



GSQ eNews

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC

Welcome *February*

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Message from the President



Welcome to 2025!! May it be a good one for you. It's promising to be a very good one for GSQ with the Connections 2025 Conference now only 7 weeks away!! If you're interested in attending and have not yet booked, bookings are still being taken. The Conference Committee is seeking Volunteers to assist at the Conference – a variety of jobs is available, ranging from ushering, answering general queries etc. **If interested, please email Conference Convenor, David Barnes at gsqconferenceconvenor@gsq.org.au.**

Our premises opened for research as planned on Tuesday 14 January. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all of the Research Assistants who volunteer tirelessly to support our members in their quest for solutions to family history related issues. Without you, the core of GSQ's being just could not be!!

During the break GSQ received correspondence from our Landlord about the need to increase the rent we currently pay. Consequently, the Property Group has been re-formed and an earnest search for an alternative premises is underway. If you know of a building on the south side of Brisbane which could be available, or will be available within the next 6 months, please contact me at president@gsq.org.au. We currently occupy approximately 180 square metres, but with planned digitizing of various resources we may be able to decrease this. We certainly need space for all of our Research Computers and our Library.

The Management Committee is considering organizing visits for members to various places – St Helena Island and National Archives are two that have been mentioned, but there will be many more.

Consequently, we're seeking an Event Coordinator – this is not seen as an onerous role but would involve organizing perhaps 2 visits per year. If interested, please contact Secretary, Karma at secretary@gsq.org.au.

The 2024 Christmas Afternoon Tea proved to be an eventful one with a storm hitting at the very time it was about to start. Thanks to all of those who persevered and attended. Special thanks to GSQ's Patron, Jennifer Harrison, who taxied her way through the rain. Despite the weather, it was an enjoyable gathering and a great way to start the Christmas Holiday break. A Raffle was conducted as part of the Afternoon Tea – thanks to all of those who donated items for the Raffle Prizes and to Robyn Dean and Bob Dean for putting the raffles together. **The winners of the prizes were as follows: Ticket Number Yellow 091 Bruce D'Ámbrosio, Ticket Number Orange Z19 Adrian Cattle, Ticket Number Orange Z100 Bob and Gail Dean, Ticket Number Orange Z5 Jennifer Lentell and Ticket Number Yellow 082 Debbie Jones.**

The next quarterly **Members' Meeting is planned for Tuesday, 4 March, commencing at 7.30pm via Zoom**. If interested in attending this meeting, please email me at president@gsq.org.au to be added to the list of attendees. The next **Interest Group Convenors' Meeting is planned for Monday, 24 February, commencing at 7.30pm** – a separate invitation will be forwarded to all Convenors closer to the meeting date.

Helen Veivers
President

About GSQ Education Events & Interest Group Meetings

GSQ Education events are all conducted via the Zoom platform, if they are otherwise conducted it will be notified in eNews & the website. The education sessions are recorded and available to registered participants for four (4) weeks after the session. If they aren't being recorded it will be stated on the meeting advice.

GSQ Interest Groups meet via the Zoom platform and some are hybrid meetings. That means that they use the Meeting Owl & Zoom platform as well as in person at GSQ. This means that people can join the meeting from wherever they are. The Interest Group's advertise in eNews if the meeting is in-person, by Zoom, or a hybrid meeting.

Committee Snippets

Points from January Management Committee:

- **Decision made to “ramp up” the search for alternative premises;**
- **Reciprocal Rights for visitors to GSQ discussed;**
- **Conference convenor, David Barnes, reported that Conference planning going well;**
- **Event Coordinator position to be advertised;**
- **Agreement in relation to Cyber Security Grant has been signed;**
- **Digitisation by FamilySearch of GSQ resources to occur in Brisbane in 1st quarter of 2025;**
- **Property Manager to be approached re necessary work on the exterior back wall of our premises.**

Volunteer Report

I won't name all the volunteer roles that currently exist in GSQ, but I will reinforce that all these roles are filled by people who give their time freely to enable GSQ to function for the benefit of its members. In an organization like GSQ, we can't have too many volunteers. If you put your hand up, we will find a volunteer role that suits your skill sets (maybe from your occupation – present or past) and interests.

