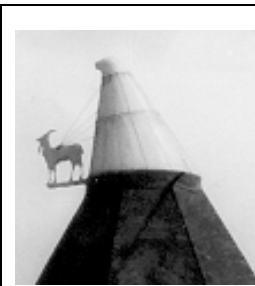


*Burton & District Family History Society Newsletter

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



April 2013
Number 52

Editor's Comments:

This is a larger than usual Newsletter this time as there were so many interesting items received by your Editor for inclusion. Thank you so much to all those who sent contributions – please keep them coming as this is what makes the Newsletter interesting. There are also some Branch notices and information which I have placed first as our Branch and its happenings are the most important items. I hope you enjoy the content of this Newsletter: please let me know if you do, or even if you don't (!) but above all, please keep those contributions coming in.

Branch's Website

Have you accessed Burton Branch's website lately? If not, please take a moment to do so as our member Peter has placed some interesting items in the "Gallery". If you have an item that you think would be appropriate for the Gallery, please contact Peter at meetings or via the "Contact Us" link on the website - <http://www.burtonbmsggh.co.uk/index.html> Thank you, Peter, for your hard work in making this such an interesting website. branch, please speak to any of the above Committee members. It has been decided by the Committee that future Committee meeting dates will be published in the Newsletter so that if anyone has any matter that they wish to be discussed by the Committee they can submit it to the Committee prior to the meeting. One Committee meeting has just taken place but the

Members' Interests

Many of our members will have submitted their family history interests to BMSGH when they joined in the past, but did you know that BMSGH needs your permission to put those Members' Interests on their main website? If your Interests are not on the website and you would like them to be, please contact BMSGH. We, as a Branch, have also been trying to compile a list of our Branch Members' Interests to be kept in our Branch and used by our members for consultation in case anyone else in our Branch is researching the same family line or maybe in the same area. As many of you will remember, this was one of our late Chairman John Atkinson's projects and we would like to complete this. Please, therefore, let Charles or Margaret know what your Interests are. A form can be provided for you to fill in if you require it.

Christmas Social

It does seem a little early to be thinking about our Branch Christmas Social in December but we do need to plan ahead. Do you have any ideas as to what you would like to do this year? Do you enjoy the quizzes and would like another one, or would you like to see a completely different format? Please let any member of the Committee have your ideas as soon as possible – please don't leave it until November.

Industrial Trainer at the Workhouse

Our member Janet Brealey sent in the following article to the Newsletter:

“My great great Grandfather, John Middleton, was born in Binley, Warwickshire in 1820. John was always listed on the census as a Gardener, living in Stoke, Coventry. On his death certificate his occupation was shown as late Industrial Trainer at the Workhouse. I decided to see if there were any references to him in the local newspapers. I have a subscription to the British Newspaper Archive and found a story in the Coventry Evening Telegraph for November 1893 which I found amusing. Reporting from a meeting of the Board of Guardians it was stated a letter had been received from John Middleton reminding the Board he had been Industrial Trainer for 25 years and that he was 73 years of age and getting old and feeble, he asked for a superannuation allowance, the committee’s recommendation was that John Middleton be allowed 10s.0d. a week, a decision which was strongly objected to by Mr. Wilkins on general grounds but it was carried. This was a costly decision for the guardians. John died on the 21st March 1911. He was 91! Not quite as old and feeble as they thought 18 years before, they really should have listened to Mr. Wilkins!”

Barton Cottage Hospital Records.

Originally it was suggested that these records could be kept at Lichfield CRO. However, they are now to be kept at Barton-under-Needwood Library in the new Local Studies Area. Not as far to travel and easily accessible by bus.

Essex Parish Registers

All the pre 1837 registers and parishes A to W post 1837 are on-line at Essex Ancestors’ Home Page. Also about (20,000) 30% of Essex Wills are available on line on www.essexrecordofficeblog.co.uk You have to register and access costs from £5/day and £15/week to £75/year. The site can be accessed to see if the registers and Wills that you want are there.

