



Discover your
Ancestors

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 TheGenealogist.co.uk

Issue No. 1 | May 2013

periodical

**Break down
the brick walls**

What to do if they're
not in the census

The great aviators

Research flying aces online

Children at work

Were your forebears robbed of their childhood?



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DISCOVERY
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Welcome to the Periodical



Welcome to the first issue of **Discover Your Ancestors Periodical**, the first digital-only monthly publication dedicated to family and social history! You may already be familiar with our annual printed edition available in newsagents worldwide - if so, you'll find a familiar feel to things, as we build on the print magazine to look at a wealth of subjects in depth; if not, come on in and make yourself at home! Over the months ahead we'll help you explore your roots - especially in the UK, but we'll also look at connections abroad - as well as understand what your ancestors' lives were really like. We'll have a rich mix of useful genealogy advice, tips on getting past brick walls in your research, and interesting features by respected writers that will help to bring your personal heritage alive.

In our second print magazine one of our lead features explored what our ancestors' schooldays were like - this time we look at the other side of the coin: child labour. You'll also find research advice on births, marriages and deaths and the censuses, an exploration of exciting new data relating to pioneer aviators - and even a trip to a Tudor tavern. Do let me know what sort of subjects you'd like to see covered in future issues, via editorial@discoveryyourancestors.co.uk. Also, look out for free records every month at our website, www.discoveryyourancestors.co.uk.

Thanks for subscribing - we look forward to helping you on your own historical voyage of discovery! **Andrew Chapman**, Editor

INSIDE THIS MONTH

- 3 The flying aces:** Aviators' certificates are newly online
- 5 Back to paper:** Simon Fowler explains how to use the internet to track down archives to visit in person
- 8 Suffer the little children:** Sharon Brookshaw explores child labour in the past
- 12 Reviews:** Recent publications featured, plus an interview with ebook bestseller Steve Robinson
- 14 A ruff crowd:** Take a trip to a Tudor tavern
- 17 Place in focus:** Useful resources for Essex research
- 18 Join the dots:** Make the most of online BMD records
- 20 Break the brick walls:** Guidance on the censuses



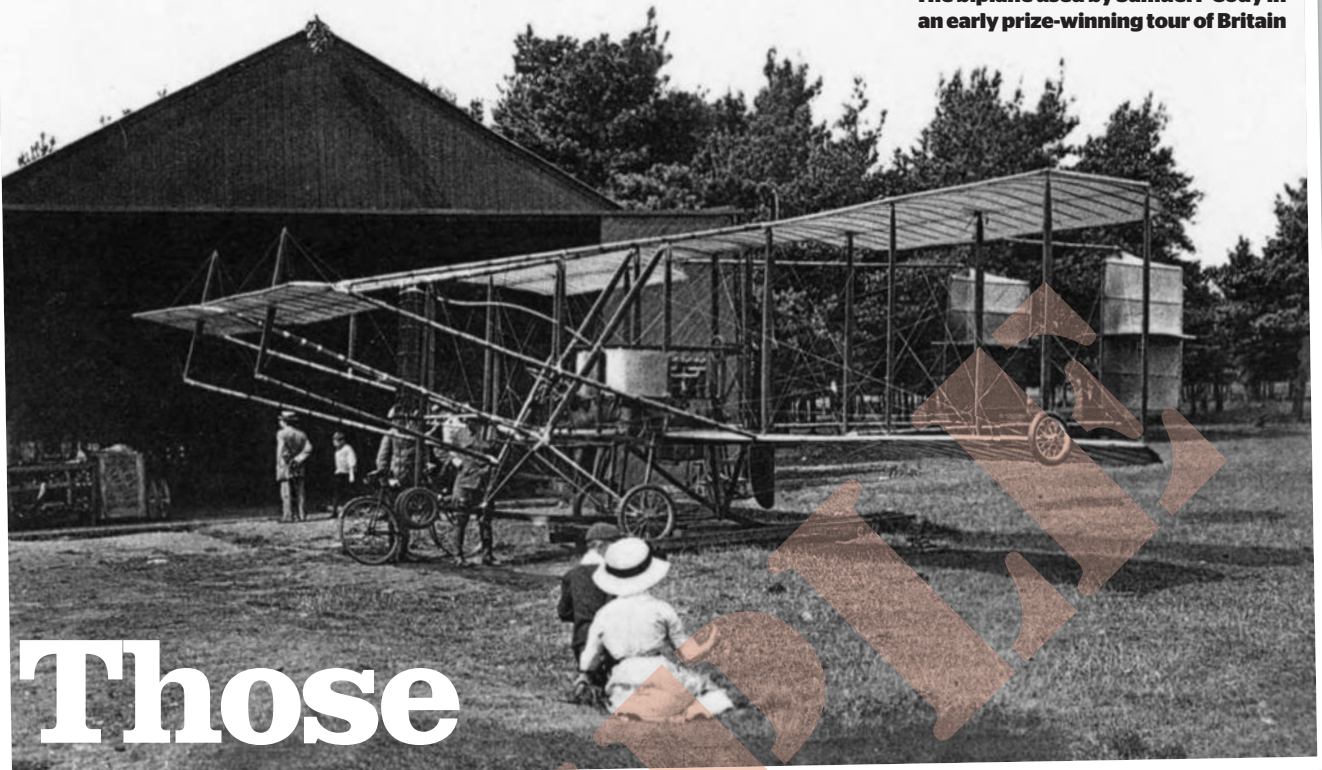
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The biplane used by Samuel F Cody in an early prize-winning tour of Britain



Those

magnificent men

British aviation began in the Edwardian era as a pastime of wealthy gentlemen. The first flight was conducted on 2 May 1909 at a country estate, now called Muswell Manor, on the Isle of Sheppey. This was the site of the first aerodrome in the country, set up by the Aero Club, which itself had begun in 1901 as a recreational ballooning society.

That first flight was taken by John Moore-Brabazon, who had first become interested in flight through working for Charles Rolls, co-founder of Rolls-Royce and also the Aero Club itself. Brabazon, as with many other pioneers, learned to fly in France, and the club was keen to put England on the flight map, as it were. On 8 March 1910, Moore-Brabazon became the first person to qualify as a pilot in the UK and was awarded Aviator's Certificate number 1 by what had now been renamed the Royal Aero Club – his car even bore the number-plate FLY 1.

The first British pilots' certificates were awarded just over a century ago – here we pay tribute to the pioneers of aviation and reveal a new way to learn more about them online

The early years of flight were marked by disasters as much as triumph, however, and only four months later, Charles Rolls was killed in a flying accident and Moore-Brabazon's wife persuaded him to give up flying.

The early records of the Royal Aero Club have just been digitised by data website TheGenealogist and offer a fascinating insight into the early years of British aviation. Sadly, they also reveal that of the first 20 people to be granted a certificate, three were dead from accidents by 1914, including the

US-born aviation pioneer Samuel F Cody (see the case study on the next page).

The Club was hugely influential in these fledgling days, and its members included and indeed trained most military pilots (more than 6,300 of them) until 1915 when military flying schools were established.

The Club was responsible for UK control of all private and sporting flying, as well as records and competitions, and continues to represent recreational flying in Britain today.

Those early certificates also list the