

Generation

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

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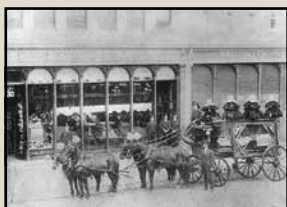
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Tuesday • **10am - 3pm**
Wednesday • **10am - 3pm**
Thursday • **10am - 3pm**
Friday • **10am - 3pm**
Saturday • **12noon - 4pm**
Sunday • **Special Interest Groups only**
2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month
Online Zoom meetings • **7pm - 9pm**

Check the GSQ website for updates.

Visitors are welcome with a \$20 daily visitor pass, which allows access to the GSQ Resource Centre and all facilities. There are charges for printouts and photocopies. Reciprocal visits apply with some overseas and interstate societies. Please show your current membership card.

Front cover image:



Citation:
Horsedrawn funeral carriage outside J and J Hislop Undertakers in Brisbane ca 1892.
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Generation

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.

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Fees

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Society membership is available either as a single membership or as a dual membership. Dual membership is for two members of an immediate family living at the same address.

Affiliate membership is for groups with an interest in genealogy and/or family history. Corporate membership includes all other types of businesses/organisations.

Life Enduring is a once only payment for lifetime membership of GSQ.

The current fees (2025) are listed below:

Single 1 year \$90 – 3 year \$240
Family 1 year \$160 – 3 year \$430
Affiliate 1 year \$180
Corporate 1 year \$360
Life Enduring \$1460

DONATIONS

GSQ Library Fund donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.

RESEARCH

For those members who reside 100km or more from the GSQ Resource Centre, whether in country Queensland, interstate or overseas, five (5) hours per member per year is available for Lookup.

Research at GSQ's Research Centre is \$66 for members and \$110 for non-members.

GSQ can provide transcriptions of Funeral Director's records or Catholic Parish Registers for a fee of \$20.

Full details can be found at:

www.gsq.org.au/what-gsq-offers/researchservices

Generation

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Genealogical Society of Queensland acknowledges the Traditional Custodians throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present; and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today.

GENERATION subscriptions

Non-Members:

A charge of \$45.00 applies to non-members who wish to receive *Generation* electronically [4 editions]

Print Copies

Within Australia ONLY: Printed and mailed \$65

Members: Electronic copies of *Generation* are included in the cost of membership [4 editions]

General enquiries: secretary@gsq.org.au

GENERATION deadlines

The closing date for submissions is the 1st day of the month preceding publication – that is, copy must be submitted by 1 February, 1 May, 1 August, and 1 November. Articles for consideration can be submitted at any time but placement is at the discretion of the Editor.

GENERATION contributions

GSQ welcomes the submission of articles on family history topics for possible publication.

The Editor reserves the right to edit or abridge articles to meet space constraints and editorial considerations. Submissions should be the work of the author submitting the article and should not have been published elsewhere unless agreed. All material should be submitted in electronic format to:

editor@gsq.org.au.

Please submit text as a Microsoft Word doc or docx files. Images can be embedded in the text file but should also be sent as separate email attachments at high resolution JPG or TIFF files (minimum 300dpi if possible). Provide captions for each image in the text file.

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GENERATION advertising rates

Contact Editor: editor@gsq.org.au for pricing.

from The Editor...

In this issue of *Generation*, we have three mini-themes, the first featuring the end of life. We start off looking at the report of a presentation by Dr Hilda MACLEAN about the use of records of funeral directors held by GSQ. We read the transcript of an address by the late Nick Vine HALL at GSQ's first conference in 1980, about the types of cemeteries. And we feature the source of newspaper indexes of death and funeral notices, the Ryerson Index.

The second theme is a much happier one. December means Christmas, and members of the GSQ Writing Group were given an exercise to write of their memories of childhood Christmases, with three stories selected for publication.

We focus on the Writing Interest Group, whose aim is to provide a forum in which members can learn more about the writing, editing, and publishing processes. Bobbie EDES tells us about the National eDeposit scheme (NED), Pauline WILLIAMS encourages us to write a memoir of our own experiences, and we learn about the styles of writing. We read two stories which highlight how we can display our family histories, at a family reunion gathering and on display at a library during Family History Month.

In Queensland Towns, we focus on the city of Cairns. The book reviewed in this issue of *Generation* is *Finding Your Scottish Ancestors*.

We read an entry in this year's Joan Reese Competition about 'Thwarted Ambition' and a story that encourages us to take the occasional break from family history research. And we learn the topic for the 2025 Joan Reese Competition and the closing date.

And, finally, we look at the inspiration for writing your family history; and the excuses we come up with for not writing your story. Producing *Generation* without the submission of suitable articles is difficult and I make the plea for you, our members, to submit your family stories or your genealogical journeys to solve a mystery or knock down that 'brick wall'. You might try writing your entry for the writing competition!

Once again, the editorial team would welcome any comments or suggestions about your journal, as well as your stories. Just send them to editor@gsq.org.au.

Russell



Presidential Lines...



The world is certainly a different place from what it appeared to be just a few years ago!! John Lennon and Yoko Ono wrote the words and music for *Happy Christmas (War is Over)* way back in 1972. The sentiments expressed in this song are probably more valid today than they were then.

GSQ's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was conducted successfully via our Hybrid system on 2 November with 46 members in attendance. We welcomed Alistair Henderson as Vice President, Mike Houlahan as the new Treasurer and Paul Grevell as a Management Committee member. Graeme Moulton was thanked upon his exit from the Committee.

GSQ is honoured to be presenting the Australasian Conference on Genealogy and Heraldry and the 5th History Queensland Conference 21 – 24 March 2025. It's certainly shaping up as a premier event with world class speakers and multitudes of possibilities for face-to-face networking with other family historians from throughout the world. Three themes are to be celebrated – Diaspora (migration in all its forms), Looking Ahead (what are the opportunities) and Local History (and its impact on our research). 2025 is a very significant year, it being Brisbane's Bicentennial year - 200 years since

the founding of the City. The Conference is GSQ's way of celebrating this milestone. Come along to uncover the past, celebrate the present and tap into the future!

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all who have assisted GSQ throughout this year whether it be through continuing your membership, convening one of our many Interest Groups, attending education events and working as a volunteer in the Library, at Bunnings Sausage Sizzles and as dedicated researchers and management committee members. A blessed Festive Season to all members and best wishes for a genealogically fulfilling 2025. I'll finish off with a little from John Lennon and Yoko Ono's song – *A merry, merry Christmas and a happy New Year, Let's hope it's a good one without any fear.*

Helen Veivers
President



Management Committee			
President	Helen Veivers	Committee	Claire Rodwell
Vice-President	Alistair Henderson		Marg Doherty
Secretary	Karma Hodgson		Leanne Taylor
Treasurer	Michael Houlahan		Kim Davis
			Ailsa Corlett
			Paul Grevell
			David Barnes



'Memories are our greatest inheritance'

Peter Hamill

Welcome to New and Re-joined Members

Helen Veivers, GSQ President

The President and members of the GSQ Management Committee are delighted to welcome all our new and re-joined members.

As new members, please do not hesitate to talk with a Research Assistant if you need assistance. Now that you are a member of GSQ, you have a number of benefits – one of which is the opportunity to list your research interests/names on our website:

www.gsq.org.au

If you have any comments or suggestions as to how GSQ can enhance its services to members, or if you have a concern with how services are provided, please feel free to contact me at president@gsq.org.au



Your feedback is always welcome.

Marion Mathie
Robynne Stevenson
Bev Bancroft
Kerry Armstrong
Greg Paterson
Wallis Ann Vinson
Sandra Reis
Arlene White
Roslyn Lauder
Cassie Thickett
Kim Melbourne
Robyn Antill
Toni Lucke
Wanda Reynolds
Peter & Julie Roebig
Roseann Creagh
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Elizabeth Ranah Long
Rachael Aspinall
Anne Brophy
Jennifer Treloar
Joanne Gibson
Bradley John Walsh
Barbara Ann Bickle
Claire Burke
Megan Orme-Whitlock
Michelle & Des Witheyman-Crump
Family History Connections,
Victoria



JOAN REESE SHORT STORY COMPETITION 2025

The topic for the Joan Reese Short Story competition 2025 is ***A short story from family history research you have undertaken.*** We discover many interesting stories when researching family history. These stories may relate to an individual, an event which impacted on ancestors' lives or how a mystery or brick wall was solved. What was its significance to your research? This should be clearly explained. Share your story with the readers of Generation.

The prize for the winning entry is \$200 and is partly funded by the GSQ Writing Group. GSQ looks forward to reading your stories.

Entries close on 25 May 2025 and the winner will be announced at GSQ's Open Day on 23 August 2025. Full details of the competition, including judging criteria and entry requirements can be found on GSQ's website. More information is available by emailing secretary@gsq.org.au.





GSQ President's Report 2023-2024

Summary of Report presented to AGM on 2 November 2024 and adopted.

Risk Management, Constitution and By Laws, Policies, Procedures and Legal Services. This governance portfolio has been managed by Vice President David Barnes who has overseen the development and updating of policies. The new Constitution and Bylaws has been instituted.

Membership was recorded at the 30 June as 548, a slight decrease on the previous year. However, membership numbers in recent months have shown an upward trend. A new membership system, Membership Works, has been installed and is working well.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Web Services and Indexing. Our TAG (Technical Advisory Group) has continued to manage the task of renewing and maintaining GSQ's technology. Recently the services of a company, Techwell, were engaged to oversee the ever increasingly complexity of managing GSQ's online operations.

Volunteering lies at the heart of everything we do, and the portfolio has been well managed over the past year. Thanks go to all volunteers in all portfolios.

GSQ's **Education Program** continues to be a shining light, due to the organisation of the Education convenor, who has produced a varied program of presentations, seminars, and courses throughout the year, attracting participants from other states and overseas.

Our **Library** is now not only pleasing to look at, but also very functional. Statistics from our Library program, Koha, show that members are accessing our Library resources to an increasing extent.

GSQ's **Revenue Generation** includes Research, the Online Shop, Fundraising (such as Bunnings Barbecue and Cash for Cans) and Grants.

Finance The Treasurer's Report, showing a loss of \$318, together with Budget 2024-2025 and an Auditor's Report have been provided to members.

GSQ utilises a number of strategies for **Marketing** our Organisation, including social media, a weekly blog, monthly newsletter, and a quarterly journal *Generation*. We have attended a number of events with the aim of

promoting GSQ. The major event was our annual Open Day, held in August, together with the Conference to be held in March 2025.

Interest Groups are vital to the Society – they provide members with opportunities to gain specialised knowledge in an area of interest and for members to learn from each other. A new Chinese Research Group was formed, and the name of all groups was changed from Special Interest Group. During 2023/24, Interest Groups have operated, some face to face, some via Zoom and still others by using our Hybrid system.

GSQ's Strategic Plan 2025- 2027

During 2023/24, the Management Committee worked on a strategic plan. Some of the items included are:

- Develop an Induction Program for new members,
- Continue quarterly members meetings,
- Develop a new website,
- Develop relationships with other organisations,
- Engage in the proposal to have international speakers on an Australia wide circuit.
- Closely monitor the performance of Techwell in oversight of GSQ's IT,
- Organise documents for celebration of 50th anniversary in 2028,
- Continue the development and review of Policies, Procedures, and Role Statements.

THE JOAN REESE MEMORIAL SHORT STORY COMPETITION ~ ENTRY ~

Chartered Ambitions: A LEAP FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULTHOOD

Alison Muirhead

"But Alice is going to do so well at the end of year Scholarship exam. She needs to go to high school. It will be a brain wasted." Alice's class teacher was beside herself. Outstanding class results in the Scholarship exam were proof of her teaching ability.

"I'm sorry, but her mother needs her. She is having a baby and is too ill to help me around the garage. Alice is needed at home." Leonard PICKARD was feeling anxious as he realised that his business was in dire danger of collapsing. His workaholic wife, Dolly, was spending most of her days resting on a lounge chair in the office or throwing up in the bathroom sink. What was he going to do without his right-hand woman at his beck and call?

Alice's Dad knew deep down that Alice had academic potential. He had set her up in their rented house at New Farm with her own writing desk and a set of Waverley novels for inspiration.

Alice also had high hopes of success in the Scholarship exam and so winning entrance to a State secondary school. Why, she might even get more of a chance to write that novel in the English classes. At the moment all her spare time was tied up around that blooming garage. Why did her Mum have to have another baby? It would probably be a brat of a baby brother, and she would have to wash its nappies.

Not long afterwards, a baby boy was born – Leonard Mervyn PICKARD Junior. Admittedly, he was very cute. Annual family holidays on the ferry *Olivene* to Woody Point would be much more interesting with this little fellow on board.

Alas, family holidays soon came to an abrupt end only a couple of years later with Leonard Senior's premature demise in 1928. What was a municipality to do with its sewerage waste? The mighty Brisbane River proved a

handy receptacle. A tributary, Breakfast Creek, ran right beside the garage. Leonard PICKARD Senior became a victim of that primitive arrangement – felled by typhoid at age 48.

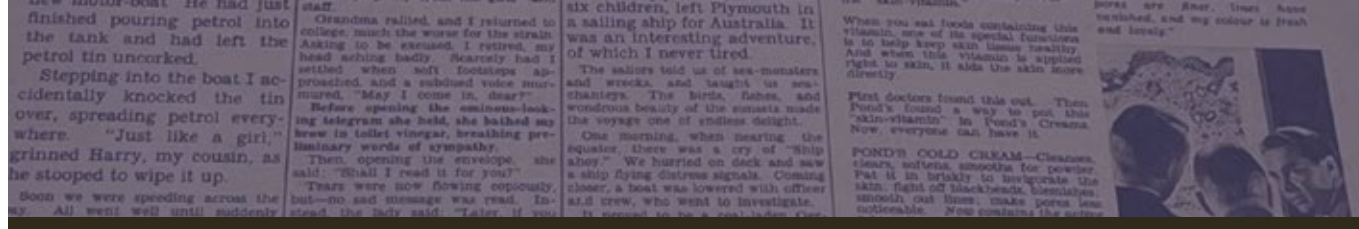
Conveniently, the General Hospital was just diagonally across Bowen Bridge Road from Pickard's garage. It was here Leonard Senior breathed his last. His final words to his family were "Love one another", now inscribed on his tombstone in the Toowong cemetery, atop the resting place he shares with wife, Dolly, and the ashes of his two much loved daughters, Alice and Irene.

There was no way any of the children were to fulfil their academic potential after Leonard PICKARD Senior's death. It soon became apparent that, despite his widow Dolly's reputation as a work horse, she had no business nous, and certainly no engineering ability. The family could no longer afford the rent payable to Leonard Senior's business partner, Mr WALKER, for the garage or the engineering works on Bowen Bridge Road, Windsor. As for their housing situation...

One memorable night before the rent was due, they rolled up Auntie Annie's green lino and stowed it into the back of a hired horse-drawn cart amongst their other easily transported possessions. The latter included those much-read Waverley novels.

Annie PICKARD, Leonard Senior's sister, had emigrated with them from England, and her employment as a skilled tailoress kept them in food, but soon they were always one step ahead of the rent man around the New Farm district. Alice had to find a job to help support the family with the basics, so they no longer had to follow this peripatetic way of life.

But what was she trained to do? Auntie Annie found her a position in the garment industry, but she was not suited to that at all. This lack of such a basic home making skill followed her all her life despite her best efforts.



Mrs EAST, wife of Mr East, partner in the Brisbane department store McDonnell and East, was looking for a lady's maid. Alice filled that spot very well. Her duties included making sure there was always a full box of Old Gold chocolates on the arm of Mrs East's favourite armchair in the sitting room and polishing the "gold" taps in the bathroom. As a reward, apart from her minute wage, she was allowed to walk out with her current suitor each Wednesday afternoon.

Alice was spoiled for choice in that department. From the taxi driver, the Rugby League player, and her cousin (perish the thought), she chose my dad, the Anglo-Greek, Alex FITES Junior. Picnicking at Lone Pine was one of their favourite outings. At the age of twenty-one Alice PICKARD and Alex FITES Junior were married in 1932, and all thoughts of further education were put aside and Alice juggled caring for children, her travelling salesman husband's need for the family to shift from one regional town to another, and then the interruption of World War II. Just as there seemed to be a chance of further formal education, a second post-war family arrived in the form of two more children, Alison and Gary who joined Beth and Sandra around the kitchen table.

But Alice's thirst for knowledge never ceased. She would read any newspaper from cover to cover and could tell anyone who was interested which team was top of the ladder in any sport they cared to name. Husband Alex aided and abetted her in this by purchasing both daily newspapers, *The Courier Mail* and the *Sunday Truth*, and subscribing to the now defunct *The Bulletin*, or "The Bully" as he used to call it. Not that there wasn't some self-interest on his part.

During the 'fifties, the latest novel from the *Readers Book Club* would pop into 40 Lennon Street Stafford's letter box. Alice devoured such titles as *The Guns of Navarone*, *Sara Dane* and the *Don Camillo Omnibus*. Household duties were often put on hold until she had read them from cover to cover. When was the next one due?

Despite having only a limited education, someone must have

taught Alice the niceties of formal correspondence (or she had read the appropriate books). Her letters to teachers asking forgiveness for a child's absence would always conclude with "Trusting you will excuse her absence, Yours truly, Alice FITES."

So, what about Alex FITES Junior? Had he fared any better in the education stakes? He should have. His father was a very astute businessman who built the first concrete building in Charleville in 1924 – the School of Arts Hotel. Alex was enjoying the life of a country kid plus violin lessons. But fate intervened.

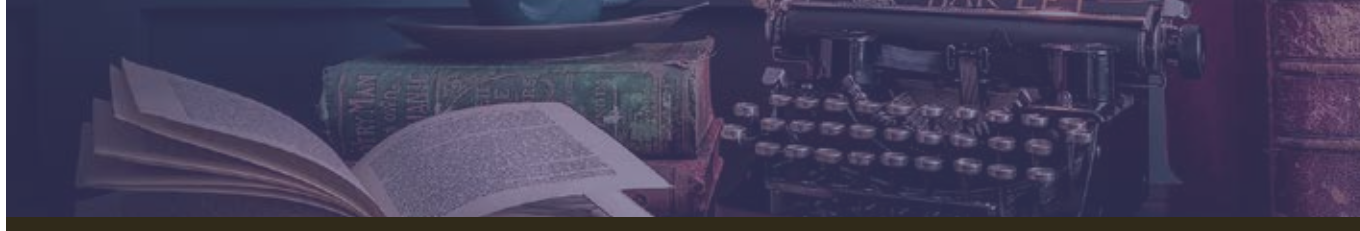
Tragedy always seems to lurk around the corner when least expected. Alex Junior wasn't to know his beloved Mum was "pissing blood" every time she passed urine. One afternoon she went upstairs from the bar to pack for an upcoming trip to Leros to visit Alex Senior's relatives and perhaps give her some respite from her poor health. When she did not return after some hours, Alex FITES Senior went up to check on her. He found her lying dead, stretched across the bed. As his son, Peter, always maintained, as a typical Greek peasant Grandad Fites climbed into bed with her, and they slept their last night together. Her lock of hair in his bible and the wedding ring that accompanied it (all of which soon

disappeared under a new family regime) makes a mystery of why she is buried in an unmarked grave in the Charleville cemetery.

There were two sons left motherless with a father who needed someone to help run the hotel and had a family interest in it. Two theories emerge as to why Alex FITES Senior took his next step of returning to Leros alone. Son Peter maintains that his father accidentally ran over an indigenous man and killed him. As it was in those days, the local police sergeant told him to "go back to where you come from while this all blows over." Daughter, Olga, at nearing 93, changes her story as often as her socks. Either Alex Senior had an illness which could shorten his life, or his mother did – her variable reasons as to why he hotfooted it back to Leros, the Greek island he had escaped as a twelve-year-



Alice Pickard and Alex Fites Junior
at Lone Pine



old stowaway. Whatever the reason, these had to be the pretext for an underlying motive.

His two sons, Alex Junior and Jim, had been placed in the loving care of "Auntie" Mag and Uncle Harold (their half-sister and her husband), when Alex Junior was ready to attend secondary school in Brisbane at age 14 in 1924. Therefore it was some time before they became aware of their mother's death in 1926.

With his sons safely in a relative's care, Alex Senior took off for the sunny isle of Leros. He soon was enmeshed in the old village life he hadn't seen since he stowed away on that sailing ship and eventually landed in Brisbane. There was to be a village dance when all the young girls would be paraded in front of the eligible bachelors in the hopes of making a match. Alex Senior didn't dance with Anna at all that night, but horror of horrors he chose her above her older sister. Anna was barely 20 and Alex Senior 48. When the old women of the village heard about this mismatched betrothal, the general consensus was, "His aeroplane will never fly". At that moment a plane flew over the island and seven surviving children disproved that theory.

Island life was marvellous, and Alex Senior was determined to sell the hotel and retire in luxury in Leros. Commonwealth banking laws at the time of a Depression soon put a stop to that plan, so Alex Senior and his new family were forced to move to Brisbane.

Meantime, what had happened to Alex Junior and Jim? Alex had been enrolled in the Brisbane Grammar School, very close to his carers' rented (from Alex Senior) house in Spring Hill. At the end of his second year, he was stricken with dengue fever. Backyard mango trees were a great harbourer of the dengue carrying mozzies. His father saw no point in returning him to school after his recovery, and he was obviously not welcome in this new family arrangement, particularly after an exchange between him and his father:

Alex Junior: She's not much older than I am.

Alex Senior: Well don't start complaining to me if she comes knocking at your door.

So Alex Junior and Uncle Harold gathered firewood using a horse and cart to make ends meet. At one time, their white horse, Hercules, was able to contribute to the family coffers by getting a part in *White Horse Inn* which was playing at His Majesty's Theatre. During its run, they would whip Hercules down Queen Street to get him on the stage in time.

Alex had a number of jobs post-school, always looking to better himself. One of his jobs was packing goods to export for ACF and Shirley's Fertilizer Company. One of the customers was an Errol Flynn who managed a plantation in New Guinea. He applied to Mr FLYNN for a job, using a format that belied his limited education. Fortunately for me, the kindly letter penned by Mr Flynn in reply, and which I still have, meant Dad was around in Brisbane to meet and marry my Mum, Alice PICKARD.

What was he like as a student? Not motivated very much. After reading a page of French that went on and on and thinking, "I must be doing a good job of this", he was disappointed to be pulled up with, "Fites, that is the worst French accent I have ever heard."

Did he leave a mark on the school? Well, the honour board has him as the school swimming champion for that short period of education. Did he have academic potential? Enough to have him keep accurate orders of items and the maths that went with them as a salesman for Dunlop Rubber Company. Often his excuse for not being available to play with me after a hard day's work was that he had to do his "writing". There was always some compensation for this in drawing pictures on spare sheets of paper to entertain me. Ducks were my favourite. His grandchildren can still accurately scribble copies of these creatures for their own descendants.

Alex Junior, my Dad, was always encouraging us to read. Every Friday night we would go to Millie's paper shop on Lutwyche Road for the lollies and the papers. The former certainly left their mark dental-wise on me, but I will always be grateful for having reading material at hand – a mix of Enid Blyton and "The Bully".

My parents had a lot in common, although they were from two entirely different backgrounds. The strongest shared trait was the need to self-educate through reading various types of literature, from journalism through to the classics.

My ancestors knew the value of education although they did not have the same opportunities their children enjoyed. Consequently, they encouraged their children to take advantage of every possible educational opportunity when it suited the family's circumstances. Are they up there now looking down on us and feeling proud of the generations they left behind including doctors, lawyers, teachers, ancillary medical professionals, journalists, architects, vets, and the latest crowning glory? A granddaughter, one of Britain's few female KCs, lately appointed a judge. Well done, Mum and Dad.

Afterword

As John Le Carre wrote in the preface to his book entitled *Stories from My Life*, "Was there any such thing as pure memory? I doubt it. Even when we convince ourselves that we are being dispassionate, sticking to the bald facts with no self-serving decorations or omissions, pure memory remains as elusive as a bar of wet soap." This story is written based on information obtained by me from speaking with my mother and reading her short memoir which was written in her eighties. My father's World War Two diary tells me more about that time and his character, rather than the stories he related to me about his life history, and there were many of the latter. The stories told to me by my step-aunt and step-uncle could be coloured by their relationship with their father. We will never know the truth.

This is Alf Jones's story about his life and work in western Queensland.

SNIPPETS – NEWS AND INFORMATION



RootsTech 2025

RootsTech, hosted by FamilySearch, is the world's largest family history conference. The free event will be held online March 6–8, and registration is now open. For more information and to

register for the free online event, see <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>. You can also register for the in-person event, to be held at Salt Lake City, Utah.

Scotland's People

National Records of Scotland have redesigned the Scotland's People site to make accessing Scotland's records easier than ever. For new family history researchers, there is a Getting Started page to provide guidance. Experienced researchers will still find the same records, as well as recently added record sets from the collections. See <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/getting-started> to check out the new website.



Statutory registers

Search the statutory (civil) registers of births, marriages and deaths in Scotland from 1855 to the present.

[Births >](#)

[Marriages >](#)

[Divorces >](#)



Church registers

Search church registers of births (or baptisms), marriages and burials in Scotland from 1553 onwards.

[Births and baptisms >](#)

[Marriages >](#)

[Deaths and burials >](#)

[Other events >](#)



Census returns

Search the lists of people recorded in censuses taken every 10 years in Scotland from 1841 onwards.

[Census >](#)

Family Tree Maker

Software Mackiev, the developer of Family Tree Maker, has announced the imminent release of FTM2024, with upgrades of existing features and the addition of some new features.

mackiev.com



Discover Your Family Story With I

FTM 2019 for Mac and Windows

For thirty-five years Family Tree Maker® has been the world's favorite genealogy software making it easier than ever to discover your family story, preserve your legacy and share your unique heritage. If you're new to family history, you'll appreciate how this intuitive program lets you easily grow your family tree with simple navigation, tree-building tools, and integrated Web searching. If you're already an expert, you can dive into the more advanced features, options for managing data, and a wide variety of charts and reports. The end result is a family history that you and your family will treasure for years to come!



FOCUS ON

In each issue of *Generation* we will focus on one of GSQ's Interest Groups. For the dates and times that each of the Interest Groups meet, mostly every second month, check out the GSQ website or the dates elsewhere in *Generation*.

GSQ INTEREST GROUPS WRITING GROUP



One of the objectives of family history research is to write up the results of that research and produce a family history. This can take many forms: some produce books, others create stories, yet others write blog posts, create websites or memoirs telling their own stories.

The aim of the Writing Group is to provide a forum in which members can learn more about the writing, editing, and publishing processes. Each meeting will include discussions and presentations. Guest speakers will be invited from time to time. Members are invited to submit pieces of writing for comment and suggestions by other members. Stories will often be published in forthcoming editions of the Society's journal *Generation*.

The Group has purchased a number of books to provide GSQ members with ideas and guidance on writing their family stories. As well, there are many biographies, family histories and memoirs – examples of how others have documented their family history. All these are on the shelves at GSQ and can be found by searching the catalogue.

The Writing Group sponsors the **Joan Reese Memorial Short Story competition**, contributing funds towards this annual prize. All entries are published in GSQ's quarterly journal **Generation**. Full details of the competition can be found on the GSQ website.

Meetings are held between 10am and 12 noon on the third Sunday of even months, unless otherwise advertised, and are currently held online by Zoom. One meeting a year may be a hybrid meeting, both face-to-face and Zoom, allowing those members who do not use Zoom to participate. Details will be provided to members and published in eNews.

Further information is available from the Convenor, Pauline Williams on writing@gsq.org.au or pstirland@hotmail.com.

Websites/resources

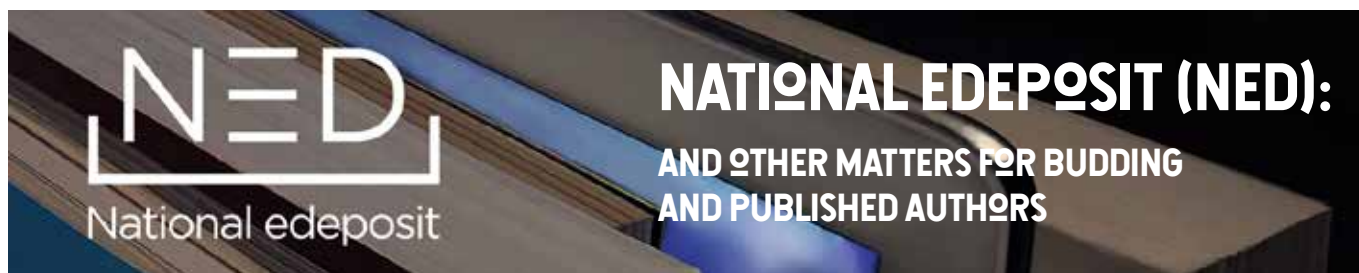
Australian Government Style Manual - this is now produced as an online resource (<https://www.stylemanual.gov.au/>). There is a copy of the last published hard-copy edition on the shelves at GSQ for reference.

Queensland Writers Centre (<https://queenslandwriters.org.au/>) this is based at State Library of Queensland and offers a wide range of programs and services.

Legacy Family Tree webinars (<https://familytreewebinars.com/>) offers a huge range of webinars on topics including writing. It's possible to view webinars for free for a week after delivery; after that it's behind a paywall and you need a subscription. However, given the wide range of topics it's well worth having a subscription.

Family History Writing Studio (<https://www.familyhistorywritingstudio.com/>). This is a Canadian site offered by Lynn Palermo. She runs masterclasses, online courses and produces a regular newsletter with tips on writing. The cost of the masterclasses is quite high, but the resources are terrific.

GSQs Writing Group has purchased a range of resources over the years, and there are some older materials. These can all be found by keyword searching the GSQ catalogue using Writing. Apart from the material catalogued under the AUS/306 classification, there are relevant materials scattered throughout the Library.



Bobbie Edes

There are lots to think of when you're putting your family story together and a great sense of achievement when you get the final published print in your hands, no matter if it's a small production for yourself and close family or aimed at the market to sell to the wider family and other interested parties.

Are you aware that a requirement of our national government is that any published books etc. have a copy, either print or online, legally deposited with them?

If you don't wish to go to the expense of dedicating a print copy to the entity, then you can deposit a copy in .pdf format via NED (National eDeposit) and the book or publication is then available through our marvellous NLA (National Library of Australia) site, *Trove*. The link to do so is:

<https://www.ned.gov.au/ned/>

You can use the latest versions of Chrome, Firefox, or Edge to deposit your electronic publication, however, their website notes that Safari is currently not compatible with the NED service. I've copied explanations from the NED website: 'What is legal deposit? Legal deposit is a statutory obligation which requires that any organisation, commercial or public, and any individual producing any type of documentation in multiple copies, be obliged to deposit one or more copies with a recognised national institution.'

Furthermore, once you have deposited an electronic publication to NED, your obligations for national legal deposit have been fulfilled. If your state or territory

legislation still requires a print copy, however, you will need to deposit this with your state or territory library. Following that I checked the Queensland requirements: Legal deposit with the State Library of Queensland is required for print, electronic and audio-visual publications, including government publications, in accordance with the Libraries Act 1988. If both print and electronic formats are available, electronic is preferred. Queensland publishers are advised to contact the State Library of Queensland for guidance on your specific circumstances.

The National eDeposit service provides publishers with the ability to reach a wider audience through discovery services including Google, *Trove* and national, state and territory library catalogues, and delivery to a wider range of digital devices. It also gives the publisher control of where and when the eDeposit may be viewed and reused by others, by setting conditions for access and reuse of the item, ranging from open use through to restricted access. Intellectual property and commercial interests are protected when the item is deposited with the National eDeposit service, and the eDeposit will be digitally preserved for the community and future generations to become an important part of Australia's memory.

Do you need an ISBN?

The International Standard Book Number (ISBN) is a unique identifier for books. An ISBN is not mandatory, and does not provide copyright on a work, and if your aim is to just self-publish a limited number of books for your family members, then you don't need to purchase an ISBN.



**FREE Family History Webinars
from Legacy Family Tree**

What is the cost? There is no charge to register and view the live webinar. However, the recording is available to view for the next 7 days – for free! Watch it as many times as you would like, pausing and taking notes, during the free viewing period.

If you cannot make the live event, downloads of the recording are just \$9.95 each or yearly memberships give you access to everything.

For more information on upcoming webinars, see <https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars/>



Writing a Memoir

Pauline Williams (From a GSQ blog of 20 May 2024)

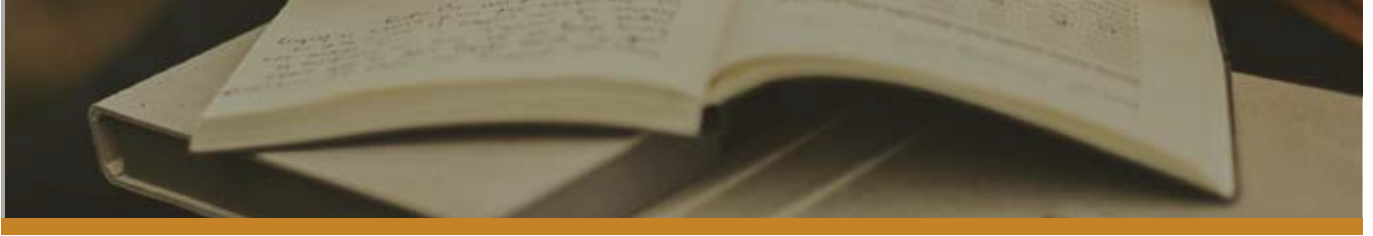
Have you thought about writing up the results of your research and producing a family history. How to do this can be quite a daunting prospect and therefore something which many family historians defer. Not everyone has the time or inclination to write a full family history, and many explore other ways of recording the family's story. Some produce books, others create stories around their photo collections, yet others write blog posts, create websites – the options are endless. One of the aims of GSQ's Writing Group is to give members the opportunity to try different forms of writing and also explore the varied processes involved in recording their family history. Each year we develop a program of topics that will hopefully provide inspiration and practical solutions.

Our family stories probably start with us, yet often we skip our own and our parents' generations and focus on finding out as much as we can about our earlier ancestors. Yet, our own story is important: we will be ancestors ourselves one day. Our life experiences are likely to be quite different from those yet to come. For those, like myself, why did we leave our own country and migrate to Australia? Writing our own story gives us an opportunity to decide what legacy we want to leave for our children, grandchildren or the wider family. How do we want to be remembered by family and friends? If we don't tell our own story, what will others make of the diverse bits and pieces in physical or digital formats that record events and minutiae in our lives. I was recently faced with writing the eulogy for my mother and wondered how I could encapsulate a life of 98 years into a five-minute address at her funeral. Were my memories of her the ones she would have included were they the same or different from those of my siblings? I would probably answer 'maybe' or 'possibly' to both of these questions. These thoughts came into my mind at the April Writing Group meeting when we considered the topic of Writing Memoir.

The Writing Group hasn't previously considered this as a stand-alone topic although the idea of writing our own stories has been raised in numerous meetings. It was appropriate, therefore, for us to define what is meant

by the term. A memoir is often how one remembers episodes in one's own life and can therefore be more subjective than a biography written by someone else or an autobiography which aims to cover the whole of a life. A memoir can comprise short pieces, whereas an autobiography is more often historical, telling the story from "cradle to grave". Memoir and life writing can include journals, letters, meditations on place or people and even travel writing and personal essay. An essential element appears to be a focus on memorable events in a person's life and the response to those events. Writing a memoir places events within a specific timeframe or context and therefore does not need to be chronological and thus may provide a means to overcome a reluctance to write a full autobiography. Two works by Australian memoir writer and life-writing teacher Patti Miller, *Writing True Stories* (2017) and *Writing Your Life* (2001) were invaluable in helping to define what memoir writing is, and is not, and also guidance on how to approach writing your own life.

As a prelude to the meeting, members were invited to write about an event in their life (250-300 words), focussing particularly on how they reacted to that event. As is often the case, the stories submitted by members covered a broad range of topics and approaches. Some were deeply personal, while others touched more lightly on the event in question. The ensuing discussions were enlightening and it became clear that writing memoir is complex. Focussing on a particular event or period in one's life, enables a writer to gather together some defining elements of their story that they wish to tell. It can be cathartic to review life-changing events, such as severe illness, migration, love and loss. It can also be life-affirming to celebrate the achievements and successes in our lives. Understanding how we have reacted to events in our lives may help us to understand how our ancestors may have responded if they faced similar challenges or achievements. This could bring them to life in a way that bare facts cannot. However, writing a memoir about an ancestor needs to be placed in time and context which takes me back to my earlier comments regarding finding time and inclination.



Where am I up to in recording my own story? I have transcribed all the diaries and journals that I've kept sporadically over the years and the details there have triggered many memories that I can incorporate into a broader narrative. April's meeting reminded me yet again that I need to continue my own story; parts have already been through several revisions to move it beyond bare facts into something that reflects the legacy I wish to leave.

Perhaps this blog post will inspire you to start recording your life story in whatever format you prefer. There are numerous books to be found in the non-fiction sections of bookstores and in libraries. GSQs Writing Group has purchased several books which are on the shelves at GSQ. They can be found by searching the catalogue. Meeting fellow writers, or would-be writers, at Writing Group meetings may just be the inspiration you need.



Natalie Pithers

In her website *Genealogy Stories*, British genealogist and writer Natalie PITHERS discusses writing styles for family histories. The article explores what is a writing style, how do you go about finding yours and how can doing so help you to write your family history? She looks at different types of writing styles and helps you to work out yours, so that writing your family history feels more intuitive. She makes it clear that there is no such thing as a right or wrong writing style. It is a matter of personal taste, although there is incorrect grammar, no literary techniques, but no right or wrong styles.

There are any number of writing styles, but they basically boil down to four different types: Persuasive, Narrative, Expository and Descriptive. So think of these four as the 'base' ingredient for developing your writing style. Here's an explanation of each type.

Persuasive writing is used to convince, argue or justify a position or an opinion. An example may be a journal article persuading historians of all types to consider the merits of family history. Another example, in this issue of *Generation*, is Pauline WILLIAMS' blog trying to convince readers to write a memoir of their own life story.

Expository writing, from the Latin 'expound', is used to explain or share information or concepts. An example would be an article explaining the research undertaken to solve a family history mystery. In *Generation*, an example would be the article by Bobbie EDES about the use of the National eDeposit requirement.

Descriptive writing uses description to help a reader imagine a person, place, feeling, emotion, scene etc. It uses sensory information and literary techniques, such as the series of articles by Writing Group members describing childhood Christmas memories.

Narrative writing is used to tell a story, this writing has a plot and characters, either of which may be fictional or non-fictional. Storytelling is often used to convey a message. Some examples of family history narrative writing might include a biography of your great-grandfather or the story of an event.

These writing styles do not live in isolation. A piece of writing may use several writing styles together. For example, a narrative story of an ancestor's life may draw on expository techniques, such as stating facts; as well as a persuasive message and descriptive writing in order to encourage a reader to empathise with a point of view.

What makes your writing style unique? The four types detailed above can be thought of as your 'base'. Your writing style base is layered with decisions on the language you use, the structure of your pieces and the literary techniques you prefer to employ. The exact blend of the writing styles that you use becomes part of your unique writing style 'base'. Remember, there's no good or bad in terms of style.



SHORT *Tales*

MEMBERS CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

At the Writing Group meeting of October 2022, members were given an exercise to write their memories of Christmas celebrations. These are some selections of their memories from a GSQ blog in December 2022.

Mixed-up memories of Dolls, Trees and Chooks

Tricia Smout



Having lost two children as babies, my parents were very protective of me and my younger sister. We were loved beyond belief, and so childhood was a very happy time. Christmases and

birthdays were very special celebrations.

At Christmas we always had a real tree, and when I look at family photos, I can see that I was fascinated by the tree, although of course I don't remember that far back!

Dad had purchased a holiday house at Scarborough, which he named "Eden", even though it was really just a shack. We spent most weekends there, as well as the whole of the Christmas holidays. In early December Dad would drive us up towards the Sunshine Coast, and when we spotted a "suitable" tree beside the road, we helped him cut it down and load it into the car. Then its sawn-off trunk was ceremoniously encased in a bucket of wet sand from the nearby beach, and we spent hours decorating it. I still remember the smell of the fresh pine needles.

Our Christmas and birthday dinners were always a special treat of roast chicken and vegetables. In those days there were no ready-to-cook chickens in supermarkets. We had a chook pen in the back yard of our home, and they were like pets, but for these special roast dinners, one unlucky fowl was selected for the chopping block. After the killing ritual, Mum then spent hours plucking and stuffing the bird before cooking it in the heat of a Queensland summer, all to fulfil her daughter's favourite meal request.

Now here's the anti-climax of this tale The focus of this story was originally going to be the truly devastating tale of how we found out that Santa wasn't real, because we had discovered some discarded dolls' boxes hidden in the rafters under our house. But when I opened the

old album to scan my dolls pictures, I read the neatly written captions that Dad had meticulously recorded, and so found out that our dolls were actually fourth and fifth birthday presents, not Christmas presents after all. How the mind plays tricks with memories!

"Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house"

Noela Rodgers

"Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse"

I was eight years old and on Christmas Eve was put to bed at my usual time, about 7:30. Excitement was high as this was the night when presents would be left at the bottom of the bed for each of the children. Suddenly I was awake. Nothing was moving, so surely it must be time for the sacks to have been delivered. I was too afraid to turn on the light as my parents' room was close.

I lay there for what seemed a long time and then I thought there was no sense waiting for morning. I felt along the bed until I reached the end of the bed post, unable to feel anything that could be my pillowcase bag, I was inching my way along the bottom of the bed when suddenly there it was, the pillowslip bag.

I stopped to listen for any sounds of family, nothing. Good. Now to see what was inside the bag. Slowly, I slid a hand into the opening and started to feel the presents. Not too large, some were soft and others hard. My hand rested on a box or that is what it felt like. What could be in a box, lollies? Putting the box up to my nose, no smell at all, so it was not lollies. Suddenly I realised that the present was tied up with a ribbon, so I carefully remove this and pulled at the paper, success. Impatience got the better of me and I tugged at the box, but it was very difficult to open. Pulling at the box and trying to get inside continued until suddenly it gave way and out

fell the contents. A book. However, I was no further advanced as it was so dark there was no way to see the title or even the cover.

I slid the box back into the pillowslip and crept back



to bed. Next morning, I was scared to think what would happen when Mum and Dad found out that I had been inquisitive, I expected to be in big trouble. However, the look on my father's face was the only punishment given to me.

The title of the book was *Black Beauty*, and I still have it on my bookshelf, torn spine and all.

A traditional suburban Christmas

Catherine Thompson

I loved the story "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. I remember seeing the book for the first time at the Everton Park Newsagent in the early 1960's. It was a large book with beautiful illustrations of Ebenezer Scrooge and the visitations of the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. Naturally, I asked Father Christmas for the book, and he obliged.



Catherine with her brothers and cousins on Christmas Day

Talking to an Irish friend about her memory of Christmas, I surprised when she told me that her Christmas present was an orange and an apple. The meal was a boiled goose and vegetables, prepared by her mother and served with a beautiful gravy. Talking with others about their Christmas memories, I realized that not everyone has celebrated Christmas in the same way.

Looking back on my childhood in the 1950s-60s in suburban Brisbane, there were the religious services of Advent then Christmas Day. At home there was the Christmas tree and the presents left by Santa, followed by visits to our grandparents for the Christmas meals, which my brothers, just wanting to play with their newly acquired toys, always grumbled about.

My maternal grandmother's place for lunch and my paternal grandparents for the evening meal, which was always roast chicken, roasted vegetables and plum puddings. The tables were bigger than they are today, often made of solid silky oak timber with solid chairs and

plenty of room for family to gather around and there was room on the table for the extra treats like nuts, dried fruits, and the Christmas cake.

But Christmas is changing and also how we celebrate it. Families have changed, siblings marry, partners may not share the same cultural or religious traditions, relationships breakup, religious beliefs change. While I have tried to carry on the traditional Christmas meal, some have different ideas about Christmas and how to celebrate it. But when the day comes to an end, I am still glad I made the effort to bring the family together for Christmas. "Merry Christmas everyone".



Hauser

100 YEARS (1880-1980)

Stadel bei Niederglatt 2021 - Wikimedia Commons

Generation – December 1980

On 30th August this year (1980) there was a reunion of the HAUSER family at Laidley. About seven hundred and ninety descendants and two hundred friends of the early settlers Heinrich and Katharina Hauser gathered to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their coming to the Blenheim district.

The HAUSER family was traced back to the eighteenth century, when Johann Heinrich Hauser married Verena SHUTZ. Their son Rudolph Hauser married Margaretha BUCHER. They begat five children, only two of whom survived to reach adulthood - Heinrich and Barbara.

Heinrich's life was a full one - full of experience as well as tragedy. At the age of 19, he had lost a father, a sister, and three brothers, and found himself the head of a family (himself, his mother (45), and a sister not yet 15).

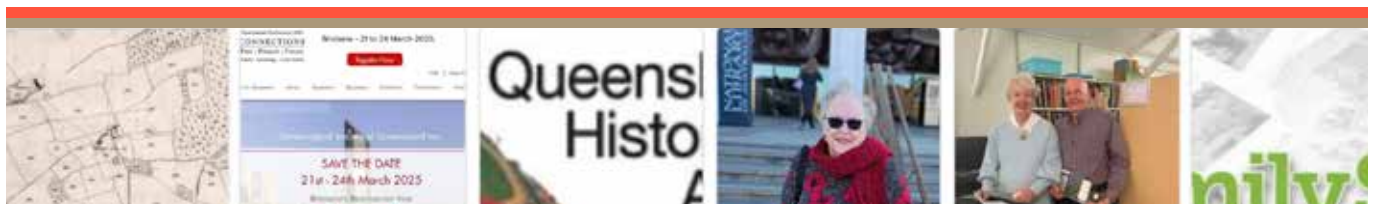
The centre of the HAUSER family was and still is for a few of the descendants, the town of Stadel, an old historical town in Switzerland, near the border with Germany.

Heinrich saw service in the army at the time of the Napoleonic wars. When he migrated to Australia in 1871, he was listed as 'farm labourer', sailing on the ship The Frideburg, which arrived at Moreton Bay in August 1871

having left Hamburg in April of that year. In October 1872 Henrich took up a selection of land at Tallegalla on a hill near Marburg looking out over the plains; later moving to Blenheim where he continued his farming activities.

In 1880 he married Katharina KAHLER, daughter of Hermann and Anna Gertrud KAHLER, farmers from Munchhausen, Germany. In 1878, at the age of 21, Katharina had sailed for Australia in the Fritz Reuter, with a child. It is thought that she came to stay with relations. It is the descendants of these two people who celebrated the above centenary.

Obviously the above is but a brief resume of their life. There is a book in the GSQ library entitled *Hauser. A hundred years. 1880-1980* by Richard Hauser of 25 Broughton Avenue, Croydon, Victoria, which tells their story in considerable detail. It makes fascinating reading. Richard Hauser has given us permission to take material from his book, which is obviously the result of intensive research and is particularly well presented and would be a good example for anyone embarking on the same sort of project.



Our GSQ Facebook page is continuing to draw in both members and non-members. If you're a member of Facebook, then you can search for GSQ Genealogical Society of Queensland in the search box and our page

will come up. Or click the Facebook icon on our home page. Ticking 'Like' on that page will ensure that our posts feed into your Facebook.

GSQFB is a private group, so only members of the group can see what you post. Here you can ask questions, share your genie successes and frustrations. You don't need to be a GSQ member to join the group.

If you have any questions about the GSQFB Group, then please email Rhoda Copeland on gsqfbgroup@gsq.org.au. To join the group, click on the link below and answer THREE questions. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/548139069596908>

How to book



Calendar of events

GSQ web site:

Go to www.gsq.org.au and select Events. Use the Events Calendar to find the event and then select the number and type of ticket (Member/Non-Member). Add your event to the Cart and proceed to the Checkout page adding in all details and selecting the payment type.

In person:

Come into GSQ and have a library assistant help you fill out the online registration form for your chosen event.

By phone:

Telephone GSQ on 07 3349 6072 during opening hours for EFTPOS credit card payments.

Payment types

Credit card: Can be used online, in person at GSQ or via telephone.

Direct Bank Transfer: Transfer the funds to GSQ using GSQ's bank details provided at the time of booking.

Cash: In person at GSQ.

Once payment has been confirmed, a ticket will be emailed to you. If you do not have an email address, it can be posted or provided to you on the day of the event.

Remember

For most courses, bookings are essential, especially for computer courses as these are limited to 10 attendees.

Also, please note that the GSQ education program is prepared many months in advance. Occasionally, changes need to be made due to circumstances which are out of GSQ's control.

Please check the GSQ website www.gsq.org.au/gsqevents/ for up-to-date information and for booking to attend sessions.



Date	Day	Event + Special Interest Groups [SIG]	Time
January 2025			
5	Sun	Scottish Group	10am
12	Sun	Family History Technology Group	10am
19	Sun	Scandinavian Group	1pm
20	Mon	Advanced Care Planning	10am
25	Sat	Presentation – Family History in the A.I. Era	9am
26	Sun	German Group	10:15am
February 2025			
1	Sat	Presentation – British Merchant Tokens	9am
2	Sun	English/Irish/Welsh Group	10am
4	Tue	Course – Fundamentals of Family History: Session 1	10:30am
11	Tue	Course – Fundamentals of Family History: Session 2	10:30am
9	Sun	Colonial & Convict Group	10am
15	Sat	Presentation – Victorian Goldfields	9am
16	Sun	Writing Group	10am
18	Tue	Course – Fundamentals of Family History: Session 3	10:30am
22	Sat	Presentation – The Wall Family	9am
23	Sun	DNA Group	9:30am
25	Tue	Course – Fundamentals of Family History: Session 4	10:30am
March 2025			
1	Sat	Presentation – Researching Lives of Queenslanders in the 1800s	9am
2	Sun	Scottish Group	10am
9	Sun	Family History Technology Group	10am
16	Sun	Scandinavian Group	1pm
21-24	Fri-Mon	Convention – Connections: Past – Present - Future	9am
23	Sun	German Group	10:15am



- **Events and Interest Group Meetings are held at GSQ:**
25 Stackpole Street, Wishart, Qld.
(Current restrictions considered)

Due to unforeseen circumstances, some of these events may be cancelled or re-scheduled. **Please check GSQ's website for up-to-date information on the education program.**

EDUCATION PROGRAM 2025

WATCH THE GSQ WEBSITE OR E-NEWS FOR INFORMATION ON DATES, LOCATIONS AND TOPICS AS THEY MAY CHANGE.

ALL paid events need to be booked online via the GSQ web site.

