



Peterborough and District Family History Society Newsletter July 2024

From the Chair...

It is always pleasing to record achievements of our members. I share with you the news that I shared at our last zoom meeting.

First, Sadie McMullon, our Secretary, has been awarded the annual prize by the Local Population Studies Society for her article, 'Marriage Horizons in Fletton 1891-1911: the Hidden narrative behind the parish marriage registers'. We are delighted that Sadie's scholarship and research has been recognised in this way and congratulate her. I am also pleased to share with you the news that Sadie has agreed to serve on the committee of the Family History Federation.

Secondly, Pauline Kennelly's article, 'A Night to Remember: 22nd December 1945' based on letters from her father to her mother before her birth, is to be included in an Anthology 'True Voices' by the University of Peterborough following an invitation to students and the public to submit articles. We congratulate Pauline (who some years ago published a book on the Centenary of the High School for Girls in March).

Please keep us informed if you have research to share with us.

Michael

From the Editor...

It has been a difficult year on the allotment. First of all it was very wet so I couldn't get out and dig and prepare the ground. Then it was very cold so seeds were slow to germinate. When the plants did get out we were plagued by slugs and pigeons. And now we have, what the newspapers are calling, a mini heatwave so I have to water the plants on a daily basis. I think my harvest will be depleted this year. But I am lucky, I don't rely on my allotment for my food.

This got me thinking about our ancestors who did rely on the land for their survival. They didn't have the luxury of a supermarket they could fall back on. If their crops failed they would go hungry.

I am sure we all have agricultural labourers in our family trees, as an occupation they were prolific. When we see them appear on the census records perhaps our hearts fall a little thinking that there is nothing exciting about the work they were involved in. These have been my thoughts from time to time as many of my ancestors were 'ag labs'. However, their work was vital for providing food for their families, their communities and the nation.

So give a little thought to your ag lab ancestors and share with other members their story through an article in the journal.

Sadie

Zoom Talks

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

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

Wednesday 3rd July	John Norton Collins and the Peterborough District Hospital Dr. Martyn Thomas
Wednesday 7 th August	Members' Evening 'Childhood Holidays' share memories
Wednesday 4th September	How to Share Family History with the Younger Generations Helen Tovey

Membership

Thank you to all members who have paid their subscriptions.

If paying yours has slipped your mind, its not too late!!! Just head over to the Parish Chest where its quick and easy to make your payment online.

Save the Date

Meeting at Peterborough Museum Saturday 5th October

10.30am to 3.30pm

We are very excited to be in the preparation stages of our face to face meeting in October. During the day there will be a talk, displays about the local area, a help desk, a chance to look around the museum, and most importantly a chance to get together and chat with other members of the society. Further details will be shared over the coming months.

To assist us in our planning we would be grateful if you could indicate if you would like to attend?

This is so that we have an idea of numbers.

The event is free of charge, and non-members are welcome for a donation.

We hope to see you there.

Coming soon... during the summer we are hoping to have a visit to St. Andrew's church, Northborough.

Look out for more details.

Mystery Object

Thank you to Graham Childs who sent in this image.

But what is it?

Graham writes, 'My father used this for quite a few years. I was expected to use it too when I was in my teens. Do you have any idea what it is?'

If you know what it is, please get in touch.

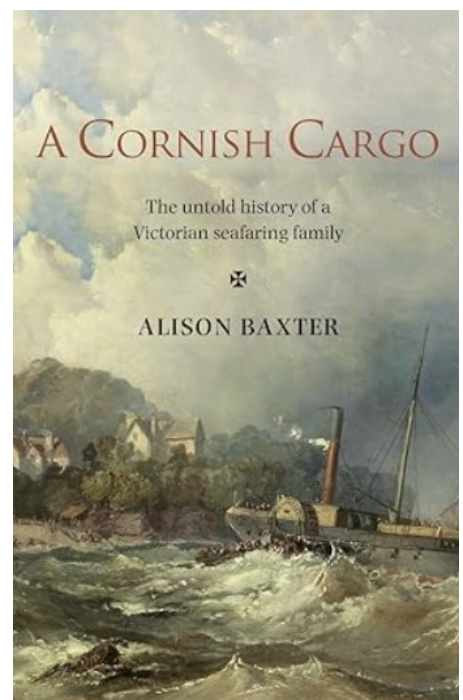


Book Review

A Cornish Cargo: The untold history of a Victorian seafaring family by Alison Baxter

ISBN-13: 979-8670213332

This book is part social history, part detective story. It is the true account of how the fortunes of one family changed as a result of the Industrial Revolution, when the world was transformed by the power of steam. The Dupens were said to be 'a family of merchant venturers, mariners and engineers of Huguenot origin with a propensity to wander far over the earth'. Part 1 is set in Cornwall and tells the story of how, in 1835, an enterprising sailor named Sharrock Dupen moved to Hayle to become the steward on the new paddle steamer service that connected Cornwall to Bristol and the rest of England. Twenty years later his sons followed him to sea. Part 2 follows them as they set out to seek their fortunes across the world. George sailed as mate on a clipper carrying emigrants to Australia but jumped ship in Madras to become a successful coffee planter in the hills of southern India. John was apprenticed as an engineer and joined the navy, serving on Queen Victoria's guard ship before going to war with his gunboat in the Malay state of Perak. In 1873 their youngest brother, Ernest, joined the merchant service as a ship's engineer, keeping a logbook that charted his voyages carrying tea from China, gold miners to Australia, and pilgrims to Mecca. Their sisters also took advantage of the new steamships and railways, leaving home to pursue successful teaching careers that challenge the traditional view of the downtrodden governess. The family history of the Dupens takes us on a voyage of discovery that will resonate with anyone who has inherited their own cargo of keepsakes and myths.



Titbits from the Newspaper

The article below was found in the *Stamford Mercury*, at the beginning of the nineteenth century. I wonder what inspired the man to take up this challenge.

FOOLISH PEDESTRIANISM.—Townshend, the Sussex pedestrian, has completed his task at Newcastle 12 minutes within time. It may be pronounced one of the most arduous of any in the annals of walking, he having walked 500 miles *backward* and 500 miles forward in 18 days. Townshend is of low stature, about 34 years of age, and at the commencement of this undertaking weighed 11 stone.



Do you Know?

Do you know what the small stones are for behind the main gravestone?

(This was a question posed on FindMyGrave)

Someone has suggested that the smaller memorial stones may be footstones.

Does anyone have any other suggestions?

From the National Archives

When you are searching for your ancestor it is very annoying when the memorial stones have been removed, perhaps for safety issues or for re-development.

So what happens when memorial stones are removed?

Copies of the burial records should be submitted by the local authority or church commissioners to the National Archives. Not all records have been deposited, but where they have they could include plans of the original place of burial, together with where any reinternment may have taken place. Look under General Register Office: Removal of Graves and Tombstones.

Locally you can look at St. Michael's Stamford, 1703-1857, Chatteris the Dis-Used Burial Ground, New Road, (The Old Plague Cemetery) 1800-1861 and Thrapston Baptist Burial Ground 1796-1932.

And don't forget that Family History Societies may also hold transcriptions of memorials.