



When undertaking Family History research there are many sources which can be accessed apart from the usual 'go to' collections. When you have exhausted the popular ones, some more you might find useful are listed below.

Army, Navy, Airforce Museums

<https://www.amosa.org.au/>;
<https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/defence-and-war-service-records>



The **SA Army Museum** maintains an Archives & Research Centre at Keswick containing personal collections, books, magazines, newspapers, maps, art work, photographs, charts and memorabilia. Personal files contain memorabilia, diaries, documents and a variety of personal effects. They also maintain a Research Centre containing personal collections, books, magazines, newspapers, photographs and memorabilia. <https://amosa.org.au/>

Royal Australian Navy (details from the Director of the RAN Heritage Centre web page)

<https://www.navy.gov.au/ran-heritage-centre>; <https://www.naa.gov.au/>;
<https://www.navy.gov.au/history/museums/fleet-air-arm-museum>;
<https://www.navy.gov.au/history/museums/museum-hmas-cerberus>;
<https://www.sea.museum/>; <https://www.navyhistory.org.au/>

The best source for information on the service records of ex-members is held by the **Australian National Archives**. The RAN Heritage Centre and its sister museums, the Fleet Air Arm Museum and Museum of HMAS Cerberus have become important institutions through which the story of Australia's Navy is available to the people it serves seven days per week.

Please note as of 1st February 2022 The RAN Heritage Centre is currently closed due to council wharf redevelopment and will remain closed until further notice.

Please check the website for updates on when the Museum will reopen. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Navy Heritage at navy.heritage@defence.gov.au

South Australian Historical Aviation Museum <https://www.saam.org.au/>

In 1984 a group of people interested in aviation and the restoration of aircraft founded the Museum and went on to form the South Australian Aviation & Warbirds Restoration Group. The Group became The South Australian Historical Aviation Museum Incorporated on 18 March 1985 (later the name was simplified to The South Australian Aviation Museum Inc.) After several forced moves, the Museum found a permanent home at Lipson Street, Port Adelaide. It is one of only a small number of museums fully accredited by History SA and is recognised by the South Australian Government as the official State Aviation Museum.

As with other Australian Services personnel, the best source for information on the service records of ex-members is held by the **Australian National Archives**.



City of Adelaide Archives <https://www.cityofadelaide.com.au/your-community/culture-history/city-archives/>

The documentary heritage of the City is preserved in the Archives, Civic Collection, and Oral History collections. The City of Adelaide Archives houses valuable records which are considered worthy of being preserved permanently. The Archives holds about 5,000 shelf metres of records and these exist in a wide variety of physical formats: volumes, files, documents, photographs, maps, plans, microfilms, computer printouts, tapes and CDs. The City Archives provides a reference service to the public. Records more than 30 years old can be made available to the public for research in the Archives' Search Room.

The City Archives office is open by appointment only. Masks are mandatory and must be worn in the search room. To book your appointment please contact the Archives by phone on [8203 7439](tel:82037439).

Commonwealth Railways and Australian National Railways. <https://nrm.org.au/>

Do not possess information on family members who were employees of the railways. If you are looking for information on a family member, please contact the State Archives in your state.

If you would like information that is not related to a family member, please contact Gabby Sexton, Curator – Collections.

Local Government - Local History <https://www.libraries.sa.gov.au/> or <https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/>

The majority of Local Government Councils have collections that focus on the local area, predominately held in the local library. These collections contain primary source documents that reveal the social and cultural history of the local area at a grass roots level. The collections tend to be in a special part of the library as items are selected for permanent or long-term preservation due to their enduring cultural or historical value. Many of the records are unpublished and almost always unique.

Lutheran Archives of Australia <https://www.lca.org.au/departments/ministry-support/lutheran-archives/>

The Lutheran Archives collection is comprised of congregation records from all around Australia. It covers the records of national and district agencies and departments of the church, including New Guinea mission records and some New Zealand material. We hold significant collections of Bibles, Luther's works and other religious books, as well as artefacts and photographs.

Please check the website for opening times and Covid restrictions.

Migration Museum <https://migration.history.sa.gov.au/>

The Migration Museum tells stories of South Australians and celebrates cultural diversity. The museum staff research, collect and share the state's history through exhibitions, education programs, and community and digital engagement.

Planning & Property (The Lands Titles Office) <https://sailis.lssa.com.au/home/auth/login>
<https://sailis.lssa.com.au/products/titleSearch/historicalSearch?form>

Lands Titles Office provides up to date information about land and property in South Australia. The information maintained by the Land Titles Office contains a wealth of information for family historians. By accessing the historical information of the register book people can research the history of a particular piece of land owned by their ancestors. You can even find death details of land owners.

Under the Real Property Act 1886, the Registrar General maintained a register book of records in relation to land under the Torrens System. The Register Book is a public record that includes



Certificates of Title and all instruments registered under the Real Property Act. Most of the register book has been computerised with 95% of the title register converted to electronic format. Not all historical information is available by a computerised search. To access historical information, you will need to visit the Records Service Centre on the ground floor of the Lands Titles Office at Level 9, 101 Grenfell Street to access the register which is free although printouts attract a fee.

