

Sources for Emigrants

RESEARCH ABROAD

It is worthwhile finding out as much as possible in printed sources and local records before tackling record sources in Britain, as the more information you can build up prior to your visit here, the better. Also, immigration records, such as arrival lists, have been found to provide more comprehensive detail than the departure lists available in this country. See 'Further Reading' for details of publications listing emigrants or giving guidance to sources, which you should consider consulting before your visit.

FURTHER READING

P William Filby and Mary K Meyer, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index - A Guide to Published Arrival Records of about 500,000 Passengers in the United States and Canada* (Gale Research Company, Detroit, 2nd edition 1988)

David Dobson has published many lists of emigrants to North America and Australasia, several of which are based on sources in NRS, including: *Directory of Scottish Settlers in North America, 1625-1825*, 7 vols (Baltimore, 1984-1993)

A Directory of Scots in Australasia, 1788-1900, 3 parts (1994-1998)

Donald Whyte, *A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to the USA*, 2 vols (Baltimore, 1972 and 1986)

D Whyte, *A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada Before Confederation*, 3 vols (Ontario Genealogical Society, 1986, 1995 and 2002)

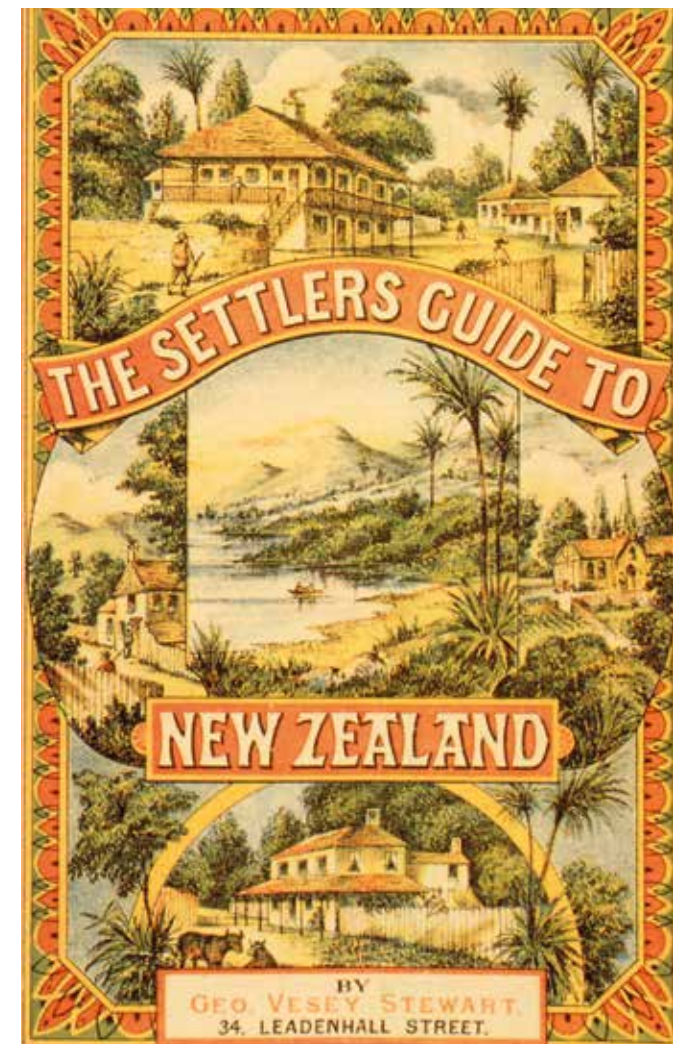
D Whyte, *The Scots Overseas: a Selected Bibliography* (Scottish Association of Family History Societies, 1995)

William J Roulston, *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors: the Essential Genealogical Guide to Early Modern Ulster 1600-1800* (Ulster Historical Foundation, 2005)

All correspondence and enquiries should be sent to:

Historical Search Room
National Records of Scotland
HM General Register House
2 Princes Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YY

www.nrscotland.gov.uk
www.nrscotland.gov.uk/about-us/contact-us
0131 535 1334





SOURCES IN NATIONAL RECORDS OF SCOTLAND

This leaflet provides guidance to the very few records in the National Records of Scotland (NRS) which list names of individual emigrants. Further details can be found on our website and in our official guide *Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors*, ed. Tristram Clarke (revised 6th edn, Birlinn, 2012).

The Colonial Office, based in London, was responsible for emigration in the 19th century and its records are held by The National Archives (TNA), Kew, London. TNA also holds the surviving outward passenger lists from 1890
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk.

CONVICTS

For information on sources for Scottish criminals transported to the Americas and Australia from the 17th to 19th centuries, see the NRS website guide on Crime and Criminals.

VOLUNTARY EMIGRANTS

NRS holds the records of the Highland and Island Emigration Society, 1851-1859, which was set up by private subscription to alleviate destitution in the Highlands by promoting and assisting the emigration of Highlanders to Australia. Their passenger lists for the years 1852-1857 have survived and are organised by ship and by family; they record the name, age and residence of each emigrant (HD4/5). The names can be searched in the Scottish Archive Network website www.scan.org.uk.

A state-aided scheme began in the 1880s to assist emigrants from Lewis and Harris to settle in Manitoba, Canada. Names of the emigrants involved in this scheme appear in the files of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (AF51).

Other references to individual emigrants, including correspondence, may be found scattered throughout a wide variety of records, searchable in the online catalogue. Although not up to date, the following are useful sources of information: NRS Source Lists on Canada, Australasia and America (available in NRS). The NRS publications: *The Emigrants*, *The Scots in America*, *Scots in Canada*, *Scots in Australia* and *Scots in New Zealand* are out of print, but can be consulted in NRS or various libraries.

SOURCES ELSEWHERE

SCOTLAND

Visit the Scottish Archive Network website for information on sources for emigration, passenger lists and emigration societies held in other archives www.scan.org.uk.

The National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh holds many useful reference books and some manuscripts concerning emigration www.nls.uk.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, KEW

The records of the Board of Trade, Colonial Office, Home Office and Treasury contain a great deal of information on emigration, and are increasingly accessible online. Records include: passenger lists, 1890-1960 (BT 27), medical journals from emigrant ships, letters from intending emigrants, and registers of troops shipped to all parts of the world. TNA also holds census records for New South Wales and Tasmania for certain years between 1788 and 1859 (HO10). Many of these records are not

indexed. For a detailed introduction to sources at TNA, consult Amanda Bevan, *Tracing your Ancestors in the National Archives* (TNA, 2006), Roger Kershaw and Mark Pearsall, *Family History on the Move* (TNA, 2006), their information leaflets or their website www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/.

MERSEYSIDE MARITIME MUSEUM

Liverpool was the main port of departure for emigrants from Britain and Europe for much of the 19th century. The Maritime Museum in Liverpool (Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AQ) acts as a clearing house for information on sources of emigration. Their select library of published emigration sources includes copies of the indexes to assisted emigrants to Australia. They also hold an extensive collection of narrative accounts of emigrant voyages. They can provide general information on archive and printed sources on emigrants in England, North America, Australasia and northern Europe. The Museum cannot undertake research for individual enquiries, but helpful information can be found on its website www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime.