

E Newsletter



Welcome to 2018, NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (MIDLAND ANCESTORS)

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

9th April

Research
Evening

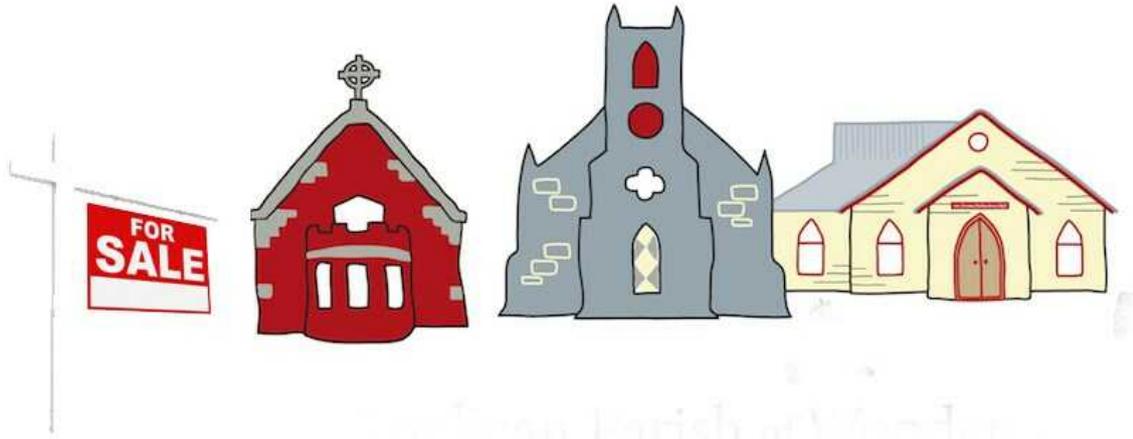
14th May

Bagnall, Stanley,
Stockton Brook with
Neil Collingwood

4th June

Research
Evening

LOST MEMORIALS



More and more churches and chapels are being lost or turned into restaurants or residential properties so this begs the question were do the memorials go?

Are they taken to the mother church?

Are they left with the property ?

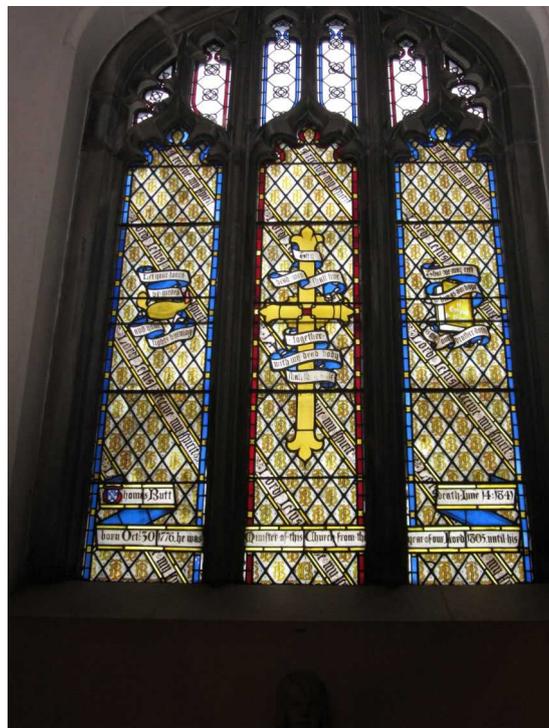
Are they dumped into a skip?

Can you spare a little time to photograph the memorial located inside churches, chapels etc.

If you feel you can help please email me and I will let you know which churches/chapels need to have their memorials photographed near you.



robecarter@hotmail.com





BORDER HISTORY

It is with considerable regret that an announcement has been made that Border History has been wound up. At a meeting on 31 January 2018 of representatives of the various societies and bodies who have been acting collectively as Border History it was decided to take this step. In recent years falling attendance at annual Fairs has raised concern, but the ultimate decision was based upon the absence of any volunteers to act as chairman, secretary, treasurer and fair organiser.

Staffordshire History Day: New Developments in Staffordshire History

A collaboration between Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent Archive Service, Keele University and the Centre for West Midlands History at the University of Birmingham

A full programme for the day is not currently available.

