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ISSUE NUMBER 18

# Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



## NEXT BRANCH MEETING

8<sup>TH</sup> MAY AT SEVENOAKS

Illegitimacy

MARI ALDERMAN

## OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY

19<sup>th</sup> April – Disease and Public in Victorian Britain; the Evidence from Bromley

PAUL CARTER

DARTFORD

3<sup>RD</sup> May – HMS Worcester (The early days of the Merchant Navy Officer's Training ship)

KEN CHAMBERLAIN

Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch. In addition to the talks, we have a number of interesting tables for you to browse. These include a bookstall, old magazines and journals, exchange journals and a reference book library. Plus don't forget to take a look at our notice board.

The books from our library may be borrowed at no charge and the magazines are a snip at 20 pence each. You might just find the publication or book you are looking for.

Do visit our computer help desk where Karina will make every effort to assist with your family history brick wall.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at Sevenoaks Community Centre, Otford Road Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN. Doors open at 7.15pm, meeting starts at 8pm. There is free car parking - and refreshments are available.

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 donation to the society's funds.

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**THIS EVENING'S TALK IS 'SHEPHERD NEAME BREWERY'**  
by John Owen.

The story of Kent's Shepherd Neame began in 1698. Historian John Owen will this evening acquaint us with this local story.

## NEWS ITEMS –

**Ancestry** – has released new Irish Catholic Registers, 1763–1912, enabling a search for baptisms, marriages and burials across three centuries. More than 80% of Irish people declared themselves Catholic in 1831. With more than a million records covering 22 of the possible 32 counties of Ireland. Visit their website [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

**Findmypast** - have released US Passenger Lists 1846-90. This set of over two million records, traces immigrants' journeys across the Atlantic. The manifests include thousands of British and Irish travelling to New York, Boston, Baltimore, New Orleans and Philadelphia. They are also releasing thousands of exclusive new records from South Australia, documenting the evolution of the Southern State. The collection, which spans 1835-2005, includes a vast array of characters such as British garrison deserters, ex-convicts, destitute women, and landowners. Visit their website at [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).

**NWKFHS** - The North West Kent Family History Society's 36th AGM at Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford, DA1 2LY. Speakers are Andrew Robertshaw whose talk is entitled: WW1 - Finding the Fallen and their Family History, and Sarah Wise on Inconvenient People: Lunacy, Liberty and the Mad Doctors in Victorian England. Stalls include CabSearch and Alfred King's second hand books and ephemera. The Society Bookstall and Publications will also be available. From 0930 to 1630 -

**The Genealogist** – have launched 'The National Collection of Tithe Records' in partnership with The National Archives. There are over 11 million records to search and original documents to view online. The Tithe Records offer a view of ancestral heritage by providing details of ownership and occupancy of land throughout England and Wales, revealing information about people, places and landmarks in the Victorian era. The Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 meant records were taken of the land ownership and occupancy, land uses and sizes, and the rents to be paid. Tenants and landowners from 11,000 parishes across England and Wales are featured in the records. You can discover whether your ancestors were landowners and how their land was put to use, or if tenants or occupiers, which plots of land they were living or working on. Visit [www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk).

## Events

**4<sup>th</sup> April – 28<sup>th</sup> Sept – Exhibition: Christina Broom - The Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London, EC2Y 5HN**

This exhibition is in celebration of an important acquisition, a display of a selection of Christina Broom's photography, a pioneering press photographer who documented life in the capital between 1903 and 1939. The exhibition highlights Christina's images of the military in London and kick-starts a programme of events marking the centenary of World War 1 at the Museum. The exhibition is Free – See more at: [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk) or telephone 020 7001 9844

**Until 21<sup>st</sup> April – Frozen Thames – Frost Fairs 1814 & 1684 – The Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN**

A last chance to see the Frozen Fair exhibit's at The Museum of London. For Londoners, frost fairs were a once in a lifetime occasion, when the frozen Thames became a carnival and street market all rolled into one. These display's include a varied collection of original keepsakes and important contemporary illustrations, including two etchings by satirical artist George Cruikshank, and a print by George Thompson, and two paintings by Dutch artist Abraham Hondius, c 1625-91.

