



# Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



## NEXT BRANCH MEETING

13TH DECEMBER AT SEVENOAKS  
IN THE WAKE OF THE HURRICANE

BOB OGLE

## OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

### BROMLEY

17TH NOVEMBER 2012 - THE QUEENS OWN WEST KENT  
REGIMENT IN WW1 -  
CHRIS JUPP

### DARTFORD

1ST DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PAST:  
SOME FESTIVE CUSTOMS AND TRADITION  
DR. COLIN CHAPMAN

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.

Books may be borrowed at no charge and the magazines are a snip at 20 pence each. You might just find the publication you are looking for.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at Sevenoaks Community Centre, Otford Road Sevenoaks, TN13 5DN. Doors open at 7.15pm. 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 EVENINGS TALK IS 'GEORGIAN TIMES' BY MRS SHEILA BOYD.**

The population of Britain grew rapidly during the Georgian period. It was a time of excessive luxury and excessive poverty and the birth of industrialisation. This evenings talk will help provide us an insight into the lives of our ancestors during this period of our history, I cannot wait...

## **News Items**

North West Kent Family History Society's new e-Newsletter. The Society has launched a new Society e-Newsletter which is available to download from the NWKFHS website. The Newsletter will be published on a regular basis and it is intended to provide more news and information on a regular basis. It is available to all, members and non members. Eventually it is hoped you will be able to subscribe to the news letter so you can have it delivered direct to your e-mail. The e-Newsletter is being edited by The Society's Journal Editor and if there is anything that would be of interest to readers that you would like to be considered to be included in future editions please contact the Editor by e-mail at [editor@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:editor@nwkhfs.org.uk). The Society is also looking at further resources being available on the website.

Until 18 November on Findmypast you can view 1911 England & Wales Census transcripts free. A great opportunity to find more of those ancestors. Furthermore they have published 20,000 new London Docklands baptism records as part of their Docklands Ancestors collection. Visit their site at [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

FamilySearch have added Kent Bishops' Transcripts 1560-1911 and Quarter Sessions and Court Files 1558-1899. Visit their website at <https://familysearch.org/>

DeceasedOnline cemetery and crematorium records site has completed its collections for the borough of Greenwich, covering over 400,000 records. Visit their website at <http://www.deceasedonline.com/>

The military records website Forces War Records <http://tinyurl.com/cacec9q> has added in excess of 40,000 records of officers of the Home Guard in WWII. Records include enrolment forms, award recommendations & cabinet papers dating from 1940-1944.

## **Events**

### **Saturday 17th November - The Foundations of Family History - The IHGS, 79-82 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BA**

This day school is aimed at giving people a thorough grounding to the subject of Family History. All topics will include discussion of original records and online sources as well as practical research advice. Knowledge of basic sources will enable students to have an excellent foundation for tracing their own family history. The course covers General Registration and Census Returns, Parish Registers, Wills, a Practical Exercise and a Buffet Luncheon. The price for the course is £37.00, or £30.00 for IHGS Members and correspondence course students. Booking required in advance, contact by phone 01227 768664 visit their website <http://ihgs.ac.uk>

### **Monday 26th November - Collecting and using voice and film recordings in family history - LMA, Clerkenwell, London EC1R**

Recording family members can be a good way of finding more out about you family history. This afternoon event looks at some basic approaches to getting the most out of recording or filming. From 14:00-16:30. Cost £8 (or book four sessions for £25) - booking required in advance. Book by phone on 020 7332 3851 or visit <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/events/Pages/event-detail.aspx?eventid=5481>

### **Now until 10th January 2013 - Workhouse Exhibition - London Metropolitan Archives, Clerkenwell, London EC1R**

The LMA have explored their records to find the real stories of Londoners in the workhouse from Master to inmate, in an attempt to tell us about their lives. The records provide insights into the ways in which the Poor Law Guardians sought to run their workhouses and deal with the variety of people who had fallen on hard times. The records at London Metropolitan Archives are a rich source for the social and architectural history of the period as well as for tracing the history of people admitted to the workhouses. Open between 09:30-16:45 - admission free. Contact details 020 7332 3851 or visit <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/events/Pages/event-detail.aspx?eventid=620>

