



9TH FEBRUARY 2017

ISSUE NUMBER 46

Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT

www.nwKFHS.org.uk



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

NO JANUARY MEETING AT SEVENOAKS

9TH MARCH

Ightham Mote - Life upstairs and downstairs

Plus Branch General Meeting

Speaker: HEATH WOODWARD

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY

18TH FEBRUARY - Bromley Archives "What's available"
(Meeting at Bromley Central Library-Large Hall)

DARTFORD

4TH MARCH - Ration Book Britain:

How we lived in the 40s and 50s

Speaker TONI MOUNT

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.

9TH FEB. THIS EVENING'S TALK -

"Soldiers of the West Kent Regiment"

Speaker Ian Walker - retired Head of History at Sevenoaks School and previous interesting speaker at our meetings. Ian was himself in the Royal West Kent Regiment and so is most qualified to talk to us this evening on this subject.

NEWS ITEMS

NWKFHS: Family history news, old photographs, NWKFHS events, interesting websites and enquiries from out of town researchers wanting local knowledge. All these and more are on the NWKFHS Facebook page. Several hundred people regularly look at our page and, if you are a Facebook user yourself, you can like, comment on and share any of our posts which will increase our audience further. Visitors to the site anyone can contribute messages, photos and interesting topical info for the benefit of other readers. So please join in if you can. Thank you to all the contributors.

Findmypast - Australia Electoral Rolls - New additions covering Queensland & Tasmania have been added search to discover where your ancestors were living and if they could vote.

Early Emigration From Britain 1636-1815 - Did your ancestors leave Britain for North America or the West Indies? You can explore these early migration records to discover their residence, occupation, year of birth, the year they departed, their destination and the ship they sailed on.

Findmypast have further released more than 3 million Petty Sessions records for the state of Victoria: the collection includes transcripts and scanned colour images of original registers. The Petty Sessions dealt with the type of matters that would now be presented at a Magistrates Court; the records cover the period 1854 to 1985. The collection is not complete - the records cover 74 courts, although there were as many as 235 operating in 1880. Website www.findmypast.co.uk

Ancestry - have launched a UK & Ireland blog, they have set-up a separate blog for customers whose research interests are primarily in the UK and Ireland - Although the blog has only just launched Ancestry have added past articles from their main blog which are of particular relevance. Visit link: <https://blogs.ancestry.co.uk/ancestry/>

EVENTS

18th February - The 19th Century Cemeteries of London & Graveyard Symbolism Revealed - The Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd. EC1M 7BA

Learn more about the extraordinary period of change that London experienced in the 19th century saw a parallel upheaval in burial practices. Many ancient churchyards closed forever and an impressive array of garden cemeteries open in the suburbs.

This talk will also look at Graveyard Symbolism and uncover the meaning of the signs, symbols and other representations found on funerary monuments of the 19th century. Speaker: Robert Stephenson. Time 1030-1300 - Cost £20.00 Website: www.sog.org.uk

22nd February - Deciphering Old Handwriting (beginners) - LMA -40 Northampton Rd, EC1R 0HB

This practical session gives expert help in reading different types of handwriting from the 18th to early 20th centuries. You will practise with copy documents from LMA's collections and get tips for deciphering all kinds of writing. Cost £8.00 - Time 17:30 to 19:00pm - visit www.eventbrite.co.uk

Kent Events

16th February - "Burglary, Brothels and Brawls: crime and punishment in bygone Kent" - Leigh & District Historical Society, Small Village Hall, High Street, Leigh, Nr Tonbridge TN11 8RL

Speaker Roy Ingleton MA - 8pm start, non-members £2.00

23rd February - Kent in the 19th Century - Kent Family History Society, All Saints Parish Hall, Church Green, Frindsbury, ME2 4HY - Speaker Bob Ogley - Time 1430-1700 - Visitors £2.00

24th February - Shakespeare in Kent - Kemsing Heritage Centre, St Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing, Kent TN15 6NA - Speaker Stephen Prickett. Time 7.30pm, non-members £2.50

24th February - Pocahontas - the non-Disney story - Farningham and Eynsford Local History Society, Eynsford Village Hall, High St., Eynsford, DA4 0AA - Speaker Christopher Bull - Time 7.30pm for 8pm start - Contact Jan Wilkes 01322 865122

Sevenoaks- Did you know?

