

NORTH STAFFS BRANCH

BMSGH

# Newsletter

Vol

Issue 1/2006



## Committee News

### Editorial

Your committee would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a Happy New Year and good hunting for that elusive ancestor.

At the last meeting, Mrs Beech gave me all her back copies of our Newsletter dating back to June 1982. I have looked through them and I intend to republish some of the articles as I think you will find them interesting.

Looking through genealogy information that has been indexed is convenient and quickly points you in the best direction to search. We, as a branch of the BMSGH, have indexed much of the Staffordshire information that you use today but there is still some more to be done. Rob Carter and Mike Griffin need your help, the BMSGH needs your help, and genealogy needs your help. While indexing the 1871 Census I found my missing branch that helped me progress with my family tree. I had been searching for my 3 X grandfather for about three years but to no avail. Knowing that his 1871 marriage certificate gave an address in Hanley (but he was not there in the census), I volunteered to index Hanley. I found him and now I'm back to 1558.

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On Saturday 19th November, several members of the committee attended a Reception in Bournville, Birmingham, given as a thank-you to all committee members of the BMSGH branches for all their work for the Society. The North Staffs Branch members consisted of Mrs Eva Beech (President), Derek Cliffe (Vice-President and Book Sales) and his wife Linda, Bill Harrison (Computer & Projects), John Booth (Newsletter) and his wife Jean, Gill Beck (Guest) and myself Betty Machin (Chair). It was an opportunity to meet other Branch members.

We were welcomed by Dr Chris Leigh (Chair of the BMSGH) who then congratulated our own Bill Harrison on his award from the Federation of Family History Societies for the "Best Website" Well done Bill!

We then had a talk by Gillian Andrews entitled "Behind and in front of the TV camera" Gillian had been an actress in such shows as "Casualty", "The Bill" and "Keeping up Appearances". She was very funny during a very interesting talk.

After, we had a delicious Buffet Tea and mixed with other guests (about 100).

So you see, its not all hard work on the committee.

Betty Machin (Chair)

## December Meeting Talk

If you didn't come to the December meeting you missed one of the most enjoyable talks you could ever wish to hear. The talk by Raymond Rush on Christmas Customs and Traditions was both entertaining and enlightening. Dressed in his farmers smock and hat, Raymond gave us an insight to why we use Holly and Mistletoe at Christmas along with what used to go into Mince Pies (ugh). He dispelled some of the myths and origins of Christmas and made us think about old family ways that might have gone on in our childhood.

Tending his small organic farm at Siddington, near Macclefield, Raymond and his wife are famous for making Corn Dollies and decorate their local church with them during Harvest.

After the talk he introduced us to a series of books he has written called "Country Ways" which many members thought would make ideal Christmas presents. Look out for Raymond on Channel Four as sometime in the New Year they have filmed ten programmes with Raymond called "What's in a Word" about the origins of words we use everyday. Along with many others I hope that our committee ask Raymond back for another talk.

## Genealogy Smiles

Can a first cousin once removed return?

Cemetery :- A marble orchard not to be taken for granite.

Crazy:- A relative term in my family.

Genealogy:- It's all relative in the end anyway.

Genealogy:- Tracing yourself back to better people.

Genealogy:- A haystack full of needles - it's the threads I need.

Genealogy:- Collecting dead relatives and sometimes a live cousin.

Genealogy:- Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living.

I trace my family history so I will know who to blame.

It's hard to be humble with ancestors like mine.

Searching for lost relatives? - win the lottery, they'll find you.

That's strange - half my ancestors are women.

Some ancestors that I found I wish I could lose.

Every family tree has some sap in it.

Floor:- the place for storing your irreplaceable genealogy records.

Friends come and go but relatives tend to accumulate.

Genealogists never die, they just lose their census.

Heredity:- Everyone believes in it until their children act like fools.

I think my family tree is a few branches short of full bloom.

Life is lived forwards but understood backwards.

My ancestors are hiding in a witness protection program.

Research:- What I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing.

Take nothing but ancestors, leave nothing but records.

Theory of Relativity:- If you go back far enough we're all related.

Author unknown

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### **Extract from:-**

The Directory of Newcastle-under-Lyme  
with  
Historical Records of the Ancient Borough

Compiled by J Ingamells  
Published 1871

Borough Sessions Records:-

“At the General Sessions held the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1703, in the Guildhall, before Francis Burton, Mayor, and William Lawton, two Justices of the Borough, and fifteen jurymen –

Whereas Elizabeth Gardiner, widow, was at this Sessions indicted for the receiving of stolen goods of and from one

John Birks, as servant of Mr Thomas Burton, knowing them to be such, to which indictment she hath pleaded guilty, this Court therefore doth order that the said Elizabeth Gardiner for her said offence and misdemeanour be tomorrow, being the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of this instant month of March, between the hours of nine and eleven in the morning, publicly set and fixed in the whip stock, and there, either by the Constables of this Borough, or by their procurement, whipped upon her naked body, betwixt the shoulders and the waist, until her body by such whipping be made bloody; and that the constables do detain her, the said Elizabeth Gardiner, in the common prison within this Borough until the said punishment be so inflicted on her as aforesaid, she paying her fees of Court, being ten shillings and four pence.”

