

U3A Lindsey – Family History

Whether New Year resolutions had been made or not, this group's Zoom meeting on Monday 18 January 2021 proved productive. General discussion from the five participants started with comments about the 1921 Census, the results of which are due out in January 2022. The suggestion was made that if the 2021 census included some questions related to Covid 19, future generations would have a reference to study as to its impact on us this last year. It has been announced that Scotland is to defer this census until 2022 – wise!

Its not just the success of finding family ties through combing through generations of Smiths in the Oldham area for instance, but the revelation that a late C19th marriage between a Catholic and Methodist, influenced their children's education and further family ties.

Whilst there was no evidence of silver spoon upbringings among our groups' research, copious notes on admittance to the poor house, or for poor relief, did prove useful. On application for relief, written proof of family ties such as names of wives, names and ages of children at that specific time, were listed by the overseers. Also listed was the applicant's abode and place of birth – to ensure no payments were made to 'undeserving strangers to the area.'

The occupations of our ancestors sometimes glean useful information to help explain movement of one skilled worker from one part of the country to another. For instance ironworking skills learned in the hub of the industrial revolution in Telford, Shropshire, may have been carried into a new steel works started up in Cheshire by the next generation.

Family research using parish registers, kept in the parish chest in situ in the church has been experienced by some of our group, years before these registers were relocated into area archive offices. However, it is without doubt, no progress could have been done without the web services of Ancestry, Find My Past, FreeBMD, My Heritage etc. especially this last 10 months. Our experiences and recommendations of these different websites shows that they all vary in depth and width, so to compare, cross reference and swap our experiences on such topics helps us all.

Cathy Platt