



Immigration to South Australia

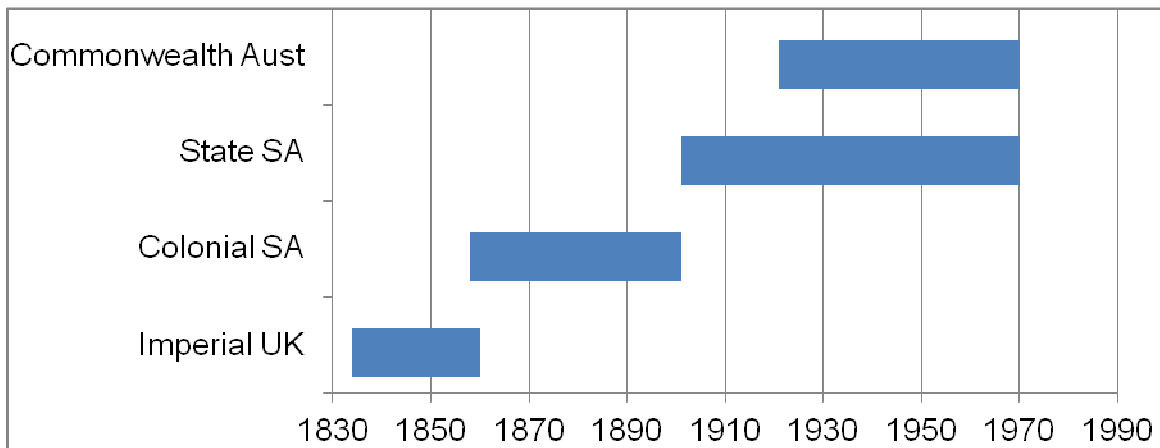
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- Passenger lists – series held
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Immigration schemes to South Australia

State Records of South Australia holds many records relating to immigration to South Australia from 1836 onwards. Emigrants from the UK who travelled to South Australia often came out as selected or assisted or free passengers in a government scheme.

Who ran the immigration schemes? 1834-1970



Early emigration schemes 1834-1860

From 1834 to about 1860, assisted emigration was mainly financed from the sale of crown land and was administered by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commission in London. It was the Commission who managed the money, selected the emigrants, and chartered the ships. Other emigrants under land grant or nominee schemes travelled on private ships.

The records of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commission (1831-1860) in London have been copied by the Australian Joint Copying Project (National Library) and microfilm copies of series relating to immigration to South Australia are available at State Records.

Colonial immigration schemes 1858-1901

When South Australia gained representative government under the SA Constitutional Act of 1855/56, one of the colony's new responsibilities was the administration of the land fund. Consequently, in 1858 South Australia sent their own Immigration Agent to London; the first colony to do so. Along with control of the land fund, they also took over the selection and transport arrangements from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commission.

