

Family History

Biographical resources

What are biographical resources?

Biographical resources provide written historical information about a person's life and family. For family historians these resources may range from birth, death and marriage indexes and obituaries or funeral notices in newspapers to published works such as pioneer indexes, local histories and biographical dictionaries.

How will these resources help me in my family history research?

Birth, death and marriage indexes

- Depending on the state, you can find basic information such as parents' names, dates and places of birth, death or marriage.
- Certificates will provide basic information as mentioned above as well as possible information on how long they lived in Australia and/or the state they died in. They may also mention what ship they came out on if they immigrated to Australia.

Obituaries, funeral and death notices

- Can provide you with other relatives' names, places where a person lived and/or died, a history of the person's life and even what they died of.

Electoral rolls

- May provide you with a place of living, other members of the household and occupations.

Pioneer Indexes

- Often compiled by local family history groups, these indexes provide details about people who settled the area.
- Can contain information such as birth/marriage/death dates, number of children, and brief life history (how and when arrived, job/s done etc.).

Biographical collections

- Biographical registers for members of parliament: Commonwealth and State.
- Biographical registers that relate to our original pioneers (e.g. families from the First Fleet)
- Biographical registers relating to specific subjects such as occupations (e.g. clergy or sport).
- Encyclopedias and local histories of regions.

For more information, please consult Research guides: *Birth, deaths and marriages: Australia, New Zealand, England and Wales*; and *Newspapers and family history*.

What biographical resources are available at the State Library of Queensland?

The following is a list of some of the major biographical collections, arranged by geographic location that you will find at State Library.

Australasia

- ***Australasian biographical archive*** [microfiche] MFC 920 1990
- ***Australian biographies*** [microfiche] MFC 920.094 1991
- ***Principal women of the empire: Australia and New Zealand Vol 1.*** [microfiche] MFC 920.72 1991
- ***Who's Who in Australia*** REF 920.094. Also available as a database, offsite or onsite at State Library <https://connectweb-com-au.ezproxy.slq.qld.gov.au/pages/whos-who-in-australia.aspx> (Log in from home if you are a Queensland resident, using your library membership)

Queensland

- ***The Aldine history of Queensland, illustrated: embracing sketches and portraits of her noted people; the rise and progress of her varied enterprises; and illustrations of her boundless wealth, together with maps of latest survey*** / by W. Frederic Morrison
[microfiche] FICHE 994.3 mor; [microfilm] FILM 0309 or [CD-ROM] QCFS 994.303 2006
- ***The history of Maryborough and Wide Bay and Burnett districts from the year 1850 to 1895*** / compiled from authentic sources by George E. Loyau Q 994.32 loy (John Oxley Collection);
[microfiche] MFC 994.32 1983; [microfilm] FILM 0306; or [CD-ROM] QCFS 994.32 2005
- ***The history of Queensland : its people and industries: an historical and commercial review, descriptive and biographical facts, figures and illustrations : an epitome of progress*** / compiled by Matt. J. Fox [microfiche] MFC 994.3 1984 or [CD-ROM] QCFS 994.3 2006
- ***Dictionary of Queenslanders: past & present – joint volumes 1, 2 & 3***
[CD-ROM] QCFS 929.409943

Victoria

- ***People in Victoria*** [microfiche] MFC 920.0945 1991
- ***Early pioneer families of Victoria & Riverina*** / by Alexander Henderson
[microfiche] MFC 920.209945 1991 or [CD-ROM] QCFS 929.20994 2014

South Australia

- ***Biographical index of South Australians 1836-1885*** / editor: Jill Statton
REF 920.09423 1986, [microfiche] MFC 920.09423 1990, or [CD-ROM] QCFS 920.09423 2005
- ***The Cyclopedia of South Australia*** [microfiche] MFC 919.423 1992
- ***Pastoral pioneers of South Australia*** [CD-ROM] QCFS 630.99423 2007

Tasmania

- ***Biographical register of the Tasmanian Parliament, 1851-1960*** REF 328.946073 1980
- ***Cyclopedia of Tasmania*** [microfiche] MFC 994.603 1990

Western Australia

- ***The Bicentennial dictionary of Western Australians*** J 920.0941 BIC

New Zealand

- ***The Cyclopedia of New Zealand: industrial, descriptive, historical, biographical facts, figures, illustrations*** [microfiche] MFC 993.003 1987
- ***Women named in 'Cyclopedia of New Zealand'*** / by Madelaine Morton
[microfiche] MFC 016.305409931 1986

Great Britain

- ***British biographical archive*** [microfiche] MFC 920.042 1984-
- ***British biographical archive Series 2*** MFPAM 920.042 1991 or [microfiche] MFC 920.042 1991
- ***Alumni Oxonienses : the members of the University of Oxford, their parentage, birthplace, and year of birth, with a record of their degrees*** [CD-ROM] QCFS 378.42574 2001
- ***Cambridge University Alumni : 1261-1900*** [CD-ROM] QCFS 378.42659 2000
- ***Oxford Dictionary of national biography*** REFJ 920.041 DIC (level 4)

NOTE: State Library holds many additional biographical sources, covering different topics and countries that are not listed here. Check the One Search online catalogue, <https://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/>, for additional resources.

Need further information?

(07) 3840 7810 | slq.qld.gov.au/ask

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