

*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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April 2016
Number 65

Editor's Comments

We've had some rather cold and wet weather recently for Spring, haven't we, but let's hope that it will soon improve to warmer, drier days so that we can get out and about in researching our family histories. If you do find something about your family (or even if you don't but you've tried!) please let your Editor know for a future edition of the Newsletter. Please see the information on the Staffordshire History Day below which looks really interesting and also why not try the website addresses given for the Online Parish Clerks. You might find something of interest for your research. Also, please don't forget that there is another walk around Burton-on-Trent on 15th June led by one of our previous speakers, Richard Stone. (Details in the Future Branch Meetings Section at the end of this Newsletter.)

Staffordshire History Day, 2016

New developments in Staffordshire History - a collaboration between Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service, Keele University and the Centre for West Midlands History at the University of Birmingham.

Keynote speakers:

Dr Nigel Tringham (Keele University): "Histories of Staffordshire".

Dr Tony Phillips (Keele University):
"Staffordshire and its Maps".

Further speakers:

Andrew Homer (Black Country Living Museum):

"Brewing in Nineteenth Century Staffordshire"

Martin Perkins (Birmingham City University):

"Sir Samuel Hellier's Musical People"

Dr Alannah Tomkins (Keele University): 'Paupers in Staffordshire' Project.

Also updates on Archaeology, Archives and Heritage, Local History at Birmingham University and the Victoria County History.

- **Venue:** Riverway Centre, Riverway, Stafford, ST16 3TH
- **Date:** Saturday 7 May 2016, 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
- **Admission:** Tickets £19.00, from Staffordshire Record Office. Limited places available, advance bookings only. Please either:
 - telephone 01785-278379 to reserve your ticket, then make payment online, or
 - download and complete the booking form, and send in by post.

- **Event code for online payments:** SHD16
- **Lunch and Refreshments:** included in ticket price
- **Parking:** free, on-site

Primitive Methodism

If you have a family-related interest in **Primitive Methodism** the Englesea Brook Chapel & Museum on the Staffordshire/Cheshire border could be worth a visit. The Chapel & Museum lies not far from Junction 16 of the M6. It is open from 10am to 5pm on Thursday to Saturday and from 2pm until 5pm on Sundays between April and October. There is a tea room and shop. Admission is free but they welcome donations. More information is available at www.engleseabrook-museum.org.uk

Online Parish Clerks

Have you tried out Online Parish Clerks material online? The OPC projects provide free transcriptions of parish records for a number of English counties including Sussex, Cornwall, Dorset, Kent, Wiltshire and Lancashire. The Chairman has recently made good use of the Lancashire OPC pages to search out some ancestors from near Wigan.

Website links:

<http://www.sussex-opc.org/>
<http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/home/>
<http://www.opcdorset.org/>
<http://www.kent-opc.org/>
<http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/>
<http://www.wiltshire-opc.org.uk/>

Online courses in Family History

The University of Dundee's Centre for Archive and information Studies (CAIS) is offering taster courses to help Discover and Explore Family History. These two courses each cost £79. More information can be found at <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/cais/programmes/familylocalhistory/tastercoursesinfamilyandlocalhistory/>

Report Summary: October 21st 2015 Meeting: Sudbury Hall Museum of Childhood, Then and Now. Talk by Sue Fraser.

The museum was established by Derbyshire County Council and then acquired by the National Trust. It was in the old squash court which was noisy, drab and had problems with leaks and lighting; the upstairs was inaccessible and moving round the displays was difficult. It needed modernising, making more child friendly, bright and inviting. Many objects were given to other specialist museums and collections but there are still 2000 objects on display in the new museum and a further 20,000 in store. All the items were catalogued, weighed and photographed (there are photos of everything on the National Trust database on the website) and conservators washed, cleaned, extracted mould and packed all the objects. Cases and mounts were designed to display the objects chosen. Areas of the museum are themed: outside activities, children at work and play, a school gallery and a coal mine. The chimney is still there to climb and children can play with toys and games. There are unusual toys from the Betty Cadbury collection and a film of the clockwork toys working. The Museum has numerous large toys (dolls' houses, rocking horses, mobile toys and prams); far too many to display many at a time. These will be used for themed displays on view around the Hall and in the Long Gallery. The museum is well worth a visit even without accompanying children and will bring back many childhood memories.

Report Summary: 20th January 2016 Meeting: Using newspapers on-line.