### **Now until 1st January 2013- Cecil Beaton, Theatre of War - Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Rd. London SE1 6HZ**

Cecil Beaton is one of Britain's most celebrated photographers and designers but his extraordinary work as a wartime photographer is less well-known. Commissioned by the Ministry of Information in July 1940, Beaton was the longest serving high-profile photographer to cover the Second World War. He travelled throughout Britain, the Middle East, India, China and Burma and captured a work on the brink of lasting change. In later years, Beaton attributed his war photographs as his single most important body of photographic work. Through his photographs, drawings and books as well as his work in theatre and film, this exhibition tells the story of how the war became a personal turning point in Beaton's career. Open daily 10:00-18:00 - Admission Adult £7.20, Concessions £5.40. Contact details 020 7416 5000. Or book online, visit their website [www.iwm.org.uk/exhibitions/iwm-london/cecil-beaton-theatre-of-war](http://www.iwm.org.uk/exhibitions/iwm-london/cecil-beaton-theatre-of-war)

## Historical Figure - Edith Appleton

Edith Appleton was born 9th June 1877 in Deal, Kent, the 10th of 13 children.

Edith trained at St Bartholomew's Hospital from 1900 to 1904 where she was acknowledged to be an excellent student. She was employed in private nursing between 1905 & 1908 and as a Health Visitor in 1911/1912. She joined the Civil Hospital Reserve set up by the War Office a few years earlier to provide a list of those prepared to serve should war occur. She joined for duty at Fort Pitt, Chatham on 16th September 1914 and it is supposed that some point later she transferred to the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Edith kept diaries of her experience as a nurse working close to the front line. In a letter she tells how she left Southampton and travelled via Dungeness and Dover, arriving at Oostende in the early hours of Sunday 10 October 1914. A couple of days later she sailed to Boulogne.

December 1914 she wrote from 10 Stationary Hospital which was at St Omer. A further letter dated 23 February 1915 showed she had relocated to No 3 Casualty Clearing Station, which is recorded as being at Hazebrouck at that time. Due to enemy action it was forced to move to Poperinghe in April 1915 and then to Bailloul in May. In November 1915 she transferred to No. 1 General Hospital at Etretat and thereafter worked at a number of other postings throughout the war including Abbeville, Le Treport and Boulogne. She served in France for the full duration of the war.

After the armistice in November 1918 she joined 42 Ambulance Train and in February 1919 was appointed to the staff of Dame Maud McCarthy, Matron in Chief, at Boulogne. She was demobilised on 22 December 1919.

After the War she worked at Bedford College, London. In 1923 she moved to Brishstone in the Isle of Wight where she lived with a number of her siblings. In 1926 she married Lt Cmdr John Bonsor Ledger, they had no children. She died in 1958 at the age of 81.

Her handwritten diaries detail the horrors of wartime, such as the first use of poison gas. However, they also record some infrequent lighter moments and how she and her colleagues spent their time off duty, which provide an insight to what life was really like for nurses at the Western Front.

Edith was awarded the Military OBE, the Royal Red Cross and the Belgian Queen Elizabeth medal.

Her diaries were published as a book and eBook on 1st March 2012 by Simon & Schuster with the Imperial War Museum.

