

BMSGH Bromsgrove
Branch Briefing
Editor: Mike Fisher
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“Worcestershire Remembered”

by Ray Sturdy

An insight into city and rural life at the end of the last century -

Were they “The Good Old Days”?
-You Decide!



Do you fancy being buried at sea?

The idea of being buried at sea seems quite romantic, but there are only three licensed maritime burial sites in the UK, and in 2011 and 2012 there were just 4 sea burials in each year.

The government are now considering making it a requirement for DNA samples to be taken before sea burials - a suggestion first made by the Isle of Wight coroner in 2006, after 6 bodies buried at sea washed ashore in the space of 4 years.



Some FamilySearch Indexing Stats

Reported in the November FamilySearch Indexing newsletter.

1,074,435,236 - Total Records Completed

217 – Current Projects

116,063,640 - Total Records Completed in 2013

268,018 – Contributors in 2013

Changes to Adaption Records Law

Parliament passed an amendment to the Families and Children's Bill aimed at ending the plight of the descendants of deceased adopted people unable to obtain important information about their biological family, such as medical records.

The amendment was introduced in the House of Lords with government support and was backed by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering and the Descendants of Deceased Adopted Persons Campaign, who have been campaigning on the issue for many years.

Previously, birth records of an adopted person could be disclosed only in limited circumstances – for example, where the adopted person applies, or where records held by an adoption agency can decide whether disclosure is in the interests of all concerned.

The new clause enables regulations to be drawn up to extend access to intermediary services – organisations which mediate between an adopted person and his or her biological family – to descendants of adopted people.



England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858

These are now on Ancestry so free at local Libraries.

Prior to 12 January 1858, wills in England and Wales were proved in ecclesiastical courts. This indexed collection contains images of wills as they were copied into the registers of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC). The PCC, for the most part, handled probates from southern England and Wales, for individuals who owned property in both the Province of York and the Province of Canterbury, or those who died outside of England and Wales. Most of the wills in this collection will be for members of the middle and upper classes.

In the earliest days covered by these records, wills could be written for males beginning at age 14 and females at age 12. In 1837 the age was changed to 21 for both men and women, although these were primarily unmarried or widowed women, since a woman's property by law was the property of her husband until 1882.

Regards Mike Fisher