

Shipping records

There is a flow chart in the ready reference area to direct you to the appropriate sources. You first need to establish whether the name of the ship and its date of arrival are known. If only the name of the ship is known check the *Comber Index* (see below) for arrival dates. If you are not sure when someone may have arrived check their death records as these often provide the number of years someone had been in the country. Obituaries and biographical dictionary entries may provide the name of the ship someone arrived on. Other clues may be provided by the dates of first entry in directories and electoral rolls, and/or the dates and places of birth of children.

All sources listed below are available in the ready reference area unless otherwise stated.

◆ **Comber Index to Shipping to New Zealand 1839 to 1889**

The Comber Index comprises three volumes. It is an index to information about the ships that arrived in New Zealand from the United Kingdom and Europe during the period 1839 to 1889. You can use it to locate the date and port of arrival of a ship when only the name is known.

The first volume contains an alphabetical index to the names of the ships with the date and port of departure and date and port of arrival. The final column on the right of the page is a reference to the page number in the other two volumes that are arranged chronologically. These volumes contain a little more information about each voyage, such as the other ports the ship may have visited on its voyage, and its destination upon leaving the country and the name of the captain. There is also an index to the names of the captains in a separate section at the back of the first volume.

There is also a copy of this index on microfiche and this is located in the 'Shipping' folder.

◆ **White Wings by Henry Brett.**

White Wings is a two volume publication which contains information about, and sometimes photographs of, the ships that came to New Zealand from the United Kingdom during the period 1850 to 1900. Each volume has a separate index at the back.

Arrivals from the United Kingdom & Europe 1848-1888

● **Settlers to Otago pre-1861 by Val Maxwell**

This volume is an index to some of the individuals who arrived in Otago before 1861 and it includes arrivals from Australia and the United Kingdom. It is arranged alphabetically by surname. The name of the ship that the individual arrived on is provided in parentheses. Sources of the information located are also provided and there is a list of the abbreviations used and the sources they refer to at the front of the volume. To locate the actual passenger lists you need to go to the sources referred to, newspapers, or the sources listed here. In many cases only the year of arrival of a ship is provided so you will need to check other sources like the Comber Index to find the actual date first.

While other details about each individual are sometimes provided they are not always accurate and you should bear this in mind. This index is also available on microfiche and it is located in the 'General' folder.

◆ **Contributions to the Early History of New Zealand [Settlement of Otago] by Thomas Morland Hocken. Appendix F. 1898.**

This appendix contains passenger lists of the ships that came to Otago from Great Britain for the period 1848 to 1851. There is no index to these passenger lists but they are included in the Val Maxwell index. The ages, and later occupations and places of residence, of individuals are given as well as the names of their future spouses. Some of this information is incorrect. A website is available with both the lists of passengers and corrected additional information at <http://www.ngaiopress.com/drhocken.htm>

◆ **List of Immigrants, Debtors to the Provincial Government of Otago for Passage Moneys 1869 and 1872.**

These lists were compiled in 1869 and 1872 of those individuals who still owed money to the Otago Provincial Government for their assisted passage from Great Britain. The 1869 list covers the period 1848 to 1869 while the 1872 list covers the period 1856 to 1872. The 1872 list also includes a separate section of Southland immigrants for the period 1862 to 1868. None of the lists are complete for the periods covered as they only include those individuals who still owed money. They also do not include all the names of a family and this can be indicated by the amount of money owing against an individual's name. Large amounts eg., £93 were probably the total amount owed by a family but it has only been listed against the head of the family's name.

The lists indicate the date a last payment was made, eg., 1.p. Dec. 22, 1865 means that the last payment was made on 22nd December 1865.

A separate index (spiral bound with pink cover) has been compiled which covers both lists and it is arranged alphabetically by surname. The second column provides the name of the ship and the third column provides its date of arrival. The fourth column indicates whether the individual is in the list of Southland immigrants with an 'S', and whether they are only in the 1869 list with an 'N'. The final column provides the entry number for each individual and it should be the same if they are included in both lists.

• **Passenger Lists to Otago 1869-1875 from the Otago Provincial Government Gazettes.**

This is a compilation of passenger lists that were published in the *Otago Provincial Government Gazette* for the period 1869 to 1875 and they include assisted and guaranteed passengers. In some cases the occupations and former addresses of individuals are provided.

