



ARRIVALS

First Steps for Aussie Ancestors

Society of Australian Genealogists

ARRIVALS – Points to remember

- Commonwealth of Australia took control of immigration from 1923 – prior to that it was the responsibility of the states or colonies so records are held in the relevant (state or national) government archives.
You need to start with an idea of when (and hopefully where) your ancestor arrived in order to know where to look.
- Eastern Australia was originally all NSW, so early shipping records are held in NSW State Records, even for areas that later became separate colonies or states.
- Arrivals were generally recorded at first port of call. (So if the ship stopped first in Fremantle ...)
- Unassisted passengers paid all their own passage. Assisted emigrants had been selected as desirable migrants and had some or all of their passage paid by government or privately. There is generally more information available for assisted migrants than unassisted.
- Ships' crew and army rank and file are often not included by name in lists of passengers.
- Most surviving records relate to international passengers (and generally those from Europe). Few lists survive for those who travelled between colonies on coastal or domestic shipping.
- Naturalisation was for non-British who wanted to vote or own land. Each colony offered its own (separate) naturalisation. Commonwealth government took control of naturalisations after 1903.
- For certain times and places there are few (or no) surviving records of arrivals and an ancestor's arrival then must be determined from other records or even just by narrowing the range of possible arrival dates.
- Indexes generally don't include all the available information. If you find an ancestor's name in an index, use that to help you find a copy of the original record – which probably has more information than the index.

CONVICTS sent to eastern states until 1853. Convicts to WA 1850-1868

- Convict indexes in NSW & Colonial Secretary's Papers – www.records.nsw.gov.au
- Convicts to Australia – www.convictcentral.com/
- Convicts to Tasmania – www.archives.tas.gov.au/nameindexes
- Convicts to Western Australia – www.fremantleprison.com.au
- Convict Transportation Register – www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/fh/convicts/about
- Irish convicts – www.nationalarchives.ie/topics/transportation/search01.html
- www.ancestry.com.au has various convict databases (*Use free at SAG*)
- SAG has many fiche, films, CDs and books with convict details

NEW SOUTH WALES

- NSW State Records – www.records.nsw.gov.au (*Indexes Online*)
 - Indexes to Assisted Immigrants to NSW to 1896
 - Assisted Immigrants to Port Phillip 1839-1851, to Moreton Bay 1848-1859
 - For assisted Immigrants 1838-1896, "Agent's Immigrant lists" digitised & freely available online
 - Unassisted Immigrants to NSW 1842-1855
 - Naturalisations 1834-1903
 - Colonial Secretary's Papers for arrivals 1788-1825(Try a *Keyword Search* to search all online indexes except Colonial Secretary's Papers)
- Unassisted Immigrant Passengers Index 1826-1922 – www.ancestry.com.au (*Use free at SAG*)
- Immigration indexes at State Records – <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/guides-and-finding-aids/archives-in-brief/archives-in-brief-1>
- Other Unassisted Passengers & Crew etc – <http://mariners.records.nsw.gov.au>
- Shipping Gazette – www.nla.gov.au/ferg/
- AGCI (Australian Genealogical Computer Index) – A2/45/CD.1
- Various fiche (including "Miscellaneous Immigrants") at SAG see NSW-SHP-IMM & NSW-NWS-IND
- Naturalisations 1904-1917 – fiche at SAG

QUEENSLAND

- Qld State Archives immigration indexes – www.archives.qld.gov.au/research/indexes.asp
- Assisted Immigrants to Moreton Bay (Brisbane) 1848-1859 (incl. digital images) – www.records.nsw.gov.au
- Maryborough immigrants from British Isles & Germany – www.ancestry.com.au (*Use free at SAG*)
- Naturalisations 1858-1903 – films at SAG.
- Various other fiche relating to shipping at SAG see QLD-SHP-IMM & QLD-NWS-IND

