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ISSUE NUMBER 104

Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT
www.nwkhfs.org.uk



Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch

Our meetings are held at Otford Memorial Hall, 28A High Street, Otford, TN14 5PQ.

Doors open at 10:45 am, meeting starts at 11am - Nominal parking fee.

We welcome visitors and new members, and we aspire to offer all the helpful advice that you might need.

Guests we appreciate a £1.00 - £2.00 donation to the society's funds.

We hope you enjoy your visit.

Sanitiser and masks available and chairs placed at a friendly distance for those concerned about Covid.

TODAYS TALK:

Who are the Travellers?

Carol trained as a teacher and for 20 years was responsible for Traveller Education in West Kent.

When the Roma arrived from Eastern Europe in the early 2000s she worked to advise schools on the inclusion of newly arrived Roma who could not speak English and had not been accessing schools in Eastern Europe.

With her team of teachers and classroom assistants she set up projects to link English Gypsies with their distant cousins the Roma. She created culturally appropriate materials for schools and trained teachers, Police, Health Service personnel and Social Services in how to liaise with communities. She also worked with Irish Travellers, New Age Travellers and Circus and Fairground communities.

Her talk will include the background of travellers and how to identify and research them. She will also cover New Age and Irish Travellers, Circus and Fairground folk who are separate ethnic groups.

Speaker CAROL MELLORS

NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

11TH May - The Epic Story of the First Flight Across the Atlantic

David has been a keen local historian for many years and has been involved with several Lottery funded projects concerning Crayford. Alcock and Brown was a three year project culminating in many events in the centenary year (2019) of their flight.

The talk will tell the story of their meeting and the part Vickers Crayford played in the historic and remarkable achievement.

Speaker DAVE GILLHAM

DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

4th May - DNA Tests for Family Historians

Geoff has taught widely on family history research techniques but has also used his training in genetics to help families who are at risk from inherited diseases. However, DNA testing can also break down brick walls, reveal unknown ancestors and verify family myths.

Geoff is undoubtedly the best person to help us understand the relevance of DNA in our research.

Speaker GEOFF SWINFIELD

29TH May 10:30 – 12:30

Library: Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote

For Society members only.

Booking essential - please email workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk to reserve your place.

Numbers are restricted to enable all participants to ask questions, share knowledge and engage with other members.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation towards the Society's contribution to the library running costs is appreciated. A donation box will be available on the day.

This is a face-to-face event at the library, which the Society has sole use of on Wednesdays.

UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

DNA and General Family History with Jack Ellis and Pam Goddard 08 May 10:30

Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard: 01 May 10.30

The discussion will be about Records held by Friends of Archives and Family History Societies.

Booking essential - please email workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk to reserve your place.

MONTHLY ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

ZOOM DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln 15 May 10:30

ZOOM Let's Talk Family History with Laura Lincoln 22 May 10:30

ZOOM Finding out about the past, does it make you appreciate the present? with Ann Clarke and Laura Lincoln

Our ancestors' trades – how and why did they change during their lifetime? 29 May 10.30

ZOOM WORKSHOP

Seasonal migration eg fruit pickers, hop pickers and brickmakers with David Cufley 08 May 19:30

Please log in 15 minutes before each online event and enjoy chatting amongst participants before it starts.



As its on zoom you will need to bring your own coffee and biscuits!



How to get the Zoom Link

Booking is no longer required for individual Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups.

For 2024 a Zoom Register has been created to cover all attendance to any of the zoom groups. Any society member who would like to be added to the register needs to submit their name, email address and membership number to workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk. You only need to register once.

Once a month the zoom links for the discussion groups and workshops will be sent by email to those members on the register. Members who have registered can then attend as many of the Zoom groups as they wish with no need to make a specific booking for each one.

All Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups are members only-events.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated:

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

Please visit our website for details of more workshops and updates and don't forget to sign up for our free twice monthly Society eNewsletter.

Participating in a North West Kent Family History workshop or discussion offers numerous benefits. It provides valuable skills for research, enhances your understanding of historical contexts, and fosters a sense of connection with your ancestry. We look forward to you joining us.

