

Family History

Immigration and shipping: getting started

Under what migrant schemes did people arrive?

Immigrants travelled under different schemes. **Assisted passengers** received a government subsidy and paid a small charge or were free. **Remittance or Nominated** passages were arranged by a friend or relative living in Australia, who paid a warrant for their passage to the Government. **Indentured immigrants** were brought out as contract labourers for employers who paid the Government for their passage. **Unassisted** immigrants paid full fare. More information exists for assisted passengers but the amount varies according to time period and the colony or State. Check guides for each State for further information.

What resources are available?

The following **indexes** and **lists** are a selection that will help you trace your ancestor's arrival in Australia.

Queensland: check NSW and Victorian lists as well

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| 1848-1859 | Index: passengers arriving in Moreton Bay (now Brisbane) | Family history reference collection (MFA 929.3944) https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/node/1341/browse Note: The website provides an index and some are digitised. State Library holds the lists. This is the best index for the period before 1859 |
| 1848-1915 | Index: assisted immigrants to Qld | Family history reference collection (MFA 929.3) State Library holds the lists. |
| 1848-1915 | Index: assisted immigrant ships to Qld | Open access microfilms, family history reference collection. The Library holds the lists. (MFL 929.3943) |
| 1848-1912 | Index: Assisted immigrants to Qld | https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives/search-the-records <i>Index categories < Immigration < Assisted Immigration</i> Connect to digitised lists. State Library holds additional lists. |
| 1852-1899 | Queensland Customs House shipping index – passengers & crew | Indexes on CD-ROM (QCFS 929.39431) Note: Digitised lists are available through National Archives of Australia, Item J715, Rolls 1-42. |

New South Wales

| | | |
|------------|---|---|
| 1828-1842* | Lexicographical index to assisted immigrants (Bounty Index) | Open access microfilm, family history reference collection. State Library holds the index and lists <i>Bounty Immigration NSW</i> [CD-ROM] (QCFS 929.3944 2002) https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1542665 (Available on FamilySearch website) |
| 1828-1843 | Index: miscellaneous assisted immigrants | https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/node/1346/browse Note: State Library holds some of the films indexed. |
| 1844-1896 | Indexes: assisted immigrants to NSW | Family history reference collection (MFA 929.3944) https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/node/1341/browse Note: Website provides index & some digitised lists. Library holds lists. |
| 1853-1900 | Immigration deposit journals | Index and Journals on open access microfiche (MFCB 929.3944 1988) or CD-ROM (QCFS 929.3944 2005) Note: Also search indexes and lists onsite at Ancestry (Library Edition) |
| 1826-1853 | Card index to unassisted passengers arriving NSW | Open access microfilm, family history reference collection (MFL 929.3944 1999 [AO Reels 1358-1372]) |
| 1842-1855 | Index: unassisted arrivals to NSW | Index and lists on open access microform (MFCB 929.3944 1994) https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/node/1351/browse |
| 1845-1922 | Index: unassisted and coastal shipping | http://marinersandships.com.au/ State Library holds the lists. |
| 1837-1925 | Index to vessels arrived Sydney | https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/node/1356/browse |
| 1826-1922 | Indexes to assisted & unassisted passengers | Search indexes and lists onsite at Ancestry (Library Edition) |
| 1826-1900 | Indexes to assisted & unassisted passengers | Search indexes and lists onsite at FindMyPast |

Victoria

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 1839-1851 | Index: assisted immigrants, Port Phillip | Family history reference collection (MFA 929.3944) https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/node/1341/browse Note: Website provides an index only. State Library holds the lists. |
| 1839-1871 | Index: assisted British immigration | Open access microfiche, family history reference collection https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/passenger-records-and-immigration/assisted-passenger-lists Note: Website provides an index only. State Library holds the lists. |
| 1846-1889 | Index: unassisted immigrants from Britain | Open access microfiche, family history reference collection. The Library holds the lists. |
| 1852-1923 | Index: unassisted immigrants from British, NZ & foreign ports | Open access microfiche (to 1923) and CD-ROM (to 1879). Ask at family history desk, level 3. State Library holds the lists. |
| 1852-1923 | Index: unassisted inward passengers to Victoria | https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/passenger-records-and-immigration/unassisted-passenger-lists Note: Website provides an index only. State Library holds lists. |
| 1852-1915 | Index: outward passengers to interstate, UK & foreign ports | https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/passenger-records-and-immigration/outwards-passenger-lists Note: Website provides an index only. Library does not hold the lists. |
| 1839-1851 | Index: assisted immigrants, Port Phillip | Search index and lists onsite at Ancestry (Library Edition) |
| 1839-1923 | Index to assisted & unassisted passengers | Search index and lists onsite at Ancestry (Library Edition) Search indexes onsite at FindMyPast |
| 1852-1924 | Coastal passenger lists | Search index and lists onsite at FindMyPast |

Tasmania

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| 1829-1865 | Unassisted and coastal shipping. Index and passenger lists on open access | Index at MFCB 929.3946 1993 (microfiche) Lists at MFL 929.3946 1987 (microfilm) |
| 1841-1889 | Assisted immigrants. Index and lists both on open access | Index at MFCB 929.3946 1992 (microfiche) Lists at MFL 929.3946 1984 (microfilm) |
| 1817-1887 | Index to Departures | https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/ |
| 19 th Century | Index to passengers & ships arrivals | https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/ |
| 1829-1957 | Index to passenger arrivals | Search index and lists onsite at Ancestry (Library Edition) |
| 1834-1837 | Index to passenger and crew lists | Search index and lists onsite at Ancestry (Library Edition) |
| 1841-1887 | | |
| 1841-1884 | Immigrant lists | Search index and lists onsite at Ancestry (Library Edition) |
| 1854-1887 | Immigrant applications & Bounty tickets | Search index and lists onsite at Ancestry (Library Edition) |

South Australia

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| 1836-1841 | Index to emigrant labourers applying for free passage to South Australia | MFCB 929.39423 Open access microfiche. |
| 1836-1851 | Bound for South Australia: passenger lists 1836-1851 | CD-ROM (QCFS 929.39423 2005) Ask at reference desk |
| 1845-1886 | Official passenger lists, assisted passages from the U.K. | Open access microfiche, MFCB 929.39423 https://archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/discover-our-collection/migration-and-crew/passenger-lists-1845-1940 Note: Website provides index and digitised lists. Library holds the lists |
| 1846-1887 | Newspaper index: persons arriving in South Australia from overseas (including New Zealand) as recorded in the <i>Adelaide Times</i> , <i>South Australian</i> & <i>South Australian Register</i> | MFCB 929.39423 1995 Open access microfiche |
| 1888-1908 | Alphabetical index to in-coming passenger list | MFCB 929.39423 Open access microfiche |
| 1888-1940 | Official lists of passengers arriving in Port Adelaide from overseas | https://archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/discover-our-collection/migration-and-crew/passenger-lists-1845-1940 Note: Website provides index and digitised lists. |
| 1922-1924 | Index to applications, assisted passages as farm labourers (Barwell Boys) | MFCB 929.39423 Open access microfiche |
| 1921-1930 | Index to applications, assisted passages for domestic servants | MFCB 929.39423 Open access microfiche |
| 1938-1939 | | |

Western Australia

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| 1829-1890 | Index: arrivals at Fremantle from overseas | MFCB 929.3941 1986 |
| 1885-1908 | Index: arrivals at Fremantle from interstate | Open access microfiche |
| 1873-1925 | Index: Arrivals from overseas into Albany | MFCB 929.3941 1986 |
| 1873-1924 | Index: Arrivals from interstate into Albany | Open access microfiche |
| 1839-1890 | Passenger arrivals in Western Australia, overseas and interstate | CD-ROM (QCFS 929.3941) Ask at reference desk |
| 1873-1903 | Passenger and crew lists (<i>Access to Ancestors</i> reels 198-206, 211-213) | Microfilm at MFL 929.3941 1990 Open access |
| 1852-1930 | Index to crew and passenger lists | Search index and lists onsite at Ancestry (Library Edition) |
| 1897-1963 | Index to Fremantle passenger lists | Search index and lists onsite at Ancestry (Library Edition) |

