

Talk Outline

What's in a Name?

Denise Bates

Alongside traditional forenames that have been used across many generations, birth, marriage and death records reveal that there have always been some parents who have selected non-standard names. I became interested in the use of such names after discovering several examples whilst researching my family tree.

This inspired me to conduct my own extensive research into the topic, and enabled me to which identify particular naming patterns. I linked this into wider social history, considering what the use of certain names might reveal about individual parents, the times or the community where they lived.

Components of the talk

- Royal names
- Tribute names (actual and fictional)
- Names associated with a locality or occupation
- Names that reflect a particular moment in history
- Names showing anti-establishment parental views
- Declining popularity of names
- Inspiration for unusual names
- How unusual names can help a family historian
- How individuals reacted to their unusual name

This talk about unusual forenames is suitable for family historians or for general interest groups.

My credentials

History Graduate (MA)

Practical experience of researching unusual forenames

Author of *Historical Research Using British Newspapers* (published 2016)

Author of *Breach of Promise to Marry* (published 2014)

Author of *Pit Lasses* (published 2012)

Author of features on nineteenth and twentieth century history

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