

*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 hopes that you have all had a happy Christmas and a good New Year. Our Secretary, Delia, has worked hard to line up a very interesting programme for us for this coming year, so many thanks go to Delia. Details of the next three meetings are given at the end of this Newsletter but a programme of our Branch meetings for 2016 is available at our January meeting. There are several lectures, meetings and events arranged by other groups etc., so do check them out in this Newsletter in case there is something that might be of interest to you or might help you with your research.

Dates of Meetings, Courses and Events:

(a) The Friends of Letocetum: Lecture Series

24th February 2016 The Romans in Birmingham, Speaker: Alex Jones (AJ Archaeology).

23rd March 2016 Wroxeter: endings and beginnings by Roger White (University of Birmingham).

13th April 2016 Roman Pottery by Jane Evans (Worcestershire CC, Archives and Archaeology Service).

If you would like to book a ticket (£3) or require further information please phone 01543 418464.

(b) Hilton and Marston Local History Group Programme 2016 Spring meetings

All meetings start at 7.30 p.m. at the Methodist chapel, Main Street, Hilton.

4th February 2016 First 100 years Trent Motor Traction by Alan Hiley

10th March 2016 AGM

7th April 2016 History of Bamfords by Dave Marriott

(c) Etwall and Burnaston Local History Group Programme 2016 Spring Meetings

All meetings start at 7.30 pm at the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom, Egginton Road, Etwall.

16th February 2016 Meet the Pagets by Richard Stone

15th March 2016 England's First Astronomer Royal by Mike Lancaster

19th April 2016 Votes For Women by Dr John Sutton

(d) Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society

Meetings start at 8.00 pm at the Guild Hall, Bore Street, Lichfield (no meetings in January)

19th February 2016 The Tipping Street Stafford Investigations by Jonathan Goodwin

4th March 2016 Faith and Society in Mediaeval by Dr John Hunt

18th March 2016 The Knight of St Bees by Deidre O'Sullivan

1st April 2016 Lichfield Waterworks and cholera

in the Black Country by David Moore

(e) Mid Trent Historical Association Day School at Tutbury Castle:

Wednesday 20th April 2016
The Great Fire of London and Other Urban Infernos. Tutors Richard Stone and Dr Trevor James.

Members £12.50, non-members £16.00.

Contact Mick and Sylvia Clifford 01283 536250.

(f) Archaeology West Midlands Day School:

Church Room, Carrs Lane Centre, Birmingham B4 7SX

The latest archaeological discoveries in the West Midlands, Saturday 5th March. Members £15.00, Non-members £20.00. See

www.archaeologyuk.org/cbawm/meetings.php

(g) Derbyshire Family History Festival

at Derby Central Library, the Wardwick.

Wednesday 8th June 2016 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Derby Family History Society

Help Requests to the Group:

(a) Message from BMSGH to Stoke and Burton Branches: rather a long shot but maybe!

This is a bit of a stab in the dark but I have quite a lot of reference material that my father gathered while researching our Family history. He passed away a number of years ago and all the tree and research material came to me his son.

I haven't got the space to store it all now but feel it may be of interest to someone else and wondered if you had any ideas?

I'm up in Wigan but lived in Chorley. We are related to the Mayer potters and I think have some connection with Wedgwood. I'm thinking my father William Mayer may have been a member. If you were interested in this material I would be happy to drive down when I had got it all together.

Cheers Chris Mayer

<mailto:vidprint@gmail.com>

(b) Information request from Jean Snow

[<t2trs@btinternet.com>](mailto:t2trs@btinternet.com)

Subject: Research regarding Clarence Street

In connection with my family history research regarding my Grandfather William Wilkins born May 1884 Clarence Street, Burton on Trent I recently visited the area and was intrigued to see the octagonal building in a very dilapidated state opposite 12, Clarence Street where he was born. I am trying to build a picture of what life would have been like for him living here and wondered what the building had once been and what it might have looked like. I believe it was connected with the brewing industry. Please can you tell me anything more about it and possibly the surrounding area? I also visited roads with a connection to my family. Many of the roads have been swallowed up with new roads. The roads of interest to me are:-

Clarence Street	Back Lane
Duke Street	Moore Street
Russell street	Alfred Street
Dale street	Canal Street

I found a shop in Uxbridge Street where one of my relations had lived at 43 and seeing this was quite a large site wondered if it might have been two buildings in the past because it seemed too large for my family. Are there any pictures I might be able to look at to what the various roads might have looked like in the late 1800s and early 1900s? My great grandfather John Wilkins born at 9 Russell Street Burton on Trent was apprenticed as a wheelwright. I know that apprenticeship records are hard to find but is there any possibility I might be able to find this locally? Sorry to have so many questions but since I live in Poole I thought it worth a try in asking your help/advice.

(c) Message from Staffs Heritage Group

In 2007 it was feared that Staffordshire and West Midlands Police would be amalgamated. Berkswich History Society re-published a facsimile edition "Police Experiences" written in 1884 by Thomas Woollaston, an early Police Officer in Stafford in 1840, then moving to Stone and Leek ending his career in West Bromwich. The book looks boring, but it is full of fantastic stories about policing up to 1884

with tales of murder, bigamy, cutting hair off horses, passing forged banknotes etc. A couple of boxes of these books have been discovered which we are anxious to get rid of. Originally priced at £10, but now £3 each if collected or £5 if posted. They would make an excellent stocking filler for anyone interested in local history or the history of the Police Force. Contact either Beryl Holt, 53 Old Croft Road, Walton on the Hill, 01785 665834 or Bob Morton, Eastfield, Kitlings Lane, Walton on the Hill, Stafford, 01785 664613

Announcement from the Lichfield Mercury of September 17th 2015.

