

1921

Peterborough and District Family History

Society Newsletter

February 2022

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From the Chair...

What a splendid talk Paul Nixon gave us on 24th January. He really opened up the 1921 Census and showed us from his own experience the best way to get the most from it. I, for one, will now explore the guidance information that I had previously neglected. I was pleased to learn that Find My Past will consider applications to correct information, and that I will certainly do. Thank to all of you who logged in – altogether 83 people from the three Cambridgeshire societies. If you missed it, it will soon be on our own Peterborough website.

Now for a free gift! I have three practically complete years of 'Family Tree Magazine' (2018, 2019 and 2020) that I am happy to donate to anybody who will collect. They are full of wonderful information. If you are interested, please phone me on 01733-235956.

A reminder! At our next ZOOM meeting on Wednesday 2nd February at 7.30pm Penny Walters will speak on 'Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy'. It promises to be fascinating and we shall send a handout after the event.

Best wishes for your ongoing research.

Michael

From the Editor...

As I walked the dog this morning I spotted the first snowdrops peeking through. An indication of warmer days ahead perhaps!

Although my favourite season is spring, with all the promise it holds, it is also a time of conflict. A conflict of time. The outdoors and the garden call appealingly, and there is less time for family history research. If this sounds familiar to you, then my advice is make February count.

Take advantage of the 1921 census, of the archives being open, of the writing hints on the Social Historian website, of cold days when sorting out your notes is more appealing, of visiting relatives (or zooming them) to ask questions, and perhaps trying a month's trial of a subscription website.

But most of all don't forget to share your progress with other members.

In the January newsletter I said that my New Years Resolution was to create a spreadsheet of my ancestors and to note the records I have so that the gaps can be easily identified. Progress so far? I have the headings in my spreadsheet but unfortunately I became side tracked with the 1921 census. Never mind I have found out some valuable information.

Now to enter it into my spreadsheet!

Sadie



Zoom Talks

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

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
Wed 6th April 7.30pm	'Behind the Scenes at WDYT YA'	Gill Blanchard

Sixty-seven great grandchildren

Isn't it wonderful when the grandchildren come round? And of course part of their joy is that they go home! But how would it be if you had 67 great grandchildren?

That's how many Frederick Ebbs had when he passed away in 1927.



The Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury, Friday June 10th 1927

Do you have an ancestor who beats Mr. Ebbs?

Website

I have just come across a wonderful website www.thesocialhistorian.com. The website covers all manner of topics about the lives of our ancestors; from crime to emigration, medicine to occupation. If you subscribe to the website you can download 101 writing prompts. This is a wonderful tool, perfect for adding the flesh onto our ancestor's bones. Why not give it a go and share the results in a future newsletter.

Your Society Needs You...

We like to have a report of each talk in our journal. This ensures that those members who are unable to listen do not miss out on valuable information and they also act as a reminder which we can all re-visit.

Could you write a report for the journal?

It would be good to share this task out amongst members. The reports need not be long. They are just a summary of the highlights. Many speakers produce handouts which you can work from.

If you would like to give it a go please contact Sadie

Mystery Object



First an apology. I incorrectly said that the item pictured on the left was a yoke for carrying milk. This ,of course, would have been extremely uncomfortable as those kind of yokes are usually shaped to sit comfortably around the neck. The item pictured is in fact a yoke for pulling a harrow or similar implement, by horses. Thanks to Graham and Ewan for sharing their memories of these items with me and pointing me in the right direction.

The purpose of the item on the right was not a mystery to many of you. It is of course a stamp or former for making the 'frog' in bricks where the maker's mark is found. This one was used to stamp L B C PHORPRES onto the London Brick Company bricks.



What is more of a mystery is where the name came from and what the original purpose of the 'frog' was. The website www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/brick-frog-origins-of-use has some very interesting theories, and include: They may have developed from the Egyptian custom of interring small creatures in the hollow of a brick as they built walls. The shape of the hollow looks like a horses hoof which is also called a frog. The use of the frog reduces the quantity of clay needed to make a brick, so the brickmaker is being frugal and frugal evolved to frog. The shallow indentation makes the brick easier to hold by the bricklayer. The indentation also holds more cement which



results in a stronger bond with the brick beneath. In the brick mould there are 'kickers' which push the green clay into the corners of the mould. At some point the English 'kickers' became confused with the Danish 'kikker' and kikker translates as frog. Perhaps the truth will never be found out but its interesting to think about!