A very good attendance for such a freezing night beset with traffic problems and we were delighted to see our Chairman back, looking well and leading the members' evening. Janet started off by summarising newspaper history, and problems of storing and indexing them. Papers date from the 17th century but their fragility and bulk make storage difficult. William Salt Library has films of the Staffordshire Advertiser and Lichfield Library has the Lichfield

Mercury. The British Library at Colindale in North London has copies of most papers available to peruse. The Magic Attic at Swadlincote has collections of Burton, Derbyshire and Leicestershire papers. Searching has been made easier by digitisation and digital searching.

Delia looked at searching on line by using a recent query about Edwin Brown, a 19th century banker of Burton on Trent. Searching for Mr Brown and Mr E Brown is too productive but the Bank House produced several results with links to the Midland Scientific Association and using it as the search term produced a wealth of information about the family. Three on-line newspaper searches using the British Newspaper Archive, FindMyPast and Derbyshire County Council Library Service on-line Infotrac were compared for ease of searching, search results and ease of finding the results.

On all three sites you can check which newspapers are available and for which dates. However, some dates may be missing or the page or print may be damaged and a reference will not be produced. For Delia's search (1840-1912) BNA and FMP had the best coverage. DCC only gave the results for the Derby Mercury. Search terms had to be chosen carefully and the BNA advanced search is the trickiest to use. BNA and FMP results should be very similar (they are owned by the same company) but they sometimes show up very different transcriptions, the heading may not bear any correlation to your search and the article may not be on that page at all! Try the next page if it can't be found. FMP does not highlight, BNA highlights search words and Infotrac highlights and shows the article rather than a whole page. Try copying or snipping the section you want rather than downloading the whole page. Remember to reference the date, page and column when saving. Which website won by finding the most references? 24 hits were found; FMP found 23, BNA found 23 and Infotrac 22. Infotrac found one missed by the other two.

Janet B told us about subscriptions for BNA and FMP and suggested looking out for special

offers for the latter or taking out a month's subscription as long as you remember to cancel it. She then told us about the newspapers stored at the Magic Attic and the fun to be had by being able to search through real newspapers. The downside is that you are often diverted from an original quest!! She gave examples of lists of names and descriptions of absconded prisoners, husbands and employees, court cases and crime (from the Police gazette) and commented on how reports were treated as quite unimportant compared to today where such an event would be FrontPage news. An ancestor ratcatcher was reported as having braved the dangers of a sewer as he rescued a sheep that had become stuck as though it was a normal occurrence.

Janet and Mike Payne told us of some of the information they had found about their families from newspapers: inquests, details of Wills and obituaries all providing far more information than a death certificate and demonstrating how in one generation family fortunes can diverge widely.

Newspapers, as today, provide a view of the social, economic and political environment of the time that your ancestors lived, through advertisements, property sales, legal disputes, criminal court cases, inquests and local accounts of national events.

Report Summary: February 17th Meeting: what did Napoleon ever do for me? Talk by Mike Boulby

Mike Boulby told us of researching his ancestor James Hingston Tuckey (1776-1816), breaking down brick walls, a light bulb moment and holidays to investigate. James was born in Cork in 1776 but there was no birth for his son Thomas. Research into James' life eventually solved the problem. Aged 15 James joined the Merchant Navy and subsequently the Royal Navy, joining the East Indies Fleet on HMS Suffolk. By the age of 25 he was promoted to Lieutenant, briefly served on HMS Calcutta which was attacked by the French and taken for their fleet, then on a convict ship to Australia. He surveyed and mapped Port Philip Bay but did

not find the River Yarra (which is dried up in the summer) or a potential water supply so a convict settlement was set up at Hobart, Tasmania. After returning to England he went to St Helena escorting ships from the West Indies but was taken by the French and all prisoners were taken to Verdun where the officers lived freely in the town. James was not wealthy enough to arrange a prisoner swap and remained in France for nine years, married Margaret Stewart another prisoner and had two sons, Thomas (whom Mike had been looking for) and Robert. Margaret went back to England where their third son Davis was born but was not allowed to return to France. Verdun Register Office sent Mike copies of marriage and birth certificates and informed him of an outstanding debt incurred by James for 6m Francs! Professor Peter Clark, an expert in Napoleonic Prisoners was able to add detail to James' life in Verdun. Following Napoleon's defeat, James with Thomas and Robert (who died during the journey) made his way to England where he and Margaret had twins and James was promoted to Commander. He sailed on HMS Congo (a steam driven warship) to map the River Congo and aged 39 died of exhaustion aboard HMS Dorothy, the Congo's supply ship. Thomas and Davis both became sailors but Thomas Tuckey who's missing birth details started the investigation never settled and died by 1861. He married twice and his children's births are recorded in Ramsgate.

