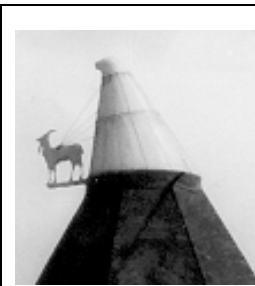


*Burton & District Family History Society Newsletter

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



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Editor's Comments:

Your Editor wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. There is much information below to keep you busy in quieter moments over the festive period and thanks go to our members Janet, Delia and Roy for sending in this information to your Editor. We all hope that you find something of interest below and you return to our meeting in January (details at the end of this Newsletter) fully refreshed and ready to start researching your family history in the New Year.

Letter to members from Christine.

"I would like to thank the committee and members for the generous Marks and Spencer gift voucher given to me at the October meeting, it was very unexpected but I shall have much pleasure in spending it!! thank you. It has been an absolute joy to serve on a committee with such lovely people; I know that the dedication and hard work that they give will see the club through for many years to come. Dennis and I will continue to help where and when we can and we look forward to seeing our branch continuing to grow and prosper, which we are sure it will with such a dedicated team. Once again thank you very much. Christine Hale."

Staffordshire Parish Registers

After much speculation in recent months over which of the genealogy websites would be

hosting digital images of the Staffordshire parish registers, it has finally been revealed that Findmypast was the successful bidder. The images will be available as part of "the Staffordshire Collection" on the Findmypast website in 2014 (actual date yet to be announced). Indexes of wills proved in the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry between 1521 and 1858 and of marriage bonds and allegations (linked to marrying by licence) from 1617 to 1900 will form part of the collection. Work is said to be underway to make these resources accessible in libraries in the future.

Looking for burial and cremation records?

Deceased Online

(<http://www.deceasedonline.com/>) is the first central database of statutory burial and cremation registers for the UK and Republic of Ireland. This site is very much a "work in progress". Searching is free but access to details requires credits, which can be purchased online using vouchers. A subscription option is being planned.

Staffordshire in World War 1

The Staffordshire Great War website (<http://www.staffordshiregreatwar.com/>) is well worth a visit if you want to keep up with what's going on the county to commemorate the First World War and to learn more about the role the county and its people played during the conflict. The site currently features material about the camps on Cannock Chase and the Messines model constructed at Brocton in 1918 by men from the New Zealand Rifle Brigade, using

German labour from the nearby prisoner of war camp as well as information on books and forthcoming events. More material will be added in due course. .

The End of an Era

In recent days the long-term branch project to computerise the civil registration birth, marriage and death indexes for East Staffordshire has reached its final goal with the completion of the last birth indexes. Thanks go to all those who have helped with keying in the records and especially to Peter Clark for all his work overseeing the project and encouraging the willing and sometimes not-so-willing with their efforts. The Staffordshire BMD website can be accessed at <http://www.staffordshirebmd.org.uk/> and is a useful resource to consult, especially for marriages as the actual location of many church marriages is provided.

2013 AGM held on September 18th 2013.

There were short reports from Janet Kisz (chair), Charles Rice (Treasurer), Delia Wyers (Secretary), Margaret Rice (Newsletter), Judith Farrington (Membership) and Peter Clark (Projects).

Christine Hale has resigned from the committee. The remaining committee members (Janet Kisz, Janet Brealey, Julia Carpenter, Judith Farrington, Charles Rice, Margaret Rice and Delia Wyers) were willing to continue and were re-elected. Proposer: Janet Payne, Seconded Ann Mills. Two new members were welcomed to the committee: Sue Wright, proposed by Ray Mills, seconded by Janet Kisz. Janet Payne, proposed by Margaret Rice, seconded by Janet Brealey.

Following the AGM, members spoke about records, memorabilia and documents that they had brought along for members to look at. Thank you to everyone who produced such a diverse range and kept us busy looking at everything until the end of the evening. Maybe some of these could be introduced in more

detail in future meetings? Delia would be happy to receive offers for 2015.

CANAL BOAT PEOPLE a talk given on October 16th 2013 by Wendy Freer.

Until 1750 only rivers were used for boat transport but by 1790 the country was seized by canal mania. Each canal was built by a different company and needed an Act of Parliament for its construction. The national network was more of an accident but was almost complete by the early 19th century, although broad canals with barges and 14' wide locks and narrow canals with 7' wide locks caused some problems.

Fly boats carried perishable and precious goods. They were faster, didn't stop at night, had frequent horse changes, took priority at locks and were timetabled. They included Pickfords (also road and railway hauliers). **Slow boats** carried non-perishable and heavy goods. The captain had to find his own crew usually the whole family who lived in a very small cabin (8' 6" x 6' 9") at the back of the boat with folding beds and tables. The 1871 census shows couples with 5 or 6 children.

The 1877 Canal Boat Act was supposed to prevent overcrowding. Although Inspectors were concerned about conditions little was done until the 1930s! Children led the horse, steered and helped to operate the locks. Adults' jobs were fending around bends, loading, unloading and ice-breaking. Most children were born in the cabins and they were supposed to tie up for 3 weeks after a birth. Small children were tied to the chimney but there were many hazards in such a confined space. Children had very little schooling and a conference in 1918 raised concerns about the care, under-nutrition and workload of the children. Schools (including Gas Street Basin, Birmingham, Paddington Basin, London City Mission, Brentford and a boat moored on the Grand Union Canal) were set up for canal boat children. In reality, only the demise of canal transport ended to the problem of children on canal boats.

THE SHUGBOROUGH COSTUME COLLECTION, a talk given by Helen Johnson of Staffs Arts and Museums.

