



E Newsletter



Welcome to 2018, NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (BMSGH)

Meetings : 1st Monday of the month at 7:30 pm unless First Monday is a Bank Holiday, then second Monday

There is a free car park at the side of the centre and ample on street parking in Harpfields Road and Flash Lane.

We are asked though to avoid parking in Vicarage Lane which is adjacent to the building since it is narrow & difficult for residents

Dates for
the diary
2018

5 th March

Cannock Chase & it's
Hidden History
With
Steve Booth

January
NO
MEETING

5th February
Research
Evening



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 . Volunteers will be provided with a copy of the register's index and an excel spread sheet so that you can transcribe fore-names, surnames, book and page numbers on to the spread sheet. This work can be done at home and does not require any travel.

Please contact : Steve Stutcinkas



Steve.stutcinkas@sky.com

And

Transcribing various documents or 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.

Also

I am always looking for articles for the newsletter, so if you can help ie stories from your genealogy research, up coming events / talks, newspaper articles and curiosities from parish records like the one's below.

St. Leonard's RP Warmingham, Cheshire.

Hannah Stringer 36 years of age and William Stanway (his Mother's Ladd) being hastily married at Astbury on Sunday the 7th day of March 1696: just fourteen days before she was brought to bed; they paid me (as for being married out of our Parish) the accustomed dues of Two shillings and six pence for marrying them.

Matthew Hassall of this parish was married on 3 Sept 1697 by Licence in the Parish Church at Sandbach to Mary Harding of Awg--- parish of Barthomley. Paid me the customary dues of Five Shillings for a man or maid of my Parish that is married in any other church or is married out of my Parish Church.



robecarter@hotmail.com

Lichfield Record Office Closing in 2018

All archives will be transferred to Stafford and become progressively available from the end of April.

Closure of Lichfield Record Office

Lichfield Record Office will close to the public on 1 January 2018. In January and February the archive collections will be prepared for transfer to Stafford, and the move will take place in March. Work will continue in Stafford in April to locate the collections and to update our online catalogue. Some collections will be held at the Service's out store in Stafford. Where this is the case the catalogue will show that 48 hours' notice is required. This is also currently the case for some collections held by Staffordshire Record Office. Staff will also receive training about the collections, so that they can provide appropriate advice to enquirers. The collections will be fully available for consultation in May 2018.

For further detail contact: staffordshire.archives@staffordshire.gov.uk.

On the Web

From the Lost Cousins Newsletter

which gave a link to a description of which Batch numbers/
county coverage of Family search.

<http://www.archersoftware.co.uk/igi/>

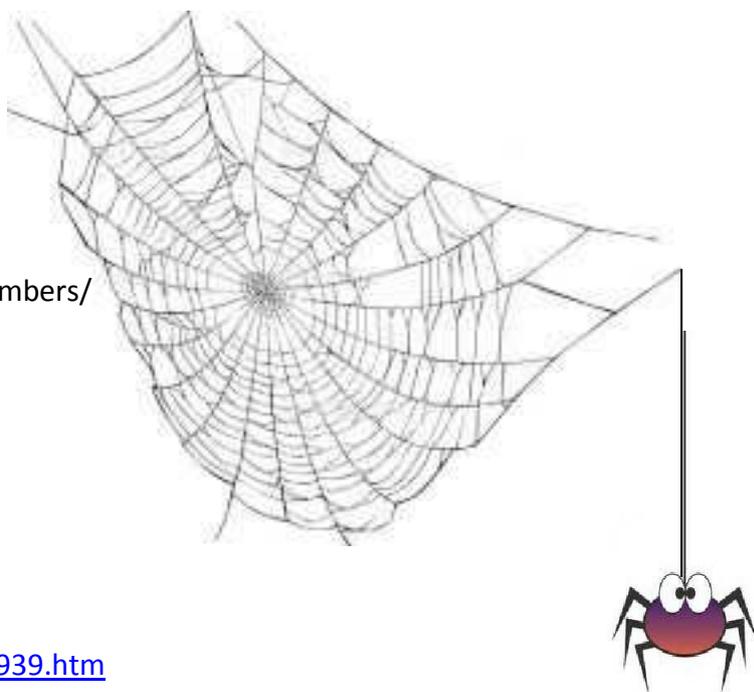
Also

1939 Register link

<https://www.lostcousins.com/newsletters2/inside1939.htm>

Staffordshire County archives Publications link

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/services/publications/GuidestoSources.aspx>.



Millicent Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, The Duchess of Sutherland

née Lady Millicent Fanny St. Clair-Erskine, 20 October 1867 – 20 August 1955

Millicent Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, was born at Dysart House in Fife, the eldest daughter of the Scottish Conservative politician Robert St Clair-Erskine, 4th Earl of Rosslyn. Her sisters were Sybil Fane, Countess of Westmorland and Lady Angela Forbes.

She was a British society hostess, social reformer, author, editor, journalist, and playwright, often using the pen name Erskine Gower. Her first husband was Cromartie Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, 4th Duke of Sutherland. By her two later marriages, she was known as Lady Millicent Fitzgerald and Lady Millicent Hawes, the latter of which was the name she used at the time of her death.

Her mother, Blanche Adeliza Fitzroy, was the widow of the Hon. Charles Maynard, making them half-sisters to Daisy Greville, Countess of Warwick and Blanche, Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennox (mother to Ivy Cavendish-Bentinck, Duchess of Portland). Their maternal grandfather was Henry Fitzroy, whose father, the Reverend Lord Henry Fitzroy, was a Canon of Westminster Abbey, and grandfather was the Prime Minister Augustus FitzRoy, 3rd Duke of Grafton

Lady Millicent St. Clair-Erskine was married three times. She married Cromartie Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, Marquess of Stafford, eldest son and heir of the 3rd Duke of Sutherland, on 20 October 1884, her 17th birthday. He inherited the Dukedom of Sutherland on his father's death in 1892 and died in 1913.

They had four children:

Lady Victoria Elizabeth Sutherland-Leveson-Gower (1885–1888)

George Granville Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, 5th Duke of Sutherland (1888–1963)

Alastair St. Clair Sutherland-Leveson-Gower (1890–1921), married Elizabeth Demarest and had Elizabeth Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, 24th Countess of Sutherland.

Lady Rosemary Millicent Sutherland-Leveson-Gower (1893–1930), married William Ward, 3rd Earl of Dudley.

The family had homes in Scotland, Staffordshire and London. She became a great society hostess at their London home, Stafford House, associated with both the Marlborough House set and the Souls. She also developed a reputation as an advocate for social reform, although to a lesser extent than her half-sister Daisy Warwick. She was known as 'Meddlesome Millie' for her campaigning for better working conditions in the Potteries, near the family seat. Her caricature appears in Arnold Bennett's Clayhanger Family novels as a countess with an 'interfering meddlesomeness which so frequently exasperates the Five Towns'. However her campaign to remove lead paint glazes from Staffordshire pottery was successful.

She was one of the canopy bearers at the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, together with Consuelo Spencer-Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough, Violet Graham, Duchess of Montrose and Winifred Cavendish-Bentinck, Duchess of Portland.

World War I and second marriage

After the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, she organised an ambulance unit that saw active service in the siege of Namur, Belgium. Trapped behind enemy lines in Belgium, she escaped to England, where she wrote *Six Weeks at the War*. She returned to the continent in October to direct field hospitals in northern France. She moved with her unit to Roubaix in June 1918. For her war service, she was awarded the French *Croix de guerre*, the Belgian Royal Red Cross, and the British Red Cross medal.

She married Major (later Brig. Gen.) Percy Desmond Fitzgerald, 11th Hussars in October 1914,^[4] at which time she became known as *Lady Millicent Fitzgerald*. She was divorced from her second husband in 1919, on the grounds of his infidelity.

Later life

She married for a third time, to Lt. Col. George Hawes in October 1919. The marriage was unhappy due to her husband's homosexuality, and they divorced in 1925.^[5] A semi-autobiographical novel, *That Fool of a Woman*, was published in 1924.

She lived mostly in France through the 1920s and 1930s, and also travelled. She was living near Angers in 1940, and was captured after the German occupation of France. She escaped via Spain and Portugal to the United States, and returned to Paris in 1945.

Writing Your Family History

* **What format would you like to present your family history?**

How do you like to present your family history project? A simple photocopied booklet shared only with family members or a hard-bound book to serve as a reference for other genealogists? Or, perhaps, a Web site. You need to choose which meets your needs, interests, potential audience, time scale and the types of materials you have to work with.

- **Memoirs:** A combination of story and personal experience, memoirs do not need to be all-inclusive or objective. Memoirs usually focus on a specific episode or time period in the life of a single ancestor, while a narrative generally encompasses a group of ancestors.
- **Photos:** If you have a large collection of family photos and memorabilia, a scrapbook or photo album can be a good way to tell your family's story. Include your photos in chronological order and include stories, descriptions and family trees to complement the pictures.

