



11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

ISSUE NUMBER 99

# Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT

[www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk)



## Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch

Our meetings are held at Otford Memorial Hall, 28A High Street, Otford, TN14 5PQ.

*Doors open at 10:45 am, meeting starts at 11am - Nominal parking fee.*

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

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

*We hope you enjoy your visit.*

---

***Sanitiser and masks available and chairs placed at a friendly distance for those concerned about Covid.***

---

## Today's talk

### Sir Cloudesley Shovell and Longitude

#### The Story of Crayford's Famous Admiral.

Sir Cloudesley Shovell was once one of the most famous men in the country, but if you mention his name now the chances are he's probably the most famous man that you've never heard of!

The admiral whose death helped to shape the modern world, is known to few people today, Shovell, of humble birth, entered the navy as a boy (1662) and came to national prominence in the wars against the Barbary pirates. Detested by Pepys, hated by James II, Shovell became the finest seaman of Queen Anne's age.

In 1695 he moved to Crayford after becoming the local M.P. and used his wealth to save the ancient church, St. Paulinus. The consequences of his tragic death had a profound effect on this country. Shovell, the Lord of the Manor of Crayford and Rear Admiral of England, whose death aboard his flagship Association in 1707 instigated the Longitude Act (1714) that established a prize for whoever could identify an accurate method for sailors to calculate their longitude. A story I am looking forward to. **Speaker PETER DANIEL**

(Source Crayford Town Archives - <https://www.crayfordhistory.org.uk/projects/shovell-and-the-longitude/gallery/events-shovells-life>)

## NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

### **9<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Christmas on the Home Front 1939 - 1945 with Mike Brown and Christmas nibbles**

The outbreak of war in 1939 saw the disappearance of many traditional British celebrations. Guy Fawkes' Night went immediately – gunpowder production was needed for the war effort and bonfires contravened the blackout. Summer holidays became a thing of the past and Easter all but disappeared as chocolate – and even real eggs – went 'on the ration'. In spite of this, the nation remained determined to celebrate Christmas as a time of family and community; a time when war could be set aside, if only for a day.

Drawing upon personal recollections, contemporary Mass Observation reports, newspaper articles, advertisements, and personal and archive photographs, Mike Brown looks at each wartime Christmas on the British Home Front, from 1939 to 1944. He explores how people celebrated Christmas despite the problems of shortages, rationing, the blackout, Luftwaffe raids and the absence of family members who had been called up or evacuated.

Life in Britain changed dramatically as the war progressed; the annual celebration of Christmas provides fascinating yearly 'snapshots', illuminating the changes over six years of conflict.

Mike Brown is an experienced speaker whose TV credits include Time Team and Timewatch. His entertaining, seasonal talk will be enhanced by a collection of artefacts such as ration books, uniforms and toys. **Speaker MIKE BROWN**

*If you would like to do so, please bring along a plate of Christmas treats. However, because Covid is still around, we are asking people to bring along 'anything that could be picked up with a cocktail stick e.g., sausage rolls, mini cocktail sausages etc.' and also crisps/snacks in individual small packs from multipacks. Again, possibly individually wrapped chocolate bars such as mini-Twix, mini Mars bars etc.. We do not want people to bring in sandwiches i.e., anything that might be accidentally handled by someone else.*

*We will not be changing our timings, but the speaker will probably start a little later than 11 am as people chat and munch on their treats as noted above and possibly the meeting will break up a little later as we have more of a Christmas raffle and people may wish to chat more after the talk. It's difficult to be firmer on timings per se.*

## DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

### **25<sup>TH</sup> November 2023 - Mrs Beeton's Victorian Christmas**

We start our Christmas Season with a talk on "Mrs Beeton's Victorian Christmas" based on Toni Mount's book of the same name which contains a selection of cookable recipes that your ancestors may have tried and also explains how they celebrated Christmas.

Toni is a well-known lecturer, historian and author whose books are based on her research into the lives of ordinary and sometimes extra-ordinary people through history, including Mrs Beeton. **Speaker TONI MOUNT**

## UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

Family History Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote

29 November 10:30

The beginner's workshop will cover Birth, Marriages and Death Certificates, Census Records, Parish Registers, Wills and Directories as well as Family Charts and Trees.

## MONTHLY ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln

The topic for each meeting is agreed by the members by notifying the leader through [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk).

