

Warning Warning:

Tips & Tricks to Avoid Common Mistakes

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Diary of an Australian Genealogist

<http://diaryofanaustraliangenealogist.blogspot.com>



Introduction


- ◆ What are the 10 golden rules?
- ◆ Understanding the golden rules
- ◆ Ignore golden rules; create brick walls
- ◆ Other tips & tricks





Golden Rule No 1


- ◆ Always work backwards from the known (yourself) to the unknown (forebears)
- ◆ Do you really know your parents, grandparents, other relatives?
- ◆ Are there any surprises out there?



-  Power

-  Passion

-  Archment

-  Resources

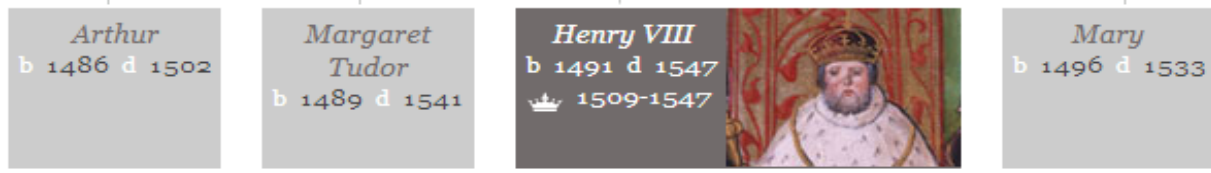
Henry's family tree



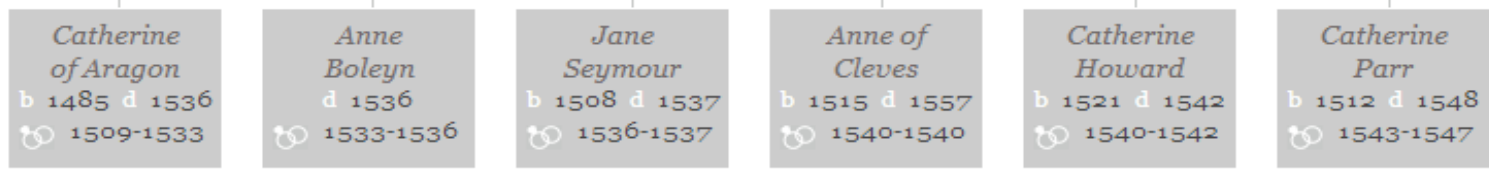
Henry's parents



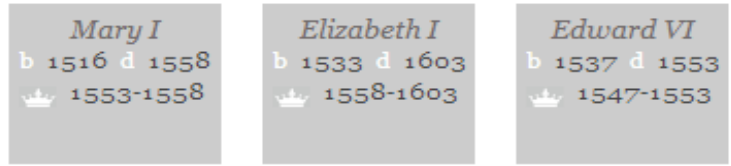
Henry and his siblings



Henry's wives



Henry's legitimate children



b. d. Born / Died
crown Reign
crown Married

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/henryviii/resources/family-tree.htm

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Shakespeare Teacher

Enter Hamlet.
Ham. To be, or not to be, that is the Question:
Whether 'tis Nobler in the minde to suffer
The Slings and Arrowes of outrageous Fortune,

Ophe. I wa
Ham. Get
be a breeder
but yet I coul

« [Shakespeare Anagram: King Lear](#)

« [Conundrum: Pic Tac Toe III](#) »

Living Descendants of King Henry the Eighth

I subscribe to a service called "SiteMeter" which allows me to see a limited amount of information about my visitors. One thing that I can see is if someone finds my site via a Google search. Recently, I've had a number of hits from people looking to find out about living descendants of King Henry VIII. My site isn't really about that, but I thought I'd provide an answer anyway, as a public service.

There are no living descendants of King Henry VIII.

Henry's father, King Henry VII, had four offspring who lived past childhood: Arthur, Margaret, Henry, and Mary. Arthur was always expected to be the next king, but he died in 1502. When Henry VII died in 1509, the kingdom was passed to his younger son, crowned Henry VIII.

Henry VIII had four known living offspring from four different women. His first wife, Catherine of Arragon, gave him a daughter, Mary (born 1516). He had an illegitimate son, Henry FitzRoy (born 1519), with his mistress Elizabeth Blount. His second wife, Ann Boleyn, had a daughter Elizabeth (born 1533). His third wife, Jane Seymour, had a son, Edward (born 1537). Henry VIII would have three more wives, but no more children to carry on his line. And as we shall see, none of his four branches would bear fruit.

