

# Newcastle University Family Histories Forum

9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## Program of Speakers

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May

Morning Session 10am – 12pm

Linda Bankier (Northumberland Archives) 20<sup>th</sup> century Photography, Social Media and Family History - how to collect information.

Lizzy Baker (TWAM) Where do we go from here? Accessing archives in a post pandemic world.

Craig Thomas (NU History) Buccleuch: A Responsible Family or a Paternalistic Duty?

Roundtable Q/A

Lunch

Afternoon Session 1pm – 3pm

Christine Seal (Hexham Archives) The Lobley Family of Hexham: Woolstaplers, Methodists and Musicians

Roger Morris (Allendale) Philanthropy in the North Pennines in Victorian times: Isaac Holden of Allendale and his famous cousin Sir Isaac Holden M.P.

Chris Fowler (NU Archaeology) What can 'the world's oldest family tree' tell us about kinship in Neolithic Britain?

Roundtable Q/A

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May

Morning Session 10am – 12pm

David Johnson (NU History) Accessing family emotions and daily lives.

Claudia Soares (NU History) 'You are not prisoners, nor is this a prison': reforming the most wicked and depraved children in New South Wales, 1860-1900.

Roundtable Q/A

Lunch

Afternoon session: 1pm – 3pm

Guest Speaker Prof. Sinéad Morrissey

Upper Rooms: The Lost World of Belfast Communism

**Linda Bankier****20<sup>th</sup> century Photography, Social Media and Family History - how to collect information.**

This talk focusses on work undertaken at Berwick to crowd source information on photographic resources which is useful for family historians, particularly about relatively recent ancestors. This area of work and information found will become more relevant to family historians as time passes. The talk will concentrate on sources used, what we did and how we plan to take this forward in the future. Photographic sources in archives are a very underused and untapped resource which offer potential for public engagement, a chance to put the flesh on the bones for family historians.

**Presenter**

Linda Bankier is the Berwick Archivist and runs the Berwick Record Office which operates as part of the Northumberland Archives Service. She has been the Archivist there for over 30 years, building up extensive knowledge of Berwick and North Northumberland in relation to both family and local history. As part of her work she runs various workshops on Oral History and general archival skills. She has also written and tutors online Modules for English Local and Family History and Palaeography run by Dundee University.

**Lizzy Baker****Where do we go from here? Accessing archives in a post pandemic world.**

The ways in which everyone accessed information from archives or archival collections were already changing before the pandemic hit. Our experience of the last 2 years has emphasised both how important physical access to archival collections is, and how dramatic the shifts in researcher expectations are. This short talk will pose questions, and make some suggestions about the future of access to archives in a digital and post pandemic world.

**Presenter**

Lizzy Baker is the Archives Lead at Tyne & Wear Archives, Based at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle, Tyne & Wear Archives is the local authority archive service for Gateshead, Newcastle, Sunderland and North and South Tyneside. After a history degree, Lizzy qualified as an Archivist at the University of Aberystwyth and has worked in local authority archives for 17 years in both the North East and Yorkshire. At Tyne & Wear Archives she is responsible for the operational delivery of the Archive service including collections development and management, in person and remote access to the archives and working on community and academic projects. Lizzy is a Peer Reviewer for the Archives Accreditation scheme and sits on The National Archives Public Records Places of Deposit Reference Group and the Chief Archivists in Local Government Group Executive Committee.

### **Craig S Thomas**

#### **Buccleuch: A Responsible Family or a Paternalistic Duty?**

Like many nineteenth century landed magnates, the Dukes of Buccleuch had hundreds of tenants across several estates. This allows us to ask question: how far and in what ways did the family operate under a paternalistic ethos and what did this mean practically? This talk will use as a case study Duchess Charlotte Anne (1811-1895), wife of the fifth Duke of Buccleuch (1806-1884) drawing together themes of gender and religion with that of paternalism. Lastly, the talk will also address the question of what paternalistic activity meant for the wider image and reputation for the Dukedom of Buccleuch and Queensberry at a time when many of their contemporaries were ultimately failing.

