

Midland Ancestors



Bromsgrove Branch Briefing

Editor Mike Fisher

Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 7.45 p.m.

"The Helme Family of Worcester"

by Madeline Goold



The Helme Family of Worcester were cultural catalysts in the city for 80 years from the 1790's. They operated a dancing academy in College Yard, and brought musical and social refinement to the city throughout that period.

This talk is not a family history perse, but a study of the family's musical and cultural activities and it's influence in Worcester and the County.

The speaker will refer in detail to the musical life of Miss Sarah Helme, daughter of the dancing master, and her records as a provincial teacher and agent for Broadwood Pianos. She was one of the first genteel women to earn and independence in this way.

PTO

The Enumerators Complaint

*The census may be good and right and useful to the human natur'
But I can swear there's no delight
In being an enumerator;
For up and down six blessed streets,
I've tramped it morning after morning,
And the reception that one meets
Should I serve as a most wholesome morning.*

*This house, their writing isn't plain;
That house, their language is exotic;
And some describe themselves as sane,
Who seem to me quite idiotic.
Towns such as countess never knew
Are given as the natal places;
While you're supposed to find what's true,
And to correct in faulty cases.*

*Then ladies of a certain age
Decline to make it clear by telling;
And others fly into a rage,
And oh, such awful slips and spelling!
And some deduce - in humour bold - Their line from non-existent nations,
And state they've grown uncommon old
In most unheard of occupations.*

*Here, you perceive that you intrude;
And here, the party's an objector;
And here, they are positively rude - They fancy you're the tax collector.
So what with humbug and rebuff,
And cutting many fruitless capers,
I have already had enough,
And cry - Confound these census papers!*

Moonshine published 16 April 1881, source: HistoryHouse.co.uk

Next meeting 8th May: -

"Beatrice The Cadbury Heiress" by Fiona Joseph

Mike Fisher