



# ARRIVALS in Australia

## ARRIVALS – Points to remember

- Commonwealth of Australia took control of immigration from 1923 – earlier it was the responsibility of the states or colonies so records are held in the relevant (state or national) government archives. **Start with an idea of when (and hopefully where) your ancestor arrived so you will 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. Most sailing ships stopped first in Melbourne or Sydney. From 1881 some steamers approached Qld from north. From 1898 ships maybe stopped first at Fremantle.
- Unassisted passengers paid all their own costs. Assisted emigrants presented evidence that they were desirable migrants and had some or all of their passage paid by government or others – or were offered an incentive, such as a land grant. Generally there is more information about government-assisted migrants.
- If assisted by other than government, may not appear in government lists of assisted immigrants.
- Bounty schemes (usually): government paid someone to bring out suitable migrant.
- Ships' crew and army rank and file usually are not included by name in lists of passengers.
- Most surviving records relate to international passengers (generally on ships from UK or Germany). Fewer lists available for others, especially those who travelled between colonies on coastal / domestic shipping.
- UK government paid fares of paupers, convicts, military and civil servants. See The National Archives UK.
- Naturalisation was for non-British who wanted to vote or own land. Each colony offered its own (separate) naturalisation. Commonwealth government controlled naturalisations from 1903. Australian citizens from 1949.
- Sometimes there are few (or no) surviving records of arrivals and an ancestor's arrival must then be determined from other records or by narrowing the range of possible arrival dates.
- Indexes generally don't include all available information. If you find an ancestor's name in an index, use that to locate a copy of the original record – which probably has more information than the index.

## CONVICTS *(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](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)
- Convicts to Tasmania – [https://inctas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/names](https://inctas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names)
- Convicts to Western Australia – [www.fremantleprison.com.au](http://www.fremantleprison.com.au)

## NEW SOUTH WALES

- NSW State Records – [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au) *(Indexes online)*  
*(Try a Keyword Search to search most online indexes – not Colonial Secretary's Papers)*
- Assisted and unassisted passengers, officers & crew – <http://marinersandships.com.au>
- Bounty Immigrants to NSW – [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) *(Entitlement Certificates 1828-1842)*
- Irish Famine Memorial Sydney – [www.irishfaminememorial.org](http://www.irishfaminememorial.org) *(database of orphan girls sent to Sydney, Hobart, Melbourne & Adelaide)*

## QUEENSLAND *(was NSW until 1859)*

- Qld State Archives immigration indexes – [www.archives.qld.gov.au/Researchers/Indexes/Immigration/Pages/Default.aspx](http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/Researchers/Indexes/Immigration/Pages/Default.aspx)
- Assisted Immigrants to Moreton Bay (Brisbane) (1848-1859) – [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA *(was NSW until 1836, founded on Wakefield model)*

- Assisted Immigrants to South Australia from UK (1847-1886) – [www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/SAassistedindex.shtml](http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/SAassistedindex.shtml)
- Family History South Australia's searchable database of passenger lists – [www.familyhistorysa.info](http://www.familyhistorysa.info)
- German Emigrants to South Australia (1837-1866) – [www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/SAGermanindex.shtml](http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/SAGermanindex.shtml)
- Immigration to South Australia – <http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/immigration> *(guides & indexes)*
- South Australian Naturalizations – [www.familyhistorysa.info/sahistory/naturalizations.html](http://www.familyhistorysa.info/sahistory/naturalizations.html)  
*see also* [www.familyhistorysa.info/sahistory/naturalization.html](http://www.familyhistorysa.info/sahistory/naturalization.html)
- State Records of South Australia – [www.archives.sa.gov.au/content/index-official-assisted-passenger-lists](http://www.archives.sa.gov.au/content/index-official-assisted-passenger-lists)

## **TASMANIA** *(was NSW until 1825, often ships to Tasmania stopped at Melbourne or Sydney first)*

- Tasmanian 19th century arrivals, immigration and departure records – [www.linc.tas.gov.au/family-history/Pages/Arrival-departure.aspx](http://www.linc.tas.gov.au/family-history/Pages/Arrival-departure.aspx)
- Tasmanian GenWeb – [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austas/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austas/)

## **VICTORIA** *(was NSW until 1851, often first port of call, so also see outward passengers to other colonies/states)*