There is a separate index (spiral bound) to the lists that is arranged alphabetically by surname. The name of the ship is provided in the second column with details of the date and page number in the *Otago Provincial Government Gazette* in the remaining columns. To locate the appropriate passenger list however it is easier to look at the list at the beginning of the blue folder containing the passenger lists. The final column in this list provides a handwritten number that refers to the numbers at the top of the following pages containing the passenger lists.

◆ **Patrick Henderson Shipping Company Paying Passengers to New Zealand 1871-1880.**

These lists are the only separate passenger lists for paying passengers held by the Hocken Library. The lists only include those passengers who departed by Patrick Henderson Shipping Company vessels from Greenock, Glasgow and London during the period 1871-1880. The index located in the ready reference area (and also on a single microfiche in the 'Shipping' folder) only includes arrivals at Otago and it is arranged alphabetically by surname. The ages and occupations of most individuals are provided as well as the name of the ship they came on and year of arrival. The final column is a reference to the page number in the original lists that are held on microfiche.

The set of three microfiche, located in the 'Shipping' folder, contains not only the arrivals at Port Chalmers but also some arrivals at Auckland, Bluff, Lyttelton and Wellington. The microfiche have been arranged into three sections – the first section is an index of the ships, the second section is an index of the passengers and the third section contains the source record. The source record contains the handwritten passenger lists and these contain additional information in some cases, such as the address, sponsor, class of passage or fare paid.

◆ **Otago & Southland Assisted Passengers from U.K. & Europe 1872-1888.**

These passenger lists are for assisted immigrants from the United Kingdom and Europe for the period 1872-1888 and are arranged in four volumes. The smaller A4 size volumes are arranged alphabetically by surname and the A3 size volumes are arranged chronologically by date of the ship's arrival, so all the passengers on the

same ship are listed together. This allows you to find family groups easily. Ages and occupations are listed as well as county of origin. There is a list of the abbreviations used and what county they refer to at the front of each volume. Also at the front of each volume are lists of the ships for the period 1872-1888 for which it is known that there are no passenger lists in existence. An alphabetical and chronological listing of the ships that are included in this source are listed at the front of each volume as well.

The majority of entries refer to arrivals at Port Chalmers, although some arrivals at Bluff are included. One of the columns in the larger volumes shows whether passengers were accommodated in the ship's family quarters, single women's quarters or single men's quarters. The column for name also indicates with the abbreviation 'nom.' which passengers had been nominated by somebody already in New Zealand. There are some surviving records at Archives New Zealand in Wellington with further details about the nominators. There are no further records about the passengers however as the entries in these volumes are the complete transcript of the original record at Archives New Zealand.

◆ **Arrivals after 1888.**

The Hocken Library does not hold any separate records for arrivals after 1888. If the name of the ship and its date of arrival are known you may be able to locate a passenger list in the appropriate newspaper. Otherwise you should write to Archives New Zealand Head Office in Wellington.

Australian Shipping Records

The following records are for arrivals from Victoria only. The Hocken Library does not hold separate passenger lists for arrivals from other states. If the name of the ship and its date of arrival are known you could check the appropriate newspaper for a passenger list, otherwise you should write to Archives New Zealand Head Office in Wellington.

◆ **Passenger Lists from Victoria, Australia outwards to New Zealand 1852-1870.**

There are three sets of microfiche, located in the 'Shipping' folder, that cover the periods 1852-1860, 1861-1865, and 1866-1870. The first pages of each set of microfiche contain a guide. The first section of each set of microfiche contains an alphabetical index to the passengers by surname. Among the details recorded were age, sex, marital status, occupation, country of origin, name of the ship, date of departure from Victoria, and the type of accommodation on the ship, eg., cabin, steerage, etc.

When you have located an individual in the alphabetical index note the numbers in the year and number columns, as these are unique to that passenger entry when used in combination. Using these details look in the following section which is by passenger list entry order. This provides the passenger names in the order that they were written in the original passenger lists. First you need to find the year that you require and then the number and name within that year. The passenger list entry order section may indicate family groups. Single people often emigrated with friends and family, so you should look at the nearby entries. It was not uncommon for males to arrive alone and their families to follow months or years later.

The final section of each set of microfiche contains ship information and it is arranged alphabetically by the ship's name. Details about each ship are recorded such as the master's name, tonnage, passenger totals, etc.

