Asylum Records:
A Place to Look for Missing Ancestors

My ancestor was in an asylum
brief guide to asylum records
in Australia and New Zealand

Shauna Hicks

SHAUNA HICKS

UNLOCK THE past
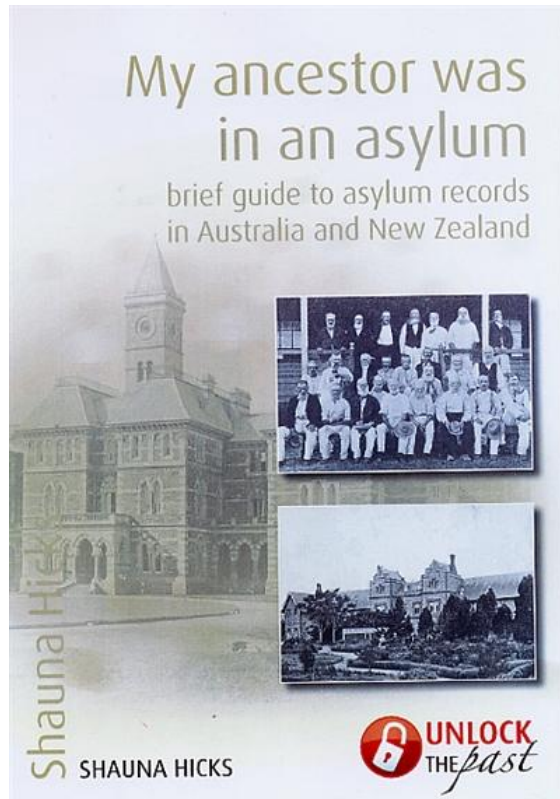
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Introduction

- What are asylum records?

- Where are the records?

- Finding aids

- Some examples

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What Are Asylum Records?

- Terms include benevolent, mental, psychiatric hospitals, sanatoriums etc

- For the sick, not just those with mental illness
- For the aged
- For the destitute
- For the forgotten
- For those with no one else to care for them

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Female admissions – Victorian asylums

- Alcohol
- Desertion of husband
- Destitution
- Influenza
- Heredity
- Religion, religious mania
- Senility

- Lonely life in bush
- Worry & hard work
- Stress
- Childbirth
- Climacteric (menopause)
- Shipwrecked
- Shock, death of husband

Where Are The Records?

- Lots of resources especially in State Archives Asylums, Colonial (Chief) Secretary's Office, Hospitals, Justice Department (inquests), Police Department, Prisons Department (gaols)

- Trove (photographs, newspapers, published histories etc)

- Police gazettes

Types of Records

- Admission files
- Admission registers (registers of patients)
- Case books (case files)
- Indexes and alphabetical lists
- Medical case books
- Warder's diaries

- Access varies around Australia

Finding Aids

- Records usually with the State Archives
  - Brief guides or Fact sheets
  - Online indexes and databases
  - Digitised records

- Portal sites eg Trove, Coraweb, Findmypast, Ancestry etc

Helping you trace your family history in Australia and elsewhere

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
Apps for genealogy on the move
Archives
Asylum and hospital records
Begin your family history
Birth, death and marriage records
Blogs
Bookshops
Cemeteries
Child welfare
Convicts
Criminal and court records
Digital books and eResources
Directories
Electoral rolls and census records
India and Sri Lanka (Ceylon)
Libraries
Local history
Maps, places and land records
Military records
New Zealand
Newspapers
Occupations
Other countries

> Asylum and hospital records

- 📁 New South Wales (7)
- 📁 Old Medical Terms (7)
- 📁 Queensland (4)
- 📁 South Australia (1)
- 📁 Tasmania (1)
- 📁 Victoria (8)
- 📁 Western Australia (2)

University of Newcastle - Cultural Collections - Flickr Photostream ▶

This collection of 50,628+ photos in 300+ albums has a lot of material for family history research including this small selection: • Anglican Diocese of Newcastle - Churches and rectories, 344 ... more

State Records New South Wales - Online Indexes - Government Asylums for the Infirm and Destitute, 1880-1896 ▶

This index has 10,000+ entries relating to persons admitted to Government Asylums in the last two decades of the 19th Century 1880-1896. New more

Bendigo Family History - Online Indexes ▶

This site offers free searches of a wide variety of local indexes. New indexes are being added on a regular basis. Indexes include:• Sandhurst [Bendigo] Mining Claims and Leases • ... more

www.coraweb.com.au

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Insanity / Mental Asylum Records

A 3 page guide
listing main series

Brief Guide 39

This Brief Guide provides an overview of Queensland State Archives records relating to mental health patients. Prior to the separation from New South Wales in 1859, there were no facilities for psychiatric treatment in the Moreton Bay Region. As such, mentally disturbed persons, or "lunatics", would have been sent to Brisbane Gaol or possibly to an asylum in Sydney. Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum opened in 1865 with 69 patients, and has undergone many name changes and renovations since.

There are two main types of mental asylum records held at Queensland State Archives: Public Curator Insanity files and Goodna Case Books.

Public Curator insanity files

In general Public Curator insanity files held at Queensland State Archives consist of records of people who were admitted to the institutions in Goodna (Woogaroo), Ipswich (Sandy Gallop), or Toowoomba (Willowburn).

The main series of records at Queensland State Archives that relate to insanity and

<u>www.archives.qld.gov.au</u>

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Series Search Results

Click on the required Series title/abstract to view its details and see a list of Items.

Matching Series

Series ID	Title / Abstract	Start Date	End Date
9051	Case Books	5/11/1860	25/1/1951
	Wolston Park Hospital patient records		
5839	Case Books - Male	8/6/1866	26/3/1956
5236	Letterbook of Samuel Lewis	28/11/1893	18/2/1899
6749	Loan Account Registers	28/4/1861	30/6/1930
	Loan account registers for all towns, districts, shires, etc. including all repayments and bank deposits.		

Items for Series 9051 - Case Books

Click on the Record Type/Description to view its details and order the item. Please note that items may only be ordered if you are in the Public Search Room.

Matching Items

Series ID	Item ID	Record Type / Description / Departmental Numbers	Start Date	End Date	Has Digital Images
9051	292592	Case book	5/11/1860	16/6/1916	☐
		Case book (male and female admissions)			
9051	292618	Case book	8/9/1894	14/10/1937	☐
		Case book (male and female admissions)			
9051	292619	Case book	8/5/1895	11/1/1939	☐
		Case book (male and female admissions)			

www.archivessearch.qld.gov.au

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DUNWICH BENEVOLENT ASYLUM.