* **Define the Scope of Your Family History**

What do you intend to write about just one particular relative, or everyone from your family tree? As the author, you need to choose a focus for your family history project. i.e:

- **Single Line of Descent** - Begins with the earliest known ancestor for a particular surname and follows him/her through a single line of descent (to yourself). Each chapter of your book would cover one ancestor or generation.
- **All Descendants Of** - Begins with an individual or couple and covers all of their descendants, with chapters organised by generation. If you're focusing your family history on an immigrant ancestor, this is a good way to go.
- **The Grandparents** - Includes a section on each of your four grandparents, or eight great-grandparents, or sixteen great, great grandparents. Each individual section focuses on one grandparent, and works backwards through their ancestry or forward from his/her earliest known ancestor.

These ideas can easily be adapted to fit your interests, time and creativity.

* **Set Goals**

Even though you'll likely find yourself scrambling to meet them, goals force you to complete each stage of your project. The idea here is to get each piece done within a specified time frame. Revising and polishing can always be done later. The best way to meet these deadlines is to schedule writing time.

* **What is the Themes**

Thinking of your ancestors as characters in your family history story, what problems and obstacles did your ancestors face? A plot gives your family history interest and focus. i.e:

- Immigration/Migration
- Rags to Riches
- Pioneer or Farm Life
- Rising Out of Slavery
- War Survival

* **Do Your Background Research**

If you haven't already, be sure to interview all of your living relatives. Family stories told in a relative's own words will add a personal touch to your project.

Making your family history interesting to the reader and not a dull textbook, then it is important to make the reader feel like an eyewitness to your family's life. Even when your ancestor didn't leave an account of his or her daily life, social histories can help you learn about the experiences of people in a given time and place. Read town and city histories to learn what life was like during your time period of interest. Research timelines of wars, natural disasters and epidemics to see if any might have influenced your ancestor. Investigate your ancestor's occupation to gain greater understanding into his daily activities. Read up on the fashions, art, transportation and common foods of the time period and location.

* **Choose a Starting Point**

What is the most interesting part of your family's story? Did your ancestors escape a life of poverty and persecution for a better one in a new country? Was there an interesting invention or occupation? A war time hero? Pick out an interesting fact, record or story about your ancestors. An interesting story will grab the reader's attention, with the hope of drawing them in past the first page.

* **Records and Documents**

Diary entries, wills, military accounts, obituaries and other records offer compelling, first-hand accounts of your family's history. Anything written directly by your ancestor is definitely worth including, but you may also find interesting accounts that mention your ancestor in the records of neighbours and other family members. Include short excerpts within the text of your writing, with source citations to point readers to the original record.

Photos, pedigree charts, maps and other illustrations can also add interest to a family history and help break up the writing into manageable chunks for the reader. Be sure to include detailed captions for any photos or illustrations that you incorporate.

What can we learn from the records

we find and how can we use that information to understand our past? Asking some questions of the records you're using can reveal a lot of hidden details.

Also who is providing the information about your ancestor and how much do they really know? A first hand witness is going to be more reliable than someone who heard about it through another source. It's important to find as many resources as possible. When you have conflicting accounts, determining who the informant is can help determine what's more likely to be true.

Dates matter. When looking at the record's, it's important to note the date of the event itself and the date the record was created. A memory of an event from two hours prior is fresh and far more reliable than a recounting of an event ten years later. Over time, details fade or are remembered differently, and two people can remember the same event very differently.

The "where" also matters. Not only where the event occurred, but where in the record is the information you are seeking, and where is the record itself stored? Knowing where the original record is held and where it was created can provide additional clues to find other records, as well as determine the record's accuracy.

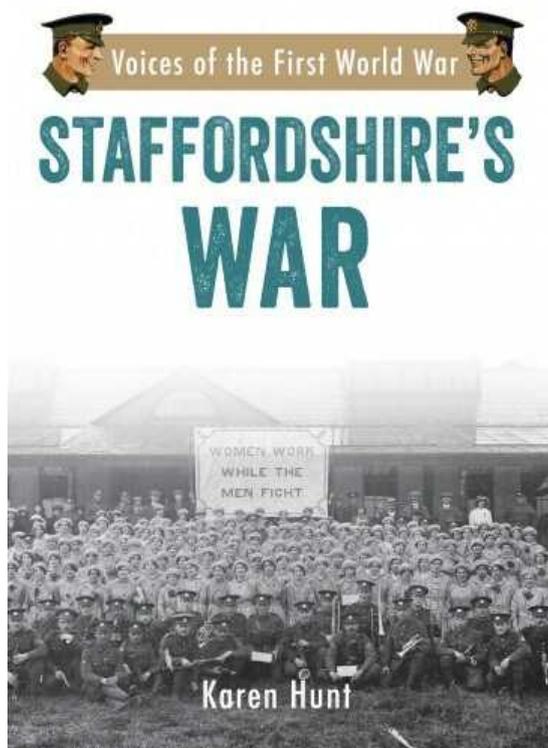
Remember "the devil's in the details." One of my great-granduncles was born in Louisville, KY while his older siblings were born in Wales and his younger siblings born in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. That little detail indicates that my ancestors may have lived in Louisville for a few years, so when I'm searching for records around that time, I know to look for records in Louisville.

