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ISSUE NUMBER 39

Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

9TH JUNE

Life on Board Henry VIII's warship- "Mary Rose"

Speaker: TREVOR SAPEY

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY

21ST MAY Introduction to Caribbean Family History- an overview, techniques, migration and more

Speaker GUY GRANNUM

4TH JUNE - Walking in Flanders Field

Speaker MELANIE GIBSON-BARTON

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 - "Rudyard Kipling's Life & Verse (in costume)" by Ken Hutchinson. This is sure to be an entertaining talk, about this fascinating and popular English journalist, short-story writer, poet, and novelist.

NEWS ITEM

British Red Cross - Red Cross WW1 volunteer records now complete - A project to digitise nearly a quarter of a million index cards for Great War volunteers was completed just before the end of April. You can search them at www.redcross.org.uk

EVENTS

28TH May - Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd. EC1M 7BA

Upstairs, Downstairs: My Ancestor was in Domestic Service - Many of our ancestors worked as domestic servants, some were employed in the "Big House" and some as glorified housekeepers to local artisans and tradesmen. There are no specific sets of records for domestic servants, but it is possible to piece together evidence from various records. Speaker Ian Waller, FSG.

Price £20.00 (Must be pre-booked) Time: 1030 - 1300 -

Divorced, Bigamist, Bereaved - Marriage Law for Genealogists - It's very likely that some of your ancestors married more than once over their lifetime. But why precisely? And what can their remarriages tell us? How likely was remarriage after bereavement, and what social and legal factors affected that decision? Was divorce an easy way out of marriage? If people committed bigamy, what were the likely consequences for all concerned? Drawing on thousands of cases, from the Old Bailey to magistrates' courts, this talk provides new research findings on the nature and extent of remarriage in past centuries and decades to help family historians interpret their ancestors' lives.

In our second talk, the lecturer will look at how, when and where did people in past centuries marry. This talk exposes the mistaken assumptions and folklore which lie behind most accounts of pre-twentieth-century marriage practices, and replaces them with the results of many years of painstaking primary research. Family historians just starting out will find advice on where 'missing' marriages are most likely to be found, while those already well advanced in tracing their family tree will be able to interpret their discoveries to better understand their ancestors' motivations in this most personal and universal of areas, and whether their choices made them exceptional or normal for their day. Speaker Prof Rebecca Probert - Time 1400-1700 - Price £20.00 Website: www.sog.org.uk

Kent Events

18TH MAY - Battleships and blockade: Jutland and the Royal Navy in WW1 - Otford and District Historical Society, Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street, TN14 5PQ - Speaker Nick Fothergill - Time 8 pm - Visitors £3.00

19TH May - Shakespeare's women: are they relevant today? - Kent History and Library Centre, James Whatman Way, Maidstone ME14 1LQ - Lynsey highlights some familiar Shakespearean female characters by examining the literature and also modern representations of the plays in film and on stage. She also aims to contextualise the original plays by considering examples of real early modern women who may have acted as inspiration as well as examples of influential literature written at the time. Speaker Lynsey Bladford - Time 6.30 pm, Tickets are £5 and can be booked by phoning 03000 414404 or emailing libraries@kent.gov.uk

24TH MAY - Our Newspaper Heritage - Tunbridge Wells Family History Society, Groombridge Village Hall, Station Rd, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9QX - by Maryl Catty. Time 7.30pm for 8pm start.

