

### **Researching Australian Relatives**

Most British families will have Australian relatives but tracking down long-lost Australian cousins can prove difficult. The first hurdle is that each Australian state maintains its own records but 19<sup>th</sup> century 'settlers' could be anything but settled so there are multiple sets of records to search. The second hurdle is that census records with individuals' names are virtually non-existent. The third hurdle is that few church records are on-line so it would be necessary to identify the relevant church(es) and write letters asking for help – enclosing a SAE and donation of course.

The alternative is firstly to take out a subscription to Ancestry Worldwide - £20 for one month and then cancel – and search for the relative by name. Ancestry should find

- Passenger records; your relatives or their ancestors must have travelled to Australia
- Civil registration records of birth, marriage or death; these often provide more information than their UK equivalents. However, records which could relate to living individuals or their close kin will often not be available.
- Town rates records; these should follow your relative's movements.
- Probate records.
- Criminal records, including of course those famous transported convicts.

Secondly search the newspapers using TROVE, Australia's very good set of digitised newspaper scans, using information gained using Ancestry to narrow down the search by date and locality.

You'll be surprised how many people there are in Australia with the same name as your relative! Keep notes, including the sources, as you go along and you should be able to link together some possibilities and eliminate others.

At this stage it is worth looking at online record sets, from State libraries and other sources, which might contain your relative. Use Google or FamilySearch's wiki to find possibly useful datasets. Good hunting.

The next meeting of the Genealogy Group will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of March at 2 p.m. at Enterprise House. This will be a 'Helping Hand' practical session particularly aimed at the less advanced family historian.