



February Newsletter



February feels like a **"settling in" month** for me—the excitement of the new year has passed, resolutions are either taking shape (or have already disappeared), and routines start to feel more familiar again. In my family, February has always been special - one of my brothers has a birthday and it's the month when both my parents and grandparents chose to marry on the same day, 25 years apart. Perhaps they were drawn to this month of celebrations and connection, with

Valentine's Day encouraging us all to appreciate the relationships that matter in our lives.

It makes me wonder—was it a deliberate choice by my parents to choose the same day as my grandparents, or did it only become a piece of family trivia later? Have you found meaningful dates or repeating patterns in your own family history?

February also marks the launch of **SnapShot Interviews**, where we sit down with some of the biggest names in genealogy for fast-paced, insightful conversations. And if your research resolutions for 2025 include getting your family history data under control, our first course of the year—**Spreadsheets for Genealogists** with Fiona Brooker—kicks off this month, packed with practical ways to organise, analyse, and visualise your findings.

[Image: My parents on their wedding day in 1936.]

Cathie

Featured Course

Forensic Genealogy: Becoming an Expert Witness



Forensic Genealogy:
Becoming an Expert Witness



Educator:
Melanie Proctor
When:
7 PM Eastern US
Sessions:
5, 12 19 March each
of 2 hours

Ready to take your genealogy expertise into the courtroom? Here's what you'll learn:

- **What it takes to be an expert witness**—understand legal expectations and ethical responsibilities.
- **How to craft forensic genealogy reports**—structure, format, and challenge-proof your findings.
- **Key legal differences across jurisdictions**—know what's required in the US, UK, Australia, and more.
- **How to prepare for testimony**—handle direct and cross-examinations with confidence.
- **Ways to build your forensic genealogy career**—education pathways, business strategies, and networking.

REGISTER NOW!

SPOTLIGHT

The SnapShot Interviews

A Conversation With...



Mark Your Calendar:

Coming up next week is the first of the *SnapShot Interviews*, featuring two well-known names in **forensic genealogy**, Catherine Becker Wiest Desmarais and Michael S. Ramage. Together, they bring unparalleled expertise to the field and are the co-authors of the highly anticipated book, *Forensic Genealogy: Theory & Practice*.

The first interview, with Catherine and Michael, launches on **12 February at 7:30 PM Eastern US**. Join the conversation and sign up today to be part of *The SnapShot Interviews*. [Explore the rest of the 2025 schedule.](#)

The reminder email will be send later this week and the Zoom link one day beforehand.

Already subscribed but didn't receive the confirmation email? Check your spam folder. VPNs and pop-up blockers may also impact on the subscription process. You must confirm your email address to be added to the list.

REGISTER NOW

DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS:

DISCOVER THE POWER OF SPREADSHEETS



Unlock Insights with Timelines



Personalise Your Research Plans



Simplify DNA Analysis

18 FEBRUARY 2025
6 PM EASTERN US

19 FEBRUARY 2025
9 AM AEST

Fiona Brooker

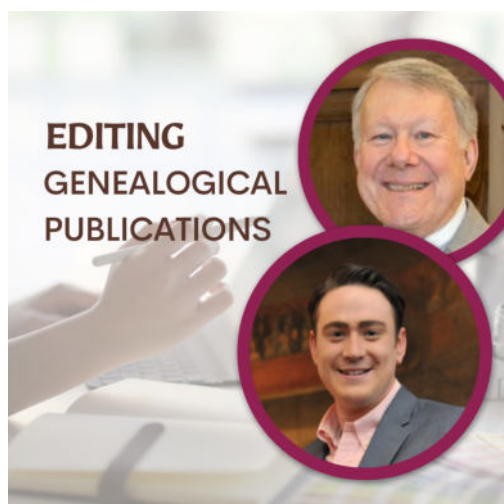


Family History Skills

Discover the Power of Spreadsheets

Streamline your genealogy research with spreadsheets—**organise records, uncover patterns, and track DNA matches with ease.**

FIND OUT MORE



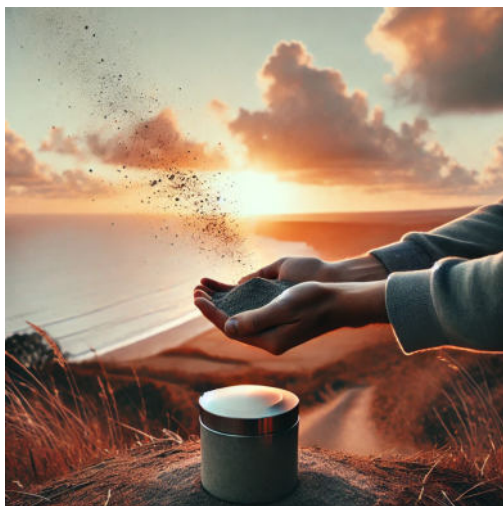
Develop Editorial Excellence

Editing Genealogical Publications

Back by popular demand! Take your genealogy publishing skills to the next level with **Tom Jones** and **D. Joshua Taylor** in this newly expanded course.

FIND OUT MORE

Bits & Pieces



The Ashes Register

In the [recent newsletter](#) from the Society of Genealogists (UK), I read about the recording of ash scattering locations [in a register](#). Is this happening elsewhere? Whether ashes are placed in a memorial garden, scattered at sea, or released in a cherished location, documenting these choices helps preserve family stories for future generations. Would this be a useful addition to research in your country?

Protect Yourself from Spoofing

Spoofing scams trick people by disguising emails, phone calls, or websites to look like trusted sources. Last month FamilyTreeDNA notified its users that an unauthorised site was impersonating its platform—a reminder that spoofing is becoming more common. But while these scams are on the rise, there are ways to protect yourself.

To stay safe, **never click on suspicious links or download unexpected attachments**, even if they appear to come from a familiar contact. **Verify caller IDs and email addresses**—fraudsters often mimic real organisations with slight variations. Use **multi-factor authentication** for added security and **avoid sharing sensitive information** unless you're absolutely certain of the request's legitimacy. When in doubt, **contact the company or person directly using official contact details** rather than responding to the message.

Happy Chinese New Year to All Who Celebrate!

The **Year of the Snake** in the Chinese zodiac began on **January 29, 2025**, marking a time associated with wisdom, transformation, and strategy. Lunar New Year, widely celebrated across many cultures, has deep genealogical significance—it is a time to **honour ancestors, reflect on family heritage, and strengthen generational connections**..



You can find out more about the Year of the Snake, and your horoscope at the [Chinese Fortune Teller](#).



Yet Another Wiki

We all know and love Wikipedia and WikiTree but did you know about [Wikienigma](#)? This is quite cool - **an encyclopaedia of known unknowns**—a collection of unanswered questions, uncertainties, and the gaps in our collective knowledge. Whether you're a researcher, a curious mind, or just love the thrill of the unknown, **Wikienigma maps the frontiers of what we don't yet understand—good places to dig deeper.**

[Bits and Pieces images are AI generated.]

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Family History Academy

Capalaba, QLD Australia



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