



11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025

ISSUE NUMBER 113

# 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 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.*

*If you are a guest 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.*

*We are pleased to inform you that we now have a hearing system at this event to enhance the audio experience for attendees who may need it.*

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## TODAYS TALK:

### Mid 19th Century Merchant Shipping

Bill will be drawing on his great-great-grandfather William Schaw Lindsay's journals. William Schaw Lindsay (1815 – 1877) left home at 16 and worked his way up from cabin boy to ship owner and also became a Liberal MP.

The talk will cover : William Schaw Lindsay's adventures on a Ocean-sailing vessel in the 1830s when he left home at 16. The shift from sailing ships to ocean steamships. Transport ships during the Crimean War Emigration to Australia and Canada. Building the Confederate Navy in the American Civil War

**Speaker : William Lindsay**

### NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

**8 February 2025: Lost Sevenoaks**

Ed began to collect railway memorabilia as much of the railway was being modernised in the 1960s but it wasn't until 1980s when the canopy at Otford Station was being taken down that he felt the need to preserve the memory of the old station for future generations. At that time he only possessed one old photograph of the building, but over time his collection grew to over 200 pictures. Next he started amassing pictures of Otford Village and then of Sevenoaks and the surrounding villages, eventually widening out to cover West Kent and East Sussex. The talk looks at the buildings and scenes of Sevenoaks that are lost to time but were captured in over 80 evocative photographs.

**Speaker : Ed Thompson**

### DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

**1st February 2025 : The 1921 Census in the News**

Judith lives in Sevenoaks. This is a new talk that she has researched to give us a different perspective on a source that we have all used and probably taken for granted by setting it into its social background. She shows the contemporary reactions to the 1921 census based on newspaper reports.

**Speaker : Judith Batchelor**



### Bring Your Own Mug (BYOM)

Let's make our meetings a little eco-friendly! Please where possible BYOM to help us to save a little cost, reduce waste and make a positive impact on the environment. If this is difficult or you forget don't worry, we do have a small supply of mugs to ensure you can enjoy a drink. We thank you for your cooperation.

## UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

DNA & General Family History Discussion Group with Pam Goddard	12-02-2025 10:30 am
Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote	26-02-2025 10:30 am

## ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

Have you found remarkable women in your research? with Ann Clarke am	05-02-2025 10:30 am
Let's Talk About Family History with David Cufley	12-02-2025 2:30 pm
DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln am	19-02-2025 10:30 am
Breaking down brick walls with David Cufley	26-02-2025 7:30 pm
Breach of Promise to Marry - the Real Miss Havishams with Denise Bates	13-02-2025 7:30 pm

**Please log in 15 minutes before each online event and enjoy chatting amongst participants before it starts.**

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### **How to get the Zoom Link - Booking is no longer required for individual Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups.**

A Zoom Register has been created to cover all attendance to any of the zoom groups. Any society member who would like to be added to the register needs to submit their name, email address and membership number to [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk). You only need to register once. Once a month the zoom links for the discussion groups and workshops will be sent by email to those members on the register. Members who have registered can then attend as many of the Zoom groups as they wish with no need to make a specific booking for each one.

#### **All Zoom Workshops and Discussion Groups are members only-events.**

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation via the web shop is appreciated:

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/shop/nwkfhs-shop/services/society-donation>

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Participating in a North West Kent Family History workshop or discussion offers numerous benefits. It provides valuable skills for research, enhances your understanding of historical contexts, and fosters a sense of connection with your ancestry. We warmly welcome both familiar faces and new friends.

***Calling all volunteers with fresh ideas!*** *If you have a new topic of interest you'd like to see covered in our workshops, or you wish to be involved with our workshops, we want to hear from 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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### **An Invitation from the Editor**

As a member of our esteemed Family History Society, we invite you to contribute to our upcoming journals in the next few months. At NWKFHS, we value the rich tapestry of family narratives and historical insights that our members bring to the table. Your unique perspective and expertise would undoubtedly enrich our journal. Whether you have a captivating family story, compelling research, or an enlightening exploration of historical records, we warmly welcome your submissions. This is a terrific opportunity to share your knowledge and

passion with fellow members. If you are interested in contributing, please feel free to reach out to us with your proposed topic or submission. Our editor Pauline will be delighted to hear from you and will respond to every proposal. Please email [theeditor@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:theeditor@nwkfhs.org.uk) – word files or simply text in the body of an email is fine. We look forward to hearing from you.

### ON THIS DAY

**January 11** is the 11th day of the year in the Gregorian calendar;

1569 – First recorded lottery in England.

