

**BMSGH Bromsgrove
Branch Briefing
Editor: Mike Fisher
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“Vesta Tilley”

**by
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The story of the life of Vesta Tilley who rose up from nothing to become the highest paid music hall and theatre entertainer of her age. Her success was brought about by ability and hard work. She remains an inspiration for what can be achieved with a determination to succeed in life.

My DNA testing experience.(Mike Fisher)

Researching my mother's father's Artiss ancestors I got back to Joseph Artiss with a indicated birth date of 1791 from his death in Enstone Oxfordshire.

I can't find a birth for Joseph in Enstone in that era ,but there are lots of other Artiss birth, marriages and death in Enstone parish registers and a family appears with baptisms in 1786, 1788, 1793, 1800,1803 twins. Now my mother's sister was a surviving twin, so I constructed a tree that included my Joseph Artiss into the above mentioned family although I had no proof many years ago and uploaded the tree to Ancestry.

In autumn 2014 I paid for a y-DNA test on FamilyTreeDNA (direct paternal line) and joined the Fisher project with no matches so far. At Christmas I paid for a mtDNA upgrade (same sample different test direct

maternal line) with no matches yet. Ancestry.co.uk announced that they were starting DNA tests in this country and after “speaking” to people on the Rootsweb DNA mailing list in paid for an AncestryDNA test. This test's results went into the AncestryDNA database, but the data could be downloaded and imported into FamilyTreeDNA and the results included in their Family Finder database free.(so two databases for the price of one) The AncestryDNA tests autosomal DNA which is all the bits in between direct male or direct female and therefore provides matches with cousins of varying degrees and certainty.

When my AncestryDNA results (cousins) I had about 500 matches of varying degree of cousins. So I put Artiss in the the match search and one result came up, it was a name I knew and had researched in Selly Oak Birmingham but I she had disappeared. It appears she went to the USA with her cousins, married an American and the contact was her descendant. Going back up the match's paternal tree you find one of the births mention making him a brother of my ancestor and me and the person in the USA 5th cousins.

Flushed with this success I put in the surname Fisher and the location England. As AncestryDNA has been going a few year in the USA most of the people's results are from the USA. There were few enough Fisher/England matches to deal with and looking through them one linked a female Fisher with a male Dipple. This was a surname I knew as it was as the second bmd certificate I ever bought back in the 1980's was the marriage of my gggrandfather's marriage and the witnesses were both called Dipple the one been my ancestor's sister. looking at the matches online tree he was a descendant of these Dipples who I had lost because they went to the USA. We are 4th cousins

I now have a much wider family tree but I'm still looking for more matches.

So far it has cost me just over £300, now should I pay for my wife to take a test ?

Next month's meeting is on the 12th May

Views of Worcestershire places from A to Z

(all the right letters but not necessarily in the right order)

taken from my collection of images from old postcards and personal photographs. By Mike Fisher