

## Online Sources for Queensland Family History

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Many Victorians have a Queensland connection due to the various gold rushes of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This paper looks at some of the Queensland websites that are useful to Victorians with ancestors who lived or died in Queensland.

Researching in Queensland is very similar to researching in other Australian States as the records and resources are similar. There are the usual organisations such as libraries, archives, genealogical and family history societies plus resources such as BDMs, cemeteries, local government, local history and other resources. Each website will be explored briefly for the main points of genealogical and family history interest.

### **Cora Num's *Websites for Genealogists*: an Australian gateway site for tracing your family history**

< <http://www.coraweb.com.au> >

This is a very useful gateway site and though arranged in a subject format, many websites in Queensland can still be located using this website e.g. the wills and probates entry is further subdivided into the individual states and territories.

### **Department of Justice & Attorney General – Births Deaths & Marriages**

<<http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/search-historical-records.htm>>

There is a free online index to births, deaths and marriages for the following years:

- Births up to 1914
- Deaths up to 1964
- Marriages up to 1934

### **State Library of Queensland (SLQ)**

<<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au>>

There are a range of services and resources for local and family historians including:

- A range of family history info guides on various topics
- A free state wide information service is available for those requiring assistance with family history research (see terms & conditions)
- Although not specifically Queensland, there is an free online database to convicts transported to Australia between 1787 and 1868 (from the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) Home Office British transportation registers)
- Other free online indexes include:
  - Index to appointments and removals of Qld railway employees (1890 - 1901)
  - Index to appointments and removals of employees of the Southern and Western Railway, Traffic Branch, Queensland (1866 - 1876)
  - Index of miners involved in Queensland mining accidents (1882 - 1900)

- Index to persons called before Qld Government Committees - Part 1 (1860 - 1901)
- Index to persons called before Qld Government Committees - Part 2 (1902 - 1920)

*Heritage Queensland* is of particular interest with *Manuscripts Queensland* (some digitised collections) and *Picture Queensland*. Photographs in *Picture Queensland* may also be located in *Picture Australia*.

*Onesearch* is the Library's search engine which searches all collections including both physical and digital items which is a real time saver.

### Queensland State Archives (QSA)

<<http://www.archives.qld.gov.au>>

There are 42 *Brief Guides* (PDF format) and 23 *Search Procedures* (PDF format) to a wide range of family history topics free to download plus publications to purchase including 2 *Pathways*, 3 *Mini-Pathways* and 52 *Signposts* (based on individual cities/towns). A range of online indexes and the online catalogue *ArchivesSearch* also allow easy identification of items of interest. Indexes include:

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Assistant Immigration Agent Maryborough 1875-1907     | Inquests 1859-1886                    |
| Assisted Immigration 1848-1912                        | Instruments of Renunciation 1915-1983 |
| Australian South Sea Islanders 1867-1908              | Justices of the Peace 1859-1910       |
| Boer War Indexes                                      | Land Selections prior to 1884         |
| Card Index to Nominated Immigrants 1908-1922          | Mineral Leases 1871-1940              |
| Chronological Register of Prisoners 1824-1839         | Passport Register Indexes 1926-1939   |
| Civil Servants Index 1865-1867                        | Passage Certificates Index 1887-1906  |
| Coloured Labour and Asiatic Aliens in Queensland 1913 | Register of Immigrants 1864-1878      |
| Companies Index 1863 - 1959                           | St Helena Convict Indexes 1863-1936   |
| Consumptive Patients 1897-1902                        | Teachers 1860-1904                    |
| Criminal Depositions 1861-1885                        | Trustees Files Index 1889-1929        |
| Dental Board 1903-1932                                | Wills 1857-1920                       |
| Divorces 1861-1894                                    |                                       |

There is a free monthly e-bulletin to keep researchers up to date with events and new resources online.

### Genealogy and Family History Societies

There are two main societies based in Brisbane, the GSQ and the QFHS (see entries below).

- **History Queensland**

<<http://www.historyqueensland.org.au>>

Previously known as the Queensland Association of Local and Family History Societies, it is an umbrella group for societies in Queensland. At the time of writing it has 84 members but not all local and family history societies are members. It appears to have more members from the south east Queensland region.

- **Australasian Association of Family History Organisations (AAFHO)**

<<http://www.affho.org/affho/members.php>>

More genealogy and family history societies in Queensland can be found listed here but again not all societies are members of AAFHO.

