

Midland Ancestors



Bromsgrove Branch Briefing

Editor Mike Fisher

Tuesday 13th Nov 2018 at 7.45 p.m.

"Wills and Family History"

by Member Mike Sharpe



Wills are important source documents for family historians. They can tell us where our ancestors lived, their family relationships, how wealthy they were, whether they owned property, and details of their business activities and personal possessions.

It is a myth that only wealthy people made wills. They were important for farmers, craftsmen, merchants and anyone who owned property, and became increasingly common from the mid-19th century.

The presentation will explore the value of wills in family history; explain the probate process and terminology; and look at how to find wills both online and offline. Various examples will be examined.

Last month I was trying to fill a pedigree tree in an hour. This led to some confusion in the audience.

I have an online public tree with thirty years of research behind it full sourced and documented family tree and the talk was not about producing that.

What I was trying to show was how quickly you can fill a tree with names of direct ancestors of the main person. This is an online private non searchable tree.

Why would I want to create such a tree ? Well when you DNA test you get at least several hundred matches to other people who have tested. They are your cousins, ranging from 1st cousins to 8th cousins so they share a common ancestor. I have over 200 who are 4th cousins or closer. Most of these people are not family historians and quite often just a themselves and both parents in the tree if anything. If you want to find the common ancestor you are going to build out their tree/pedigree with names until you find the ancestor. For a 1st cousin match you need to a tree with 7 people in it of which you only need 2, the person and their father or mother the common ancestor is already in your tree. For a 6th cousin match you need to build a tree of up to 255 people, but hopefully you will recognize a surname or a birth place before you get to that number. Of those 255 people you are only going to need to add and fully research the 7 people who are related to you to your main tree, the match and his direct ancestors back to your common ancestors. I don't need full family history information on the 248 people who are not related to me. If you can produce this basic tree in an hour or two for your matches it is a great help managing your matches which are increasing week by week.



**"So far I've discovered I was in a litter of eight
and my mother's name was Fluffy!"**

*Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th December 2018 at 7.45 p.m.
"A Social 'Get Together Plus Festive Refreshments"*

MIKE FISHER

P.S. I will have two AncestryDNA test available at £50 each.