South Australian state schemes 1901-1970

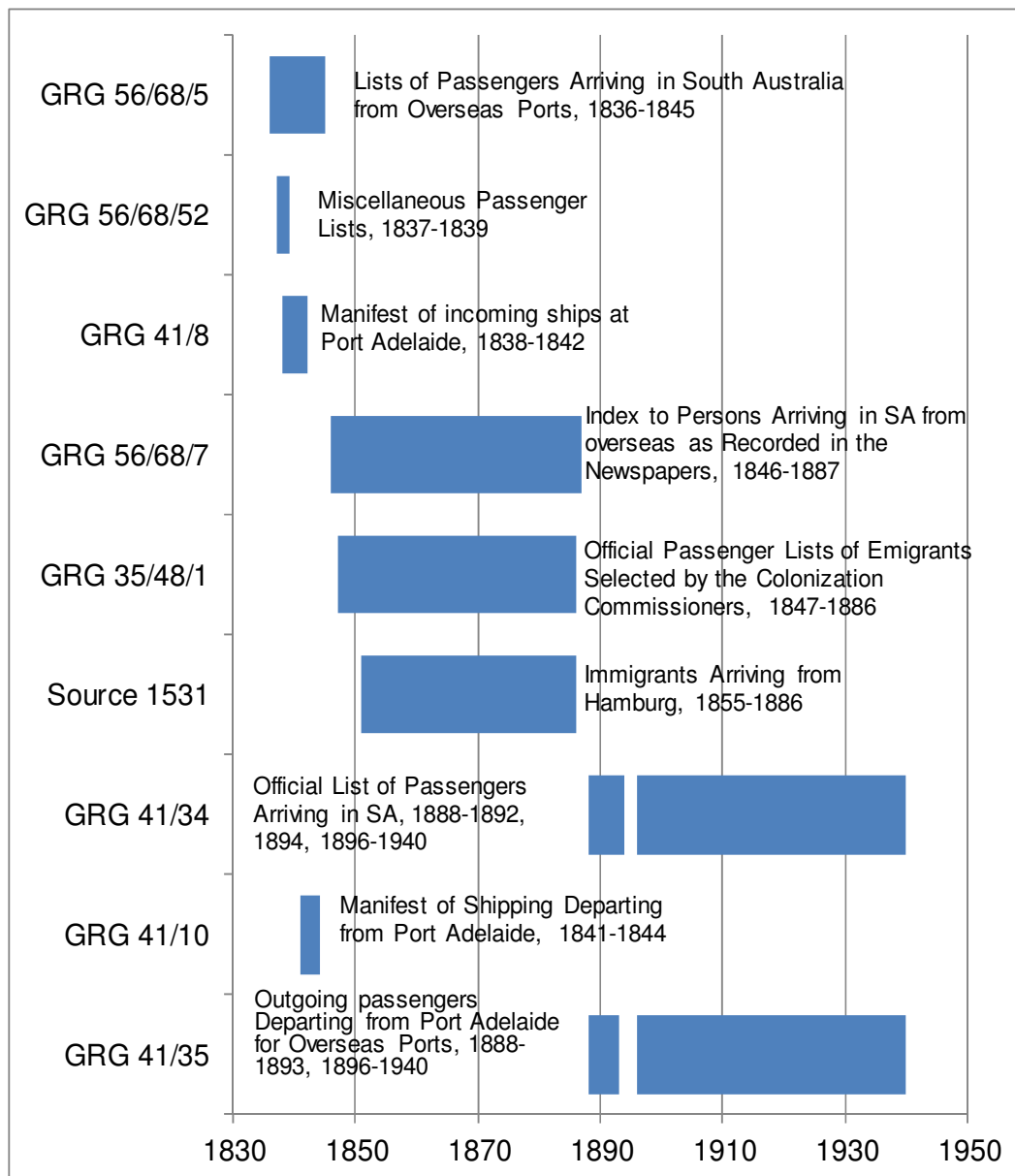
After 1901, the State of South Australia continued to administer its own immigration schemes, both independently and in conjunction with the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth immigration schemes 1901 onwards

The first Commonwealth scheme ran jointly with the states, operated from 1921 to 1937 and was for British migrants. The Commonwealth scheme to settle European refugees and displaced persons after the war operated from 1947 to 1954.

Passenger lists

The transportation arrangements for migrants generated records of ship passengers. Most family historians interested in the arrival of their ancestors in the colony start with passenger lists. Passenger lists are sometimes referred to as “manifests” or “ships” manifests”. *Fig 1. Overview of passenger lists - series held*



The main series of passenger lists for the 20th century, GRG41/34, ends in 1940. Passenger lists for arrivals in South Australia from 1941 are held by the National Archives of Australia. See also the passenger lists held by the National Archives of Australia for all Australian ports from 1924.

Passenger lists - series held

Arrivals from overseas		
Series ID	Title	Date range
GRG56/68/5	Lists of passengers arriving in SA from overseas ports	1836-1845
GRG 56/68/4	Chronological list of ships arriving in SA from overseas	1836-1849

Passenger lists - series held

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Series ID	Title	Date range
GRG56/68/5	Lists of passengers arriving in SA from overseas ports	1836-1845
GRG 56/68/4	Chronological list of ships arriving in SA from overseas	1836-1849
GRG 56/68/52	Miscellaneous passenger lists	1837-1839
GRG41/8	Manifests of incoming ships at Port Adelaide with lists of passengers and crew. Indexed by GRG 56/68/5.	1838-1842
GRG56/68/7	Index to persons arriving in South Australia from overseas as recorded in the newspapers	1846-1887
GRG35/48/1	Official assisted passenger lists *	1847-1886
GRG56/68/3	Index to GRG35/48/1	1847-1886
Accession 1531	Immigrants arriving from Hamburg	1855-1886
GRG 41/34	Official lists of passengers arriving in South Australia from overseas	1888-1892, 1894, 1896-1940

