

28 January 2024 at 08:00

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in touch

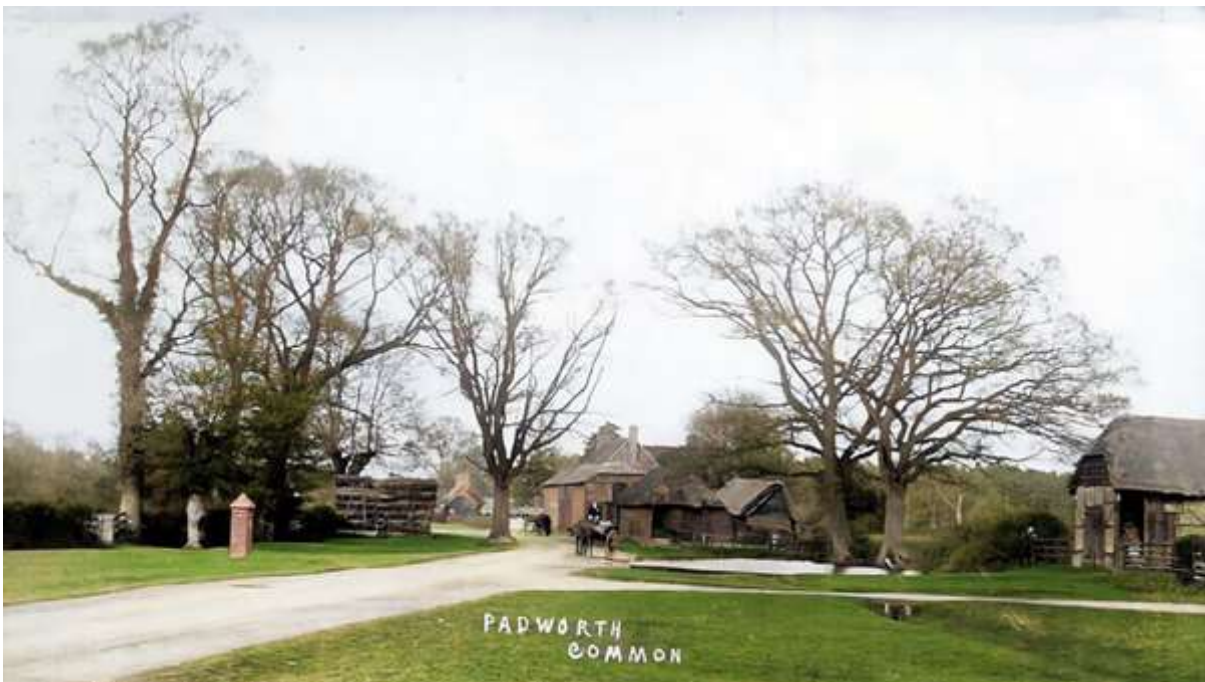


Image colourised by Jim Bradshaw

Hi

Well, you'd think with such a distinctive road layout, a pond and group of buildings, this week's image from Jim Bradshaw would be a cinch to find. No such luck. I've pored over the 25 inches to the mile OS maps from 1892-1914*, and travelled the roads using Google Maps and Street View. But wherever I find a possible road configuration there are no buildings (even on the old map) and where there are buildings there are no matching road configurations. Can you do any better - try [here](#)?

It was Burns' Night last Thursday, so we've picked a few Scottish sites for you to look at. Meanwhile, for those of you with Welsh ancestry there's a must-view video on the

subject of Welsh research. England & Wales residents - make your views known to the Ministry of Justice, who want to digitise and destroy old wills.

** I must admit to being entranced by old OS maps. The sheer effort required to manually survey to the level of detail on the 25 inch series is mind-boggling and a testament to the skills and dedication of the surveyors and cartographers*



Exchange Journals

Only two this time

- Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire FHS
- Genealogical Society of Queensland

Enjoy!

[View online \(login required\)](#)