The exhibition is Free – See more at: [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk) or telephone 020 7001 9844

**26<sup>th</sup> April – Getting the Best from Free Genealogy Websites - SOG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd, EC1M 7BA**

No one likes to pay for information unless they have to and whilst there is an increasing trend towards more information going into pay per view sites there is also lots that is still around for free - if only you know where and how to look. This course looks at some of the Internet sites that enable you to find information for free and points out some of the limitations of not paying. This is a Half-day course from 10.30-1300 with John Hanson. Cost: £20.00. Pre-book at [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk) or call 020 7553 3290

**10<sup>th</sup> May 2014 –Family History: Beyond the Internet - The IHGS, 79-82 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BA**

This course introduces students to records commonly encountered prior to the early nineteenth century, many of which are not available on the internet. Many people progress quickly with their ancestry through the records of the General Registration and the census but struggle to move on to earlier sources. This day school aims to introduce students to the wealth of parochial and local material available. Time 1015-1630 - Price £40.00 or £35.00 for IHGS Members and correspondence course students. Contact 01227 768664 or visit their website [www.ihgs.ac.uk](http://www.ihgs.ac.uk)



## 1916 Easter Rising

The Easter Rising, also known as the Easter Rebellion was an armed insurrection staged in Ireland during Easter Week, 1916. The Rising was mounted by Irish republicans with the aims of ending British rule in Ireland, and establishing an independent Irish Republic at a time when the United Kingdom was heavily engaged in World War I. It was the most significant uprising in Ireland since the rebellion of 1798.

Sackville St, after the Easter Rising

Organised by seven members of the Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the Rising began on Easter Monday, 24 April 1916, and lasted for six days. Members of the Irish Volunteers — led by schoolmaster & Irish language activist Patrick Pearse, joined by the smaller Irish Citizen Army of James Connolly, along with 200 members of Cumann na mBan — seized key locations in Dublin and proclaimed the Irish Republic independent of the United Kingdom. There were some actions in other parts of Ireland: however, except for the attack on the Royal Irish Constabulary barracks at Ashbourne, Co. Meath, they were minor.

With vastly superior numbers and the use of artillery, the British army quickly suppressed the Rising, and Pearse agreed to an unconditional surrender on Saturday 29 April. Most of the leaders were executed following courts-martial, but the Rising succeeded in bringing physical force republicanism back to the forefront of Irish politics. Support for republicanism continued to rise in Ireland as a result of the ongoing war in Europe and the Middle East, especially as a result of the Conscription Crisis of 1918 and the failure of the Irish Convention. Revolutions across Europe further emboldened Irish revolutionaries. In December 1918, republicans, by then represented by the Sinn Féin party, won 73 Irish seats out of 105 in the 1918 General Election to the British Parliament, on a policy of abstentionism and Irish independence. On 21 January 1919 they convened the First Dáil and declared the independence of the Irish Republic; later that same day the Irish War of Independence began with the Soloheadbeg ambush.

**Cumann na mBan** (*The Irishwomen's Council*), an Irish republican women's paramilitary organisation formed in Dublin on 2 April 1914 as an auxiliary of the Irish Volunteers. Although it was otherwise an independent organisation, its executive was subordinate to that of the Volunteers. In 1913, a number of women decided to hold a meeting in Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, for the purpose of discussing the possibility of forming an organisation for women who would work in conjunction with the recently formed Irish Volunteers. A meeting led by Kathleen Lane-O'Kelly

(née Shannahan) on 2 April 1914 marked the foundation of Cumann na mBan. Branches were formed throughout the country and were directed by the Provisional Committee. The first branch was named the Ard Chraobh, which held their meetings in Brunswick St, before & after the 1916 Easter Rising. The primary aims of the organisation as stated in its constitution were to "advance the cause of Irish liberty and to organize Irishwomen in the furtherance of this object", to "assist in arming and equipping a body of Irish men for the defence of Ireland" and to "form a fund for these purposes, called 'The Defence of Ireland Fund'".

