

SIMON FOWLER

About Simon



Simon Fowler is an experienced professional writer and researcher specialising in British social, military and family history. He is an archivist with an MA in Archive Administration from University College London and worked at The National Archives (then the Public Record Office) for roughly thirty years. He edited *Family History Monthly*, as well as being archivist at the Royal Star and Garter Home and the Society of Genealogists. In 2004 he returned to The National Archives to edit *Ancestors Magazine* which closed in April 2010.

Simon is the author of many guides to researching family history including: *Digging Deep: Family History for the Experts* (The History Press, 2012);

Tracing your Family History (Pen & Sword, 2012); *Tracing your Army Ancestors* (Pen & Sword, 2013); and *Tracing your First World War Ancestors* (Pen & Sword, 2013)

He is also the author of other works including *Workhouse: the people, the places, life behind closed doors* (The National Archives, 2007).

His topics

'Shovelling out Paupers' - Researching assisted emigration in English archives.

Advanced

This presentation will look at assisted emigration from Great Britain to colonies from a British perspective considering the reasons why these schemes were established, who took advantage of them, and the records which allow family historians to find out more about their ancestors who left England as a result.

'Hardship and boredom; marauding and drink.' How to research British military deserters

Advanced

Desertion was a huge problem in the British armed forces to the 1850s at least, as men rebelled against the appalling conditions and harsh discipline. Australia and New Zealand with their burgeoning economies was a favourite place for men to desert. This presentation will look at the phenomenon of desertion from the eighteenth to after the Second World War and suggest ways to research ancestors who were deserters from Their Majesties' forces.

Hidden Gems: Finding and Using Unusual Record Collections in English archives

Intermediate to Advanced

British archives and libraries have many sources that are hardly ever used by family historians. This course looks at how to find them using online resources, such as the National Register of Archives and the Access to Archives databases and also examines a number of unusual sources from eighteenth century militia and jury lists to taxation records via jury lists, hospital records and published lists of those in receipt of out-relief at The National Archives and local archives across England and Wales.

Writing up your family history for pleasure and profit

Intermediate to Advanced

If you have thought about writing up your family history or your interesting ancestors this session will encourage you to get started. It will also discuss the various ways in which you can publish your family history from blogs to books. And there will be top tips to help you write history that people will want to read.