

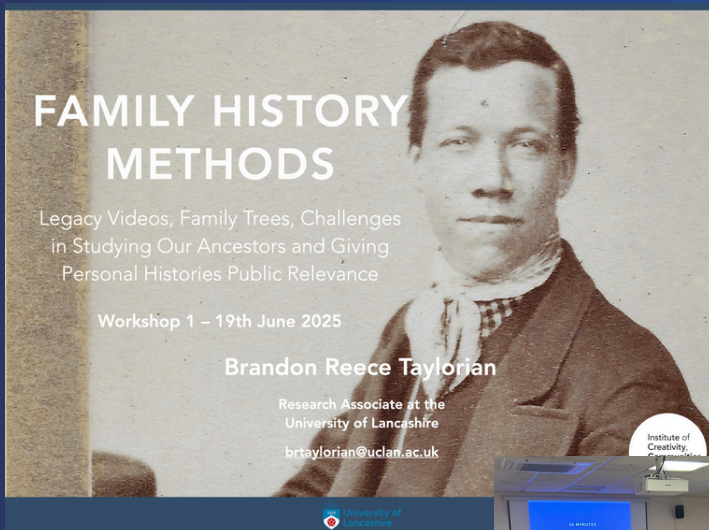
# Making Family History Matter

Extension of the Dating Antique Photographs Project

END OF PROJECT REPORT

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**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 Creativity, Communities & Culture

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**FAMILY HISTORY METHODS**

Historical Relevance, Collecting Records, Heirlooms, Places of Interment and Secondary Sources

Workshop 2 – 10th July 2025

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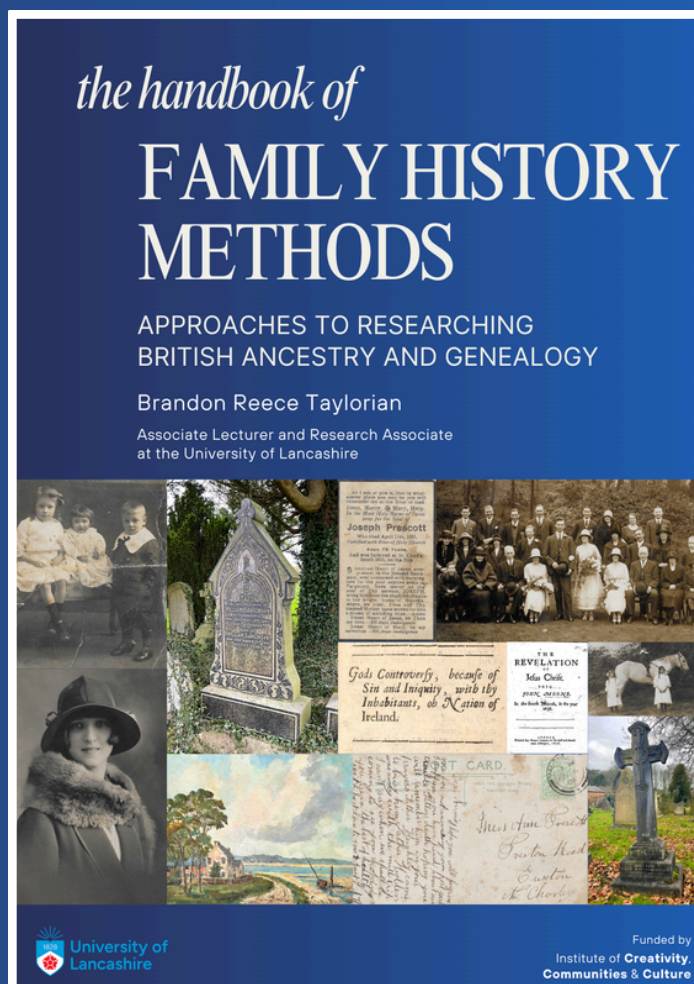
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# The Handbook of Family History Methods

*The Handbook of Family History Methods* is one of the main outputs of the project extension. Following on from last year's *Handbook of Antique Photographs*, a free copy of *The Handbook of Family History Methods* was given to each workshop attendee. Covering all aspects of family history research, the handbook includes tips and ticks for building and presenting a family tree, searching for records and identifying aspects of your family history that could be developed into broader historical relevance.

