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ISSUE NUMBER 20

Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

10TH JULY SEVENOAKS

Turning Your Tree into a Tale:
Writing Up Your Family History

KATHY CHATER

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY

21ST JUNE - The Suffragettes

IAN PORTER

DARTFORD

5TH JULY - The History of Northfleet Shipbuilding

KEN MCGOVERIN

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 'DESPATCHES FROM THE HOME FRONT' by Chris Mc Coeey.

Tunbridge Wells writer & speaker Chris Mc Coeey is sure to bring an interesting and thought provoking talk this evening.

NEWS ITEMS

The British Library - The British Library has recently launched a new World War One website. Explore over 500 newly-digitised historical sources from across Europe, with new insights by experts. Supported by over 500 historical sources from across Europe, this resource examines key themes in the history of World War One. Explore a wealth of original source material, over 50 newly-commissioned articles written by historians, teachers' notes and more to discover how war affected people on different sides of the conflict. See more at <http://www.bl.uk/world-war-one>

Ancestry - Surrey Records 1696-1903 - Ancestry have recently added thousands of new Surrey Records, including an unusual register of victuallers - inn or tavern keepers. Even if your ancestors weren't in the pub trade, you'll find amusing snippets about one of our nation's favourite pastimes, including the characters who frequented the watering holes!

More new Surrey Records include the Freeholders' Records, which list the men qualified to serve as jurors between 1696 and 1824. Additionally you will find Surrey Land Tax Records 1780-1832, which often list both property owners and tenants, handily placing them in both a parish and a year. See their website www.ancestry.co.uk

The Genealogist - has launched over 80,000 fully searchable records of British and Commonwealth prisoners, of all ranks, captured in the Great War. Thousands of Allied servicemen were taken prisoner in the First World War and complete records have been notoriously difficult to find with many related records being destroyed in the 1930s and the WWII Blitz of 1940. The new records provide access to records of all servicemen taken prisoner between 1914 to 1918. Visit www.thegenealogist.co.uk

EVENTS

14th June, 12th July & 9th August - Blitz in the City - Walk - Museum of London Docklands, No 1 Warehouse, West India Quay E14

On this walk you will hear about the second Great Fire of London, how St Paul's survived, and the history uncovered by the destruction caused to the City in the Blitz of 1940-41. Time 1500 - 16.30 pm. Price £10.00 Concessions £8.00.

Advance booking required. Once tickets are booked you are advised where the walk will start from.

See more at www.museumoflondon.org.uk or Tel 020 7001 9844

21st June - What, this old thing? - Museum of London Archaeological, Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London, N1 7ED -

This event celebrates shoes and dress accessories through the ages from Elizabethan knee high boots to medieval pointy-toed shoe. Whatever your taste, experience the fashions of the past and hear the curious and sometimes bizarre stories behind each item. Adult Event minimum age 16 - Fee £7.50. Two tours 1100 - 1230 and 1400 - 1530, Advance booking required.

See more at: <http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk> or Telephone 020 7410 2200

28th June - Tracing your First World War Ancestors - SOG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd, EC1M 7BA

With the anniversary of the First World War rapidly approaching interest in ancestors who served in the War has never been greater. This is a full day course with Simon Fowler a fascinating workshop looking at the resources available online and in archives. Sessions will look at the major and some forgotten sources for men at the Front, at sea and in the air. In addition the workshop will consider the vital role played by women and civilians at home. Simon will be sharing tips of the trade to help your research go smoothly. Course time 10.30-1700 - Cost: £35.00. Pre-book at www.sog.org.uk or call 020 7553 3290

19th June to 12th October - Enduring War: Grief, Grit and Humour - The British Library, Folio Society Gallery, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB

A major part of the Library's contribution to the First World War Centenary, *Enduring War* examines how people coped with life during the war: from moments of patriotic fervour to periods of anxious inactivity, shock and despair. Through posters, poetry, books and pamphlets from the period, the exhibition considers attempts to boost morale at home and in the field, as well as presenting individual responses to the conflict, such as letters from Indian soldiers on the Western Front, schoolboys' descriptions of Zeppelin raids over London and examples of the black humour expressed in trench journals.

