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**Welcome to the 15 May 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.**

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Today's headline photo has been sent in by member Janet Digby. [janetdigby@hotmail.com](mailto:janetdigby@hotmail.com)

"This is a photo of my paternal grandfather Thomas Richard WILKINS, sent home to Trevithick Street, Deptford from France in 1914. He had joined the regular army in 1907 whilst working as a shop porter in Crofton Park. It was 5 months before his 16th birthday but he obviously persuaded the authorities he was over 17. He did 6 years home service with the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment (evidenced by the chevrons on his WWI uniform).

As a former soldier he was called up at the beginning of the war, arriving in France with the British Expeditionary Force on 12th August. However, he was wounded the following month and sent home.

In December he married my grandmother at St Nicholas' Church, Deptford. He was discharged from the army in March 1915 and awarded a Silver War Badge."

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*I (Stella Eames) welcome photos of people or places (specially historical or family history) in the North West Kent area with a story about them as I like to start each newsletter with a photo and story. Please email me at [emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk) with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.*

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

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## **JUNE JOURNAL**

Members, if you want to read the journal online, to save waiting for your printed and posted copy, log in now to [www.nwkfhs.org.uk](http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk) and look under the heading 'Members' for 'Quarterly and back journals'.

If you are a paid-up member who has never logged in, please see the March Journal page 47 for how to log in and create a password for the first time.

Non-members - we regard the journal as a membership benefit but joining only costs £10 per year.

It's easy to join online <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/> and scroll down to membership.

# NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## The Journal

Volume 15 No 2 June 2019

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Front cover image see article  
George Lamb 1867-1952 Market Gardener in Hextable

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## Video recording of presenters

Back in the 'old days' tape-recorded the voices of speakers who let us to do so. Members who could not get to meetings could borrow the tape from the tape library for a deposit and the cost of return postage. We still have the box of tapes, gathering dust, and probably the

majority of members have not got the equipment to play them nowadays. No speakers have been taped since 2008. In fact the tapes are now housed at our 'lock-up' offsite storage facility and none have been requested for years. <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/resources/library-catalogues>

We are from time to time rightly asked if we can provide video recordings of our speakers for our far flung members, and those too frail to come to meetings, to watch and listen to at home. Further away members read about all the events we arrange and feel left out. We get that, and the Trustees have been discussing how we can provide this service accordingly.

Video recording is technically possible and is of course the modern method of distance-watching. We know that some other organisations do this and even some churches. It has been discussed several times by the Trustees. If this went ahead the video recordings would be held on the Members Only Area of the website for a couple of weeks after each presentation / talk. Each speaker would have to confirm in advance s/he was agreeable.

However, it does need a volunteer to take the idea forward. We have meetings with speakers at our venues at Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks most months, with our AGM talks this is 34 events per year. If you have the equipment (or even the sort of phone which could be put on a stand and has the facility / memory to record high audible quality sound and vision for an hour) and would be willing to experimentally record a speaker at the venue you go to we would like to hear from you. If someone came forward to offer to record just some meetings that would be good because It would be better to

record a few talks rather than none. Plus we'd need to consider the effect on the space we pay for for the website.

Given that regular appeals for a Secretary and Events Organiser have fallen on deaf ears and are having to be covered as an extra job by existing volunteers, and given the degree of technical expertise required, we really do need someone new for this Sound Engineer role. Could that be you? If so please contact Tony Codling on [chairman@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@nwkfhs.org.uk)

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**[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](#)

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### **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.** *Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a contribution towards costs of hall hire and the speaker.*

*Returning visitors are invited to join the Society only £10 a year or £12 total for two members at the same address.*

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/our-membership>

**The 2-hour workshops** are limited to 10 members and are very popular. Even if full, 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 until 31 December for £10 instead.**

<https://www.nwkhfs.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@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:membership@nwkhfs.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 free 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.

We welcome all new members whether experienced at family history or novices. Our library volunteers can help you get started or possibly overcome a brick wall. Come to the library on a Wednesday between 10am and 4pm, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joyden's Wood, DA5 2EE. You can join the Society at the library.

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**Saturday 18 May Speaker at Bromley 10.30am**  
**Melanie Winterbotham will talk about Gretna Green, romance or remorse?**

Couples have been fleeing to Scotland to marry in haste since the 18th century, but why?

In the mid 1700s English law tightened marriage arrangements. Couples had to be 21 before they could marry without their parents' consent and their marriage had to take place in a church.

But Scottish law allowed couples to marry on the spot, in a simple ceremony, merely requiring two witnesses and assurances from the couple that they were both free to marry.