And now for this months mystery object. Perhaps a little more challenging.

What is the purpose of the item on the bottom left?

Do you have a story to tell, a tip to share, a book to recommend, a brickwall you need help with?

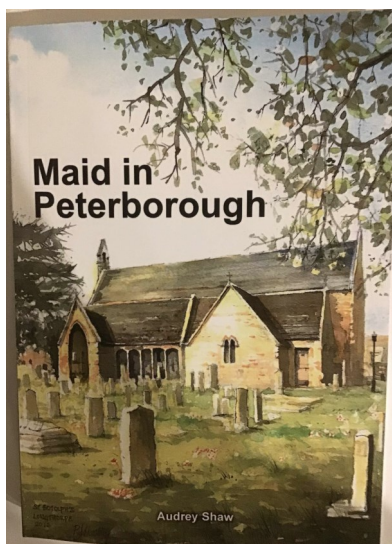
Please get in touch with the Editor.

Don't be shy!

'Maid in Peterborough' By Audrey Shaw

Longthorpe Church, in Peterborough, is undergoing an extensive renovation programme. So far the rood screen has been moved into the cloister, and currently the church does not have a floor as it has been taken up to install under floor heating. The pews are being removed so that more events can be held. The organ has already been overhauled. Audrey comments 'One feature that delights me (I have attended for 72 years) is the East window which was partly obscured by the high altar. This has been lowered so that all the stain glass is visible and looks beautiful when the sun shines through. The font has been moved into a position that enables people to group around it. When I first attended it was by the North door and very draughty, later at the south door where it was cramped! Hope its now in it's final resting place! The renovations are a very costly exercise, and the church will be out of action until March.

To help raise funds Audrey has written 'Maid in Peterborough'. The first section is a history of her family up to 1963, the second is a selection of short fiction stories and the third poetry. The book is available from the Longthorpe Village shop, the Cloister of Longthorpe Church or by contacting Audrey on 01733 262785.



If only...

As we search for our ancestors how many times have you cried 'If only...'? If only they had stayed in one place? If only they had used distinctive middle names? If only they had been honest when recording vital events? If only they left a paper trail? The following commandments, regarding names, seem very apt.

THIRTEEN COMMANDMENTS FOR NAMES

- Thou shalt name your male children: James, John, Joseph, Richard, Thomas, or William.
- Thou shalt name your female children: Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, Sarah, Virginia, or Mae.
- Thou shalt leave NO trace of your female children.
- Thou shalt, after naming your children from the above lists, never refer to them by those names again; instead, thou shalt call them by strange nicknames such as: Ike, Polly, Dolly, or Sukey.
- Thou shalt not use any middle names on ANY legal documents or census reports; and whenever possible, use only initials on legal documents.
- Thou shalt learn to sign all documents illegibly so that your surname can be spelled, or misspelled in various ways: Tipper, Topper, Hopper, Tucker, Tapper.
- Thou shalt, after no more than three generations, make sure that all family records are lost, misplaced, burned in a court house fire, lost at sea, or buried so that NO future trace of them can be found.
- Thou shalt propagate misleading legends, rumors, and vague innuendo regarding your place of origin:
 - a. You MAY have come from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, or Iran.
 - b. You MAY have American Indian ancestry of the ____ tribe.
 - c. You MAY have descended from one of the three brothers that came from ____.
- Thou shalt leave no cemetery records, headstones, or headstones with legible names; nor will any of the dates thereon match those in public records.
- Thou shalt leave no family bible with records of birth, marriage, or death.
- Thou shalt ALWAYS flip thy name around. If born James Albert, thou must make the rest of thy records in the name of Albert, AJ, JA, AL, Bert, Bart, or Fred.
- Thou must also flip thy parents names around when making reference to them, although "Unknown" is an acceptable alternative.
- Thou shalt name all generations of children with the identical first names, as will all of the brothers so that all cousins are named the same.