



**Peterborough and District Family History
Society Newsletter
January 2022**



From the Chairman...

In the Editorial of our December 2000 Journal I wrote: 'These are exciting times for the Family Historian as we eagerly (and impatiently) await the unveiling of the 1901 Census online and on fiche in 2001.' Elsewhere I wrote that there would be a charge for this service: about 80p for an image and 50p for a transcription, with a minimum charge of about £5.00. How we looked forward to this forthcoming facility!

Twenty-two years later we are again in a state of eager anticipation as we prepare to have access to the 1921 census released for us by courtesy of Find My Past. There will be so much to find out about our families in this post Great War era, and, as before, there will be charges. Fair enough, as FMP have spent a lot on making this Census available to us. We have arranged a Zoom talk for you by Paul Nixon of Find My Past which will be at 7.30pm on Monday 24th January 2022 when details of the 1921 Census will be explained. There will therefore be no meeting on the first Wednesday of January when we would normally meet.

I wish you a very positive year in 2022, hoping that your research will be successful, that you will verify all your sources, and that the newly released Census will enable you to make wonderful discoveries about your family.

Michael

From the Editor...

I hope you all had a restful Christmas, and remained healthy. I also wish you a very Happy New Year. Doesn't it feel strange to write, or type, 2022 for the first time?

When I was thinking about what to write for this month's newsletter I was determined not to mention New Years Resolutions. But then I listened to Jake Humphries discussing his new book, *High Performance: Lessons from the Best on Becoming the Best*. He too does not like New Years Resolutions as they often set us up to fail, the goals are too ambitious, the steps too large. So this year I urge you to make your family history New Year Resolutions, but consider breaking them down into smaller bite sized, more achievable chunks.

For a long time I have intended listing each ancestor, together with the outline information I have about them, to see where my gaps are. I think this is an ideal way to break down our research into manageable chunks, and more importantly provides a feeling of progress and achievement.

One New Year Resolution that we should all make is to submit a short article, comment or tip to the journal or newsletter. If everyone resolves to write one article, or share one piece of information with fellow members then I am sure we would all benefit, and make our journal and newsletter all the more interesting.

I can't wait to start receiving them!

Sadie

Library Drop-In

Monday 31st January 2-4pm

We are pleased to announce that the Peterborough and District Family History Society, in conjunction with the Peterborough library, will be holding our next family history drop in session in the central library Peterborough, on Monday 31st January between 2pm and 4pm.

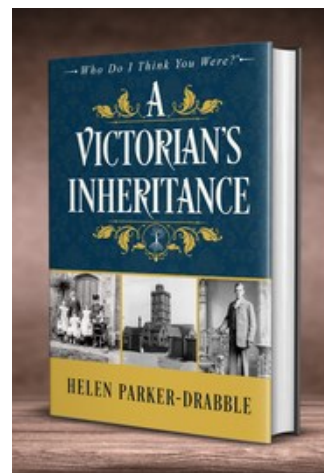
If you would like assistance with the 1921 census, if you have a brickwall you are trying to break down, if you would like assistance with using Ancestry, if you would like advice on record keeping, if you would like help searching our archives, if you have an elusive ancestor you are unable to find, or if you are struggling with where to look for records, then please come along.

This drop-in is not just for members so please spread the word.

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.

If COVID rules change prior to this date, and force a cancellation, an e.mail will be sent to members.



Christmas Competition

Thank you to everyone who responded to the competition set by Helen Parker-Drabble.

If you remember Helen's grandfather, Walter Parker, grew up in the Tank Yard featured in *Who Do I Think You Were?*® A Victorian's Inheritance. Walter's home is now a museum. In which local Cambridgeshire village can you find the Tank Yard?

A Upwell B King's Cliffe C Thorney

The answer is C Thorney and the lucky winner is Rosie Rowley.

A copy of the book will follow in due course - enjoy.