Henry FitzRoy died in 1536, while his father was still alive.

When Henry VIII died in 1547, young Edward became King Edward VI, but

October 2012

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
« Sep						

Recent Comments:

[Thursday Morning Riddle \(2\)](#)

Bill: That was FAST. Way to go, Asher!

Asher: Fast

[Shakespeare Anagram: Twelfth Night \(2\)](#)

Bill: Thanks, Asher. I think the problem was with my browser. It worked fine after I restarted it.

Asher: It's embedded just fine, Bill...Good stuff.

[Thursday Morning Riddle \(2\)](#)

Bill: DRIVE is correct. Asher, you da man!

Asher: Drive

[Top Ten Shakespeare Retrochronisms \(1\)](#)

Asher: Bravo, Bill! Great fun!

[Some Context \(2\)](#)

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Captain James Cook

The World's Explorer



James Cook Family Tree



Here is some information on a family tree resource from Mr. Frank Collins of Medfield, Massachusetts, USA.

The "currently available and most complete" family tree of Captain James Cook is in the possession of Rod Fleck of Australia and he completed it with the late Ada Burnicle of England - Both are confirmed direct descendants of the Captain's sister Margaret and they have tracked descendants to the present day after decades of effort. The most recently posted record of this family exists [here](#). Also, let me add that Mr. Fleck and I are currently working to web-publish his latest records on the site specified above. I want to be very clear that Mr. Fleck and the late Ms. Burnicle have done all of the decades of effort to put this very complete family record of the Captain's family together and that I am merely the conduit to place it on the Internet; It is through the graciousness of Mr. Mark Winthrop of Copenhagen that we have a place to host it.

I would also recommend Mr. Winthrop's site, (One of the first Cook sites on the Internet) and happy hunting for your relatives.
- Nate Kerl

Captain James Cook, The World's Explorer

[Home Page](#) | [Original Biography by Nate Kerl](#) | [Portraits and Images](#)
[Sources and Links](#) | [Family Tree](#) | [Question? Contact Nate](#)

www.cptcook.com/cooktree.html

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Golden Rule No 2

- ◆ Never believe everything on a birth, death or marriage certificate
- ◆ Information is only as good as informant's knowledge
- ◆ Birth & Marriage certificates perhaps more reliable than Death certificates



MARRIAGE

A 49690

MARRIAGE solemnised in the District of **BRISBANE** in the State of Queensland

19 06 Registered by Thornhill Weedon Registrar-General

Marginal Notes (if any)	Column 1 Number	4746	
	2 When and where married	11 July 1906 Brisbane	
	3 Name and surname ..	Bridegroom James CARNEGIE	Bride Mary FINN
	4 Condition	Bachelor	Spinster
	5 Birthplace	Brisbane Stanley Queensland	Nambour Canning Queensland
	6 Profession, trade or occupation	Seaman	
	7 Age	25 years	20 years
	8 Usual place of residence	Brisbane	Bowen Terrace Brisbane
	Parents— 9 Father's name and surname. Mother's name and maiden surname	John Carnegie Ellen Stratton	John Finn Sarah Pegan
	10 Father's rank or profession	Sailor	Laborer

Married at Dora, Gotha Street Brisbane This marriage was solemnised between us } J.Carnegie
Mary Finn

according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church In the presence of us } Thos.M.Cronin
Rosie Finn

Date of registration 14 July 1906

By me James B.Breen
Officiating Minister or Registrar

SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR

I, Harold William Tesch

Registrar-General, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an entry in a Register of Marriages kept in the General Registry Office, Brisbane, and I further certify that I am a person duly authorised by law to issue such certificates.

