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Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

10TH DECEMBER

Outsiders - Smugglers etc.

GEOFF DOEL & PARTNER

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY

21ST NOVEMBER - WW1 - GALLIPOLI

Speaker CHRIS JUPP

DARTFORD

5TH DECEMBER - The Politeness of Princes: The reality of medieval etiquette and table manners.

Speaker IMOGEN CORRIGAN

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 is "The Unknown Warrior" who is buried in Westminster Abbey as a memorial to the dead of WWI; the speaker is Don Doncaster. This is a change to the scheduled talk.

NEWS ITEMS

Findmypast - The 1939 Register has been released online by Findmypast in partnership with The National Archives:

In December 1938 the House of Commons announced that in the event of war, a National Register would be taken that listed the personal details of every civilian in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This Register was to be a vital tool in coordinating the war effort at home. It would be used to issue identity cards, organise rationing and more.

Britain declared war on the 3 Sept 1939 and on 5th Sept, the National Registration Act received royal assent; Registrar General Sir Sylvanus Vivian declared that National Registration Day would be 29th Sept. Forms were distributed to more than 41 million people, and the enumerators were tasked with visiting every household in Great Britain and Northern Ireland to collect the names, addresses, martial statuses and other key details of every civilian in the country, issuing identity cards on the spot.

The identity cards issued were essential from the point the Register was taken until 1952, when the legal requirement to carry them ceased. Until that point, every member of the civilian population had to be able to present their card upon request by an official (parents looked after children's cards), or bring them to a police station within 48 hours. Reasons included - knowing who everyone was and to track their movements as they moved house, also to keep track of the population as babies were born and people died.

The 1939 Register has turned out to be one of the most important documents in 20th century Britain. The information it contains not only helped toward the war effort, it was also used in the founding of the NHS. Furthermore, the 1931 census was destroyed during an air raid on London and the 1941 census was never taken. Therefore this register is the only surviving overview of the civil population of England and Wales spanning the period 1921-1951. It bridges a census gap that risked losing an entire generation, and is a fascinating resource for anyone interested in understanding 20th century Britain and its people; and of course us genealogists.

To protect the privacy of people who are still living (or who may be still living), presently the details of only about 28 million individuals can be seen. Despite this, the project is a major advantage to family historians. It will become increasingly useful as additional people are added to those whose details we can view.

If you visit The National Archives in person, you can access these images too without having to pay.

EVENTS

Saturday 14th November - 10am - 1pm - Erith Library - WWI Drop-in session at 100 Erith High Street, Erith, DA8 1SL

25th November - My Ancestor was Catholic - Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd. EC1M 7BA

From the talk you will learn more about how to use the wealth of historical records available to help you unlock your Catholic ancestors' past. A one-hour lecture, at 2pm with Michael Gandy - Cost £8.00 (£6.40) Contact 020 7553 3290 or book online at www.sog.org.uk

28th November - Family History - Basics of Internet Research - Tonbridge Adult Education Centre, Avebury Ave., TN9 1TG

This course will introduce you to the main areas of research e.g. civil records and censuses (parish registers, if time allows). Guidance will be given on how to develop Internet search skills relevant to family history. To get the most out of this course, you will need basic IT skills, including the ability to use a keyboard and mouse and some experience of using the Internet.

Cost £40.00 - Time 1000-1600 - Contact by phone 03000 41 2222- Website www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk

1st December 2015 and the 1st Tuesday every month until December 2016 - Family History Day - Gravesend Library, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BE

Discover Your Past on our Family History Research Day - One hour allocated session to trace your families past. Spaces limited, booking essential. Time 9:30am - 4:00pm - Contact Tel. 03000 41 31 31 - gravesendlibrary@kent.gov.uk

18th Jan- 28th March 2016 - Family History - Basics Steps - Dartford Adult Education Centre, Summerhill Rd, DA1 2LP

Over eight weeks this course will look at how to get started researching your family history and how to use some of the sources available e.g. census returns, birth, marriage and death records and military records. During the course you will be able to start building your own family tree. Cost £94.00 - Time 1300-1500 - Free onsite parking - Contact Tel. 0300 041 2222 - Website www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk

NWKFHS Library Christmas Open Days 9th & 16th December - Visitors welcome come along for chat and free tea or coffee plus mince pie NWKFHS Library Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood Estate, Bexley DA5 2EE. Open every Wednesday, 10am-4pm.

Contact email - library@nwkfhs.org.uk



Captain Robert Falcon Scott

'Scott of the Antarctic' was a naval officer and explorer, who died attempting to be the first to reach the South Pole.'

Robert Falcon Scott was born on 6 June 1868, the third child out of six and elder son of John Edward and Hannah (née Cuming) Scott of Stoke Damerel near Devonport. Although Scott's father was a brewer and magistrate, there were naval and military traditions in the family, Scott's grandfather and four uncles all having served in the army or navy. John Scott's prosperity came from the ownership of a small Plymouth brewery which he inherited from his father and subsequently sold. In later years, when Scott was establishing his naval career, the family would suffer serious financial misfortune, but his early childhood years were spent in comfort.