Welsh Family History Research



by Eilir Ann Daniels

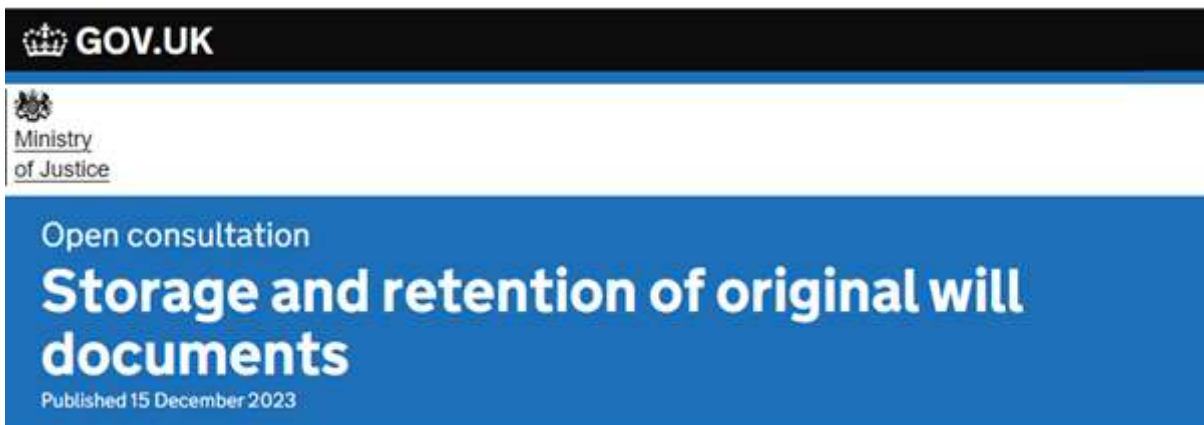
One of our research assistants who has Welsh ancestors described this as *'the best session on Welsh family history I have ever seen.'*

Although Welsh research broadly utilises the same official sources as you would use in England, the country's social, linguistic, cultural and religious fabric means that a different approach is called for.

This recorded talk covers issues specific to Wales – aspects of which researchers may be unaware of or which can make research a little tricky – including the importance of the historical context and 'the chapel' in Welsh life; matters relating to place names & parishes; and the significance of Welsh naming practices. It also covers some research strategies as well as a few databases and useful websites relating to Welsh research.

Content is only available until 28th Feb, so don't delay.

[Click to view \(login required\)](#)



Government Consultation on Storage and Retention of original will documents

The UK government announced last month that they would like to change the law, in order to allow the destruction of original wills, once they have been digitised, because they no longer have space to store them all. Consultation has now started on how they propose to amend the law, and runs until 23 February.

Click [here](#) to access the website

Many people believe that the originals of such documents should be retained, especially those interested in family history research. There is also a question about whether digital files are a robust enough method of preservation long term, versus physical records.

Please do have your say - it's important that the family history community comes together to shape what records are available now and for future generations.

ePetition

If you feel strongly about the issue, an ePetition is available to UK residents. It has already passed the threshold where the government must respond but if sufficient people sign it, it may be possible to force a parliamentary debate

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/654081>



In celebration of Burns Night

In celebration of Burns Night on 25th January - we bring you a trio of online resources to help you build your knowledge of your Scottish ancestry. These are all mainstream websites, free to use and search, but often lesser used than the better known Scotland's People etc.

Scotland's Places

Tax records are an important way of tracing where your Scottish ancestors lived before census records and this is one of the specialisms of Scotland's Places. You can view both original document images and transcriptions of a comprehensive collection of 17th and 18th century tax records including carriage tax rolls, clock and watch tax rolls, farm horse tax rolls, female and male servant tax records, hearth tax

rolls, shop tax rolls, window tax and more. Scotland certainly knew how to tax! Beyond tax, you will also find listings, name books, medical reports, images and a host of other small data sets.

Check it out here:

<https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/>

The Scottish Military Research Group

This is a charitable organisation set up to educate and inform the public about how to research their Scottish military ancestry. As well as providing free access to rolls of honour, it has the most comprehensive collection of Scottish military war memorials online, accessible via its Commemorations Project. Some of these are particularly impressive. The City of Glasgow Rolls of Honour can be downloaded in both free e-book format or in a printable version. The Lloyds Banking Group in the First World War, lists everyone named on the various Lloyds Bank memorials and also links to a Facebook page where stories about those commemorated are published.

This is very much work in progress, and a site to keep your eye on if your ancestors aren't yet listed.

Check it out here:

<http://scottishmilitaryresearch.co.uk/>

Scottish Mining Website

Not the most attractive website we've come across, but nevertheless If your ancestors worked in Scotland's mining industry it has a pretty comprehensive archive of material. There are detailed parish reports, gazetteer and old newspaper articles, reports on accidents and strikes and more, with some 22,000 miners named, including information on 15,000 fatalities.

Check it out here:

<http://scottishmining.co.uk/>



Calling all Globe-trotting Friends!

Are you enjoying a sunny escape this winter? Whether you've flown south for a few weeks or sailed east for a grand adventure, we're thrilled you still want to visit our website!

But sometimes, when you're far from home, you might run into a glitch when trying to reach our website. This is because we have extra security measures in place for areas outside our main markets - the UK, the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. These measures help keep out unwanted visitors who might try to peek under the hood.