Do you have any copyright problems?

Steve Freeman from BMSGH Birmingham may be able to help anyone with **copyright issues** as he attended a weekend course in November. If

you wish to know anything more about this item please speak to Delia.

Lost Cousins Newsletter

Our Member Roy has informed the Newsletter that the April edition of the “Lost Cousins” Newsletter is out now and contains the following list of articles:

Last chance to save at findmypast ends Thursday; GRO still stuck in the 19th century; Have you claimed your free LostCousins subscription?; Coming soon: a new way to make breakthroughs; Facebook clues can reveal your secrets; Policeman's helmet bears 1897 bloodstain; DNA discovery rewrites human history; Want to know more about DNA?; Railway uncovers 14th century burial ground; Emigration to a new world; Speeches that were never made; Door to Door challenge; Peter's Tips.

To read the Newsletter copy the following address:

<http://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters/apr13news.htm> Alternatively, visit the LostCousins website where you'll find a link to the latest newsletter in the menu.

STAFFORDSHIRE HISTORY DAY 9TH MARCH 2013

Our Secretary, Delia, has sent in the following report of her attendance at the above History Day. If you are interested in learning more about any of the items mentioned on page 3 or 4, please speak to, or contact Delia.

ROBERT BARCROFT (Keele)

Looked at Rushall Hall Garrison between Lichfield and Walsall from 1642-6. After the battle of Edge Hill Staffordshire was a military crossroads dependent on local support. Both Parliamentarians and Royalists plundered and were parasitic on local communities. Garrisons provided security of provisions, protection, shelter, men and money as well as administration. Rushall Hall (a Royalist Garrison) accounts survive at the PRO detailing daily

activities, expenses and list £10,000 of plundered goods.

GILL ALLEESON (Birmingham)

Researched four Staffordshire antiquarians who were interested in preserving and developing green spaces in towns, providing parks and allotments and redeveloping old mine workings. They made large collections of newspaper articles on a wide variety of local topics.

James P Jones 1857-1927 founded Wolverhampton Natural History and Archaeological Society as well as writing histories of Tettenhall and of the South Staffs Regiment.

James P Mander 1886-1951 studied history and law at Trinity College, Cambridge. He wrote articles for Staffordshire Record Society.

F W Hackwood 1851-1926 helped to found Wednesbury Institute. He was a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and wrote articles and books about Staffordshire.

G T Lawley 1845-1935 wrote about the History of Wolverhampton.

JANET SULLIVAN (Birmingham)

Looked at development of the Black Country from a rural community to the heavily industrialized 19th/20th century. The population lived in perpetual twilight with fumes from decomposing waste, CO₂ and SO₂. Glass and chemical works produced acid rain that tarnished metal and rotted washing. People were told of their disinfectant powers that would cure diseases. Tall chimneys built to send the smoke further away became a sign of prosperity! Hot spoil heaps of noxious chemicals caused underground fires, polluted water supplies and building subsidence. Noise from the steam hammers was not a major concern and the population accepted pollution as the price to pay for job security and good wages but even when laws enforcing pollution control were passed, penalties were so low there was no incentive to change.

DEBORAH YOUNGS: Letter Book of Henry Lord Stafford 1501-1563

Son and heir of 3rd Duke of Buckingham. After his father's execution for treason estates were broken up. In 1532 he was given Stafford Castle. The letter book includes 250 letters and memoranda providing a glimpse of political, cultural, social and domestic life of the British aristocracy. Other letters are to his wife and children sent to other households. For the sons these were strategic, political placements with new rising men of the court. Letters to female relatives were attempts to arrange marriages.

STEVEN DEAN Archaeological News 2012-2013

Staffs Hoard – New find. Friezes for helmets, pommel caps with Kentish examples of filigree and the use of Cu-Pb and Ag-Pb alloys to give balance to weapons. Lot of wear and tear may indicate recycled ancestral items. The quality is exceptional although most pieces are less than 1gm. Although 6-7th century there is evidence of 5-6th century influence in ocular (eye-shaped) mounts.

