

Newsletter



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Help Wanted

Editorial

One of the best things about our hobby is that you can research your ancestors intently and then put your research at one side for a while. I had put my research to one side for quite a while and then I received two emails from Genes Reunited. One was from my Nan's side asking if I was an ancestor of Thomas Roberts as we both had that name in our family tree. It turned out that the lady who contacted me was an ancestor of a Great Uncle. The second email asked if I was an ancestor of Mary Plant. This too turned out to be positive and after carrying out some family information checks I am now in contact with both distant cousins. One cousin has some very old pictures which he is sending me and I am really looking forward to see what my ancestors looked like.

I have been careful what type of information I have put on such websites as Genes Reunited and Ancestry.com because of Internet Identity Fraud. I have not named any relation who is still alive and have ended my Internet family trees with my Grandparents. I know the lives of all my aunts and uncles and where my recent cousins are so I have not named them. I don't know if my precautions are adequate enough, but over the last five years these two websites and a few trusted others have greatly helped to build up my family history and allowed me to meet some unknown extended family.

john.booth5@ntlworld.com

We have been contacted by Mr Abel who has an old family bible that he wishes to pass onto an ancestor of the family. The family concerned is name Moreton and the details written in the bible are as follows: -

John Moreton married Mary Shenton 4qtr 1872. Cheadle District which covers Caverswall, Consall, Dilhorne, Ipstones etc.

Mary Moreton (nee Shenton) died 2nd qtr 1892 age 39.

Son Joseph Moreton born 1872 married Mary Elizabeth Hunt 1st qtr 1896 at All Saints Church, Dilhorne.

Daughter Ann Jane Moreton born 1874 married William John Berrisford 3rd qtr 1896 at All Saints Church, Dilhorne.

Daughter Rose Hannah Moreton born 1876 married Spencer Henry Shelly 2nd qtr 1907 at St John's Church, Wetley Rocks.

Daughter Mary Moreton born 1878 married William Twigge 2nd qtr 1901 at a Civil Marriage Cheadle.

Son John William Moreton born 1886 married Florence Hannah Berrisford in 1915 at St John's Wetley Rocks.

Son Thomas Moreton born 1888 married May Fynney 4th qtr 1912 at St John's Church Wetley Rocks.

If anyone thinks that this bible belongs to their family history then please contact our Hon. Sec. Mrs Janice Bebbington or Mr Abel direct by his email address bobabel@talk21.com

Chell Workhouse Project Request

I'm involved with a group of residents in the Chell/Turnhurst area who, with Stoke-on-Trent City Council, are keen to capture the heritage aspect of Chell Workhouse and Westcliffe Hospital.

You probably already know that the Workhouse was demolished and where it stood is now occupied by Middlehurst Special School. The hospital, formerly the infirmary for the Workhouse, was closed in 2007.

I'm looking for any material (images, drawings, posters, etc) that relates either of these buildings and activities, and wondered if you may be able to help.

The intention is to include some material on a new heritage website and possibly in a short brochure. All material used will be acknowledged in terms of ownership and copyright.

If you can help with regard to any suitable material for this project that would be brilliant. If you are able to suggest contacts who may be able to help out with such material, that would also be greatly appreciated.

A request from Mr Ray Garside. Email- tickboxconsulting@idnet.com

William Newark's China Shop

Our member Nancy Evans sent me a copy of an article which first appeared in the Dyfed Family History Journal dated April 2007. Before I can reproduce any article that has appeared in print I must first get permission from the writer or publisher of the item. I emailed the secretary of Dyfed Family History Society twice but had no reply so unfortunately I cannot reproduce the article as printed in the Journal so below is the editors report of the article.

