

**BMSGH Bromsgrove  
Branch Briefing  
Editor: Mike Fisher  
Tuesday 11th November 2014 at 7.45 p.m.**

## *The Nailmakers of Bromsgrove*

*by Branch Members*

*Pat Tansell & Jenny Townsend*

The talk will focus on the lives and conditions of the nailmakers locally during the nineteenth century and what options the people had as the trade declined.



*In memory of Madge Fisher (seamstress)*

*1919-2006*

*ADVICE FROM A SINGER SEWING MANUAL  
FROM 1949*

*Prepare yourself mentally for sewing. Think about what you are going to do... Never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference predominates.*

*Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or beds unmade. When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first so your mind is free to enjoy your sewing. When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Put on a clean dress. Keep a little bag full of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals. Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on. If you are constantly fearful that a visitor will drop in or your husband will come home, and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing.*

*Tator Patch Quilts*

*Merrill, Oregon*

## *Is it “My Family History” ?*

The first part of the conflict settles around factual research: the dates and places of events that took place during a person’s life, especially birth, marriage, and death. Often a great deal of research needs to take place for an individual to find this information. But conducting a large amount of research does not give one proprietary rights to the information. Facts cannot be copyrighted. The way in which you present the facts (eg., the language you use, etc.) can be protected by copyright. But the fact that someone was born on a certain date, or joined a particular society or organization, etc, cannot be copyrighted. That information can be used by anyone.

But beyond the facts are the stories we uncover. The volunteering of a great-grandmother in her church group. The conviction of an ancestral uncle as a horse thief.

Sometimes researchers get very proprietary about the stories that they uncover. Once again, one can only copyright the way in which the stories were told. If they are factual stories (and one presumes that if you are writing stories about your family, it is not fiction), the facts cannot be copyrighted. Anyone is free to tell these stories as well.



This site has just gone live with newspapers from Herefordshire 1914-1918 (mainly) and many other resources such as historic images and maps, together with cemetery burial records:

<http://www.herefordshirehistory.org.uk/>



December meeting on the 9th “Christmas in the Trenches”  
by Ray Gallivan.

Regards

*Mike Fisher*