Tipping Street, Stafford. Evidence of a settlement in early round houses. Staffordware possibly brought in by the armies but 2 kilns found show pottery production circa AD 850.

Great War and Messines Trench Model on Cannock Chase. Involves Cannock Chase, NMA and Whittington Barracks. Excavation of the scale model - used to familiarise troops with the battlefield landscape before going to France – shows trench lines and railway. Model will be completely excavated, recorded and reburied during the Centennial with re-enactments and stories of the Camps.

JOANNA Terry Archive and Heritage News.

Weston Estate (Bradford) records: CRO and Keele have funding for cataloguing and a research project.

Volunteer help for projects provides 3,500 to 4,000 hours per year.

Nationwide Manorial Documents Project.

Indexing, researching, and cross referencing county information.

Tithe map and Wills indexing; Assize Court Records; Police Disciplinary cases.

Museum on the Move. Visited schools, prisons, village events. Theme **'Why numbers count'**.

Shugborough. Theme **'Taste in the Georgian Period'** (Dress, accessories, events and ideas).

Potteries Museum. Themes: **'Gods, Greeks and Gorgons'**. **'Flushed Away'**, chamber pots etc. ,

Hoard Mercian Trail community touring exhibition, using replicas and interactive displays.

WW1 Centennial. Grants to develop a Staffs Great War Trail. Surveys, home front records, men that fought: to produce a record and interpretation of the county's involvement.

NIGEL TRINGHAM VCH News.

16th May, VCH presentation of 14th volume with talk on aristocracy. Email Nigel if interested. This is volume 11, north of county including, Biddulph, Betley, Madeley, Audley, Trentham and Blurton.

VCH Explore site invites submissions from local historians.

DR MALCOLM DICK History West Midlands Magazine

Magazine sponsored for 3 years, covers Staffs, Warwicks, Worcs, Salop and Derbys. To disseminate information about the history of the West Midlands and to promote wider understanding with short accessible non-academic articles. An associated free access website with other articles, films and forum. First three magazines will be free to people who register.

DID YOU MISS THESE MEETINGS?

If you were unable to attend our February and/or March meetings you will be interested to read the following two summaries of the speakers' presentations. These have kindly been recorded for us and submitted by Delia, so thank you to Delia for doing this.

TURMOIL, TURNPIKES AND TAXES (February 2013)

John Hawkins looked at the development of villages, based on Findern, Derbyshire as a rural economy changed as industrialisation grew in England. Findern was a typical village with three fields, street farms and common land. Villagers enjoyed rights to firewood, osier beds, fern, bracken and gorse, pannage, warren, fishing, driving game for food and gleanings. In Doles Lane they were entitled to take three cuts of hay; in Cockshut Lane cocks could be trapped in nets and meat, eggs, feathers and down and droppings were obtained from the Dove cote. The first signs of unrest came during the Civil War; villagers had to pay taxes and provide goods often to both Royalists and Parliamentarians. As the government needed more money, usually for wars, they became more inventive on what could be taxed. Hearths, windows, servants, hair powder, carriages, dogs and income tax to name a few. Almost nothing escaped. Industrialisation brought further unrest. At first people worked as outworkers in their own homes, then small manufactories (framework knitting shops for example) developed into larger factories (such as Arkwright's and Strutt's mills). Strutt built gun slits into the walls of his mills to protect them from being attacked by Luddites. Industrialisation brought further changes in the structure of the traditional village. Wealthier farmers enclosed their land and the villagers' rights were curtailed and there was little common land to share. Large factories needed good roads to move goods. Turnpike roads (they had spiked bars that would turn if someone tried to climb over them) were built by subscription from shareholders and tolls were levied to use them.

