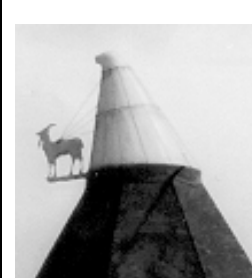


*Burton & District Family History Society Newsletter

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



NO ARTICLE FROM THIS NEWSLETTER IS TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE EDITOR'S PERMISSION.

April 2015

Number 61

Editor's Comments

This Newsletter is a bumper edition this time – so much seems to be happening in the world of family history, not least of all is the Who Do You Think You Are? Exhibition at the NEC which is being held from 16th to 18th April 2015. If you go along and you have something that you think would interest readers of the next Newsletter, please let your Editor know. Thank you to all our members who have submitted an item for inclusion in this Newsletter – please keep them coming! So, please read on.....

Request received: **Brettell** and **Murray** Surnames (neither born in Burton): A request has been received for information about Branston Munitions Factory employees about 1942, if electoral rolls were produced and which breweries had social clubs. If you have any information that would help this enquirer, please get in touch with our Secretary, Delia Wyers, or contact the Editor and she will pass on any replies to Delia.

A Branch member's "stumbling block":

Do you have a Michael Fennessy and his wife Kate (nee Palmer) in your tree? Michael was born in 1835 in Kilkenny, Ireland (he first appears in the England and Wales Censuses in 1871), and his wife was born in Brighton Sussex.

They had three daughters born 1869, 1871 and 1880 (the first one born in Hornsey, Middlesex and the other 2 in Kensington.) Our member is unable to find a marriage for Michael and Kate Fennessy. Can you help at all? Please contact either our Secretary, Delia, or the Editor and they will pass on any replies to our Member.

Resources held by Burton Branch

At a recent Committee meeting it was decided that a list of Resources held by the Burton Branch should be listed in the Newsletter annually for the benefit of new members who may want to borrow them such as the National Burial Index Cd. As the resources and equipment are in a mode of change at the moment, your Editor will list them in the Newsletter that is produced in September 2015.

Equipment no longer needed

Burton Branch has an Overhead Projector and a Fiche Reader that are now considered surplus to requirements. If anyone has a use for either of these would they please speak to our Chairman, Janet, or our Secretary, Delia.

See Granny in a new light: the British Red Cross has made information available online about those who volunteered with them during World War 1. See:

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/en/About-us/Who-we-are/History-and-origins/First-World-War/Volunteers-during-WW1>

Email from the FFHS Re publication of low cost BMD Certificates:

From: FFHS Member Society contacts' list

Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 2:55 PM

The Society of Genealogists is delighted to announce that the Government has accepted an amendment to the Deregulation Bill currently going before the House of Lords that allows for the publication of information from Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates in England and Wales to be issued otherwise than in the form of a certified copy. This is something the SoG has long campaigned for and is grateful to Baroness Scott of Needham Market, herself an enthusiastic genealogist, who suggested to Government that this deregulation is possible. More information can be found on their website. *(with thanks to Malcolm Austen, Oxfordshire FHS) Beryl Evans, FFHS Archives Liaison Officer, archives.liaison@ffhs.org.uk*

The clause would therefore provide a gateway to introducing new products and services relating to birth, death, marriage and civil partnership records. It would accept that any change to the current product and services could not happen immediately; there would need to be a full analysis of the options for implementation, decisions around funding and consultation with key stakeholders. Any change is likely to mean IT system changes. However, the clause lifts those legislative restrictions that have tied the Government's hands in this area for many years and this is a major step forward to greater and more flexible access.

Meeting Summaries:

January 2015: The Farmer's Wife, Helen Johnson Shugborough Archives.

When Thomas Viscount Anson inherited the estate in 1798 he commissioned Samuel Wyatt to design and build a new 'model farm' and in 1805 Thomas Wheelock became the tenant farmer/bailiff overseeing twenty two

employees. Early 19th century tenant farmers were well educated, well respected and wealthy. The new Georgian Shugborough Park Farm was well built, symmetrical and elegant with a snug, parlour, an extensive kitchen and a servants' hall with an imposing staircase to the first floor bedrooms. Thomas' wife was not a lady of leisure. She supervised the servants and dairymaids, ran the household, planned meals, kept the accounts, cooked and mended and helped with hay making. She may have run the dairy and the malt house and looked after the poultry as well as the bees. Indoor servants were up at 4.00 am, outdoor servants at 5.00 am. It took two hours to heat up the bread oven. Eggs were collected, fowl roasted and the feathers kept for bedding. Honey was used instead of sugar but the bees had to be killed to collect the honey; pigs were preserved with salt. Lady Anson had a very grand dairy in the Tower of the Winds in which she 'played at dairying' but it had to be kept clean and ready for use. She could afford to wear fashionable clothes with an over-apron over her apron. Wool might be spun and woven to make cloth or clothes were passed on to the servants from the Anson family. Worn out clothes were used for patchwork and rag rugs. The Home Farm has been extensively refurbished during the past year and is well worth a visit.

