

YOUR FAMILY HISTORIAN



Welcome to our Valentine 2021 Newsletter

As we approach the day when we traditionally express our love for our significant other, it is perhaps, fitting to remember those countless love stories from the generations before us. After all, without them none of us would be here.

So here's to them, and us and the generations to come.
And Good Hunting!

Andy Robson, Genealogist

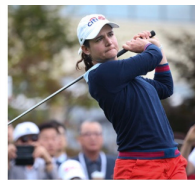


Countdown to Roots Tech Connect 2021

It's now less than two weeks to the first ever virtual Root Tech Connect event which takes place on 25-27th February. Over 200,000 family history enthusiasts from around the world have registered for this free event run by Family Search.

There will be a comprehensive programme of 20 minute talks on all aspects of family history (based on the TED Talks format) which will be available to view by registrants for a full year after the event. There are also Keynote speakers (see opposite) including the British actor Sunetra Sarker who traced her family history on 'Who Do You Think You Are'.

At the Virtual Marketplace you'll be able to see the latest innovations and interact with major family history organisations like Ancestry and Findmypast. If you upload your tree to Family Tree on familysearch.org then the Roots Tech app will tell you if you have distant family members at the show and you'll be able to interact with other attendees via messaging boards, social media interactions and video chats.



Lorena Ochoa
Former professional golfer from Mexico; mother, entrepreneur



Francesco Lotoro
Italian musicologist



Sharon Morgan
Founder of OurBlackAncestry.com; writer and genealogist



Nick Vujicic
International motivational speaker and New York Times best-selling author



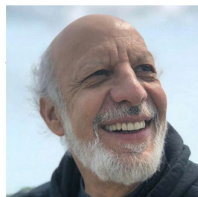
Sunetra Sarker
Award-winning actress



Diego Lugano
Former professional footballer and captain from Uruguay



Astrid Tuminez
Current president of Utah Valley University and former Microsoft executive



Erick Avari
Award-winning Indian-American actor

Don't Miss Out! Reserve Your Spot Today.

25-27 February, 2021

[Register for Free](#)

Do You Need a Helping Hand with DNA Matching?

A DNA test can enable you to fill in gaps on your family tree through your DNA matches. This is especially useful if you have an unknown ancestor (e.g. no father shown on birth certificate). However making sense of your DNA matches can be quite difficult, especially if you're not sure what you're doing.

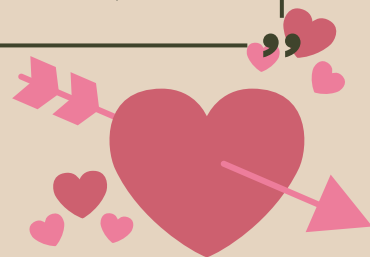


We can either do the matching analysis for you or guide you through the process step by step as a coach.

If you'd like to know more then please contact us for a free consultation.

[Contact Us](#)

“*trying to link these to my tree was made easy by Andy. I have now found the missing family members I was looking for*
D. Rushmere, Bristol





What is a Bodger?

Now here's an interesting occupation. I was always taught that a Bodger was someone who half-did a job. Well, guess what, that's exactly what one was.

Bodgers were skilled, itinerant workers who made chair legs by turning lengths of wood on an ancient type of tool called a pole-lathe. Someone else would have to actually make the chair, so the Bodgers only did half the job. Well, who knew?

ASK AGRA Family History Question Time

The sixth AGRA podcast '**Land Records for Family History**' is now available to download. The panel of experts explain how you can use land records, such as maps and tithe maps, to further your research.

All of the earlier podcasts are still available to listen to and there are also useful free factsheets to download.

1. September 2020: **House Histories**
2. October 2020: **Ancestral research – getting started**
3. November 2020: **Research before 1837**
4. December 2020: **Military research**
5. January 2021: **DNA Testing**

<https://www.agra.org.uk/podcasts>

The Family History Show

Online **Sat 20th February 2021, 10:00-16:30**

I'll be one of the 'Ask the Experts' answering your questions at the next online Family History Show on Saturday 20th February 2021. As well as putting your research questions to an expert, you can watch talks (available for 72 hours after the event), speak to local societies, archives and companies in the virtual exhibition hall.

The event is organised by 'Discover Your Ancestors' Magazine and sponsored by TheGenealogist. Tickets on the day are £8.00 per person but Early Bird tickets are available to purchase in advance for £6.00 per person.

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/>

meaning of **genealogist** in English

GENEALOGIST

UK /dʒiː.niː.əl.ə.dʒɪst

Noun

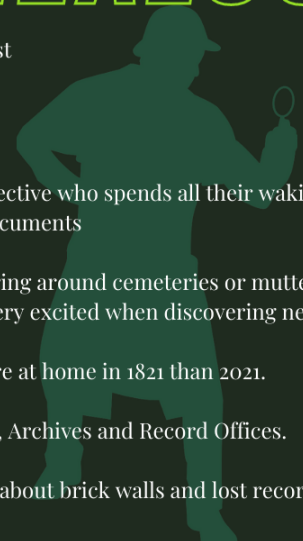
A family history detective who spends all their waking hours studying historic documents

Often found wandering around cemeteries or muttering names and dates to themselves. Get's very excited when discovering new ancestors.

