



Customer Service:

1800 251 838 - toll free from Australia
Monday to Friday 9am-8pm (AEST)
Saturday and Sunday 9am-4pm (AEST)
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Welcome to family history

Researching your family history can be both an absorbing and rewarding pastime. If you start on the right track, you will soon find yourself on a fantastic voyage of discovery.

Maybe you are curious to discover if you have descended from someone famous. Perhaps you want to learn more about your heritage so you can one day pass down family stories and traditions to your children or grandchildren. Whatever your reason for embarking on this journey, exploring your family history will enrich your life in unexpected ways.

How can Ancestry.com.au help?






Ancestry.com.au has the world's largest online collection of family history resources. With 7 billion searchable family history records, finding your ancestors is easier than ever.

If you've only just decided to start researching, you are probably thinking "Where do I begin?" So this guide has been designed to help you get started in **3 easy steps**.

3 easy steps to get started

1. Write down what you know and collect information from those around you
2. Start your free family tree on Ancestry.com.au
3. Use historical records to grow your tree

Collect information

-  Gather together what you already know about your relatives – dates and location of births, marriages and deaths including any old family anecdotes or stories you can remember.
-  Talk to your family to fill in the gaps and make a note of all names and dates.
-  When collecting the information, you don't need to be exact as you can always change details at a later date. A rough guess is better than no information at all.
-  Be sure to include middle names as these can often be a link between generations.
-  Any historical documents that you find can come in handy. Scour your files, drawers and attic for family bibles, photographs, diaries, journals, letters, scrapbooks, legal records, baby books and, most importantly, birth, marriage and death certificates. Ask your relatives to do the same.

Fill in the details about your relatives below – this will become the start of your family tree:

YOU

Full Name	
Birth Date	Location
Spouse's Name	
Marriage Date	Location

YOUR FATHER

Full Name	
Birth Date	Location
Marriage Date	Location
Death Date	Location
Other	

YOUR MOTHER

Full Maiden Name	
Birth Date	Location
Death Date	Location
Other	

YOUR FATHER'S FATHER

Full Name	
Birth Date	Location
Marriage Date	Location
Death Date	Location
Other	

YOUR FATHER'S MOTHER

Full Maiden Name	
Birth Date	Location
Death Date	Location
Other	

YOUR MOTHER'S FATHER

Full Name	
Birth Date	Location
Marriage Date	Location
Death Date	Location
Other	

YOUR MOTHER'S MOTHER

Full Maiden Name	
Birth Date	Location
Death Date	Location
Other	

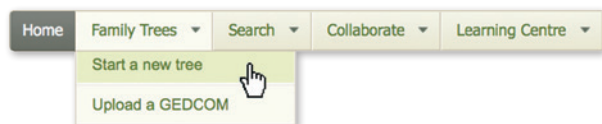
There are charts on Ancestry.com.au that you can print out to help you record information. Go to www.ancestry.com.au/trees/charts/ancchart.aspx

STEP 2

Start your FREE family tree on Ancestry.com.au

Ancestry.com.au trees are a great tool for storing and organising the information you collect about your ancestors.

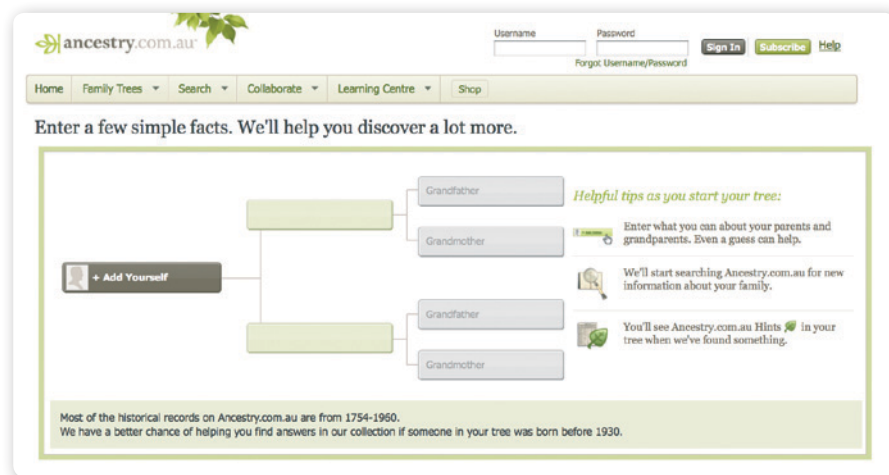
1. Start tree menu



From any page on Ancestry.com.au, hover your mouse over the 'Family Trees' tab in the top left corner then click 'Start a new tree'.

2. Enter what you know

Enter the information that you collected in Step 1 into your tree. If you are unsure of some details, even a guess can help.

