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Welcome to the 1 June 2020 emailinfoservice, the NWKFS fortnightly information service, comprising the latest information about the Society and other items of interest for family historians.

Kate Holloway has kindly sent in the above photograph and following article about her great aunt: it is a wonderful mix of personal information whilst explaining how world events and inventions affected her great aunt's life.

Ivy Dorrell 1890-1986

Ivy Frances **DORRELL** was born in 1890 in Plumstead, Kent, so quite recent compared to other people's relatives who I have enjoyed reading about!

My great aunt lived into her 96th year, so by 1986 she had seen immense changes to her way of life and lived through two world wars.

I didn't meet her until she was 65 and she was already a white curly haired version of her diminutive self. Her mother had passed away a few years earlier and Ivy had ceased work, received her old age pension and a degree of freedom previously unknown, having always lived with her parents.

Never having been on holiday before, she persuaded her niece to accompany her to Switzerland, Ireland, Scotland and eventually, age 81, she flew to Athens, where she wore a bright green trouser suit, which complemented her snow white hair.

Ivy was one of the surplus women who probably lost her potential husband as a result of WW1. Who knows how many friends she may have lost?

Working as a dressmaker of women's and children's clothes had kept her very busy. At one time she travelled to Regent Street to work but latterly the material was delivered to her and she worked at home, for many hours a week, while her mother assisted with smocking.

Although she never learnt to drive, Ivy saw the development of the motor car and enjoyed outings. As a child, she would never have dreamt she would fly on a plane. Wireless and television arrived in her life time and cameras became commonplace. The school leaving age rose and women gained the vote.

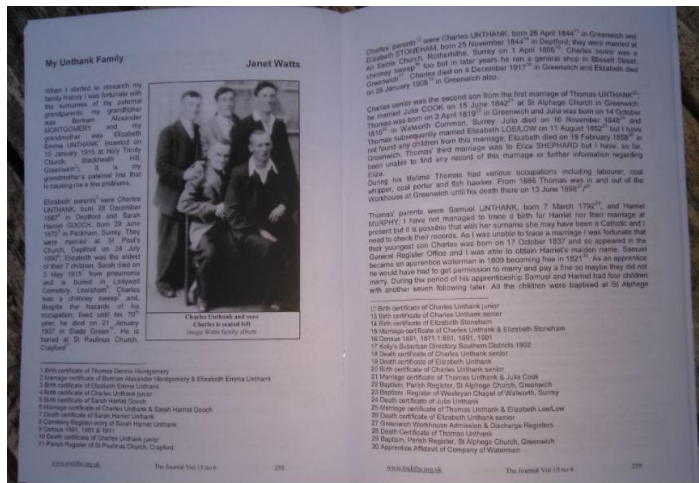
All this aside, my memories of my great aunt are of someone kind and beautiful, who made the lightest Victoria sponges and the only mince pies I have ever enjoyed!

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.

NORTH WEST KENT FHS JUNE JOURNAL

The Society June Journal is out. I received mine on 28 May and the electronic copy has been on our website for a bit longer than that. All paid up Society members can access the online copy by logging into the website www.nwkfhs.org.uk, going to the Members Only Area and clicking on Quarterly and Back Journals.

We have had several weeks of scorching weather in the south east of England and I was very happy to top up my Vitamin D and sit in the garden, engrossed in the Journal. Society members receive one each quarter and they never disappoint.



There are many interesting stories in this issue;-
 Searching for Ellen Turner;
 If at first Try Again, The Garmansway Family 1797 – 1864;
 The Bowditch Family of Deptford Part 1;
 Monument Inscription Recording - Friends of Nunhead Cemetery;
 Finding the Grave of John Wilson c1878 – c1926;
 My Unthank Family;
 My own Family's Downton experiences,
 and many others.

Many thanks to our Editor Pauline, who could not do it without those who make the Journals so interesting by contributing articles.

Your Journal has been printed and despatched by a printer we have not used before. Spindrift, our usual printer, experienced a temporary shutdown during the first weeks of the Covid-19 lockdown.

It will help the editor to know all has gone smoothly if you could let her know when you receive(d) your June Journal.

Please email editor@nwkfhs.org.uk stating the date your received the Journal plus which part of the UK or country you live in. Many thanks.

If you are willing to help us save costs and maybe help the environment too and are willing to forego a paper copy and only read online please let Tony Codling know on chairman@nwkfhs.org.uk

To join the Society and read the Journal and all back copies, only £10 per year (til 31 December 2020)

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

We hope you will enjoy reading this quarter's stories and thank those members who kindly contributed articles.

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

Your internet shopping helps the Society at no cost to you

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

Thank you so much!

Calling all Calendar Girls and Boys



Society members, don't forget our annual photographic competition for the 2021 Society calendar. Entries need to be in by 30 June.

See page 279 of the June Journal for more information.

Local History Societies

We are really fortunate in the North West Kent area to have lots of local history societies and archives.

Here are just a few.

Bromley Borough Local History Society makes all its website content available to anyone <https://www.bblhs.org.uk/>

Lots of interesting old photos to browse.

I have just been looking at its selection of old motorbike photos to try and compare them to this photo of a motorbike ridden by my great uncle Mark Sydney **SAYLE** 1905 - 1928. (Thanks to NWKFHS data I know that Mark is buried in Brockley and Ladywell cemetery).



A subscription to British Newspaper Archive meant that I was able to read in the Surrey Mirror of 13 April 1928 of the double tragedy which occurred on 5 April 1928, the day before good Friday.

Mark Sydney Sayle age 23 and his pillion rider Minnie Louisa **PUGH** age 20 (daughter of Reuben Pugh and Annie Louisa Pugh nee **HEMMINGS** of Uxbridge, Middlesex) were in a fatal collision with a bus coming in the opposite direction at a known dangerous S bend near Merstham on the London - Brighton Road. Mark and Minnie were in a group of friends on four motorbikes returning from Brighton after an Easter day out.

At the time, Mark was in the employ of Messrs Kent and Richards, wholesale newsagents of Penge, as a motor driver. He lived at home with his parents (and my grandmother, his younger sister, age 13) at 50 Woodbine Grove, Penge, London SE20 and that is possibly where this photo was taken in happier times.

Kent Archaeology Society has a mass of information, not just archaeology but monument inscriptions and much more information of interest to family historians. <https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/>

<http://tedconnell.org.uk/> has gravestone inscriptions and some wills in Kent.

If you know of a local history society or similar which has interesting photos and data freely available on its website, send me the link and I will mention it here.

**DNA Investigation on Television ITV
Monday and Tuesday 1 and 2 June 9pm**

Our DNA Discussion Groups cannot meet at present, but anyone particularly interested in DNA investigation stories may wish to know there's a two-part special, *Long Lost Family: Born without Trace* to look forward to.

This is the second time the show has done a special programme focusing on foundlings - babies born without any identifying information or links to their family at all. Thanks to the power of DNA it can now be possible for families to be reunited. In the trailer, one foundling does a DNA test and a connection is found - another foundling.

As you may have noticed I did not receive any of the Family Bible scans or inscriptions I appealed for in my last email. Please do send articles in which will be of interest to other readers.

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 email.

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 email 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

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