

# E Newsletter



## Welcome

Welcome to the E Newsletter for the North Staffordshire Family History Society (BMSGH)

Once again we will be asking you to help shape the E newsletter with your news, views and articles.

You can email them to me using the email address given in the newsletter below.



[robcarter@hotmail.com](mailto:robcarter@hotmail.com)

## Introduction

### WHATS IN A NAME?

Recently a number of people have said wouldn't it be good to have a local family history society for the North Staffordshire area.

The answer is we already have a family history society for the North Staffordshire area and the society has been going since the early 1970's when Mrs Eva Beech and a few chums decided to form the North Staffordshire Branch of the (BMSGH).

People seem to get confused when they see (BMSGH) Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry.

What is the answer?. We have decided to re-brand our heading by introducing ourselves as the North Staffordshire Family History Society and then adding the (BMSGH) to indicate that we are still and always will be a member of the BMSGH.

We would like to encourage people to our meetings and show that our main research area is in the North Staffordshire location. But we must remember that our fore bearers did not just live and work in the one location they moved around where the work would take them. So to be a part of the BMSGH with all the branches that form the society does give us a wealth of resources. In the west midlands area.

The BMSGH is made up with the following branches

- Birmingham
- North Staffordshire Branch
- Burton & District Branch
- Wolverhampton & District Branch
- Kenilworth & District Branch
- Bromsgrove & District Branch
- Stourbridge & District Branch
- Worcester & District Branch
- London Branch YES London

## For Sale

Neil Collingwood is selling a copy of Newcastle-under-Lyme Parish Registers. It is Part 1 (1931) covering Births, Marriages and Deaths 1563-1705 and is in good condition. He wants £60.00 for it (it is a very rare item). He paid nearly that much for his own copy 15-20 years ago.



[neil.collingwood@btinternet.com](mailto:neil.collingwood@btinternet.com)



### Can you HELP?

Joan Cartlidge is looking to see if anyone recognises any of the individuals in the picture above also where was the picture taken?



[Joanandjohncart@tiscali.com.uk](mailto:Joanandjohncart@tiscali.com.uk)



The following Monumental inscription was sent to me from Doreen Adair who lived in Gloucestershire.

#### **PAINSWICK CEMETERY, GLOUCESTER**

In loving memory of / CAROLINE MIDDLEDITCH / wife of H.H MIDDLEDITCH / and daughter of / the Rev ROBERT WATT M.A. / late rector of Cheadle, Staffs / and fellow of Trinity College / Cambridge / born 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 1872 / died 12<sup>th</sup> June 1933 / also of / HENRY HOWARD / MIDDLEDITCH / born 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1867 / died 28<sup>th</sup> May 1952



Do you have any pictures or monumental inscriptions of headstones or have come across any in your travels for person(s) who were born in Staffordshire but have moved out of the County / Country and subsequently died and now reside in a cemetery / church yard in another County / Country .

If so would you please email me with a picture, transcription also stating which cemetery / churchyard and County / Country the headstone is from.



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Dates for  
the diary  
2015

6<sup>th</sup> July

Research  
Evening



August

NO MEETING



7<sup>th</sup> September

Church Yards  
Steve Birks

## Research Evenings

Come to our research evenings, we have a wealth of genealogy information to share with you in book form and digital formats.

We have members who are willing to help you through the maze of information that we hold and steer you in the right direction.

Please look at the library list on the BMSGH web site before you come, this will give you a flavour of the documents we have at our disposal.

### ON THE WEB

#### FACEBOOK FORUM GROUP

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/388657077828799/>

aka Family History Stoke-on-Trent

If you do use Facebook it might be worth a look

#### FREE GENEALOGY FORMS:

[www.google.co.uk/search?q=genealogy+forms+free+to+print&espv=2&biw=1600&bih=731&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=zek8VYeZK8nXare4gMAF&ved=OCDIQsAQ](http://www.google.co.uk/search?q=genealogy+forms+free+to+print&espv=2&biw=1600&bih=731&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=zek8VYeZK8nXare4gMAF&ved=OCDIQsAQ)

#### AUSTRALIAN CONVICT TRANSPORTATION REGISTERS:

Other Fleets & Ships, 1791-1868 Convicts transported HO 11/9

[www.convictcentral.com](http://www.convictcentral.com)



# Staffordshire **BMD**

## Births, Marriages and Deaths on the Internet

I'm very pleased to announce that Staffs BMD has finally achieved the second objective that was set for us in Hanley Registrars Office. That was to have all the Birth Indexes for the Stoke on Trent areas, up to the start of Annual Indexing, transcribed and searchable via Staffs BMD.

