**‘Lost’ lists of the 1860s’ immigrants to Queensland  
Stephanie Ryan State Library of Queensland**

In December 1859 the newly named Queensland became a colony separate from NSW. In 1860 the first Queensland government aimed to develop the colony successfully through immigration encouraged by a generous land policy. Various conditions for immigration applied[[1]](#endnote-1) over the decade, with a significant wave of arrivals commencing in the 1860s, building to a peak in the 1863-1866 period, as can be seen in the table below, before the failure of banks and attendant economic problems forced a reduction.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Passengers embarked for Queensland 1860-1869  statute-adult classification** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Year** | **Married** | | **Single** | | **1-11 years** | | **Infant** | |  |  |
|  | **M** | **F** | **M** | **F** | **M** | **F** | **M** | **F** | **non spec.** | **Total** |
| 1860 | 49 | 49 | 88 | 68 | 14 | 21 | 3 | 8 | - | **300** |
| 1861 | 166 | 169 | 334 | 247 | 105 | 82 | 24 | 21 | 87 | **1235** |
| 1862 | 1143 | 1169 | 2601 | 1364 | 859 | 780 | 186 | 138 | 40 | **8280** |
| 1863 | 1580 | 1601 | 4432 | 1770 | 1254 | 1085 | 226 | 200 | 18 | **12166** |
| 1864 | 870 | 894 | 2804 | 1240 | 500 | 451 | 117 | 102 | 542 | **7520** |
| 1865 | 1853 | 1914 | 4469 | 1760 | 1116 | 1019 | 219 | 215 | 14 | **12579** |
| 1866 | 1676 | 1709 | 3298 | 1437 | 1142 | 1042 | 191 | 209 | - | **10704** |
| 1867 | 117 | 142 | 388 | 199 | 119 | 90 | 11 | 17 | - | **1083** |
| 1868 | 58 | 69 | 257 | 94 | 32 | 45 | 6 | 6 | 2 | **569** |
| 1869 | 230 | 238 | 709 | 444 | 140 | 121 | 15 | 24 | 3 | **1924** |

Extracted from: Woolcock, Helen R.   
 *Rights of passage: emigration to Australia in the Nineteenth Century,* p348[[2]](#endnote-2)

Floods in 1893 damaged the shipping lists of 1860s’ arrivals who were assisted i.e. by the government, family, friends or employers who paid their passage in some measure. Certain lists were irretrievably damaged and lost. The lists which could be transcribed were, but with variable accuracy and the originals destroyed. Those lists are held by Queensland State Archives (QSA) and have been filmed and also placed online. Mostly, all that has been recorded on the transcribed lists were immigrants’ names and ages. Their occupations and places of origin were included where provided and legible.

State Library holds the following which may provide passengers’ names: all publicly available Australian indexes and lists for the 19th and early 20th century, a messy patchwork; databases (onsite availability only): *ancestrylibrary.com, findmypast*; various newspaper accounts, including *Trove*;books, diaries, letters, ship newspapers on particular journeys of ships. What can we find today of those 1860s’ arrivals into Queensland beyond the Queensland online indexes and lists?

**Queensland State Archives: 1860s’ lists of assisted passengers – IMM/112 and IMM/113**

These rewritten lists are indexed by name and are available on microfilm as *Queensland immigration records* *from 1848 to1915[[3]](#endnote-3);* and online as *Assisted immigration 1848-1912[[4]](#endnote-4).* In each case these two immigration registers are part of larger runs. The lists on microfilm also include a name index on IMM/112 and another on IMM/113 covering the 1860s’ period in addition to the more comprehensive, separately filmed index. The headings related to the Pacific Islanders Labourers Act 1880-1892 on which the rewritten lists are transcribed are not relevant.

