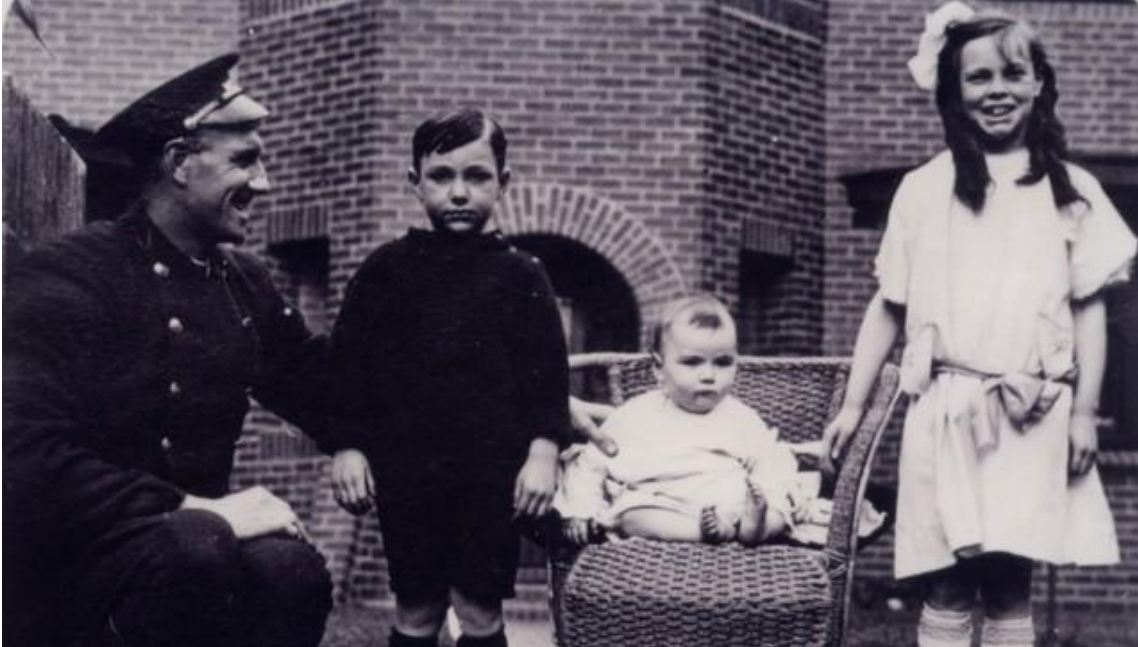


FIND YOUR STORY WITH FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH



Ever wanted to know more about your family history but don't know where to start? City of Melbourne Libraries has some great resources and tips for your search.

Record keeping is important

Make sure you have the following:

- A notebook
- A folder for storing documents (physical and/or digital)
- A camera (using a phone is fine)

Always record references and copy links, as you may want to refer back to.

Decide whether to use software or physical storage. Be aware that software upgrades can sometimes make old files difficult to access.

Free forms and charts are available on Ancestry which can be accessed from a City of Melbourne library.

Where to begin

Start with yourself: Note down everything you know about your immediate and extended family: names, dates, places, relationships, professions.

Contact your relatives: Ask them where and when they were born, where they lived, went to school, names of their parents and other relatives. Ask them if they have birth, marriage and death certificates as these provide valuable details. Take notes as you go and don't be nosy – some people will have things they don't want to talk about.

Check your facts: Memories can be unreliable – check dates, names, places and other details on official records.

Work backwards from yourself: Check the birth, death and marriage dates of your parents. Get certificates if necessary; these will give details of their parents. Follow the same steps for each generation until you can go back no further.

Build a tree: Plot your findings using a family tree. Ancestry and Family Search in new tab both offer free online charts.

Resources

City of Melbourne Libraries [Local history](#) | [City of Melbourne](#)

- Local history page, library website
- Ancestry and findmypast are valuable online resources, especially for Australian, British and American records. Visit any City of Melbourne library for free access.

Family Search <https://www.familysearch.org>

- A good resource for records outside Australia, such as Europe.
- You will need to join but it's free. Provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Cyndi's List <http://www.cyndislist.com/>

- Index of genealogical sites

Genealogical Society of Victoria <https://www.gsv.org.au/>

Trove (National Library Australia) <http://trove.nla.gov.au>

- Digitised newspapers

CITY OF MELBOURNE LIBRARIES

Public Records Office Victoria

<https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/family-history>

- Wills and probate
- Passenger records and immigration
- Education records

National Archives of Australia <https://www.naa.gov.au/>

- Passenger records post 1924
- Defence and war service records
- Naturalisation records

Royal Historical Society of Victoria <http://www.historyvictoria.org.au>

Ryerson Index <https://www.ryersonindex.org>

- Index to obituaries in Australian Newspapers

Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria <https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au>

Cemeteries

Some cemeteries provide good online information, including:

- Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust – <https://www.gmct.com.au/deceased>
- Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust – Southern and Central Cemeteries (includes Melbourne General Cemetery which is not online) <https://smct.org.au>
- Boroondara <http://www.kewcemetery.com.au>
- General cemetery indexes <http://www.australiancemeteries.com.au>

Find-a-grave <https://www.findagrave.com>

City of Melbourne

- Open access interactive maps <http://maps.melbourne.vic.gov.au>

State Library of Victoria

- [MMBW maps](#) (Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works)
- Family history research guides

Still need help with your search? Why not book a one-on-one session with a librarian?

Book a history detective is available through the library website or call 1800 695 427

