NSW assisted passenger lists

Assisted passengers had their journey paid for or subsidised by an immigration scheme. Note that in the early days of the colony, NSW included Port Phillip (VIC), Moreton Bay (QLD) and Tasmania.

**ARK refers to the Archives Resources Kit microfilm reels held at Bega Library.**

- Index to assisted immigrants to NSW 1828 – 1842 (Bounty index) ARK reels 30 – 37
- List of assisted immigrants to NSW 1828 – 1842 ARK reels 1286-1349
- Assisted immigrants to NSW 1838 -1896 and Moreton Bay 1848 -1859 ARK reels 2134-2143
- Assisted immigrants (Port Phillip) 1839 -51 ARK reels 2143A – 2145
  online at [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)
- Index to assisted immigrants arriving Sydney and Newcastle, 1844-59 ARK fiche 2481-2491
  online at [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)
- Index to assisted immigrants arriving Sydney, 1860-79 ARK fiche 2492-2498
  online at [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)
- Index to assisted immigrants, 1880-96 ARK fiche 2499-2504
  online at [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)
- Index to assisted immigrants to Moreton Bay, 1848-59 ARK fiche 2479-2480
  online at [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au)
- Persons on bounty ships to Sydney, Newcastle & Moreton Bay 1848 – 1891 ARK reels 2458-2498
- Germans on bounty ships (Sydney), 1849-52 ARK fiche 851
- Wives and families of convicts on bounty ships (Sydney) 1849 – 55 ARK fiche 837 – 838
- Members of the Family Colonization Loan Society, 1854-57 ARK fiche 839
- Passenger lists of the Family Colonization Loan Society, 1854-55 ARK fiche 839
- Index to NSW immigration deposit journals 1853 – 1900 Local history cd-rom
- Immigration deposit journals 1853 – 1900 ARK reels 2668A – 2676
- Convictions : Australian shipping arrivals and departures 1788 – 1968. Local history cd-rom

NSW unassisted passenger lists

Unassisted passengers paid their own way to Australia and are known as free settlers.

NSW State Records holds records of free settlers from 1792-1922. After 1922, immigration became the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government and the records are held by the National Archives of Australia. There are no comprehensive indexes to passengers arriving after 1855 and prior to that few steerage passengers appeared on ships’ lists.

Try looking through Sydney newspapers around the date of arrival. Bega Library holds Sydney Morning Herald, 1831 – 1862; The Australian, 1832 – 1848; and Hobart Town Courier, 1827 - 1843 on microfilm. See the State Library of NSW www.sl.nsw.gov.au for their collection of newspapers.

Unassisted passengers arriving in Sydney, 1826-53, 1854-1900
ARK reels 399 – 560, 1263 – 1280, 2851


Unassisted passenger and crew arrivals, 1854-1900. Online at Mariners and Ships in Australian Waters website.

Free passengers to NSW 1826 – 1837 : passengers, crew and military. Available in local history section on cd-rom.

Unassisted arrivals to Sydney (NSW) Index 1842 – 1857. Available in local history section on cd-rom.

Passenger arrivals at Port Phillip and other Victorian Ports Index 1846. Available in local history section on cd-rom.

Victoria

Index to Unassisted Inward Passenger Lists to Victoria 1852-1923.

Military

Military personnel are rarely mentioned in passenger lists. Usually family members also on board are not mentioned either. Try:

- Index to passengers arriving (unassisted) 1826 – 1853: held by NSW State Records.
- Index to unassisted arrivals to NSW 1842 – 1855. Online at www.records.nsw.gov.au
- Ships’ deserters, 1852 – 1900 / Jim Melton. R929.394 MELT LHC

Migrants

National Archives of Australia www.naa.gov.au holds records on migrants in the following categories:

- British migrants before World War II
- Non-British migrants before World War II
- British migrants after World War II
- Non-British migrants after World War II
See the National Archives' website for fact sheets and guides on immigration records. Records are available when more than 30 years old. Their Making Australia Home service provides copies of records of your family's arrival in Australia.

Many of National Archives' immigration records are included in their RecordSearch catalogue which is available on their website. Note that if you don’t get a result from a search, if doesn’t mean there are no records on this person – the record may not yet have been added to RecordSearch.

National Archives does not hold 19th century immigration records or convict records.

**Ships**

Indexes to ships arrived 1837 – 1925

ARK reels 2502, 2503A


How to find shipping and immigration records in Australia / Cora Num. 2002. **929.1072 NUM**


A desperate set of villains : the convicts of the Marquis Cornwallis, Ireland to Botany Bay 1796 / Barbara Hall. 2000. **R929.3944 HALL LHC**

A nimble fingered tribe : the convicts of the Sugar Cane, Ireland to Botany Bay, 1793 / Barbara Hall. 2002. **R929.3944 HALL LHC**


Death or liberty : the convicts of the Britannia, Ireland to Botany Bay, 1797 / Barbara Hall. 2006. **R929.3944 HALL LHC**

The Irish vanguard : the convicts of the Queen, Ireland to Botany Bay, 1791 / Barbara Hall. 2009. **R929.3944 HALL LHC**

Shipping arrivals and departures, Sydney, 1788-1825 / J S Cumpston. **R387.209944 CUM LHC**

Shipping arrivals and departures, Sydney, 1826-1840 / Ian H Nicholson. **R387.209944 NIC LHC**

Shipping arrivals and departures, Sydney, 1841-1844 by Graeme Broxam and Ian Nicholson. **R387.2099441 BRO LHC**

Shipping arrivals and departures, Tasmania, 1803-1833 by Ian Nicholson. **R387.209946 NIC LHC**

Shipping arrivals and departures Tasmania, 1834-1842 and gazetteer of Tasmanian shipping 1803-1842 / I.Nicholson. **R387.209946 SHI LHC**

Shipping arrivals and departures Victorian ports, 1798-1845 / Marten A Syme. **R387.209945 SYM LHC**

Shipping arrivals and departures Victorian ports, 1846-1855 / Marten A Syme. **R387.209945 SYM LHC**

Shipping arrivals and departures South Australia, 1627 – 1850. **R387.2099423 SEX LHC**


Log of Logs / Ian Nicholson. **R387.2099 NICH LHC**

Catalog of logs, journals, shipboard diaries, letters, etc.,1788 to 1988.
Crew
Crew details are sometimes recorded in official arrival and departure records that have survived. Any log or record of the voyage may mention crew members. Try:

- Norma Tuck’s index to ship’s musters 1816 – 1855. Online at www.sag.org.au

Websites
Society of Australian Genealogists www.sag.org.au
NSW State Records www.records.nsw.gov.au
National Archives of Australia www.naa.gov.au
First Fleet Online http://cedir.uow.edu.au/programs/FirstFleet/
Ancestors on Board http://www.ancestersonboard.com/
(Convict ships list www.rootsweb.com/%7Eaustasha/convicts/conships.htm
(Incomplete alphabetical list of ships to Tasmania.)
Shipping records for South Australia www.slsa.sa.gov.au
Shipping departures from Tasmania http://portal.archives.tas.gov.au
Images of ships www.pictureaustralia.org

Useful Abbreviations
bv born on voyage, in quarantine, etc.
b&dv born and died on voyage
cob child(ren) on board (listed separately)
dv died on voyage
inft infant
pob parent(s) on board (listed separately)
sf stepfather
tw travelling with