There are roles you can do from home and or at GSQ's Wishart premises. One such role is helping the Research Group. This group does family history research for members and non-members alike. It is an important source of income for GSQ. The benefit for you is helping other people learn more about their family history and honing your research skills.

It is something you can do at home and at GSQ.

Perhaps helping to raise funds for GSQ is something you would like to do. If that is the case, helping at a Bunnings BBQ might be right up your alley. You have a bit of fun while helping to raise money for GSQ. And the best bit might be you don't need an excuse to visit Bunnings – you are there!

On the GSQ website, under Volunteer on the home page you will find a link which takes you to a document listing the types of volunteer roles we have. Please give a lot of thought to what you could do and I would be very happy to have a chat with you about finding a role for you.

Contact Kim Davis on volunteer@gsq.org.au

Membership Officer Report

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. A nice break for all our members who volunteer for GSQ, but I am sure many of you continued with your research yourselves. I hope your holiday research was fruitful.

Welcome to our new members who signed up over the Christmas and New Year period...I hope to speak with you in the next few weeks to say Hi and see how you are going with your research on line....and maybe meet you at the rooms at some point to say hi.

As for all our members, if you have any questions regarding your membership, please email me and I am happy to assist you. My email is: membership@gsq.org.au

Leanne Taylor
Membership Officer

GSQ Education Events



17th Century British Merchant Tokens – a Family Historians Delight

Feb 1 @ 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM AEST Presenter: Geoff Barber
Cost: Members \$21 Non-members \$31 Virtual Via Zoom

Merchant tokens generally do not raise the interest of family historians, but look deeper and there is much to like. Between 1648-72, due to a shortage of small coinage, over 20,000 different tokens were issued in the towns and villages throughout England, Ireland & Wales and of these about 14,000 survive today, some more common than others. [Book here](#)



Foreign footprints on the Victorian goldfields

Feb 15 @ 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM AEST Presenter: Dr Dorothy Wickham
Cost: Members \$21 Non-members \$31 Virtual Via Zoom

Australia as early as the momentous gold rushes of the 1850s was a truly multicultural country. Over 30 different nationalities could be found and heard on the Eureka Diggings at the time of the rebellion. This presentation is about people of different nationalities who were on the Victorian goldfields between 1851 and 1871. [Book here](#)



The Wall Family: weaving the threads of memories

Feb 22 @ 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM AEST Presenter: Christine Leonard
Cost: Members \$21 Non-members \$31 Virtual Via Zoom

I didn't know much about my father's Wall family, having been born in Papua New Guinea and growing up on remote plantations. Once I was sent to boarding school in Australia, I grew to know my father's immediate family, his father, and siblings but apart from them they were a mystery. In 2018, I started researching my father's Wall family. [Book here](#)



Researching lives of Queenslanders in the 1800s

Mar 1 @ 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM AEST Presenter: Jan Richardson
Cost: Members \$21 Non-members \$31 Virtual Via Zoom

Griffith University's Harry Gentle Resource Centre (HGRC) has recently launched a Dictionary of Biography concentrating on First Peoples, soldiers, convicts and early settlers of Queensland. However, the HGRC is much more than a Dictionary of Biography to which members of the public are invited to submit entries. [Book here](#)

GSQ Notices

Containers for Change

It's as Easy as 1, 2, 3...

Remember, all you need to do is to take a photo of the Barcode on GSQ's website, or collect one of the printed barcodes from GSQ premises Reception Desk and take your Bottles and Cans to a Containers for Change Depot. What an easy way to support GSQ!