Venue: Entrust HQ, Riverway Centre, Riverway, Stafford ST16 3TH

Date: Saturday 28 April 2018

Time: 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Admission: Tickets £25 per person, including lunch and refreshments. Must be booked in advance through Staffordshire Record Office to avoid disappointment. If making payment online subsequently, please quote code **SHD18**.

Parking: free onsite parking.

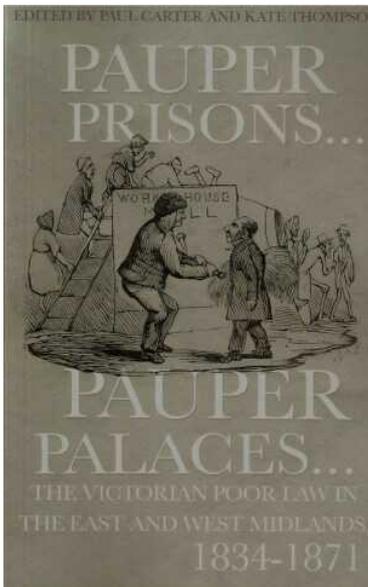
Free One-to-One Family History Help Sessions

Help with the online resource Find My Past. A short training session on finding and using Staffordshire records, with opportunity to ask questions.

Venue: Staffordshire Record Office

Date: Fridays at 1.30 p.m.

Admission: Sessions are free by advance booking only. Please telephone Staffordshire Record Office on 01785-278373 to reserve your ticket.

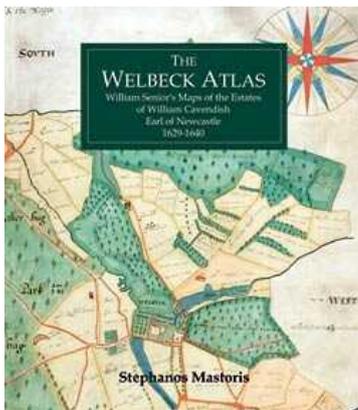


This is the book which has come from the project in which we participated cataloguing the correspondence between our two local Boards of Guardians and the Poor Law Commission and the Local Government Board. Julie Bagnall and David Jackson contributed articles which given the number of people involved in the whole project is a considerable achievement.

Available through Amazon etc at £10.99 for a paperback copy.

Thoroton Society Record Series

Thoroton Society Record Series Volume 47 (2017). The Welbeck Atlas: William Senior's maps of the estates of William Cavendish, Earl of Newcastle, 1629-1640 edited by Stephanos Mastoris with an interactive digital flashcard edited by Andrew Nicholson



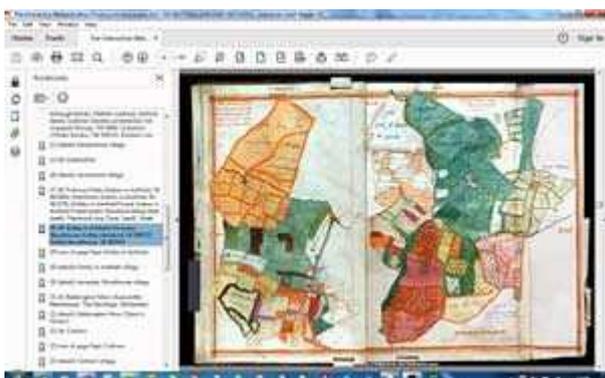
The Welbeck Atlas contains maps surveyed between 1629 and 1640 for Newcastle's properties in Nottinghamshire (19 maps), Derbyshire (27), Staffordshire (9), Northumberland (20), Gloucestershire (3) and Somerset (3). Together these cover over 106,000 acres of land and provide an important primary source for local historians and archaeologists of the counties involved as well as for genealogists and cartographic historians.

This record Series edition incorporates two elements. Firstly this book contains a detailed Map Catalogue listing the names of all villages, fields and commons recorded on each map as well as the names of their tenants. This is prefaced by a scholarly introduction by the editor, Stephanos Mastoris, illustrated by over sixty colour plates of details from the maps.

Secondly, a digital set of full colour reproductions of the maps is provided on an interactive USB flashcard at the end of the volume. All images are capable of being enlarged on screen to any desired scale.

