

BMSGH BROMSGROVE
BRANCH BRIEFING
Editor: Mike Fisher September 2012

Tuesday 11th September 2012 at 7.45 p.m.

“John Sabell, an 1822 letter and a ship
of the Battle of Trafalgar”
by Triona Sabell
(one of our members)

Triona entered her family surname into the search facility of the Times Digital Archive which brought up a fascinating letter from John Sabell. Written in July 1822 he was on board The Bellerophon, the ship famous for taking part in the battle of Trafalgar - and in 1815 having accepted the surrender of Napoleon Bonaparte. As most of the Sabells seem to be from the Birmingham/Warwickshire area Triona wanted to know:

Who was he?
Where did he come from?
How did he get on to a prison hulk ship?

Of course one question led to another and she was totally sidetracked from her family tree and breaking many of the rules!
Join her on her quest to find out more about the man, his crime, and the ships he was forced to live on.

Twin babies Dylan and Hannah Fox will grow up together, sharing the same birthday they won't have the same nationality.

For while Dylan is English, his sister Hannah is actually a Scot, having been born on the other side of the Border.

Mother Donna Keenan, 28, started having contractions at home in Northumberland, giving birth to Dylan in the living room of his grandparents' house in the Northumberland market town of Wooler. Dylan Joseph Fox was born safely at around 10pm, weighing 5lb 13oz, but because the twins were so premature the medics were worried.

The paramedics decided there was enough time to take the new mum to hospital for the birth of her second child. So Miss Keenan and the new baby were taken by ambulance on the hour-long journey to Borders General Hospital in Melrose where Hannah Rose Fox was delivered at 11.40pm, weighing a healthy 4lb 14.5oz.

If you happen to be in London the London Family History Centre in South Kensington (currently temporarily located at TNA in Kew) has microfilm copies of wills from 1858-1925 - and you can view them free (there may be a small charge if you want to take a copy home).

If your will is proved in Birmingham then Birmingham wills from 1858 till 1941 are found in the archive search room. Some wills and indexes from earlier times are also held. Birmingham Central Library

If your are using Google as your search engine and you are not “shopping” try <https://encrypted.google.com/> , it seems to gets rid of the paid for entries.

Also there is a “new” search engine *Million Short* ,It is a search engine that specializes in searching less-common websites. Million Short is ideal for anyone looking for ancestral records because archived ancestral records are often found in the obscure corners of the internet.

The name Million Short derives from the fact that this search engine basically ignores the 1 million most popular websites on the internet. Instead, it focuses on less-common websites. Basically, it specializes in what are known as long-tail searches, which focusses on the obscure and the uncommon. Many genealogy records are obscure.

<http://gb.millionshort.com/>

Regards

Mike Fisher