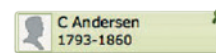


3. Save your tree

When you enter the details of one of your parents, the site will prompt you to save your tree. A free account will be set up so that you can access your tree in the future. Make a note of your Username and Password - write it on the first page of this booklet for safekeeping.



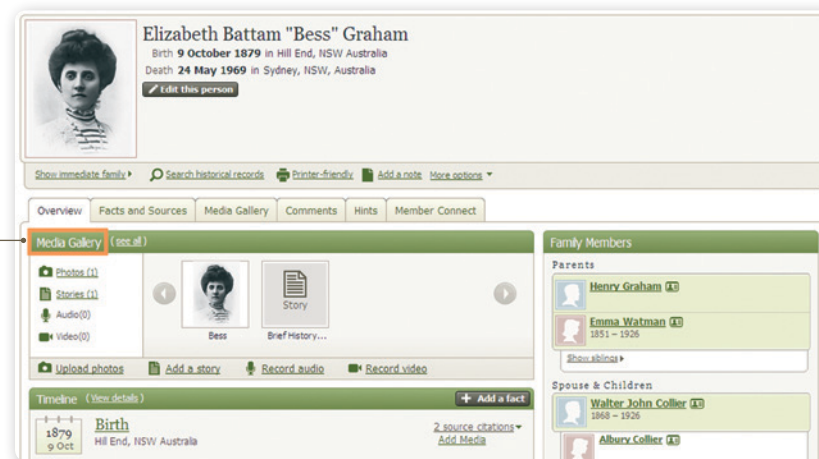
4. Ancestry Hints™



Once you have saved your tree, Ancestry will search its databases of historical records, photos and public member trees for matches with the people in your tree. When a green leaf appears next to someone in your tree it indicates that we think we may have found one of your ancestors in our collections.

5. Person page

When you add a person to your tree a person page is created which captures all the details about this ancestor.



(a) In the Media Gallery you can upload photos plus record / upload audio and video.

6. Share your tree

When you are looking at your tree, under Tree Pages shown above your tree, there is a Share Your Tree link so that you can invite family members to view or contribute to your tree.

7. Historical records

Now that you have entered the details into your tree, you are ready to start searching the database of historical records.

STEP 3

Search for historical records

There is a huge array of record collection types available online that you can utilise in your family history research. A great place to start is with Birth, Marriage and Death Records as these are key events that mark the milestones of our lives.

To search Birth, Marriage & Death Record Index

1. From any page on Ancestry.com.au, hover your mouse over the 'Search' tab in the top centre of the page and click 'Birth, Marriage & Death' from the drop down list. This page allows you to search ALL Birth, Marriage and Death records from around the world including Australia, the UK, the US, Canada and Europe.
2. To search only the Australian Index: Under Narrow by Category on the right hand side of the page click on Australian Births, Marriages and Deaths. To search one of these collections, select the appropriate Birth, Marriage or Death index from the Included Data Collections list below the search box.
3. When searching any record collection, enter as many details as you know about the ancestor you are looking for in the search fields.
4. In the top right hand corner of the search results you will see a drop down menu. Select 'Summarised by category' to view the results by collection or 'Sorted by relevance' to view the results by individual record.



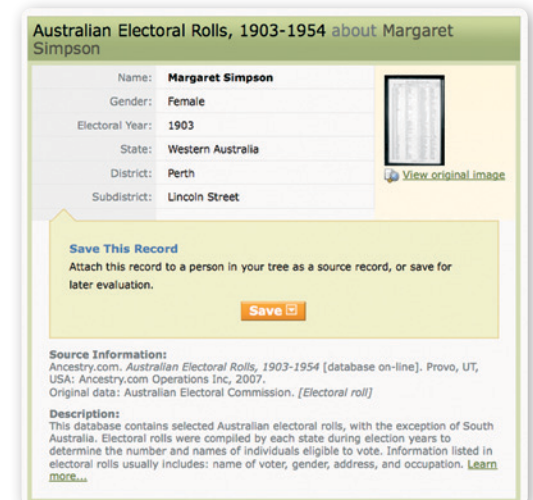
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5. Hover your mouse over the 'View Record' link to preview and see if the details match the ancestor you are looking for.



You are able to search the records on the site for free, but to preview and view most of the records you will need to become a subscriber. See pages 11-12 for details.








6. If you find a record for your ancestor you can add it to their profile by clicking the Save button. Then choose Attach to... and the name of the person.



