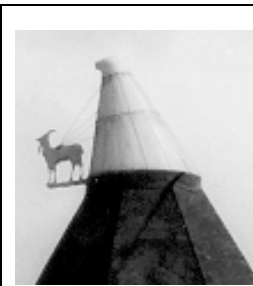


*Burton & District Family History Society Newsletter

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



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Editor's Comments:

A Happy New Year to everyone. Your Editor hopes that you all had a happy and relaxing time over the festive period. Our Secretary, Delia, has arranged a very interesting programme for this year and has issued a Programme Sheet giving the details. All our thanks go to Delia for her hard work in preparing the programme for us. If you did not pick up a Programme Sheet at our December social, then please do at this evening's meeting. Also, three future Branch meetings are always mentioned at the end of every Newsletter.

Publicity and Fairs 2014 BMSGH

Our Secretary, Delia, has sent in the following:

Dates for 2014 are:

28 June – York

9 August – Worcester Fair

31 May – Sheffield

31 May – Gloucester

Saturday 13 September 2014. U3A Conference at Buxton Dome.

The speakers will be Dr Nick Barratt, Professor Rebecca Probert, John Titford and Joy Brotherton. Sue Wright has asked if BMSGH are interested in having a Trade Stall. BMSGH have passed it back to our Branch.

Centralisation of Staffordshire archives at Stafford.

There is a proposal to move collections held in the William Salt Library and at Lichfield Record Office to Stafford to an extended facility on the current Staffordshire Record Office site. Significantly for those of us in Burton this would mean the transfer of the Burton Archives, which used to be kept in the library in Burton, to Stafford, necessitating an exceedingly awkward journey by car or public transport to view or use them. It would also mean that records for Lichfield and Tamworth currently kept at Lichfield will also be moved to Stafford.

A public consultation exercise is underway which ends on 31 Jan 2014. Further information and feedback forms are available at <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/County-Archives-Consultation.aspx> The Frequently Asked Questions sheet available at this web address indicate that the proposal includes a Local and Family History Centre at Lichfield along the lines of the one in Burton Library. This is meant to be reassuring to those who use the Lichfield base, but if the uninspiring offering that Burton has become is seen as a model then Lichfield folk might be very disappointed by what they get.

Staffordshire History Day on 15 March 2014

Once again a collaborative meeting between the county archive service, Keele University and

the Centre for West Midlands History at the University of Birmingham has been arranged for this spring. It will be held at the Kingston Centre in Stafford on Saturday 15 March from 10.00am till 5.00 pm. Cost is £19, including refreshments and lunch. Tickets available from Staffordshire Record Office, Eastgate Street, Stafford, ST16 2LZ. Book by 8 March 2014. Parking at the venue is free.

Keynote Speakers: (1) Dr Kate Iles (Univ. of Birmingham): Lunatic Ladies of Staffordshire: the Women of the Darwin and Wedgwood Families. (2) Dr Paul Carter (Modern Domestic Records Specialist, TNA): North Staffordshire Pauper Letters of the mid-nineteenth century.

Research Activity Papers:

Cathal Rogers (Keele Univ.): The Potter Family: the Walsall agents of the Earls of Bradford, 1830-1870.

Dr Gill Marchment (Univ. of Birmingham): Belonging to a Friendly Society in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

Graham Martin (Univ. of Birmingham): The 1990 Mid Staffs. by-election - just another mid-term by-election?

Victoria Rowe (Keele Univ.): History Live in the Staffordshire Moorlands: research activities in the community.

Plus news from the Archives and Heritage Service, the Victoria County History of Staffordshire, the Centre for West Midlands History and the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record. A number of local societies will attend with displays.

Burton Library Family History Drop-in session

These sessions will resume on Thursday 30 January at 11.00-12.00 and then on every third Thursday of the month thereafter. These sessions give an opportunity to seek help to get started or continue with research.

Dudley Archives and Local History Centre

The new Dudley Archives and Local History Centre is due to open its doors at 9am on Tuesday 14th January. Opening hours will be:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday: 9am to 5pm; Thursday: 9.30 - 7pm

Based at Tipton Road, Dudley, DY1 4SQ (next to the Black Country Living Museum). You can book a resource (computer, table etc) online or contact them on 01384 812770, or email at archives.centre@dudley.gov.uk Tours: Book a tour by calling 01384 815568

First World War unit war diaries

The National Archives has started to make available online thousands of digitised First World War unit war diaries from France and Flanders.

The unit war diaries (record series [WO 95](#)) represent one of the most popular collections held by The National Archives. War diaries were kept for two main reasons:

- (a) to provide an accurate record of operations for preparing the official history of the war
- (b) to collect information that would help make improvements in preparing the army for war

What the diaries contain:

For researchers and family historians, the war diaries contain a wealth of information of far greater interest than the army could ever have predicted. They provide unrivalled insight into daily events on the front line, and are full of fascinating detail about the decisions that were made and the activities that resulted from them. War diaries are still kept by the armed services to this day, and historical war diaries such as these are still referred to.

The war diaries are arranged by operational theatre (front) first, then by GHQ, then Army, then Corps, then division, then by the units within each division. They cover the entire period of the unit's involvement in the war, from their arrival on the front to their departure at the end of the war.

The war diaries include details of the unit's activities, often on a daily basis. While not personal diaries, they do often refer to individuals and in some cases offer personal insights into life (and inevitably death) on the front line.

The first batch of unit war diaries released reveals the real-time account of the first three cavalry (WO 95/1096 to WO 95/1156) and the first seven infantry divisions (WO 95/1227 to WO 95/1670) who were part of the first wave of British army troops deployed in France and Flanders. They cover the entire period of the units' involvement in the war, from their arrival on the front to their departure at the end of the war.

Further batches will be released in due course. Searching is via the National Archives Discovery catalogue. Searching is free but downloading each diary costs £3.36.

Other Newsletters:

Details of a Newsletter, which had been produced by Heather Hicks who was until recently the National Genealogy Subject co-ordinator for the U3A, were given in the December 2013 issue of this Branch's Newsletter. It was mentioned then that details of another Newsletter would appear in this edition of the Newsletter but, when your Editor read the details from our member Sue Wright who had kindly sent them in, it turned out to be exactly the same Newsletter. Thank you to our members Roy and Sue for sending your Editor details of the U3A Newsletter.

Lost Cousins website

Our member Roy has sent in the following details of the latest Lost Cousins Newsletter:
 A personal note. Save 15% on findmypast.co.uk subscriptions **ENDS SOON.**
 "This is London calling...."
 Home Office minister hints at GRO changes?
 Adoption law to change - thanks to LostCousins member
 A child is born
 Book review: *Hiding the Past*
 Rate books go online at findmypast
 Surrey and West Yorkshire Electoral Registers at Ancestry
 Norfolk Register of Electors at FamilySearch
 Victorian household hazards
 Wartime memories
 Roman scrolls outlast 1931 Census
 How much do we really know about the census?
 Save on WDYTYA tickets with Ancestry
 Jamaican genealogy site is now completely free
 Last chance to save on DNA tests
 Can your actions affect your descendants' behaviour?
 Peter's Tips

To read the newsletter please access :
<http://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters/dec13news.htm>

Future Branch Meetings:

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.

16th April 2014: Border Hoppers including the Four Counties (Derbys, Leics, Staffs & Warks). Speaker: Jacqui Simkins.