

*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

As I am writing this we are experiencing what is most likely going to be the hottest day of the year but hopefully we shall have some future sunny days during our August break where you are able to be out and about researching your family history. Our member, Julia, did just that in June this year. Please read her interesting account on page 6. Thank you Julia, for your contribution. Please also see the article which our member, Pat, has submitted about a BBC 1 programme regarding WW1 on page 4. If other members find out facts about their family history please can you let the Editor know for inclusion in future Newsletters? It is these personal accounts that make the Newsletter so interesting, together with the notices and articles etc. Your Editor thanks those members who have sent in contributions for this Newsletter, and wishes you all a happy summer break. (*Please note* the request from our Secretary, Delia, regarding our next meeting on 21st September 2016. You will find this on page 6 of this Newsletter.)

Military tribunals

A touring exhibition featuring the Staffordshire 1916-1918 Appeals based on the mid-Staffordshire Military Tribunal records is making

its way around the county in the coming months. Dates and locations are:

Stafford 27 June-28 July

Chasewater Innovation Centre, Brownhills 30 July-10 Sept

Perton Library 12-30 Sept

Central Library, Hanley 5-20 Oct

Brampton Museum, Newcastle under Lyme 22 Oct -3 Dec

Codsall Library 5-30 Dec

For more information go to

<https://staffsappeals1918.wordpress.com>

Uttoxeter

Work continues at Staffordshire Record Office on processing the Overseers of the Poor vouchers for Uttoxeter parish to glean insights into how the old Poor Law (pre-1834) operated in practice. Some interesting characters have emerged. Interim findings are being posted on the Staffordshire Poor Law Biographies blog at <https://staffspoorlawbiography.wordpress.com>

Who Do You Think You Are

A new series of Who Do You Think You Are (the 13th) is due to be broadcast on BBC One later in 2016. Ten programmes are planned featuring Danny Dyer, Amanda Holden, Sophie Raworth, Sir Ian McKellen, Ricky Tomlinson. Warwick

Davis, Greg Davies, Sunetra Sarker, Cheryl and Liz Bonnin.

Find My Past

The Find My Past blog (<https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/>) has not resisted the temptation to delve into the family history of both David Cameron and Theresa May and highlight some of the contrasts.

Report Summary: April 20th Meeting: The Story of an Australian Homestead. Talk by Delia.

Brothers George and Alfred Joyce, emigrated to Melbourne, Australia in the early 1840s. Alfred used letters and his diaries to write his Reminiscences fifty years later. They sailed separately on their father's trading ship the 'London' with loans to start their new lives. Alfred recorded the joys and trials of the four month journey, live sheep and poultry, killed for fresh meat, salted pork and fish, cheese, biscuits, porter, freshly baked bread and a daily fresh water allowance of one gallon per person per day. They read, played games and enjoyed musical evenings but there were often quarrels between passengers. On 31st December 1843 the ship docked and Alfred travelled to Melbourne to find George. The town amazed him, a jumble of old and new buildings, cattle yards, taverns, churches and theatres all side by side and only cart tracks. George arrived and told Alfred of money problems from a financial crash with a fall in sheep, land and other commodity values. Alfred thought of immediately returning home but the 'London' would not sail for several months. Alfred paid off George's debts and they worked for three months on a sheep station whilst they purchased a sheep run. In April 1844 they drove George's 1500 sheep to their 10,000 acre Homestead purchased for £50. Alfred recounted the toil, hazards and loneliness of life in the Bush with the annual cycle of lambing, hurdle making, shearing, baling wool and driving hundreds of sheep to Melbourne often with Aboriginal help. In 1846 flood waters were up to their waists in winter and a temperature

of 120°F in summer caused bushfires ruining the pasture. Life and prosperity gradually improved; a second 37,000 acre station was bought for £2,000, both married and new homesteads were built. Unfortunately this coincided with the Gold Rush, farm labour was scarce and expensive, wool prices fell and commodity prices increased. In 1852 Alfred wrote that it had been the worst year ever. To survive he had to run cattle, make and sell butter, sell milk, eggs, vegetables and mutton as well as running sheep. He opened a butchery and pastured horses for the miners. Optimistically, he wrote that they had celebrated an old fashioned Christmas with good food, wine and games! When the Australian government sold off squatters' runs both George and Alfred bought land and rented more. George quickly became bankrupt and Alfred with a family of twelve children and a big house had to sell up to pay off his debts. However, Joyce's Creek and Joyce Street in Carrisbrook have immortalised the family name and in 1942, Alfred's last wish, the publication of his Reminiscences was finally achieved. His papers are held in Melbourne University Archives.

Report Summary: May 18th Meeting: Interesting Facts about Your Family. Members' Evening

Will we get enough members to tell us about their families is always the question, but we needn't have worried! We started with a recital of the '**Ballad of Enoch Stone**' and then learnt the facts. In 1856 disabled Enoch was found kicked to death in a ditch on the outskirts of Derby. There was an inquest and a reward of £120 was offered for information but nothing came to light. Sometime later, a roadside stone was placed anonymously by the ditch in his memory and the Ballad was written. A nearby housing estate was named after him so he will never be forgotten. R I P Enoch Stone.

