

E Newsletter



Coronavirus

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Trustees held an online meeting this week to discuss the viability of Groups re-opening. After consulting with our Groups, it was decided that all Groups would continue to be closed, including the Family History Centre in Birmingham, until at least the New Year. The Trustees will meet again in November to review the situation and then make a further decision.

ZOOM TALKS

We are continuing with our online talks . Full details are on the Society's website under Events. Registration for each talk will open 7 days before the event.

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

31st March 2021

30th June 2021

30th September 2021

31st December 2021

MERRY CHRISTMAS
& A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ALL AT THE
STAFFORDSHIRE FAMILY
HISTORY SOCIETY



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.

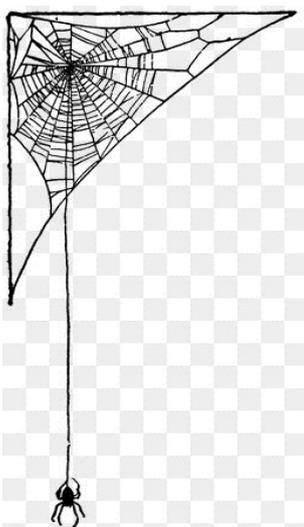


robecarter@hotmail.com

North Staffordshire memorial inscriptions have members mainly those in the latin reading group who are currently undertaking a project to record and translate Latin memorial inscriptions in local churches.

www.northstaffsca.org

<http://www.northstaffsca.org/mems.htm>



<http://home.westman.wave.ca/~hillmans/ww2refs.html> This web site shows the memorials for air craft and crew who were shot down/crashed and killed in the second world war

www.wrecksiteuk Sites of military and aviation history within the UK

<http://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/surname-search> This is the new facility by the FFHS which allows you to search for a SURNAME across all the FFHS members societies and gives you a list of their member interests for the surname searched

<http://abundantgenealogy.com/free-updated-genealogy-research-log-by-thomas-macentee/>
This is a recorded zoom brickwall talk by find my past which was based on a US/Irish case Thomas Macentee used a research log.

What can I do when stuck indoors because of the covid 19?

Explore what's available for free.

The core of Ancestry.com is its treasure trove of subscriber-only databases, the site can be accessed for free at any library using their library edition there are a surprising number of free data bases. If you're still debating whether to subscribe to Ancestry.com, trying out its free collections is a good way to get a feel for the site and how it works.

You can view all free records collections on Ancestry.com from a single page. You can even search all these collections at once.

Many of these collections, it's true, require a subscription to view full results or the scanned image of the original record. That's the case with most US census collections, although you can view the 1880 and 1940 enumerations in their entirety for free; you just need to register and create a free account.

Create or upload your family tree.

There's no charge to create and share your own family tree files on Ancestry.com. You'll get the most out of this experience, though, by subscribing. Your subscription will allow you to view data matches as well as other subscribers' trees that overlap with yours. Ancestry.com hosts some 100 million family trees, containing 13 billion profiles of ancestors, plus more than 330 million photographs, scanned documents and written stories attached to those trees.

To begin, select Start a New Tree under the Trees link on the home page; you'll see a rudimentary pedigree chart where you can type in your data. Another option under Trees, Upload a GEDCOM file, lets you share a GEDCOM (the universal file format for family trees) you've exported from your genealogy software. Or from the same page, you can upload native file formats created by several genealogy programs: Family Tree Maker (FTW); Family Tree Maker backup file (FBK); Personal Ancestral File (PAF); and Legacy (FDB). You can also upload "zipped" GEDCOM and image files (GEDZ). Just browse to the file on your computer, select and upload it, and Ancestry.com will interpret the file and create your online tree.

Assess What Genealogy Items You Own

Assess what you own. This isn't a detailed assessment, but rather a chance (and for some this may be your first time) to see all of your genealogy papers in one place. Don't worry about logging everything. For now, just get a sense of what you own.