William Newark age 30 and Mary Plant age 21 were married at Bucknall Parish Church on 5th November 1838. Both were working potters. They left the Potteries with their first son Henry, age one year, in 1840 to work for a newly opened pottery in Llanelli, South Wales owned by William Chambers. The Newark family made their home in Llanelli and William Newark became very involved in the pottery and in the village life. He became a Special Constable and is mentioned in a book called *Old Llanelly* published in 1902. In the 1851 census William is recorded as a pottery printer and is living at 31, Swansea Road, with his wife Mary, son Henry age 11 born Tunstall, son Herbert age 8 born Llanelli, son William George age 5 born Llanelli, daughter Mary Jane age 1 born Llanelli and his brother-in-law James Plant born in Burslem. After 1851, Henry is not mentioned as part of the family again.

During the late 1840s, William became a part time pottery dealer while still employed at the pottery until the pottery got into difficulties in mid 1850s. In 1856 William seems to have been the landlord of the King William Inn in Park Street Llanelli while having a shop in Market Street Llanelli. William Newark was the landlord of the King William Inn until about 1870.

He did not altogether forget his roots and bought the bulk of his pottery stock for his shop from suppliers in the Potteries with the main source of his supply from Stubbs & Co., Eastwood Pottery, Hanley. Some old bills found when his China Shop was demolished in 1970 show that William carried a wide variety of stock including White Spittoons, Swan figures, Broth Bowls, Crucifixes, supplied by Worthington and Green of Hanley.

The 1861 census shows that William is a China and Glass Dealer and a Publican with Herbert as working in the family business. The 1871 census gives the family address as 24, Market Street, Llanelli with William head of the family and his son Herbert as a shop man. William George is a shop carpenter and Mary Jane is a milliner.

On 3rd March 1875 William Died but the family carried on with the China Shop under the guidance of Williams wife, Mary and his son Herbert.

The business later became William George Newark and Son and relocated to 7 Park Street, Llanelli . William died in 1916 and his son Sydney ran the business until the mid 1920s and the article goes on to bring the reader up to the present day.

In the 1851 census, James Plant, William Newark's brother-in-law was living with the family in Llanelli. In the 1861 census Mary's parents and another brother, Thomas, have moved to Llanelli and all are working for William Chamber's pottery. The census shows the Plant family (all born in Burslem) living in Thomas Street, Llanelli and comprised of George Plant age 74, Elizabeth Plant age 70, James Plant age 45, Thomas Plant age 35 and daughter Ann who was married to Jonathan Boulton who was also born in Burslem living next door.

The full article was written by Byron Davies of the Dyfed Family History Society and is full of information about the Newark and Plant families from Burslem and I am indebted to Nancy for passing it on to me.

Dyfed Family History Society website: - www.dyfedfhs.org.uk

What the Postman saw

The following was written on the back of three different Edwardian postcards.

"Dear Madam, As you have left your husband I am looking after him. I really am very sorry not to have had the pleasure of seeing you. Our chat would have been interesting."

"It is a lovely place Trentham Hall. We went on a motor train and came back in a motor car. Tell Ken the number is of the motor car is EH 23."

"I am sorry that our letter was not posted and you missed our visit. Next time if you leave the key in the privy we can let ourselves in"

Excerpts from Parish Records – burials

The following has been compiled and sent in by Mr David Bourne, some funny, some sad, but all taken word by word from Parish Registers.

25 Jan 1794 William Rose, never came to Church. tho. often warned & kindly exhorted, died suddenly.

06 Feb 1794 Moses Nock, of Cradley, who not having the Fear of God, notoriously illtreated two wives. He dropt down in his own yard on the 1st Inst. and lay exposed to very inclement weather untill the 3rd, when he was found in a shocking condition, in which he languished till ye 4th, 9 o'clock A.M.

25 Mar 1795 Daniel Bridgewater, who did not speak to his wife for many years till just before his death.

29 Mar 1801 Joseph Windsor. He lived like an infidel, but yet was some years governor of the workhouse in this Parish!!!

30 Sep 1802 Alice, w. of Stephen Rolinson. She was murdered by a red-hot nailrod being thrust into her side while at work in a nail shop. It penetrated through her stomach & a considerable way into the right lobe of her liver. She died in about an hour after. The coroner's inquest sat on the body from 12 o'clock at midday till 6 the next morning when a verdict was returned Wilful Murder. The murderer was acquitted at the following Stafford assizes.