◆ **Immigration to Victoria Inward Passenger Lists British Ports 1852-1879**

These microfiche sets, produced by the Public Record Office of Victoria, are located in separate folders in the microfiche collection. Most of the passengers that came to Victoria during this period came unassisted. A guide to these microfiche is provided on the first microfiche of the index and it explains the terms and abbreviations used. The separate index to the lists is arranged alphabetically by surname and it is located at the front of the folder. Unfortunately the index for the period 1870-79 has not yet been purchased but there is an online index available on the Public Record Office of Victoria website

<http://www.tools.prov.vic.gov.au/unassisted1.asp>). This index also includes the inward passenger lists from foreign ports. Note also that the online index covers the period 1852-1889 and the Hocken Library does not yet hold the passenger lists for 1880-1889.

Once you have entered the name that you are looking for into the search screen, or have located it in the microfiche index, you will be provided with a ship's name, year of arrival and microfiche and page number reference. You can then locate the appropriate microfiche of passenger lists that have been arranged chronologically. Do not use the page numbers at the top of each page to locate the page number reference that you have been given. You need to find the first page that the appropriate ship's name appears and then count from that page.

Keep in mind when searching for the names of individuals the various spelling variants that could occur and check those. Names may also have been Anglicised. It was not uncommon for married women, when accompanying children, to travel under their maiden names, so these need to be checked too. Some categories of passengers were only described by their occupation or race and their individual names are not provided eg., servants or Chinese. It is also advisable to check the indexes to inward passenger lists for both British and foreign ports irrespective of the country of origin of an individual. This is because British subjects may have travelled on ships that commenced their voyages in foreign ports while non-British subjects may have joined ships that started from British ports.

Keep in mind too when you have found the names of individuals that may be the ones you are looking for, except for a few details, that there is likely to have been transcription errors and the passengers themselves may have supplied incorrect information.

◆ **Immigration to Victoria Inward Passenger Lists Foreign Ports 1852-1879**

These microfiche sets, also produced by the Public Record Office of Victoria, are located in a separate folder in the microfiche collection. They are arranged in the same way as the previous source and the same advice regarding their use applies. The indexes to the passengers' surnames are located at the front of the folder and cover the

periods 1852-59, 1860-69 and 1870-79. Microfiche of the passenger lists, that are arranged chronologically, are located on the pages after the indexes.

◆ **Immigration to Victoria Overseas and Intercolonial Ports 1846-1852 Register of Inward Shipping and Index**

This is another set of microfiche produced by the Public Record Office of Victoria and it is located in a separate folder in the microfiche collection. Again there is a guide on the first microfiche. This register is part of a series that is an accumulation of records created between c.1840 and c. 1890. It appears that these records were created by officers with responsibility for the administration of immigration, ports and harbours, and trade and customs functions.

The register records arrivals at the Port of Melbourne between January 1846 and December 1852. It includes all ships no matter which port they were from. The ships are listed chronologically by their date of arrival. Basic information is given about each ship eg., its movements, passengers and cargo. Between January 1846 and October 1847 passengers are named but it is not known whether the records are complete. Age, sex and nationality are not given.

From November 1847 to November 1851 the number of adults and children carried on each ship is registered but they are not named. Between November 1851 and December 1852 the arrival of ships is registered and details of the ship and cargo are recorded but the passengers are not referred to. Ship information includes the master's name, tonnage, date of arrival, date and port of departure, and a description of the vessel and its cargo.

The index to the register (on microfiche 2 to 5) is arranged alphabetically by the family names of the passengers between January 1846 and October 1847. Ships captains are indexed for the period 1846 and 1852 and their names are interfiled with the names of passengers.

◆ **Immigration to Victoria Assisted German Immigrants Passenger Lists and Index 1849-1850.**

Only two microfiche make up this set and they are located with the previous ones for overseas and intercolonial ports. At least three ships came to Victoria in 1849 bringing 451 assisted immigrants from Germany. There are two types of records – estray correspondence and immigrant lists. The estray correspondence consists of four items concerning the arrival of three ships from Germany and the payment of an assisted immigration bounty. The immigrant lists are for the three ships – Wappaus, Dockenhuden and the Godeffroy. Details include each immigrant's name, age, native place, religion, occupation and whether they were literate. The births and deaths on the voyages are also recorded.

The second fiche contains an index to the fiche and page number of the correspondence and immigrant lists. It is arranged alphabetically by the name of the passengers and also includes the ships' captains.

