

**BMSGH BROMSGROVE  
BRANCH BRIEFING**

**Editor: Mike Fisher October 2011**

**Tuesday 11th October 2011 at 7.45 p.m.**

**“Springheeled Jack – The Ups & Downs of  
a Victorian Bogeyman”  
by Dr. Chris Upton**

The Victorian age was one of science, industry and progress. But an earlier world still lurked in its dark corners, a place of superstition, ghosts and ghouls!

Dr Chris Upton will recount the tale of one such creature of the night. He first pops up (quite literally) at the start of Queen Victoria’s reign, and while he is abroad, no dark country lane was safe.

Chris combines history and folklore to explain the surprising phenomenon that is ‘Spring-Heeled Jack’.

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## **Geography**

My gggrandmother Esther Swatman give here age & place of birth as :-

All from census taken in Northfield, Worcestershire

1841 35 n

1851 45 Alcester Warwickshire

1861 58 Inkberrow ,Warwickshire

1871 68 Astwood Bank. Worcestershire.

She dies in the Union Workhouse 1880 age 77

Buried Northfield 1880 age 77

So she is born on the Worcestershire Warwickshire borders around 1802-5 and I can find no baptism for her, but a family William & Elizabeth Swatman having children baptised in the area and appearing in the 1841 & 1851 census Edgioc Worcester/Warwickshire with a son living in Astwood Bank area 1841 -1871.

Esther's married name was Walker and I recently been contacted via Ancestry by one their descendants in Northfield wanting to know if I knew of our Swatman relations living in America and wondering why Esther had not gone to America with the rest of her family.

I was preplexed by this and looked on Ancestry Trees for Esther Swatman. Sure enough eight family trees all showing Esther born 1802 Worcestershire attached to William and SARAH who appear without Esther in the 1860 USA census. Giving the place of origin as Claines/Hallow area of Worcestershire with a son called Benjamin Franklin Swatman 27 Dec 1827- 29 Oct 1862.

They had given his baptism as Godalming Surrey 1826 son of William & Sarah father's occupation servant.(I followed this up and Benjamin is living with his parents in Godalming in the 1841 census)

I consulted my records and came up with a Swatman family going back to a William wife and children removal order 1780 removed to Hallow. They have a son called William who with Sarah had children baptized Elmbridge, Powick, Bedwardine, Hallow - ending up the a Benjamin Swatman baptized 16 Jan 1828 in Hallow.

So which family is Esther's the one living on the Warwickshire – Worcestershire borders or the one living on the western side of Worcestershire? To the Americans such a short distance is neither here nor there but to us it makes a big difference, it all a matter of geography. (I am still waiting to hear back from my American “cousins” who seem to have gone quiet at the moment)

Regards Mike Fisher