



10TH NOVEMBER 2016

ISSUE NUMBER 44

Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

8th DECEMBER

The curious history of Christmas Food:
From Yorkshire Pies to 12th night cakes
Speaker: Dr Peter Ross

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY

19TH NOVEMBER -

A History of the British Music Halls -
How they began, rose in popularity and declined 1850-1950
Speaker - Alan Baker

DARTFORD

3rd DECEMBER - A Country House Christmas
Speaker Pat Morlock

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 hope 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 - "For the High Jump"

Speaker John Mills, This evening's talk is the story of capital punishment in Britain.

NEWS ITEMS

Ancestry: The Royal Irish Constabulary Records - The Royal Irish Constabulary policed Ireland from 1814 up to 1922, alongside the Dublin Metropolitan Police. They were tasked with keeping the peace on the streets of Ireland during quite turbulent times; the Tithing Wars, the rise of Fenianism and the Land War. Around 80% of the police officers were local Catholic men. The new records will help you learn more about the officers and their families. You can see where and when each man served, plus details of the pension they were eventually paid. If they had died by the time the records were made, you'll find the names of their widow and children, and how much they each received in allowances. See website ancestry.co.uk

Also on Ancestry - Scanned and indexed images of many parish registers from Oxfordshire can now be viewed. As well as baptisms, marriages and burials, information is included from registers of banns. The total number of records amounts to some 2,000,000 items. This collection has been prepared in conjunction with Oxfordshire Family History Society and the Oxfordshire History Centre.

BOOK SALE - All books 50% off at our November and December meetings in Sevenoaks -

Christmas is just around the corner so this is an ideal time to buy a book as a present for someone or maybe a treat for you.

Please take a look at our Bookstall (new books) which has an exceptional collection of local interest books, not always available at other local bookstores, and grab a bargain tonight.

EVENTS

15th November - Document Handling at LMA - London Metropolitan Archives - 40 Northampton Rd, EC1R 0HB

This practical session aims to help you to handle archival items in the most appropriate way. As well as demonstrating how to handle various archival formats, a conservator will also explain the dos and don'ts that apply in the Archive Study Area.

Time 1300 pm to 1400pm - Cost Free drop in event no need to book - visit www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

23rd November - Under-used Sources for Family Historians: Rate Books - The Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd. EC1M 7BA

Because they name owners and occupiers, rate books of all sorts can help us to pinpoint heads of household between censuses, or even be used as a kind of substitute when census entries are missing. This lecture will look at what different types of rates were recorded, where these big books can be found when they survive, and how to use them efficiently. Speaker is Sophie Pigott.

Time 1400-1500 - Price £8.00 - Website: www.sog.org.uk

Kent Events

17th November - Post - War Education - The Wilderness years - Otford and District Historical Society, Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street, TN14 5PQ - Speaker Ed Thompson and Alan Williams - Time 8 pm - Visitors £3.00

17th November - 'Meet Mr Warden' - Leigh and District Historical Society, Small Village Hall, High Street, Leigh, Kent TN11 8RL - Speaker Steve Hookins - Time 8pm start - Non-members £2.00

18th November - Edith Cavell - Kemsing Heritage Centre, St Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing, Kent TN15 6NA - Speaker Paul Rasen. Time 7.30pm, non-members £2.50

24th November - Lucky me, my Ancestors' were Ag Labs'. - Kent Family History Society, Medway Branch, All Saints Parish Hall, Church Green, Frindsbury, ME2 4HY - Speaker Peter Ewart - Time 1430-1630 - Visitors £2.00

6th December - AGM - Crowborough & District Historical Society, Pine Grove, Crowborough TN6 1FE
8pm start, non-members £4.00

6th December - Lost Empires - The last days of Music Halls an Variety - Swanley Historical Society, White Oak Indoor Bowls Club, Garrolds Close, off Hilda May Avenue, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7BF.

Speaker Wilf Lower - Time 7.30 pm, non- members £2.00 - Also Christmas Social



Photo by Just chaos

The History of the Poppy

Much of the fighting during the First World War took place in Western Europe. Previously beautiful countryside, was blasted, bombed and fought over, again and again. The landscape swiftly turned to fields of mud: bleak and barren scenes where little or nothing could grow. However, bright red Flanders poppies (Papaver rhoeas), delicate but resilient flowers grew in their thousands, flourishing even in the middle of chaos and destruction.

In early May 1915, shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lt Col John McCrae, was inspired by the sight of poppies growing in the battle scarred fields and wrote the now famous poem called 'In Flanders Fields'. (See poem on the notice board). John McCrae died of pneumonia on 28 January 1918.