Paper-based Items

- genealogy books/history books
- boxes of photos/photo albums/old scrapbooks/postcards
- filing cabinet filled with un-filed papers
- digital files you've printed
- family mementos
- county histories
- research tossed in a box

Digital Items

- digital files
- GEDCOMs
- e-mails/e-mails you've printed
- census records
- information found on websites/important family sites you've bookmarked

Organising Questions to Ask Yourself

The object is to use the "what I own" technique to help decide which areas of your family tree you want to organize first. Also, once you see everything you own, you can start building your priority list of short-term goals.

- Does your "stuff" fall into just a few categories or many categories?
- Is most of your material on paper or digital?
- Are there more photos than anything else?
- Is there one surname that stands out above the others?
- Are you drawn to one type of record more than the others?

It's up to you whether you want to do a very small project first (for example, the surname about which you have the least information) or a large project, like all of your photos. The choice is yours.

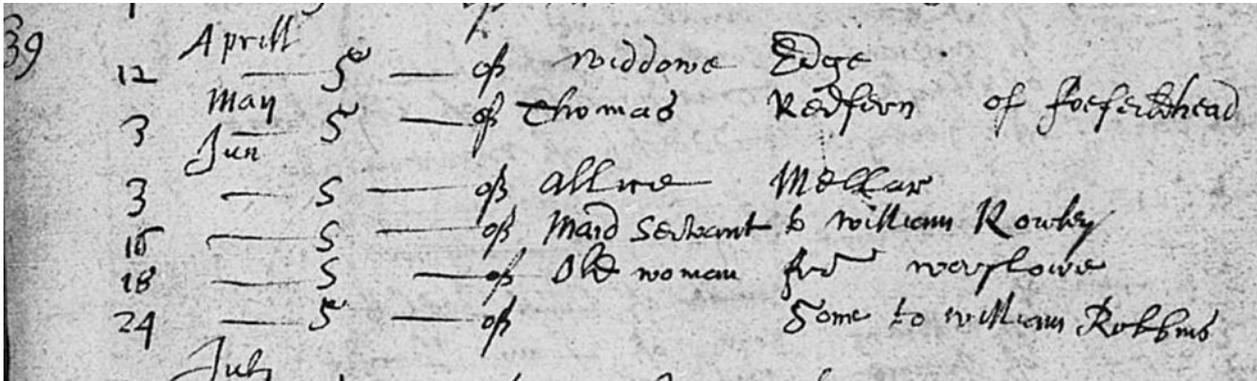
The Following were provided by Dianne Shenton and are exerts from Alstonefield parish registers

Alstonefield PR

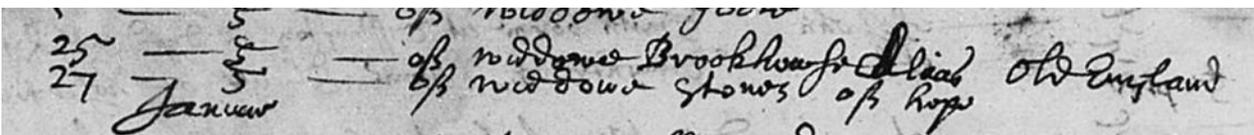
Weather records.

20 Jan 1614/15 The great snow began to fall and continued increasing ye most days till the 12th March 1614/15

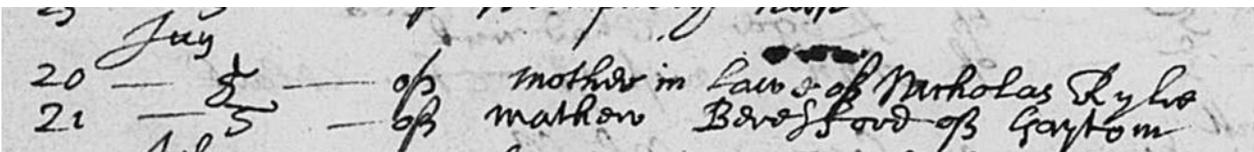
Unhelpful Burials 1639 all first names omitted