## ZOOM FAMILY HISTORY DISCUSSION GROUP

Let's Talk About Family History with David Cufley

22 November 14:15

How did historical events shape the lives of our ancestors? With Ann Clarke

6 December 10:15

Each meeting the topic is agreed by the members at the previous group meeting. It can range from 'how do I do...?' to: 'sources for finding family information.' Because this is an open discussion the subjects can lead to topics that the participants want to discuss or expand upon points raised during the session. The structure is very flexible.

Please visit our website for further details, dates and times [www.nwkfhs.org.uk](http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk)

Changes and up-to-date details will be on the website and in the e-mail information service newsletter.

*Since re-opening the library post Covid the number of attendees is noticeably down. There are many reasons for this but if it is safety fears, we would like to reassure you that we will do all we can to make you feel and be safe. The tables can be spaced further apart to usual, furthermore, we can seat you on your own table and nobody will object to you wearing a face covering.*

We would be pleased to hear from any volunteers who would like to be involved with any workshops, along with any new topics that interest you. Contact us through bookings and enquiries by e-mail [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)

## 13<sup>th</sup> December – Zoom Discussion Group – Let's Talk About Christmas Family History Traditions with David Cufley

**A members-only event.**

Do you know what your ancestor's Christmas traditions were? What did your family do?

Please log in from 7.15pm and enjoy chatting amongst participants before the discussion starts.

As its on zoom you will need to bring your own coffee and biscuits!



Numbers are restricted to enable all participants to ask questions, share knowledge and engage with other members.

Please reserve a place with [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated:

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

*Please visit our website for details of further workshops and updates and sign up for our free twice monthly Society eNewsletter.*



The society now has 25 recorded talks and 49 recorded workshop videos which members can view at any time. A wide variety of subjects are covered on family research, why not have a look to see what could help your research. You can find them on the website under RESOURCES / Zoom Talk or Zoom Workshops. Log on now!

## Did you know?

An Allsorts Stripper was a sugar confectionery worker who prepared the liquorice for rolling and cutting.

An Anchoress 15c/16c. was a hermit, a woman who retired from society to become a religious recluse.

An Annatto Maker was someone who worked in the manufacture of colour dyes for paint, printing etc.

A Badger was:

1. A pauper who was obliged to wear a badge bearing letter 'P' under Condition of Settlement Act 1697.
2. An Itinerant trader, usually dealing in food.
3. A corn dealer or miller.
4. A small shopkeeper.
5. An etcher of decorative glassware.

**ON THIS DAY:** November 11<sup>th</sup> is the 315<sup>th</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 50 days remain to the end of the year.

**November, the eleventh month of the year, was the ninth month of the Roman Calendar and its name derives from the Latin *novem*, nine.**

**1100** Henry I of England marries Matilda of Scotland, the daughter of Malcolm III of Scotland and a direct descendant of the Saxon king Edmund Ironside; Matilda is crowned on the same day

**1620** The Mayflower Compact is signed in what is now Provincetown Harbor near Cape Cod.

**1724** Joseph Blake, alias Blueskin, a highwayman known for attacking "Thief-Taker General" (and thief) Jonathan Wild at the Old Bailey, is hanged in London.

**1805** Napoleonic Wars: Battle of Dürenstein: Eight thousand French troops attempt to slow the retreat of a vastly superior Russian and Austrian force.

**1831** In Jerusalem, Virginia, Nat Turner is hanged after inciting a violent slave uprising.

**1855** A powerful earthquake occurs in Edo, Japan, causing considerable damage in the Kantō region from the shaking and subsequent fires. It had a death toll of 7,000–10,000 people and destroyed around 14,000 buildings

**1880** Australian bushranger Ned Kelly is hanged at Melbourne Gaol.

**1918** World War I: Germany signs an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railroad car in the forest of Compiègne.

**1923** Adolf Hitler is arrested in Munich for high treason for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch.

**1966** NASA launches Gemini 12.

---

## Did you know?

During World War Two, Armistice Day was moved to the Sunday before 11 November to minimize logistical disruptions during wartime production. This decision ensured that the commemoration would not interfere with essential activities on weekdays. After World War Two, this practice continued, and the second Sunday of November became known as Remembrance Sunday, while Armistice Day itself became Remembrance Day. On Remembrance Sunday, the national service of remembrance held at the Cenotaph war memorial in London, and the tradition of observing two minutes of silence has been maintained since 1995.

The significance of this shift was to honour and remember all those who made sacrifices in war, beyond just World War I, which is closely associated with the original Armistice Day. By moving the observance to a Sunday, it allowed for broader recognition and ensured that the fallen would not be forgotten.

