

# \*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 would like to thank all those members who contributed articles and items of interest for this edition of the Newsletter. It makes for a very interesting and informative Newsletter. However, in particular, please see the item on the Staffordshire Archives Consultation Process and respond to it if you can do so. Your Editor wishes you a good Summer break and looks forward to meeting up again in September. Please don't forget to let the Newsletter know if you have any interesting family history research this Summer.

## **1915 Merchant Navy Crew Lists**

On 30 June 2015, the National Maritime Museum announced the release of an online searchable database of the 1915 Merchant Navy Crew Lists. This has been a collaborative project with the National Archives, London. Over 39,000 crew lists transcribed by over 300 volunteers ensures that the information will be accurate and provide a very good reflection of the men and ships that served during the First World War. Go to <http://1915crewlists.rmg.co.uk/> to view the database. You can search by surname or vessel. If you go to Advanced Search it is possible to search by birth place (with or without a

surname). As there are no records for individual merchant seafarers from this period, these records are of international significance in highlighting the vital contribution made by the Merchant Navy during the First World War. They are also of great value to family historians, as one of the few sources of information about seafaring ancestors active in 1915.

## **First World War Diaries**

Ancestry has made available images of war diaries for regiments serving in France, Belgium and Germany from 1914 to 1920. These can be searched at <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=60779> The diaries contain daily reports on operations, intelligence summaries, and other pertinent material, and they can provide an on-the-spot description of what your ancestor experienced.

## **Visit to Tutbury bears unexpected fruit – update**

Following the article entitled as above in our Newsletter of April 2015, our members Mike and Janet have contacted your Editor with the following update:

“Here is an update following the article in the last Newsletter after our visit to Tutbury last

year. I made contact with the lady from Australia who I now know is Dianne and is the Great Great Granddaughter of Pamela Bentley and Mike is the Great Grandson of her second husband John William Neale. We did visit the Leopard Inn and the Landlady knew nothing about any photo's, there were some old photos of Tutbury but nothing else, she is convinced, however, that the Cellar is haunted by a past publican!!!!!!!!!! Dianne has sent us the following email:"

"I was so pleased when Jeanne emailed to let me know about the special gathering at the Tutbury Museum which had been attended by a Great Grandson of John William Neale. I had the most wonderful time with the Minchins who went out of their way (and some) to ensure I had an incredible day, even taking me home with them for dinner and then returning me to my Motel. Yes, I definitely hope to make it back over your way and I too wish I'd known about you all living there whilst I was in your 'neighbourhood'. I actually stayed at the Travelodge. Yes I am indeed a descendant of Pamela Bentley. She was my Great Great Grandmother.

Thomas Bentley and Pamela Jukes  
 Their son Joseph Henri Bentley married  
 Louisa Elizabeth Woolley – 12th  
 February, 1895 – Marston Upon Dove,  
 Derbyshire  
 In 1906; Joseph, Louisa and their two  
 young sons; Harry and Elijah; sailed on  
 the 'Oruba' from London to Western  
 Australia  
 Their son Elijah Cyril Bentley married  
 Mabel Groundsell Brown  
 Their daughter Mildred Elizabeth  
 Bentley married Kenneth George  
 Hawker  
 Their daughter is yours truly

**Request received:**

**Editor's note:** *The following email has been received via our website. Would any of our lady members be willing to help Emma, or maybe you know of someone who could? Her contact details are given in the email below:*

"Dear Sir/Madam,  
 I am hoping that the members of Burton & District Family History Society might be able to help me with an oral history project I am currently undertaking.

