

## **ROGER KERSHAW**

### **Title**

Tracing free emigrants to Australasia

### **Summary**

European settlement of Australia began with the penal colony at Botany Bay on the east coast of Australia in 1787 but Australia also attracted free settlers through the Colonial Office as did New Zealand, which was never used as a penal colony.

### **Abstract**

The National Archives (TNA) of the UK, hold central government sources relating to Great Britain, its colonies and dominions. As well as information relating to the physical departure of emigrants, there are many sources available concerning births, marriages and deaths of Britons overseas as civil registration records were kept abroad by British consulates, or at sea by the masters of British merchant ships. Such records kept in TNA provide a useful insight into how successful the life of an emigrant was.

For social and economic historians, TNA papers relating to the various and varied government assisted schemes to encourage and foster emigration can provide fascinating viewing. The schemes range from those fostering emigrants to flee the hardships of poverty and unemployment (such as the potato famine in the mid-nineteenth century) to those assisting children to migrate overseas. Such records cut across government departments and provide useful sources among Colonial Office papers, Poor Law records and the Ministry of Health to name but three.

### What the lecture will cover:

- Passenger Lists
  - Published Sources using TNA sources
  - Passengers Recorded Before 1890
  - Board of Trade Passenger Lists, 1890-1960
- Emigration to Australia and New Zealand
  - General Colonial Office sources
  - Land Purchases and free passages
  - Company Records (eg New Zealand Company records)
- Child Emigration Schemes
- Births, Marriages and Deaths of British Overseas and at Sea
  - Statutory and Non-Statutory returns
  - Military and Shipping returns

### **Audience**

Keynote address