

CAROLE RILEY

Title

House and Home - finding NSW house and land records. How to find your ancestors in land and property records.

Note: This is a double length session and is scheduled over two sessions on Monday morning.

Summary

Lands departments around the country are increasingly making their records more accessible to family historians, either directly or through the state archives. This introduction to land records explains their significance and how to find them.

Abstract

Land and property research can tell us so much about how our ancestors lived and worked. If they owned a house, business premises or rural property there are records to be found, and these records can be very revealing of the social and economic circumstances of the occupiers. Land and property records can also contain information found nowhere else, such as birthdates and names of family members, and even wills and marriage settlements, and so can break down brick walls that have defeated other types of records. In early colonial times the buying, selling or leasing of property may have been the only times our ancestors dealt with government at all, and so land records can be useful in solving mysteries for our colonial ancestors where records are scarce.

This presentation will introduce the main types of land records such as grants, deeds, Torrens titles, Crown leases, maps and plans, as well as government purchase schemes such as conditional purchases and soldier settlements. Most of these records are relevant whether we are researching the history of a person or of a single property. We will look at what is in them, what they mean and where to find them, with emphasis on the searches and images available through the NSW Land and Property Information website.

Audience

Intermediate to Advanced