**Nominated (assisted) immigrants who arrived in NSW en route to Queensland 1860**

Extra information is available on nominated immigrants joining friends and family in the new colony of Queensland, who disembarked initially in NSW in 1860 with the intention of then coming to Queensland by coastal vessel. They were listed in 3 places: firstly, the Queensland shipping lists IMM/112 and IMM/113 (on film and online); secondly, in the *NSW Assisted immigrant passenger lists 1828-1896*, i.e. the NSW Immigration Agent’s list, which is available free online at State Archives and Records NSW[[5]](#endnote-5), at libraries on *Ancestry[[6]](#endnote-6)*, and at SLQ on film[[7]](#endnote-7); and thirdly in the *Moreton Bay courier* on *Trove[[8]](#endnote-8)* and on film[[9]](#endnote-9)*.*

An example is the *Dirigo* which arrived in April 1860. It illustrates the problems of transcription from the incorrect rendering of the ship’s name to the listing and spelling of the passengers’ names. It was recorded as *Dingo* on the rewritten Queensland list, but it was actually the *Dirigo* on the NSW Immigration Agent’s list and in the newspaper, a reminder not only of the problems of transcription but also of the importance of checking alternative sources. More importantly, it is possible in the case of these lists, to find extra information in the NSW options. The 3 Walsh girls, Winifred, Bridget and Margaret, were listed with their names only in the *Moreton Bay courier* 24 April 1860. On the Queensland list we are also informed of their occupations and that they are from Tipperary. The NSW list added that they could not read or write and that they are Catholic. The names of other passengers on the Queensland shipping list vary from those in the *Moreton Bay courier* both in names included and the spelling of them. The number of immigrants varies between the newspaper list and the Queensland immigrant list. Among the variations, Flinn and Maroney on the shipping list became Flynn and Marowney in the newspaper. While most names are common to both lists, others are not: missing on one, included on another.

The *Tudor*, which arrived August 1860, had a second list for the NSW journey, the more detailed NSW Immigration Board’s list[[10]](#endnote-10), unlike the other 1860 ship arrivals to NSW with assisted passengers for Moreton Bay. It provided extra detail: names of the passengers’ parents and names and place of relatives in Australia. In the case of Hugh McDonald and his family from Argyleshire, we learn that his parents and those of his wife, who were named, were dead. There was a reason for bringing his family to Moreton Bay: his son John was already here. These are useful family links to the country of origin and to Moreton Bay. It is worth checking all 3 sources in the case of these particular 1860 lists. The McDonalds were not included in the newspaper list, although it would seem they should have been. There is detail with extra information about them on the shipping lists, however. Other 1860 immigrant ships which can be similarly checked are the *Alfred*, arrival January; *Fitzjames*, arrival February; *Hannah Mo(o)re* arrival May; and *Chance* arrival July; all on SARNSW reel 2139. For many researchers these NSW lists recording Queensland arrivals with extra detail are ‘lost’ lists.

**Queensland State Archives: Colonial Secretary’s Office 1860-1869, ‘lost’ lists**

Included in the microfilmed index and lists, but not online, are crew lists and, in some cases, passenger lists which were part of the Colonial Secretary’s records 1860-1869[[11]](#endnote-11) as the Immigration Department was the responsibility of the Colonial Secretary. These passenger lists may be quite unpredictable in what they provide. In the case of the *Wansfell* lists, 1863 and 1865 on IMM/113, many passengers are common to both registers. It would seem that despite the claims to be of different journeys, both lists mainly record the 1863 passengers. However, the Colonial Secretary’s list, on film only, at   
COL/A65 745 recorded the assisted and free passengers who received land orders on the 1865 trip and the *Brisbane courier[[12]](#endnote-12)* listed the saloon passengers. National Archives online series J715 recorded some of the passengers on the 1863 trip[[13]](#endnote-13). In the case of the *Maryborough* in 1865, all passenger classes of unassisted and assisted as well as the crew were listed. Other immigrant registers included here are those of the *Fitzjames* 1860, the *Jenny Dove* 1861, *Castle Eden* 1864, *Queen of the South* 1864, *Flying Cloud* 1865, *Landsborough* 1865, *Queen of the* *Colonies* 1867, *Young Australia* 1867 and *Planet* 1868.

**Queensland State Archives: Quarterly statements of receipts and expenditures, quarters ending September 1865, December 1865, June 1866 and September 1866 – ‘lost’ lists**

These statements are also part of the Colonial Secretary’s records. They are included in the QSA microfilmed index and lists but are not online. They were recorded in England and show those who paid for their ship kits ahead of their journey. The names include some who came on the *Great Pacific, Great Victoria, Light of the Age, Sultana, Queen of the Colonies, Golden City, Queen of the South, Samarang, Montmorency, Legion of Honour* and *Flying Cloud* in the immediate period following payment.Given the numbers of immigrants during this time (see the earlier table), it could be a useful source to check. The indexing of these records is not always reliable.

