

## Midland Ancestors Membership Information

**Midland Ancestors is the concise name for the Birmingham and Midlands Society for Genealogy and Heraldry.**

The Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry (also known as the BMSGH) is a registered charity No. 505916

**Membership runs from 1st January to 31st December each year.**

**For joint applications (living at the same address), please add the name of the joint applicant in the "add comments about your order" area.**

**Also, if under 21, please add your date of birth.**

**For overseas members, please select whether you require Airmail.**

**Gift vouchers and raffle prizes can be used for membership renewals, but we are sorry we cannot accept discount coupons**

### Charity Gift Aid Declaration

**This applies to UK tax payers only.**

**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the appropriate boxes:**

**You also declare: *"I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference."***

**Please notify the charity if you:**

- **want to cancel this declaration**
- **change your name or home address**
- **no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains**

**If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.**

## **About Midland Ancestors**

### **Area of Interest**

Our Society is the principal genealogical and heraldic society for the counties of Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. This includes the areas of 'old' counties, as they existed before the major boundary changes of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, as well as the areas brought into them by those changes. In particular the modern metropolitan boroughs of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton (collectively known as the West Midlands) are within our area.

### **Objects**

The society's objects (more specifically stated in the Constitution) are to promote, maintain and encourage

- Good practice
- Research
- Preservation and transcription of records
- Publication and dissemination of good practice
- Collaboration with other interested bodies

in relation to genealogy and heraldry, especially within our area.

### **Overall purpose**

Our overall purpose is to help our members to carry out their own research into their family histories within our area.

## **CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP**

Individual membership, joint membership, associate membership (under 21 years).

Joint membership is for more than one person living at the same address.

Overseas members may opt to pay a supplement to have their journal delivered by airmail.

## **BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**

Being a member of a Society of approximately 2,100 members, worldwide, who have wide ranging interests in genealogy and heraldry, and particular interests in more of 'our' counties.

Offer you (on request) general advice and guidance on your searches in our area, and if necessary suggest names of local searchers who will carry out searches for you at reasonable fees.

**New for 2016: A members only area on the main website where you can download old copies of our quarterly magazine, download indexes and more**

**A closed Facebook group where members can communicate and help each other.**

### **The Midland Ancestor (4 issues each year)**

You may list your 'Members Interests' once free of charge in this journal when you join the Society, or at a later date if you prefer. After that you may submit brief advertisements of other interests for a small fee as often as you wish (subject to space limitations in each issue).

### **Members Handbook**

This contains details of the Society and its services and information about local record offices.

**Annual Programme** of meetings of all branches and special interest groups. We have branches in

Stoke-on-Trent, Wolverhampton (Staffordshire)

Birmingham, Kenilworth (Warwickshire)

Bromsgrove, Stourbridge (Worcestershire)

London

Our special interest group, The Heraldry Group, meet in Birmingham.

### **Publications List**

All our publications, 3000+ items, are available in our online Shop, [www.bmsggh-shop.org.uk](http://www.bmsggh-shop.org.uk).

### **Search Services**

Depending on your interests and needs you may also be able to make use of

#### **Link Service (Voluntary Exchange)**

This is a service which depends entirely upon the voluntary efforts of members who undertake to carry out simple research at record offices local to them in exchange for similar research being undertaken on their behalf at another record office. The exchange does not have to be direct. It is not unusual for A to research for B who researches for C who researches for A, and so on. Many overseas members have received help through this service.

#### **Marriage and Burial and other Indexes (Low cost service)**

We maintain and continue to build Marriage and Burial Indexes for Birmingham, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. (Birmingham is treated separately from Warwickshire in this context simply because it is so large). We have a variety of other specialist indexes, which are listed in the members Handbook.

If you have any questions, please email [sales@bmsggh.org](mailto:sales@bmsggh.org)