January - February - March

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Advanced Care Planning

WHEN: Monday 20 January @ 10am-12:00pm AEST
PRESENTER: Jane Caldwell
COST: Free to Members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

17th Century British Merchant Tokens: A Family Historian's Delight

WHEN: Saturday 1 February @ 9am-11am AEST
PRESENTER: Geoff Barber
COST: \$21 Members \$31 Non-members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Foreign footprints on the Victorian goldfields

WHEN: Saturday 15 February @ 9am-11am AEST
PRESENTER: Dot Wickham
COST: \$21 Members \$31 Non-members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Researching lives of Queenslanders in the 1800s: The Harry Gentle Research Centre and Biographical Dictionary

WHEN: Saturday 1 March @ 9am-11am AEST
PRESENTER: Jan Richardson
COST: \$21 Members \$31 Non-members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

Family History in the A.I. Era

WHEN: Saturday 25 January @ 9am-11:00pm AEST
PRESENTER: Fiona Brooker
COST: \$31 Members \$41 Non-members

Course (Virtual platform)

Fundamentals of Family History

WHEN: Four sessions Tuesday 4 Feb, 11 Feb, 18 Feb,
25 Feb @ 10:30am-12:30pm AEST
PRESENTER: Various
COST: Early bird (26 January 2025)
\$70 Members (incl affiliates)
\$85 Non-members

Presentation (Virtual platform)

The Wall Family, weaving the threads of memories: The writing process for her family history book

WHEN: Saturday 22 February @ 9am-11am AEST
PRESENTER: Christine Leonard
COST: \$21 Members \$31 Non-members

*We hope you enjoy the education program for 2025.
Remember to look on the GSQ website for up to date
events & times.*

DNA Clinics

The clinic help sessions are available to all GSQ members only and will be in your home with a one-on-one virtual meeting through Zoom or GoToMeeting. The clinics are held on the 5th Wednesday of the month. DNA clinic dates for 2025 are 30 April, 30 July and 29 October, but see eNews for any changes.

If you'd like to make an appointment, please email dna@gsq.org.au **by the Wednesday prior to the session**, stating you would like an appointment and set out your DNA problem.

The appointments will be for approximately 30 mins each on that Wednesday evening between the times of 7pm – 8:30pm. A virtual meeting link will be sent to you the day before the DNA Clinic with your appointed time and the name of the person who will be assisting you.



Brisbane
City Council

GSQ in your local Brisbane City Council Libraries :

GSQ presents topics at your local Brisbane City Council Libraries. These presentations are free, but you need to book at the library. The Council pays GSQ a fee for presentations so tell your friends about them as Council monitors the popularity of the presentations and decides how many will be offered. See eNews for presentation topics, library contact details and dates in 2025.

Interest Groups Meeting Dates 2025

Interest Groups for 2025 are full of bright ideas and tips. All members of GSQ are welcome to attend. Watch the GSQ website or eNews for information on dates, topics, and any event changes.

<https://www.gsq.org.au/gsq-events/list/>



Colonial & Convict Group • 10:00am – 2:30pm



9 February, 13 April, 8 June, 10 August,
12 October, 14 December
• *Second Sunday, even numbered months*

DNA Group • 9:30am – 12:00pm (2:30pm even months)



23 February, 27 April, 22 June, 24 August,
26 October
• *Fourth Sunday, even numbered months*

English/Irish/Welsh Group • 10:00am – 2:30pm



2 February, 6 April, 1 June, 3 August,
6 October, 7 December
• *First Sunday, even numbered months*

Writing Group • 10:00am – 2:00pm



20 October
• *Third Sunday, even numbered months*

Chinese Research Group • 10:00am – 2:00pm



19 January, 16 March, 25 May, 20 July,
15 September, 17 November
• *Third Sunday, odd numbered months*

German Research Group • 10:15am – 2:30pm



26 January, 23 March, 25 May, 27 July,
28 September, 23 November
• *Last Sunday, odd numbered months*

Scandinavian Group • 12:30am – 2:30pm



19 January, 16 March, 18 May, 20 July,
21 September, 16 November
• *Third Sunday, odd numbered months*

Scottish Group • 10:00am – 2:30pm



5 January, 2 March, 4 May, 6 July,
7 September, 2 November
• *First Sunday, odd numbered months*

Family History Technology Group • 10:00am – 12:00pm



16 February, 20 April, 15 June, 17 August,
19 October
• *Second Sunday, odd numbered months*

*Our Interest Groups hold meetings at GSQ,
25 Stackpole Street, Wishart or online via Zoom.
Members of GSQ are welcome to attend.*



GSQ MEETINGS



Following the COVID-19 pandemic, GSQ has instituted a number of virtual meetings using Zoom. These meetings provide support for members' research, and discussion about resources available and interesting topics.

Check the Events Calendar on the GSQ website for further information and confirmation.



25 Stackpole Street Wishart, QLD
PO Box 1467, Carindale Qld 4152
www.connections2025.org.au
convenor@connections2025.org.au

Brisbane
21 – 24 March 2025

Conference | Speaker Program

An exciting line-up of 48 local, national and international speakers addressing a wide range of history and genealogy topics has been secured for our conference, Connections 2025, to be held in Brisbane next March. The program is now online, Conference Program | Connections 2025 under the Conference / Conference program tab. Select each day to see your speakers.

Featured speakers

Headlining the speakers' program are four featured speakers – all experts in their field who will impart their knowledge and insights gained from many years of professional research and personal experience in Presentations and Masterclasses.

Judy G. RUSSELL, The Legal Genealogist®, a genealogist and lawyer, will provide expert guidance through the murky territory where law and family history intersect. An internationally known lecturer and award-winning writer, Judy holds credentials as a Certified Genealogist® and Certified Genealogical LecturerSM from the Board for Certification of Genealogists®.

Dr Nick BARRATT, best known for his work on the TV show *Who Do You Think You Are*, has written various history books and is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a teaching fellow at the University of Dundee and visiting academic at the Open University.

Hamish MAXWELL-STEWART is a professor of heritage and digital humanities at the University of New England and the CEO of Digital History Tasmania. He has authored many books and articles exploring the ways in which digital techniques can be used to shed fresh light on Australia's convict past.

Emeritus Professor Roland SUSSEX (OAM, FQA, Chevalier des Palmes Académiques) is a specialist in language, communication and culture, and health communication. Since "retiring" as Professor of Applied Language Studies at the University of Queensland in 2010 he has become a public intellectual, especially through weekly ABC radio broadcasts for over 26 years.

Sponsor speakers

Joining the featured speakers will be six speakers representing our Connections 2025 conference sponsors.

Ian CHAMBERS from FamilySearch.com will share his learnings from his involvement in FamilySearch's use of Artificial Intelligence and the development of the 'Get Involved' volunteer experience and mobile application.

Max PETTS from Imaging Australia & New Zealand will share his passion for innovation and preserving history through cutting-edge digitisation.

Jason REEVE and Jody TAYLOR from Ancestry.com will share insights into identifying collections to digitise, developing partnerships with National and State-level archives, and digitising associated collections for publication on Ancestry.com.

Cara DOWNES of the National Archives of Australia, an archivist of some 20 years, will impart her passion for making the archival collection available and discoverable by the public.

Alex DAW and Charlotte SALE of Queensland Family History Society will share their personal and professional



family history journeys. Alex loves helping others discover their roots while Charlotte, a seasoned genealogist with more than three decades' experience and training, has a talent for solving complex family puzzles.

Rosemary KOPPITKE of Gould Genealogy & History will share learnings gained from tracing her family history since 1985.

Conference speakers

Supporting our featured and sponsor speakers will be 36 conference speakers including three who will travel to Brisbane from the Netherlands, Ireland and England to present. They include professional and amateur

genealogists, family historians, story tellers with a focus on special interest areas, librarians, cultural heritage presenters, founders and caretakers of history societies and groups, researchers, authors, academics, archivists and a town planner. Topics covered will address general, personal, academic and specialist areas of family history and genealogy and appeal to a range of attendees at all points in their family history journey.

View the program to find out when to hear our conference speakers, view the topic synopsis and speaker profile under the Speakers tab.

Conference | Tour Details

[Monday - 24 March 2025]

All tours will depart from and return to the BTP Conference Centre, Eight Mile Plains.

- MacArthur Museum & Anzac Square Memorial Gallerie
- Miegunyah House & Newstead House
- Commissariat Store & Brisbane Museum
- Wolston Farmhouse
- Brisbane Heritage Trails

See <https://www.connections2025.org.au/monday> for more information and Registration.



My Uncle Stan

JOHN STANOVICH SIWCZYNSKI AND HIS MILITARY MEMORABILIA

Kerry Beeton

Many years ago, I decided to enter the few details I had of a family friend, our 'Uncle' Stan. I knew his name, where he lived when I was a child, that he was Polish and had been awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

I entered these details into Ancestry.com as a new tree, as he was not related to us in any way whatsoever. Having been in WW1, I then downloaded his military record, which gave his date and place of birth, 1884 in Tomaszow, Warsaw, Poland, the name of his ex-wife and his daughter. I remember my mother telling me that his daughter had died, but I knew nothing else.

I did a simple search on Trove and found Uncle Stan's name mentioned during the time he lived in Far North Queensland. He'd been in a few fracas, and it didn't sound like the gentle, kind and funny man I knew.



Uncle Stan

He was quite a tall man with a large frame and engaging smile. When he passed, he left his medals and citation to my mother, as he was very fond of her, and she'd always had an interest in family and friends who had been in our armed forces. Mum always said she would donate his medals –

Belgian Croix de Guerre; 1914-15 Star; 1914-18 British War medal and the Allied Victory Medal. When her health prognosis was not good, she did exactly that, and contacted the Victoria Barracks Historical Society, Brisbane.

Within the personnel records, there was also mention of a letter from Stan's brother, Karl. I now had Stan's details, his parents' names, his brother, his ex-wife Marion, and daughter Kateryn, who died in 1946 at 22 years of age. But there was nothing else I could add at that time.

The tree sat there for maybe four years, then a hint appeared. I couldn't believe it, and lost no time contacting Rod in the USA, who is married to Stan's great niece.

In 2019 I attended the Waves in Time free sessions and visited the stall representing the museum at Fort Lytton, as the collection at the Victoria Barracks had been transferred to them. At that stage, the museum did not have sufficient and/or adequate resources/facilities to house this additional influx of memorabilia, resulting in a period that the collection was stored securely until it was able to be catalogued, displayed and/or stored within the complex on a permanent basis. I was able to then get a photo of the medal, but not the citation, which I clearly remember being framed and hanging on the wall of Uncle Stan's two roomed house. My brothers both remember the medals and citation when Mum had it, and so does my husband.

I was then able to send a photo of Stan with one of his dogs, to Rod. And I supplied him with a photo of the medal, his Naturalisation Certificate and details of how to get a copy of the military records online. I also gave him details of where the medal had been donated and why.

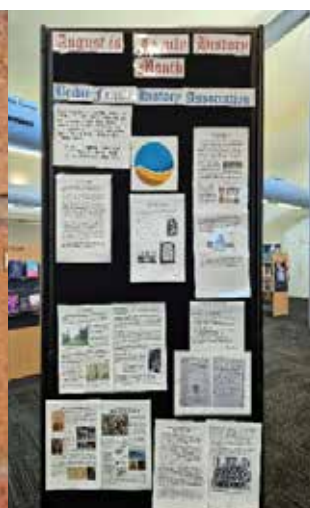


Croix de Guerre

Reference No.	Date	Regd. No.	Rank and Name	Notes for which awarded	Remarks	Where or How	(To be filled in)
111th Aust. Bn. 47th Regt. 4th Australian Division	1918	2488	Soldier - Corporal, John, SIWCZYNSKI	For gallant service and devotion to duty during the operations at BROOKLYN on the 20th September 1918, notwithstanding the heavy shell fire on the 11th and 12th and temporary break leading to his Battery, this soldier was awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry and devotion to duty in getting the ammunition party through the mine and saving his battery's ammunition to the battery at this critical period. Throughout the operations at BROOKLYN, 20th and 21st Sept. the work of Corporal J. SIWCZYNSKI has been marked by cheerfulness, gallantry and volunteer service in spite of most trying and adverse conditions.	Decorated with the Victoria Cross, 1918. P.O. No. 487 of 1918/1919.	4th Australian Division	111th Aust. Bn. 47th Regt. 4th Australian Division

Naturalisation Certificate

Among mum's bits and pieces was Stan's old ribbon bar in quite a sorry state and, as I had Rod's address, I posted this and a silver sugar bowl which had been Stan's, so family members now have these in their possession. Mum would have given these things to Stan's family if she had had any idea of how to find them. The family now has some answers, information, and the joy of knowing that Stan lived a good life with very close friends who cared about and loved him.



This is an example of the display of a family history story, another way to have your family history shown to interested people. The story was displayed, with others, by the Bribie Island Historical

Society at the Bribie Island Library, during the month of August 2024-Family History Month.



Event Report

MAKING THE MOST OF GSQ'S COLLECTION



On Saturday 5 October, 17 participants heard an interesting presentation by Dr Hilda MACLEAN on the innovative use of death and cemetery records in family and local history and access to those records. Dr Maclean has been investigating cemeteries for over 40 years.

Rich or poor, the vast majority of Brisbane's dead were buried by undertakers who noted details about the deceased and their families which are not recorded anywhere else. These records may provide linkages to other sources. In the early days, there was no legal requirement to record details of burials.

