



10 DECEMBER 2022

ISSUE NUMBER 80

Sevenoaks Newsletter

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



Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch

We will be meeting at the Otford Village Memorial Hall, High Street, Otford TN14 5PQ.

Doors open at 7.15pm, meeting starts at 8pm. There is free car parking after 6.30 pm by the Memorial.

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-£2.00 donation to the society's funds.

10 FEBRUARY - THIS EVENING'S TALK THE CAPABLE MR BROWN

A talk about the life and career of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown

Lancelot 'Capability' Brown changed the face of eighteenth-century England, designing country estates and mansions, moving hills and making flowing lakes and serpentine rivers, a magical world of green. Over two centuries have passed since his death, still many are influenced by his creations today, such are the enduring qualities of his work that over 150 of the 260 or so landscapes with which he is associated remain worth seeing today.

I look forward to learning more about this influential and capable man.

Speaker RUSSELL BOWES

NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

10 MARCH 2022

THE LIVES AND DEATHS OF THE HANOVERS

The Hanoverians came to power in difficult circumstances that looked set to undermine the stability of British society. However, the Hanoverian period was to be remarkably stable, not least because of the longevity of its kings. From 1714 through to 1901, there were just six monarchs, one of whom, George III, remains the longest reigning king in British History.

This era was also one of political stability, and the development of constitutional monarchy. Britain's first 'Prime' Minister, Robert Walpole, dates from this time as does the introduction of income tax. It was also during this period that Britain came to acquire much of her overseas empire, despite the loss of the American colonies.

This is a fascinating chapter in history and sure to be an interesting talk.

Speaker DR JOHN REUTHER

OTHER BRANCH MEETINGS

DARTFORD - 5 MARCH 2022

DIG FOR VICTORY - BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO ANCESTORS' LIVES IN WW2

This talk takes a look at the period when England's gardens took on the might of Hitler's armies. Gardens great and small, public and private saw clematis give way to cabbage, and roses replaced by radishes. We learn about the role of the "forgotten army" - the Land Girls - who helped to put food on the tables of the nation, plus advice and propaganda given to gardeners in print and over the airwaves, the unexpected problems of putting an Andersen Shelter in your back garden and why Enid Blyton's rabbit was called "Stew"

Speaker RUSSELL BOWES

RootsTech 2022 - The World's Largest Family History Conference - 3-5 March 2022

100% Virtual, 100% Free.

- Inspiring keynote speakers
- Unlimited access to over 1,500 sessions
- Expo Hall with companies from around the world
- Playlists, chat, and much more

Visit: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/>

NOT TO BE MISSED OUR NWKFHS ZOOM TALK AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

19 FEBRUARY - ZOOM TALK – SEARCHING FOR ANCESTORS WHEN ADOPTED by Dr Penny Walters

People have gaps in their personal history and want to find out about their biological family. This talk will discuss the practical realities, excitement and pain of researching a “new” family, also looking at information revealed through DNA testing. Penny will also reflect on her own adoption story.

Time 10.30 am - Capacity unlimited. The link to the zoom meeting will be posted on the website shortly before the meeting.

2 MARCH ZOOM WORKSHOP: "MEDIEVAL RECORDS PART 2" BY DAVID CUFLEY

The Manorial Documents Register (MDR) is an index of English and Welsh manorial records, providing brief descriptions of documents and details of their locations in public and private hands. Manorial records include court rolls, surveys, maps, terriers, and all other documents relating to the boundaries, franchises, wastes, customs or courts of a manor. This is a case study using the Hexton, Hertfordshire Manor court records to recreate a family mentioned in the records as tenants and as jurors. The method we have used to recreate a family line from the manor records.

This is a Members Only Zoom event led by David Cufley - start time is 7:30pm to 9.30 pm

Please reserve a place by email to workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk including the event title and date together with your name and membership number. Spaces are limited. Time 7:30pm – 9.30 pm –

Free but a donation via the web shop will be appreciated.

The presenter has agreed that the Society may record the event and may be available on the Members only area of the website at a later date.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

23 February @ 10.30am DNA Family History Research Discussion Group Leader Laura Lincoln.

09 March @ 10.00 am Zoom Discussion Group. Bring An Ancestor – Led by Carolyn Barclay

For further details please visit our website www.nwkfhs.org.uk or Sign up for our "FREE to ALL" twice monthly Society eNewsletter

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS OF FURTHER WORKSHOPS AND UPDATES

www.nwkfhs.org.uk or sign up for our "FREE to ALL" twice monthly Society eNewsletter

Events online

There are many talks, podcasts, and exhibitions available to us online, do take a look at some of the following sites:

<https://www.kfhs.org.uk/>

<https://www.esfh.org.uk/>

<http://folkfhs.org.uk/program.htm>

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

<https://www.ihgs.ac.uk/>

ON THIS DAY: FEBRUARY 10 is the 41ST day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 324 days left until the end of the year