Priced at £29.50

Email: sales@thorotonsociety.org.uk



Rodney "Gipsy" Smith MBE (31 March 1860 – 4 August 1947)



Rodney Smith was born in a Romani bender tent in Epping Forest, six miles northeast of London. Today the site is marked with a large, commemorative stone in the woods near Waterworks Corner, Woodford Green. Smith received no education, and his family made a living selling baskets, tinware, and clothespegs. His father, Cornelius (1831-1922), and his mother, Mary (Polly) Welch (c1831-1865), provided a home that was happy in their vardo. Smith was a child when his mother died from smallpox near Baldock in Hertfordshire. She is buried in the nearby churchyard of St Nicholas church in Norton, now part of Letchworth Garden City. Cornelius Smith was later buried with her. The Smith children numbered four girls and two boys (Rodney was the fourth child).

Aged 16, Rodney's conversion came as a result of a combination of various factors; the witness of his father, hearing Ira Sankey sing and a visit to the home of John Bunyan in Bedford all contributed. He taught himself to read and write and began to practice preaching. He would sing hymns to the people he met and was known as "the singing gypsy boy."

At a convention at the Christian Mission (later to become The Salvation Army) headquarters in London, William Booth noticed the Gypsies and realized the potential in young Smith. On 25 June 1877 Smith accepted the invitation of Booth to be an evangelist with and for the Mission. For six years (1877–1882) he served on street corners and mission halls.

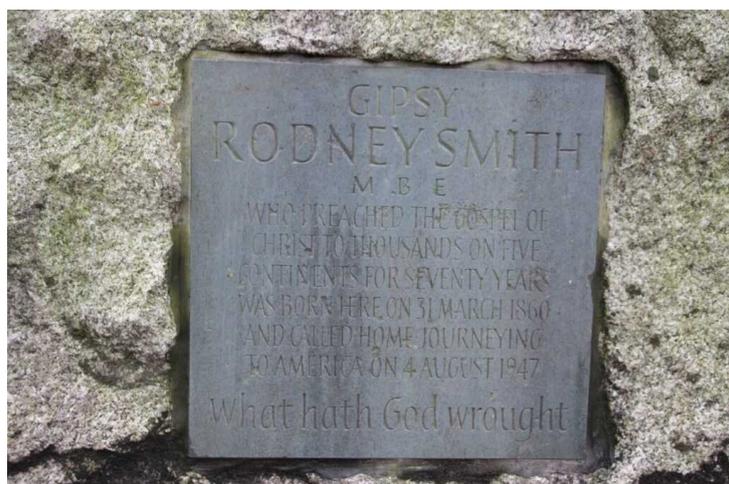
Rodney was married on 17 December 1879 to Annie E. Pennock, one of his converts. It was from this marriage that Rodney and Annie had three children, two boys and one girl. Albany Rodney, the eldest, became a Christian later in life and eventually followed in his father's footsteps and became an evangelist in the United States.

Rodney and Annie served in several assignments and saw membership rise to hundreds, then a thousand. By June 1882, great crowds were coming and the work was growing. A gold watch was given to him and about £20.00 was presented to his wife by the warm-hearted members of a local congregation. Acceptance of these gifts was a breach of the rules and regulations of The Salvation Army, and for this he was dismissed from the organization.

He continued to preach in Hanley, however, but in 1893, after conducting evangelistic services for a time at Hull, made a brief visit to Sweden. Returning to Hanley, he remained there until 1886 when he resigned to resume evangelistic work, being engaged in these labours until the end of 1888. Early in 1889 he visited the United States, conducting services in various cities, returning to England later in the same year and becoming connected with the Manchester Mission.

In 1891 he again visited the United States. In 1892 he conducted services in Edinburgh, and from this grew the Gipsy Gospel Wagon Mission, devoted to evangelistic work among his own people. He visited America for the third time in 1893. After a five months' revival in Glasgow in 1893-94, Smith went to Australia, preaching at Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, after which he returned to England by way of the United States.

In 1895 he preached in London, Manchester, Edinburgh, as well as in many smaller cities, and in 1896 paid his fifth visit to America, returning to England and conducting brief evangelistic campaigns until 1897, when he became first Missioner of the National Free Church Council. This position he still retains [in 1911], and in this capacity he has conducted revivals throughout England, besides paying still another visit to the United States in 1907. Rodney Smith died in 1947.





