BMSGH BROMSGROVE
BRANCH BRIEFING
Editor: Mike Fisher October 2012

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A Branch on My Rose Tree
Jenny Townshend

(one of our founder members)

Jenny will describe how a chance meeting at Worcester Record Office enabled her to expand and grow - in unexpected ways - the 'Rose' branch of her Family Tree. This meant tracing many records from Bromsgrove to South Africa and beyond.

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Family Search news

Family Search International is currently capturing over 80 million new images of historical documents per year with the help of some 200 camera operators

One of them Oscar is working in Porto Alegre, Brazil where he spends 40 hours a week photographing documents. Like most camera operators, Oscar can capture 3,000-5,000 images a day, and up to 60,000 images per month, using a foot pedal to control the shutter.

In 2004 a maximum force, category 5 cyclone struck the island nation of Niue. It was miraculous that only two people lost their lives, as the devastation leveled a long coastal area.” Homes perched 90 feet above sea level were crushed and swept away. The island experienced wind gusts up to 200 miles per hour. The fury of nature took a heavy toll on trees, buildings, and people on

Niue." Priceless government records were lost. These valuable documents included 30,000 images of birth, death, and marriage records and an index of Europeans who had immigrated to Niue. The documents also included genealogies of Niue women which are used to determine property rights as well as some other genealogies."

Years earlier Family Search volunteers had meticulously microfilmed many of Niue's vital records. Consequently, following the disaster the Church of the L.D.S. was able to present copies of these missing records to Niue's government leaders.

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A pilot project carried out by the National Archives has shed doubt on the feasibility of digitizing and indexing the World War 2 records of the Home Guard, the civil defence organisation that inspired the classic BBC comedy series Dads Army

As many as half the records may relate to personnel who were born less than 100 years ago, which would mean that publication would contravene the Data Protection Act. In Durham, the area chosen for the pilot, half the volunteers were under 27, and 28% were under 19.

The simplest solution is to delay the project for 10 years - but this would deprive family historians of the opportunity to access the other 50% of the records.
Let's hope that one of the big genealogy companies is prepared to take a long-term view and digitize the records now.

STOP PRESS!!!!!!! Arrived in Monday's mail
We are pleased to announce we have added the complete list of over 40,000 records of Officers of the Home Guard, also fondly known as Dad's Army. ***http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/***

Regards Mike Fisher