

Newsletter



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Editorial

Practically every week I get an email from the Federation of Family History Societies informing me that some Record Office or other has closed or reduced their opening hours. If I recorded them all in our Newsletter I'm sure it would fill an edition so could I strongly recommend that if you are planning to visit an out of town Record Office that you ring them before you set out, even our own City Archives in Bethesda Street.

I recently attended a talk at the Burslem History Society about the Wedgwood Museum and Archive. A very interesting point was made by the speaker which should interest anyone who has an ancestor who worked for Wedgwood's. The lady speaker told us that during a period over the turn of the century (1800/1900) a keen photographer who worked for the company took photographs of all the employees and staff who were working at the time. He recorded their names and these pictures and names are available to research on request. If your ancestor worked for Josiah Wedgwood Ltd., during the late Victorian period then you might find a picture of him/her.

Ring first though.

john.booth5@ntlworld.com

War Graves Photographic Project

Can I introduced you to the [War Graves Photographic Project](#), which is an amazing undertaking on the internet.

A friend who I told about this website was delighted to find that he could get a high quality photograph of his grandfather's grave for a minimal cost - and the icing on the cake was to discover a record of his great uncle's death at Constantinople, information that isn't available at the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission site](#) (because he was killed in 1923, between the two World Wars). Try it as you might find they have a picture of an ancestor soldiers grave.

Post Office employment records

I was always told that my grandfather, Spencer, work for the GPO after the First World War. Thanks to [Ancestry.com](#) - who have digitised the [Post Office Appointment Books](#) covering the period 1737-1969 I now know that Spencer did work for the GPO, when he started, where he worked and when he left. He delivered parcels and goods and it sort of confirms the wonderful stories that my mother told me about her father and his horse and cart.

Sandhurst records online

If you have ancestors who attended the Royal Military college, Sandhurst or the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich you'll be interested to know that many of the records are now [online](#). The Woolwich Cadet Registers cover the years 1790 to 1793, 1799 to 1805 and 1820 to 1939.

Those for the Sandhurst cover 1800 to 1946. Both sets record the name, age, date of entry, commissioning date and corps or regiment joined. Occasionally they can give examination results, information about the father, or in the case of RMA Woolwich, sometimes the school - but the subsequent career of the cadet is usually not covered. Your name search will result in an image of the relevant page of information covering such information as name, year of admission, year of leaving, position, date of birth, regiment, religion, nationality, and number. You can download a high resolution copy of the page at a reasonable price.

What the postman saw

Seen on the back of a postcard from Hanley to Congleton;
Arthur, Your washing is done but I haven't got the train fair to send it to you. If you don't come and collect it you will have to wait until you come to see us next month.
 Love Mum

Derby Records Office Move

Derbyshire Record Office will soon be relocating to the Crèche Building, situated in the lower car park of County Hall, Matlock. The relocation will result in some alterations to our usual service. The service will be closed for three weeks between 12 and 30 September 2011. During this time the service will move to the temporary premises, reopening at the Crèche Building on Monday 3 October 2011. Access to documents will be split between the Crèche Building and the Derbyshire Local Studies Library, The Crèche Building. There will be a smaller public search room at the temporary premises, where you can gain access to original documents. This will result in changes to the current public service:

- Original documents can only be ordered in advance, with five working days' notice.
 - If you know the document reference numbers, you can order by telephone (01629 538347) or email record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk.
 - If you do not have the references, you can either check the finding aids in the temporary searchroom and fill in request slips in advance of your visit; or you can contact us to discuss what you would like to see, and we will order on your behalf.
 - We appreciate that this is inconvenient, so we have abolished the former limit of three advance orders per person.
 - As the building work progresses, access to some or all documents may be restricted at short notice.
 - 2 disabled car parking spaces will be available at the Crèche Building. If you are not a 'blue badge' holder, alternative parking is available elsewhere in Matlock. Derbyshire Local Studies Library
- All documents held on microfilms, DVDs and CDs, including most of the parish registers, will now be available to the public from the Derbyshire Local Studies Library on Bank Road, Matlock.
- All microfilms, DVDs and CDs can be accessed during you visit to the Derbyshire Local Studies Library, and will not need to be ordered in advance.
 - Microfilms readers, and the PCs to access the DVDs and CDs can be booked by telephoning 01629 536579, or by emailing localstudies@derbyshire.gov.uk .
 - It is possible to check the online parish register guide to see if the register that they require is available on microfilm/ DVD or as an original document.

[http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/record_office/records/default.asp]

- To access wills and letters of administration, please also check the online guide, showing what can be seen on microfilm and what is available on DVD.

[http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/record_office/records/wills/default.asp]

Search Service

Our Search Service clients are advised that, due to anticipated delays in accessing some documents, responses to search requests may take a little longer than people have been used to. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause. We regret that this situation is unavoidable. The temporary re-location is due to ongoing works which will continue for 18 months. After this time, the new, improved Derbyshire Record Office and Local Studies Library service will re-open at the current New Street site.

Once again, we apologise for any inconvenience that this temporary situation may cause. Thank you for your co-operation.

Beryl Evans,
FFHS Archives Liaison Officer.

In my editorial I said that I have too many of these to pass on but I thought that as Derby is close it would be of interest.

