

SHAUNA HICKS

Title

Sporting Ancestors - Discovering Forgotten Athletes

Summary

Did your ancestors participate in sporting activities? Were they on the local cricket or football team or just play darts at the local pub? Were they keen anglers or swimmers? What about horse racing or regular track and field events? Digitised newspapers and sports archives allow us to learn more about the social lives of our ancestors.

Abstract

This presentation is designed to get attendees to think about what sporting activities their ancestors might have been involved with. Many communities had a local cricket, football or other sporting team and in some cases memorabilia and/or photographs have been handed down to alert researchers to involvement in a sporting activity. However sometimes there is no direct clue and we might stumble over the reference when searching digitised newspapers. Sporting events were often recorded in great detail in local newspapers and as these become digitised and more readily accessible online, we can easily search for sporting clues. In addition there are a range of sports archives which may be useful as well as published histories both at national and local levels. Local histories of an area often include chapters on local sports teams. While sport is often associated with males, many of our female ancestors may also have participated in sporting activities such as bowls, croquet, hockey, tennis and swimming and these should not be overlooked. Personal examples will be used throughout to highlight the information that can be located. Attendees will go home with a useful plan on how to discover their own sporting ancestors.

Audience

All levels