

Infosheet No. 38 Immigration and Emigration

Between 1815 and 1929, an estimated 11.4 million people left Britain for overseas destinations, part of a European wide phenomenon. Emigration was related to the growth of the international economy and emigrants invariably moved to places where they would expect to find an increase in their incomes. The main destinations for British and Irish emigrants were America and Canada, and later, Australia.

Liverpool

Liverpool was the primary port for emigration, some 60 per cent of emigrants set out from there. The years 1847-1851 saw 2,769 passenger ships sail from Liverpool, carrying 765,159 passengers to ports worldwide. In the 100 years between 1830 and 1930, several million emigrants passed through Liverpool to start new lives abroad.

Journey Conditions

In the early days emigration was an option only for the desperate or very tough. There was little chance of returning home and postal communication was of a poor standard. The trip could take 35 to 40 days on average but up to twice as long in bad weather. Conditions on board were often horrific; especially travelling 'steerage' (the cheapest quarters), where malnutrition and disease were rife. In the earliest years emigrants literally camped between decks, sleeping on narrow wooden bunks. They provided and cooked their own food and took their own utensils and bedding. Washing and toilet facilities were minimal. There was almost no privacy and ventilation below deck was negligible. Regulations were gradually passed, however, to improve conditions. For example, in 1842 each passenger had to have at least 10 square feet of space between decks. In 1849 the

food ration was to increase and in 1852 sickbays were meant to be provided. Unfortunately, government regulations for the inspection of emigrant ships were barely enforced because of the lack of officers, so the emigrant's journey often remained an extremely uncomfortable experience.

The Rise of Steam

Conditions for emigrants began to improve with the advent of the steam powered ship. The steamship was faster than the sailing packet, virtually cutting the voyage time to America in half. The steamship *City of Glasgow* set the precedent in 1850 when a profit was made by carrying 400 emigrants in steerage. By 1863, 45 per cent of British emigrants to America travelled by steam and just three years later this figure had risen to 81 per cent. In 1903 the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company introduced the transatlantic crossing, whilst *Lake Champlain* made the first sailing from Liverpool to Quebec and Montreal in April with 1,017 steerage passengers. The major sailing packets continued till after the Civil War, but three of the five largest (Red Star, Blue Swallowtail and Dramatic Lines) all closed down before 1878. By the summer of that year even the famous Black Ball Line was forced to close down. The Red Swallowtail Line was the last to go in 1880.

America and Canada

The first known settlers to arrive in America from England landed at Virginia in April 1607. This set the precedent for a sea traffic that increased dramatically from a stream of intrepid adventurers to a flood of desperate emigrants searching for a new and better life.

The tide of emigration to America and Canada reached its peak in the nineteenth century, largely due to the

Lloyd's Register Foundation
Information Centre
71 Fenchurch Street
London
EC3M 4BS
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7423 2475
F: +44 (0)20 7423 2039
E: histinfo@lr.org
www.lrfoundation.org.uk

Infosheet

potato famine of 1845 which especially hit Ireland. Between 1847 and 1854 it is estimated that 1,600,000 Irish left their home land never to return. The majority of this number set out for the United States and Canada, but sadly many never reached their destination.

Calculations indicate that over the following 60 years another 6 million left Ireland, never to return, with 80 per cent settling in the USA.

Other emigrants desiring a new life in America and Canada included those who sought political or religious freedom, convicts and those who went as 'indentured labourers'. By the 1830's America had gained a reputation for freedom and equal opportunities which was a powerful magnet for the oppressed peoples of Europe. Nineteenth century thinkers advocated the large scale emigration of paupers as a way to alleviate the problem of poverty. A number of societies were formed to assist emigrants, but in reality most emigrants had to fund themselves.

The Black Ball Line was the first and most famous American packet ship line to carry emigrants from Liverpool to America from 1818, later eclipsed by the Black Star Line in the 1850s.

In 1855 the world's first immigrant landing depot was opened at Castle Garden in Manhattan. The next 40 years saw 7,690,606 foreigners pass through this gateway to the nation. By 1890 however, money and criminal problems forced Castle Garden to close, replaced by the more efficiently controlled depot on Ellis Island, in New York Bay, which functioned until 1954.

