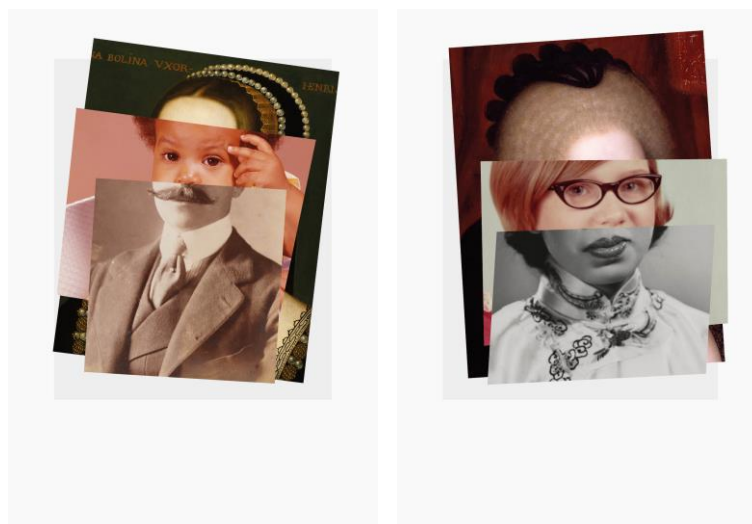


News Release

Wednesday 2 February 2022

The Nation's Family Album: Have your family photographs displayed by the iconic National Portrait Gallery

- Nearly 500 years' worth of British portraits from the National Portrait Gallery are now available online on [Ancestry®](#) for free
- To celebrate, the National Portrait Gallery is working with Ancestry® to launch 'The Nation's Family Album', an initiative that encourages people to submit their own images for inclusion in a landmark display, representing the diversity of family stories in the UK
- Submissions to 'The Nation's Family Album' close on 30 June 2022. Shortlisted images will be selected by renowned photographer, a panel of family history experts and Gallery curators



Today, the National Portrait Gallery announces a major partnership with the global leader in family history, [Ancestry](#). Over 125,000 digitised portraits from the Gallery's extensive Collection will be made available to Ancestry users, and to celebrate, the National Portrait Gallery is working with Ancestry to launch *The Nation's Family Album* – a search for undiscovered portraits of everyday British people collated into a representative online album. The initiative invites people of different ages, backgrounds and cultures in the UK to delve through suitcases in attics, scour photos on walls or flick through albums on bookshelves and submit their favourite family images.

Entrants will be in with the chance of having their own family photographs and stories included in an online exhibition, as well as a display at the iconic National Portrait Gallery in London when it reopens in 2023, following the completion of its *Inspiring People* redevelopment project.

The Nation's Family Album is set to be an important record of our collective history, as it will highlight, celebrate and capture the rich and diverse family stories across Britain, making it easier for future generations to find out more about their family history.

Entries open today and submissions must be uploaded [digitally](#) by Thursday 30 June 2022. Any person in the UK may submit a maximum of three images that relate to the following themes: Belonging, Legacy, Connection and Identity.

Later this year, a panel of experts – including the National Portrait Gallery's Chief Curator, Dr Alison Smith, and family history expert Simon Pearce from Ancestry – will shortlist a selection of portraits that best encapsulate the themes of *The Nation's Family Album*.

[The UK, Portraits and Photographs, 1547- 2018](#) collection, launching on Ancestry today, captures British history and culture in a variety of mediums, including paintings, photographs, sculptures, drawings, and prints. The National Portrait Gallery showcases the work of many acclaimed artists and photographers, but portraits in the Collection are selected primarily for their subject matter and the sitter's importance to British culture and history. As well as many iconic portraits of famous figures, the collection includes images of individuals from all walks of life, including:

- [David William Richardson](#) - Teacher; second son of Elizabeth Marion and Neil Richardson
- [Lydia Dorothea Benoly](#) - First woman mayor of Bethnal Green; social worker and teacher
- [Mairi Chisholm](#) - Motorcycle ambulance driver, nurse and photographer

Dr Alison Smith, Chief Curator at National Portrait Gallery, said: *"The National Portrait Gallery is home to the largest collection of portraits in the world, and while many are familiar with our most famous faces, we are proud to also hold numerous portraits of men, women and children from all walks of life. By making 125,000 portraits from the 1500s to the present day available on Ancestry, people will be able to explore the histories of those depicted in our Collection. We are delighted to be working in partnership with Ancestry to share our extensive Collection of world-class portraits with those researching their family history online, and encourage submissions to The Nation's Family Album to celebrate this moment."*

Simon Pearce, Family History expert at Ancestry, said: *"The saying 'a picture is worth a thousand words' is particularly relevant when researching your family history. Portraits can reveal how our family members once looked, how they lived and even certain personality traits. That's why we're so excited to be working with the National Portrait Gallery to provide wider access to some of its captivating and historically rich collection. Hosting these portraits online at Ancestry means more people can explore nearly 500 years of British life – and some might even discover a picture of their own family member!"*

For more information about how to submit your family photographs, entry Terms & Conditions and to explore the collection, visit www.ancestry.co.uk/FamilyAlbum. To buy copies of the portraits from the National Portrait Gallery, please visit www.npg.org.uk/shop/npgprints.

ENDS

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For further information and imagery relating to Ancestry®, or to arrange a subscription, please contact the PR team at ancestry@redconsultancy.com or call 0207 025 6647.

NOTES TO EDITORS

National Portrait Gallery

The National Portrait Gallery was founded in 1856 to encourage, through portraiture, the appreciation and understanding of the people who have made and are making British history and culture. Today it promotes engagement with portraiture in all media to a wide-ranging public by conserving, growing and sharing the world's largest collection of portraits.

The Gallery in St Martin's Place, London is currently closed until 2023, while essential building works take place on the *Inspiring People* redevelopment project, which will transform the Gallery, including a complete refurbishment of the building and a new learning centre. During the closure period, the Gallery will continue to share its Collection through its digital channels and a series of nationwide partnerships and collaborations.

www.npg.org.uk

Ancestry®

Ancestry®, the global leader in family history and consumer genomics, empowers journeys of personal discovery to enrich lives. With our unparalleled collection of more than 30 billion records and over 20 million people in our growing DNA network, customers can discover their family story and gain a new level of understanding about their lives. For over 30 years, we've built trusted relationships with millions of people who have chosen us as the platform for discovering, preserving and sharing the most important information about themselves and their families.