- **Genealogical Society of Queensland (GSQ)**

<<http://www.gsq.org.au>>

The GSQ publishes *E-News* and back copies are available free online. The online Register of Members Interests is also useful. The Society undertakes paid research for those unable to visit the Resource Centre.

There are Branches at:

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Bayside          | Beaudesert |
| North Brisbane   | Redlands   |
| Southern Suburbs |            |

Special Interest Groups include:

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Computer      | Convict         |
| English/Irish | German Research |
| Scandinavian  | Scottish        |

- **Queensland Family History Society (QFHS)**

<<http://www.qfhs.org.au>>

QFHS operates an online bookshop and is also a prolific publisher of Queensland indexes and the full range can be seen on the website. QFHS publishes a e-newsletter *Snippets* and the current issue and the previous six issues are freely available on the website.

There is a useful FAQ on Central European Research and there is a simple keyword search of the Society's library reference catalogue online.

Special Interest Groups include:

|                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Central European          | English West Country         |
| Family History Writing    | Family Tree Maker user group |
| Irish Interests           | Monday Daytime group         |
| Queensland Pre-Separation | Scottish Interests           |
| Welsh Interests           |                              |

## Local Government Authorities and Cemeteries

Quite a few local government authorities have made their cemetery databases freely available online. Examples include:

- **Brisbane City Council Grave Location Search**

<[http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:BASE::pc=PC\\_899](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:BASE::pc=PC_899)>

This is a free online database that provides information on those buried in the following Brisbane cemeteries:

|                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Bald Hills                       | Balmoral (aka Bulimba) |
| Brookfield                       | Cedar Creek            |
| Hemmant                          | Lutwyche               |
| Moggill                          | Mount Gravatt          |
| Nundah                           | Pinnaroo               |
| South Brisbane (aka Dutton Park) | Toowong                |

Monumental inscriptions for Bulimba, South Brisbane and Toowong cemeteries are available through the World Vital Records Australasia database (see separate entry).

- **Moreton Bay Region Cemeteries Database**

<<http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/app/cemeteries>>

The Moreton Bay Regional Council came into being with the amalgamation of the Caboolture, Pine Rivers and Redcliffe Councils in 2008 and this cemeteries database includes the following:

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Albany Creek                | Bribie Island |
| Caboolture & Districts Lawn | Dayboro       |
| King Street                 | Lawnton       |
| Redcliffe                   | Samford       |
| Samsonvale                  |               |

- **Bundaberg Regional Council Cemeteries**

<<http://bundaberg.qld.gov.au/services/cemeteries>>

The Bundaberg Cemetery database is currently online with over 23,000 burials.

The Council is also responsible for the following cemeteries and work is currently underway to make them all available in a single database in 2010.

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Apple Tree Creek         | Avondale                |
| Bundaberg General & Lawn | Boolbunda               |
| Booyal                   | Childers Lawn           |
| Cordalba                 | Currajong (Comonju)     |
| Gin Gin General & Lawn   | Goodnight Scrub         |
| Invicta (Historical)     | South Isis (Historical) |

- **Hinchinbrook Shire Council Register of Burials**

<<http://www.hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au/web/guest/register-of-burials>>

Hinchinbrook Shire Council has an extensive database of all burials in the following cemeteries:

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| New Ingham | Old Ingham |
| Halifax    |            |

These records show information about the deceased such as full name, date and place of death, cause of death, birthplace, age and sex, as well as details on the cemetery and grave location.

- **Toowoomba City Council Grave Finder**

<<http://ww2.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au>>

This is a free online database that provides information on those buried in the following Toowoomba cemeteries:

|         |            |
|---------|------------|
| Drayton | Greenmount |
|---------|------------|

Other Queensland cemeteries can be located using Interment.net Cemetery Records Online <<http://www.interment.net/aus/qld/index.htm>>. It is also advisable to do a *Google* search as well for the local government authority or cemetery that you are interested in as new resources may be available.

**Royal Historical Society of Queensland (RHSQ)**

<<http://www.queenslandhistory.org.au>>

The Society offers a range of services and resources and produces a *Bulletin* which is available free online. A CD copy of the Society's library catalogue is available for purchase along with other publications. Of most interest is the listing of the contents of the RHSQ *Journal* 1914-2009 which is available to download and print.

**Judy Webster's Genealogy Advice for Australia, especially Queensland**

<<http://www.judywebster.gil.com.au>>

There is over 120 pages of information on this website including Tips for Queensland Research, free online indexes to sources at Queensland State Archives, Judy's publications and online shop.