Passenger lists - series held

Arrivals from interstate		
Series ID	Title	Date range
GRG41/36	Inwards passenger lists from interstate ports	1901-1923 (with gaps)

Overseas and interstate arrivals at South Australian outports		
Series ID	Title	Date range
GRG41/39	Incoming passenger lists to Port Pirie from interstate	1930-31, 1933-1939

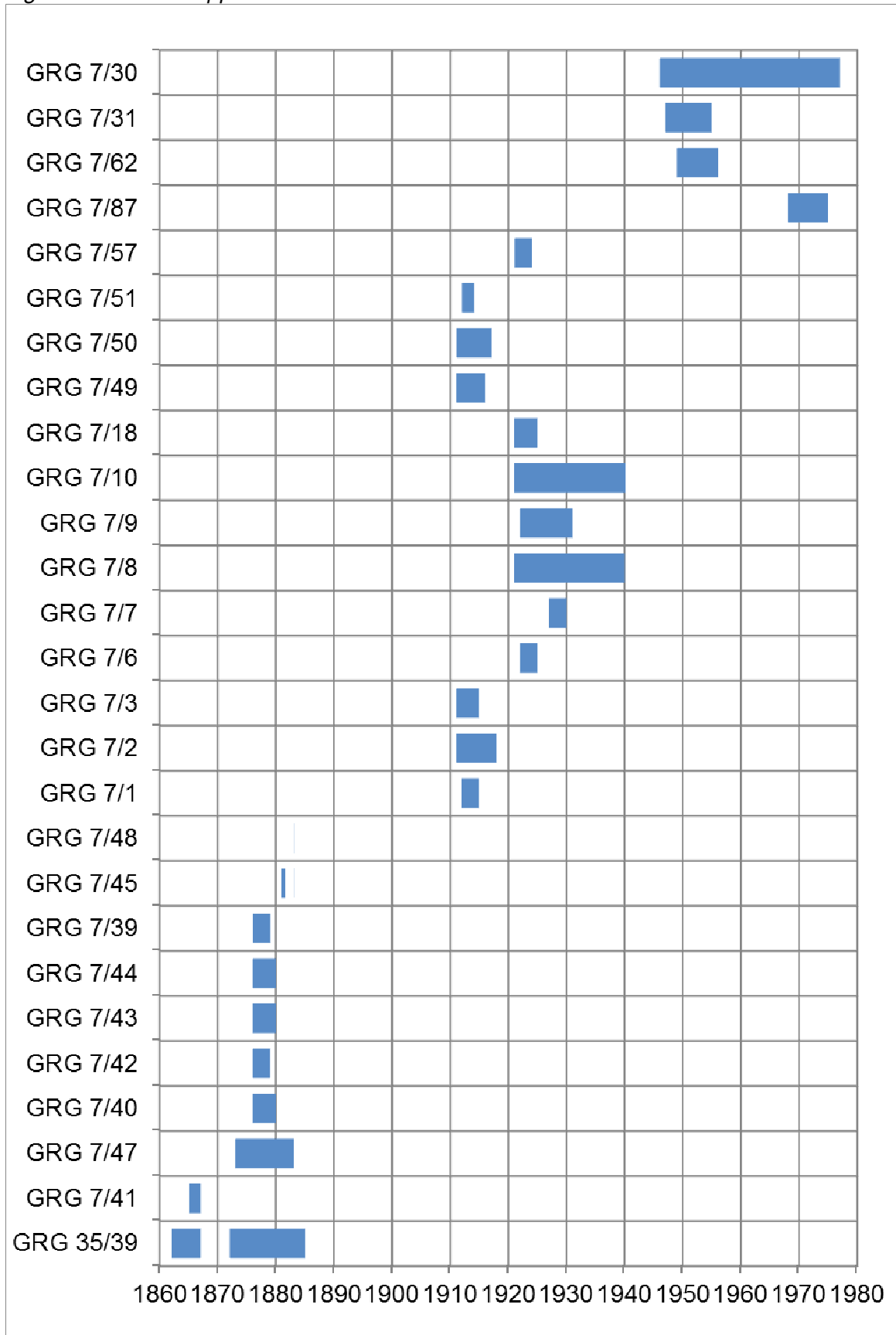
Applications and nominations

While family historians interested in the arrival of their ancestors in the colony usually start with passenger lists, we do hold other records relating to immigration. Different types of records were created during the process of administering the different schemes regulated by immigration Acts. The major Acts were those of 1863, 1872 and 1911. The schemes which they controlled included:

- Early assisted passenger schemes (land-sale funded) 1834-1886
- Farm labourers 1911 onwards
- Female domestic workers 1911 onwards
- Barwell Boys and Big Brothers in the 1920s

Later schemes run by the South Australian government included those run in the 1950s and 1960s, targeting mostly British migrants. We also hold records of schemes run by the State on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Fig 2. Overview of applications and nominations - series held



Applications and nominations – series held

Series ID	Title	Date range
GRG 35/39	Schedule of certificates issued under the Assisted Passage Regulations	October 1862-June 1867, July 1872-June 1885
GRG 7/41	Monthly schedule of certificates issued under the Full Passage Regulations,	October 1865-August 1867
GRG 7/47	Applications for full passage	1873-1883
GRG 7/40	Monthly schedule of free immigration certificates	1876-1879.
GRG 7/42	Certificates of nomination for a free passage to South Australia	1876-1878
GRG 7/43	Certificates of nominations for a free passage to South Australia from the Continent of Europe	1876-1879
GRG 7/44	Index to free colonial nominators - United Kingdom and Continent of Europe	1876-1879
GRG 7/39	Index to free colonial nominees - United Kingdom and Continent of Europe	1876-1879
GRG 7/45	Applications by residents of SA for assisted passage for residents of the UK and Europe	Jan 1881-July 1881, May 1883-September 1883
GRG 7/48	Notice of intention to pay balance of passage money	1883
GRG 7/1	Nominations for assisted immigration (passage to be paid by nominee)	April 1912-August 1914
GRG 7/2	Applications for assisted passage	1911-1917
GRG 7/3	Applications for assisted passage by agricultural labourers	1911-1914
GRG 7/6	Applications for assisted passage as farm apprentices – Barwell Boys	1922-1924
GRG 7/7	Applications by youths for assisted passage as boy migrants – Big Brother Movement	1927-1929
GRG 7/8	Applications by women for assisted passage as domestic workers	1921-1930, 1938-1939

GRG 7/9	Applications for assisted passage by farm youths, agricultural workers, and settlers	1921-1930
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Applications and nominations – series held

Series ID	Title	Date range
GRG 7/10	Nominations by SA residents for assisted immigration *	1921-1941
GRG7/18	Card index to applications for assisted passage as agricultural labourers	1921-1924
GRG7/49	List of nominated persons proceeding to SA	1911-1915
GRG 7/50	Copies of weekly returns of persons nominated for assisted passage to whom certificates have been issued	1911-1917
GRG 7/51	Copies of weekly returns of persons nominated for whom assisted passage may be arranged on receipt of payment	1912-1914
GRG 7/57	Schedules of persons nominated and approved for a free passage	1921-1924
GRG7/87	Nominations for Second Time Assisted Passage Scheme	1968-1975
GRG7/62	Schedules of personal nomination for Eire (commonwealth scheme)	1949-1958
GRG7/31	Personal nomination for free passage for British ex-service men and women (commonwealth scheme)	1947-1954
GRG7/30	Personal nominations for assisted passage from UK for residence in SA (commonwealth scheme)	1946-1976

* Series in **bold** can be searched by name within *ArchivesSearch* using Passenger List search for GRG35/48/1, and using Keyword Search or Search from within a series for GRG7/10.

ArchivesSearch

The above is a limited selection of the most useful series only. Descriptions and access conditions for these and other series held, as well as agency descriptions and agency inventories, are available via our online catalogue, *ArchivesSearch* - available from the State Records website www.archives.sa.gov.au.

Need further assistance?

If you require any assistance with your research, please contact a Reference Officer by:

- Visiting State Records' Research Centre. More information about our Research Centre services is available on our website <http://www.archives.sa.gov.au>
- Completing the online enquiry form available on our website
- Calling us on +61 8 8204 8791 – a message will be taken and a Reference Officer will return your call within seven business days.