



Pte. Charles Robert Gratwick – 14th Company, Otago Infantry Regiment – 1915

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

The Society relies completely on its volunteers. If you have few hours to spare and would like to be involved, please get in touch.

The most pressing need is for a Programme Organiser for Bromley Branch to take over from Lynne Overton. See the notice under the Bromley Meeting on 18 January, below. Lynne has already booked the speakers until March 2021 so the new volunteer can ease in gently.

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 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.

Today's photo (which the eagle eyed among you may notice is of a gentleman who shares my maiden name - GRATWICK - and it's a bit of a long story and so it is after the events listing so as not to clog up this page. It's a tale of a chain of family information coming my way after another NWKFHS member overheard a chance conversation.

Not joined yet? - don't dine in for £10 - join the Society for £10 instead.

Those of you who are not members are missing a treat as the Society's Journal is packed with interesting stories thanks to its Editor Pauline Heathcote. The Journal, posted quarterly, is only available to members.

To join NWKFHS and receive the Journal and come to the library, all our meetings, house groups and workshops please just click [here](#) or email Membership Secretary Mrs Christina Barnett, on membership@nwkfhs.org.uk **Membership is only £10 per year or £12 for two people at the same address. Value of family history news and help you can receive priceless.**

Membership benefits: members get free access to all our meetings with speakers PLUS a quarterly journal packed full of articles and useful information, monthly workshops on topics requested by members and the benefits of our library and research centre, open Wednesdays. The website has a members - only area with back journals and other data.

The Library at 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joyden's Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE is open to members and visitors every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm. Our volunteers can help you with your research and you can use the library computers with free Find My Past and Ancestry access.

We welcome all new members whether experienced at family history or novices. Our library volunteers can help you get started or possibly overcome a brick wall. Come to the library on a Wednesday between 10am and 4pm, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joyden's Wood, DA5 2EE. You can join the Society at the library.

[The latest branch newsletters and back issues of this e-newsletter can be found HERE You will be taken to a screen where you can then click on the newsletter you want to read.](#)

Click on our other links [Blog](#) [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#)

What's On - A reminder of NWKFHS Events during the next few weeks

[\(Click here to see the entire Talks, Workshops and Events programme so you can book your diaries well ahead\)](#)

Our meetings are interesting mix of speakers and workshops. The Branch meetings with speakers are held at venues in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks and the workshops are in the Society Library in Joyden's Wood, which we have sole use of on Wednesdays. **Branch meetings are free to NWKFHS members and no booking is required.** *Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a contribution towards costs of hall hire and the speaker. Returning visitors are invited to join the Society only £10 a year or £12 total for two members at the same address.*

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/about/our-membership>

[The latest branch newsletters and back issues of this e-newsletter can be found HERE You will be taken to a screen where you can then click on the newsletter you want to read.](#)

Click on our other links [Blog](#) [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#)

The 2-hour workshops are limited to 10 members and are very popular. Even if full, reserve lists are kept and a second workshop on the same topic is arranged if there is demand. Sometimes reserves are invited to join the workshop at short notice. Please note that **booking is essential for workshops** and we invite a donation eg £5 towards the costs of maintaining the library.

If you've got your 2020 diary, why not browse the online calendar and see if any of the topics interest you? Booking is open but workshops are for the benefit of for NWKFHS members only.

**Friday 17 January 2.00pm - 4.00pm Friday DNA Group at the Library
Led by Victor Nutt**

A shared help group to discuss DNA topics requested by members and to share knowledge. Meets on the 3rd Friday afternoon each month.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members.
Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE Park in nearby roads.

**Saturday 18 January Speaker at Bromley 10.30am
Sharon Hintze will speak about Catching up with Family Search**

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/> is the largest family history website in the world, with billions of names across thousands of collections - and more added monthly. And it's free to use.

In this talk, Sharon Hintze tells us about:

- The latest major databases they have added;
- How to search them;
- How to best use the whole website

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley BR1 3NS has a free car park (although this can fill up) and is close to Bromley North Station and is on or near many bus routes.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year)

Vacancy For Bromley Branch Programme Secretary

Lynne Overton has, as yet, had no enquiries from people wanting to discuss what would be involved in taking over her role, nor from volunteers who would like to take it on. Accordingly, she is asking once again for any interested parties to get in touch with her, so that she can outline exactly what is involved.

She has been asked if someone who is not a regular Bromley attendee could organise the programme, and the answer to that is, "of course", as the Bromley Committee would undertake to help set up equipment, greet the speaker, offer the introduction, and give the vote of thanks.

Another approach would be that two friends could work together on the programme, talking over likely speakers, and co-ordinating their efforts so that the onus of sourcing, contacting, confirming etc would be shared between them.

Lynne has built up a file of contacts, lists of sources for discovering likely speakers, spreadsheets of past speakers to Bromley Branch, and blank spreadsheets to be filled in for the Executive Committee and the Journal, and all this information, including a file of past correspondence will be handed over to the new incumbent(s). If you know

Lynne, you will know that she is always willing to support anyone who needs it, and will make herself available for assistance and advice if required.

