Family History
Pubs and publicans

How does information on pubs and publicans help researchers?

Pubs played an important role in ancestors' lives. They were important landmarks and centres of social activities in many towns and cities and as such settings for a number of significant events. They also provided employment for the publicans and many workers. Illustrations of hotels may be found at *Trove* https://trove.nla.gov.au/*. There are many more materials than this available, but the list below indicates the types of records to be found.

What records are available?

Australia

National Archives of Australia

Using 'Go to RecordSearch' on 'Explore the collection'
https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection
and key words such as 'hotels' or 'publicans', it is possible to find 20th Century records, mainly of commonwealth territories. Digitised copies of records can be requested.

Beyond the ladies lounge : Australia's female publicans / Clare Wright (G 647.9494 2003)

Trove Australian historic newspapers http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper
Notices of renewals of licences regularly appear in newspapers so also search the digitised newspapers.

Queensland

Queensland State Archives

The Queensland State Archives holds original documents relating to publicans. These documents include – Registers of publicans' licences; Registers of fines collected; Register of Applications – Publicans and Register of Country Publicans. The brief guide lists government gazettes by year and page where the names of licensees may be found. State Library of Queensland holds the *Queensland Government Gazette* on film and on fiche.

For further information check **Brief Guide – Hotel records**
https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/brief-guides-at-qsa/resource/9108108c-ded5-494e-844f-9bbcbe9f95f0?truncate=30&inner_span=True

Mackay Hotels (Queensland)

Glen Hall and the Mackay Historical Society and Museum provide this database which contains a list of Mackay hotels and the publicans' names and dates for each hotel. It also gives extra information such as fires, name changes, demolitions etc. The site also lists primary and secondary sources for the information.

- **Biographical Register of Publicans/hotel-keepers from the Mackay Area.**
  (A to F) www.mackayhistory.org/research/publicans/publicans_a_to_f.html
  (G to L) www.mackayhistory.org/research/publicans/publicans_g_to_l.html
  (M to P) www.mackayhistory.org/research/publicans/publicans_m_to_p.html
  (R to Z) www.mackayhistory.org/research/publicans/publicans_q_to_z.html

State Library index to persons called before Queensland Government Committees 1860-1920

This index lists details of persons called before select committees, royal commissions and boards of enquiry, as published in the *Queensland Legislative Assembly Votes and Proceedings* from 1860-1901 and the *Queensland Parliamentary Papers* from 1902-1920. Publicans are included.

- It is currently available as an open data set
  https://www.data.qld.gov.au/dataset/slq-persons-called-before-committees

A pattern of pubs : hotels of Townsville 1864-1914 by Dorothy Gibson-Wilde and Bruce C. Gibson-Wilde (G 647.94943601 1988), includes Register of licensees 1864-1914.

Brisbane hotels and publicans index, 1842-1900 / compiled by Merle Norris (REFJ 994.31 013, and PAM 647.959431 1993). The 3 alphabetical sequences are the same as those for the Queensland index as listed above.

Queensland hotels & publicans' index 1843-1900 [microfiche] / researched by Merle Norris (MFC 647.940994 1996). There are 3 alphabetical sequences in this index: Part A. Index of hotels; Pt. B. Index of publicans' names; Pt. C. Index of towns listing hotels and publicans (Qld country only).

Queensland publicans' licenses (REFJ 647.9494301 que)
9 v. Photocopy from *Queensland Government gazette* 1860-1914
Vol 1: 1860-1869; V2: 1870-1879; V3: 1880-1889; V4: 1890-1894; V5: 1895-1899; V6:1900-1904; V7: 1905-1909; V8: 1910; V9: 1911-1914

Index of Licensed Victuallers 1901-1914, published in Queensland Government Gazettes
Held at the level 3 desk.
1900-1903 is also available as an open data set
https://data.qld.gov.au/dataset/state-library-of-queensland-licensed-victuallers-index

Mine host of Maryborough and district, Queensland : licensed publicans 1860-1924 / compiled by K. M. Adams and J.M. Downman; Maryborough District Family History Society Inc.
(REFJ 647.95 min, and PAM 647.959432 1995)

Publican's licences Rockhampton
https://sites.google.com/site/cqfamilyhistory/articles-indexes/indexes/publicans
A list of licensees for 1864 only.

Some Warwick hotels and hoteliers / P. J. Brixey (P 647.94 bri)

New South Wales

NSW State Archives & Records

Searching the State Archives Collection by using 'key name searches'
https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research
will pick up references to the subject guides, agencies and online indexes held at the NSW State Archives & Records Office. State Library will hold most material of interest and available on microfilm.

See also the following guides for publicans available at the NSW State Archives & Records website:
- **Archives Resources Kit** (Professions and Occupations)
  (https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/archives-resources-kit-ark)

- **Publicans' licenses guide** (https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/publicans-licenses-guide)

Publicans' licences 1830-61
https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/publicans-licenses-index

Certificates of Publicans' Licenses 1830 – 1861 [microfilm] Archives Office of NSW
Licenses issued by the Internal Revenue Office (1830-Mar. 1837); the Revenue Branch, Colonial Treasury (June 1837-1849); and by the authority of the Colonial Treasurer (1853-1861). Consult Archives Office of NSW Information Leaflet 37, *How to use the genealogical research kit*, or *Archives Resources Kit – Professions and occupations*
(https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/archives-resources-kit-ark)

The following records are included:

- ***Butts of publicans' licenses, June 1830 – 1849***. (SR/AO Reels 5049 – 5062 and 1236) Contains license number, date of issue, name and address of licensee and sign of the hotel, period covered by the license, amount of duty received, names of licensing justices and date and place of meeting of justices authorizing the issue of the license.

