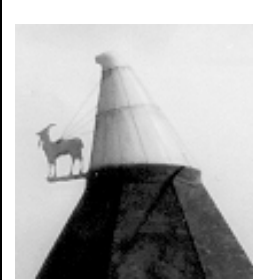


*Burton & District Family History Society Newsletter

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



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Editor's Comments:

As we are currently enjoying very hot sunny weather it may be that you have seized the opportunity to get out and about researching your family history in various ways. If you have done so, please tell the Newsletter about it for future editions. We would like to know how you got on. You can email your Editor; or speak to her at Branch meetings. Did you miss either the Branch's May and/or June meetings? If so, Delia has very kindly sent in a summary of those two meetings so that you can catch up. Please don't forget that if you have any family history questions that you would like some help with there is a box available to enable you to write these down (more details about this below the summaries). If you would like to further your research in August when there is no Burton Branch meeting, then go along to the Burton Library Drop-in Group – details of the meetings in August, and indeed in September, October and November, are given on page 3, or for further information about the Drop-in Group, please talk to our Chairman at our Branch meetings. Your Editor hopes that you all have a good summer break, with successful family history too, and we look forward to meeting up again in September. Details of our next three meetings are given at the end of this Newsletter.

May 2013 Meeting: Guided walk around Burton with Richard Stone of Burton Civic Society.

We were very lucky to have a dry evening for our walk. As usual Richard informed us about monuments and buildings, their occupants and uses as we made our way around the main streets of Burton. He pointed out parts of the old abbey, historic remnants of old Burton, gracious Georgian and Victorian town houses owned by the prominent businessmen of the town, medieval brick fronted dwellings in Horninglow Street and High Street and the old town entrance at the Bargates. As we progressed, Burtonian members pointed out the mid-20th century occupants of many of the present day shops. Many questions were asked and everyone agreed that it had been a very enjoyable evening.

June 2013 Question and Answer Meeting:

There were not too many questions but they took up the whole evening! The answers to three of the questions can be summarised quickly.

(i) Age of Apprenticeship?

A parish (pauper) apprentice would be apprenticed as young as seven until twenty-one for boys and until a girl was married. There were various ways of apprenticing the child, either by a draw of names of employers, in a rota of employers or by choice of employers in

a parish. Sometimes where there were too many apprentices in a parish they would be advertised and there are many examples in the Derby Mercury. Such apprentices, especially the girls were given very little training, often ending up as slave labour.

A trade apprenticeship started at age 13 when the child, usually a boy was legally bound to an apprentice master who provided training, board and lodging for seven years. There were strict conditions about conduct and a fee was paid to bind the apprentice. Lists of apprentices can be found in parish records, manor court records and at Kew. Early records often give far more information. After apprenticeship the apprentice would take the settlement of the master and would be known as a journeyman because they were paid by the day.

(ii) How can you be sure that you have the correct ancestor pre 1837?

The short answer is with difficulty, but remember there were fewer people around then although they were also a bit short of imagination for names. Janet talked about the value of information found in Wills and Manor court documents. Janet has a useful book that is available in Burton Library about pre 1837 Genealogy. Delia Wyers talked about using parish records as well as the need, sometimes, to pursue the genealogy of many different people. You should be aware of name changes, naming patterns and other members of the same family. If you would like copies of helpful information sheets, contact Delia dewy67@hotmail.co.uk who will email them to you.

(iii) Will BMD Registers post 2005/6 eventually be available online?

There are no plans for this to happen in the foreseeable future. Reasons given vary. Ease of doing it and cost do not seem to be a problem; the main FH websites have done this quite successfully and presumably pay for the data. Privacy and security may have some validity.

However, fiche (not digital) copies are available at the following places:

Birmingham Central Library
 Manchester City Library
 Bridgend Reference and Information Library
 Plymouth Central Library
 City of Westminster Archives Centre
 London Metropolitan Archives
 The British Library
 Newcastle City Library is listed by some sources.

Births and deaths are updated quarterly; marriages and Civil Partnerships up to 2011. The indexes will not be searchable as they are not on a digital database.

Local Register Offices will have their own records but if you don't know who you are looking for this isn't very practical! Searching for living relatives will be almost impossible.

However, there is a glimmer of hope. After the meeting Sue Wright emailed Delia to say that Ancestry has 2007 death registers online. Neither Sue nor Delia can think of any deaths in 2007 so they can't test the system. There only seem to be Wright deaths up to February 2007. Please let our Branch know if you have any success.

If you have a question that you would like some help to answer it, please put it in the box on the Welcome Desk (when you come into the meeting) and someone will try to answer it and get back to you.

Primitive Methodists

Do you have ancestors who were Primitive Methodists? You may like to take a look at this website:

<http://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/index.aspx> There are lots of links to people, places and topics. In the Staffordshire links is the diary of a preacher, **John Petty**, in the Dudley circuit.

Catholic ancestors from Liverpool

Do you have Catholic ancestors from Liverpool? Ancestry now has baptism (1802-1906), marriage (1754-1921), burial (1813-1988) and confirmation records (1813-1920) for the city. Liverpool has been home historically to one of the largest Catholic populations in England. For more information go to <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=2180>

The National Archives

The National Archives have now replaced their Documents Online service with their new catalogue system **Discovery**. For more information go to <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/discovery-service.htm>

Burton Library Drop-In Group

The drop-in Family History sessions at Burton Library continue through the summer and autumn. Coming dates are 8 August, 5 September, 3 October, 31 October, and 28 November (all Thursdays) at 11.00-12.00 in the Local Studies room.

