



Welcome to the 1 January 2019 emailinfoservice, the NWKFHS fortnightly information service, comprising the latest information about the Society and its events, and other items of interest for family historians.

Very best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2019.

Our opening photos today were kindly supplied by member Gillian Häkli in Finland, who writes:

Manor Farm House, Longfield, Kent

On the top is Manor Farm House in the mid-1800s. Known then as Longfield Hill Farm, it was the home of my great-grandfather, John DOHERTY, his wife Elizabeth née BLUNDEN, and their 11 children: Ellen born 1841, Martha 1843, Alexander 1846, Octavius or "Octie" 1848, Thomas Wells 1849, Alice 1852, my grandfather Edward 1854, William Pemble 1855, Frances "Fanny" 1857, Archibald 1859 and Agnes 1861.

The second photo is the house as it is today – remarkably little changed at first glance. To the left, however, there is now a large building works, so the immediate vicinity has changed fairly drastically.

John Doherty had been employed as a chainman by the Royal Engineers when they were mapping his home county of Donegal, and returned with them to Chatham on completion of the survey in 1834.

In Kent, he married Elizabeth Blunden, the daughter of William Blunden, a yeoman of Mereworth, and set up as a grocer in Ightham. By the mid 1840s he and Elizabeth had moved to Longfield Hill Farm, where he took up the more lucrative occupation of hop farming. In this he prospered and was able to buy extensive lands back in his native Donegal though he remained a tenant of the ANDRUS family in Kent.

Longfield Hill Farm was to be his home until his death in 1889.

Gillian's email is gilldoc@saunalahti.fi

I (Stella Eames) would welcome photos of people or places (specially historical or family history) in the North West Kent area with a story about them as I want to start each newsletter with a photo and story. Please email me at emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk with your contributions. Any photos

[The latest branch newsletters and back issues of this e-newsletter can be found HERE](#) You will be taken to a screen where you can then [click on the newsletter you want to read](#).

Click on our other links [Blog](#) [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#)

What's On - A reminder of NWKFHS Events during the next few weeks

[\(Click here to see the entire Talks, Workshops and Events programme so you can book your diaries well ahead\)](#)

Our meetings are interesting mix of speakers and workshops. The Branch meetings with speakers are held at venues in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks and the workshops are in the Society Library in Joyden's Wood, which we have sole use of on Wednesdays.

Branch meetings are free to NWKFHS members and no booking is required. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a donation of eg £1 - £2 to the Society's funds to help cover the costs of hall hire and the speaker. Please join the Society if you want to come to more than one meeting - only £10 a year or £12 total for two members at the same address <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/about/our-membership>

The 2-hour workshops are limited to 10 members and have proved very popular. Several are full already - however don't let that stop you booking them as reserve lists are kept and a second workshop on the same topic is arranged if there is demand. Sometimes reserves are invited to join the workshop at short notice. Please note that **booking is essential for workshops** and we invite a donation eg £5 towards the costs of maintaining the library.

Go to the Society website and you can see all the workshops for the next 12 months. Just hover your cursor over the event entry for further info. Workshops do fill up quickly and are only open to members. Not joined yet? - don't dine in for £10 - join the Society for a whole year for £10 instead.

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/community/events>

To join NWKFHS and come to the library, all our meetings, house groups and workshops please just click [here](#) or email Membership Secretary Mrs Christina Barnett, on membership@nwkfhs.org.uk **Membership is only £10 per year or £12 for two people at the same address. Value of family history news and help you can receive priceless.**

Membership benefits: members get access to all our meetings with speakers PLUS a quarterly journal packed full of articles and useful information, monthly workshops on topics requested by members and the benefits of our library and research centre, open Wednesdays. The website has a members - only area with back journals and other data.

The Library at 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joyden's Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE is open to members and visitors every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm. Our volunteers can help you with your research and you can use the library computers with free Find My Past and Ancestry access.

must be your own copyright. If I don't receive any I will have to use my own which may not be as interesting.

**2019 January 2 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30 Workshop at the Library
Self help computer group**

This is the initial meeting of what may become a regular group to discuss computer problems and other IT matters of mutual interest. (*What is "The Cloud"?*) How often it meets will be discussed at this first meeting, but at the moment it is arranged for the first Wednesday of every month. Book to come along and get this exciting group under way.

