

Newsletter

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Editorial

Welcome to the latest newsletter, nobody wanted to replace me as editor at the AGM so unless I get your feedback and suggestions, the newsletter will contain much of the same format as before.

What have you done with all the family history information you have gathered over the years? I bet it's tucked away in files and folders and only brought out when you want to add to it or check on some ancestors details. Have you ever thought of writing up your family history so that all the little tit bits that only you know about can be passed on to your children or grandchildren? It doesn't have to be version of War and Peace or an Arnold Bennett novel though it might turn out as an Agatha Christie who done it. But think what a legacy you will be leaving for the future, after all, starting with yourself and working back in time, you could leave information that will interest future family historians as many jobs, such as in our local Pottery Industry, will soon be forgotten. Being a family historian you will be interested in British History and what effects it had on your ancestors. Were your ancestors farm workers who moved to the bigger towns thinking "the streets are paved in gold" as the Industrial Revolution took hold? Just think how wonderful it would have been if ancestor Willie had left a journal of his life and times in 1705.

John S. Booth

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Archives of the Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society

According to the March/April 2005 edition of the Official Journal of the Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society, it is hoped that a Heritage Trust Room can be established to house the archives of the Society. This will be dependant on the setting up of an official Charity Commission Trust and application for E.C. funding.

If the application is successful the Heritage Trust room will be set up at the new Head Office address of the Foresters Friendly Society, Foresters House, 29-33 Shirley Road, Southampton, SO15 3EW, telephone number 023 8022 9655, e-mail address mail@foresters.ws. It is not expected that the Trust material will be brought out of store until the autumn of 2005, when the books will be randomly displayed initially. The vast amount of work needed to catalogue and shelve the archives will then begin.

Nancy Evans, Membership No. 13835

Seen in a South Cheshire Newspaper

'Keep our Churchyard tidy says Vicar'

A big thank you to the majority of our residents who do their utmost to keep the churchyard tidy.

What do you imagine these ghostly resident's would use? Litter pickers & plastic bags.

Maureen Wood

Hints and Tips

New database online.

Looking for a Clergyman in England? try the web site "Clergy of the Church of England 1540-1835

Diana Grant



Extract from Notes on the History of Education in Staffordshire in Stone Library. Found 2.9.2003 DS

PUPIL TEACHERS IN STAFFORDSHIRE IN 1906.

From the General Report on the Instructions and Training of Pupil Teachers. 1903 -1907.

At the time of the coming into force of the new Pupil-Teacher Regulations there was a deficiency in the Secondary School accommodation in this area. Temporary Centres have therefore been established in the towns where the Secondary School Accommodation was deficient. No Preparatory Classes are attached to the Centres, as the Authority prefer that intending Pupil-Teachers should attend a Secondary School. Improvements are to be made to improve the Secondary School accommodation, as money is forthcoming.

One hundred and ninety Exhibitions are awarded yearly for boys or girls who sign an agreement to become Pupil Teachers in the county area if required, and whose parent or guardian also signs an agreement to pay a sum equal to the expenses incurred by the County Education Authority during the preceding two years on behalf of the Exhibitioners if the agreement is broken. The Exhibitions are open to all children between 13 and 15 years of age whose parents or guardians are and have been for one year immediately preceding the date of application resident in the Administrative County of Stafford, and who are physically suitable. The Exhibitions cover the minimum school fees at any recognised Secondary School within reasonable travelling distance and travelling expenses. An Allowance of £2, £4, and £6 (maximum) in successive years will be given to meet other expenses. Only a limited number of Exhibitions will be awarded at any one School. If suitable candidates apply the award of Exhibitions is in proportion to the

Population of the various areas of the County. Candidates must reach a certain standard before the Exhibition is awarded.

There appear to be, however, in many of the large Urban Districts a number of children who are desirous of becoming Pupil-Teachers who do not attend Secondary School but serve as Monitors in the Public Elementary Schools until they are of sufficient age to be proposed for admission as Pupil-Teachers.

Children who obtain one of the Exhibitions described above are at 16 years of age admitted as Pupil-Teachers without further examination under the following conditions:-

(1.) That a copy of the Scholarship papers is forwarded to the Board, with a few of the papers worked by the candidates.

(2.) That the scholar is instructed, between the date of his Examination and the date of his engagement as a Pupil-Teacher, in a Secondary School reported by H.M. Inspector to be efficient, and that he is reported yearly by the Head Master to be making satisfactory progress during that period

Pupil-Teachers attend the Centre on the half-day or the half-weekly system, or in the case of certain Schools by terms.

During 1906-7, 938 Pupil-Teachers will be instructed at Centres, and 40 under approved arrangements outside Centres. Some of the latter will attend Central Classes, and others will have the assistance of Correspondence Classes in addition to instruction received from the Head Teachers of Elementary Schools.

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

(a.) Eastern Sub-District.. The only recognised Secondary School here is the High School (Mixed) at Leek. This School is recognised as a Pupil-Teacher Centre. Mixed Central Classes are conducted at Cheadle on two days in the week. The number of the Pupil-Teachers who can attend these Classes is not sufficient at present to allow of the organisation of a fully recognised Centre.

(b) Western Sub-District. This

includes the thickly populated area of the Potteries. The Secondary Schools in the area are the High School for Boys. recognised under the Regulations for Secondary Schools, The Orme Chris School, Middle School. All in Newcastle High School (Mixed) at, Longton, recognised under the Regulations for Secondary Schools, The first two of these Schools are recognised as Pupil-Teacher Centres.

