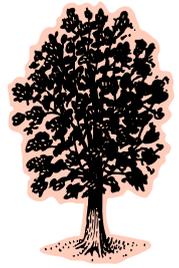




# Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT

[www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk)**NEXT BRANCH MEETING**13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AT SEVENOAKS

The Life of Douglass Macmillan

DENISE BALDWIN &amp; KATHY HARDY

**OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS****BROMLEY**15<sup>th</sup> February - Maps on Line for the Family Historian

PETER CHRISTIAN

**DARTFORD**1<sup>st</sup> March - The Historic Dockyard, Chatham

SCOTT BELCHER

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, TN13 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 'OLD SEVENOAKS - THE PAVEMENT PLAQUE PEOPLE' by Ian Walker**  
Ian is a local historian & retired head of history at Sevenoaks School, we can look forward to an interesting talk.

**NEWS ITEMS -****Society News - New Publications****Bessels Green Unitarian & Baptist Churches; French Street Private Burial Ground - Disc CD55**

This disc lists memorial inscriptions and other transcribed records of three Baptist burial grounds. There are two churches in Bessels Green, the Baptist Church and the Unitarian Church (also formerly Baptist). Each transcript is complemented by a set of gravestone photographs. The third item on the disk covers French Street private burial ground near Westerham. The disk includes background information, MI transcripts, pictures of the burial ground & gravestones, and a list of probable burials - all transcribed and photographed by Karina Jackson and Chris Barnett. We thank them for allowing their work to be included. A fully comprehensive book has also been created by Karina & Chris entitled *'The Burial Ground at French Street, Westerham, Kent'* and further details of how to purchase this will appear in the journal and newsletter.

**St Edmund's Pleasance (Upper Burial Ground), Dartford - Disc CD56**

From quite an early date Dartford Holy Trinity maintained two burial grounds - the churchyard surrounding the church itself, and an Upper Burial Ground on East Hill - about 250m away and now a public open space known as St Edmunds Pleasance. Although MI transcripts have been made from both burial grounds at various times since the 19th century, these were all incomplete even at the time they were transcribed, and no modern transcript or photographs existed. Therefore in 2011 the Society began a new transcript of the Upper Burial Ground MI's. The work was started by Janet Rose and has been carried through to publication by Steve Archer to include monumental inscriptions, photographs, a plot plan and background. The disk also includes the very few remaining gravestones in Holy Trinity churchyard, and the earlier transcripts which record many stones that no longer survive.

**Revision of the Manorial Documents Register** - The National Archives and the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) have announced a new partnership to accelerate progress with the revision of the Manorial Documents Register - visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr). Funding from The Federation will help meet the cost of four additional county projects over the next two years, in Northumberland, Northamptonshire, Wiltshire and Kent. On behalf of the FFHS, Rob White said: 'Manorial documents have huge potential as a source for family and local history because they contain information about the lives of ordinary people at a period when there are few other sources available. They also add richness and detail to the information researchers can obtain from other key sources like parish registers and wills. Work has already been completed on over half the counties of England and the whole of Wales, and the rest should be completed by 2020.'

**Events****20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February - WDYYA - Olympia, Hammersmith Road, Kensington, 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 are £16.00 or £22.00 on the door, children under 16 free. With Ancestry.co.uk you can save up to 50% - 2 tickets for £24 (quote ANC24), or a single ticket for £14.00 (quote ANC14), expires 19<sup>th</sup> February. 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 March 2014 - Professional Approach Seminar - The IHGS, 79-82 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BA**

This course is aimed at those who wish to develop their research experience into a part or full-time occupation. The seminar will provide invaluable advice and assistance from those with experience of working professionally as genealogists. All students, whether practising or not, are invited to join in discussion of research and business practices. Speakers will include Caroline Gibb, Celia Heritage, Elizabeth Kerry and Richard Baker.

The price is £40.00 or £35.00 for IHGS Members and correspondence course students.

**26<sup>th</sup> April - 36<sup>th</sup> AGM & Family History Day - Dartford Science & 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. See notice board for full details.

## Harriet Taylor (1807 - 1858) and John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)



**Taylor was an English philosopher and early advocate for women's rights, who was often overshadowed by her husband, the philosopher John Stuart Mill.**

Harriet Hardy was born in October 1807 in Walworth, south London, the daughter of a surgeon. Educated at home, she enjoyed writing poetry. In 1826, she married John Taylor, a prosperous merchant and together they had three children. The Taylors became active in the Unitarian Church and in 1830 a Unitarian minister introduced Harriet to the philosopher John Stuart Mill. Their affair was to last for more than 20 years, and was generally tolerated by Harriet's husband. From 1833, the couple largely lived apart, enabling Harriet to see Mill more easily. Their behaviour scandalised society and as a couple they were socially isolated. But they inspired each other intellectually and often worked together.

