

# FAMILY HISTORY METHODS

Legacy Videos, Family Trees, Challenges  
in Studying Our Ancestors and Giving  
Personal Histories Public Relevance

Workshop 1 – 19th June 2025

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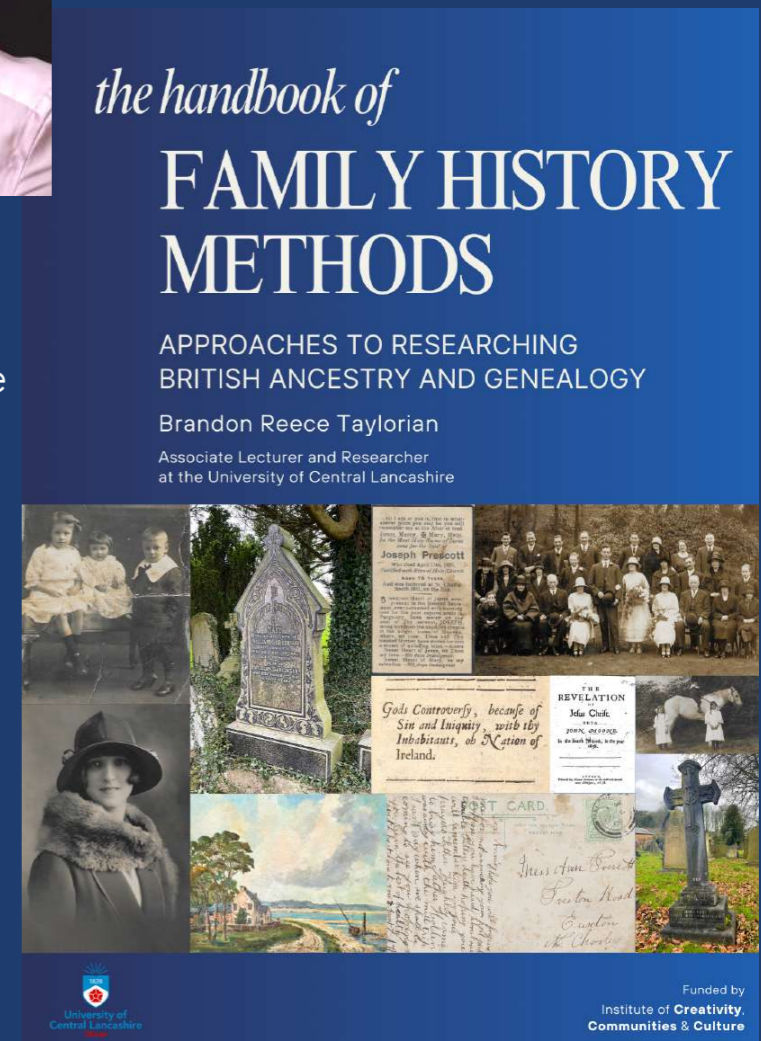
Institute of  
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& Culture

# AIMS OF THE PROJECT AND WORKSHOPS

- My research interests cover a broad range of topics from religion to human rights to local history in Lancashire.
- Building on the success of the 'Dating Antique Photographs' Project, the 'Making Family History Matter' Project has two main aims:
  1. To support you in developing best practice in family history research.
  2. To show you how to identify and convey historical relevance in your family history research.



**Brandon Taylorian**  
(Project Lead and  
Research Associate at the  
University of Lancashire)



# NEW HANDBOOK

Interviewing relatives

Antique photographs

Religion in family history

Birth and baptism records

Testing your DNA

## *the handbook of* **FAMILY HISTORY METHODS**

APPROACHES TO RESEARCHING  
BRITISH ANCESTRY AND GENEALOGY

Brandon Reece Taylorian

Associate Lecturer and Researcher  
at the University of Central Lancashire



Death and marriage records

Places of interment and  
burial records

Newspapers and  
secondary sources

Census records and family  
tree layout

\*Giving family history  
historical relevance\*



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# CRITICISM OF FAMILY HISTORY

- Family history continues to be stereotyped by professional historians purely as a nostalgic pursuit or hobby for amateurs with limited capacity for true historical scholarship:
  - Overly romanticising ancestors rather than engaging with the complexities and conflicts of 'true' historical research.
  - Having little relevance or interest to people beyond their immediate family members.
  - Family histories can be selective, focusing on positive or heroic aspects while ignoring negative or uncomfortable truths — is it ethical to even bring these uncomfortable truths to light?
  - Family historians are also sometimes criticised for failing to adhere to the same standards of evidence and analysis as academic historians.

# MY RESEARCH JOURNEY

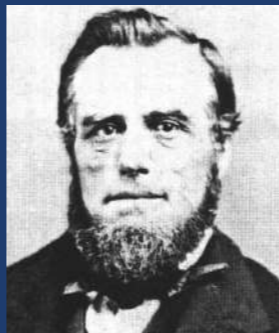
- In October 2020, I discovered through family history research that I am related on my maternal side in the Moon family to the very first British Mormons to emigrate from Lancashire across the Atlantic to America.
- The story of the Mormon Moons I periodised, gathered as many sources on as possible and have presented my research at conferences, written for historical societies and have published an article in the *Journal of Mormon History*.
- My article contributes new insights to the experiences of British Mormons in the 1840s of conversion, migration and persecution.



Hugh Moon  
(1815–1870)



Hannah Moon  
(1817–1899)



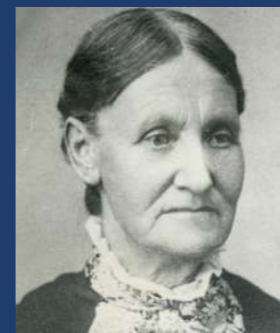
Henry Moon  
(1819–1894)



Alice Moon  
(1779–1841)



Margaret Moon  
(1820–1870)



Ruth Moon  
(1817–1894)

## THE MORMON MOONS OF LANCASHIRE: STORIES OF RELIGIOUS DISSENT, MIGRATION AND PERSECUTION

*Brandon Reece Taylorian*

ON JUNE 6, 1840, THE *BRITANNIA* SET SAIL FROM THE DOCKS at Liverpool bound for New York City with twenty-one-year-old Henry Moon aboard, sitting among thirty-nine other converts to the Latter-day Saint movement, over a dozen of whom were Henry's relatives in the Moon family.<sup>1</sup> Henry and his fellow British Saints nervously anticipated their journey to the American promised land.<sup>2</sup> This voyage was the first of its kind as it was transporting the earliest emigrant members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) from their humble origins in the farmlands of Lancashire to the industrial streets of New York, eventually headed for the location of their prophet Joseph Smith Jr. who, by 1840, had fled Pennsylvania with his most loyal followers to Illinois to escape persecution.<sup>3</sup> What awaited the Mormon Moons upon their arrival

BRANDON REECE TAYLORIAN is an Associate Lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, UK. Brandon's doctoral research focused on state recognition and registration issues impacting conditions of religious freedom but his research interests also include early Quakers and Latter-day Saints in Lancashire and the history of the Society of Saint Pius X.

<sup>1</sup> Conway B. Sonne, "Under Sail to Zion," *Ensign*, July 1991, 7–14. Spellings in the original documents have been left unchanged.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Nephi Moon, Maureen Moon LaPray, and Louise Moon Thiebaud, *The Family of Henry Moon Mormon Pioneer: 1819–1894* (Salt Lake City, UT: BYU Printing Press, 2006), 2.

<sup>3</sup> Wilford Woodruff, "British Emigration to Nauvoo," *Contributor* 12, no. 11 (September 1891): 403.

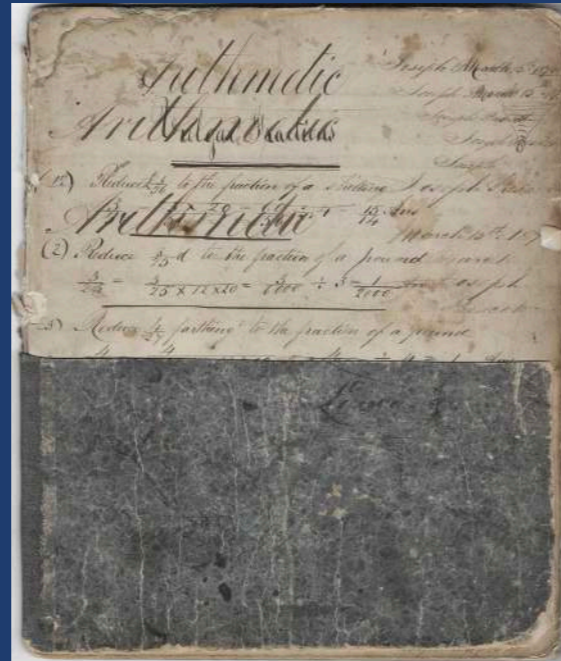
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Peer-reviewed article published in the *Journal of Mormon History*.