30 Oct 1804 Martha, w. of Saml. Phillips, of the Dog kennel.

16 Jan 1805 Edwd. Round, aged 84. He was remarkably hearty & active. About 10 o'clock on the morning of his death he left his own house in good health & spirits; & was observed by some of his neighbours to walk with peculiar speed & sprightliness; but he had not gone further than two miles when he was overtaken by death. His body was found before 12 o'clock in the foot road leading to Langley Green near Titford Bridge, but his soul had winged her way into eternity.

29 Apr 1806 Elizabeth, d. of Saml. & Hannah Round. She died in consequence of her cloths taking fire a few weeks ago while her mother just stepped out of the house to part some cocks which were fighting; tho. much burned she languished in death for so long a period. She was about 4 yrs. old, or perhaps not quite so old.

01 Mar 1807 John Homer, P. He died suddenly between the public house called the Cock at Cock Green & the Poor house on Friday morning last. The keeper of the above public house saw him fall, went to his assistance & raised him up, when he walked a few yards & then fell again, he then raised him a second time in order to conduct him to the Poor house, but he died immediately.

29 Dec 1807 Joseph Hackett. He was a man who spent all the money he got in ale, except a very small portion with which he procured a little food, but ale was the chief of his support. Of course he was a drunkard in the most proper sense of the word. The evening before his death, viz., Decr. 25, he left a public house in the lower side of this parish where he had spent a great part of the day, in a state of intoxication, uttering profane curses. He was found dead & cold early the next morning at a very small distance from that house. Let every drunkard beware.

29 Nov 1810 John Goold, 74. He took cold in the damp, cold miserable church of this parish, during divine service, about three weeks ago, and attributed his death to that cause! ! !

14 Jan 1811 Chenaniah, s. of Josh. & Ann Taylor, 9 wks., d. chin cough.

09 Jun 1811 Sarah, w. of Jno. Chambers, 66, d. mortification on knee.

03 Oct 1811 Elizh., dau. of Richd. & Ann Hall, 1, d. watery head.

08 Mar 1812 Benj. Timmins, junr., 26. A bitter opposer of the intended new Church: he was taken ill while in the very act of opposition at a public meeting in the church & died raving mad in about a fortnight after.

20 Sep 1812 Ann, d. of Jno. & Esther Grove, 2, scalded to death by drinking out of the spout of a boiling tea kettle.

David Bourne.

TO ALL THE KIDS WHO WERE BORN IN THE 1930's 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's !!

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us.
They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.
Then after that trauma, our baby cribs were covered with bright coloured lead-based paints.
We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking.
As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags.
Riding in the back of a pick up on a warm day was always a special treat.
We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle.
We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.
We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank soft drinks with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!
We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.
No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.
We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.
We did not have Play stations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, no video tape movies, no surround sound, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms, WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!
We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.
We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, shared dinner with the dog, and the worms did not live in us forever.
We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes.
We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them!
We had sports trials and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!
The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!
This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever! The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.
We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!
And if YOU are one of them! CONGRATULATIONS!
You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before the lawyers and the government regulated our lives for our own good.
and while you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how brave their parents were.
Kind of makes you want to run through the house with scissors, doesn't it?!

The above was sent to me for our Newsletter. Although it is not a lot to do with Family History I thought you might to read it.

Stoke on Trent City Archives

Bethesda Street, Hanley. Tel 01782 -238420

Open Tues. Thurs. Fri. 9.00-5.00, Wed. 9.00-7.00 and Sat. 9.00 – 4.00.

On the first visit you need to produce proof of Identity to obtain a Reader's Ticket which is at no charge.

Prepare in advance if possible by visiting the online catalogue - <http://www.archives.staffordshire.gov.uk>

Hanley has a subscription to Ancestry and computers can be booked by readers and then searched for free.

William Salt Library

Eastgate St. Stafford (Next door to the Record Office) Tel. 01785-278372

Apart from their book and Photo collection they have all the Staffordshire Advertiser Newspapers which may be searched back as far as 1823 .