Hilda began by discussing the difference between the terms undertaker, with a basic burial, and a funeral director, arranging all the details of a funeral. The term

funeral director became popular in the 1890s.

Records for burials which are not recorded elsewhere do appear in funeral director's notes. They include stillborn babies, deaths from contagious diseases, burials with cultural heritage, and deaths in hospital, the responsibility of the hospital. Hilda discussed some of the different funeral practices required for these burials and outlined some of the other information available in the GSQ funeral director's records.

The final part of the presentation involved a case study of an ancestor, Agnes MACLEAN, and the information gleaned from the funeral director's notes. The presentation concluded after a question-and-answer session with the participants.

SPOTLIGHT ON RESOURCES

Funeral Directors Records



GSQ has produced some unique records from various Queensland funeral directors, available in MyGSQ, the members only portal. The main combined index gives you the Records Source and Reference. When at GSQ, go to the microfiche,

locate the record source and then select the correct fiche to view. This will allow you to find additional details about the individual.

The combined index of funeral directors includes the following:

- Cannon & Cripps
- KM Smith
- Tucker & Nankivell
- Metropolitan
- Alex Gow
- John Hislop
- Funerals of Distinction
- TT Cornes
- JG Lohrisch



StateLibQld 2 160924 - View of Brisbane Street, Beaudesert, 1908
[Wikipedia]

Le Grand Funeral Register

The Le Grand family were undertakers and funeral directors, based in Beaudesert. Sydney Robert LE GRAND (1869-1961), the first operator of the business, was a jack of all trades. Over a period of more than 80 years, he owned and operated a variety of businesses, most of them at the same time! As early as 1905, he was placing newspaper advertisements, touting for business as a carpenter and builder and the owner of the Qld Woollen Company making suits to measure. By 1908, he was also a second-hand furniture dealer and a hirer, seller and repairer of bicycles. He became the town's agent for brands of stoves, sewing machines, pianos, and insurance and was a designer and builder of monumental tombstones. In later years, the Le Grand family were cabinet makers, panel beaters and crash repairers. Le Grand funeral directors closed in 1983.

These funeral records cover the time period from 1906-1983 (with some in 1891 and 1900) and include images of the actual register entry. Images can be enlarged. The original database was provided by the Beaudesert Branch of GSQ.



GSQ Interest Groups • e-News - <https://www.gsq.org.au/what-gsq-offers/enews/>



The Genealogical Society of Queensland publishes a monthly electronic newsletter about Society news and upcoming events. All are welcome to download and read it.

For information on the activities of all our Interest Groups, see GSQ's monthly newsletter and e-News.



Nick Vine Hall

The late Nick Vine Hall was the Director of the Society of Australian Genealogists, located in Sydney. He was the guest speaker at the first GSQ convention in 1978 and a summary of this article, reproduced in the December 1980 issue of *Generation*, is published here.

Researchers into the early history of their surroundings have long realised that history often begins where, for most of us, it finishes - in old cemeteries. For the purpose of this talk "cemeteries" have been taken to include all burial grounds where monuments have been erected, or other public places, which refer to deceased persons. and also covers lonely graves, and memorial plaques in churches, if we narrow it down to 'historic cemeteries'. It is my view that modern lawn cemeteries and crematoriums should be excluded.

It has been stated recently that there are over eight hundred and fifty (850) officially listed cemeteries in the state of Victoria. I don't know how many there are in New South Wales, but I would guess it might be in the vicinity of 1000. I do know that SAG holds the transcripts of 623 different cemeteries in New South Wales, the largest being Rookwood, at 650 acres, and the second largest cemetery in the world, behind one in Russia. The earliest known cemetery in Australia is that which existed from 1789-1792 on a site located at the corner of Clarence Street and York Lane in the Sydney city area. This cemetery was demolished in 1912 to make way for the Vocational Guidance building, which is still there today.

Apart from the crematoriums and lawn cemeteries, there are four main types:

- General Cemeteries: Most country towns have at least one cemetery. Big cities tend to have a number of them to serve different communities. These cemeteries are established on Government land to serve the population living in their vicinity, and cater for a number of different religions.
- Church Cemeteries: These cemeteries are usually much smaller than general cemeteries and are located on church owned land.
- Lonely Graves: This group includes all those early 'unofficial' graves, which many of you have no doubt

seen, on properties in country districts, which were too far away from the more conventional General and Church cemeteries of the towns and cities. These are on privately owned land and their location is often unknown to anyone except the owners of the land.

- Memorial Plaques: It is not unusual to find memorials inside churches as well as outside in the churchyard. Also we sometimes find memorial tablets in town squares and fixed to public buildings in memory of some deceased person.

Necrotexture is the name given to the study of cemeteries. People have different types of interest in cemeteries.

- Historians have a broad interest in the information on the monuments, which tells them about the period or the place.
- Genealogists have a specific interest in information on the monuments, which can help them establish relationships of kin between different people. It may be their own family or some other in which they have an interest.
- Architects may be interested in the structure and design of monuments over various periods, or the work of particular designers.
- Sculptors may be interested in particular types of monuments.
- Landscape Designers may be interested in the particular layout and design of cemeteries, the types of trees planted etc.
- Archaeologists are interested in studying the objects of human workmanship from past historic and cultural periods, such as the different styles on the monumental mason's art.
- Councils with responsibilities for maintenance of cemeteries tend to look at them in terms of dollars and regard them as a nuisance.



- Families, which I mention last, who have loved ones buried in particular cemeteries. probably have the greatest interest of all. special emotional interest

The average Australian does not often pause to consider many of these points of interest, and rarely visits even those cemeteries where his close relatives are buried. This is a great shame. Some people, of course, regard cemeteries with a sort of idle curiosity, and walk through them on sunny afternoons just reading a few inscriptions and appreciating the peace and quiet, which a cemetery affords. What concerns me most is the view of many councils that cemeteries under their jurisdiction are an expensive nuisance, which they should get rid of at the first opportunity. The modern attitude of many people is that cemeteries are a thing of the past, they take up valuable land and are expensive to maintain. Cemeteries are important from a historian's and genealogist's point of view because they represent a unique source of information not recorded in any other records.

I want to outline a series of actions which we can do to preserve cemeteries and transcribe the information on headstones when they are threatened. Members of

SAG are very active in transcribing inscriptions, assisted by local historical societies. These transcripts are placed in the library for research by future generations, long after the cemeteries have been destroyed by vandals, removed by Councils, or simply crumbled away to dust. I will briefly discuss some of the projects that SAG is undertaking to preserve information on headstones in cemeteries and outline the process for carrying out transcriptions.

Before I finish, perhaps I could mention that inscriptions on tombstones can, as well as being genealogically useful, have their lighter side. I would like to quote an example from the "SMALL BOOK OF GRAVE HUMOUR" which reads: "Erected to the memory of John McFarlane Drowned in the water of Leith by a few affectionate friends" In closing, on behalf of the President and Council of the Society of Australian Genealogists, I would like to wish you all good luck in your research and wish the Genealogical Society of Queensland a long and successful future.

AN END AND A MEANS

Kerry Raymond

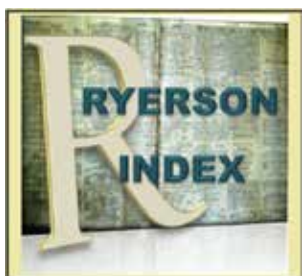
As family historians, the end of life creates records which are a means to learn more about our ancestor's lives.

Resources created by death

- Death certificates
- Inquests
- Burial/cremation registers
- Wills, probate, intestacy
- Newspaper content
- Personal memorabilia
- Funeral directors records
- Monuments & plaques



FEATURED SOURCE



The Ryerson Index

The Ryerson Index is a free index to death notices appearing in Australian newspapers. The date range covered

extends from the *Sydney Gazette* of 1803 up to newspapers published within the last week or so. The Index also includes many funeral notices, and some probate notices and obituaries.

In 2020, the Ryerson team commenced indexing notices from Funeral Directors' websites. This was in response to the mass closures of regional newspapers which occurred in the second quarter of 2020.

Because the Index was originally created by the Sydney Dead Persons Society, its strength lies in notices from NSW papers - including in excess of two million notices from the *Sydney Morning Herald* alone. However, the

representation from sources in other states continues to grow, with additional papers and funeral directors being regularly added, so that the Index can now truly be considered an Australian index.

Indexing is being continuously carried out by a team of volunteers, too numerous to mention individually, who give freely of their time to ensure the site continues to grow. Site updates generally occur weekly.

The index itself cannot by definition be considered a primary source of data but is purely a research aid to direct the researcher to the original source of a notice. The team cannot undertake genealogical research for you, they are too busy indexing!

The Ryerson Index contains over 9 million entries from 480 sources, indexed over 30 years, and is available free to researchers at <https://www.ryersonindex.org/>.



Family Tree Magazine

With so many genealogy websites available for your family history quest, how do you know which sites are the best? Leave it to our genealogy experts! We constantly scour the web for great resources, and once a year, whittle those down to our annual list of the 101 Best Genealogy Websites. Here, we've compiled our picks into a handy directory that makes it easy to find the top sites for your family history goals: Just choose the category that matches your interests to see the best sites to visit. See their website at: <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/best-genealogy-websites/>





QUEENSLAND TOWNS

• CAIRNS

WHERE OUR FAMILIES LIVED

Cairns is a city of 150,000 people on the tropical north-east coast of far north Queensland, about 1700km north of Brisbane. It is located on Trinity Bay, named in 1770 by James Cook on the day on which he arrived, Trinity Sunday. Cairns is a major tourist destination, with access to two UNESCO world heritage sites; the Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef.

Prior to British settlement, the area was occupied by the Yidinji people. The area in which the city is located is known in the local Yidinji language as *Gimuy*.



William True Bennett, First landing at Cairns, 1876. State Library of Queensland

The arrival of beche-de-mer fishermen from the late 1860s saw the first European presence in the area. In 1872, an altercation between fishermen and the local people saw the area named Battle Camp. In 1876, gold was discovered at Hodgkinson River, and the area of Battle Camp was selected as a port and named Cairns after the Governor Sir William Cairns.

The site was predominantly mangrove swamps and sand ridges, which were gradually cleared and filled by local labourers.

Throughout the late 19th century, Cairns prospered from the settlement of Chinese immigrants, who helped develop the region's agriculture, which became the dominant industry. Cairns had a Chinese population of about 1500 in 1901 in an established Chinatown, which

declined in the early 1900s due to the White Australia Policy.

Construction of a railway to Herberton on the Atherton Tableland, begun in 1886 and completed in 1906, saw the growth of the agriculture industry and the establishment of Cairns as a port. Land went on auction in Cairns as early as 1889 and continued throughout the early 20th century.

During World War II, the Allied Forces used Cairns as a staging base for operations in the Pacific. US and Australian air forces established operational bases at what is now the airport. Naval bases were set up near the current wharf, and military supply and training areas were set up in the region.

Like most of Far North Queensland, Cairns is prone to tropical cyclones, usually forming between November and May. Cyclone Jasper in December 2023 caused record flooding of the Barron River, the worst flooding event in Cairns since records began in 1915.

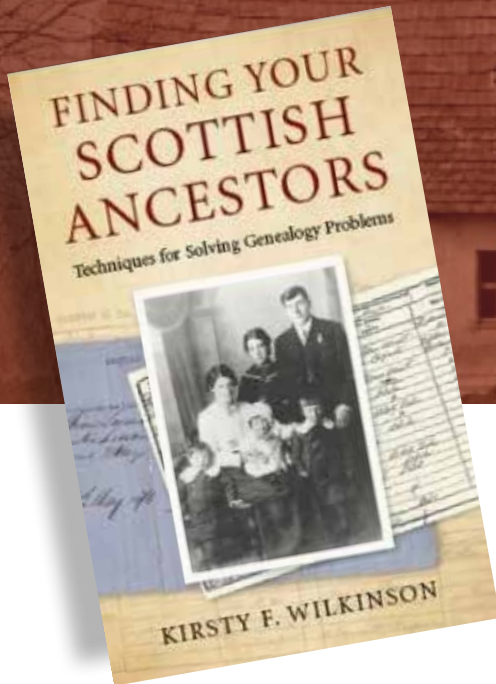
Cairns Division was originally establishment in 1879 and became a city in 1923. In amalgamation in 2008, Cairns City joined with the Shires of Mulgrave and Douglas to form the Cairns Regional Council. The Shire of Douglas subsequently de-amalgamated in 2014.

By the late 20th century, the city had become a centre of international tourism, with an international airport and cruise ship terminal. In the early 21st century, it has developed into a major metropolitan city, the 'capital' of Far North Queensland. It has long been engaged in commercial rivalry with the larger city of Townsville.