Feedback, you can help to shape the talks that we have at our meetings.

Are there any subjects you would like to hear a talk on?

i.e First & second world war

Genealogy software?

How to research your family tree?

Local History?

ETC

Are there any speakers that you have listened too and would like to hear give another talk?

Please email Brian with any of your suggestions for talks.



b.wilson00912@btinternet.com

On the Web

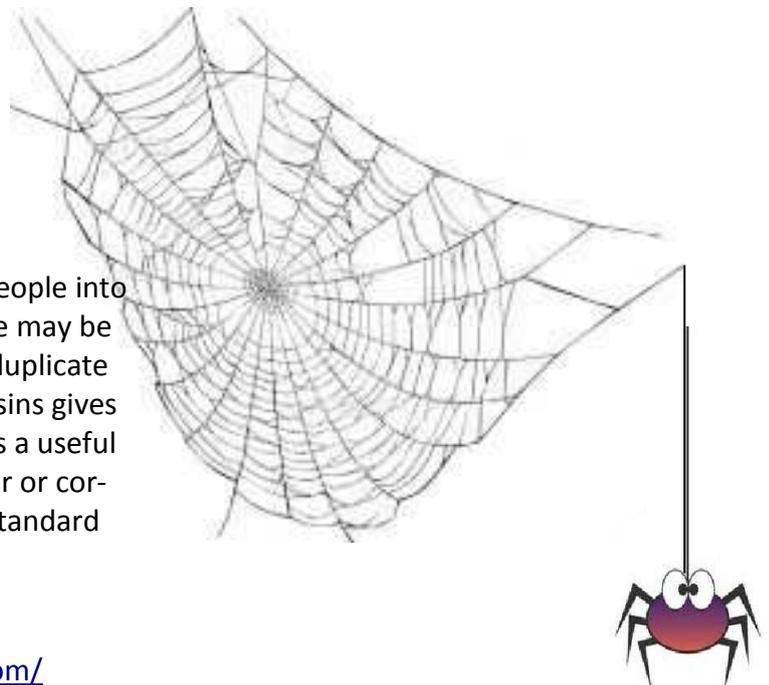
From the Lost Cousins Newsletter

When you have amassed a reasonable number of people into your computer held family history programme there may be small or large errors such as errors typing dates or duplicate individuals. The most recent newsletter for lost cousins gives links to the new site of Family tree Analyzer which is a useful free programme to check your data. It does not alter or correct anything but just indicates where it finds non-standard data.

<https://www.lostcousins.com>

Download the programme from <http://ftanalyzer.com/>

Download the guides from <http://ftanalyzer.com/guides/>



LOCAL HISTORY DAY 2018

SATURDAY 2 JUNE 10.30 - 16.30

Friends Meeting House, Lower Friargate, York Y01 9RL

- **RAILWAY RECORDS:** Alison Kay, Archivist, National Railway Museum, York
- **BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY AGM**
- **2018 LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS:** for research & publication, for a society newsletter and for personal achievement
- **BALH ANNUAL LECTURE:**

The English Parish Church: Past, Present and Future

John Beckett

Professor of English Regional History, University of Nottingham

Tickets (including morning tea/coffee and sandwich lunch) £25 BALH members £35 non-members
Please book early. Bookings after 18 May 2018 are subject to availability

HOW TO BOOK

- Complete the tear-off form below and return it with your payment (cheques payable to BALH) to the address below. Please ensure you have **either** provided an email address **PRINTED VERY CLEARLY**, or a stamped, addressed envelope for your ticket and directions.
- You can also book online at: www.balh.org.uk/events
- **Walking tours on Friday 1 June featuring local chapels or medieval churches may also be booked. Places are limited.**

To: BALH (LHD) 7 St Mark's Rd, Salisbury SP1 3AY

Please send me _____ ticket/s for 2018 Local History Day at £25 (BALH member) or £35 (non-member)
I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to British Association for Local History, with (if applicable) a stamped addressed envelope

Please indicate your choice for lunch: meat vegetarian vegan
 Please indicate if you would like further information about the walking tours.

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME	
ADDRESS	
POSTCODE	

TEL. NO
EMAIL
Please give here the name (and lunch preference) of everyone for whom you are buying a ticket; and state any other special dietary requirements for anyone attending.