

Talk Outline

Historical Research Using British Newspapers

Denise Bates

I used digitised historical newspapers extensively whilst researching my first two books, *Pit Lasses* and *Breach of Promise to Marry*. The research for *Pit Lasses* involved checking what newspapers actually reported about the scandal of female miners who were discovered to be working underground in 1841. For *Breach of Promise to Marry* (a subject that had hardly any other sources) I extracted information from over 1,000 cases that were reported in newspapers, analysed it to discover what the claim meant and compared my findings with editorials and other comment in newspapers.

As digitised newspapers were a relatively new source I had to work out how to use them effectively whilst researching and what were their strengths and limitations. I have written blogs about working with newspaper sources for The British Newspaper Archive. These blogs were well-received and led to me writing *Historical Research Using British Newspapers*.

I offer talks about

The History of the Newspaper Industry

This talk looks at how the newspaper industry developed from the seventeenth century to the twentieth, covering national, regional, local and illustrated titles.

It is a general talk and is suitable for everyone.

Newspapers as Historical Sources

This talk looks at the strengths and weaknesses of using newspapers as historical sources. Versions of the talk are available for family historians and local historians.

The talk may be most suitable for anyone who would like to use newspapers in their own research.

Historical Investigations from Newspapers

This talk looks at how a number of different newspaper reports can be used to investigate a variety of historical topics, aggregating and analysing information using IT.

The talk has a technical element and may be most suitable for anyone who wants to investigate a topic by means of newspaper reports.

Talks can be tailored to meet the interests of the audience.

My credentials

History Graduate (MA)

Practical experience of using newspapers in a range of projects

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

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

Author of *Pit Lasses* (published 2012)

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