

Peterborough and District Family History Society Newsletter

July 2022

From the Chairman

Among all those people who appear on your Family Tree, do you have a favourite? I do.

Her name is Susan EMERY (b. about 1826), whose sister Mary Ann, married into my HIBBLE family. So I claim her as mine!

Susan went into service and by 1870 was a nurse in Stafford House (a palace) London to the two daughters of the Duke of Sutherland, Lady Florence and Lady Alexandra. I have copies of letters she wrote to them. In 1871 she was with the family at Lilleshall House, Shropshire, and in 1881 was Housekeeper to the Duke's stately home at Trentham Hall in Staffordshire. She was not averse to a spot of nepotism as her niece, Rose Ann HIBBLE (born 1864) was Assistant Housekeeper in 1881. She influenced a placement for another niece, Eleanor Catherine HIBBLE (born 1856) with Sybel, Countess Grosvenor in 1881. Eleanor continued her placements in 1891 at Eaton Hall, the home of the Duke of Westminster, as a visiting Lady's Maid; in 1901 and 1911 at the home of the Earl of Shaftesbury in Ireland. Susan EMERY also helped my own grandmother, Rose Ann KENNELLY (nee HIBBLE, born 1871) to find a place in the home of Sir Arthur SULLIVAN, the composer. All these people left fascinating wills listing the gifts made to them by their aristocratic employers. Since I love exploring stately homes, you can see why I value Susan EMERY, who started it all off for me.

Good hunting and do let Sadie know about your favourite ancestor.

Michael

From the Editor

What a wonderful challenge Michael. I can't wait to hear about everyone's favourite ancestors.

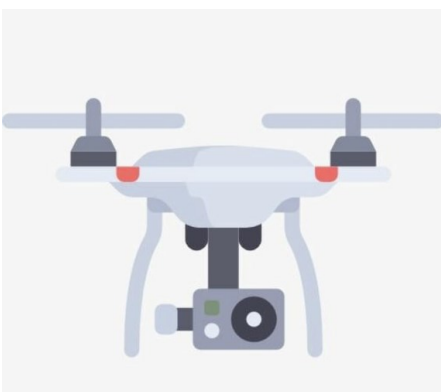
No-one can deny that the last two years has been a challenge for many of us. COVID has changed our lives, in a multitude of different ways. Many organisations have been encouraging us to collect and record our memories for future generations. I wonder how COVID will be remembered 10, 20, 30 or 100 years from now?

As individuals we carry our memories with us and to a certain extent are defined by them. As my son has just sat his 'A' levels and finished school I wonder what memories he will have of his school days, the year, of course, who did not sit their GCSEs because of COVID.

So my challenge to you is to share your memories of your school days. Can you remember your first day at school? The day you left school? Results day? Sports Day? Or your favourite lesson or teacher?

Hopefully my e.mail will be bursting with your memories and stories of your favourite ancestor.

Sadie



Have you seen the drone footage of Peterborough commissioned by the Peterborough Civic Society?

It really is fascinating. Here is the YouTube link

<https://youtu.be/BWcOMGpgeoE>

Or search

'Above Peterborough 2022'

Zoom Talks

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

Wed 6th July	7.30pm	‘Agnes Loomes Welfare pioneer of Fletton’	Sadie McMullon
Wed 3rd August	7.30pm	‘Meet the Committee’	The Committee
Wed 7th Sep	7.30pm	‘Posted in the Past’	Helen Baggott

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](#)



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

Please get in touch with the Editor.

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

Book Review



Maggie Gilbert and her children, Jack and Alice, live a pretty normal life. That is, until Maggie starts looking into her family tree. In doing so, she uncovers a dark mystery that endangers her children. She has to solve a mystery in the past, if she is to save her family in the present. Together with fellow genealogist, Zelah, Maggie unearths more and more details about the drowning of a small girl, and the unsolved disappearance of Maggie's ancestor. Strange forces are at work, and they seem to be leaking into the present. This supernatural mystery is set in and around Cwbmran and Newport, South Wales, and draws on real historical details. This is book one in the Maze Investigations Series.

This is a fascinating story if you enjoy something a little unusual, but still genealogy based.

ISBN: 1909129704

If you have read a book you would like to recommend then please get in touch with the editor.

Websites, Blogs etc...

Do you love to walk where your ancestors lived?

If you do then try this website for a range of walks, walking groups , paths and trails.

www.open-walks.co.uk

Something to Ponder...

Gwendoline Beatty invites us to ponder the burial entry below.

Recently I was looking through the Brompton Cemetery Registers when this burial caught my eye.

‘James Watkins accidentally drowned while bathing in the River Nene, Peterborough. Buried 12 July 1859 aged 17.’

The following was reported in the *Lincolnshire Chronicle* 15 July 1859.

Death by Drowning

“James Watkins, tent master to Messrs. Howes and Cushing’s Circus (which visited the town on Thursday) lost his life on that day while bathing in the river Nene, near the Midland Railway Bridge. The body was speedily recovered, and Mr. Farr, House Surgeon of the Dispensary, was sent for, but he pronounced life extinct. An inquest was held the following day by J W Lawrence, Esq. Deputy – coroner and a verdict of “accidentally drowned,” returned.

Deceased was unmarried and had no relatives connected with the circus.”

Why was he buried in Brompton Cemetery?

Ancestry Beware

The ability to conduct our family history research online is undoubtedly a benefit we all take advantage of. However, all family historians should beware of errors in the online documents, and if you hit a brickwall or something doesn’t quite fit then its always a good idea to consult the original documents.

I was looking for the baptism of Ellen Rimes, daughter of William and Ann, which should I thought have taken place in Fletton on 21st July 1844.

I entered the search and the result Ancestry gave me was Ellen Rimes, daughter of **Tom** and Ann Rimes.

Ancestry do not hold the original records, but after consulting the baptismal register I was able to confirm that Ellen was indeed the daughter of William and Ann.

So beware of the results you receive-Ancestry Beware.



Mystery Object



The mystery object, on the left, in the last newsletter seems to have brought a blank..

It is a vital piece of equipment for a car mechanic, for accessing the underside of the car.

It is a dollie or car creeper.

Stef Roberts writes about the mystery object from the May newsletter. She writes:

'Love the picture of the toaster, we had one similar when I was

growing up in the 50s and 60s. You opened the sides and the slice of bread slid down the door, when you shut the sides the other side of the bread was toasted. Quite fun to use.'

And now to this month's mystery object. What is the object, on the left, used for?



Puzzle Corner



Colin Ashworth has sent in a photograph for us to puzzle over. The photograph came from his mother's collection.

For those who remember it is a contact print from a Kodak 620 roll film, so the print is 3 x 2 inches.

It is perhaps dated to 1950 and is in Peterborough. But where? Behind the lorry you can just make out 'Gown shop' and 'Geo.'

If you can solve the puzzle please get in touch.

If you have a photograph you would like help with then please send a copy in to the editor.