

Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry London Branch Newsletter.

Vol 13: 1 January 2012

Editorial

A Happy New Year to you all. Our next meeting in April will take place in Birmingham, and is a tour of the Jewellery Quarter led by Chris Upton. Please contact Dave david.b.kerr@btinternet.com if you wish to join us on this outing. He will be providing details of trains, timings and where we will be meeting up at a later date. The ABM will therefore take place at the July meeting. Rita will be standing down as treasurer, so if there is anyone who would like to take on this role please let Dave or Rita know. There will also be no hardcopy April newsletter so the write up of today's talk will appear in the July newsletter. Finally we already have next years dates for your diary, they are the 12th January, 13th April, 6th July & 5th October 2013. Venues will be confirmed at a later date, but should be three at the HPFHC & one at the SOG.

January 14th 2012 meeting (SOG)

Andrew Gray -
"Not just for decoration -
Heraldic clues to unsuspected genealogy".

Andrew Gray was an enthusiastic armorist at school in the 1950s and throughout his university career, culminating in getting a grant of arms from Lord Lyon in 1968, while a post-doctoral fellow in Scotland (the home of his great-grandfather). After a lapse of over thirty years while working for Shell, he took it up again on retirement, embarking on a campaign, now all but complete, to furnish the catalogue of funeral heraldry, *Hatchments in Britain*, with a complete library of photographic images. At the same time he has systematically revised the catalogue, opening a great diversity of small genealogical projects. This work has now diversified into the Heraldry Archive, which aims to digitise the scattered records of armorial scholarship and put them at everyone's fingertips.

Future Meetings

14th April 2012 - “**Trip and tour of the Birmingham’s Jewellery Quarter**”

Led by Chris Upton.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE CONTACT david.b.kerr@btinternet.com IF YOU WISH TO JOIN THIS OUTING SO THAT FULL DETAILS ON WHERE TO MEET AND TIMING CAN BE PROVIDED.

7th July 2012 (HPFHC) Speaker from HPFHC - “**Unravelling the mysteries of the IGI and how to use the new release**”

The Hyde Park Family History Centre (HPFHC), 64-68 Exhibition Road, London, SW7 2PA
Nearest tube **South Kensington** (Circle/District & Piccadilly lines) follow the signs to the Museums, past the V&A, opposite the Science Museum.

6th October 2013 (SOG) Liz Carter - “**Making the most of Manorial rolls**”

The Society of Genealogists (SOG), 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London, EC1M 7BA in the Lecture Room on the Ground Floor

Nearest tube **Barbican** (Circle/Hammersmith & City/ Metropolitan) turn left, then left again at the traffic lights with Clerkenwell Rd or **Farringdon** left, left, right onto Clerkenwell Rd and right again at the traffic lights with Goswell Rd.

Jeanne Bunting - "Maps and Directories online".

Jeanne used examples from her own research to show how you could use different trade directories to triangulate the location of an ancestor's house even when the street names had changed. The street she was interested in was Attercliffe Road, which existed in the 1893 directory but not in the 1881 one, at least not under that name (was actually three streets). By using other streets and knowing which order they occurred in, she could identify the unnamed streets in the directories and thus locate 3 of the 4 people she was looking for. Then by comparing their entries she could marry up the information and identify where her ancestor's business was located on the map. When marrying directory listings up with census schedules you have to remember the enumerator didn't go straight up a road but went down all the side streets, so one road could be recorded over several schedules. When looking for neighbours of your ancestor on the census it's useful if they have an unusual name, but remember it could well be misspelt! Taverns are also useful to locate the right registration district if street names aren't given as they don't move and are usually listed in directories.

She then looked at the various maps available online and what they offer, including modern Google maps (where you can add your own information and find out the latitude/longitude of an address), old Ordnance Survey Maps (where you can superimpose a modern street map), old London maps, school board maps, Booth's poverty map, parish maps (remember parish boundaries run down streets so one side of a street could be in one parish and the other in another), to the more specific, including, jurisdiction maps, bomb damage maps & murder maps. By using the addresses on your certificates you can work out how close your ancestors lived to each other and how often they moved and how far.

She then moved onto looking at the various sites that host directories. However be aware some of the indexing of online trade directories is abysmal so browse rather than search. Use the general index to find out where the street entries start. Advertisements in a directory can also contain useful information. Historical directories are usually much more reliable, their aim is to have one directory for each area for each decade, you are able to search for both streets and trades. She then looked at the various add-ons you can use to personalize maps. Finally she reminded us to look at the publications pages of FHS to see what they have available as regards maps.