Some of the indexes include:

- Cooktown Boys' School admission register
- Cooktown residents who signed a petition in 1874 (with the original signatures)
- Dentists and dental apprentices including women
- Hospital admission registers which may give ship of arrival
- Illegitimate children and/or their mothers -the child's father is named in an archival source

- Mental asylum patients, including people suffering from epilepsy, depression and alcoholism. There are separate indexes to several different series of records about mental asylum inmates (case books, Public Curator insanity files, Supreme Court insanity files, Colonial Secretary's Office in-letters, Annual Reports, etc.)
- Nurses and masseurs (male & female)
- Old age pension records including many people who were not on electoral rolls
- Police station watchhouse records includes persons arrested and victims of crime (including children)
- Prison records which may give ship of arrival, physical description etc
- Qld Police Gazettes include friends and relatives sought, missing persons, alleged offenders, prisoners, wife/child deserters, victims of crime, complainants, etc
- Undertakings re fares for travel by rail or ship (mainly interstate but some international)
- Selected names from various sources including Grammar School records, registers of maintenance payments and protection orders, police correspondence and news clippings re shootings, etc.
- Women granted protection orders, 1888-1904

### **Ryerson Index to Contemporary Death Notices and Obituaries in Australian Newspapers**

<<http://www.ryersonindex.org>>

Queensland newspapers included are:

|                                     |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Brisbane Courier Mail</i>        | <i>Queensland Country Life</i>      | <i>Ayr Advocate</i>                       |
| <i>Bundaberg Newsmail</i>           | <i>Cairns Post</i>                  | <i>Charters Towers Northern Miner</i>     |
| <i>Cleveland Redland Times</i>      | <i>Dalby Herald</i>                 | <i>Dalby Northern Downs News</i>          |
| <i>Gatton Star</i>                  | <i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i>          | <i>Goondiwindi Argus</i>                  |
| <i>Gympie Times</i>                 | <i>Hervey Bay City Independent</i>  | <i>Hervey Bay Fraser Coast Chronicle</i>  |
| <i>Hervey Bay Observer</i>          | <i>Ingham Herbert River Express</i> | <i>Ipswich Queensland Times</i>           |
| <i>Kingaroy South Burnett Times</i> | <i>Maryborough Chronicle</i>        | <i>Pittsworth Sentinel</i>                |
| <i>Redcliffe Herald</i>             | <i>Redland Bayside Bulletin</i>     | <i>Rockhampton Capricorn Coast Mirror</i> |
| <i>Rockhampton Morning Bulletin</i> | <i>Stanthorpe Border Post</i>       | <i>Toowoomba Chronicle</i>                |
| <i>Townsville Bulletin</i>          | <i>Warwick Daily News</i>           |   |

See the website for the actual years covered and remember, it is an ongoing project and you need to revisit to see updates.

### **Queensland Newspapers**

<<http://newspapers.nla.gov.au>>

The National Library of Australia is digitising copies of the primary Brisbane newspaper The Courier Mail and its predecessors. Check the website to see what has been completed to date.

- Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864-1933)

- The Courier (Brisbane, Qld. : 1861-1864)
- The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933-1954)
- The Moreton Bay Courier (Brisbane, Qld. : 1846-1861)

### **Queensland Place Names**

<[http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/property/place\\_names.html](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/property/place_names.html)>

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines has created an online database of Queensland place names. Entries provide the geographical location and details of the origin of the place name.

### **World Vital Records Australasia**

<<http://www.worldvitalrecords.com.au>>

This is a commercial pay to view website with substantial Queensland content due to its partnership with the QFHS (see above).

### **Ancestry.com**

<<http://www.ancestry.com.au>>

This is a commercial pay to view website with substantial Queensland content.

### **Conclusion**

This has been a very select introduction to some of the more popular and useful websites relevant to Queensland research. Further searches on *Google* or similar search engines will turn up other useful websites that are relevant to specific areas.

### **Further Reading**

Lynch, Daniel M, *Google Your Family Tree: Unlock the Hidden Power of Google*, Gould Genealogy and History, Modbury North, SA 2009

Num, Cora, *Web Sites for Genealogists, 2008: An Essential Guide for Staying Up To Date with Local and Family History Sites on the Internet*, Cora Num, Moruya Heads, 2008

Webster, Judy, *Tips for Queensland Research*, Judy Webster, Brisbane, Qld 2008

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