**Queensland State Archives: Land orders 1861-1878; unassisted and assisted passengers**

While the Queensland government recorded assisted passengers on the shipping lists mentioned, land orders[[14]](#endnote-14) indicated those who paid their own way as well as some assisted passengers. Land orders were legal tender for selection or purchase of land, not for a particular piece of land. An additional land order was given to an immigrant if s/he stayed 2 years. The verification of 2 year residency was the name of the ship and the date of its arrival. Conditions for land orders varied over the decade but it is possible to find the ‘lost’ name of the immigrant ship and arrival date, in a number of cases, from the land orders. Indexes to both series of land orders may be found at the Queensland State Archives’ website under the Immigration index heading.

F D G Stanley appears in land order indexes over the years under name variants. In 1863 his land order is issued to Francis Stanley. In November 1864, 2 years after his arrival, the additional land order is issued to Francis D G Stanley. This prompted a check of the National Archives records and the discovery of his ship, discussed further on. Henry Stanley, his brother, arrived in Queensland in 1863, with his mother and sisters. They all received land orders. They could not be found on the National Archives records for Brisbane arrivals, so searches were made in the *NSW unassisted immigrant passenger lists 1826-1922* and *Trove* newspapers. In some instances, unassisted immigrants may have arrived in NSW or Victoria and travelled to Queensland on a coastal vessel. The Stanleys arrived on the *Netherby* into Sydney and then came directly to Queensland on a coastal vessel. Limited information, perhaps no more than names, was provided on those who paid their way.

Central Qld Family History Association Inc has reconstructed a partial list of passengers on the *Great* *Pacific* 1866[[15]](#endnote-15) from land order records. Other sources to build this list will be mentioned later.

**National Archives of Australia: J715[[16]](#endnote-16)  
Ships passengers lists - Brisbane - inwards - 4 August 1852 to 13 December 1870**

The Queensland Family History Society has indexed names of passengers from the J715 series on 2 CDs: *Queensland Customs House Shipping 1852-1885; 1886-1899[[17]](#endnote-17).* State Library of Queensland is currently listing the pages for each journey. The lists themselves are online at the National Archives website and may be found by googling ‘J715 records’ and ‘National Archives of Australia’. Journeys are roughly in chronological order. The registers provide little information beyond names, however. Sometimes they include age, occupation and nationality, but not always and sometimes inaccurately.

These National Archives lists, while not complete in the shipping journeys included, or in the passengers listed, do provide a valuable supplement to names of unassisted passengers who paid their own passage, and names of crew. They have come online quite recently. Francis Stanley was found on p 210 of roll 1 on the *Ocean Chief* in 1862 into Brisbane. These digitised registers, however, are for Brisbane only. See Passenger records held in Brisbane – Fact sheet 190[[18]](#endnote-18) for further detail.

Here also the passengers who travelled under the auspices of the Queensland Immigration Society can be located. These ships include: in 1862 – *Chatsworth, Maryborough, Prince Consort*; in 1863 - *Wanata, Golden City, Queen of the Colonies, Golden Dream, Beejapore*. A few passengers also came in 1862 on the *Wansfell* and in 1863 on the *Golden Empire* and *Fiery Star.* We can find, for example, Henry St. John Bridgeman, who was the original purchaser of so much land on the northside of Brisbane, arriving on the *Golden City* of 1863.

***Emigrants from Hamburg 1860-1869* Eric and Rosemary Kopittke**

These indexes and lists are part of a series 1850-1879[[19]](#endnote-19). They record, at the point of departure, principally Germans and Scandinavians who left from the port of Hamburg. The indexes and lists are available both in booklets, on CD-ROM and now on USB. State Library of Queensland holds both paper and electronic formats. There are more immigrants on each Hamburg list and with more detail than is available on any of the Queensland lists of Germans. Those on the lists, in many cases, will not be found any other way, important given the number who arrived from this port. In this series there are 22 lists for the 1860s; QSA has 10 of these lists; NAA has 4 lists and there are 6 lists in Queensland newspapers. Where they are recorded on Queensland State Archives lists and on the Hamburg lists, spelling variations often occur, and there are major omissions on the Queensland lists of names and personal details. Those who travelled together are shown together on the list. Efforts have been made to present town and local areas as accurately as possible. The Kopittke lists are much easier to use than the original German ones. Some parts of ship names are particularly variable. ‘Goddefroy’ became ‘Godeffroy’, ‘Godefroi’ and ‘Godfrey’, for example. ‘Caesar’ was also written as ‘Cesar’.