INMATE'S NAME *Finn John*

FINN J

ADMITTED 8.2.21   34/21

Date of Admission	8.2.21
Whence Admitted	Longreach Hospital
Cause of Admission	Senility
Age	63 years
Birthplace	Wicklow, Ireland
Religion	R.C.
Education	R & W
Trade	Labourer
Married or Single	Widower
Father's Name and Profession	James Finn, Farmer Pensioner
Mother's Maiden Name	Rose Bakey
Wife's Maiden Name	Sarah Fagan
Age when Married	24 years
Where Married	County Wicklow Ireland
Children	Albert; James; John; Dennis; Margaret Rose; Mrs Mary Kennedy & Mrs Sarah Seesbury; Addresses unknown
Other Relatives	Nil

Electorate { State { Federal

History.

34 years in Queensland. 15 years on Railway maintenance work in different parts. Westfield Station 3 months. Had a farm at Nambour for a number of years. Been in Longreach Hospital since 28.12.20. Rheumatism. 1 week in Bne. Hospital prior to going to Longreach.

No Money No property

CLINICAL RECORD.

Certified on Admission as Suffering from *Senility*

Leave of Absence.			Transfers, Discharges, etc.		
From.	Period.	Date Rot'd.	Ward.	Date.	Remarks.
			4	8.2.21	Admitted
			P.1.	21.2.21	
				25.7.21	Struck off reported died in Bne. Hospital

Date.	Disease.	Prescription.	Remarks.

In the event of Death, Number of Grave to be shown under "Remarks."

For continuation of Record see over leaf.

Indexes

- ⊞ Convicts / prisoners
- ⊞ Courts
- ⊟ **Hospital / sanitoria**
  - Brisbane Hospital admissions 1872-1887
  - Brisbane Hospital registers of deaths 1899-1913
  - Brisbane Hospital registers of deaths 1933–1963
  - Consumptive patients 1897-1902
  - Mackay Hospital admissions 1891-1908

Index to Consumptive Patients 1897-1902

Background

Original correspondence sent to the Home Secretary regarding the admission and discharge of patients to the Roma and Dalby Sanatoriums for Phthisis (also known as Consumption or Pulmonary Tuberculosis) from 1897 to 1902 can be found in <u>Series ID 8400, Special Batches</u>, Letters detail medical assessments of the patients and accommodation as well as travelling allowances.

This Index was created from the following batches:

- <u>Item ID 18164</u> (COL/237a), Batch file: (a) Applications and associated correspondence re admission of patients at Roma and Dalby sanatoriums, 1/1/1897 – 31/12/1902
- <u>Item ID 18165</u> (COL/237b), Batch file: (b) General correspondence re the hospitalization of patients at Roma and Dalby sanatoriums including correspondence re the setting up of the Jubilee Sanatorium at Dalby, 1/1/1897 – 31/12/1901.

The images below (click for larger image) depict [L-R] 2 pages from COL/237a and 1 page from COL/237b

www.archives.qld.gov.au/Researchers/Indexes/Pages/Default.aspx

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SURNAME	First Name	Second Name	Third Name	Date	Letter	Item ID	Prev Sys	M/F No
...DEN ?	-	(Miss)		29-Aug-1900	00/13312	18164	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	-	(Girl)		27 -Oct -1899	99/13538	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	-	(Miss)		31-Aug-1900	00/13476	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	-	(Miss)		31-May-1901	01/08713	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	-	(Miss)		31 -Oct -1899	99/13629	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	-	(Miss)		29-Aug-1900	00/13312	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	-	(Miss)		31-May-1901	01/08682	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	-	(Mrs)		27-Aug-1900	00/13218	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	-			27-Jul-1897	97/09527	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	J	W		10-Jul-1897	97/08777	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	J	W		7-Jul-1897	97/08637	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	J	W		7-Jul-1897	97/08637	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	James	W		18-Sep-1897	97/11936	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	Marion	(Miss)			00/13476	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Marion			20-Dec-1901	01/20189	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Marion			27-Dec-1901	01/20189	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Marion			12-Aug-1899	99/10447	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Marion			31-Oct-1899	99/13609	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Marion			4- Aug-1899	99/04181	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Mary	(Miss)		26-Sep-1900	00/14857	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	May			27-Aug-1900	00/13218	18165	COL/237b	89390
ANDERSON	Minnie			9-Jul-1900	00/10341	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Minnie			8-Jun-1901	01/09092	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Minnie			15-Feb-1899	99/01965	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Minnie			24-Mar-1899	99/04181	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Minnie			6-Apr-1899	99/04181	18164	COL/237a	89390
ANDERSON	Minnie			7-Mar-1899	99/03117	18164	COL/237a	89390
BAILEY	Amy	(Girl)		16-Nov-1897	97/14652	18165	COL/237b	89390
BAILEY	Amy	(Miss)		27-Oct-1897		18165	COL/237b	89390
BAILEY	Amy			23-Feb-1898	98/02392	18165	COL/237b	89390
BAILEY	Amy			5-Nov-1897	97/14161	18165	COL/237b	89390
BAILY	Amy			23- Sep-1898		18165	COL/237b	89390
BAILY	Amy			5-Oct-1898	98/12458	18165	COL/237b	89390
BAINES	T			4- Aug-1899	99/04181	18164	COL/237a	89390
BASSETT	Jane			13-Apr-1899	99/05109	18165	COL/237b	89390
BASSETT	Janie			5-Oct-1898	98/12458	18165	COL/237b	89390
BEECHAM	-	(Patient)		23-Sep-1897	97/12177	18165	COL/237b	89390
BEECHAM	-			27-Jul-1897	97/09527	18165	COL/237b	89390
BEECHAM	Elizabeth			19-Jul-1897	97/09205	18165	COL/237b	89390
BIRCH	-	(Miss)		31-Aug-1900	00/13480	18164	COL/237a	89390

Entries can be under title eg Miss, Mrs, initial, etc

1 of 13

www.archives.qld.gov.au/downloads/Indexes/consumptives_1897-1902.pdf

Queensland Mental Asylum Patients - Introduction
and **Public Curator Insanity Files surnames A - B** with links to others

Receive email when this page changes

Does your family history have someone who **'vanished'?** If you **cannot find a death certificate** or if **children were raised** by someone other than a parent, check **mental asylum** records. Reasons for admission included **epilepsy, head injury, alcoholism, birth defects** and **depression** (especially post-natal depression). Many patients (adults and children) spent only a few days in an asylum, and descendants would be unaware of that.

