

Discovering when and how an ancestor arrived in Australia is the ambition of every family historian. In the majority of instances it is now relatively simple, as archives have been indexing passenger lists over the last few decades and many have put those indexes up on their websites and made them freely available.

Many of us wonder what the actual voyage was like and there are numerous resources that can be used to compile a detailed account of the voyage and what our ancestors would have experienced during the trip. Passenger lists outline who was on the ship - how many people and how many births and deaths occurred on board. There may also be health officer's reports and other ship reports to be found in the Colonial Secretary's correspondence in the various State Archives.

Newspaper can also provide information on the immigrants and the voyage and in earlier days may have included details of passengers. Perhaps the best source of all is a shipboard log or diary written by your own ancestor, but if you are not that lucky, then other passengers' diaries may be useful in providing details of what happened during the voyage.

Written as an expanded version of a talk that the author gives, this is an excellent up-to-date guide on the topic of researching "Convict and Immigrant Voyages to Australia and New Zealand".

What Was the Voyage Really Like?

A Brief Guide to Researching
Convict and Immigrant Voyages
to Australia and New Zealand

Shauna Hicks



About the Author



Shauna Hicks has been tracing her own family history since 1977 and worked in government for over 35 years primarily in libraries and archives including the State Library of Queensland, the John Oxley Library in Brisbane, the Queensland State Archives, the National Archives of Australia in Canberra and Public Record Office Victoria. She is currently Director of Shauna Hicks History Enterprises www.shaunahicks.com.au

Shauna has a number of tertiary qualifications including a BA in History and Anthropology from the University of Queensland and a MA in Australia Studies from Griffith University (Qld). She also holds a Graduate Diploma in Library Science from the Queensland University of Technology and a Diploma in Family Historical Studies from the Society of Australian Genealogists.

Shauna is also a Fellow of the Queensland Family History Society, in 2007 was awarded a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Australian Society of Archivists and in 2009 received the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Award for Meritorious Services to Family History.

This booklet is another in a series of publications produced by



Unlock the Past is about promoting history, genealogy and heritage in Australian and New Zealand. It is a collaborative venture involving a team of expert speakers, writers, organisations and commercial partners throughout Australia, New Zealand and overseas.

What is Unlock the Past?

- **A major events resource** - supporting existing events and running major events of our own
- **A publisher** of important guide books
- **A major go-to place** for products, services and other resources
- A significant **free content site**
- A **cost effective** marketing platform for societies, libraries and commercial partners
- A user of, and educator in, social media
- **Promoting heritage tourism** ... and much more

Proposed Unlock the Past publications

Working titles which may be modified prior to publication:

- Basic Style Guide
- Guide to Baptist History Resources in Australia
- My Ancestor was a Miner
- Religious Archives and Church Publications
- Victorian Source Directory
- Which Genealogy Program?
- Getting the Most out of findmypast.com.au
- Family and Local History Handbook: Australia and New Zealand

We are also considering a series of regional guides - watch our website for further information.

Titles already published in this series

- **What was the voyage really like?**
By Shauna Hicks
- **Your Family History Archives: A brief introduction**
By Shauna Hicks
- **Family History on the Cheap**
By Shauna Hicks