Zoom Talks

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

Please note the change of date for January:

Monday 24th January 7.30pm

'The 1921 Census'

Paul Nixon Head of Licensing for FindMypast

Wed 2nd February 7.30pm

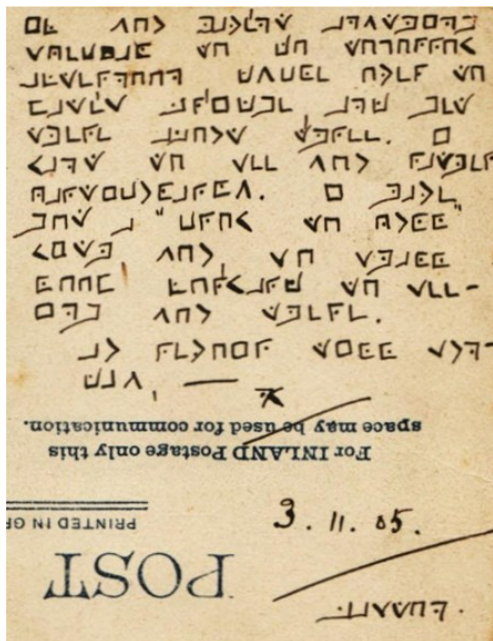
'Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy'

Penny Walters

Wed 2nd March 7.30pm

'A Fenland History - A Saver Shares All'

Mike Perry



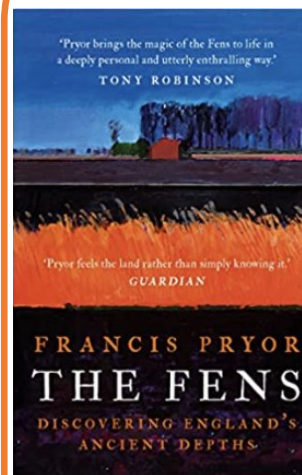
Christmas Challenge

A reminder of Rosie Rowley's Christmas Challenge.

Rosie wrote: 'I bought this postcard, below, dated 3 November 1905, a couple of years ago, just because I was intrigued by the coded message. I found out it was written in 'Pigpen Cipher' which I understand is familiar to boy scouts and others.'

I hope you are working hard translating the card and I look forward to reading them.

Book Review



If you want to learn more about the Fens then this book by Francis Pryor will take you on a fascinating journey from pre-history to the present day. Although I have lived in the Fens all my life I still discovered so much, from the Georgian history of Wisbech and Spalding to the excavations at Must Farm, from the building and restoration of Tattershall Castle to the draining of the fens. This book seamlessly combines, archaeology, history and a personal passion for fenland life. A great read which will be referred to again and again.

ISBN: 978-1788547093

Britain's Ancient Trackways

Have you ever wondered how your ancestors moved around the country? from place to place, for defence, for work and to visit family and friends. Before the advent of the canals, the railway and motor cars our ancestors would have relied on trackways.

Trackways have their own individual names and include: a bypath (14th century) a remote or seldom – used path, a rack (15th century) a steep uphill path, a trodgate (15th century) a trampled footpath, a rackway (mid 17th century) a path through a wood, a loke (late 18th century) a narrow grassy path or lane and a mudpike (19th century) an unpaved path.

Although used for over 5,000 years, many trackways can still be explored and are marked on ordnance survey maps. A fascinating article, which delves deeper into the history of trackways can be found on [Clas Merdin](#). [Clas Merdin: Tales from the Enchanted Island: The Ancient Highways of Britain](#)

The photograph on the right is Sutton Crossways. Sutton Crossways lies to the north west of Peterborough, between Ailsworth and Sutton, where the track crosses Ermine Street. This track has been in use since Saxon times.



Website, blogs and podcasts

Check out the Twice Removed podcast [here](https://genealogystories.co.uk), <https://genealogystories.co.uk>. This is a fascinating website and there are some fascinating topics covered by some well known names to our society. Helen Tovey discusses her inventor ancestor, Michael Esbester delves into the lives of the railways worker, Nathan Dylan Goodwin talks about his own family history and gives tips about writing a genealogy crime book, and Nick Barrett talks about all things medieval.

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If your research has taken you to the English Civil War then two websites may be of interest to you. Civil War Petitions can be found [here](https://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk/) <https://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk/>. It lists petitions that were made by soldiers, or their families, for welfare payments. The site is searchable by name and place and more information is being added all the time. Even if your ancestor is not mentioned in person a lot of interesting information can still be gleaned about a soldier's life at this time. If your ancestor came from Ireland then 1641 may be of interest, click [here](#). 1641 contains 8,000 dispositions, eyewitness testimony, from mainly Protestants about the 1641 Irish Rebellion. This evidence is unparalleled and gives a valuable insight into events.



Mystery Object

As many of you correctly knew the mystery object on the left is a yoke. The yoke was traditionally used to assist in the transportation of milk, but other produce could also be transported in this way.

The new mystery object is a bit closer to home. I wonder if you know what it is? what it is used for? and how it gained its name?

