



10 MARCH 2022

ISSUE NUMBER 81

# Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT  
[www.nwkfhs.org.uk](http://www.nwkfhs.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.

## 10 MARCH - THIS EVENING'S TALK THE LIVES AND DEATHS OF THE HANOVERS

The Hanoverians came to power in difficult circumstances that looked set to undermine the stability of British society. However, the Hanoverian period was to be remarkably stable, not least because of the longevity of its kings. From 1714 through to 1901, there were just six monarchs, one of whom, George III, remains the longest reigning king in British History. This era was also one of political stability, and the development of constitutional monarchy. Britain's first 'Prime' Minister, Robert Walpole, dates from this time as does the introduction of income tax. It was also during this period that Britain came to acquire much of her overseas empire, despite the loss of the American colonies.

This is a fascinating chapter in history and sure to be an interesting talk.

Speaker **DR JOHN REUTHER**

### NO APRIL MEETING

### NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

12 MAY 2022

### HE'S CAST A SHOE

"He's Cast a Shoe - featuring the Forge in Otford in Victorian times" - The story of (probably) the most well-known painting of Otford High Street. Once owned by the Royal Family and painted by Otto Weber a favourite of Queen Victoria. It was also a favourite of Prince George The Duke of Kent who visited Otford in 1936. He recalled he remembered it hanging on his bedroom wall when he stayed at Sandringham with his grandparents, The King and Queen.

Prince Edward, The Duke of Kent followed in his father's footsteps and also visited Otford in July 2006 where The Duke said "As I walked through this most attractive of Kent's villages, I was reminded of the Painting of which my father was so fond at Sandringham"

Speaker **ALAN WILLIAMS**

### DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

2 APRIL 2022

### CORONERS' INQUESTS

Inquests provide more information than just how people died; where and how they lived and how they got on with those around them. Talk by Kathy Chater who worked at the BBC and still advises on historical sources. She has published several books and contributes articles and reviews on social and family history to magazines including Ancestor (TNA) and websites.

Speaker **KATHY CHATER**

## The Genealogy Show – Spring Online Event

50+ speakers from April 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> plus 30-day access to all content on the event website.

Tickets are now on sale and there is presently an early bird discount code EARLYSPRING15 at checkout to receive 25% off the ticket price. See website <https://thegenealogyshow.uk/> for more details

## NOT TO BE MISSED OUR NWKFHS ZOOM TALK AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

### 22 MARCH - ZOOM TALK – THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GEORGE BRADSHAW by Dr David Turner

Dr. David Turner will examine how Bradshaw's company produced guides and handbooks that were considered indispensable for Victorian and Edwardian railway travellers and reveals how they were seen by the public.

Time 7.30 pm - Capacity 99. The link to the zoom meeting will be posted on the website shortly before the meeting.

### 21 APRIL ZOOM TALK: Brick walls by Ian Waller

Ian Waller knows that every family historian has hit a brick wall at some stage in their research and this talk examines ways of demolishing those brick walls, breaking down barriers and overcoming challenges posed by documents that were not generated with the family historian in mind.

This is a Members Only Zoom event - Start time is 7:30pm to 9.30 pm – Capacity 99

The link to the zoom meeting will be posted on the website shortly before the meeting

**A recording of the meeting may be made available on the website for members only at a later date, but this has not been confirmed.**

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

30 March and 27<sup>th</sup> April @ 10.30am DNA Family History Research Discussion Group Leader Laura Lincoln.

06 April @ 10.00 am Zoom Discussion Group. Should history be rewritten? And members choice leader Carolyn Barclay

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS OF FURTHER WORKSHOPS AND UPDATES

[www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk) or sign up for our "FREE to ALL" twice monthly Society eNewsletter

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### 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/>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/online/family-history/> - This site is certainly worth a visit, there is a great deal of choice and variety, many free events or a low cost

<https://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/index.php/component/jevents/eventdetail/89/0/virtual-family-history-fair?Itemid=101>

**East Surrey Virtual Family History Fair – Saturday May 7 2022 – Free event**

East Surrey, will be hosting a virtual family history fair using *Zoom*. Other Societies are being invited to occupy breakout rooms to chat to visitors about their locality and answer questions, which includes NWKFHS

<https://fifefhs.org/event/the-scottish-association-of-family-history-societies-online-conference-2022/>

**The Scottish Association of Family History Societies Online Conference 2022 – 9 APRIL – Free event**

There will be 6 notable and experienced speakers talking on 'Hard Times!' - how to trace the lives of your ancestors during their hard times through poor relief records and more.

