

In order to be born, you needed:

- 2 parents
- 4 grandparents
- 8 great-grandparents
- 16 second great-grandparents
- 32 third great-grandparents
- 64 fourth great-grandparents
- 128 fifth great-grandparents
- 256 sixth great-grandparents
- 512 seventh great-grandparents
- 1,024 eighth great-grandparents
- 2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total sum of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment – How many struggles? How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How many love stories? How many expressions of hope for the future? – did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment...

— Lyrical Zen

Welcome to the mid April 2021 email newsletter.
In a couple of instances my family tree line has descended from an 11th or 12th child, so there seem to have been long odds on my not being born at all!

The above chart says it all.

The Society needs you

You have seen that before but fulfilling the need is proving challenging, especially when the Society is unable to have face to face contact with members.

We do need more people to get involved with running the Society and the services it provides. Join the 100+ volunteers who already get job satisfaction and enjoy camaraderie by meeting other helpers whilst providing a service to fellow family history researchers.

All sorts of existing skills can be used, for example, there is a pressing need for someone to take on the crucial role of Treasurer. Could you do that? Or why not think round the folk you know and talk to them? All we need is for them to talk to Tony our chairman, and tell him what sort of skills they have.

Do you know someone who just needs a nudge... perhaps someone who has just retired or stopped commuting .. or you may fancy a change ...

Contact Tony Codling at chairman@nwkfhs.org.uk

ZOOM Talks

Zoom Talks are free and open to all. They cannot be booked but please log on via the link in good time.

All times given are UK time.

(NWKFHS members who missed a talk, perhaps because you are not in our timezone, note that some speakers have allowed their talks to be recorded -

<https://nwkfhs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos> note this link only works for paid up members logged into the website).

Saturday 1 May 10am for 10.30 - 12 midday including time for questions:
Donna Rutherford (Part 1)- 'DNA for beginners'

(Part 2 'Making the most of your results' will be 17 June 7.30pm)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81714661579?pwd=VDdrd2ZTaGZ0MnVqT1hmYzhWbFiUT09>

Meeting ID: 817 1466 1579 Passcode: 973577

We are delighted that we have been able to book the well known DNA expert Donna Rutherford.

Have you ever wondered how having a DNA test could help your family history research?

Before spending any money, do you want to know more about the three types of test (autosomal, mitochondrial and Y) and which type or types is more likely to give you the results you are looking for?

What are the pros and cons of the different commercial companies which offer DNA tests?

And what happens after you've posted the testing kit back to the company?

Or maybe you know most of this but would like a refresher.

Then this talk is for you. Book your diary now for this and Donna's follow up talk on 17 June at 7.30pm.

Thursday 20 May 7pm for 7.30pm 'Commonwealth War Graves Commission Archives' Talk by Steve Roberts

A talk about the important work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and its educational charity, the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation.

The Zoom code for this and other talks further ahead will be published on the website nearer the date.

ZOOM Workshops

Zoom Workshops (including Discussion Groups and Writing Groups) have a maximum number to allow all attendees to participate, and are restricted to paid up North West Kent FHS members only. Workshops last for 2 hours.

If any Society members missed a workshop which they would have liked to attend, or it filled up, see here for videos of some past workshops: <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/workshops/past-zoom-workshop-videos>

Note the above link will only work for Society members logged into the website.

April and May Workshops - for Society members only, and must be booked; numbers are limited to allow all attendees to participate

21 April Discussion Group 2.30pm - 3.30 One Name Study and Record Keeping Led by David Cufley

28 April Workshop 7.30pm - 9.30 How to use Excel to enter and manage data. Led by David Cufley

5 May Carolyn's Discussion Group 10am. - 'A house is not a home'.

12 May Workshop 2.30pm Breaking Down Brickwalls Led by David Cufley
Anyone wishing to attend please can you submit your 'brickwall' by 29th April to allow sufficient time for the queries to be looked at. Please provide a name/topic and some background information. Email workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

19 May Writing Group 10.30am Led by Pauline Heathcote

26 May Workshop 10.30am Australia - Guide to records available for researching your family. Part 1 (Convict ancestors are covered in Part 2 in June) Led by Pam Goddard

'Whether your ancestors were early settlers, or families who settled more recently under the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme known as the £10 POMs this workshop will provide guidance where to find your families. Maybe they were 'Home children'. We will look at each state and the records available. We will also take a look at what is available

on Find my Past and Ancestry.

Contact workshop coordinator Pam Goddard for the link / code to enable you to attend any of the above Workshops and Discussion

Groups. workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk

Pam would like to hear from you if you have topic requests for workshops or want to suggest different dates or times.

See <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings#year=2021&month=1&day=5&view=month> for topics and dates / times of Workshops and Talks further ahead.

