

# Immigration and shipping: more than lists

## Info Guide 3.11

### Where can I find out about immigrant ships and their voyages?

The **shipping intelligence column** of Australian newspapers for the relevant ports reported the following:

- the arrival and departure of ships
- captain's name
- the names of some fare paying passengers; number of steerage passengers
- the cargo
- sometimes a report of the voyage and the condition and character of the immigrants.

The State Library of Queensland also holds the following sources of information about the immigrant ships and their journeys:

***Maritime sources for historians and genealogists*** (PAM 929.1072 1988) by Vaughan Evans outlines the scope of interest for different researchers and the information and sources available.

***Early shipping in Moreton Bay*** Vol 1 June 1846 - Dec. 1859 vol 2 1860 - 1863 (FAMHIS 387.2 1998-) by Davenport & Mottram provides newspaper passenger lists and shipping news. It contains information extracted from the *Moreton Bay Courier* including details of cargo and shipping reports. Lists name the unassisted but provide a number only for those in steerage. Names are indexed at the back.

The Melbourne *Argus* has also been indexed. Check the paper local to your ancestors' port of arrival.

**Emigrants.net.au** (<http://www.emigrants.net.au>) allows researchers to connect with others searching for emigrant passenger lists. It has a range of shipping and immigration information, and is sponsored by Graham Jaunay's site *Adelaide Proformat* (<http://januay.com>).

***Lloyd's register of British and foreign shipping***, produced annually, provides details about a ship's features, when and where it was constructed, its destination, owner and captain's names. Use the specific features of a vessel to find the right image when there are a number of ships with the same name. The State Library holds most registers from 1776. FICHE/S 387.2021 llo 1776-1880; S 387.2 001 1881- year previous to the current one; REF 387.2 lik; QUIROS 387.2 current year.

***Maritime Information: A Guide to Libraries and Sources of Information in the United Kingdom*** (FAMHIS 026.3875 1993) edited by Rita V. Bryon, Terence N. Bryon outlines the subject coverage, special collections and publications together with contact details of 500 UK repositories. There are appendices providing information about crew lists in the merchant navy, records of the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen and personnel records of the royal navy.

***B.I. the British India Steam Navigation Company Limited*** by Laxon and Perry (FAMHIS 387.5065) provides information on the ships of a company which had a contract with the Queensland government during the 1880s to bring passengers, mail and cargo through Torres Strait to Queensland ports. Information here has not been accessible before. It is the authoritative book, well illustrated book on this line.

***North Star to Southern Cross*** by John Maber (FAMHIS 387.50994 1967) covers ships organized under shipping lines. There are lots of illustrations of ships.

***Orient line guide chapters for travellers by sea and by land, illustrated*** [CD-ROM] (QCFS 910.202 2008) edited by W.F. Loftie, was originally published in 1889 for the purpose of providing useful information and travelling tips to passengers intending to sail to Australia and New Zealand aboard steam ships of The Orient Line. It contains descriptions and illustrations throughout of voyages from London to Australia, as well as including notes and description about places in cities and countries such as Palestine, Cairo, Italy, Athens and New Zealand.

***Pageant of the Pacific : being the maritime history of Australasia*** (GR 994 1937) by F. Rhodes provides a wealth of maritime information based around the Pacific encompassing activities as diverse as maritime economic ventures, the convicts, missionary groups, gold seeking immigrants and blackbirding. The *Historical Records of Australia* and the *Morning Bulletin* were important sources.

***Ships from Scotland to Australasia 1820-1860*** (FAMHIS 387.209411 2005) by David Dobson is sourced, to a very large extent from searches in Scottish newspapers of the period, with some material also sourced from government and archival records in Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand. It is arranged alphabetically by the ship name.

Ronald Parsons has written dozens of maritime books including:

***Australian coastal passenger ships: the details and a brief outline of the career of every steam and motor ship that carried passengers on the Australian coast*** (G 387.243 1981)

***Australian shipowners and their fleets*** (PAM 387.5240994 1985-), a 17 volume work which outlines the background of many shipowners and a brief history of their vessels and shipping activities.

