

Abbey Genealogy Enthusiasts

Issue : 13

Date: Wednesday 21st November 2007

Next Meeting Wednesday 19th December 2007

Our Website : www.walthamabbeygenealogy.co.uk



Notice Board

- **Family History Day at Epping Library**
Saturday 17th November we attended the family history day at Epping Library to promote and spread the word of our club. Though it was not as busy as we hoped we still came away with a few future contacts.
- **A Thank you to Stan Newen's**
At the last Library Meeting we had a very interesting talk from Stan Newen's on East End London, which gave us all in insight to the life and times of an East End Londoner. He may come back in the near future to do another talk.
- **Scotsgenealogy.com**
Scotsgenealogy.com has updated the website and now has new information that may be of interest.
www.scotsgenealogy.com
- **Ancestry.co.uk**
Ancestry has updated the parish records. Radnorshire Marriages is a transcribed index to marriages from Radnorshire, Wales covering the years 1813-1835
www.ancestry.co.uk
- **Waltham Abbey Genealogy**
Our website is continuing to update on the cemetery records, so keep a check on the site from time to time. If anyone who has any old photos or history and information on the Abbey that they won't mind sharing with us and using for the website. James will be very grateful.

SUPERSTITIONS and OLD WIVES TALES



Superstitions and old wives tales were usually passed down from generations from old wives. There like an urban legend that to this day we still use in some shape or form. One of the most common tales told to young children **"if you don't eat your carrots you won't be able to see in the dark"**. Many tales have been proved to not be true, and many still are believed to have some truth somewhere in them.

"An apple a day will keep the doctor away."

Maybe this saying was to encourage children to eat more vegetables and fruit giving them a better and nutritious diet, which would help prevent them from sickness.

"Feed a Cold, Starve a Fever"

I have always found some truth in this saying. Some viruses you need to starve because you can't hold food down anyway. With colds you need to dose up on liquids and food.

My Nan, I believe could of wrote a book on old wives tales, .She was brought up believing many and she used to say many to my sister and I. Even now although my Nan has Alzheimer's, occasionally she will come out with the odd saying. One of her famous sayings she used to say when I whistled, which she seemed to dislike. **"A whistling woman and crowing hen neither fit for neither God nor Men."**

I looked up on the internet because I never actually understand what she meant.

It means that these are traditionally considered unnatural and improper activities for females, and that females who perform them are unnatural and ill-omened. The earliest recorded version of this proverb is Scottish, and dates from 1721: "A crooning cow, a crowing Hen and a whistling Maid boded never luck to a house" ("Complete Collection of Scottish Proverbs, Explained and made Intelligible to the English Reader", by J Kelly.)

Other Superstitions

Other Old Fashioned superstitions

The 'crowning glory' is one of the most indestructible parts of the body. As such, a sudden loss of hair is unlucky, forecasting a decline in health, loss of property or failure in business, or the death of a closely related child. Red hair is associated with fiery-tempered people (e.g. Cleopatra and Queen Elizabeth I); black and dark brown hair indicates strength; fair hair implies timidity. On a man, if the hair grows low on the forehead and back above the temples he will have a long life; if a woman's hair grows in a low point on her forehead ('widow's peak') she will outlive her husband. If a woman suddenly develops curls on her forehead her man has not long to live.



“Red Hair associated with fiery-tempered people (e.g. Queen Elizabeth)”

November

The ninth month of the Roman year, which began with March. The 11th of November was held to mark the beginning of winter. The Anglo-Saxon name for November was 'Blot monath; (Blood Month) the latter name probably alluding to the custom of slaughtering cattle about Martinmas for winter consumption.

(Ene. Brit.)

Surname Origins

Hutchings- Hutchin is an English and Scot patronymic name from the medieval given name Huchin, which is a diminutive form of Hugh. Hutcheon is a variation found mainly in Scotland -- other variations are Hutchen, Houchen, Howchin. Hutchins, Hutchings are primarily found in Devon and Somerset as patronymic forms; Scottish patronymic forms include Hutchison, Hutcherson, Hutcheson. Hutchinson is found all over, but is most common in Northern Ireland and Northern England

Vealer- Vealer is recorded in many forms, an English surname, but one of old French origins. It was introduced into England at or after the Norman Conquest in 1066. It has a number of possible meanings. The first developed as either a status name for a village elder, a respected man of the village, or as a name of endearment (old man), a phrase still used in this century, or for the elder of two bearers of the given same name. The s derivation is from French word 'Viel', meaning old. The second, the surname may have been occupational name for a calf-herd, one who looked after young cattle, with the possibility that it was a nickname for a placid person. The Modern forms of the surname Veal, Veale, Veall, Vealer, Veel, Veeler and Veelers.

Walker - Occupational surname for a fuller, or person who walked on damp raw cloth in order to thicken it. Derived from the Middle English "walkcere," meaning "a fuller of cloth," and derived from the Old English "wealcan," to walk or tread.

Contribute to the Newsletter

Tell us how your getting on with your research so far and have you discovered any hidden skeletons you want share with us. Have you come across some unexpected Ancestors, lost relatives, a famous Ancestor? Or do you have any old photos and stories you would like to share in the newsletter, it's all history and we'd be happy to hear it.

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