* **Include an Index and Source Citations**

Unless your family history is only a few pages in length, an index is a really important feature. This makes it much easier for the casual reader to find the portions of your book that detail the people in which they are interested. At the very least, try to include a surname index. A place index is also useful if your ancestors moved around a lot.

Source citations are an essential part of any family book, to both provide credibility to your research, and to leave a trail that others can follow to verify your findings.

New Books



Paperback 160 pages
9781445657851

£14.99

This is the story of Staffordshire's First World War. Using a wide range of sources, including the Mid-Staffordshire Military Appeal Tribunal papers, letters, diaries, journals, local newspapers and autobiographies, this book draws together the vast array of experiences of Staffordshire locals. It explores, among other things, the role of women and children on the home front, how individual lives were changed dramatically by war, and the preparation for peace and 'reconstruction'.

The First World War was not just about the Tommy fighting in the trenches – some had a very different experience; for example Emma Sproson from Wolverhampton who was a former suffragette. The home front and everyday life is also considered. This remarkable collection of personal accounts gives a valuable insight into this county's First World War.

Malthouse Press presents **a new atlas** 900 pages
for genealogists

THE PARISH ATLAS OF ENGLAND

AN ATLAS OF ENGLISH PARISH BOUNDARIES Tim Cockin

viewing copies at these Record Offices

BIRMINGHAM
DEVON
DURHAM
ESSEX
GLOUCESTER
HAMPSHIRE
KENT
LINCOLNSHIRE
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
NORFOLK
SOMERSET
SHROPSHIRE
STAFFORD
SURREY
WILTSHIRE

ISBN 9781907364105
£60.00

£45.00 through 01782372067 timcockin@yahoo.com

all Ordnance Survey 6-Inch County Series traced over

16.8mm (0.6619 inch) to 1 mile

100,000s place names *** 1000s tithe maps consulted

39 counties of England *** 180 city and town plans

Yorkshire covers 73 pp *** London covers 16 pp

REVIEWS

"Just arrived. WOW! It was very kind of you to give me a mention in the acknowledgements." **Marion Woolgar**, pre-subscriber 24 Oct 2017.

"It has already been in use here at the History Centre and it hasn't even been catalogued yet!" **Julie Davis**, County Local Studies Librarian on receipt of the Atlas as Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, 7 Nov 2017

"Can I say how impressed I am with the atlas? I think it will be tremendously useful to staff and customers alike. The county maps show just the right amount of detail." **Stuart Bridges**, Archivist, Hampshire Archives & Local Studies, 7 Nov 2017.

THE PARISH ATLAS OF ENGLAND: AN ATLAS OF ENGLISH PARISH BOUNDARIES Tim Cockin

THE PARISH is the territorial unit for most public registering in local history. In this seven-year, sole, labour of love project, Tim Cockin has traced over all the early Ordnance Survey 6-inch County Series maps at 1:62,500 (2 1/2 inch) to 1 mile using desktop publishing and high capacity memory personal computers. Putting in the text of all key and secondary places, than if the original maps were reproduced shrunk. In addition, thousands of titles maps have been researched to take those counties (such as Devon, Glos, Norfolk, Lincs, Shrops, Som, etc) back to their pre-1844 states (for they were surveyed after boundary changes in the 1876 and 1882 Acts). All 39 counties of England are represented, with consideration to panels making wall charts or fold-outs for separate publication.

ISBN 9781907364105
pp 900 (780 pp of county panels - Yorkshire covers 73pp;
130 pp of detailed inset city/ town maps)
£60.00 (incl postage)
paperback
d/w interior
CONTACT: timcockin@yahoo.com/
01782 372067

To purchase direct from Malthouse Press. Send a cheque for £60 to Tim Cockin at Malthouse Press, Grange Cottage, Malthouse Lane, Barlaston, Staffordshire ST12 9AQ