He became a naval cadet at the age of 13 and served on a number of Royal Navy ships in the 1880s and 1890s. In 1894, while serving as torpedo officer on the depot ship HMS *Vulcan*, Scott learned of the financial calamity that had overtaken his family. John Scott, having sold the brewery and invested the proceeds unwisely, had lost all his capital and was now virtually bankrupt. At the age of 63, and in poor health, he was forced to take a job as a brewery manager and move his family to Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Three years later, while Robert was serving with the Channel squadron flagship HMS *Majestic*, John Scott died of heart disease, creating a fresh family crisis. Hannah Scott and her two unmarried daughters now relied entirely on the service pay of Scott and the salary of younger brother Archie, who had left the army for a higher-paid post in the colonial service. Archie's own death in the autumn of 1898, after contracting typhoid fever meant that the whole financial responsibility for the family rested on Scott.

Promotion, and the extra income this would bring, now became a matter of considerable concern to Scott. In the Royal Navy however, prospects for career advancement were both limited and keenly sought after by ambitious officers. However, Scott attracted the notice of the Royal Geographical Society, which provided him the opportunity for early command and a chance to distinguish himself. He was appointed to command the National Antarctic Expedition of 1901-1904. The expedition - which included Ernest Shackleton - reached further south than anyone before them and Scott returned to Britain a national hero. He had caught the exploring bug and began to plan an expedition to be the first to reach the South Pole. He spent years raising funds for the trip.

Scott, who because of his *Discovery* fame had entered Edwardian Society, and he first met Kathleen Bruce early in 1907 at a private luncheon party. She was a sculptress, socialite and cosmopolitan whose circle included Isadora Duncan and Pablo Picasso. Her initial meeting with Scott was brief, but when they met again, the mutual attraction was obvious. A stormy courtship followed; Scott was not her only suitor—his main rival was would-be novelist Gilbert Cannan and his absences at sea did not assist his cause. However, Scott's persistence was rewarded and, on 2 Sep 1908, at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, the wedding took place. Their only child, Peter Markham Scott, was born on 14 Sep 1909, who was later to become the founder of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The whaling ship *Terra Nova* left Cardiff, Wales in June 1910 and the expedition set off from base the following October, with mechanical sledges, ponies and dogs. However, the sledges and ponies could not cope with the conditions and the expedition carried on without them, through appalling weather and increasingly tough terrain. In mid December, the dog teams turned back, leaving the rest to face the ascent of the Beardmore Glacier and the polar plateau. By January 1912, only five remained: Scott, Wilson, Oates, Bowers and Evans.

On 17 January, they reached the pole, only to find that a Norwegian party led by Roald Amundsen, had beaten them there. They started the 1,500 km journey back. Evans died in mid-February. By March, Oates was suffering from severe frostbite and, knowing he was holding back his companions, walked out into the freezing conditions never to be seen again. The remaining three men died of starvation and exposure in their tent on 29 March 1912. They were in fact only 20 km from a pre-arranged supply depot.

Eight months later, a search party found the tent, the bodies and Scott's diary. The bodies were buried under the tent, with a cairn of ice and snow to mark the spot.

The survivors of the expedition were suitably honoured on their return, with polar medals and promotions for the naval personnel. In place of the knighthood that might have been her husband's had he survived, Kathleen Scott was granted the rank and precedence of a widow of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath. In 1922, she married Edward Hilton Young, later Lord Kennet (she becoming Lady Kennet), and remained a doughty defender of Scott's reputation until her death, aged 69, in 1947.

Sources: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/scott_of_antarctic.shtml
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Falcon_Scott

08/11/2015

New Society Calendar -

Don't forget to buy your 2016 Society wall calendar. The calendar has a page for each month, plus cover & society information page. Each month is illustrated with a colour photograph of a historic landmark in west Kent, taken by a Society member. The Branch meeting dates are highlighted & included are the previous & next month views. Each calendar is supplied in an envelope, ideal for posting e.g. as a Christmas present. It can be purchased at Branch Meetings, the Society Library and other Society events for £4.50.

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 12TH is the 216TH day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 49 days remain until the end of the year.

1035 Cnut the Great Danish-English king dies (b. 985)

1439 Plymouth England, becomes the first town incorporated by the English Parliament

1555 The English Parliament re-establishes Catholicism

1606 Nurse Jeanne Mance, born in France: she was one of the founders of Montreal Canadian (founded first hospital in North America)

1775 General Washington forbids recruiting officers enlisting blacks

1823 Great North Holland Canal (Amsterdam) opens

1847 Sir James Young Simpson, a British physician, is the first to use chloroform as an anaesthetic

1912 The frozen bodies of Robert Scott and his men are found on the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica

1929 Grace Kelly, actress/Princess (Monaco), born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (d. 1982)

1933 Hugh Gray takes the first known photos alleged to be of the Loch Ness Monster

1954 Ellis Island, immigration station in NY Harbour, closed



Don't forget to bring a small plate of

food next month for our

Christmas party -



The Sevenoaks Committee

Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters

Committee Members

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