



Welcome to the mid October 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.

Today's Photo

No one sent in a photo this time so I am using a photo of a great uncle I never knew. Mark Sydney G SAYLE born in Wandsworth in 1905 and died in a motorbike accident in Reigate aged just 22 in 1928.

If anyone is researching the Sayle surname I would love to hear from you as, although I know Mark's father was George Albert Edward Sayle b circa 1875 (according to his age on censuses etc), I cannot trace his birth for certain.

The full names George Albert Edward SAYLE are taken from his marriage certificate.

He may have been born in Sandringham, Norfolk, England or Portsea, Hampshire, England. Father may have been George or John. On his daughter Mildred's birth certificate he is called 'George Albert SAYLE' and on Mildred's marriage cert his names are stated as 'George Thomas Albert SAYLE'.

Occupation is always stayed along the lines of farrier, horse trader

The only birth certificate I have found for the right approximate age is in Portsea Island a district of Southampton; for a boy George Albert Edward SAYLE born 10 June 1875 at 55 Lucknow Street, Fratton. Mother stated as Elizabeth Mary SAYLE formerly PORTER and father as John SAYLE.

In the 1901 census George Sayle states his birthplace was Sandringham, Norfolk.

So I am unable to trace any further back. I have been told by a family member that George's grandson Ronald has traced the Sayle line back to William Sayle, first governor of South Carolina in 1670.

<https://www.carolana.com/Carolina/Governors/wsayle.html>

But Ronald died in 2000 and I cannot trace any family member willing to talk to me about his research (if it still exists) except the one who told me this but has not got the paperwork. Did Ronald make some assumptions or have documentary evidence?

The amazing thing is I found this out in 2015 just before - for the first time in my life - I had booked a holiday to South Carolina! It certainly added interest to my trip to visit the places associated with my possible ancestor. I have also seen, at the National Archives at Kew, letters sent back to England from these settlers in the 1660s.

Whilst I would love to hear from anyone researching SAYLE in case we can pool info, SAYLE is a very common surname on the Isle of Man with also some in Norfolk. I should probably concentrate on Norfolk as George claimed in one census to have been born in Sandringham. I have no reason to believe I am connected with the Isle of Man Sayles except possibly many, many generations ago.

PS While it's hardly best practice to write on the front of a photo, without that it would be pure guesswork who this was.

Don't want to read any more about my ancestors? Send me a photo and story about yours instead!

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 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.

Not joined yet? - don't dine in for £10 - join the Society for £10 instead.

Those who join now get over 2 months free as your membership will last til 31 December 2020. SO ITS A GREAT TIME TO JOIN.

Those of you who are not members are missing a treat as the Society's Journal is packed with interesting stories thanks to its Editor Pauline Heathcote. The Journal, posted quarterly, is only available to members.

(NB Editors do need something to edit! So members please carry on sending in your interesting research stories to Pauline editor@nwkfhs.org.uk).

To join NWKFHS and receive the Journal 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 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 Aand 4pm, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joyden's Wood, DA5 2EE. You can join the Society at the library.

Easyfundraising

You can raise money for NWKFHS while doing your usual online shopping.

It's completely painless.

All you have to do is **sign up** to support North West Kent Family History Society - Bexley on **easyfundraising**.

Then online shops and sites - many of them also High Street retailers like Sainsburys - will donate a % of your spend every time you shop with them. And it costs you nothing, you still pay the same price.

So what is stopping you?

Plus, if you sign up with the following link, easyfundraising will match the first £5 you raise. Visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nwkfhs/?invite=WYSGS7&referral-campaign=s2s>

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.** *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.nwkfhs.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.

Friday 18 October 2pm - 4pm DNA Group at the Library

Meets every third Friday of the month. Self help.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact 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.

Saturday 19 October Speaker at Bromley 10.30am

Meryl Catty and Maureen Binks will present An Enumerator's Tale

Census returns are a vital resource for genealogists. But how reliable are they?

For census purposes, enumeration districts of about 200 households were drawn up, which an enumerator was considered capable of visiting in a day.

Enumerators first delivered a Householder's Schedule with instructions as to how it should be completed. The head of the household was required by law to complete the form on census night detailing all those persons who were sleeping in the house that night.

The enumerator returned to collect the Householder's Schedule. However a fully complete, accurate census return depended on many things:- the ability of the head of the household to read and write; the instructions being understood, particularly regarding night workers or those away from home; the readability of the handwriting; the cooperativeness of the head - just like now there were those who did not

regard this as the government's business. Some people wished to exaggerate their job seniority, pretend to be married etc. All this could have the poor enumerators pulling their hair out.

Meryl and Maureen will tell us in a very amusing way of the difficulties encountered by enumerators.

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)

[Vacancy For Bromley Branch Programme Secretary](#)

Lynne Overton has, as yet, had no enquiries from people wanting to discuss what would be involved in taking over her role, nor from volunteers who would like to take it on. Accordingly, she is asking once again for any interested parties to get in touch with her, so that she can outline exactly what is involved.