**Queensland newspaper lists**

Passenger arrivals were important in Queensland. Along with details of arrival of a ship came a list of unassisted cabin passengers. During this period, usually the steerage passengers and the assisted passengers were recorded in the newspapers only as the total number of each.

The Queensland Immigration Office however, put some passenger lists in the newspapers, often to notify families and friends of the new arrivals and to let prospective employers know of available labour. It is possible to find more than 40 different lists[[20]](#endnote-20) and repetitions of some of them adding up to nearly 50. They include some German lists. They are not usually complete lists of the passengers. In the case of the *Golden Dream* in 1863, all passengers contributed to a newspaper tribute to the captain and were named. It is a helpful listing, regardless of its incomplete accuracy.

**News: obituaries, anniversaries, ship reunions, deaths, pioneers, missing people, names**

Obituaries, in some cases, provided the ship of arrival. The *Queensland Times* often also included the names of fellow passengers of the deceased. In the 1913 obituary of John MacKenzie reference was made to the names of over 20 other passengers on the *Ocean Chief* 1862, including that of F D G Stanley. This was particularly useful before the National Archives of Australia put the list online as part of J715 series already mentioned. A name search on *Trove* newspapersfound them.

In 1914 a photograph was taken of those who arrived on the *Susanne Godeffroy* 1864[[21]](#endnote-21). They were named, a bonus. Where a ship’s list is missing, for instance that of the *Great Pacific* in 1866, the names of some of those who were on board could be found in a variety of the following news items over the years: those who achieved success in Queensland and contributed to the colony/state; a diamond anniversary; immigrant reunion (date of arrival and ship name not always accurate); deaths under tragic circumstances e.g. the unnamed arrivals, one of whom died of starvation and the other who tended him; the apparent murder of one passenger after arrival; passing of pioneers; missing friends and those born with the name of the ship incorporated into their names. Together with other records mentioned, such as QSA’s land orders and the quarterly statements, it is possible to reconstruct the list partially. Many newspapers can be accessed via *Trove* as well as State Library’s newspaper collection on film.

**Other sources: Persons called before government committees[[22]](#endnote-22)**

Those called to give evidence needed to explain their qualifications. As a result, they might provide personal information otherwise unavailable, such as when they arrived. It had been assumed that F D G Stanley had arrived in 1863 as it was known that his position was gazetted early that year and that he started in the Department of Works soon after arrival. Until the National Archives list, J715 went online, the important clue to his arrival was provided in his evidence to a committee. In response to the question of how long he had been in office he replied, “I commenced working in the office in December 1862; I was gazetted on the first of February 1863.” Other witnesses simply give the number of years they had been in Queensland.

Other sources for 1860s’ arrivals may also include: hospital and asylum records, registers of prisoners, police gazettes, ship newspapers, naturalisation records of the non-British, family documents such as letters, diaries, bibles and public trees if reliable evidence is included.

**Summary**

There is no comprehensive register of all immigrants who came to Queensland in the 1860s but there is more than we think if we explore ‘lost’ sources. A State Library of Queensland volunteer, Charlie Nolan, worked across the 3 Queensland State and Commonwealth repositories to compile a list of what records exist and where, for the period 1848-1940. Copies of *Charlie’s list* are available in the relevant reading rooms awaiting digitisation. Lists for 1860 include those intending to settle in Queensland who travelled via NSW. These lists lead to more informative NSW detail and newspaper items. While Queensland State Archives has put extra passenger indexes on the web, there are two series of 1860s’ records on microfilm which are included in the index for *Queensland immigration records* *from 1848 to 1915* which are not digitised. These are part of the Colonial Secretary’s Office records 1860-1869 and also include four quarterly statements of receipts and expenditures 1865-1866: records from England which show those who paid for their ship kit and the name of the ship on which they would travel. German immigrants 1860-1869 from Hamburg are much better covered in the Kopittkes’ books than in the Queensland registers in terms of numbers of immigrants included and detail provided on them. National Archives of Australia has digitised passenger lists in the J715 series of Brisbane arrivals and made them available on the internet. These records include unassisted and assisted passengers flagged in QSA land order indexes. Those with land orders, not found on the Queensland lists, may alternatively be on NSW or Victorian indexes and lists on their way to Queensland. Newspapers on *Trove* offer a range of possibilities over time, from lists of unassisted passengers to an array of news items where passengers are linked to the date of arrival and the name of the ship.