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**ON THIS DAY: MARCH 10 is the 69<sup>TH</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 296 days left until the end of the year**

**1535** Spaniard Fray Tomás de Berlanga, the 4th Bishop of Panama, discovers the Galápagos Islands by chance on route to Peru

**1629** Charles I dissolves the Parliament of England, beginning the eleven-year period known as the Personal Rule

**1697** Tsar Peter the Great of Russia begins a tour of Western Europe

**1762** French Huguenot Jean Calas, who had been wrongly convicted of killing his son, dies after being tortured by authorities; the event inspired Voltaire to begin a campaign for religious tolerance and legal reform

**1801** First official census in Great Britain, revealing a population of approximately 10 million

**1814** Emperor Napoleon I is defeated at the Battle of Laon in France

**1876** The first successful test of a telephone is made by Alexander Graham Bell

**1922** Mahatma Gandhi is arrested in India, tried for sedition, and sentenced to six years in prison, only to be released after nearly two years for an appendicitis operation.

**1959** Tibetan uprising: Fearing an abduction attempt by China, thousands of Tibetans surround the Dalai Lama's palace to prevent his removal

**1969** In Memphis, Tennessee, James Earl Ray pleads guilty to assassinating Martin Luther King Jr. He later unsuccessfully attempts to recant

**1977** Astronomers discover the rings of Uranus

**2014** German Chancellor Angela Merkel warns Russia's Vladimir Putin that making Crimea part of Russia is illegal and in violation of Ukraine's constitution

## Outstanding Women

### **Sophie Blanchard, 1778-1819 Professional aeronaut**

After the death of her professional balloonist husband, Sophie was forced to take over his business to pay off his debts, making her the first female professional balloonist. Crowds flocked to see her, and on several occasions, she was official aviator to both Napoleon Bonaparte and Louis XVIII. Her adventures came to an explosive end in 1819 when she became the first woman to die in an aviation accident.

### **Emily Hobhouse, 1860-1926 British welfare campaigner**

Emily Hobhouse was a British welfare campaigner during the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) in South Africa. She raised funds for the many Boer women and children who were displaced by the war and housed by the British in overcrowded camps. After visiting the camps, she submitted a report to British government highlighting the terrible conditions, which resulted in an official inquiry. Emily was one of the first women in history to successfully challenge the British government and raise social awareness for the plight of civilian populations caught up in conflict.

### **Eleanor Rathbone, 1872-1946 MP and philanthropist**

A humanitarian and suffragist, member of the law-abiding National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship from 1919), Rathbone was returned to the British Parliament in 1929 as the Independent Member for the Combined British Universities. She was a key figure in getting through parliament a family allowances bill that paid the allowance to the mother, not the father. During later years she was actively involved in refugee relief work, trying to rescue Spanish republicans and Jews threatened by Hitler's rise to power.

### **Vera Atkins, 1908-2000 British intelligence officer**

In the 1930s, Atkins and her Jewish mother emigrated to Britain from Bucharest to escape the rise of fascism. A talented linguist, Atkins joined the Special Operations Executive (SOE), a branch of British Military Intelligence responsible for training and sending agents overseas. She rose from administrative roles to become an intelligence officer in the French Section of the SOE. At the end of the Second World War, as a member of the British War Crimes Commission, Atkins set out to find out what had become of the 118 SOE agents who had not made it home, establishing how and when they had died – she was able to trace all but one. Atkins was awarded the Croix de Guerre in 1948 and appointed a Commandant of the Legion of Honor in 1987

### **Marie Van Brittan Brown, 1922-99 Inventor of the first CCTV**

The Big Brother technology of Closed-Circuit Television is now a ubiquitous public presence, but African American nurse Marie van Brittan Brown invented it to protect her friends and family at home. Disillusioned by police negligence, in 1966 she filed a patent for a movable camera that could display images on a TV screen monitor of whoever was at the front door.

### **Wangari Maathai, 1940-2011 Environmental Activist**

Wangari Maathai was a Kenyan environmental activist who founded the Green Belt Movement which campaigned for the planting of trees, environmental conversation, and women's rights. The first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree, Maathai was elected to parliament and appointed assistant minister for Environment and Natural Resources from 2003– 2005. Her work was internationally recognised when, in 2004, she became the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for her contribution to sustainable development, peace and democracy.

**Source:** <https://www.historyextra.com/100-women/100-women-results/> visit this website to read about many more fascinating women through history.

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

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