

STEPHEN SZABO

Title

Heraldry and the genealogist

Summary

This presentation will look at a variety of ways in which genealogists can use heraldry, and specifically coats of arms, in order to give further depth to their family history. It will also give guidance on how to avoid some of the common pitfalls encountered in employing heraldry in family history.

Abstract

How many times have we seen otherwise well-researched family histories spoiled by having a “Coat of Arms for the Family Name” adorning the cover? In this well-illustrated paper the presenter will briefly explain the origins and uses of heraldry, and how heraldry and genealogy are interlinked. He will then go on to look at a number of ways in which heraldry can be utilised by the genealogist and family historian to flesh out the lives of various ancestors, as well as using coats of arms as a research tool in these areas. By drawing on a case study of a fairly ordinary contemporary person and his ancestors, Stephen will demonstrate how even the most humble of families can find that they have ancestors who come from gentle, noble or even royal stock, as well as touching on the pitfalls to be avoided.

Audience

All levels