Growing resistance to high levels of immigration in America led to the Emergency Immigration Restriction Law in 1921 which introduced a quota system which set a limit on the number of immigrants allowed into the USA. The Johnson-Reed Act of 1924 set an upper limit of 150,000

immigrants in any one year. Each nationality was assigned a percentage of this amount according to its contribution to the existing population. In 1952, the Immigration and Naturalisation Act codified existing legislation.

Australia

Prior to 1851 very few free emigrants had made the passage to Australia. But the discovery of gold at Bathurst, New South Wales by Edward Hammond Hargraves in 1851 caused a great gold rush, which gave a major impetus to the Liverpool-Australia emigrant trade. In 1854, 41,491 people emigrated from Liverpool to Australia, with 107 vessels making the voyage.

Liverpool was famed for its excellent ships and skilled mariners, attracting gold seekers from throughout the country to its port to demand fast passage to Australia. This led to the development of several small Liverpool shipping enterprises into successful packet lines, especially the firms of James Baines, Pilkington & Wilson, and Gibbs, Bright & Co. The Black Ball Line and the White Star Line were to dominate the Australian packet scene.

Ships had been regularly sailing from Britain to Australia long before the gold rush days, for quite a different reason. Between 1787 and 1868, 158,702 male and female convicts landed in Australia from Britain and Ireland. Roughly 1,321 prisoners came from other places such as India, Canada, Bermuda and Mauritius, mostly soldiers sentenced to transportation due to military crimes. Many other prisoners started out on the voyage to Australia but never made it due to the appalling conditions on board. Colonisation of Western Australia started in 1829. Between 1850 and 1868 10000 convicts arrived in the state.

Emigrants to Australia and New Zealand were categorised in the records according to the method by

Lloyd's Register Foundation
Information Centre
71 Fenchurch Street
London
EC3M 4BS
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7423 2475
F: +44 (0)20 7423 2039
E: histinfo@lr.org
www.lrfoundation.org.uk



which their passages were paid. Passenger Lists are described according to the type of passenger which they document:

- Free Passengers - fare was fully paid by the Government
- Assisted Passengers - Fare partly paid by the Government
- Unassisted Passengers - Paid own fare
- Bounty Passengers - Fare paid by an agent who in turn received a sum of money from the Government
- Nominated/Remitted Passengers - Friends/relatives in new country paid for emigrants' passage.

Tracing your emigrant ancestors

To start with, it is vital to try to establish the full names of family members and exact relationships within the family. Make sure that you know dates of birth, marriage, death and emigration, as you need these dates in order to gain entry to official records.

Once you have as many facts about your ancestors as you can personally gather, then you will probably want to consult passenger lists before going on to use other records to trace the emigrant's descendants. Remember that passenger lists are generally to be found in the country of destination.

We have included, in the attached table, contact details for a number of institutions that hold collections relevant to immigration and emigration and may hold records that will help you with your research. Please contact these institutions directly to enquire about the records they hold and to find out details about access and opening times.

Bibliography

Roger Kershaw
Emigrants and Expats: A guide to sources on UK emigration and residents overseas (Public Record Office, Surrey, ISBN: 1 903365 32 5)

American Society of Genealogists,
Genealogical Research: Methods and Sources (Washington DC: The Society, Vol. 1, 1981)

C. Bateson, *The Convict Ships* (Brown, Son & Ferguson: Glasgow, 1969)

N.R.P. Bonsor, *North Atlantic Seaway* (David & Charles: London, 1975)

N.R.P. Bonsor, *South Atlantic Seaway* (Brookside Publications: Jersey, 1983)

D. Charlwood, *The Long Farewell* (Allen Lane, 1981)

T. Coleman, *Passage to America* (Penguin: London, 1972)

H. Cowan, *British Emigration to British North America* (Toronto, 1961)

P.W. Filby & M.K. Meyer, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index* (Gale Research Co.: Detroit, 1981)

I.A. Glazier & M. Tepper, *The Famine Immigrants* (Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore)

