



E Newsletter



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.

We at the North Staffordshire Family History Society are always looking for volunteers to help in any way that you can whether it be in a large or small way.

We are looking for people who can transcribe index's for the Staffordshire BMD's project which has helped us all and continues to do so .

Transcribing various documents. And index's

Photographing of internal or external monuments within the local churches and churchyards. You may already have photographs of your own relatives headstones, why not email them to me to be added to the data base we are creating.



St Matthias church, Hanford George & Bertha Smith

In loving memory of / BERTHA ANNIE beloved wife of / GEORGE SMITH / died May 3rd 1939, aged 64 years / Also GEORGE SMITH, beloved husband of above / Died May 6th 1944, aged 75 years / Reunited / Also their son GEORGE / Bombardier, Royal Field Artillery / Killed in action in France / May 5th 1916, aged 18 years / Blessed are the pure in heart

BEAUMETZ-LES-LOGES COMMUNAL CEMETERY,
Pas de Calais, France.

In Memory of

Acting Bombardier GEORGE SMITH

"A" Bty. 125th Bde., Royal Field Artillery
who died aged 18 on Friday, 5th May 1916.



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MEMBERSHIP

I have been interested in genealogy for some 20 plus years. When research was done at either the Staffordshire records office or Stoke-on-Trent city archives, using fiche and film reader's has our main source of information.

Trawling for hours at a time and just coming away with a little bit of information. So has the years have moved on so has the way in which researching family members has moved on.

With the world wide web it has bought us a wealth of information to our finger tips (for a fee of course), one click of the mouse and a string of census years for your family members is there another click and parish registers appear.

Online forums have sprung up covering all sorts of subjects and topic for genealogy and local history and all from the comfort of your own home.

This is great but something has to give and that something is the reduction in opening times at the record's office and archives centre's because of lack of footfall. Local history clubs and genealogy societies are loosing members or at best membership is static.

All of the of the above need support, all of the above need to be used inconjunction with the web. The web does not have all the information that you require to complete your research nor does it provide you with the knowledge and local information that staff and club members can share with you.

Being involved with a history club, genealogy society, record office and archive centre can help you with your research , remember before the web all four had projects like Staffordshire BMD's, Indexing for all sorts of history and genealogy projects and countless other digitising projects. All still requiring volunteers to help out whether it be in a small or large way.



Staffordshire Poor Law Biographies

Lewis Birch, Brazier. 1769-1834

From the Parish Records we find that Lewis Birch was baptised the son of another Lewis Birch and wife Elizabeth (née Hill) on 22 May 1769 and was the eldest of 5 Children , one of whom was John, who worked as a Cutler in Uttoxeter, and another was a sister Elizabeth, who married Joseph Gregory a Grocer.

Lewis Birch the elder was probably also a Brazier as the Staffordshire Name Index reveals William Gothridge being apprenticed to Lewis Birch, Brazier to learn Husbandry on 13 Sept 1773. As Lewis junior was only 4 it must have been his Father.

Lewis Birch senior was buried 7 Aug 1785 and a 1791 Trade Directory lists Elizabeth Birch, Brazier so it appears that his widow carried on the business until Lewis Junior was old enough to take over.

Lewis Birch junior also married an Elizabeth possibly in Birmingham and they had 10 Children including a set of twins, but 3 died as babies, which included the twins at only 3 or 4 days old.

Of the surviving sons the eldest was another Lewis who became a surgeon and may have emigrated to Australia as he disappears from the census; online family trees indicate that he might have gone to Western Australia.

John the other surviving son became a Cutler and Brazier in Church Street, later dropping the Brazing. He died in 1881 without leaving any children.

Of Lewis junior's surviving daughters 2 of them set up business together in the High Street as Milliners & Dress Makers but then one married a Cabinet Maker and moved to Daventry and the other married a Draper and Commercial Traveller and moved to Oldham.

One daughter has not been traced but she is not named in the 1834 Will so may have died.

Lewis Birch junior supplied goods to the Overseers of the Poor of Uttoxeter on several occasions; the most expensive item so far being a gallon copper Tea Kettle at 8s.

He appears to have had a very successful business as his Will reveals that he owned his Messuage where he lived in Sheep Market and also 2 other messuages in Market Place in the occupation of Ann Norris and George Slater. (Ann Norris & Son is listed as a stationer in a Trade Directory and the Lichfield marriage licences have one for George Slater, clock and watch maker, in 1829 so they may be shops)

Probate of Lewis's Will on 29 Oct 1834 reveals that he died on 28 Aug 1834 leaving an estate of "Under £300".

The Will included the names of his Wife and surviving children which could be checked in the Parish Records.



STAFFORDSHIRE PEOPLE

Fanny Deakin (2nd December 1883– 24th March 1968)



Born on 2nd December 1883, Fanny Deakin spent her early years at her parent's farm on Farmers Bank, Silverdale, a mining village near Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire.

In 1901, Fanny married Noah Deakin, a local collier. Shortly after, their first child, James, was born, though he only lived a few weeks. In 1903, their second son arrived, and he was named Noah after his father - he was their only child to survive into adulthood.

Noah senior, like many Kent's Lane Colliery miners at this time, suffered dreadful conditions underground. What made things worse is that the coal owners decided to make their employees work their shifts - nine hours - without a break. This triggered the so-called snapping-time strikes of 1910 and 1911. The men argued for a twenty-minute break and there were disputes. Fanny doesn't appear to have been actively involved in the dispute, but with her husband being a miner, she was inevitably on their side.

