as follows:

<http://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters/newyear13news.htm>

Alternatively, visit the LostCousins website where you'll find a link to the latest newsletter in the menu.

The Lichfield Wills Index

The Lichfield Wills Index has been updated to include wills that went for probate at Lichfield between 1731 and 1750. For more info go to <http://www.staffsnameindexes.org.uk/>

Surname, DNA & Family History

If you're interested in the origin of surnames or on what recent advances in DNA testing has to offer to genealogists then **Surnames, DNA, & Family History** by George Redmonds, Turi King and David Hey (2011) Oxford University Press ISBN 9780199582648 may be of interest. Staffordshire Libraries have a copy at Burton Library.

The Heath Reunion, 4th May 2013

Do you have the surname "Heath" in your family tree? If so, the following may well be of interest to you: The Heath Reunion is set for 4th May 2013 (probably a one day reunion) but your Editor does not have any further details at present. However, the administrator (Chris Heath) of the Heath Surname Project for www.familytreedna.com says that he/she is looking for some body who is familiar with the application of DNA to genealogy and the Project has about 100 male Heath donors (about 25% of these are Heath families that originated in Staffordshire). However, he/she needs somebody who knows more about the new techniques and applications than himself. He/she is also looking for a local historian who can give an overview presentation at the Reunion on the impact of Staffordshire's history has had on its people, the Industrial Revolution, religion, the plagues and Black Death, the Normal suppression and massacres in eastern Staffordshire in 1069, the pottery industry, farming and mining come to mind but there may be more. Do you have any suggestions?

If you can help in this way, or are interested in this item, please speak to Delia who can put you in touch with Jackie Cotterill from BMSGH Birmingham, or Chris Heath.

April 2013 Meeting

Keith Clenton will be speaking on Carl Chinn's Birmingham Archives. If you have ancestry in the Birmingham area, please let Delia know places that you are interested in (at the latest by the March meeting) so that Keith can bring along photos and information for the talk.

2014 Programme

Our Secretary, Delia, has submitted the following plea to the Newsletter: "It's the start of the New Year and I have to begin planning the 2014 programme! If you have ideas for talks or know of the speaker that would be interesting please let me know. The **Commemoration of the start of WW1** is being considered by many organisations and places. Do you have any family memories, memorabilia or stories you would like to share in a meeting?" *(Editor's note: Please help Delia with suggestions and/or ideas regarding WW1 if you can. She works so hard to prepare an interesting programme for us.)*

WARNING (particularly after one of our own member's laptop experiences)

Officers from East Staffordshire Local Policing Team (LPT) have issued a warning after a fraud in Uttoxeter involving a bogus computer repair company. At the beginning of December 2012 the victim, a woman in her 40s, contacted 'Phoenix Computers' after her laptop developed a fault. She found the company in a local business directory, address listed as Balance Street, and arranged for them to collect the laptop from her. It was agreed they would examine it and establish what was causing the problem. However, after they quoted various prices, the victim requested the laptop back without repair as per their 'no fix no fee' policy. The laptop was never returned and she was unable to locate a computer company in Balance Street or any in Uttoxeter by the name of 'Phoenix Computers'. An investigation into this has begun and Trading Standards made aware.

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Stuart Moon at Staffordshire Police on 101, quoting incident number 631 of December 6 2012. Alternatively, they can contact independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111

A digital version of "Midland Ancestor"?

The Society is considering digitising the Midland Ancestor to reduce costs. Delia is producing a short questionnaire about your views to pass on to BMSGH.

BMSGH's E-shop

Have you looked at the E-shop? www.bmsgh-shop.org.uk? There are frequent bargains and new records. And all profits go back into the society.

BMSGH also derive funds from every time you access BMSGH records on Ancestry and Findmypast websites.

Burton and Shopping, then, now and in the future.

Our Secretary, Delia has sent in the following article and advertisements: The Film evening following the AGM in September was enjoyed by many members, even those with no Burton ancestry or little knowledge of the town. The many memories produced were reinforced by Richard Stone's talk about Shopping in November. So many of us had fond and vivid memories to talk about and I imagine that most other market towns were very similar, just the proprietors' names being different. Now all towns have the same shops with the same names and the same goods and many of them are disappearing. What will we all do when shops are replaced by on-line shopping? That may of course revive the fortunes of the Royal Mail as we all order and return goods to on-line retailers because we can no longer look at, try on and compare possible purchases before buying. And what about having to wait ages for faulty goods to be replaced? Will we still be able to dash to the local shop for a bag of sugar or a light bulb? Without shops, how will we be tempted to purchase goods that are not on our shopping lists? It is difficult to imagine what Burton and other towns will look like in another fifty

years' time! Here are a few Shopping related adverts from the Derby Mercury:

TWELFTH DAY CAKES. T. JOHNSON begs leave most respectfully to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of DERBY and its Vicinity and the public in general that his SHEW OF CAKES Will be on Thursday the 6th of January, 1825, being TWELFTH DAY, when he will have a variety of Character Cards and Ornaments expressly for the occasion; and he hopes for a continuance of their patronage and support he has for so long and so liberally experienced, and which will even he his constant study to merit.
Irongate, Derby, 27th December 1824.

M. BEELAND respectively informs the Ladies of Derby and its Neighbourhood that she is now in London selecting the most fashionable MILLINERY, DRESSES &c. &c. Which will be ready for their inspection on Thursday the 20th instant. A choice Assortment of Silks, Chintzes, Shawls, &c. &c. of the most prevailing description, are now on hand.
12th May 1824.

WOOLLEN AND LINEN DRAPERY. SILK MERCERY AND STRAW BONNET WAREHOUSE. T. HACKETT respectfully informs the public that he has just returned from the London and Bedfordshire Markets where he has laid in a choice and extensive selection of goods in every variety of the present Spring fashions.... In his BONNET WAREHOUSE the best qualities in Straw and Leghorn will be offered at prices lower than at any previous season.
Market Place, Derby, May 11th 1824.

Reminder

Have you renewed your membership of BMSGH for 2013?

Future Branch meetings:

20th February 2013: Turmoil, Turnpikes and Taxes. Speaker: John Hawkins.

20th March 2013: The National memorial Arboretum. Speaker from the NMA.

17th April 2013: The Carl Chinn Archives: Birmingham Past and Present. Speaker: Keith Clenton