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Searching for an ancestor:

-  Choose **one family name** to research initially. It is easier to focus on one name to start with, and when you've exhausted your online search with that name you can try another.
-  If you can't find your relatives in expected records, **try a different spelling**. Variations in spelling (especially surname spellings) occur frequently in historical records, and can affect the amount of information that you can find. Try every possible variation. For example, Reynolds, Raynolds etc.
-  You can also try a **wild card search** where you enter the first or last 3 letters followed by an asterisk (*). Eg *son or Wil*.
-  If you can, **include Events** like Births, Marriages or Deaths or names of other Family Members to help us find your ancestors.
-  If you are unsure of the date, selecting 1869 and **+/- 10** will return results from 1859-1879.
-  Only tick **'Exact'** when you are sure about the information.
-  You can **restrict your search** to collections from a particular country or group.

The screenshot shows a search form with the following fields and annotations:

- Name:** First & Middle Name(s) contains "Elizabeth", Last Name contains "Wil*". Annotations point to these fields.
- Birth:** Year is "1869 +/- 10", Location is "Bathurst, New South Wales, Au". Annotations point to the year and location fields.
- Family Member:** First Name is "John", Last Name is "Wil*". Annotations point to these fields.
- More:** Keyword field contains "e.g. teacher of 'Victoria Barracks'". An annotation points to this field.
- Collection Priority:** Set to "Australian". An annotation points to this dropdown.
- Restrict to:** Checkboxes for "Historical records", "Family trees", "Stories & publications", and "Photos & maps". An annotation points to the "Historical records" checkbox.

 Try searching from an **individual collection**, rather than doing a general search from the search tab. You are much more likely to get relevant results.

-  Verify your findings by **checking multiple sources**. Cross check the details for confirmation.
-  Always **add the information source to your tree**. This means that you'll know where you found out particular pieces of information and can go back to them later if need be.
-  Make a **note of any nicknames** in your tree, and write the names in quote marks. Some people may have been known by a middle name, or a parent's name, which can be a fantastic clue for going back further.
-  Always write a female's name **using her maiden name**, and not her married name. If you only know her married name, then write this in brackets so that it acts as a visual clue that you need to research her identity further.
-  Sign up for the **free monthly newsletter**. It's packed with updates on recent collection releases plus site updates. Hover your mouse over My Account then select Email Settings. Tick the box to receive the newsletter and updates.



Membership options

While you can build your tree and search the record collections for free, in order to view original documents and full search results you will need to become a paying subscriber. Why not take advantage of the 14 day free access offer below and see what you can discover?

Get started on Ancestry.com.au today and enjoy your first 14 days free†!

Please choose a membership below with which you'd like to start your free 14 days access†.

		
<p>A great package for beginners. Search key historical record collections from Australia and the UK, such as birth, marriage and death indexes, immigration records, electoral rolls and census records. All the essentials to get you started.</p>	<p>Want to dig deeper. Access all collections from the UK Heritage package as well as premium collections such as pre-1837 UK Parish & Probate records. Plus, get all new records from Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and the UK.</p>	<p>Unlimited access to all our records from around the world. Including the US, Ireland and the UK, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. If your ancestors came from all across the globe, this is the package for you.</p>
<p>ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AU \$14.95 per month¹ after free access period ends</p> <hr/> <p>¹ Billed as a single annual payment of AU\$179.40, expressed over 12 months.</p>	<p>ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AU \$17.95 per month² after free access period ends</p> <hr/> <p>² Billed as a single annual payment of AU\$215.40, expressed over 12 months.</p>	<p>ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AU \$24.99 per month^{3*} after free access period ends</p> <hr/> <p>³ Billed as a single annual payment of AU\$299.88, expressed over 12 months.</p>
<p>MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP AU\$21.95 per month after free access period ends</p>	<p>MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP AU\$24.95 per month after free access period ends</p>	<p>MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP AU\$49.95* per month after free access period ends</p>

Please note that the free access offer requires registration with a valid credit card, but no money will be taken during the free access period. You can cancel at anytime during the free access period without incurring any cost.

To get started simply visit www.ancestry.com.au/14daysfree

†14 day free access period: Terms and conditions apply. Only one free access period for one of our membership options is allowed per person. Free access requires registration with a valid credit card, but no money will be taken during the free access period. To cancel your membership without incurring cost, simply login and go to 'My Account' and click on 'Cancel Subscription', or call us on 1800 251 838 (toll free from Australia) 9am-8pm Mon to Fri (AEST) and 9am-4pm Sat and Sun (AEST), before the expiry of the 14 day free access period, otherwise 100% of your chosen membership price will automatically be charged to your credit card on expiry of the 14 day free access period. Use of Ancestry.com.au is subject to our Terms and Conditions.

*Introductory prices are only available for new customers and not for renewal of current memberships. Introductory pricing is valid for the first year or month only. Your membership will be automatically renewed at the end of each year or month (depending on the membership chosen) at the standard rate applicable at the time.