- ***Certificates for publicans' licenses, July 1853 – June 1861*** (SR/AO Reels 5063-5066 and 1236-1242) Comprises certificates authorizing the issue of Publicans' General Licenses as well as some for Confectioners, Billiard, Night and Packet Licenses. Each certificate contains the following information: name of district, date of justices' licensing meeting, name of proposed license and type of license issued, situation of Public House and sign, names and residence of sureties for licensee and signatures of justices.

- ***Index to certificates for publicans' licenses, 1853-1855*** (SR/AO Reel 5063) Contains two indexes: an index of publicans, arranged strictly alphabetically by surnames within each of six parts, corresponding to the six volumes they index (4/84-89); and an index of hotel names.

- ***Printed lists of licenses issued, 1866-82, 1895-1900, 1907-1910*** (SR/AO Reel 1243)

Publicans' licences in Sydney & the colony of N.S.W., 1839 (P 647.95 pub)
Popinjay Publications documents & facsimiles series ; no. 3

Some Hunter Valley innkeepers : index from 1825 to 1900 / compiled by Catherine Foggo
(PAM 647.949442 1990)

Hunter Valley Inns and Hotels (and publicans)
https://www.jenwilletts.com/inns_and_hotels.htm
Jennifer Willett's list covers 1820s to1860s. It contains biographical information about the publicans. The information comes from regional newspapers, and NSW State Archives & Records.

New South Wales Ulladulla Hotels 1888-1907
http://www.ulladulla.info/hotels-at-ulladulla-1888-1907
Cathy Dunn provides references featured in licensing court ledgers held by Milton Ulladulla Historical Society.

New South Wales West - Hotels & Publicans Licenses 1865 – 1900 and
Part of Central NSW Hotels & Publicans Licenses 1865-1870
https://rusheenweb.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/licenses.pdf
Rusheen Craig has compiled in this list hotel name, district, situation and name of licensee. There are some hotel photographs and other interesting information about the hotels such as newspaper reports and advertisements.

Pubs and publicans in the County of Cumberland NSW to 1850 [CD-ROM] / compiled by Ken Knight & Allan Rost for the Society of Australian Genealogists (QCFS 647.949441 2007), contains details of over 2500 pubs and publicans in the County of Cumberland, New South Wales, 1788-1850, covering from the Hawkesbury-Nepean River in the north, to the base of the Blue Mountains to the west and to Bulli in the south.

Earliest pubs in CBD and outer Sydney 1788 to 1848 : index to sources & listed by name of publican & pub [CD-ROM] (QCFS 929.39441 2009), contains names of pubs and publicans (and brewers) of the earliest days of the settlement of New South Wales in the County of Cumberland. It lists the names of the first publicans and the names of the pubs in the central business district (CBD) and outer suburbs of Sydney from 1788 to 1848, by showing them listed with reliable sources.

Victoria

Publican Index of 19th Century Victoria
http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~pobjoyoneill/genealogy/publicans/publicans.htm
Sue O'Neill lists the publican's name, hotel name and address, date of licence and source of the information are provided at this site.

Tetlow index to the Robert K. Cole collection of hotel records: city and suburban hotels, Melbourne, Australia [microfiche] compiled by Eric Tetlow (MFC 647.94945 2004)
It provides an alphabetical compilation of over 21,000 entries of names of hotel licensees and others taken from the Melbourne city and metropolitan volumes of Robert K. Cole's hotel records (c.1841-1949) held at the State Library of Victoria. https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/robert-k-cole-victorian-hotels-index
Index is also available as a data set –
Melbourne and metropolitan hotels, pubs and publicans - Historical Lists
https://www.data.vic.gov.au/data/dataset/melbourne-and-metropolitan-hotels-pubs-and-publicans

Tasmania

Tasmania Archives & Heritage office - Hotels & Publicans' Licences
https://libraries.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/guides-records/Pages/Publican-licence.aspx

South Australia

Hotels and publicans in South Australia, 1836-1984 / by J.L. (Bob) Hoad
(G 647.94942301 1986)

South Australian hotel records prior to 21 February 1839 : including identifying South Australia's oldest hotel by identifying the State's first licensed publicans, and the title and location of the premises / by J.L. (Bob) Hoad (PAM 647.94942301 1988).

Publicans of Port Macdonnell and Allendale
http://www.sefhg.org/index_files/ptmcpubs.htm
Lucy Thompson of the South-East Family History group has drawn on the *Border Watch* for the years 1862-1916 for this list of publicans.

England

Innholders' company 1642-1643, 1654-1670, 1673-1800, abstracted and indexed by Cliff Webb (PAM 929.34212 1998), covers apprenticeship records of the City Livery Companies deposited at Guildhall Library.

Need further information?

(07) 3840 7810 | http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/services/ask-us