- ❖ The name "Sevenoaks" originated from the Saxon word 'Seouenaca', a name given in about 800 A.D. to a small chapel near seven Oaks in Knole Park.
- ❖ The importance of Sevenoaks grew from the merging of the two main roads from London and Dartford into one main route heading south through the Weald to the coast. It was hence a suitable venue for a market and this was established in the mid 13th century.
- ❖ The famous Sevenoaks School was founded in 1432 and is generally considered to be the oldest secular school in England
- ❖ In 1456 the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Bouchier, purchased the 100 acre estate of Knole and built the great house. This was later appropriated by Henry VII and then passed on to Queen Elizabeth I who gave it to her cousin Thomas Sackville.
- ❖ Riverhill House and gardens located directly to the south of Knole Park were first built in the 16th century,
- ❖ The parish church of St Nicholas, one of the oldest churches in Sevenoaks, dates from the 13th to the 15th century. Poet John Donne served as rector of St Nicholas from 1616 to 1631
- ❖ Sevenoaks is home to the Vine cricket ground, which may well be the oldest cricket ground in existence, as a match was reported here in 1734, which Kent won against Sussex.
It was given to the town of Sevenoaks in 1773 by John Frederick Sackville, 3rd Duke of Dorset and owner of Knole House. The land was thought previously to have been used as a vineyard for the Archbishops of Canterbury (hence the name).
The Vine Cricket Club must pay Sevenoaks Town Council a rent of 2 peppercorns per year - one for the ground and one for the pavilion, the archetypal peppercorn rent. They, in turn, must pay Lord Sackville (if asked) one cricket ball on 21 July each year.
The club is notable for being the first place in England where cricket was played with three stumps rather than two
- ❖ The weekly cattle market was held in Hitchen Hatch Lane until 1999, It was closed to make way for the "160 BT building" in London Road
- ❖ In the Middle Ages 2 hospitals were provided by religious orders for the care of old or sick people, especially those going on pilgrimage
- ❖ In 1902 seven oaks were planted on the north side of The Vine cricket ground to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII. During the Great Storm of 1987, six of those trees were blown down. Their replacements were vandalised, leaving the one mature tree standing. The trees have since been replaced and eight Oak trees of varying ages line The Vine...
- ❖ The 2001 census counts approximately 18,588 residents within the Sevenoaks civil parish authority, compared to its population in 1801 of 2,600. The built-up area of the town had a population of 24,987 at the 2011 census
- ❖ The town's motto is "Floreat Septum Quercus" - "May the Seven Oaks Flourish"

Sources: <http://www.onesevenoaks.co.uk/history.php>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sevenoaks> 07.02.2017

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.

AN INVITATION - A DAY AT SEVENOAKS

You are invited to The NWKFHS 39th Annual General Meeting and Family History Day on Saturday 22th April 2017 to be held at West Heath School, Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1SR

We are delighted that again we have been able to obtain another prestigious venue for this year's AGM - West Heath School. This school was founded in 1865 in West Heath House, Abbey Wood, as a small boarding school. In 1879 the expanding School moved to Ham Common, Surrey.

If you are joining us for Lunch and / or Tea it is essential that you book in advance and return the booking form- showing your choice of main meal- by the 28th of February 2017 with your payment. You are welcome, of course, to bring your own lunch. See the notice board or visit our website for more information.

So don't miss out and book your place; we look forward to seeing you there...

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 9th is the 40th day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 325 days remain until the end of the year.

1555 Bishop of Gloucester John Hooper is burned at the stake for heresy during the reign of Queen Mary I

1864 Union General George Armstrong Custer marries Elizabeth Bacon in Monroe, Michigan

1895 William G. Morgan creates a game called Mintonette, which soon comes to be referred to as volleyball

1900 The Davis Cup competition is established.

1964 The Beatles make their 1st appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show, performing to a record audience of 73 million viewers in the USA

1971 Apollo program: Apollo 14 returns to Earth after the third manned Moon landing

1986 Halley's Comet last appeared in the inner Solar System

1996 The Provisional Irish Republican Army declares the end to its 18-month ceasefire & explodes a large bomb in London's Canary Wharf

2002 Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon (born 1930)

Society Calendar - Did you buy your 2017 Society wall calendar? The last few calendars are now on sale at the library or by post and at all branch meetings. Our improved calendar has a page for each month, which is illustrated with a photograph of beautiful Kent, taken by a Society member. The cost is now only £2.00. All contributions after costs will be added to Society funds. For postal sales UK, P&P is an extra £2.85 for second class or £3.35 first class. Overseas postage costs on request. To order by post, email emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk -

The Sevenoaks Committee – Branch Chair Barbara Attwaters
Committee Members: Christina Barnett, Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Robert Barnett, Bernie Wilkins, Barbara Stead, Sandra Marchant