Extracted on 28 July 1977

Exd. by

Shauna Hicks
History Enterprises

H.W. Tesch

Golden Rules No 3 & No 4

- ◆ Never completely trust the spelling of surnames, place names etc
- ◆ Always check surname variants when researching
- ◆ Possibly the most common reason why ancestors can't be found



Name Variations

- ◆ Both given and surnames
- ◆ Nicknames
- ◆ Unusual names
- ◆ Aliases & de facto relationships
- ◆ Maiden names for children's birth entries



Spelling & Indexing Variations

- ◆ People were illiterate
- ◆ Difficulties with accents
- ◆ Indexing errors
 - Poor handwriting
 - Old styles of writing
 - Judy Webster – *Using and Compiling Indexes*
 - www.judywebster.com.au



Anglicised & Foreign Names

- ◆ Both given and surnames
- ◆ Can be any non English speaking culture
 - European or Chinese common in Australia
- ◆ Chinese look under A for Ah – but also check under the other initial – not consistent



Golden Rule Nos 5 & 6

- ◆ Always have at least two separate sources of proof for each event
- ◆ Remember that everything is only speculation until verified



Two Sources

- ◆ BDM certificates (get as many as you can, inc collateral lines)
- ◆ Shipping records
- ◆ School records
- ◆ Naturalisation records
- ◆ Divorce records
- ◆ Insolvency records
- ◆ Land records
- ◆ Military records
- ◆ Funeral records
- ◆ Cemetery records
- ◆ Wills & probates



Citing Your Sources

- ◆ Record in detail where you find information – original records, published information & websites
- ◆ Cite it clearly so that others can also find it, either now or in the future
- ◆ You won't remember where in a few years/decades time



Citations

- ◆ Avoid plagiarism issues – cite all sources you have used
- ◆ Copyright
 - Australian Copyright Council
www.copyright.org.au



You are here → Home → Find an Answer

Find an Answer

Use this section to locate our user-friendly information sheets and frequently asked questions (FAQ's) about copyright.


Browse by A-Z

Go 

Browse by Keywords

Go 

Browse by What You Do

Go 

Basic Information about Copyright

General

An Introduction to Copyright in Australia (G010v17)

 247.13 KB PDF 

Creators of Copyright

Protecting Your Copyright (G084v04)

 165.88 KB PDF 

Ownership of Copyright (G058v07)

Users of Copyright

Permission: Do I Need It? (G103v04)

 170.58 KB PDF 

Permission: How to Get It (G051v13)



Family Histories & Copyright

In this information sheet, we give a brief overview of copyright law as it relates to preparing family histories. It includes information on copyright protection for what you create and on using source materials and materials that other people have created.

More detailed information is available in our practical guides *Historians & Copyright* and *Writers & Copyright*.

We update our information sheets from time to time. Check our website – www.copyright.org.au to make sure this is the most recent version.

The purpose of this information sheet is to give general introductory information about copyright. If you need to know about how the law applies in a particular situation, please get advice from a lawyer.

Key points

- The first owner of copyright in a family history is usually the person who wrote it.
- Unless copyright has expired, or a special exception applies, you need permission to use all or an important part of someone else's copyright material in your family history.
- There are a some special exceptions that may sometimes allow you to use copyright material in your family history without permission.
- It is not an infringement of copyright if someone else writes a family history which incorporates the same information found in a family history you wrote, as long as they have not copied the way you expressed or described the information.

Parodies, Satire & Jokes
(G083v04)

199.43 KB PDF

Performers' Rights (G022v07)

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Permission: Do I Need It?
(G103v04)

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- All
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- Digitised newspapers and more
- Music, sound and video
- Maps
- Diaries, letters, archives
- Archived websites (1996 – now)
- People and organisations
- Lists

Shauna Hicks

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 English

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Harvard/Australian citation

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Wikipedia citation

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Bathurst Regional Council. Bathurst Library.	Open to the public		Book; Illustrated	English
Bayside Library Service. Bayside Library Service.	Open to the public		Book; Illustrated	English
Bega Valley Shire Council Library Services. Bega Library.	Open to the public	R929.1072 HICK LHC	Book; Illustrated	English
Blacktown City Council Libraries. Blacktown City Libraries.	Open to the public		Book; Illustrated	English
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Cairns Libraries.	Open to the public		Book; Illustrated	English
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Gosford City Council. Gosford City Library.	Open to the public	321546; 929.1 HICK	Book; Illustrated	English
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Page 3 articles

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA Sydney Gazette. SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1832. "Idem et alter."....."meant to tell this truth; "Our aged Journal must renew its youth."

