

The Golden Rule

Start with yourself and work back generation by generation documenting the links as you go. Record your family information on a pedigree and family group charts.

Family Charts

tinyurl.com/4l7dgup

New Zealand Society of Genealogists - Use this site to download a pedigree chart and a family group chart.

Where to start?

Collect together what you may have at home. Look for

- The family bible, birthday books, baby record books
- Birth, death and marriage certificates
- Old letters, diaries
- Wills, legal papers, divorce papers
- Land records - titles, deeds, mortgages
- Old newspaper clippings
- Remembrance or memorial cards
- Naturalisation papers, passports
- School records - certificates, reports and magazines
- Jewellery, trophies and medals that may be inscribed
- Financial documents - tax, bank and insurance papers
- Sporting awards
- Employment records
- Military service records
- Old photographs

The Next Step

- Organise material collected
- Record any information on charts
- Approach other family members to see if they have any information, records, photographs or family stories. Do this sooner rather than later
- Use your local library
- Read some beginners books
- Check for others researching the same surname

Beginners Books

tinyurl.com/49epq6w *Compiling Your Family History*, Society of Australian Genealogists, Sydney, 22nd edn, 2008. 44 pages. \$9.95.

tinyurl.com/4ny3vd9

Family History for Beginners and Beyond, Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra, Canberra, 14th edn, 2009. 178p. \$25.00.

Surname Sites

Check for others researching the same surname.

www.list.jaunay.com/index.html

Free online name listings maintained by Graham Jaunay. These include surname lists for Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, United States of America, Wales and Zimbabwe.

www.one-name.org/

The Guild of One-Name Studies (GOONS). A one-name study is a project researching facts about a surname and all the people who have held it, as opposed to researching a particular family. This site offers an online search where you can check if a specific surname is registered with the Guild. This lists 7,850+ surnames registered and provides contact details.

www.geneabloggers.com

GeneaBloggers has 1,700+ genealogy and family history blogs listed. You can use this site to search for family surnames or keywords across all the blogs listed. Also do a *Blogs by Type* search for a particular country to see what is available.

Use your local library

Check for

tinyurl.com/489t7o3

JOHNSON Keith A & SAINTY Malcolm R, *Genealogical Research Directory: National & International 2007*, Genealogical Research Directory, Sydney, 27th edn, 2007. This national and international directory, known as the GRD, has been published annually since 1990. Contributors advertise their interest in particular surnames. A CD-ROM version of the 1994-2007 directories is available. The GRD is dated but still useful.

catalogue.nla.gov.au

Use the National Library of Australia catalogue to locate biographical and pioneer registers published in the area where your family lived. These list details of pioneer and other families. For example there are publications for Moruya, Shoalhaven, Bega, Crookwell, Goulburn, Snowy Monaro, Illawarra, Canberra and the Hawkesbury.

Join a Society

www.coraweb.com.au/society.htm

Web Sites for Genealogists by Cora Num. This page has links to Family History and Historical Societies in Australia.

Choosing a family history software program

- Do some research before choosing a family history software program for your computer.
- Check books, magazines and journals for software reviews
- Contact a family history society's computer interest group
- Talk with other genealogists using computers
- Use the Internet's resources to investigate options

tinyurl.com/4l4h7fg

FARMER Kerry & KOPITKE Rosemary, *Which Genealogy Program?* Unlock the Past, Modbury SA, 2010, 84p. A book designed to help you evaluate and choose the best genealogical software program for your needs. Various family history programs are surveyed with detailed information provided plus tables of features and much more.

www.coraweb.com.au/software.htm

Web Sites for Genealogists by Cora Num. Software page - includes links to various software programs. Free programs available include Ancestral Quest, Legacy and Roots Magic. There are also

Macintosh and Review sections.

www.genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com

Genealogy Software Review is designed to help you choose the right genealogy software for your needs. It features comprehensive reports on ten popular genealogy software programs.

The Internet and Family History Research

- The Internet can help you
- Understand the nature of the records available
- Search surname sites
- Contact others with similar interests
- Search online indexes and databases
- Access digital copies of original historical material.

Archives, libraries, commercial and other organisations worldwide have been scanning and converting historical record collections into a data format that allows copies of original material to be placed on the Internet for all to use.

Digital data online includes:

- Books, journals, newspapers and manuscripts
- Cemetery records
- Census records
- Civil registration and parish records
- Convict records
- Directories
- Electoral rolls
- Maps
- Military service records
- Pictorial material
- Shipping records
- Wills and probate records

Birth, Death and Marriage Records in Australia

www.coraweb.com.au/bdmau.htm

Web Sites for Genealogists by Cora Num - Australian BDM records. Lists online birth, death and marriage record indexes in Australia. Also includes transcription agents for New South Wales.

www.coraweb.com.au/bdminindex.htm

This link takes you to tables which list Australian birth, death and marriage indexes that are available online. There is also a table which lists the indexes available on the commercial site Ancestry.com

Birth, Death and Marriage Records Overseas

www.coraweb.com.au/ukbdm.htm

Web Sites for Genealogists - England Online BMD Records. Lists free, and paid sites, which offer access to birth, marriage and death indexes for England and Wales.

freebmd.rootsweb.com

FreeBMD. This ongoing project offers free access to the civil registration indexes for England and Wales (1837-1983). Currently 252+ million records are available plus access to scanned images of the original indexes. This great site is fully searchable and is regularly updated with new material.