#### **Presenter**

Craig is a second year History CDA PhD student working with Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust (BLHT) on a project titled: Peer Power: Scotland and northern England under the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> dukes of Buccleuch, c.1820-c.1914. This project will construct the first industrial history of the estates; it will examine the evolution of trade unionism and its relation to the customary paternalism of the aristocracy and will construct a revisionist understanding of the landed aristocracy during the rise of British capitalism after the Enlightenment. Craig previously studied at the University of Dundee where he gained a MA (Hons) History and Politics and a MLitt History in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

### **Christine Seal**

#### **The Lobley Family of Hexham: Woolstaplers, Methodists and Musicians**

The presentation discusses the life of James Lobley and his family, originally from Idle in Yorkshire. Born in 1846, James trains under a leading woolstapler in Hexham and then sets up his own business in the 1870s. The family were Congregationalists when in Yorkshire but transferred to the Wesleyan Methodist Church on arrival in Hexham. James becomes a Wesleyan Local Preacher in the 1860s and preached for thirty plus years. He gave service to all nonconformist churches in the area and throughout Northumberland. James returned to the Congregational Church at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and it was there in the Church in May 1925 that he was taken ill and died. He was well known in Hexham and although he chose not to hold public office, he held a number of other positions of note. James and Annie had six children but one boy died age just four. The other two boys took up the business later on. Only three of the children married. The talk will discuss the plummeting of the wool price in the 1880s and the effect on his business. Although this was a difficult time for the family they survived and James was well known to north-east farmers. The talk will also look at the family and their music. The family were accomplished musicians and raised large sums for religious and charitable purposes by giving concerts all around the county.

#### **Presenter**

Dr Christine Seal BA (Open), PhD (Leicester) is an independent researcher who took early retirement from her Oxford University administrative officer post. Her wider interests are in almshouses and aged miner homes, nonconformity in Weardale and Hexham, Methodism and Local Preachers. She is Secretary of the NE Methodist History Society and a volunteer member of Hexham Abbey Conservation Group, helping to record the Abbey contents, including textiles and gravestones. Her current research is on emigration and convicts from the north east of England to Western Australia, and on the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Australia.

## Roger Morris

### Philanthropy in the North Pennines in Victorian times: Isaac Holden of Allendale and his famous cousin Sir Isaac Holden M.P.

Isaac Holden of Allendale was a tea seller and philanthropist. The Holden Tract describes a fund-raising project for a hearse. Much of the text consists of a rant about Isaac's trials and tribulations, as it also exposes his own vulnerabilities. The hearse house at Ninebanks along with Isaac's Well, a former Savings Bank, Methodist Chapels and memorial to his memory in Allendale, form the core of the Isaac's Tea Trail heritage walk. His cousin and namesake Sir Isaac Holden was his contemporary and became a hugely successful Bradford textile manufacturer of the firm of Holden and Sons. Reputedly, he was the second wealthiest person in the Kingdom. This was when up to 15% of the firm's annual profits went to charitable outlets. Both Holdens were united by their philanthropic endeavours, despite the great gulf in their respective wealth, education and status. I hope to highlight a less well-known branch of Holden family history and to show contrasting examples of social mobility in Victorian times as a contribution to the heritage history rich landscape of the North Pennines.

#### Presenter

I'm retired from the Education Services in Local Government. I came to the North East of England to Newcastle Polytechnic to study for a Diploma in Careers Guidance in 1975. Since then, I've pursued a lifelong interest in the lead mining industry of the North Pennines. My focus has been on the social and community life gleaned largely from family histories from the Allen Valleys and on Alston Moor. Amongst this research I discovered Isaac Holden from Allendale, a lead miner who later turned to tea selling. A trade in which he achieved modest success and a local reputation as a philanthropist. This formed the foundations for the heritage long distance trail Isaac's Tea Trail administered by Allenheads Trust Ltd. In 2000 I was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to research the lead miners from the North Pennines on the gold fields of Australia. I've since written about the gold miners for different local history publications including Northumberland and Durham Family History Society and am a member of Allen Valleys Local History Society and The Woody Yaloak Historical Society in Australia.



