

Peterborough and District Family History Society Newsletter

August 2022

From the Chairman

I have spent most of the past week in hospital with excellent staff, having tests and awaiting others, but I am now back at home. However, this did spark an idea for my thoughts in the newsletter. Have you explored medical issues in the families on your tree? For example, of the ten children born to my paternal great-grandparents only two survived beyond the age of three. Of the two who became adults my grand-uncle was killed in the Boer War and my grandfather died aged 30 under an operation on his throat when my father was aged two. (I am lucky to be here!) The causes of death of the children make an interesting study. Do any causes of death run in your families and have the names of the illnesses changed over the years? Have you got an 'act of God' anywhere? Were any of your ancestors in medical practice? I have an aunt who was a Sister at the old Papworth Hospital who left some good photographs of the place. Do you remember illnesses as a child and visits from the Doctor? Put your mind to it and see what you can come up with, and let Sadie have an article. Best wishes.

Michael

From the Editor...

As I am writing this fans are whirring in every room, the mercury is pushing 40 degrees Celsius, and the news is reporting the tragic fires that are blazing up and down the country.

A memorable news event.

I am lucky, I have access to fans to keep me cool, air conditioning when I am shopping, a freezer for ice and a fridge for milk and butter. Most importantly perhaps I can protect my skin with sun cream and cool down in a wide variety of unrestricted clothing.

How different it must have been for our ancestors.

How did they manage to keep food fresh? How did they keep themselves cool? How restrictive and uncomfortable women must have found corsets and long dresses.

As we compile our family trees these are some of the real day to day difficulties that our ancestors had to deal with. Perhaps we should pause for a moment and consider what their lives were like when memorable events occurred and how they might have been affected by them.

If you have stories to share please consider putting pen to paper for the newsletter and journal.

Keep cool!!

Sadie

Zoom Talks

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

Wed 3rd August	7.30pm	'Meet the Committee'	The Committee
Wed 7th Sep	7.30pm	'Posted in the Past'	Helen Baggott
Wed 5th Oct	7.30pm	'Brickwalls and Break Throughs'	Alan Johnson

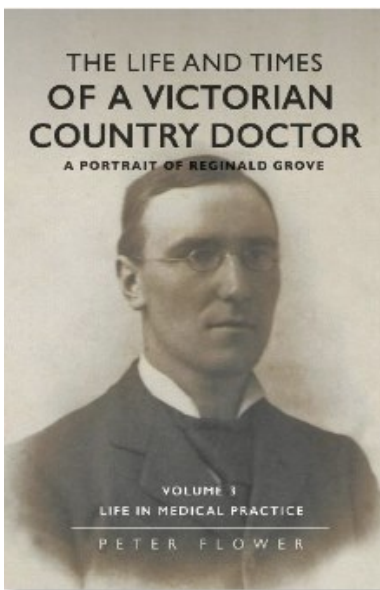
Do you have a story to tell, a tip to share, a book to recommend, a brickwall you need help with?

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



Peter Flower's previous two books, *The life and Times of a Victorian Country Doctor: A Portrait of Reginald Grove*, *Life at Home* and *Life at Boarding School* have been reviewed on these pages previously. This is to let you know that the third volume *Life in Medical Practice* was published on 26th July.

It promises to be another fascinating read, and I cannot wait to secure my copy.

The first two books are available from the publisher at a discounted price at the moment. See the links below:

[The Life and Times Of A Victorian Country Doctor - A Portrait of Reginald Grove – Browndog-books.uk](http://www.browndog-books.uk)

[The Life and Times Of A Victorian Country Doctor - A Portrait of Reginald Grove – Browndog-books.uk](http://www.browndog-books.uk)

At its heart, this is a love story between Reginald and Hilda based on over 500 letters that they wrote to each other during their courtship and marriage. They were married 51 years and raised ten children.

The letters describe their lives, thoughts, beliefs, joys and difficulties. Much later Hilda wrote to Reginald: 'there is such good in keeping letters, so often I read over earlier ones from you recalling the ideals and hopes we have talked of together; but I think not only love letters like yours but all letters that have in any way entered into one's life....'