Visit her website for more information and to view extracts from her diaries. [www.edithappleton.org.uk](http://www.edithappleton.org.uk)

(Source <http://www.edithappleton.org.uk/default.asp> - 04.11.12)

### Civil Hospital Reserve [CHR] -

At the beginning of the twentieth century the War Office recognised that in the event of war there would not be enough military nurses to meet the needs of the Army. Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service was a small consortium, and though adequate to staff the larger military hospitals in peacetime, the numbers were entirely inadequate for wartime. In 1906 the QAIMNS Nursing Board considered ways to solve this problem. They produced a 'Report on the Expansion of the Nursing Service to meet the needs of War.' Their solution was to increase the size of the QAIMNS Reserve, and to make retired members of the regular service liable to recall in the event of war. However, neither of these plans were successful, and predicted numbers continued to fall short of requirements by about 800. In 1910, the War Office applied for help to the civil hospitals. In 1911 the Civil Hospital Reserve was formed, to 'supplement the nursing services in the military hospitals of peace garrisons.' Some of the largest of the United Kingdom's hospitals invited their qualified nursing staff to offer their services to the War Office. A register was drawn up of suitably skilled women who were willing to recruit on the outbreak of war, on the understanding that their jobs would be protected, and they would be able to return to their previous roles at the end of the war. In August 1914, 600 women were ready for mobilization with the Civil Hospital Reserve. Although they were originally intended for service in home hospitals only, many quickly found themselves serving with the British Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders and wearing the uniform of the QAIMNS Reserve. There was no further enrolment to the CHR during the war, and over the course of the next four years almost all these members transferred, serving under contracts with the Reserve.

(Source <http://www.westernfrontassociation.com/great-war-on-land/78-cas-med/1140-british-military-nurses-and-the-great-war-a-guide-to-the-services.html> - 04.11.12)

## ON THIS DAY - 8TH NOVEMBER

**1097** Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, goes into exile after a breach with William II over papal supremacy

**1226** Death of King Louis VIII of France (b. 1187)

**1605** Robert Catesby, ringleader of the Gunpowder Plotters, is killed.

**1710** Sarah Fielding (sister of Henry Fielding) English writer is born (d. 1768)

**1793** Louvre in Paris opens

**1895** While experimenting with electricity, German born Wilhelm Röntgen discovers the X-ray.

**1932** Franklin D. Roosevelt elected 32nd president for 1st time.

**1965** The Race Relations Act comes into effect, banning racial discrimination in public places in Britain.

## This month's tip to tracing your Family History - Further Census research observations

Locate your ancestors place of abode on a map and research local churches, cemeteries and other places where they may have left a record.

Its estimated that 5 percent of the population just do not appear in the census. Reasons you might not be able to find your ancestor in the censuses include people who slept rough and individuals deliberately avoiding being recorded. Additionally, between 5 & 10 percent of the 1861 census is simply missing.

Conversely a person may pop up twice in the same census year, having been present at different houses when the enumerators arrived at different times.

If you don't have a computer many libraries and Family History Societies hold copies of local censuses on microfilm of which many are indexed. Additionally libraries may be able to provide you access through the internet.

**Did you know** before 1926 boys could marry at 14 and girls at 12, providing they had the consent of both their parents.

### NWKFHS Family History Workshops

Held at the Library, Joydens Wood, Bexley, Kent, DA5 2EE

21st November - Land tax and the 1909 survey - Joyce Hoad

December - No workshop

23rd January - Beginning Your Family History - Janet Rose

February - TBA

20th March - Early Census [Pre 1841] & Census-like List - Jean Stirk

Each workshop lasts for two hours. 10 members per workshop. Cost £5.00 donation, including refreshments.

Book by sending an email to [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk) to request a form, or by contacting Janet Rose on 01322 384836

## Sevenoaks Library have a volunteer at the Library every Thursday from 4.30 - 7.00pm to help you trace your ancestors online -

### Sevenoaks Local Studies Library - Contact number 08458 247200

Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1LQ - Telephone number - 01732 453118 / 452384

Open Hours - Mon-Wed & Fri 9.30-5.30, Thu 9.30-7.00, Sat 9.30-5.00

Appointment required for microfilm and fiche readers.

Parking, refreshments and toilets nearby. Suitable for disabled (lift access)

## The Sevenoaks Committee

### Branch Chair

Barbara Attwaters

### Committee members

Christina Barnett, Debbie Hill

Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden

Robert Barnett, Geoff Webb, Bernie Wilkins