TAYLER Maurice Late of Lichfield passed away 8th September 2015 aged 87 years. The funeral Service will take place at Lichfield Cathedral at 2.00pm Thursday 24th September followed by Cremation at Fradley Crematorium. Donations for St Giles Hospice may be forwarded to funeral Directors John Short & Son, 3 High Street, Chasetown, Burntwood, WS7 3XE.

We were not made aware of this until the October meeting and there was a delay whilst Delia found out details. She sent our condolences to the family via the funeral directors but she has had no reply. Maurice joined the Branch in November 1994 and was Chairman from 2000 to 2005.

AGM 16th September 2015 at Stretton Priory Centre Secretary's Report Summary.

During the last 12 months we have had a very varied programme. Family history research techniques must be a priority and we had the usual detective story from Simon Pawley researching his Baltimore Merchant ancestry; Mike Sharpe had tips about writing our family histories; members' evenings covered visiting TNA, free websites and a very productive Question and Answer evening with lots of suggestions from the floor. Talks on Ashbourne, the development of the modern circus and the daily life of an 18th century gentleman farmer's wife gave insights into our ancestors'. Unfortunately, the Christmas Quiz showed up our poor knowledge of WWI geography!!

Enquiries to the web site (also put in the Newsletter and passed on at meetings) are increasing and several members have given help. Do you look at Burton and BMSGH websites and keep your members' interests up to date? BMSGH membership is considerably up from last year following WDYTIA. We had stalls anywhere this year but we attended Tamworth Family History Fair on behalf of BMSGH. Please do remember that we are all here to help each other. Family history is an interest that has so many avenues to explore often leading to new friendships and family bonds. It would not be so much fun if there was no one with whom to share our discoveries and pleasure in helping someone else.

November 2015 Meeting Report Summary: Wills, Administrations and Inventories in Leicestershire or Where Did All the Money Go? Speaker Mick Rawle

If anyone wants to find Mick Rawle, try the Archives! He has checked 77,766 documents, 75,000 names from 1495 to 1649 from Leicestershire Ecclesiastical, Peculiar and Arch-deaconry courts.

Pre 1858 Wills were proved in ecclesiastical courts, Peculiars or Manor courts. If land was in two dioceses they would be proved at either Canterbury or York. After 1858 Wills were proved at the Principle Probate Registry. If someone died intestate an Administration document would be agreed by the court. In Leicestershire before 1711, a Will would be accompanied by an Inventory, a list with a valuation of all the deceased person's moveable property.

Mick demonstrated the vagaries of fortune by following Francis Rawle's family Wills from Boscastle where his grandson was a shopkeeper, his gt. Grandson Richard and gt. gt. grandson William lawyers in Liskeard. William's granddaughter left a notebook where she showed that she and her sisters were left considerable sums of money but the second wife nothing. A descendent went bankrupt, emigrated to Australia returned to England where he founded the Pharmaceutical Society

of Great Britain. His son emigrated in 1863, never married and left his estate to his sisters. Mick was descended from William's second wife who's family inherited nothing of the family fortunes, moved around Lancashire and Lincolnshire, his grandfather losing his job because his wife was a suffragette. Mick knows where all the money didn't go, but why? Mick has produced a CD indexing Leicestershire Wills up to 1649. Details are available from mick.rawle@ntlworld.com.

The Christmas Social 2015 Report Summary: with problems to tax our grey matter and plenty of delicious food provided by members. We had an Olde Shopping List which had to total £33 9s 9½d ; a quiz of thirty questions all to do with 30 as 2015 was our thirtieth anniversary and a collection of bagged objects to identify.

Findmypast website

Our member, Roy, has sent the information in to your Editor that he thought would be of interest if Branch members have ancestors in Kent. If you have Kent baptisms, there are over 16,000 new additions on the above website, for Kent marriages there are over 4,000 new additions and over 11,000 new additions for Kent burials. *(Editor's note: I wonder if my ancestor, for whom I have been trying to find his*

baptism in East Sussex for 35 years, strayed over the borders into Kent?????)

Future Branch Meetings:

17th February 2016 : What Did Napoleon ever do for my Family!? **Speaker: Mike Boulby**
Have you wondered if a missing ancestor was serving in the Army or Navy during the 100 years of wars with the French? Mike will tell us what he found out about 40 years of an ancestor's life.

16th March 2016: Have you a problem that needs solving? **Speaker: Members' Evening**
Last year, the problem solving evening produced several interesting questions and answers about your research, some more difficult and long-standing than others. This is an opportunity for everyone to help and to learn from each other. Please let Delia know your question well beforehand and if you manage to knock down a brick wall do let your Editor know for the next Newsletter.

20th April 2016: The Story of an Australian Homestead. **Speaker: Delia.**
Soon after becoming a lecturer in history at Melbourne University, Delia's uncle was given the correspondence between a 19th century settler in Australia and his English family from which a biography was written about the life and trials of the settlers.