*Census taker USA*

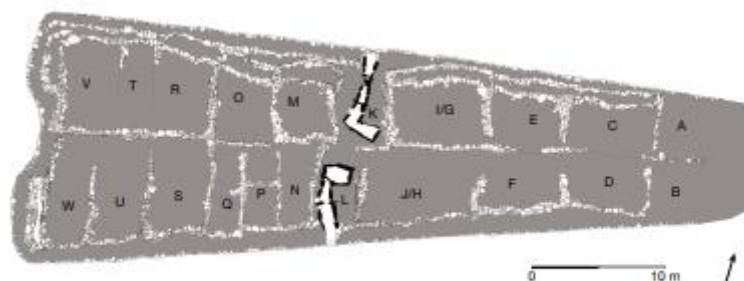
**Chris Fowler**

**What can 'the world's oldest family tree' tell us about kinship in Neolithic Britain?**

This presentation reports on a collaborative study by Fowler et al (2021), considering its relevance for studying family histories in periods for which no written records exist and from which no oral histories survive. An Early Neolithic chambered long cairn at Hazleton North, Gloucestershire, included remains of at least 41 individuals dating to 3700-3600 BC from two sets of burial chambers. Recent ancient DNA analysis of 35 of these individuals indicates a core role for patrilineal descent across five continuous generations among those whose remains were admitted to the tomb, while the placement of the dead within different parts of the tomb suggests a correspondence between maternal sub-lineages and the dual arrangement of tomb chambers. These sub-lineages derive from four women in the first generation, all of whom reproduced with the same first-generation male. The implication is that the tomb was designed to project a specific kinship structure into the future, presenting a patriline comprised of at least two social subdivisions. Furthermore, the sons of three women who reproduced with lineage males but who had a father other than that lineage male were also entombed, suggesting that these sons were adopted into the lineage because their mother had joined that lineage. This, and the presence of remains from eight individuals who are not biologically related to the patriline, raises questions about how kinship and belonging were negotiated within this community. The study illustrates the power of detailed contextual studies involving ancient DNA to shed new light on social relations, particularly kinship, among past communities.

**Presenter**

Chris Fowler is currently a Senior Lecturer in Later Prehistoric Archaeology at Newcastle University. He specialises in Neolithic and Bronze Age northern Europe, particularly mortuary archaeology, and in archaeological and anthropological studies of personhood and bodies. He is the author of *The Archaeology of Personhood: An Anthropological Approach* (Routledge, 2004) and *The Emergent Past: A Relational Realist Archaeology of Early Bronze Age Mortuary Practices* (OUP, 2013), and co-edited *The Archaeology of Plural and Changing Identities* (Springer, 2005) and *The Oxford Handbook of Neolithic Europe* (OUP, 2015). He is the Assistant Editor responsible for archaeology at the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*.



*Plan of Hazleton North long cairn*

Source: [Kinship practices in an Early Neolithic tomb](#)

**David Johnson****Accessing family emotions and daily lives**

Because birth and death records are increasingly available, creating a family tree to show a clear connection across generations is common. However family trees can be austere, offering names and dates but little else save perhaps a note of some sort of major life event. This paper discusses how historians and genealogists can explore more deeply into the lives of past family members. The first part of the paper reviews tools from emotions history as a means to access the emotional lives of previous generations, evaluating benefits and limitations to the process. The second part of the paper demonstrates how these tools can be applied to two specific cases so that a rich and robust view of daily lives and experiences becomes visible. One case study looks at the life of Anne Fraser, living in the north of Scotland and working as a governess for a well-to-do household, highlighting the emotional struggles she had in her position. The second case study explores the Youens family, based in Kent, and showcases an interesting family dynamic across a considerable period of time in the nineteenth century. Both cases show how family historians can gain better insights into past lives.

**Presenter**

David Johnson is a PhD candidate at Newcastle University in the final stage of his degree. His thesis focusses on the emotions history of the nineteenth-century British middle-class home in England and Scotland, and demonstrates that the emotional prescription for the home that was popularised in printed materials of the period did in fact manifest itself in the daily lives of householders in many ways. His other research interests include the interwar period in Europe and East Germany. He has previously published a book, *Madman in a Box: The Social History of Doctor Who*.



