



Press Release

Australian Passenger Lists launched on TheGenealogist

TheGenealogist has released over 190,000 records for passengers who departed these shores on early migrant ships to New South Wales in the years between 1828 and 1896. These new records expand TheGenealogist's Immigration, Emigration and Naturalisation and passenger list records.

The transcripts of the latest release uniquely give a family link so you can see spouses and children setting out on their new life. They also reveal details such as which ship they had sailed on, where they were landing, the passenger's occupation and in the case where the migrant has been assisted to travel out to a job, their employer's name.

Some records are more detailed than others and can divulge how much the emigrant was to be paid, whether rations were included in their employment. In some cases the immigrants Native Place, or where they had come from is also disclosed. A number of these settlers may have bought their own passages, while others travelled with assistance from one of the public or private programmes that existed at the time. With the discovery of gold in 1851 mass migration to New South Wales of a wider cross section of people took place.

The NSW passenger lists will allow researchers to

- Discover ancestors travelling to New South Wales from Britain and Ireland between 1828 and 1896 in the shipping lists of the era
- These fully indexed records allow family historians to search by name together with country and port of embarkation, as well as country or port of destination
- Find ancestors on "bounty scheme" voyages in which free immigrants to Australia were recruited by agents in Britain, who were paid a monetary reward for finding suitable skilled labour and tradespeople willing to sail out to the new colony
- Locate families travelling together with a single click
- See linked images and records on the New South Wales Government Website

These records can be found within the Immigration, Emigration and Travel collection on TheGenealogist and add significantly to the resources already available for researchers to use when looking for ancestors who left Britain. TheGenealogist's extensive British & International Immigration and Emigration records, already include Naturalisation and Denization records, convict registers and early New Zealand settlers.

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For more information on TheGenealogist, please contact Nick at nick@thegenealogist.co.uk
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An example follows below...

By selecting Immigration, Emigration and Travel on TheGenealogist's main search page and then choosing Passenger Lists from the dropdown menu, we are able to look for William Fortune and his young wife who set out for a new life in New South Wales departing from London on the 13th February 1841 on board the ship the Jane Gifford.

The detailed records confirm the departure date, the ship's name and much much more. For example we are able to discover that William was from Newbridge, that he was a labourer aged 28 and a Roman Catholic. We can see that he was heading for Sydney, Australia and that William had been engaged by one Captain Flint at a wage of £19 a year.

Presumably William's prospective employer, Captain Flint, was not the template for Robert Louis Stevenson's Piratical character of the same name, who would appear in print forty years later. As the shipping records also reveals to us that William Fortune could neither read nor write, this fictional person with the same name as his boss may well have passed him by in the years to come.

An extremely powerful feature, of searching the passenger lists on TheGenealogist's website, is the ability to look for a family travelling together. One click on the family group icon, next to William's results, returns potential family members. We can see that his 19 year old wife, Susan, was also travelling with him. Her occupation is noted as a House Maid and she too was a Roman Catholic from Newbridge.

Another charming nugget of family history information revealed, by the Potential Family Members search, is that on the voyage William and Susan were delivered of a baby girl. Their child, Jane Fortune, was born at sea with her native place being prosaically listed simply as "Sea" on the passenger list. Jane is recorded as being aged 2 months and has then been pedantically noted in the records as being "under age".

The passenger lists available on TheGenealogist can reveal a significant amount of information about ancestors that have emigrated to New South Wales in the 19th century. As we can see, from the example above, the unique ability to search for relatives travelling together is a compelling reason to use TheGenealogist to research for immigrants down under.

Overseas » Passenger Lists » Full

Forename	William
Surname	Fortune
Port of Departure	London, England
Port of Arrival	Sydney, Australia
Date	13th February 1841
Profession	Labourer
Native Place	Newbridge
Age	28
Religion	Roman Catholic
Wages	£19
Read Or Write	Neither
By Whom Engaged	Captain Flint
Schedule Number	13
Ship Name	Jane Gifford
Ship's Destination	Sydney, Australia
Source	New South Wales Emigration Piece: 478700174.jpg [Images courtesy of NSW State Records Website]



Overseas » Passenger Lists » Full

Forename	Jane
Surname	Fortune
Port of Departure	London, England
Port of Arrival	Sydney, Australia
Date	13th February 1841
Native Place	Sea
Age	2m
Religion	Roman Catholic
By Whom Engaged	Captain Flint
Schedule Number	13
Ship Name	Jane Gifford
Ship's Destination	Sydney, Australia
Notes	Under Age
Source	New South Wales Emigration Piece: 478700174.jpg [Images courtesy of NSW State Records Website]

