

# **Vignettes from Social History**

## **Martin Luther to John Lewis in 500 years**

**Written and Presented by Stuart Sherring**

Series 2 of Vignettes from Social History may seem a disparate assortment of topics, yet connections exist. Topics broadly follow the chronology of events, starting with the Reformation. Five centuries later Brexit mirrors this - as contentious as religion! Further upheaval and turbulence culminated in the Puritans escaping Britain for the Netherlands before leaving for a new life in New England. The floodgates opened for emigration to America and trade via New York, formerly New Amsterdam.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century compulsory Grand Tour contrasted with the Scottish Enlightenment. Next century saw political unrest with Peterloo met by violence and, later, prison as a deterrent to crime. The British Empire was at its height as young Cecil Rhodes set out for South Africa and soon Thomas Lipton was making his mark. The department store had already taken shape, now influenced by America, but signs of decline have been evident for several decades. Expect a few surprises on a journey of 500 years!

- 1 A revolution in religion, language and national identity**
- 2 Legacy of the Pilgrim Fathers**
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- 4 The Scottish Enlightenment**
- 5 Political Significance of Peterloo**
- 6 Crime and Punishment in the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries**
- 7 Cecil Rhodes – Enigmatic and Misunderstood**
- 8 Thomas Lipton – King’s Grocer and Tea Magnate**
- 9 The Rise and Demise of the Department Store**

This 'Keep Your Distance Learning' course of nine weeks covers one topic each week. Participants are encouraged to email snippets on other related events and add little known information that may shed further light.

Most participants have the course book. For everyone else please download the topic for that week, read and make comments.

The aim is to collate and summarise these in a brief document circulated at the end of that week. There is also the opportunity to reflect on the course as a whole.

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- Emergence of Lutheranism
- Publish and be damned
- Reflecting on the Referendum
- In conclusion

## 2. Legacy of the Pilgrim Fathers

- Living in dangerous times
- Escape to the Netherlands
- Voyage to the New World
- Developing the Plimoth Plantation
- Formation of the Massachusetts Bay Company

## 3. Taking the Grand Tour

- Introduction
- Preparations
- Precautions
- Displaying your fine art collection
- End of the Grand Tour

## 4. The Scottish Enlightenment

- Introduction
- Clubs & societies
- David Hume (1711-1776)
- James Hutton (1726 – 1797)
- Robert Adam (1728 – 17)
- Adam Smith (1723 – 1790)

## 5. Political Significance of Peterloo

- A peaceful demonstration
- The case for reform
- Articulating the message
- Fearing violence
- Out of control
- Aftermath of Peterloo

## **6. Crime & Punishment in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

- Introduction
- Law enforcement
- Court system
- Early prison reform
- Crime prevention & detection
- Punishment methods
- The prison population

## **7. Cecil Rhodes – Enigmatic and Misunderstood**

- Prosperity, power & philosophy
- Formation of the British South Africa Company
- Towards a better society
- A historical perspective of Rhodes

## **8. Thomas Lipton – King's Grocer and Tea Magnate**

- A born entrepreneur
- A good cuppa
- Friends in high places
- A dream nearly come true
- An enduring legacy

## **9. Rise and Demise of the Department Store**

- From humble beginnings
- An international shopping experience
- Glitz, glamour and razzmatazz
- Acquisitions & mergers
- Spectre of administration
- The march of time