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ISSUE NUMBER 93

# Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT  
[www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk)



## Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch

Our meetings are held at Otford Memorial Hall, 28A High Street, Otford, TN14 5PQ

*Doors open at 1045 am, meeting starts at 11am - Nominal parking fee*

*We welcome visitors and new members, and we aspire to offer all the helpful advice that you might need.*

*Guests we appreciate a £1.00 - £2.00 donation to the society's funds.*

*We hope you enjoy your visit.*

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***Sanitiser and masks available and chairs placed at a friendly distance for those concerned about Covid***

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## Today's talk

## The History and Mystery of Funerals

Death, and the funeral rites which follow it, have always reflected the culture of the time; and what we consider 'normal' comes from thousands of years of changing beliefs and traditions. Our ancestors had practices that seem strange – even bizarre – to 21st century minds yet we can often see how they leave their mark even now. The talk looks at funeral and death rites over the last thousand years and across the world, considering how they reflect the way our ancestors lived in successive generations.

This evening's speaker Susan is an independent wedding, naming and funeral celebrant but has been fortunate to have had many other amazing jobs including radio journalist, published author, lecturer, and event's organiser. She has spent much of her working life in front of an audience of one kind or another, sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge.

**Speaker SUSAN FLIPPING**

## NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

### **10 JUNE 2023 - Tracing My Ancestors During Lockdown**

When Clare Walker set out to research her husband's ancestors, she never imagined the astonishing stories she would unearth and the many frustrating mysteries that would both enthrall and frustrate her. She also did not bargain on the shocks she would have to deliver to family: ancestors who were executed (they backed the wrong side); murdered in their bed by a best friend; a missing RAF crewman; a doctor who has left his young wife and two small daughters to travel to Australia where he drowned; and a Gaiety girl who voyaged to South Africa with her wedding dress in her suitcase to marry a 'stage-door Johnny'.

Clare began her career as a journalist, went into publishing and then qualified as a pilot aged 50, excelling at each challenge. Since retiring she has co-founded the Dockland Sinfonia. She came from a background of illustrious ancestry, had family memorabilia and the advantage of lots of contacts from her journalism, including photographers. However, when Clare decided to research her and her husband's ancestors during Lockdown, she never imagined the amazing stories that she would uncover.

**Speaker CLARE WALKER**

## DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

### **3 JUNE 2023 - Medicine in the Napoleonic War**

This is a positive and much misunderstood field of medicine that did much to improve the state of the 19th Century soldier.

Dr Reuther will include the contrasting medical practices between the British and French which will give you a new insight into the lives of your military ancestors.

**Speaker DR JOHN REUTHER**

## UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote                          | 21 June 10:30     |
| Workshop for Family History beginners Fran Rogers             | 21 June 10:30     |
| Workshop for Family History beginners Fran Rogers             | 28 June 10:30     |
| Workshop for Family History beginners Fran Rogers             | 28 June 13:00     |
| New to Writing Up your Family History? With Pauline Heathcote | 19 July 10:30     |
| New to Writing Up your Family History? With Pauline Heathcote | 16 August 10:30   |
| New to Writing Up your Family History? With Pauline Heathcote | 25 October 10:30  |
| Family History Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote           | 29 November 10:30 |

The beginner's workshop will cover Birth, Marriages and Death Certificates, Census Records, Parish Registers, Wills and Directories as well as Family Charts and Trees.

## UP AND COMING ZOOM WORKSHOPS

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| How to Draw a Calligraphic Family Tree with David Cufley   | 14 June 19:30    |
| Heralds Visitations with David Cufley                      | 12 July 19:30    |
| Breaking Down Family History Brick Walls with David Cufley | 9 August 19:30   |
| The Rat Catchers with David Cufley                         | 11 October 19:30 |
| Breaking Down Family History Brick Walls with David Cufley | 8 November 19:30 |

## DISCUSSION GROUPS AT THE LIBRARY

**DNA Discussion Group for those who are either new to DNA or want to discuss particular aspects of DNA** Monthly Event  
**Library Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard and Carolyn Barclay** May and September Events

## MONTHLY ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

**Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln**

The topic for each meeting is agreed by the members by notifying the leader through [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk).

## ZOOM FAMILY HISTORY DISCUSSION GROUP

*Come and enjoy lively discussions on different aspects of Family History*

Each meeting the topic is agreed by the members at the previous group meeting. It can range from 'how do I do...?' to: 'sources for finding family information'. Because this is an open discussion the subjects can lead to topics that the participants want to discuss or expand upon points raised during the session. The structure is very flexible.

**Please visit our website for further details, dates and times** [www.nwkfhs.org.uk](http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk)

**Changes and up-to-date details will be on the website and in the e-mail information service newsletter.**

*Since re-opening the library post Covid the number of attendees is noticeably down. There are many reasons for this but if it is safety fears, we would like to reassure you that we will do all we can to make you feel and be safe. The tables can be spaced further apart to usual, furthermore, we can seat you on your own table and nobody will object to you wearing a face covering.*

We would be pleased to hear from any volunteers who would like to be involved with any workshops, along with any new topics that interest you. Contact us through bookings and enquiries by e-mail [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)

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## 18 MAY - ZOOM TALK – THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY, THE CINDERELLAS OF THE FIELDS WITH IAN EVEREST

There were 80,000 land girls during WW2. The land girls played a vital role, by boosting Britain's food production through cultivating the land. Lady Gertrude Denham also played a vital role in this operation.