Remember – put all bottles and cans aside (including Wine and Spirit bottles) copy the Barcode to your phone or simply ask that your contributions go to Scheme ID **C10659195** once at the Containers for Change Depot



The banner for the Australasian Conference 2025, titled 'CONNECTIONS: Past - Present - Future', focuses on Family History, Genealogy, and Local History. It features a central graphic of four interlocking puzzle pieces in red, yellow, black, and purple. To the left, three overlapping circles highlight the event's offerings: 'Three Keynote Speakers' (black circle), 'Six Master Classes' (red circle), and 'Forty Two Specialist Speakers' (purple circle). The location and dates, 'Brisbane | 21 to 24 March 2025', are prominently displayed in large red text. Below this, a tagline invites participants to 'Join us for Connections 2025 - Australasia's premier event for local and family historians, ancestry researchers and genealogists to uncover the past, celebrate the present and tap into the future.' The bottom of the banner includes logos for AFFHO (with the tagline 'Together we can achieve results more!'), the Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc. (with the tagline 'Enriching family history'), and Harrier Queensland Inc. (with a stylized 'H' logo). On the right, contact information for full details and registration is provided: 'Full details and registration here: www.connections2025.org.au office@connections2025.org.au'.

Three Keynote Speakers

Six Master Classes

Forty Two Specialist Speakers

Australasian Conference 2025
CONNECTIONS
Past - Present - Future
Family History - Genealogy - Local History

Brisbane | 21 to 24 March 2025

Join us for **Connections 2025** - Australasia's premier event for local and family historians, ancestry researchers and genealogists to uncover the past, celebrate the present and tap into the future.

AFFHO
Together we can achieve results more!

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc
Enriching family history

Harrier Queensland Inc.

Full details and registration here:
www.connections2025.org.au
office@connections2025.org.au

Conference Snapshot

The Conference attendees now exceed 350, at the completion of Early Bird registration.

The conference website has been updated to allow attendees to produce printable programs <https://www.connections2025.org.au/conference-program> and synopsis <https://www.connections2025.org.au/speakers/synopsis> as well as providing details of 34 of the exhibitors that will be attending <https://www.connections2025.org.au/exhibitorsstalls>.

The conference is now just seven weeks away, bookings can still be made up until midnight on 10 March 2025.

The Conference Committee is seeking Volunteers to assist at the Conference – a variety of jobs is available, ranging from ushering, answering general queries etc. If interested, please email Conference Convenor, David Barnes at gsqconferenceconvenor@gsq.org.au.

Interest Groups

Chinese Research Group

The next meeting for the Chinese Research Interest Group will be on **Sunday, 16 March**, when Janis Hanley, with some help from Jan Richardson, will present on *A Far North Queensland road trip to Chinese market gardens and other Chinese sites*. The meeting is from 10 am to midday and is by Zoom.

Please come along. All GSQ members are welcome, whether they are experienced researchers or newbies.

If you are attending, please email me at the email address below, and I will send you the Zoom link. I will be online about 9.45 am on Sunday, 16 March.

Contact the group coordinator at chineseresearchgroup@gsq.org.au.

* Non-GSQ members can attend two meetings without being a GSQ member.

Colonial & Convict Interest Group

At our first meeting for 2025 on **Sunday, 9 February**, we will resume our research tasks.

All members are encouraged to contribute to the meeting, presenting a 5 minute talk about their research findings. Our members are passionate about our early Australian history.

All guests will be very welcome to come along. Non GSQ members are permitted to attend two meetings.

For more details and an invitation to attend via zoom, please send an email to CandC@gsq.org.au. Doors open at 9.30am and the meeting starts at 10am and finishes about 12.30pm-1.00pm.

DNA Interest Group

Our next DNA SIG meeting is **Sunday 23 February** at 9:30 AM. Queensland time via Zoom. The remainder of 2025 meetings are in the GSQ calendar. Some of the meetings in 2025 will be hybrid, that is, both by Zoom and in the GSQ Resource Centre.

If you're interested in learning more about DNA, email dna@gsq.org.au and ask to be added to the email list. Non-members of GSQ can attend two DNA Interest Group meetings before they must join GSQ.

English/Irish/Welsh Interest Group

The next meeting of the English Irish Welsh SIG will be **Sunday 2 February** and will be a hybrid meeting.

The English Irish SIG last met Sunday 1st December at GSQ's Wishart premises. Many thanks to Fleur Creed for chairing the meeting in my absence as I was in Sydney.