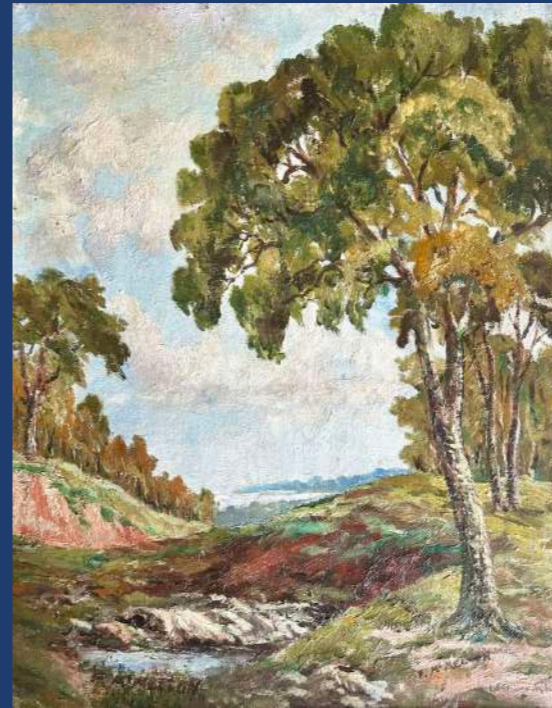
# OTHER EXAMPLES



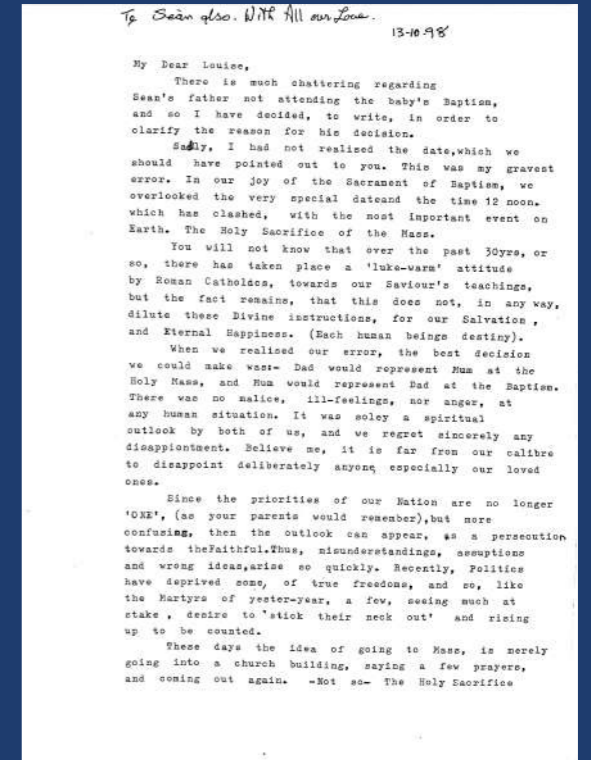
An ambrotype featuring Ralph and Agnes Moon taken in their home at Woodcock Hall in Eccleston by the travelling photographer Robert Pateson in autumn 1858.



My great-great-grandfather's exercise book from 1870 (surviving exercise such as these are rare to find today) when he attended St Mary's School in Chorley as a pupil teacher.



An example of my great uncle Francis McMellon's landscape oil paintings. McMellon was active between the 1920s and 1970s and was also the headmaster of Browndge Boys' School in Bamber Bridge from 1938 to 1955.



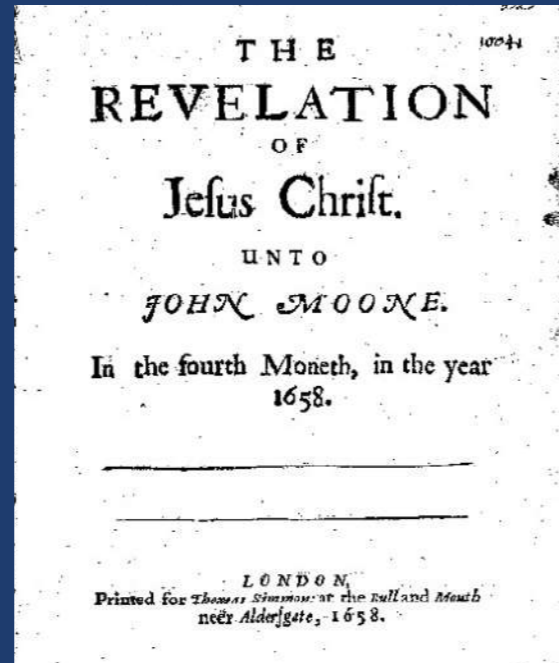
A letter by my grandmother, Irene Taylor, written in 1998 about her role in the Saint Pius V Association in the 1970s that opposed the changes implemented following the Second Vatican Council.

# OTHER EXAMPLES



Richard Moon, 1st Baronet (1814–1899)

Leading executive of the London and North Western Railway (LNWR) during its heyday as the largest public company in the world from 1861 to 1891.



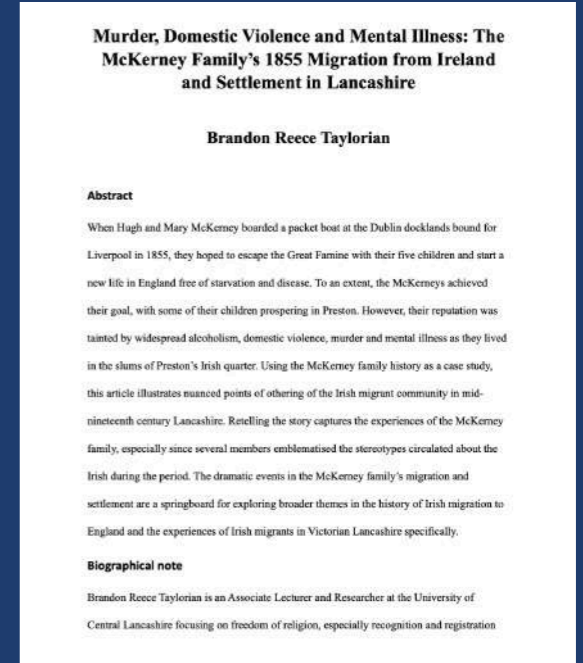
John Moon (1620–1689)

Early Quaker leader in the 1650s to 1680s. Known for receiving a revelation from Jesus Christ while imprisoned in Lancaster Castle in 1658.



Margaret Stringfellow (1843–1926)

Converted to Mormonism in 1886 before being one of the last groups of British Mormons to emigrate to America between 1889 and 1891.



Hugh (1781–1863) and Mary McKerney (1801–1872)

Members of the McKerney family who emigrated from Ireland to Lancashire in 1855 to escape the aftermath of the Irish Potato Famine.

# BENEFITS OF WRITING AND PRESENTING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

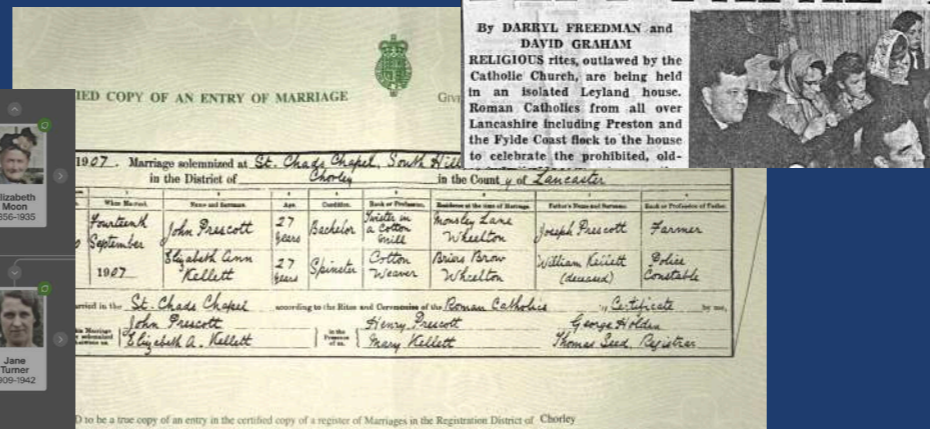
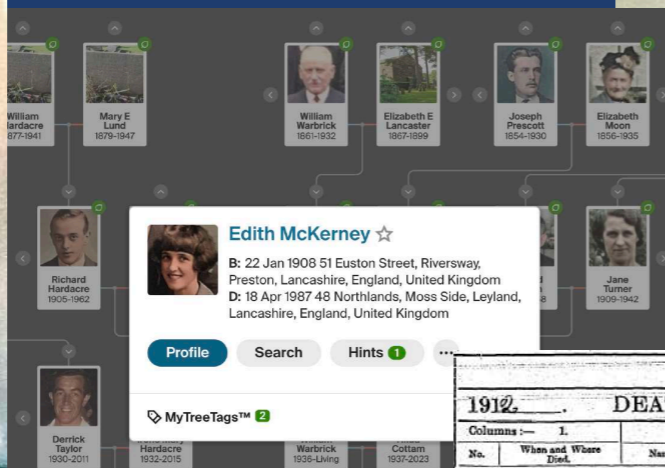
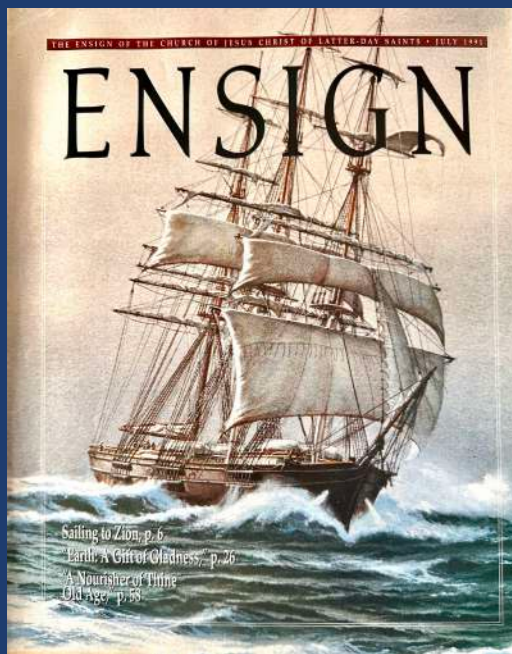
- It will help deepen your understanding of your research by receiving feedback and engaging in dialogue with others.
- It will encourage you to reflect on your research, critique your methods and improve your research and presentation skills.
- Form new connections with fellow academic and family historians, possibly leading to connections with relatives.
- A sense of meaning, personal growth and identity is gained through using your family history to contribute to knowledge.