Elizabeth Barton the Holy Maid of Kent

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to watch Melanie Gibson Barton's talk on 13 April. And we weren't allowed to record it. For anyone interested, there is information about Elizabeth's life (and death) here: <https://www.theanneboleynfiles.com/elizabeth-barton-the-nun-of-kent/>

Melanie contacted the Society after her talk and said this:

"I had such a lovely time at NWK FHS, as always. I was made so welcome. Thank you for inviting me to give my talk. As promised, here's the wording about the talk for the Minutes/Newsletter. Very best wishes Melanie

Elizabeth Barton of Aldington – the Maid of Kent – a talk by Melanie Gibson-Barton BSc (Hons)

Melanie's talk explored the story of the servant girl born in Aldington in 1506 during the reign of the first Tudor King, Henry VII. During the reign of his son, Henry VIII and his wife Katherine of Aragon the young woman's visions and prophecies caught the attention of the Archbishop of Canterbury who provided a dowry for her to become a nun at a convent in Canterbury.

Melanie's illustrated talk highlighted the many local Kent connections which caused Elizabeth Barton's number of supporters to grow as she sought to support the Catholic church at a time when Protestant views were gaining strength.

In Henry's desperate need to secure his throne with a son and heir through a marriage to Ann Boleyn Melanie showed that the prophecies of Holy Maid of Kent became more political, bringing her national and international attention. Her influence beyond Kent made her so dangerous to Henry VIII, Katherine of Aragon and Ann Boleyn that Elizabeth Barton had to be put to death. Melanie's talk enabled the audience to take the Holy Maid's journey by illustrating what can be seen today at the key sites that led to Elizabeth Barton's execution at just age 28 in 1534.

Melanie's talk also featured photographs of the work of Kent artist Lauren Stacey and her 2018 exhibition in Dover that focussed on Elizabeth Barton, the Holy Maid of Kent. Melanie explained that the talk was commissioned in 2017 by the Aldington Society and she also provided the talk to a USA audience: The USA Barton Society, that seeks to link with Bartons across the world, who described her talk as 'awesome!'.

Melanie has been giving talks for several years to the National Trust, U3A, history groups, church groups, Women's Institutes, Soroptimists and retirement social groups

such as Rotary, CSMA, ARAs and PROBUS – 'live' and in recent months via Zoom.us - and tells us she has the privilege of meeting new audiences to entertain and inform every day. Her range of currently seventeen talks can be viewed at www.toonstelling.com.

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Family History Federation Really Useful Virtual Show on 10 April

Society members volunteered to host our virtual stand and spoke to over 120 visitors from several countries. Some had questions about their Kent ancestors and were over the moon to get answers from the volunteers' local knowledge.

Although it's a shame that such shows cannot be held physically, it is great for our far flung members and researchers as they can take part.

Lesley, a new member and one of the visitors to our stand, had been researching the **Weinling** family as one of her ancestors married into it. The Weinlings were one of the major contributors to aviation history in the UK.

Lesley says:

In 1882 the School of Ballooning moved from Woolwich to be part of the [School of Military Engineering](#) at [Chatham](#). The material used for the envelope of balloons up until then could be punctured or set alight which is where the Weinlings' invention came in. Templer recognized the need for a lighter and more impervious balloon fabric and, according to the website of the British Balloon Museum, he hired the Weinlings to provide fabric for the British government and moved them to the School of Ballooning in Chatham. By the end of 1883, they had produced their first balloon that could lift one observer to a useful height. It was called the 'Heron'.

In 1885 balloons were first deployed by the British Army's Royal Engineers during the military expeditions in the wars of Bechuanaland (South Africa) and Suakin (Sudan).

In 1890 the School moved again. This time it was to Stanhope Lines in [Aldershot](#) where a section of the Royal Engineers had been formed to use balloons operationally.

In 1900 several balloons were rushed to China to assist in the Boxer rebellion but the dispute had been settled by the time they got there.

Lesley has said she would be happy to share her research with anyone interested in The School of Military Engineering. Email me, Stella at emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk and I will forward your email to Lesley.

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Lesser known websites

Reading Peter Calver's regular email about LostCousins today, I noticed an interesting website that he'd found:

http://rhaworth.net/phreak/tenp_01.php

It's a list of old London telephone codes. I can well remember my family's phone number in West Wickham, Kent (now Greater London) being SPR for Springpark. Remember party lines?

<https://www.scotlandspople.gov.uk/>

I can hardly call Scotlands People a *little known* site, but I only used it for the first time this week.

I was trying to find the marriage of a woman whose three other sisters had all married in Bucklow, Cheshire, and this fourth sister's baby had been born there. So they seemed not to have strayed far from the town of their birth. But I could not find the marriage of

the baby's parents - could it have been abroad?

As a long shot I searched Scotlands People and found it! I had thought you had to pay, but, a bit like freebmd.org.uk and <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/Login.asp> you get the basic search results free. So nothing to pay unless you want certificates.

If you know of any useful free sites which are not generally known, please do send them to me for publication in future newsletters.

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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. with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.

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

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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Our mailing address is:

North West Kent Family History Society
Society Library 80 Summerhouse Drive
Bexley Kent DA5 2EE

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