



Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

13TH NOVEMBER SEVENOAKS

"Walking in Flanders Fields"

Speaker MELANIE GIBSON-BARTON

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

18TH OCTOBER BROMLEY

Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates: what is true and what may be true on 'certified' copies

Speaker DAVID WRIGHT

1ST NOVEMBER DARTFORD

Military Medals – Powerpoint presentation

(Gallantry, Campaign, Long Service etc.)

Speaker GLEN JONES

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 'INNS OF COURT' by Ian Bevan.

The Inns of Court are still quiet enclaves in central London.

Established in the 14th century, these places have been used by lawyers ever since. The area is rich in legal history & has been home to many famous people. This talk describes the feature of these historic parts of London & some of the characters who have frequented its courts & alleyways.

NEWS ITEMS

Findmypast - Findmypast has added over 500,000 records to their site, including Dorset Marriages 1538-1902, London Poor Law Records 1581-1899, Northamptonshire Hearth Tax records 1674, and Archbishop of York Marriage Licenses 1613-1839.

Website www.findmypast.co.uk

The National Archives of Ireland is continually adding to its online catalogue both newly accessioned material and legacy material that has been listed to modern archival standards. The following records have recently been added to the online catalogue: Cork District Probate Registry: testamentary records relating to the years 1983 - 1988, Dundalk District Probate Registry: testamentary records relating to the years 1983 - 1987, Galway District Probate Registry: testamentary records relating to the years 1983 - 1985, Kilkenny District Probate Registry: testamentary records relating to the years 1983 - 1985, Letterkenny (Lifford) District Probate Registry: testamentary records relating to the years 1983 - 1988, Limerick District Probate Registry: testamentary records relating to the years 1983 - 1988.

The Genealogist - The first completed list of over 1.3 million 'wounded servicemen' as published by the War Office during the First World War is now available online. They have released a comprehensive collection of 'Wounded' of the First World War online - this fully completed list contains records of the servicemen wounded in the British and Commonwealth forces. Covering servicemen of all ranks from all walks of life, the records of Casualty Lists now available on TheGenealogist cover all the years of the First World War.

EVENTS

11th October 2014 –Military Records – Army, RAF ad Navy - The IHGS, 79-82 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BA

Most of us will have ancestors who served in the armed forces at some time. Military records can give invaluable insight not only into your ancestor's life whilst in the military but can also give essential genealogical information to help extend your family tree. The course will cover records from the 18th-21st centuries and will discuss both online and original sources. Price £40.00 or £35.00 for IHGS Members and correspondence course students, buffet lunch is included. Contact telephone number 01227 768664 or visit their website www.ihgs.ac.uk

18th October 2014 –Parish and the Manor - The IHGS, 79-82 Northgate, Canterbury, CT1 1BA

There is much more to parish records than merely the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials. This course will introduce you to the many other records available and how they can not only help you to trace your family history but can also give an insight into the daily life of our ancestors. - Price £40.00 or £35.00 for IHGS Members and correspondence course students, buffet lunch is included. Contact telephone number 01227 768664 or visit their website www.ihgs.ac.uk

12th & 19th October Black Poppies: Britain's Black Community and the First World War – Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ

Historian Stephen Bourne presents an illustrated talk about his latest book, *Black Poppies*, as he discusses Britain's black community during the First World War. Free event – Contact by phone 020 7416 5000 - Website www.iwm.org.uk

Until 1st November Temporary exhibition: Family stories from the WWI war memorials – Greenwich Heritage Centre, Artillery Square, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich SE18 4DX

Discover the fascinating lives of some of the local men who died in WWI and are remembered on local war memorials. Their stories provide a powerful exhibition, which is the result of months of work and research by a team of volunteers and Heritage Trust staff. Every day - Time: 9:00 - 17:00 – Contact number 020 8854 2452 or visit website info@greenwichheritage.org



Sir Walter Raleigh

Raleigh was an adventurer, courtier to Elizabeth I, navigator, author and poet.

Walter Raleigh (also spelled Raleigh) was born into a well-connected gentry family at Hayes Barton in Devon in around 1552. He attended Oxford University for a time, fought with the Huguenots in France and later studied law in London.

In 1578, Raleigh sailed to America with explorer Sir Humphrey Gilbert, his half brother. This expedition may have stimulated his plan to found a colony there. In 1585, he sponsored the first English colony in America on Roanoke Island (now North Carolina). The colony failed and another attempt at colonisation also failed in 1587. Raleigh has been credited with bringing potatoes and tobacco back to Britain, although both of these were already known via the Spanish. Raleigh did help to make smoking popular at court.