***Migrant sailing ships from Hamburg*** (PAM 325.94 1993) which provides an overview of the history of Germans migrating to Australia in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It also lists the features, arrival places and dates of the ships involved.

***Migrant ships to South Australia 1836-1866*** (G 325.94 1999)

***Ships of Australia and New Zealand before 1850: details of ships registered with the customs at ports in Australia*** (G 387.20994 1983)

***Southern passages: a maritime history of South Australia*** (G 387.5099423 1986)

***Steamers in the south*** (G 387.2209034 1975)

## Where can I locate personal accounts of a particular voyage?

### Ships' pictures, diaries, letters and other accounts of journeys

Relevant material related to Queensland may be found in the John Oxley collection through **Manuscripts Queensland** (<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/coll/qhist/mang>) or the **One Search online catalogue** (<http://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/>). There is additional material for Queensland and other parts of Australia on microform and in books throughout the Library.

***Log of logs*** (FAMHIS 016.3875099 1990-) 3 volumes by Ian Nicholson, collate items on ships including letters, shipboard diaries, books, ships newspapers, illustrations and other accounts. It is very useful but not comprehensive. Each volume needs to be searched separately.

***No privacy for writing : shipboard diaries 1852-1879*** (G 994.03 1995) and ***Sailing to Australia : shipboard diaries by nineteenth-century British emigrants*** (G 304.894 1994) by Andrew Hassam.

***Immigrant diaries (1822-1895) held in the Manuscript Collection of the National Library of Australia*** (<http://www.nla.gov.au/ms/findaids/diaries.html>)

***Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) Admiralty and Colonial Office Records*** are copies of records from the Public Records Office in London relevant to Australia. These contain at ADM101, medical registers of convict ships 1816-1856 and emigrant journeys 1825-1853. There are also reports of Emigration Societies and applications for free passage in the Colonial Office material. The *Miscellaneous Series* holds some shipboard diaries. These records are held on microform and there are handbooks on the Reference shelves to find the material.

## What resources can I use to find a ship's picture?

- ***Maritime illustration indexes Vols 1-3*** (FAMHIS 387.50994 1990), by Vaughan Evans covering maritime illustrations in the Illustrated Sydney news: 1853 to 1889, the Illustrated London news, 1842 to 1891 and the Australasian sketcher: 1873 to 1889. The State Library holds all these publications.
- ***B.I. the British India Steam Navigation Company Limited*** (FAMHIS 387.5065) by Laxon and Perry has images not found elsewhere of vessels coming to Queensland in the 1880s. Index located at the Family history desk on level 3.
- **Australian ships' pictures** can be found at ***Picture Australia*** (<http://www.pictureaustralia.org/>), which includes photos from Picture Queensland.
- **Pictures of ships in the Australian trade** (<http://www.anmm.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=1487>) and ***ANMM Library index to ship pictures, drawings plans***, by the Australian National Maritime Museum ([http://www.anmm.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Ships\\_pictures\\_index.pdf](http://www.anmm.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Ships_pictures_index.pdf))
- ***Ships' pictures***, Cora Num's site (<http://www.coraweb.com.au/shipcrew.htm>)
- ***Great passenger ships of the world*** (G 387.243 1975-) by Arnold Kludas, is a 6 volume work by a Hamburg maritime historian. It is an illustrated series aimed at compiling details on the history of many of the world's passenger ships from 1852 to 1956.
- ***Tall ships of Atlantic Canada: ships gallery*** (<http://www.atlantictallships.ca/>) Some Australian immigrant ships originated in Canada. Check the paintings together with the identifying detail of tonnage, year built. Index located at the Family history desk on level 3.
- ***Ships' pictures index*** (MFC 387.2 1995), by Nick Vine Hall, is an index to illustrations in books and periodicals.
- ***Sail in the South: a selection from the A D Edwardes Collection of Shipping Photographs in the State Library of South Australia*** (G 387.2209034 1975) by Ronald Parsons, provides a wealth of well-captioned illustrations of ships and the way of life associated with them.