Helen covered mainly female fashions from the late 16th to the 20th century and apologised for having very little to say about men's fashions. Some articles are very old, very valuable and very fragile so will not be on public view after this year. However, you can ask to have a look at specific items. We were shown photos of a French back and an English back, closed and open gowns, and how in the 18th century the hem at the front was raised so that the feet could be seen. Only undergarments were washed; a chemise or shift was worn under whalebone stays. A variety of chemicals were used to 'dry clean' outer garments. **18th century dresses** were very wide but narrow with a pair of panniers supporting a hooped frame. Hats were perched on tall hair arrangements curled up with hot tallow then powdered and ornaments added. When set it was not touched for several weeks, inviting infestations of mice, fleas and mites! Men wore a linen shirt and elaborate waistcoats, neckties and breeches. They shaved off their hair and wore tallowed and powdered wigs. **In the 19th century** the empire line dress, often made of white printed cotton with a high waist and padded sleeves was fashionable but dress gradually became more elaborate with crinolines and leg of mutton sleeves. The overall shape became triangular especially when covered with a cloak. Straw bonnets could have their ribbons changed and flowers and ornaments added. Bustles and corsets made dresses very restrictive and uncomfortable. Hats and accessories became more elaborate incorporating feathers, furs and skins. Progressing into the 20th century, ankles, legs, then knees were exposed, fashions were looser and the use of sewing machines, paper patterns, and easy care materials brought about dramatic changes.

Volunteer Opportunity: Local Studies Volunteer, William Salt Library (received November 22nd 2013).

The William Salt Library in Stafford is looking for a volunteer for one day a week (Mon, Tues or Thurs) to help them make part of their collections more accessible. The library holds a series of Sales Catalogues (19th-20th centuries) containing the sale details and descriptions of private and commercial properties in Staffordshire. The volunteer will work with professional staff and training will be given. Attention to detail is required and previous cataloguing although helpful is not necessary. If you are interested or want to know more contact matthew.blake@staffordshire.gov.uk

News sent from the National Archives 6th December 2013

"Explore our collection of First World War records, we hold the official UK government records of the First World War, including a vast collection of letters, diaries, maps and photographs. Discover our online collections, research guides and educational resources to learn about the history behind the war.

We will be marking the centenary of the war with an extensive programme, spanning a five year period from 2014 – 2019. With a rolling series of digitised record releases, online and on-site events and education resources being added to this portal as we move through the centenary period, we will open up our unique collection of First World War records as never before."

BIG REDUCTIONS ON MAPS At dash4it.co.uk Use discount code xmas13

35% off all Ordnance Survey maps plus an extra 10% seasonal discount.
50% off all Cassini Historic maps. Discounts on other equipment may make good presents.

From Marston and Hilton Local History Group:

They have been donated copies of the Churchwarden and Overseers accounts for Marston on Dove (Hilton, Hatton and Hoon included) from 1600-1700. Helena has had a quick look through and familiar names crop up

– Woolley, Harrison, Spurrier, Lathbury and Bagnold.

DFHS is running a trip to the National Archives

at Kew on Saturday 29th March 2014, pick up from Hilton at 7.00 or Derby 7.30 cost £15 return. The London LDS family history centre is also at Kew so there is a chance of using their facilities. The web sites will give further details. If anyone from the Burton FH group wishes to go then the DFHS web site has the details or Delia is happy to E mail a form to them. Helena Coney, Dale House, 11a Dale End Road, Hilton, DE65 5FW

A request for help about Eatoughs Factory during WW2 from Gareth Prewett.

"I was born at 112 Queen Street Burton upon Trent in March 1954, in the home that my mother was also born in, so consider myself a Burton lad, I now live with my family in Rugby, Warwickshire.

My father **Thomas Glyndwr Prewett (1921-1972)** married **Constance Muriel Harrison** in 1944 at All Saints Church Branston Road they both died in Coventry. I believed that my father was born in the Rhondda valley in Wales, travelled to Burton on Trent Staffordshire where he worked in the Ind Coope brewery, married my mother, had two children, and when I was 5 years of age he acquired a job in the Carbodies car factory in Coventry so the family subsequently moved in 1959.

A few weeks ago I met a long lost relative who gave a very different version of events: that my father moved from the Rhondda valley some years before the outbreak of WW2 and was working at the Daimler car, and later military factory in Coventry, He was transferred to Burton on Trent and as a qualified tool setter by trade, he worked at the Eatoughs shoe factory

in Burton on Trent where I believe he helped make components for Bren guns.

So far I have contacted the Heritage Centre in Coventry, Burton library, Daimler owners club, BSA (Birmingham Small Arms the company that owned the licensing rights to Daimler in the UK) and the Freemans Guild of Coventry to ascertain if my father was a time served apprentice within the City boundaries, all to no effect."

Iris Washington and Janet Payne have provided some useful information about the situation and hopefully can provide more.

Do any other members have more information they could pass on about the war efforts at Eatoughs or at any other companies?

Other Newsletters:

Are you interested in reading Newsletters produced by other family history persons/organisations? Your Editor has received news of two Newsletters recently which you may like to access yourself as they are too long to reproduce here. One of them is from our member Roy who has sent your Editor details of a newsletter produced by Heather Hicks who until recently was the National Genealogy Subject co-ordinator for the U3A. If you wish to access her Newsletter please visit: www.roccoland.plus.com/FH4U/index.html Details of another Newsletter which has been sent in by our member Sue Wright will appear in the next Newsletter.

Future Branch Meetings

15th January 2014: Short talks: Eureka moments. Members' Evening.

19th February 2014: The Work of the Parish Constable. Speaker : Dr. Dudley Fowkes.

19th March 2014: Short talks: A photo with a Story. Members' Evening.