'Public Curator insanity files' (which are only closed for 75 years from the date of the last document in the file) are different from 'case books'. These insanity files are mainly about getting someone to pay for the patient's maintenance, so they often have superb information about the **patient's relatives.**

Qld State Archives hold Public Curator insanity files for people admitted to mental asylums at Goodna (Woogaroo / Wolston Park), Toowoomba (Willowburn) and Ipswich (Sandy Gallop). The size and contents of these files vary, but they usually give **dates** of admission and discharge or death, and many include **letters** from the patient or his/her relatives, and sometimes **police reports, certificates, wills, divorce details, lists of property**, etc. Information about **relatives** may include addresses, biographical data, children, employment history, property, financial and social circumstances, etc.

Qld State Archives have a printed **index to old insanity files c1865-1893**, and (arranged only by first letter of surname) a **register of insanity files up to 1918** and an **index to insanity files 1919-c1945.** Names below are from my index to the 'register up to 1918', which has some details for patients whose file is missing.

www.judywebster.com.au/insanity.html

New South Wales

- No 85 Mental Health Records – Patient Records
- No 86 Infirm and Destitute Asylum Records
- No 87 Liverpool State Hospital & Home

- 110 year access except for Liverpool asylum which is 30 years access

Education and welfare

» 20th century child and youth migration
» Aboriginal schools, 1876-c.1979
» Child care and protection
» Photographs
» Pupil records
» Randwick asylum for destitute children
» Schools: 1788-c.1979
» Teachers

Hospital

» Cemetery records
» Crown Street Women's Hospital
» Curator of Intestate Estate case papers
» Deceased estate files, 1880-1958
» Hospital buildings
» How to find probate and deceased estates
» Infirm and destitute asylums - inmate records
» Inquest and coronial records
» Liverpool State Hospital and Home - inmate records
» Mental health facilities - Patient records
» Probate packets

Archives In Brief 86 - Infirm and destitute asylums - Inmate records

Information on what inmate records are available for the Infirm and Destitute Asylums and where to find them.

» Brief administrative history
» Infirm and destitute asylums
» Using the Archives Investigator to find records
» Surviving records of asylums for the infirm and destitute
» Access to patient-identifying records
» Records held elsewhere

Brief administrative history

Function of government

One of the functions of Government, overtime, has been to provide care for the poor and infirm as part of social and community services. More detail on the history of the Government function of social and community services can be found in Archives Investigator. By choosing the advanced search option you can search for function 4 — Social and community services.

Care for the poor and infirm is not the same as care provided as part of mental health programs. For records relating to mental health patients please see Archives in Brief 85.

The Benevolent Society

Before 1862 care for the infirm and destitute was primarily provided by non-government organisations. The Benevolent Society, founded in 1813, opened the first asylum for the poor, blind, aged and infirm in 1821 on the site of Central Railway Station.

www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/guides-and-finding-aids

NSW Asylum Records @ SRNSW

- Bay View House, Tempe 1865-1946
- Broughton Hall Psychiatric Clinic 1915-1963
- Callan Park Mental Hospital 1877-1965
- Gladesville Mental Hospital 1822-1985
- Kenmore Mental Hospital 1938-1942
- Lunatic Asylum Liverpool 1829-1838
- Newcastle Psychiatric Centre 1871-1976
- Newcastle Psychiatric Hospital Reception House 1903-1964
- Parramatta Psychiatric Centre 1848-1989
- Reception House, Darlinghurst 1868-1962
- Rydalmere Psychiatric Centre 1888-1985
- Temporary Hospital for the Insane Cooma 1879-1884

SRNSW Infirm & Destitute Asylums

- George Street Asylum, Parramatta
- Hospital of Consumptives, Waterfall
- Lidcombe State Hospital & Home
- Liverpool State Hospital & Home
- Macquarie Street Asylum, Parramatta
- Newington State Hospital (closed 1964)
- Rookwood Asylum (later Lidcombe State Hospital & Home)

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Child Welfare

Child Welfare - Mittagong Farm Home for Boys, 1907-21
Covers the Register of Committals for a limited period of the Farm Home.
✓ **Online copy service available = $3.00 per entry + Admin Fee + Postage**
| Search | More information |

Child Welfare - Orphan schools, 1817-86
A number of series of records relating to the Orphan Schools which were run by the colonial government of NSW.
✓ **Online copy service available = $3.00 per entry + Admin Fee + Postage**
| Search | More information |

Child Welfare - Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children, 1852-1915
Name search for children admitted to the Asylum. This index is complete and contains 5890 entries.
✓ **Online copy service available = $3.00 per entry + Admin Fee + Postage**
| Search | More information |

Index To Randwick Asylum

Surname	Walker
First name	
Age	
Date of Admission	

Submit   Reset

www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-online

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Select	Page No	Entry No	Surname	FirstName	Alias	Age	Date	Series	Item	Reel
☐	002	1034	WALKER	Carss John	-	7	23 Jan 1866	NRS 13362	2	1866
☐	107	1346	WALKER	Elizabeth	TINE, Elizabeth	7	10 Jun 1867	NRS 13362	2	1866
☐	064	2856	WALKER	Frederick	-	6	17 Jan 1876	NRS 13362	3	1867
☐	122	1392	WALKER	George	-	7	10 Oct 1867	NRS 13362	2	1866
☐	467	2516	WALKER	George	-	9	30 Jul 1873	NRS 13362	2	1866
☐	284	773	WALKER	Henrietta	-	12	19 Oct 1864	NRS 13362	1	1865
☐	069	1233	WALKER	Henry	-	3	13 Dec 1866	NRS 13362	2	1866
☐	406	3881	WALKER	Henry	-	7	19 Jun 1882	NRS13362	3	1867
☐	020	2723	WALKER	James	-	8	15 Sep 1874	NRS 13362	3	1867
☐	108	1348	WALKER	James	-	4	14 Jun 1867	NRS 13362	2	1866
☐	254	3427	WALKER	John	-	3	19 Jun 1879	NRS 13362	3	1867
☐	344	3694	WALKER	John	-	7	25 Apr 1881	NRS13362	3	1867
☐	399	3860	WALKER	John	-	8	26 Apr 1882	NRS13362	3	1867
☐	090	2933	WALKER	John Thomas	-	9	20 Jul 1876	NRS 13362	3	1867
☐	285	774	WALKER	Nathaniel	-	8	20 Oct 1864	NRS 13362	1	1865
☐	065	2859	WALKER	Rachael	-	7	17 Jan 1876	NRS 13362	3	1867
☐	107	1347	WALKER	Richard	-	6	14 Jun 1867	NRS 13362	2	1866
☐	355	5195	WALKER	Stephen Charles	-	9	21 Dec 1908	NRS 13362	4	1868
☐	466	2515	WALKER	Sydney	-	4	23 Jul 1873	NRS 13362	2	1866
☐	271	4947	WALKER	Thomas	-	12	1 Dec 1902	NRS 13362	4	1868
☐	090	2934	WALKER	William	-	7	20 Jul 1876	NRS 13362	3	1867
☐	406	3880	WALKER	William	-	5	19 Jun 1882	NRS13362	3	1867