## Where can I find information on the immigration experience?

*The long farewell* (G 304.894041 1981) by Don Charlwood, and *Rights of passage* (FAMHIS 325.94 1986), by Helen Woolcock provide information about particular ships' journeys and on some individuals. The author uses information from a number of immigration records, newspapers and periodicals, government sources and pictorial collections to reveal the various stages and experiences of the journey. They demonstrate that health conditions were better than is generally understood. *Rights of passage* is particularly relevant for those investigating the Queensland and German emigrant in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

Henry Brett's *White wings Volumes 1 & 2* (G 387.09931 1976), contains accounts of ships' journeys and passengers to New Zealand. Brett had covered much of the original material as newspaper articles. He writes knowledgeably and with interesting detail. The books are well illustrated.

*Nineteenth century government assisted immigrants from the United Kingdom to Australia : schemes, regulations and arrivals, 1831-1900 and some vital statistics 1834-1860* (G 325.94 1995) by Robin Haines, provides an overview of schemes of assisted immigration and profiles of those who came to Australia under the various systems which differed widely over time and among the Australian colonies.

Robin Haines' *Life and death in the age of sail: the passage to Australia* (FAMHIS 304.894041 2003), extends the work of Don Charlwood and Helen Woolcock by exploring the health issues of government assisted immigration in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. She covers government records and eye-witness accounts: letters and diaries. The book is organised in a chronological sequence from the 1820s to the 1950s.

*Fast passage to Australia: the history of the Black Ball, Eagle and White Star Lines of Australian packets* (G 387.542 1986) by Dave Hollett, covers a range of sea journeys not only on the Black Ball Line but also on the Eagle and the White Star Line. Appendices give details and a brief history of the lines.

*Good Food, Bright Fires and Civility: British emigrant depots of the 19<sup>th</sup> century* (G 361.650941 2001) by Keith Pescod, details the process of emigration from Britain to Australia under the organisation of the British Colonial Office in the mid-nineteenth century. Extracts from emigrants' diaries describe their final days in the depots before departure, and official correspondence reveals British government attitudes of the time regarding the emigration schemes.

Keith Pescod's *A place to lay my head : immigrant shelters of nineteenth century Victoria* (G 362.80945 2003) explores the austere immigration depots in Victoria where immigrants found temporary shelter. The gold rushes put added pressure on the accommodation resulting in both government and private buildings.

*The passage makers* (G 387.506542753 1978) by Michael K Stammers, provides an account of James Baines and his Black Ball Line which brought so many people to Australia after its commencement in 1852. In When journeys were dramatically shortened and often very adventurous the story of passengers' experiences is worth reading. There is a chapter on 'The Queensland Venture', the agreement to bring passengers to Queensland in the 1860s and the land order system. The ships' illustrations are also noteworthy.

## Where can I find records of seamen?

In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century there are only scattered lists of ships' crews. It is still worth checking the *Genealogical Kit Handbook* as well as the catalogue for lists abstracted from newspapers.

*Records of merchant shipping and seamen* (FAMHIS 387.50941 1998) by Kelvin Smith and Christopher J. Watts is useful if the ancestor was a British resident who joined a ship in the UK using his correct name.

*Trying to find a seafaring ancestor* (PAM 929.1 1988), by Ronald Parsons discusses some of the problems of finding them, the records available through the Public Record Office and the Certificates of Competency which may be found through the AJCP records in the State Library.

*Registers of Discharge of Seamen NSW [1859-1887]* (FAMHIS 929.3944) compiled by Kate Vernon and Billie Jacobsen, and sourced from records held at State Records NSW, entries are arranged alphabetically by surname. Each entry provides date of discharge, the seaman's surname and given names, the name of the ship, the ship's master's surname and given names, with the State Records NSW item number. The original record will mostly give the place of origin. Published in 3 volumes covering 1859-1869, 1869-1878 and 1878-1887.

*Crew culture : New Zealand seafarers under sail and steam* (G 387.54044 2001) by Neill Atkinson provides information on the seafaring way of life. It includes clear, informative illustrations.

*Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) Board of Trade Records* contain registers of certificates of competency for masters and mates in the colonial trade at BT128. These records are held on microform and there is a handbook at the Microform Desk to find the material. Index available on the Australian National Maritime Museum *Seafaring Ancestors* info guide, (<http://www.anmm.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=1491> - Scroll down to 'Registers and indexes to registers'). See also *Records of merchant seamen 1861-1913* and *Merchant navy seamen 1918-1941* on Findmypast (onsite access only).