The February presentation will be on *"The History of Bristol and where you can find genealogical records"* by Tricia Smout.

If you have English, Irish or Welsh (or all three!!) ancestors, this is the Interest Group for you. Do you have a bit of an Irish or English or Welsh brick wall? Bring the problem ancestors with you – the group may be able to make some suggestions that may at least knock a brick off the wall, if not the entire wall! I look forward to seeing everybody on Sunday 2nd February either in person or via ZOOM.

If you are not on my mailing list, please email me at irisheng@gsq.org.au so I can email you the link to the zoom meeting. That will be sent a day or two before the meeting.

Family History Technology Group

Our first session for the year will be on **Sunday 9 March** starting at 10am. This is a Zoom session, and we would like to encourage all GSQ members to join us. Check out the GSQ events calendar for details.

We cover topics like – File management and storage; various software programs especially ones to use with family history; help in relation to the many Genealogical Website usage; common Windows/PC or Mac problems etc. We work together as a group to help each other to overcome issues; swap ideas and to help increase your confidence and knowledge on these matters.

Send email to fhtech@gsq.org.au to be added to our group and receive the link for zoom for the meeting.

Interest Groups

German Interest Group

The German group meets odd numbered months and our next meeting will be **Sunday 30 March**; everybody welcome. Starting time 10.00.am, it is a hybrid meeting..

Should you wish to attend via zoom please forward an email to germangroup@gsq.org.au. Non members of the society may attend for two meetings but after that we hope you will join GSQ as a member.

Scandinavian Interest Group

The next meeting of the Scandinavian group is **Sunday 16 March** at GSQ.

We have an email group with Scandinavian news and details about coming meetings. If you are not in the group and would like to be, please let me know. Email Steinar on scangroup@gsq.org.au.

Scottish Interest Group

Our next meeting will be on **Sunday 2 March** at 10:00 am. We will conduct the meeting as a hybrid ZOOM and on-site meeting, so if you would like to join us remotely please contact us at scotgroup@gsq.org.au to join our list and receive the credentials. Members and guests are most welcome.

At this meeting, our regular lecture will be on Lanarkshire Records, and Alistair Henderson will be the presenter. This is also the meeting where we elect our office bearers for the next year, so offers of assistance are welcome.

Writing Interest Group

The Writing Group reconvenes for 2025 on **Sunday 16 February** at 10am. The meeting will be via Zoom.

The aims of the Group are to provide a forum in which members can learn more about the writing, editing and publishing processes. We also learn from the experiences of guest speakers and members. A regular feature is reviewing pieces of written work submitted by members on a variety of topics.

An interesting program has been developed for 2025 and in February our guest speaker is **Greg Carlill, who will talk on the topic of Writing and Illustrating Histories with AI.**

If you would like more information about the Group and be added to the Group's mailing list contact Pauline on pstirland@hotmail.com or writing@gsq.org.au

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 GSQs Writing Group. GSQ looks forward to reading your stories.

Entries close on 25 May 2025 and the winner will be announced at GSQs Open Day on 23 August 2025. Full details of the competition, including judging criteria and entry requirements can be found on GSQs website.

More information is available by emailing secretary@gsq.org.au

Changes to probate packets access in New South Wales

While all probate packets held in the State Archives Collection continue to remain open to public access, the Supreme Court has recently made an Access Direction (AD3292) that closes access to birth certificates in packets that are less than 100 years old because they contain personal information. That closure is now in place.

As a result, all probate packets less than 100 years old will be physically checked before being issued in the State Archives Reading Room. Whenever a birth certificate less than 100 years old is found it will be temporarily extracted from the packet. You will be notified of the existence of a closed certificate when you are given access to the packet.

We look forward to continuing to assist you with your use of the probate packets and encourage you to submit a pre-order via the [State Archives catalogue](#) prior to your visit.

GSQ Notices

GSQ in your local BCC library

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.