Proceed to Checkout

www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/indexes-online

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Sydney Benevolent Asylum
Index to Admissions and Discharges
1857-1900

→ **Welcome**

> Search the Index

> Once you have found an entry

> The Project

> What was the Benevolent Asylum

> Records of the Benevolent Asylum

> Other records of interest

> Photo Gallery

> About Us

> Privacy and Disclaimer Statement

> Contact Us

Welcome

This website deals with the historical records of the Sydney Benevolent Asylum for the period 1857-1900.

The records of the Asylum can be the answer to many research problems and, with that in mind, between 1995 and 2007, an index of the inmates of the Asylum was compiled from records held at the Sydney Mitchell Library. The resulting database contains over 78,000 records. As far as has been possible, it is a listing of all the inmates of the Asylum between 1857 and 1900.

We are grateful to The Benevolent Society for permission to prepare this index and to the staff of the Mitchell Library for their co-operation with our project.

We also thank the State Library of NSW for permission to reproduce the image 'Benevolent Asylum' (Government Printing Office, State Library of NSW ref 1-08079) on this website.

Heather Garnsey & Martyn Killion

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Next page: Search the Index

www.sydneybenevolentasylum.com

Sydney Benevolent Asylum
Index to Admissions and Discharges
1857-1900

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Search the Index

Summary of Results

If you find a POSITIVE match on this index, make a note of the name and date of admission or discharge for the person you have found. Enter these details in the Request Form and we will then provide you with the 'notes' field from our database where available. This can provide further identifying information.

Surname	Given Name	Admission Date	Discharge Date	Age	More Details
WALKER	Maria	3 Aug 1868		38	Submit Request
WALKER	Maria		27 Nov 1868		Submit Request
WALKER	Rachel	22 Oct 1868			Submit Request
WALKER	Rachel		27 Nov 1868		Submit Request
WALKER	Maria	30 Apr 1869		39	Submit Request
WALKER	Rachel	30 Apr 1869		6m	Submit Request
WALKER	Rachel		10 Feb 1870		Submit Request
WALKER	Maria		10 Feb 1870		Submit Request
WALKER	James	19 Feb 1874		8	Submit Request
WALKER	William	19 Feb 1874		5y 10m	Submit Request
WALKER	Frederick	19 Feb 1874		4y 6m	Submit Request

www.sydneybenevolentasylum.com

Helen Castle index & transcription of
Penrith District Dispensary Register 1847- Feb 1860

1853

These pages contains transcripts of newspapers, a postal directory and a register that have been typed up from the original.
I have no further information than what is on these pages. You may find microfische of the originals at your local or state library
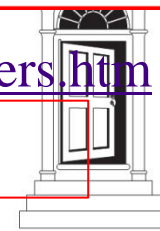
[registers/transcripts/images/1853.jpg]

No	Patients Name	Residence	Date	Disease	Prescription	No of attendances	Name of member recommending	Remarks
1	Joseph Ettle	St Marys	January	Tupis Senilis			P P King Esq	relieved
2	William Lewis	Castlereagh	26/1/1853	Psora Senilis			A Fraser Esq	relieved
3	Edward lambert	Colubrook	1/5/1853	Pthisis		4	Revd M Brennan	B Asylum
4	Mary Shelton	Castlereagh	10/5/1853	Injd Loins			Mr John Perry	discharged
5	John Warren	Castlereagh	12/5/1853	Catarrh		4	Mr Alex Fraser	well
6	Edward Ingliss	Castlereagh	25/6/1853	Destitute			Mr Alex Fraser	B Asylum
7	Mrs I Mc Glinchy	Erskine Park	26/6/1853	Hernia			Revd M Brennan	???
8	Alexander Smith	Castlereagh	11/7/1853	Blind and destitute			R C Lethbridge Esq	B Asylum
9	John Ray	Regentville	27/7/1853	Influenza		3		well
10	John C ourt	Penrith	29/9/1853	Hydross Thoracis	10+		A Fraser	dead
11	Patrick Neale	Penrith	31/12/1853	Injd Hand			Mathw Hogan	well
			1854					
12	Timothy Corcoran	Penrith	16/1/1854	Cough and disease of heart			Matthw Hogan	dead
13	Margaret Sinfield	Penrith	22/2/1854	rheumatism			R C Lethbridge	well
14	George Smith	Castlereagh	25/2/1854	Injd Hip Joint		1	A Fraser Esq	discharged
15	Thomas Agars	Penrith	28/2/1854	Syphilis		2	M Lowe Esq	gone away

These pages contains transcripts of newspapers, a postal directory and a register that have been typed up from the original.
I have no further information than what is on these pages. You may find microfische of the originals at your local or state library

http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hcastle/registers/registers.htm

Project now transferred to Kiama Family History Centre

Victoria

Public Record Office Victoria (PROV)

- http://prov.vic.gov.au
- PROV*guide* 23 PROV's Digitised Records and Online Indexes NB some asylum PDFs are quite large but you can save them to your computer for use offline
- PROV*guide* 59 Mental Health Records
- PROV*guide* 71 Inquest Records

Mental health

Digitised records

VPRS 7446/P1 Alphabetical Lists of Patients in Asylums, 1849-1885
VPRS 7427/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Ararat Asylum, 1867-1906
VPRS 7426/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Ballarat Asylum, 1893-1907
VPRS 7428/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Ballarat/Sunbury Asylums, 1877-1907
VPRS 8236/P1 Register of Patients, Ballarat/Sunbury Asylums, 1877-1920
VPRS 7395/P1 Case Books of Male Patients, Beechworth Asylum, 1867-1912
VPRS 7396/P1 Case Books of Female Patients, Beechworth Asylum, 1878-1912
VPRS 7493/P1 Register of Patients, Bendigo Receiving Ward, 1874-1908
VPRS 7721/P1 Register of Patients, Collingwood Asylum, 1866-1873
VPRS 7425/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Kew Asylum, 1871-1906
VPRS 7690/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Kew Asylum, 1871-1914
VPRS 7680/P1 Register of Patients, Kew Asylum, 1871-1919
VPRS 7423/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Royal Park Hospital for the Insane, 1907-1913
VPRS 7490/P1 Asylum Records [Case Books], Sunnyside Licensed House, 1905-1915
VPRS 7422/P1 Index to Male and Female Case Books, Yarra Bend Asylum, 1848-1912