OUR intelligent readers will perceive that, in the above motto, we have used the liberty of reversing the common definition of identity. In casting a glance... [Continued from Page 2] [Article] (5455 words)

CHOLERA MORBUS. [FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

The measures, according to the following letterland other sources, which have been adopted in Edinburgh for the treatment of this infection, are such as might be expected ... [Article] (978 words)

Police Report.

Peter Martin, an excellent personification of "Dusty Bob," with a coal-black eye, and a cul[?]ender phiz, was introduced to their Worships' levee, as a connoisseur of distillation. "Was you ... [Article] (1901 words)

WATSON'S PLAN FOR PREVENTING SHIPS FOUNDERING AT SEA. (From the New Monthly)

... did not suffer by the loss of the defunct merchant, his co-defunct copartner having succeeded to all the valuable recipes and stock-in-trade.

Another inquest was held on Tuesday last, at the Factory, Parramatta, on the body of a female child, aged two years, who died suddenly on the preceding Sunday. It appeared in evidence that the infant died of the worm fever. The Jury returned a verdict of "Died by the visitation of God."

On Thursday an inquest was likewise held at the "Black Dog" public-house, Cambridge-street, Rocks, on the body of Richard Walker, who, the preceding morning, between 9 and 10 o'clock, fell to the earth in the yard at the back of the house in which he lived in the above street. He was carried to bed speechless, and remained in that state until about four o'clock the same day. The jury returned a verdict of—"Died by the visitation of God." In the course of the examination of witnesses, it appeared that a man of the name of Thomas Mosher, a poor cobbler living in the same house with deceased, went, between two and three o'clock, to the shop of Surgeon Hosking, and requested his attendance to the deceased, who had grown worse. Upon being informed that the applicant had no pecuniary means of remunerating him, Surgeon H. declined attending, alleging his "business would not permit him." At this conduct the jury, one and all, expressed their indignation in the severest terms language could convey; as it was their unanimous opinion, that had the assistance required been afforded to the individual now dead, in all probability he would have recovered; and this their opinion they requested the Coroner to represent through the proper medium.

CHOLERA MORBUS.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

The measures, according to the following letter and other sources, which have been adopted in Edinburgh for the treatment of

... between the hours of 6 and 11, on Thursday evening, the house of Mrs. Still, in Prince-street, was entered by the back door, and a writing-desk, the property of a young gentleman lodging there, abstracted. A fellow was apprehended the same night with the desk, the top of which had been forced off, in his possession, together with the contents. He has undergone an examination, and stands remanded.

Monday next is the day appointed for the half-yearly inspection of the troops in garrison.

The Sir Francis Freeling, sperm whaler, belonging to this port, was spoken about two months back by the Lady Rowena, all well, with 300 barrels of oil on board.

Police Report.

Peter Martin, an excellent personification of "Dusty Bob," with a coal-black eye, and a cullender phiz, was introduced to their Worships' levee, as a connoisseur of distillation. "Was you drunk, Peter?" demanded the Magistrate. "Eh; what's that you say; was I drunk?" "Yes; was you drunk?" returned the former. "Why, the devil take me if I know," responded Peter Martin, but somehow, I think, ah yes, (scratching his head) by the by, now I think of it, I was as drunk as a lord. "Then pay five shillings to the poor." "Five shillings to the poor, did you say? Why Lord love you, if I was to give five shillings away to the poor, how could I manage to get drunk?" This latter interrogatory proved a regular poser to the Bench, who finding that "s'en though vanquished he could argue still," sent him to the stocks.

Elizabeth Boyd, an assigned servant in the employ of Mr. Thomas Petty, was brought up for having gone into a sly-grog shop. The poor girl, who appeared to be far more artless and simple than the generality of her class, cried bitterly, and confessed that she had been induced to part with some of her apparel at the instigation of an older fellow servant, for the purpose of treating the old hag. The master and mistress, she continued, were very kind to

... then bent down, up they got—crack went the whip, and away dashed the adventurous couple till satiated with their spree, they returned home a state of glorious oblivion. The Bench ordered the damsel a month's retirement at Parramatta, a her bed and, to cool his blood by a residence of a few days in a cell.