But don't worry, there's a simple magic trick to access our website from anywhere in the world. It's called a VPN, which stands for "Virtual Private Network." Imagine it like a secret tunnel that takes you back to the UK (or any other country you choose) online.

Most web browsers these days have free VPN extensions you can easily install. Then, just click a button, choose your destination, and voila! You're back in the UK, ready to explore our website as usual.

And if you travel often, there are very affordable paid VPN services with longer tunnels and extra features. Some even offer free trials, so you can try before you buy. With these you won't even have to miss your favourite TV programmes.

So there you have it! No need to miss out on your favourite website just because you're having a grand adventure. With a quick VPN trick, you can stay connected and keep the party going, no matter where you are in the world.

Happy travels!

Events

Our programme is a blend of online and face-to-face events



Drop In Advice Session

Tue 30 Jan 14:00 - 16:30

Wokingham Library

Bring your questions, problems and 'brickwalls' ... and get some new ideas and advice from members of the Berkshire Family History Society.

For ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WOKINGHAM LIBRARY HAS MOVED TO:

Carnival Hub,
Wellington Road,
Wokingham,
RG40 2AF.

The entrance to the Centre is on the right of the building looking from the road.

[Find out more](#)

The Mystery Brooch - family history research helped solve the puzzle



Tue 30 Jan 19:30 - 21:30
Windsor Branch Meeting with talk by Mike Bailey

Online

A jewellery case was found when a cousin of the speaker died. The picture shows the inscription on the top, but who were B.P. and G. A. H. and why was the brooch given?

Mike Bailey has been involved in researching his family history for about 20 years. Some years ago following the death of a cousin he was asked if he could solve a mystery. His talk will show how with minimal initial information, some knowledge of the family structure and specific further research he was able to suggest answers to the puzzle, and in doing so gain additional insight into the life of some of his ancestors.

Free to members.

We request a donation of £5 from non-members.

Pre-booking is required.

[Book now](#)



Face-to-Face Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 12 Feb 11:00 - 12:00

**The Centre for Heritage & Family History,
Reading**

Just beginning your family history research and need some advice? Baffled by so many competing research websites? Banging your head against a brick wall? Or struggling with some other issues? In this one-to-one session, one of our seasoned advisors will help you make some progress.

Bookings close 3 days before the session.

This session is face-to-face.

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society.
Free.
Pre-booking required.

[Check availability and book](#)



February Natter Group

Tue 06 Feb 18:45 for 19:00
Discussion Group facilitated by Chad
Hanna and Gillian Stevens

Online

Join in this online discussion from your own home, wherever you live. Open only to members of Berkshire Family History Society.

Informal discussion group, facilitated by Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens. Topics are chosen by the group on a monthly basis. End time varies.

Free to members.
Pre-booking required.

[Book now](#)



Drop In Advice Session

Thu 08 Feb 14:00 - 17:00

Bracknell Central Library

Bring your questions, problems and 'brickwalls' ... and get some new ideas and advice from members of the Berkshire Family History Society.

For ALL family historians wherever your ancestors came from.

Free to all

[Find out more](#)



A History of Woodley

Thu 08 Feb 14:00 - 15:30

Talk with speaker: Ann Smith

The Centre for Heritage & Family History

Woodley grew from a village to a suburb of Reading in the 20th century. But it is not just another village absorbed by Reading. It's famous for Miles Aircraft and The Aerodrome, and there is more history than you can see. This talk will show the hidden history of Woodley. Ann Smith researched Woodley history with the local U3A groups, and edited and published a book on the subject.

After the talk, tea/coffee and cake will be available (included in the price). Pre-booking is preferred, but you can pay on the door, if there are spaces available.

[Book now](#)



Online Family History Advice Clinic

Mon 19 Feb 14:00 - 16:00

Are you just getting started in family history and wanting guidance as to how to proceed? Or are you stuck at a particular "brick wall" and need some help?

These popular family history advice sessions are online, using Zoom – so you can book a session wherever you live in the world. Sessions are 1:1, free of cost and are available to members and non-members alike.

You'll receive help from our experienced research assistants. We'll provide whatever help and suggestions that we can within the time frame and book a follow-on session with you if needed. Four, 25-minute, 1:1 slots are provided, starting at 14.00, 14.30, 15.05, and 15.35. Check availability on the website by clicking the button below.

Pre-booking is required because full joining instructions will be emailed to attendees in advance. You will also be asked to confirm the advice you are seeking, so that we can make the session as useful as possible for you.

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society.
Free.

Check availability and book

That was just a small selection from
our extensive events programme

Click here for the full programme

Our events routinely sell out -
book early to secure your place



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