Records are digitised and freely accessible online

Ararat, Ballarat, Beechworth, Bendigo, Collingwood, Cremorne, Kew, Royal Park, Sunbury, Sunnyside, Yarra Bend

www.access.prov.vic.gov.au/public/PROVguides/PROVguide023/PROVguide023.jsp

http://prov.vic.gov.au

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Name Bessie Roonan

Form of Insanity	Terminal Dementia (originally)
By whom brought	Nurse's Kew
Previous residence	"Springbrook" Moorat N.S.W.
Age and sex	F. 38 yrs
Married, single, or widowed	Married
If any family, and age of youngest child	none
Occupation	Domestic duties
Habits of life	alcoholic
Native place	Nth. America
Religion	R. Catholic
Duration of present attack	12 mos (in July/11)
If disordered before, and how long	unknown
Supposed cause	drink
If hereditary	
Specific signs of insanity	
Whether subject to epilepsy	no
If suicidal	no
If dangerous	no

If destructive	no
State of bodily health	good
Name and address of nearest relative or friend	Sister Mrs Parkinson "Knowra" Camperdown
Request to receive signed by	
Facts indicating insanity before admission certified to by	

Suffers from Terminal Dementia due to alcoholism of long standing. Has delusions that a man with whom she used to cohabit is constantly inserting advertisements in the daily press, which reflect on her character. Apprehensive lest this man may do her bodily harm. Memory very bad. Useful worker in kitchen. Eats & sleeps well. Dormitory patient.

MENTAL STATE ON ADMISSION.

Exaltation	
Excitement	
Depression	
Enfeeblement	
Memory	
Delusions	
Coherence	
Special senses	

BODILY STATE ON ADMISSION.

Height— Weight— Temperature—	
Conformation	
Expression	
Integumentary	
Respiratory	
Circulatory	
Alimentary	
Genito Urinary	

April 1911

To the Superintendent

Dear Sir
                I was brought
to this Asylum under
the impression that you
would discharge me
in a short time I've
been hear 2 years and
over 5 months & as it's
verry distressing for me
me to be hear & I'm in
in the peoples way and
I'm quite Sane will
you kindly Send me to
my people or write for
them to come for me
Faithfully yours
                Florence Daley

over

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Name						Florence Daley
Form of Insanity	...	...	...	...	...	Delusional.
By whom brought	...	...	...	...	...	Innes Vana Bund
Previous residence	...	...	...	...	...	Auximate The Harbour Cohune N. W. Brunswick
Age and sex	...	...	...	...	...	26 in 1903. Female
Married, single, or widowed	...	...	...	...		Single
If any family, and age of youngest child		...	...			
Occupation	...	...	...	...	...	Maid Servant
Habits of life	...	...	...	...	...	Not stated
Native place	...	...	...	...	...	Victoria.
Religion	...	...	...	...	...	Presbyterian
Duration of present attack	...	...	...	...		1. month
If disordered before, and how long	...	...	...			Fixt attack
Supposed cause	...	...	...	...	...	Unknown
If hereditary	...	...	...	...	...	Not stated
Specific signs of insanity	...	...	...	...		
Whether subject to epilepsy	...	...	...	...		No
If suicidal	...	...	...	...		Yes.
If dangerous	...	...	...	...	...	Believed to be.
If destructive	...	...	...	...	...	No

In Case book

Delusions of persecution & poverty
present. Always asks for her
discharge when she is not bad
bad

W. 13-4-11

Shauna Hicks
History Enterprises

Sarah Sophia Matheson

- Admitted to Sunbury August 1898 aged 34 yrs

- In poor circumstances

- Married with one child, 16 weeks old
  - Patient changed after birth of child – afraid of hurting child

- Transferred to Ballarat Mental Hospital March1943, not improved after 45 years

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DEATHS IN THE CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The following are lists of the deaths (exclusive of those of persons born in the colony) that have taken place in the Melbourne Hospital and the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum since our last summary, specifying, as far as they are known, the names of the deceased persons, their ages, places of birth, dates of arrival in the colony, the names of the vessels in which they arrived, and the causes of death :—

MELBOURNE HOSPITAL.

Baggott, Frederick, aged 41, native of London; arrived in 1857, in the Red Jacket; died January 5, of apoplexy. Burchall, Sarah, aged 60, native of Ireland; arrived in 1856, in the Donald M'Kay; died January 18, of hernia.

Capp, Stephen, aged 58, native of Uxbridge; arrived in 1855; died January 5, of cancer of liver and pneumonia. Clarke, Charles, aged 22, native of London; arrived in 1862 in Lightning; died January 2, of compression of the brain and fracture of the skull. Cooper, Elizabeth, aged 53, native of Scotland; arrived in 1854, in Miles Barton; died January 15, of schirrus of breast. Cornish, Alice, aged three and a half, native of Suffolk; arrived in 1874 in Tim Whiffler; died December 21, of diphtheria. Croad, Alfred John, aged 50, native of Hampshire; arrived in 1853 in Tancred; died January 15, of carcinoma of stomach.

Roberts, Sarah Ann, aged 34, native of Manchester; arrived in 1857; died January 9, of peritonitis. Rogers, Henry, aged 10, native of Lancashire; arrived in 1868, in Naval Reserve; died January 13, of diphtheria.

Shaw, Ann, aged 35, native of Ireland; arrived in 1860, in Merlin; died January 4, of pneumonia. Sullivan, Jane, aged 54, native of England; died January 3, of pneumonia.

Tansen, Christian, aged 26, native of Denmark; arrived in 1877 in Sarah Ann; died January 6, of phthisis. Thomas, Mary, aged 36, native of Ireland; arrived in 1855 in Queen of the Seas; died December 20, of pneumonia. Thorne, Marion, aged 34, native of Herefordshire; arrived in 1870 in Bombay; died December 30, of entiritis. Tierney, Mary, aged 38, native of Ireland; arrived in 1864 in Marco Polo; died December 20, of phthisis. Truby, Stephen, aged 58, native of London; arrived in 1853, in Jane Francis; died January 11, of dilatation of the heart.

Wainwright, William, aged 43, native of Gosport; arrived in 1856, in Mermaid; died January 3, of strangulated hernia.
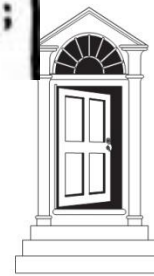
BENEVOLENT ASYLUM.