Anne Henderson, who had been, herself best known, since Sunday, was brought forward by a constable, to explain the matter. A message was delivered from her mistress, requesting the Bench put her in the stocks for a few hours. Their Worships, however, not being disposed to act on petticoat decisions, sent the woman back to her service. William Rees, James Mafford, David Walker, George Thompson, Daniel Mawling, Andrew Harp and Edward Boyce, articleed seamen belonging to the ship Burrell, were brought up on a warrant, charge on the affidavit of Captain Metcalf, with refusal to work. Some of the men said in reply, that they wished to leave the ship; and others, that they refused to work because their grog was stopp'd. The former Captain Rossi explained, that having signed the ship's articles, they were not at liberty to leave her without a written discharge from the commander (a fact of which they appeared full aware) and in answer to the latter, the captain remarked, that their conduct throughout the passage had been mutinous—that they had threatened him with violence—broken into the spirit room, which they had robbed, and when they refused their duty he considered it high time their grog should be stopp'd. Captain Rossi admonished the men to return to their duty, but as they still continued refractory, ordered them to be remanded till the following day for the presence of another Magistrate.

William Low, an assigned servant, was placed the bar for attempting to convert the carcass of female fellow servant into vermiedli by diving thumps, bumps, and punches, which he had been so effectually applied, that scarce a portion of her skin retained its natural colour. It appears that the femme de cuisine had been exerting her sex's prerogative to the annoyance of the nuncular organ.



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Archives In Brief 10 - Citing State archives

When you reproduce or refer to State archives in a publication or paper, you should cite them accurately. This will help other researchers to use them in the future.

An archives citation is different from a reference to a publication like a book. Archives are maintained in the order in which they were created and kept. An individual *record item* is catalogued as part of a *record series* that was created and maintained by an *agency* in the conduct of its business, reflecting its recordkeeping systems at the time.

The method of citation described here results from recent changes to State Records' cataloguing practice and is the same as the method suggested by the National Archives of Australia. This advice supersedes previous State Records' advice on this topic. Please note in particular that the former 'stroke' reference numbers are no longer used.

An archives citation identifies:

- ① the *archives institution* holding the record (State Records, in the case of NSW State archives)
- ② (optional) the *agency* that created the record
- ③ the *record series* of which the record is part
- ④ the *record item* itself, and

www.records.nsw.gov.au

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Golden Rule No 7

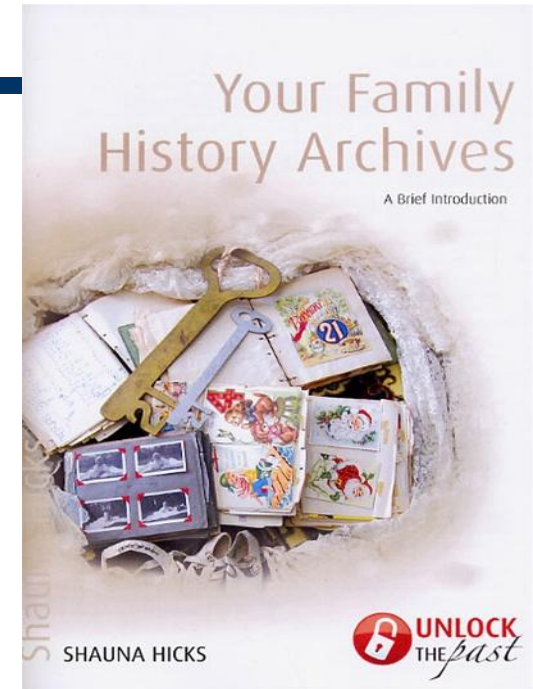
- ◆ Always photocopy or digitise certificates and important documents and leave the originals in a safe place
- ◆ Multiple copies means greater safety for your research



Back Up Your Family History

- ◆ Paper
- ◆ Photographs
- ◆ Memorabilia
- ◆ Digital
- ◆ Personal Continuity Planning

www.rimpa.com.au/assets/2011/01/Personal-Continuity-Plan.pdf



PERSONAL CONTINUITY PLAN

for Household/Personal Records

This document is intended as a guide for the maintenance and protection of personal records in the prevention of, or reduction in loss of important information should a disaster occur. It is intended for use by members of the general public regardless of record keeping experience.

There are many personal documents that can be considered important. A checklist has been provided for your convenience containing documents which are essential and documents which are important but not essential. Further to this are a number of suggestions for storing your personal records, these suggestions range in complexity and cost and it is up to the individual to choose the method which will best suit them and their personal situation, however in all cases some commitment is required to maintain the records to ensure you have current and complete documentation stored.

