

BMSGH Bromsgrove Branch Briefing

Editor: Mike Fisher

Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 7.45 p.m.

“Annual General Meeting”

followed by

“What is your problem? Can we help?”



An opportunity for members to get their Family History questions answered and in the process perhaps break down those brick walls.

I never knew how my parents met. My mother lived in the Highgate area of Birmingham and my father lived at 31 Dell Road, Cotteridge. I never thought to ask them but do remember that my aunt was said to have attended the Gospel Hall in Dell Road, but why.

This week I had a new DNA match and they had an ancestral tree attached to it. They also had Northfield as one of the places their ancestors lived. Looking at their ancestors names there was a name Major Flavell. This rang a bell as it kept catching my eye nearly 30 years ago when going through the BMSGH

transcription fiche of the 1851 census for Northfield and Bartley Green. In their tree they had Major Flavell with a wife Annie Elizabeth unknown surname. Looking at their full tree showed their children and using the new GRO birth index it gave a mother's surname of Lees, my grandmother's maiden name. Looking for a marriage of Major Flavell to a Annie Elizabeth Lees gave no results and I could not find a birth or baptism for a Annie Elizabeth Lees in the correct year or area. In my larger family database I recorded something I had found while browsing the Northfield Parish marriage registers in the 1980's (you had the original book in those days) that was a marriage between a Hannah Lees and a Major Flavell. I had never been able to find Hannah's birth. The marriage date was just before the births of the children of Major & Annie the matches family tree. Looking at my tree my grandmother had a 1st cousin Annie Lees who I could not find after her becoming of marriageable age. I also had this Hannah with no birth record. DNA says they are one in the same and her name was wrong in the church record as she had only made her mark. I then looked at the Flavell family in the censuses and in the 1911 census the address 4 Dell Road, Cotteridge there is the Flavell family and going through the electoral rolls they lived there into the 1950s when I was visiting the Fishers at 31. My mother made no mention of this other family, her sister was 12 years older and was bought up by relatives as my grandmother was running the grocery business in Highgate and I think she knew her "cousins" in Dell Road.

After my father died I learnt that in the late 1930s my mother was courting with a Grenadier Guard and she had photos of him. One of the photos had "killed by a sniper in Egypt April 1939". My mother was rather depressed after this and her sister said to her "I've seen a nice lad who might suit you" and they married in July 1941.

Through DNA I have found a new bit of my family history.

If any of you are interested in AncestryDNA testing and are going to WhoDoYouThinkYouAre live then buy your kits from their stand (last year they were 30% off and no postage).

***** No Meeting in April as the venue is unavailable *****

Mike Fisher