McCrae's poem moved an American academic, Moina Michael, who pledged to "keep the faith" and vowed always to wear a red poppy of Flanders Fields as a sign of remembrance. Compelled to make a note of this pledge she wrote her own poem titled "We Shall Keep the Faith". (See the Notice Board for poem)

Moina had the idea that the poppy should be a memorial to those who died but by 1920 she was beginning to lose hope that it would ever come to fruition and considered abandoning the scheme. However, in early 1920 a number of organisations did adopt the red poppy as a result of her dedicated campaign.

Madame Anna E Guérin, a representative of the French YMCA Secretariat, was present at the 29 September National American Legion convention. Anna considered that artificial poppies could be made and sold as a way of raising money for the benefit of the French people, especially, as result of the war, the suffering orphaned children. Anna was determined to introduce the idea of the memorial poppy to the nations which had been allied with France during the First World War.

In 1921 Anna sent some French women to London to sell their artificial red poppies. This was the first introduction to the British people of Moina Michael's idea of the Memorial Poppy. Madame Guérin went in person to visit Field Marshal Earl Douglas Haig, founder and President of The British Legion. She persuaded him to adopt the Flanders Poppy as an emblem for The Legion. This was formalized in the autumn of 1921.

The (Royal) British Legion in 1921 ordered 9 million of these poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. The poppies sold out almost immediately and that first ever 'Poppy Appeal' raised over £106,000; a considerable amount of money at the time, which was used to help WW1 veterans with employment and housing. The following year, Major George Howson set up the Poppy Factory to employ disabled ex-Servicemen. The demand for poppies in England was so high that few were reaching Scotland. Earl Haig's wife established the 'Lady Haig Poppy Factory' in Edinburgh in 1926 to produce poppies exclusively for Scotland.

Today, The Poppy Factory is the country's leading employment charity for veterans with health conditions or impairments. They work with businesses across the country to provide bespoke opportunities and ongoing employment support for hundreds of disabled veterans of all ages and from all Services. The factory in Richmond also employs around 30 disabled veterans to produce the poppies and wreaths for the Royal Family and The Royal British Legion's annual Poppy Appeal- something they have been doing since founded in 1922. The factory and the Legion's warehouse in Aylesford produce millions of poppies each year. Over 5 million Scottish poppies (which have four petals and no leaf unlike poppies in the rest of the UK) are still made by hand by disabled ex-Servicemen at Lady Haig's Poppy Factory each year and distributed by their sister charity Poppyscotland.

Sources: <http://www.greatwar.co.uk/article/remembrance-poppy.htm>
<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/how-we-remember/the-story-of-the-poppy/> 04.11.2016

2017 AGM REMINDER -

We wanted to tell you that the 2017 AGM is to be held at West Heath School, Ashgrove Rd, Sevenoaks, TN13 1SR. This 18th century building is steeped in history; the rooms are classically designed with high ceilings and are bright and airy. This is a beautiful setting for our AGM, which we are thrilled to secure. The meeting will be the typical all day event, held on Saturday 22nd April 2017, including guest speakers and food. More details to follow.

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 10TH is the 315TH day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 51 days remain until the end of the year.

1202 Fourth Crusade: Despite letters from Pope Innocent III forbidding it and threatening excommunication, Catholic crusaders begin a siege of Zara (now Zadar, Croatia)

1341 Henry Percy, 1st Earl of Northumberland, English politician, and descendant of King Henry III (d. 1408)

1697 William Hogarth, English painter, illustrator, and critic is born (d. 1764)

1847 The passenger ship *Stephen Whitney* is wrecked in thick fog off the southern coast of Ireland, killing 92 of the 110 on board. The disaster results in the construction of the Fastnet Rock lighthouse

1871 Henry Morton Stanley locates missing explorer and missionary, Dr. David Livingstone in Ujiji, near Lake Tanganyika, famously greeting him with the words, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

1918 The Western Union Cable Office in North Sydney, Nova Scotia, receives a top-secret coded message from Europe (that would be sent to Ottawa and Washington, D.C.) that said on November 11, 1918, all fighting would cease on land, sea and in the air

1983 Bill Gates introduces Windows 1.0

Society Calendar -

Don't forget to buy your 2017 Society wall calendar. Our improved calendar has a page for each month, which is illustrated with a photograph of beautiful Kent, taken by a Society member. Each calendar is supplied in an envelope, ideal for posting as a Christmas present. It can be purchased at Branch Meetings, the Society Library and other Society events for £4.50. All contributions after costs will be added to Society funds.

For postal sales UK, P&P is an extra £2.85 for second class or £3.35 first class. Overseas postage costs on request. To order by post, email emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk - So don't miss out and order yours now, it will soon be Christmas...!

FOR SALE - The society has two compact micro fiche readers for sale at Sevenoaks Branch, if you are interested please speak to Barbara Attwaters for further details

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, Sandra Marchant