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM (March 2013)

Peter Hardy outlined the aims of the founder David Childs, a Royal Naval Commander who wanted an armed forces memorial that would be spiritually uplifting to honour the fallen based on the Arlington War Cemetery in America and the National Arboretum. Redland Aggregates were interested and 150 acres of land was provided in the National Forest centrally located and easily accessible. The first trees were planted in 1996/7, the Chapel was dedicated in 2000 and the NMA opened to the public in 2001. By 2010 the Far East POW building, an education centre, the Armed Forces Memorial, the Visitor Centre had been extended and the Basra Wall had been built and dedicated. There are now 50,000 trees and 250 memorials and in 2012 the NMA Legion worked together with the British Legion.

The Chapel is a wooden structure held up by twelve Douglas Fir columns and the altar bears the crosses of sacrifice with the phrase 'The key to the future is the past'.

Visitors can take tours on train trailers; it is important that everywhere is fully accessible to all visitors.

Of particular note is the Star of David Memorial and the Shot at Dawn memorial to pardoned Deserters. Memorials are constantly being added: The Burma Railway; the RNLI; Police and Police Dogs; the W I, the Boys Brigade and Road Peace.

Names of the fallen between 1945 and 2011 from the Army, Navy, Air Force are added to the memorial in chronological order of death and there is a daily Act of Remembrance at 11.00 am.

Foreign forces remembered include the Polish Forces and Resistance memorial and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Work on a new Visitor Centre will start in May 2013 with a Heroes Square under Cover and Conference and Education facilities. The NMA will be gearing up to commemorate WW1 with many events between 2014 and 2018.

Remus Rudd, horse stealer and Train Robber

Our Secretary, Delia, has sent the following article which is from an email that she was sent about an ancestor of an Australian Prime Minister. She does not know how true it is!!!:

No matter what side of the political fence you're on, THIS is FUNNY and VERY telling! It just all depends on how you look at the same things.

Judy Rudd an amateur genealogy researcher in south east Queensland, was doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that ex-Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's great-great uncle, Remus Rudd, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Melbourne in 1889. Both Judy and Kevin Rudd share this common ancestor.

The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows at the Melbourne Jail. (see page 6).



On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription:

'Remus Rudd horse thief, sent to Melbourne Jail 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Melbourne-Geelong train six times.

Caught by Victoria Police Force, convicted and hanged in 1889.'

So Judy recently e-mailed ex-Prime Minister Rudd for information about their great-great uncle, Remus Rudd. Believe it or not, Kevin Rudd's staff sent back the following biographical sketch for her genealogy research: "Remus Rudd was famous in Victoria during the

mid to late 1800s. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Melbourne-Geelong Railroad..

Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the Victoria Police Force. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

NOW That's how it's done, Folks! That's real POLITICAL SPIN.

Three Old Laws

The following Laws were gleaned from the SAGA Magazine of November 2012:

(1)It is illegal to enter the Houses of Parliament wearing a suit of armour under an Act of 1313.

(2)Did your father or grandfather keep a longbow under the stairs and maybe shoot the odd rabbit for dinner? The Unlawful Games Act 1541 required every Englishman aged between 17 and 69, with some exemptions, to keep a

longbow and practise archery. The law was repealed in 1960. Is this where Americans get the idea of their right to own guns??

(3)It is illegal to beat or shake any carpet or rug in any street in the Metropolitan Police District under an Act of 1839. However, beating a doormat is allowed before 8.00 am. (Our Secretary, Delia, says: My grandmother who was a housewife in London until 1918 always said that she **had** to beat her doormat **and** scrub her doorstep daily before 8 00 am.)

Future Branch Meetings

15th May 2013: Guided Walk Around Old Burton. Leader: Richard Stone. Meet at Burton Library Car Park. (Details of this will be given at the April Branch meeting or contact our Secretary, Delia.)

19th June 2013: Family History Questions and Answers: Members' evening. Details of this will be given at our April Branch meeting. (This meeting is, of course, open to visitors too.)

17th July 2013: War and Peace; Tracing a Royal Marine and his family. Speaker: Dr. Simon Pawley.

