

### **What you need to know**

- Records to 1924 - colonial responsibility. Records held at various state archives
- Records from 1924 - Commonwealth responsibility. Records held by National Archives of Australia
- There are no uniform series of records or national indexes

### **What else you need to know**

- Records and indexes reflect the immigration schemes operating at the time
- Records are arranged by state and port of arrival
- Most record series are available and indexed
- There can be more than one index to a record series
- Many indexes and original records are on the Internet

### **Colonial Boundaries**

NUM C, PEMBERTON P & PENNY J, *Family History Research Manager*, Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra, Canberra, 6th edn, 2001. There is a series of maps and detailed information on colonial boundaries.

### **Passenger arrival records pre 1924**

Detail passengers arriving at ports and are held by state archives. There are separate record series for:

- Convict arrivals
- Assisted arrivals who used one of the many government immigration schemes
- Free or unassisted arrivals who paid their own way. Can also include interstate/colonial arrivals and crew.

### **The other records**

- Passenger departure records detail passengers, and sometimes crew, departing from ports. Many are unindexed. They are arranged chronologically by port of departure.
- Ship movement records detail the arrival and departure of vessels from ports. Passengers and crew are not named. Use these records if all you have is the name of a ship.

### **When searching arrival records consider**

- Arrivals can be at any age - from born on board to elderly
- Any Status - alone and single, married or widowed
- Marital status, age or occupation may have been altered to qualify for an assisted passage
- Those from non-Anglo-Saxon backgrounds may have anglicised their names

### **Where to start**

- Find evidence that the person was not born in Australia
- Find last documented evidence of that person in their homeland
- Find the first documented evidence of that person in Australia

### **Use this information to**

- Estimate an approximate date of arrival
- Estimate the possible state and port of arrival
- Look at possible arrival categories. This is important because the records and the indexes reflect the transportation and immigration schemes operating at the time.

### **Next step**

- Check for departure and migration records held by country of origin
- Check for online guides and fact sheets in Australia and country of origin
- Check for online indexes at relevant archives
- Do an index search of likely records

[www.coraweb.com.au/shipshee.htm](http://www.coraweb.com.au/shipshee.htm)

Web Sites for Genealogists link to *How to Find Shipping and Immigration Records: A Beginners Sheet*

### **Possible arrival categories pre 1924**

- Convict (1788-1868)
- Military (1788-1870)
- Free or unassisted passengers who paid their own way
- Assisted passengers who had all, or part of, the fare paid for by the government of the day
- Ships' crew
- Deserters – ships' crew, naval or military

### **Possible arrival categories after 1924**

- Those who used a migration scheme
- Those who paid their own fare
- Displaced persons post World War II
- War brides
- Refugees
- Internees and prisoners of war (Japanese and Italian - World War II)
- Child and youth migrants - From Britain (1911-1980s) and Malta (1938-1965)

### **Clues for locating ship of arrival**

- Death certificates for NSW, Qld and Vic can have clues to date and place of arrival. Use the column headed: Where born and how long in the Australian States, stating which.
- Burial records (pre 1856) often name ship of arrival.
- Newspaper obituaries, anniversary and birthday notices may give a clue to ship, date and place of arrival.
- Is there a pioneer register for the area where your family lived? These often record the ship of arrival
- Arrivals prior to 1830 use the 1828 census, muster records and the Colonial Secretary's Index 1788-1825 as these record ship of arrival.

### **Arrivals 1825-1832**

[www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/1825-1832.htm](http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/1825-1832.htm)

The Ships List - Emigrants from Great Britain & Ireland to Australia: 1825-1832 extracted from the British Parliamentary Papers (1833, XXVI, 279). It is arranged by colony and lists name, trade, number of persons in each family and amount (£) given to each. The ship of arrival is not listed.