Personal Records Checklist

IDENTITY RECORDS

Copies (photocopy or scanned image) of these records will not be valid but will at least contain all of the necessary information to obtain replacements.

- Birth Certificates for each family member
- Marriage Certificate
- Certificate of Divorce
- Death Certificates
- Drivers Licences for each family member
- Passports for each family member

FAMILY RECORDS

Essential

- Insurance Policies
 - Vehicle/s – Cars, Boat, Caravan, etc
 - Personal liability
 - Property – House and House Contents
 - Specific Property eg Jewellery, Equipment
 - Life
 - Health
- Health Records or Physicians' names and addresses who have records of each family member.
- Licenses to practice
- Family Court documents eg custody arrangements, etc

PROPERTY RECORDS

Essential

- Contract or Lease for current Domicile (if renting)
- Titles for any property/ies owned
- Vehicle - Certificate of title and bills of sale, proof of registration

Non Essential

- Guarantees and warranties - Provides proof of date of purchase to determine service and parts guaranteed
- Household inventories - For insurable items, maintain an up-to-date list. Record item, cost and date of purchase or sale

Storage Suggestions for Safe Keeping of Family Information & Records

It is highly recommended that in every suggested scenario below a list of enclosed documents is included which specifies every document that should be in the box, folder, CD, etc. Particularly in the case of the archive box or concertina file should a document have been removed eg your son's birth certificate when he applied for his driver's license, and not replaced you will at least know that it is missing because a note was made of it on the list.

SCANNING

Essential records could be scanned and saved on a CD or DVD. With the exception of Identity Records in most cases an electronic copy is sufficient for proof. If you do not own a scanner there are companies who will scan your information for you for a reasonably low cost. Make a couple of copies and keep them in separate locations for example keep one at home in a location that allows it to be grabbed quickly in an emergency and then another copy in one of the following:

1. Ask a trusted friend or relative to store one
2. Keep one in a safety deposit box
3. Keep a copy securely at work

SECURE BANK SERVICES

Essential records could be stored, for an annual fee, in a bank using a Safe Custody Service (packet storage) or in a Safe Deposit Box.

HARDCOPY RECORDS STORAGE

A simple and relatively inexpensive solution is to store your records at home in a safer way, such as:

- Keep important records together
- Store them in a custom polypropylene archive box (water resistant, mould retardant and being poly-propylene do not give off a toxic gas as the plastic breaks down which in turn damages the records)
- Store the archive box in a location which is within the main home, at least one metre (3 feet) off of the ground and can be easily accessed during an emergency evacuation of your home

www.rimpa.com.au

Golden Rule No 8

- ◆ If a document exists, read it!
- ◆ So obvious, yet people miss vital clues eg witnesses, addresses
- ◆ Re read later as it may mean more when you know more



Golden Rule No 9

- ◆ Join at least one family history group, genealogical society or historical society
- ◆ Either near where you live or where your ancestors lived
- ◆ Why – many benefits of membership



Membership of Societies

- ◆ Many benefits
 - Access to a library/ subscription databases
 - Knowledgeable volunteers/ members
 - Regular meetings, guest speakers
 - Seminars, workshops, conferences
 - Newsletter/journal
 - Website





Pigeon House Mountain,
South of Ulladulla.
Photograph by Christine Moss,
2009 ©

Milton - Ulladulla Family History Society Inc.

*"....saw a remarkable peaked hill which resembles a square dove house with a dome on top
and for that reason I named it Pigeon House."* Lieutenant James Cook April 21,1770.

Welcome

Workshop Meetings

Workshop Meetings of the society are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Community Technology Centre, in Room A, Building 3 of the Multipurpose Centre at 82 St Vincent Street, Ulladulla. Visitors and new members are very welcome. A small door fee of \$5 for members and \$10 for visitors is charged to cover research, catering and other costs. Doors open at 10.00am and run through till approximately 4.00pm. All our research facilities and internet use are available during the workshop day, except between 1.00pm and 2.00pm where we hold an informal get together to exchange information and give advice to our members. From time to time we hold discussions on selected research topics, research problems, and also may have guest speakers. The Societies Annual General Meeting is held in July of each year.