The **Conscription Crisis of 1918** stemmed from a move by the British Government to impose conscription in Ireland during the First World War. Vigorous opposition was led by the trade unions, nationalist parties & Roman Catholic bishops & priests. A conscription law was passed but was never put in effect; no-one in Ireland was successfully drafted into the army. The proposal and backlash galvanised support for an independent Ireland.

The **Irish Convention** was an assembly which sat in Dublin, from July 1917 until March 1918 to address the *Irish question* & other constitutional problems relating to an early enactment of self-government for Ireland, to debate its wider future, discuss & come to an understanding on recommendations as to the best manner & means this goal could be achieved. It was a response to the dramatically altered Irish political climate after the 1916 rebellion and proposed by David Lloyd George, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in May 1917 to John Redmond, leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, announcing that 'Ireland should try her hand at hammering out an instrument of government for her own people'

**Abstentionism** is standing for election to a deliberative assembly while refusing to take up any seats won or otherwise participate in the assembly's business.

The **First Dáil**, convened from 1919–1921, was the first meeting of the revolutionary Irish Republic. In 1919 candidates who had been elected in the Westminster elections of 1918 refused to recognise the Parliament of the United Kingdom and so established an independent legislature in Dublin called "Dáil Éireann" (Assembly of Ireland).

The **Soloheadbeg Ambush** was an ambush of a gelignite transport at Soloheadbeg, County Tipperary, Ireland, on 21 January 1919 in which two policemen were killed. It is considered to be the first engagement of the Irish War of Independence.

**Sackville Street, Dublin** was named after Lionel Sackville the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Dorset (1688–1765). He was an English political leader and twice Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. He is also ancestor to Vita Sackville-West. The Street was renamed O'Connell Street in 1924 after the Nationalist Leader Daniel O'Connell.

Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter\\_Rising](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_Rising) 06.04.2014

**ON THIS DAY – 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - The 100<sup>th</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, 265 days remain until the end of the year.**

- 1516** First ghetto, Jews are compelled to live in specific area of Venice
- 1710** The first law regulating copyright is issued in Great Britain.
- 1829** Birth of William Booth, founder (Salvation Army)
- 1849** Safety pin patented by Walter Hunt (NYC); sold rights for \$400
- 1858** The Big Ben, a 13.76 tonne bell is recast in the Tower of Westminster
- 1877** First human cannonball act performed in London
- 1912** The Titanic leaves port in Southampton, England for her only voyage
- 1955** Ruth Ellis shoots jilting lover David Blakely



**Did you know?** - The word 'Easter' is derived from Eostre, an ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess who symbolised the rebirth of the day at dawn and the rebirth of life in the spring.

The practice of decorating eggshell is ancient, pre-dating Christian traditions. Ostrich eggs with engraved decoration that are 60,000 years old have been found in Africa. Decorated ostrich eggs, & representations of ostrich eggs in gold and silver, were commonly placed in graves of the ancient Sumerians & Egyptians as early as 5,000 years ago.

The custom of the Easter egg, however, originated in the early Christians of Mesopotamia, who stained eggs red in memory of the blood of Christ, shed at his crucifixion. The Christian Church officially adopted the custom, regarding the eggs as a symbol of the resurrection.

**British Army Nurses Service Records 1914 – 1918** - There are over 15,000 First World War service records for nurses who served in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (Reserve) and the Territorial Force Nursing Service during the First World War. The vast majority of the records cover the First World War period only. There are some records for nurses who served before 1914 and some for those who served after the war. There are no records, however, after 1939. The records contain where a nurse trained (especially before the war), references relating to their suitability as military nurses, hospitals, field ambulances, casualty clearing stations or other medical units they served in, what their superiors thought of them (confidential reports) and when they left the services. Look for these records at The National Archives in series WO 399.

**The Sevenoaks Committee**  
**Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters**  
**Committee Members**  
Christina Barnett, Debbie Hill, Karina Jackson  
Norma Holmden, Robert Barnett  
Geoff Webb, Bernie Wilkins, Brenda Stead