V. Greenwood, *The Researchers Guide to American Genealogy* (Baltimore: General Publishing Co., 1973)

V. Greenwood, *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives* (Washington DC, 1982)

E. Guillet, *The Great Migration* (Toronto 1961)

D. Hollett, *Fast Passage to Australia* (Fairplay: London, 1986)

D. Hollett, *Passage to the New World: Packet Ships and Irish Famine Emigrants 1845-1851* (P.M. Heaton Publishing: Gwent, 1995)

R. Hughes, *The Fatal Shore* (Pan Books: London, 1988)

B.M. Kidd, *The Checklist of Canadian Directories 1790-1950* (Ottawa, 1979)

A. Kludas, *Passenger Ships of the World* (Patrick Stephens Ltd: Welligborough, 1975)

Lloyd's Register Foundation
Information Centre
71 Fenchurch Street
London
EC3M 4BS
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7423 2475
F: +44 (0)20 7423 2039
E: histinfo@lr.org
www.lrfoundation.org.uk

Infosheet

J.M. Maber, *North Star to Southern Cross: The Story of the Australasian Seaways* (T. Stephenson & Sons: Prestcot, 1967)

M. Maddocks, *The Atlantic Crossing* (Time Life Books: Amsterdam, 1990)

A.S. Mountfield, *Western Gateway: A History of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board* (1965)

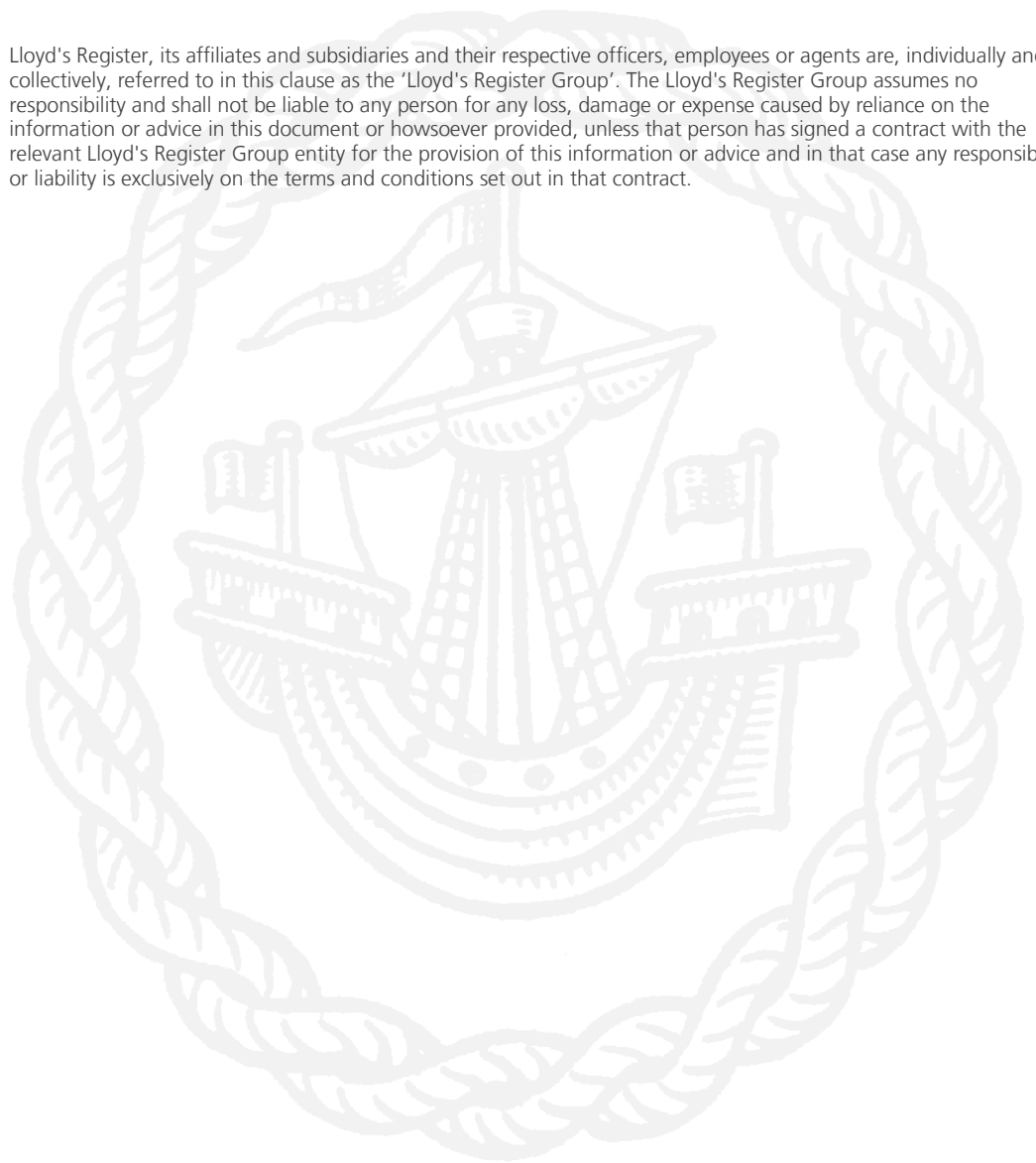
M. K. Stammers, *The Passage Makers* (Teredo Books, 1978)