Report Summary: 16th March Meeting: Have You a Problem that needs solving?

We didn't have as many problems as last year although the few that came up were tricky. However, we did discuss some other general problems. Has everyone in the group knocked down all their brick walls?

Mary Ann Martin was baptised at Rochester in 1826, the daughter of William and Mary Ann Martin. Mary Ann appears to have married James Brown/Boon/Brock/Brook and had a child Frances or Fanny Boon in about 1863. In 1851 Mary Ann and James are in Gravesend with three children; in 1871 Fanny Brow with

Edward Bron, brother are in Gravesend. Did May Ann and James ever marry? Maybe they married in Ireland? There is a death for James Boon and a marriage in 1861 of Mary Ann to a Mr Hedgecock. Apart from sending for a load of certificates or waiting until more records came on line this confusion of names obviously needed a lot of very thorough searching. John Brassington son of Joseph and Ellen Brassington, all shown born Staffordshire in 1841, living in Uttoxeter. In 1851 (and subsequent censuses John is shown born in Southwell, Notts but occasionally Staffs!) Joseph is always some sort of labourer so is it likely he was in Nottinghamshire in 1822 for John's birth? It is possible that Joseph moved to Notts for a while then back to Uttoxeter. John married Charlotte Danks in 1846 and is recorded in Uttoxeter for every Census except 1851 when they are in Lichfield with two children. We did not have this to research beforehand but subsequent research shows that there is a marriage for Joseph Brassington and Ellen Chinley in Southwell, Notts in 1820 but there are no baptisms recorded for either in 1792 or 1798 in Notts. There is a baptism for John, son of Joseph and Ellen in Southwell in 1822 and also of Elizabeth in 1824 daughter of Joseph and Ellen Brassington in Nottingham. In 1851, Elizabeth, living in Uttoxeter, gives her place of birth as Nottingham (city). There is no baptism for Ellen Chinley about 1802 in Staffordshire, but a search for all baptisms of an Ellen in Uttoxeter gives an Ellen Chinery, daughter of John and Ann Chinery in November 1802. We may never know if Joseph followed Ellen to Nottingham or vice versa, but at least we know that Joseph and Ellen were both born in Uttoxeter, married in Southwell, and then returned to Uttoxeter. In 1861, John and Charlotte's daughter Ellen is shown born at Streetly. In 1851, John was a Tollkeeper at Turnpike House, Burton Road, Lichfield. In 1881, John and Charlotte, aged 59 and 57 have a daughter Agnes aged 2. This must be a granddaughter unless John has had an affair!! She is not with them in 1891.

Margaret emailed for advice about tracing possible Cornish ancestry of her Bray family who lived in Oxfordshire (Banbury and Barford St Michael mainly, although there were Bray connections in Adderbury and Deddington too) between 1802 and 1911. Several suggestions were made. Many Cornish parish registers are on line now. Using 1881 mapping and the IGI could pinpoint possible parishes and areas that could be researched. Does the Bray family occur in other places nearer to Oxfordshire? Following the roads out of Banbury could help. FamilySearch has now changed the way they display baptism and marriage results to something like the old IGI search. It is definitely easier to use.

There has been very little further research on requests. The octagonal building in Clarence Street was identified as (Everards?) cooperage for Jean Snow. Delia is amassing a lot of information about the Brown family (bankers, brewers, naturalists, geologists and archaeologists amongst other things) to be written up sometime in the future.

We had a discussion about using the 1939 index on line. Delia tried to find the Brettel family and got two results for the same person which was a bit odd. Apologies for some confusion about her Mum. She isn't 100 yet but is not with her parents and two brothers. Delia wondered if she could find her in Sheffield as she had told her that she lived above the Midland railway station, but she couldn't find an address for it. Anyway she probably wasn't the only employee there who would still not be 100. She had no idea that the family had lived in Mill Lane, Barton under Needwood and Delia had already asked her when she returned to Barton from Sheffield. So Delia asked her where she was when war was declared. The answer was Sheffield. Simple question and a simple answer! We also discussed the cost of Stapenhill Cemetery Lookups. Is this just for finding a grave number or for finding the graves on the map?