In 1953, Alf Carpenter made a sea rescue at Blackpool but left the scene without telling anyone his name although the rescue was

noted by the Royal Humane Society. Fifty years later the event was recalled in the local press resulting in the rescuer finally being identified.

In 1859 Joseph Hickson, captain sailed from Wisbech to Newcastle with a full load of wheat. A gale was forecast and the ship's log recorded over thirty hours of terror. A sail was lost and they could not get into Hartlepool; there was water in the hatchway, parts of the ship and rigging were lost, the cargo shifted and the ship was listing. They could not get to any harbour. The men were on deck for thirty hours until it was towed into Hartlepool, the rope breaking three times. Joseph and his son never sailed again and went to live in Birmingham. was opened next to it. Several similar stores near to garages were built and were eventually sub-let as Spar shops.

Robert Scattergood, born 1750 was the eldest of four sons whose father died when he was seven. In 1780 he killed two geese and with five children and a pregnant wife and a widowed mother there were

The Griffin family built a garage for their son Jack in Chesterfield and a log-in shop (convenience store)

grounds for clemency. However, in 1787 he was transported with 195 male convicts but Robert and fifteen other convicts died of a fever on board ship. Other convicts mutinied because of the conditions.

John Middleton born in 1814 was a Warwickshire gardener with eight children. The report of his death says he was a former instructor at the workhouse who when he retired asked for a pension of 10/- a week a not inconsiderable sum in about 1900. If he had lived until 1909 the top rate State pension was only 5/- per week.

Sutton family fecundity. Three branches of the Sutton family seem to have had a great many children in a relatively short period of time and nearly all baptised in Rolleston! **Joseph Cotton and Martha Sutton** had 14 children in 17 years (possibly including two sets of twins) between 1759 and 1776. **John Sutton and Bridget**

Hallam had 16 children in 24 years between 1816 and 1840. **James Sutton and Hannah**

Wright had 12 children in 21 years between 1840 and 1861.

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

Despite the weather, ten brave members armed with umbrellas met up for a guided walk around the southern side of Burton. Richard tested how much we remembered of his previous talk as we covered some of the same ground. We walked across St Modwen's churchyard where gravestones have been removed to a pathway around part of the perimeter, looked at the site of the original mediaeval Grammar School then into the market Place looking at buildings of historical and architectural interest, including the Inn where there was supposed to have been a tunnel between the Abbey and Sinai and the Market Hall. The area where the College now stands was originally called Soho – an area where hare coursing took place. We looked at the very few Abbey remains and although overgrown, the quay where boats moored near to the Abbey and now non-existent Bond End Canal. Richard pointed out some of the more impressive business premises in Lichfield Street, Burton Extra and Bond End, the ground floor for business, the first floor for the family and the second floor (with smaller windows) for servants and apprentices. He pointed out the 19th century brickwork design used extensively in the town which has been re-introduced in modern buildings (e.g. the Octagon Centre, ASDA and Halfords). As we returned along New Street we noticed the contrast between the old, steep-roofed 18th-19th, originally thatched dwellings, the splendid Old fire Station and Post Office buildings (circa 1900) and the hideous Cooper's Square/Tax and Employment Office (circa 1960). We looked up as we walked along High Street to admire the banks, business premises, breweries and Town Houses signifying the wealth of the town in the 19th century. Then the rain came down!

Summary of message from the NMA at Alrewas.

“Hello my name is Juliet Davies. I have recently started working at the National Memorial Arboretum in the role of Inclusion Officer. I am writing to request the help of your group with a new WW1 National Archive and to tell you of some FREE events that may be of interest.

World War one family stories: Can your group help us?

The Arboretum is creating a National Archive of World War I family stories and we want you to share *your* stories with us. We are keen to create a rich tapestry of individual anecdotes and experiences so whether it's your grandparents, great grandparents or just someone you know who has an interesting past, make their legacy part of this exciting online resource. These stories could also be used next year in an artist's exhibition. You can email their story and jpeg image directly to me at jdavies@thenma.org.uk

Artist in Residence – Somme 100 En Masse

To commemorate those who lost their lives and to create scale to demonstrate the loss endured, we will also be hosting an artist in residence project throughout the commemorative period. Our artists will be working with the public, schools, groups as well as ViPs to create a mass art piece which, when completed, will include 19,240 individual pieces representing those who lost their lives on the first day alone. I do hope that you will be able to participate.

The Arboretum will be opening its new Remembrance Centre in the autumn. As well as including new visitor facilities, the space will also include a new interactive exhibition about Remembrance.”

Exploring Cannock Chase's WW1 History:

Some of the events have already finished, but the following may be of interest.

Cannock chase - Life on Camp. Tuesday 16th August, 4 – 6 pm.

The Great War Hut, Cannock chase Visitor Centre, Marquis Drive, Staffs, WS12 4PW

Cannock Chase – After the Soldiers had gone. Wednesday 24th August, 7 – 9 pm.

Craft Workshop, Museum of Cannock Chase, Valley Road, Hednesford, WS12 1TD

Cannock Chase Camps History Workshop.