## The Poppy.



The red poppy is the most famous symbol used to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives in World War One and conflicts that followed. Wearing a poppy was inspired by the fields of poppies that grew where many of the battles were fought. The red poppy belongs to the Royal British Legion - a charity created by veterans of World War One. They say that the red poppy represents remembrance and hope.



The purple poppy is often worn to remember animals that have been victims of war. Animals like horses, dogs and pigeons were often drafted into the war effort, and those that wear the purple poppy feel their service should be seen as equal to that of human service. In particular, many horses were killed or injured in World War One.



The black Poppy Rose commemorates the contributions of black, African and Caribbean communities to the war effort - as servicemen and servicewomen, and as civilians. The charitable organisation aims to highlight "largely untold historical legacies" from the 16th century onwards.



Some people feel that the red poppy glorifies war and conflict. Instead, they might choose to wear a white poppy. The white poppy is handed out by a charity called Peace Pledge Union, which promotes peace. They say that the white poppy commemorates people who died in conflict but focuses on achieving peace and challenging the way we look at war.

Source Website: [What do the different coloured poppies mean? - BBC](#)

[Newsround](#)

Lest we forget



## New Records:

### Findmypast:

- Lambeth Electoral Registers 1832-1886
- Greater Manchester Electoral Registers 1820-1940
- Oxfordshire Baptisms, Marriage and Burials
- Dublin Church of Ireland Baptisms 1619 to 1865, Marriages 1619 to 1800 and Burials 1618 to 1800
- Ulster Covenant Index (1912)

### Ireland Genealogy Projects Archives

- Donegal, Ballylennan Presbyterian Marriages 1845-1921, 2nd Ballylennan Presbyterian Marriages, 1845-1878
- Down, Kilkeel RC Parish Baptisms - 1845-1846
- Sligo Revised Valuations for Ballymote E.D. Clooneen – Corhober Derroon, Keenaghan, Maghera & Rathdoony More - c1860-63
- Tyrone, Douglas Presbyterian Marriages 1845-1921

### MyHeritage

- International Bomber Command Losses, 1936-1968
- United Kingdom, Deceased Estates Notices
- Belgium, Aalst Population Registers 1796 and 1881
- Canada 1931 Census
- Canada, Alberta, Edmonton Burials 1890-
- France, Nord-Pas-de-Calais Mining Personnel 1839-1968
- Greece, Asia Minor Refugees, 1914-1923
- Lithuanian-Jewish Births from LitvakSIG, 1808-1940, Deaths from LitvakSIG, 1808-1940, Marriages and Divorces from LitvakSIG, 1808-1940, Household Registers from LitvakSIG, 1835-1946 and Revision Lists from LitvakSIG, 1795-1942
- New Zealand, Wellington City Burials 1840

### Ancestry

- RAF Officer Service Records, 1918-1919
- Wills of Royal Navy and Royal Marines Personnel, 1786-1882
- Ireland, Ulster, Dissenters Petitions, 1775

---

## Marriage Settlement

Marriage settlements conveyed property to the use of the parties, providing for the children of the marriage and for the survivor after the death of one spouse. They identify the original owner of the property conveyed, frequently the parents, and may name other relatives as trustees.

Source: The Family Historian's Pocket Dictionary. Compiled by Stuart A. Raymond. Page 162

---

## Mayhew - London Labour & The London Poor

### Carmen and porters

Mayhew associated these two groups of men with the carrying trade. Carmen he divided into two categories: public and private. He saw them as a category of servant. There were about 207 master-carmen, 12 of whom had licences to ply their trade from official stands in the city. Many of these were quite large employers. Those without licences used horse-drawn spring carriages to effect house removals. Others ran excursions, for example to Hampton Court and back, for twenty to thirty people at a time. This class of carman generally combined his trade with some other, such as that of greengrocer, grocer, chandler or dairyman. Porters, messenger and errand-boys were a much larger group, because they had no overheads. The census of 1841 gave a figure of 24,092 in England alone, of whom 13,103 were in London. More

than a fifth of the group were youths below the age of 20 engaged as errand boys. Porters had to be ticketed (licensed) to ply their trade.

Source: Book 'Mayhew - London Labour & The London Poor' A selection by Rosmary O'Day and David Englander, published 2008 by Wordsworth Editions Limited, page 225.

---

**The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair - Vacant**  
**Committee Members: Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins,**  
**Sandra Marchant, Barbara Attwaters, Maureen Berry, Bill Chopping**