Identify the window of arrival time. A death certificate, if accurate, indicates how long the deceased had been in the country. Be aware that different information was provided for assisted and unassisted passengers. Search beyond the place of disembarkation for shipping lists. Check for variant spelling: personal names and ships. Broaden your searches for passenger sources and records beyond shipping lists and the time span they cover. Considering these factors may help find the ship and when it came.

1. Haines, Robin F, *Nineteenth century government assisted immigrants from the United Kingdom to Australia schemes, regulations and arrivals, 1831-1900 and some vital statistics 1834-1860*  [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Woolcock, Helen R *Rights of passage* p348; table extracted from ‘Passengers embarked for Queensland 1860-1900, statute adult classification’; pp346-347 explain how the numbers were obtained. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. At State Library of Qld (SLQ), *Queensland immigration records 1848-1915* are accompanied by an index located at  
    MFL 929.3943 1987 on microfilm, open access L3. IMM112 and 113 lists are on roll 1 of these registers. The handbook to the Queensland public records historical resource kit, part 1, which explains these records, is held at the staff desk. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. *Assisted immigration 1848-1912* is on the QSA website <https://www.qld.gov.au/dsiti/qsa/search> : Indexes, IMM/ 112 and 113 Immigration are identified as an earlier location on their online indexes. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. State Archives and Records NSW (SARNSW) reel 2139 <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/assisted-immigrants-digital-shipping-lists> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Ancestrylibrary.com is available in all Queensland libraries free of charge to users.

   Immigration records for NSW assisted and unassisted passengers can be searched here as well as on film and online at SLQ.  
    [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. SARNSW films are held in numerical order on open access at MFL 929.3944 1985 at SLQ.   
   An index to assisted passengers is to be found at <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/search_form?id=9> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. *Trove* <https://trove.nla.gov.au/> is a portal for Australian institutions to publish a range of material online including historical newspapers to 1954, making them available without charge. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. *The Moreton Bay courier* MFL 017 is available as part of a full run of the *Courier mail* up to the present in the reading room on L3 on open access at SLQ. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. SARNSW reel 2480 is available on film and Ancestry but not online free at SARNSW. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. The records have a COL/A prefix. SLQ lists are on reels 17 and 18 of *Queensland immigration records* *from 1848 to 1915* MFL 929.3943 1987 on open access L3. The handbook listed above (3) has further information. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. *Moreton Bay courier* 25 March 1865 p4 [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. NAA records J715 Roll1 p575 *Ships passengers lists - Brisbane - inwards - 4 August 1852 to 13 December 1870* may be found at <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=32722213>  
     [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. Land order indexes are part of the immigration indexes at QSA <https://www.qld.gov.au/dsiti/qsa/search>  
     [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
15. *Great Pacific1866* <https://sites.google.com/site/cqfamilyhistory/articles-indexes/indexes/shipping/1866-the-great-pacific> [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
16. NAA records J715 *Roll 1 Ships passengers lists - Brisbane - inwards - 4 August 1852 to 13 December 1870* may be found at <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=32722213> [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
17. At SLQ, CDs are located at the back of the staff desk on L3 at the call number QCFS 929.39431 2017

    . [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
18. NAA Fact Sheet 190 <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs190.aspx> [↑](#endnote-ref-18)
19. *Emigrants from Hamburg 1860-1869* Kopittkes is in multiple volumes as well as on CD. At SLQ, these books are at FAMHIS 929.3943 1991 - on open access in the family history reference section on L3. These 1860s volumes are part of a series covering 1850-1879. Part of this collection is a single volume index for 1860-1869. [↑](#endnote-ref-19)
20. An advanced *Trove* newspaper search using a keyword in the ship name in ‘all of these words’ and ‘immigration office’ in the phrase combined with a generous time period before and after arrival of at least six months assists in finding these lists. [↑](#endnote-ref-20)
21. The photograph in the *Brisbane courier* 31 January 1914 p12 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article19948552> [↑](#endnote-ref-21)
22. Persons called before Queensland Government committees (1860-1901) <http://fhr.slq.qld.gov.au/committees/>  
    Persons called before Queensland Government committees Part 2 (1902-1910) <http://fhr.slq.qld.gov.au/committees2/> [↑](#endnote-ref-22)