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

ScotlandsPeople offers access to searchable indexes and images for Scottish births (indexes 1538-2009; images 1538-1910), marriages (indexes 1538-2009; images 1538-1935) and deaths (indexes 1538-2009; images 1538-1960) plus census records (indexes and images 1841-1901). A searchable index and images for Catholic parish baptism and birth records is available 1703-1855 plus 1855-1908 (incomplete). There is a free name search and fees apply for access to the indexes and digital images. There is also a free Coats of Arms Search 1672-1909 and wills & testaments index (1513-1901) search. Digital images of the wills can be purchased online.

www.familysearch.org

The *FamilySearch* site offers access to the Irish birth, death and marriages civil registration indexes 1864-1958 and the Irish marriage index 1845-1864 (non-Catholic marriages). The index is available for online searching but the images have yet to be made available. Under *Browse by Location* click on *Europe* then choose *Ireland*.

Digital material Australia

In Australia you will find digital material, much of it free, available at the Internet sites of the

www.awm.gov.au

Australian War Memorial

www.naa.gov.au

National Archives of Australia

www.nla.gov.au

National Library of Australia

www.sl.nsw.gov.au

State Library of New South Wales. Other state's libraries have varying amounts of material

www.records.nsw.gov.au

State Records New South Wales

www.prov.vic.gov.au

Public Record Office Victoria

www.archives.qld.gov.au

Queensland State Archives

Digital material overseas

Significant overseas collections of digital material will be found online at

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The National Archives (UK)

www.natlib.govt.nz

National Library of New Zealand

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html

Library and Archives of Canada

www.en.nationaalarchieff.nl

Nationaal Archief (Netherlands)

www.archives.gov

US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

Reputable commercial sites with digital data

www.britishorigins.com

Origins.net

www.findmypast.co.uk

Findmypast.co.uk

www.rootsireland.ie

RootsIreland.ie

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

ScotlandsPeople

Commercial sites with significant Australian content include:

www.ancestry.com.au

Ancestry.com.au

www.findmypast.com.au

Findmypast.com.au

FamilySearch

www.familysearch.org

FamilySearch is the Internet site of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It offers access to the largest collection of free family history and genealogy records in the world. There are over 570 historical record collections online. These are arranged by location and include civil registration and parish records, many with free access to digitised images of the original records. *FamilySearch* also offers research courses that are designed to help you learn the basic methods and key resources to start your family history. These free video courses cover England, Germany, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, Mexico, Russia and the USA plus other courses on research techniques. Click on *Learn* for access.

Things to watch out for

Be aware that

- Some people register their children one name but call them something entirely different
- Family nicknames can appear in official records instead of the given name
- Some nicknames can bear little resemblance to the original name. Jeremiah (Darby, Dermot) or Bridget (Delia, Phidelia, Bidelia, Biddie, Bride)
- Names which can be Christian or surnames such as Craig, James, Russell, Scott or May can become reversed during indexing
- Middle names can have special significance. The mother's or grandmother's maiden name can be incorporated into the child's Christian name. Eg Ada Boatman Moore. Another example, James Romsdal Makins. Romsdal was the name of the ship that the Makins family arrived in South Australia on. Have a careful look at your family names as there may be hidden clues.
- It was common practice in the 19th century if a child died to name the next born child the same name
- Surnames and place names can be recorded as any one of many variants.

trove.nla.gov.au

Trove is the National Library of Australia's enhanced search engine. It offers combined or individual searches of printed material, pictures, newspapers, diaries, letters and archives, maps, music, archived websites and about people.

trove.nla.gov.au/picture

Trove pictures and photos searches across the image collections of libraries, museums, galleries, archives, universities and historical societies. There are over two million images available covering all aspects of Australiana.

trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper

Trove digitised newspapers offers free access to 4.5+ million pages from Australian newspapers. There are 104 titles currently available dating from 1803 to 1954 (some later). The numbers in brackets are the number of titles available.

ACT (2) *Canberra Times* (1926-1954)

National (1) *Australian Women's Weekly* (1932-1984)

NSW (24) *Sydney Morning Herald* (1842-1954)

NT (7) *Northern Territory Times* (1873-1932)

Qld (14) *Courier-Mail* (1933-1954)

SA (10) *The Advertiser* (1889-1954)

Tas (14) *Mercury* (1860-1954)

Vic (20) *Argus* (1848-1954)

WA (12) *West Australian* (1879-1954)

New titles being added include country titles