

THE

DON GRANT

FAMILY HISTORY

LECTURES



1997 - 2006



Victorian Association of Family
History Organisations Inc.

The Victorian Association of Family History Organisations (VAFHO) is an umbrella organization of family history and genealogical societies together with State Government instrumentalities.

VAFHO was formed at the Second Victorian Family History State Conference held at Maryborough in November 1996. The first President was Mrs Frances Brown, then Genealogy and Local History Librarian of the State Library of Victoria. Frances was the driving force behind the establishment of a statewide organisation, born out of the co-operation and collaboration established during the planning of the First Victorian Family History State Conference at the Melbourne Town Hall in May 1995.

The aims and purpose of VAFHO are to promote and encourage the study of genealogy, heraldry, family history and allied subjects, to promote and arrange easier public access to public records and record repositories throughout Victoria, to promote and encourage the preservation of records for family history research and to co-ordinate the conduct of regular family History conferences and events.

The annual Don Grant Family History Lecture is one of the regular events organised by VAFHO.



Produced in Victoria by the Victorian Association of Family History Organisations
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DON GRANT
FAMILY HISTORY
LECTURES**



This series of lectures was instituted by the *Victorian Association of Family History Organisations (VAFHO)* as a tribute to a notable and noted Victorian Genealogist and to bring to the people of Victoria annually, a speaker of note on a variety of interesting subjects of interest to Genealogists and Family Historians.

We hope that by issuing this printed form of these lectures, many more people will have the opportunity to read what they had to say.



This book contains the first Ten Years of the
Don Grant Lectures

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DONALD WILLIAM MORRISON GRANT

Don Grant was Officer in Charge of the Public Record Office City Search Room, for sixteen years until November 1996.

During that time Don guided and encouraged tentative beginners to family history and provided the inspiration and insights needed by those investigations.

As many of you will be aware, Don's interest in genealogy began nearly 50 years ago when, as a school boy, an encounter with the wars of Austrian and Spanish Succession sparked his interest in researching his own family's history.

His pursuit of genealogy ran parallel to his career as Librarian (1952-1977) during which he managed the General Motors Holden Technical Library for 15 years.

In 1980, having worked for genealogist and record of the Public Record Office

He brought a wealth of stamp of authority to the

Don joined the Victoria (GSV) in 1953 and Committee.

Twenty years later he co-Institute of Genealogical was President until 1981.

During the 1970's he was initiatives that have made a the pursuit of genealogy in



three years as a full time agent, Don joined the staff City Search Room.

experience and, soon, a Search Room.

Genealogical Society of was soon co-opted onto the

founded the Australian Studies (AIGS) of which he

an instigator of a number of significant contribution to this country.

The Alexander Henderson Award and President's Award were established to foster excellence in the production of family histories.

The Australasian Congress of Genealogy and Heraldry was established and at its inaugural meeting the organization that was to become the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) was conceived.

Don did much to bring professionalism to genealogy and in recognition of his contribution he has been elected a fellow and life member of both the GSV and the AIGS.

He continues to support genealogy in Victoria and is an active representative member of the Victorian Association of Family History Organisations (VAFHO); the State Library of Victoria Genealogy Centre User Group (SLUOG); Public Record Office Stakeholders Committee; the Australasian Association of Genealogists and Record Agents (AAGRA), and is a frequent and inspiring guest speaker at many conferences and other genealogical events.