Please contact her, either at a Bromley meeting, or by e-mail: programme.nwkfhsbromley@virginmedia.com

Wednesday 22 January 10.30am - 12.30pm Discussion Group at the Library
Group Leader: Carolyn Barclay

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk
There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

Wednesday 29 January 10.30am - 12.30pm Workshop at the Library
Mapping your Family Distributions and Movements
Led by David Cufley

Use maps to follow your ancestors.
A workshop exploring how your research data can be used to create a map of the counties and parishes where your ancestors have lived and worked.
By producing a distribution map, you will have a visual image of their movements, which may help solving some research queries.

The workshop will use timelines, spreadsheets and/or databases to create the information that can be used by hand or software i.e. GENMAP to create the map. Hand drawn maps can use any map background by marking locations and years of events. -

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk
There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

Saturday 1 February Speaker at Dartford 10.30am
Guest speaker Brian Parsons will talk about The Cemeteries of South London

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford DA1 2LY, has a large, free car park via the Heath Lane entrance.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year).

Dartford Science and Technology College asks: *due to having a pupil with a severe allergic reaction to nuts and aerosols, we have had to ban these two items to ensure the pupil's safety. Please do not bring any products that are aerosol based, or foods which may contain nuts, onto site. I do hope that you all will understand the importance of this request, and we thank you for your understanding.*

Wednesday 12 February 10.30am - 12.30pm Computer Group at the Library

Group Leader: Sue Brushett

Self-help with input from library 'experts'. This month the topic is Heredis Genealogical Software - and the workshop will be led by Richard Flynn.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please

contact workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members.

Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

Thursday 13 February Speaker at Sevenoaks 8pm

Toni Mount will talk about The Apothecary's Garden - the history of natural remedies up to modern times

Toni is an author, history teacher, an experienced speaker and an historic interpreter, based in south-east England. She enjoys sharing her enthusiasm for history and has academic, research and teaching qualifications.

Early in the Middle Ages, an apothecary would have cultivated all the plants and herbs needed for his medicines himself. Later, supplies became more organised, especially in cities like London, York and Bristol, with individuals growing plants to order for the apothecaries.

For a bit of background, read Toni's blog on apothecaries

here <https://englishhistoryauthors.blogspot.com/2016/04/apothecary.html>

Doors open 7.30pm meeting starts 8pm. Main Hall, Otford Village Memorial Hall, 28a High Street Otford TN14 5PQ is adjacent to a car park which is free after 6.30pm.

Free to members and no booking is required. Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year)

Saturday 15 February Speaker at Bromley 10.30am

Russell Bowes will speak about Dig for Victory

Russell is a local keen gardener and experienced writer and lecturer. In this talk, he looks at the period when England's gardens took on the might of Hitler's armies.

Gardens great and small, public and private saw clematis give way to cabbages, and roses replaced by radishes. This talk looks at the role of the "forgotten army" - the Land Girls - who helped to put food on the tables of the nation, plus advice and propaganda given to gardeners in print and over the airwaves, the unexpected problems of putting an Anderson Shelter in your back garden and why Enid Blyton's rabbit was called "Stew".

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley BR1 3NS has a free car park (although this can fill up) and is close to Bromley North Station and is on or near many bus routes.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year)

Wednesday 19 February 10.30am - 12.30pm Workshop at the Library

Germans in WW1 in London and their experiences

Led by Zoe Brooks

Booking essential due to space limitations - please

contact workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members.

Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

Friday 21 February 2.00pm - 4.00pm Friday DNA Group at the Library

Led by Victor Nutt

A shared help group to discuss DNA topics requested by members and to share knowledge. Meets on the 3rd
Friday afternoon each month.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please

contact workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members.

Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby roads.

Wednesday 26 February 10.30am - 12.30pm Writing Group at the Library

Group Leader: Pauline Heathcote

Self-help with input from library 'experts'

Booking essential due to space limitations - please

contact workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members.

Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

*Anyone can attend a talk at the locations in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks; but if you
are a non member a donation is requested towards the cost of the hall and speaker. £1-
£2 suggested. Non members asked to join if attending more than one meeting.*

***For NWKFHS events further ahead just look at the website, events are listed many
months ahead***

NWKFHS Membership is just £10 and lasts til 31 December 2020.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/community/events>

**Saturday 7 March: Social Media Workshop run by the Family History Federation
Free to members of FHF member organisations eg for paid up NWKFHS or other
FHS members**

This FHF Social Media Workshop provides an opportunity to learn how you can effectively promote your organisation via Facebook and Twitter. Led by an accomplished practitioner, Valmay Young, FIBIS Website + Social Media Manager, will guide you through the start-up process - and then help you understand what you can do next. To get maximum benefit from the day, please **Bring Your Own Laptop** (assuming you have one)..

Booking: Attendance at this FHF Social Media Workshop is **FREE** to FHF member organisations. Since there's no charge, why not attend? But whatever your plans, please Book Early to avoid disappointment, as at 16 January only 19 places are remaining.

