



8TH SEPTEMBER 2016

ISSUE NUMBER 42

Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

13TH OCTOBER
WW2 Escape Lines -
The routes that criss-crossed Europe
Speaker: GEOFF COWLING

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

BROMLEY
24TH SEPTEMBER -
Shopkeeper Ancestors -
Sources for finding out about a trade and the shop itself
Speaker - Sur Gibbons

DARTFORD
1ST OCTOBER - How to research House History -
Uncovering the secrets behind your house door
Speaker Gillian Rickard

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 -

Medieval Children - All work and no play your will be very surprised - Speaker Imogen Corrigan

NEWS ITEM

London Metropolitan Archives - London's Baking! Bakers, Cakes, Bread and Puddings from 1666. Taking its inspiration from Thomas Farriner and his bakery, the starting place of the Great Fire, this exhibition tells the story of London's bakers and their cakes, bread and puddings from 1666 to the twentieth century. Discover recipes (to take away and bake!) for almond cakes from 1700, suet puddings from 1850 and questionable school dinner chocolate sponge traybakes from the 1970s. The photographs, films and historical documents on display include the recently uncovered plan which shows that Farriner's bakery was actually located in Monument Street, not the infamous Pudding Lane! The wonderful collection of J. Lyons and Co, presenting the 'experience' of afternoon tea at one of their grand Corner Houses, features alongside images of the original eighteenth century Chelsea 'Bun House' and much more besides. Exhibit runs until 1st February 2017. See <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk>

EVENTS

17th September at the Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd. EC1M 7BA

Walk: Follow the Fire - The Great Fire of London - 350 years ago the Great Fire devastated London, destroying everything in its wake. Follow the Fire from its start time in the early hours of a Sunday morning through 4 days of danger and flames, with tales of heroism, cowardice and blame. Meet the people who lived through the Fire, and see how the City of London rose like a phoenix from the flames. Leader Julie Chandler - Time 1100-1300 - Price £10.00 - Website: www.sog.org.uk

Shipwrecked: Tracing Ancestors Lost at Sea & Life boatmen

This course will consist of two talks, the first covering passengers and people who worked and fought at sea, whom were shipwrecked. In the second talk, Simon will discuss Lifeboat men, and the genealogical research he undertook to create a novel. He will also give tips on tracing your own lifeboat men ancestors. With Simon Wills - Time 1400 - 1700 - Price £20.00 - Website: www.sog.org.uk

17th and 18th September - Open House London - The Open House London event is fully inclusive and admission is free for all Open House London events each September. You will need to find out which buildings are opening / walks and talks planned in order to plan your visits. To pre-order a copy of the programme for this year's event, visit <http://www.openhouselondon.org.uk>.

30th Sept - The Great Fire of London - London Metropolitan Archives - 40 Northampton Road, EC1R 0HB

Commemorating its 350th anniversary, this event will focus on the impact of the Great Fire on St Bartholomew's Hospital, and the role the hospital subsequently played in rebuilding the City. The day comprises of talks, document viewings, and an afternoon walking tour. The morning presentations will be supported by the findings of recent excavation works carried out by Museum of London Archaeology. From 10:30 to 16:00 - visit www.eventbrite.co.uk

Kent Events

21st September - The Rise and Fall of Lullingstone Roman Villa - Otford and District Historical Society, Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street, TN14 5PQ - Speaker Rod Shelton - Time 8 pm - Visitors £3.00

23rd September - World War I Poets - Farningham and Eynsford Local History Society, Farningham Village Hall, High Street, Farningham, Kent DA4 0DH - Speakers Bob & Fern Ogle - Time 7.30pm for 8pm start - Contact Jan Wilkes 01322 865122

27th September - Open Discussion Evening - Tunbridge Wells Family History Society, Groombridge Village Hall, Station Rd, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 9QX - An opportunity for help and advice - 8pm

30th September - John (Mad Jack) Fuller and his Follies - Kemsing Heritage Centre, St Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing, Kent TN15 6NA - Speaker Geoff Hutchinson. Time 7.30pm, non-members £2.50

4th October - The Trade of the Rat Catcher - Swanley Historical Society, White Oak Indoor Bowls Club, Garrolds Close, off Hilda May Avenue, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7BF. Speaker David Cufley - Time 7.30 pm, non- members £2.00



Sir Robert Peel

Peel was twice British Prime Minister and Home Secretary and his period in government saw landmark social reforms. He is regarded as the father of the modern British Police and as one of the founders of the modern Conservative Party.

Robert Peel was born on 5 February 1788 in Bury, Lancashire to a wealthy textile manufacturer and politician Sir Robert Peel, 1st Baronet, he was well educated and left Christ Church, Oxford with a double first in classics & mathematics. He entered the House of Commons in 1809 and was widely seen as a "rising star" in the Conservative Party & served in various ministerial offices, including Chief Secretary for Ireland (1812–1818). In 1822 he became Home Secretary and reformed and liberalised the criminal law, introduced prison reform and created the modern police force, leading to a new type of officer known in tribute to him as "bobbies" and "peelers". He cut tariffs to stimulate business; to replace lost revenue he reintroduced income tax at 3%. He played a central role in making Free Trade a reality and set up a modern banking system.

The first organised police forces in Ireland came about through the Peace Preservation Act in 1814 for which Sir Robert Peel was largely responsible & the Irish Constabulary Act in 1822 formed the provincial constabularies, a force in each province with chief constables and inspectors general under the UK civil administration for Ireland controlled by the Dublin Castle administration. By 1841 this force numbered over 8,600 men. Following the success of the Royal Irish Constabulary it became obvious that something similar was needed in London, so in 1829 while Sir Robert was Home Secretary, the Metropolitan Police Act was passed, providing permanently appointed and paid Constables to protect the capital as part of the Metropolitan Police Force.

