

**Peterborough and District
Family History Society Newsletter
January 2023**



From the Chairman

I write this under the influence of Covid. This is for the second time and after having had all the vaccinations to which I am entitled. I had forgotten how debilitated it leaves one, and how important (and how difficult) it is to take care to isolate in the home. I have a list of tasks I thought I could do while this lasts, but most of the time I have not had the energy. However, this will pass, and it is put into perspective by the doom and gloom in the newspapers about the effect of strikes.

Oddly enough, it has given me an idea for another research topic - causes of death among my ancestors. A quick skim of my collection of death certificates reveals some interesting ones. A 52 year old woodcutter died from excessive drinking; an 83 year old lady died from decay of nature; a 40 year old boiler-man died from cerebral syphilis; a 70 year old man died from brain softening; and a 55 year old farm labourer died from old age! There are many more, but one wonders how the benefits of modern medicine would have prevented some of these.

Away from morbid thoughts. I wish you all pleasant celebrations for the New Year and a very positive 2023 with good research results. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 4th January.

Michael Kennelly

From the Editor

It is that time of year again. The indulgence of Christmas is over and the New Year is looming. That means just one thing - New Year's resolutions! Along with promises to eat less and exercise more I am sure that, like me, you always set a family history related New Year's resolution. Last year I wanted to review what information I had for all my families in order to spot where there might be gaps. I started well completing the very handy spreadsheet that Michael shared with me. Unfortunately that enthusiasm soon wavered as I had deadlines to meet in my other commitments.

It is sometimes difficult to succeed with your New Years resolution without help. Your society can HELP you.

If your resolution is to break a brickwall then pop along to one of our drop in sessions at the Peterborough library. The next one is on Monday 30th January 2pm to 4pm. A brickwall shared is a brickwall solved. If you live further away share your brickwall with members via the journal. If your resolution is to sort your family photos then come along to our Zoom meeting on Wednesday 4th January at 7.30pm. Stephen Gill will be sharing tips on dating photographs. If your resolution is to share your family history with others then please consider writing an article for the journal. Its a great way to take that first step in sharing your family history.

Whatever your New Year's resolution is may you succeed, and please share

Sadie McMullon



An Unusual View

In the last newsletter Pauline Kennelly provided us with this unusual view.

Thank you for the responses.

It is a place of work, found in Kent and East Sussex.

It is the interior of an oast house.

Hops were introduced to Kent in the 15th century from the Low countries and the beer produced had better longevity than the ale which was previously drunk.

The oast house - roundel - was a kiln for drying the hops by a fire below them and the heat passed out through the cowl at the top.

Later hops were processed by machinery

Do you have an unusual view that I could share with members?

A Handy Hint

Family historians often ask which is better Ancestry or Findmypast? This largely depends on what area of the country you are researching as both companies hold very different parish records.

However if you are using the 1939 National Register then Findmypast is more up to date than Ancestry.

I was researching the Glover family, Albert and Lily who, in 1939, were living in Peterborough Road, Fletton. On Ancestry it shows they had possibly 2 children. Amos Glover and the second was re-dacted. Most likely because the individual is still alive. I was quite desperate to find the name of the second child so also searched the 1939 National Register on Findmypast to find that the name had been revealed Frances D Glover.

So in the case of the 1939 National Register FindMypast is best.

Have you found that one website is better than another? Please get in touch and share your findings.

Zoom Talks

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

Wed 4th Jan	7.30pm	'Dating old Photographs'	Stephen Gill
Wed 1st Feb	7.30pm	'The life of a Country Doctor'	Peter Flower
Wed 1st Mar	7.30pm	'Meet the Ancestors'	Committee and members

Meet the Ancestors

Our March meeting is being handed over to you—our members.

Do you have a favourite ancestor? Was an ancestor particularly tricky to research? Do you have an ancestor who you admire? Do you have a famous ancestor? Was your ancestor in the newspapers?

We would like members to talk about their ancestor. This need not be long 5 or 10 minutes is sufficient. If you have photos we can create a PowerPoint presentation for you, or you can send us your own.

If you would like to get involved please contact Sadie, in the first instance, by the end of January.

We would love to hear about your ancestors.

Please don't be shy.



Websites

www.findagrave.com

This is an amazing website to locate cemeteries and memorials.

Photographs are uploaded to the site by contributors. If you would like a memorial photographed then you can submit a request. Likewise you can offer to look up and photograph a memorial for someone else.

It is well worth visiting the site, and Peterborough is well covered.

Did You Know?

This is a formula to calculate a date of birth, mainly for those with American connections, where the date of death is listed in years, months and days but the date of birth is not known, using the formula 8870.

Example: 'Sarah' dies on 5 April 1891 age 3 years, 8 months and 7 days old.

Write the date of death backwards using numbers, with no spaces in the order of year-month-day 18910405

Subtract 'Sarah's' age writing it year-month-days 30807

Answer: 18879598

Next subtract 8870

Answer; 18870728

So 'Sarah's' date of birth is 28 July 1887

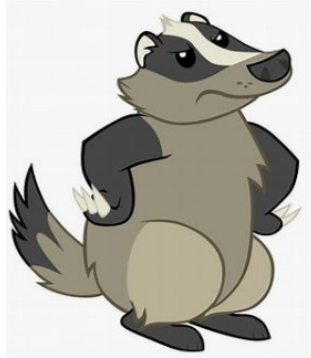
It really does work

(First seen in NDFHS newsletter October 2022)

Occupation Quiz

We had such a wonderful response to our Christmas Social that we did not get round to my occupation quiz. So here it is. Good luck everyone.

1. What was a badger?
2. What was a batman?
3. What was a biddy?
4. What was a linkerboy?
5. What was a legger?
6. What was a gilder?
7. What was a wheel tapper?
8. What was a town husband?
9. What was a tucker in?
10. What was an ankle beater?



Childhood Games

Michael Kennelly's articles about Childhood Games provoked many memories. John Stead writes:

It happened during my first year in junior school, 1952-1953, in the boys playground. The 'big' boys were playing cricket, with a male teacher bowling. I elbowed my way to the front to get a close-up view, teacher bowled a bit wide, the batter swung at it, and hit me in the mouth with his bat. Knocked me and one of my adult teeth out. I came too in the cloakroom with a teacher bathing my face. A male teacher took me home in his care and fortunately my mother was in (we weren't on the phone). I was put to bed and the doctor summoned. No hospital, no x-ray. So different today, I hope.



On the positive side, I had my first car ride, and several visits to a very understanding dentist means I have no qualms there.

Thank you John. I am wondering do you still like cricket?

Communication

Have you changed your e.mail or snail mail address recently?

Please keep us up to date with your current contact details.