I am a History undergraduate at Oxford University and intend to write my third year History thesis on women's experiences of deindustrialisation in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. I wish to focus particularly on women who lived in Burton and South Derbyshire. I am interested in questioning past assumptions that deindustrialisation had little impact on women, due to how many sectors of industry was predominantly male dominated. I instead hope to demonstrate that women could be much affected by the decline of industry, as even if they themselves were not personally employed within local industries such as brewing, mining, engineering, rubber production, food manufacturing, and suchlike, they may have been related to or have lived amongst others in their community who were. Consequently, I hope to show that women's life was greatly changed as a result of the decline of manufacturing and the subsequent unemployment it caused, both at home, and in the community. To evidence my thesis, I am conducting oral history interviews - predominantly with women - over the next few weeks. I intend to ask questions on topics such as the chronology and nature of the decline of local industry community, and the impact of deindustrialisation on emotions, health, family relationships, household finances, gender roles in the home, leisure and socialisation, and the community, as well as studying women's own employment, how they responded to help their family and communities in the wake of the decline of the manufacturing sector, and the

long-term effects that all this had on women, their families, and communities in general.

I was wondering whether members of the History Society, or their friends and relatives, have had experience, directly or indirectly, of the events which I am interested in studying, and, if so, whether they might be willing to share them with me. The interviews would be informal and anonymous, and would be recorded and written up into a transcription; the interviewee will be asked to sign a consent form for me to use their interview as part of my thesis, and they will be given the final say on whether they are happy for the interview to be used. The length of the interview might vary depending on the individual, but it is likely to last about half an hour. If you think any of your members, or those connected to them, might be interested in taking part either in an interview, or alternatively through writing a few notes on their experiences, I'd be very appreciative if you could pass my details on to potential interviewees, and mention my project at your next meeting. I'd be happy to meet people at their convenience in whatever location they prefer, whether that be at their homes or at a venue local to them. If anyone would kindly wish to contact me, my email is woodhall\_emma@yahoo.co.uk and my mobile number is 07907 383088. I realise this is something of an imposition, but I'd be very appreciative of your help, and very much hope that members or their friends might be interested in taking part in the project.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes, Emma Woodhall "

#### **Meeting Summaries:**

##### **20th May 2015. Ashbourne: Georgians, Jitties and Gingerbread - Keith Blood.**

Keith took us on an illustrated guided armchair tour. Ashbourne was a prosperous mediaeval market town with the Henmore Brook (which flows into the River Dove at Mayfield) dividing the town into two. In Georgian times the town was popular with the rich and famous many of

them staying in their town houses for the season. In 1670 the Cockayne family were Lords of the Manor. The last, a gambler lost the manor to the Boothby family who built the present Ashbourne Hall and gardens.

The town's inns were prosperous as the meeting point of six main roads. The layout of the town - Church Street, St. John's Street and the triangular Market Place is still obvious today. The Wellington Inn, St John Street became Ashbourne gingerbread shop, a 15<sup>th</sup> century building owned by the Spencer family who never divulged the secret gingerbread recipe for ginger and lemon flavoured shortbread made since 1877.

The sign across St John Street for the Royal Green Man and Black's Head is famous but not complete. "Commercial and Royal Hotel" should be added, given after a visit by Queen Victoria but was too long to put on the sign. As you enter Ashbourne the Black's Head is smiling a welcome; the reverse of the sign looks miserable to see you leaving.

In the 1850s, there were weekly markets and 13 annual fairs lasting two or three days for livestock. A memorial to Francis Wright who closed the cattle market and tried to stop Shrovetide football is in the market place. Understandably, he was not liked by Ashbourne residents.

Back roads and lanes running parallel to Church Street provide access to the backs of the plots with short cuts or jitties between them. Many have become rights of way and the backs of the grand Georgian buildings can be seen. The frontages of earlier Georgian houses are of brick but the backs are of stone. As fashions changed, the fronts were built of stone and the backs of brick. Church Street, St John's Street and the Market Place are lined with large Georgian houses.

The free Queen Elizabeth Grammar school was founded in 1585. In 1603 the boys were paid to collect stones for the paving outside. Oldfield's Alms-houses were built in 1613, Pegg's and Pole's of Radbourne Alms-houses in 1669 and the Clergy Widows Alms-houses about 1770. At

the extreme west end of the town is St Oswald's church.

