

Meet the Author - Nathan Dylan Goodwin

On the evening of 14 December 2021, we welcomed Nathan Dylan Goodwin to the Society of Australian Genealogists from his home in the south of England. Nathan's a genealogical crime mystery author.

Over the last eight years, Nathan's published nine books in The Forensic Genealogist Series. The books can be read individually or serially. In the latest book, *The Foundlings*, forensic genealogist Morton Farrier takes on a case to identify the biological mother of three foundlings abandoned in shop doorways in the 1970s. Morton uses DNA and traditional family history research to solve the mystery. Nathan talked about how easily he enters Morton's world now and his plans for the next four books. Opening *The Foundlings*, I was catching up with old friends. Morton's home town is Rye. He travels around Sussex and Cornwall visiting archives, churches and historical locations with regular coffees along the way. We had a chuckle at Nathan's mention of Deidre, "the demon archivist from East Sussex Archives".

The Chester Creek Murders, Nathan's first book in The Venator Cold Case Series, was published just over a year ago. Building on the use of investigative genetic genealogy to solve cold cases, Madison and her team at Venator attempt to find the killer of three young women who were brutally murdered. The series is set in the United States with Madison based in Salt Lake City. Nathan's hard at work writing the second book in this series.

Nathan's writing is entertaining and informative and often prompts readers to think about how they can approach their own research. The inclusion of genetic genealogy in the latest novels offers readers an enjoyable way to learn about its use in family history.

We're keen to see The Forensic Genealogist Series in the Sunday evening time slot reserved for British crime and canvassed who'd play Morton Farrier. Aidan Turner, who plays the main character in Poldark, was a popular choice. Although, some members of the Society are keen to feature. There were many suggestions for mysteries set in Australia. A convict theme is the front runner at this point.

We were very interested to hear that Nathan self-publishes his books through Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing¹. His books are available to read on Kindle and other devices as well as paperbacks and audiobooks. Check out Nathan's website - <https://www.nathandyngoodwin.com>. You can join the Genealogical Crime Mystery Book Club on Facebook² if you enjoy reading this genre. You'll often pick up special offers from Nathan and other authors.

Nathan talked about the fun of developing *Morton in Lockdown* in the early days of COVID. It's a free interactive story that's available on his website - <https://www.nathandyngoodwin.com/morton-in-lockdown>.

We look forward to more adventures with Morton and Madison in 2022. It was a pleasure to meet Nathan. We hope it's not too long before we're welcoming him to Australia on a research trip!

If you're not already reading Nathan's books, you've got a treat in store.

Christine Woodlands



¹ https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/

² <https://www.facebook.com/groups/902684053599239>