Library	Topic	When	Time	Booking
Ashgrove	<i>Beginner Guide to DNA</i>	Saturday 12 April	11am to 12 noon	3407 1940
Ashgrove	<i>The journey to publishing my family history book</i>	Saturday 17 or 24 May	11am to 12 noon	3407 1940
Everton Park	<i>DNA for genealogy step two: Beyond ethnicity</i>	Saturday 24 May	12:30 to 2:30pm	3403 8615
Wynnum	<i>The journey to publishing my family history book</i>	Thursday 29 May	11am to 12 noon	3403 2199

Bookshop Featured Book

The Bootmaker of Berlin

By Debbie Teranova

When the tentacles of war stretch across the globe, families divide, neighbours become enemies, friends disappear. Who can you trust? A deathbed promise thrusts Kathy Giuliano into a whirlpool of close guarded secrets with life changing consequences. In Berlin, she uncovers shocking truths about her sister, her family, and herself.

'The Bootmaker of Berlin' is WWII fiction, set in Berlin, England, and Australia. The story was inspired by research, undertaken by the author as a Fellow of the State Library of Queensland, and is based on true historical events.

\$25.00 In the Bookshop

If you have any queries or specific requests, please email Karma at shop@gsq.org.au

GSQ Facebook Page

Our GSQ Facebook Page is a public page, so you don't have to be a Facebook member to see what is posted there. Each Monday we publish the GSQ Blog for the week and interesting genealogy news and articles from all around the world are published on the other days of the week.

The GSQ Education program is published with the Events coming up in the next month or so. These presentation advertisements always include a link which takes you directly to the GSQ Events webpage for the particular event.

Please feel free to Like or Follow us and also to leave a comment on any of our posts and if you do this a few times, it should bring our posts into your daily feed. Contact enquiries to Bobbie Edes & Catherine Thompson on facebook@gsq.org.au

GSQ Facebook Group

GSQFB was set up to provide a Facebook presence where GSQ members and non members can interact.

Only the members of the group can see what you post. Here you can ask questions, and share your gene successes and frustrations. It is an interactive space where you will also learn more about the resources GSQ has and how to continue your research.

You don't need to be a GSQ member to join the group. Email Rhoda at gsqfbgroup@gsq.org.au

GSQ Notices

RootsTech 2025 March 6 – 8 – Online Worldwide – FREE!

Join the world's largest family discovery event • 6–8 March 2025 • Plus an on-demand learning library available anytime • Brought to you by FamilySearch.

FamilySearch has announced the theme for RootsTech 2025! This year's theme is DISCOVER—one word, endless possibilities.

Join Rootstech online to experience:

- 200+ new online sessions in over 26 languages
- Join keynote sessions live from the comfort of your own home
- Chat online with other attendees worldwide
- Get digital syllabi and class handouts



Register or learn more about speakers and the program at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>

Donation to GSQ

During the past week GSQ received an email from Craig Smee, the author of publications GSQ has purchased previously and has on our bookshelves, to which he attached digital versions of three gigantic files.

The first is: *"Births & Baptisms, Marriages & De Facto Relationships, Deaths & Burials in the Colony of New South Wales:1788-1830" but with the addition of a fifth decade (1831-1840)* which brings the project to the end of transportation in the Colony by 1840.

The second is: *"Born in the English Colony of New South Wales: 1788-1820".*

The third is a new database *"Female Convicts Transported to the Colony of New South Wales:1788-1840"*, which lists and traces the colonial experience of every female transported.

What a fantastic donation!! The especially good news for GSQ members is that our wonderful Webcoordinators have, with some difficulty, placed the 3 databases on our website in MyGSQ. While members have been able to come into the Resource Centre and check out the books, they will now be able to search the databases from the comfort of home. Thanks so much, Ailsa and Helen, and, of course, a very big Thank You to Craig Smee.

Helen Veivers, President



GSQ ZOOM Meetings

Monday Morning ZOOM for GSQ members only starting at 11:00 AM AEST

Welcome to the New Year of 2025 everyone, and hope everyone had a lovely break. Our Monday morning zoom group will start again at **11am on Monday 3rd February**.

Please come along with information about what you did over the break in relation to your family history research.

