



8th July 2023

ISSUE NUMBER 95

Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT
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 10:45 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.

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

Today's talk

The Dartford Hospitals during WW1

Dartford has an interesting mix of hospitals, not all built for local people. West Hill has its origins from the workhouse. The changes made to the poor laws in the 1800s compelled parishes to provide better care for their destitute, sick and insane. These people would have been nursed in the workhouse in sick wards, where their care was poor and nursing often provided by other inmates. The lack of separation for infectious sick meant epidemics were hard to control.

It was these same problems to which Florence Nightingale was devoting her time to in London. She was campaigning for the removal of infectious sick and the insane patients from the workhouses and for a single statutory body to oversee the care of these people so that care could be standardised. She wanted everyone looked after by trained nurses.

During the Wars, the Dartford hospitals were used by American and Australian forces, whilst the Lower Southern became a German POW hospital.

Francine has studied the history of Dartford's hospitals extensively and is the author of three books about Dartford Hospitals. In this presentation Francine talks about the Dartford hospitals during WW1.

Speaker FRANCINE PAYNE

NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

12th August 2023 – The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood were a group of young artists who studied at the Royal Academy in the 19th century under Sir Joshua Reynolds and who wanted painting to be expansive, depicting nature with its beautiful colours and detailed orientation.

The formation of the brotherhood and the paintings that made them famous led to the Arts and Craft Movement in which William Morris, a great friend of the members, embraced their art through textiles and wallpaper which evolved into the style known as Art Nouveau.

Speaker DELIA TAYLOR

DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

5th August 2023 - Lost Rivers of London

Many members will have had family who lived in or passed through London in the past. They would have been familiar with the many rivers which are no longer visible above ground, but which were part of daily life and often carried effluent into the River Thames.

Roger will tell us about these tributaries which still do flow but are now covered, hence the term "lost rivers". He will explain how there are still clues to following the routes of these rivers thereby enhancing our understanding of where and how our ancestors lived.

Speaker ROGER SQUIRES

UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

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

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
My Ancestor was a Liar with Dave Annal	17 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 Aug 9th/Sep 13th
Library Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard and Carolyn Barclay September 6th

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.

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

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

9th August – LIBRARY WORKSHOP – Library DNA Discussion Group for those who are either new to DNA or want to discuss particular aspects of DNA.

A group for those either new to DNA or those who want to discuss particular aspects of DNA.

Numbers are restricted to enable all participants to ask questions, share knowledge and engage with other members. Please reserve a place with workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk including the event, title and date together with your name and membership number.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation towards the Society's contribution to the library running costs is appreciated. A donation box will be available on the day.

This is a Members Only face to face meeting at the library, which the Society has sole use of on Wednesdays.
Kent County Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley, Kent, DA5 2EE The library opens at 10am.
Parking in nearby roads.

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

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.

ON THIS DAY: July 8 is the 189th day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 176 days remain to the end of the year. July is the seventh month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars, the fourth of seven months with a length of 31 days. It was named by the Roman Senate in honour of Roman general Julius Caesar in 44 B.C., it being the month of his birth. Before then it was called Quintilis, being the fifth month of the calendar that started with March.

- 1099 First Crusade: 15,000 starving Christian soldiers march in religious procession around Jerusalem as its Muslim defenders look on.
- 1497 Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama departs on his first voyage. He became the 1st European to reach India by sea.
- 1853 Commodore Matthew C. Perry sails his frigate Susquehanna into Tokyo Bay, opening Japan to Western influence and trade.
- 1889 Boxing - John L. Sullivan beat Jake Kilrain in 75 rounds to defend his title in the last heavyweight championship bout held under London Prize Ring rules.
- 1947 A local newspaper erroneously reported that a “flying saucer” had been recovered near Roswell, New Mexico; although that claim was quickly refuted by authorities.
- 1948 500th anniversary of the Russian Orthodox Church celebrated in Moscow.
- 1950 Douglas MacArthur was appointed commander of United Nations forces in the Korean War.
- 1965 Great Train Robber Ronald Biggs, who was serving a 30-year sentence, escaped from Wandsworth prison.
- 1995 Wimbledon Women's Tennis: German superstar Steffi Graf beats Arantxa Sánchez Vicario of Spain 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 for her 6th Wimbledon title
- 1996 British girls group the Spice Girls release their debut single "Wannabe" in the UK.

Society of Genealogists July Events

Date	Time	Title	Type
12 July 2023	19:00	Wednesday Workshop: Brickwalls with Mia Bennett	Online
13 July 2023	14:00	Walk: Up and Down the City Road	London
13 July 2023	14:00	Addicted to Diaries with Valerie Smith (1-hour talk)	Online
15 July 2023	10:30	An Introduction to House Histories with Cathy Soughton (1-hour talk)	Online
20 July 2023	14:00	A Freemason in the Family with Susan Snell (1-hour talk)	Online
22 July 2023	10:30	A Morning with the Victorians with Kathryn Ferry, Fiona Kay and Paul Couchman (half day)	Online
22 July 2023	14:00	Beyond the Death Certificate with Julie Goucher (1-hour talk)	Online
27 July 2023	18:00	Introduction to Advanced Genealogy with Else Churchill (2-hour talk)	Online

Visit the website for more information and events www.sog.org.uk / events@sog.org.uk

US Independence Day

Did you know.....

U.S. Independence Day, also called Fourth of July or July 4th, is the annual celebration of nationhood. It commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The Congress had voted in favour of the Declaration of Independence on July 2, but only completed their revision of the Declaration - originally drafted by Thomas Jefferson together with John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and William Livingston - two days later.

The celebration was initially modelled on that of the king’s birthday, which had been marked annually by bell ringing, bonfires, solemn processions, and oratory. Such festivals had long played a significant role in the Anglo-American political tradition.

In the early stages of the revolutionary movement in the American colonies during the 1760s and early ’70s, patriots used such celebrations to proclaim their resistance to Parliament’s legislation while lauding King George III as the real defender of English liberties. However, the marking of the first days of independence during the summer of 1776 often took the form in many towns of a mock funeral for the king, whose “death” symbolized the end of monarchy and tyranny and the rebirth of liberty.

The bombastic torrent of words that characterized Independence Day during the 19th century made it both a serious occasion and one sometimes open to ridicule—like the increasingly popular and democratic political process itself in that period. With the growth and diversification of American society, the Fourth of July commemoration became a patriotic tradition which political parties and many other groups - such as Abolitionists, women’s rights advocates and the temperance movement—sought to claim.

Today it remains a national holiday marked by parades, concerts of patriotic music, and fireworks displays. It continues to be a potent symbol of national power and of specifically American qualities—even the freedom to stay at home and barbecue.

Source Encyclopaedia Britannica – US Independence Day

The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair - Bill Chopping

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