



**July 2020 (Email only)**

## **TADS Newsletter**

Website - [www.tadshistory.com](http://www.tadshistory.com)

**The lock-down has  
further eased.**

**A TADS Talk via Zoom on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 8 pm**

# **‘The Colin Spickett Experiment’**

**By Mark Bowman**

In a lighthearted talk Mark shows just how much can be found out about family history using online resources. See page 2 for more information.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85603306299?pwd=ZHhRdDZjODhCeEFQQWc2MlVCSEx4QT09>

Or login via a Zoom app with the following meeting ID  
and password: Meeting ID: 856 0330 6299

Password: 492537

*Comments, queries and suggestions to Richard Brown (0118) 9700100,  
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**[www.tadshistory.com](http://www.tadshistory.com)**

## **The Colin Spickett Experiment - Tracing a family tree from first principles by Mark Bowman.**

Mark has been working on his own family history since 1968, and now has over 16,000 people on his family tree. He has been helping others trace their ancestry at the Reading Family History Centre since 2009. Since becoming convener of the Reading U3A family history group in 2012 he has given many talks, mainly to local family history societies. In this talk he explains how, despite knowing only a single name and roughly when a person was born, he was able to trace the Spickett family back to a baptism in 1770. (Mark went to school with Colin, the subject of the experiment). The talk provides an introduction to the most important family history research resources:

FreeBMD gives free access to the records of Births, Marriages and Deaths in England and Wales back to the start of General Registration in 1837.

GRO Online Index gives free access to similar information to that given on FreeBMD, but gives extra detail, particularly the mother's maiden name of children born from 1911 back to 1837.

UK censuses give a snapshot of households every ten years from 1911 back to 1841. Subscription needed.

FamilySearch gives free access to (some of the surviving) parish records of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials back to the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

1939 Register gives information about households at the outbreak of WW2. Subscription needed.

If you need help using Zoom the TADS Website has information and a contact number.

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### **Future TADS talks**

All talks at St. Paul's Hall have been cancelled at least until late in the year. Meanwhile we will continue using Zoom, provided we can find speakers willing to use it.

## **TADS online meeting 17th June 2020**

*(This was the second TADS meeting held online through the medium of Zoom. There were 35 or more connections made and we know that there were two people sharing many of them, so we had an audience of forty or more).*

### **Putting Tadley on the map: from Gough to Google.**

**By John Leighfield**

John is a total maps enthusiast and it showed in his excellent talk about the history of maps with emphasis on how Tadley has been depicted on the maps covering Hampshire through the ages and with photographs of all the maps.

All civilisations have produced maps and the first known depiction of the British Isles was by Ptolemy in 150 AD, but it was not until the late 10<sup>th</sup> C that the first 'native' maps were produced. The most significant early map of the British Isles is the 'Gough' map of 1360 which is held in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. (Richard Gough was a collector who gave his collection to the Library in 1774). The maker of the map is not known, but it has been shown to be surprisingly accurate when compared with the modern Ordnance Survey (OS) maps.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Century saw the flourishing of mapping, partly due to the advent of printing. Although early maps were printed in black and white, the addition of hand colouring was common.

The recording of estates and land ownership was a driver for the making of maps, particularly after the dissolution of the monasteries when the King Henry VIII gave land to his favourites. There was also a military threat which caused Thomas Cromwell in 1539 to call for the mapping of the South Coast of England. Military needs eventually led to the founding of the Ordnance Survey in the late 1700s. In 1570 Christopher Saxton was commissioned to survey England and Wales and Queen Elizabeth gave him a 10 year monopoly on the printing of maps. He produced the first atlas of England and Wales in 1579. Tadley is shown on the Oxford and Berks map (1574) as Tadow and this spelling followed on many later maps. The Saxton maps are very clear and are accurate and were the basis for nearly all other maps for many years to come. The last edition of Saxton's own atlas was published as late as 1749.

John Norden, who the speaker regards as a very good surveyor, published a map of Hampshire in 1595 clearly showing Tadley.

Plagiarism was a way of life for map makers and it is easy to see as mistakes are continued from one map to another down the years. One amusing case was an apparent village named Quare on a map of Somerset. Quare is a latin word, in this

case meaning 'I don't know'. The query was not resolved before the map was engraved and Quare remained on maps as non-existent place for years and years.

