



Welcome to the mid April 2020 emailinfoservice, the NWKFHS fortnightly information service, comprising the latest information about the Society and other items of interest for family historians.

I know nothing about the photo above except that it was taken during the Spanish flu outbreak after WW1. Notice the mask on the cat.

#### Local man expects fourth child.

In the news, Bernie **ECCLESTONE**, age 89, is expecting his fourth child and first son later this year. The baby will be born a few weeks before Bernie's 90th birthday. The little boy will have three sisters, Deborah 65, Tamara 34, and Petra 31.

This news article reminded me of a fascinating fact which I mentioned in emailinfo a few years ago. They may not still be alive, but as recently as 2017, there were two men in America, born in the 1920s, whose grandfather US President John **TYLER** was born in 1790. <https://www.businessinsider.com/a-us-president-born-in-1790-has-two-living-grandsons-2017-8?r=US&IR=T>  
They are Harrison Tyler and Lyon Gardiner Tyler II.

Harrison and Lyon II never knew their grandfather John Tyler - he died 60 years before they were born. Like Bernie, their grandfather had children late in life - although not quite that late. John's son Lyon Gardiner TYLER was born when his father John was 63 in 1853. And then, in his 70s, Lyon had two sons with his last wife, both born in the 1920s and still alive in 2017.

I did a little bit of family history research on Bernie, using mainly GRO and freebmd. He was born on 28 October 1930, birth registered in Wangford, Suffolk. The family moved to

Danson Road, Bexleyheath and Bernie attended Dartford West Central Secondary School.

Bernie is the son of Sydney William Ecclestone (born Tonbridge 1903) and Bertha S **WESTLEY** ; whose marriage was registered in Wangford in 1927.

Sydney was the son of Robert Henry Ecclestone and Flora **HUNWICK** whose marriage was registered in Wangford in 1897.

**Who is the oldest ancestor that you have actually met?** Mine is my maternal great grandfather George Albert Edward **SAYLE** born circa 1875, died in Bromley in 1964 age 89 when I was 7.



I saw him most Sundays as he was always at my grandparents' house in Penge when I went to Sunday lunch there. (My maternal grandmother being one of his daughters.) Did I ask him anything about his life? Of course not!! How I wish I had because now I cannot even trace his birth for sure.

This photo was given to me by my grandmother Mildred COLES nee SAYLE. At the time she told me it was about 100 years old. Nothing was written on the back of course!! But my grandmother lived to 101 and remained compos mentis to the end (she died in 2011), by which time my addiction to family history was in full swing.

If this had been just an un-named photo found amongst her possessions after her death I am not sure I would have known who it was, because my memory is just of a little old man. George was a farrier and horse dealer..

**Why not write a short article about the oldest ancestor you have met, it can be quite short, and send it to me with a photo if you have one, for publication in this e newsletter?**

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*I (Stella Eames) welcome photos of people or places (specially historical or family history) in the North West Kent area with a story about them as I like to start each newsletter with a photo and story. Please email me at [emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk), with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.*

**If I don't receive any I will have to use my own which may not be as interesting.**

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## Have you got any inebriate ancestors????

<https://inebriateancestors.co.uk/>

In the last emailinfo, I mentioned Liz Craig's project to research all the women who were patients at Temple Lodge in Torquay

It had some relevance to our area as there were two Kent women - Daisy Blanche **ALDIN** nee **FINCH** b1875 in Chatham, and Emma **HOLT** bc1833 in Greenwich.

Liz has emailed me with some more information about these women.

*Thank you so much for including my website in the NWKFHS emailinfo, I really appreciate it!*

*I have yet to find a death for Daisy ALDIN. She had a very interesting life; she fell in love with a bus driver and left her husband Arthur Reginald ALDIN. They were divorced in 1906. <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C8000193> Somehow she ended up in Torquay, heartbroken over the end of a love affair, she took an overdose of laudanum. "A Fit of the Blues in Torquay" screamed the newspaper headlines. I have quite a bit on her earlier life, her father was in the military and they moved around a bit, before settling down and running a pub.*

*Emma HOLT was the longest staying resident at Temple Lodge - she was there 7 years!! The usual stay was between 1-3 years, but I believe she was a fee-paying resident, and I'm sure they'd have welcomed her financial support.*

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**NWKFHS member Brenda Wheatley has kindly given me permission to include an article she has written about her wartime memories.**

These are difficult times I know, but at least the spring is on its way with beautiful spring flowers to cheer us all up.

Those of you who are over 80 years can remember the difficulties we faced during the war when we were children. Unlike today there was no TV or computers, we didn't have a telephone, central heating, washing machines, dishwashers, video players or the NHS.

The Police used to summons help by blowing a whistle not by mobile phone.

Only those who were engaged in important government work were allowed to have a petrol ration if they had a car. Food and clothing was rationed. The gas, water and electric supplies were liable to be interrupted at any time.