February 2015: The Members' Meeting started with Charles presenting the annual accounts. The group has purchased a data projector but there is still a healthy balance.

Janet K then added another answer to the Christmas Quiz in which we identified the position of WW1 actions. Point 21 was the Riqueval Bridge over the St Quentin Canal, seized by the 6th Battalion North Staffs Regiment on 29th September 1918 before the Germans could fire charges to blow up the bridge. This was crucial in enabling a 17km breach in the Hindenburg Line and its collapse 11 days later.

Visiting The National Archives at Kew:

Margaret and Charles visited Kew last August, travelling on a Monday and returning the following Saturday, staying at a nearby

Travelodge and making use of their bus passes to get to Kew. There are quite large differences in rail fares by different routes and companies. Pre-registering for TNA tickets on-line did not speed up the registration process as they still spent a frustrating 1 ½ hours with two unexpected coach loads of visitors. Plastic bags are available in the cloakrooms to carry your belongings. Before you visit have a look at the NA website to check things you should and should not take and how to handle different documents. They wished they had spent more time working out the cataloguing system. Margaret searched the WW2 Army Fire Service records. Charles found some brief details about a Court Martial.

Delia continued by looking at TNA layout: information about facilities, Registration and Reading Rooms. In her experience pre-registering does not shorten the process even if renewing a ticket. You may consider having some extra items with you: a laptop, cotton gloves to handle photographs, a magnifier and a warm top (the Reading Rooms are quite cool). Make a note of your locker number as the key has no number on it! If you already have a ticket, up to 6 documents can be pre-ordered and as soon as one is returned, order another. Use the catalogues to make a list of documents, note their numbers and record those you have looked at even if they were no use. Maps and pre 1688 documents are produced in the large document Reading Room but it is not always obvious where a document will be waiting for you. Photographing documents (without flash) saves time and makes reading easier when enlarged and the contrast enhanced. Handling large documents is tricky so always ask for help. Paper guides are provided but A3 sheets divided lengthways give a better area to hold easily. Documents can be copied in all the reading rooms.

Janet K showed **us how to use the catalogue** to ensure that only documents held at the NA were displayed.

March 2015: Writing Your Family History, Mike Sharp.

Mike gave us lots of advice and hints about what could be a formidable task. It can be approached from many angles, as a family narrative, a historical account, a person by person directory; biographies of ancestors; a first-hand account from family papers; a personal journey or memoir, how you researched and made discoveries or creative writing from known facts. The book can be printed, a scrapbook with photos, an annotated album, an eBook, a blog or a website. Mike gave us some hints on **organising our writing**. Most importantly, Break it down and avoid repetition. You are writing a family history not a genealogy, so focus on the more interesting aspects of your family. Content could include relevant document sources, maps, and illustrations, and mini stories developed into richer stories. The British History on-line, Connected History, Trust Victorian Web and Vision of Britain all give excellent background information. Books, magazines and websites should be used judiciously.

Find a theme: A notable Victorian, Rags to Riches, WW1 and WW2, Migration, Crime and Transportation, Occupations, Achievements, Travel, Poverty. Identify focal points, characters, stories, documents; make a plan showing how the stories fit; create a timeline. Weave together facts and context; empathise with an ancestor's situation and break down information into logical chunks.

Presentation and Design is important. Use Word processing, Desk top publishing and photo editing. Decide on page design, colour schemes and fonts. Use context boxes (e.g. for family trees and timelines) to avoid losing the balance of the story. Find a 'fierce friend' who will proof-read, review and criticise. Accept that your write up will never be finished.

You have lived a unique and interesting life so write your life story. Mention your origins, early years, childhood, teenage years, starting work and training, social life, holidays, family, friends and achievements.

Finally, don't plagiarise; rewrite and seek permission to reproduce images and passages from books and websites. Be careful with

personal images and be prepared for your online images to be copied.

Staffordshire History Day 28TH March 2015

Michael Guest (Keele University): The Vicars Choral of Lichfield Cathedral 1730-1830

Twelve Vicars Choral were appointed for life as the Cathedral choir who sang at three services every day of the year. They received £50 per annum and 3d a day commons (bread, cheese and beer) and could pay other choristers to stand in for them. John Saville, appointed aged 19 in 1755 was nationally renowned. He sang in Derbyshire, Staffordshire and in Covent Garden. Dr John Allcock, a composer and a composer, was appointed organist in 1749. His behaviour was criticised and he published a novel in which he lambasted musical establishments.

