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ISSUE NUMBER 22

Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

9TH OCTOBER SEVENOAKS

Inns of Court

IAN BEVAN

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

20TH SEPTEMBER BROMLEY

Surviving in Soho in the 1850s: a look at some of the
Social History of the Soho area of London

Speaker ROGER MCKENNA

4TH OCTOBER DARTFORD

New methods for researching your family history
brickwalls

Speaker MARK BAYLEY

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 FRENCH STREE BURIAL GROUND: WHAT WE DUG UP!!' by Karina Jackson & Christina Barnett. Our very own Committee members Karina & Christina talk to us this evening about their local family history project of this privately owned burial ground near Westerham. *I wonder what it is they have dug up!*

NEWS ITEMS

Lost manuscript found after 45 years - "A Village of the Moor", written by writer and naturalist Hope Bourne, and previously thought lost, has turned up in the archives of the Exmoor Society. At the time it was written it was rejected as "too contemporaneous", but almost half a century later it is a window onto a rural community at a time of change which, according to a BBC news article, will be published next year. Link to BBC news article: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-28064139>

Ancestry – Naval Service Records – Ancestry's new service records are packed with interesting and useful details about those who served in the Royal Navy. You can search for your ancestors' ranks, whether they applied for pensions or gratuities, and whether they earned any medals. The records also include applications to right wrongs, like removing inaccurate accusations of desertion, or gaining discharges for foreigners or apprentices forced into service. Visit their website at www.ancestry.co.uk

The National Archives online – If you are unable to visit TNA, you can find most of their talks available as podcasts in audio and video format online. Their most recent family history podcasts include 'Why did people fear the Victorian workhouse?' – An introduction to emigration sources for family historians' – An introduction to medieval and early modern sources for family historians' – Army musters – more than just accounts', there are many, many more. As well as Family History podcasts there are many other topics which include Military History, Social history, Political history, Law and order, Archivists and archives and International. This is a great source which you can access at any time of the day and pause whenever you wish.

Visit their website at www.thenationalarchives.gov.uk or go straight to the following link: <http://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

EVENTS

18th September – Behind the Scenes Tour – LMA, 40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell, EC1R 0HB

Tour the archives and meet with London Metropolitan Archives professionals to find out about the essential work which preserves our records for future generations. Meet at staff desk in the information area on the first floor. Time: 1400-1500.

Free event - Register to reserve a place at following link <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/behind-the-scenes-tour-tickets-12365787403?aff=eorq> or Contact by phone 020 7332 3851 - Website www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

20th Sept – Using the Census for Family History Research - SOG, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd, EC1M 7BA

Using the Census for Family History Research, with John Hanson. This is a free open day talk which must be pre-booked.

Talk time 1230-1330 - Pre-book at www.sog.org.uk or call 020 7553 3290

24th September – Focus on Family History – LMA, 40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell, EC1R 0HB

Starting your family history? This workshop aims to show you how to get the most out of digitised family history sources, including LMA's records on Ancestry.co.uk This workshop is aimed at beginners. Time: 1400-1500.

Free event - Register to reserve a place at following link <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/focus-on-family-history-tickets-12365941865?aff=eorq> or Contact by phone 020 7332 3851 - Website www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

1st October – Use LMA: Getting started – LMA, 40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell, EC1R 0HB

Tour the Information Area to find out how to get the best out of our research facilities. Meet at staff desk in the information area on the first floor. Time: 1100-1200.

Free event - Register to reserve a place at following link <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/use-lma-getting-started-tickets-12366790403?aff=eorq> or Contact by phone 020 7332 3851 - Website www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

Until 31st October – In Their Own Words: Kent Voices of the First World War – Kent History & Library Centre, James Whatman Way, Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

An exhibition on the people of Kent during the First World War based on first person accounts. Exploring life in Kent as part of the First World War Centenary programme in Kent. For further details contact Sarah Stanley on 01622 694791 or visit their website www.kent.gov.uk/lib

20th – 21st Sept – London Open House – Free event all over London & surrounding areas, see notice board for details



Eva Charlotte Ellis Luckes

Eva Charlotte Ellis Luckes was born on 8 July 1854 into an upper middle class family. Her father, Henry Richard Luckes, was a banker who had established a comfortable home for his family in Newnham, Gloucestershire. Miss Luckes, the eldest of three daughters, was educated at Malvern, Cheltenham College and Dresden. She suffered from some physical disablement and had a horse to help her travel about the countryside. After finishing her education she returned to Newnham and helped her mother run the house and visited the sick of the parish. It was this that developed her interest in nursing.