1787 – William Herschel discovers Titania and Oberon, two moons of Uranus.

1879 – The Anglo-Zulu War begins.

1920 – Mick McManus born, English wrestler (d. 2013)

1938 – Arthur Scargill born, English miner, activist, and politician

1943 – The Republic of China agrees to the Sino-British New Equal Treaty and the Sino-American New Equal Treaty.

1957 – Bryan Robson born, English footballer and manager

1996 – Space Shuttle program: STS-72 launches from the Kennedy Space Center marking the start of the 74th Space Shuttle mission and the 10th flight of *Endeavour*.

2020 – COVID-19 pandemic in Hubei: Municipal health officials in Wuhan announce the first recorded death from COVID-19.

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### Old Occupations:

FABER A skilled workman -carpenter, wheelwright, shipwright

FACTOR A person who acts for another, notably a mercantile and/or colonial agent. Also a Scottish term for an estate steward responsible for collecting land rents.

FAGETTER Made up faggots into bundles, seller of firewood

FANWRIGHT A maker and repairer of fans or winnowing baskets

FARRIER or FERROUR Horse shoer -often referred to as a blacksmith

FELLER Woodcutter

FETTLER Someone who keeps things in good order (fettle), neat and tidy.

FILIBUSTER A lawless military adventurer, especially one in quest of plunder; a freebooter.

the cotton mill machinery

FITTER One who fits or adjusts. Eg clothing, machinery, gas etc

FLESHEWER Butcher

FLYCOACHMAN A driver of one-horse carriage hired by the day

FOOT PAD A thief who preys on pedestrians. A highwayman who robs on foot.

FUNAMBULIST A tightrope walker

FURRIER A worker, seller or producer of furs

### SOCIETY VACANCIES

Many hands make light work. That is certainly true when it comes to sharing the tasks that keep our Society operating smoothly. Please review these volunteer opportunities. This list will be updated monthly on the

Society website. If you can help, please email <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> marked for the attention of the Society secretary.

### **URGENT Society Treasurer**

The Society has struggled this year to fill this post. The current person can only continue until the end of October 2024. So the Society URGENTLY needs someone to volunteer for this role longer-term. The job is not onerous and full support will be available from the other Committee members. A job description is available if you are interested.

### **Society Chair**

The Society has struggled this year to fill this post. Nigel Durrant has kindly agreed to stand-in until someone can volunteer for this role longer-term. The job is not onerous and full support will be available from the other Committee members. A job description is available if you are interested

### **Chair - Sevenoaks Branch Meetings**

Barbara Phillips is currently acting Chair but would like to relinquish this post as she is also programme secretary for the branch and has other responsibilities within the Society. The chair does not have as many responsibilities as previously as others have taken on some of the tasks. If the Branch Chair is away for a meeting, this can be managed. The job is not onerous, but needs commitment.

### **Bought-in-Books Transporter - Dartford & Sevenoaks Branch Meetings**

Dartford & Sevenoaks need someone to bring the Bought -in-Books to the meetings. When not required they can be housed in the Society's lock-up off of Thames Road, Dartford. One does not need a big car boot. Any monies involved are the responsibility of the individual branch and do not concern the person who brings them. The job is not onerous, but does need commitment.

### **Librarian Assistant**

The Society Librarian urgently needs volunteers to help with running the Library in Joyden's Wood and to help fellow members with their research. The situation is about to become worse, as one of the current volunteers is moving away soon. We must have at least two volunteers on site for the Library to be able to open on Wednesdays. Good IT skills and knowledge of Microsoft Windows would be helpful, but are not essential. Are you free on Wednesdays and could offer help on one or more Wednesdays a month?

If you can help with any of these please email via <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/?location=1#Contact> marked for the attention of the Society Secretary.

### **Society Library**

The Society Library is open every Wednesday for members to do their own research, socialise, participate in library based workshops and discussion groups and receive help from the library volunteers. The library address is 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley Kent DA5 2EE Free parking in nearby side roads.

You can use the library's PCs to access Ancestry - and FindMyPast (which currently does NOT include access to the 1921 census, something we are investigating with the library). We suggest joining Kent Libraries as you can then access these websites from your own device whilst in the library which eases pressure on the demand for library PCs.

The library is open from 10am to 4pm but it greatly helps the volunteers if visitors with research queries call in earlier in the day rather than later. Please also bring as much information as you already have about the ancestor you are researching.

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**The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair – Vacant**

**Members: Barbara Phillips, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Sandra Marchant, Barbara Attwaters,  
Maureen Berry, Jon Henderson, Janet Rose, Christine Hills**