



10 JULY 2014

ISSUE NUMBER 21

Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT
www.nwkhfs.org.uk



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

11TH SEPTEMBER SEVENOAKS

The French Street Burial Ground:
What we dug up!!

KARINA JACKSON & CHRISTINA BARNETT

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY

19TH JULY - The Life of a Victorian Kentish Lady, as
seen through her journals
Speaker HELEN ALLINSON

16TH AUGUST - The Start of World War I
Speaker CHRIS JUPP

DARTFORD

2ND AUGUST - Your Country Needs You! From
Kitchener's volunteers to conscription in the Great War.
Speaker GRAHAM BANDY

6TH SEPTEMBER - Ordnance Survey Ancient and
Modern - A History of the Ordnance Survey
Speaker COLIN BROWN

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.

THIS EVENING'S TALK IS 'TURNING YOUR TREE INTO A TALE: WRITING UP YOUR FAIMILY HISTORY' by Kathy Chater.

Kathy is a genealogist and historical author as well as a trainer in research skills for the media and family historians.

NEWS ITEMS

The Irish Genealogical Research Society - The IGRS'S Early Irish Marriage Index has surpassed 50,000 entries with its latest update and now contains over 113,000 names (including brides, grooms and parents). This data has been extracted by IGRS vice-president Roz McCutcheon and her team of contributors from among repositories and records such as the Registry of Deeds, newspapers, court records, gravestone inscriptions and marriage licence bonds to name but a few. The index is free to search and can be found on the Society's website. www.irishancestors.ie

Ancestry - New Parish Maps - In partnership with IHGS Ancestry has made it easier to find your ancestors in their parish records with the brand new Atlas and Index of Parish Registers. The Atlas outlines old parishes in England, Wales and Scotland, shows how boundaries changed over the years and shows you which nearby parishes to check. You can look for a parish in the Atlas itself, or follow links to it from many of our related collections. For example, when you find a relative in the 1851 Census or in the birth, marriage and death indexes look for a 'View Map' link on the transcription page, so you know where you should look to go back further. Visit their website at www.ancestry.co.uk

The Genealogist - has released a detailed record set which covers over 650,000 individuals who died in the First World War. Details include name, rank, regiment, place of birth, place of residence, place of enlistment, service number and the cause, date and place of death. These records are uniquely linked to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to show you where your ancestor is commemorated. Soldiers Who Died in the Great War has been added to the huge military collection on TheGenealogist, encompassing many record sets from Casualty Lists and War Memorials, to Rolls of Honour and more. Visit their website at www.thegenealogist.co.uk.

EVENTS

Now until 30th October - Emergency! London 1914, Exhibition - LMA, 40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell, EC1R 0HB

A new exhibition at London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) explores London at the beginning of the First World War. In response to the outbreak of war, the London County Council (LCC) established the emergency measures committee to report on the state of the city and its people. Keeping tabs on food supplies, employment, refugees from Belgium, the effect of recruitment on families and issues such as an apparent increase in number of women drinking in pubs, reports were compiled by council officers and filed at County Hall. Taking these fascinating reports and building a picture of the city with 100 photographs, along with maps and documents from the period, this exhibition will explore London as it was 100 years ago, looking at changes to the city and the lives of Londoners as the country went to war. Time: All Day. Price: Free during normal LMA opening times - Contact by phone 020 7332 3851 Website www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

16th July - Beggars, Cheats and Forgers - The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU

David Thomas will be talking about his book Beggars, Cheats and Forgers, and he will tell the stories of some of the greatest confidence tricksters of the past two hundred years. This will include John Sadleir the Irish banker and railway proprietor, Dickens' villains and Charles Ponzi, after whom the famous scheme was named and whose career went from rags to riches and back to rags. Tickets cost £5 (£4 for Friends of The National Archives) Time: 1400-1500.

See more at: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk> or Telephone 020 8876 3444

23rd August - Wills & What to Do with Them, 1550-1857 - SOG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd, EC1M 7BA

What is a will? Who made them? Why did they make them? What happened after death? What can I find in a will? What other probate documents are available? Where can I find them? How can I use them to research family and local history? These are some of the questions that will be discussed in this workshop. A half-day course with Stuart Raymond Course time 1400-1700 - Cost: £20.00. Pre-book at www.sog.org.uk or call 020 7553 3290



Mary Jane Seacole

Seacole was a pioneering nurse and heroine of the Crimean War, who as a woman of mixed race overcame a double prejudice.