We would be pleased to hear from any volunteers who would like to be involved with any workshops, along with any new topics that interest you. Contact us through bookings and enquiries by e-mail workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

An Invitation from the Editor

As a member of our esteemed Family History Society, we invite you to contribute to our upcoming journals in the next few months. At NWKFHS, we value the rich tapestry of family narratives and historical insights that our members bring to the table. Your unique perspective and expertise would undoubtedly enrich our journal.

Whether you have a captivating family story, compelling research, or an enlightening exploration of historical records, we warmly welcome your submissions. This is a terrific opportunity to share your knowledge and passion with fellow members.

If you are interested in contributing, please feel free to reach out to us with your proposed topic or submission. Our editor Pauline will be delighted to hear from you and will respond to every proposal. Please email

ON THIS DAY

April 13th is the 133rd day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 232 days remain to the end of the year.

April comes from the Latin Aprilis, the name given to the month by the ancient Romans. However, some Roman authors thought that Aprilis was related to the Latin verb aperire meaning "to open," because April "opened" the buds of leaves and flowers. A more likely theory is that the name was based on Apru, an Etruscan form of the name of the Greek goddess Aphrodite.

609 Pope Boniface I turns the Pantheon in Rome into a Catholic church.

1453 Mary Stewart, Countess of Arran, daughter of King James II of Scotland and Mary of Guelders was born (d. 1488)

1568 Mary Queen of Scots is defeated at the Battle of Langside, part of the civil war between Queen Mary and the supporters of her son, James VI.

1607 English colonists led by John Smith establish Jamestown at a second landing near the James River in Virginia - first permanent English settlement in North America.

1767 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's first opera "Apollo et Hyacinthus", written when he was 11, premieres in Salzburg.

1861 The Great Comet of 1861 is discovered by John Tebbutt of Windsor, New South Wales, Australia.

1861 American Civil War: Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom issues a "proclamation of neutrality" which recognizes the Confederacy as having belligerent rights.

1888 With the passage of the Lei Áurea ("Golden Law"), the Empire of Brazil abolishes slavery.

1912 The Royal Flying Corps, the forerunner of the Royal Air Force, is established in the United Kingdom.

1917 Three children report the first apparition of Our Lady of Fátima in Fátima, Portugal.

1940 World War II: Germany's conquest of France begins, as the German army crosses the Meuse. Winston Churchill makes his "blood, toil, tears, and sweat" speech to the House of Commons.

1950 The inaugural Formula One World Championship race takes place at Silverstone Circuit. The race was won by Giuseppe Farina, who would go on to become the inaugural champion that year.

1958 Ben Carlin becomes the first (and only) person to circumnavigate the world by amphibious vehicle, having travelled over 17,000 kilometres (11,000 mi) by sea and 62,000 kilometres (39,000 mi) by land during a ten-year journey.

1989 Large groups of students occupy Tiananmen Square and begin a hunger strike.

2019 Doris Day, American singer and actress died (b. 1922)

Findmypast new records: From wartime to workhouse records, there are 180,000 Warwickshire additions:

This week Findmypast added 183,015 new records from the county of Warwickshire. WW2 new Coventry bomb damage schedules and updates to their existing Coventry Air Raid set.

There are also new Coventry workhouse registers between 1853 and 1946 and Warwickshire burials to explore covering the years 1847 to 1896.

Plus 91,584 brand-new pages, from Coventry to Canada with 22 new and updated titles that span the globe.

Did you know?

A great-grandfather from Merseyside has become the world's oldest living man. John Tinniswood, who is 111 years and nearly 8 months. The previous titleholder, Juan Vicente Pérez Mora of Venezuela, died aged 114 on 2 April 24.

Mr Tinniswood was presented with the Guinness World Records certificate on 4 April.

The world's oldest living woman, and oldest living person overall, is Spain's Maria Branyas Morera, who recently celebrated her 117th birthday.