Such a relaxed arrangement led to the inevitable influx of couples eloping to marry over the border. Gretna Green was the first village they would come to in Scotland and conveniently situated on the main route from London.

## Did any of your ancestors have a runaway marriage?

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.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year)

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### **Wednesday 29 May 10.30am-12.30pm Workshop at the Library Errors, lies and other misinformation led by David Cufley**

A workshop discussing errors in official records and commercial search engines and how to try and spot them. Case studies will be used as part of the discussions.

Do you believe what your ancestors told officials and their families? Can you believe what other researchers tell you, how good is their research? Are transcriptions accurate and do the indexes reflect the original documents?

Mark Twain said “*If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're misinformed.*” You could apply this to family history documents. This workshop will give you the tools to try to avoid coincidences of names and researching someone else's family as yours.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)

*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members. Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE  
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

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### **Saturday June 1 Speaker at Dartford 10.30am Dr Helen Fry will talk about The Secret Intelligence Services and Espionage**

Because of her expertise in British Intelligence in both world wars, Helen has been involved in a number of documentaries – including David Jason's Secret Service.

She has conducted advisory work for TV and drama; something which she particularly enjoys, as well as numerous radio broadcasts.

Helen has also written extensively about the 10,000 Germans who fought for Britain in WWII.

<https://www.helen-fry.com/>

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.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year).

*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.*

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### **Wednesday 5 June 10.30am - 12.30 Writing Group at the Library**

Led by Pauline Heathcote

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)

*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members.*

*Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE  
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

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## **Wednesday 12 June 10.30am - 12.30 Computing Group at the Library**

Self help with input from library experts.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)

*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members.*

*Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE

Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

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## **Thursday 13 June Speaker at Sevenoaks 8pm**

**Nick Fothergill will talk about What the Battle of Jutland did for the Navy Part 2**

Doors open 7.15pm meeting starts 8pm. The new venue, Main Hall, Otford Village Memorial Hall, 28a High Street Otford TN14 5PQ is adjacent to a car park which is free after 6.30pm.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year)

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## **Saturday 15 June Speaker at Bromley 10.30am**

**Julie Carver-Pierce will talk about The History of Borough Market**

Julie has been a visitor to the Market on and off since the mid 90s and never imagined that this hidden gem deep within the arches of London Bridge was steeped in such history and dating back to possibly even Roman times.

Her fascination with the history of the Market started back in 2010 when she came across a crumpled green paperback that transpired to be the catalogue of all the artefacts about the market and their location - The London Metropolitan Archives. This started her on a treasure hunt, spending many hours at the Archives going through just some of the historical documents. The feeling of holding handwritten documents dating back to the 1700s was amazing. She looks forward to sharing some of her findings with us.

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.

Visitors are welcome and are invited to make a donation towards the hall and speaker costs. Returning visitors attending more than one meeting are asked to join the Society (£10 per calendar year)

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**Wednesday 19 June 10.30am-12.30pm Workshop at the Library**  
**Treasures to be found in old wills: led by Ellen Shelly, NWKFHS member, and <https://www.familyrootsrevealed.com/>**

Wills are a rich source of information about the finances and properties owned by our ancestors and their family ties. Wills also contain unexpected hints and information about the relationships between families, the state of mind of testators in the last few weeks or days of their lives, and the things which were of most value to them at that time.

A huge number of wills are available online from sites such as ancestry.co.uk, to be ordered from the Principal Registry and also from the familysearch.org dedicated link at the Society of Genealogists

But you have to be able to read them! This workshop will take a look at some wills, the way they were written, how to develop your skills in reading old handwriting and hopefully show why it is worth making the effort.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)

*There is no charge for workshops but they are only open to Society members.*

*Attendees are invited to make a contribution, suggested £5, towards costs.*

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE  
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

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**Wednesday 26 June 10.30am-12.30pm Workshop at the Library  
Your Society needs you: transcribing, checking and editing  
Society publications: led by Barbara Phillips**

A workshop for volunteers interested in becoming transcribers, checkers or editors.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Swanscombe  
in the County of Kent in the Year 1843

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1843 Aug 14 <sup>th</sup> No. 25.	Fanny Daughter of	Richard Rebecca	Rudd	Swanscombe		J. Bradley
1843 Aug 8 <sup>th</sup> No. 26.	Sarah Daughter of	Richard Rachel	Jackson	Greenhithe		J. Bradley
Aug 15	Harriet Daughter of	William Mary	Martin	Swanscombe	Labourer	A. Hayter -Garate

Additional volunteers are needed to help with the production of new publications from original documents.

Join this workshop to find out how you can help. Tea / coffee and biscuits provided free.

