



16th MARCH 2024

ISSUE NUMBER 103

Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT
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.

TODAYS TALK:

The Medieval Housewife

Have you ever wondered what life was like for the ordinary housewife in the Middle Ages? Or how much power a medieval lady really had? Find out all about medieval housewives, peasant women, grand ladies, women in trade and women in the church. More has been written about medieval women in the last twenty years than in the two whole centuries before that. Female authors of the medieval period have been rediscovered and translated; queens are no longer thought of as merely decorative brood mares for their royal husbands and have merited their own biographies.

In the past, historians have tended to look at what women could not do. We will look at the lives of medieval women in a more positive light, finding out what rights and opportunities they enjoyed and attempting to uncover the real women beneath the layers of dust accumulated over the centuries.

Toni earned her Research Master's degree from the University of Kent in 2009 through study of a medieval medical manuscript held at the Wellcome Library in London. She 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. Toni has spoken to us many times before and it will be a pleasure to hear her again.

Speaker TONI MOUNT

NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

13TH April - Who are the Travellers?

This talk will discuss the background and history of Travellers and then how to identify them and research them in our family trees. Also looking at the different groups including Irish Travellers and Romanies who are separate ethnic groups.

Speaker CAROL MELLORS

DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

6th April - Lady Codebreakers of Bletchley Park by

Ian is a former guide at Bletchley Park. Through his illustrated talk he will reveal the complexity of the top-secret work there in WW2, describing the achievements of the many women transcribing data, translating and cracking cyphers. Yet these unsung heroines couldn't tell anyone about their critical contribution to the war effort.

Speaker IAN THOMSON

IMPORTANT MEMBERS ZOOM MEETINGS

The trustees would appreciate hearing our members' opinions along with any fresh ideas to help us transition this difficult time for the society. Please join us at one of the following Zoom meetings (no pre booking):

- 21st March: A discussion about the future of our society. Time 10.30am – 12.30pm
- 25th March: A discussion about the future of our society. Time 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Society Members, please **log in** to the website www.nwkhfs.org.uk for the Zoom links and codes, members only.

If any member would like to participate but is unsure how to use Zoom and would like assistance please either click this link https://support.zoom.com/hc/en/article?id=zm_kb&sysparm_article=KB0060732 or email enquiries@nwkhfs.org.uk or treasurer@nwkhfs.org.uk well in advance of the Zoom meeting.

UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

DNA and General Family History with Jack Ellis and Pam Goddard **24 April 10:30**

Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard: **01 May 10.30**

The group will look at the National Library of Scotland. What resources it holds and what is online?

Booking essential - please email workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk to reserve your place.

MONTHLY ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

ZOOM DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln **17 April 10:30**

ZOOM Discussion Group with Ann Clarke

Our ancestors' trades – how and why did they change during their lifetime?

3 April 10.30

ZOOM WORKSHOP

Breaking Down Brick Walls with David Cufley

10 April at 7:30 pm

A Members Only discussion workshop to help researchers overcome research hurdles. (Entries to be submitted to David Cufley via email workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk by 27 March latest please).

Brick walls are not a hurdle but a learning experience. At a '*Breaking down ancestral brick walls*' workshop a member said that she thought you had to submit a research problem to attend. Not so. The workshops are designed to explain sources and how you can organise your research to help find that elusive ancestor.

Other members' 'brick walls' can be of help to other family historians as the thinking process explained with the sources used can apply to everyone's research.

Methods are supported by the guides and bibliographies in the members only area (MOA) along with the recordings.

Don't forget that the advice at the BDBW workshops can help everyone. So come and hear how we try to solve the 'brick walls' that other members have encountered. Having the chance to discuss the research problems we all encounter may help you solve your 'brick wall'.

Zoom Talk - Greenwich Park Wall History 1609 – 2023 with David Cufley

24 April at 7:30 pm

Please log in 15 minutes before each online event and enjoy chatting amongst participants before it starts.



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



How to get the Zoom Link

Booking is no longer required for individual Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups.

For 2024 a Zoom Register has been created to cover all attendance to any of the zoom groups. Any society member who would like to be added to the register needs to submit their name, email address and membership number to workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk. You only need to register once.