Membership Fees

Membership Fees are \$30 per year for a single membership and \$50 per year for family membership and all subscriptions are due by 30th June each year.

www.mufhsi.org

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Welcome to the Society of Australian Genealogists

The SAG has been helping people trace family history for over 80 years. Located in the Sydney CBD, we have a world-class library and manuscript collection, much of which is unique. We run an active programme of lectures, workshops, seminars and tours, have a shop selling books, charts and software and can give advice on all aspects of genealogy. We look forward to helping you uncover your family's history.

Manuscript & Image Collection



Latest News

September renewals are now due. Click [here](#) to go to our shop to renew online.

We're delighted to welcome **Michael Gandy** back to Sydney as part of our Lost in England weekend seminar at the State Library of NSW on Sat 3 & Sun 4 November. Bookings are now open - details [here](#).

We'll be closing the libraries at 4pm on Thursday 22 December and reopening on Saturday 5 January at 10am.

Check this opportunity...

Was there a pub in your family? Find out all about it on **Thursday 18 October** with Ken Knight.

There's still a few places left in our half-day course on **Beginning Your German Research** on Sat 20 October.

Confused when you use Ancestry? Join

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Latest News

[Ancestor wins first prize](#)

Golden Rule No10

- ◆ Share your information and documentation (copies only) with other researchers
- ◆ Ensures your research is not lost or forgotten
- ◆ Who inherits your family history research?



Your Family History Archives

A Brief Introduction



SHAUNA HICKS



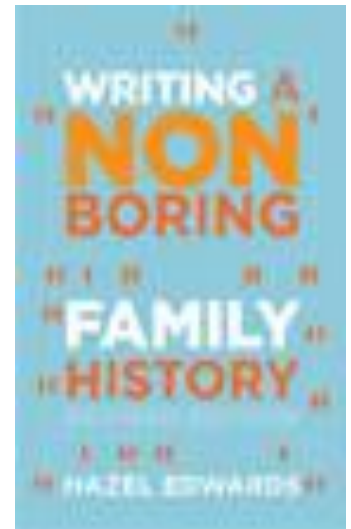
Family Tree Tips

WRITING INTERESTING

FAMILY HISTORIES



CAROL BAXTER



HOW TO write and PUBLISH YOUR family STORY

in 10 easy steps

Noeline Kyle



Writing & Publishing Your Family History

a labour of love



Leslie

LESLE BERRY



Ulladulla Oct 2012

Basic Inclusions for Family Histories

- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ Abbreviations
- ◆ Glossary
- ◆ Conclusion
- ◆ Bibliography
- ◆ Index



Indexing

- ◆ Every publication should be indexed
- ◆ Can be basic
- ◆ Allows greater access to all parts of publication
- ◆ Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI) – indexing resources

www.anzsi.org





Welcome to ANZSI

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI) aims to represent the interests of indexers and to provide training and other resources to all Australians and New Zealanders involved in indexing.



Interested in Indexing?



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Ulladulla Oct 2012

Articles and free downloads:

[Writing Family History Made Easy - Tips](#)

[Women & Emigration to NSW](#)

[Her Natural Destiny Leaflet finding women in Education Records](#)

[Mad Aunts, Illegitimate Children and Royal Bloodlines! Family, Women and History in 2008](#)

[The Songs My Father Sang to Me: Irish influences on the life and music of Slim Dusty](#)

[Strategies to get you started](#)

[Checklist for editing](#)

Check out the ancestry.com library for relevant articles-

<http://www.ancestry.com/learn/>

[Researching Nurses, Midwives and Health Professionals in NSW Records](#)



Check [Writing Centre Websites](#) and Adult Education Courses for programs/courses on writing, editing, publishing and computing

Noelene Kyle's website

www.writingfamilyhistory.com.au

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Letters Home – My Irish Families

March 6th, 2010

This week's blog is my contribution to the [Carnival of Irish Heritage & Culture, 18th edition](#)

With four gg grandparents born in Ireland it is no wonder that I am interested in Irish heritage and culture. Of the four it is only my gg grandmother Maria Jeffers who gives me any real insight into her life back in Ireland. However, I will also outline the other Irish gg grandparents just in case someone else is interested in those families.

