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Welcome to the mid February 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.

This edition has been circulated early as the Society needs to let those attending the Sevenoaks Branch meetings in February and March know that the venue has changed.

Due to the Otford Village Memorial Hall not being available on 13 February and 12 March, those meetings will be at Otford Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Otford, Kent TN14 5PH. The speakers are unchanged.

There is some parking at the church, but unless you find walking difficult, the suggestion is that you park at the same car park as for the Village Memorial Hall. Walk out of the car park, turn right and you will come to the church a very short distance away.

There is no Sevenoaks April meeting due the AGM being on the same day, 9 April, and in May the meetings will return to the Village Memorial Hall.

Edna Lucy ANTROBUS nee CHARD

NWKFHS member Lorraine Andrews who has sent in today's photo writes:

I wonder if anyone can help me?

I am a member of the society and live in Lincolnshire so it would be difficult for me to attend any meetings.

I am looking for anyone who knows of anything submitted by a distant family member who was possibly a member of the Bromley Branch as she lived in the Bromley/Beckenham Area, albeit many moons ago. Maybe someone knew her? Her name: Edna Lucy (Chard) Antrobus, Edna passed away March Qtr 2001 - Which I know it's a long shot, but can anyone share some of her material and something of her life's journey with me?

This lady would be a cousin to my mother. Edna Lucy Antrobus wrote to the Family Tree Magazine who published an item in their June 1991 edition, Titled *I Remember 1916*. In 1916 Edna was an 8 year old. She said in the article she was attending a family history meeting at the North-West Kent family history society.

This is a copy of the item The Family Tree Magazine published in its June 1991 edition *I Remember 1916 - E L Antrobus*

It was Friday afternoon and I was thinking back into the past as I often do. My thoughts drifted about, and for no special reason I wondered how much Roger knew about his grandfather. Roger is my first cousin once removed, and I remember his grandfather very well. Moreover, I am fairly certain that I am the only person alive who does.

Henry Parker married my father's sister, Hilda Isabella Chard, in May 1915. He was a chemist and his occupation was given as 'manager of a chemical works, Bowe'. He was killed on the Somme in October 1916 before their son was born in the December, he was 25.

That evening I went as usual to the North-West Kent Family History Society Meeting, and by a strange coincidence, the talk was on 'The Commonwealth War Graves Commission' and illustrated by a beautiful, coloured film. This seemed to me a deliberate attempt by fate to urge me on to further research. I filled in the form provided and in due course I received a reply, although there were certain difficulties over names, which I had anticipated. He had been born Henry SPENCE, but when his mother married again, he and his sisters took their stepfather's name which was PARKER. Moreover, he was known all his life as Dick. Nevertheless, he had been identified.

Like so many servicemen of the Great War, Rifleman Parker 4702 has no known grave but is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial which commemorates over 70,000 British soldiers who lost their lives in the Somme area.

Henry Parker was posted 'missing' at the end of September 1916, but we in our small family kept our hopes very high. My aunt particularly was sure that her "dear boy" would return to her in time for the birth of their baby - but tragedy awaited us. My grandfather was notified that his son-in-law had been killed by a sniper on the 9 October and he decided that we should keep this knowledge from my aunt until after the birth of the baby. This we conspired to do: I was only a little girl but I understood very well.

Earlier that year Dick had written to Hilda telling her about a lovely song which all the boys were singing at that time, and asked her to buy it and practice it for when he

came home. She was an accomplished pianist and sang charming little songs at the piano; Dick played the violin. So she bought the music of 'The Long Long Trail' and rehearsed it. During the last long weeks of our anxiety in the autumn, with the burden of our secret, we could hardly bear to hear her constantly playing and singing.

Baby Norman Henry Eric PARKER was born on 7th December 1916 and I visited the nursing home with my mother. He was a lovely baby and they talked cheerfully about the time when Dick should return. I realised that my mother must have trusted me completely as I stood smiling beside her, and I feel I must applaud the discretion of that eight year-old girl.

Apart from this sad happening I was happy and fulfilled in my young life at this time. I belonged to the Wartime Concert Party formed by Mrs Rose FARRANCE. This consisted of both professionals and amateurs and Harry Farrance and I were very happy performing at the Crystal Palace Theatre and many other places.

My own father was safe: he was in the Cyclist Corps and was never sent abroad. Partly as a result of this I was learning at home, as my mother had opened her own small school in our flat in order to supplement our financial position while father was away.