Conducting your own research
Staffordshire Record Office, Eastgate Street, Stafford, ST16 2 LZ.

Rolleston History Group

Where We Live (Mapping the Local Area)

An exhibition of Staffordshire maps from the last 350 years

St Mary's Church, Rolleston, Fri 23rd – Mon 26th September

12.00 noon – 5.00 pm daily plus guided village tours.

Email message from Pat H, Burton member, on 16.05.2016

“I don't know if you saw the broadcast of The One Show on BBC1 last Thursday but there was a feature about a **discovery of photographic plates from 1917 to early 1918 in France** (I don't remember the name of the town). The photographs are of servicemen from Australia and the UK. Around 56 men from the 1500 photographs have been identified so far. The One Show are posting the pictures on Facebook to try to ask the public to look at them and identify these men. One of the identified people was a padre who was the Great-Uncle of Jilly Cooper, the novelist. The historians had identified him through his cap badges and other uniform insignia and, of course, his dog collar.

Here is a link to the BBC programme including an article titled: The Lost Tommies.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b079rprs>

And, the Facebook

page: <https://www.facebook.com/bbctheoneshow/> “

Meetings at other societies:

Etwall and Burnaston Local History Society
Meet at the Chapel, Willington Road, Etwall,
7.30pm

Tuesday 20th September: Repton, Andy Austin
 Tuesday 18th October: Cromford and High Peak
 Railway
 Tuesday 15th November: Annual lecture –
 Bullbaiting
 Tuesday 17th January: Mary Queen of Scots

Hilton & Marston Local History Group
Meet at the Chapel, Main Street, Hilton 7.30
pm

1st September Derbyshire Churches
 Architecture and Archaeology Paul Newsham
 6th October An evening with Pam Ayres and
 Joyce Grenfell Patricia Wilson
 3rd November From Flanders to the Somme: a
 grenadier guardsman's diary Anne Owen

Staffs archaeological & Historical Society

Meet at Lichfield Guild Hall 8.00pm
 23rd September Recent Excavations at
 Hereford Cathedral
 7th October Morale of the Army in WW1
 21st October Agincourt
 4th November Faith & Society in Medieval
 France
 18th November The Staffordshire Salt Industry
 2nd December New Place, Stratford

Free online genealogy course at FutureLearn: 6
weeks, 4hrs per week

People interested in the next presentation of
 the course can register their interest. Find out
 more on the FutureLearn site.

Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree

Develop an understanding of genealogy – how
 to research your family tree and communicate
 the results in this free online course.
 About the course: This free online course will
 help you develop an understanding of the basic
 genealogy techniques and how to communicate
 your family history, effectively find and analyse
 sources and explore the potential of DNA
 testing. We'll help you add historical context to

your family history and discuss how to record
 and communicate research findings.
 Requirements: No special knowledge is required

Taking a holiday and carrying out family
history.

Our member, Julia, writes: "In June this year
 my friends and I went to Hampshire for a
 holiday. Whilst there, we went and found the
 small village of Upham, where my 1st and 2nd
 great grandfathers lived. My 2nd great
 grandfather was the coachman at The Rectory
 and on the 1861 Census was living at the
 Rectory. I was able to take a photograph of the
 place. However by the 1871 Census he was
 living elsewhere in the village; the place of
 abode not being named.

Another day we visited Winchester, parked the
 car and set off to visit the cathedral. As we were
 walking down a street I noticed its name. The
 street name was the one that I was going to
 look for after visiting the cathedral! This was
 the place where my 2nd great grandfather went
 at the age of 14 years old to work as a carter for
 a coal merchant in 1861. The house is still there
 although modernised of course and has the
 large opening at the side for the carts. A person
 at the cathedral told me that that area had
 been allotments and fields in the past."

North Staffordshire Family History Society
(BMSGH)

Our member Roy, has sent your Editor a copy of
 the September Quarter's Newsletter for the
 above branch of BMSGH by email attachment.
 Unfortunately it is too large to reproduce here,
 and, unlike our Branch, North Staffordshire
 does not appear to publish it on the main
 BMSGH website. Our member Roy is the
 person to speak to if you wish to know anything
 about North Staffordshire Branch or its
 Newsletters.

Future Branch Meetings:

August: No meeting.

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

(Our Secretary says that she “thought this title up well before the Referendum date was announced – honest”. Editor.)

Please Note: Have you had problems finding your overseas ancestors? Or maybe you have had a lot of experience that you can share with other members. Useful websites, addresses, American and Australian research. Please let us know before September so we can have a productive, help each other meeting. Discussion evenings always yield lots of helpful ideas and suggestions and we can always learn from the experiences of other members.

October 19th: Things You Might Not Know About Staffordshire – speaker: Alan Lewis

Our Secretary says: “I hope that Alan can tell us things we don’t know about East Staffs, the forgotten quarter over the Pennines and the River Trent.”

November 16th: Flying at the City of Bass – speaker: Richard Farman

Richard has been involved with the old postcard books of Burton. This talk should emphasise how important Burton was considered to be in the 19th century.

December 14th Christmas Social and Raffle.

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