



# Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



## NEXT BRANCH MEETING

14TH MARCH AT SEVENOAKS  
BRICK WALLS & LOST ANCESTORS

DAVE ANNAL

## OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

### BROMLEY

16TH FEBRUARY - THE HISTORY OF RAF BIGGIN HILL  
BOB OGLE

### DARTFORD

2ND MARCH - WILLPOWER  
MERYL CATTY & AUDREY GILLETT

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.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at Sevenoaks Community Centre, Otford Road Sevenoaks, TN13 5DN. Doors open at 7.15pm. 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.

## **THIS EVENING'S TALK IS 'JANE AUSTEN - HER CONNECTIONS WITH KENT' BY CLARE GRAHAM.**

When I think of the Regency period I cannot help but think of Jane Austen. Clare Graham, lecturer & member of the Jane Austen Society brings us an interesting talk about Jane's many links with Kent. I hope like me you are a Jane Austen fan & cannot wait to hear about her time in our home county.

## News Items

North West Kent Family History Society's March journal will be a little late in distribution than usual, our apologies, however as always it will be worth the wait. Journal Editor Pauline Heathcote is always looking for new material for publication, therefore any articles, letters, snippets and photos you may have would be most welcome. Articles can be of 100 - 1000 words with images. You can contact Pauline by email at [editor@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:editor@nwkhfs.org.uk).

**Further Journal news** - All NWKFHS journals 1978-2007 can now be viewed or downloaded in Adobe Acrobat format (PDF) from our website [www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk). For each article the entry gives its page reference, name of the Author or Submitter, Title, and a rough indication of Content. The journals published from 2008 up to September 2012 are now listed and photocopies of individual articles are still available for a small fee. Please apply to Mrs Chris Barnett at [backjournals@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:backjournals@nwkhfs.org.uk).

**More Society News** - The 35th AGM of the North West Kent Family History Society is being held at the Dartford Science and Technology College. Speakers are Ian Waller with one of his new talks "All the B's" - We may all discover bastards, bigamists or even baronets in our ancestry. This talk is a light-hearted look at the effects the Bs had on society and the many records which can give a vivid insight into life at all levels of society. Our second speaker of the day is Tim Cox, his talk is "Soldier, Soldier, will you marry me?: Soldiers' wives 1660-1900" - this is sure to be an entertaining lecture. Stalls include CabSearch, Alfred King's second hand books and ephemera, Jean & Derek Garrod's old postcard collection and The Society Bookstall and Publications. See events below for further details.

**FindMyPast** has launched 21 million Irish birth, marriage and death records 1800s-1950s - [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk). They have further added 2 million Irish Petty Sessions Court Order Books to [FindMyPast.ie](http://FindMyPast.ie)

**TheGenealogist** has added The Royal Calender 1801, 1825, 1879 & the Court and City Register 1783 and The History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland 1835. They have further added over 10 million death transcripts, bringing the total number of death records to over 52 million. Visit their website at [www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk).

**Ancestry** has added Civil Divorce application records 1858-1911 for England and Wales that can provide a wealth of information. They have further published Manchester births, baptisms, marriages, banns, deaths and burials, some from as early as 1541. Visit their website at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk).

## Events

### **Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th February - WDYTYA? Live - OLYMPIA, Hammersmith road, London, W14 8UX**

The country's largest family history fair jam packed with experts, stalls and talks all to help you further with your family history research. Workshops are free on the day on a first come first served basis or you can book in advance for £2.00 per talk. Tickets in advance £15.00 or £22.00 on the door. (Your Family Tree readers can get two tickets for £25.00 with the code YFT2425.) Contact by phone 0844 873 7330 or visit their website [www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com](http://www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com) for lots of advice on exhibits and how best to plan your day.

### **Saturday 6th April 2013 - How to Trace Your Family History - The IHGS, 79-82 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BA**

This course is aimed at beginners and some of the topics discussed include family records, birth, marriage and death certificates, censuses, parish registers and compiling pedigrees. Both original and online sources will be considered. The price for the course is £40.00, or £35.00 for IHGS Members and correspondence course students. From 1015 - 1630. Advanced booking, the closing date is 28th March. Contact by phone 01227 768664 visit their website <http://ihgs.ac.uk>

### **Saturday 27th April - NWKFHS 35TH AGM and Family History Day - Dartford Science & Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford, Kent, DA1 2LY**

The College is very well appointed and has a very large car park and easy access by road and public transport. If you have not already booked don't miss out, send your form and payment off to: Mrs Barbara Attwaters (AGM), 141 Princes Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 3HJ. Bookings received before 28th February will attract a reduced price for lunch and afternoon tea. You can of course bring your own lunch, and afternoon tea only, can be paid for at registration on the morning of the meeting. Please return the booking form even if you will only be attending for the AGM, as this will enable us to provide the correct amount of seating for the day. The day starts at 0930 & closes at 1645.

## Historical Figure - Samuel Pepys



Pepys is famous for his diaries, which cover the years 1659 - 1669, but he also enjoyed a successful career as a naval administrator and Member of Parliament.

Samuel Pepys was born on 23 February 1633 in Salisbury Court off Fleet Street in London, the son of a tailor. His mother Margaret Kite was sister of a Whitechapel butcher and Samuel was fifth in a line of eleven children.

