

*all yours***Aim:**

- to demonstrate the range of Ancestry resources
- to examine some strategies for using Ancestry
- to consider the benefits and problems of Ancestry

Ancestry Library Edition

Key features:

- quick name searches
- access to digitized images

Ancestry databases

Wide variety of records available including:

- England, Wales and Scotland censuses 1841-1911
- Civil birth, death and marriage indexes for England and Wales
- Selections of British parish records
- Australia wide birth, death and marriage indexes
- UK Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960
- NSW passenger lists 1826-1922
- Some 20th Century Australian electoral rolls 1903-1980
- NSW – Sands Directories 1861-1933

Ancestry: starting to search

Click here. Wait for the country search option

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Searching for that right moment

Start searching billions of records and discover your family's story. **BEGIN SEARCHING**

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Enter your email address and we will send you a link to your personalized Discovery Page where you can view and download all of the great finds you make while here.

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U.S. Public Records

Name: _____
Address: _____

Source Information:
Ancestry.com, UT, USA: Ancestry Original data: U.S. Records, and G

Description:
The U.S. Public all 50 states in

Five Minute Find: Sending Documents
Home From the Library
[View Video](#)

SEARCH CENSUS

SEARCH VITALS

SEARCH MILITARY

SEARCH IMMIGRATION

Select a country

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Place your ancestor might have lived Birth Year

SEARCH Show more options ▾

Special Collections + CARD CATALOG

Historical Records
Birth, Marriage & Death
Birth, Baptism & Christening
Marriage & Divorce
Death, Burial, Cemetery & Obituaries

Census & Voter Lists
U.S. Federal Census Collection
UK Census Collection
Canadian Census Collection
More...

Immigration & Travel
Passenger Lists
Citizenship & Naturalization Records
Border Crossings & Passports
More...

Military
Draft, Enlistment and Service
Casualties
Soldier, Veteran & Prisoner Rolls & Lists
More...

Explore by Location

USA **UK & IRELAND** EUROPE CANADA AUSTRALIA & NZ

United States
Recent additions include:

- Social Security Death Index - Updated
- Alabama Civil War Muster Rolls, 1861-



Explore by Location

USA **UK & IRELAND** EUROPE CANADA AUSTRALIA & NZ

UK & Ireland
Recent additions include:

- 1911 England & Wales Census Collection
- Naval Medal and Award Rolls, 1793-1972
- Military Campaign Medal and Award Rolls, 1793-1949
- Citations of the Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1914-1920



Channel Islands Ireland Northern Ireland Wales
England **Isle of Man** Scotland United Kingdom

Select a place

Ancestry: value of British censuses

Censuses:

- provide a snapshot of a family and individuals over time: ages, occupations, residence, information largely missing from birth, death and marriage certificates
- may be a useful guide as to which family members emigrated and when; those missing between one census and another may have emigrated

Years available:

England, Wales and Scotland

1841; 1851; 1861; 1871; 1881; 1891; 1901; 1911

Australia 1828

Hints for using Ancestry

Indexing problems are many and unpredictable, accidental or otherwise

- Given and surnames may be reversed eg Munro Colin
- Spelling may be inconsistent in original index/document eg Hunley for Stanley; Eyer for Eyre
- Informal rather than formal names may be used eg Frank for Francis Drummond Greville and Harry for Henry Charles
- Ages may be inconsistent
- Check original documents for context and crosscheck them with others eg *Trove*, other censuses, 19th Century British Library newspapers to see if the error is an indexing one or an inconsistency in the records.
- Put in as little detail as possible to get a reliable search; use the least common name option; vary your search terms and combinations of them.

Hints for searching censuses

Be wary of assumptions when using the census.

Someone may:

- be visiting aged parents on census night and so is recorded as a son not head of the household
- be away from home as a boarder
- have changed occupations
- be in unexpected places
- have remarried

Birth, death and marriage records

There are extensive collections of English and Welsh records which include indexes to civil records 1837-2005. *FreeBMD* <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/>, for the years it covers, often provides a more reliable search. It is possible to link to original parish records pre-1837 on Ancestry but also via *FreeReg* and other sites. The quality of church records on *Ancestry* is variable and their availability patchy. Often a sidebar suggests links to other records. These may be helpful or just a distraction. They should be crosschecked.

It is also possible to check across Australian birth, death and marriage indexes to the extent these are available. Crosscheck with Registry indexes. Those not online at Registry websites are held by State Library.

Passenger Lists

- *NSW unassisted immigrant passenger lists 1826-1922* is of particular interest among the Australian passenger records here. Indexes directly link to the original records. .State Library holds the records on microfilm.
- A free site, *Mariners in Australian Waters 1854-1922* <http://mariners.records.nsw.gov.au/> hosted by State Records NSW is also available but very incomplete as it relies on volunteers.
- Many immigrants to Queensland came via NSW or moved to Queensland later.
- Often little information is provided on unassisted passengers beyond a surname and title.
- Those travelling steerage may not be named and so may not be identifiable.
- Coastal passengers are also listed or included in a number in steerage.
- Seamen are included, often with their birthplace and age.

UK incoming passenger lists 1878-1960 lists those going to/returning to the UK. The index connects to original passenger lists.

Ancestry problem:

Mrs Rawson's name does not appear on the *Ancestry* passenger index despite various wildcard searches.

Strategy:

Crosscheck with other sources

Use Australian newspapers online *Trove* <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>

- Find her leaving Australia – ship, date, port - *Ormuz* 25 February 1903
- Find approximate date of ship's arrival 16 April 1903

Use this shipping information, rather than her name to search the list in *U.K. incoming passenger lists 1878-1960*

An index search shows she has been incorrectly recorded as Mrs Lauce Kawaon

Trove: located ship and time of travel to England

Ancestry: located passenger arrival by ship name and date.

Ancestry: range of electoral rolls

Years currently available on Ancestry:

- selected years 1903 -1980
- none for South Australia

State Library holds many more:

- small selection for 19th Century Australia
- Queensland 1850s-2008
- South Australia 1992-2008
- Some on CD-ROM

See Info guide: electoral rolls

Ancestry: benefits of electoral rolls

Enable an easy search across time and across states for the period covered

Do not have to search state by state, each division or subdivision

Provide an image of a family over time

- occupations until 1980s
- residences
- movements
- possible marriages or deaths

Explore Ancestry

Explore what is available but easily missed:

- There are full Hamburg emigration lists
- The *Dictionary of Biography* is available
- The *Illustrated London News* is searchable by a person's name

Ancestry: private and library subscriptions

Private subscription includes:

- My Ancestry
- Publish
- DNA
- Community & Learning Centre

Ancestry: summary

Resources: worldwide but with a US bias

Strategies:

- Be aware of possible errors in indexing/original records and crosscheck within Ancestry and with other databases
- Be aware assumptions may be false
- Put in as little detail as possible for a manageable search

Value of Ancestry:

- Access, previously impossible, to original British and Australian records
- Enables a search across records, across countries across time eg censuses, bdms as a fluid, easy, quick search but be aware of possible inaccuracies and crosscheck
- Be aware of differences between Ancestry library and private subscriptions

Role of SLQ

to provide key information services:

- to all Queenslanders
- onsite and remotely
- in the most appropriate format
- up to 2 hour free research service per enquiry; maximum of 12 hours per year

Use 'Ask us' on SLQ home page <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au>

- We do not do a whole family history
- We support those doing their research