SA Police - Correspondence files- Police Commissioner's Office 1844 – 1955

<https://archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/discover-our-collection/police-courts-and-gaols/inquests-and-police-reports-coroner>

Held by State Records SA, this is the major correspondence series of the Police Commissioner's Office (GRG5/2). Correspondence files consist of letters and other documents received by the Department, memoranda of action taken, internal reports or inquiries, and usually either brief notes outlining the reply (nineteenth century), or copies of letters sent (twentieth century). A correspondence file generally only relates to one particular subject or individual, but documents received over a number of years may be placed in the same file. The file cover may be annotated with the file numbers of related files. Prior to 1949 the files are arranged by year, with each file given an individual number - eg: 3/1853. After 1949 the series is arranged by multiple number systems.

The South Australian Police Gazette commenced publication in 1862. Compiled to be distributed amongst the police force only, the South Australian Police Gazettes contain unique information and details unavailable elsewhere. Produced at regular intervals (usually once a week), it was intended to make information available to all in the police force throughout the state. *Please be aware that there is an embargo on access to the South Australian Police Gazettes published in the last 60 years, including the current year. Further information is available at:*

<https://www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/freedom-of-information>

Further information or to visit and access the Police Gazettes to 1958:

<https://www.genealogysa.org.au/>; <http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/c.php?g=410360&p=2794477>
or <https://archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/discover-our-collection/police-courts-and-gaols/police>. Ancestry and FindMyPast also have some SA Police Gazettes online.

Government Gazettes <https://governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/>

The *South Australian Government Gazette* is a weekly record of proceedings by the State Government and Local Government authorities, published each Thursday afternoon. Government Gazettes are available online from 1839 to the current day. The information contained covers such items as government orders, granting of various licenses, appointments to numerous posts, general community announcements.

Police Historical Society (formerly Museum) <https://southaustralianpolicehistoricalsociety.com/>

The Police Historical Society provides a physical view of the history and development of the Force from its inception to the present time. The Society is open by appointment only at present, for groups of 15 or more. The Society also maintains a research function to support SAPOL, past and present police officers, their families, researchers and the community.

The Historical Society was formed in 1977 because of the work of Constable Robert Clyne. The Society has collected and preserved over 600,000 documents, artefacts and other memorabilia and has a substantial collection of photographs of police and related activities.



Parliamentary Papers

There is no online access to South Australian Parliamentary papers as a separate series.

Parliamentary papers include, but are not restricted to, annual reports of government departments and instrumentalities and documents of parliamentary committees, government departments, Royal Commissions, Committees of Inquiry and other documents which have been presented to a Parliament and then ordered by Parliament to be printed.

A complete set of Parliamentary Papers of South Australia is available in the Government Publications Collection at the State Library of SA, the Parliamentary Library and later in 2022 at Genealogy SA. Indexes are found in the first annual volume of each session.

Probate Office – 1 Gouger Street Adelaide adjacent to the Supreme Court
<https://www.courts.sa.gov.au/civil-cases/probate/>

One of the roles of the Supreme Court of South Australia is to make orders in relation to the validity of a Will of a deceased person, appoint an executor or an administrator, and the administration of a deceased estate. The Probate Registry is the registry of the court which deals with applications for grants of probate or administration and other related matters. The registry keeps a register of probates and administrations granted by the court. The Probate Registry manages this work for the court and maintains the records.

The Probate Registry holds the index of all Wills to 1999 in the public area. Those seeking a Will can extract the references from the index (books in reception area) and order and pay at the office or the Will should be available about three days later if ordering by email or post. There are three types of grants: Probate, Letters of Administration with the Will annexed, and Letters of Administration.

Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society <https://www.rahs.com.au/history;>
<https://www.rahs.com.au/foundations>

An Agricultural Society was first formed in South Australia in 1839 and was based on the principals of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. Another Society with broader horizons encompassing a greater interest in horticulture was formed in 1842 and over time the two amalgamated. The Society was formed *“for the advancement of agricultural and pastoral knowledge, and to promote the development of the natural resources of our noble colony.”* The Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of SA Inc has a range of archival information on site relating to the history of the RA&HS of SA Inc, Royal Adelaide Show and Royal Adelaide Wine Show. This material is available for research purposes on an appointment basis. The records held date from 1856 to the present and are a valuable collection of South Australian history.

South Australian Maritime Museum <https://maritime.history.sa.gov.au/>

The SA Maritime Museum preserves, explores and celebrates the human history of our oceans and rivers. The exhibitions gallery, lighthouse and vessels of the Maritime Museum can be found in the heart of Port Adelaide, South Australia’s first heritage precinct. This collection has grown over the past 140 years but the museum staff takes a contemporary approach to interpreting the past.



Genealogy SA

Helping find your family history 

201 Unley Rd, Unley SA 5061
GPO Box 3114, Adelaide SA 5001
(08) 8272 4222
Website: <https://genealogysa.org.au>
Email: saghs.admin@saghs.org.au

Other useful links

Australian War Memorial: <https://www.awm.gov.au/>

Anglican Archives: <https://adelaideanglicans.com/ministry-support/archives/>

Catholic Archives: <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-works-and-community/archives-and-records-services>

Oral History Australia: <https://www.oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/>

State Library of South Australia: <https://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/collections/family-history>

State Records of South Australia: <https://www.archives.sa.gov.au/>