



# Beginning your Family History

## Course 1004

Saturdays - August 1, 8 and 15 2020

2.00pm-5.00pm

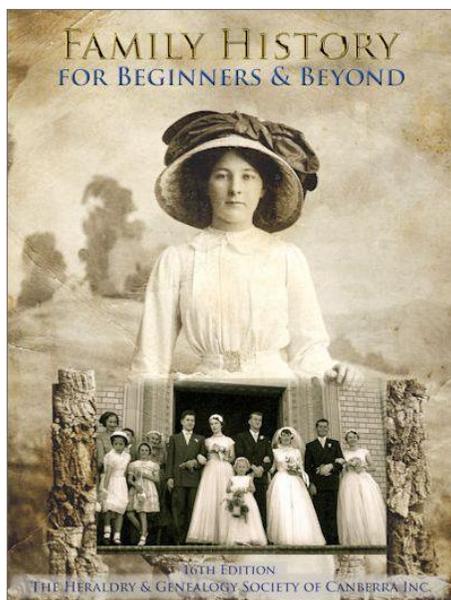
Location: Your Place

Via Zoom Meetings

**To Register or find out more:**

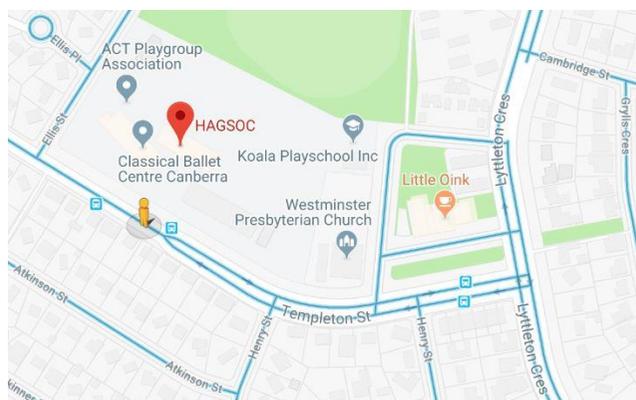
Enquiries: [registration@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:registration@familyhistoryact.org.au)

Registration: <https://familyhistoryact.org.au>



### The Text Book

Available to buy online \$35 (from our website); Note previous edition \$20



### Our History:

The society was founded in 1964 to promote and encourage the study and preservation of family history, genealogy heraldry and allied subjects, and to assist members & others in research in these areas.

The Society is run entirely by volunteers who give generously of their time, expertise and goodwill to provide a service for all members.

Our Special Interest Groups cover a wide range of topics and geographic areas. All are active and willing to share their ideas and knowledge and welcome new members. They include: Irish, Australian, Continental, Scottish, English & Welsh, DNA, a Writers Group, Heraldry and various computer software groups.

Visit <https://familyhistoryact.org.au>: for further information

## General Information

**Cost** \$75 for members \$100 for non-members

**Aim** To help beginners in family history to understand and progress their family research in an organized, methodical and enjoyable manner.

**Structure** Three to four talks and a half hour refreshment break each afternoon with time to ask questions. Handouts for each session will be put on a USB for participants.

### Session 1 Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August

#### Building a family tree/pedigree

Where to start? Organisation, Documentation, Referencing. This session is an introduction to the practice of genealogy (pedigrees) and family history (stories). This session will cover basic rules, use of paper and computer storage, group sheets, pedigree charts, and the essential need for referencing.

Sources -Where to find vital records, both church and government for birth, marriage and death, understanding the difference between an index and an original record.

Organization –both paper and computer software options.

Introduction to DNA - DNA is now the fourth ‘vital record’. What is DNA testing and how is it challenging family history? What are the differences between the three main tests, and when would you use each?

### Session 2

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August

#### Discovering detail and content

Once you know who is in your family, you will want to know more about their lives. The vast array of information about people in the past needs to be brought into a coherent structure for the beginner researcher. The sort of information about a person’s life might include education, employment, military service, criminal activity, travel and immigration, land ownership, sporting or recreational achievements. What is out there? What are the best ways to chase these sources?

This session is on PRINCIPLES not specific sources.

What information can be found locally, within the family and local repositories.

What is in TROVE and newspaper sites? How do you search these? Look for books, images, maps, music and archives, discover holdings of non-government archives and manuscript collections and access the digitalized Australian historic newspaper collection.

Understand what government and specialised archives hold and how to use them. The War Memorial and Noel Butlin Archives are examples of specialised archives.

How do genealogy databases like FamilySearch, Ancestry and others work? Find original documents, use public trees safely and consider publishing your own tree.

### Session 3

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August

#### Making sense of your family history

Family History is never-ending and always enlarging. Research is an iterative process informed by some ‘educated guessing’. Our knowledge of our family will be enhanced by understanding some of the background to their world. You never know where you will end up.

We examine the enormous value of contextual understanding of the times in which our ancestors lived. How to begin to look for information about a town, a county, an event in time, and living conditions for children, servants, paupers etc.

Genealogical proof standards exist to support accurate research. Using them will enhance your research.

Planning your research is crucial to remain focused, efficient and purposeful. Tools in planning will be reviewed.

We’ll provide an overview of HAGSoC’s history, structure, and current activities. The role of SIGs and SUGS will be highlighted, recurring educational and support processes, and special services offered by the society.

We will leave no doubt in participant's minds that membership provides great benefits and will continue to do so even as the family historian moves from tentative steps to expert levels.