We finished the last book last week and these will all be uploaded for the second week in June 2015. I've used a phrase Annual Indexing but some may not understand the implication so I will attempt to explain .

From 1837 when the registers were completed they were indexed individually which meant that if someone requested a birth in say 1890 and just knew that it was in Stoke-on-Trent the registrars had to search through all sub districts of Stoke-on-Trent ie , Burslem, Tunstall, Hanley, Fenton, Stoke, Longton and Shelton. During 1950 the registrars decided upon a new way to index the newly completed register and this was to be done by making an Annual index for All the sub divisions which meant that searching for a specific Birth in Stoke meant just looking at one index for each year.

This Annual Birth indexing was started in 1951 so that is where we have finished transcribing for the moment and we have moved onto Objective 3, which was to have all the deaths indexes transcribed up to its Start of Annual Indexing. It was not until 1966 that Annual indexing commenced for Deaths, and no one seems to know why it took from 1951 to 1966 to realise it was a far better way of indexing. I'm sure are wondering when annual indexing started for Marriages ?

It was 1984, so it took quite a while for the system to catch on fully.

Marriages were the first objective we were given but we do still have to revisit that one as some marriage registers are still being received at the registrars office as they are completed . Some recently arrived registers at Newcastle Registrars were started in the 1840s and have just been completed, or recalled as they were too old to continue with ! Do be assured that we are catching these as an when they come in and have them uploaded and it is always a good idea to have a monthly look at the Marriage Coverage or latest updates on Staffs BMD because we may have received the one that you are missing

As We are always asking folk if they could spare a little while helping us to transcribe the indexes I thought I should give some idea as to what it is we are actually asking people to do .

Quite simply we would like folk to convert an index from a photograph to an excel file. That last word sometimes puts people off because they don't know how to use spread sheets, formulas and things. Well we don't do any of that sort of thing as we only use Excel to separate the typing into 3 columns. I think a picture will show what we are looking for far better than words .

Here is what we start with .....

Surname of Parent	Name of Child	Page
YOEMANS	Carol A	44
YOUNG	John D	55
YOEMANS	Paul J	86

And this is what it should look like after you type it into an Excel file for us

yoemans	carol a	44
young	john d	55
yoemans	paul j	86

Its as simple as that !

Also we don't care about Capitals – you just type what you see

There is no quota to hit as you work at your pace as and when time permits.

Well that's all from me for this quarter and hope to bring some more good news next quarter but if you want to know more about transcribing for Staffs BMD just send an email to me and I will explain all you want to know



[Steve.stutcinkas@sky.com](mailto:Steve.stutcinkas@sky.com)



# W.H. GOSS



Ashfield Cottage W. H. Goss Lived here



William Henry Goss

Ashfield Cottage

William Henry Goss was born in London, his parents were Richard Goss and Sophia Mann. William became a student at the School of Design at Somerset House in London, from where in 1857 he was employed as chief artist of the potteries firm of William Taylor Copeland.

In 1858, William started his own business in Stoke. At first he produced ivory porcelain which was of high quality as to merit an award at the 1851 International Exhibition. He invented the body and enamels for the heraldic china. It was not until the 1880s, under the influence of his sons Adolphus, Victor and Huntley, were the famous small white-glazed vases and pots with heraldic arms for presentations being produced. These were soon joined by small items depicting interesting local scenery. It is said that 90% of households owned a piece of Goss by the 1920's.

W.H Goss (Falcon works) dates back to 1870 and was one of the several large manufacturers of ceramics in the potteries. The remaining buildings are the 1902 extension of the of larger 1858 factory. The sites pottery production ceased in 1944 and the site was sold in 1961 to Susan Williams-Ellis who founded Portmerion pottery in 1960.

In August 1979 these the remaining gloss kilns and workshop were given a grade 2 listing. In July 1995 a blue plaque was erected on the end of the bottle ovens by the Goss collectors club and unveiled by the Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Stoke-on-Trent.

By 2000 it was to be made into a heritage site of merit with an estimated 200,000 visitors a year, This was abandoned with the recession in 2002.

In 2004 the bottle ovens were completed and Susan Williams-Ellis and I opened them to the public on open heritage day although this was a t very short notice with next to no publicity the ovens were well attended. The Goss site is also famous for its Goss Hawk stone plaque set in the gable end of the enamel and printing warehouse which the locals gave the nickname (Falcon Works)

The business was taken over by Cauldon Potteries in 1929, the name Goss still being used. Finally it became a subsidiary of the Royal Doulton group. By 1940, the Goss factory had ceased production.

Contributed by Mr Brian Wilson

Please contact me for any further information or are interested in forming a local Goss club.



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