



Bramhall Group Spring Newsletter

Future Programme

May - December 2014

2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm

8th May - Micks on the Make in 19th Century Manchester - not all Irish immigrants were navvies! - Neil Smith

n.b. change to previously advertised talk

12th June – What’s in the News? – Using newspapers for family history - Sylvia Dillon

10th July – Annual outing - Tabley House, Tabley Lane, Knutsford, WA16 0HB

£5 per person. Please sign booking form & notify us of your dining preference - eat before, starve, bring a picnic or eat in their café - either as a pre-booked group (15 people needed!) or individually. We'll see what can be arranged. No promises! Meet in Tabley House Car-Park, time to be arranged. House tour starts at 2pm.

14th August – AGM + Bring your 1st WW memorabilia & Members’ 1st WW Research Talks. Please notify us beforehand if you are able give a short presentation.

11th September - The Day War Broke Out – 4th August 1914 - Chris Makepeace

9th October – Using Family Search - Howard Rowley

13th November – Alan Turing: the man and his legacy- Neil Sheldon

11th December – Bramhall Memorabilia from the Findlows of Benja Fold – local postcards, photographs, letters, newspaper articles etc. followed by our Xmas Party. Don’t forget your food contribution!

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The Bramhall Group meets in the Main Hall of the United Reformed Church on the corner of Robins Lane and Bramhall Lane South, SK7 2PE at 7.30. p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of the month except July when we have our outing. Admission £2 including refreshments.

Those of you who attend on a regular basis will know that at the end of the meetings we ‘make some time’ for refreshments and give people the chance to discuss their ancestral research problems with others in the hope that they can sort some of them out. Visitors are always very welcome but we trust that those who attend regularly will join the FHSC.

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For further information

Please ring 01614395021 or email bramhall@fhsc.org.uk

Our Bramhall Group Website is www.bramhallfamilyhistory.com

The Family History Society of Cheshire Website is www.fhsc.org.uk

As a family historian, I am a fraud: a voyeur in fact - so I find other people to research. My forebears are far less interesting than other people's. My wife and I live in a house in Marple once owned by Samuel Oldknow. Here was a man of great enterprise and endeavour who helped revolutionise the textile and transport industries. In the process, sadly, like a lot of perfectionists, he bankrupted himself. Sam found employment for hundreds if not thousands. Women worked in his cotton mills with child migrant paupers and apprentices alongside them. But the menfolk – what to do with them? Late in the 18th century Marple's lime industry was conceived. There was a growing demand for lime in the farming and textile industries as well as for building mortar. The raw material – limestone – was bulky and costly to carry by what roads (often turnpike) there were. No problem - Oldknow built canals from the quarries to the points of use of the burnt-lime. So, in between, in Marple, came the kilns to convert the limestone. All this brought employment for those men folk: canal beds to be dug out, access tracks to lay and those kilns – furnaces at their heart with chimneys - to be built. Sam, a perfectionist remember, gave them an elegant finish that Wimpey would have been proud of. There was a master plan to integrate it all but it failed as the canal had to go down-hill to cope with the geology. Not easy in a barge. So we got a by-pass for the finished lime to begin its journey to many local and Lancashire and Yorkshire towns. This was via a tramway for off-loading burnt lime from the kilns to carts at our house and onto barges (we are back on level water now) via a dock with a canal spur at a neighbour's pending completion of the necessary canal locks. This is just a tiny view into a life of fantastic achievements of Samuel Oldknow.

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Our Library.

The library needs manning at meetings - perhaps regular users would like to take turns to do this, or someone might like to volunteer to be our regular Librarian. Please speak to Ian or Susan if you can help. Books, CDs etc. can only be borrowed by members. Please return all library items by the following meeting as others may be waiting to borrow them. A list of items held in the library can be viewed on our website at www.bramhallfamilyhistory.com. Unfortunately we've not been able to add our future meetings and newsletters recently.

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BRAMHALL GROUP COMMITTEE

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| Ian Bickley | Group Leader |
| Liz Wilkinson | Treasurer |
| Susan Bickley | Programme Organiser/ Publicity |
| Janet McMurray | Refreshments Organiser |
| Mary Gash | Refreshments Assistant |
| Norman Rowcroft | Committee Member |

*Please let me know at bramhall@fhsc.org.uk your current email address if we do not have it.
Thanks Ian*