

Midland Ancestors



Bromsgrove Branch Briefing

Editor Mike Fisher

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"An accident waiting to happen: The battle of Worcester 1651"

by Malcom Atkin



The Battle of Worcester on 3 September 1651 is one of the most important event's in the city's history and was of national importance - finally ending the series of civil wars that began in 1642. It became part of the myth of the 'faithful city' but this talk explains how the battle came to be at Worcester by accident and how the events of 3 September took both sides by surprise. But as the battle unfolds it became a triumph of Oliver Cromwell's tactical skill as a general. It became known as Cromwell's 'Crowning Mercy' in that it was the pinnacle of his military career and also represented the mercy of the final end of the Civil Wars.

Five years ago this month AncestryDNA match results came in. Earlier this month Ancestry suggest two new match with a common ancestor. They were father and daughter and were shown as living. I entered their descendant line from the common ancestors as far a the father and then searched for him in FreeBMD. Found him in the index he was born in Q3 1918. I found him in the FindMyPast electoral register for 2019. I had 101 year old tester !!

Thousands of cemeteries across the UK will be imaged and mapped over the next five years to create a comprehensive database of British burial sites. The Church of England project hopes to immortalise the tombs of millions of people buried in Anglican graveyards as well as those interred on unconsecrated land.

Maps and photographs will be uploaded alongside burial records in a searchable database at some point before 2026.

Volunteers partnered with Historic England, which injected £250,000 in funding, and Atlantic Geomatics who provided the technology and expertise to trial the project for two cemeteries in West Yorkshire

Volunteers from the Church of England have been working for some time towards this project.

Historic England previously provided £250,000 in funding for its 'Church Heritage Record', which was also matched by the Church of England.

Private company Atlantic Geomatics is providing the technology and expertise. The database will be used by amateur genealogists to trace their lineage and grave details and monument photos for free, as well as information from the registers.

Users may be charged to access other information to help fund the project. According to Atlantic Geomatics, the mapping system will allow people to search for a person, add additional records, view reserved grave sites and measure plots.

Tim Viney, owner and managing director of Atlantic Geomatics, told MailOnline: 'Across the country there are thousands of burial grounds, each with important assets, buildings and infrastructure.

'These valuable assets, in particular memorials and gravestones, must be maintained, records kept of where they are, what they look like.

'The estimated 35,000,000 burial records relating to the Church of England burial grounds are a huge resource yet they are currently difficult to access.

'We are delighted to be working with the Church of England with whom we propose a systematic approach across the country to map their churchyards.

'Integrating the map with images of the memorials and the historic records will protect the records but also make them accessible online.

'We are in discussion with potential partners to source investment to facilitate a rapid deployment across the country.

'This is certainly an exciting and challenging project" (from Daily Mail)

Next meeting 14th April "Bromsgrove School" by Philip Bowen

Mike Fisher