

Newsletter

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Editorial

Can I innocently ask the question "What do you get up to while on holiday?." Do you ever visit old churches and walk around the churchyards?. I have had an email from a member who wants to pass on to us a find while on holiday in Madeira, you will find it printed on page 2. Come to think of it I spent a whole afternoon in North Front graveyard in while on holiday in Gibraltar. It was fascinating, reading head stones about soldiers, sailors and airmen, some killed at Waterloo. The holiday season will soon be upon us and if you find yourself at a loose end, try a relaxing hour or two visiting a church local to your place of holiday, you might find that elusive burial you have been after.

Still on the graveyard theme, Rob Carter has sent in an interesting item about a wooded grave stone in Bilston. He has also asked for Memorial Inscription volunteers. Any time you can spend to suit yourselves. Please remember, all the useful ancestral information in our library did not gather itself and your help will be very helpful.

Some of the WWI "Burnt Records" have been released by the National Archives and can now be searched for free by name only. If you want the information illustrated in the next column I am afraid you will have to pay to view.

john.booth5@ntlworld.com

British Army Records on Line

Apart from being a vitally important set of records in family and military history terms, The British Army World War One Pension Record collection reveals telling insights into our military ancestors' physical and character traits.

For example, Arthur Allbright is described as a 5 foot 7" fresh-faced 20 year old, with grey eyes, dark brown hair and scars to the back of the head and lower back, giving us a very clear picture of his physical appearance.

Meanwhile, whilst many are feted for extreme acts of bravery, clearly some enlistees had their own adverse reactions to the imposition of military discipline. William Burke, 19, of the Kings Royal Rifle Corps., was charged with going absent without leave for 1 day, then 6 weeks later he assaulted a fellow comrade before then being charged with the "improper use of the Urine Bucket". This must have been the final straw as Burke was discharged shortly thereafter.

From Ancestry.com
March Newsletter

From a 1913 Postcard

My Dear Hilda,

We are all very glad to hear that you are better and home again. There are 40 down with Scarlet Fever at St Marg's and they have closed the school till after Christmas.

Love from all,
Ernest

Cemetery Indexing Update

Below is a progress list of the cemeteries we are indexing. As you can see we are doing really well but we do need some help. If you think you can help please see Rob Carter.

SMALLTHORNE	3903	COMPLETE
BURSLEM	54855	COMPLETE
CANNOCK	1995	
CARMOUNT'SD	5294	COMPLETE
CHESTERTON	1028	COMPLETE
FENTON	21934	COMPLETE
HANLEY	24808	
HARTSHILL	13424	
LONGTON	33817	
NEWCASTLE	3060	
RUGELEY	1979	
SILVERDALE	8046	COMPLETE
St EDWARDS	1396	COMPLETE
TIXAL	8873	COMPLETE
TRENTHAM	225	COMPLETE
UTTOXETER	11097	COMPLETE

TOTAL 195734

Speaker for September 3rd

Mo Wood has informed me that she has retained the services of Mr Roger Pask for our September meeting to give us a talk entitled **From the Flying Dutchman to Robin Hood via Petticoat Lane**. We have been told that it will be a talk not to be missed.

WANTED

We need a **PUBLICITY OFFICER** whose job will be to let the local Radio Stations and Newspapers what will happen at our meetings. Please see any Committee Member for further information.

A Holiday Discovery

A friend of our member Mo Wood found a burial headstone in a churchyard while on holiday in Madeira. She has sent us this picture and the following information hoping that a fellow member might find useful.



KATE MARY PATZER
OF CLAYTON LODGE
NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME, ENGLAND
DIED APRIL 27TH 1909

1901 Census

Clayton (Staffs Clayton district 25)

Frederick R Patzer Head M 52 Hotel Keeper Employer Germany naturalised British subject

Kate Mary Patzer Wife M 36 Staffs Stoke on Trent

Fritz Finkelmeyer Nephew S 32 Tile manufacturer non ??? Germany naturalised British subject

+2 domestic servants

1895 Kate Mary Neale married Frederick R Patzer at St Peters Church, Hixon

1892 Frances Legate Patzer died

1891 Clayton Stoke on Trent

Frederick Robert Patzer Head M 50(?) Hotel Keeper Germany, Eiselsen naturalised British subject

Fanny Patzer Wife M 56 Scotland Glasgow + 2 domestic servants

1881

North Staffs Hotel Winton Square Stoke on Trent

Frederick R Patzer Head M 39 Hotel keeper Germany

Fanny Patzer Wife M 44 Scotland

Charles Leckler Waiter UM 27 Waiter inn Germany + 35 other staff

1871

(25) Hartshill Penkhull

John Neale Head M 38 Electrician ??? Middlesex Stepney

Mary Neale Wife M 40 " "

Frederick U Neale Son UM 12 Scholar Warwickshire Birmingham

Kate M Neale Dau UM 11 " Staffs Newcastle + 4 other children and 1 servant all born in Penkhull Staffs

1881

Unions Cottages Hartshill (Stoke Rd)

John Neale Head M 47 Telegraph engineer Middlesex Stepney

Mary Neale Wife M 50 " "

Fredk Neale Son UM 22 " " Birmingham

Kate M Neale Dau UM 21 Telegraphist Staffs Newcastle + 4 other children born Stoke on Trent

1891

6 Winton Square Stoke on Trent John and Mary Neale plus Kate M unmarried aged 32 Telegraphist and 2 servants one of which is classed as nurse.

