



09 DECEMBER 2021

ISSUE NUMBER 79

Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch

We will be meeting at the Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ.

Doors open at 7.15pm, meeting starts at 8pm. There is free car parking after 6.30 pm by the Memorial.

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

We hope you enjoy your visit.

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

SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

NO MEETING JANUARY 2022

NEXT SEVENOAKS MEETING 10 FEBRUARY 2022

DETAILS TO BE CONFIRMED

9 DECEMBER - THIS EVENING'S TALK

THE STRING OF PEARLS

Three women, one man – glamour, wealth and heartbreak

A thought-provoking talk revealing how the lives of four mystery icons intertwine in their pursuit of wealth, status and power. Can money ever buy love and happiness? In the spirit of the Mousetrap, before commencing her mystery talk Melanie will swear us all to keep secret the names of the intriguing participants - even from members not attending the meeting! Audience members are kindly asked to not speculate on the identities prior to the commencement of the talk.

We are delighted to welcome Melanie back and to hear what is sure to be a most entertaining mystery talk.

Speaker MELANIE GIBSON BARTON

Apologies for any misleading details of this talk in last month's newsletter.

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS - DETAILS TO BE CONFIRMED – KEEP LOOKING AT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

www.nwkhfs.org.uk or Sign up for our "FREE to ALL" twice monthly Society eNewsletter

NOT TO BE MISSED OUR NWKFHS ZOOM TALK AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

14 DECEMBER TALK: "THE STORY OF ENSA- EVERY NIGHT SOMETHING AWFUL" BY DELIA TAYLOR

Set up to keep up people's morale during WW2. So, join in a trip down memory lane about the artists who became household names and loved by the troops. This zoom talk will be hosted by Pat Gooding at 7:00pm for 7:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86339782580?pwd=U3lLQmFNWEEdqVHE1cm1wb2NZeGU3dz09>

Meeting ID: 863 3978 2580 / Passcode: 618887

15 DECEMBER - DISCUSSION GROUP. DO YOU BELIEVE EVERYTHING THE FAMILY TOLD YOU?

Members Only Zoom event. Start time 2:30pm to 4:30pm. Please reserve a place by email to

workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk including the event title and date together with your name and membership number.

5 JANUARY - ZOOM WORKSHOP: ERRORS, LIES AND MISINFORMATION

A 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 avoid researching someone else's family as yours.

This is a Members Only Zoom event led by David Cufley - start time is 7:30pm

Please reserve a place by email to workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk including the event title and date together with your name and membership number by the 3 January 2022. Spaces are limited.

The presenter has agreed that the Society may record the event and may be available on the Members only area of the website at a later date.

26 JANUARY - ZOOM WORKSHOP BREAKING DOWN BRICK WALL

This is a Members Only Zoom event led by David Cufley - start time is 7:30pm

Please reserve a place by email to workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk including the event title and date together with your name and membership number by the 24 January 2022. Spaces are limited.

The host has agreed that the Society may record the event and may be available on the Members only area of the website at a later date.

For all events a donation is appreciated via the web shop.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

22 December and 19 January 10.30am DNA Family History Research Discussion Group Leader Laura Lincoln.

12 January 10.30am Scottish Research Discussion Group – Led by Carolyn Barclay and Pam Goddard / cut-off date 10.01.22

For further details please visit our website www.nwkfhs.org.uk or Sign up for our "FREE to ALL" twice monthly Society eNewsletter

20 JANUARY 2022 CONSERVING YOUR FAMILY ARCHIVE WITH SUE GIBBONS

General principles for keeping things safe and in good condition. Detailed advice on caring for and storing documents, photographs, and many other items. Suggestions for preserving your heritage as a book or a website and making plans as to what will happen to it all after your death plus some trustworthy sources for further help and advice.

Free Event – Capacity unlimited

The meeting will be recorded and may be available for members to view on the website for one month. Please check website for updates.

27 JANUARY 2022 - 1921 CENSUS

The 1921 Census of England and Wales is here. Join Findmypast for an unmissable exploration of the biggest new arrival in family history. After years spent digitising and transcribing this unique snapshot of our recent history, discover the stories and secrets contained within. Along with the historical context, tips for effective searching and using it to trace elusive relatives, we'll learn how the 1921 Census will help you understand your ancestors' lives better. And your own.

Myko Clelland, Regional Licensing and Outreach Manager, talks about the 1921 England and Wales census, due to be published by Find My Past www.findmypast.co.uk early in 2022. This census was taken between two world wars, during a period of economic turmoil and at a time when women had just won the right to vote, the 1921 Census should provide some fascinating insights about society and how it has evolved over the past 100 years.

Start time 7:30 pm - Zoom host: Mike Weeks – Free but donations appreciated via web shop

A recording of the meeting will be made available on the website for members only at a later date.

