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ISSUE NUMBER 19

# Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



## NEXT BRANCH MEETING

12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AT SEVENOAKS  
Despatches From the Home Front  
CHRIS Mc COOEY

## OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

### BROMLEY

17<sup>th</sup> May - Using Electoral Registers

ERIC PROBERT

### DARTFORD

7<sup>th</sup> June - The History of Capital Punishment in Britain

JOHN MILLS

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 IS 'ILLEGITIMACY' by Mari Alderman.** Mari is an established genealogist, experienced tutor and has a long association with the NWKFHS. This evening's talk will certainly be interesting and informative, I cannot wait.

## NEWS ITEMS

**Origins** - Additional Devon Wills 1164-1992 FREE online. The updated index now includes over 300,000 Devon probate records from over 60 sources, and is freely available to search online. See their website [origins.net](http://origins.net)

**Library and Archives Canada** - Library and Archives Canada have announced plans to put online about 640,000 service records for the men and women who volunteered to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War 1 whether as soldiers, nurses, or chaplains (there are already about 620,000 attestation papers and over 13,000 service records online). See link: [www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/canadian-expeditionary-force.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/canadian-expeditionary-force.aspx) or visit their website [www.bac-lac.gc.ca](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca)

**Ancestry** - have recently added a large number of records for Poor Law Unions in East London (Bethnal Green, Hackney, Poplar, Shoreditch, and Stepney) which include Settlement Examinations, Settlement Papers, and Removal Orders - the earliest date from 1828 and the latest from 1930. See their website [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

**Findmypast** - Findmypast has added 2.5 million new records from the Shropshire Parish registers. These records, including colour images from Shropshire Archives' parish registers, cover the period 1538-1900. They now offer a 1 month Britain subscription for just £9.95, providing unlimited access to all of their British records. See their website at [Findmypast.co.uk](http://Findmypast.co.uk)

**The Genealogist** - have added nearly 2,000 images to their Image Archive. These new images show churches nationwide from 1870 - 1920. The images are free to view, and all subscribers to TheGenealogist can view, save and print large high resolution images. Visit [www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk).

## EVENTS

### 10<sup>th</sup> May & 7<sup>th</sup> June - Regeneration -Walk - Museum of London Docklands, No 1 Warehouse, West India Quay E14

This walk explores Canary Wharf and explains how the derelict West India Docks were transformed into this thriving business hub. Sat 10<sup>th</sup> May 1-2.30 pm, Sat 7<sup>th</sup> June 11 am-12.30 pm. Price £10.50 Concessions £8.50 Visit website [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk) or Tel 020 7001 9844. Once tickets are booked you are advised where the walk will start from.

### 17<sup>th</sup> May - London Maps and London Streets - SOG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd, EC1M 7BA

This is an introduction to London maps, their content and evolution over the last 300 years, using examples which should be of particular value to family historians. This is a Half-day course from 10.30-1300 with Alan Ruston.

Cost: £20.00. Pre-book at [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk) or call 020 7553 3290

### 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014 -Heraldry - The IHGS, 79-82 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BA

This course aims to show that the records of heraldry can be of great use to family historians and is suitable for absolute beginners and those with some experience. Practical guidance will be given on how to understand heraldry and how to identify coats of arms. 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](http://www.ihgs.ac.uk) - note closing date for booking is 15<sup>th</sup> May.

### 18<sup>th</sup> May - The Kent Fair - Lockmeadow Market Hall, Hart Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8LW

Kent's Largest Fair with up to 100 stalls. The Market hall is behind the Odeon & David Lloyd Leisure. The nearest railway station Maidstone West. There is easy parking with a large free car park next to Hall, and a cafeteria. Stalls include Family History Societies, Specialist Groups, Postcards, Books, Computer Software, Directories, Maps and Charts.

Entrance £2.00 and children under 16 accompanied by an adult free - open 10am - 4 pm - no booking required.

### 20<sup>th</sup> June - Fighting on the Home Front - The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB

The war saw a generation of men going away to fight. Women left the domestic sphere, becoming a very visible force in public life. From transport to policing, munitions to sport, entertainment, even politics, they were a recognised part of the war machine, demanding greater rights and a better income. War correspondent, author and broadcaster Kate Adie in conversation as she talks about her book *Fighting on the Home Front* and charts the seismic impact of these women on the modern world.

Price: £8, (£6 Over 60s) Student £5- See more at: [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk) or telephone (0)20 7412 7332



## William Pitt the Younger

William Pitt was born on 28 May 1759 in Hayes Place, in the village of Hayes, Kent, the son of the Earl of Chatham (William Pitt the Elder), himself a famous statesman. He is known as "the Younger" to distinguish him from his father, who also previously served as Prime Minister.

His mother, Hester Grenville, was sister to another former Prime Minister George Grenville. According to biographer John Ehrman, Pitt "inherited brilliance and dynamism from his father's line and a determined, methodical nature from the Grenville's".

Pitt the Younger was British Prime Minister during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars and helped to define and strengthen the office of the prime minister. He studied at Cambridge University, graduating when he was 17. Here he befriended the young William Wilberforce (an English politician, philanthropist, and a leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade), who became a lifelong friend and political ally in Parliament. In early 1781, Pitt was elected to parliament aged 21 and in 1782 he became Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The following years were marked by the battle between George III and the radical Charles James Fox, a prominent British Whig statesman, whom the king detested. Matters deteriorated when Fox forged an alliance with the previously loyal Lord North, Prime Minister from 1770 to 1782, who led Britain through most of the American War of Independence. The two men defeated the government and George was forced to ask them to take control. Fox became Pitt's lifelong political rival.

