



Peterborough and District Family History Society Newsletter January 2025

From the chair...

Three days after Christmas Day I had the joy of meeting with my family. My wife, Pauline; my two sons Mark and Andrew with their wives Carla and Jules; and my three grandchildren, Ro, Violet and Grace. We all gathered at our house, had a warming cup, opened presents and then went to a local hostelry for a leisurely lunch. It was a wonderful occasion when we caught up with each other's news and aspirations of people ranging in age from 15 years to 89 years. It was FAMILY.

That, of course, is what we are all about with our Family History Society. We record details of the current as well as the past members of our family. These days there are so many aids to our progress and much can be done from the comfort of our arm-chairs. But the importance of rigorous and accurate research must be maintained and it is still good to go to places and meet people. One of my tasks for 2025 is to check my records for accuracy and to make every effort to fill gaps in my trees.

I thank you for your support of the Society and wish you well in your research.

Michael Kennelly

From the editor...

Well another Christmas has passed. This version of Christmas won't happen again. We may look back on it for a particular reason, or it may meld with other general Christmas memories that we have made throughout the years.

A few weeks ago I indulged in an hour of sheer nostalgia, a television programme titled 'A 70s Christmas'. These are the Christmases that I remember from my childhood. The metallic decorations strung across the room, the Christmas lights that needed checking each year prior to hanging, the glass baubles that had to be packed away each year and thankfully didn't have to have a colour scheme, a peach and jelly flan made in a flan case, a trifle made with whipped cream, Christmas cake with a snowman figure, Father Christmas in his sledge touring the streets a few weeks before Christmas and waiting eagerly to see who had achieved no 1 in the charts.

I wonder what your memories are, and which decade you relate to most strongly? Please share your festive memories with other members. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sadie McMullon



Zoom Talks

Please find below the programme of meetings for the next few months.

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

Wednesday 1st January

No Meeting

Wednesday 5th February

Mind Mapping

Linda Hammond

Wednesday 5th March

Women of Peterborough

Stuart Orme

Our Female Ancestors

Stuart Orme's talk in March will focus on the 'Women of Peterborough'. To coincide with this the March journal will be dedicated to our female ancestors.

To make this a success I need articles about your female ancestors. They don't need to be long: snippets, short memories, or discoveries, will be welcome along with longer articles.

So please put pen to paper, or more likely finger to keyboard.

Make this your New Year resolution, to send in an article to the journal.

Thank you



Mystery Object

Unfortunately no-one guessed what the mystery object was from the last newsletter.

As you can see, from the image, it was for the 'chemical caponisation of poultry'.

A task that was necessary to carry out in the autumn, for the Christmas bird.

If anyone has a mystery object to tax members memories, or an image of an object that might provoke memories then please send it in.

Archives

Hopefully everyone has received the new log in details for the members section of the website. If you haven't then please let me know and I will send them out to you.

If you have had chance to look at the new archives please share with members what you have discovered.



Last Chance to have Your Say Law Commission Consultation on Burial and Cremation

Its time to make your voice heard. The Ministry for Justice is consulting on the above until 9th January 2025.

This is the web address for the consultation

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/law-commission/burial-and-cremation>

The consultation is in the form of a questionnaire. Please take a few moments to have a look.

Young Ladies' Treasure Book

I am sure that you, like me, overindulged during the Christmas period, and are perhaps regretting it somewhat. In the 'Young Ladies' Treasure Book' the responsibilities of being a good hostess were discussed, alongside a suggested menu for entertaining.

Soups : Hare Soup and White Soup.

Fish : Turbot and Smelts.

Entrées : Jugged Hare and Veal Cutlets.

Second Course : Fowls and Roast Haunch of Mutton.

Third Course : Pheasants and Snipe.

Sweets : Apple Tart, Cabinet Pudding, Creams.

Cheese, Salad.

Grapes, Melons, Pears.

The lady of the house not only had to devise the menu but had to know what was in season, and what preparation was required for each dish, and unlike today these accompaniments were not available in convenient jars. For example the stock for hare soup took three days to prepare, turbot required an accompaniment of lobster sauce, and the haunch of mutton would be nothing without redcurrant jelly.

So, when you next entertain think how labour intensive meal preparation used to be, in a time when making a meal from scratch really did mean that!

'Stamp Duty and Parish Paupers'

By Rosie Rowley

Previously published in the Cheshire Ancestor, journal of the Family History Society of Cheshire (FHSC)

Most people are familiar with stamp duty being a tax payable in the UK when buying property. Stamp duty was first introduced in England on 28 June 1694, during the reign of William III and Mary II, as an act for granting to their Majesties several duties upon vellum, parchment and paper, for four years, towards carrying on the war against France. Originally, it required a physical stamp to be attached to or impressed upon the document in question. During the 18th and early 19th centuries, stamp duties were extended to cover newspapers, pamphlets, lottery tickets, apprentices' indentures, advertisements, playing cards, dice, hats, gloves, patent medicines, perfumes, insurance policies, gold and silver plate, hair powder and armorial bearings.

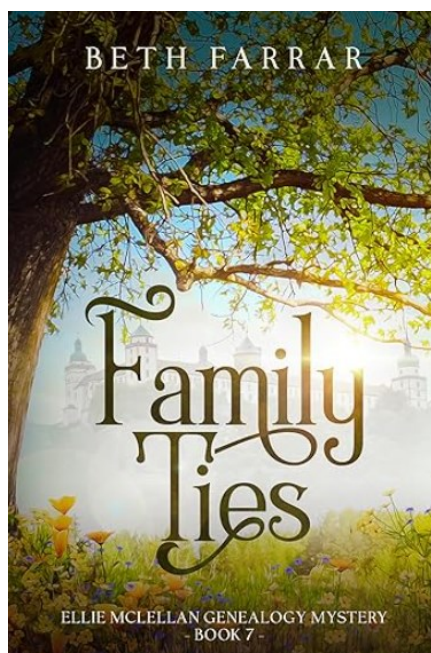
The attempted enforcement of the Stamp Act 1765 in the British colonies in America led to the outcry of no taxation without representation, contributing to the outbreak of the American War of Independence. Ironically, the Stamp Duties Act 1783 was passed in order to raise money to pay for the American War of Independence! Under this Act, all baptism, marriage and burial entries in each parish register were subject to a tax of 3d. Church ministers were empowered to collect the duty, and were allowed to keep 10% of this fee as compensation for their trouble. Refusal to pay carried a fine of £5. This was a deeply unpopular tax, and many clergymen were sympathetic to the plight of their parishioners; as paupers were exempt from the tax, family historians often find that the number of poor people in a parish increased during these years, until the act was repealed in 1794. Such entries in a parish register are annotated with the letter P. or the word Pauper. If a family could not claim exemption, some simply didn't baptise their children, causing a later increase in adult baptisms.

Source - Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamp_duty_in_the_United_Kingdom

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamp_Duties_Act_1783

Book Review



Beth Farrar's seventh Ellie McLellan genealogy mystery book sees our favourite genealogist travel to Scotland to meet her fiancé Quinn's family. Her nerves are heightened by the fact that she will also be meeting her newly discovered aunt for the first time. And at a cozy family reunion hosted by a new-found cousin, she is welcomed to her mother's side of the family with warmth, and the sharing of stories. In the midst of joy and connection, a surprising revelation about Ellie's fiancé brings them even closer.

Join Ellie on an unforgettable adventure of discovery and, of course, the solving of a captivating genealogy family mystery.

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