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- Bound for South Australia (currently passenger lists to 1851) – www.slsa.sa.gov.au/fh/passengerlists/BoundforSouthAustralia.htm
- Family History South Australia's searchable database of passenger lists up to 1849 – www.familyhistorysa.info/
- Assisted Immigrants to South Australia from UK 1847-1886 – www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/SAassistedindex.htm
- German Emigrants to South Australia 1837-1860 – www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/SAgermanindex.htm
- State Records of South Australia – www.archives.sa.gov.au (*Difficult to use*)
- Bound for South Australia: Births & Deaths on SA Assisted Migrant Ships 1848-1885 – E7/5/CD.1
- Horner Index, Shipping Departures from SA 1836-1887 – E7/50/CD.1
- Naturalisations 1854-1903 – fiche at SAG. Main documents held at National Archives of Australia
- Various other fiche relating to shipping at SAG see SA-SHP-IMM & SA-NWS-IND

TASMANIA – often ships to Tasmania stopped at Melbourne or Sydney first

- Archives Office of Tasmania – www.archives.tas.gov.au/nameindexes/
- Tasmanian GenWeb – www.rootsweb.com/~austas/immigrants.htm
- Various other fiche relating to shipping at SAG see TAS-SHP-IMM & TAS-NWS-IND

VICTORIA

- Immigration & other genealogy indexes in Victoria – www.prov.vic.gov.au (*Access the Collection*)
 - Index to assisted immigrants 1839-1871 (*films of original detailed records held at SAG*)
 - Index to unassisted immigrants 1852-1923
 - Index to outward passengers to interstate, UK & foreign ports 1852-1896
- Assisted Immigrants to Port Phillip 1839-1851 (incl. images) – www.records.nsw.gov.au (*Indexes Online*)
- The Somerset Years (Immigrants to Victoria 1839-1854) – book by Florence Chuk C7/50/11
- Naturalisations for Victoria from 1848 held at National Archives of Australia
- Various other fiche relating to shipping at SAG see VIC-SHP-IMM & VIC-NWS-IND

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- WA Shipping 1829-1889 – www.perthdps.com/shipping/index.html
- Passengers Arriving Fremantle & Perth (1926-1947) – <http://naa12.naa.gov.au> (*Guest, Passenger index*)
- Passenger arrivals & departures, Swan River Colony 1826-1838 – F7/50/CD.3
- WA Passenger Arrivals 1839-1890 – F7/50/CD.1
- WA Passenger Arrivals 1898-1925 – F7/50/CD/2
- WA crew, passenger & overland arrivals 1829-1896 – F7/50/CD.1b
- Various other fiche relating to shipping at SAG see WA-SHP-IMM & WA-NWS-IND

NORTHERN TERRITORY

- Port Darwin Passenger, Crew & Shipping Lists 1873-1921 – fiche NT-SHP-IND & NT-NSW-IND

ALL AUSTRALIA

- National Archives of Australia for shipping & immigration records from 1923 – www.naa.gov.au (*RecordSearch*) Also see under "Family History" → "Immigrants → Making Australia Home" Also "Arrivals to Fremantle from 1898", Naturalisations from 1904, SA & VIC Naturalisations from 1848
- Ancestor Search (Passenger Lists) – www.searchforancestors.com/locality/australia/passenger.html
- Australian & NZ passenger lists – www.list.jaunay.com/ausnzpassengers/
- Australia's Red Coat Regiments 1788-1870 – <http://freepages.history.rootsweb.com/~garter1/tobegin.htm>
- Convictions: Australian Shipping Arrivals & Departures (1788-1968) – www.blaxland.com/ozships/
- FindMyPast (passenger lists leaving UK 1890-1960) – www.findmypast.com (*Use at SAG*)
- Highland & Island Emigration Society (HIES) records – www.angelfire.com/ns/bkeddy/HIES/1.html
- Immigrant's Guide to Australia (1853) – www.slsa.sa.gov.au/fh/passengerlists/1853ImmigrantsGuide.htm
- Log of Logs: A Catalogue of logs, journals, shipboard diaries, letters, and all forms of voyage narratives, 1788 to 1988 for Australia and New Zealand – books by Ian Nicholson A2/10/22 & A2/10/22b
- Passenger Ships to Australia – <http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/shipping/mig-wa.htm>
- SAG Library Catalogue – www.sag.org.au (*Select 'Library Catalogue'*)
- The Ships List: Passenger lists, ship descriptions & pictures, shipwrecks – www.theshipslist.com
- World War 2 Refugees to Australia – http://immigrantships.net/ww2_au.html