LOST RELATIVE? BRICK WALL? ARE AUSTRALIAN RECORDS THE SOLUTION?

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This presentation examines a range of Australian record types and demonstrates how they may be of use to people trying to track missing ancestors who could have passed through or moved to Australia.

COVERAGE

This presentation focuses on the periods of Australian history that are represented in written resources only.

* Connections to Australia
  o Immigration and Ethnic Origin
  o Passing through
* The Records – where to locate this information
  o Vital statistics
  o Naturalization/Naturalisation and Citizenship
  o Newspapers
  o Other resources – hospital records, shipping records, wills and probate

WHO IS THIS FOR?

This presentation could be relevant to anyone with:

* Family rumours of someone who moved to Australia
* Has a gap in the chronology of an ancestor's life
* Has a branch of family who disappear from the records in a location

WHY MIGHT AUSTRALIA BE THE ANSWER?

In significant periods of global population movement in modern history, people were moving to and from Australia despite it being a remote location.

* Australia has a mostly immigrant population.
  o While for much of its history immigration was dominated by migrants from the United Kingdom, the Australian population hails from all regions of the world
  o Immigration to modern Australia (or the Australian Colonies before 1901) has occurred in waves mostly corresponding with international waves of population movement between 1788 and today
  o Movement to Australia was both voluntary and forced, via immigration schemes, as convicts, refugees or free settlers.
* People passing through Australia
  o Shipping provided links to Australia
    ▪ routes inc. Orient Line, the Great Circle
    ▪ ship's deserters

- o Emigration from Australia, especially during the Gold Rush
  - ▪ Places of destination
- o There are many other reasons why people pass through Australia and may be located in our records, for example as prisoners of war or as military service personnel

THE RECORDS

NATURALIZATION/NATURALISATION AND CITIZENSHIP

- * Note the spelling naturalization vs naturalisation
- * 'Alien' (non- British subjects)
- * Naturalization is not compulsory but is required for
  - o Voting
  - o Member of parliament
  - o Own freehold land
- * Naturalization records include:
  - o Birth date and place
  - o Place of origin
  - o Ship name
  - o Date and port of arrival and
  - o Sometimes a photograph
- * Location of Australian Naturalization Records pre 1900s:

State	Original Records	Published Indexed /Records
New South Wales	Museums of History New South Wales	Index 1849-1903 in **Ancestry**
Queensland	Queensland State Archives (Colonial Secretary correspondence)	Index 1851-1908 in **Ancestry & Findmypast**; Microfiche index 1848-1903 & **QSA** Downloadable index 1851-1904. Naturalization card indexes Queensland 1858-1902 available via **FamilySearch (affiliate Library access)**
South Australia	National Archives Australia & South Australian Government gazette &Microfiche	Index 1849-1903 **Findmypast**
Tasmania	State Library and Archives of Tasmania	Index -Denization (1835-1861), Naturalisation (1861-1905) **Libraries Tasmania**
Victoria	National Archives Australia, Public Records Office of Victoria	Index to Naturalisation certificates, 1851-1928 **Ancestry**
Western Australia	State Records Office WA	Registers - Naturalization - 1841-04-15 - 1903-12-31 (Creation) SRO AU WA S1547

- * Citizenship
  - o On January 26, 1949 the Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948 came into effect
  - o First official Australian citizenship established
  - o Automatic Citizenship for
    - ▪ Australian-born individuals
    - ▪ British subjects residing in Australia for 5+ years
  - o Naturalization Process:
    - ▪ Immigrants could apply for citizenship
    - ▪ Specific residency requirements must be met
  - o Australians remained British subjects until 1984

- Australian citizens were no longer British subjects
  - o Citizenship records include:
    - Date of arrival in Australia
    - Ship or flight travelled on
    - Town and country of birth
    - Names of other family members
    - Education
    - Profession
    - Address in Australia at the time of naturalisation

VITAL RECORDS

* See the Appendix for a table of what can be found on an historical Australian BDM certificate. This table is an update of the work of Graham Jaunay which can be found here:

  Jaunay, G. (no date) 'What you can expect to see on an historical* AUS BDM certificate', *Graham Jaunay Ancestral & Local History Research* . Available at: https://www.jaunay.com/bdm.html (Accessed: 12 December 2024)

* Different indexes provide different information from the records. Contrast Digger and BDMs Victoria

TROVE – NEWSPAPERS AND MUCH MORE

* TROVE is a free, central website to access the collections of Australian libraries, universities, museums, galleries and archives
* Promotes access to their digital collections, of over 14 billion items
* Particularly useful for genealogists: newspapers, Government Gazettes, maps, magazines and newsletters, pictures, photographs, and archived websites
* Accessed via https://trove.nla.gov.au/
  - o Newspapers:
    - Over 1000 papers from around Australia (and some international)
    - focuses on digitising newspapers published before 1955
    - Shipping News, Missing People, Family Notices - obituaries
  - o Gazettes:
    - Government information
    - Employees, promotions, professional registers, legal notices, tenders and contracts

OTHER RECORDS

HOSPITAL RECORDS @ GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

* GIN (Genealogical Names Index) has 446,943 indexed records from Victorian hospitals:
  - o Melbourne
  - o Amherst
  - o Ballarat
  - o Castlemaine Benevolent Asylum & Mt Alexander
  - o Dunolly
  - o Kyneton
  - o Kew Asylum
  - o Maldon
  - o Maryborough
* Some records start from 1855 & cover Melbourne & the Goldfields area.

* Information included:
    o Name
    o Age
    o Occupation
    o Date of admission and /or discharge from hospital
    o Result of admission eg. cured, died and more
    o Doctor
    o Often with additional notes such as example
    o Source reference to locate the original document

WILLS AND PROBATE

* If a person lived overseas and had property in Australia then probate will be registered in the State where they lived.
* Available in State based archives
* When a person leaves assets in more than one state or territory, it may be necessary to register the probate in more than one location.
* Location of Australian wills and probate records:

State	Original Records	Published Indexed / Records
New South Wales	Museums of HistoryNew South Wales	Will Books 1800-1952 & Deceased Estate Files 1889-1929- Findmypast; Index to deceased estate files, 1859-1958 - Ancestry Probate records 1939-1949 - FamilySearch, full text search
Northern Territory	Northern Territory Archives Service	Probate indes 1911-1994 - Ancestry
Queensland	Queensland State Archives	Will index 1857-1940 & Intestacies - Findmypast ; Will index 1857-1900 & 1901-1940 (Southern district) - Ancestry; Probate records to 1980 - FamilySearch, full text search
South Australia	State Records of South Australia	Wills & Probate records - FamilySearch, full text search
Tasmania	State Library & Archives of Tasmania	Wills & Letters of Administration 1824-1989- Findmypast ; Probate records 1824-1971 - FamilySearch, full text search
Victoria	Public Record Office of Victoria	Wills & Probate -Findmypast; Wills & probate records 1841-2009 -Ancestry ; Probate Administrator 1841-1926 Probate records 1937-1950 - FamilySearch, full text search
Western Australia	State Records Office of Western Australia	Letters of Administration 1832-1947 -Ancestry ; Probate records to 1990 - FamilySearch, full text search