She has been asked if someone who is not a regular Bromley attendee could organise the programme, and the answer to that is, "of course", as the Bromley Committee would undertake to help set up equipment, greet the speaker, offer the introduction, and give the vote of thanks.

Another approach would be that two friends could work together on the programme, talking over likely speakers, and co-ordinating their efforts so that the onus of sourcing, contacting, confirming etc would be shared between them.

Lynne has built up a file of contacts, lists of sources for discovering likely speakers, spreadsheets of past speakers to Bromley Branch, and blank spreadsheets to be filled in for the Executive Committee and the Journal, and all this information, including a file of past correspondence will be handed over to the new incumbent(s). If you know Lynne, you will know that she is always willing to support anyone who needs it, and will make herself available for assistance and advice if required.

Please contact her, either at a Bromley meeting, or by e-mail: programme.nwkhfbromley@virginmedia.com

Saturday 19 October Drop in session at Bexley Local Studies, Townley Road Central Library, Bexleyheath DA6 7HJ 10am - 1pm

Our friendly volunteers will be on hand at to talk to anyone wanting help with family history or just interested in finding out about our Society.

If you know anyone in the locality who is thinking of dipping their toe into our addictive hobby, why not suggest they call in.

Wednesday 23 October 10.30am - 12.30 Discussion Group at the Library Led by Carolyn Sekulowicz-Barclay

The group meets quarterly to discuss topics relevant to the Society or suggested by members.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact workshop.booking@nwkhfs.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.

Saturday 2 November Speaker at Dartford 10.30am Guest speaker Ian Porter will talk about The Real Downton Abbey

What it was really like to be in domestic service?

The TV series paints a fairly rosy picture of service. This tells you what servants' lives and jobs were really like.

Novelist, historian and London walks guide, Ian Porter, has his own walks company in London for which he guides all 35 walks. He does many talks, mostly specialising in 19th and early 20th century history.. He loves Downton Abbey and one of his great grandparents was a servant so he has done lots of research into the subject of servants.

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.

Wednesday 13 November 10.30am - 12.30 Computing Group at the Library
Self help with input from library experts.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact 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.

Thursday 14 November Speaker at Sevenoaks 8pm
Alan Williams will talk about 'cradle to grave - creating the welfare state in Forties Britain'

Much of what we think of as the modern welfare state, for example the National Health Service, Social Security and a commitment to full employment, has its recent origins in World War Two and was created in the late 1940s.

In this talk Alan will explore the background to the creation of the welfare state and why the war acted as an agent of such significant policy change.

Doors open 7.30pm 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)

Friday 15 November 2pm - 4pm DNA Group at the Library

Meets every third Friday of the month. Self help.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact 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.

Saturday 16 November Speaker at Bromley 10.30am
Dean Caston will speak about the History of the Royal Variety Performance

Dean will talk to us about the first Royal Command performance in 1912 through to the current day.

The first Royal Variety Show was instigated by Sir Edward Moss through correspondence with George V and was to be a royal variety show at the Empire theatre, Edinburgh, in 1911 to celebrate the King's coronation. Unfortunately, before this could happen the theatre caught fire and Sir Moss died.

Sir Alfred Butt took over and the show took place at the Palace theatre in London during 1912. This was known as the Royal Command Performance and monies raised went to the Royal Variety charity. The charity still benefits from the show. George V became its patron – as has every subsequent monarch, although our present Queen hasn't attended since 2014, leaving it to other high-ranking members of the Royal family to stand in for her.

During the 107-year history of the Royal Variety Performance it has been held in seven cities, with the London Palladium hosting the event 42 times. There were several years when the show did not take place, mainly due to the World Wars. The show was first televised in 1960 with many watching it during those early years of its broadcast.

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)

Please note that Bromley Branch does not hold a meeting in December as the hall is not available.

Wednesday 20 November 10.30am - 12.30 Workshop at the Library
Fun with early records led by Jean Stirk

This refers to the approach to finding what kind of records are available and their locations, how to approach reading some of them and cross referencing. You should find some unexpected revelations and enjoyment from delving into these.

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact 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.

Wednesday 27 November 10.30am - 12.30 Writing Group at the Library
Led by Pauline Heathcote

Booking essential due to space limitations - please contact 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.

AGM and Family History Day 2020

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/community/meetings-house-groups/family-history-day-agm-2020>

Date: Thursday 9 April 2020

Venue: West Heath School, Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1SR (same venue as 2017)

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, events are listed til March 2020.

NWKFHS Membership is just £10 and lasts til 31 December 2020.

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

RootsTech London 2019 is only 10 days away.

A great discount is currently available which gives a 3 day pass at 30% off : see <https://www.rootstech.org/london/why-attend-findmypast...>

Also - entry to the Exhibition Hall is free by pre-booked ticket. You won't be able to attend any of the talks and classes but you'll have access to everything in the hall.

If you can't spend all day at the Excel anyway, or just want a taster of the RootsTech experience this might be right for you. Book here <https://www.rootstech.org/london> (and scroll down)



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.

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.

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

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