

# Peterborough and District Family History Society Newsletter

## May 2022

### From the Chairman

Nobody can fail to be affected by the news on TV of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It made me think of members of my own family who have been involved with the Armed Forces.

There was Frances Kennelly, my father's Grand Uncle, who died in the Boer War in 1900. In WWI two of my mother's brothers, Harold and Horace, were killed – one on the Somme and one at Ypres. Another brother, Victor, and Uncle Will, survived. In WWII another of my mother's brothers, Gordon Brown, served as a Captain in the Army in India. My father, Fred, was an electrician in the RAF in that war.

And, finally, I was called up for National Service in the RAF and spent 18 months as a typist in the Sick Quarters at RAF Swinderby, which was a Flying Training Station which had Vickers Varsitys.

There are stories to be told about these people and I suggest we research our own families to see if they had involvements with the Armed Forces and maybe share the results of that research.

Good Hunting.

**Michael.**

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### From the Editor

I thought I should report on the progress I have made with my ancestor's spreadsheet. I have listed along the top the official records that are the genealogists research bread and butter. I have listed the parish registers, the census records, the GRO certificates and the 1939 National Register. I have also added additional points of interest, such as school records, occupation records, and the Land Valuation Survey 1911. Down the vertical I have listed my parents, grandparents and great grandparents, more names will be added as I progress.

Feeling rather smug that I had achieved at least the skeleton of my spreadsheet I selected my first ancestor's file, my grandfather Bernard Semmence. I know a great deal about his life from the many stories that he told me and felt confident I had the evidence to support this. After all when I am conducting research for my blogs and articles everything is checked and double checked. But no. Unfortunately for my own family history the physical evidence, to support the facts, is rather lacking in many areas. Time I think to order certificates, double check census records and learn a little more about the area he lived. A perfect Bank Holiday activity!

This has been a salutary lesson that although we know a lot about our ancestors, there is always more that can be discovered, always something that should be corroborated, and who knows what else may be learnt.

Keep up the research and please share the results with other members.

**Sadie**



## Zoom Talks

All meetings are currently being held by zoom. Joining instructions will be set in the week prior to the meeting.

|              |        |   |                |
|--------------|--------|---|----------------|
| Wed 4th May  | 7.30pm | AGM followed by 'Exploring the Archives'  | Alan Johnson   |
| Wed 1st June | 7.30pm | 'Using British Newspaper Archives'        | Steve Manning  |
| Wed 6th July | 7.30pm | 'Agnes Loomes Welfare pioneer of Fletton' | Sadie McMullon |

**Do you have a story to tell, a tip to share, a book to recommend, a brick-wall you need help with?**

**Please get in touch with the Editor.**

**Don't be shy!**

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**Please keep us up to date with any address change; e.mail or snail mail.**

### Have you paid your subscriptions yet?

Its easy to do, just follow the link to Parish Chest.

[Renewal UK Member \(Individual\) | Parish Chest](#) or [Renewal UK Member \(Joint\) | Parish Chest](#)



### Friend, Relative or Stranger?

The column on the census schedule 'relationship to head of household' is valuable to help us work out possible family relationships. Sometimes relationships such as 'lodger' and 'housekeeper' become husbands and wives in later censuses. Sometimes visitors can reveal wider family connections.

In 1901 my gt gt grandparents, William and Mary Newall, lived in Yaxley Fen, Huntingdonshire. William was a farmer and staying in the household was Albert Maldock, also a farm labourer. I have always wondered about the relationship of Albert to William, head of household, that was recorded - 'stranger'. Perhaps William and Albert worked together and they had not known each other for very long, but stranger still seems to be an unusual relationship.

|            |   |  |                  |          |   |    |                |          |          |                 |
|------------|---|--|------------------|----------|---|----|----------------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| Yaxley Fen | 1 |  | Arthur J. Newall | Head     | M | 26 | Farmer         | Labourer | Worker   | Cambs Whittles  |
|            |   |  | Mary A.          | Wife     | M | 26 |                |          |          | Hunts Yaxley    |
|            |   |  | George S.        | Brother  | L | 12 |                |          |          | Carab. Hoarls   |
| D:         | 1 |  | William Newall   | Head     | M | 49 | Farmer         |          | Employer | Cambs Whittles  |
|            |   |  | Mary             | Wife     | M | 50 |                |          |          | D: Coates       |
|            |   |  | Alice St.        | Serv     | L | 19 |                |          |          | D: D:           |
|            |   |  | Aida             | Serv     | L | 14 |                |          |          | Hunts. Ashwell. |
|            |   |  | Albert Maldock   | Stranger | M | 64 | Worked on farm |          | Worker   |                 |

|                |          |      |    |    |
|----------------|----------|------|----|----|
| Aida           | D:       | Serv | L  | 14 |
| Albert Maldock | Stranger | M    | 64 |    |

Have you seen an interesting, unusual or revealing census entry? Please share with other members.

**Too Afraid to Ask** Do you have a question you have always wanted to ask but felt it too obvious? Or that you should really know the answer too? If you do please don't be shy. No-one can know everything and if you are wondering then someone else will be too. Please send your questions in so we can share our knowledge.