When trying to locate information about a seaman who deserted or who signed off a ship from overseas it is important to identify the port where he left the ship. Sources on deserters include:

***An alphabetical list of deserters from ships, taken from the Australian Archives 1852-1882; 1883-1890*** (MFC 929.39423 1986)

***Discharged and deserted seamen, Queensland*** (MFC 929.3943 1991) compiled by Margaret Verran covers the years 1882-1913

***The deserters: a complete record of military and naval deserters in Australia and New Zealand, 1800-65*** (G 355.1334 1985) compiled by Rae Sexton

***Ships' deserters 1852-1900 : including stragglers, strays and absentees from H.M. ships*** (FAMHIS 387.54044 1986) compiled by J. Melton lists almost 10 000 desertions and other absences to be found in the NSW government gazette and NSW police gazette. After 1864 Victorian desertions were listed and eventually those from other Australian colonies were as well. Information provided will at least include a physical description.

***Ship deserters 1891-1952 : Adelaide and other South Australian Ports*** (MFC 929.39423 199-) compiled by Frank W. Hall

Some information available on the internet includes:

- Queensland State Archives, Index to Seamen 1882-1919, [http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/research/index/seamen\\_1882\\_1919.asp](http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/research/index/seamen_1882_1919.asp)
- Genseek's Mariner and Crew Records, <http://www.hotkey.net.au/~jwilliams4/mariner1.htm>
- Deserters South Australia, <http://www.ach.familyhistorysa.info/deserters.html>
- Maritime History Archives (Canada), Crew Agreements and Lists for British Empire Vessels 1863-1938, Crew Agreements Indices Search, <http://www.mun.ca/mha/holdings/searchcombinedcrews.php>

## How can I find out about shipwrecks?

***Australian shipwrecks: a pictorial history*** (910.452 2009) by Peter Christopher, draws together a unique collection of stories and photos. It is not just about the lost ships, but also the tragic and often heroic stories of the men, women and children aboard them, as well as their rescuers. Australian shipwrecks featured range from pre-colonial wrecks to modern steamships, with a special chapter dedicated to wartime losses.

Lance Paterson's books ***Wreck-ollections : ships and shipwrecks in Queensland waters*** (FAMHIS 994.3 2002-) are the first two of a 3 volume series. It covers where and when a ship was wrecked and usually an account of the event. Sources are acknowledged.

Jack Loney is a major Australian authority on this topic. He has written many books providing information specific to locations, on particular ships, and an atlas. The material he provides on dates and events is a good starting point for further research. The library holds nearly 30 titles of his work. Titles include:

***An atlas history of Australian shipwrecks : state-by-state including maps and diving notes*** (G 919.4 1981)

***Famous wrecks*** (G 919.4 1983)

***Wrecks on the New South Wales coast*** (G 919.4404 1993)

***Wrecks in Port Phillip Bay*** (PAM 910.453 1973)

***Wrecks on the South Australian coast : including Kangaroo Island*** (G 919.423 1993)

***Wrecks on the Western Australian coast : and Northern Territory*** (G 910.4509941 1994)

***Wrecks in Australian waters : an illustrated survey of shipwrecks, fires, collisions, and strandings on the Australian coast from 1629*** (G 919.4 1978)

Titles for shipwrecks for Australia and beyond include:

***Australian and New Zealand shipwrecks and sea tragedies*** by Hugh Edwards (G 910.453 1978)

***Shipwrecks of Great Britain and Ireland*** by Richard Larn (G 910.453 1981)

***Sailing ships, shipwrecks & crime in the 19th century : a handbook for historians, genealogists, shiplovers and criminologists based on Supreme Court records, Criminal Sessions 1840s-1860s*** by Jean Uhl (PAM 910.4530994 1985)

## Need further information?

**State Library of Queensland**, Queensland Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, South Bank,

Reference Services. t. +61 7 3840 7810, w. [www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry)

Visit [http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/about/pub/info\\_guides/collections/fh](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/about/pub/info_guides/collections/fh) to access all family history Info Guides.