New collections

FamilySearch

Berkshire, Parish Registers, 1515-1993

Somerset, Church Records, 1501-1999

Wiltshire, Church Records, 1518-1990

France, Calvados, Census, 1856

Iceland Census, 1835

U.S., Hawaii, Anti-Annexation Petitions, 1897

U.S., Minnesota, Douglas County, Obituaries, 1860-1990

U.S., Missouri, Phelps, Crawford, Dent, and Washington Counties, Obituaries, 1880-1990

U.S., Oklahoma, Garfield County, Obituaries, 1963-1986

U.S., Oregon, Naturalization Records, 1868-1991

Ancestry UK

UK, Records of the Removal of Graves and Tombstones, 1601-1980

UK, Military Records of Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Burials, 1813-1957

International Patents, 1890-2020

South Australia: School Admissions Registers, 1876-1989; Police Inquest Registers, 1885-1953

Finland, Population Tax Lists, 1809-1920

Greece, Census Indexes, 1724-1879

Russia, Samara, Church Books 1748-1934

U.S., Delaware, World War I Servicemen Records, 1917-1919

U.S., Florida, World War I Navy Card Roster, 1917-1920

U.S., Mississippi, World War I Service Cards, 1917-1919

U.S., Nebraska, Birth Ledgers, 1904-1911, Birth Index, 1912-1994

U.S., North Carolina, World War I Service Cards, 1917-1919

U.S., Virginia, Wills and Probate Records, 1652-1900

Findmypast

Indian Army Service Records, 1900-1947

Lancashire, Greater Burnley Roll of Honour

Northumberland bapt. Blanchland, Harbottle, Nth Shields,

Bankside

Independent, North Shields, Low Meeting House Unitarian Chapel, North

Shields, Middle Street Mission, North Shields, Secession Church.

North

Shields, Union St Baptist, Tynemouth, Holy Trinity (Western

Town), Tynemouth, St Peter (Low Town)

West Glamorgan Electoral Registers, 1839-1925

Leeward Islands Census Substitutes, 1678-1753

U.S., States Obituaries Notices

U.S., Freedmen's Bureau Marriages

Ireland Genealogy Projects Archives

Cavan Dowra (Col) Marriages 1867-1921

Fermanagh Kildeas (Col) Marriages 1883-1935

ON THIS DAY: DECEMBER 9 is the 343RD day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 22 days left until the end of the year

480 Odoacer, first King of Italy, occupies Dalmatia. He later establishes his political power with the co-operation of the Roman Senate

1688 Glorious Revolution: Williamite forces defeat Jacobites at Battle of Reading, forcing flight of James II from the country

1868 The first traffic lights are installed, outside the Palace of Westminster in London. Resembling railway signals, they use semaphore arms and are illuminated at night by red and green gas lamps.

1799 Metric system first adopted in France

1851 The first YMCA in North America is established in Montreal

1901 First Nobel Peace Prizes awarded to Red Cross founder Jean Henri Dunant and peace activist Frederic Passy

1905 In France, the law separating church and state is passed

1909 Douglas Fairbanks Jr., American captain, actor, and producer born this day (d. 2000)

1916 Kirk Douglas, American actor, singer, and producer born this day (d. 2020)

1934 British actress Judi Dench, was born

1960 The first episode of Coronation Street, the world's longest-running television soap opera, is broadcast in the UK

1973 British and Irish authorities sign the Sunningdale Agreement in an attempt to establish a power-sharing Northern Ireland Executive and a cross-border Council of Ireland

1979 The eradication of the smallpox virus is certified, making smallpox the first of only two diseases that have been driven to extinction (rinderpest in 2011 being the other)

Events online

There are many talks, podcasts, and exhibitions available to us online, do take a look at some of the following sites:

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

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

<http://folkfhs.org.uk/program.htm>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

<https://www.ihgs.ac.uk/>

What the 1901 Census told us about old age and the workhouse:

There was no state old-age pension in 1901. Those who could no longer work and had no other income often faced a stark choice between destitution and the workhouse.

The 1901 Census Report recorded 262,175 retired people, of whom only 25,567 were pensioners (i.e. receiving work-related pensions) with an additional 93,381 living on their own means. On the night of the census, 208,650 people were resident in the workhouses of England and Wales - 120,285 men and 88,365 women. Most of these were aged 85 and over. According to the Census Report, about a quarter of retired men and half of retired women over 45 lived in workhouses or asylums. Overall, 9% of men and 16% of women over the age of 65 were receiving outdoor poor relief payments while 5% of men and 2% of women obtained indoor relief in an institution.

Pensions and the Poor Law

The rising costs of poor relief alarmed some commentators. The Times asserted that the Poor Law was turning into 'a kind of general old age pension scheme' and argued that this was partly due to the Local Government Board's 'urging Guardians [the administrators of the Poor Law] to make things as comfortable as possible for the aged and infirm'. Conditions were improving in at least some institutions. In Holborn workhouse in central London, where allowances of tea, tobacco and sugar had been granted, beds were separated by curtains, inmates were allowed to have their own lockers and an extra day room had been introduced. Elderly married couples were no longer split up between male and female wards. The Times, however, disapproved of such changes, claiming that it unfairly benefited the very poor, to the detriment of 'the poorer but self-respecting classes who insist on preserving their own independence'.

In October 1901, the National Conference of Officers of Friendly Societies had called for a government scheme of old-age pensions for the aged and the thrifty. Small means-tested old-age pensions would be introduced in 1909 for the 'respectable' elderly poor - the first cash benefit financed directly by central government.

Source: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/census/living/health/work.htm>

Sevenoaks Committee would like to wish you and your families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year - we look forward to seeing you again in 2022

**The Sevenoaks Committee
Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters
Committee Members**

Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Barbara Stead, Sandra Marchant, Bill Chopping