*Foster mother 1930*

### **Claudia Soares**

#### **'You are not prisoners, nor is this a prison': reforming the most wicked and deprived children in New South Wales, 1860-1900.**

When the Public Charities Commission published its first report on the state of the management of charitable institutions in New South Wales in 1873, it was noted in press reports to have 'aroused in the minds of most people a very strong sentiment of disgust'. The most 'flagrant mismanagement and abuses' were to be found at Biloela Industrial School in Sydney, which was described as an 'infamous pest house, and disgrace to the country'. Histories of residential institutions and their inmates in Britain and the Empire are numerous and varied in their approach. Nevertheless, there still remains much work to be done to recover the life experiences of the most marginalised individuals in society, many of whom spent some time in a welfare institution during their lives. This paper provides an overview of Biloela and the regime it adopted, which elicited outrage among the public and prompted significant reform to the colony's welfare system. It does so by privileging the perspectives of a group of girls that were incarcerated within the site. In particular, the affective culture that was fostered within the institution ensured that, as the Commissioners reports, 'pure innocent girls' were turned into 'perfect demons'. Notably, the paper makes the case for bringing history of emotions, the 'new' history of experience, and family history approaches together to study the history of institutionalisation and incarceration. It shows how concepts drawn from these fields can illuminate new understandings about the complexities of ordinary and marginalised lives of inmates and their emotional experiences and interpretations of incarceration, their relationships with the state, the core values of a newly established colonial society, and ideas of human equality and the ethics of care and control.

#### **Presenter**

Dr Claudia Soares is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow and NUAAct Fellow at Newcastle University. Her current BA funded project *In Care and After Care: Emotions, Welfare, and Institutions in Britain, Australia and Canada, 1820-1930* combines 'new' imperial history and history of emotions approaches. It examines the development of transnational policies and practices relating to care and control of children and families at risk, and recovers the social and emotional experiences of marginalised individuals who spent time in a range of state and voluntary institutions. Her first monograph, *A Home from Home? Children and Social Care in Victorian and Edwardian Britain* is forthcoming with Oxford University Press. She has published recently in *The History of the Family*, *History Workshop Journal*, *Journal of Victorian Culture*, and the *Journal of Historical Geography*. Her research interests include: welfare and poverty, the history of the family, the history of emotions, race, empire and migration, and landscape and environment.

### Guest Speaker Prof. Sinéad Morrissey

#### Upper Rooms: The Lost World of Belfast Communism

My paternal grandfather, Sean Morrissey, was interned in Northern Ireland during World War II as a member of the IRA. Whilst incarcerated, he 'converted' to Communism, becoming a leading activist in the Communist Party after his release, and was twice invited as an Honoured Guest (a Soviet designation) on speaking tours of the USSR. Duly raised in the Communist 'faith', my father represented Ireland at a Komsomol in Moscow in 1969. That same year, he met my mother, a Communist from Sheffield, at a Communist Party meeting in Belfast. They married, remaining in Northern Ireland as the Troubles ignited, and had two children. My childhood was subsequently characterised by radical political activity and devotion to the Soviet Union, overlaid by the additional complexities of growing up in a city beset by violent unrest. In 1989, abruptly, the Communist world began to collapse. *Upper Rooms: The Lost World of Belfast Communism* asks: what is gained and what is lost when one's belief system suddenly falls apart?

**Sinéad Morrissey** was born in Northern Ireland in 1972 and grew up in Belfast. She is the author of six poetry collections. In 2013, she was appointed Belfast's inaugural Poet Laureate. Her awards include first prize in the UK National Poetry Competition, a Lannan Literary Fellowship and the E M Forster Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She was the winner of the TS Eliot Prize in 2013 and of The Forward Prize in 2017. In 2020 she received the European Poet of Freedom Award for her collection *On Balance*. She is Professor of Creative Writing at Newcastle University.



REMEMBERING ONE OF IRELAND'S  
FINEST TRADE UNION, COMMUNITY  
AND POLITICAL ACTIVISTS, WITH  
THE LAUNCH OF A PUBLICATION  
CELEBRATING HIS LIFE AND WORK.

**SEAN  
MORRISSEY:**  
A CELEBRATION

**FRIDAY 31 MARCH | 7PM**  
UNITE OFFICES, ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST

**SPEAKERS:**  
JIMMY KELLY  
SINEAD MORRISSEY  
BRIAN CAMPFIELD

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