### **New South Wales Search**

[www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-online](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-online)

State Records New South Wales, Indexes Online, Immigration and Shipping include:

- Assisted Immigrants to Port Phillip (Vic) 1839-1851, Sydney and Newcastle 1844-1859, Moreton Bay (Brisbane) 1848-1859, Sydney 1860-1879 and 1880-1896. A search returns names, events, age, remarks, vessel, year and references for access to the passenger lists. A vessel search returns an alphabetical list of all immigrants aboard.
- Miscellaneous Immigrants 1828-1843 lists the names of some passengers who paid their own fare and some assisted immigrants. Details given include name, ship, date of arrival, age, events (eg shipwreck) and references. It does not cover all arrivals for this period.
- Unassisted Immigrants 1842-1855 lists those who paid their own way. It includes ships' crew. A search returns names, age, ship, status, arrival date, from port, references and remarks.

[www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/guides-and-finding-aids/nrs-lists/nrs-5316](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/guides-and-finding-aids/nrs-lists/nrs-5316)

State Records New South Wales pilot project to digitise microfilm shipping lists. Currently lists on reels 2134-2145 are available for free online viewing. Use the online indexes listed above to locate the reel number/s

and then consult the online reel if available. The following series have online reels available:

- Persons on bounty ships (Agent's Immigrant Lists), 1838-1896 (NRS 5316)
- Persons on bounty ships arriving at Port Phillip, 1839-1851 (NRS 5318)
- Germans on bounty ships, 1849-1852 (NRS 5320)
- Members of the Family Colonization Loan Society, 1854-57 (NRS 5322)
- Passenger lists of the Family Colonization Loan Society, 1854-55 (NRS 5323).

[www.ancestry.com.au](http://www.ancestry.com.au)

Ancestry.com offers access to indexes and digitised images for New South Wales Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists 1828-1896 and Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists 1826-1922. There is a free name search with subscription (\$), or pay to view, options available to access the digitised records. This database covers the following records held by State Records New South Wales:

- Returns of convicts applications for wives and families to be brought to New South Wales at Government expense. (NRS 1190, reel 699)
- Persons on bounty ships (Agent's Immigrant Lists). (NRS 5316, reels 2134-2143)
- Persons on early migrant ships (Fair Copy). (NRS 5310, reel 1286)
- Wage agreements and entitlement certificates of persons on bounty ships (Agent's Immigrant Lists). (NRS 5315, reels 2449-2456)
- Persons on bounty ships to Sydney, Newcastle, and Moreton Bay (Board's Immigrant Lists). (NRS 5317, reels 2458-2498)
- Persons on bounty ships arriving at Port Phillip (Agent's Immigrant Lists). (NRS 5318, reels 2143A-2145)
- Passengers arriving at Sydney 1846 (Agent's Immigrant Lists). (NRS 5326, reel 2457)
- Inward passenger lists. (NRS 13278, reels 399-560, 2001-2122, 2751)
- Reports of vessels arrived (or Shipping reports). (NRS 1291, reels 1263-1285, 2851)

### **South Australian Search**

[www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/SAassistedindex.htm](http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/SAassistedindex.htm)

The Ships List. Immigrants to South Australia, (UK, assisted passage) 1847-1886. This ongoing project by Robert Janmaat currently has over 200 selected lists for 1847-1860 available. A surname search of all Australian lists hosted by *The Ships List* is available by clicking on *Passenger Lists*.

### **More clues**

- Family stories or possessions such as diaries, bibles or old luggage with the ship's name on the side/inside
- Examine family names. Could a ship's name be used? eg. James Romsdal Makins
- Look for expired passports, tickets or receipts
- Naturalisation records - held by the states to 1904 and by National Archives of Australia from 1904.
- Hospital admission registers and prison records often record the ship of arrival
- Check the Welcome Walls – Sydney, Fremantle, Albany and online

### **Searches based on passport photo 1929-1930**

#### **Melbourne to London search**

[www.ancestry.com.au](http://www.ancestry.com.au)

Ancestry.com. This commercial site offers access to the UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960. This collection is fully indexed with digital images available. It contains 16+ million names from the Board of Trade's passenger lists of ships arriving in the United Kingdom from foreign ports outside of Europe and the Mediterranean from 1878-1888 and 1890-1960. Information listed may include: name of passenger, their birth date or age, occupation, port of departure, port of arrival, date of arrival, vessel name and from birth, occupation and, from 1922 onwards, intended UK address of each passenger. A variety of subscription options is available.

