

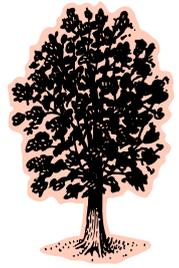


13 MARCH 2014

ISSUE NUMBER 17

Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

10TH APRIL AT SEVENOAKS

Shepherd Neame Brewery

JOHN OWEN

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY

15th March - The undercover story -
A look at the History of Underclothes

LEE AULT

DARTFORD

5th April - The Father of Nobody's children -
The life and work of Dr. Barnardo
(And Branch annual meeting)

DR FRANK ANDREWS

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, 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 'THE LIFE OF DOUGLAS MACMILLAN'
by Denise Baldwin & Kathy Hardy.
Macmillan founded the 'Society for the Prevention and Relief of Cancer' and his legacy lives on today, his life story is sure to be fascinating.

NEWS ITEMS -

NWKFHS - Don't forget the 36th AGM of the North West Kent Family History Society which is being held 26th April at the Dartford Science and Technology College. Speakers are Andrew Robertshaw whose talk is entitled: WW1 - Finding the Fallen and their Family History, and Sarah Wise on Inconvenient People: Lunacy, Liberty and the Mad Doctors in Victorian England. Stalls include CabSearch and Alfred King's second hand books and ephemera. The Society Bookstall and Publications will also be available.

Rootsireland.ie - County Clare's first batch of Roman Catholic baptisms for seven parishes are now available online. Rootsireland have announced that Clare Heritage & Genealogy Centre has now made their first batch of Roman Catholic baptisms for seven parishes available. The parishes covered are Cratloe 1802-1901 / Crusheen 1860-1900 / Ennis 1841-1900 / Feakle 1860-1900 / Mountshannon and Whitegate 1846-1900 / Parteen 1831-1902 / Scariff 1852-1900. Further Co. Clare parish records including marriages and deaths, as well as further baptismal records, will be made available online on a phased basis. Visit their website at www.rootsireland.ie

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) - As communities and individuals prepare to mark the centenary of the First World War, LMA have announced the publication of the second edition of its three Sources to the First World War. Since the first edition came out early in 2013 they have added new entries and fleshed out others. The new entries draw on the work they have been doing to examine some of the very large series of cross-London records from institutional collections for the early 20th century. Here they can begin to glimpse the impact of the war on the lives of ordinary Londoners. See website www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

Events

22nd March - Sevenoaks Library Family History drop in Session - Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1LQ - Historical Fair Day to commemorate 1WW. NWKFHS will attend. 1000-1400 - Telephone number - 01732 453118 / 452384

25th March - Ian Walker Talk - Otford Library, Otford High Street, Otford, Sevenoaks, TN14 5PH

Ian will give a talk on four separate testimonies from World War I soldiers' experiences, including two from Kentish soldiers. Time 7.30 pm - Contact 01959 522488 - Otfordlibrary@kent.gov.uk

31st March - History Relived - Storytelling Workshop - The Conference Centre, The British Library, 36 Euston Rd., London, NW1 2DB

Twitter in the 1890s - what would it look like? What events would people tweet about? This is an unprecedented opportunity to explore The British Newspaper Archive. They are opening their doors to the Archive for the day, giving access to over 200 digitised newspaper titles and six million searchable pages - a true treasure trove of information. To help you explore this vast repository, and find the hidden gems within it, Crossover Labs will guide you in using today's social media to uncover the past. Time 1000-1600 - Price £5.00 - Contact - Tel no. 0843 208 1144 or go to link www.bl.uk/whatson/events/event159619.html

12th April 2014 - How to Trace Your Family History - The IHGS, 79-82 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BA

This course is aimed at those people just starting out within this fascinating subject. Some of the topics under discussion will include family records, birth, marriage and death certificates, censuses and compiling pedigrees. A thorough grounding in the basic sources will enable students to make an excellent start in tracing their own family history. Time 1015-1630 - Price £40.00 or £35.00 for IHGS Members and correspondence course students. Contact 01227 768664 or visit their website www.ihgs.ac.uk

24th April 2014 - Researching Ancestors in the Armies of India - The British Library, 36 Euston Rd., London, NW1 2DB

This is a FREE workshop looking at biographical sources for military personnel in India. No previous knowledge of the subject is expected or required. If you believe you have European ancestors who served in the Indian sub-continent, whether as officers or private soldiers.

To book your free place contact Asian and African Studies enquiries - Tel no. 020 7412 7873 or Email: hrs-training@bl.uk

Princess Charlotte of Wales (1796-1817)



Princess Charlotte was the only child of George, Prince of Wales (later Prince Regent and George IV) and Caroline of Brunswick. Their daughter was born at Carlton House, London in the early morning of 7 January 1796. She was baptised Charlotte Augusta by the archbishop of Canterbury on 11 February 1796. The Prince Regent and Princess Caroline of Brunswick had been incredibly

unhappy in their marriage. It was a miracle that they had managed to produce Princess Charlotte at all.

In stark contrast to her father, who was universally despised, the young princess was extremely popular. Charlotte had been brought up among violent family quarrels and disrespect; she grew up tumultuous and rebellious. At an early age she had been separated from her disreputable and eccentric mother, and handed over to the care of her disreputable and selfish father. When Charlotte was sixteen, the government proposed a marriage to Prince William of Orange, the son of King William I of the Netherlands. It would strengthen the alliance between Great Britain and the Netherlands and get the rebellious Charlotte off the Regent's hands so he favoured the marriage. Charlotte acquiesced & the engagement was announced. During negotiations with the Prince of Orange, the allied sovereigns arrived in London, June 1814, to celebrate their victory over Napoleon. Amid the assembly of the Emperor of Russia was the young and handsome Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg.

Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg was clever enough to get round the Regent, to impress the Ministers, and to make friends with the Princess's uncle, the Duke of Kent. Through the Duke he was able to communicate privately with the Princess, who now declared that he was necessary to her happiness. When, after Waterloo, he was in Paris, the Duke's aide-de-camp carried letters backwards and forwards across the Channel. In January 1816 Leopold was invited to England. Although initially reticent to grant his permission, mainly because Leopold's penury and lack of royal connections, the Prince Regent finally granted his daughter's wish. Leopold and Charlotte were married at Carlton House in London on the evening of 2 May 1816.

To everyone's surprise the couple led a domestic & scandal-free life, probably mainly due to Leopold's diplomacy & knack for handling his young wife. This was quite a change in comparison with Charlotte's parents and most of her royal uncles. The country exploded in celebrations when the Princess of Coburg's pregnancy was announced in early 1817. Though her grandfather, George III, had 7 sons and 5 daughters, Charlotte was the only legitimate grandchild. Hence this pregnancy was a truly significant one. Charlotte, who had already experienced problems with pregnancy, tried her best at taking care of her health. She put on weight and felt the happiest she had ever felt. Yet, her physicians were fearful that she would not be able to carry her pregnancy full term and attempted to calm her by bleeding her & severely limiting her diet.

By the first week of November the end of Charlotte's pregnancy was rapidly approaching. She had grown very weak as a result of the continued bleedings and malnourishment. Her happy pregnancy was turned into torture by the good efforts of her physicians. Labour pains began on November 3, and Charlotte's martyrdom would extend itself over the next two days. Princess Charlotte's physician Dr. Croft had married the daughter of a prominent physician, who had trained him and who belonged to the non-intervention school of obstetrics. During the Princess's labour, Royal Physicians, courtiers and ladies-in-waiting had been in constant attendance. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Home Secretary waited in a downstairs room, while Prince Leopold, worried sick about his wife's excruciating pains, rarely left her side. Although Dr. Croft had accurately diagnosed a breech birth, he decided not to use forceps during the 1st stage of labour nor did he administer pain killers. On the evening of 5 November, after a protracted labour of 50 hours, she delivered a stillborn son at Claremont House.

Her treatment during and following the birth was grossly mismanaged. Charlotte seemed to do well at first, she was even given some port wine to drink after two days without food (she mentioned later that the alcohol made her tipsy), but after a few hours she became restless, had difficulty breathing, and her pulse became rapid and feeble. Five and half hours after her delivery she died of post-partum haemorrhage and shock at two o'clock in the morning of 6 November. Leopold was distraught beyond his wits. The public went mad with grief at the loss of the popular princess. There was a national outpouring of grief that was unprecedented in Britain and her funeral drew massive mourning crowds on a scale similar to those who thronged to Princess Diana's funeral in 1997. She was buried in the Royal Tomb House at St George's Chapel, Windsor, with her infant at her feet.

So depressed by the tragic event was the Royal Physician Sir Richard Croft that 3 months later he committed suicide. He was unable to live with the resulting criticism and the knowledge that he had been responsible for the two deaths.

It was after Princess Charlotte's death that Leopold's services for the future of the Coburgs' and Great Britain were put to good use. The English royal family were plunged into crisis. King George III's only legitimate grandchild had died. Before his engagement to Charlotte, Leopold had been befriended by Edward, Duke of Kent. Edward was King George III's fourth son and at almost fifty years of age was still a bachelor living with his mistress of 20 years. George's brothers gave up their mistresses and made legitimate marriages in an effort to secure the succession. Leopold suggested his sister Princess Viktoria, widow of the Prince of Leiningen, as a bride for Edward. With two healthy teenage children, Viktoria proved that she could be a candidate to produce the desired heir. They were married 29 May 1818 & produced a daughter the following year who would become Queen Victoria of England. Victoria would later marry Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, the younger son of Leopold's older brother Duke Ernst.

Source: www.georgianindex.net/Prn_Charlotte/P_Charlotte.html.10.03.14

ON THIS DAY – 13TH MARCH

MARCH 13TH is the 72ND day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, 293 days remain until the end of the year.



607 BC The 12th recorded passage of Halley's Comet occurred.

1271 Henry of Almain, English crusader dies (b. 1235)

1519 Hernán Cortés, Spanish Conquistador and leader of an expedition that caused the fall of the Aztec Empire, lands in Mexico

1639 Cambridge College renamed Harvard for clergyman John Harvard

1759 27th recorded perihelion passage of Halley's Comet

1835 Charles Darwin departs Valparaiso, Chile for Andes crossing

1935 Driving tests introduced in Great Britain

1961 Three men and two women go on trial at the Old Bailey charged with plotting to pass secrets to the Russians

2004 Luciano Pavarotti gave his final opera performance at the Metropolitan Opera in New York

Coroners' Reports - In cases of unusual or suspicious deaths, it has long been the case that a coroner is required to hold an inquest into the circumstances. Although many of the records have been lost or destroyed, you may find transcripts of particular inquests in local newspapers of the time. For further information take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/rdleaflet.asp?sLeafletID=175>

<http://www.bl.uk/collections/newspapers.html>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/>

The Sevenoaks Committee

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Norma Holmden, Robert Barnett

Geoff Webb, Bernie Wilkins