Family History Interest Group September 2025

The September meeting was based on a presentation from Ancestry: [How to get started using ancestry for genealogy research](#).

Possibly the most prominent Family History website, Ancestry is not cheap at £70 for 6 months for UK records or £100 for 6 months for worldwide coverage. Add £10/month for optional 'Pro' membership which nearly doubles the cost for UK membership for little gain other than ease of use. To gain significantly from membership it is essential to start building a family tree. Ancestry will the then provide 'hints' which are records or individuals which may match your family tree. Often these are derived from other members' family trees which match your tree. The payoff is that the hints you accept as relevant automatically attach the details of the records to your family tree. Thus you end up with a fully sourced family tree and other researchers (or yourself in the future) can judge whether your deduced connections are justified.

However the other members of the group would have seen Pam and Alan frowning at the rather casual attitude in that talk to importing other family trees into your own tree with just a click of a button. A more conservative approach to research is to thoroughly research one possible addition to your tree, form and justify the connection, then add the new individual before moving on to the next hint.

In the next meeting Pam Taylor will give a presentation entitled 'Family History: Tools in Concert'. This will cover the most common research tools and why they are useful and will mention a few others that are geography-specific. There will be a series of questions to answer so that members can use the tools and see how they work in practice so please all bring laptops or their usual devices for the practical element although they can share and work in teams if necessary. It will be held on the second Thursday of October 9th, at 13:30 in Enterprise House.

An index to other past talks at [Teeesdale U3A Genealogy Tutorials](#).

Alan Swindale