John Speed, (atlas of 1611) whose maps are well known and still published today as they are very attractive, was a self confessed plagiarist but he developed the art of map publishing by adding decorations, heraldry, boundaries and town plans. On his map of Berkshire, Tadley is copied from Saxton and on his Hampshire map it is copied from Norden.

John Ogilby, who seemed to be a person for whom disaster was a way of life - (injuries, fires, shipwreck), came to maps by producing a survey/map of London after the Great Fire of 1666 in which he lost his book seller business. He was the first person to add roads to maps in his monumental work 'Britannia' published in 1675. Its one hundred plates are 'strip maps' of roads, a format still used today. Following his lead, roads were soon added to the earlier atlases such as Saxton and Speed. Other people at this time produced very small maps, even pocket books and playing cards.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> Century the fundamentals of surveying were established with the regular use of compasses, theodolites, chains, measuring wheels, together with the principle of triangulation. Surprisingly there were no newly surveyed national maps until the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> C when the Society of Arts (now RSA) offered a £100 prize for maps of a scale of 1 in to the mile or larger. This resulted in 23 submissions over the next 40 years of which thirteen were successful. Notable were the works of John Rocque (1761), Isaac Taylor ((1759) and Thomas Milne (1791) who all covered our area.

In 1760 Thomas Kitchen and Emmanuel Bowen, who were prolific mapmakers, produced 'The Large English Atlas' with 27 x 20 inch pages based on a the first new survey since Saxton.

John Cary was the last of the great independent map makers producing a wide range of county atlases of very high quality and accuracy from the 1780s until his 'New English Atlas' of 1809.

The foundation of the Ordnance Survey in 1792 because of the Napoleonic threat of invasion resulted in mapping at a level and comprehensiveness unmatched in the world. The maps were all surveyed from a baseline just over 5 miles long set out on Hounslow Heath. This baseline continued to be the bedrock of OS maps until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> C. The first OS map covering Tadley was published in 1814, although the survey work was probably done in 1808. Since then the OS maps have evolved to the standard we know and love as the Landranger and Explorer series. But did you know other larger scale maps were produced, including 6 and 25 inches to the mile. Urban parts of the country were even mapped at an incredible 10 feet to the mile.

Today it is all done using computers, satellites, and aerial photography. The 2020 OS digital master database is a massive 2000 TB or 2 million GB in size, a continuous and extremely detailed map of the whole of the British Isles. Not to be outdone, the Google Maps database of the World is apparently heading for 20 Petabytes, whatever they are.

Thank you John for your fascinating and very detailed talk which took us through mapping from ancient times to today with emphasis on how our on patch was depicted.

Richard Brown

*As a personal connection to map making, Robert Bedding of Bucklebury, one of my Great Great Great Grandparents, was a Land Measurer and Surveyor who would have made Estate maps. He died in 1868 when he fell from his horse drawn cart.*

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*A part of John Speed's map of Berkshire (1611) after  
Saxton, showing the Ham Shire border and Tadlow.*

*I have put the full map on the last page. It is a splendid  
example of the mapmaker's art in all its exuberance.- Ed.*



*A part of John Speed's 1611 map of Hants after Norden showing the Barke Shire border and Tadley.*

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## Proposed Lidl Foodstore, Tadley

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July the West Berkshire Planning Meeting rejected the latest LIDL application to build a store opposite Barclays Bank on the basis it contravenes West Berks policy against green field developments. Only a few planning committee members supported the application.

*Although the application was of interest to Tadley and District residents it was decided by West Berks as it is over the boundary from Basingstoke and Deane. Expressions of support for the application submitted to the planners were over 800 in favour to 61 against!*

*Ed.*

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## ***What's on? Events which may be of interest.***

**Milestones Museum.** For coming events tel. 01256 477766 or see <http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/milestones-museum>  
Milestones re-opened on the 4<sup>th</sup> July.

**Willis Museum** - The museum has also re-opened *For information tel. 01256 465902 or see*

*<http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/venue-events/52>*

The museum has a new free exhibition from 15<sup>th</sup> July to 17<sup>th</sup> September showcasing the magical and vibrant world of Ladybird art, where every picture tells a story and unlocks a thousand childhood memories. Ladybird books have been a familiar fixture on children's bookshelves since the 1950s, but few people are aware that they date back to the early days of the Second World War. Told through an unparalleled collection of books, original artwork and artefacts, this exhibition shows how the many talented Ladybird illustrators played such an enormous role in the company's success during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



***TADS annual membership is £18 per person.  
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