Old Occupations:

- A BOWDLER was a metal worker, worked in iron.
- A BOWER of COWS generically, an alternate term for a Dairyman. More specifically, found this occupation in the 1851 census for Ayrshire, Scotland where the occupation is listed as 'Dairy Man or Bower of Cows'. Given that one definition of 'bower' relates to a dwelling place, and another relates to a cottage, suspect this might refer to a domestic farm hand who tended cattle and dwelt nearby.

- A BOWFR MAIDEN was a lady-in-waiting or a Chambermaid. The word 'bower' in this sense refers to working in the private room(s) of a lady of status.
 - A BOWKER was an alternate term for a butcher, person who slaughtered animals for meat.
 - A BOZZLER was a Parish Constable
-

Charles Booth's London and Migrant Communities

Immigration and emigration: During the period of Charles Booth's survey, London was the centre of an enormous empire that spanned the globe. The police notebooks provide us with a glimpse of some of the different communities from different places who settled and lived in London at the time, and how they were perceived by the authorities.

An Italian colony. Hot potato cans and chestnut ovens, ice cream barrows taken off wheels and hanging against walls of stables; padrone here has over boys of 17 or 18 who live here and work for him. BOOTH/B/359, p. 121

Jewish communities received particular interest from Booth and his survey team. During the late nineteenth century, London was home to a new and large-scale migrant Jewish population, which had arrived from Eastern Europe, fleeing persecution, and seeking new lives. As a point of comparison, Jewish migrants in London were second only to Irish settlers in number.

While London at the time was also experiencing a good deal of expansion and population growth it is also worth remembering that during this part of the Victorian era, for the wider UK, it was emigration that was firmly in the ascendancy. Net emigration figures for the years just preceding Booth's survey amounted to close to 1.5 million people. Emigration to the empire was a popular move for many individuals who could find new lives supporting Britain's colonial mission. However, the most popular destination by far was the United States of America.

Women's emigration societies: An interesting quirk of the time was that the number of single women exceeded that of men, which was considered something of a crisis. An article in Macmillan's Magazine encapsulated the concern: "in a Kingdom in which there are a million more women than men, a woman, though she may be well born and well bred, and have an ancestry which dates from the Conquest, cannot hope to be supported by her male relatives" (Macmillan's Magazine, vol. 45 (1881), p. 312).

The fear that unmarried women could not have fulfilling lives without men to look after them provides a clear perspective on gender politics at the time. In response, various organisations were established that encouraged and supported women to travel abroad and help with efforts in the empire. Many women embraced the opportunities offered, keen to take the step of exploring the wider world themselves. Much of the organisational work was also carried out by societies led and run by women. The earliest of these was the Female Middle Class Emigration Society which was actually based in Portugal Street, on the current site of LSE Library.

Source: [Migrant communities | Charles Booth's London \(lse.ac.uk\)](#)

Interesting Family History Facts:

Many Scottish surnames are derived from Gaelic words or phrases describing personal attributes.

One example is Cameron ("crooked nose"), while another is Stewart ("steward"). They also come from where they lived like "Trevorrow", meaning "the land".

- Naming patterns were also observed by your ancestors. Are you aware that the most traditional naming patterns for Scottish boys were:
- The family's first son was named after his paternal grandfather.
- The second son was named after his maternal grandfather.
- The third son was usually named after his father.

Similarly, for Scottish girls, it was common to see:

- The family's first daughter was named after her maternal grandmother.
- The second daughter was named after the paternal grandmother.
- The third daughter of the family was named after her mother.

Going back eight generations, most people will have a whopping 256 ancestors. This is called an "outbred" family tree. Charles Habsburg, however, known as Charles II of Spain (1661–1700), was so inbred he had only 29 ancestors, and he suffered from great physical disabilities as a result.

Source: www.creativeroots.family/blog/50-family-history-facts

Family tree research is one giant step backwards and one giant step forward—usually at the same time!

**The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair – Vacant
Committee Members: Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Sandra Marchant,
Barbara Attwaters, Maureen Berry, Bill Chopping**