

SIMON FOWLER

Title

Writing up your family history for pleasure and profit

Summary

If you have thought about writing up your family history or your interesting ancestors this session will encourage you to get started. It will also discuss the various ways in which you can publish your family history from blogs to books. And there will be top tips to help you write history that people will want to read.

Abstract

The ultimate aim of every genealogist should be to write the family's history. By doing so you make your research accessible, for future generations, as well as to the immediate family. The family history need not be a tedious tome – indeed the session will show you ways to bring it alive.

And with luck you will have come across particular stories – early settlers in the Outback - or family members - such as a war hero – that may be well worth writing up separately. There are certainly now many ways to get your family history before a wide audience. This session will look at the various ways you can do this from the traditional family history book, via articles and websites, to tweets and Facebook pages.

Samuel Johnson once famously wrote that “No man should write unless it is for money”, so we will also show you how to sell articles and books to magazines and publishers. In particular there is always a demand for well-written articles, so this session will offer tips about how to provide pieces that editors are going to want to use.

For most family historians the problem is to know to where to start and then how to write in an interesting way. Again the session will offer simple guidance to get you on your way and also how to avoid one or two elephant traps that could trip up the unwary.

So bring those laptops and quill pens and prepare to get scribbling.

Audience

Intermediate to Advanced