Cathy Schling: the culture of Working Class

Gardening in Walsall 1830-1890

Very little documentation is available except for records of Cottagers' Classes in local Horticultural Shows. The Working Men's Institutes and Clubs organised shows and classes included Auriculas and Dahlias as well as vegetables. Men had very little time available for their hobby and changing their residence frequently meant growing plants in pots.

Linzi Cooke: Perceptions of Prostitution in Lichfield 1877-1896

There is no definition for prostitution and it is not illegal. Records were obtained from women arrested for drunkenness, indecency, public disorder and other crimes (often multiple offences) in which the woman was said to be soliciting. Many prostitutes did not live in Lichfield and came into the city because of the soldiers after Whittington Barracks was built, for the Lichfield Bower and when rail links were established. Prostitution was accepted and not seen as a big problem until it became a public nuisance and contravened the Contagious Diseases Act. Some offenders appeared to be seasonal workers – they worked in the fields but returned to soliciting when agricultural work was scarce. Two multiple offenders were mentioned. Sarah Thacker was guilty of 52/225 offences during the nineteen year period, 34 of which involved drunkenness. Her lifestyle was

chaotic, she was married but her husband frequently left her and she had one child. Mary Averon, single and a native of Rugeley was found guilty of sixteen offences. She had attempted suicide and was defiant in court, behaviour unlikely to make the JPs lenient.

Keynote Speaker: Andrew Baker,

Rediscovering Thomas Anson (1691-1783)

Thomas was Admiral George Anson's brother and created the mysterious and serene landscape gardens at Shugborough Hall including a set of 1760s buildings based on the Greek originals. He knew many prominent architects, musicians, members of the Royal Society and industrialists and in 1734 travelled in Asia Minor at a critical point of interest in Greek Culture. In 1758 he was at Hagley Hall with Lord Littleton and James 'Athenian' Stewart, a prominent architect interested in Greek architecture. Both Anson and Littleton engaged Stewart to build temples. Only one possible portrait of Thomas Anson was found but was of unknown provenance and Andrew was keen to prove if it was or was not Thomas. The gentleman in the portrait is holding a map of the Greek Islands where Greek culture started and Thomas referred to these voyages in his correspondence.

Stephen Dean: Latest Archaeological Finds and News 2014-15.

Some of the discoveries in local sites:

Tucklesholme Quarry (nr. Barton under Needwood): Neolithic, Iron Age, Bronze Age, Roman and Saxon archaeology. There is evidence of groups of people re-entering the site and flint knapping and production. Anglo-Saxon activity at Catholme where 36 spindle whorls have been found. **Greengate Street, Stafford:** C 14th Male skull found aged 30-35 years with massive frontal lobe sword cut injury. **Cannock Chase ammunition finds.** Laser scan 3D model of the Messines Ridge model. Video on website and book available soon.

Archive and Heritage News: Following the February Survey the Archive Service has re-applied for Heritage Lottery funding, aiming for participation with users, volunteers and partners, emphasising resilience and

sustainability, sharing knowledge and providing services for new visitors. William Salt Trust Friends' Group are working on their own Vision. Cataloguing is continuing with more records being put onto the Web. The Manorial documents Project has been completed. Burton Abbey document is officially the oldest in England. The second half of the Parish Registers have been digitised but there is no date yet for it going on line.

The Tithe map digitisation was started in September; £3k has been raised so far to support the project. **Indexing of the Military Tribunal Records. Volunteers are indexing Quarter Session Rolls, Tithe Award Indexes, and Coroners' Reports.**

Victoria County History has received a further 4 years of funding. The Tamworth area including Drayton Bassett, River Tame, Tamworth Castle and Elford is still being researched. The Crypt of St Editha's church were probably built to house St Editha's relics then remodelled after a C 14th fire; the history of textile manufacture, the origin of tammy material, Peel's cotton mills and paper mills; evidence for playing tennis, gambling and a 1790's Hoard Book for maintaining order.

Friends of the Centre for West Midlands History. Based at Birmingham University Research Centre. Promotion of the history of the Region, Conferences, Seminars and local and regional history. This year is the 250th anniversary of the foundation of the Lunar Society. Projects being published: Anglo-Saxons, Rise and Fall of Staffordshire and Offa's Dyke; Green Spaces, the Power of Steam and Art & History and one publication specifically on the Lunar Society.

Keynote Speaker: Dr Simon Harris (Keele University), Staffordshire Soldiers at Agincourt, 1415. Problems occurred between the English and French Royal families. The Battle of Auberoche was fought in 1345 and in 1360 Edward III exchanged his claim to the French throne for land in Calais. In 1414 Civil War broke out in France, Henry V invaded and in 1415 France surrendered. Henry returned to Calais. TNA records list several thousand troops and

muster rolls. Retinue rolls were submitted for pay, letters of prosecution and letters of Attorney, appointing two people to act on behalf of the soldiers. Retinue Rolls (including local surnames) for Sir Thomas Gresley, MP, and Commissioner for Peace exist at the TNA.

