

Strangers in the Box by Pam Harazim

**Come, look with me inside this drawer
Inside this box I've often seen
At the pictures, black and white
Faces proud, still, serene.**

**I wish I knew the people
These strangers in the box
Their names and all their memories
Are lost among my socks.**

**I wonder what their lives were like
How did they spend their days?
What about their special times?
I'll never know their ways.**

**If only someone had taken time
To tell who, what, where, or when
These faces of my heritage
Would come to life again.**

**Could this become the fate
Of the pictures we take today?
The faces and the memories
Someday to be passed away?**

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

[Please Use Your Vote for the AGM Committee Elections - last date 14 October](#)

The physical AGM had to be cancelled but the Society is still asking for your votes to elect the committee.

Your votes are important and the committee looks forward to receiving them by the cut-off date of 14 October 2020, 11.30pm

If you are a paid up NWKFHS member you will have received your September Journal and an AGM voting form.

But the simplest way to vote is to do so online, which saves you postage. **You need to log in to the website first.**

Members, if you wish to read the Annual Report and Annual Accounts before you vote, log in and see here <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/community/meetings-house-groups/agm/#annual-reports>

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/>

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/agm-voting>

Logging in

If you haven't logged in before, go to www.nwkhfs.org.uk/ and register using your four digit membership number and all the letters of your surname in capitals with no gaps as your User Name.

Eg if my membership number is 1234 (it isn't!) I would type 1234EAMES as my User Name.

As a first password use Bexley017 (capital B, no gaps and 017 is all numbers)

When entering your email address, use the one you have already advised to the Society.

Any problems, email our webmaster on webmaster@nwkhfs.org.uk

2021 calendars



The 2021 calendar is now available.

An overview of the local photos included in the calendar are here: <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/society-calendar-2021>

To order (with UK 2nd class postage to your address it's only £2.50) click here <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services> scroll down and order here.

North West Kent FHS Online Workshop for Members

Wednesday 14th October: 11.00 - 12.30pm

Errors, Lies and Other Misinformation Part 2

Workshop discussing errors in Official Records and Commercial Search Engines and

how to try and spot them. Case studies will be used as part of the discussions

Do you believe what your ancestors told officials and their families?

Do you believe what other researchers tell you, how good is their research?

Are transcriptions accurate and do the indexes reflect the original documents?

Mark Twain said "If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're misinformed." You could apply this to family history documents.

This workshop will give you the tools to try to avoid researching someone else's family as yours.

Workshops are only open to paid-up Society members. **But membership is only £10 a year, and, if you join now, your membership is valid til 31 December 2021.** <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/our-membership>

To attend any of these workshops email workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk to obtain an invitation code.

Workshops have always been free to members but we've also always asked for a donation, £5 suggested. If you are attending one and would like to make a donation please do so here <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/shop/nwkhfs-shop/services/society-donation>

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nwkhfs/>

Raise donations for North West Kent Family History Society - Bexley whenever you shop online

Turn your everyday online shopping into FREE donations

Online Family History Show Saturday 14 November
The Family History Federation Really Useful Family History Show

<https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/event-details/>

The show is a worldwide virtual event and earlybird tickets (bought by 18 October) are only £5. I've got mine and am looking forward to the speakers. <https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/speakers/> One of the speakers is the North West Kent FHS President, David Cufley.

Book tickets here, put it in your diary, and prepare to enjoy it from the warmth and comfort of your own home.

<https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/events/fhf-really-useful-show/>

Many of the talks are simultaneous but recordings will be available for 48 hours after the event.

Useful Website Listing Protestant Martyrs in the 1550s

Member Hilary Waters was watching a Lucy Worsley history TV programme, which mentioned the Lewes Bonfire Society and explained it was nothing to do with Guy Fawkes, but was to do with the protestants who were burnt at the stake by Queen Mary Tudor. These martyrs were mainly from south east England, many from our county of Kent.

Since 1858, five Lewes (in East Sussex), bonfire societies have annually remembered the martyrs horrific deaths during 1555–1557, known as the *Marian Persecutions*.

In the reign of her younger brother, Edward VI, Mary Tudor, daughter of Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon, came under pressure to abandon her devout Catholic views. However, when she came to the throne in 1553, she had 288 Protestants burned for their "heretical" views – 17 of these martyrs were burned in Lewes.

Hilary told me about it because one of my possible ancestors, Stephen Gratwick, was listed as burnt at the end of May 1557. But maybe one of your ancestors or

surnames of interest was also unfortunate enough to be among them? Click here to see. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Protestant_martyrs_of_the_English_Reformation

The list is in chronological order, not alphabetical, so you will have to either scroll through, or search for specific surnames which interest you.

What amazes me is that transcripts of at least some of their trials are still on record nearly 500 years later: here is Stephen

Gratwick's <https://www.exclassics.com/foxe/foxe360.htm> Even though he may not be my ancestor (Gratwick is my maiden name but I've not researched that far back) I do feel a connection and that he should not be forgotten.

West Kent Wills and Families to 1650

I came across this website by chance. It has a small number of will transcripts for West Kent families; it can be searched and is in alphabetical order. <http://vulpeculox.net/history/wkw2016/index.htm>

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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 with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.

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

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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 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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