Book recommendations:

(i) Early Modern Genealogy by Paul Chambers (2006) Sutton Publishing. ISBN 0750936889. 275pp.

This is a useful and readable guide to researching family history between 1600 and 1838. If you would like to find out which types of information might help in sorting out your family tree once you move back in time before civil registration of births, marriages and deaths or before the 1841 census then this might be the book for you. Available in libraries or at discounted prices from online booksellers.

(ii) If you've got back to 1600 and fancy tackling earlier ancestors then another volume by the same author **Medieval Genealogy** (2005, ISBN 0750936878) might provide some ideas and background information.

Education Survey on behalf of FFHS member societies to identify topics that are most relevant.

If you want a say in this survey, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FMBNXCW>
The Closing date is Friday August 2nd.

Ancestry problems:

Delia writes: Recently there have been comments in the Lost Cousins newsletter about Ancestry losing members' family trees. Last year I lost my entire Adams' tree but Ancestry weren't very helpful and didn't find it. I just can't face putting it all back again. More seriously though, is the fact that if you drop your subscription, your information remains there and becomes Ancestry's property. At least that's the way I read their terms and conditions. My Wyers' tree is private but would it remain private, John's 2 x great grandfather has already been acquired from the UK censuses. I don't think he'd ever left the country!

An answer to this problem would be to delete all your information before you leave.

Networking at the 50th anniversary Luncheon at Birmingham Botanical Gardens!

Delia also writes: This also marked the 30th anniversary of my first visit to the Burton Branch. There was a lovely meal and by dodging the showers I saw all the gardens and glasshouses, last visited in 1969. They're very different and much better tended now. There was lots of back patting, congratulations and toasts by members seated at the top table and Joyce Finnemore got everyone to sing Happy Birthday to BMSGH at the end.

Sitting opposite me was Peter Watkins who told me he had three female **WYRES** cousins, the daughters of Thomas Edward **WYRES** who lived in Nechells. Despite the name change, was Thomas Edward any relation?

John does have ancestors born in Aston, next to Nechells, but Thomas Edward didn't ring any bells although I have lost a few of them during the 19th century.

Thomas Edward wasn't too difficult to find. In 1911, aged 2 he was living in Aston Manor with his mother Clara **WYERS** (married 3 years) and her Bowker family. His birth was registered in the March Quarter of 1909 as Thomas Edward **WYERS**. Clara Bowker and **Thomas Henry WYER** were married in the September Quarter of 1908, shortly before Thomas Edward's birth. A **WYERS/BOWKER birth** is registered in the December Quarter of 1911 and a subsequent death in June 1912 for Beatrice **WYERS**. I tried to find all the possible **Thomas/Thomas Henry/Henry Wyers and variants including Myers** in the 1891 census. I had no idea of his age or where he was born but found three possibilities.

Thomas H Wyers, born, married, had a family and died in Louth, Lincolnshire.

Thomas Wyers, born 1878 in Aston, son of Edward and Martha Wyers. He looked promising until I found his army service records. He served with the Royal Engineers from 1903 – 1913, his father's name is given and in 1910 he married Selina Ann Dale, so unless he committed bigamy...

Thomas H Wyer, born in 1869 in Chelsea, in 1891 living in Hanbury, Worcs. He looks likely but I couldn't find any trace of him in 1901 or 1911 nor a death. This family are spelling their name as on the marriage register.

Interestingly a **Thomas Wyers**, labourer born 1881/2 departed for Montreal on 29.8.1911. Is it a coincidence that a Mrs Annie Bowker is on the same ship? Clara has a sister Annie. I can find no birth in 1881/2, no death for him, nor a return Journey from Montreal and he does not crop up on the 1920 incomplete Canadian census. There were no further details such as address and age given. He does not appear on an American census.

However, Clara Wyers married Edward L Food in 1915 in Aston and died aged 39 in 1927 I'm afraid that Thomas Henry will have to go in the 'probably unrelated Wyers' folder. I have emailed to see if Peter's cousins know any more details. The obvious next step is to get a marriage certificate for Thomas Henry and Clara but would it be worth it?

(Editor's note: if you can help Delia with any information on the above family history, please get in touch with her either at our Branch meetings or dewy67@hotmail.co.uk).

Extract from: "A Diary of the Post Office" for Saturday May 22nd 1813:

"It appears by a recent statement, that the proprietors of the newly established mail from Birmingham to London, have, in less than 12 months, lost £2,400 by the concern! A parcel was lately stolen out of the Holyhead mail coach, containing £10, and £5 notes of the banks of Messrs. Harding, Oakes and Willington of Tamworth, and Burton-upon-Trent. They are to a very large amount."

(Editor's note: Oh dear!! The relative amount in 2013 would probably be around £128,500 according to a conversion website.)

Future Branch Meetings

18th September 2013: Members' Evening.

Election of Branch officers, then "Bring Along Your Family documents, Photos, Cuttings etc."

16th October: Canal Boat People. Speaker: Dr. Wendy Freer.

20th November: The costume and Reproduction Costume Collection. Speaker from Staffs Arts and Museums Service, Shugborough.