Forthcoming Meetings/Lectures/Exhibitions of Interest:

(a) Exhibition: "Hoof Prints in the Desert" The story of the Staffordshire Yeomanry and their horses in the First World War

The Ancient High House, Greengate Street, Stafford, March 17th- April 26th. Tues-Sat 10 – 4. Free admission. The story starts with men and horses being mobilised from Staffordshire and sent to East Anglia for training at the beginning of the War. It then follows their journey by land and sea to join the Cavalry Division on Egypt. The Museum's archives are a rich resource of personal photograph albums, diaries, letters and souvenirs of the Palestine Campaign. These will be displayed in the exhibition, alongside items of horse and camel equipment. Although the casualties in this campaign were very small, compared to the losses on the Western Front or at Gallipoli in the same year, the end of the story for the horses was often tragic. Very few returned home and most were sold off to local traders to end their days emaciated and in misery in the back streets of Cairo. The Museum is happy to feature the story of the Brooke Hospital for Old War Horses set up in Cairo in 1934 and to publicise its amazing world-wide welfare work today.

(b) Stretton Community Day. Saturday 11th July 2015. 2p.m. – 5 p.m. HELP WOULD BE APPRECIATED – PLEASE SEE DELIA.

(c) Chesterfield & District Family History Society & Craft Fair. Saturday 15th August 2015. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Outwood Academy, Newbold, Chesterfield. BMSGH has asked if Burton Branch would be willing to look after a stall. IS ANYONE WILLING TO HELP – PLEASE SEE DELIA? Presumably

we would have to get there about 8.30 a.m., departing Burton about 7.45 a.m.

(d) Staffordshire Heritage Day 2015 A day of talks by experts on the periods of the four big historical anniversaries being marked in 2015: Magna Carta 1215, Agincourt 1415, the Jacobite Rebellion 1715 and Waterloo 1815. **Saturday 10 October 2015**, 10 am – 4 pm at Castle Church Parish Hall, Newport Road, Stafford, ST16 1 DP. Cost including refreshments and lunch £17. Further information from Mary Dodkins (01785) 850345 or Margaret George (01889) 882472.

Visit to Tutbury bears unexpected fruit!

Our Members Janet and Mike have sent your Editor the following account:

“During the visit to Tutbury Museum in June 2014, Mike mentioned that his Great Grandfather John William Neale had lived and died at the 'Leopard Inn'.

We got an immediate response "you must be related to the lady from Australia". Apparently an Australian visitor had spent a week in Tutbury last year looking into the same family - if only we had known! John William Neale was Mike's Great Grandfather a widower, who had married a Pamela Bentley a widow, who was the landlady at the Leopard Inn'. Although not a direct blood line it would have been nice to have met and shared information. We can only assume at this time she must be a direct descendant of Pamela Bentley's children from her first marriage. Although at the age of 46 and 39 when John and Pamela married it could be a child from this marriage that as yet I haven't found. Due to the dedication of the volunteer's at Tutbury Museum for storing information we now have this ladies email address and will be contacting her very shortly. Also at the last meeting of the U3A Family History meeting I mention this find, and - yes you have guessed correctly! a member who also volunteered at the Museum had spent time with her helping her with research. One very

interesting fact that we have been told is that there are pictures of John and Pamela Neale on display in the 'Leopard'. Guess this must be our next visit to Tutbury.” :

Editor's note: *Thank you very much to Janet and Mike for sending this account to the Newsletter. Does anyone else have any news to report following our Branch visit to Tutbury, or indeed, anything else of interest?*

News from the Lost Cousins website:

Our member Roy has sent the following information from the latest Lost Cousins' Newsletter:

Half-price Findmypast World subscriptions

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

Claim a FREE LostCousins subscription!

Essex Wills Beneficiaries index goes online

124 million British newspaper articles

Who Do You Think You Are? Live

Tell your photo story **COMPETITION EXTENDED**

Search tips pay off for Cindy

Origins has closed

New South Wales government and gaol records online

Irish BMD indexes back online

Scotlandspeople launches 1865 Valuation Rolls

Scottish Government consults on burials

War Graves Commission seeks relatives

Imperial War Museum: Research Room changes

Getting Started in Genetic Genealogy

Surrogacy leads to complex relationships

Exploring 20th Century London

Review: My East End

We're famous!

Peter's Tips

To read the newsletter, please access the Lost Cousins website: www.lostcousins.com

Future Branch Meetings:

20th May 2015. Ashbourne, Georgians, Jitties and Gingerbread.. Speaker: Keith Blood.

17th June 2015. Visit to the Samuel Johnson Museum, Lichfield. Meet in the market place outside the museum.

15th July 2015. Research into a Baltimore Merchant. Speaker: Dr. Simon Pawley.