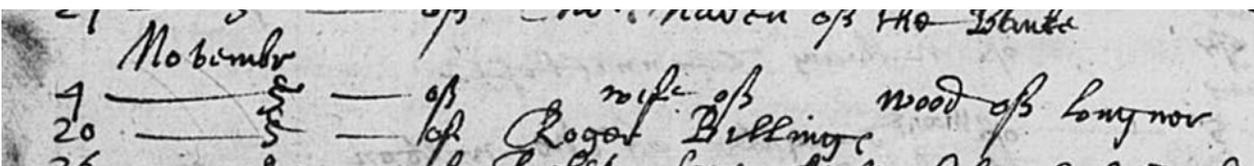
1643 nick names. Can anyone claim Widdowe Brookhouse alias Old England?



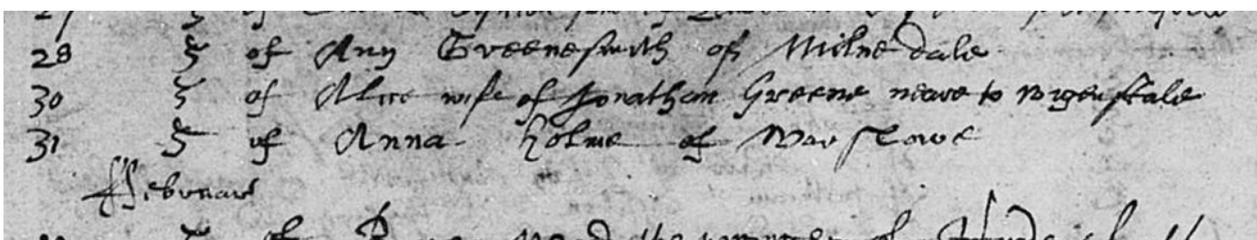
1644 Is anyone looking for the burial of Nicholas Rylie's Mother in Law?



1648 Burial Anyone looking for a female Wood could claim this one.



1655/6 Burial I was looking for Greensmiths in the area so could claim Any Greensmith but think it is Annie Greensmith.



Dec 1658

27 5 of widowe Baylie a poore woman of Sheen who coming from Lee hall on Christmas day in the forenoon was drowned in Douic in the foard at the Load end, shee ryding behind her daughter the watter being verie bigge her head sweed and fell backward in the watter, and was carried down to the milne before shee was taken out.

27 Dec 1658. S[epult] of widowe Baylie a poore woman of Sheen who coming from Lee hall on Christmas day in the forenoon was drowned in Douic [possibly river Dove] in the foard at the Load end, shee ryding behind her daughter the watter being verie bigge her head sweed and fell backward in the Watter and was carried down ----- [water?] to the milne before shee was taken out.

1659 12 May. No political correctness

12 5 of John Chapman of hope the same day 5. of John Squabis a poore simple Idiot maintained by howse Lowe in Alstonfeild, hope & Stanhope.

the same day [12 may 1659] S[epult] of John Harvie a poore simple Idiot maintained by howse Lowe in Alstonfeild, hope & Stanhope.

1665 Marriage

685 -
M^{aij} John Besford of fafieldhead & Any foole of Gayton widow wer Married
20
23 Richard Melner of Monast^r of Marut Affhton of hope wer Married
686
A^{ug} John Stambles Married Grace Gowld of Sheen

maii John Besford of fafieldhead & Any foole of Gayton widow wer Married 20.

[Looking at more entries I think it was Annie Foole of Gayton but I like any fool!]

Izaak Walton (1593 – 15th December 1683) was an English writer. Best known as the author of *The Compleat Angler* (1653), he also wrote a number of short biographies including one of his friend John Donne. They have been collected under the title of *Walton's Lives*.