G. Wagner, *Children of the Empire* (Wiedenfeld & Nicholson 1981)

C. Wittke, *We Who Built America* (Case Western University, 1967)

Researchers should check availability, accessibility and opening times with the repositories listed before making a personal visit.

Lloyd's Register, its affiliates and subsidiaries and their respective officers, employees or agents are, individually and collectively, referred to in this clause as the 'Lloyd's Register Group'. The Lloyd's Register Group assumes no responsibility and shall not be liable to any person for any loss, damage or expense caused by reliance on the information or advice in this document or howsoever provided, unless that person has signed a contract with the relevant Lloyd's Register Group entity for the provision of this information or advice and in that case any responsibility or liability is exclusively on the terms and conditions set out in that contract.



Lloyd's Register Foundation
Information Centre
71 Fenchurch Street
London
EC3M 4BS
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7423 2475
F: +44 (0)20 7423 2039
E: histinfo@lr.org
www.lrfoundation.org.uk



Libraries, museums and other research institutions holdings records relating to immigration and emigration.

Institution	Extent of collection				
	Books	Manuscript sources	Illustrative material	Artefacts	Other
Dundee Central Library The Wellgate Dundee DD1 1DB www.dundee.gov.uk/central/rare/rarebks.htm	Small	Small	Small	None	None
Aberdeen Maritime Museum Shiprow Aberdeen AB11 5BY T 01224 337713 www.aberdeencity.gov.uk	Small	None	Small	Small	None
Kingston upon Hull City Libraries Central Reference Library Albion St Hull HU1 3TF T 01482 300 300 Text 01482 300 349 reference.library@hullcc.gov.uk www.hullcc.gov.uk/libraries	Small	None	None	None	None
Aberdeen City Council Central Library Rosemount Viaduct Aberdeen AB25 1GW www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Libraries T 01224 652500 F 01224 641985 CentralLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk	Small	None	None	None	None

Institution	Extent of collection				
	Books	Manuscript sources	Illustrative material	Artefacts	Other
National Archives Ruskin Avenue Kew Surrey TW9 4DU www.nationalarchives.gov.uk T +44 (0)20 8876 3444	Extensive	Extensive (inc. passenger lists and naturalisations)	Small	None	Small collection of electronic resources.
McLean Museum and Art Gallery 15 Kelly Street Greenock PA16 8JX T 01475 715624 F 01475 715626 museum@inverclyde.gov.uk	None	Small	Small	None	None
Glasgow Museum of Transport 1 Bunhouse Road Glasgow G3 8DP www.glasgowmuseums.com T 0141 287 2720 Text 0141 287 2664 F 0141 287 2692 E museums@csqglasgow.org	None	Small	Small	None	None
Royal Institution of Cornwall Courtney Library River Street Truro Cornwall TR1 2SJ T 01872 272205 F 01872 240514 http://www.royalcornwallmuseum.org.uk	Extensive	Extensive: inc. lists of Cornish people overseas and Cornish Memorial Scheme.	None	None	None

