

Newsletter

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Editorial

As I sit here in early January compiling this Newsletter I wonder when Winter will come. It's lovely to be able to go out on crisp sunny days and I don't know about you, but when the white stuff (snow) falls from the sky I stay in and catch up on all those snippets of Family History I've found.

In this issue you will find a list of items missing from our library. We all borrow books that we find useful and because our meetings are monthly we tend to keep them longer than we should but please have a look in your files to see if you have any of the missing items.

There is so much family history information on the internet these days that I really don't know how early family historians managed. You don't even have to know the website that may contain useful information. Have you tried a general "Goole" search? Try putting what you are trying to find in the search box. I put "Lydbury North Parish Registers" in the search box and 230 options came up including a full free transcript of the registers I needed. Being brave I put "Booth Family History" in and 459,000 sites came up including a family name website. Try it.

John.booth5@ntlworld.com

TAXED FOR BEING MALE!

All sorts of unusual taxes were levied in England during the 18th century, one of the most unusual being the tax on wig powder, introduced in 1795 when William Pitt the Younger was Prime Minister.

In 1777 a tax of a guinea a year was introduced for each male servant who was employed in a household. We were particularly surprised to learn that it was not abolished until 1937. (Note: a guinea was 21 shillings, just over one pound.)

Many members will remember, that until 1960, there was a tax on playing cards in Britain, and whilst the requirement for a tax stamp on the Ace of Spades was abolished in 1862, this card continued to be embellished with the name of the manufacturer.

Lost Cousins Newsletter

The Death Duty Register is a fantastic resource that contains information about wills and administration not found elsewhere. Details of what the estate was worth after debts and expenses and what the beneficiaries received can be recorded. In addition to the last address and occupation of the deceased, they can give the date of the will, names, addresses and occupations of the executors, and details of estates, legacies etc.

Find My Past Newsletter

WRITE YOUR ANCESTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies is running a competition to mark its 50th anniversary and you are invited to write an 8 to 10,000 word biography of an ancestor who must be born before 1890. It's free to enter the competition, and there is a prize of £350 for the winner, plus £150 for a family history society of your choice. Information can be found on the following website <http://www.ihgs.ac.uk/contact/competition.php>

If you're interested in writing about family history, but don't feel you're ready to write a biography, have you considered taking the Open University course "Start Writing Family History"?

<http://www3.open.ac.uk/courses/bin/p12.dll?C01A173>

1911 CENSUS

The National Archive will not release general information about the 1911 census but if you know the precise address of the household you are researching and you are prepared to pay the National Archives a fee of £45 you can apply for a copy of that households information.

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MISSING FROM THE LIBRARY

1.	Alsagers Bank United Methodist Church, Baptism Records 1908-1960	No. 611
2.	Bagnall on the Fringe of the Moorlands	No. 308
3.	Biddulph St Lawrence Parish Church Bapts. Mar. & Bur.	No. 411
4.	Birmingham Roman Catholic Archives of Birmingham	No. 297
5.	Burslem, Wolstanton & Tunstall 1851 Census Surname Index Vol.4	No. 527c
6.	Croxden St. Giles MI's	No. 620
7.	Etruria Old Road Methodist Church	No. 640
8.	Etruria St. Matthew MI's	No. 272
9.	Hanley Town Road MI's	No. 273
10.	History of the Staffordshire Potteries	No. 300
11.	Methodist Registers in Hanley Ref. Library with Call No's Index	No. 470
12.	North Staffordshire Coalfields	
13.	Sedgley 1851 Census Surname Index Part 2 Vol. 16	No. 538f
14.	Shelton St Jude's MI's	No. 278a
15.	Tunstall Wesleyan Sunday School Admittance Register 1814-1893	No. 153
16.	West Bromwich 1851 Census Surname Index Part 2 Vol. 15	No. 538h
17.	Worcestershire Old Swinford St Mary P.R. Bap. & Bur. 1768-1800	No. 239b
18.	Leek, Brindley Genealogy including the James Brindley Clan	
19.	North Staffordshire Regiment	No. 80
20.	Audley & Surrounding Areas, an Index to the Staffs Advertiser 1840-69	No. 590a
21.	Draycot le Moors St Margaret's	No. 500

Our library is free to use by any member of the society and much of the information contained has been kindly donated. No questions will be asked if you find you have one of the above items but if you are shy the a box will be left as you come in. We would be very grateful for the return of any of the above items so that other members may use them.

From THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES website

FIND YOUR FAMILY'S SHADY PAST

In 1793 James White was convicted of stealing lead from Reverend Williams' Pinner Chapel. This is just one of the Judges' Reports on Criminals 1783-1830 now searchable online.

Simply type your ancestors' name into the Catalogue and add HO47 to the "Department or Series" box.

FINDING MILITARY RECORDS

To start your search try 5.5 million WW1 Medal Cards, online.

Follow this by searching WW1 War Diaries, Prisoners of War Interviews, and Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

To search for Royal Navy ancestors with Trafalgar records first move forward in time to the Royal Naval Seamen and the Royal Naval Division.

With the Merchant Navy you can begin with WW2 Seamen's medals.

The latest "Top Secret" documents are periodically released on this website and can be very interesting to read.

Help Wanted via emails

HI,
I WONDER IF YOU, OR ANYONE
YOU KNOW, IS RELATED TO
THE FOLLOWING:

JOSIAH BALL, 1857 DUD-
LEY, STAFFORDSHIRE
MARRIED **ROSA CARTLIDGE**
B 1859 HANLEY STAFFS.
FATHER **WM CARTLIDGE**
MOTHER **SARAH ROBINSON**
CHILDREN:
ALFRED, FRANK, HARRY,
CHARLES, SIDNEY, WILLIAM.
SIDNEY AND WILLIAM WERE
BORN IN TRENTON, NJ USA
GERRIE LEE PERNA
CHICKA2962@AOL.COM

Dear Mrs. Bebbington,
I have in my possession and old
photograph album of my grandmother
Ada Birch (later Maguire), daughter
of Elijah Birch (owner of Birch's Tile
Factory). There are family photo's but
also some of family friends taken
around 1890.