I (Stella Eames) would very much like to attend but I simply cannot do that date. If any other member is thinking of going, I can say that previous workshops laid on by the FHF have been very worthwhile.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fhf-social-media-workshop-london-tickets-86485669967>

AGM and Family History Day Thursday 9 April 2020

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/community/meetings-house-groups/family-history-day-agm-2020>

Venue: West Heath School, Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1SR (same venue as 2017)

**Biggin Hill Memorial Museum Family History Day
30 May 2020 10.30am - 4.30pm**

<https://bhmm.org.uk/event/family-history-day/>

I've reported on this museum in this newsletter before because of the wealth of information on display about the men and women who served at Biggin Hill. It is well worth a visit.

So it does not surprise me that the museum is holding a Family History Day. NWKFHS is providing speakers and will have a stand to talk to visitors to the museum and showcase our Society.

Entry to the museum is a paid entry as usual. No extra charge for attendance at the talks but talks MUST be prebooked. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-history-day-tickets-84732841209>

We need volunteers to help on the day to give advice to visitors on how to research their family history. If you can give up an hour or so to help staff the stand please contact library@nwkhfs.org.uk Thank you.

Bexley Bookbuzz - the last two weeks in February

For the third year running, the London Borough of Bexley is running its fortnight long literary festival. Those of us living in North West Kent have a real treat right on our doorstep. Most events are free of charge and some are held in libraries and some in the borough's historic houses such as Danson House and Hall Place.

If anyone is interested in browsing the Bookbuzz programme, this is the link.

<https://arena.yourlondonlibrary.net/documents/85499/9126510/Book+Buzz+2020.pdf/91d19e7d-c25d-48ea-b2de-410b0ec73be2>

There is quite an impressive programme. I have booked a few including the Family History Federation's President, Nick Barrett, who is talking on Hidden House Histories on 19 February 2.30pm at Danson House.

Please note that ALL events must be booked as many become full.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hidden-house-histories-with-nick-barratt-tickets-86658735611>

Bexley Archives

NWKFHS member Ken Moore has emailed me to say that emailinfo readers might be interested in forthcoming events from Bexley Archives: (unfortunately for non Facebook users, I could only find the list of events on the Archive's Facebook page)

https://m.facebook.com/pg/BexleyArchives/events/?ref=page_internal&mt_nav=0

<https://medalsreunitednz.co.nz/charles-robert-gratwick-deceased-estate-medals-of-uk-migrant-reunited-with-descendant-during-visit-to-nz/>

Members of NWKFHS who have got to know me, know that my maiden name is Gratwick, and I am always very keen to be in contact with other Gratwicks.

One of our longstanding members, Jean Allen, was very excited to tell me she had been standing behind a woman in Coolings (our local award winning plant nursery) and because this lady was collecting an order the staff member asked her surname and she replied - GRATWICK.

In the speed of the moment, Jean did not get the chance to ask her if she knew me etc. I was very excited too but did contact my sister in law, niece and my nephew's wife to eliminate from my enquiries all the female Gratwicks that I knew of.

Highly intrigued that was another Gratwick family in the area (probably local but people come from quite far away such is Coolings reputation) I next referred to 192.com Although you have to pay to interrogate this website properly, Gratwick being such an unusual name I simply put it in as a surname and it told me all the Gratwicks on the Electoral Roll in the UK and the towns they lived in.

So I straightaway discovered a Gratwick family in the area. I will say no more than that for privacy. I have not made contact.

But in the course of googling the names that 192.com had thrown up, I came across the website containing the photo I have used to head this emailinfo. The author was trying to reunite the medals of Charles Robert Gratwick (died 1950 in New Zealand) with the correct nearest descendant (turned out to be in England) and had to research and piece together the family tree to do that. The article traces the branch from Edward Gratwick 1784 - 1848; whereas I am descended from John Gratwick 1791 - 1867.

The point of this is that from a chance overheard conversation I started an enquiry which has proved fascinating in many respects and led me to a wealth of carefully researched Gratwick information, albeit I cannot at the moment connect it to my own tree.

<https://medalsreunitednz.co.nz/medals-found/> This is a list of medals awaiting being reunited with descendants.

On the sidebar of the website are links to other stories of medals reunited.

<http://www.britishhomechildrenregistry.com/>

From 1869 through to 1939 (1948 to British Columbia) it has been estimated over 100,000 children were emigrated from the **United Kingdom to Canada** to be used as indentured farm workers and domestic servants. Believed by Canadians to be orphans, only two percent truly were. These children were sent to Canada by over 50 organizations including the well-known and still working charities such as Barnardo's and Quarrier's.

I have mentioned this name rich Register before, but I just read in the Society of Genealogists e newsletter that the Register has now been completed. Why not search for surnames you are researching?

Total in Registry to-date: 82,433 Children

I found a John Thomas GRATWICK (my maiden name) sent to Canada when he was only 8 years old. Unfortunately no record of his parents. Would be interesting to trace his descendants when I have time.

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.

If there is anything else I should be aware of, to give you maximum benefit from this emailinfoservice, 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

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