

**Peterborough and District Family
History Society Newsletter
November 2024**



From the Chair...

Walking home from coffee at Notcutts this morning, I bumped into a couple of neighbours who knew of my interest in Family History. 'How far back have you gone?' one said. 'To 1597' I replied. 'How did you do that?' he asked. 'Well', I answered ' I use mainly Ancestry and Find My Past' and Parish Records.

That set me thinking. It's good to go back in time and build up a direct Ancestry tree, but what about the other way round? Could we start with our 'oldest' ancestors and look at their siblings and their branches and come forward with Descendent trees? The results could be very interesting - even frustrating - but I recommend you try. Think of all those cousins you will discover! Please let us know how you get on.

Michael Kennelly

**The journal needs you!!! Well, it needs your articles!
All contributions, long or short, gratefully received.**

From the Editor...

For a variety of reasons I have been spending a lot of time recently visiting hospitals and doctors, and members of my family have experienced cutting edge medical treatments, all provided by the NHS.

Despite our usual complaints about grumpy receptionists and long waiting lists, in general we are very lucky in the treatment we receive. But of course this wasn't the case in the past and it started me thinking.

What medical treatment did our ancestors experience? How did they pay for it? What did they think of the NHS? Were they involved in any medical break throughs?

Moving on from this, how do you feel when you discover that an ancestor died from an illness that is easy to treat today?

And has finding out about your ancestor's health influenced your own in any way?

I look forward to receiving some interesting stories for future journals.

Sadie McMullon

Zoom Talks

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

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

Wednesday 6th November The Real Downton Abbey-the History of Domestic Service

Ian Porter

Wednesday 4th December A Merry Tudor Christmas Kirstie Bingham

No meeting in January as it is New Years Day

Hugh Cave

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death, in December 2023, of one of the society's founding members Hugh Cave.

There will be a tribute article in the December journal.

If anyone has memories of Hugh that they would like to share please get in touch.

How Do We Know How Our Ancestor's Lived?

This is a tricky question to answer, and of course we will never know for sure.

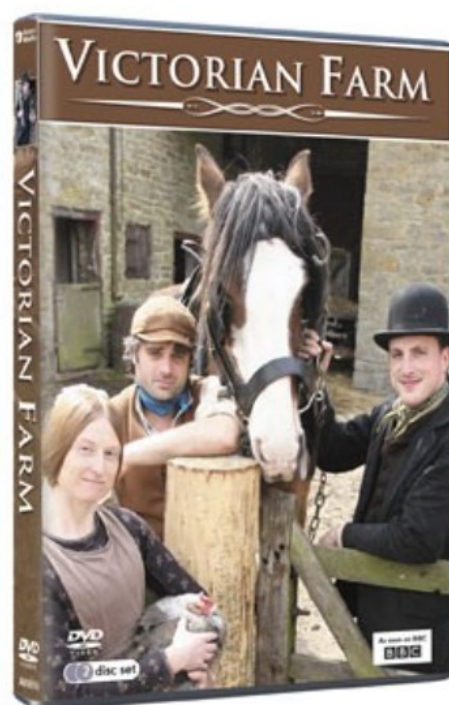
Sheltering from the rain last week I indulged in some tv and was reminded of an excellent series of programmes which could help us to answer this question if our ancestors were agricultural labourers.

I am talking about the historical documentaries; Victorian Farm, Edwardian Farm, Tudor Monastery Farm, Tales from the Green Valley and Wartime Farm.

What is really useful about these programmes is that the farming team, comprised of historian Ruth Goodman, and archaeologists Alex Langlands and Peter Ginn, faced the real problems our ancestors faced and solved them using primary sources, and ways of working from the time.

If you haven't watched these programmes, or if you did, but like me a long while ago, I would recommend you watching them or re-visiting them. They are well worth it.

If you have watched a programme that you have found useful to place yourself in your ancestor's shoes then please share it with other members.





Mystery Object

Does anyone recognise this object?
It does have a Christmas theme, although perhaps not immediately obvious!

2024 Archives Update

Alan Johnson: Society's Archivist

Alan brings us news of an exciting early Christmas present.

Thanks to the work of various members, I will be able to add over 2800 names to the Names Index in mid-November. Look out for the email that will give you the new User Name and Password to allow you to look at the actual archives relating to these new names.

Most of the entries relate to additional information about burials in Broadway Cemetery, Peterborough but just over 800 entries relate to a transcription of Crowland Methodist Chapel baptisms 1879 – 1907.

New Resources

Have you tried the Family History Federation's new website 'Explore Your Genealogy'? It is packed full of useful resources, articles, podcasts, links to further resources and much much more. If you are a seasoned family historian, or venturing into a new area of research there will be something for you. Try it out and let other members know what you find.

www.exploreyourgenealogy.co.uk

Explore Your
Genealogy

From The Family History Federation

Law Commission Consultation on Burial and Cremation

Its time to make your voice heard. The Ministry for Justice is consulting on the above until 9th January 2025.

This is the web address for the consultation

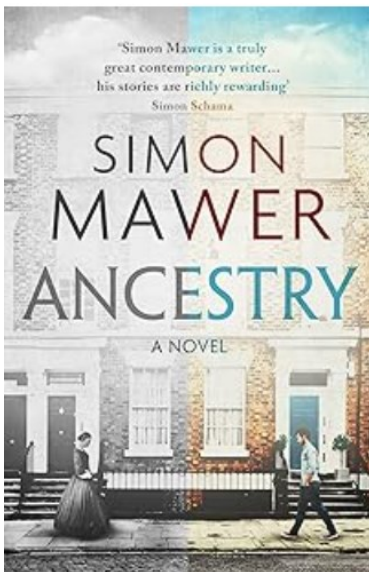
<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/law-commission/burial-and-cremation>

The consultation is in the form of a questionnaire. Please take a few moments to have a look.



Book Review

Have you ever wanted to write your family history but didn't know where to begin? Simon Mawer was presented with just this problem.



His solution is *Ancestry*.

Using only minimal family history information Simon has woven a tale of his ancestor's lives placing them in the historical events they experienced. Putting, as we always advocate, the flesh on his ancestor's bones.

Ancestry was nominated for the Walter Scott prize for Historical Fiction.

I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

ISBN-10 : 1408714833

One of my favourite authors is Nathan Dylan Goodwin. *The Hollywood Strangler* is the third in his Venator Cold Case series.

These stories are especially interesting to read as the research that is conducted is real. You can apply it to our own family history.

I haven't read this yet, mainly as I know I won't be able to put it down once I start, so need to save it.

ASIN : B0DDHTZT7C

I hope this has given you a couple of ideas for Christmas presents. If you have a Christmas recommendation then please let me know and I will include it in the December journal.