Institution	Extent of collection				
	Books	Manuscript sources	Illustrative material	Artefacts	Other
Family Records Centre 1 Myddelton Street London EC1R 1UW	Small	None	None	None	None
Guildhall Library Aldermanbury London EC2P 2EJ www.history.ac.uk/gh	Extensive	Small: inc. Foreign Church Registers and Livery Company Documents.	Small	None	Extensive internet services available
General Register Office for Scotland New Register House Edinburgh EH1 3YT www.gro-scotland.gov.uk +44 131 334 0380	None	Collection of certificates of Scottish persons in foreign countries.	None	None	None
National Museums & Galleries of Wales Department of Industry The Collections Centre Heol Crochendy Parc Nantgarw Cardiff CF15 7QT www.museumwales.ac.uk T (029) 2039 7951	None	None	Small	None	None
Tyne & Wear Archives Service Blandford House Blandford Square Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4JA www.tyneandweararchives.org.uk T (+44) 191 277 2248 F (+44) 191 230 2614	Small	Small	None	None	None

Institution	Extent of collection				
	Books	Manuscript sources	Illustrative material	Artefacts	Other
Society of Genealogists Family History Library & Education Centre 14 Charterhouse Buildings Goswell Road London EC1 www.sog.org.uk T +44 20 7251 8799 F +44 20 7250 1800	Extensive	Small	None	None	Fiche and CD sources for Australia, New Zealand and USA.
Merseyside Maritime Museum Albert Dock Liverpool L3 4AQ Tel: 0151 4784499 www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime T +44 151 478 4499	Extensive	Small	Small	Extensive	Merseyside Maritime Museum publish a number of emigration packs providing useful information on how to trace emigrant ancestors, covering the United Kingdom and Eire, Australia and New Zealand, and the United States and Canada.
National Archives and Record Service Constitution Avenue General Services Administration Washington DC 20408 USA http://archives.gov T 001 866 272 6272 F 001 301 837 0483	Unknown	Extensive inc. Customs passengers lists, immigration passenger lists, records of births, marriages and deaths and Census records.	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Institution	Extent of collection				
	Books	Manuscript sources	Illustrative material	Artefacts	Other
Immigration and Naturalisation Service New York NY 10007 USA www.uscis.gov T 001 800 375 5283	Unknown	Extensive: passenger lists less than fifty years old	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
The Department of State Washington DC 20520 USA www.state.gov T 001 202 647 4000	Unknown	Information concerning births, marriages and deaths after 1900.	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
The British Library of Political and Economic Science (The London School of Economics) Houghton Street London WC2A 2AE T 020 7405 7686 www.lse.ac.uk/library T +44 (0) 20 7955 7229 F +44 (0) 20 7955 7454	Unknown	Holds microfilm copies of the USA National Archives passenger lists	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
New York Public Library The Research Libraries 5th Avenue and 42nd Street New York NY 10018 www.nypl.org T 001 212 930 0800	Dictionary Catalogue of Local History and Genealogy Division.	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Institution	Extent of collection				
	Books	Manuscript sources	Illustrative material	Artefacts	Other
New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Library 122 East 58th Street New York NY 10022 www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org T 001 212 626 6850 F 001 212 626 6857	Produces the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
The American Irish Historical Society Library 991 Fifth Avenue New York NY 10028 www.aihs.org T 001 212 288 2263 F 001 212 628 7927	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
US National Park Services Immigration Museum Ellis Island New York www.nps.gov	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Local History and Genealogy Section Library of Congress Washington DC 20540 www.loc.gov	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
National Immigration Archives and the Balch Institute 185 Seventh Street Philadelphia PA 19106 www.archives.gov/genealogy/immigration	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Institution	Extent of collection				
	Books	Manuscript sources	Illustrative material	Artefacts	Other