Several others at Sessions afterwards held were whipped for stealing.

Ray Keeling

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### **What the Postman Saw**

Written on the back of a 1928 Hanley postcard.

Dear Bob,  
We haven't much time to see the pot girls. I had 85 hours to work this week and I mean work of course. I will see them at week end.

Yours truly,  
RN

ps,  
Let me know how things are.

## Don't just look at the Baptisms, Marriages and Burial entries.

When transcribing the Registers of Rushton Spencer many pieces of interesting information have been noticed, which could add to your family history, for example:-

[A letter 1806] I beg to call to the attention of my successors to the barbarous thumbing & ill treatment which this Register has undergone to the obliteration of material defacing of numerous entries hoping that for the preservation of valuable records entrusted to the clergy they will adopt my plan & not permit other hands besides their own to turn over the pages. I regard the careful preservation of Parish Registers as a solemn duty. W.M. 1856.

This Register was bought by Tho: PIOTT Chapel Warden for this present year when Thomas MEAYKIN was then Curate who had officiated at this Chapel twenty five years when this Requestor was bought.

Recd 28 Day of Sept 1709 from the hands of Mr MOLBORN, Minister of Congleton a Silver plate gilt with Gold for the use of the Communion Table being the Gift of Mr Thomas HIGGONBOTHAM formerly of Rushton James for ever. Thos Johnson, Clerk of Rushton Chapel.

Mr William MEAYKIN, Curate of Rushton was Bur Feb 8 1749/50. He officiated there 37 years [not in **BT**]

Hellen SNEYD late of Norton in

the Moors died March 10, 1750 in the 94<sup>th</sup> year of her age. She had

Children—12

Gran: Children 49,

Great Gran: Children 51,

Great Gr Gran: Children 3

=115

Families in Rushton Spencer are 44, Persons aged sixteen years & upwards 132, Families in Rushton James are 58, Persons aged sixteen years & upwards 153, Families in Heaton are 56, Persons 16 years & upwards 179. This account was given in at a Visitation Holden at Stafford July 30 1751 by the Right Revd Frederick Bp of Lichfield & Coventry. D: TURNER A.B. Curate

Uriah DAVENPORT aged 94 years bur 17<sup>th</sup> March [1784] He taught Psalmody at Rushton upwards of 60 years

1788 to 1789 from 1 of Oct to the 1 of Oct Mr TURNER Settled for the Duty to the King which was [.]

Marriages 3

Christenings 26

Burials 16

in the whole was 45 at 3d each is 11s 3d.

It is also advisable to examine both the Registers and the Bishops Transcripts as extra information can be found, not only per entry but there are omissions in both and where the **BT** is missing these entries will not be on the IGI.

Diana Grant

## From the March 1983 Newsletter

A Remarkable Tablet to be found inside the Parish Church at Meerbrook Nr Leek, details of which are below:-

To the Glory of God and in the Perpetual Memory of  
The Rev. Daniel Turner I B.A. Oxon. Born 1708 died 1781  
The Rev. James Turner I M.A. Oxon. Born 1745 died 1823  
The Rev. James Turner II M.A. Oxon. Born 1797 died 1863  
Who served in succession as Incumbents of Meerbrook for continuous period of  
**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY TWO YEARS**  
1731—1863

During their Incumbency and through their labours and beneficence the Vicarage was built, Meerbrook was made a separate Ecclesiastical Parish and the Greater part of its endowment was provided.

Also of

The Rev. Daniel Turner II M.A. Oxon. Born 1752. Vicar of Endon. Son of the Rev. Danl. Turner I

The Rev. Danl. Turner III M.A. Oxon. Born 1786. Vicar of Endon. Son of Danl. Turner II

The Rev. Danl. Turner IV M.A. Oxon. Born 1799. Vicar of Endon. Son of Rev. James Turner I

Each of whom frequently officiated in the Church.

Also of

Miss Elizabeth Turner daughter of Rev. James Turner I who bequeathed an endowment for the poor of Meerbrook.

This Tablet is erected by their kinsman

Harry Morton Stanley Turner  
Wing-Commander RAF 1924