So as you can see both lived in Winton Square at one time. How they met?

Will carry on with search and let you know.

Sue

Organising a trip to The National Archives

Organising a group up to 31 December 2007

You must book if you would like to bring a party to The National Archives at Kew. We are only able to take one party per day. There is one coach bay, which can be pre-booked until 31 December 2007.

To check availability, please see the trip scheduler.

There will be no access to the site for vehicles of parties that have not booked. To pre-book please contact us at: public services development team

Organising a group after 1 January 2008

The relocation of the Family Records Centre to Kew is allowing us to streamline many of our procedures. Of particular significance to coach party organisers is that from January 2008 we are effectively adopting the FRC model relating to coach party access.

The new procedures are:

- 1) Coach parties. Pre-booking will no longer be required for coach parties. Instead, we will be inviting groups to notify us when they intend visiting. We will then be publicising intended visits on-site and on our website so that group organisers can plan ahead. Other than for junior education groups or special needs groups, the coach bay will only be available on a first come first served basis. We may be enlarging our facilities to allow two coaches to park in the coach bay. If the coach bay is full then any later arriving coaches will be allowed to drop their passengers and pick them up again at a pre-arranged time, there will not be any additional parking for coaches available onsite. Limited free coach parking is permitted on the A307 Kew Road (the stretch between Lion Gate and Victoria Gate) After 10.00am.
- 2) Access and reader tickets. Most of our most popular records, particularly those that are of interest to genealogists, are available in surrogate form (microfilm or online) as at the FRC. Many of our readers do not order original records. We are also planning, by April 2008, to allow visitors to use the general research areas without having to get a reader's ticket. A reader's ticket will be required only to order original documents. Tickets will be issued in the reading rooms themselves, subject to the usual identification procedures. Readers can still register for tickets in advance, but again they will only be issued in the reading rooms when triggered by a document order. By adopting these procedures we will be effectively clearing the reception bottleneck, often a cause for difficulty with coach party arrivals.

To let us, and others, know when you intend to travel

please contact us by telephoning 0208 392 5393 or emailing: public services development team as usual.

Please note that half term weeks are particularly busy. In 2008 these weeks are:
 Spring Half term: 18 to 29 February
 Summer Half term: 26 to 30 May
 Autumn Half term: Late October

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES ANNOUNCES ITS PARTNER IN DIGITISING THE 1911 CENSUS.

The National Archives is delighted to announce that Scotland partner the UK government's official archive in the forthcoming project to put the 1911 census for England and Wales online.

Scotland Online was established in 1995, and is one of the UK's leading Internet business solutions providers. In 2002, in partnership with the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS), Scotland Online established what is now one of the world's leading genealogy websites ScotlandsPeople

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk.

The 1911 census (document references RG14 and RG78) is huge - it currently occupies 2 kilometres of shelving at The National Archives. Comprising over eight million householder schedules and a further 38,000 enumerators' summary books, it details information relating to approximately 35 million people then living in England and Wales.

From 2009 there will be a phased release of the information in the 1911 census starting with the major conurbations. This will include images and transcription data, but with sensitive data redacted in line with the Information Commissioner's recent ruling. From 3 January 2012 the public will have full access to the entire 1911 census, including the information

not accessible in 2009. Researchers anywhere in the world will be able to search across the fields of the census by name, address or The National Archives reference, and download high-resolution digital images.

For more information on this and the status of the 1911 census for Scotland and Ireland see the National Archive website.

From April National Archive Newsletter

An unusual wooden grave in Bilston Cemetery.

A mystery surrounds a unique burial plot in the Black Country. The headstone and surround at Bilston Cemetery are made entirely of wood but nobody knows why the material was used in such an unusual way.

Wolverhampton History and Heritage Society believe the grave is that of a 20 year old woman. The “head stone” is faded but appears to read ‘WYM Owen’ and gives a possible date of death as October 2nd. 1930.

Society secretary Frank Sharman said “There are several unusual graves in Bilston but none more so than this one. It is quite hard to spot as you walk round because it has eroded into a grey colour which resembles stone.” He said that history enthusiasts had been baffled by the elaborate resting place which was unique. “We do not know anything about it. Perhaps the woman was related to a wood carver, but that is only speculating. While wood is less expensive than stone it is not as if this is a cheap grave because someone has spent a lot of time and effort to make it. “I do not think that a wooden grave stone would be allowed now.” The Cemetery Street graveyard opened in 1855 and has many interesting head stones including a series which record the civic achievements of the people buried beneath.

Albert Edward Beard’s memorial records reveal he was once chairman of the Town Commissioners, the predecessors to the Bilston Urban District Council which probably took the decision to build the cemetery.

While Walter Hughes’ grave records that he was “for more than 20 years the Sanitary Inspector of Bilston.” It also says “his upright conduct and manner earned him the deep regard of all his fellow townspeople.”

For more information about the group, or for information on the grave, please contact

Nick Beavan 01902 831923

Copied from the 13th January EXPRESS & STAR and printed with their kind permission.

Given to me by Rob Carter

