

Newsletter

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Editorial

Contributors in this edition of our Newsletter along with myself are David Salt and Diana Grant with a very informative item about Newcastle Cemetery Records. My article is about my first steps in tracing my paternal family history and is an updated repeat of an article printed some years ago. I make no excuse in repeating the item as I have brought it up to date and have more mysterious questions to find answers to.

I have started a For Sale and Wanted section. It is there for you to use, just write down what you want me to put in the Newsletter though I must stress, Genealogy items only, no used cars, caravans or puppies.

By the time this Newsletter is printed the first part of the restoration of Bethesda Chapel in Hanley should be open to the public. On Thursday 21st October Mayor Wolfe will open Bethesda Chapel Churchyard Garden. Funded through Local Government Office and Advantage West Midland. A new pedestrian walkway, new lighting and street furniture plus improved landscaping will be open for all to enjoy. There will also be a new piece of Public Artwork, "Mother and Child", installed as a centrepiece to one of the new seating areas and created by a local figurative sculptor name Anthony Beetlestone.

John S. Booth

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St. Giles, Newcastle-under-Lyme

The borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme was given its name from the fact that there was a 12th century fortress erected in the neighbourhood but it is part of the archdeaconry of Stoke-upon-Trent. Formerly a chapelry in the parish of Stoke-upon-Trent it became a parish by Act of Parliament in 1807. The parish church of St. Giles is said to be the fourth church on that site. It was rebuilt of stone, with the exception of the tower, in 1873-76 from designs by Sir George Gilbert Scott R.A. in the Early English or Decorative style. It consisted of a chancel with aisles and vestry on the north, nave of six bays with clerestory, aisles, north and south porches, and a western tower originally of 11th century construction, with pinnacles. The tower contained a clock with chimes and 10 bells. The original eight bells were cast in Gloucester in 1732. The tower was rebuilt in 1894 by F. Stanier, Esq. At that time, work on the restoration of

the churchyard was also carried out. The bell were re-hung then, and again in 1928 when the two new bells were added.

Some windows have stained glass and several pieces from the previous church were incorporated into the rebuilding including the oak pelican lectern and a quantity of ancient tiles which were used to make the tessellated floor. The church had 1275 sittings until recent times. The rapid growth of the borough required the building of a second church, St. George, in 1828 and the original parish was split into two parishes in 1844.

The registers date from 1563 and are deposited at Stafford Record Office. Bishop's Transcripts dating from 1663 are at Lichfield Record Office.

David Salt

Edward Booth or Edward Boole?

Part 1 Seeking Edward warts and all

My first footsteps into family history were taken when I saw Mrs. Beech's book "Tracing Ancestors in North Staffordshire" in Webberley's bookshop in Hanley. Starting with myself and then my father (Albert Booth) and then my father's father (Francis Booth) was easy. My father's grandfather died before my father was born and he didn't know much about him at all. In fact, he only knew that his name was Edward and his grandmother was name Florence and they lived in Hanley.

With this scant information I trawled through the Hanley section of the 1891 census on microfiche for the family of an Edward Booth with a son name Francis. After quite a few visits to Hanley Library I found them living in Crown Street (off Broad Street) with quite a large family and two doors away lived a Thomas Booth, born Kempton, Shropshire. So I made a note of this information as the 1891 census gave Edward's place of birth as Newport, Shropshire. After consulting Mrs. Beech's book, I found that you could determine approximately when a couple were married by the age of the eldest child, so off I went to the Registry Office armed with this information. They found the marriage for me in 1871 and sold me a copy of the marriage certificate dated July 30th as their wedding day (after the 1871 census was taken). The marriage certificate gave Edwards father's name as Francis Booth and Edward's occupation as a Carter. I looked in the 1871 at the address given on the certificate, but could not find an Edward Booth anywhere. In the mean time I was a regular visitor to the family history section of the Church of the Latter Day Saints at the

Bramptons but again, could not find any trace of the birth of Edward Booth.

With the information that Edward Booth was born about 1850 in Newport, Shropshire, and his father's name was Francis off I went to the Shropshire Records Office in Shrewsbury. Before I went I looked on the web site of the Latter Day Saints (familysearch.org) and found only one Edward Booth who was born in Baschurch Shropshire to a Francis Booth, but his date of birth was a few years out. I asked the more experienced members of the Society who told me that people told the census numerator practically anything as they did not trust why they wanted the information (a bit like today I think) and with his census occupation being a Carter he probably commuted between Shropshire and Stoke on Trent and that was why I could not find him in the Local 1871 Census.