He was educated at St Paul's School in London and Cambridge University. After graduating, Pepys was employed as secretary to Edward Montagu, a distant relative who was a councillor of state during the Cromwellian protectorate and later served Charles II. In 1655, Pepys married 15-year-old Elizabeth Marchant de Saint-Michel, daughter of a Huguenot exile. In 1658, he underwent a dangerous operation for the removal of a bladder stone. Every year on the anniversary of the operation, he celebrated his recovery.

Pepys began his diary on 1 January 1660. It is written in a form of shorthand, with names in longhand. It ranges from private remarks, including revelations of infidelity - to detailed observations of events in 17th century England - such as the plague of 1665, the Great Fire of London and Charles II's coronation - and some of the key figures of the era, including Sir Christopher Wren and Sir Isaac Newton. Fear of losing his

eyesight prompted Pepys to stop writing the diary in 1669. He never actually went blind.

In June 1660, Pepys was appointed Clerk of the Acts to the navy board, a key post in one of the most important of all government departments, the royal dockyards. In 1673, he became Secretary to the Admiralty and in the same year a Member of Parliament for a Norfolk constituency, later representing Harwich. He was responsible for some important naval reforms which helped lay the foundations for a professional naval service. He was also a member of the Royal Society, serving as its president from 1684-1686.

In 1679, Pepys was forced to resign from the Admiralty and was imprisoned on a charge of selling naval secrets to the French, but the charge was subsequently dropped. In 1685, Charles II died and was succeeded by his brother who became James II, who Pepys served as loyally as he had Charles. After the overthrow of James in 1688, Pepys's career effectively came to an end. He was again arrested in 1690, under suspicion of Jacobite sympathies, but was released.

Pepys died in Clapham on the outskirts of London on 26 May 1703 and is buried in St Olave's.

(Source [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/pepys\\_samuel.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/pepys_samuel.shtml) - 10.02.13)

## Happy Valentine's Day

St. Valentine's Day began as a celebration of one or more early Christian saints named Valentinus. The most popular martyr-logy linked with Saint Valentine was that he was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians, who were persecuted under the Roman Empire. During his incarceration, he is said to have healed the daughter of his jailer Asterius and legend has it that before his execution he wrote 'from your Valentine' as a farewell to her. Valentine as a card (c 1553) was at first a folded paper inscribed with the name of the person chosen or drawn as a valentine. By 1610, the word also referred to a gift given to the special person. The use of the word to mean 'a written or printed letter or card with decoration, verse, etc. of an amorous nature' sent or given on St. Valentine's Day began around 1824.

## ON THIS DAY - 14TH FEBRUARY

**1076** Pope Gregory VII excommunicates Henry IV, Holy Roman Emperor.

**1400** Death of Richard II King of England, most likely from starvation in Pontefract Castle (b. 1367)

**1779** Death of Captain James Cook, English explorer, navigator and cartographer, killed by Native Hawaiians on the Island of Hawaii.

**1852** Great Ormond St Hospital for Sick Children, the 1st hospital providing in-patient beds specifically for children in the English-speaking world, is founded in London.

**1876** Rival inventors Elisha Gray and Alexander Graham Bell both applied for patents for the telephone.

**1895** Oscar Wilde's final play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," opened at the St. James' Theatre in London.

**1929** The St. Valentine's Day Massacre took place in a Chicago garage - Al Capone's employees gunned down 7 members of the George 'Bugs' Moran North Siders gang.

**1946** The Bank of England is nationalised.

## This month's tip to tracing your Family History - The Parish Chest and Parish Records

The Parish Chest is the common term for records kept by parishes other than the registers of baptism, marriage and burial. Parishes were responsible for the spiritual, moral and financial wellbeing of their parishioners until the New Poor Law was introduced in 1834. From these records we can discover those who were wealthy enough to be paying into the parish reserves and those who had fallen on hard times and were receiving parish relief. Records are deposited at the County Record Offices along with the parish registers.

When you visit a County Record Office it is worth checking if it has any account books from the parish in which your ancestor lived. Vestry minutes are a good source of information about events in the parish, which might have involved your ancestor. Lists of the inhabitants of a parish were occasionally made. Some are complete censuses, made before 1801, while others are lists, usually of the male inhabitants, made for a particular reason such as assessing tithe payments or church attendance.

## Sevenoaks Library have a volunteer at the Library every Thursday from 4.30 - 7.00pm to help you trace your ancestors online - Sevenoaks Local Studies Library - Contact number 08458 247200

Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1LQ - Telephone number - 01732 453118 / 452384

Open Hours - Mon-Wed & Fri 9.30-5.30, Thu 9.30-7.00, Sat 9.30-5.00

Appointment required for microfilm and fiche readers.

Parking, refreshments and toilets nearby. Suitable for disabled (lift access)

### NWKFHS Family History Workshops

Held at the Library, Joydens Wood, Bexley, Kent, DA5 2EE

20th February - Maps and Surveys for Family History - Christine Hills

20th March - Early Census (Pre 1841 Census) & Census-like Lists - Jean Stirk

17th April - Home Children, British child immigration into Canada (1870-1957) - Walter Eves

15th May - Mapping family distributions and movements - David Cufley

Each workshop lasts for two hours. 10 members per workshop. Cost £5.00 donation, including refreshments.

Book by sending an email to [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) to request a form, or by contacting Janet Rose on 01322 384836

## The Sevenoaks Committee

### Branch Chair

Barbara Attwaters

### Committee members

Christina Barnett, Debbie Hill

Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden

Robert Barnett, Geoff Webb, Bernie Wilkins