27TH MAY - Tonbridge, Growth of a Market Town - Kemsing Heritage Centre, St Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing, Kent TN15 6NA Speaker Patricia Mortlock - Time 7.30pm, non-members £2.50

7TH JUNE - A Right Royal Show/Happy and Glorious" - Royal visits and events from Queen Victoria through to Elizabeth II to North Kent focusing particularly on Dartford and Greenhithe - Swanley Historical Society, White Oak Indoor Bowls Club, Garrolds Close, off Hilda May Avenue, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7BF. Speaker Chris Baker, Time 7.30 pm, non-members £2.00

7TH JUNE - Brighton's West Pier: - Crowborough & District Historical Society, Pine Grove, Crowborough TN6 1FE - The story of Britain's first Grade 1 listed pier, looking back on its heyday of entertainment. Now just skeletal remains but soon to be the site of the i360 tower (574ft high) - a pier in the sky? Speaker Jackie Marsh-Hobbs - Time 7.30pm for 8pm start, non-members £4.00

15TH JUNE - Invitation to a Manorial Court - Kent Family History Society, The Birchington Village Centre, Alpha Road, Birchington, Kent CT7 9EG - Speaker by Jean Stirk - Time 7.30 pm

Sevenoaks Vine

The Vine Cricket Ground (*aka* Sevenoaks Vine) is one of the oldest cricket venues in England. It was given to the town of Sevenoaks in 1773 by John Frederick Sackville, 3rd Duke of Dorset (1745 – 1799) and owner of Knole House. The land was thought previously to have been used as a vineyard for the Archbishops of Canterbury, hence speculated to be why called The Vine.

The weatherboard pavilion, built in 1850 and extended in 1975, is listed. The Bandstand was built in 1894. Sevenoaks Vine Cricket Club and Sevenoaks Hockey Club are the two sports sections of The Sevenoaks Vine Club which now holds the head lease from the Town Council. Sevenoaks Vine Cricket Club pay Sevenoaks Town Council a rent of 1 peppercorn per year for the use of the ground, the archetypal peppercorn rent, (a nominal sum) but pay for all of the upkeep of The Vine even though it is common ground. SVCC used to pay one peppercorn for the pavilion but that has now assumed a more commercial rent of about £3600 p.a. and is paid by The Sevenoaks Vine Club. In keeping with tradition SVCC pay Lord Sackville (if asked) one cricket ball on 21 July each year. In practice this ceremony happens every year on the Wednesday of cricket week, which is the second week in July.

Sevenoaks Vine was a famous venue for major matches in the 18th century and is notable for being the first place in England where cricket was played with three stumps rather than two. The great England players of the time included Lumpy Stevens, Joseph Miller, William Bowe and John Minshall, who were all employed on

the Knole Estate. All were feared by the famous Hambledon Club. It was reputed that the accuracy of Lumpy Stevens led to the introduction of the third stump on 18th June 1777 on The Vine. Joseph Miller is generally considered to have been one of the greatest batsmen of the 18th century and is mostly associated with Kent. He died October 1784 at Bridge, Kent. The old notch stick was eventually replaced by score cards, the first of these being printed by Pratt, scorer to Sevenoaks Vine Cricket Club.

Its earliest known use was for Kent v Sussex on Friday 6 September 1734, a game which Kent won. The world record for the highest (known) individual score was twice established at the Vine. First, Joseph Miller playing for Kent v Hampshire in August 1774 made 95 out of 240 and enabled Kent to win by an innings and 35 runs. In June 1777 came one of the most remarkable innings of cricket's early history when James Aylward scored 167 for Hampshire v All-England. In a contemporary report, it is stated that: "Aylward went in at 5 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, and was not out till after three on Friday". Hampshire won by an innings and 168 runs.

The last known use of the Vine for a major match was the Kent v Sussex match in 1829. In addition to the cricket Club, Sevenoaks Hockey Club also shares the Vine Clubhouse, having done so since 1911. Today the ground is the home venue of Sevenoaks Vine CC which plays in the Shepherd Neame Kent Cricket League First XI Premier Division.

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vine_Cricket_Ground
<http://svcc1734.org/info/history/>

11.05.2016

ON THIS DAY

MAY 12TH is the 132ND day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 233 days remain until the end of the year.