Sources

- Wikipedia – <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cairns>
- Queensland Places - <https://queenslandplaces.com.au/cairns>
- Aussie Towns - <https://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/cairns-qld>
- Cairns Regional Council - <https://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/experience-cairns/facts-figures-history/history>

BOOK REVIEW



FINDING YOUR SCOTTISH ANCESTORS:

BY KIRSTY F. WILKINSON
CROWOOD PRESS - 2020

Marg Doherty

I purchased *Finding Your Scottish Ancestors* from GSQ after the Scottish seminar that GSQ held in 2023. I intended to hone my Scottish research skills, but on reading the publication, I saw that while the book illustrated research techniques for Scottish research, it was also a great read on basic and intermediate general family history research techniques. For those reasons, it was a brilliant purchase, and I plan to reread the publication.

The first chapter commences with sources (for Scottish research) and discusses *ScotlandsPeople* and other sources in the National Records of Scotland. The Scottish sources covered include online statutory registers, church records, Scottish censuses, valuation rolls, Kirk Session records and many more. A section named *Expert Tips* is helpful, and these tips are included throughout the chapter and the book. The following chapter discussed Scottish repositories such as the National Records of Scotland, the National Archives (TNA, Kew) and more local repositories, including the Scottish Genealogy Society Library. This chapter and the remaining chapters include more *Expert Tips*.

The third chapter discussed searching Scottish family history online and provides some interesting sites to explore. Chapters on searching techniques, interpreting records and planning and recording research follow. These chapters cover the basic genealogical methods and will assist new family historians or serve as a

refresher course for those who have been researching for a while. Discussion includes what a record is and defines evidence and information. The analysis of findings is another great discussion. Chapter five covers the *Genealogical Proof Standard* and, although brief, provides sufficient content for readers to understand the components and know what is meant by the proof standard when mentioned.

The final two chapters cover common causes of genealogical problems and solutions to Scottish genealogical problems. The author includes an extensive section on spelling variations, which she defines as a common cause of genealogical problems, and the discussion, while using Scottish examples, is relevant to all genealogy. Non-Scottish examples can use the same techniques. The chapter on Scottish genealogical problems covers techniques helpful for non-Scottish research. For example, what do you do if you can't find a marriage? Each discussion point concludes with a section titled *Solutions*. Similarly, the DNA discussion in the last chapter is general and provides basic information on DNA and techniques you can use.

The publication concludes with a section on further reading which I always enjoy. References include Scottish-specific books, and books on general genealogy. This sub-category is called *Genealogical Methodology and Research Techniques*. This list includes two books by the acknowledged expert Elizabeth Shown Mills.

Wilkinson's publication is an excellent book for beginners and experienced researchers. Some illustrations are examples of records discussed so the reader knows what the records look like. There are also some photos of the main repositories in Scotland, allowing the reader to see them and then perhaps plan to visit. Wilkinson's book would be an excellent addition to your genealogical library, even if you do not have Scottish research.



Separation or Divorce?

Lee English *(From a GSQ Blog on 30 September 2019)*

The genes (ancestors) and I are taking a break from each other. A trial separation. It's not a sudden decision as I've been unhappy for some time. We've had a long relationship spanning many decades. For most of this time, the relationship casually bubbled along. Both parties in the relationship seemed satisfied with this.

This all changed after I retired in 2014. Since then the intensity of the relationship has hurtled along at speed. At first, I didn't mind as I'd be wanting to spend some time with them; learn more about them, tell their stories, bring them to life.

What I hadn't expected was that I would become so obsessed with them. I thought about them continually, I started to live their lives, my sleep was affected. I became antisocial as I spent hours every night either sitting at the computer or reading trying to find more and more information. Inevitably, at times, scurrying down rabbit holes.

I needed time out.

The genes disagreed. They want me to stay in the relationship. There's this continual battle where they say, 'you can do it' and I reply, 'no I can't, I need time out.'

When this doesn't work, they try the guilt game knowing full well that I will react. They taunt me by saying things such as, 'you haven't told my story or finished my story; what about talking about the women in the family etc, etc.' When this happens, my anxiety level rises with the level of guilt.

I come from a close family and over the years have listened to family stories where the grandparents, great grandparents and great-great grandparents were openly talked about with affection and pride. My father, Neville FRANKEL, instilled in us the importance of family and pride in our family name.

Neville was one of four boys. He and his three brothers, Keith, Philip and Walter came from a close, loving family where their parents, Alan and Ida, enjoyed close friendships with their extended families.

As the result of this example, the brothers, their wives and children also had close relationships which exist until the present time. Of the brothers, only Walter (90) is still alive. His wife, Esther and Keith's widow, Shirley (95) still phone each other weekly; a system that was implemented when all the brothers and their wives were still alive. Although now geographically separated, some cousins continue the practice.

The family is very fortunate that the ancestors were good record keepers of both oral and written material, including photographs. Stories about our fathers, grandfather, great grandfather and great-great grandfather are still told and chuckled about. My father and his brothers were well known for their boyish antics when growing up in Taringa during the late 1920s to the late 1940s.

The family also hold several documents written by Jacob FRANKEL who first arrived in Australia in 1842; his son Philip, my great grandfather; and his son Alan, my grandfather.

One of these documents is a copy of a diary that Jacob (1812-1899) wrote about his life between 1825 and 1856. In this document, Jacob details his life from when he left his home in Breslau in Prussia, his overland journey to London and subsequent sailing with his wife and children to Tasmania.

It contains details of his life after his first wife, Sarah died in Sydney in 1847. During the next nine years, Jacob sailed from Sydney to San Francisco and back. His diary is full of descriptions of his adventures during this time. It is a fascinating read.

Other documents that I treasure are the letters written by the individual fathers, including mine, before their deaths to their surviving children. Reading these letters particularly from my father and grandfather bring solace and evoke wonderful memories.

In quiet moments, I wonder if I have done the right thing in insisting on a separation. I miss the genes. We had some good times. I learnt a lot from them.



It was because of them that I travelled to Wellington and Dunedin in New Zealand. (In 1860, Jacob moved to Dunedin from Melbourne. It was here that my great grandfather, Philip was born in 1863. In 1865, Jacob resettled his family to Wellington where he lived until his death in 1899).

As part of my research into my grandfather's WW1 service, I revisited the Salisbury Plains in England and the WW1 battlefields in France and Belgium. This time though I looked, not as a tourist, but through my grandfather's eyes and experiences and came away with a totally different appreciation and understanding.

I have always loved researching and finding out information; the how and why has always fascinated me. Delving into the past to bring the ancestors to life was a very rewarding if not frustrating task. Visits to the Australian War Memorial; the Archives in London, Wellington, Dunedin, Canberra and Brisbane; the libraries both National and State in these cities and towns were bliss.

The greatest gift that the genes has given me is that I understand myself more. Now I know from where traits such as being impulsive, strong willed, compassionate, loving and caring, ambitious and restless emanated.

I've found peace not only within myself but in some relationships. My grandfather was a very strict man. My memories of him were mainly negative. Now I understand why he was as he was. Looking at this relationship through the eyes of an adult rather than as a child has been very healthy.

I'm not sure how long the separation will last. I've asked for six months timeout.

'MY FAMILY HISTORY'

**BOOK
RELEASE**

A ten-generation family history research record book with pedigree charts

Robert Boyd Publications (UK) is pleased to announce the release of the 3rd Edition of 'My Family History Record Book' and the appointment of the **Genealogical Society of Queensland** as its sole distributor for Australia, New Zealand, and their territories.

My Family History is an efficient and attractive method of recording and displaying the results of family history research. It can be used as a presentation document to family members and as a handy *aide memoire* to carry around when researching.



GSQ - EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR: AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Retail and trade orders available from:
Genealogical Society of Queensland

Email: shop@gsq.org.au

Retail price: \$A 30.00 plus postage

Wholesale price: available on request.



GSQ

Tuesday

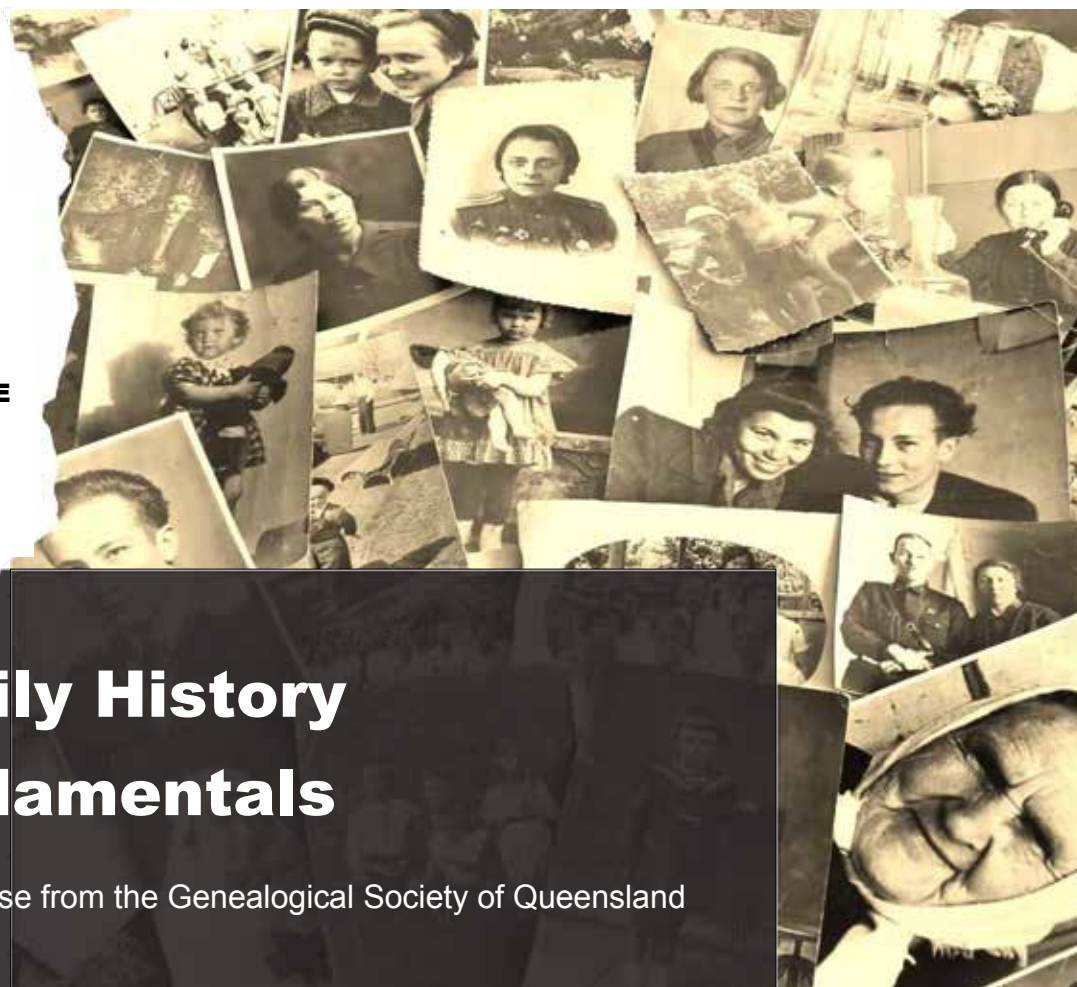
4th Feb @ 10:30 AM

For 3 weeks

Plus 4th week FREE

GSQ's

Interest Groups



Family History Fundamentals

An online course from the Genealogical Society of Queensland

About the course

Start your family history research on a solid foundation. Presenters are experienced GSQ researchers. All sessions to be recorded and available to view for 4 weeks.

4th Session is FREE to GSQ/QFHS members.
SPOTLIGHT: GSQ Interest Groups.

What does it cost?

All 3 sessions: Early Bird up to 26th Jan

GSQ/QFHS members: \$70

Non-members: \$85

after 26th Jan

GSQ/QFHS members: \$80

Non-members: \$95

Course program

Virtual event via Zoom

- 4 Feb – Where do I start? The basics of family history research.
- 11 Feb – Practicalities of research and recording the results. Using census and census substitutes. Australia and overseas.
- 18 Feb – Finding records, primary and secondary, citations, repositories. - Other sources of information.
- 25 Feb – FREE Session – SPOTLIGHT on GSQ Interest Groups: Helping your research.

Payment

EARLY BIRD

GSQ/QFHS Members \$70

Non-Members \$85

Book & pay online:

www.gsq.org.au/events/

+61 7 3349 6072
education@gsq.org.au



Genealogical Society of
Queensland Inc.



Tips & Tools

TIP #6 – Record your Searches and Document Sources

You should keep a research log, listing all sources that you have consulted, the date of the search, names of ancestors investigated, and the time period covered by the records. How useful was the source; were new connections established? You may need to cite your sources or verify your research. Remember, others may need to follow the trail. Even if you found nothing, recording your search may save you from performing the same search in the future.

Be Organised

Pauline Williams

Be systematic and organised as you will collect a lot of information as you progress with your research. There's nothing worse than receiving a certificate, which you have paid for, only to realise that you already have it! Actually, there is something worse—you have taken something you found on a published family tree as accurate and

incorporated the material into your tree. You then realise that what you thought was right was not. You then have to unpick all the errors.

