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ISSUE NUMBER 10

Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

11TH JULY AT SEVENOAKS

A Place in the Sun – Sun Fire Insurance records

ISOBEL WATSON

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY

15TH JUNE – The history of the Kentish seaside resorts until the First World War

DR ANN KNEIF

DARTFORD

6TH JULY – Royal Hospital Chelsea
T.B.A.

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, 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 'DIGITAL ACCESS TO NEWSPAPERS' BY JEANNE BUNTING

Jeanne Bunting is a renowned Family Historian who this evening will help us to find those ancestors who may have appeared at some point in our local or national newspapers.

News Items

The National Archives – It is the 70th anniversary of 'Operation Chastise' better known as the Dambusters raids. An online exhibition at The National Archives website uses records from TNA collection to tell the story of this daring Second World War raid. You can also search WW2 RAF combat reports 1939-1945 (AIR50) and RAF operations records books (AIR27) which were kept by squadrons. The records series AIR76 contains over 99,000 service records of RAF officers who served in the early days of the RAF during WW1.

TNA has also made available a series of records relating to the naturalisation of 19th century immigrants. The collection in HO1 covers the period 1801-1871, includes records of more than 7,000 people and is available to search and download on the website - www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Findmypast – Findmypast have added over 450,000 new parish baptisms, marriages and burials covering the period 1538-2009 from Northumberland, Durham, Ryedale, Sheffield, Wiltshire and Suffolk. Details of what this record release contains are 141,525 Suffolk Baptisms 1753-1911 / 244,309 Wiltshire Baptisms 1538-1867 / 27,420 Northumberland & Durham Burials 1587-2009 / 22,687 Sheffield Baptisms 1837-1968 / 8,181 Sheffield Marriages 1824-1991 / 7,113 Ryedale Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1754-1999. Visit their website www.findmypast.co.uk

The Genealogist – The Genealogist have added a new resource for those with aeronautical ancestors. Records include a selection of The Royal Aero Club Yearbooks, which include the years 1914-1918, 1920-1921, and 1924-1926. Also included are many pictures and autobiographies. They have further released the book "Who's Who in Aviation, 1918" to provide you with even more detail. This joins their other aviation records including "Who's Who in British Aviation 1936" and our Air Force Lists. These records cover the years of the Great War. Visit their website www.thegenealogist.co.uk

Events

Saturday 15th June – Westminster Women – Tour in and around Parliament Square, London

The Museum of London has a tour entitled 'Westminster Women', where you can 'explore in and around Parliament Square in the centenary year of Suffragette Emily Davidson's death. Hear about the sacrifices Emily and her colleagues made in their quest for the campaign of Votes for Women.

Cost £10.00 – Time 11am – 1pm – Call Museum of London Box Office 020 7001 9844 for more information.

Wednesday 19th June – Getting the Most from the Society of Genealogists – SOG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA

A one-hour lecture, with the society's genealogist Else Churchill, on how to get the most from the Society of Genealogists – Time 1400 – Cost: Free of charge, but must be pre-booked, preferably by email: events@sog.org.uk. Contact no. 020 7553 3290

Saturday 22nd June – Making the Best of the TNA Website – SOG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA

A day at The National Archives at Kew can be a daunting experience; this course is designed to prepare you better. It begins by looking at resources you can use before you visit to discover exactly which documents you need to order. You will then make the best use of your time in the reading rooms. There will be tips to help you find what you want easily and quickly. A half-day course with Simon Fowler –

Cost 17.50 – Time 1030 – 1300 – Booking required: events@sog.org.uk. Contact no. 020 7553 3290

Saturday 22nd June – Manorial Records for Family History Research– SOG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA

The Lord of the Manor had many more rights than just those of a landlord. Apart from recording transfer of land and fines for infringements manorial records usually record the appointments of officers for the many other manorial functions, especially ale tasting! A half-day course with Michael Gandy –

Cost 17.50 – Time 1400 – 1700 – Booking required: events@sog.org.uk. Contact no. 020 7553 3290

Historical Figure – Emily Wilding Davison



Emily Wilding Davison was a militant suffragette. 2013 is the centenary of the death of Davison who died on 8 June 1913, four days after throwing herself under King George V's horse Anmer, at the Epsom Derby.

Emily was born into a comfortable middle class home, in Blackheath in southeast London, on 11 October 1872. She studied at Royal Holloway College and at Oxford University, although women were not allowed to take degrees at that time.

In 1906, she joined the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), founded by Emmeline Pankhurst. Three years later she gave up her job as a teacher and went to work full-time for the suffragette movement. She was frequently arrested for acts ranging from causing a public disturbance to burning post boxes and spent a number of short periods in jail.