Ashbourne has associations with many well-known people. There is a bronze of Catherine Mumford who married William Booth founder of the Salvation Army. Dr Taylor the rector (who bred cattle, deer and bulldogs, as well as holding balls) was friends with Dr Johnson, James Boswell and Erasmus Darwin who also built a school in the town. Other visitors were Isaak Walton, George Elliott and Jean Jacques Rousseau. We look forward to a similar guided tour of St Oswald's church on another evening.

### **June 2015 Meeting: Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum, Breadmarket Street, Lichfield**

We enjoyed an information packed 90 minute guided tour of the birthplace following Johnson's life story. We learnt of his ancestry and how his father came to Lichfield as a bookbinder and seller, how the house came to be built and of the trials of Samuel's life due to Scrophula (a form of TB). Physically large and ungainly with nervous tics and extremely poor eyesight (more recently diagnosed as Tourette's Syndrome, unknown in the 18<sup>th</sup> century) he was admired as a writer, poet, essayist, critic, biographer, editor and lexicographer. His enduring fame arose when asked to compile an English dictionary which he estimated would take three years. Looking at the facsimile copy, it is amazing that it was completed in 9 years! Innovatively, he illustrated the meanings of words with literary quotations; Shakespeare crops up very frequently. Apart from seeing the museum through the life and times of Samuel Johnson, as family historians we found out about life in Lichfield in the 18<sup>th</sup> century – rather smelly from the tanners, butchers and sewerage that flowed into the basement when the town flooded and noisy from the marketplace - and the social and economic problems suffered by the family. Lack of money stopped him from completing his degree at Oxford. We were told about Samuel's life in London where he met most of the eminent men and women of the time and where he was

described as 'the most distinguished man of letters in English history'.

***Editor's note: The following item will be mentioned at our July meeting. If you need any further information on this Consultation Process please speak to Delia or email her after the meeting.***

### **VERY IMPORTANT, PLEASE, PLEASE RESPOND - Staffordshire Archives Consultation Process (Staffordshire History Centre Project)**

The Archive storage rooms are full and some archives are not stored properly. Fewer people are using the reading rooms as online services increase. Gateway to the Past was used by 132,230 visitors, 197,860 used staffordspasttrack and 29,921 explored Staffordshire Great War website. Parish Registers are available on FindmyPast and the Name indexes are also online. Staffordshire CC plans to sell the Friary Centre. Like all council services the archive service has had cuts to its budget and expects this to continue.

Original proposals centralised all archives at Stafford CRO, closing William Salt Library and Lichfield CRO. After a meeting of Archive Service, staff, volunteers, representatives and Friends of the WSL, the Archive Service other societies, and stakeholders in December 2014, the CC produced a 'Vision' Document for Staffordshire Archives. A public consultation took place in February but the Heritage Lottery Fund bid was rejected as it did not emphasise development, partnership and engagement sufficiently

In May Stakeholder workshops were held at Stafford and Lichfield to consider 9 new options and representatives from SCC Archive Services, various groups from Lichfield, Tamworth, Burntwood, Burton (BMSGH) and FOSSA attended.

William Salt Library Trust and Stoke on Trent City Council are developing their own 'Vision'. WSL is only considered in relation to it being an integral part of the Stafford CRO buildings. The 'Vision' was unanimously accepted, but the

future use of the various buildings was not considered.

Attendees were divided into groups to consider the 9 options, listing pros and cons and scoring the options out of 35. A general discussion ensued re offsite storage, reduced opening times and the timescale for digitisation. HLF will want an application that works for all service users.

**Criteria considered:**

- Is it deliverable with the Service budget (40% cut)?
- Is it likely to be funded by Staffordshire County Council?
- Is it attractive to external funders' HLF?
- Does it offer value for money?
- Is it sustainable in the long term?
- Does it deliver the vision for the service?

