



Kenilworth Family History Society

Midland
Ancestors

Kenilworth Branch

NEWSLETTER

WEDNESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2022

LAST MEETING

In January we welcomed back Mary Bodfish who spoke to us this time about **'Beer, Bets and Bull-Baiting'**.

For the majority of family historians, we have ancestors who worked extremely hard to provide for their family in a time before the 'weekend', 'paid leave' or 'retirement'. But have you ever wondered what your ancestors did during their precious 'down-time', before televisions and wide-spread literacy? Mary's illustrated talk covered the various entertainments that our ancestors enjoyed and portrayed a 19th Century Black Country where the working classes had a lifestyle steeped in drink and gambling.

Furthermore, there were bloody amusements like prize fighting and bull-baiting with dogs attracting large noisy crowds. In some places animals continue to be used and abused during illegal fights to this day, but the work against such cruel practices began centuries ago; the UK was the first country in the world to implement laws protecting animals. In 1822 an Act to Prevent the Cruel and Improper Treatment of Cattle was passed by Parliament, but as Mary described, the question over whether Bulls were 'cattle' was typically used as a get-around for this law.

Mary's talk was fascinating, if a little grizzly in places!

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

[LINK TO REGISTER](#)

'Fred Hancox - An Exceptional Edwardian Amateur Coventry Photographer' with speaker David Fry, a researcher and author from Coventry, who has been giving talks for over 25 years. David describes this talk:

"Twenty years ago a few glass plates turned up at a car boot sale in Warwickshire. This led to the discovery of many more that had been found in the attic of a house in Earlsdon. With a lot of detective work the photographer turned out to be a Coventry carpenter born in 1876 who appeared to take up the hobby in about 1900. Unusually he not only captured family life and holidays but also his workplace, events in the city, sporting events and military life from his time in the Royal Warwickshire Territorials. It is unusual to find such an extensive collection of working class amateur photographs from a period when the hobby was so expensive – normally it would be the domain of the middle classes with their own particular cultural interests."

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

March will see us return to The Kenilworth Centre (tKC) for the first time in 2 years and we very much look forward to seeing you again. We do not have a speaker scheduled; instead we would like to host this event as an informal get-together and an opportunity to share what we have been doing.

Whilst we are still a month away from this meeting, tKC has continued to keep us updated of their COVID-19 policies and mask-wearing, hand-sanitising and ventilation all continues to be considered and we would ask you to bring masks to be worn in communal areas and consider others throughout your visit.

TALKS

TALKS MAY BE SUBJECT TO POSTPONEMENT OR CANCELLATION; PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE WEBSITE TO CHECK.

- **Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society** www.warwickshireias.org
Thu, 10 Feb 'The Manchester Ship Canal' by Roger Cragg. Online via ZOOM
- **Warwickshire Local History Society** www.warwickshirehistory.org.uk
Meetings at 7:30pm at Aylesford School, Tapping Way, Warwick CV34 6XR and ONLINE
Tue, 15 Feb 'Late Medieval Towns in Arden' by Dr Andrew Watkins. For ZOOM link contact info@warwickshirehistory.org.uk
- **Leamington History Group** <https://leamingtonhistory.co.uk>
Meeting at 7:30pm at Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP. Please wear a mask.
Mon, 28 Feb 'Sir Henry Parkes: Father of Australia' by Sheila Woolf

Facebook



126
Likes



137
Followers



@KenilworthFamilyHistorySociety



KenilworthFamilyHistorySociety.wordpress.com

t : 01926 853841

kenilworthfhs@gmail.com

www.midland-ancestors.uk



GERMAN FAMILY HISTORY

Berkshire FHS is holding an online German Family History Workshop on Saturday, 19 February at 2:00pm. The tutor is James Thornber, who has been researching his partner's German family tree for about five years. In this practical online workshop he will be sharing his hints and tips to help you discover your own German heritage. The workshop will cover topics such as: a brief history of Germany, some useful German websites and how to tackle some of the trickier aspects of uncovering more recent German family members. James will also share examples of brick walls that he has overcome.

Tickets are £10 and full joining instructions will be emailed in advance. Bookings close one day before the event.

For further information or to book go to: <https://berksfhs.org/>

1921 CENSUS - TRANSCRIPTION ERRORS...

The number of online complaints about the poor quality transcriptions of the 1921 Census persist and has impacted on the research of more than one of our own members. On 11 January an article was published on the *Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine* website:

Findmypast promises to fix 1921 census transcription errors

By Rosemary Collins

Published: January 11, 2022 at 10:36 am

Findmypast admitted *"we have been unable to conduct the same level of quality assurance checks we would normally apply"*. Family history website Findmypast has said it is *"continually reviewing"* its 1921 census records after a large number of family historians complained about transcription errors.

The 1921 census for England and Wales, which can only be made available after 100 years due to privacy laws, was released on Findmypast on 6 January. However, while family historians shared the ancestors they were able to find on social media, many complained that the handwritten records had been poorly transcribed.

Since Findmypast users search the transcriptions for their ancestor's name, the transcription errors make it harder to find them. It costs £2.50 to view each transcript and £3.50 to view each original record, with a 10% discount for Findmypast Pro subscribers, meaning that additional charges are incurred if users have to sift through erroneous results.

Users can inform Findmypast of a transcription error by viewing the transcription, selecting 'More Actions' at the top and then selecting 'Report an Error', but this means they must pay to view the transcription.

A Findmypast spokesperson said: *"Due to the secure nature of the 1921 Census project, the period of time in which we have been able to access and review the data ahead of launch has been limited. As a result, we have been unable to conduct the same level of quality assurance checks we would normally apply to such a major release meaning you may spot more transcription errors than usual. However, to ensure the highest possible transcription standards we will be continually reviewing the data to correct any and all errors over time."*

In an information page on its website, Findmypast also said: *"Transcription errors found without purchasing the transcript itself can be reported to our Customer Support team by emailing transcriptsupport@findmypast.com. Please include a link to the record and a brief description of the error, for example, the first name is recorded as Jo when the image shows it as John. Please use 1921 Census transcription update as the email subject line, this will allow us to correct errors quicker and more efficiently."*

Read the original article here: www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/news/findmypast-promises-to-fix-1921-census-transcription-errors



FESTIVALS, SHOWS & EXHIBITIONS

- 19 February 2022 (£)
The Family History Show, Online 2022
go to: <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online>
- 3-5 March 2022 (FREE)
RootsTech Connect 2022
go to: www.rootstech.org