

E Newsletter



Welcome to the 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

Coronavirus

In view of the current Government advice, all Midland Ancestors events and meetings are suspended. This includes the Family History Centre in Birmingham, outings, members meetings, both in Birmingham and at satellite groups.

The situation will be monitored and will be reviewed as and when the position changes.

To all the North Staffs members please stay in contact with the group organisers through our website. We will try to keep you up to date with the current situation using this website, via the society Facebook pages and Twitter feeds, and updates will be made available through the newsletter.

The newsletter will be added to the web page on the following dates for you to view:

30th September 2020

31st December 2020

31st March 2021

30th June 2021

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:

- * Memorials located inside churches, chapels etc.
- * Photograph any war memorials
- * Headstones within churches or chapels

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.



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ON THE WEB

<http://www.northstaffsca.org/mems.htm> :This web site hosts latin MI's that have been transcribed and translated

www.interment.net/uk/index.htm Cemetery records on line (Public health funerals)

www.wrecksiteuk.html : Uk sites of military and aviation crash sites and their history

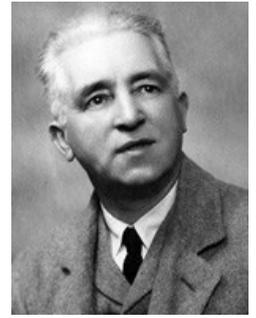
<http://yorkshireindexers.dyndns.info/index.php> :Index for Yorkshire municipal cemeteries

<http://www.dustydocs.com/> : collection of useful documents

STAFFORDSHIRE PEOPLE

William Havergal Brian

Brian was born on 29 January 1876 into a working-class Potteries family in 35 Ricardo Street Dresden, Staffordshire. He gained his first musical experience in church choirs and after leaving school at the age of 12 he was in some demand as a church organist. He learned the violin and cello, and played in local bands and orchestras. A local teacher gave him a thorough theoretical grounding, but he was virtually self-taught in composition. Nevertheless he rapidly acquired an invincible desire to be a composer and in the first decade of the twentieth century began to make a name for himself.



Some of his music was admired by Elgar, works of his were performed by conductors such as Henry Wood and Thomas Beecham, and for a number of years he and his family were supported by a wealthy Staffordshire businessman so that Brian would be free to compose.

All this came to an abrupt end, however, just before the outbreak of World War 1, when various personal crises forced him to leave his home and family. In London he failed to consolidate such musical reputation as he had gained, and for many years he supported a growing second family with a series of menial jobs, often in some poverty.

By the late 1920s Brian gained an assistant editorship on the journal *Musical Opinion*, through which he gained a clearer understanding of and greater sympathy with the latest continental developments than almost any other British composer. The musical establishment however - with the exception of his close friend Sir Granville Bantock - passed him by and his own growing body of mature work remained almost entirely unknown and unperformed.

This – although Richard Strauss (to whom the Gothic Symphony is dedicated) took him seriously, and despite Sir Donald Tovey being moved to write in 1934 that 'even for the recognition of his smaller works he is being made to wait... far longer than is good for any country whose musical reputation is worth praying for'.

With the death of Bantock in 1946, Brian lost his last advocate for performances of his music until the early 1950s, when his work came to the attention to a young BBC music producer named Robert Simpson, himself destined to become one of Britain's foremost symphonists.

Starting with Brian's eighth symphony in 1954 (the first time that Brian, already 78, heard any of his symphonies), Simpson gradually brought about over the next quarter of a century a growing number of performances, mostly in radio broadcasts, which began to initiate a recognition of Brian's achievement.

The composer moved from London to Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex, in 1958, where he embarked upon a final, immensely rich, ten-year Indian Summer of composition which included no fewer than 20 symphonies. He finally ceased original creative work in October 1968 with the completion of his 32nd Symphony, but for the remaining four years of his life he retained full mental vigour and it always seemed possible that he might return to composition.

His death came on 28 November 1972 as the result of a fall, two months short of his 97th birthday. Though he knew that the BBC was committed to broadcasting in due course all of his symphonies, not a note of his music was commercially issued on record during his lifetime, and he died without having heard many of his finest works.

Notes on Longton

Longton and even more so Sandford Hill is not an ancient town. In the second half of the seventeenth century it was still only two small hamlets, that names Longton adjacent to Longton Hall and that called either Maere Lane End or Th'Lone End, just over a mile to the east.

HEARTH TAX

Records for 1666 Longton having only 13 taxable hearths (there may have been others that were exempt through poverty) and at Meare End 12 houses with a further nine at Normacot Grange.

Total population of around 150 persons (average being five per house) and around a further 40 persons at Normacot around 200 altogether.

This shows Longton as a small community compared with the other pottery towns Burslem 41 taxable hearths, Tunstall 17, Hanley and Shelton 50, Stoke 43 houses and even Fenton, almost forgotten at one stage in its history had 33.

In 1738 Longton still had only a small population with little more than 500.

Assessment of value/status Trentham Hall with 33. Richard Cotton of Normacot Grange 9 Only 3 houses in Longton master/craftsman or tenant farmer. The rest were one hearth for very poor residences. There were probably 8 hearths not paying tax 1/- per year in rent)

Longton was originally an agricultural area, in the 13th century it was part laid out in arable fields and part given for sheep farming and serviced by a water mill.