Once a month the zoom links for the discussion groups and workshops will be sent by email to those members on the register. Members who have registered can then attend as many of the Zoom groups as they wish with no need to make a specific booking for each one.

All Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups are members only-events.

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 more workshops and updates and don't forget to sign up for our free twice monthly Society eNewsletter.

Participating in a North West Kent Family History workshop or discussion offers numerous benefits. It provides valuable skills for research, enhances your understanding of historical contexts, and fosters a sense of connection with your ancestry. We look forward to you joining us.

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

An Invitation from the Editor

As a member of our esteemed Family History Society, we invite you to contribute to our upcoming journals in the next few months. At NWKFHS, we value the rich tapestry of family narratives and historical insights that our members bring to the table. Your unique perspective and expertise would undoubtedly enrich our journal.

Whether you have a captivating family story, compelling research, or an enlightening exploration of historical records, we warmly welcome your submissions. This is a terrific opportunity to share your knowledge and passion with fellow members.

If you are interested in contributing, please feel free to reach out to us with your proposed topic or submission. Our editor Pauline will be delighted to hear from you and will respond to every proposal. Please email theeditor@nwkfhs.org.uk – word files or simply text in the body of an email is fine. We look forward to hearing from you.

ON THIS DAY

March 16th is the 76th day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 290 days remain to the end of the year.

March comes from Martius, the first month of the earliest Roman calendar. It was named after Mars, the Roman god of war, and an ancestor of the Roman people through his sons Romulus and Remus.

1190 Massacre of Jews at Clifford's Tower, York

1660 The Long Parliament of England is dissolved so as to prepare for the new Convention Parliament

1792 King Gustav III of Sweden is shot; he dies on March 29

1815 Prince Willem proclaims himself King of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands, the first constitutional monarch in the Netherlands

1872 The Wanderers F.C. win the first FA Cup, the oldest football competition in the world, beating Royal Engineers A.F.C. 1–0 at The Oval in Kennington, London

1898 In Melbourne, the representatives of five colonies adopt a constitution, which would become the basis of the Commonwealth of Australia

1925 An earthquake (measuring around 7.0 magnitude) occurs in Dali, China, killing an estimated 5,000 people

1936 Warmer-than-normal temperatures rapidly melt snow and ice on the upper Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, leading to a major flood in Pittsburgh

1966 Launch of Gemini 8 with astronauts Neil Armstrong and David Scott. It would perform the first docking of two spacecraft in orbit.

1978 Former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro is kidnapped; he is later murdered by his captors.

1995 Mississippi formally ratifies the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, becoming the last state to approve the abolition of slavery.[26] The Thirteenth Amendment was officially ratified in 1865

2012 Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar becomes the 1st batter in history to score 100 centuries in international cricket

2014 Crimea votes in a controversial referendum to secede from Ukraine to join Russia

Types of criminals and their methods In Elizabethan England.

An Abram-man or Abraham-man is a beggar who walks bare armed and bare legged and pretends to be mad, so-called after the Abraham ward in Bedlam, where the insane are housed. Some will charm you with their madness and sing or dance. If they come to a farm, they will demand food in strident tones, and frightened young women with their wanton looks, in order to be paid to go away.

A ruffler a weapon of some sort and will tell you that he is a discharged soldier. He begs for his relief. If you do not satisfy him, he will use his weapon on you. A typical scene is that a man comes riding up beside you on the road. He will greet you and converse with you pleasantly until you approach a wood. Then he will reach forward, take the reins of your mount and without explanation lead you into the wood. The next thing you know he will have your purse, clothes, and horse.

An upright man is a ruffian and thief who travels the highways carrying a staff with authority over all other criminals in 'his' area. He also commands a doxies (women) of other thieves and uses them to pilfer from those he distracts in conversation at a fair or to receive stolen goods from a house where he has temporarily taken service.

A doxy is the term for a woman who is the sexual partner of one or more thieves answering to an upright man.

A mort is a homeless woman. If she is married, she is called an 'autem mort'. Mort, if not she is a 'walking mort'. When she has fallen in with a group of thieves and been broken in by the upright man, she becomes a doxy.