Raleigh first came to the attention of Elizabeth I in 1580, when he went to Ireland to help suppress an uprising in Munster. From 1581 on, Raleigh was a frequent visitor to the Royal Court. His charm, wit and debonair manner made him a favourite of the Queen. Elizabeth bestowed on Raleigh monopolies and offices and in 1585 knighted him. In 1587, Sir Walter Raleigh was made Captain of the Queen's Guard; a prestigious position that also showed how much the Queen trusted him. He became a member of parliament in 1584 and received extensive estates in Ireland.

Despite his military reputation, Raleigh was also a scholar and thinker. He was an early supporter of colonising America,

though he viewed such a venture more for its trade benefits as opposed to anything else. Between 1584 and 1589, Raleigh sent a number of expeditions across the Atlantic though none were successful. He attempted to establish a colony near Roanoke Island on the coast of what is now North Carolina but what was then called Virginia in honour of Queen Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen.

In 1592, the queen discovered Raleigh's secret marriage to one of her maids of honour, Elizabeth Throckmorton. This discovery threw Elizabeth into a jealous rage and Raleigh and his wife were imprisoned in the Tower. On his release, in an attempt to find favour with the queen, he set off on an unsuccessful expedition to find El Dorado, the fabled 'Golden Land', rumoured to be situated somewhere beyond the mouth of the Orinoco river in Guiana (now Venezuela).

Elizabeth's successor, James I of England and VI of Scotland, disliked Raleigh, and in 1603 he was accused of plotting against the king and sentenced to death. This was reduced to life imprisonment and Raleigh spent the next 12 years in the Tower of London, where he wrote the first volume of his 'History of the World' (1614).

In 1616, Raleigh was released to lead a second expedition to search for El Dorado. The expedition was a failure, and Raleigh also defied the king's instructions by attacking the Spanish. On his return to England, the death sentence was reinstated and Raleigh's execution took place on 29 October 1618. Shortly before he was executed, he said to a hesitant executioner, "This is sharp medicine; but it is a sure cure for all diseases. What dost thou fear? Strike, man, strike."

Sources: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/raleigh_walter.shtml
http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/sir_walter_raleigh.htm 08.08.2014

ON THIS DAY 9th October- The 282nd day of the year in the Gregorian calendar 83 days remain until the end of the year

1514 Marriage of Louis XII of France and Mary Tudor

1582 Due to the implementation of the Gregorian calendar, this day does not exist in this year in Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain

1799 Sinking of HMS Lutine, with the loss of 240 men and a cargo worth £1,200,000

1939 Hitler authorises 'mercy killings' of the 'disabled' in Germany. More than 200,000 people will die.

1959 The Conservatives, under Harold Macmillan, win a third consecutive general election.

1986 The musical 'The Phantom of the Opera' has its first performance at Her Majesty's Theatre in London

1991 The 1st Sumo wrestling tournament ever held off Japanese soil in the sport's 1500 year history is held at the Royal Albert Hall

The Society of Genealogists advice to Finding London records

One of most common problems faced by family historians is research in London. There is as yet no single data-base or finding aid that indexes all the records in what we now consider to be London. With over 100 parishes in the City itself and a huge number in Middlesex and what we now consider Greater London, the task is quite daunting. Sources for what we now recognise as Greater London (London City, Middlesex and the area South of the River Thames) can be found at the London Metropolitan Archives. Many people also forget that the parishes within the City and Liberty of Westminster are also quite separate although we often think of them as within Greater London. Westminster Records are at the Westminster Archives. The agreement between the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) and www.ancestry.co.uk to index many marriage, christening and burial registers, formerly held at the Guildhall Library and the LMA, has gone some way to resolving this problem. The Ancestry website <http://landing.ancestry.co.uk/lma/default.aspx> has some indexes and images of early London parish registers along with many nonconformist records, marriage licences and records from the various poor law unions in London. (This is available free to view at the Society of Genealogists Library.) More will come on stream in due course. Westminster Archives has an arrangement to digitise and make available its records on www.findmypast.co.uk

RAFFLE

**DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKET TONIGHT -
SEE BARBARA STEAD - WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN AFTER TONIGHT'S TALK - GOOD LUCK!**

- ITS NEXT MONTH: November 13th is the night we commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1 - We hope you are looking forward to it as much as we are and we look forward to viewing your stories, photos and items of interest.

One more Event -

April 1, 2014 - October 31, 2014 all-day - Deal Maritime & Local History Museum, Deal, Kent CT14 6BA

The Deal Maritime and Local History Museum is currently running three World War One exhibitions until 31st October 2014. The exhibitions include a narration of a moving commentary within a World War trench scene, which can be found in the museum's Boatyard.

Next is a display by the Downs Branch of the Royal British Legion, in The Stable Block, at the rear of the museum.

Lastly is a display of smaller, local World War One items in the Upper Gallery.

Charges Apply, Contact - 01304 373684

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Registered Charity No. 282627

The Sevenoaks Committee

Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters

Committee Members

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