### London to Melbourne search

[www.ancestorsonboard.com](http://www.ancestorsonboard.com)

Ancestorsonboard.com database to Outward Passenger Lists for voyages departing the British Isles 1890-1960 for Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and USA. The free name search lists names, age, sex, departure year and port, destination port and country plus details of transcripts and images which are available for a fee. You can also access the arrival record into Australia as well as this departure record.

### If the arrival into Australia was pre 1924

[tinyurl.com/353osg5](http://tinyurl.com/353osg5)

Public Record Office of Victoria - Index to Unassisted Inward Passenger Lists to Victoria 1852-1923. This database lists unassisted passengers to Victoria from British, Foreign and New Zealand Ports. A search returns name, title, age, arrival date, ship name and fiche reference to the relevant passenger list.

[www.ancestry.com.au](http://www.ancestry.com.au)

Ancestry.com offers access to indexes and digitised images for Victoria - Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists 1839-1923. There is a free name search with subscription, or pay to view, options available to access the digitised records.

Western Australian Genealogical Society, *Passenger Arrivals in Western Australia 1898-1925*, the Society, Perth, 2001. CD-ROM. This database contains the names of over 400,000 passengers arriving in Western Australia from the UK, Europe, Asia and other ports of Australia. These records include over 200,000 passengers going to or departing Adelaide, Sydney, or Melbourne.

### Arrivals into Australia post 1924

[www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)

National Archives of Australia, Index to Passenger Arrivals. Click on the *NameSearch* link on the right hand side of the homepage. The tab bar offers the following: RecordSearch - Basic and Advanced searches, PhotoSearch and Passengers arrivals index. Click on *Passengers arrivals index*. This online database indexes inward passenger manifests for ships and aircraft arriving at Fremantle, Perth Airport and outports. Currently arrivals at Western Australian ports (1921-1950) and Perth airport (1944-1950) are available for searching. These records include all passengers disembarking but also those travelling onto other Australian ports such as Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne. For further details see *Fact Sheet 220: Index to Passenger Arrivals*.

### Newspaper search

[trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper](http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper)

Trove digitised newspapers offer free access to 4.5+ million pages from Australian newspapers. There are 104 titles currently available dating from 1803 to 1954 (some later). The numbers in brackets are the number of titles available.

ACT (2) *Canberra Times* (1926-1954)

National (1) *Australian Women's Weekly* (1932-1984)

NSW (24) *Sydney Morning Herald* (1842-1954)

NT (7) *Northern Territory Times* (1873-1932)

Qld (14) *Courier-Mail* (1933-1954)

SA (10) *The Advertiser* (1889-1954)

Tas (14) *Mercury* (1860-1954)

Vic (20) *Argus* (1848-1954)

WA (12) *West Australian* (1879-1954)

New titles being added include country titles

## Naturalisation records

[www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)

National Archives of Australia (NAA) holds naturalisation records from 1904 for all of Australia. See NAA Fact Sheet no 68 for details.

[www.coraweb.com.au/naturalisation.htm](http://www.coraweb.com.au/naturalisation.htm)

*Web Sites for Genealogists* link to naturalisation records online.

## Gaol records

[www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-online](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-online)

State Records New South Wales, Indexes Online, include the *Index to Gaol Photographs (1870-1930)* for Albury, Armidale, Bathurst, Berrima, Biloela, Broken Hill, Darlinghurst, Deniliquin, Dubbo, Goulburn, Grafton and Trial Bay. More gaols will be added as they become available.