Miss Luckes began her training in September 1876 when she entered the Middlesex Hospital as a paying probationer. Unfortunately, she left after three months, finding the work too strenuous. This did not prevent her from trying again and after a rest she started at the Westminster Hospital, completing her training in August 1878. She was appointed night sister at the London Hospital, where she stayed for three months before becoming lady superintendent at the Manchester General Hospital for Sick Children in Pendlebury. She resigned from this post after apparently clashing with the medical committee for attempting to instigate reforms in the standard of nurse training. After serving for a short period at the Hospital for Sick Children Great Ormond Street, Miss Luckes successfully applied for the position of matron at the London, where she had begun her professional career. At 24, Miss Luckes was the youngest of the five candidates interviewed and several of the Committee thought her 'too young and too pretty' and were wary of appointing someone with relatively little experience. However, the confidence of the committee members was well founded as she set about introducing a programme of reforms to improve the standard of nursing at the London.

Miss Luckes' reforms were built around a well established plan of what she wanted to achieve. She ensured that nurses were better provided for by seeing that meals were provided and that better accommodation was available. She reduced probationers' training to two years, after which a certificate of merit was awarded and the nurse was required to stay at the London for a further year. Proper training was given, supplemented by lectures given by Miss Luckes herself and a member of the medical staff. Proper examinations were introduced at the end of the training period. The selection procedure for new nurses became more rigorous. After an application form had been filled in, there was a personal interview with Matron, a medical examination and a month's trial before being accepted as a probationer. Miss Luckes also introduced the preliminary training school as a way for new probationers to get a feel for the work before entering the wards. It was also a way

for Matron to assess whether the prospective nurse was suitable or not. Miss Luckes introduced the Private Nursing Institution, which involved nurses trained at the London tending sick people in their own homes. She also improved the pay of her nurses and encouraged them to join the National Pension Scheme for Nurses that had been established.

Despite being busy with her reforms at the London, Miss Luckes was fighting proposed reforms to the nursing profession as a whole. The British Nurses Association (BNA), founded in 1887, was campaigning vigorously for a statutory register of trained nurses as a way to achieve professional status. Both Florence Nightingale and Eva Luckes were opposed to registration on the grounds that the essential qualities of a good nurse would be subordinated to theory and exams. In 1892, the BNA successfully applied for a Royal Charter of Incorporation, although the Privy Council watered down the charter by not including the power to maintain a register. State registration of nurses was not achieved until 1919. As well as campaigning against registration, Eva Luckes found herself under attack from those who criticised her method of management. In 1890-91 she was called before a House of Lords Select Committee set up to investigate the efficiency of metropolitan hospitals. Many charges from other witnesses were made against her department. In 1892 The Select Committee found the charges to be unsubstantiated furthermore that the majority of the allegations were exaggerated.

Miss Luckes first published her Lectures on General Nursing in 1884. She also produced a volume called Hospital Sisters and their Duties. Both books were a great success and Miss Luckes received many letters from people that had read her book and these can be found at The Royal London Hospital Archives and Museum in PP/LUC/3.

As time progressed, Miss Luckes' health deteriorated. She suffered from arthritis, diabetes and cataracts. During the final years of her life her mobility was impaired and she took to using a bath-chair. By 1919, she became acutely ill and was nursed by Sisters from the hospital. She died on 16 February 1919, having been Matron at the London for 39 years. She was cremated and her ashes laid to rest behind a plaque on the north side of St Philip's Church, now the Medical School Library.

The museum collection at The Royal London Hospital Archives, include letters from Florence Nightingale and transcripts of Miss Luckes' replies - PP/LUC/1, as well as medals & decorations awarded to Miss Luckes held under reference DEC/LUC. The archives are open to researchers by appointment only, Monday to Friday, 10am-4.30pm.

In order to make an appointment they can be contacted by email rlharchives@bartshealth.nhs.uk or telephone: number 020 7377 7608. The archives search room is in a separate location to the Royal London Hospital site. Researchers must come to 9 Prescot Street, London, E1 8PR. There is no admittance without an appointment.

09.09.14 - Source: <http://apps.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=387-ppluc&cid=0#0>

ON THIS DAY 11th SEPTEMBER - The 254TH day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, 111 days remain until the end of the year.

1297 Scots under William Wallace defeat the English at Stirling Bridge.

1649 Massacre of Drogheda, Ireland - Oliver Cromwell kills 3,000 royalists

1777 General George Washington and his troops are defeated by the British under General Sir William Howe at the Battle of Brandywine in Pennsylvania.

1885 David Herbert Lawrence born this day in Eastwood Nottinghamshire, poet/writer (Lady Chatterley's Lover) (d. 1930)

1930 Mystery writer Agatha Christie (39) weds archaeologist Max Mallowan (26)

1997 Voters in Scotland approve the creation of a Scottish parliament in a national referendum.

2001 Attacks by Islamic terrorists on New York's World Trade Centre and Washington kill 2,973 people.

RAFFLE

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

REMINDER:

Don't forget November 13th is the night we commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1 -

We would appreciate any stories, photos, or items of interest for the evening.

For further information please speak to Barbara or one of the Committee

Members.

The Sevenoaks Committee

Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters

Committee Members

Christina Barnett, Debbie Hill, Karina Jackson

Norma Holmden, Robert Barnett

Geoff Webb, Bernie Wilkins, Barbara Stead