

BMSGH BROMSGROVE  
BRANCH BRIEFING

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

***“Study of Occupations and Occupational Diseases”***

***Please submit your unknown family occupations and undefined occupational diseases to our website (below) well in advance please!***

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***“Mike Fisher, finding my family history live”***

***Using Ancestry.co.uk tree builder to find my family tree from just my name and age. (internet connection allowing, if not more “magic lantern” views of old photo's)***

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***Our meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April will be “A search of the Parish Chest and other places” by Vanessa Morgan.***

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***FAMILYSEARCH*** has created one-world pedigree of linked families that will operate wiki style, with anyone able to add comments and information. Go to familysearch.org and on the top line next the familysearch logo you will find Family Tree ,click on it any will be asked to sign in or create a new account. Once signed in you start entering information and a pedigree tree is created. I started by adding details of my direct male line .You are asked to say whether a person is alive or deceased and invited to see if you can find a match them in the “one-world tree”. If no match is found you can add the person and continue. After a couple of generations I came up with a match and added it as the person I wanted. The pedigree immediately grew a number of generations and I went on to check that it matched with the information I had. If it didn't I was allowed to correct errors and add additional information and asked to provide a reason for doing it, note under my username. You can view any individuals details and search for possible duplicates. If found they can be merged, which is one step towards “one-world”. If you click on a person in the tree you can also set “watch” on them so that you will be told if anyone tries to change the entry. Give it a go, it cost nothing, you can enter as much/little information as you want and the “world” benefits from your efforts.

## *King Richard III*

### *what does the discovery mean for you and me?*

It was confirmed that the skeleton found beneath a Leicester car park is indeed that of King Richard III of England, a monarch who was on the throne for only two years, and was demonised by Shakespeare. Perhaps the most heinous crime attributed to him was murdering the Princes in the Tower, his young nephews Edward V and Richard, Duke of York.

Although the skeletons of two children were found during renovations of the Tower of London in 1674, their grave in Westminster Abbey has not been opened since 1933 - so no DNA analysis has ever been carried out. Following the successful use of DNA to confirm the identity of King Richard, there must be an excellent chance that a similar test could verify that the bodies found were indeed those of the princes.

But surely what genealogists all over the world REALLY want to know is "What does this discovery mean for us?". Is it feasible to dig up our ancestors (assuming we could get permission) then use DNA tests to reveal more about our ancestry?

The first problem is finding our ancestors' resting places. Most of them will have been buried in unmarked graves, in mass graves, in graves that have been disturbed - whether to make room for other bodies, a supermarket, or a car park - or in graves which have lost their headstones, or where the inscriptions are not longer legible.

But even if we do manage to get a viable DNA sample, what are we going to compare it against? In isolation DNA tells us very little that is of genealogical interest - it's usually only when we compare it against other samples that we can learn anything useful about our family tree. Comparing our ancestor's DNA with our own may enable us to confirm that we've exhumed the right body (and that the research we've carried out using records hasn't been confounded by a hitherto unanticipated 'non-paternity event'), but it's unlikely to tell us anything about earlier generations. Only if tens of thousands of exhumed bodies are tested will there be much chance of discovering something new, but surely that isn't going to happen.

Or is it? Is there a chain of circumstances that might lead to large amounts of historical DNA samples becoming available?

Regards Mike Fisher