## Welcome walls

Welcome Walls pay tribute to those who crossed the seas to settle in Australia.

- For a fee arrival details are inscribed on the walls
- Information is supplemented by online databases.
- Australian National Maritime Museum for Sydney's Welcome Wall database - [www.anmm.gov.au](http://www.anmm.gov.au)
- Western Australian Museum - Fremantle and Albany's walls database - [www.museum.wa.gov.au/welcomewalls/](http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/welcomewalls/)
- Australia's Virtual Immigration Wall of Honour. Search or contribute (free) - [tinyurl.com/288c4wb](http://tinyurl.com/288c4wb)

## Shipping Indexes on the Internet

[www.coraweb.com.au/shipindex.htm](http://www.coraweb.com.au/shipindex.htm)

*Web Sites for Genealogists Immigration into Australia*: with extensive links to available online resources for all states. It is worth noting that some of these indexes are only available on the Internet and have not been published elsewhere. Also check out the overseas sites at

[www.coraweb.com.au/shiposeas.htm](http://www.coraweb.com.au/shiposeas.htm)

## Locating the records

NUM Cora, *How to Find Shipping and Immigration Records in Australia*, 5th edn, the author, Pearce ACT, 2003. This book is arranged alphabetically by state and category. It is fully indexed with separate diary, place, ship and subject indexes. This book is now out of print but is widely available in libraries.

NUM Cora, *How did they get here? Arrivals after 1924*, the author, Moruya Heads, NSW, 2010. Further details can be found here [www.coraweb.com.au/ship1924details.htm](http://www.coraweb.com.au/ship1924details.htm)

## 20th Century Migration

[www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)

Records held by National Archives of Australia. There is some overlap with the states pre 1924. Records include:

- Passenger records (chronological by port of arrival)
- Naturalisation and citizenship records
- Department of Immigration Citizenship Index (limited)
- Alien registration forms
- Migrant selection documents
- Indexing is ongoing. Some records are listed on the collection database RecordSearch
- Online passenger arrivals index 1921-1950

## National Archives of Australia finding aids include

- Finding Families book
- Fact Sheets (online)
- *RecordSearch* collection database

Immigration research guides are available for purchase from NAA's online shop. All titles can be either read online or downloaded as PDF files (free) at [eshop.naa.gov.au/c/199275/1/immigration.html](http://eshop.naa.gov.au/c/199275/1/immigration.html)

CHAMBERS Margaret (Compiler), *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*, National Archives of Australia in association with Hale & Iremonger, Sydney, 1998. 330p.

## Why can't I find them?

- Name recorded incorrectly. Always check for surname variations
- Arrival was never recorded
- Free arrival - unindexed records
- Jumped ship
- Assumed another identity
- Assumed other circumstances

## When you have located ship of arrival

Do some background reading. Try and locate:

- a ship's log, journal, diary or letters written on board
- a picture of the ship
- a newspaper report of the voyage. Use Australian Newspapers at [trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper](http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper)

Check the city newspaper for the day of arrival to see what was making news and the weather details

CHARLWOOD D E, *The Long Farewell: The Perilous Voyages of Settlers Under Sail in the Great Migrations to Australia*, Burgewood Books, Warrandyte Vic, 3rd edn, 2000. 324p. This illustrated book evokes the experiences of the emigrants, the physical dangers, the stress and boredom they endured on the long voyage to Australia.

## Where can I find ships' journals and diaries?

NICHOLSON Ian Hawkins, *Log of Logs: A Catalogue of Logs, Journals, Shipboard Diaries, Letters, and all Forms of Voyage Narratives*, Roebuck Society publication, Aranda ACT, 1990-1999. 3 volumes. *Log of Logs* are catalogues of ships' logs, shipboard diaries and letters written by passengers and crew that relate to Australia and New Zealand. Ships' names are listed alphabetically and many of the ships are illustrated.