At Shrewsbury Records Office they were really helpful and helped me trace Edwards birth in Baschurch and more information about his family. After using up all my available floating days off work over the next few years going to Shrewsbury I had quite a file on my Booth ancestors.

Then catastrophe. I bought the 1881 census on CD's from the Church of the Latter Day Saints and asked it to search for Edward Booth born Shropshire c1850. The CD found an Edward Booth born Baschurch living in a Workhouse in Oswestry and an Edward Booth living in Ashley Street Hanley. With the family information from the 1891 Census it turned out that my Edward Booth was living in Ashley Street Hanley. This time Edward had put his place of birth as Shrewsbury so for the best part of three years I'd been chasing the wrong Edward Booth. In the 1881 census living with the family was his stepfather James Sankey and his mother Martha Sankey born Kinton, Salop.

Over the next two years I tried in vain to find information on the origins of Edward Booth spending days at the Shrewsbury Records Office ploughing through the Church Records of Newport and Shrewsbury, then a breakthrough came. Our society asked for volunteers to name index the Stoke on Trent 1871 census. When it was finished I looked for all the Booth's and found Edward Booth living with his step-father (James Sankey), Martha (his mother) and his step-brother John Sankey in another part of Hanley. On this census, both Edward and Martha (his mother) stated their place of birth as Clunbury, Shropshire. Having joined the Shropshire Family History Society a few years before I sent off for the Clunbury Parish Registers on microfiche and eagerly awaited their arrival.

When the microfiches arrived I searched through the 1849/1850/1851 christenings but couldn't find a single Booth. Edward couldn't be telling 'porkies' on *this* census could he as his mother gave the same information? I then looked for ANY Booth's in the Clunbury registers and couldn't find a single one, christenings, marriages or burials. I was beginning to wonder if I'd ever find the next stage to my family history. On the off chance that James Sankey and step-mother Martha married in Clunbury I started to look through the marriage registers. I found a Martha Boole, widow, marrying a James Sankey, widower, in 1860. I also found the burial of a Mary Sankey in 1855 and the burial of a Francis Boole 1857.

Francis Boole? Martha Boole?

To be continued

John S. Booth

Newcastle has made available a family research room at Newcastle Cemetery, Limewood Grove, Newcastle. Telephone number 01782 616379 The Room is available by appointment only Monday-Friday 10am - 12md excluding bank holidays. The fee is £12 per session of 2 hours. Parking is usually available in Limewood Grove. The room is small so is probably only available to one individual researcher and companion at a time. Further information is available on the www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk No records have been filmed nor computerised so one is examining the original records.

This office holds the records for Newcastle, Chesterton, Kidsgrove, Knutton, Madeley and Silverdale Cemeteries. There is an Index Volume per Cemetery and these are arranged by the initial letter of the surname but not in alphabetical nor date order. It is helpful to know the date of death or at least an idea of the month and year, however, they are straight forward to use. One searches through the initial letter of the alphabet eg "B" "H" or "T" etc and then notes the surname, forename and burial number of the entries of interest. When these numbers have been noted, one then looks at the relevant Burial Register to abstract the information found. Please note that the entries are not always as informative as a Death

Certificate but can be extremely helpful.

A photocopy of the plan of the Cemetery of interest can be obtained, with the block numbers recorded and there are 50 burials per block. One then has to walk around the Cemetery to see if the relevant block can be found.

Two examples are:-

Burial Number 2040 Sarah Hargreaves w/o Joseph aged 60 yrs of North Street, St Georges Parish buried 6 October 1872 Grave Number 93 17. She was buried in a common grave and there is no headstone. I did not know her date of death, only that it was between 1871 and 1881, so I can now follow this information up to be able to locate her death certificate.

Burial Number 8765 Alfred Thursfield a Bricklayer of 65 Bow Street, St Giles Parish buried 5 July 1891 in un-consecrated ground (can indicate the family were Roman Catholics, though I do know that the family were C/E) Grave Number 101 27. He was buried in a Common Grave and there is no head stone. I know that he died 2 July 1891 and I have his death certificate.

