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# Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT  
[www.nwkfhs.org.uk](http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk)



## NEXT BRANCH MEETING

9<sup>TH</sup> JULY AT SEVENOAKS

Kent in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

BOB OGLEY

## OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY

20<sup>th</sup> June - Victorian London Street Life - Insight into how poor people of London lived and survived in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century

DELIA TAYLOR

DARTFORD

4<sup>TH</sup> July - The Golden Age of Coaching - The Story of Coach travel in the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century

KEN CHAMBERLAIN

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.

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**THIS EVENING'S TALK - "Electoral Registers" by ERIC PROBERT** - Eric is a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists and has been researching family history for over 30 years - He speaks to us this evening about tracing family history through the Register of Electors, a resource often overlooked

## NEWS ITEMS

**Waterloo 200** and the Online Book Company have launched an exciting joint project: [the Waterloo 200 Descendants Book](#). This new e-book features the stories of the soldiers who fought at the Battle of Waterloo, 200 years on. Descendants and researchers can record and preserve their ancestors' lives, and upload photographs of any Waterloo artefacts they own. The Online Book Company have uploaded the complete Waterloo Medal Roll, giving details of every British Army soldier who fought on 18 June 1815. For the first time ever, all the heroes of Waterloo have a place to commemorate their struggle and sacrifice.

To view the Descendants Book visit [www.theonlinebookcompany.com/OnlineBooks/Waterloo/Content/Introduction](http://www.theonlinebookcompany.com/OnlineBooks/Waterloo/Content/Introduction)

**The Commonwealth War Graves Commission** will be releasing WWII casualty record in August, to coincide with the 70th commemoration of VJ Day. Website - [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

**Findmypast** - This week, have added the following new records:

- [Over 42,000 additional Kent baptisms](#)
- [Over 30,000 additional Kent burials](#)
- [Baptisms from Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire](#)
- [Burials from Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire](#)

Visit their website at [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

**Irish Ancestors** - the genealogy package hosted on the Irish Times website, has recently seen a useful update within the Surname section. There is now a mapping-by-surname facility that's linked to civil registration districts across the island. It delivers a visual representation of where a surname is recorded in the civil registration birth indexes between 1864 and 1913. Website: [www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/](http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/)

## EVENTS

**16<sup>th</sup> June - London and The Battle of Waterloo - LMA, 40 Northampton Rd, Clerkenwell, EC1R 0HB**

This talk explores the London connections with the Battle of Waterloo, which took place on 18 June 1815. Find out the connections with the Foundling Hospital, London's militia and Napoleon's carriage.

Free event - Time 1400 to 1530 - Booking essential - Contact by phone 020 7332 3851 - Website [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk)

**24<sup>th</sup> June - Death & Taxes: Understanding the Death Duty Registers - SOG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd. EC1M 7BA**

For over a hundred years, from 1796 to 1903, the Inland Revenue maintained a series of registers recording the payments of death duties. These registers are now held by The National Archives and represent one of family history's best kept secrets. This talk will look at the surviving records in detail and will explain how they can be used to uncover some fascinating facts about the lives and times of our nineteenth century ancestors. A talk with David Annal from 1400-1500 - Cost £ 8.00

Contact by phone 020 7553 3290 or email [events@sog.org.uk](mailto:events@sog.org.uk) or book a place on line at [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk)

**25<sup>th</sup> June - Talk - Close up- The Museum of London Docklands, No1 Warehouse, West India Quay, London, E14 4AL**

Talk by Soldiers and Suffragette curator, Anna Sparham plus Edwardian postcard expert Guy Atkins and women's history specialist Di Atkinson discuss and unpick the remarkable career of Christina Broom, including the intriguing and changing role of the image in Edwardian society. Time 7-8 pm - Price £12.50 - booking in advance required -

You can also experience the Exhibition: Soldiers and Suffragettes - The Photography of Christina Broom from 6-10 pm.

The exhibition is Free. Visit their website: [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk) or contact by phone 020 7001 9844

**2<sup>nd</sup> July - Photographing the Home Front 1939-1945 - LMA, 40 Northampton Rd, Clerkenwell, EC1R 0HB**

Away from the front line, London suffered from the effects of air raids and the exhaustive demands made on its resources. However, it also continued to trade, educate and keep its local services operational. Discover the photographs that capture this, the story they tell about local communities and how you can access them using Mediatheque.

Free Event - Time 1500 to 1600 - Booking essential - Contact by phone 020 7332 3851 - Website [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk)



## Edward Jenner

Edward Jenner was an English doctor, the pioneer of smallpox vaccination and the father of immunology. Jenner was born in Berkeley, Gloucestershire on 17 May 1749, the son of the local vicar. At the age of 14, he was apprenticed for seven years to Mr Daniel

Ludlow, a surgeon of Chipping Sodbury. Here Jenner gained most of the experience needed to become a country doctor. In 1770 he went to St. George's Hospital in London to complete his medical training under the great surgeon and experimentalist, John Hunter. Hunter quickly recognised Edward's abilities at dissection and investigation, as well as his understanding of plant and animal anatomy. The two men were to remain lifelong friends and correspondents. In 1772 at the age of 23 Edward Jenner returned to Berkeley and established himself as the local doctor. Although in later years he also established medical practices in London & Cheltenham, Berkeley was always his main home.

