



Peterborough and District Family History

Society Newsletter

November 2021



From the Chairman...

What do you wear on your feet when you mow your lawn?

Yesterday Pauline and I decided to have a day out to Canons Ashby House, in the wilds of Northamptonshire, to meet a couple of her cousins. This was a small house, run by the National Trust, so the cakes were good, and it was filled with fascinating items redolent of the past. The gardens, too, were a joy to stroll round as we chatted to volunteers digging the dark, rich-looking earth. We learnt how different owners had made their own contribution to the style of the building, decisions sometimes affected by the politics of the day. We noted those who had given their lives in different wars: this sometimes affected the inheritance. Perhaps some of our own forebears had connections with 'the big house' – servants, maybe. This is family history on a grand scale, and we can learn from it, but the research needed to produce the Guide Book was the same as you and I use as we search for our own ancestors.

Oh, feet and lawns?

On a shelf were some heavy leather objects which we learnt were shoes to go over horses' hooves when they were pulling mowing machines over precious lawns. Now you know!

Michael

From the Editor...

I think the season of Remembrance holds special memories for us all. I remember walking with other brownies, and later guides, to the local church to pay our respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. As a parent I have watched my own children participate in numerous Remembrance Day Services. My youngest son, Thomas, was fortunate enough to lay a wreath on his gt gt uncles, William Gorham's grave in Longueau British Cemetery. And as an educator I have played my part in passing on the importance of remembrance to the very young through the excellent BBC video 'Poppies' <https://youtu.be/jcR5JWaIcpo>.

But as family historians remembrance is not confined to a season in the year. It is something that we do on a daily basis. Whenever we research our family history, we honour those who went before us, we bring to life once more those whose trials and struggles make us what we are today. Take pride in your ancestor's journey and celebrate their life, whatever twists and turns it took. And what better way than by sharing it with other members of the society! Write a short article about an ancestor and share your research journey. We look forward to hearing about them.

Sadie



Please Keep us Informed

If you have changed your snail mail or e.mail address recently then please let us know.

We want to keep in contact with you!!

Contact: secretarypdfhs@gmail.com



Online Event

Greenwich Mean Time

Friday 12th November 6pm-10pm +
Saturday 13th November 10am-6pm

FHF REALLY USEFUL
Family History Show

TICKETS
£10

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Mystery object



The mystery object, in the October newsletter, provoked some different ideas. Pam Haswell thought it might be a green mangle. She recalled her grandmother had one in the scullery prior to 1956, when they moved to a bungalow.

Ewan Cappitt has memories of our last mystery object, the dolly tub. 'The explanation of the dolly tub confirms my thought that it was the same as used on our farm to put the milk churns in, in a morning and overnight, to cool down the milk straight from the cows, before lorries would collect the churns to take to Milk Marketing Board. Problem for me was there was no indication of scale!'

Ewan also offers an idea for October's mystery object.

'This month's puzzle reminds me of several implements that were on the farm when I was a kid. The bird type decorations are a bit of a put -off. It looks a bit like a "cake grinder", but I really need to see it from another angle. We used to take sugar beet to Bourne station to load a waggon to take to Spalding sugar beet factory. Then in return we would collect large slabs of compressed beet-pulp for feeding to the cows. To be able to get this to useful portions we fed it into a chute on a similar gadget to your photo, turned the handle and the counter rotating spiked rollers inside would break down the slabs to small pieces that the cows could manage to chew. I suppose the knob on the top would adjust how close together were the rollers. As a kid I remember playing about with this one day with my cousin and got my hand trapped in it, and ran home howling - I still bear the scar of this event to this day, as a deformed finger end!'

The mystery object is an **ice shaver**, from the days when ice was kept in large blocks ready for use.

This months mystery object is on the right. What are they? Have you seen them being used? What are they for? Other members would love to hear from you so don't be shy!



Websites, blogs and podcasts

I have come across a pay as you go website that you might find useful when searching for ancestor's burials. www.deceasedonline.com holds registers of burials and cremations, together with photographs of memorials and graves, where they exist. To search the database is free, although if you register then you can access enhanced search facilities. If you are successful in your search then a voucher or subscription can be purchased which allows you to view the information held. Coverage is increasing all the time. Accessing this website saved me a trip to the Highgate cemetery in London. So give it a go, you may never know what you might discover.

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Have you ever come across an ancestor who is an abecedarian, a bummaree, a hoggard, a higgler or a honey dipper? If you are struggling with your ancestor's occupation look no further than the 'List of Old English Occupations' on this [link](http://www.worldthroughthelens.com). (www.worldthroughthelens.com). If you want a challenge the answers are on page 5.

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If you have ever considered sharing your family history through a blog then Jane Hough's makes an excellent read. Visit her site, www.allthosebefore.org.uk, and [click here](#). I am sure you will be as fascinated by her family history as I was.

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Have you ever listened to a podcast? These are quite new to me and I am discovering information on all kinds of fascinating topics. If you would like to listen to a familiar voice then why not try Emma Cox's Journeys Into Genealogy, <https://emmacox.co.uk/journeys-into-genealogy-podcast>. In one episode she chats with the editor of the Family Tree magazine, and of course our previous secretary, Helen Tovey. [Click here](#).

An Unusual Entry

We often think of the criminal system of the Victorian Era as one of unduly harsh punishments, unsympathetic judges, penal transportation and the death penalty. But an entry that I came across in the Criminal Registers for the borough of London (north side) conveys perhaps a lighter tone, or just exasperation at a repeat offender!!

On the 18th August 1890, Elizabeth Carter was sentenced to 8 months imprisonment and her offence was cited as being an 'incorrigible rogue'.

