

Ketton History Group Meeting - 14 March 2017

Much of the meeting was taken up with a discussion on new resources provided, gifted to the group by Laura, for use by the members in their personal research.

The 1939 Register was very interesting. The register was taken on 29 September 1939, and used to issue identity cards, plan mass evacuations, establish rationing and coordinate other war-time provisions. The register is published online by FindMyPast.co.uk and correlated with death records from the National Archive. Register entries have been redacted (blacked out on our records) where the individual was born in the last 100 years and the death of that person has not been verified. The Register was updated manually for about 50 years – and it became the NHS Register. The records for Ketton in the new resource although comprehensive are not complete, and members were recommended to carry out individual research where necessary. The entire 1931 census for England and Wales was destroyed by fire during WW2, and no census was taken in 1941, so the 1939 register provides the most complete survey of the population between 1921 (available in 2021) and 1951.

Ketton Census records for 1841 to 1911 (in Jpg format) were shown, and the differences in the information recorded were discussed. From 1841 to 1901 individual records for each dwelling were summarised and the original records destroyed. However, the 1911 original household records handwritten by the householder have been published. In circumstances where the householder was not sufficiently literate, the Census return was completed by the Collector. An interesting point was raised about searching census record archives. It would have been expected that Census record collection would have been carried out in a sequential order, but some collectors appeared to have started at different points each day and then collated the records in the order they were collected. This makes it more challenging for researchers when looking at records for neighbouring streets.

A very useful Excel spreadsheet summarising all Ketton Census record entries from 1841 to 1911 was examined, and the search facility was used to find particular entries by name. This record links into the Longstanding Families page on the KHG website which shows families who have more than 25 names in the Ketton Census records over the period 1841 to 1911.

Maps (in Jpg format) for 1885, 1892 and 1952 were displayed on screen, and changes in the village structure over the years discussed.

Photographs of Events in the village and Stamford were shown and discussed including a picture of 5 girls outside Ketton School in the 1950's. A picture available on Facebook was referred to showing a Ketton May Day procession, including a Ketco lorry.

Recollections of the Midland Hotel (now Tobago Lodge) were shared, including construction work being carried out when it was changed into a Youth Club in the 1960's. It was also mentioned that it had been associated at one point with the sale of books. School sport days were mentioned, and that prior to the current sports field being available they had been held in a paddock up Empingham Road. Finally the village tradition of Quoits was discussed as was the excellent display in KSCC. It was suggested that perhaps the KHG could put on a Quoits competition for the Village Fete in September 2017.

The next meeting is planned for 11 April 2017 at Carver Court.