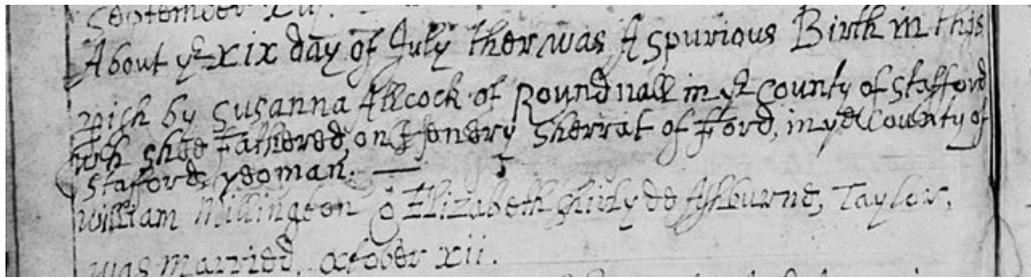
Indeed the first reference to Longton is when Randolph de Beville at the beginning of the 13th century granted Longton stream to Trentham Priory 'to the use of the mill upon the heath', and throughout the century various concessions were made to the priory to engage in milling and other activities within the manor of Longton.

By 1236, Longton appears to have become a part of the Manor of Newcastle, involving its inhabitants in 40 days service at the Castle. By 1251 it has finished. By the end of the 13th Century large areas of land had been improved, enclosed and taken out of the surrounding wastes. From that point it continued to grow into the mid 18th century, first under the shadow of Trentham Priory and then of their secular successors, the Leveson-Gower family who eventually acquired the Dukedom of Sutherland in 1833.

For administration purposes, Lane End and Longton were grouped with Botteslow and the Fentons to form one quarter of the extensive parish of Stoke-upon-Trent and there remains records of rates paid by this grouping of hamlets from the end of the sixteenth century. In 1570 the figure was a little over £3. In 1648, when Thomas Fenton was the overseer of the poor, it was £7.10s. By 1683, with John Machin as overseer, there had been a massive increase to £36. 0. 7d and seven years later Samuel Cliffe superintended the collection of £42. 6 10d

By 1696 £41.0 0. was collected from 40 persons and then only twelve were resident in Longton, Meir and Lane End.

Longton in the second half of the 18th century was slowly changing from a rural to an urban community under the influence of improved communications, the exploitation of the surrounding mineral wealth and the industries that were made possible – principally the pottery industry itself.



This is from the PR of Thorpe, Derbyshire. 1702 Sent in by Dianne Shenton



Have you got any interesting family stories, photos or research break through's you would like to share with everyone via the newsletter?

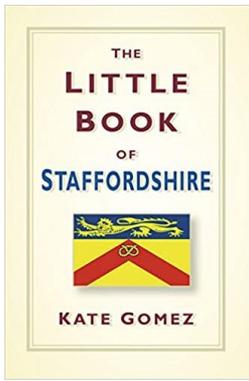
Have you found a useful website?

Have you got any old photos of a person(s) or area you would like to know more about?

Then please contact me via the email below and I can place your article/photo in the newsletter to share with everyone hopefully being of benefit to all.



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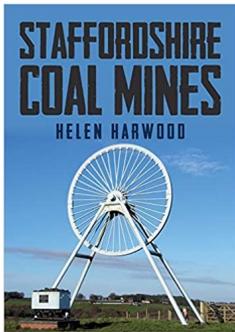


The Little Book of Staffordshire

- **Hardcover:** 192 pages
- **Publisher:** The History Press; 01 edition (28 April 2017)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 0750964820
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0750964821

About the Author

Kate Gomez lives in Lichfield and is currently studying Linguistics at the University of Wolverhampton. She works in community development and writes the popular local history blog, lichfieldlore.co.uk and also runs the social history group Lichfield Discovered, which offers a variety of walks and visits to places of interest in and around Staffordshire. Kate is involved in a number of community history projects, including work to save the Grade II* Listed Sandfields Pumping Station in Lichfield for the community and to promote the heritage and history of Woodhouse Community Farm, which once formed part of the Fisherwick estate.

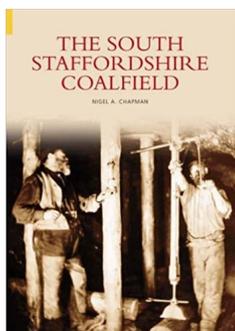


Staffordshire Coal Mines

- **Paperback:** 96 pages
- **Publisher:** Amberley Publishing (15 Nov. 2018)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 1445677873
- **ISBN-13:** 978-1445677873

About the Author

Helen Harwood was born in Stoke-on-Trent and grew up in nearby Wolstanton, where her lifetime love of history developed. Her family have had a long association with the Staffordshire coal industry over several generations, working at a number of collieries.



The South Staffordshire Coalfield

- **Paperback:** 128 pages
- **Publisher:** The History Press; illustrated edition edition (25 July 2005)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 0752431021
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0752431024

About the Author

Nigel Chapman is an expert on the Black Country mining industry (covers the Cannock and South Staffordshire Coalfields). He is the author of 'The History of the Sandwell Park Collieries' and 'History of Coal Mining Around Halesowen