Mystery Object



My mystery object last month was not a mystery for many of you.

Mike Dalby writes, "This unusual device is a rotary soil and compost sieve, used to separate soil and compost from other stony and coarse matter."



Perhaps the mystery object on the right will be a little more challenging!!! Please get in touch with your memories of the object in question.

Queries

Stef Roberts has contacted me with the following query. Hopefully someone may be able to assist?

Whilst exploring the 1921 Census, I've found a 2 x Great uncle called Frank Davies Johnson. He worked for Messrs John Thompson and Sons Builders and Contractors as a joiner. I've discovered this company was considered the finest in the country for what they did and in the 1920s were involved in the restoration of St George's Chapel Windsor. I think the address was 43 Wood Street BUT it could be Wooll or Wooth neither of which make sense. It is Frank's writing that is causing the problem.

Perhaps a resident of Peterborough would be able to advise me and to let me know where it is.

~



Colin has a query about the tablet, left, which is in Elton church.

The second word appears to read 'Sapcote', a prominent family there, but what does the first word read?

Please contact Sadie if you can assist with either of these queries.

Queries

Do you remember Colin's photo from last month?



Russ Price thinks he has found the location. He writes;

'I believe this is Long Causeway in Peterborough.

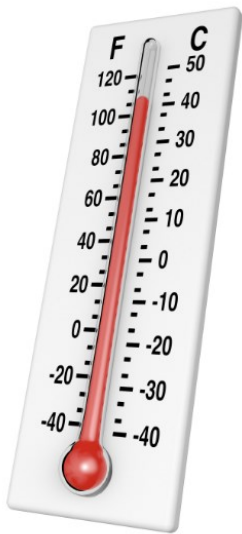
According to the street directory I have from 1952 (see attached), 27 Long Causeway was occupied by Will Blackman (tobacconist), also Eva Godfrey (gown specialist) and next door at 28 was George Sangster (Grocers).

These look like the shops you can see behind the lorry.'



What do you think? Has Russ found the location?

If you have a photo to share, or a query to solve please send it in to the newsletter.



How will you remember the hottest day ever recorded in Great Britain for your family history records?

What weather events did your ancestors experience?

Please share your stories with other members.

154 Stokes, Fred	170 Ironmongers, confectioners and cafe
156 Royal, John W.	171 Paten & Co. Ltd.
158 Locke, Harold	172 Head offices, Paten and Co., Peterborough, Ltd.
	173 wine & spirit merchants
	174 Freeman, Hardy & Willis, boots and shoes
	175 Bannister and Co., grocers & prov. merchs.
	* * *
	Barrett, T. L., Ltd., drapers, furnisners and china merchants
	"Waterloo House"
	23 Booth, W. R. Ward, L.D.S., dental surgeon
	23 Parrish and Sons, military & civil tailors and outfitters
	24 Turner, W. & E. Ltd., footwear
	24 Wilcox, Wm., basket maker
	25 Mac Fisheries, Ltd.
	25 Ducker, Eva N.
	26 Phillippis, Squire, A. G.
	26 Martins, dyers & cleaners
	26a Dunger, Leonard
	27 Blackman, Will, tobac'nst
	27 Wright, Sidney Godfrey, Eva, Ltd. gown specialist
	28 Sangster, Geo., Ltd., grocers, prov. & wine m.
	Watkins & Stafford, Ltd., gen. house furnisners, etc., and undertakers
	29 Gaunt, George, family butcher
	29 Gaunt, Herbert G.
	29a Wilson, G. H., junr., optician
	30 Smith and Son G. (Peterborough) Ltd., furn'rs.
	31 Foulds, Arthur, fruiterer
	32 Edwards, Bert "Bird in Hand" and shoe stores
	33 Mattin, Thos. W.
	33 Hatton, Ltd., Chris, boot and shoe stores
	34 Brown, F. W. gen. butcher
	34 Brown, Lucy
	35 Noakes, G. R. and Son.
	35 Noakes, John H., F.S.M.C., F.B.O.A., F.I.O., optician
	36 Godfrey, Harry "White Hart" hotel
	37 Amies and Sons, ironmongers & heating engs.
	Here is Cumbergate