Who Do You Think You Are? 2016

Delia volunteered to help at WDYTYA on Friday and Saturday. BMSGH didn't think that Thursday and Friday were as busy as 2015, but certainly Saturday was busier. The Chairman and Delia were both there on Saturday and they had a lot of questions about East Staffs and tried to help with North Staffs requests. There was a lot of talking!! We were able to tell people which Staffs records are on line and about records being held at Stoke and Newcastle as well as Stafford and Lichfield and promoted our Branch website. It seems that everyone was shattered by the end of Saturday, especially volunteers who had been there for all three days. Delia managed to get to the talk about Welsh records on-line and also speak to the Glamorgan FHS who found a marriage for me that is not on-line.

Email from Steve Freeman with WDYTYA results.

"Hi everyone, sorry, I forgot to send out the total sales and profit for the WDYTYA event, it's my age I think, brain cells are not working. Please see, in summary:

Sales.....£4080

Profit.....£1765

Items sold...661

My Family History, Postcard Books, Cassini and Alan Godfrey maps (I bought 50 from Alan Godfrey while we were there) were our biggest sellers, but we cleared a load of other stuff as well.

Tables cost us £864, we had 4 this year (3 last year). Phil also sold tickets and workshops and will publish his sales/profit separately, but we have made a healthy profit. I thought footfall was down on Thursday/Friday, and way up on Saturday, might have been because they advertised 1/2 price tickets on BBC Radio WM for Saturday. A very big thank you to everyone, you were excellent, as far as I know this is the best event we have ever had and beat last year by a long way.

WDYTYA is at the NEC again next year, 6-8th April, if you want to make a note in your diaries, we have booked 4 tables again and I

hope you will be able to help again. Well done again. Regards, Steve”

Our member Roy has sent in the following information which is on the Lost Cousins website:

Ancestry sold - yet again!

Ireland 1916: Easter Rising records go online
FREE UNTIL 27th APRIL

A brief history of the struggle for independence

Irish Quaker records at Findmypast

Getting the most out of ScotlandsPeople - free
Edinburgh talks

FFHS renews partnership with Findmypast

GENUKI plans update

Free online genealogy course at FutureLearn

Royal Navy pension records online

Findmypast.co.uk 20% saving

The other William Morris

Have you got a light Mac?

Lambeth Archives unexpectedly closed

Adoption and the challenges it presents

Can you get a DNA test for £5?

Taking a DNA test won't affect the cost of
insurance - here's why

Humans and Neanderthals - the Y and the
wherefore

In England you can call yourself anything you
want - or can you?

Peter's Tips

To access the Newsletter with these items
please visit:

<http://lostcousins.com/newsletters2/midapr16news.htm>

Roy has also sent details of the following email that he has received from BMSGH North Staffs:

“Hi All - I'm writing to advise that there has
been a change to the

On-line Staffordshire Burial Index. For those
cemeteries looked after by the City of Stoke on
Trent we have now uploaded the latest colour
maps as supplied by Carmountside. If you

haven't seen the latest colour maps they can be
viewed on the front page of the index which can
be found here :-

<http://www.bmsggh.org/burialsearch/>

We hope you find them useful. If we manage to
acquire maps of other cemeteries we will of
course add them. Regards .Steve Stutcinkas,
Secretary, BMSGH North Staffs.

Future Branch Meetings:

May 18th 2016: Interesting Facts about Your Family: Largest, oldest, most?. Members' Evening.

Not quite childhood boasting nor a
competition! However, you must have some
odd or intriguing family information to tell us
about.

June 15th: Another Walk Around Burton-on-Trent. Speaker - Richard Stone.

This time, around the south of the town; the
Abbey site, New Street, Lichfield or Half Street
and the Ferry Bridge area. Even Burtonians
learnt a lot last time. Meet outside Burton
Library at 7.30 pm and hope for a dry evening.

July 20th: Seeing our Ancestors' Families as They Saw Them. Speaker - Simon Pawley.

An interesting aspect of family history. Is this
just reading between the lines or has Simon
collected evidence of a family telling each other
what they thought!

August: No meeting.

September 21st: Problems with Immigrants and Emigrants. Members' Evening.

Have you had problems finding your overseas
ancestors? Or maybe you have had a lot of
experience that you can share with other
members. Please let us know before the
summer so we can have a productive, help each
other meeting.

Please note that all meetings, including
Members' Evenings, are open to visitors.