

Midland Ancestors Shop Newsletter – May 2018

News

Midland Ancestors is the concise name for the Birmingham and Midlands Society for Genealogy and Heraldry also known as the BMSGH. Our Society is the principal Family History and Heraldic society for the counties of Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.

Since the last newsletter in December 2017, we have moved the shop to a new ISP (Internet Service Provider), giving us better performance and a lot more disk space, meaning we can now have loads more downloads available for sale, although it will take time to add them all to the shop.

We have also moved the main Midland Ancestors site, here is the [link](#), the site has been completely re-designed and there is loads of useful information for family history research, for example, take a look at the Resources tab.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

On 25th May 2018, a new law comes into force called the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), this replaces the old Data Protection Act 1998. This is an EU wide law which provides much stronger privacy rights to you the customer and is the most comprehensive data protection law in the world, our shop privacy policy can be read [here](#). You do not have to do anything to continue to receive this newsletter, but if you want to stop receiving it, see the “How to Unsubscribe” section at the bottom of this newsletter.

Birmingham maps c.1888 – Downloads

Midland Ancestors was given about 400 very detailed street maps of Birmingham and its surroundings that were surveyed by The Ordnance Survey around 1887-1888. Each map covers an area of about 500 yards by 350 yards, and the scale of 1:500 is such that pillar boxes, lamp posts and garden details can be clearly seen. When linked to addresses in censuses and in other records, you can begin to build a picture of the circumstances in which your ancestors lived.

Digitisation is complete, and all the physical maps have been sold. The maps cover mostly the Warwickshire parts of the city. We do not have many maps for the Worcestershire and Staffordshire parts of the city. The whole area can be described as bounded by Perry Barr to the North, Small Heath to the East, Moseley to the South and Bearwood to the West.

Often there are two images of each map, one copy in very good condition and another “working copy” ('A' suffix) that has been marked up by hand, occasionally showing house numbers – an invaluable asset for family historians with census records, or access to contemporary street directories.

Here is an index to the maps you can purchase - [link](#), a very detailed index compiled by the project manager, John Butler.

Warwickshire County Record Office Parish Registers

We are continuing to transcribe Warwickshire County Record Office Parish Registers, this is an enormous task and we estimate will take five years to complete. Many thanks to the 60+ volunteers worldwide who are working on this project.

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In the meantime, we are adding the original register images to the shop, this is taking quite some time as well, so if you are interested in a parish, please let us know so we can fast track. Note we do not have Birmingham parishes as they are held by the New library of Birmingham archives or Stratford upon Avon which are held by the Shakespeare Trust.

Special offers

We are offering **40%** off our CD's, while stocks last, click [here](#).

My Family History - A ten generation family research record book with pedigree charts



Published by the Family History Partnership, A4, 80 pages, £9.99, **on offer at £8.00.**

'My Family Record Book' is an efficient and attractive method of recording and displaying the result of family history research and a handy 'aide memoir' to carry around when researching. The product is in two main parts; a ten generation record book and a loose-leaf, two-sided ten generation pedigree chart, plus a system for recording re-marriages and new partnerships.

There have long been several five generation versions available, but the complaint has always been that 'they don't go back far enough'. Hopefully, this publication will resolve that problem. It allows the recording of 256 marriages, 512 ancestors plus offspring's, stretching back to the early 1700's and beyond. All individuals are allocated unique reference numbers to mate entries in the record book with those on the pedigree charts.

Offers are valid until midnight 31st August 2018.

Monumental Inscriptions Bulk buy special Offer

The following Monumental Inscriptions are unique to us, you can find all sorts of information from a grave stone, sometimes a whole family in one grave which may solve that problem you have had for years.

Birmingham Monumental Inscriptions – 41 burial locations, 91,300+ records

Warwickshire Monumental Inscriptions – 313 burial locations (DVD)

Staffordshire Monumental Inscriptions – 141 burial locations

Worcestershire Monumental Inscriptions – 175 burial locations

See shop home page. Buy all 4 MI disks above, £125 if sold separately, **on special offer for £75**

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New products

See the “Latest” section on the shop homepage for all new items which have been added, many are second hand items which have been donated to the society for us to resell.

Situations Vacant

We currently have volunteer vacancies available. If you can spare some time and are interested in any of the roles below or require further information, please get in touch.

J005 WCRO Transcribers – We urgently require more volunteers

In December 2016, the BMSGH signed an agreement with Warwickshire County Record Office(WCRO) to sell their Parish Registers in the BMSGH shop, there are currently 2450+ sets of images from 230+ parishes, so an enormous amount of data.

We urgently need as many volunteers as possible to help transcribe these images, so we can produce indexed data. Volunteers will be provided with a copy of the parish register images and an excel spreadsheet, so they can transcribe names, dates, etc. onto the spreadsheet.

We will initially add the data to the shop without any indexes, so customers can buy a parish register volume, but once we have transcribed the images, we will update the shop item to include an index.

If you are interested in helping, please contact us, we can even let you choose which parish you would like to transcribe, where possible.

Location: Worldwide Requirements: Internet, Excel (we can provide Excel via a cloud service if required)

Contact: Kim Walker (Project Manager), email: littlealne@hotmail.com

Other volunteer roles

We also have vacancies in the following areas, if you are interested, please get in touch for more information-

- WCRO register checkers – We check for missing pages or unreadable pages and then get them scanned and added to our images
- We have around 400 items waiting to go in the shop and are looking for volunteers to do this task
- Volunteers for our Helpdesk at Warwickshire County Record Office

Contact: Steve Freeman, email steve.freeman@talk21.com, Tel: 01217455403

Feedback

We would welcome your feedback on our shop newsletter, is it too long, too short, is there anything else you would like to know about the shop. Are there products you would like added to the shop?

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How to Unsubscribe

You are receiving this newsletter as you have requested it through your preferences in your account. Should you no longer require the newsletter, login to the shop, go to My Account and select “Subscribe/unsubscribe to newsletter” option and amend your preference. Or you can email us and ask us to unsubscribe for you.

Contact Details

The shop web site is at www.midland-ancestors.shop

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Steve Freeman, Sales Manager, 17th May 2018