M I D D I S T R I C T .
Western Sub-District.. The recognised Secondary Schools are the

King Edward VI. Grammar School for Boys at Stafford and the Brewood Grammar School for Boys. The first-named School is recognised as a Centre. A new Girls' School is being provided at Stafford, and an independent Centre is meanwhile conducted for Girls as a temporary arrangement until August next.

North-East Sub-District.. The recognised Secondary School here is Alleyne's Grammar School (Boys), at Uttoxeter, which is recognised as a Pupil-Teacher Centre.

Central Classes are conducted with respect to Girls in this town. Pupil-Teachers also attend the Centre in the County Borough of Burton.

South-East Sub-District.. The Secondary Schools here are the Lichfield Grammar School (Boys'), recognised under the Regulations for Secondary Schools, Lichfield High School (Girls'), Tamworth Grammar School (Boys'), recognised under the Regulations for Secondary Schools, and the Rugeley Grammar School (Boys'), recognised under the Regulations for Secondary Schools.

The first three of these Schools are recognised as Pupil Teacher Centres. An independent Centre for Girls is conducted jointly with the Warwick Authority at Tamworth.

From the Tower to the Tower

A summary of the talk given to our BMSGH, North Staffs Branch on April 4th 2005 by Vacky Noble of the Cheshire Family History Society.

Mrs Noble recounted the work involved in tracing her family history and described some of the unusual sources used in obtaining and verifying the information, she emphasised that some of the data was only available because some of her ancestors were well known and notable people.

The story commenced in the time of Queen Elizabeth I (1558—1603) who sent Sir Marmaduke Whitchurch to Ireland to obtain linen to clothe her army. His descendants included Richard Brinsley Sheidan, Statesman, Soloman Whyte and Richard Whyte. The latter was a Cornet in the Duke of Marlborough's Regiment of Foot and, following promotion, became deputy governor of the Tower of London (hence the first part of the talk's title). He would have been involved in the organisation of the execution of Lord Kilmarnock at the Tower following the Jacobite Rebellion.

Richards son Samuel Whyte married Ann Tavernor at St Martins in the Field, London; a photograph of the church at the time showed that it had a tower which no longer exists. Samuel became a school master in Dublin and thought at a fashionable and noteworthy school in Grafton Street, Dublin, where a plaque can be seen fixed to the building which is now a restaurant. Richard and Ann's son, Edward Athenry Whyte, also became a teacher specialising in Physics. He later committed suicide in 1843 when he hanged himself.

Edwards daughter, Maria Whyte, had a daughter, Elinor Cahill who was the grandmother of the presenter Mrs Noble.

Mrs Noble's husband is employed at a laboratory in Daresbury which

has a tower, hence the second part of the title of the talk.

Some of the sources mentioned in the talk:-

Death Duty Registers.
Burial Registers.
Oil Paintings.
Book Footnotes.
Family Bible.
Benson's General Abstracts.
Dalton Records, Kew.
Trade Directories.
Wills.

WANTED YOUR HELP

Rob Carter is doing a sterling job of getting members to index our City Municipal Cemeteries, but the task has now got larger. For some time, members have been indexing the Stoke on Trent Municipal Cemeteries but Rob has now obtained the books on CD for Newcastle under Lyme (including Silverdale and Kidsgrove) and Stafford Cemeteries. None of us really like trawling through masses of information looking for the date of that all important death which often leads to a burial. By looking through the burial records we can find the burial that will give us a close date of death and allow us to obtain a death certificate. By indexing these burial records the task is made much easier and can throw up an infant death in the family that you didn't know about. But how do you think that this information is indexed and made available to you. Well it is mostly done by people like yourself with an interest in a certain cemetery who is willing to help. Rob is not a tax master, you can work at your own pace. You must have the use of a personal computer. Please, PLEASE help us with this mammoth task. The more people that get involved the sooner the information can be made available to you.

North Staffs Branch AGM

The AGM of the North Staffs Branch of the BMSGH was held at the March General Branch Meeting. Apologies were received from Maureen Wood and Evelyn Powell. It was a short AGM as our Hon. Secretary, David Salt, decided to retire from the job to spend more time in Spain. We thanked David for all his dedicated work for the Branch. We were desperately in need of a new secretary and at the eleventh hour, Janice Bebbington agreed to fill the post and was welcomed with open arms!

As there were no other volunteers to fill any posts, the rest of the committee was elected "en bloc" by a unanimous vote.

Committee:-

Chair.	Betty Machin
Vice Chair	
and Book Sales.	Derek Cliffe
Hon Sec.	Janice Bebbington
Treasurer	Ann Lovell
Soc. Sec.	Maureen Wood.
Reception.	Joan Cartlidge.
Fiche Club.	Mike Griffin.
Computer's.	Bill Harrison.
M.I's.	Rob Carter
Newsletter.	John Booth

A copy of the Branch Annual Report and a copy of the Balance Sheet were distributed.

The Chair then read a letter from Mervyn Edwards, a local historian, about the new Heritage Centre at St John's Church, Burslem and asking for any help we could give the enterprise.

The evening ended as an Open Evening with members doing their own research with the help of the Branch Library.

Betty Machin.
Chair of the Branch

LIFE IN THE 1500'S:

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be.

Here are some facts about the 1500s:

These are interesting...

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour.

Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, and then the women and finally the children. Last of all, the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it.

Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof.

Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with

big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection.

That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt.

Hence the saying "dirt poor."

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway.

Hence the sayings "thresh hold."

(Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while.

Hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat"

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or

so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "upper crust."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up.

Hence the custom of holding a "wake

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."

And that's the truth... Now, whoever said that History was boring!!

David Bourne