**The 9 Options under discussion**

1. SRO and WSL join and developed, 37 hrs opening with 20 hours research/records access. Lichfield and Shugborough used for storage. More on-line resources, emphasis on volunteering, education, publicity and branding. Would need HLF and CC funding.  
**(Option A in current consultation)**
2. New LRO, Close WSL  
No exhibition space and volunteering. Reduced opening hours, SRO 15hrs/week, LRO 6hrs/week
3. As option 1 but with offsite storage  
SCRO would be open for 21 hours/week  
**(Option B in current consultation)**
4. Storage at LRO but no public access.  
SCRO and WSL joined with access via SCRO  
Access point in Lichfield city.  
Will be expensive as no HLF funding would be applied for.
5. As options 1 and 3, Lichfield and Shugborough open but with reduced exhibition space and need offsite storage.  
Lichfield to have an Access Point

Expensive to run and would need National not regional HLF funding

6. WSL used for storage  
Replace LRO with Access Point.  
Reduced opening hours.
7. All sites retained, but Lichfield to have an Access Centre.  
Reduce staff and opening hours  
No HLF funding would be applied for.

**(Option C in current consultation)**

8. All documents put in storage (Cheshire Salt Mines.)  
Closure of LRO. Documents would have to be ordered at Stafford.  
No HLF bid
9. New purpose built History Centre with storage and access, exhibition space and other facilities.  
Would be too expensive even with the sale of SCRO, LCRO and WSL sites.

**(Option D)**

Would have to apply for a National, not Regional HLF grant.

**The four options on which SCC are asking for your feedback are:**

- Option A: Create the Staffordshire History Centre Project with external funding**  
**Option B: Staffordshire History Centre plus museum storage/exhibition & Lottery funding**  
**Option C: Staffordshire Archives and Heritage, retain all sites & achieve budget savings**  
**Option D: Staffordshire History Centre with HLF funding on a new site.**

**The consultation on these proposals runs between 19<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> August.** The proposal documents, online survey, and details of how people can participate are available on the Archive Service website:  
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/archives/ourvision](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/archives/ourvision).

The results of the consultation will be shared with stakeholders in September and discussed by the Joint Archives Committee in October to confirm the preferred option for the Heritage Lottery Bid. The bid will be submitted in December. **It is very important that as many people as possible complete the survey**

providing as wide a range of views to help shape and influence the new Heritage Lottery Bid. Please complete the survey and everyone you know who may be interested (e.g. Civic Societies, Local History groups, overseas relatives, students, family historians). However individual views and NOT group views are required. It will take much longer than 5 minutes to complete the survey. Look at the survey online, then consider your response before completing it. You may want to consider opening hours, accessibility (especially for option D) and ease of obtaining documents and what problems someone from some distance away would have.

Everyone who completes a consultation form will be entered into a free prize draw to win Findmypast vouchers and a family pass for the historic Shugborough Estate.

**Respond either online or fill in a paper survey available at Archive Service sites and Libraries. Please return completed paper surveys before 14 August 2015 either by hand to one of the main district libraries or by post to: Staffordshire Archives Consultation, Strategic Property Service, 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH.**

#### **Forthcoming Meetings/Lectures/Exhibitions of Interest:**

(a) **Chesterfield & District Family History Society & Craft Fair.** Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

(b) **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.

#### **News from the Lost Cousins website:**

- Over 42,000 additional Kent baptisms
- Over 30,000 additional Kent burials
- Baptisms from Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire
- Burials from Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire
- Over 625,000 records of convicts on prison hulks, 1824-1854 (HO 8)
- Prison calendars from Newgate in London, 1782-1853 (HO 77)
- Home Office criminal entry books, 1782-1871 (HO 13)
- Over 140,000 additional Metropolitan Police habitual criminal records (MEPO 6)

To read the newsletter, please access the Lost Cousins website: [www.lostcousins.com](http://www.lostcousins.com)

#### **Future Branch Meetings:**

**August 2015: No meeting.**

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2015: WW1 Film. Election of Branch Officers. Members Evening.**

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2015: Sudbury Museum of Childhood.** Speaker: Sue Fraser.

**18<sup>th</sup> November 2015: Wills, Administrations and Inventories.** Speaker: Mick Rawle.

**9<sup>th</sup> December 2015: Christmas Genealogical Social.**