The exhibition also showcases the Library's work for Europeana 1914-1918, a major pan-European project to digitise more than 400,000 items from World War One through an audiovisual art installation. Admission Free - Visit www.bl.uk or Tel 020 7412 7332



Caroline Norton

Caroline Norton's campaign over child custody and the conditions of divorce marks her out as a major Victorian campaigner for women's rights.

Caroline Sheridan was born in London on 22 March 1808 into a grand but impoverished family. She was the grand-daughter of the playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Her father died in South Africa, where he was serving as the colonial secretary at the Cape of Good Hope, when she was eight years old, leaving the family with serious financial problems. So when George Norton, who was Tory Member of Parliament for Guildford at the time, asked to marry Caroline only eight years later, Caroline's mother was keen for the match to succeed. Against her wishes, but fearing for the well-being of her family, Caroline conceded.

The marriage was an extremely unhappy one and Caroline was the victim of regular and vicious beatings. During the early years of her marriage, Caroline used her beauty, wit, and political connections, to establish herself as a major society hostess. Caroline's unorthodox behaviour and candid conversation rose more than a few eyebrows among 19th-century British high society; she made enemies and admirers in almost equal measure. Among her friends she counted such literary and political luminaries as Mary Shelley, Benjamin Disraeli, the future King of Belgium and William Cavendish, 6th Duke of Devonshire.

In spite of her husband's jealousy and pride, George Norton

encouraged his wife to use her connections to advance his career. It was entirely due to her influence that in 1831 he was made a Metropolitan Police Magistrate.

She found solace in her writing and the publication of her verses 'The Sorrows of Rosalie' (1829) and 'The Undying One' (1830) resulted in her appointment as editor of 'La Belle Assemblée' and 'Court Magazine'. With these appointments and publications came a taste of financial independence.

In 1836, she finally left from her husband who, despite previously encouraging the friendship, now claimed that Caroline was guilty of adultery with the home secretary Lord Melbourne and sued Melbourne for seducing his wife. George lost the case but Caroline's reputation was ruined. George refused Caroline access to her three children and her subsequent protests were instrumental in the passing of the Infant Custody Bill of 1839.

George later attempted to take the proceeds of her writing. Her campaign to ensure women were supported after divorce included an eloquent letter to Queen Victoria, which was published. Caroline's efforts were influential in the passing of the Marriage and Divorce Act of 1857.

Her writing in verse includes an attack against child labour entitled 'Voice from the Factories' (1836) and she also published an autobiographical novel, 'Stuart Dunleath' (1851). She died in London on 15 June 1877. She had married William Stirling Maxwell, a friend for 25 years, a few months before her death.

20.06.14 - Sources: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caroline_Norton
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/norton_caroline.shtml

ON THIS DAY – 12th JUNE - The 163RD day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, 202 days remain until the end of the year.

1381 Peasants' Revolt in England, rebels arrive at Blackheath

1798 Irish Rebellion of 1798: Battle of Ballynahinch, Co Down between British forces and the local United Irishmen

1889 78 people travelling on a crowded Sunday school excursion train are killed. The Armagh rail disaster occurred near Armagh, now Northern Ireland. It was the worst rail disaster in the UK in the 19th century and remains Ireland's worst rail disaster ever.

1929 Birthday of Anne Frank, German-Dutch author and holocaust victim (d. 1945)

1979 Bryan Allen wins the second Kremer prize for a man powered flight across the English Channel in the Gossamer Albatross.

1994 The Boeing 777, the world's largest twinjet, makes its first flight

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

Reminder: As you know 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 and we would love you to be involved. So how are you getting on? Do you have a story to tell of a relative's 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 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.

Old English proverb -

'He who has no fools, knaves, or beggars in his family was begot by a flash of lightning'



LOOK OUT FOR OUR FIRST RAFFLE TONIGHT – SEE BARBARA STEAD FOR YOUR TICKET – WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN AFTER TONIGHT'S TALK – GOOD LUCK!



Banns - Banns are proclamations of intent to marry. After 1754, these Banns were required to be read for three consecutive Sundays before a marriage so that anyone with reasons against the marriage could oppose it. Banns were read in both the bride's parish and the groom's parish.

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