A dell is an innocent, unmarried girl or young woman who is on the road. Usually due to the death of their parents, and nobody to look unto them. Or else by some sharp mistress that they do serve, so they run away. Or she is naturally born one and then she is a wild Dell. Customarily to become doxies.

A rogue is not an authoritative or physically imposing as an upright man, but similarly a man who makes his living on the highways, thieving at fairs and breaking into the houses of the wealthy.

A wild rogue is a thief with no abode who does not answer to any upright man. Some beg, pretending to seek a long-lost kinsman or friend. Others intimidate their victims with their staff. If one begs. A penny from you, he will take your readiness to give as a sign that you have disposable wealth in your purse. A wild rogue will often support several womenfolk accompanying him on his travels.

A prigman is a man who takes clothes while they're drying in fields or on hedges, or steals chickens and sells them at the nearest alehouse.

A whip-Jack or freshwater mariner is a beggar who claims to be an out of work seafarer and who may present a fake licence to that effect. His chief trade is to rob booths at fairs or to pilfer from stalls.

A frater begs or steals from women as they go to and from markets.

A queer-bird has lately been released from prison. He is supposedly looking for work, but steals what he can in the meantime.

A pilliard or Clapperdungeon is a thief or beggar in a patched cloak and little else, who will plead poverty at any opportunity.

A washman is a pillared who lies down on the highway and feigns injury or illness, seeking the help of a Good Samaritan whom he will then try to rob.

An Irish toyle is a travelling salesman who overcharges for his substandard wares.

A jarkman is a forger – a 'jark' being slag slang for a seal. He can read and write and forges documents such as licences to beg, to pass between ports and to act as a proctor in court.

A kinchin co is a runaway boy on the highways who will eventually fall in with a crowd of ruffians and become one of them. Hence, a runaway girl is a 'Kinchin mort'.

A courtesy man is a handsome, well-dressed man who pretends to be your friend when you arrive in a strange town. He will accept drinks and presents from you, but when you are not looking will relieve you of your purse and any other valuables. Often to be set found in the best inns.

A prigger or prancers is a horse thief. He will take a horse from a pasture or from a man who stops at an inn. Often priggers pretend to be locals when travellers stop in a village. If someone offers to walk your horse while you have a pot of beer, do not accept, you will never see your mount again.

A hooker or angler walks about the town during the day, watching out for things that can be reached from an open window, especially linen and woollen clothes. He then returns at night with a staff, an iron hook, and having lifted the latch of the shutter with a knife, uses the hook to take the clothes. These are then passed to his doxy to sell at an alehouse.

A counterfeit crank is a man who pretends to suffer from the falling sickness (epilepsy), or who goes about filthy and naked in order to encourage people to pity him and give him arms. He may put soap in his mouth to make it froth and appear all the more frantic.

A drummerer pretends to be unable to speak in order to beg from sympathetic people.

A demander for Glimmer is an attractive and vivacious young woman, often the doxy of an upright man, who approaches her victims in an alehouse. She will use her charms to win their affection and then seek some token made of silver or gold. Suggesting that if they give her something valuable, they might meet her in some distance from the town to engage in 'lovemaking'. Whether or not the woman is at the appointed trysting place, her would be lovers will lose whatever valuables they bring, as well as their purses when they arrive and meet the upright man.

Source Book 'The Time Traveller's Guide to Elizabethan England' by Ian Mortimer and Published by Vintage 2013. Pages 296-300

Did you know?

- A BONDMAN was a peasant bonded to a master for the purpose of learning a skill or trade. Serf, man slave.
- A BONESETTER was a 'surgeon' - nonqualified practitioner who sets fractured and dislocated bones.
- A BOOT CATCHER was a servant at an inn who pulled off traveller's boots.
- A BOOT CLOSER worked in the shoe trade stitching together all the parts of a shoe.
- A BOTTLE BOY was a pharmacist assistant.
- A BOTTOM KNOCKER was a Sagger makers assistant in the pottery industry.
- A SAGGER MAKER made the fireclay containers in which the stoneware was placed ready for firing.

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