

BMSGH BROMSGROVE  
BRANCH BRIEFING  
Editor: Mike Fisher June 2012

*Tuesday 12th June 2012 at 7.45 p.m.*

*“The Girl Who Was Counted Twice”  
by Mike Sharpe*

*Bromsgrove Member Mike Sharpe will take us on a tour of his family tree to recount the story of a distant cousin, Alice Wheelwright. A chance discovery of a double entry for Alice on a census return opened the door to an extraordinary rags-to-riches tale. The story leads from Birmingham, via Sheffield and London, to the Caribbean and Australia.*

*As well as his ancestor's story, Mike will explain the sources and research techniques he used to piece together this account.*

*This event will take place at Bromsgrove Methodist Centre, 19, Stratford Road, Bromsgrove, B60 1AS*

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***FamilySearch*** has added some 6.8 million records to the 1871 England and Wales census. This census collection is now 55% complete. Access is free.

***Did your relations work for the Royal Family?***

Findmypast has added Royal Household Staff 1526-1924

***Ancestry extends probate coverage to 1966***

The National Probate Calendars at Ancestry now cover the years 1858-1966. This expansion enabled me to find several 20th century entries for members of my family, in 1962 my mother's brother left an estate of £106,000 which in today's money is £1.6 million.

### *It makes it all worthwhile*

Over twenty years ago I started on my One-Place-Study and about ten years ago I put it on the web via Rootsweb freepages.

It contains information from census, parish registers, M.I.s etc. from which I have constructed putative families.

A few weeks ago I was contacted by an ex-resident asking if I could fill in any names on a photograph of “Wythall Wanderers” football team from the 1950's. He also mentioned that his wife was also a local and had found herself in the “study” and had a question for me. She believed she was an only child and I had shown a sister. With the help of her daughter she has sent off for the sister's birth certificate but it could not be found. I suspected that the child had died shortly after birth and found a death in the same quarter for a similar surname and district. I found one, on checking the birth on Ancestry the image showed a different name to the one in the index. With this information and the help of Birmingham Register office correct certificates were obtained. The couple came over to visit me and we spent a couple of hours exchanging information to our mutual benefit.

It appears that the parents married just before the birth and the baby only lived a short time and the information had been hidden for nearly eighty years.

Last Thursday I received a phone call to say that they had found that the sister had been buried in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham. They had just got home from a trip to Lodge Hill where the staff had kindly marked the position of the grave (a common grave) and she was able to farewell to a lost sister.....

On **Tuesday July 10<sup>th</sup>** our meeting will be “Big Circle question Time” – a chance for all to exchange views and help each other with those problem areas and gaps in Family history.

*There is no meeting in August at the Methodist Centre.*

*Regards Mike Fisher*