Transcribing helps to raise income for the Society and ensures the data is preserved should the originals be destroyed by fire, flood or simply the passage of time. Plus it means far flung researchers, not able to travel to the home of the original registers, can access the information.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact Victor on [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)

Held at the Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley DA5 2EE  
Park in nearby side roads. Doors open 10am.

*Society Publications which have already been transcribed are available for purchase: <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/resources/publications-and-projects/publications-listing>*

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**30 June: last date for photo entries for the Society's 2020 calendar to be sent to [chairman@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@nwkhfs.org.uk)** All levels of photographer are invited to send in a photo or photos connected with North West Kent which you think purchasers of the calendar will enjoy looking at for a month.

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*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. Non members asked to join if attending more than one meeting.*

***For NWKFHS events further ahead just look at the website. The monthly Branch talks are listed til March 2020.***

*NWKFHS Membership is just £10 and lasts til 31 December 2019.*

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

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## **NWKFHS 2020 AGM AND FAMILY HISTORY DAY**

Following another successful day on 11 April, the team need to think straightaway about the venue for 2020.

Have you got any ideas?

It needs to be in the NWK Area; we have tended to circulate around the three branches in Bromley, Dartford and Sevenoaks, which means that 2020 will be broadly the turn of Sevenoaks and its environs if possible. It would be nice to find a place which is of historic interest in itself.

Essentials are:

- easy parking;
- a nearby rail station from which those with cars can collect those coming by public transport;
- a large auditorium, with sound system, capable of seating at least 120;
- a separate dining room seating ditto;
- on site kitchen with catering equipment ditto;
- disabled access and facilities;
- room for some stalls
- within our budget; not strictly set but in the past we have often been given the venue free as we are a charity, if we use the site's own catering.

Please contact Barbara on [events@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:events@nwkfhs.org.uk) if you have any ideas for venues which fit the above.

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**Free Lecture on the history of St Peter's Church, New Road, Woolwich. Friday 17 May. 7pm for a 7.30 pm start.**

St Peter's has a small Heritage Team that is currently working its way through over 100 years of paper, indexing and archiving.

From this we are slowly building a more detailed history of the church which celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> birthday last October.

It surely must be one of the oldest buildings to survive in Woolwich outside the arsenal walls!

The church Heritage Committee has arranged for Dr Roger Gibson to deliver a one hour lecture on the history and building of St Peter the Apostle, a gem of a building that has stood in New Road, Woolwich for over 175 years. This will take place on Friday 17 May 2019 in the church itself. Light refreshments will be served at 7pm with a chance to look around the church with a 7.30 pm start for the lecture itself.

This event is free to attend – although any donations towards the restoration of the school building adjacent to the church (designed by Augustus Pugin's son, Edward Pugin in 1858), would be most welcome. Due to space in the church, you will need to book your place by contacting [heritage@stpeterswoolwich.church](mailto:heritage@stpeterswoolwich.church)

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**East Wickham and Welling War Memorial Trust Summer Outdoor  
Peace Concert -  
Saturday 15th June**

To mark 100 years of the Peace Treaty, the East Wickham and Welling War Memorial Trust invite you to an outdoor **Summer Peace Concert**, featuring the Belvedere Concert Band, who will be playing a selection of popular music, including from stage and film. The old church will be open for viewing, including the original East Wickham War Memorial.

**Tickets are limited to 250 so please get your ticket request in early.**

Date: Saturday 15th June 2019

Venue: The grounds of St Michael's Church, Upper Wickham Lane, Welling

Time: Gates open at 2pm, concert to start at 3pm

Cost: £5 per ticket (all proceeds will be passed on to local charity Carers' Support (Bexley) <http://www.carerssupport.org/>)

- We encourage you to bring a picnic, chairs (or picnic blanket) and you may also bring a small table along per group. (No chairs or refreshments will be provided).
- Please bring an umbrella for shade if sunny, or in case of showers.
- In the event of inclement weather we will move the concert into the Church, but unfortunately won't be able to eat picnics inside.
- **For safety reasons, there are no car park facilities and we are also unable to allow cars into the grounds to drop off.**

We do hope you can join us for what should be a very enjoyable afternoon. If you would like to attend please email Linda Clayton to request tickets [admin@ewt.org.uk](mailto:admin@ewt.org.uk)

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*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 emailinfo. No-one's ever offered to proof read it and to be honest there would probably not be time as I often complete it fairly last minute.*

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*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 NWKFHS has any personal knowledge, or makes any recommendation, about the event or business.*

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*If there is anything else I should be aware of, to give you maximum benefit from this emailinfoservice, 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.*

Stella Eames, Editor

[emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk)

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282627

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