

Genealogy report for June

At the start of the meeting two members of the group stood up and announced they had discovered they were second cousins! A DNA match had alerted them to the connection and a little research had revealed the details.

The June topic was Using Wills to assist in Family History.

The best value to be discovered from wills is family relationships.

Catherine Lewis was associated as the aunt of Sir George Henry Lewis, a prominent lawyer in Victorian London. However, his uncle's will made no mention of this sister Catherine despite many other relatives being mentioned. This family, however, was a Jewish family and Catherine had married an Irish Roman Catholic. George Keogh. Disowned!

Nonetheless, In the will of Sir George's aunt Sophia she left a bequest to her sister Kate Keogh. Thus Catherine (Lewis) Keogh was the daughter of Sir George Henry Lewis's grandfather Noah Edward Lewis (a rather colourful individual).

Catherine Keogh's own will mentions 19 relatives, a boon in reconstructing the family.

From 1530 to 1782 a will needed to be accompanied by an inventory detailing the possessions of the deceased individual. The will itself might mention some possessions in bequests but the inventory listed all the worldly possessions left by the deceased testator (excepting land and buildings). The inventory gives a lively impression of the lifestyle of the deceased person.

The will may indicate other details such as date of death, probable place of burial and religion of the deceased person. If you can find a will do not ignore it! As the title of an earlier talk put it "Where there's a Will there's a Way!"

The next meeting of the Genealogy Group will be on Thursday 6th July at 2 p.m. at Enterprise House. This will be another 'Helping Hands' meeting where anyone is invited to pursue their research with the assistance of their neighbour or, indeed, the whole group!

Alan Swindale