

BMSGH BROMSGROVE
BRANCH BRIEFING

Editor: Mike Fisher February 2013
Tuesday 12th February 2013 at 7.45 p.m.

Presentations on:

*“The History of the Society which celebrates
its 50th Anniversary this year”*

and

“Researching South African family details”

New online resources for 2013

Perhaps the most important new release of 2013 will be the British Library collection of Electoral Registers, which is being digitised by find my past .

Also the records of baptisms, marriages, and burials from the archives of the British India Office, also now held by the British Library, will be an even more important event - tracking ancestors who lived and worked overseas can be incredibly difficult.

According to the original press release from the British Library, these two projects involve the digitisation of 5 millions pages of records, and my guess is that there will be hundreds of millions of names!

Familysearch improvements

Familysearch.org has made changes to it's main search page. Now after you enter a name there is a box for the Country you want to search and if you *just* use that box you get results for that country.

This box is shown automatically but you can also “Restrict record by:” Type & Batch Number. Clicking on “Type” opens a number of options and you can select one or more of these, but I find it best to select just one. The results of these searches can be refined by scrolling down and finding the “Filter your results by:” panel. Clicking on an option opens a box showing you the collections found and allowing you to select one. I have been finding death entries (burials and official) which have proved very useful in my family research.

Huge number of records are now available online, courtesy of genealogical societies, government and private repositories, and commercial companies. Although a wide variety of material is available, only a tiny portion of surviving records have been digitized. Even the millions of reels of microfilm at the Family History Library that are being digitized and made available on FamilySearch represent only a small portion of records. And copyright issues prohibit a huge number of resources from being made available online. As genealogists, we cannot conduct our research without online resources. But good genealogists know that by the same token, we cannot do all of our research online. The best way to find all of the information on your ancestors is to use a combination of online records and offline resources.

Next month

12th March will study Occupations and Occupational Diseases.

Please submit your unknown family occupations and undefined occupational diseases to our website.

Regards Mike Fisher