Walton was born at Stafford in 1593. The register of his baptism in September 1593 gives his father's name as *Jervis*, or Gervase. His father, who was an innkeeper as well as a landlord of a tavern, died before Izaak was three, being buried in February 1596/7 as *Jarvicus Walton*. His mother then married another innkeeper by the name of Bourne, who later ran the Swan in Stafford. Izaak also had a brother named Ambrose, as indicated by an entry in the parish register recording the burial in March 1595/6 of an *Ambrosius filius Jervis Walton*.

His date of birth is traditionally given as 9 August 1593. However, this date is based on a misinterpretation of his will, which he began on 9 August 1683.

He is believed to have been educated in Stafford before moving to London in his teens. He is often described as an ironmonger, but he trained as a linen draper, a trade which came under the Ironmongers' Company. He had a small shop in the upper storey of Thomas Gresham's Royal Burse or Exchange in Cornhill. In 1614 he had a shop in Fleet Street, two doors west of Chancery Lane in the parish of St Dunstan's. He became verger and churchwarden of the church, and a friend of the vicar, John Donne. He joined the Ironmongers' Company in November 1618. Walton's first wife was Rachel Floud (married December 1626), a great-great-niece of Archbishop Cranmer. She died in 1640. He soon remarried, to Anne Ken (m. 1641?-1662), who appears as the pastoral *Kenna* of *The Angler's Wish*; she was a stepsister of Thomas Ken, afterwards bishop of Bath and Wells.

After the Royalist defeat at Marston Moor in 1644, Walton retired from his trade. He went to live just north of his birthplace, at a spot between the town of Stafford and the town of Stone, where he had bought some land edged by a small river. His new land at Shallowford included a farm, and a parcel of land; however by 1650 he was living in Clerkenwell, London. Following the Restoration of the Monarchy it was revealed he had aided the Royalists, Izaak was a staunch Royalist supporter, and at great personal risk he managed to safeguard one of the Crown Jewels (referred to as the Little or Lesser George) following Charles II defeat at the battle of Worcester. Walton was entrusted with returning it to London from where it was smuggled out of the country to Charles II who was then in exile.



Photogravure of Walton's Shallowford house, 1888

The cottage is now a Walton Museum. The ground floor of the museum is set-out in period, with information boards covering Walton's life, his writings and the story of the Izaak Walton Cottage. Upstairs a collection of fishing related items is displayed, the earliest dating from the mid-eighteenth century, while a room is dedicated to his *Lives* and *The Compleat Angler*.

The first edition of his book *The Compleat Angler* was published in 1653. His second wife died in 1662, and was buried in Worcester Cathedral, where there is a monument to her memory. One of his daughters married Dr Hawkins, a prebendary of Winchester.

The last forty years of his life were spent visiting eminent clergymen and others who enjoyed fishing, compiling the biographies of people he liked, and collecting information for the *Compleat Angler*. After 1662 he found a home at Farnham Castle with George Morley, Bishop of Winchester, to whom he dedicated his *Life of George Herbert* and his biography of Richard Hooker. He sometimes visited Charles Cotton in his fishing house on the Dove.

Walton died in his daughter's house at Winchester on 15 December 1683 and was buried in Winchester Cathedral



Walton left his property as described above at Shallowford in Staffordshire for the benefit of the poor of his native town. He had purchased Halfhead Farm there in May 1655. In doing this he was part of a more general retreat of Royalist gentlemen into the English countryside, in the aftermath of the English Civil War, a move summed up by his friend Charles Cotton's well-known poem "The Retirement" (first published in the 5th edition of Walton's *Compleat Angler*). The cost of Shallowford was £350, and the property included a farmhouse, a cottage, courtyard, garden and nine fields along which a river ran. Part of its attraction may have been that the River Meece, which he mentions in one of his poems, formed part of the boundary. The farm was let to tenants, and Walton kept the excellent fishing.