Bunsworth, Charles, aged 86, native of Cork; died December 31, of old age.

Holt, Sarah, aged 74, native of Ramsgate; died January 13, of enteric fever.

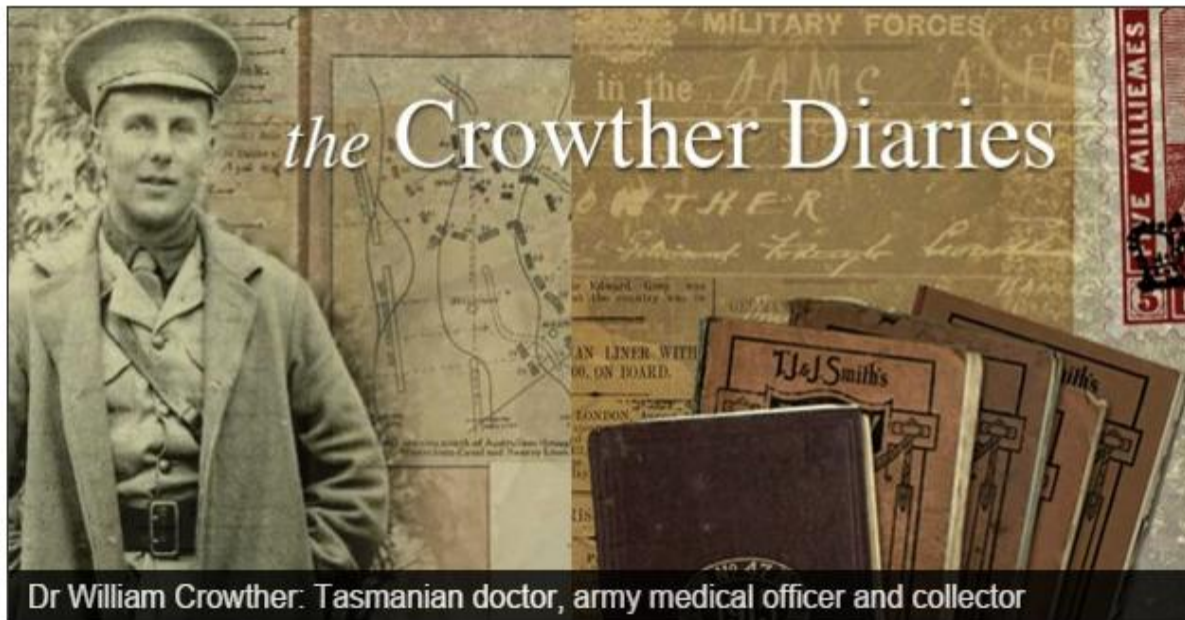Jones, Jesse, aged 55, native of Flintshire; died January 3, of phthisis.

Wells, William, aged 82, native of Deal; died January 20, of old age.

http://trove.nla.gov.au

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Tasmania

- Tasmania's Heritage (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office (TAHO)

- Hospital Records – some inc Royal Hobart and Royal Derwent hospitals (75 years closed access)

- Inquest Records – index online 1828-1930

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Tasmanian archives and heritage

the Crowther Diaries

Dr William Crowther: Tasmanian doctor, army medical officer and collector

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Search Archives

World War I

Convicts

Architecture

Allport Library and Museum

Guides to records

Family history

www.linc.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/Pages/default.aspx

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GUIDE TO RESOURCES FOR TASMANIAN GENEALOGY

by Malcolm Ward

Navigation:
- Home
- Articles
- Convicts
- Immigrants
- Indexes
- Links
- Mailing List
- Resources

Search

<< Submissions >>

This is a description of some of the resources for Tasmanian genealogy I have found useful over the years. It is a personal selection and biased towards my own experiences and will no doubt omit some useful material and may contain some inaccuracies. For instance, I haven't used Tasmanian institutions outside of Hobart and it's likely that many of the resources noted to be at the Archives Office of Tasmania are also available in the north of the state and probably elsewhere. My thanks to Meryl Yost for suggestions and refinements and to the many people who have given me tips and help over the years.

What resources you use will depend on the problem you are trying to solve, but those ones I think are particularly useful under certain categories (especially for beginners) I've marked with **START HERE!** Although many on-line and CD resources are mentioned here, it is wise to remember to always check the primary source, as transcription and spelling errors are all too common.

For further suggestions, comments and reports of broken links please contact me Malcolm Ward

PLEASE NOTE: Prior to 1825, Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) was governed from New South Wales, so pre 1825 government records pertaining to Tasmania (for instance, land, courts, etc) would likely be in the NSW Archives in Sydney. However many are held in the Tasmanian Archives

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austashs/resource/mal_index.htm

7.1 ORPHANAGES, HOSPITALS AND CHILDREN IN CARE

Indexes of some orphanages, hospitals and related types of institutions have been published by J. Purtscher and others via the TFHS. See under publications at http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org/sales.htm#Children in Care and also http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org/sales.htm#Health Records.

St John's at New Town, Hobart was the site of a number of related institutions in the 19th and early 20th Century, variously the Queens Orphan Asylum, Orphan School and New Town Charitable Institution. Friends of the Orphan Schools St John's Park Precinct have established a website covering a number of aspects of the site, including lists of orphans and other inmates: http://www.orphanschool.org.au/.

Discussion on major hospital records held by the AOT is here: http://www.archives.tas.gov.au/guides/list/bg021.

The Launceston General Hospital's Nurse's Register of Training and Employment has been digitised and can be accessed here: http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/default.aspx?detail=1&type=S&id=AB612.

The Royal Derwent Hospital's alphabetical register of patients and attendants 1841-42 has been digitised and can be accessed here: http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/default.aspx?detail=1&type=S&id=HSD104.

The AOT also holds admission records for various other hospitals and these can have information such as age, place of birth, place of residence etc. Search at: http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/default.aspx?search=1 with words such as <<Zeehan hospital>>. Records for schools and other institutions can be searched for in the same way.

An article on 19th Century lunatic asylums (opens a PDF): http://ashadocs.org/aha/19/19_04_Piddock.pdf.