The first thousand of Peel's police, dressed in blue tail-coats and top hats, began to patrol the streets of London on 29 Sept 1829. The uniform was carefully selected to make the 'Peelers' look more like ordinary citizens, rather than a red-coated soldier with a helmet. The 'Peelers' were issued with a wooden truncheon carried in a long pocket in the tail of their coat, a pair of handcuffs and a wooden rattle to raise the alarm. By the 1880s this rattle had been replaced by a whistle. To be a 'Peeler' the rules were quite strict. You had to be aged 20-27, at least 5' 7" tall (or as near as possible), fit, literate and have no history of any wrong-doings.

These men became the model for the creation of all the provincial forces; at first in the London Boroughs, and then into the counties and towns, after the passing of the County Police Act in 1839. Ironically, the Lancashire town of Bury, birthplace of Sir Robert, was the only major town which elected not to have its own separate police force. The town remained part of the Lancashire Constabulary until 1974. Early Victorian police worked 7 days a week, with only 5 days unpaid holiday a year for which they received the grand sum of £1 per week. Their lives were strictly controlled; they were not allowed to vote in elections and required permission to get married and even to share a meal with a civilian.

To allay the public's suspicion of being spied upon, officers were required to wear their uniforms both on and off duty.

The Wellington government in which Peel had been home secretary fell in 1830, and Peel was now in opposition to a new administration, headed by Earl Grey. The Whig Government of Grey was dismissed in 1834 by William IV, who appointed Peel as the new Prime Minister. In his Tamworth Manifesto, Peel outlined his support for the Reform Act, a shift which highlighted his adoption of a more enlightened Conservatism. Although in power, Peel's Tories remained a minority in the House of Commons, a situation Peel found ever more intolerable, & he resigned in 1835.

In 1841, Peel again formed a Conservative administration, and it was during this government that he oversaw the introduction of significant legislation such as the Mines Act of 1842, which forbade the employment of women and children underground and the Factory Act of 1844, which limited working hours for children and women in factories.

In 1843 Peel was the target of a failed assassination attempt; a criminally-insane Scottish woodsman named Daniel M'Naghten stalked him for several days before accidentally killing Peel's personal secretary Edward Drummond instead.

Peel's government was weakened by anti-Irish and anti-Catholic sentiment following the controversial Maynooth Grant of 1845 (a major British political controversy of the 1840s, which arose partly because of the general anti-Irish and anti-Catholic feelings of the British population. In 1845, Peel sought to improve the relationship between Roman Catholic Ireland and Protestant England by increasing the annual grant from the British government to a Catholic seminary in Ireland), he attempted to revoke the Corn Laws which had been introduced to protect British agriculture. This was triggered by the need to free up more food for Ireland, where a potato famine was raging. Landowners resisted in the House of Commons what they perceived as an attack on their interests. Peel's Conservative Party would not support him; after months of debate and with support from the Whigs and the Radicals, the Corn Laws were repealed in June 1846. Peel resigned and he never held office again. He remained an influential backbencher and leader of the 'Peelite' faction until his death just 4 years later. He was badly injured after falling from his horse, on Constitutional Hill, & died on 2 July 1850 in London.

Peel was the 1st sitting British Prime Minister to have his photograph taken. In 1820 he married Julia, youngest daughter of General Sir John Floyd, 1st Baronet. They had five sons and two daughters. Four of his sons gained distinction in their own right. His eldest son Sir Robert Peel, 3rd Baronet, served as Chief Secretary for Ireland, 1861-1865. His 2nd son Sir Fredrick Peel was a politician and railway commissioner. His 3rd son Sir William Peel was a naval commander and recipient of the Victoria Cross. His fifth son Arthur Wellesley Peel was Speaker of the House of Commons and created Viscount Peel in 1895. His daughter Julia married the 6th Earl of Jersey and his wife Lady Peel died in 1859.

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Peel
<http://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/Sir-Robert-Peel/>
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/peel_sir_robert.shtml

06.09.2016

ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 8TH is the 251ST day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 114 days remain until the end of the year.

- 1157** Richard I of England born (d. 1199)
- 1504** France Michelangelo's *David* is unveiled in Piazza della Signoria in Florence
- 1761** Marriage of King George III of the United Kingdom to Duchess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz
- 1806** Patrick Cotter O'Brien, Irish giant died - the 1st of 13 people in medical history to stand a verified height of 8 feet or more (b. 1760)
- 1886** Siegfried Sassoon, English captain, journalist, and poet born (d. 1967)
- 1888** In London, the body of Jack the Ripper's second murder victim, Annie Chapman, is found
- 1914** In England the first six Football League matches are played
- 1914** World War I: Private Thomas Highgate becomes the first British soldier to be executed for desertion during the war
- 1914** HMS (formerly RMS) Oceanic, sister ship of RMS Titanic, sinks off Scotland
- 1941** Bernie Sanders, American politician born
- 1953** Actor Lana Turner (32) marries 'Tarzan of the Apes' Lex Barker (34)

NWKFHS WORKSHOPS - The two hour workshops are limited to 10 people, but are repeated if there is demand. Let us know if there is one you missed and would like it repeated. Workshops are held at the Library, Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley Contact Janet Rose (01322-384836). Bookings & enquiries please email workshops@nwkfhs.org. Also see our notice board or please ask a member at one of our meetings.

The Sevenoaks Committee – Branch Chair Barbara Attwaters

Committee Members: Christina Barnett, Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Robert Barnett, Bernie Wilkins, Barbara Stead, Sandra Marchant