- 907** Zhu Wen forces Emperor Ai into abdicating, ending the Tang dynasty after nearly three hundred years of rule.
- 1191** Richard I of England marries Berengaria of Navarre who is crowned Queen consort of England the same day.
- 1551** National University of San Marcos, the oldest university in the Americas, is founded in Lima, Peru
- 1797** War of the First Coalition: Napoleon I of France conquers Venice
- 1820** Florence Nightingale, English nurse and hospital reformer, is born (d. 1910)
- 1860** Charles Barry, English architect, designed Upper Brook Street Chapel and the Palace of Westminster dies (b. 1795)
- 1907** Actress Katherine Hepburn, is born
- 1926** General Strike: In the United Kingdom, a nine-day general strike by trade unions ends
- 1935** Alcoholics Anonymous is founded in Akron, Ohio by Bill Wilson, a stockbroker, and Dr. Bob Smith, a heart surgeon
- 1937** At London's Westminster Abbey, George VI and his consort, Lady Elizabeth, are crowned king and queen. The procession was televised by the BBC, the first coronation to be broadcast on television
- 1967** The British Government gives the go-ahead to proposals to convert Stansted into an international airport
- 1994** Labour Leader John Smith died
- 2000** Ford quits Dagenham after 70 years, car production is transferred to Germany and Spain, with the loss of 3,000 jobs

Don't forget our Photographic Competition

Photographic Competition for the 2017 NWKFHS Calendar Entries needed from you for the second NWKFHS calendar (2017). Whilst full details are in the March journal you might like to start thinking about your entries, which must be loosely connected with Family History and the areas covered by the NWKFHS. (See our notice board for more information)

Details: *It should be your own work, a digital image (preferred) minimum 300 dpi, and colour or black and white prints should be 8 by 5 inches. Closing date for entries will be 30th June 2016. (Copyright statement in March Journal)*

Winners will get a free copy of the calendar and will be featured in the Journal – **Good Luck!**

NWKFHS WORKSHOPS - The two hour workshops are limited to 10 people, but are repeated if there is demand. Let us know if there is one you missed and would like it repeated. Workshops are held at the Library, Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley Contact Janet Rose (01322-384836). Bookings and enquiries please email workshops@nwkfhs.org. Also see our notice board or please ask a member at one of our meetings. **Details of forthcoming workshops:**

18 May 2016 - The 1939 Register - Leader Christine Hills.

25 May 2016 - Your Society Needs YOU! – Transcribing, checking and editing of Society publications; a workshop for volunteers interested in becoming transcribers, checkers and editors. Additional volunteers are needed to help with the production of new publications from original documents. Join this workshop to find out how you can help.

15 June 2016 The Poor Are Always With Us – A Workshop on Poor Laws and Settlement, a guide on how and why our ancestors may have been touched by these records, where to find them and how to interpret them. Leader Jean Stirk

20 July 2016 300 Years of Taxes before 1700 - A workshop aimed at finding and using the records in The National Archives. The database to E179 is the index to places, and can identify which original records include names and dates. These are essential in confirming your research and expanding the knowledge of your ancestors especially before parish registers. Leader Joyce Hoad

17 August 2016 Your Family in History - A Timeline A guide through history (1538- 1914) briefly highlighting events and their effects on your ancestors lives. This is more in the form of a discussion group so that you can introduce events that affected you ancestors. Leader Hilary Waters

28 September 2016 An Introduction to Family Historian - A Genealogy and Family Tree Software Computer Program This workshop will provide an overview of this UK program. Content will include preferences, data entry, importing data from other programs, as well as introducing diagrams, reports and the adding of photos. It will also cover the method of recording sources and their respective citations. Aimed at beginners. This is a repeat of the workshop first held in April 2016. Leader Brian Kirk

More information from workshop leader Barbara Phillips:

Email publications@nwkfhs.org.uk or Bookings to workshops@nwkfhs.org

The Sevenoaks Committee

Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters

Committee Members

Christina Barnett, Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Robert Barnett, Bernie Wilkins, Barbara Stead, Sandra Marchant