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austashs/resource/mal_orphan.htm#orp_1

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ABOUT Find & Connect | Look for HOMES | Look for PHOTOS | Look for RECORDS | SEARCH this site | HELP with this site | CONTACT support/counselling

Send message to **Find & Connect** support service

Find out what these words mean

- Orphanage (1828 - 2006)
- Apprenticeship (c. 1833 - c. 1945)
- Indoor relief (c. 1830 - c. 1935)

Some people may find content on this website distressing. Read more

TASMANIA - ORGANISATION
Queen's Orphan Asylum (1833 - 1879)

Summary | **Records** | **Photos** | **Full page**

From	1833
To	1879
Categories	Orphanage, Home
Alternative Names	■ Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children
	■ Queen's Orphan Schools
	■ King's Orphan Schools
	■ Queen's Orphanage
	■ Orphan School

Queens Orphan Asylum New Town, 1863, courtesy of Tasmanian Images: Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office

www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/tas/TE00053

Look for Homes

You can use this page to look for information about Homes.
There are no personal records or private information on this site.

Quick search

e.g. name of Home, orphanage, organisation or suburb

Search

OR

Advanced search

Do you know the name of the Home?

Do you know the state?

Do you know the suburb or town?

Do you know the date?

Do you know who ran the Home?

Sear

OR

Look for Homes by state/territory

- New South Wales
- Queensland
- Victoria
- Australian Capital Territory
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Western Australia
- Northern Territory

South Australia

- State Records South Australia
- Adelaide and Parkside Lunatic Asylums later Glenside Hospital
  - Alphabetical lists of patients 1846-1901
  - Record of Patient Deaths 1891-1909
- card index to Destitute Asylum Admissions 1870-73; 1881-1924
- card index to Royal Adelaide Hospital Admissions 1842-1904

Library » Library Guides » Family Historian and South Australian Government Records

Admin Sign In

Family Historian and South Australian Government Records

Tags: admission, australia, australian, census, deaths, education, electoral, family history, gazette, gazettes, genealogy, government, hospital, index, naturalisation, orphanage, police, probate, register, schools, south, teachers, testamentary, wills

As a family historian, consider what information may be found in the Police, Education or Government Gazettes or hospital, electoral, probate, naturalisation or other government held records. This guide focuses mainly on South Australian resources.

Last Updated: Jan 27, 2015 | URL: http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/govrecords | 🖨 Print Guide | 🔊 RSS Updates

| Introduction | Census Records | Education Gazette | Electoral Rolls | Government Gazettes | Hospital Records | Naturalisation Records |
| Orphanages & Homes | Passenger lists | Police Gazettes | Probate (Wills) | Family history FAQs |

Hospital Records   💬 Comments(0)   🖨 Print Page

Search: [ ] [This Guide ▼] [Search]

Types of information available

Though not so good for the ancestor, for the family history researcher discovering that an ancestor was hospitalised is great, as hospital records can provide a lot of information. Early records of the Adelaide Hospital (later the Royal Adelaide Hospital) include many of the following details:

- name
- admission and discharge dates
- medical officer in attendance
- ailment
- address
- marital status
- occupation
- place of origin
- age
- length of residence in the colony
- name of ship arrived on
- rates charged for treatment
- occasionally there are even comments about the patient's background, treatment or death

The public health system included not only the sick but also the destitute and the mentally disabled. The early destitute and asylum records are full of interesting information, such as:

Available at the Library

Records for Government run hospitals and institutions are kept at State Records of South Australia, however the State Library does hold copies of very early destitute records and has indexes to various other hospital related records.

Family History Area

Adelaide Hospital admissions 1840-1853 [microfiche]

Alphabetical index to register of infants born in the Destitute Asylum 1888-1930 [microfiche] : 2 volumes

Records of orphans and the destitute, Adelaide, South Australia, 1849-1869] [microfilm]

Destitute asylum admissions registers 1851-96 [microfiche]

Alphabetical index to return of sick and destitute emigrants who have received relief from the Emigration Department (also gives names of ship and date of arrival [microfiche] : January-December, 1840

Return of sick and destitute emigrants who have received

http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au
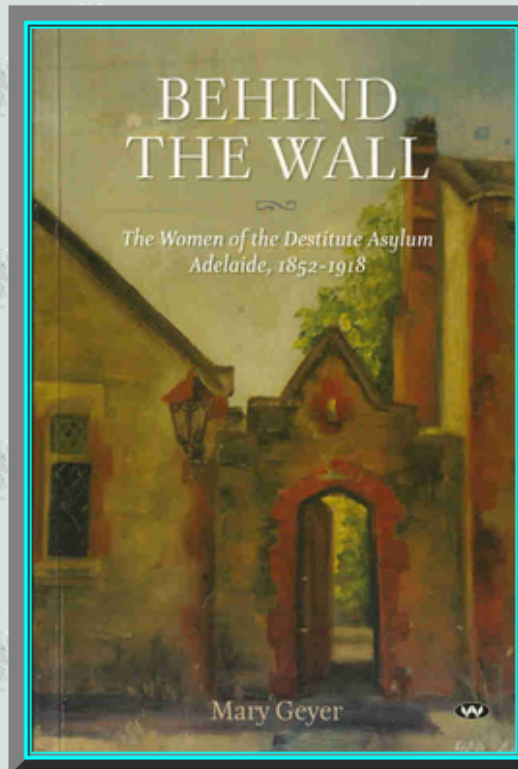
Behind The Wall
The Women of the Destitute Asylum Adelaide, 1852-1918

Mary Geyer

Behind The Wall is a compelling social history, which provides an insight into Adelaide's Destitute Asylum and the women who experienced life behind its walls. Although out of sight, the men, women and children who were forced to use its facilities, were certainly not out of mind. Until its closure in 1917 politicians and governments, Commissions and Boards of Inquiry tried to solve the problem and cost of destitution to the colony.

South Australia was planned according to the Wakefield principles, where there would be no poor or destitute. According to this theory emigration of the correct proportion of capital and labour would create an ideal society free from social, economic, political or religious problems. It would be a self-sustaining society, prosperous and virtuous without the need to provide for paupers.

Within months of landing at Holdfast Bay harsh reality would prove to be very different. Almost from the very start the South Australian Immigration Agent had to provide assistance to those in need. As early as 1843 the government passed its first legislation to deal with poverty. It now became law that relatives were responsible for the maintenance and relief of deserted wives and children.

Six years later the South Australian government became the main source of relief funds and established the Destitute Board to administer the destitute. During 1849 the Board provided relief to 25 indoor and 114 outdoor destitute. By 1851 this had increased to 63 and 187 respectively. By 1855 it reached an all time high when it had to provide relief to more than 3,000 men women and children.