- Immigration & other genealogy indexes in Victoria – <http://prov.vic.gov.au> ('Access the collection')
- Assisted Immigrants to Port Phillip 1839-1851 – [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)
- Naturalisations for Victoria from 1848 at National Archives of Australia – [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)
- *The Somerset Years (Immigrants to Victoria 1839-1854)* – book by Florence Chuk

## **WESTERN AUSTRALIA** *(from 1898 Fremantle often first port of call)*

- Passenger lists and immigration records – <http://bit.ly/SRWApassengers>
- Passengers arriving Fremantle & Perth (1898-1966) – [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)
- WA Shipping 1829-1889 – <http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/shipping/>
- Welcome Walls database – [www.museum.wa.gov.au/welcomewalls/](http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/welcomewalls/)

## **ALL AUSTRALIA**

- National Archives of Australia for shipping & immigration records from 1923 – [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au) *(also 'Arrivals to Fremantle from 1898', naturalisations (from 1904), SA & VIC naturalisations from 1848)*
- National Archives of Australia Research Guides – <http://guides.naa.gov.au>
- Ancestry.com Immigration and Convict records – [www.ancestry.com.au](http://www.ancestry.com.au) *(use free at libraries)*
- Australia's Red Coat Regiments 1788-1870 – <http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~garter1/tobegin.htm>
- Australian National Maritime Museum – [www.anmm.gov.au](http://www.anmm.gov.au) *also Comparison of vessels and journey times – <http://bit.ly/ANMMTimesToOz>*
- Bremen Passenger Lists – [www.passengerlists.de](http://www.passengerlists.de)
- British newspapers (*The Times* & Gale) – [www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/eresources/](http://www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/eresources/)
- Cora Num's Shipping and Migration – <http://coraweb.com.au/categories/shipping-and-migration>
- Cyndi's list Ships & Passenger Lists – [www.cyndislist.com/ships](http://www.cyndislist.com/ships)
- Danish Emigration Archives – [www.udvanderarkivet.dk/forside/](http://www.udvanderarkivet.dk/forside/)
- Female migration schemes – [www.rushen.com.au](http://www.rushen.com.au)
- Fifth Fleet – [www.fifthfleet.net](http://www.fifthfleet.net) *(displaced persons brought to Australia 1947-51)*
- findmypast immigration records & British newspapers – [www.findmypast.com.au](http://www.findmypast.com.au) *(Use free at libraries)*
- Highland & Island Emigration Society (HIES) records – [www.scan.org.uk/researchrtools/emigration.htm](http://www.scan.org.uk/researchrtools/emigration.htm)
- Immigrant's Guide to Australia (1853) – <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/BSA/1853ImmigrantsGuide.htm>
- Immigration History – <http://bit.ly/ImmVicInfosheets>
- Lloyd's Register of Ships – <http://users.xplornet.com/~shipping/Lloyds.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* – <https://zenodo.org/record/6901#.VXjR2M-qpBe>
- Migration Heritage Centre – [www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au](http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au)
- Nationaal Archief – [www.gahetna.nl/en/node/5064](http://www.gahetna.nl/en/node/5064) *(Emigrants from Netherlands 1946-91)*
- National Maritime Museum, Greenwich UK – [www.rmg.co.uk](http://www.rmg.co.uk) *also Picture Library, Royal Museums Greenwich – <http://bit.ly/NMMUKpictures>*
- Passenger & emigrant ships' pictures – [www.findboatpics.com](http://www.findboatpics.com)
- Pauper Emigration from UK – [www.workhouses.org.uk/emigration/](http://www.workhouses.org.uk/emigration/)
- Surgeons at Sea (Royal Navy Medical Officers' journals) – [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/surgeonsatsea/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/surgeonsatsea/)
- Ten Pound Pom – <http://tenpoundpom.com/ten-pound-poms/>
- The National Archives UK Emigration guide – <http://bit.ly/UKemigration>
- The National Archives UK 'Looking for a Person' – <http://bit.ly/TNAperson>
- The Ships List: Passenger lists, ship descriptions & pictures, shipwrecks – [www.theshipslist.com](http://www.theshipslist.com)
- Trove – <http://trove.nla.gov.au> *(digitised newspapers, including The Shipping Gazette)*
- World War 2 Refugees to Australia – [http://immigrantships.net/ww2\\_au.html](http://immigrantships.net/ww2_au.html)