

Guild of One-Name Studies Conference April 2024

Becoming Welsh - Shifting boundaries and immigration to Wales

Jenni Phillips



This talk will cover two aspects of Welshness: physical geography, and immigration to Wales. How rigid was the border of Wales historically, in terms of government, law, and the church? What impact might this have on us as genealogists searching for records, and to what extent did our ancestors consider themselves Welsh? The historic county of Monmouthshire will be subject to particular scrutiny. The talk will then go on to consider patterns of immigration into Wales, including motivations for migration, the communities and industries in which new arrivals settled, and records we may use to research families in Wales whose ancestors came from elsewhere.

Jenni Phillips is a qualified genealogist based in Cardiff. She is a member of the Register of Qualified Genealogists (RQG) and chair of the Cardiff branch of Glamorgan Family History Society. Jenni has a PgDip in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde, and is currently studying early nineteenth century defamation causes from Llandaff diocese for her MSc dissertation. She is also working for Strathclyde Institute of Genealogical Studies on their Papal Dispensations for Marriage Project, funded by the Foundation for Medieval Genealogy. Jenni was editor of the P*rr*tt Society journal for seven years, and has given talks on a variety of genealogical topics.