Mills' 'The Principles of Political Economy' (1848) has a chapter attributed to Harriet called 'On the Probable Future of the Labouring Classes' in which she argues for the importance of education for all in the future of the nation, both economically and socially. Her essay, 'The Enfranchisement of Women' (1851), considered one of her most important works, was published under Mills' name. The essay strongly advocated that women be given access to the same jobs as men, and that they should not have to live in 'separate spheres' - views more radical than those of Mills himself.

Harriet's husband died in 1849 and in 1851 she and Mill

were married. In the autumn of 1858, the couple travelled to France where the climate was better for Harriet's tuberculosis. She died of respiratory failure in Avignon on 3 November 1858. John Stuart Mills' most famous work 'On Liberty', which they had written together, was published in 1859 and was dedicated to Harriet.

**Mill was a philosopher, political economist & social reformer who had a huge impact on 19th century thought.**

John Stuart Mill was born in London on 20 May 1806. His father was James Mill, a Scottish philosopher who gave his son an intensive education, beginning with the study of Greek at the age of three. His father was friendly with Jeremy Bentham, whose utilitarian philosophy was a huge influence on Mill.

In 1822, Mill was given a job in the examiner's office of the East India Company, where his father also worked. He was employed by the company for more than 30 years, eventually becoming head of his department, but his job allowed him plenty of time for writing.

At the age of 21, Mill suffered a nervous breakdown. He turned to poetry for consolation, particularly that of William Wordsworth. He also began to shape his own philosophical views. In his writing, Mill championed individual liberty against the authority of the state. He believed that an action was right provided it maximised the greatest happiness of the greatest number of people.

In 1858, following the Indian Mutiny, the East India Company was dissolved and its functions taken over by the British government. Now without a job, Mill moved to Avignon in France. He returned in 1865 when he was elected as Member of Parliament for Westminster. He was considered a radical in parliament because of his support for equality for women, compulsory education, birth control and land reform in Ireland.

Mill was not re-elected in the general election of 1868, so he returned to France. He divided his time between Avignon and London, studying and writing. He died on 7 May 1873 in Avignon, France where he is buried alongside his wife.

Source: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures) 09.02.14

### ON THIS DAY – 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

**FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> is the 44<sup>TH</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, 321 days remain until the end of the year.**

**1322** The central tower of Ely Cathedral, Cambridge falls on the night of 12th-13<sup>th</sup>.

**1462** The Treaty of Westminster is finalised between Edward IV of England and the Scottish Lord of the Isles.

**1542** Catharine Howard, queen of England and 5th wife of Henry VIII, beheaded.

**1572** Elizabeth I of England issues a proclamation which revokes all commissions on account of the frauds which they had fostered.

**1601** John Lancaster leads 1st East India Company voyage from London.

**1668** Spain recognizes Portugal as an independent nation.

**1832** First appearance of cholera at London; it was thought to be spread by a 'miasma' or bad smell in the atmosphere.

**1849** Lord Randolph Churchill, English politician, Winston Churchill's father and Member of Parliament, is born.

**1931** New Delhi becomes the capital of India.

**1945** WWII: Royal Air Force bombers are dispatched to Dresden, Germany to attack the city with a massive aerial bombardment.

**1978** Tomorrow's World presenter Anna Ford makes her ITN debut as ITN'S first female newsreader.

**2008** Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd makes an historic apology to the Indigenous Australians and the Stolen Generations.

### Tracing your Family History and home with Tax Records (1692-1963) –

Land Tax records are a great source for the names of the owners and occupiers of your home. They generally survive for the period just before the tithe records and usually carry your homes history back to at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

- Land Tax was introduced in 1692 and lasted until 1963
- This tax was administered at local level and based on a tax quota for each parish which did not vary
- Land tax assessments annually list property owners and their tenants
- Most of the surviving land tax assessment records in Record Offices relate to the period 1780 to 1832
- Land tax assessment records for the whole of England and Wales (apart from Flintshire) for the year 1798 can be viewed at the National Archives at Kew

Land Tax returns seldom give explicit details about properties, though farm names are sometime stated. The returns were not always kept up to date so on occasion people were still being listed several years after they had died. Nor are returns always reliable indicators of personal fortune. The amount each parish had to pay was fixed in 1698 and this sum was then allotted proportionately to the rateable values of the houses. If you find it increasing suddenly this may indicate the building of an extension or complete renovation of an old home.

### Post Script –

- ❖ The Sevenoaks Branch General meeting will be 13<sup>th</sup> March
- ❖ NWKFHS Workshop – 26<sup>th</sup> February Parish Chest part one with Christine Hills

♥ Happy Valentines' Day

Editor Bernadette Wilkins - bmtwilkins@gmail.com Registered Charity No. 282627

### The Sevenoaks Committee

Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters

Committee Members

Christina Barnett, Debbie Hill, Karina Jackson

Norma Holmden, Robert Barnett

Geoff Webb, Bernie Wilkins