



8TH FEBRUARY 2018

ISSUE NUMBER 56

Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT

www.nwkhfs.org.uk



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

8TH MARCH

Queen Victoria's dreadful uncles, mistresses and illegitimate children

SHELIA BOYD

Plus Annual Meeting

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY

17TH FEBRUARY - From Music Hall to Variety;
An animated talk covering the era of the 1930s and 1940s

Speaker ALAN BAKER

DARTFORD

3RD MARCH - Lost Cousins - Putting relatives in touch.
Information about the website

Speaker PETER CALVER - Founder of Lost Cousins
One not to be missed...

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.

8TH FEBRUARY THIS EVENING'S TALK

'Kent in the twentieth Century' - Speaker Bob Ogley

Bob is well known to us as a previous speaker and of course for his columns in the Sevenoaks Chronicle each week. It's a pleasure to welcome him back this evening to speak to us on the 20TH Century.

NEWS ITEMS

TheGenealogist have added over 500 editions of The Illustrated London News to their Newspaper and Magazine collection. This latest release contains newspapers that were published in the 1890s and offers a insight into your ancestors' lives. The Illustrated London News is one of a number of newspapers and magazines that are fully searchable by name or keywords (by Diamond subscribers of TheGenealogist). This resource may add context to your ancestors' lives and times, and can be used to find out more about people who, for one reason or another, were mentioned in reports from the time. Visit www.thegenealogist.co.uk where you will find an interesting Article by Nick Thorne "Our Ancestors in the 1890s" which takes a look at this resource.

Findmypast - Search our new collection of over 3,000 records from The National Archives recording the details of the women and men who supported women's suffrage in the early 20th century. Discover your suffragette ancestor among the arrest records, parliamentary papers, watch list of over 1,300 suffragettes, personal statements, reports of force-feeding, and transcripts of speeches. You can also find a synopsis of 10 leading Suffragettes and the challenges they experienced and the risks they took for equality. Visit www.findmypast.co.uk

EVENTS

21st February - The History of Wapping, Whitechapel and Mile End in the 18th century - SOG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd. EC1M 7BA

One hour talk with Derek Morris from 1400 - 1500 - This talk covers the strong and enterprising maritime parish of St John's Wapping, Whitechapel, with its sugar refineries and gun makers, as well as the hamlet of Mile End Old Town. Derek looks at records covering land tax, parish registers and licensed victuallers, and more. Cost £ 8.00 - Contact by phone 020 7553 3290 or book a place on line at www.sog.org.uk

Now until 16th May - Criminal Lives, 1780-1925: Punishing Old Bailey Convicts - London Metropolitan Archives - 40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell, London, EC1R 0HB

Between 1700 and 1900, the state stopped punishing the bodies of London's convicts and increasingly sought to reform their minds. From hanging, branding and whipping the response to crime shifted to transportation and imprisonment. By the nineteenth century, judges could choose between two contrasting forms of punishments: exile and forced labour in Australia, or incarceration in strictly controlled 'reformatory' prisons at home. Which was more effective?

This exhibition traces the impact of these punishments on individual lives, following the men, women and children convicted in London from the crime scenes and trials through their experiences of punishment, and on to their subsequent lives. Free event. Visit <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk> - Or call 020 7332 3851

Kent Events

15th February - 'Fit for Purpose' - Sevenoaks Historical Society, The Undercroft, St Nicholas Church, S'oaks TN13 1JA. Speaker Alan Williams on the history of the London Underground - Time 8pm - non-members £3.00

23rd February - The Hazards of the Journey - Kemsing Heritage Centre, St Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing, Kent TN15 6NA - Speaker Imogen Corrigan on Pilgrims in the Middle Ages - Time 7.30pm, non-members £2.50

6th March - Dartford Rural Rides; A talk on a historic trip through the Downland parishes - Swanley Historical Society, White Oak Indoor Bowls Club, Garrolds Close, off Hilda May Avenue, Swanley, BR8 7BF

Speaker Christoph Bull - Doors open 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm, non- members £2.00



Suffrage and the Vote – Did you know?

Whilst the campaign for votes for women is predominately recognised as a cause fought by women, men played a crucial role both in Parliament and outside. Although many MPs opposed votes for women, there were some supporters. Keir Hardie MP regularly spoke in the House on the subject, questioned Government ministers on the treatment of suffragette prisoners and attended WSPU (Women's Social and Political Union) events.

