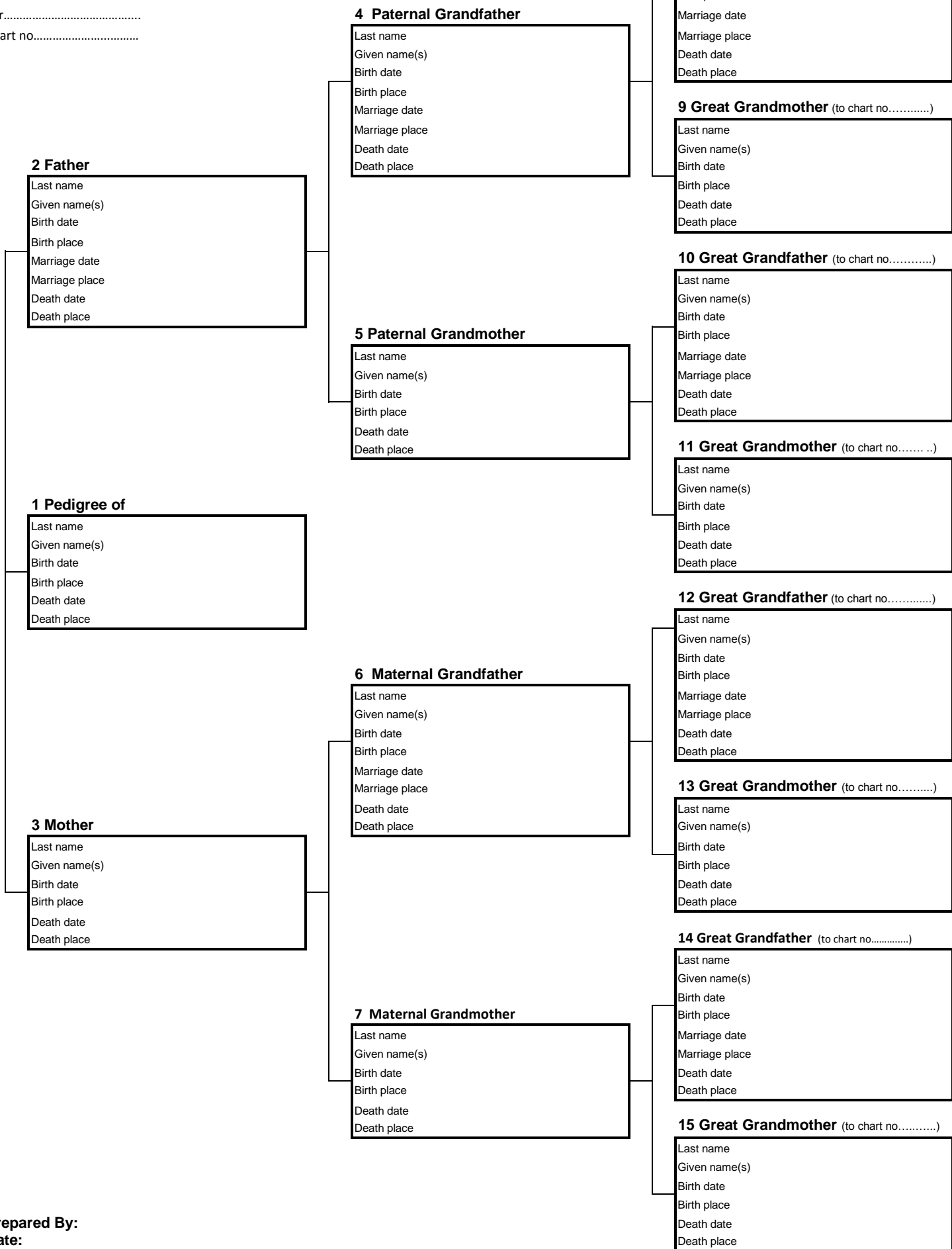




FOUR GENERATION PEDIGREE CHART

For.....

Chart no.....



Prepared By:
Date:



Genealogy SA

Helping find your family history



STARTING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

- 1 Always work backwards from the known (which is yourself and what you know) to the unknown (which are your forebears).
- 2 Write down what you know. Use the blank Pedigree Chart on the reverse of this page and start to fill in the information that you know.
- 3 Talk to older family members. They will usually be pleased to find someone taking an interest and be willing to share information and stories. Document what you are told but don't believe everything. Memories can be incomplete, prejudiced, or simply repeating family folklore. Sometimes you will find confusion, contradictions and conflicts. Maintain a healthy degree of scepticism.
- 4 Get contact details from distant relatives, uncles, aunts and cousins.
- 5 Seek to acquire family records, photographs, certificates, letters and other documentary evidence.
- 6 Search the Births, Deaths and Marriages indexes and Census or Electoral Rolls for names, dates and places your ancestors lived.
- 7 Always try to get at least two separate sources of proof for each event.
- 8 Classify your information into:
 - *Primary sources such as certificates, wills, photographs and other official documents.*
 - *Secondary sources such as written or oral family histories, letters, diaries, interviews, compiled family trees and memories.*
 - *Internet sources including indexes, images, transcripts etc.*
 - *Incidental sources such as rumours and folklore.*
- 9 Photocopy or scan certificates and important documents and ensure the originals are stored safely and securely.
- 10 Set up a system to organise and manage your work in progress.
- 11 Don't be afraid to seek help from other family history researchers, either inside or outside your family.
- 12 Learn about how other community family history information resources can help you, such as the State Library, State Records, National Archives, National Library (Trove), local history societies and internet subscription websites.
- 13 Consider joining a family history society.
- 14 Early on in your project think about how and to whom you want to present your family history when completed. Don't feel confined to a hardcopy publication, when you can in addition to the written word include photographs, images, video and audio, and publish on CD, DVD, or on the web. Make sure you consider privacy, ethical, acknowledgement and copyright matters when you publish your family history.