# DEFINING 'FAMILY HISTORY METHODS'

'Family history methods' includes the full range of activities involved in conducting and documenting family history research. This includes the research we do at home alone, research conducted out and about and research conduct with others (including with family members and non-relatives).



**'Rebels' in outlawed Mass** **Post Exclusive**  
**LANCASHIRE CATHOLICS DEFY PAPAL 'BAN'**  
 By DARRYL FREEDMAN and DAVID GRAHAM  
 RELIGIOUS rites, outlawed by the Catholic Church, are being held in an isolated Leyland house. Roman Catholics from all over Lancashire including Preston and the Fylde Coast flock to the house to celebrate the prohibited, old-



Registration District PRESTON.

1912. DEATHS in the Sub-District of BROUGHTON, in the County of LANCASTER.

No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.
388	Twentieth April 1912 Convent of Littlehealds, Pilswood	Mary Moon	Female	69 years	Spinster, Laundry maid	Rheumatic Arthritis Cardiac Failure Certified by G. Baker, B.S.	John Smith Nephew The Village Euston	Seventeenth April 1912.



# DEFINING 'HISTORICAL RELEVANCE'

- Family history with 'historical relevance' is research that is related to broader events in society.
- 'Historical relevance' means that the research tell us something more than just the history of a particular family.
- 'Historical relevance' is just as much about how research is conveyed as what the research has actually discovered.
- 'Historical relevance' can be drawn from any topic as long as it contributes new knowledge to the given area.
- 'Historical relevance' is about parlaying (transforming) what you discover about your family into something valuable to social history.

# WHY IS 'HISTORICAL RELEVANCE' IMPORTANT?

- Giving 'historical relevance' to family history research highlights family history as a serious mode of historical inquiry.
- It also shows the importance of family history research as it can contribute to knowledge about broader society.
- Identifying aspects of your family history with 'historical relevance' is an opportunity to deepened your understanding of your ancestors' lives by relating their experiences to broader themes through historical analysis.
- Challenges the misconception that family history research can only be interesting or important to family members.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT  
ASPECTS OF OR ACTIVITIES IN  
FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH?

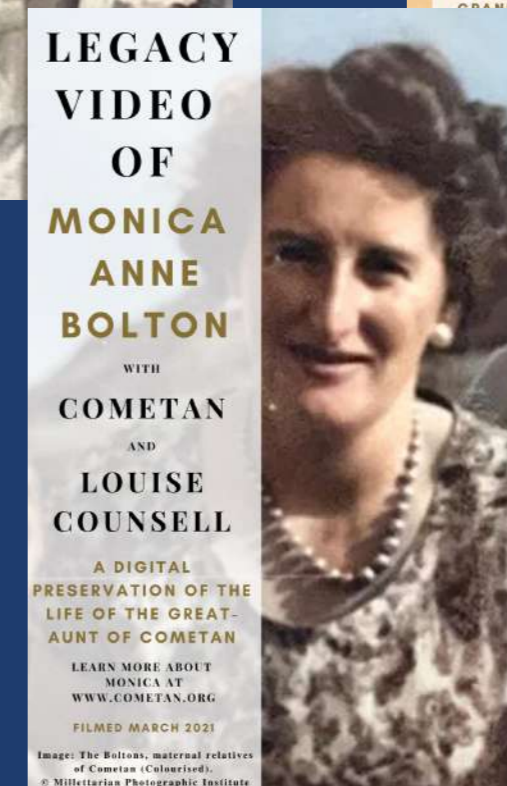
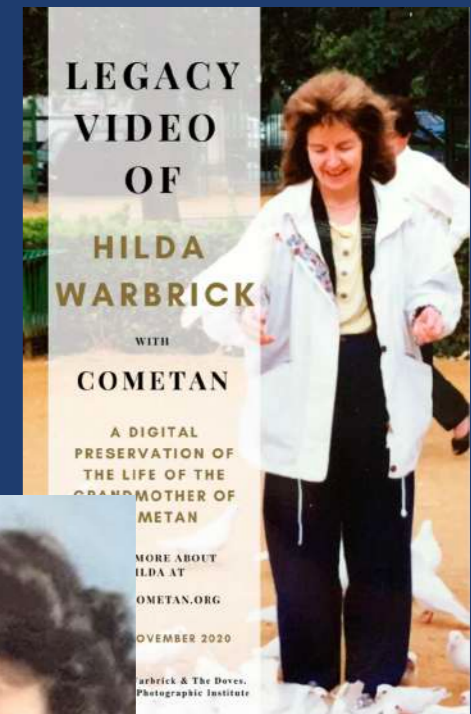
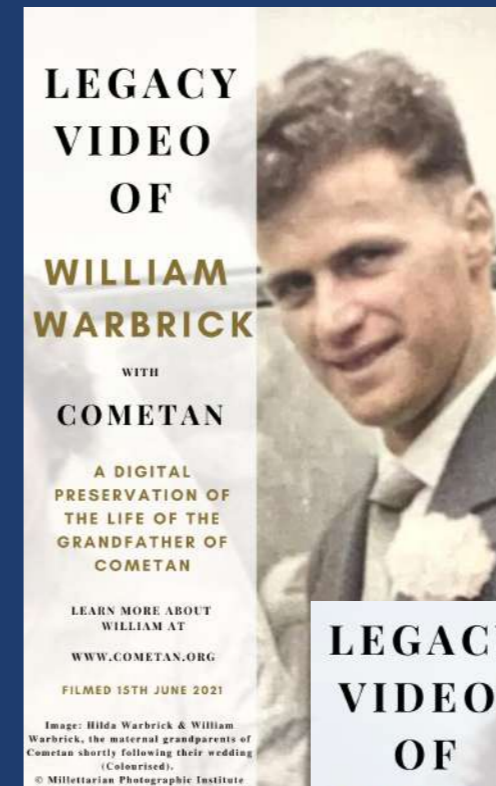


# CREATING LEGACY VIDEOS

Creating the legacy of video of  
Monica Bolton, 15th March 2021.

# BENEFITS OF LEGACY VIDEOS

- Interviewing the oldest members of your family is a way of gaining insight into the lives of your ancestors.
- Interviewing relatives often raises anecdotes that provide a deeper understanding of the lives of ancestors.
- Be sure to record the interview so you can refer back to it later by creating a legacy video.
- A legacy video will help future family members if they study their ancestors.



Examples of legacy video covers.

# CREATING THE LEGACY VIDEOS

- Focus your questions on the person's life journey, their achievements, struggles, values and wisdom. A mixture of funny anecdotes and real-life struggle always works the best.
- Its best to conduct the interviews in the person's home so they feel comfortable, in their living room for example. Also make sure you have good enough lighting and your voice is loud and clear enough.
- Open-ended questions are the best and it is important the interviewer listens attentively.
- When editing, it is nice touch to include a slideshow of images of that person's life over the favourite music to introduce the video.



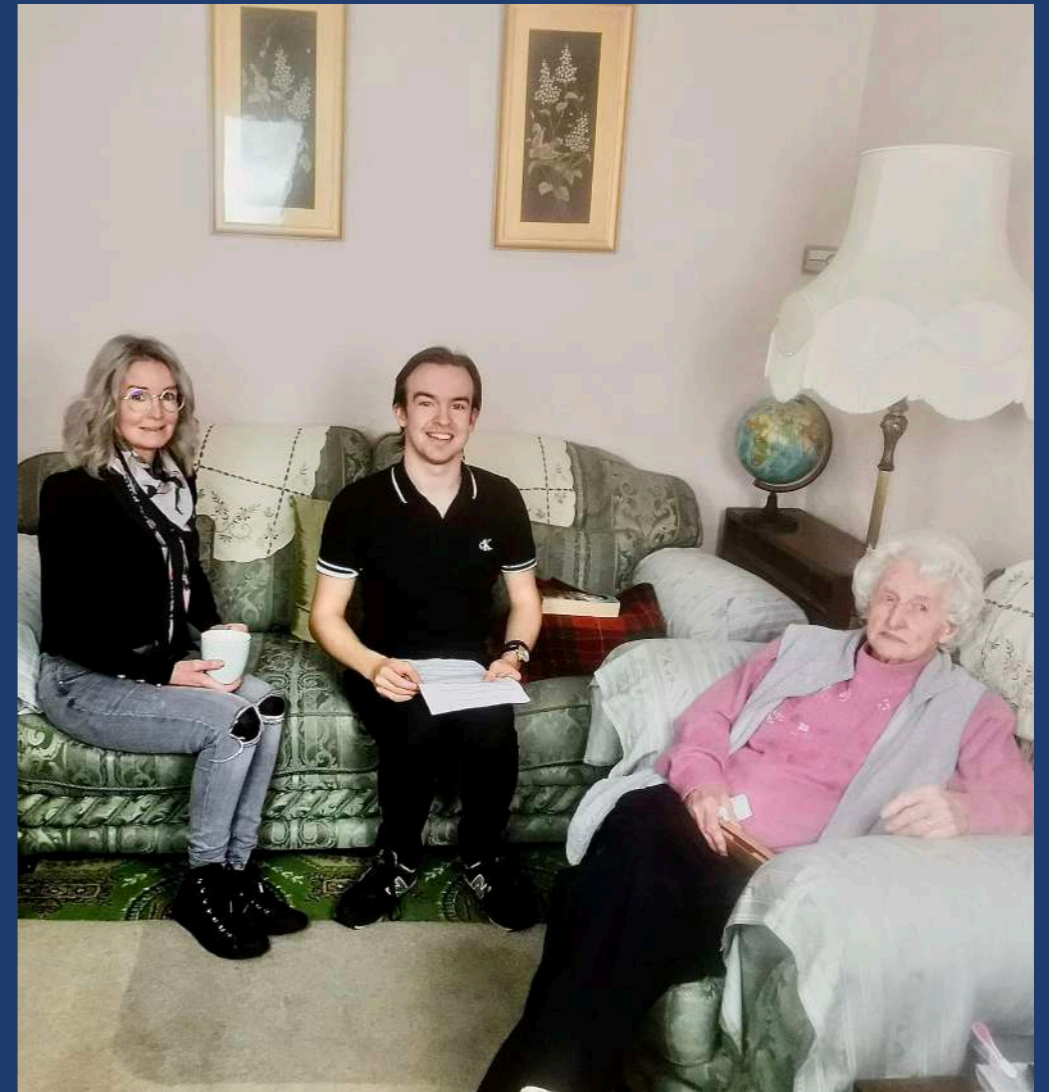
Interviewing my grandmother Hilda Warbrick, 5th November 2020.



My mother interviewing my grandfather William Warbrick, 15th June 2021.

# THINGS TO CONSIDER: ORAL HISTORY

- It is important to get permission and to transcribe what the interviewee says.
- Be mindful of past trauma and upsetting events in the family history. Be respectful when a person wishes not to divulge information.
- You may come across previously undisclosed information about your ancestors.



Interviewing my 93-year-old great-aunt Monica Bolton, 15th March 2021.

10 MINUTES

DISCUSS WITH PEOPLE ON YOUR TABLE:

**CHALLENGES IN FAMILY  
HISTORY RESEARCH**

WRITE ON THE BOARDS

# DISCUSSION: CHALLENGES IN FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

## Original Documents

Some parish registers, census records and wills that are handwritten can be difficult to read.

## Records

Lack of understanding of what different types of records and the information they contain.

## Contradictions

There may be conflicting information from different records or what relatives tell you about a particular family or specific ancestor and sometimes it can be difficult to decipher which information is factual.

## Local Knowledge

Understanding local customs, laws, and social structures can be essential to interpreting records correctly.

## Name Variations

Nicknames, variations in spelling of forenames and surnames; common surnames can make finding correct matches more challenging.

## Time and Expense

Family history research is a years-long process and can be both frustrating and exciting at times.

## Historical Accuracy

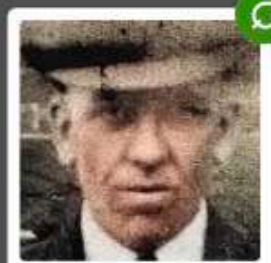
Ensuring that family narratives are portrayed accurately by avoiding confirmation bias (interpreting evidence to fit a preconceived idea) is something that family historians may struggle with, especially if the topics being addressed are taboo.

## Lacking Information

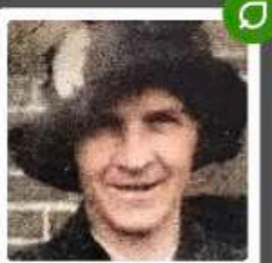
Sometimes there is a complete lack of information, making it difficult to move forward. This can be caused by a variety of reasons, including there being no living relatives to ask to provide information.

## Missing or Incomplete Records

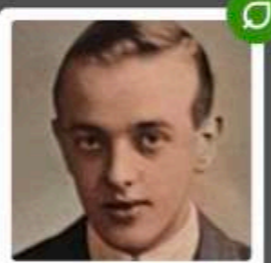
Records may be lost, destroyed, incomplete or otherwise inaccessible.



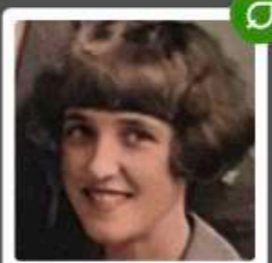
**Frederick Taylor**  
1905-1954



**Ellen Stringfellow**  
1905-1966



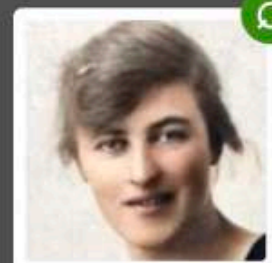
**Richard Hardacre**  
1905-1962



**Edith McKerney**  
1908-1987



**Henry Warbrick**  
1896-1972



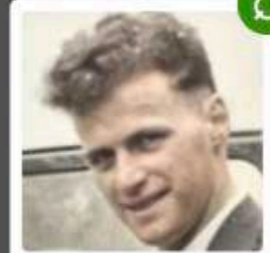
**Mary Prescott**  
1897-1967



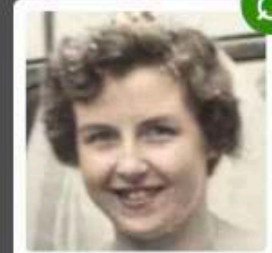
**Derrick Taylor**  
1930-2011



**Irene Mary Hardacre**  
1932-2015



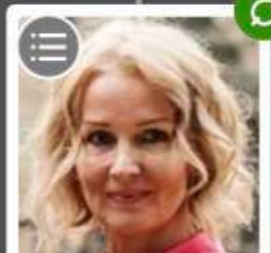
**William Warbrick**  
1936-Living



**Hilda Cottam**  
1937-2023



**Seán F Taylor**  
1970-Living

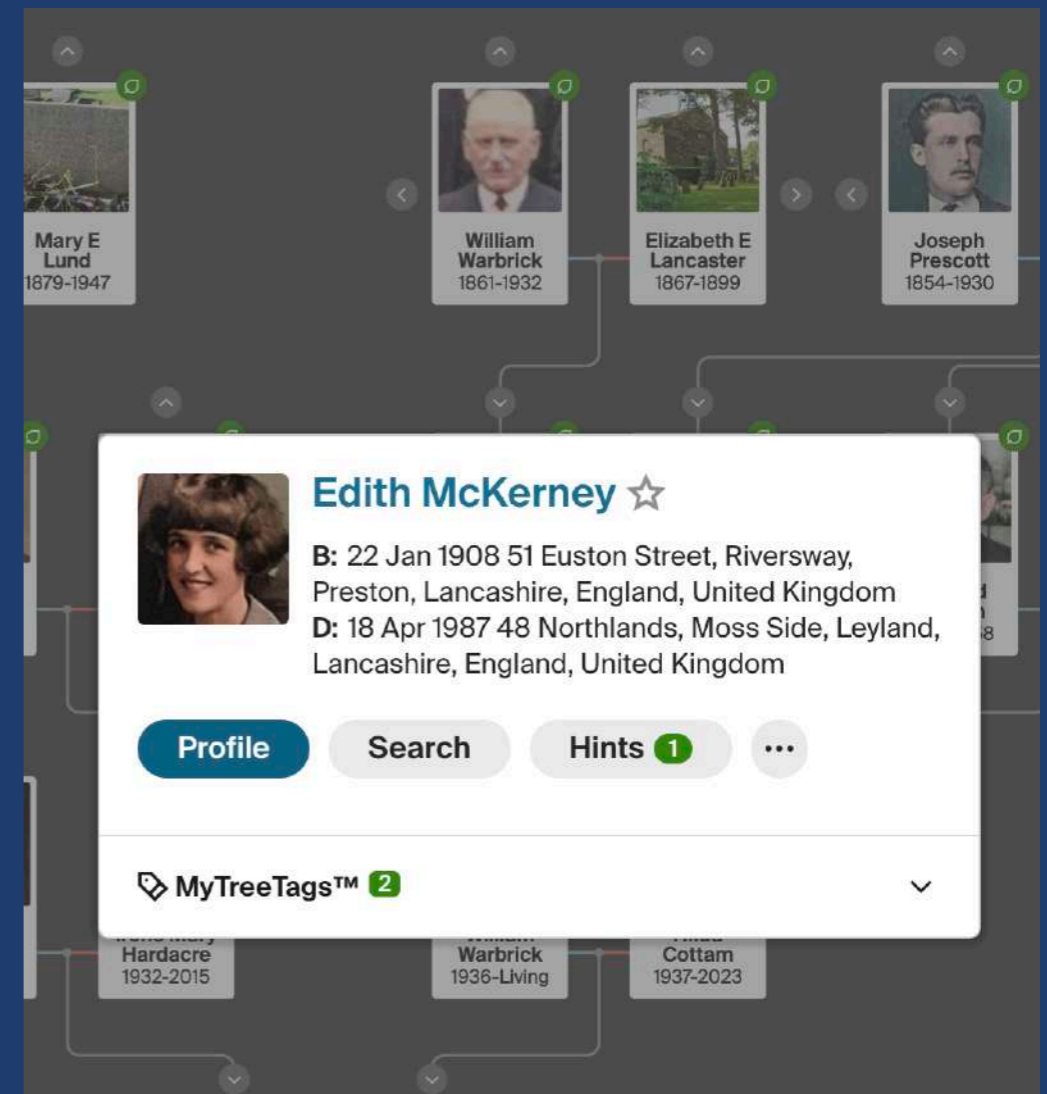


**Janet L Warbrick**  
1970-Living

# PRESENTING YOUR FAMILY TREE

# WAYS TO START

- Input your information or improve the presentation one family branch at a time.
- Don't rush. This is a long process.
- Think of your Ancestry tree as your command central for your research. Input much as you can to get the tons of information in one place for easy access.

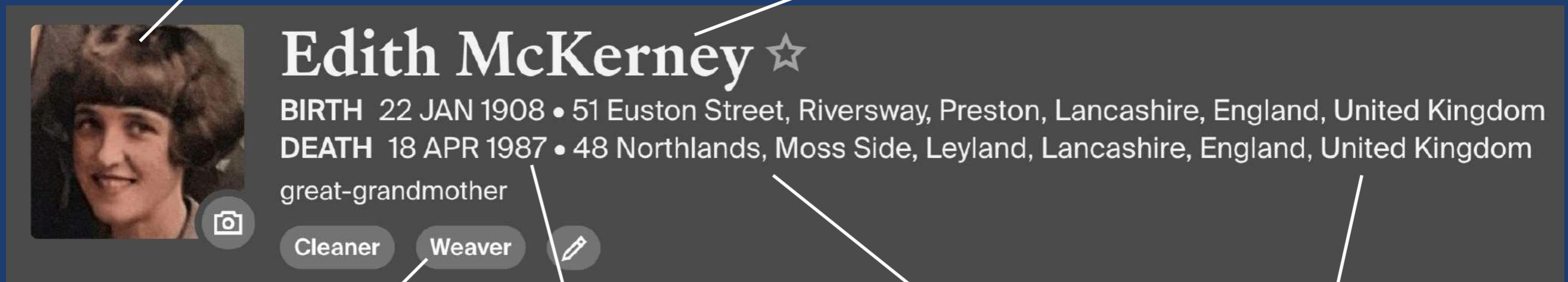


Profile preview on Ancestry.co.uk family tree

# PROFILE HEADER

Include a headshot for the profile picture. For people who you don't have pictures for, it is best to use a picture of either their grave, a picture of the church where they are buried, their main residence or a picture of their birth, death or marriage certificate.

Include only the main spelling of their name. Alternative spellings can be included below.



The image shows a profile header for Edith McKerney. On the left is a headshot of a woman with dark, curly hair. To the right of the photo is the name "Edith McKerney" in a large, serif font, followed by a star icon. Below the name are two lines of text: "BIRTH 22 JAN 1908 • 51 Euston Street, Riversway, Preston, Lancashire, England, United Kingdom" and "DEATH 18 APR 1987 • 48 Northlands, Moss Side, Leyland, Lancashire, England, United Kingdom". Below the death information is the text "great-grandmother". At the bottom of the header are two buttons: "Cleaner" and "Weaver", followed by a pencil icon. Arrows from the surrounding text point to various elements: the photo, the name, the birth and death information, the occupations, and the county/country information.


Include occupation

Include exact dates for birth and death where possible

Include exact address for date of birth and death where possible

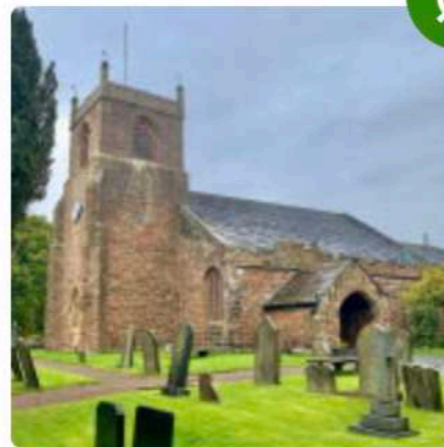
Include the county and country as they were called at the time of birth and death

# OTHER PROFILE PICTURE EXAMPLES



Superintendent Registrar's District			
Registrar's District <i>Chorley</i>			
18 <i>68</i> BIRTHS in the District of			
When and Where Born.	Sex, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.
<i>Statelywood August 1868 Lisphury</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Boy</i>	<i>John Taylor</i>

**Thomas  
Taylor**  
1868-1949



**Henry  
Moon**  
1753-1808



**Mary E  
Lund**  
1879-1947



**John  
Lancaster**  
1840-1888

# PROFILE SECTIONS

**Edith McKerney** ☆  
BIRTH 22 JAN 1908 • 51 Euston Street, Riversway, Preston, Lancashire, England, United Kingdom  
DEATH 18 APR 1987 • 48 Northlands, Moss Side, Leyland, Lancashire, England, United Kingdom  
great-grandmother  
Cleaner Weaver

Facts Hints 1 Gallery LifeStory Explore

Timeline Filter Add Sources Add Family Add

1908 (AGE) **Birth**  
22 Jan 1908 • 51 Euston Street, Riversway, Preston, Lancashire, England, United Kingdom  
Birth registered on 4th February 1908 by William McKerney, father, of 51 Euston Street; occupation of father: bricklayer; mother of child: Margaret Jane McKerney (formerly Hope); registrar: William Baines; on birth certificate, surname spelt McKearney.  
4 sources 1 media

1909 1 **Birth of brother Thomas McKerney (1909–1914)**  
21 Apr 1909 • 51 Euston Street, Riversway, Preston, Lancashire, England, United Kingdom

1910 2 **Birth of brother John McKerney (1910–1972)**  
3 Apr 1910 • 51 Euston Street, Riversway, Preston, Lancashire, England, United Kingdom

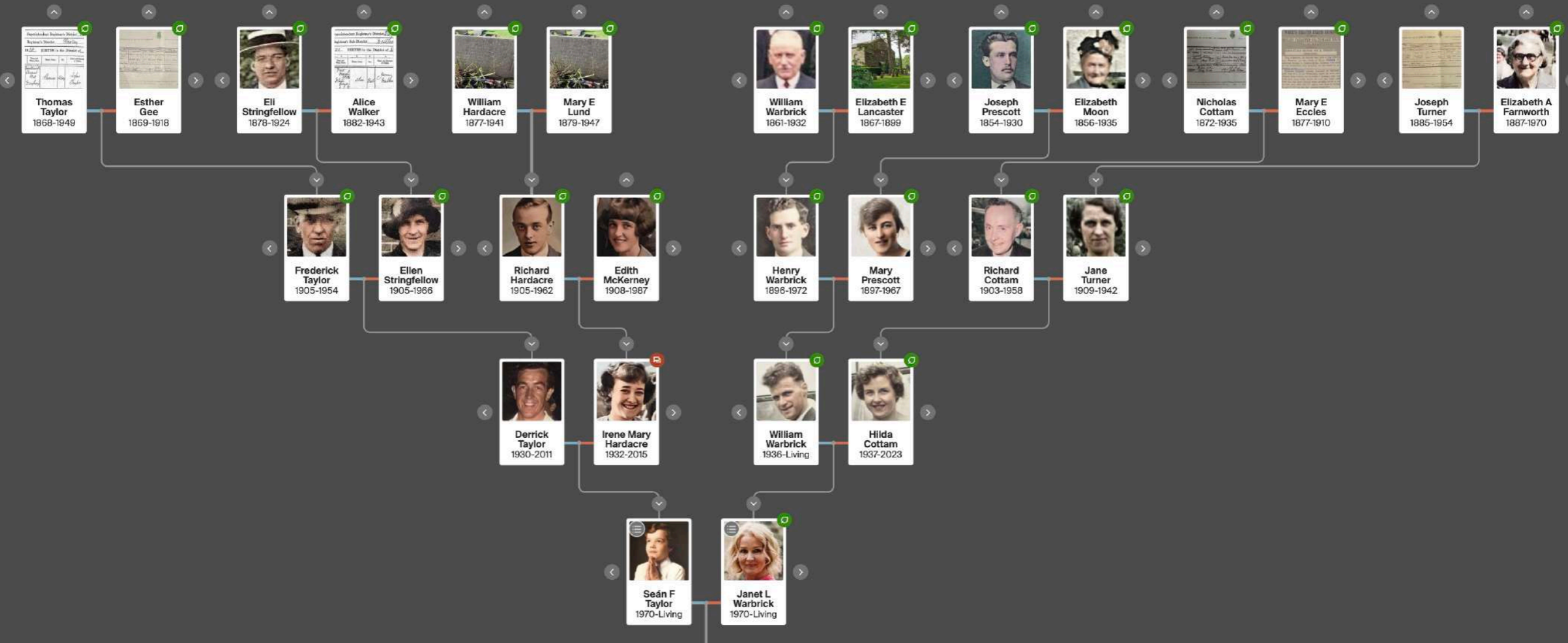
Ancestry Sources Add  
1911 England Census  
1939 England and Wales Register  
Ancestry Family Trees

Family Add  
Parents  
William McKerney 1878–1943  
Margaret Jane Hope 1878–1942  
Siblings  
Spouse and children  
Richard Hardacre 1905–1962

Transcribe the content from each official document, such as for birth, marriage and death and attach to each profile section a picture of the document or place where the event happened.

**Birth**  
22 Jan 1908 • 51 Euston Street, Riversway, Preston, Lancashire, England, United Kingdom  
Birth registered on 4th February 1908 by William McKerney, father, of 51 Euston Street; occupation of father: bricklayer; mother of child: Margaret Jane McKerney (formerly Hope); registrar: William Baines; on birth certificate, surname spelt McKearney.  
4 sources 1 media

# FULL TREE VIEW



ANY GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT FAMILY TREES?

# ORGANISING YOUR RESEARCH

- 'The Search' is your ongoing task of searching for any resources that might just connect with or reveal something new about your family history.
- This task never ends because there is always something new to discover but you will have natural breaks in your research when there are less new discoveries. Not only is it important to gather as many resources as possible to build your family history knowledge but you should also ensure that you document your research journey itself.
- For example, I found it help to split my research into phases. Following a lull in my research or whenever I discovered information that was significant about my family history, I marked a new phase of the research.
- Over the last five years, I have divided my research into eleven phases for example. If you are just starting out with your family history journey, know that you will collect a significant amount of digital and physical sources that you need to make sure are organised.
- It is also important to digitise your physical items as much as possible by scanning, taking pictures or transcribing to ensure nothing is lost.

# COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

- Sharing knowledge, resources and experience is fundamental to family history. You cannot expect other people to share with you their resources when you did not do the same in return.
- The spirit of family history is about collaborating with others, both relatives and non-relatives, to understand the past.
- I would not have made such strides in my family history research if I had not had family members who were open to share and help or people online who were willing to allow me to use and share the resources they had found.
- I have received hundreds of messages from fellow family history enthusiasts and distant blood relatives.
- I also highly recommend visiting family history clubs or attending events hosted by local historical societies. Not only do these individuals have a similar passion for history as you but they can provide invaluable ideas and support.

10 MINUTES

DISCUSS WITH PEOPLE ON YOUR TABLE:

**BEST PRACTICES IN FAMILY  
HISTORY RESEARCH**

WRITE ON THE BOARDS

# DISCUSSION: FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH SOLUTIONS

## Expand Your Search

Explore local libraries, archives, historical societies, and newspapers for additional information.

## Use Diverse Sources

Explore census records, birth, marriage, and death certificates, parish registers, passenger lists, directories, and military records.

## Talk with other family historians

Join family history societies and clubs and for help if you're struggling.

## Contact distant relatives

Get in touch with distant relatives to see if they have uncovered any information that has not come to light from your immediate family.

## Patience and Persistence

Try not to be discouraged by dead ends. Perhaps take a break and come back later to a particular branch of your family history that you are finding difficult. There are always other areas to focus on I've found.

## Consider Alternative Spellings

Consider that your ancestors may have spelled their names differently or misspelt names when filling out official records.

## Seek Expert Help

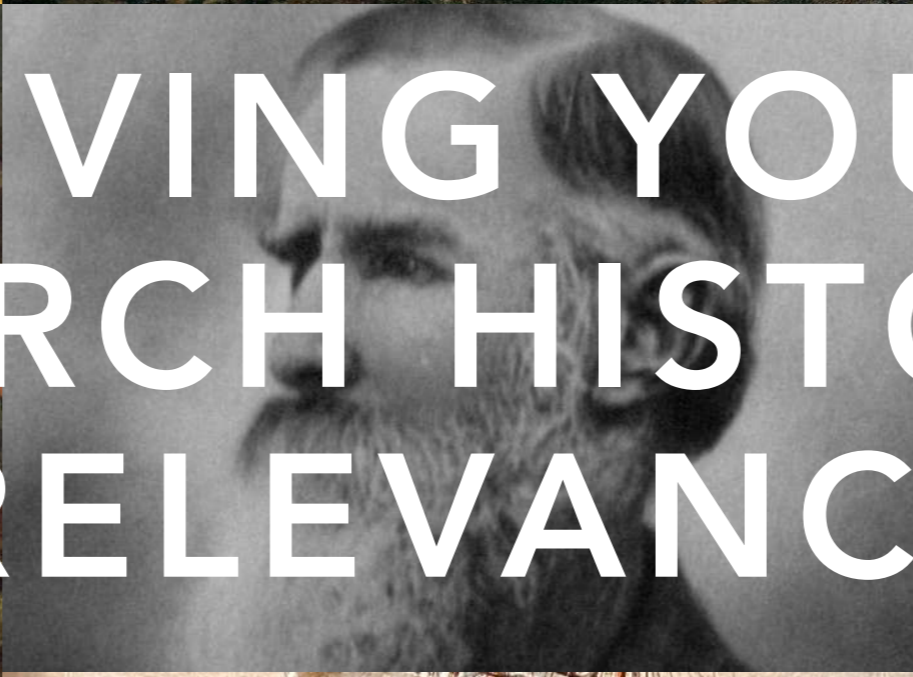
There are often expert genealogists who provide services to help family historians in the local area. Many local archives also have a list of record agents on their website who you can with relocating records, especially if you are not local to the archives.

## Remain Organised

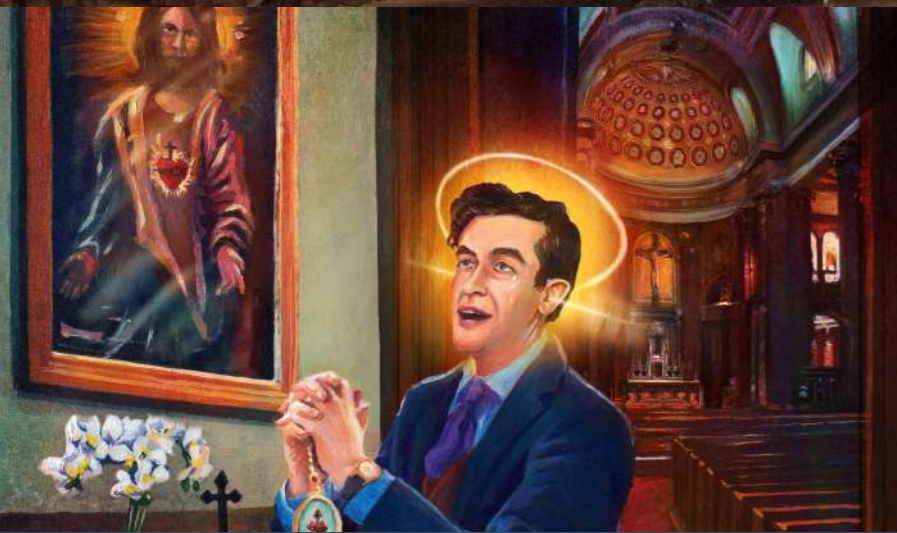
Develop a system for organising your research notes, documents and sources to avoid misplacing important information.

## Other solutions

Research related family lines, refine your research questions and goals over time to avoid your research becoming directionless, explore social and local history as this might raise previously unexplored avenues of research you can explore in the context of your own family.



# GIVING YOUR RESEARCH HISTORICAL RELEVANCE



# WHAT THEMES MIGHT GIVE FAMILY HISTORY 'HISTORICAL RELEVANCE'?

Migration

Military service

Attitudes or customs in a particular period such as attitudes towards women

Crime

Involvement in a religious movement

Artistry and analysing creative works

Involvement in a social, cultural or political movement

Involvement in a particular industry or occupational achievements

Religious persecution

Family history best practice

# SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF GIVING FAMILY HISTORY 'HISTORICAL RELEVANCE'

- My 4th great-grandparents Hugh and Mary McKerney emigrated with their five children from Ireland to Lancashire in 1855 to escape the aftermath of the Irish Potato Famine.
- One of the McKerney sons committed domestic violence and murder against his wife in Preston in 1876. Another McKerney daughter was killed by a mob in Preston in 1887.
- I parlayed the McKerney's migration account and the instances of alcoholism, violence against women and murders in the family into a broad discussion of English attitudes towards the Irish in the nineteenth century.



**THE WIFE MURDER IN PRESTON.**

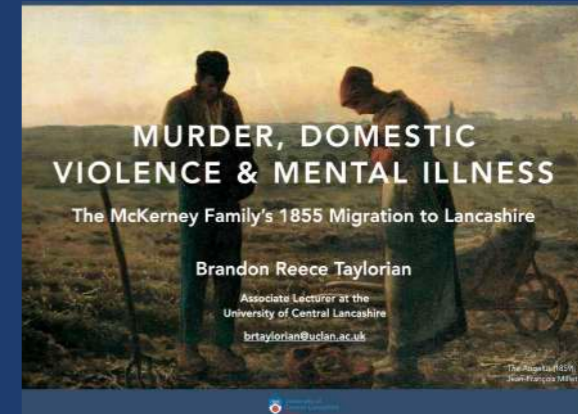
*Preston Chronicle, 20th July 1876.*

**MYSTERIOUS DEATH IN  
PRESTON.  
ALLEGED VIOLENCE TO A MARRIED  
WOMAN.**

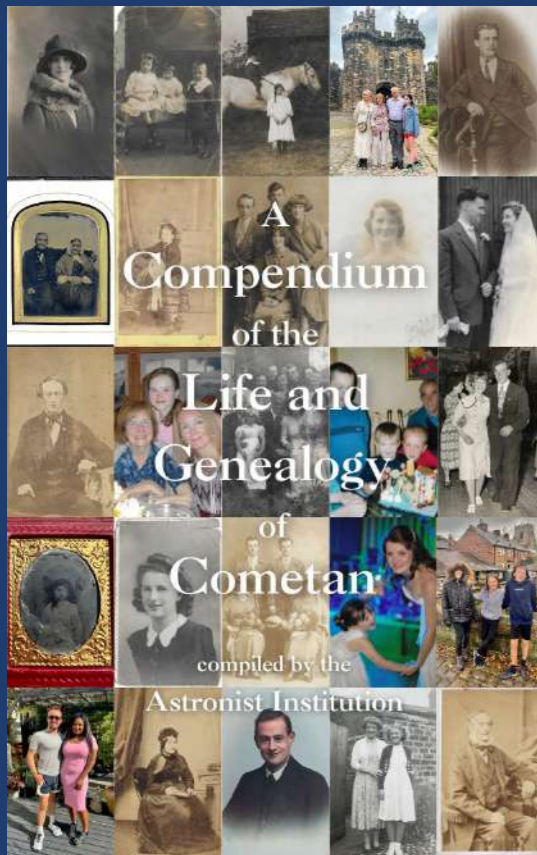
*Lancashire Evening Post, 3rd January 1887.*

# PRESENTING FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

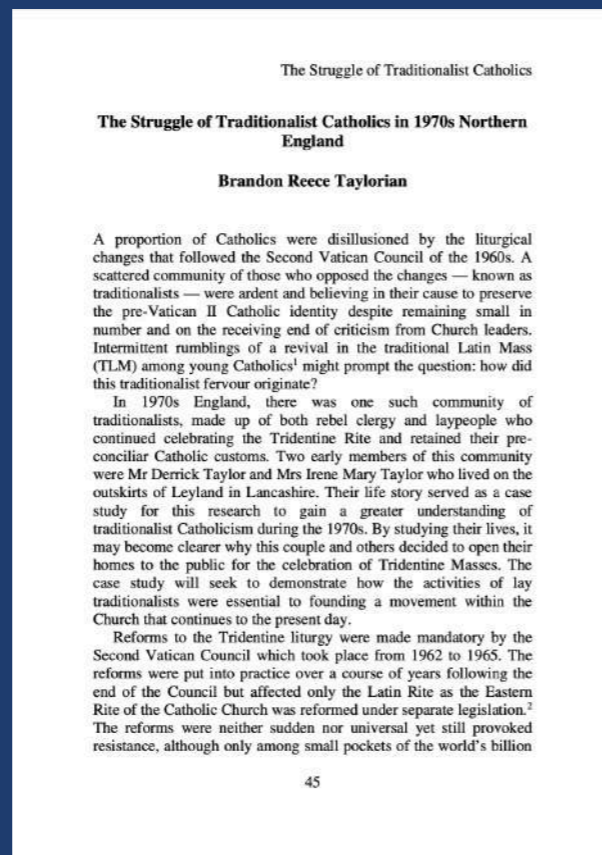
There are numerous outlets available to present your family history research, ranging from informal to peer-reviewed. You can build your skills over time to work towards producing a peer-reviewed article.



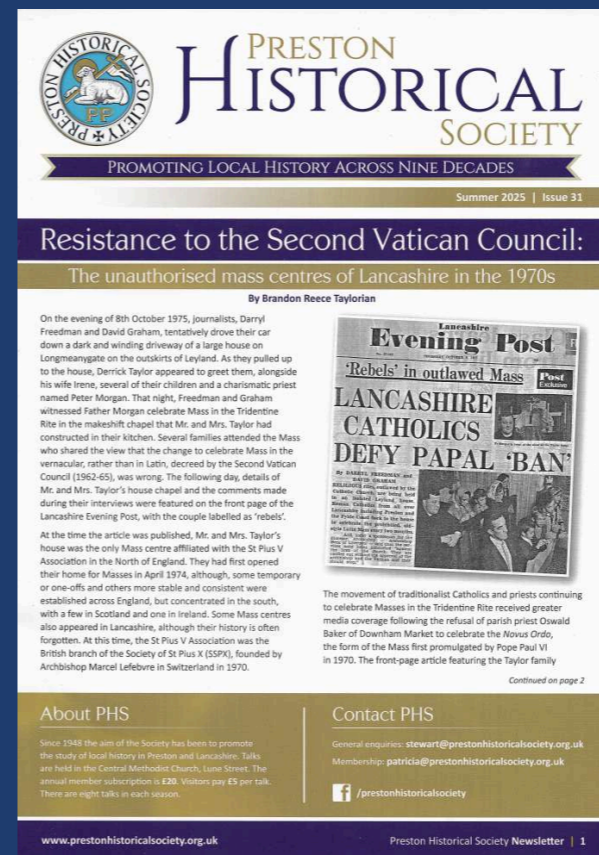
Short lectures at conferences



Self-published book



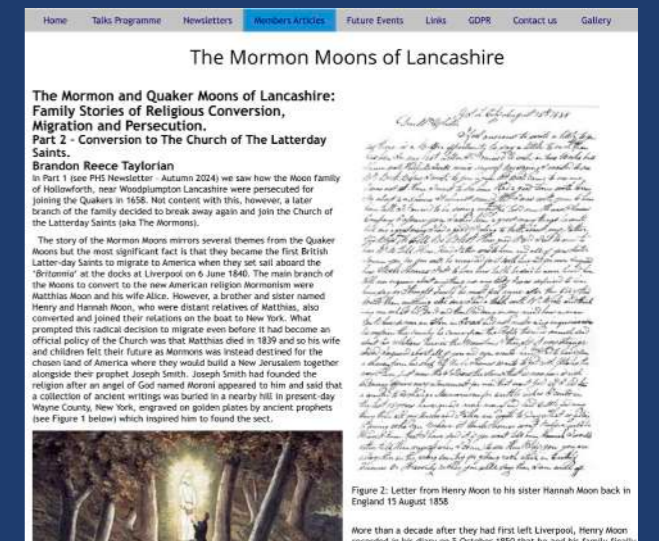
Peer-reviewed article for an academic journal.



Local historical society newsletter



Online video presentations



Online article for local history organisation

# HOW TO START

- Write a short article between 500 and 1,000 words for a local historical society.
- These often do not require referencing or extensive historical analysis.
- Such publications often focus more on captivating storytelling.
- Encourages good practice in presenting your research in a concise way.

**PRESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
PROMOTING LOCAL HISTORY ACROSS NINE DECADES  
Summer 2025 | Issue 31

## Resistance to the Second Vatican Council: The unauthorised mass centres of Lancashire in the 1970s

By Brandon Reece Taylorian

On the evening of 8th October 1975, journalists, Darryl Freedman and David Graham, tentatively drove their car down a dark and winding driveway of a large house on Longmeanygate on the outskirts of Leyland. As they pulled up to the house, Derrick Taylor appeared to greet them, alongside his wife Irene, several of their children and a charismatic priest named Peter Morgan. That night, Freedman and Graham witnessed Father Morgan celebrate Mass in the Tridentine Rite in the makeshift chapel that Mr. and Mrs. Taylor had constructed in their kitchen. Several families attended the Mass who shared the view that the change to celebrate Mass in the vernacular, rather than in Latin, decreed by the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), was wrong. The following day, details of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor's house chapel and the comments made during their interviews were featured on the front page of the Lancashire Evening Post, with the couple labelled as 'rebels'.

At the time the article was published, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor's house was the only Mass centre affiliated with the St Pius V Association in the North of England. They had first opened their home for Masses in April 1974, although, some temporary or one-offs and others more stable and consistent were established across England, but concentrated in the south, with a few in Scotland and one in Ireland. Some Mass centres also appeared in Lancashire, although their history is often forgotten. At this time, the St Pius V Association was the British branch of the Society of St Pius X (SSPX), founded by Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre in Switzerland in 1970.

The movement of traditionalist Catholics and priests continuing to celebrate Masses in the Tridentine Rite received greater media coverage following the refusal of parish priest Oswald Baker of Downham Market to celebrate the *Novus Ordo*, the form of the Mass first promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1970. The front-page article featuring the Taylor family

*Continued on page 2*

**About PHS**  
Since 1948 the aim of the Society has been to promote the study of local history in Preston and Lancashire. Talks are held in the Central Methodist Church, Lune Street. The annual member subscription is £20. Visitors pay £5 per talk. There are eight talks in each season.

**Contact PHS**  
General enquiries: [stewart@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk](mailto:stewart@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk)  
Membership: [patricia@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk](mailto:patricia@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk)  
[/prestonhistoricalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/prestonhistoricalsociety)

[www.prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk) Preston Historical Society Newsletter | 1

# WORKING YOUR WAY TO A PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLE

- Original research that contributes to knowledge.
- A methodology designed to address the research question.
- Sound arguments and evidence presented to support.
- Article content is referenced throughout from credible sources.
- The article's topic should fit within the scope and focus of the journal.
- Clear and concise writing.

The Struggle of Traditionalist Catholics

## **The Struggle of Traditionalist Catholics in 1970s Northern England**

**Brandon Reece Taylorian**

A proportion of Catholics were disillusioned by the liturgical changes that followed the Second Vatican Council of the 1960s. A scattered community of those who opposed the changes — known as traditionalists — were ardent and believing in their cause to preserve the pre-Vatican II Catholic identity despite remaining small in number and on the receiving end of criticism from Church leaders. Intermittent rumblings of a revival in the traditional Latin Mass (TLM) among young Catholics<sup>1</sup> might prompt the question: how did this traditionalist fervour originate?

In 1970s England, there was one such community of traditionalists, made up of both rebel clergy and laypeople who continued celebrating the Tridentine Rite and retained their pre-conciliar Catholic customs. Two early members of this community were Mr Derrick Taylor and Mrs Irene Mary Taylor who lived on the outskirts of Leyland in Lancashire. Their life story served as a case study for this research to gain a greater understanding of traditionalist Catholicism during the 1970s. By studying their lives, it may become clearer why this couple and others decided to open their homes to the public for the celebration of Tridentine Masses. The case study will seek to demonstrate how the activities of lay traditionalists were essential to founding a movement within the Church that continues to the present day.

Reforms to the Tridentine liturgy were made mandatory by the Second Vatican Council which took place from 1962 to 1965. The reforms were put into practice over a course of years following the end of the Council but affected only the Latin Rite as the Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church was reformed under separate legislation.<sup>2</sup> The reforms were neither sudden nor universal yet still provoked resistance, although only among small pockets of the world's billion

# HOMework TASK BEFORE WORKSHOP 2

**Is there any aspect of your family history research that might have historical relevance?**

Make a plan (create a spider diagram of the broader themes you wish to address, how your research will contribute something new to knowledge and perhaps consider a venue for publication of an article)

Collect resources that support your argument

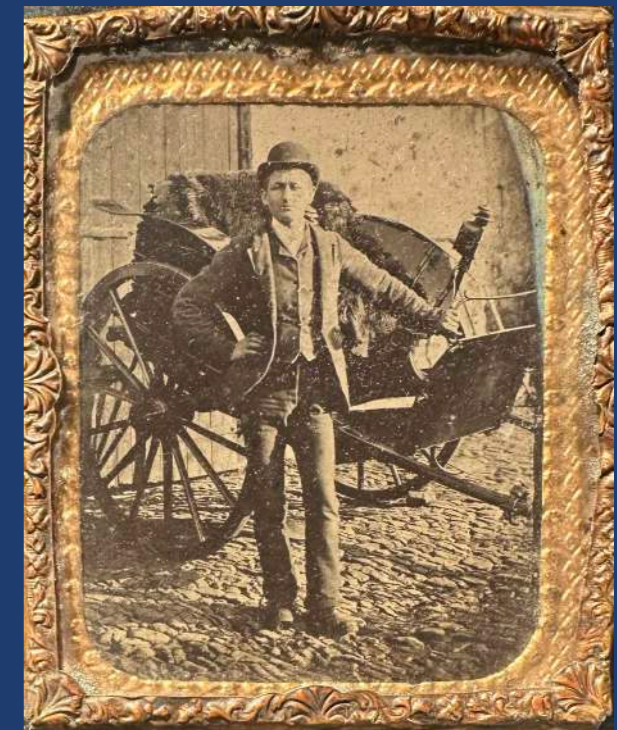
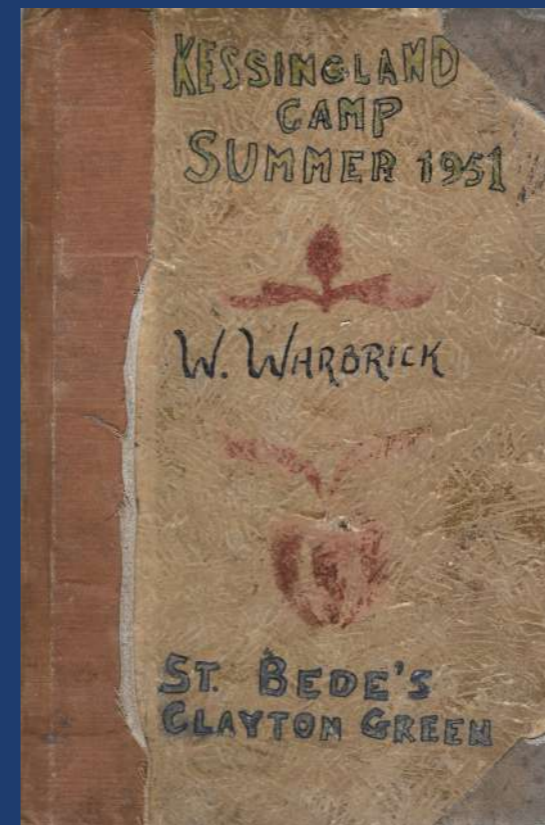
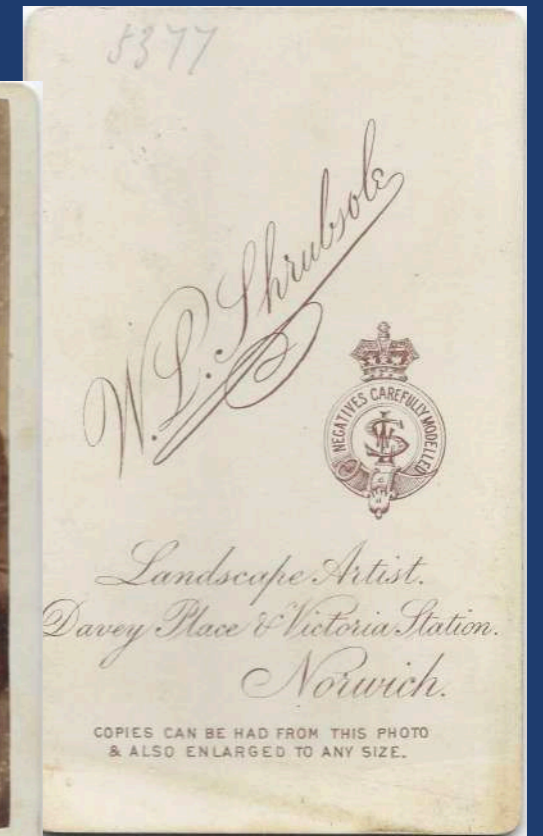
Share with us at the start of Workshop 2

# THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

Workshop 2 – 10th July 2025

Topics to be covered: collecting records, places of interment, heirlooms and antique photographs, newspapers and other secondary sources

[brtaylorian@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:brtaylorian@uclan.ac.uk)



# REMAINDER OF THE WORKSHOP

**Historical relevance:** consider if any of your family history research has so far uncovered something with potential historical relevance.

**Dialogue:** please share with each other your experiences in family history and give advice on best practice in research.

**Questions:** I will come to each table and answer any questions you would like to ask me.