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APPENDIX

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT TO SEE ON AN HISTORICAL* AUSTRALIAN BDM CERTIFICATE

BIRTH	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
Start	Jan 1930	Mar 1856	Aug 1870	Mar 1856	Jun 1842	Dec 1838	Jul 1853	Sep 1841
Earlier records	NSW	-	SA	NSW	-	-	NSW	-
Name	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Place	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Father's name	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Father's occupation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Father's age	Yes	Yes	from 1949	Yes	from 1907	from 1902	Yes	from 1896
Father's birthplace	Yes	Yes	from 1908	Yes	from 1907	from 1902	Yes	from 1896
Mother's name	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maiden name	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	from 1907	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mother's age	Yes	Yes	from 1949	Yes	from 1907	from 1902	Yes	from 1896
Mother's birthplace	Yes	Yes	from 1908	Yes	from 1907	from 1902	Yes	from 1896
Marriage date	Yes	Yes	from 1908	Yes	from 1907	from 1896	Yes	from 1896
Previous children	Yes	Yes	from 1908	Yes	from 1907	from 1919	Yes	from 1896
Available (Historical*)	≥ 100yrs	≥ 100yrs	≥ 80yrs	≥ 100yrs	≥ 75yrs	≥ 100yrs	≥ 100yrs	≥ 100yrs
Index avail on CD	No	to 1918	No	to 1914	to 1928	to 1919	to 1920	to 1905
Index online	No	to 1924	to 1918	to 1924	to 1924	to 1933	to 1924	to 1932
Index avail on fiche/film	No	to 1905	to 1918	to 1914	to 1928	to 1905	to 1913	to 1905
MARRIAGE	**ACT**	**NSW**	**NT**	**QLD**	**SA**	**TAS**	**VIC**	**WA**
Start	Jan 1930	Mar 1856	Aug 1870	Mar 1856	Jun 1842	Dec 1838	Jul 1853	Sep 1841
Earlier records	NSW	-	SA	NSW	-	-	NSW	-
Date	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Couple's names	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Couple's ages	Yes	opt <1896	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Couple's birthplaces	Yes	opt <1896	Yes	Yes	from 1907	from 1896	Yes	from 1923
Previous status	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Couple's occupations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Couple's residences	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	from 1856	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fathers' names	Yes	opt <1896	from 1949	Yes	from 1856	from 1896	Yes	Yes
Fathers' occupations	Yes	opt <1896	from 1949	Yes	No	from 1896	Yes	Yes
Groom's mothers name	Yes	opt <1896	from 1949	Yes	from 1964	from 1896	Yes	from 1896
Bride's mothers name	Yes	opt <1896	from 1949	Yes	No	from 1896	Yes	No
Available (Historical*)	≥ 70 yrs	≥ 50yrs	≥ 60yrs	≥ 75yrs	≥ 60 yrs	≥ 75yrs	≥ 60 yrs	≥ 75yrs
Index avail on CD	No	to 1945	No	to 1914	to 1937	to 1930	to 1942	to 1905
Index online	1949	to 1974	1913	to 1949	to 1949	to 1944	to 1964	to 1949
Index avail on fiche/film	No	to 1905	to 1902	to 1939	to 1937	to 1919	to 1930	to 1965
DEATH	**ACT**	**NSW**	**NT**	**QLD**	**SA**	**TAS**	**VIC**	**WA**
Start	Jan 1930	Mar 1856	Aug 1870	Mar 1856	Jun 1842	Dec 1838	Jul 1853	Sep 1841
Earlier records	NSW	-	SA	NSW	-	-	NSW	-
Name	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Death place	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Occupation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cause of death	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parents' names	Yes	Yes	from 1949	Yes	No	from 1914	Yes	from 1896
Spouse names	Yes	Yes	from 1949	Yes	from 1968	No	Yes	from 1896
Marriage details	Yes	Yes	from 1949	Yes	from 1915 age at m.	No	Yes	from 1896
Children's names	Yes	Yes	from 1949	Yes	No	No	Yes	from 1896
No of children	Yes	Yes	from 1949	Yes	from 1907	from 1914	Yes	from 1896
Birthplace	Yes	Yes	from 1949	Yes	from 1907	from 1897	Yes	from 1896
Residency	Yes	Yes	from 1949	Yes	from 1907	No	Yes	from 1896
Burial place	Yes	Yes	from 1949	Yes	from 1948	No	Yes	from 1896
Available (Historical*)	≥ 30yrs	≥ 30yrs	≥ 30yrs	≥ 30yrs	≥ 25yrs	≥ 25yrs	≥ 10yrs	≥ 25yrs
Index avail on CD	No	to 1945	No	to 1914	to 1972	to 1930	to 1985	to 1905
Index online	to 1994	to 1994	2012	to 1994	to 1994	to 1939	to 1994	to 1994
Index avail on fiche/film	No	to 1905	to 1902	to 1964	to 1970	to 1919	to 1985	to 1980

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