*The Handbook of Family History Methods* offers step-by-step methods for starting and deepening genealogical research, beginning with interviewing relatives and collecting heirlooms, and progressing to using official records (birth, death, marriage, census, burial and military). The handbook reflects the aims of the 'Making Family History Matter' project by encouraging family historians to go beyond collecting names and dates to make their research historically relevant and by advocating connecting personal stories to wider social, political or religious movements. The guide is richly illustrated with examples of photographs, certificates, letters and In memoriam cards to demonstrate how material culture can enhance genealogical narratives. There are tips on record organisation, navigating online archives (e.g. Ancestry.co.uk), and collaborating with other researchers.



The final sections of the handbook encourage sharing findings through local history societies, newsletters or academic journals, promoting family history as a valuable historical practice.

# Family History Methods workshops

The Family History Methods workshop series saw diverse members of the public from across Lancashire come together in Livesey House to receive lectures from Brandon Taylorian on various aspects of family history research and to engage in dialogue with each other. The workshops were informative through the lecture component but also interactive, with time given for attendees to discuss their personal projects and write down on boards and share the key challenges they faced in family history research and what they considered to be best practice in this field.

Pictures from 19th June 2025 workshop titled *Family History Methods: Legacy Videos, Family Trees, Challenges in Studying Our Ancestors and Giving Personal Histories Public Relevance* attended by 24 people

Pictures from 10th July 2025 workshop titled *Family History Methods: Historical Relevance, Collecting Records, Heirlooms, Places of Interment and Secondary Sources* attended by 28 people



# Testimonials from workshop attendees

"Could I thank you so much for a most interesting evening covering your Family History Methods workshop. I have lived in the Fylde all my life and trained as a mechanical engineer. Part of my training was to attend Part Time day release whereby I attended one day and two evenings at the Harris college, what was and I'm sure you are aware the fore runner to UCLan. This covered the years from 1960-1966, starting when I was 15. Attending last night was only the second time during my lifetime that I have been on the site." – Antony Dagger

"Many thanks for an interesting workshop." –  
Susan Lomax

"Many thanks once again for an excellent workshop and fantastic learning materials too, we thoroughly enjoyed the session." – Liz and Phil Thornton

"Thank you so much for the course. Please let me know if any more are coming up." –  
Sue Stewart

"I really enjoyed the sessions. I've been researching my family history for a long time but your workshops have still been informative and very useful. I mentioned my wife's family history in Tipperary in Ireland and my own family history in Dublin and how we discovered through our research that the two families knew each other at the time of the Irish Rebellion just after WW1." – Martin Smith

# Project aims achieved and digital resources

Based on the plan submitted to the ICCC, the main aim of the project extension was to develop a workshop series and handbook to encourage family historians to give their research broader historical relevance. These outputs were specifically designed to highlight the different ways that public relevance can be realised through family history research by using family histories as case studies and connecting them to broader themes such as migration, politics, religious or social movements, military history, industry or the attitudes and customs of a particular period or place. This aim was achieved through a homework task set at the end of Workshop 1 that encouraged the attendees to share at Workshop 2 the details of a project of historical relevance stemming from their family history. An example of a project shared during Workshop 2 is the following by Sue Stewart who travelled from Ormskirk to attend:

"I'm hoping to find out as much as I can about Ormskirk and the living conditions of the poorest people there. I've read The Ormskirk Board of Health Report of 1850 which describes the squalor the poorer people were living in and also made a start on looking at who else was living in the same street and the work they did." – Sue Stewart

The secondary aims achieved through the project include: (1) bringing members of the public not accustomed to a university environment into a University of Lancashire building to exchange knowledge; (2) bringing diverse communities from across Lancashire together in dialogue based on their shared interest in family history research; and (3) building confidence and skills in the workshop attendees to promote best practice in family history research.

Building on the previous project, the website [www.antiquephotographs.co.uk](http://www.antiquephotographs.co.uk) was expanded to include resources from the 'Making Family History Matter' project extension, including the workshop presentation slides and a digital copy of the new handbook.



Updated main page of antiquephotographs.co.uk



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