Did you manage to get any time to do anything; did you break down a brick wall? Did you do that clean up and sorting as we all plan to do?

Come and join Helen and Ailsa with your cuppa (and all pets welcome) on Monday Zoom. Email us on mtzoom@gsq.org.au

Wednesday Night ZOOM, open to everyone and FREE starting at 7:00 PM AEST

Everyone is welcome to join the Wednesday Night Zoom. It is a Zoom session that is Free and Open to anyone to join. You do not have to be a GSQ member, just have an interest in Genealogy and Family History. ***The Zoom sessions are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday Nights of the month and start at 7:00 PM AEST.*** Anyone throughout the world can join in.

The 2nd Wednesday Nights are for Topics and Help and the 4th Wednesday we have a guest speaker for you. Please check the GSQ events calendar.

Feb 12th the topic will be around GEDCOM – what is it, how do you use it, how do you do it.

Feb 26th our guest speaker is Lee Boehm – author of 3 books regarding the lives of everyday people in Colonial Australia.

Please email wedpmzoom@gsq.org.au to be added to the list inviting you join us on these great and enjoyable evenings

Research Learning & Support for GSQ Members Only 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month starting at 11:00 AM AEST

Having had a lovely Christmas & New Year break our Wednesday morning Zoom group sessions are resuming on 5 February 2025 with a topic presentation by Tricia Smout.

Our meetings are on the 1st and also the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11am and they usually go for about 90 minutes with notes distributed afterwards.

Any financial GSQ member can attend these Wednesday morning Zoom sessions, and non-member guests are welcome to come along to two meetings to sample the great benefits of joining GSQ.

To go onto the mailing list, please contact wedmorningzoom@gsq.org.au and ask to be included.

GSQ Blogs

After the Christmas/New Year break, our weekly blogs resumed recently. ***Our GSQ Blogger for the month of January was Bobbie Edes taking up Jill Ball's annual challenge to 'Accentuate the Positive'.***

The blogs are released early each Monday morning and are also published on our GSQ Facebook Page and GSQ Facebook Group.

This is a direct link to the blogs page itself: <https://gsq-blog.gsq.org.au/> but it can also be reached by clicking on the 'Blog' information box link 2nd from the right at the bottom of the GSQ Website homepage.

Contact Bobbie on blogs@gsq.org.au

Family History News

What's new...



FamilySearch International helps individuals make meaningful family discoveries. From more access to the world's genealogical records, new collaborative family tree features, fun interactive experiences, third party integrations, and amazing new applications of artificial intelligence, FamilySearch is a popular go-to source for discovering ancestors.

More Genealogy Records

FamilySearch has worked with archivists from more than 160 countries to help make genealogical records more accessible online. In 2025, FamilySearch will make significant strides to expand record collections for the countries of France, Germany, Honduras, Italy, Palau, and the Philippines.

FamilySearch Artificial Intelligence

FamilySearch has been busy building its artificial intelligence (AI) technology to read old handwriting in more languages and improve its ability to suggest lineage-linked data from records. All these opportunities will create greater search capabilities and more family discoveries for more FamilySearch patrons worldwide.

Full-text Search

At RootsTech 2024, FamilySearch provided a sneak peek at how its AI is unlocking incredible discoveries

hidden in unindexed, handwritten historical records that have never been searchable before now. Leveraging its state-of-the-art AI-powered handwriting recognition technology, FamilySearch can convert an image of historical text into a machine-readable text format that gives patrons the ability to search the full text of a record—before it has been indexed by online volunteers. FamilySearch Full-text Search will introduce more exciting advancements to the record search experience in 2025, adding full-text search capability to many more record collections. Interested patrons can test Full-text Search now in FamilySearch Labs.

FamilySearch Get Involved and Computer-Assisted Indexing

FamilySearch AI will expand computer-assisted indexing algorithms to index more historical genealogical records than ever before—and more quickly. FamilySearch's Get Involved web and mobile app will make it easier and even more fun for volunteers to refine the work of the handwriting recognition AI, yielding unprecedented volumes of searchable records and new ancestor discoveries

More Digital Books

FamilySearch will continue to work with societies and libraries to digitize historical genealogical books accessible for free online in its Digital Library. These digitized publications are full-text searchable and include genealogy books, family histories, local histories, maps, yearbooks, and more. It currently has over 600,000 digitized, searchable books and serials.

