

Genealogy

December 2018 / January 2019 Reports

Two reports for the price of one this month!

The main topic in December was 'Poor Law Unions'. These were parishes which had grouped together to provide accommodation for the needy poor in the form of workhouses which would provide minimal accommodation for the needy poor funded by a poor rate. The importance for family historians is that they formed an administrative unit organised around population centres which was the basis for districts for the civil registration of births, marriages and deaths up until just a few years ago. The old Registration Districts often cross county boundaries and it important to realise that a death in the Yorkshire village of Barningham would be registered in the mainly Durham district of Teesdale Registration district. Don't disregard a birth registered in Stockton because you believe your ancestor was from Hartlepool.

Search engines are very useful for family history research and the best way to use search engines, was the subject of January's talk. The talk focussed on the use of Google. Did you know that enclosing a word in double quotes in the search box means that that exact word must occur in each search result presented? Prefacing a word with a minus sign means that the search results must not include that word. Thus, if you have an ancestor whose name is Churchill then you can enter *Churchill - Winston* to exclude all the search results about Winston Churchill. The Google term *AROUND()* can also be useful. "*Alan*" *AROUND(1)* "*Swindale*" will look for all cases where *Alan* and *Swindale* are separated by no more than one word; Google will find all web pages containing 'Alan Swindale', 'Alan John Swindale' and 'Alan J Swindale' but not pages containing 'Alan Hodgson married Jane Swindale'. Knowing these tricks can make your searches much more effective.

The February meeting: Date this photograph - Latest genealogy news – Welsh genealogy. The meeting will be, as usual, on the first Thursday of the month, that is February 7th, at 2:00 pm in the Dales Room at Enterprise House.

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