They helped to provide home -grown food which was vitally needed because U Boats were destroying the merchant ships carrying imports of food and supplies. Many of the men who worked on farms had been called up for the armed services.

Please log in from 7pm and enjoy a chat amongst attendees beforehand.

The Zoom link will be published nearer the date, please check our website.

North West Kent FHS is a charity and membership fees and donations are an important part of our income. If you are not a NWKFHS member, please consider making a donation via our web shop towards the cost of our Zoom licence & speaker's fee

Time 19:00 for 19:30 start - Capacity 100

*Please visit our website for details of further workshops and updates and sign up for our free twice monthly Society eNewsletter*

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**NWKFHS members** who missed a ZOOM talk: some speakers have allowed their talks to be recorded and recorded talks are saved here - <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos> note this link only works for paid up members logged into the website. Sometimes speakers have given permission for their talks only to be recorded for a specified amount of time, so members please do check the link.

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**ON THIS DAY: May 13 is the 133<sup>rd</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 232 days left until the end of the year.**

**The month of May was originally named for the Greek goddess Maia.**

- 1568** Mary Queen of Scots is defeated at the Battle of Langside, part of the civil war between Queen Mary and the supporters of her son, James VI
- 1861** American Civil War: Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom issues a "proclamation of neutrality" which recognizes the Confederacy as having belligerent rights
- 1888** With the passage of the Lei Áurea ("Golden Law"), the Empire of Brazil abolishes slavery
- 1912** The Royal Flying Corps, the forerunner of the Royal Air Force, is established in the United Kingdom
- 1917** Three children report the first apparition of Our Lady of Fátima in Fátima, Portugal
- 1940** World War II: Germany's conquest of France begins, as the German army crosses the Meuse. Winston Churchill makes his "blood, toil, tears, and sweat" speech to the House of Commons
- 1950** Stevie Wonder, American singer-songwriter, pianist, and producer is born
- 1958** Ben Carlin becomes the first (and only) person to circumnavigate the world by amphibious vehicle, having travelled over 17,000 kilometres (11,000 mi) by sea and 62,000 kilometres (39,000 mi) by land during a ten-year journey
- 1989** Large groups of students occupy Tiananmen Square and begin a hunger strike
- 1995** Alison Hargreaves, a 33-year-old British mother, becomes the first woman to conquer Everest without oxygen or the help of sherpas
- 2019** Doris Day, American singer and actress died (b. 1922)
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### **Society of Genealogists May Events**

- 20 May 10:30 – 11:30 1 hour Zoom Talk - Resources for House Histories in the Library of the SoG with Else Churchill
- 20 May 14:00 – 15:00 1 hour Zoom Talk – Australian Gold Rush with Gay Evans
- 25 May 14:00 – 15:00 1 hour Zoom Talk - Researching Men Who Served in the Army and Navy before 1914 with Simon Fowler
- 27 May 15:00 – 16:00 1 hour Zoom Talk – Getting the Most from Cyndi's List with Cyndi Ingle
- Visit the website for more information and events [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk) / [events@sog.org.uk](mailto:events@sog.org.uk)
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### **Census Returns 1801 – 1911**

#### **Boarders and Lodgers**

Did you Know – The positions of boarders and lodgers within houses is a vexed one which appears never to have been properly understood by enumerators. It was intended (certainly from 1861 onwards) that a distinction should be drawn between *boarders*, who ate with the family, and *lodgers*, who just rented a room, or part of one and should be separated from the main household by /, but it is obvious that in many cases neither enumerator nor householder appreciated the difference. In some boarding houses, lodgers were listed as either weekly or nightly lodgers. All that can safely be said is that it always pays to note any boarders, lodgers or servants within a house as they may well turn out (particularly the boarders) to be relatives of the family they are living with, especially if they are born in the same area as someone in the family. The 'extended family' was the norm and if one family group made a success of life in a new area, relatives tended to follow and stay with them until they could establish themselves independently.

**Source Book 'Pitfalls and Possibilities in Family History Research' by Pauline M. Litton Page 68**

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#### **Petit treason**

Did you know – When the 19<sup>th</sup> century dawned, it was only a decade since the official fate of a wife who murdered her husband was to be burned alive (though, by the kindness of the executioner, she might have been strangled or garrotted before the flames reached her). Men who murdered their wives, on the other hand, were sentenced to be hanged. The reason for the difference lies in the crime of petit treason.

A wife was considered to owe her husband the same kind of allegiance as a subject owed to his king, and just as the subject could commit treason, so the wife could commit petit (or petty, i.e. small) treason. The same charge would apply to a servant who murdered her employer. In 1790, the penalty for both sexes was made the same – hanging – but it was not until 1828 that the offence of petit treason was abolished.

The attitudes that lay behind the law did not go away so easily. In the criminal courts, it still remained true after 1828 that a husband who killed his adulterous wife might be charged only with manslaughter, while a wife found guilty of murdering her adulterous husband would be hanged for murder.

**Source book 'The Female Line' by Margaret Ward Page 62**

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**The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair - Bill Chopping**

**Committee Members: Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Sandra Marchant, Barbara Attwaters**