New Zealand

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| 1839-1973 | Index to passenger lists from Archives New Zealand (Inwards and Outwards) | Search indexes and lists at https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1609792 |
| 1843-1880 | Index to arrivals and departures from New Plymouth | MFC 929.393432 1999 http://pukeariki.com/Learning-Research/Taranaki-Research-Centre/Passenger-List (1852-1880) |
| 1839-1897 | Index to arrivals into Wellington | http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/Leisure--Culture/Museums-and-galleries/Our-museums/petone-settlers-data/ |
| 1838-1889 | Index to Auckland area | https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/digital/collection/passengers |
| 1909-1921 | passenger arrivals | |
| 1852-1923 | Index: unassisted immigrants from New Zealand ports to Victoria | Open access microfiche (to 1923) and CD-ROM (to 1879). Ask at reference desk. The Library holds the lists. |
| 1852-1923 | Index: unassisted inward passengers to Victoria | https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/passenger-records-and-immigration/unassisted-passenger-lists Note: Website provides index only. State Library holds lists. Search index and lists onsite at Ancestry (Library Edition) |
| 1852-1923 | Passenger lists - Victoria, Australia outwards to New Zealand | MFC 929.393 1996 (1852-1880) CD-ROM - QCFS 929.393 2009 (1852-1923) Ask at family history desk, level 3. State Library doesn't hold the lists |

Other Passenger and Shipping Lists

Queensland State Archives website also holds other indexes that relate to immigration lists such as Immigrant Agent's lists. These can be found on the **Immigration** page <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives/immigration/>

National Archives Australia RecordSearch <https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection> provides access to 20th Century indexes and lists for all Australian states. For 1898-1966 check *Passenger Arrivals Index* tab in Search screen. Also available are Brisbane incoming lists, 1852-1964, Series no. J715, Rolls 1-42 (Use advanced item search and know the date range).

Emigrants from Hamburg to Australia

This index (FAMHIS 929.3943 1991; QCFS 929.3943 2006), compiled by Eric and Rosemary Kopitke, lists German and some Scandinavian immigrants for the years 1850-1879 at the point of departure. There are indexes for 1850-1859 and 1860-69 together with the lists on open access. For the 1870s use the index at the back of each book. These records are also available on CD-ROM (QCFS 929.3943 2006) at the Family History reference desk on Level 3.

The **Shipping Intelligence** column of Australian newspapers reported daily arrivals and departures for overseas and coastal shipping. Usually, names of full fare paying passengers are listed, plus the name of the Captain, details of the ship's cargo and sometimes a report of the voyage; and the condition and character of the immigrants.

Early shipping in Moreton Bay: June 1846-December 1859 and **Early shipping in Moreton Bay : January 1860-December 1863** (both at FAMHIS 387.2.1998) contain newspaper passenger lists of unassisted migrants and shipping news from information extracted from the *Moreton Bay Courier's* shipping reports. Names are indexed at the back.

Passenger lists from the Melbourne newspaper **Argus** 1846-1868 (MFC 929.3945 1993) are indexed.

The Hodge Index (MFC 929.39423 1990) is an index to passenger lists published in South Australian newspapers for S.A. ports and New Zealand, 1837-1855.

Sources for SA shipping records 1836 to 1842 [CD-ROM] (QCFS 929.39423 2006) compiled by Graham Jaunay, is a database that provides vessel name and voyage details, the sources, and a listing of passengers.

Register of New Zealand immigrants of Scottish birth arriving before 1 January 1921 (MFC 929.393 1999-2005), is compiled by Scottish Interest Group of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, and can be searched via surname, place of birth, year of birth or year of arrival.


Also available through **Ancestry (Library edition)**, *onsite* at State Library, are passenger lists to the USA and Canada as well as *UK Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960* and *UK Outward Passenger Lists 1890-1960*.

Check **FindMyPast**, available at State Library, for *Passengers leaving the UK 1890-1960*.

Check the State Library One Search online catalogue <http://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au> or *Research guide – Immigration & shipping: more than lists*.

Need further information?

(07) 3840 7810 | <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/plan-my-visit/services/ask-us>

 This guide is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence. You are free to copy, communicate and adapt this work, so long as you attribute State Library of Queensland. For more information see <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au>