SUSSEX Lucy, *Saltwater in the Ink, Voices from the Australian Seas*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne, 2010. 213p. This book looks at a selection of sea-diaries, amateur newspapers and letters from the 1800s. Many immigrants had little else to do on the ship so they took up their quill and recorded the routine of their daily lives on board ship, an early equivalent of a blog.

[www.nla.gov.au/ms/findaids/diaries.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/ms/findaids/diaries.html)

National Library of Australia. This site contains a list of immigrant diaries (1822-1895) held in the Library's manuscript collection. It is arranged chronologically by year and date of departure.

[mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/grthom/web/medjour.html](http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/grthom/web/medjour.html)

Convict Ships – Medical Journals 1816-1867. This index by Graham Thom is designed to help you access medical journals that were kept by surgeons on convict ships, 1816-1856 (mostly to Australia) and on emigrant ships 1825-1853 bound for Australia and New Zealand. The original records are held by the National Archives (Kew) at Admiralty 101 and Ministry of Transport 32. They are available on film through

the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP). For details of the AJCP and how to access these records see [www.nla.gov.au/collect/ajcp.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/collect/ajcp.html). For further details see the following site.

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/surgeonsatsea/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/surgeonsatsea/)

Surgeons at Sea - Royal Navy Medical Officers' Journals (ADM 101). This project is indexing all the names mentioned in the journals and diaries compiled by Royal Navy surgeons and assistant surgeons who served on HM ships, hospitals, naval brigades, shore parties and on emigrant and convict ships 1793 to 1880. Digital copies of some of the journals are available online (free) and include these convict ships to New South Wales: *Albion* 1828, *Eliza* 1822, *John Barry* 1821 *Ocean* 1817/1818 and *Juliana* 1838/1839 (emigrant ship).

[www.nla.gov.au/ferg/](http://www.nla.gov.au/ferg/)

Australian Periodical Publications for access to digital copies of *The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List* online (1844-1855). This publication is useful for detailed information on a specific voyage to Australia.

### **Where can I find a picture of the ship?**

[www.anmm.gov.au](http://www.anmm.gov.au) - Australian National Maritime Museum. Go to the *Quick Links* at the bottom of the page and click on *Research Guides* for access to Pictures of ships in the Australian trade

[www.nmmimages.com](http://www.nmmimages.com) - National Maritime Museum, Greenwich UK, Picture Library

[www.awm.gov.au/search/collections](http://www.awm.gov.au/search/collections) - Australian War Memorial, Photograph collection

[trove.nla.gov.au/picture](http://trove.nla.gov.au/picture)

Trove pictures and photos searches across the image collections of libraries, museums, galleries, archives, universities and historical societies. There are over two million images available covering all aspects of Australiana.

### **Extra Resources**

#### **Resources for convicts arrivals**

NUM Cora, *Convict Records in Australia*, the author, Canberra, 2nd edn, 2007. 112p. This book is designed to assist researchers understand the vast amount of material and records available for convict research in Australia. It highlights what records are available and what they contain. It is arranged alphabetically by category and is fully indexed with diary, place, ship and subject indexes.

[www.coraweb.com.au/convict.htm](http://www.coraweb.com.au/convict.htm)

*Web Sites for Genealogists* extensive list of sites for researching convict records online.

#### **Resources for military arrivals**

DONOHUE J, *The British Army in Australia 1788-1870: Index of Personnel*, the author, Mosman, 1996.

Formats – microfiche, book, CD-ROM. An alphabetical list of almost all of the 20,000 men and some women who served in or with the British Army in colonial Australia, cross-referenced to their Regiments. Includes some who served in NZ.

[freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~garter1/](http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~garter1/)

Australia's Redcoat Settlers by B & M Chapman. This site features information on the British Regiments who served in Australia. Information is arranged by regiment with detailed biographical information on those who chose to settle here. There are 37,000+ soldiers named. The site also includes soldiers who served in Australia and settled in New Zealand.

[mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/grthom/web/cpindex.html](http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/grthom/web/cpindex.html)

Chelsea Pensioners - Out Pensions. This index by Grahame Thom covers 1849-1853 for New South Wales. Men pensioned out of the British Army were known as Chelsea Pensioners because their pensions were administered through the Royal Hospital Chelsea, a retirement and nursing home for former members of the British Army. Those who lived at the hospital were known as in-pensioners and those who lived elsewhere

were known as out-pensioners. Most were out-pensioners and were registered in a district where the local pay office was located. Each district kept records of Chelsea pensioners from when they first registered in the district or transferred in until they transferred out or died. These records detail a soldier's career and can also provide information about next of kin. The original records are held by the Public Record Office London (War Office 22). They are available on film through the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP). For details of the AJCP and how to access these records see [www.nla.gov.au/collect/ajcp.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/collect/ajcp.html)

### Resources for locating deserters

MELTON J, *Ship's Deserters 1852-1900: Including stragglers, strays and absentees from H M ships*, Library of Australian History, Sydney, 1986. 535p.

SEXTON Rae, *The Deserters: Military and Naval Deserters as Settlers in Australia and New Zealand 1800-1865*, 3rd edn, Australasian Maritime Historical Society, Lobethal SA, 1998. 108p.

[gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/](http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/)

Victoria Government Gazette Online Archive 1836-1997. This fully searchable site contains digitised images of the *New South Wales Government Gazette* (1836-1851), *Port Phillip Government Gazette* (1843-1851) and *Victoria Government Gazette* (1851-1997).

[freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ausnavy/](http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ausnavy/)

White Ensign Southern Cross 1788-1913 is dedicated to the naval officers, men and their families who settled in Australia. This extensive site has detailed information on the Royal Marines, colonial navies, colonial defence, naval military actions and ships plus details of known descendants. A deserter's database, compiled from government and police gazettes, is available online.

### Other resources

*The Relations Index of Immigrants to New South Wales*, Hervey Bay Indexers (Janet Reakes & Bev Close), Hervey Bay QLD. Microfiche. This series of indexes compiled from the SRNSW Board's Immigrants Lists 1848-1891 consists of two parts. Part 1 is an alphabetical index of relatives in the colony plus name of immigrant, ship, year of arrival and relationship to the relative. Part 2 is an alphabetical index to the immigrants.

STEMP Pat & TRINDER Aileen, *Index to the Immigration Deposit Journals 1853-1900*, Pastkeys, Rockdale, 1988. Microfiche. This is an index to the Immigration Deposit Journals 1853-1900 held by SRNSW on microfilm (1866-1874 are missing). These journals record the money deposited in the colony by persons wishing to sponsor the immigration of a nominated person (usually a relative) or a group of persons. They can provide a vital link between family and extended family. There is also an *Immigration Deposit Journals Regulations: Supplementary Index 1856-1857 - Immigrants and Depositors* on microfiche. These indexes are now available on CD-ROM. See here for details [www.gould.com.au/Immigration-Deposit-Indexes-p/pas001.htm](http://www.gould.com.au/Immigration-Deposit-Indexes-p/pas001.htm) This CD includes the two indexes previously published on microfiche.

KNIGHT Marj, *Bounty Immigration New South Wales 1828 to 1842*, Macbeth Genealogical Services, Hampton Vic, 2002. CD-ROM.

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

FamilySearch. Click on *Australia and New Zealand* under *Browse by Location* for access to the *Index to Bounty Immigrants Arrivals in NSW 1828-1842*. The online images are of the original index cards. You can also access images of New Zealand passenger lists 1855-1973 from here.

[www.coraweb.com.au/shipindex.htm](http://www.coraweb.com.au/shipindex.htm)

Web Sites for Genealogists - *Immigration into Australia: Online Indexes and Passenger Lists* arranged by state. A comprehensive listing of what is available online for each state.