Tip 1: Don't trust anything you read until you verify it yourself.

Tip 2: Get yourself organised, so you can easily cross-check information.

If you have a family history software program, take the time to set it up properly, with master lists and accurate citations so you know where you found relevant information. Scan all your documents and save in relevant folders on your computer. However, always have a back-up and always have hard copies of your materials.

For your hard copy system, start with a simple filing system using A4 binders with subject dividers and acid-free clear pockets for originals. Instead of making notes on loose bits of paper, have a notebook, A4 is good, A5 is handy for carrying around with you. Transfer your notes into your electronic system. When taking notes, record when and where you found the material, and ensure you document the source. If permitted, save copies of records on a USB or print a photocopy. Do not write on the front of any documents, write on the back in pencil.



SPOTLIGHT: GSQ's Interest Groups

Tuesday 25 February | 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

This is a three hour Zoom meeting for members, with presentations from the interest groups. It will be held on Tuesday 25 February from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. It will be the fourth session of GSQ's course *FUNDAMENTALS of FAMILY HISTORY* but will be free to all GSQ/QFHS members.

GSQ has nine Interest Groups and three Zoom Groups. The groups are Scottish, DNA, English/Irish/Welsh, Chinese, Colonial and Convict, German, Scandinavian, Writing, and Family History Technology; and meet at GSQ, by Zoom, or by hybrid meetings.

The Zoom sessions feature special topics or help with members research, and are held every Monday morning, and Wednesday mornings and evenings twice a month.

Each group will have 15 minutes to speak about what they do, the subject, and how they help members.

For more details and bookings go to the GSQ website: www.gsq.org.au/gsq-events

Marg Doherty
Education Coordinator



BLOG BEAT

Snippets from GSQ's Blog | www.gsq-blog.gsq.org.au/

September - November 2024

2 September – Ross Hansen

Enjoying the Next Genealogy Journey – All the way from Prussia
Ross outlines the research process to find his late wife's great grandfather, born in Prussia in 1858.

9 September – Janice Cooper

Gems from Land Files
Janice tells of the value of reading land files at Queensland State Archives.

16 September – Catherine Thompson

A Letter Home: Tracing my Thompson Family
Catherine asks how a family photograph turns up in an Ancestry website in Boston, and gains access to a letter written by her great grandfather.

24 June – Geoff Doherty

Joseph Guidice: An Enigma wrapped in several mysteries: An electronic records investigation
Geoff tells of research into the reasons why a Canadian enlisted in the Australian Army in World War One.

23 September – Sue Bell

Mary Isabella Moffat
Sue tells the story of a sad sequence of events in the life of Mary.

30 September – Jill Ball (guest blogger)

Birds of a feather flock together at Congress
Jill, as Ambassador for the AFFHO Congress, relates her enthusiasm for the past Congresses and the upcoming 2025 Congress.

7 October – Pauline Williams

A reformed ancestor – maybe: will the real Joseph stand up.
Pauline tells of the search for ancestors who fell foul of the law. Which Joseph Stirland (out of 15) committed a crime?

14 October – Pauleen Cass

Broaden your Horizons
Pauleen expands on a topic presented to a few societies; the broadening of research to the geographic context of the place where our families lived.

21 October – Christine Leonard

My connection to 'The Valley' from the late 1850s
Christine tells the story of her GUERIN family in Fortitude Valley before and after Separation in 1859.

28 October – Dianne Edelman

Port Isaac: A charming village but I'm not sure I'd like to live there.
Dianne tells the story of her ancestors Elizabeth COUCH and Isaac HAWKER and their marriage in the charming village of Port Isaac in Cornwall, which has the role of Port Wenn in the television series *Doc Martin*.

4 November – Ross Hansen

Now What about the Women? – Enjoying the Next Genealogy Journey.
Ross makes the point that a woman's identity used to be tied to her husband, so that researching a woman's life was limited to traditional sources such as birth, marriage, death and census records. It is therefore necessary to find other paper trails in order to research a woman's life.

11 November – Yvonne Tunny

From Convict to Landowner: The Story of an Irishman in Australia
Yvonne tells the story of convict Owen Tunny, and graphically describes the conditions endured by him aboard the convict ship on the journey to Australia and his life after his arrival.

18 November – Andrew Redfern

Top 5 Technology Skills for Family Historians
Andrew makes the point that digital tools have become essential in uncovering the past, and discusses the five basic technology skills that every family historian should master.

25 November – Marg Doherty

An Excursion to Ypres
Marg discusses her emotional visit to war cemeteries at Ypres in Belgium, and tells to story of her missing relative, Andy Porter.

FEATURED BLOGS



The Legal Genealogist

Judy Russell is a genealogist with a law degree, and her purpose here at The Legal Genealogist is, in part, to help folks understand the often arcane and even impenetrable legal concepts and terminology that are so very important to those of us studying family history.

<https://www.legalgenealogist.com/>



Family History Research

A family history can be much more interesting than just names and dates. Finding their stories helps us understand our ancestors' lives, struggles and achievements. Kerry Farmer presents seminars and classes at SAG as well as at adult education colleges and elsewhere.

<https://www.kerryfarmer.info/>



Accession Highlights

Robert H Kelly

Family history glossary: the complete A-Z guide to genealogy jargon.
WW/315/003

Dell Topel

Tracing Irish Ancestors
IRL/305/018

Andrew Chapman

101 family history tips: the best research advice: 100 pages of the best family advice you'll ever find.
UK/305/012

Michael J Watts

The female line: researching your female ancestors.
UK/305/010



GSQ Catalogue

The GSQ Library contains thousands of resources, unique records and publications.

The library is updated on a regular basis and is a valuable source of information, especially for those records which are not yet online. The Catalogue can be searched by the title of the publication, its author(s), keyword or ISBN and can be accessed from the Society's webpage at: www.gsq.org.au/library-catalogue/

TITLE	CALL No.	ITEM
101 family history tips: the best research advice: 100 pages of the best family advice you'll ever find	CUK/305/012	Book
A brief history and guide to the Church of St. Michael, Othery	SOM/220/002	Book
A guide to the parish church of Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Burrough Green	CAM/220/001	Book
A portrait of Brisbane	QLD/205/001	Book
Allied air transport operations Southwest Pacific area in WWII [Vols. 1-4]	WW/611/001.01-001.04	Book
Annals of a parish: a short history of Hay-on-Wye	WLS/205/001	Book
Family history glossary: the complete A-Z guide to genealogy jargon	WW/315/003	Book
Great Queensland women	QLD/520/017	Book
Half a lifetime in the Australian bush: a memoir	530/RUD/001	Book
Harvesting the dream: a history of St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba	QLD/225/350	Book
Heartbreak corner: a story of the Tully, Durack and other pioneer families in South-West Queensland	QLD/520/018	Book
In living memory: recollections of life in the Parish of Kingsbury Episcopi	SOM/205/010	Book
Lopen and its church	SOM/220/003	Book
Madden connections, 1863-2013: our ancestors in Australia and around the world: Patrick and Margaret Madden and their descendants: Cornelius and Jane Madden and their descendants	525/MAD/001.2	Book
My ancestor was in the British Army: how can I find out more about him?	UK/305/009	Book
Number 1 Royal Crescent Bath: an illustrated guide and souvenir	SOM/205/008	Book
The complete guide to military records: 100 pages of expert advice on researching military ancestors	UK/305/013	Book
The female line: researching your female ancestors	UK/305/010	Book
The protocol book of Alexander Cok, 1567-1571	FIF/830/003	Book
The Topel and Frank kith and kin [Vol 1]	525/TOP/003.1	Book
The Topel and Frank kith and kin [Vol 2]	525/TOP/003.2	Book
The way we were: photographs from the parish of Kingsbury Episcopi	SOM/205/009	Book
Tracing Catholic ancestors	UK/305/011	Book
Tracing Irish ancestors	IRL/305/018	Book
Tracing Scottish ancestors	SCT/305/018	Book
Tracing the history of your house	UK/305/008	Book
Using Poor Law records	UK/310/032	Book
Your surname guide: discover the origins of over 200 names	WW/320/005	Book

INSPIRATION TO WRITE/SHARE FAMILY HISTORY

Ideas that were shared by members at a meeting of GSQ Writing Group – 18 August 2024, collated by Janice Cooper

1. Wish to provide a written collection of family genealogy for family members
2. Travelling to places ancestors lived – inspired by place
3. Wish to tell stories of ancestors' lives, to share stories
4. Wish to share research
5. Inspired by family collections, e.g. letters, photographs
6. Reading other family histories
7. Fascination with the past
8. Through stories told by others, e.g. through interview or in a recording
9. Requests from younger members of the family
10. Thinking about my own stories – idea of memoir
11. Curiosity about the individual lives of people in the past
12. Wanting to place families into the history of Australia
13. Requested to contribute to collections of stories/histories/memories
14. Talking to grandparents
15. Stories written by own ancestors or family members
16. Sharing through membership of a Family History Society

THE LAST WORD. [GSQ • THE EDITOR]



EXCUSES, EXCUSES!

Perhaps the ultimate objective of family history research is to document the story of your family, their work and lifestyle, their joys and sorrows, their journeys to and within Australia. The trick is to get started and ignore the potential excuses not to write up your family history. John Titford, in his book *Writing up your Family History*, outlined some of the reasons that a researcher might not write their family story.

You might think you have no time to write. After all, you have other family responsibilities, so you can't lock yourself away for weeks and emerge with a complete family history. But you can salvage an hour or two here and there to get the project underway. And you probably spend a fair bit of time in research. Why not put the research aside for a while and spend some time writing?

Your research isn't finished, you say! You haven't got all the details of all the 20,000 relatives in your database. Your research will never be completed, but all you need to do is present a snapshot in time. Remember, your family history is not all dates and facts but the stories

behind each person. Family history not family statistics!

It may be a long time since you wrote anything of substance. Don't be intimidated. Use Artificial Intelligence software on your computer. Join GSQ's Writing Group and learn from others. You may not be able to decide whether to write a book, a series of short documents, or a website or blog. This will depend on your technical knowledge. You may want to write a series of documents in longhand, depending on the readability of your writing.

You may think that your family story is very ordinary, but it is **your family**, and it may turn out to be far from ordinary. And the final excuse is that you don't know which family to write about. You need to make a choice and focus on one family line.

Writing your family history means interpreting the facts located during your research and stepping into the shoes of your ancestors; what was their life like, why did they do the things they did. You will get a great degree of personal satisfaction from your effort. Ignore the excuses! So join our Writing Group and begin your writing in earnest.

Start writing!



Get the most out of your

GSQ MEMBERSHIP

The members' only section of our website allows you access to databases such as:

- Funeral Directors Records index and images
- Cemetery Records Index
- Pedigree Charts index
- Unrelated Certificates index and images
- QLD communal settlers index
- Generation journal
- Catholic records index
- Research interests of other members

Other member benefits include:

- Access to GSQ's Resource Centre which includes a large library of books and magazines from Australia and the rest of the world, plus thousands of microfilms, microfiche, DVDs, etc
- Free access to world-wide Library subscriptions to Ancestry, Find My Past, Family Search, MyHeritage, TheGenealogist, RootsIreland, Irish Ancestors, Fold3, Newspapers.com and the Biographical Database of Australia as part of your annual subscription fee
- GSQ's monthly eNews and quarterly journal Generation (emailed to members for no charge). Printed copies for members \$65 (posted within Australia). Non-members: Electronic \$45 and printed posted within Australia \$75
- Interest Groups which meet monthly or bi-monthly
- Education courses and workshops with reduced rates for members and secure online booking via the Events Calendar or GSQ Shop

GSQ members have access to MyGSQ

To log into MyGSQ, select Membership Sign in and Manage Account and enter your GSQ email and password. If you do not remember your password, you can request that it be reset. Select the MyGSQ from the top TAB and then click on the large Blue MyGSQ. You will be asked to sign in again then you have full access to everything in MyGSQ.

- Discounts on GSQ products such as genealogical books, magazines, etc
- Limited free research for members who reside more than 100km from GSQ
- Free publication of research interests in MyGSQ section of website
- Reciprocal visiting rights to other family history societies – see full list at: <https://www.gsq.org.au/what-gsq-offers/reciprocal-arrangements/>

Member's interest areas:

One of the advantages of membership of GSQ is to be able to contact other members who may be researching a surname and/or place of interest to you.

Log into MyGSQ and access the Member's Interest Areas to search for a surname or place.

Members are encouraged to submit their interests. Contact webcoordinator@gsq.org.au and list the surnames that you are researching, together with location and period details. Your email address will allow other members to contact you.

Try this out. You could find someone who can help with your research. Or, you might find a new cousin!

Now there's even more to your family story



With millions of new records added every year and new discoveries to be made with AncestryDNA, it's little wonder Ancestry is the world's favourite family history resource.

At Ancestry we're constantly working on new and innovative features that will transform the way you can discover and tell your story.

Plus with AncestryDNA, a simple saliva-based test is all it takes to discover your genetic ethnic origins and find and connect with distant relatives.

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