Self help with input from library 'experts'

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

£5 donation requested towards library running costs.
At the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

**January 4 - Friday 2.00pm - 4.00pm New Quarterly Writing Group at the Library
Led by Nigel Durrant**

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

£5 donation requested towards library running costs.
At the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

**January 5 - Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Dartford
The secret history of Northfleet**

We can look forward to another humorous, well-illustrated talk, entertainingly delivered by our popular guest speaker Christoph Bull. Christoph is an accomplished tour guide and speaker who has entertained many NWKFHS members and other groups with his illustrated talks and walks. He is also Municipal Mace Bearer for Gravesham Borough Council and historical advisor to Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a £1.00 donation to the Society's funds. More info from dartford@nwkfhs.org.uk

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford DA1 2LY, has a large, free car park via the Heath Lane entrance.

Dartford Science and Technology College asks: due to having a pupil with a severe allergic reaction to nuts and aerosols, we have had to ban these two items to ensure the pupil's safety. Please do not bring any products that are aerosol based, or foods which may contain nuts, onto site. I do hope that you all will understand the importance of this request, and we thank you for your understanding.

**January 16 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30pm Workshop at the Library
1939 Register led by Christine Hills**

The 1939 Register can be used as a census substitute, but, unlike other censuses, it is not a snapshot in time but an evolving document which continued to be updated for some years after WWII. The workshop will examine what it contains and discuss any problems you may have encountered when using it.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

£5 donation requested towards library running costs.
At the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

January 18 - Friday 2.00pm - 4.00pm New DNA shared-help Group at the Library

This DNA Group is intended to continue on the 3rd Friday of each month.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

£5 donation requested towards library running costs.
At the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

January 19 Saturday 10.30am - Speaker at Bromley on Imperial Chislehurst

Joanna Friel, Heritage Rep of The Chislehurst Society, is our Guest Speaker today. Her illustrated talk is about the impact on Chislehurst when Napoleon III sought refuge there.

When Napoleon III and his family were expelled from France in 1871 after the country's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War, the imperial family moved to Camden Place, Chislehurst. Napoleon died in 1873 and was buried at the Roman Catholic church in Chislehurst until the Empress Eugenie removed his body to Farnborough, Hampshire.

Doors open 9.45am, meeting starts 10.30am. The venue, Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley BR1 3NS has a free car park (although this can fill up) and is close to Bromley North Station and is on or near many bus routes.

Free to all NWKFHS members. No booking - just turn up. Guests are welcome but we appreciate a £1.00 donation to the Society's funds. More info from bromley@nwkfhs.org.uk

**January 23 - Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30 Discussion Group at the Library
Led by Victor Nutt**

We discuss topical matters connected with Family History, suggested by attendees.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

£5 donation requested towards library running costs.
At the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

For events further ahead just look at the website. The monthly Branch talks are listed til at least March 2019 and in many cases beyond, and workshops are booking even further ahead. Anyone can attend a talk at the locations in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks; but if you are a non member a donation is requested towards the cost of the hall and speaker. £1- £2 suggested.

As most workshops are over subscribed they are intended for members only and seen as a benefit of paid-up membership. The exception is beginners' workshops - eg the one to be led by Fran Rogers on 20 February. These are aimed at new members and, if not full, free spaces are made available to non members joining on the day or before. Membership is just £10 and lasts til 31 December 2019 and includes a free space (if not already full) at the beginners' workshop.

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/community/events>

Important Notice - AGM and Family History day on 11 April 2019

The 2019 AGM Booking form sent with the December Journal is incorrect.

If you have not already responded to book lunch please use the correct form https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/images/AGM_2019/BOOKING-FORM-2019.pdf

Thinking ahead to when I will be 'the ancestor'

This year I particularly thought around the future, when I will be someone's ancestor and that:-

- many digital images we take these days don't get printed
- in my case anyway, many of the few vintage photos we inherit - or find after our parents' death - are not labelled.

So this year, in my cards to more distant family members and family friends, I enclosed a couple of recent photos of my family at special occasions, fully labelled on the reverse with the date, occasion and names and years of birth of the subjects, and their relationship to each other.

My hope is that if / when someone (perhaps the child or grandchild of the original recipient) finds these photos in a shoe-box in the distant future the photos will provide interesting family information, rather than create a mystery.

Our eye - catching new posters

Thanks to ideas from member Judith French at the last discussion group, a new series of posters has been produced. We know our A4 posters have to compete for space and attention in libraries, village halls and supermarket community noticeboards so Judith's eye catching ideas have been very welcome.