George Lansbury MP resigned his seat so that he could fight a by-election on the suffrage question. He lost the by-election, but continued to support the campaign. In 1913 he was imprisoned after making a speech at a WSPU rally in support of their campaign of arson attacks. Some men actively played a part in militant suffragette activity. One man who played a leading role was Frederick Pethick-Lawrence, joint editor of the publication 'Votes for Women' with his wife Emmeline. Frederick Pethick-Lawrence was imprisoned, went on hunger-strike and was forcibly fed on many occasions. He was an MP between 1923 and 1931, and remained influential in Parliament as an elder statesman in the House of Lords later in life.

At the outbreak of the First World War, Emmeline Pankhurst suspended the activities of the Women's Social and Political Union and concentrated her efforts on helping the government recruit women into war work. Most other women's suffrage organisations also chose to suspend their activities and many supported the war effort. Active campaigning continued behind the scenes though.

The involvement of women in the war effort did much to change perceptions of the role of women in British society. During the war years' women undertook jobs normally carried out by men and proved they could do the work just as well. Between 1914 and 1918, an estimated two million women replaced men in employment, resulting in an increase in the proportion of women in total employment from 24 per cent in July 1914 to 37 per cent by November 1918. It had been proved that women were capable of jobs beyond those in traditionally 'female' roles, such as domestic service. However, employers still deemed that women's work was worth less than men's and their wage packets did not match men's even for the same jobs.

During 1916-1917, the House of Commons Speaker, James William Lowther, chaired a conference on electoral reform which recommended limited women's suffrage. Only 58% of the adult male population was eligible to vote before 1918. An influential consideration, in addition to the suffrage movement and the growth of the Labour Party, was the fact that only men who had been resident in the country for 12 months prior to a general election were entitled to vote. This effectively disenfranchised a large number of troops who had been serving overseas in the war. With a general election imminent, politicians were persuaded to extend the vote to all men and some women at long last.

In 1918 the Representation of the People Act was passed which allowed women over the age of 30 who met a property qualification to vote. Although 8.5 million women met this criteria it only represented 40 per cent of the total population of women in the UK. The same act abolished property and other restrictions for men, and extended the vote to all men over the age of 21. Additionally, men in the armed forces could vote from the age of 19. The electorate increased from eight to 21 million, but there was still huge inequality between women and men. It was not until the Equal Franchise Act of 1928 that women over 21 were able to vote and women finally achieved the same voting rights as men. This act increased the number of women eligible to vote to 15 million.

Sources: <http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/elections/voting/womenvote/overview/thevote/>
<http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/elections/voting/womenvote/overview/male-sympathisers/> 07.02.18

ON THIS DAY - FEB. 8TH is the 39th day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 326 days remain until the end of the year

- 421** Constantius III becomes co-Emperor of the Western Roman Empire
- 1587** Mary Queen of Scots, is executed on suspicion of being involved in the Babington Plot to murder her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I
- 1601** Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, rebels against Queen Elizabeth I and the revolt is quickly crushed
- 1725** Peter the Great, Russian emperor died (Born 1672)
- 1879** The England cricket team led by Lord Harris is attacked during a riot during a match in Sydney
- 1885** The first government-approved Japanese immigrants arrived in Hawaii
- 1952** Elizabeth II is proclaimed Queen of the United Kingdom
- 1960** Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom issues an Order-in-Council, stating that she and her family would be known as the House of Windsor, and that her descendants will take the name Mountbatten-Windsor
- 1974** After 84 days in space, the crew of Skylab 4, the last crew to visit American space station Skylab, returns to Earth
- 1980** Model Angie Bowie (30) divorces singer David Bowie (33) after 9 years of marriage
- 1983** The Melbourne dust storm hits Australia's second largest city. The result of the worst drought on record and a day of severe weather conditions, a 320 metres (1,050 ft) deep dust cloud envelops the city, turning day to night

Top Tips: Note the names of witnesses to your ancestors' baptisms, marriages and legal transactions.

By researching those witnesses, you might glean new information about your own relatives.

Reverse ancestors' first and last names when searching online databases.

Family History Day & AGM –

Our Family History Day Incorporating the 40th Society Annual General Meeting is taking place on Saturday 14th April 2018 at Farringtons School Chiselhurst – more details on our website; and on the notice board at this evenings meeting.

The Sevenoaks Committee

Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters

Committee Members

Christina Barnett, Karina Jackson, Norma

Holmden, Robert Barnett, Bernie Wilkins,

Barbara Stead, Sandra Marchant, Bill

Chopping