Throughout her life, she was noted for her campaigns for better nourishment of young children and maternity care for mothers. On leaving school, she worked on the farm where her family lived but her lifelong vocation came to her after being the first woman to be elected onto Wolstanton Council as a Labour member in 1923.

During the General Strike in 1926, she was a major figure in local activity in support of the miners. One observer recalled seeing her "coming up past St Giles Church in Newcastle at the head of these miners, 200 or 300 miners ...Fancy, one woman - and she's leading them!" Fanny (used to say) 'I'm fighting for the mothers. If she had a coat of/arms they'd put it in Latin: Fighting for the mothers.'" In 1927 she retained her seat, this time standing as a Communist. She was popular with local people, who nicknamed her "Red Fanny" after she visited the Soviet Union in 1927 and 1930.

Of her five children only one survived into adulthood. In an era of high infant mortality she campaigned for better maternity care of women and free milk for children under five. Along with unemployed miners, she went to Downing Street to see Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald to demand that local councils give free milk to pregnant mothers and children up to the age of five.

Around this time, when a comrade was found guilty of supposedly inciting a riot of the unemployed, Fanny gave him an alibi but found herself charged with perjury and spent nine months in Winson Green Prison.

Re-elected to the now merged Newcastle Council in 1934, she became a County Councillor. She played a key role in several committees relating to maternity and child welfare. During the war years she could be seen working with others in the Catholic Church showing children how to put on gas masks. In 1941, she became the first Communist in the country to be appointed an Alderman in the borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme, with the honour being extended to Staffordshire county level in 1946.

Fanny died on 24th March 1968.

ON THE WEB

Prison Hulk (Ships)

<http://intolerablehulks.com>

This web site offers useful information about prison hulks

www.inad.com/Bermuda

This is a interactive site about the dromedary, a hulk which was based in Bermuda between 1825-1855

http://maxpages.com/ourlostfamily/prison_ships

This site describes the conditions about ships at Woolwich in 1846

UKBMD now has a few tutorials on line to help you make the most of what is on offer and I thought it may help you in tracing your ancestors. In his commentary Ian has focused mainly on Lancashire and Cheshire, his family roots, but the guidance given is appropriate to all Counties under the UKBMD banner.

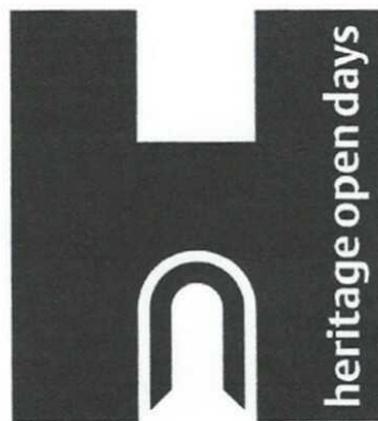
The link to the tutorials is :-

<http://www.UKBMD.org.uk/tutorials>





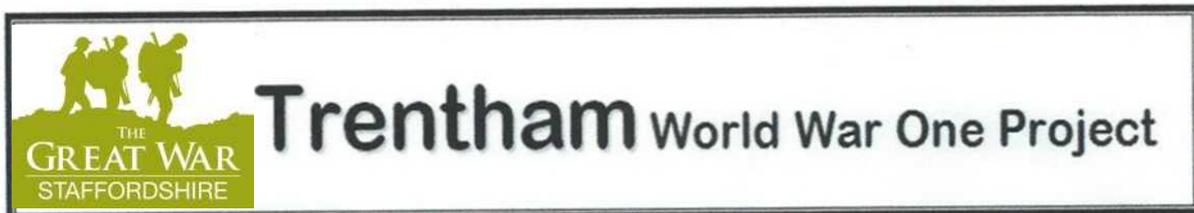
**History
on your
doorstep!**



**Trentham Church and
the Sutherland Mausoleum**

OPEN

**Saturday 10 September 2016
11 - 4 pm**



**Displays, films, poppy trail
and guided walks round
Trentham of 100 years ago**

The Battle of the Somme - FREE film screening

The Imperial War Museum and members of the First World War Centenary Partnership (of which Brampton Museum is a member) are working together to show this UNESCO listed film to audiences across the world.

Throughout the autumn of 1916, 20 million people flocked to see a silent film, The Battle of the Somme. This was nearly half the population of Britain at the time. The film remains one of the most watched in British cinema history, even bigger than Star Wars.

While cinema audiences had been shown newsreel footage for many years, it was never a major attraction – they were drawn in by the comedies of Charlie Chaplin, serials such as The Perils of Pauline or sweeping dramas from Hollywood like Intolerance.

The Battle of the Somme was different. It took real life footage and turned it into a main feature with mass appeal. The film showed images of the first week of the 'Big Push', the joint offensive which began in July 1916 where British and French armies hoped to break through the German lines and achieve victory on the Western Front.

Places are limited so please contact 01782 619705 to book your seat!



LED BY **IWM**

Friends of Brampton Museum talks

Cannock Chase and the First World War

By Stephen Dean, Principal Archaeologist from Staffordshire County Council's Historic Environment Team

Wednesday, 28 September, 2.30pm



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ALL AT THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (BMSGH)**