Other sources

◆ **Oases Database**

Ask staff to check this database. It contains shipping information for individuals from Dunedin newspaper passenger lists for the period to the end of 1861. Records of individuals are colour coded – dark green entries are for immigrants, light green entries are for those born in Otago, blue entries are for individuals who never actually came to New Zealand, red entries are for individuals for whom there is no shipping information, and yellow entries are for those individuals where it is not known whether they were an immigrant or born in Otago.

◆ **Log of Logs by Ian Nicholson**

This publication is a catalogue (in three volumes) of logs, journals, shipboard diaries, letters and all forms of voyage narratives for Australia and New Zealand and surrounding oceans for the period 1778 to 1998. Note that each volume covers a different time period. Volume two contains amendments and additional information

from volume one and entries have not been repeated unless further details were available or clarification was necessary. Volume three contains further details due to an increase in coverage and scope. To make sure that you have all the details for a particular voyage you should check all three volumes.

Each volume is arranged alphabetically by the name of the ship. The date of the voyage is indicated at the left of each entry. There is a guide to the entries at the beginning of each volume. The location of the sources (includes the Hocken Library), or the name of the relevant publication, is provided. For Hocken Library holdings titles should be checked in the catalogues.

- **A Guide to Firsthand Shipboard Accounts for Voyages to New Zealand 1840 to 1900 compiled by Marsha Donaldson. 1998.**

This guide is a set of two microfiche located in the 'Shipping' folder. It provides the location of firsthand shipboard accounts for voyages to New Zealand from the United Kingdom and Europe for the period 1840 to 1900. Both published and unpublished material held in New Zealand repositories is included, as well as material held overseas but available in New Zealand on microfilm.

It does not include naval and whaling voyages, voyages outwards from New Zealand or those voyages where individuals travelled from the United Kingdom to Australia and then shipped on to New Zealand. It also does not include those newspaper accounts of voyages published just after arrival.

Firsthand shipboard accounts were written by passengers, captains, officers, and/or crew. They could have been written at the time of departure, during the voyage or after arrival. Official accounts include the captain's log or the surgeon's journal, etc., and personal accounts include diaries, letters, shipboard newspapers, etc.

The guide is arranged alphabetically by the name of the ship. If a ship made more than one voyage then entries are arranged by date of arrival. Information provided includes the name of the ship, date of arrival, destination, creator, record type, dates, and location of the account. A guide to the abbreviations used is provided at the beginning of the first fiche as well as a list of the repositories.

Each entry has been assigned a reference number to locate entries from the three supplementary indexes. These indexes are located at the end of the main section. The first is an index to the name of the creator of the account, the second indexes by date of arrival and the last index is by port of arrival.

◆ **New Zealand Assisted Passenger Lists 1855-1871. Ships into Lyttelton, sometimes Timaru compiled by Heather Morris and Barbara Hafslund. 1994.**

These microfiche are located in the 'Shipping' folder and contain a transcript of assisted passenger lists for arrivals at Lyttelton, and some for Timaru, for the period 1855-1871. The passenger lists have not been copied out in whole but the compilers have attempted to include what they consider to be the most useful details for researchers. Names and spelling have been recorded as they appeared in the original lists. In instances where there is any doubt of the exact spelling these are indicated by a '?'.

The guide at the beginning of the first and second microfiche includes a list of the abbreviations used as well as a list of the ships whose passenger lists have not been extracted from the original lists. The first microfiche contains a general index to the passengers' names but it only provides the surname of the passengers, the name of the ship they arrived on and its year of arrival. The passenger lists for each ship are then provided in the remaining three microfiche and they have been arranged chronologically. Additional details included for each shipload are bills from the colony and promissory notes that may provide some further useful information.

◆ **New Zealand Shipping Company Register 1875-1893 published by New Zealand Society of Genealogists, 1988.**

This register is located in the 'Shipping' microfiche folder and contains information on the ships that arrived in New Zealand from the United Kingdom during the period 1875-1893. There is an alphabetical listing of the ships' names on the first microfiche and each entry contains a reference to the page number of the original register that is located on the other three microfiche. There is also an index to

shipping arrivals by date. Both indexes show the destined port of arrival. Some of the ships' names have been misspelt so spelling has been standardised. There is no passenger information. Details of the ship recorded in the original register include tonnage, place and date of final departure, length of passage, who the ship was owned by and when it was built.