This alarmingly high number came about as a result of excess female immigration which resulted in lower wages being paid, a very poor harvest causing increased unemployment and the large number of wives who had been deserted by their husbands leaving for the Victorian goldfields. Deserting husbands were the chief cause of female poverty and it was suggested that these men should be flogged. During 1865 there were still 1,276 people on relief of which 150 were housed at the much overcrowded Destitute Asylum.

www.southaustralianhistory.com.au/destitute.htm

Western Australia

State Records Office Western Australia (SROWA)

- Hospitals and Health Records
  - Fremantle Asylum est 1865 closed 1909
  - Claremont Hospital for the Mentally Insane est 1903
  - Lemnos Hospital
  - Whitby Falls
  - Heathcote Mental Hospital
  - Greenplace Hostel

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

STATE RECORDS
OFFICE OF
western australia

ABOUT US   NEWS AND EVENTS   STATE RECORDKEEPING   ARCHIVE COLLECTION   STATE RECORDS COMMISSION

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ABORIGINAL RECORDS
ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS
BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES
COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE RECORDS
CONVICT RECORDS
COURT RECORDS
EDUCATION AND SCHOOL RECORDS
HARBOUR AND SHIPPING RECORDS
HOSPITAL AND HEALTH RECORDS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS
MAPS ONLINE
MINING RECORDS
PASSENGER LISTS AND IMMIGRATION RECORDS
POLICE RECORDS
PREMIER, CABINET AND PARLIAMENTARY RECORDS

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH RECORDS

The State Records Office holds a large number of records created by the central agency responsible for health in Western Australia. These records were created by the Health Department and its predecessor agencies. The State Records Office also holds some records of mental health institutions, general hospitals and Local Boards of Health.

NOTE: Health records generally have a restricted access period of up to 100 years in cases concerning patient information. Clients who wish to view restricted health records must obtain written permission from the Health Department. Please see the Accessing Restricted Records section for information on how to apply for access to restricted records.

Departmental Records

The Central Board of Health was established by the Public Health Act of 1886, as the governing authority for the Local Boards of Health. The functions of the Board included conducting health inspections of abattoirs, schools and factories as well as supervising and controlling the sanitary services of all Government buildings throughout the State. Circa 1904 the Board began to be referred to as the Public Health Department.

www.sro.wa.gov.au/archive-collection/collection/hospital-and-health-records

ITEM-1900/5307	Record Item	Mrs E. Blanche, inquiry re ability to contribute to support of mother, Margaret Thompson in Victorian lunatic asylum.	-	-	Detail
ITEM-1883/0094	Record Item	James McMahon - Maintenance of his wife in the Lunatic Asylum. To be relieved of the cost of.	12 Oct 1883	15 Nov 1883	Detail
ITEM-1885/3777	Record Item	Surgeon Superintendent Lunatic Asylum - Lunatic Henry Clarkson, reports the death of	17 Sep 1885	18 Sep 1885	Detail
ITEM-1897/1499	Record Item	W.J. George - Whitby Asylum - Appointment of Chaplain for.	12 May 1897	12 May 1907	Detail
ITEM-1897/1514	Record Item	R.A.Sevete - Warden at Lunatic Asylum - for post of.	10 May 1897	18 May 1897	Detail
ITEM-1897/1570	Record Item	Acting Superintendent of Relief - Inmate Female Home Girl (Blind) - Transfer to Lunatic Asylum.	14 May 1897	27 May 1897	Detail
ITEM-1897/1597	Record Item	Henry Power - Secretary or Head Warden Lunatic Asylum - for post of.	17 May 1897	26 May 1897	Detail

http://aeon.sro.wa.gov.au

Old catalogue system

Police Records – Police Gazettes in findmypast.com.au

THE SOUTH AUSTRAL

44

Habib (alias Charlie, alias Habib Matta), by Det. Priest, at Adelaide, for larceny from Sulieman Joseph Antoni, at Broken Hill; remanded there.

Michael Fitzgerald, by M.C. Searson, for larceny from Heinrich Hertzberg, at Hamley Bridge; two months.

Jane Shields Sheehy, by F.C. McCabe, as a lunatic, at Adelaide; sent to the asylum.

Winifred Ann Stokie and Richard Ashley, from Broken Hill, by M.C. Foote, as lunatics, at Cockburn; sent to the asylum.

John Shanahan, by F.C. Maloney, as a lunatic, at Adelaide; sent to the asylum.

Frank Connors, by Dets. Kitson and Loughlin, as idle and disorderly, at Adelaide; two months.

Hedley Stutley and John Molloy, by Dets. Kitson and Loughlin and F.C. Walsh, for larceny from Walter Rowland Langford, withdrawn; and for larceny from Ellen O'Dee, at Adelaide; Stutley discharged, Molloy reformatory until the age of 18 years.

William Cooper, sen., by M.C. Giles, for incendiarism on the property of Alfred Campaign, at Port Lincoln; committed.

SA 1900

ESCAPED LUNATIC.

ESCAPED from Goodna Asylum, between 4 and 5 a.m. on the 15th instant, a patient named Henry Dredge. Description:— 44 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches high, fair complexion, brown hair, grey eyes, smart appearance; is an Englishman and a cooper; single, and a member of the Church of England; dressed in dark-tweed coat and trousers, twill and flannel shirts, blucher boots, dark-tweed or felt hat, and great coat; all except hat and great coat bearing Asylum brand.—O. 900. 28th May, 1894.

QLD 1894

ESCAPED LUNATIC.

ARCHIBALD Moore, an insane patient, escaped from the Hospital for Insane, at New Norfolk, on the 2nd inst. Description—38 years of age, 5 feet 5 inches high, dark hair, dark grey eyes; dressed in blue jacket and vest, fustian trousers, cap ornamented. Likely to make for Glenorchy.

TAS 1879

www.findmypast.com.au

Ararat Asylum ca 1880s

State Library of Victoria image

Shauna Hicks
History Enterprises

UTP Feb 2016

www.flickr.com

UTP Feb 2016

Shauna Hicks
History Enterprises

Goodna Asylum mechanical staff ca 1919

www.slq.qld.gov.au

Shauna Hicks
History Enterprises

Christmas Day 1906 Dunwich Benevolent Asylum

Summary: Dunwich was the site of the Moreton Bay Quarantine Station from the 1820s to the 1860s, and was converted into an asylum in 1866. The asylum continued at Dunwich until 1946, when it was moved to the vacant R.A.A.F. buildings at Eventide, Sandgate.

www.slq.qld.gov.au

UTP Feb 2016

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Conclusion

- Lots of resources for researching asylums

- The biographical and physical information is not always available elsewhere

- New resources – more online indexes, digitised records, ongoing

- Remember – it is not all online – you still need to research at archives and libraries