The following are some of the names
of people in the pictures:

Ringmaster of Elphinstones Circus
(J.P. Butler?)
Frank Howlett
Marion Fullers
Marion Fullers' mother
Maud Hawkins
Stephen Perry
Reggie Gibbs
Tom McCrury
Mrs. McCrury
Edith Burrows (who kept a pub at
Tunstall)

If these are of interest to any of your
members, I would be very happy to
make copies for them. If any of your
members have information the
ancestry of Elijah Birch, or anyone
has paintings by my great-grandfather
William Dudley Maguire (a
professional artist who lived for a
long time in Stoke), I would very
much like to hear from them.

Best wishes,
Brian Windibank

Help Wanted

SUTHERLAND PAPERS

A letter from Thea Randall county
archivist contained a progress report
on the Sutherland papers.

In September the Project team began
working on the (two year) project to
create an online resource. The project
is co-ordinated from the Record
Office at Stafford, and the Papers will
be held there.

A database of names from the papers
is being created, mainly from rental
books, miners wage books and town
and village surveys, achieved with the
help of volunteers who are
transcribing and typing up.

BMSGH Members are being invited
to become involved. Please contact
Sheila Pill on 01785 854584 or email
on spp@staffordshire.gov.uk for
further details.

FOR SALE

Mr Sid Day has the following for sale
RIP CASE PORTABLE CD-RW &
CD PLAYER COMPLETE WITH
DRIVE DISC & USB PORT CABLE
Price £15.00p
Please contact Sid Day 01782 784929

WERE YOUR ANCESTORS MISSIONARIES?

HILL-BEARDMORE

Whilst researching my Welsh missionary relatives, I came
across another record which may be of interest to family
historians looking for Staffordshire ancestors.

The item referred to the Rev. Micaih **HILL**, who was born in
Walsall, and his wife, Mary **BEARDMORE**, who came from
Newcastle-under-Lyme. Subsequent to Micaih's ordination in
Hanley in 1821, he and his wife sailed for India where they
were to serve the ministry, except for a brief spell in England,
until Mary's death in 1847, and her husband's in 1849.

Reference: *London Missionary Society. A Register of
Missionaries: Deputations etc. from 1796 to 1923.* Prepared by
James Sibree, D.D. Fourth Edition. (London: London
Missionary Society, 48 Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1. 1923).

The above Register was seen at the School of Oriental and
African Studies, London University.

Nancy Evans

SURNAME MAPS

One major problem when you are
researching your Family History is
to locate those wandering ancestors.
Where is the most likely place to
find them?

Where did they come from?

The biggest changes in population
shift were brought about by the
Industrial Revolution and the
population in our industrial cities
nearly doubling between 1841 &
1891.

This caused the creation of large
cities surrounding centres of
commerce and industry. One way to
see the changes of location is by
using maps of surname
concentrations.

Rather than basing your research
on surname maps later than the
1881 census, look in surname maps
made up of information from the
census years to 1841.

Microfiche Reader

Our Society has a Microfiche
Reader it wishes to dispose of.
Anyone interested please contact
Mike Griffin of the Fiche Club.

Online release of 1911 census

The National Archives is committed to making census data available online. We know from our own experience the huge excitement generated by the release of any new census and recognise the great historical and research value of census information. So we are already making plans to make the 1911 census available online in just under six years' time, on the first working day of 2012.

The release of the census returns after 100 years is determined by long-standing government policy. The 1911 census form included the following emphatic assurance to householders: 'The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict Care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons.' In 1966 the Lord Chancellor determined that ALL decennial census returns should be closed for a period of 100 years, on the grounds that they contained personal information supplied by citizens about themselves.

Since then successive governments have consistently maintained this position, and from 1981 onwards there has been an explicit assurance on census forms that they will remain closed to the public for 100 years. This is the assurance that we all receive when we provide sensitive personal information in our completed census forms. The Government continues to believe that the 100-year closure period strikes the right balance between protecting confidential data about us as individual citizens and releasing the information, which is so valuable to researchers and historians alike.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, The National Archives considers requests for access to information contained in the 1911 census returns in consultation with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as the department that transferred the record to us. On the specific enquiries received to date it has not been possible to release the information that has been sought, on the grounds that it is exempt under section 41 of the Act, which relates to information provided in confidence.

The 1911 census is a huge document – more than 12 times the size of the 1901 census, with 35,000 volumes containing the details of our 35 million ancestors and occupying some 2 kilometres of shelving. They are in good condition and suitable for scanning, with less than 5 per cent requiring more extensive conservation work to be scanned safely. In addition there are also 38,000 volumes of enumerators' summary books that are in excellent condition. These are likely to be included in the online project as they contain useful and unique information that supports the census information. However, they do not provide the level of personal details that can be found in the actual census schedules.

By far the best option for providing access to the census is online delivery, making the returns available to the widest possible audience and preserving the integrity of the original records. Proposals are well underway to find the very best company to work with us in order to provide a good reliable service for millions of potential users. We have published our requirements in the Official Journal of the European Union and over the next couple of months will seek to create a shortlist of potential suppliers.

Learning from previous experience and building on our current plans, The National Archives is eagerly looking forward to launching the 1911 census online in January 2012, which we are confident will rapidly become a major resource for family historians of British descent throughout the globe.

National Archives Press Release