◆ **Port of Wellington Entry 1856-1887 published by New Zealand Society of Genealogists, 1988.**

This set of eight microfiche is located in the 'Shipping' folder and contains indexes of passengers and ships' names for arrivals in Wellington from Great Britain, Ireland and Europe for the period 1856-1887. The sources for the information are the passenger lists published in Wellington newspapers of the time. Passengers' names were recorded as they were published but where evidence of errors was obtained then this has been noted on the relevant entries.

The passenger index spans most of the eight microfiche and it is arranged alphabetically by surname. Also recorded are the name of the ship, the date of arrival and the source of the information. Some of the newspapers referred to will be held here. Check the publications catalogue or ask staff to check the *Union List of Newspapers*. The ship index is located on the last fiche and it is also arranged alphabetically by name of the ship. Other details recorded include the tonnage, captain's name, port and date of departure, date of arrival, number of passengers and the source.

◆ **Hocken Library Reference Database**

The Hocken Library Reference database contains references to passenger lists, accounts of arrivals, etc with details of the sources they are from. Ask staff to check this database for the name of the ship. In many cases photocopies of this information have been made and they are available in the ready reference area in red folders.

◆ **Photographs**

The pictorial collections (upstairs) hold photographs and pictures of ships. You could also check the publications catalogue for books on various ships and shipping companies as these often include images of ships.

◆ **Ship deserters from the Otago Police Gazette 1861-1877**

This list is located in a folder with the other shipping records in the ready reference area. It is arranged alphabetically by surname and includes those seamen listed as deserters in the *Otago Police Gazette* 1861-1877. Only the gazettes held by the Hocken Library were indexed and the holdings are not complete for that period, especially the period 1861-1863.

The list also includes those who enticed, persuaded or aided seamen to desert, secreted and harboured ship deserters, and those who drowned while attempting to desert. From 1866 the *Otago Police Gazettes* listed seamen who breached the Merchant Shipping Act 1854, the Foreign Seamen's Act, and later the Shipping Act. These men are also included as these offences could sometimes include desertion.

Aliases are listed where provided. Each entry contains a reference to the year of the gazette and the page number.

◆ **Crew lists**

The Hocken Library does not hold separate crew lists. Archives New Zealand Head Office in Wellington holds some crew lists from 1883 on. See *Family History at National Archives*, page 91, (in ready reference area) for further details.

◆ **Register of New Zealand Ships 1840-1950 compiled by M.N. Watt.**

This register comprises four volumes and it must be ordered via the publications catalogue. It includes every vessel registered in New Zealand up to and including 1950. The first three volumes are arranged alphabetically by the name of the ship. Among the details recorded are - when the ship was built, where it was registered, minor casualties, and its ultimate fate, if known. There is also a reference to a page number in Part Two (Ownerships) which is located in the fourth volume.

The ownerships section is arranged alphabetically by surname. The period the ship was owned by that individual is given, as well as the number of shares held (if less than the total of 64). Joint ownerships are also indicated. The fourth volume next contains an index to the ship builders which is arranged by place and then alphabetically by surname. There is a reference to the page number of the shipping register. The final index is to the masters and it is also arranged alphabetically by surname with a page reference to the main register.

◆ **Other useful books**

Some of these are held in the ready reference section but you will need to check the publications catalogue for the location of others.

- *New Zealand Shipwrecks: 195 years of disaster at sea* by C.W.N. Ingram, (several editions)
- *Rocks, Reefs and Sandbars. A History of Otago Shipwrecks* by Bruce E. Collins.
- *Otago Harbour. Currents of Controversy* by Gavin McLean.
- *The golden years of shipping industry: a study of shipbuilding and repairing work in Port Chalmers, 1862-1864* by M.A. Chapman.
- *Shipping Arrivals and Departures Tasmania ...* This is part of a Roebuck Society series and includes Victoria, South Australia and Sydney. A range of dates is covered and there are several volumes for some areas.
- *Opening the manifest on ... Otago's Infant Years. Shipping Arrivals and Departures, Otago Harbour and Coast 1770-1860* by Ian N. Church. This contains a chronological record of the ships that arrived. The names of some passengers, or the sources of passenger lists, are recorded.
- *John Wickliffe, Philip Laing, Victory, Blundell and Bernicia* – these are commemorative booklets published in 2000 by the Otago Settlers Association Inc. and New Zealand Studies Centre, Hocken Library on the first five ships with free Church settlers to arrive at Otago.