## Your Society Needs You...

We like to have a report of each talk in our journal. This ensures that those members who are unable to listen do not miss out on valuable information and they also act as a reminder which we can all re-visit.

### Could you write a report for the journal?

It would be good to share this task out amongst members. The reports need not be long. They are just a summary of the highlights. Many speakers produce handouts which you can work from.

If you would like to give it a go please contact Sadie.

## Occupation Codes 1921

Confused by occupations and occupational codes in the census records? Look no further than this useful website.

[A Dictionary of Occupational Terms Based on the Classification of Occupations used in the Census of Population, 1921. \(spub.co.uk\)](http://spub.co.uk)

It contains the instructions given to the clerks, information about regional occupation terms and other fascinating facts which will aid your family history research.

## Mystery Object

This item seems to have had you stuck.

It is something that is very familiar in our kitchens today, but to the Victorians a toaster was a wonderful innovation. I wondered how many burnt slices there were?



What do you think the item on the left was used for? Please do get in touch with your suggestions or memories.

## Websites, Blogs etc

Ever fancied yourself as an heir hunter? Check out the Bona Vacantia List

[Bona Vacantia List | Unclaimed Estates UK](http://bonavacantialist.com)

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Looking for a place to discuss genealogy, to share your research, to ask for assistance with a brickwall? Look no further than Genealogy Specialists known as Top Dog.

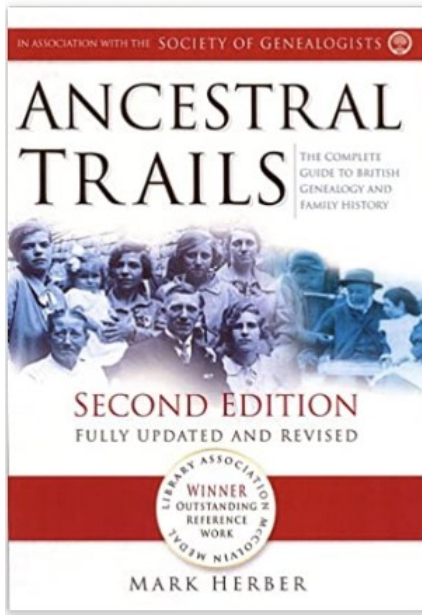
[Genealogy Specialists \(genealogy-specialists.com\)](http://genealogy-specialists.com)

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Check out Dr. Sophie Kay's blog

[The Parchment Rustler – The genealogy blog of Sophie Kay](http://theparchmentrustler.com)

## Book Review



I have only just come across this excellent reference book written by Mark Herber, but what an excellent find.

We are all very familiar with GRO records, census records, parish records etc but there are so many other records just waiting to be discovered.

*Ancestral Trails* takes each record group in turn and discusses why the record was created, where it can be located and examples of what the record could reveal about your ancestors.

Along with chapters covering more familiar records, such as 'Directories' and 'Education' I found the chapters on 'Records of Shipping and Seamen' and 'Maps, Land Registration and Property Records' particularly interesting.

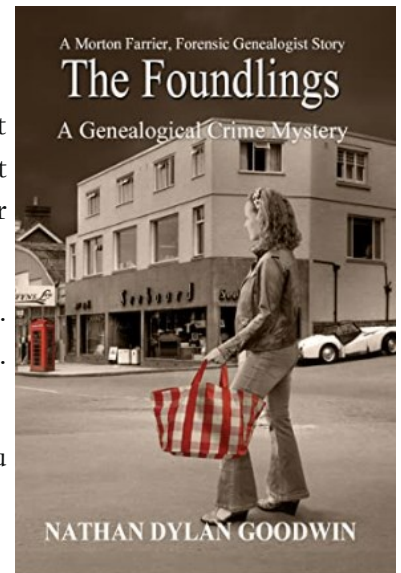
ISBN-10 : 0750941987

For those of us who are Nathan Dylan Goodwin fans it has been a long wait for his latest instalment of the Morton Farrier, forensic generalist, series. But the wait has been rewarded by an excellent mystery and the drawing together of previous storylines.

For those who have not tried these books I would highly recommend them. They are wonderfully researched and you might even get some hints and tips. Although Morton's records invariably yield results, whereas ours do not!

Happy reading, this is number 9 in the series so you can binge read if you haven't tried them before.

ASIN : B09JG6RB3V



## Help Needed

Howe menny mistakes can ewe spot in this questchun?

If you noticed even one error (above) you will be able to help Colin Ashworth who has just completed a full Memorial Inscription survey of Alwalton church. All he needs is someone to double check his typing by reading through the PDF. Colin has done the hard work by transcribing the inscriptions from his photographs and checking everything at least twice, but mistakes always creep through.

He also plans to tackle Elton churchyard as he has established that there has not been a survey. Should you wish to join him on this daunting task on site, or just take on some work from the comfort of your computer desk, then he would like to hear from you. Please contact him by email on [coateswebmaster \[AT\]gmail.com](mailto:coateswebmaster@[AT]gmail.com) but type a single @ instead of the 4 characters [AT].