In December 1783, George III dismissed their coalition and asked Pitt to form a government. He was, at 24, the youngest man to become Prime Minister. He was immediately defeated in parliament but refused to resign. George III was prepared to abdicate rather than let Fox in

again. In 1784, parliament was dissolved for a general election, which Pitt won. His government worked to restore public finances, severely strained by the cost of the American War of Independence and later by war with France. Pitt imposed new taxes - including Britain's first income tax - and reduced both smuggling and frauds. He also simplified customs and excise duties.

His other concerns were imperial and foreign policy. The India Act of 1784 asserted increased government power over the East India Company and the vast areas of India it controlled. But revolutionary France remained the greatest concern and in 1793, the French declared war on Britain. In 1798, there was a rebellion in Ireland, influenced by the ideas of the French Revolution. Pitt had long felt that union of the two countries was necessary and brought in an Act of Union which came into effect in January 1801. Yet fierce royal opposition to his attempt to abolish restrictions on Catholicism in Ireland forced his resignation in 1801.

Three years later, with Napoleon threatening invasion, the king was forced to ask Pitt to form a government and he became Prime Minister again in May 1804. Due to Pitt's efforts, Britain joined the Third Coalition against France (made up of Austria, Russia and Sweden) and in 1805 the British inflicted a serious defeat on the French navy at the Battle of Trafalgar. However the Coalition collapsed and this imposed a severe strain on Pitt's already weakened health.

He died on 23 January 1806, unmarried and left no children. Pitt's debts amounted to £40,000 when he died, but Parliament agreed to pay them on his behalf. A motion was made to honour him with a public funeral and a monument, it passed despite the opposition of Fox. Pitt's body was buried in Westminster Abbey on 22 February, having lain in state for two days in the Palace of Westminster. Pitt was succeeded as Prime Minister by his first cousin William Grenville, who headed the Ministry of All the Talents, a coalition which included Charles James Fox.

29.04.14 - Sources: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Pitt\\_the\\_Younger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Pitt_the_Younger)  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/pitt\\_the\\_younger.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/pitt_the_younger.shtml)

**ON THIS DAY – 8<sup>th</sup> MAY - The 128<sup>th</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, 237 days remain until the end of the year.**

**1450** Jack Cade's Rebellion, Kentishmen revolt against King Henry IV

**1541** Hernando de Soto, Spanish explorer and conquistador, discovers Mississippi River

**1660** English parliament declares Charles Stuart to be King Charles II of England

**1823** "Home Sweet Home" 1st sung (London)

**1886** Pharmacist John Pemberton first sells a carbonated beverage named "Coca-Cola" as a patent medicine (it contained cocaine)

**1919** Edward George Honey, and Australian Soldier and Journalist, first proposes the idea of a moment of silence to commemorate The Armistice of World War I, which later results in the creation of Remembrance Day

**1962** London trolley buses go out of service

**1984** The Thames Barrier is officially opened.

**Did you know?** - The month May was named for Maia, the Greek goddess of fertility.

The Romans called the month Maius. It was first called May in the 1400s near the end of the Middle Ages.

In early Gaelic times as well as in pre-Christian times in Scandinavia, May Day was a day to celebrate the coming of Spring. When Christianity came to Europe and England, May Day became intertwined with Easter and other Christian celebrations.

In 1644 maypoles were banned in England as a 'heathenish vanity'. Local officials who defiantly put them up could be fined five shillings a week.

In 1661, a maypole 123ft tall was put up in the Strand, for the return of Charles II. Isaac Newton later used it as a support for his telescope.

A Maypole stands all year long in Inkwel England. It has been there since 1894. (Maypoles were sometimes made from old ship's masts.)

According to the Roman poet Ovid "Bad girls wed in May."

According to old Cornish superstition, it is unlucky to buy a broom during the month of May.

In the 1900s May Day became a day to celebrate labour in many communist and socialist countries. They would celebrate the worker as well as the armed forces on this day. Later the day would become a Labour Day in many countries throughout the world.

In any given year, no month ever begins or ends on the same day of the week as May does.

*Quote – 'Some family trees have beautiful leaves, and some have just a bunch of nuts. Remember, it is the nuts that make the tree worth shaking' – Unknown*

**Settlement examinations and removal orders** - These days there is regular discussion in Britain about immigrants from other countries coming to claim benefits, but in previous centuries it was much more parochial - people were worried about inhabitants of other parishes pushing up their poor rates. The Poor Law Act of 1601 said that after one month's residence in a parish a person would be deemed to be settled there, and could claim relief from the authorities if need be - but in 1662 the rules were changed by the Poor Law Relief Act, so that a migrant could be sent back to their place of origin if they were deemed not to be legally entitled to settle in the new parish.

A much larger collection of records, covering England & Wales (with a few Irish records) can be found in the Society of Genealogists' Library - Contact details: [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk) - SOG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd, EC1M 7BA - Tel. 020 7553 3290

### 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