1306 In front of the high altar of Greyfriars Church in Dumfries, Robert the Bruce murders John Comyn, sparking the revolution in the Wars of Scottish Independence

1567 Lord Darnley, second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots, is found strangled following an explosion at the Kirk o' Field house in Edinburgh, Scotland, a suspected assassination

1686 William Dugdale, English genealogist and historian, influential in the development of medieval history as an academic subject, died. (b. 1605)

1720 Edmond Halley, English Astronomer, Mathematician and Physicist, is appointed as the second Astronomer Royal at the Greenwich Observatory

1840 Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom marries Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha

1842 Agnes Mary Clerke, Irish astronomer and author, from Skibbereen, County Cork is born (d. 1907)

1894 Harold Macmillan is born (d. 1986)

1906 HMS Dreadnought, the first of a revolutionary new breed of battleships, is christened

1942 Glenn Miller awarded 1st Ever Gold Record for selling 1 million copies of "Chattanooga Choo Choo"

1947 The Paris Peace Treaties are signed by Italy, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Finland and the Allies of World War II

1996 IBM supercomputer Deep Blue defeats Garry Kasparov, Russian chess grandmaster, in chess for the first time

1996 Docklands bomb ends IRA ceasefire. The IRA admitted planting the bomb that exploded in the Docklands area of London

2005 It is announced that Charles and Camilla are to be married

2021 The traditional Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil is cancelled for the first time because of the COVID-19 pandemic

London Labour and the London Poor – it is said to be ‘a key work in the development of investigative journalism’, ‘a masterpiece of personal inquiry and social observation’. Henry Mayhew conducted abundant interviews with street-sellers, sweepers, and sewer-hunters, and many more, in order to share their stories.

‘A picture of human life so wonderful, so awful ... so exciting and terrible’: this is how the novelist and journalist W M Thackeray described Henry Mayhew’s accounts of the lives of the poor in Victorian London, (*Punch*, 9 March 1850, p. 58).

Mayhew wrote his articles, compiled together as *London Labour and the London Poor* (1851), in the decades that Dickens wrote *Bleak House*. Mayhew’s work rivals his contemporary Dickens and is every bit as vivid and unexpected as a Dickens novel. Instead of merely describing the London poor, Mayhew lets them speak to the reader directly in their own words and their own voices. They jump off the page, opinionated and alive.

Herewith some examples of the accounts of these everyday people:

‘I was fifteen on the 24th of last May, sir, and I’ve been sweeping crossings now near upon two years...When we gets home at half-past three in the morning, whoever cries out “first wash” has it. First of all we washes our feet, and we all uses the same water. Then we washes our faces and hands, and necks, and whoever fetches the fresh water up has first wash; and if the second don’t like to go get fresh, why, he uses the dirty’ – Crossing-sweeper.

‘I go about the streets with water-creases [water-cress] crying, “Four bunches a penny, water-creases”... I knows a good many games, but I don’t play at ‘em, ‘cos going out with creases tires me...I ain’t a child, and I shan’t be a woman till I’m twenty, but I’m past eight, I am’ – Watercress girl.

‘Yes, I’ve my regular rounds, and I’ve kept to ‘em for near upon fifty year. All the children like to hear me coming, for I always plays my cymbal as I goes’ – ‘Old Sarah’, the blind street-musician.

‘Many a night I’ve slept under an arch of a railway when I hadn’t a penny to pay for my bed[...]. I’ve lost my health since I took to bone-picking, through the wet and the cold in the winter, for I’ve scarcely any clothes, and the wet gets to my feet through the old shoes.... – Bone-grubber.

‘He had been three years mud-larking and supposed he should remain a mud-lark all his life. What else could he be? For there was nothing else he knew how to do’ – Mud-lark, nine years old.

‘The most on us has got large families. We put the children to work as soon as we can. My little girl began about six, but about eight or nine is the usual age.’ ‘Oh, poor little things,’ said the wife, ‘they are obliged to begin the very minute they can use their fingers at all’ ‘The most of the cabinet-makers of the East-end have from five to six in family, and they are generally all at work for them. The small masters mostly marry when they are turned of 20. You see our trade’s coming to such a pass, that unless a man has children to help him he can’t live at all’ - Worker at ‘fancy cabinet’ work.

Sources: <https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/henry-mayhews-london-labour-and-the-london-poor>

Mayhew – LONDON LABOUR & THE LONDON POOR – edition published 2008 by Wordsworth Editions Limited, Ware, Hertfordshire

The National Archives are open including reading rooms and exhibition spaces:

It is advised that reading room visitors to book their visit and order documents in advance.

You do not need to book to visit their exhibition, shop or cafe.

The 1921 Census of England and Wales is now available in digital format in our reading rooms, free of charge. You do not need to book to access it, though they may operate timed slots at particularly busy times to help manage demand.

The Sevenoaks Committee
Branch Chair - Barbara Attwaters
Committee Members

Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Barbara Stead, Sandra Marchant, Bill Chopping