A time traveller more at home in 1821 than 2021.

Frequents Libraries, Archives and Record Offices.

Known to complain about brick walls and lost records.



The Victorian Valentine

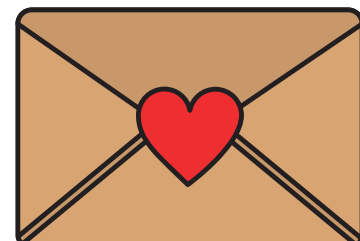
St. Valentine's Day has pagan roots. Ancient Rome celebrated the fertility festival Lupercalia between 13-15 February and it is said to have involved lots of naked people running through the streets! The early Christian Church 'rebranded' the day as a Christian feast day in 496AD.

The passing of love-notes between sweethearts had become a common practice by the late 1700's but it was in the Victorian era that the sending of St Valentine's Day cards really took off. The introduction of the Penny Post in 1840 meant that ordinary people could afford to send anonymous St Valentine's Day Cards and all over the UK printers started to mass produce them.



Valentines were sent in such large numbers that postmen were given a special allowance for refreshments to assist them on the days leading up to February 14th! By 1871 1.2 million cards were being processed.

Victorian valentines came with pre-prepared verses and themes that are still popular today such as flowers, birds, springtime and cupid. Don't be fooled though, the Victorian's used 'anonymity' to send quite daring and racy verse too.



Top FREE Genealogy Websites - Part 2

1. GENUKI

GENUKI plays host to a huge array of Genealogical resources for the UK and Ireland. It is organised on the basis of historic counties and subject areas. It is essentially a vast encyclopaedia with links leading to dedicated pages on other sites. It also has a growing set of specially produced information pages (> 115,000). Definitely a site to bookmark on your computer!

The service is run and maintained as a charity by volunteers.

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/>



2. UK BMD

This site provides 2,766 links to websites that offer on-line transcriptions of UK births, marriages, deaths and censuses.

There are also a range of other indexes and transcriptions for most counties. These may include parish records, wills, monumental inscriptions etc.).

<https://www.ukbmd.org.uk/>



3. University of Leicester - Special Collections

The University of Leicester Archives & Special Collections Department has become the repository for a huge number of on-line Gazetteers and Directories for England & Wales. These date from the 1760's to 1920's and provide a primary source of information about trade and industry.

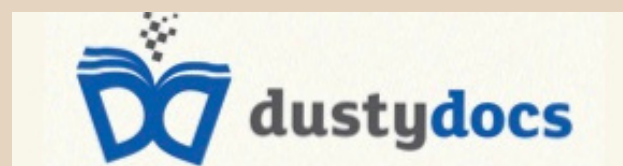
<https://le.ac.uk/library/special-collections/explore/historical-directories>



4. National Library of Scotland

The National Library of Scotland has become the repository for a wide range of historic maps for Great Britain from the 16th century onwards. Categories include Ordnance Survey Maps, County Maps, Estate Maps, Town Plans and Views, Coastal Charts and Military Maps.

<https://maps.nls.uk/>



5. Dustydocs

Dustydocs is a 'web-linking' site to free genealogical websites containing Parish Records in the British Isles and BMD records in Australia and New Zealand.

<http://www.dustydocs.com>





Dating Old Photographs

Sadly, as family historians, many of the old family photographs we come across are unidentified. After all, why would our ancestor's put names on the back when THEY knew who the sitters were?

One of the first pieces of information we need to deduce is WHEN the photograph was taken. Now there are some clues to be had from the style of dress, the way the photographer posed the subject etc. but the type of photograph itself can provide clues. Here are some of the most common photograph types you'll encounter.

Carte de Visite (CdV) (1860's to c. 1910).

These were thin paper photographs mounted on a thicker paper card measuring 2.5" wide by 4" tall (64mm x 100mm) to provide rigidity. They were similar in size to a calling card. They were hugely popular in the 1860's with people collecting images of family, friends and celebrities! Early cartes in the 1860's have square edges. In the 1870's rounded edges were introduced. Although replaced in popularity by Cabinet Cards in the 1880's they remained in use until the early 20th Century.



Cabinet Cards (1870's - 1920's)

These were larger than CdV's - 4.5" wide by 6.5" high (110mm x 170mm) and were intended for display on Cabinets. Hence the name. By the 1880s they had largely superseded CdV's.



The rear of both CdVs and Cabinet cards were often covered with elaborate logo's advertising the work of the Photographer or Studio. It is these logos and details of the card edging which are most useful for dating such prints.

There are pay-to-view sites which will provide dates based on their catalogue of old photo's; these photographs usually have a maker's number written on them which allows them to be arranged in chronological sequence. But I would advise simply googling the photographer first as there are many free sites which provide good dating guides.

Postcards- (from 1900's - 1940's)

Printing a postcard with the Customer's photograph on the front began around 1900 and soon superseded Carte de Visites and Cabinet Cards; though the latter continued to be produced until the 1920's.

Unfortunately, there is no easy way of dating them, unless they have been sent through the mail and have a postmark stamp. A rough estimate can be gained from the shape of the box on which the stamp was placed as this did change over time. Photo-postcards remained in common use until the 1940's and were especially popular during the First World War.

