

Peterborough and District Family History Society Newsletter July 2023



From the Chairman

“Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth.” When my cousin offered me some items from her father’s odds and ends, I said ‘Yes please.’ One of them was a programme for the ‘Eighty-sixth Sunday School Anniversary of the Bloomsbury Baptist Central Church, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, dated 26th May, 1935. What a treasure it turned out to be. In the information on personnel I found reference to several members of my family who worshipped there.

Superintendent – Mr. Victor H. Brown (my uncle); Department Leaders – Miss L. Brown (my aunt) and Mr. E. G. Brown (my uncle); Department Registrar – Mr. E. G. Brown; Assistant Scoutmaster – Mr. Kennelly (my father); Girls’ Guildry Guardian – Miss L. Brown. What a useful confirmation of where these members of my family were at this point in time. I knew they were involved in that Church where I was taken from an early age. Altogether there were 44 Officers and Teachers in the Sunday School and 154 Scholars. Children were sent to Sunday School in those days in large numbers, unlike today.

Good hunting and remember: “Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth.”

Michael Kennelly



From the Editor

Family history is rather like being a detective. You gradually collect clues, search out pieces of evidence, listen to personal memories and if you hit a brickwall you use powers of deduction to search out a solution. You can then build up a family tree, a narrative of events, all supported with evidence.

This is where sources are vital. Take advantage of the free websites that are featured in this newsletter. Look on the Family History Federation website and consider joining a family history society. Family History Societies contain a wealth of knowledge just waiting to share it with you.

But please don’t forget to share with members what you discover, and what resources you used. Who knows you may help to break down someone else's brickwall.

Sadie McMullon



The REALLY USEFUL Family History Show

17-18 November 2023



Please view www.fhf-reallyuseful.com for details

Zoom Talks

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

Wed 5th July	7.30pm	'Gateways to History'	Alan Johnson
Wed 2nd August	7.30pm	'Six Warrior Women of the English Civil War 1642-51'	Stephen Barker
Wed 6th Sep	7.30pm	'Bridging the Gap Tracing forward from 1921'	Jackie Depelle



What better way to discover more about your ancestor's lives than to spend some time visiting places of interest in your local area, which are open during the 'heritage open days' scheme. This runs between the 8th and 17th September. Check out [Visit | Heritage Open Days](#) to see what is open near you.

Websites

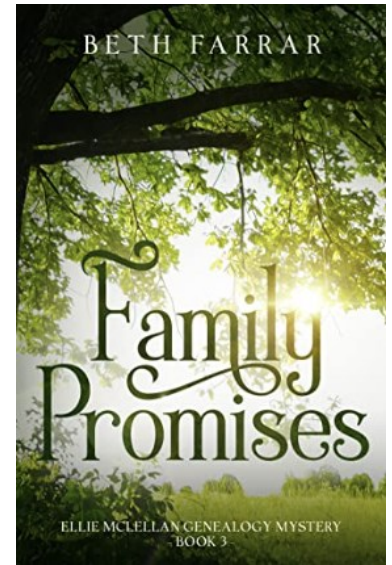
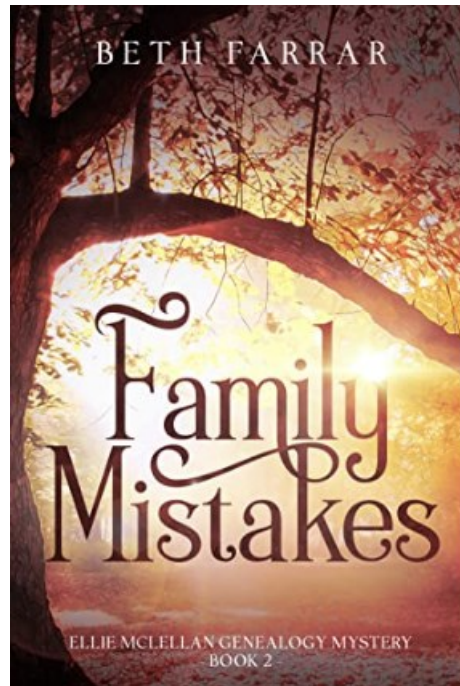
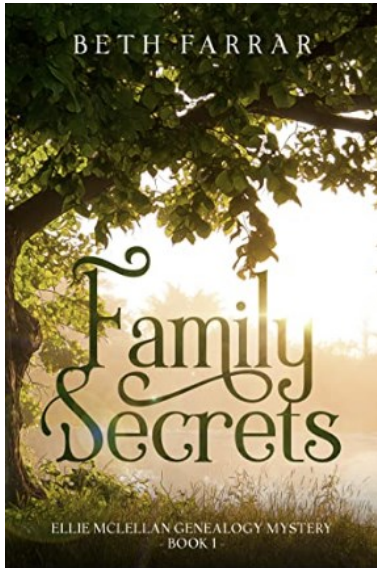
When looking for free family history sources don't forget sites such as <https://www.familysearch.org> and <https://www.freebmd.org.uk> to search for records and <https://www.one-place-studies.org/> to look at places

Blogs

Check out the latest blog

[HOME | Fletton \(flettonparish.co.uk\)](http://HOME | Fletton (flettonparish.co.uk))

Book Review



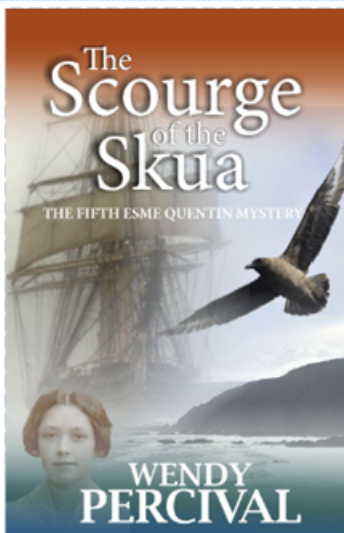
If you enjoy genealogy books then the Ellie McLellan mysteries are just for you.

