



Kenilworth Family History Society

Midland
Ancestors

Kenilworth Branch

NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2021

Following a discussion at our July meeting Kenilworth Branch meetings hope to return to in-person meetings at The Kenilworth Centre in Spring 2022, with winter meetings being held by Zoom.

LAST MEETING

In September we welcomed back John Frearson, who has spoken to our group a number of times, this time to talk to us about **Maundy Rodgers: A Doctor Abroad**.

Maundy Rodgers was an Assistant Surgeon 4th Class from India, and John presented a fascinating account of his and his wife's research into his life, inspired by and using many of the postcards that he sent back to his family in India. The fascinating story of how hospitals were set up and expanded in the earliest months of World War I and how Indians, who travelled thousands of miles to contribute to the war effort. Maundy served in the seaside town of Wimereux in France and later went Mesopotamia.

We were joined by Maundy's own descendant, who joined in the questions and answers session.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Having postponed our much-awaited Heir-Hunters talk to next April's in-person meeting, we have once again organised a speaker at short-notice and we welcome Vanessa Morgan back. She will be speaking about '*A Brummie in the Family*', the title of her book.

NEXT MEETING

Next month, Cathryn Enis Honorary Research Fellow at the College of Arts and Law, University of Birmingham. Cathryn writes, "*I tend to specialise in family networks so I could focus on Kenilworth families if you like and perhaps share some of the sources I use. I also like to bring women to the fore and show how they were central to creating these family networks (as with the Dugdale paper) so I can emphasise that and we could make that the focus of the Q&A.*"

TELEVISION

Tuesdays 9:00pm on BBC1:

Who Do You Think You Are?

A new series of *Who Do You Think You Are* started last night with Josh Widdicombe, who wanted to know whether the family rumour that he was related to the Barings of Barings Bank was true. It was, his great-grandmother's maiden name was Barings-Gould. But the WDYTIA? Research team had so much more to teach him and the

rest of the episode took him to Hampton Court Palace and the King's lavatory, Kenilworth Castle, where he stands, looks to camera and asks, "*Surely this documentary has peaked?*"... suffice to say it hadn't!

If you missed it, you can catch up on iPlayer:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b007t575/who-do-you-think-you-are>

Next week is Dame Judi Dench (19 Oct)



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2022 PROGRAMME

The Committee is pleased to confirm that it has finalised most of the 2022 Programme and it is attached to this email. According to the discussion we had in July, we have organised the programme with Zoom talks during the winter months and in-person talks from Spring. There are also openings for Members' Meetings for the Summer and Christmas Socials, when members can contribute or have group discussions. We hope there will be a lot for our members to enjoy and we can't wait to have in-person meetings again.

TALKS

- **Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society** www.warwickshireias.org
Thu 14 Oct 'The Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway' by Roger Cragg. Online via ZOOM.

TED TALKS

www.ted.com

TED is a 'nonprofit' devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). Here are some genealogy themed talks that are available:

- **A J Jacobs: The world's largest family reunion ... we're all invited!**
You may not know it yet, but A.J. Jacobs is probably your cousin (many, many times removed). Using genealogy websites, he's been following the unexpected links that make us all, however distantly, related. His goal: to throw the world's largest family reunion. See you there?
https://www.ted.com/talks/a_j_jacobs_the_world_s_largest_family_reunion_we_re_all_invited
- **Taryn Simon: The stories behind the bloodlines**
Taryn Simon captures the essence of vast, generation-spanning stories by photographing the descendants of people at the center of the narrative. In this riveting talk she shows a stream of these stories from all over the world, investigating the nature of genealogy and the way our lives are shaped by the interplay of many different forces.
https://www.ted.com/talks/taryn_simon_the_stories_behind_the_bloodlines
- **Yaniv Erlich: How we're building the world's largest family tree**
Computational geneticist Yaniv Erlich helped build the world's largest family tree -- comprising 13 million people and going back more than 500 years. He shares fascinating patterns that emerged from the work -- about our love lives, our health, even decades-old criminal cases -- and shows how crowdsourced genealogy databases can shed light not only on the past but also on the future.
https://www.ted.com/talks/yaniv_erlich_how_we_re_building_the_world_s_largest_family_tree
- **Dr. Turi King: King Richard III: Solving a 500-year-old cold case**
In 1485, King Richard III of England was killed in battle and hastily buried in Leicester. But during the English Reformation, his remains were lost ... for five centuries, until a cross-disciplinary team from the University of Leicester set out to relocate them. In a delightfully detailed talk full of archaeology, forensic science, royal genealogy and the occasional history pun, geneticist Dr Turi King tells the story of how the team found and identified the bones of the last of the Plantagenets.
https://www.ted.com/talks/dr_turi_king_king_richard_iii_solving_a_500_year_old_cold_case
- **Prosanta Chakrabarty: What can DNA tests really tell us about our ancestry?**
Two sisters take the same DNA test. The results show that one sister is 10% French, the other 0%. Both sisters share the same two parents, and therefore the same set of ancestors. So how can one be 10% more French than the other? Tests like these rely on our DNA to answer questions about our ancestry, but DNA actually can't tell us everything.
https://www.ted.com/talks/prosanta_chakrabarty_what_can_dna_tests_really_tell_us_about_our_ancestry

FESTIVALS, SHOWS & EXHIBITIONS

- 11 & 18 September
Knowle Time Machine Festival
Celebrate Knowle's heritage with a series of events including history talks and a 'Start your family tree' workshop, as well as arts and crafts. Register online with [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)
- 12-13 November 2021 (£)
FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show
go to: www.fhf-reallyuseful.com
- 3-5 March 2022 (FREE)
RootsTech Connect 2022
go to: www.rootstech.org