Maria Jeffers arrived in Brisbane in 1864. Maria (daughter of Isaac Jeffers and Harriet Ballantyne) was born in Portadown, County Armagh in 1844. Maria came to Queensland, Australia on board the *Legion of Honour* in 1864. She married Adam Johnston (see below) in 1864 in Brisbane, Queensland. In later life she had a close friend Abraham Francis and she is seen with him in this photograph.

Of my four Irish ancestors, Maria Jeffers is the only one known to have kept contact with her family back in Ireland. A few surviving letters to and from one of her brothers who stayed in Portadown confirms this. The letters were in poor condition with pages and pieces missing and had been given to one of Maria's grandsons on a collateral line who kindly let me photocopy them many years ago.

One of my father's elderly cousins also said that Maria wrote to a brother in the USA but we had no proof until I recently received an email from someone in the USA descended from that brother. We are now exchanging information and pooling what we know on the family in Portadown.



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Charles Douglas Spencer – Military Medal for Bravery

April 18th, 2011



Charles Douglas Spencer

This ANZAC day I want to commemorate Charles Douglas Spencer, and other Spencer family members who have all been involved in the defence services for over four generations.

Charles Douglas Spencer (SX 428), or Doug as he was more commonly known, enlisted in the Australian Army in World War II on 20 October 1939 at Keswick, South Australia. He was 20 years old. We have a copy of his army dossier from the [National Archives of Australia](#) which outlines all his activities during the war. He was discharged on 26 September 1945 and at the time was a Sergeant with the HQ SIGS 1 Australian Corps.

Charles Douglas Spencer

Of more interest to us as a family, we have Doug's own memoirs which he wrote out for his sons Noel who served in the Australian Army for 20 years and Max who served in the Australian Army for 6 years and then transferred to the RAAF for a further 20 years.

Doug's memoirs start with his leaving Australia, his training camps, and places such as Egypt, Libya, Greece as well as North Queensland in 1943 and Papua New Guinea. It's only a half dozen pages of typescript but in it he gives personal stories of his army adventures that otherwise would have been lost to history.

We are even more fortunate to have a photocopy of a letter written by then Lt Col R Kendall, at AIF Headquarters in the Middle East on 21 September 1941. In that letter Kendall outlines why he nominated Doug for the Military Medal.

www.shaunahicks.com.au

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Who Inherits the Family Archives?

- ◆ Someone in the direct family
- ◆ Someone more distantly related
- ◆ What if nobody in the family wants it?
- ◆ A genealogy or family history society or historical society
 - Where you live now or where your family lived?



Making a Will

- ◆ Needs to be valid
- ◆ Needs to be clear and concise
 - Everything to
 - Or detailed
 - This part to ? and this part to ?
- ◆ Tell family members and/or societies





<http://sag.org.au/downloads/prdonations.pdf>

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS

ACN 000 049 678 Telephone (02) 9247 3953
ABN 45 025 698 871 Richmond Villa Facsimile (02) 9241 4872
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| 3) As donor, I/we agree to the Society issuing my/our name and address (if appropriate) to persons interested in the material | | |
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Please include main subject name, a date range, associated place names and associated family names, eg: Jones Family. Research relating to the Jones family of Cardiff 1685-1873 and Dubbo NSW 1885-1963. Associated families; Rogers, Bright & Smith.

Signature: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Accession No: _____

Ref No: _____

How To Leave Your Archives

- ◆ Organised
- ◆ Tidy
- ◆ Up to date
- ◆ With clear instructions
 - If significance of an object is not known, it cannot be appreciated
- ◆ If it is a mess, it will get thrown out



Golden Rules Again!

- ◆ Always work backwards from the known (yourself) to the unknown (forebears)
- ◆ Never believe everything on a birth, death or marriage certificate
- ◆ Never completely trust the spelling of surnames, place names etc
- ◆ Always check surname variants when researching
- ◆ Always have at least two separate sources of proof for each event
- ◆ Remember that everything is only speculation until verified
- ◆ Always photocopy or digitise certificates and important documents and leave the originals in a safe place
- ◆ If a document exists, read it!
- ◆ Join at least one family history group, genealogical society or historical society
- ◆ Share your information and documentation (copies only) with other researchers



Conclusion

- ◆ Follow the golden rules
- ◆ Don't create brick walls
- ◆ Don't assume anything
- ◆ Check everything (twice)
- ◆ Keep rechecking new resources
- ◆ Share your stories
- ◆ Leave your research to someone!