Book 1 follows widowed genealogist Ellie McLellan. She has spent years healing her ravished heart by carefully constructing a new and quiet life away from the hungry glare of the paparazzi. She now fills her days with genealogical research for various clients, safe in the small town of Percyville, Quebec. Until her bid to save a child's life is caught on camera and ambitious tabloid reporter Diane Cooper recognises her. Turns out Ellie is not safe at all.

Book 2 finds Ellie helping her friend Ruth, as she discovers secreted love-letters inside an old wall during a home renovation.

Whilst Book 3 sees Ellie helping her best friend in the world, Cozy Corner Café bakery owner Maggie Williams. Maggie excitedly tells her she's been named as a beneficiary in the will of a relative she's never met, the pair agrees to attend the reading of the will together. Whoo-hoo—Road Trip! And another mystery to solve.

Book 1 **ASIN** : B0BSMZKCD5 Book 2 **ASIN** : B0BSMZKCD5 Book 3 **ISBN** : 1738666484



Coming Soon

If you are a fan of the Esme Quentin mysteries then you will be pleased to know that the fifth book in series will be released on the 30th June.

If you would like to listen to an interview with Wendy Percival then subscribe to Peter Calver's website *Lost Cousins*.

[Lost Cousins - Putting Relatives In Touch](#)

If you have read a book recently connected with genealogy then please send me the details for sharing with other members.

The Society's Archives

When researching our ancestors we should not forget to use the society's greatest resource, our archives. Brenda Hazel did just that when she was researching her father's education.

If you have found your ancestors in the archives then please share your story with other members.

'Peterborough Junior Technical School'

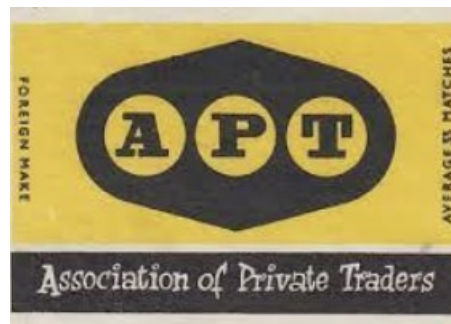
Brenda Hazel

Your request for 'educational' stories in the latest newsletter reminded me of a group photograph I have which includes my father and which might be of interest to other members who may be able to identify their own relatives pictured on it, and indeed you might want it for the PDFHS archives. My father, Ralph Henry Dicks, did not go to university (I was the first one of my family to do that) but after attending primary school at the King's Cliffe Endowed School which the register (transcribed by King's Cliffe Heritage) shows he attended between 1st March 1918 and 27th January 1925, he studied at the Peterborough Junior Technical School.

In the 'Members' Area' of the PDFHS website there is a document entitled 'Admissions to the Peterborough Junior Technical School' and sure enough my father appears on it with the date of entry of 27th February 1925. The document records his date of birth, his address in King's Cliffe, his father's name and occupation. On the photograph he is in the second row (starting at the bottom), fourth from the left (sitting behind the boy with the cricket shield). Presumably some of the others named on the 'Admissions' list are also in the photograph.

I assume my father travelled to the Technical School by train (his father was signalman at King's Cliffe station) although I don't know how far from the station the Technical School was located. I have no idea what subject he studied, for how many days a week and what qualification he obtained. I have a handwritten 'CV' of sorts which shows that he must have left before November 1927 as it records that is when he started employment with J Sainsbury Ltd at Blackfriars in London. He stayed with them until January 1931 when he moved to Royal Arsenal Co-Operative Society in Woolwich where he remained until August 1940. He undertook military service from August 1940 to December 1945 serving with the army catering corps first in North Africa and then in Sicily and mainland Europe. After the war he joined grocery wholesalers 'Roberts and Roberts' Their head office was in Leicester, but their stationery shows that, in 1949 at least, they had premises in Monument Street in Peterborough. My father's job entailed travelling round the wider Peterborough area visiting village grocery shops to take orders, distribute publicity material for shop window displays and give general advice. Roberts and Roberts eventually sold on their business. I remember from my teens from when I occasionally accompanied my father on his rounds in the school holidays that the shops themselves traded under the name of 'APT' which stood for 'Association of Private Traders'. Their logo was a rather garish combination of black and yellow!

See images on the next page



We need your opinion!!

At our recent committee meeting it was mentioned that family history societies first developed in order that members could help one another with our shared hobby- family history. With the advent of zoom meetings the chance to talk together has been lost.

It was suggested that in order to allow our members to talk together, share ideas, ask for help, or share stories of our successes our meetings could be extended.

It was proposed that the meeting would start at 7pm. The first half hour would be devoted to the activities described above. The speaker would then start at 7.30pm.

What do you think? Is this a good idea? Shall we give it a go?

Please do get in touch with myself, or Michael, and share your thoughts on this, and any other way that we could make the society work better for you.