

**Peterborough and District
Family History Society Newsletter
August 2023**



From the Chairman...

Pauline has a black and white photo of her parents (and herself) at the seaside. Her father is wearing a suit and a trilby hat – his best clothes – and her mother a pretty dress. One dressed up for the seaside in those days. Today, anything goes, and the record of it is invariably on our phones and in colour. But do you print any of them off? If not, how will our future generations have a record of us? I have wonderful photographs of my ancestors, many of them in leather-bound albums but, alas, many of them unlabelled so that, although I might guess who they might be, I DO NOT KNOW! My plea to you is to go through all your photographs and make sure that you inscribe on the reverse Who, Where, When they refer to – plus any other details you feel important. It might take some time, but then your descendants will rise up and call you blessed! Also, do not forget those school photos, some published in the local paper. Keep them securely in your records.

Michael Kennelly

From the Editor...

It is the school holidays again! The time of year that seems to go on and on for parents and over in the blink of eye when you are a child. When I was at school the holidays were heralded by the annual school trip to the East of England Show and sports day. I loved the show, looking at the animals and machinery but I was not so fond of sports day. Unfortunately I was the child who was always selected last when teams were chosen.

When you read school log books, day trips and half day school closures were always regular occurrences. Popular destinations for day trips were the seaside and school closures often occurred for local celebrations, or national events.

Schools often had different lengths of holiday at different times dependent on what the local farms grew. It is recorded in the Conington school log books that six weeks holiday were taken at the end of September and into October for the potato harvest.

What do you remember about school holidays? Do you know how your ancestors spent their school holidays? Please consider writing an article for the journal.

Sadie McMullon



ONLINE EVENT: Participate from Home - WORLDWIDE!

2023

**FHF REALLY USEFUL
Family History Show**

Explore Your
Genealogy



**Friday 17th November 10 am - 10 pm GMT and
Saturday 18th November 10 am - 6 pm GMT**

Visit [The Really Useful Show \(fhf-reallyuseful.com\)](http://fhf-reallyuseful.com) to book your ticket

Zoom Talks

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

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
Wed 4th Oct	7.30pm	'Members' Evening'	

Do you have a brickwall you need help with?

Do you have a research problem?

Would you like help with finding a particular source?

Would you like to celebrate your research successes?

Thank you to everyone who contacted us with their thoughts about starting the monthly meeting earlier. From August our monthly meeting will start at 7pm. The first 25 minutes will be devoted to any family history queries you might have and research successes you might like to share.

The talk will start, as usual, at 7.30pm.

So we can prepare any information you might need please send any queries you would like to raise to: sasmc2000@yahoo.co.uk

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to chat with other members of the society.



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 the Heritage Open Days website to see what is open near you. [Homepage | Heritage Open Days](#)

Archives Update

The archives will be updated during August. Look out for the e.mail with the new password.

Websites

Do you have an ancestor who attended The King's (The Cathedral) School in 1923?

If you do you might like to see footage from the sports day that took place that year. The East Anglia Film Archive is the regional centre for film in the east. The archive holds 12,000 hours of film and 30,000 hours of videotape. Their website is fully searchable. Just search 'Peterborough King's School Boys' Day'.

There is other fascinating footage available. I found 'Modern Brickmaking Methods' from 1921, 'Edith Cavell' a programme profiling Nurse Edith Cavell from 1961 and of particular interest is 'Farming in Fenland' from 1945.

[East Anglia Film Archive | View over 200 hours of video content \(eafa.org.uk\)](#)

Please let members know what you find.

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If you do have ancestors who worked on the land in the Fens then it is worth taking a look at YouTube.

This YouTube footage shows King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visiting the fens after the Second World War.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdEHWdVtBkc&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1tI04DmdeGf72N0pmqKTL15pD5e3C8nnfEE2N-zWsdUWKEOvilwyBZtU)

[v=OdEHWdVtBkc&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1tI04DmdeGf72N0pmqKTL15pD5e3C8nnfEE2N-zWsdUWKEOvilwyBZtU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdEHWdVtBkc&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1tI04DmdeGf72N0pmqKTL15pD5e3C8nnfEE2N-zWsdUWKEOvilwyBZtU)

What else can you find on YouTube?



What the vicar knew?

The parish registers can reveal a lot about our ancestors that perhaps those involved wanted to keep hidden.

Ann Bennett had six illegitimate children between 1835 and 1850 but who was the father?

In 1841 Robert Paddison, born in Louth, was living with Ann, and her mother Mary, in Crowland, Lincolnshire

Was he the father?

The baptism register of one of Ann's sons, John, records that he was baptised 'BB' or 'base born' on 27 January 1848. In the column, where the names of the parents are recorded, 'Robert' was written and then crossed out.

18	Jan 27	John	Robert Ann	Bennett	Crowland	Spinster	J. Bates
No. 368		B.B.					

Did the vicar really know the parentage of John?

Robert Paddison and Ann Bennett were married in 1850 and they went on to have five children together.

If Robert was the father of Ann's other children why didn't they marry? Did he already have a wife in his home town of Louth?

As usual family history poses more questions than it answers!

Have you found any startling discoveries in the parish registers? Please share your finds with other members.

Discounted Certificates

The General Register Office (GRO) announced on 7th July that they would be providing a new Online View service, which offers instant access to images of historic entries from their birth and death registers for England & Wales.

The service currently covers births from 1837-1922 and deaths from 1837-1887

For the very reasonable sum of £2.50 you are now able to order a PDF image of birth and death register entries.

So what are you waiting for ?

Hopefully this new service will allow us to break down even more brickwalls than ever.

Please let other members know what you discover.