Taken from William Pitt's

Topographical History of Staffordshire

Published in 1817

STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES.

THIS opulent and interesting district of the county, lies to the north-east of Newcastle, and extends about nine or ten miles in length. The POTTERIES, so called, are situated in the Hundred of Pirehill North, and include the towns and villages of Golden Hill, New-field, Smith-field, Tunstall, Longport, BURSLEM, Cobridge, Etruria, HANLEY, Shelton, STOKE, Lower Lane, Lane Delf, and LANE END, each of which places will be noticed in this their geographical order.

Golden Hill is within the liberty of Oldcott, parish of Wolstanton, and is chiefly remarkable for its valuable mines of coal, and the fine and extensive prospects which it commands : these include nearly the whole of the county of Chester, with the Welch mountains in the back-ground ; and the best general view of the POTTERIES, with the surrounding country.

New-field, was partly formed out of the very extensive town-fields within the liberty of Tunstall, about the year 1613, though William Badyley became seised of a messuage and certain quantity of land there, in the 10th year of Edward VI. It is well situated for manufacturing purposes, having abundance of coal.

ADMIRAL SMITH CHILD, who of late years lived on this estate, settled on him by his maternal uncle, Thomas Baddeley, was of Salopian descent, though his immediate ancestry were of Audley, in this county, his great-grandfather, Smithe Child, having succeeded to Boyle's Hall and other property in the latter township, (of which the Admiral was himself a native) on the demise of Margaret Smithe, widow, about 1657. In the peace of 1763, he married his kinswoman, Margaret Roylance, and resumed, near the commencement of the American war, his naval duties, which were continued to its termination. Whilst on shore, he ardently participated in agricultural and other useful pursuits, and received the honorary freedom of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and of Liverpool.

Upon his death, the following succinct notice appeared in the obituary of The Naval Chronicle for 1813 :

" Died, at New-field, near Newcastle-under-Lyme, on the 21st January, of gout in the stomach, aged 83, Smith Child, Esq. Admiral of the Blue. He entered the service under Earl Gower's auspices in 1747, as the nautical disciple of Lord Anson, and served at the sieges of Pondicherry and Louisbourg. He commanded the Europe in the two actions off the Chesapeake, in 1781, with such credit as enabled him to obtain preferment for most of her officers ; but, the following year, his eldest son, (a youth who had evinced great intrepidity on board the Fame upon the memorable Twelfth of April, and was about to have joined the FOM- droyant, commanded by Sir John Jervis, then at home,) perished in the unfortunate Ville de Paris. In 1795 he took the command of the Commerce de Marseilles of 120 guns, and attained his flag on Valentine's day, 1799. The Admiral was, during great part of his life, in the Commission of the Peace for Staffordshire, a Deputy- Lieutenant, &c. of the county, and was most eminently and extensively beloved and revered."

His remains were deposited at Wolstanton.

Smith-field possesses many strata of good coal and coarse clay, and embraces some charming prospects. Here is Smith-field, a handsome villa, formerly the property and residence of the late Theophilus Smith, Esq.

Tunstall, a liberty in the parish of Wolstanton, is pleasantly situated on an eminence about four miles from Newcastle, and on the turnpike-road from Lawton to that town. It has a neat chapel belonging to the Methodists. There " formerly was a church here, and various human bones have been dug up ; but such is

the effect of time, that not the least trace of it now remains." There are several considerable manufactories at Tunstall, particularly of a superior kind of blue tile, the clay found here being favourable for the purpose : it is little inferior, in appearance, to common slate. A turnpike-road runs hence to Bosley, in Cheshire.

The following are copies of two ancient and curious deeds connected with this place :

" TUNSTALL. At the Court there holden on Tuesday in the week of Pentecost in the 10th Year of the Reign of King Edd. the 4th came William Badyley Son and Heir of Margery Handeson and took Seisin of the Lord of Audley of one Messuage and 20 Acres of customary Land in Tunstall of which the said argery died seized To hold to the said William and his Heirs according to the custom of the Manor : and he gives to the said Lord at his entry 20d- In testimony whereof John Harryson Deputy Steward to this Copy hath affixed his Seal. Given as above."

" Be yt knowne to all true men In chryste In the weyof truthe yt I Phythyon of Tunstall dyd purchys a garden place yt lyythe in Tunstal at Hary of Tunstall my broders ye w ch garden place I do set at my dysse-asse to Margerye my wyffe and to Margyt my doughttd ye wyffe of John Banchcrofte & aftd ye dyseace of my wyffe hytt to remeyne to Margytt my doughtld & to hyr eyres the recorder of this Rychard of rydgywe & to thys I set to my scale Gyvyn ye last djaye of Jtilye in ye yere & reyne of Kyngge Harrye ye Syxt after ye conquest of England x x x. & vij."

Longport lies in a valley between Newcastle and Burslem, and contains some very good houses and first-rate manufactories. This place was formerly called Long Bridge, from a kind of bridge or stepping-stones laid across the whole breadth of the swampy meadows, which bridge was afterwards removed ; and from the Trent and Mersey canal passing through it, and its great improvement in buildings and population, the place received its present name. Here is a chapel belonging to the Methodists.



Smith Child monument in Tunstall Square