Does anyone remember saving all the tiny bits of soap and putting them in a cage type gadget then shaking it in the washing up water to wash the dishes? There was no washing up liquid we used soda, and no detergent to wash clothes you used a block of hard green soap. All our hot water was boiled up in a kettle on the stove or a boiler.

One house we lived in you had to pump up the water, there was no electricity, or gas and we cooked on an oil stove or the old fashioned black range in the kitchen. There were oil lamps and candles for light, and all the water had to be carried upstairs to wash yourself. There were squares of newspaper on a string to use instead of toilet paper.

I hated the shelter in the garden; it was damp, and cold. When the all clear sounded you came out wondering if the house was still standing; several times we came out and all the windows and doors had been blown off.

Our first house, 17, Thayers Farm Road, Beckenham, had a direct hit and all that was left was under the stairs which was where Mum and I were, Dad was on air raid watch standing at the bottom of the garden when he saw the bomb dropping and shouted at us to take cover. We all survived but my pet dog, cat and rabbit all perished. I think it was during the Battle of Britain. There are now maisonettes on the site. We were very lucky.

If you are getting bored, maybe try a new hobby, something you have thought about doing but never actually got around to.

Perhaps write your life story down, or sort out your photos and make sure you have put details on the back of them so that people know who is in them and where they were taken.

Even if you haven't got a garden you can look out of the window and see how the plants and trees are altering. Maybe try your hand at drawing, or writing a poem.

I am sure we will get through this difficult time all having learned something good. Our neighbours have been fantastic at offering help, even some that we have only seen going in and out in their cars now speak to us.

Take care everyone and enjoy your enforced leisure time.

Brenda Wheatley 27.03.02

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### Perhaps you are ordering things online more than you usually do at the moment?

If so, please remember that you can raise funds for North West Kent FHS at the same time, at no cost to yourself.

Many well-known businesses will make a donation to charity for every item ordered online.

North West Kent Family History Society - Bexley is now registered with **easyfundraising**, which means you can raise donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. As at today we have 38 subscribers and have raised £390.65 in donations from businesses which support easyfundraising.

You can find our easyfundraising page at [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nwkhfs/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=en-e1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nwkhfs/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=en-e1)

Thank you so much!

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### Free Offers

[https://blog.history.ac.uk/2020/03/british-history-online-makes-all-research-content-free-to-individual-users/?fbclid=IwAR3JWaSV1CPLrQGLxoEEDcqtme3Aeo6zQRXAw1W8UXrdP-aT6\\_094iuiXK0](https://blog.history.ac.uk/2020/03/british-history-online-makes-all-research-content-free-to-individual-users/?fbclid=IwAR3JWaSV1CPLrQGLxoEEDcqtme3Aeo6zQRXAw1W8UXrdP-aT6_094iuiXK0)

Click the link to discover what you can now find out free from British History Online. Free til 31 July 2020.

Also The National Archives has stated that it is working to make its digital documents, which normally cost £3.50 apiece to download from home, free of charge. However, its digital team are working from home so we are asked to bear with them whilst they make it happen. At least by telling us we can hold off paying for downloads for the sake of waiting a few days.

As at today (4pm UK time 14 April) I emailed The National Archives to ask for an update. This was the reply:

*Our decision to make digital downloads free for the duration of lockdown was **not** an April Fools, and it is expected to be available imminently. Please check our website, emails or social media for the announcement, which is due very soon.*

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**If you are local to the Gravesend area, you will find Jean Hendy-Harris's stories about growing up there very interesting.**

<https://jeanhendyharriswrites.blogspot.com/>

Jean has also written several books about her childhood.

Reading Jean's latest blog reminded me that until I was about 5 we lived in Beckenham, and I have memories of my mum and I going into The Prompt Corner cafe in the High Street for coffee for her and presumably squash for me.

I decided to google The Prompt Corner to see if I could find out anything about it and a couple of links came up.

[https://www.francisfrith.com/uk/beckenham/the-prompt\\_memory-266451](https://www.francisfrith.com/uk/beckenham/the-prompt_memory-266451)

This Francis Frith link has a photo of Beckenham High St in the 1960s and an article attached about one woman's memory of her mother working there. **Let's all use this time at home to get some of our memories down on paper.**

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*PS I am a volunteer creating this e-newsletter in my 'spare time' but, if you do notice any errors, please tell me, so that they are not carried forward to the next emailinfo.*

*I often get asked to publicise family history fairs, new books on genealogy and small genealogy businesses. I use my discretion in including ones which are local to our area or which I think may interest readers. It does not mean that I or NWKFHS has any personal knowledge, or makes any recommendation, about the event or business.*

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*If there is anything else I should be aware of, to give you maximum benefit from this emailinfo service, please let me know. I do receive many suggestions and requests for external events to be included, but there is only room for so much and I am conscious that the longer this email is, the less likely it is to be read. Some external events I publish on our Facebook page instead. But I'd welcome your opinions on the length and content and whether there is anything additional you'd like included.*

*Please mention it to others and encourage them to sign up so that we can keep society members and anyone interested in family history informed of NWKFHS activities.*

Stella Eames, Editor

[emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk)

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