This part of my family history fell into my hands quite by accident.... or was it?

As I said previously, the above item has been extracted from the Family Tree Magazine issue dated June 1991. This article came into my friend's hands in the summer of 2019 - some 28 years after going to print. This magazine along with many years of magazines had been stored by her mother many miles away in Essex. My friend had been drawn to the photograph of a beautiful blond girl, underneath were the words Edna Lucy Chard age 8 years, the photo was taken in 1916 to send to her father in the army. My friend Jacqueline knew my family name was 'Chard' and thought it might be of some interest?

I jumped for joy, I screamed she is mine, she is mine Edna Lucy 'Chard' Antrobus was in my family tree. I had heard many stories over the years of Edna Antrobus and her contribution to our family tree on Charles Chard's line.

This most treasured article had been preserved for 28 years by a person unknown to me, but I believe (the Lord) had kept it safe to fall into my hands just at the right time. I am truly grateful for this article as I have been able to get to know about the life of Edna Lucy and her close family. I found the life of her aunt most sad, the life of a young woman who had high hopes for a safe return of her 'dear boy', she was known for many months as 'the little widow who never smiles'. Like many widows at that time, at least she had a little baby to help her remember her dear loved one.

I have been able to preserve this item along with a photo, a beautiful letter written to Hilda from Henry who was on the front line. Plus a musical copy of the tune 'The Long Long Trail'.

These records are stored on FamilySearch.org, on Edna Lucy Chard's record for posterity. So 'Our' posterity do not forget her. Nor, Henry Spence Parker, One of the fallen on the Somme, France. Nor the many families the fallen left behind.

We are all pioneers in the field of family history no matter our longevity, what decade or century we live in. We all have a story to tell, our families will only live on through us - not only telling the story of our ancestors but by recording 'Our Life' for future generations.

If someone remembers Edna maybe a photo or two could be sent via an email if anyone has one I would be most grateful. I would love to read anything Edna submitted to your magazine or any stories a member could share with me so I can share them with my mum.

Lorraine Andrews

lorraineandrews1960@gmail.com

Editor's note: I do not remember Edna but a quick google has shown that Bygone Kent Volume Eleven Number Eleven has Edna as an Editor. I don't know if that means there was an article written by her in it. But I will keep an eye out for it. It may be among the second hand books NWKFHS has for sale.

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.

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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 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.

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.
You don't need to book to attend the branch meetings with speakers.

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. Otford Methodist Church Hall, High Street Otford TN14 5PH is very close 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

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 7 March Speaker at Dartford 10.30am

Guest speaker Dr David Lepine will talk about The History of Dartford Grammar School

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 11 March 10.30am - 12.30pm Workshop at the Library today

Family History Beginners Group Workshop led by Fran Rogers

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 12 March Speaker at Sevenoaks 8pm
Branch Annual meeting followed by Carol Harris talking about Women and the official war artists scheme of WW1 and WW2

Doors open 7.30pm meeting starts 8pm. Otford Methodist Church Hall, High Street Otford TN14
5PH is very close 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)

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.

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

Sidney Robert BING 1909 - 1990



NWKFHS

member Graham Jansen writes:-

I was wondering if anyone could help with regards to a Sidney Robert BING who was born 29 Apr 1909 Greenwich.

Sidney was baptised May 20 1909 Christ Church, Greenwich, the son of George

Bing and Emma Bing (**MILLER**) who married Dec 1905 Greenwich.

Sidney had a brother, Frederick Bing, born 30 Apr 1907 Greenwich.

In the 1939 Register Sidney and Frederick were residing at an address in Greenwich with their parents. Sidney was employed as an Ammunitions Labourer at Woolwich Arsenal.

Sidney married Ada **DAVIS**; electoral registers suggest they lived for some years in the Bexley area. Sidney died 1990 Maidstone, Kent.

Sidney's father, George Bing, was buried 16 Mar 1957 Charlton Cemetery, aged 76 yrs and his mother, Emma Bing, was buried 16 Mar 1954 Charlton Cemetery, aged 72 yrs. Frederick Bing died Sept 1982 Greenwich and was cremated 6 Oct 1982 Eltham Crematorium.

The reason for my interest is due to the fact I have stumbled on an Imperial Service Medal awarded to Sidney and was hoping I could shed some more background information regarding his life. The Imperial Service Medal was intended for junior grades of the Civil Service.

Graham Jansen
gray912@sky.com

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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