Mary Jane Grant was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1805. Her father was a Scottish soldier and her mother a Jamaican. Although technically 'free', being of mixed

race, Mary and her family had few civil rights - they could not vote, hold public office or enter the professions.

In 1836, Mary married Edwin Seacole but the marriage was short-lived as he died in 1844. Mary learned her nursing skills and acquired knowledge of herbal medicine in the Caribbean from her mother. Seacole was an inveterate traveller, and before her marriage visited other parts of the Caribbean, including Cuba, Haiti and the Bahamas, as well as Central America and Britain. On these trips she complemented her knowledge of traditional medicine with European medical ideas.

When the Crimean War broke out, Mary applied to the War Office to assist, asking to be sent as an army nurse to the Crimea where there was known to be poor medical facilities for wounded soldiers, but was refused. Undaunted she travelled independently and set up a 'British Hotel' behind the lines near Balaclava and assisted battlefield wounded. She described it as "a mess-table and comfortable quarters for sick and convalescent officers". She also visited the battlefield, sometimes under fire, to nurse the wounded, and became known as 'Mother Seacole'. Her reputation rivalled that of Florence Nightingale. She became extremely popular among service personnel.

On her return to England destitute and in ill health the press highlighted her plight and in July 1857 a benefit festival was organised to raise money for her, attracting thousands of people, including the support of the service personnel.

Later that year, Seacole published her memoirs, 'The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands', one of the earliest autobiographies of a mixed-race woman.

After her death, she was forgotten for almost a century, but today is celebrated as a woman who successfully combated racial prejudice. An annual prize to recognise and develop leadership in nurses, midwives and health visitors in the National Health Service was named Seacole, to "acknowledge her achievements". An exhibition to celebrate the bicentenary of her birth opened at the Florence Nightingale Museum in London in March 2005. Originally scheduled to last for a few months, the exhibition was so popular that it was extended to March 2007. However there has been controversy and some aspects of her autobiography's accuracy have been questioned. It has been claimed that Seacole's achievements have been exaggerated for political reasons and a plan to erect a statue of her at St Thomas' Hospital, London, describing her as a "pioneer nurse", has generated controversy.

She was posthumously awarded the Jamaican Order of Merit in 1991. In 2004 she was voted the greatest black Briton.

Seacole died May 14, 1881 at her home in Paddington, London; the cause of death was noted as "apoplexy". She left an estate valued at over £2,500. After some specific legacies, many of exactly 19 guineas the main beneficiary of her will was her sister, Louisa. Lord Rokeby, Colonel Hussey Fane Keane, and Count Gleichen (three trustees of her Fund) were each left £50; Count Gleichen also received a diamond ring, said to have been given to Seacole's late husband by Lord Nelson. A short obituary was published in *The Times* on 21 May 1881. She was buried in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Harrow Road, Kensal Green, London.

06.07.14 - Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Seacole
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/seacole_mary.shtml

ON THIS DAY – 10th JULY - The 191ST day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, 174 days remain until the end of the year.

48BC Battle of Dyrrhachium: Julius Caesar barely avoids a catastrophic defeat to Pompey in Macedonia

988 The city of Dublin is founded on the banks of the river Liffey

1040 Lady Godiva rides naked on horseback, according to legend, to force her husband, the Earl of Mercia, to lower taxes

1212 The most severe of several early fires of London burns most of the city to the ground

1460 Wars of Roses: Richard of York defeats King Henry VI at Northampton

1553 Lady Jane Grey becomes queen of England

1645 Battle at Langport Somerset: Cromwell's New Model-army beats Royalists

1692 Bridget Bishop is the 1st person to be hanged in Salem witch trials Massachusetts USA

1746 Bonnie Prince Charlie flees in disguise to Isle of Skye

1922 42nd Wimbledon Men's Tennis: Gerald Patterson beats R Lycett (6-3 6-4 6-2)

HELP US COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR 1 - 

We would appreciate any stories, photos, or items of interest as soon as possible.

For further information please speak to Barbara or one of the Committee Members.



***DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKET TONIGHT – SEE BARBARA STEAD
WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN AFTER TONIGHT'S TALK - GOOD LUCK!***



You know you are addicted to genealogy when....You are more interested in what happened in 1814 than in 2014

**REMINDER: THERE IS NO AUGUST MEETING AT SEVENOAKS.
THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A LOVELY SUMMER
AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN SEPTEMBER.**



The Sevenoaks Committee

Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters

Committee Members

Christina Barnett, Debbie Hill, Karina Jackson

Norma Holmden, Robert Barnett

Geoff Webb, Bernie Wilkins, Barbara Stead