As a General Practitioner, Jenner faced a vast array of medical cases on a daily basis. Patients would often come to consult at The Chantry, Jenner's home, or he would make home visits on horseback, sometimes riding great distances in bad weather. On one occasion he almost lost his own life when visiting a patient at Kingscote, ten miles from home, during a blizzard. Remarkably, he visited patients over an area of about 400 square miles, from Gloucester in the north to Bristol in the south. His medical practice did not abandon those too poor to pay for treatment. Between 1796 and 1804 Reverend Robert Ferryman, built for him a small thatched hut in the corner of the Chantry garden. In this building on certain days the poor of the district would be given vaccinations, free of charge. Jenner was also a practising surgeon. Bloodletting, either by cutting veins or by applying leeches, was a common treatment. He would have been proficient at the rapid amputation - without anaesthetics - of limbs that were gangrenous with infection after injury. The operation that Jenner performed most frequently was 'cutting for the stone' - the removal of kidney stones. Tracheotomy (the insertion of an artificial windpipe to relieve obstruction in the throat) had been introduced into surgery in 1730. It was a vital development in the relief of the effects of diphtheria.

Smallpox was the most feared and greatest killer of Jenner's time. In today's terms it was as deadly as cancer or heart disease. It killed 10% of the population, rising to 20% in towns and cities where infection spread easily. Among children, it accounted for one in three of all deaths. Jenner called it the Speckled Monster. From the early days of his career, Edward Jenner had been intrigued by country-lore which said that people who caught cowpox from their cows could not catch smallpox. Jenner observed this in his local area. These observations led him to investigate and experiment using cowpox as a means to prevent catching smallpox.

In 1796, he carried out his now famous experiment on eight-year-old James Phipps, the son of his gardener. Jenner inserted pus taken from a cowpox pustule and inserted it into an incision on the boy's arm. He was testing his theory, drawn from the folklore of the countryside, that milkmaids who suffered the mild disease of cowpox never contracted smallpox. He subsequently proved that having been inoculated with cowpox Phipps was

immune to smallpox. He submitted a paper to the Royal Society in 1797 describing his experiment, but was told that his ideas were too revolutionary and that he needed more proof. Undaunted, Jenner experimented on several other children, including his own 11-month-old son. In 1798, the results were finally published and Jenner coined the word vaccine from the Latin 'vacca' for cow.

Jenner was widely ridiculed. Critics, especially the clergy, claimed it was repulsive and ungodly to inoculate someone with material from a diseased animal. A satirical cartoon of 1802 showed people who had been vaccinated sprouting cow's heads. But the obvious advantages of vaccination and the protection it provided won out, and vaccination soon became widespread.

Jenner became world famous following the publication in 1798 of his 'Inquiry' in which he demonstrated that vaccination with cowpox prevented the deadly smallpox. As use of his treatment spread, he found that he had to spend more and more of his time answering correspondence about it. He called himself 'Vaccine Clerk to the World'. He continued to advise and research on the safest ways to produce and transport his cowpox vaccine.

Sadly, Edward Jenner's family life was marred by illnesses. He had married Catherine Kingscote in 1788, when he was 39 and she 27. She had borne him three children: Edward (1789), Catherine (1794) and Robert Fitzhardinge (1797). His daughter married but did not produce a grandson for him until after his death. His son Robert remained unmarried. His other son, Edward, died of tuberculosis in 1810, aged 21. Catherine, had never been strong and her health was a constant worry to her family and friends. On 13 September 1815 she, too, succumbed to tuberculosis.

To ease his depression he returned to his past interests of fossil-collecting and developing his home and his garden. He became expert at propagating fruit bushes such as gooseberries, raspberries and figs. In 1818 he introduced young grapevines from the famous stock at Hampton Court. The previous year he had built an extension for them onto his hothouse which stood at the rear of The Chantry. The vine is still in full production and nearly two centuries on those same Black Hamburg vines produce fruit for sale to visitors every summer.

Through his later years Edward Jenner was an active Freemason and magistrate. The plight of the poor and the rising level of crime troubled him. He blamed some of the latter problem on the influx of navvies who dug the Berkeley to Gloucester Canal in 1815.

On a cold January day in 1823 Jenner did not appear for breakfast. He was found unconscious. Jenner's nephew Henry bled him several times, without effect. He never regained consciousness and had suffered a stroke. He passed away quietly just after two o'clock on the following morning, 26 January 1823. He was 73.

Edward Jenner was buried in the family tomb beside the altar in St. Mary's Church in Berkeley next to his parents, eldest son and wife Catherine. The funeral was a very local affair, with no one attending from London. Fittingly, James Phipps, who as a child had been the recipient of the first vaccination in 1796, was a pall-bearer.

Sources: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/jenner\\_edward.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/jenner_edward.shtml)  
<http://www.jennermuseum.com/>

07/06/2015

## ON THIS DAY

**JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> is the 162<sup>ND</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 203 days remain until the end of the year.**

**1184 BC** Trojan War: Troy is sacked and burned, according to calculations by Eratosthenes

**1429** Hundred Years' War: The start of the Battle of Jargeau - It was Joan of Arc's first offensive battle

**1456** Anne Neville is born, English wife of Richard III of England (d. 1485)

**1509** Henry VIII of England marries Catherine of Aragon

**1770** British explorer Captain James Cook runs aground on the Great Barrier Reef

**1837** The Broad Street Riot occurs in Boston, fuelled by ethnic tensions between Yankees and Irish

**1963** US President JFK says segregation is morally wrong & that it is "time to act"

**1964** Queen Elizabeth orders Beatles to her birthday party, they attend

**1978** Bjorn Borg wins French Open Title

**1979** John Wayne, American actor, director, and producer (b. 1907)

**1987** Margaret Thatcher is 1st British PM in 160 years to win 3rd consecutive term

**1910** Jacques Cousteau is born, French oceanic explorer (Calypso)

**1928** Alfred Hitchcock's 1st film, "Case of Jonathan Drew," is released

## The Sevenoaks Committee

Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters

Committee Members

Christina Barnett, Debbie Hill, Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Robert Barnett, Bernie Wilkins, Barbara Stead