In 1909, she was sentenced to a month's hard labour in Strangeways Prison in Manchester after throwing rocks at the carriage of Chancellor David Lloyd George. She attempted to starve herself, and resisted force-feeding. A prison guard, angered by Davison's blockading herself in her cell, forced a hose into the room and nearly filled it with water. Eventually, however, the door was broken down, and she was freed. She subsequently sued the wardens of Strangeways, and was awarded 40 shillings. In total she was imprisoned 9 times and force-fed 49 times.

By 1911, Davison was becoming increasingly militant. Many suffragettes refused to be counted in the 1911 census, in protest at their inferior status as individuals rather than citizens with parliamentary voting rights. Emily took her protest one step further by hiding overnight in a cupboard in the House of

Commons near the Chapel. Unfortunately she was discovered by a cleaner and added to the schedule for the Houses of Parliament, albeit with her name spelt incorrectly. She was also counted at her lodgings. In 1999 a plaque to commemorate the event was set in place by Tony Benn MP.

It was on 4 June 1913, she ran out in front of the king's horse as it was taking part in the Epsom Derby. Her purpose was unclear, but she was trampled on and died on 8 June from her injuries. There is still much debate on whether she meant to give her life in this way to the Suffragette cause. Some believe she tried to disturb the race or cross the track rather than committing suicide as she had bought a return rail ticket and also a ticket to a suffragette dance later that day. It is a possibility that by entering the race track she was trying to attach a flag to Anmer, the horse owned by King George V, so that when the horse crossed the finishing line, it would be flying the WSPU flag. According to police reports, two flags were found in her possession.

Emily Davison's funeral was held on 14 June 1913. Thousands of suffragettes escorted the coffin and tens of thousands of people lined the streets of London. After a service in Bloomsbury her coffin was taken by train to the family grave in Morpeth, Northumberland. Her headstone is inscribed with "Deeds not Words".

At the funeral of the leading suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst in 1928, the jockey who had ridden Anmer that day, Herbert Jones, laid a wreath "to do honour to the memory of Mrs Pankhurst and Miss Emily Davison". Jones had suffered a mild concussion in the 1913 collision, but afterwards claimed he was "haunted by that poor woman's face". In 1951, his son found Jones dead in a gas-filled kitchen. The jockey had killed himself.

Items such as Emily's train ticket to Epsom and a moving letter from her mother Margaret to Emily while she was in hospital, are held in the collection of the Women's Library, London, view <http://digital.library.lse.ac.uk/exhibitions/emily-wilding-davison-centenary>. Additionally The National Archives has some information on the suffragette cause as part of its education section, where you can read the police report and further information about the suffragettes, see www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/politics/q9/. You can also find some footage of the incident filmed by Pathé News on TNA Website.

Sources

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/davison_emily.shtml 30.05.13

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/may/26/emily-davison-suffragette-death-derby-1913> 30.05.13

<http://digital.library.lse.ac.uk/exhibitions/emily-wilding-davison-centenary> 30.05.13

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emily_Davison 30.05.2013

ON THIS DAY – 13TH JUNE

323 BC Alexander the Great dies in Babylon (present day Iraq) at the age of 33

823 Charles II, known as Charles the Bald is born – King of France 843-877 and Emperor 875-877

1373 Anglo-Portuguese Alliance between England (succeeded by the UK) & Portugal, which is the oldest alliance in the world still in force

1381 During the Peasants' Revolt, a mob of English peasants led by Wat Tyler march into London and begin burning & looting the city

1665 Sea battle at Lowestoft – English fleet beats Dutch

1774 Rhode Island becomes 1st Colony to prohibit importation of slaves

1895 First auto race held from Paris–Bordeaux–Paris. The 732 mile course is completed in just under 49 hours at an impressive 15 mph

1917 German air raid on London during WWI by Gotha G bombers which results in 162 deaths, including 46 children and 432 injuries

1981 A 17 year old man is arrested for shooting a replica gun at the Queen as she rode past crowds in London

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



2014 is the 100 year anniversary of the start of World War 1, an event which claimed the lives of over 16 million people across the globe and had an impact on the lives of everyone.

The society would like to remember our ancestors who were part of the Great War, by putting together an exhibit at our November 2014 meeting. We would love you to be involved. Do you have a story to tell of a relatives experience during the war – maybe a soldier in the battlefields or in a prisoner of war camp, or a fighter pilot defending our shores? Or perhaps a female relative who volunteered in a VAD hospital or the Red Cross? Not forgetting those who worked in the ammunition factories and on the land. We would be delighted if you could help us to remember the many courageous men and women of WW1.

We would like any stories, photos, or items of interest no later than July 2014. For further information please speak to Barbara or one of the Committee Members.

The Sevenoaks Committee
Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters
Committee members
Christina Barnett, Debbie Hill, Karina Jackson
Norma Holmden, Robert Barnett, Geoff Webb, Bernie Wilkins