If there is anywhere you could put one on display eg in your local supermarket or archive centre - especially if you will be visiting Maidstone or any other archive or local studies centre - please email emailinfoservice@nwkhfs.org.uk and I will send you a full A4 size poster to print.

We consider that a personal visit / request with a paper version is more likely to be successful in getting our posters on noticeboards than an email or through the post.

By harnessing the help of NWKFHS members and friends who visit such places in their own locality, we hope to be able to get posters in a variety of places where they may be seen by folk who have not heard of us - and who may not even have thought of such an interesting hobby as researching their own family history.



What does **your** family tree look like?



Do you know how to get started? Where to get the information you need? We can help.

North West Kent Family History Society

Just £10 buys membership until 31 December 2019

www.nwkhfs.org.uk

Our branches in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks have speakers almost every month.

Our library and research centre at Joyden's Wood in Bexley is open every Wednesday, with volunteers ready to help you. We also hold workshops there on how to progress your research.

See our website for details of our many talks and workshops.

Email emailinfoservice@nwkhfs.org.uk to receive our free fortnightly e-newsletter.

General poster 1 v 13 Dec 2018



What does **your** family tree look like?



or



But where do you go to get the information you need?

North West Kent Family History Society

can help you to find your ancestors and the records about them

Just £10 buys membership until 31 December 2019

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General poster 2 v 13 Dec 2018



North West Kent Family History Society

www.nwkhfs.org.uk

ask for our free twice monthly e-newsletter
contact emailinfoservice@nwkhfs.org.uk

Would you help me with
my tree if I join your
Family History Society?



What do I get for my
membership?

4 Journals a year

**3 different meeting
places:- Dartford,
Sevenoaks and
Bromley**

**Our library at
Joyden's Wood,
Bexley on
Wednesdays; where
you can get help with
your research or
come to workshops,
discussion groups and
writing groups**

General poster 3 ballerina doll v22 Dec 2018

Easyfundraising

I (Stella Eames) have raised about £17 for NWK FHS over the past few months through simply clicking on [easyfundraising](#) before I shopped online at Robert Dyas, Lakeland and Marks and Spencer this Christmas and New Year. And I don't spend much online. Those purchases were all ordered as 'click and collect' to make sure they were in stock when I got to the store. Other members have, I know, raised more because they regularly do their grocery shop online.

In total £170 has been raised for NWK FHS so far. We are exploring all options to cut costs and make it unnecessary to increase membership fees, and this is a painless way of fundraising which helps us to balance the books. Please consider joining easyfundraising.

You don't have to be a NWK FHS member. Anyone can support us in this way. Please do if you are making online purchases in the Sales and during the rest of the year.

Thank you.

Volunteers

The last time I tried to count up, there were over 100 volunteers giving their time freely and out of goodwill to help run the Society. They are motivated by a desire to help and contribute to the Society's aims.

But we are nevertheless in need of more help to fill gaps in volunteer roles which currently mean that existing volunteers are doing more than perhaps they signed up for.

We are in particular need of a Society Secretary and an Events Co-ordinator.

The Secretary attends the Executive Committee meetings (6 per year) and the AGM and types up the Minutes. The role also involves liaising between the trustees and dealing with post and email - very little and often interesting to deal with.

Events Co-ordinator refers to external events where we have been asked to provide and staff an information table to showcase the Society. The Co-ordinator will liaise with the external event arrangers and decide if the Society can help, co-ordinating a rota of helpers and arranging for any material eg membership forms and goody bags to be transported to the site.

Please contact Tony Codling if you could consider helping out in either of these roles. chairman@nwkhfs.org.uk

Editor's note: I often get asked to publicise family history fairs, new books on genealogy and small genealogy businesses. I use my discretion in including ones which are local to our area or which I think may interest readers. It does not mean that I or NWK FHS has any personal knowledge, or makes any recommendation, about the event or business.

If there is anything else I should be aware of, to give you maximum benefit from this email service, please let me know. I do receive many suggestions and requests for external events to be included, but there is only room for so much and I am conscious that the longer this email is, the less likely it is to be read. Some external events I publish on our Facebook page instead. But I'd welcome your opinions on the length and content and whether there is anything additional you'd like included.

Please mention it to others and encourage them to sign up so that we can keep society members and anyone interested in family history informed of NWKFHS activities.

PS I am a volunteer creating this e-newsletter in my 'spare time' but, if you do notice any errors, please tell me, so that they are not carried forward to the next email.

Stella Eames, Editor

emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk

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Society Library 60 Summerhouse Drive
Bexley Kent DA5 2EE

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