



13th Levantine Heritage Foundation Zoom lecture gathering with guest speaker David Whittall  
2 September 2021, 6pm (UK time)

### The Whittalls of Turkey: Migration, Diaspora, and Cultural Identity

The Whittalls lived in Ottoman Turkey with their extended families for many generations during which time they were active there in commerce, sport, and social life. In this discussion, David Whittall describes the family's migration in 1809 from England to Ottoman Turkey against the prevailing social, political, and economic landscape. David explores the cultural identity developed by the early Whittall and related families. He charts the circumstances under which they created a large extended family whose unique Levantine culture was reinforced through marriage, business activities, and shared sports and recreation over a period spanning 120 years. The discussion concludes with an examination of the family diaspora in the 20th century, the clusters of Whittall families that developed in southern Africa, Australia, Asia, Europe, and North America and those that remain today in Turkey. Through interviews with current family members from around the world he offers a view of how the family culture has been maintained.

Booking essential: <https://david-whittall-presentation.eventbrite.co.uk>



A Whittall family group photo taken outdoors in Moda, Constantinople, in the garden of Sir William and Lady Whittall, taken on December 1902.



**David Whittall** was born in San Francisco and currently resides in Montreal. David's interest in his family was sparked by visits with relatives in Turkey, Great Britain, North America, Asia, and Africa and by the numerous books, manuscripts, genealogies, and letters written by members of his family.

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