Futurelearn

If you have never tried a Futurelearn course now is your opportunity. The University of Strathclyde's FREE online 'Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree' is enrolling now! On this 6-week genealogy course for beginners, you'll learn how to uncover the past and record your family history. You'll be a scientist for the day as you learn how DNA works. You will follow one woman's journey as she researches her family tree and learns about her past. Learn through storytelling, discussion and visual learning. To find out more visit <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy> or [click here](#).

Brickwall

Steve has hit a brickwall with his 2 x great grandad.

He writes: 'His name is John Bull, and he was born in 1808 in Peterborough. He married Catherine Culpin in 1828 in Peterborough. They had many children, including a son, George, who was born in 1836 in Peterborough.

It is believed that John died between the 1851 census and the 1861 census. The 1851 census shows him as living in Boongate, he was head of the household, a labourer/lodging house keeper, with a large family and guests. By 1861 he has gone and Catherine is shown as head of the household and a lodging house keeper, living in St. John's Street, still with a large family and guests'.

Steve has been unable to find John's death record or his parents.

Any help would be appreciated.

If you can help then please contact Sadie.

Library Drop-In

Monday 29th November 2-4pm

We are pleased to announce that the Peterborough and District Family History Society, in conjunction with the Peterborough library, will be holding a monthly family history drop in session in the central library Peterborough.

The first session will take place on Monday 29th November between 2pm and 4pm.

If you have a brickwall you are trying to break down, if you would like assistance with using Ancestry, if you would like advise on record keeping, if you would like help searching our archives, if you have an illusive ancestor you are unable to find, or if you are struggling with where to look for records, then please come along.

To assist you there will be on hand members of the society and archivists.

As always, if you live further afield, or are unable to attend, then please e.mail your query to Sadie on sasmc2000@yahoo.co.uk and our members will be pleased to help.

Zoom Talks

Have you given our monthly zoom talks a go yet? Using zoom is easier than you might think. I send a link by e.mail a few days before the talk. Just click on the link and the talk will open automatically. Follow the instructions to download the zoom app. If you have difficulties I can send more detailed instructions. It's a great way to get involved with the society from the comfort of your own home.

Wednesday 3rd November	John Dewis	The Mayflower and the Pilgrim Fathers	7.30pm
Wednesday 1st December	Christmas Social	Bring your own mince pie!	7.30pm
Wednesday 5th January	Alan Johnson	Brickwalls	7.30pm
Wednesday 2nd February	Penny Walters	Understanding and Analysing the UK censuses	7.30pm



Remembrance Book Review

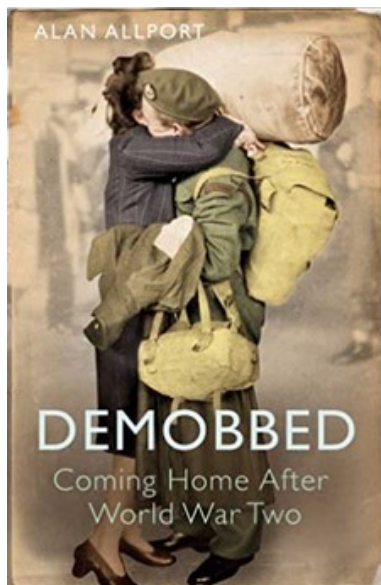
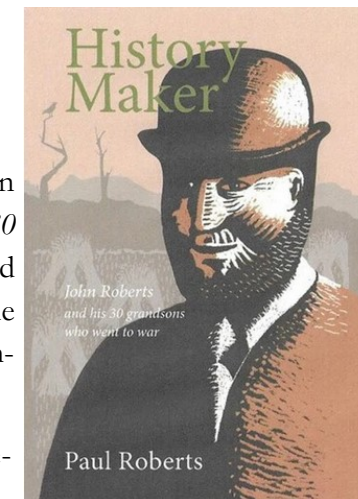


A more poignant book you will perhaps never find, combining as it does, the Great War, the well documented Christmas Truce and the gift from Princess Mary to 'every sailor afloat, every soldier at the front'. Although only 17 at the time, it was Princess Mary's wish, that for the Christmas of 1914, every man should have a gift from home. By the cessation of hostilities, 2.7 million serviceman across the British Empire had received a gift that was uniquely personal to them. In *Princess Mary's Christmas Gift, 1914*, Peter Doyle tells the story of these gifts, how they were chosen, what they meant to the recipients and the achievement of its founder.

ISBN: 1913491536

Could any of us imagine waving our son, grandson or nephew off to war unsure if they would return again? Paul Roberts tells the story of John Roberts, a farm labourer from Devon, in *The Man with 30 Grandsons in the Great War*. Not only did John have 30 grandsons serving, in total between 1914 and 1918, 50 members of his family served in the army or navy. Unfortunately 10 of these men made the ultimate sacrifice and never returned home. A perfect family history book for the season of remembrance.

Available from The National Archives: <https://shop.nationalarchives.gov.uk/collections/remembrance-books/products/history-maker-the-man-with-30-grandsons-in-the-great-war> ISBN: 1527215466



Within our family tree we may find parents, grandparents and great grandparents who fought in the Second World War and yet, perhaps we know little about their wartime experiences. Alan Allport's book *Demobbed-Coming Home After World War Two* may begin to shed light on what life was like for the returning serviceman. Using a variety of sources, including letters, diaries, newspaper articles, films and archives Allport looks at what life was like for a returning hero and equally important how the country, and its people, accepted these changed men.

ISBN: 0300168861

Old occupations answers: an abecedarian is someone who teaches the alphabet, a bummaree is a middle man at Billingsgate fish market, a hoggard is a pig drover, a higgler is a hawker or itinerant salesman and my favourite, a honey dipper is someone who collects household sewage.