When you have accumulated the information on all of your family members, one can then work out if they are buried in the same grave or not. If the grave was purchased then only family members would have been buried in it but if a

common grave four or five people can be buried within it who are not related to each other.

Two of my Thursfield's were buried in the same Common Grave in 1905 and 1916 with Alfred being buried as Thomas! There is no headstone to mark the grave but there are headstones nearby, so I will at least be able to take a photograph of the area my great grandparents were buried.

I recently spent a really enjoyable two hours and am now busy collating the deaths of other family members to follow up. The problem is that two hours just fly by and wets the appetite for further sessions.

For members who are interested in Stoke on Trent Cemeteries, these have now been filmed and are available at Stoke, Stafford and Lichfield Record Offices on compuer disc. The indexes have not been filmed, so it is really necessary to know not only which Cemetery your ancestor was buried but also the date of death, otherwise you have to scroll page by page. If you are interested in indexing any of the Stoke Registers, please see Rob at one of the meetings.

Diana Grant

For Sale, Wanted or Free to a Good Home

Here is the chance to get rid of Genealogy items that you no longer need or seek items that you do need. You know what I mean, those unwanted Family History research books that you no longer want or the loose leaf document folder that will no longer hold the mass of information you have built up. Do you need something to help your research? A certain book or a copy of a Parish Register you may be interested in. You could even ask if some one has an unwanted computer or fiche reader they want to sell. Give it a try, you never know 'till you ask.

The above would be an agreement between two people with no liability on the Society..

Helpful Information

If you have a computer then you can obtain lots of Genealogical information on CD's. Each edition of the Newsletter I plan to give members helpful information where these CD's can be obtained.

You can obtain Staffordshire Censuses from 1841 to 1901 as well as other County information on CD from :-

S & N British Data Archive Ltd.

Tel. 01722 716121

Www.BritishDataArchive.com

Cost of CD's range from £5 to £44 a set but note that some of the Censuses are not searchable.

You can obtain Endowed Schools of Staffordshire 1860, White's 1851 Staffordshire Directory and the most useful Potteries Newcastle and District 1907 Directory from :-

Your Old Books & Maps

Tel. 01924 452987

Www.youoldbooksandmaps.co.uk

Cost of CD's range from £8 to £12 and they are searchable.

If you order any of the above CD's or future items mentioned in this section please mention our Family History Society.

In November the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery will be holding some events that might be of interest.

Ending 26th November:-

He Did His Duty. A small display for the Anniversary of the First World War.

On 19th November:-

Beginners in Drawing. Cost £2.00p

Starting 26th November:-

Not Dead But Sleeping. A look at 19th Century burial practices.

For Potteries Museum Information
Ring 01782 232323

Update of Sir Stanley Matthews.

Since my article in the June edition of the Branch Newsletter, several members have been able to add snippets of information. We now know that the surname of Stanley's mother was Hewitt and that she and his father John Matthews (known locally as Jack) were married in St. Mark, Shelton. On 10 July 1906, John Matthews aged 21, Bachelor and Hairdresser, of 77 Mill Street, and son of Henry Matthews, a potter, married Ada Hewitt aged 20, a spinster of 88 Mill Street and daughter of Henry Hewitt, a miner. They both signed in a clear neat hand in the presence of James Price and Mary Day. I looked in the 1907 Sentinel Potteries Directory to see who lived at 88 Mill Street and was surprised to see: firstly, that Mill Street had changed its name to Etruria Road, and secondly, that the head of household at number 88 was George Whewall, an ironworker. If you remember in my first article, Charles Matthews, Stanley's great great grandfather married a Densy Wheawall in 1809 in Kingsley. Could this George Whewall be a distant cousin?

The other discovery is that Stanley's brother Arthur was born on 7 July 1908 at 77 Mill Street. Surely it was Etruria Road by then! The other two brothers: Jack and Ronnie who I think are the eldest and youngest are proving more difficult to find. Ronnie married a girl named Mavis but that is all that's known until now. The discovery of John and Ada's marriage did prove Henry to be the correct grandfather so at least we know everything so far is correct.

David Salt

Written on the back of a postcard to a young lad living in Hanley.

"Dear George,
Don't forget to go to school on Wednesday or Miss Braithwait will cane you and neither of us will like that.
Love Dad"



STAN MATTHEWS,
Sloke City F.C.

TOPICAL
TIMES.