Public Archives of Canada 395 Wellington Street Ottawa Ontario K1A 0N3 www.archivescanada.ca T 001 866 254 1403 F 001 (613) 565 5445	Unknown	Extensive: including Juvenile Emigrants to Canada, passenger manifests, census and voters' lists.	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Records of Entry Unit Canada Employment and Immigration Commission 10th Floor 140 Place du Portage Phase IV Ottawa K1A 0J9	Unknown	Information regarding emigrants to Canada after Spring 1908.	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Public Archives of Nova Scotia 6016 University Avenue Halifax NS B3H 1W4 nsarm@gov.ns.ca www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm T 001(902) 424 6060 F 001(902) 424 0628	Unknown	Records of births and deaths 1865-1908. Marriages from late 1700s.	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Archives Nationales de Quebec PO Box 10450 Sainte-Foy Quebec G1V 4N1 www.banq.qc.ca T 001 514 873 1100 F 001 514 873 9312	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Institution	Extent of collection				
	Books	Manuscript sources	Illustrative material	Artefacts	Other
Archives of Ontario 77 Grenville Street Queen's Park Toronto Ontario M7A 2R9 www.archives.gov.on.ca T 001 416-327-1600 F 001 416-327-1999 E reference@ontario.ca	Unknown	Registration of births, deaths and marriages from 1869.	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Provincial Archives of Alberta 9829 - 103 Street Edmonton AB T5K 0X9 www.archivesalberta.org T 001 (780) 424 2697 F 001 (780) 425 1679 jahsena@shaw.ca	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
New South Wales Record Office The State Archives 2 Globe Street The Rocks Sydney NSW 2000 www.records.nsw.gov.au T +61 (02) 9673 1788 F +61 (02) 9833 4518	Unknown	Extensive: inc. Botany Bay Convicts Indents, passenger lists, immigration Lists (Assisted Passengers) and detailed records of men and women on early migrant ships, government ships and Bounty ships, immigrants and convicts' dependents.	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Public Record Office of Victoria 80 Collins Street Melbourne Victoria 3000 www.prov.vic.gov.au T +61 3 9348 5600 F +61 3 9348 5656 ask.prov@prov.vic.gov.au	Unknown	Extensive: inc. passenger lists (with index) and card index to naturalisation certificates.	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Institution	Extent of collection				
	Books	Manuscript sources	Illustrative material	Artefacts	Other
Battye Library of West Australian History and Archives 102 Beaufort Street Perth Western Australia 6000	Unknown	Passenger and convict lists for Fremantle and Albany 1829-1932.	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Queensland State Archives Anerley Road Dutton Park Queensland 4102 www.archives.qld.gov.au T +61 7 3131 7777 F +61 7 3131 7764 E info@archives.qld.gov.au	Unknown	Extensive: Immigration Department Records, passenger lists 1848 to date, records of Immigration Agents 1848 to date, Land Orders (mainly unassisted passengers) 1848 to date	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
South Australian Archives State Library of South Australia Northern Terrace Adelaide SA 5000 T +61 (08) 8204 8791 F +61 (08) 8204 8777 srsageneralenquiries@saugov.sa.gov.au www.archives.sa.gov.au	Unknown	Extensive: unofficial and official passenger, applications for assisted passage, Register of Labourers 1836-1841, Immigrant Department Records 1865-1978 and lists of ships' arrivals 1836-1849	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Australian Archives Office Federal Archives (National Archives) PO Box 7425 Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610 T +61 2 6212 3900 F +61 2 6212 3999 www.naa.gov.au archives@naa.gov.au	Unknown	Extensive: records of ships' passenger lists from 1924-1964 and refusals of naturalisation 1921-1939	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Institution	Extent of collection				
	Books	Manuscript sources	Illustrative material	Artefacts	Other
Archives of New Zealand 10 Mulgrave Street Thorndon Wellington 6011 T +64 4 499 5595 F +64 4 495 6210 reference@archives.govt.nz www.archives.govt.nz	Unknown	Extensive: passenger lists, embarkation registers and shipping lists.	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Archives Office of Tasmania 91 Murray St HOBART TASMANIA 7000 T +61 03 6233 7488 F +61 03 6233 7471 taho@education.tas.gov.au www.archives.tas.gov.au	Unknown	Extensive: convict lists, Governors Despatches, Board of Immigration records and passenger lists	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown