

Fact From Fiction

by
Dave Annal



For over a hundred years, the works of the great 19th century novelists have entertained, intrigued and amused us.

Many of the characters, the places and the plots have become instantly recognisable reference points. And the themes of inheritance, illegitimacy and identity that lie behind the plots of many of the great novels are exactly the same themes that we so often encounter in the course of our own family history research.

It's not hard, therefore, to see how useful the novels can be when it comes to understanding what's going on in our own families' lives.

This talk will look at some of the themes which crop up in the novels and consider how they might help us in our research.

Dave Annal is a professional researcher with over 40 years' experience. He is a former Principal Family History Specialist with the National Archives and he worked at the Family Records Centre for many years.

In 2019 he was awarded a Fellowship of the Society of Genealogists and in 2022 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Dave has written a number of family history books including the bestselling beginner's guide Easy Family History and Pen & Sword's Birth, Marriage & Death Records (with the late Audrey Collins) and, with Peter Christian, he is the co-author of Census: the Family Historian's Guide. He is also a regular contributor to Family Tree Magazine where he runs the Family Tree Academy.

Dave is a popular speaker on the family history circuit and has spoken at a number of major events including Who Do You Think You Are? Live and Rootstech, as well as giving regular talks to family history groups. Dave has been researching his own family history since the mid-1970s and he hasn't finished yet!