Exciting New Tree Features

The FamilySearch Family Tree will become even more collaborative in 2025 with the fully-launched, time-saving, Family Groups feature. Patrons will be able to create private groups of living family members who have a FamilySearch account to efficiently share collective family history information—photos, stories, sources, and memories. Group participants won't have to reenter their living information to join the collaborative efforts. Patrons' life's work and family legacy will then be preserved for future generations.

Together by FamilySearch

FamilySearch's fun new mobile and web app, Together, is the perfect way to capture the most important moments in life and build stronger family connections as families make, share, and remember unforgettable memories together. The content is suitable for all ages, young and old. Patrons can create their life story as they experience it, or later as they find themselves reminiscing. Patrons can also create family groups and invite select family members to help capture impactful life stories, memorable family events, traditions, favorite foods, hobbies, interests, friends, holidays, vacations, and so on. The built-in prompts are generous—remaining relevant throughout different life stages. Download Together by FamilySearch today on Google Play and the App Store.

Join FamilySearch in 2025

FamilySearch thanks patrons in advance for being part of its growing global community in 2025 and using its services often to make more meaningful family discoveries. Subscribe to or visit the [FamilySearch Newsroom](#) and [FamilySearch Blog](#) to keep up with the latest updates in 2025.

Family History News

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.

Some February offerings:

Feb 5 – *Oops! Married twice (at the same time) Case Studies in Bigamy!* by Helen Smith – 11:00 AM AEST

Feb 6 – *Foundations in DNA 1 of 5: Introduction to DNA and Genetic Genealogy* by Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D. – 5:00 AM AEST

Feb 8 – *Researching Your LGBTQ+ Ancestors* by Michael J. Leclerc, CG – 5:00 AM AEST

Feb 12 – *Norwegians in the New World: Tracing Norwegian Immigrants in the American Midwest* by Phoebe Cooper – 5:00 AM AEST

Feb 13 – *Finding Your Elusive Female Ancestors in Local Archives* by Melissa Barker – 5:00 AM AEST

Feb 15 – *Creating Children's Stories from Ancestral Lives* by Michael John Neill – 3:00 AM AEST

Feb 19 – *Applying Research Standards to the Census* by Diane MacLean Boumenot, CG – 11:00 AM AEST

Feb 22 – *Soldiers, Squatters and Settlers* by Christine Woodcock – 5:00 AM AEST

Feb 26 – *Enhance your family tree accuracy with MyHeritage's Timeline and Consistency Checker* by James Tanner – 5:00 AM AEST



Spotlight, GSQ's Interest groups: helping your research – FREE to members

Feb 25 @ 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM AEST



Have you ever wondered what goes on at GSQ Interest Group meetings?

Do you know what records are available at GSQ that relate to your country or people of interest?

GSQ Interest Groups can help you with your research – maybe even help to break down that Brickwall you have.

Come and listen to each of the groups representatives talk about their particular group. Learn from them what they do and discuss and what records are available to help you.

GSQ has 9 Interest Groups and 3 Zoom Groups. Each group will explain in 15 minutes just what they do and how they can assist you.

Chinese, Colonial and Convict, DNA, English/Irish/Welsh, Family History Tech, German, Scandinavian, Scottish, Writing – Interest Groups

Monday Morning Zoom, Wednesday Morning Zoom, Wednesday Night Zoom – Zoom Meetings



Enjoy February ...

Enjoy February, perhaps you will break down that brick wall that's been nagging at you for ages. If you have any success with your family history, let me know, perhaps you can share your success with eNews?

Send any contributions to enews@gsq.org.au

**Genealogical
Society of
Queensland Inc.**

Contact

P : +61 7 3349 6072

E : secretary@gsq.org.au

W: www.gsq.org.au

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