Chinese genealogical research at the State Library of Victoria: a select bibliography (with particular reference to Chinese Australian research)

The State Library of Victoria’s catalogue is available within the Library and via the State Library of Victoria’s website at: www.slv.vic.gov.au. Search as a subject: China Genealogy

Online resources

Chinese Heritage of Australia Federation
www.chaf.lib.latrobe.edu.au

This website includes links to a number of databases in the ‘Resources’ section that may be of use to the Victorian researcher:
- Tung Wah newspaper index
- Chinese Australian History Resources Database
- Chinese Australians: a guide to holdings in the Mitchell Library
- Chinese Australians: a guide to holdings in the NSW Office of National Archives of Australia
- Digitised Historic Documents Database
- Melbourne Chinatown Streets Database 1900 – 1920
- Christianity and the Chinese 1800s-1900s
- Chinese Australian heritage bibliographic database
- Fading Links to China - includes the following databases:
  - Inquests for Victoria 1850 –1890
  - Listing of Chinese Burial Records – Ballarat New Cemetery
  - Listing of Chinese Burial Records – Ballarat Old Cemetery
  - Chinese Admissions Ballarat Hospital 1858 - 1880

A book of the same name is available at the State Library of Victoria (see this Bibliography under Burials).

Chinese Heritage Interest Network
chinese-heritage.tripod.com

The Chinese Heritage Interest Network is a not-for-profit private research group with an interest in the Chinese heritage of regional Victoria. A number of lists of Chinese Australian in Victoria are available on their website for 1848 to 1912
- Register of Chinese Patients - Ballarat Asylum 1893-1907
- Register of Chinese Patients - Ballarat Asylum 1877-1884
- Register of Chinese Patients - Collingwood 1864-1871
- Register of Chinese Patients - Beechworth Asylum 1867-1884
- Register of Chinese Patients - Yarra Bend Asylum 1848-1912
Register of Chinese Patients - Ararat Asylum 1867-1884
Register of Chinese Patients - Kew 1871 -1884
Register of Chinese Patients - Sunbury Asylum 1879-1912
Index of Chinese Exhumation Requests
Index of Male Prisoners with Chinese Surnames
Index of Female Prisoners with Chinese Surnames
Chinese Deaths in Melbourne Hospital. The Argus 1868-1880

Journal of Chinese Australia (JCA)
www.purl.org/ica

JCA is a free, online journal dedicated to providing access to research and resources on the history and culture of Chinese people in Australia. It is a place for family and community researchers, historians and students to share their ideas and questions. Issue 1 includes an overview of the Chinese Heritage of Australian Federation (CHAF) website for researchers (listed below)

Golden Threads
www.amol.org.au/goldenthreads
The Golden Threads Project acknowledges, celebrates and remembers the important role played by Chinese-Australians through objects, sites, people and stories in parts of regional NSW.

Chinese Museum (Melbourne)
www.chinesemuseum.com.au
The site includes information on the museum and its history, exhibitions, research projects, publications and activities, including guided tours.

Chinese-Australian Historical Images in Australia (CHIA)
www.chia.chinesemuseum.com.au
This database is a catalogue of historical images of Chinese, Chinese immigrants and their descendants held in Australia. It primarily draws on the photographic holdings of the Chinese Museum but also includes photographs from other online archives, publications and private family collections.

Golden Dragon Museum
www.goldendragonmuseum.org
This is the website of the Bendigo Chinese Association. The Resources section includes a database of over 35,000 names, dating from gold rush times. This database was compiled with sets of records, including naturalisations, births, deaths, immigration, hospital and burials. It also includes images from Bendigo and other Australian localities.

FamilySearch
www.familysearch.com
The FamilySearch databases, including the International Genealogical Index (IGI), contain entries of interest to genealogists conducting Chinese research. These databases are maintained by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). It is also recommended to check the Family History Library Catalogue by completing a Place=China search to ascertain what other Chinese material is available via LDS’ Family History Centres.

Chinese surnames
www.geocities.com/chinesesurnames
This website includes Chinese surnames found in the “Hundred Families Surnames” as well as
generation names, genealogies and family name associations in both romanized form and Chinese characters (a Chinese Language Kit is required to view the Chinese characters in your browser).

**Chinese in New Zealand**


This is a New Zealand site that includes sections on the History of the Chinese in New Zealand, some family histories, and Chinese in Australasia and the Pacific.

The State Library of Victoria provides access to a number of databases via the Library’s computer catalogue, accessible within the Library on public workstations. For a list of available databases relating to genealogical research visit the ‘Catalogues & Databases’ section of the Library’s website then click on ‘Information Databases’ and follow the prompts to ‘Genealogy and Biography’.

**Research guides**


Chao, Sheau-yyeh J. *In search of your Asian roots: genealogical research on Chinese surnames* (Baltimore, Md., Clearfield, 2000) G 951 C364I


Young, Faye & van Barneveld, Nicole. *Sources for Chinese Local History and heritage in New South Wales* (Kareela, N.S.W., F. Young; Alexandria, N.S.W., N. van Barneveld, 1997) G 994.4SO8Y

**Burials**


**Self guided tour no. 7 of Chinese section, White Hills Cemetery** ([Bendigo, Vic.], Friends of the Bendigo Cemeteries, c2000). LTP 929.5099454 SE4C
Newspapers

Note: Weekly newspaper: Feb. 5, 1902 - July 22, 1922. Publication was suspended between 1914 and June 1917. Newspaper Reading Room. Call Number: NM MELBOURNE

Ch'ng, David. A content analysis of advertisements in the Chinese Times, 1902-1914 (Hawthorn, Vic., Swinburne Institute of Technology, c1991). SLTF 305.8951094 C45C

Tung Wah News

Note: The Tung Wah News was published from 1898 – 1902. From 1902 – 1936 it was published as the Tung Wah Times.

Naming patterns

For background reading on the difficulties of conducting searches for people of Chinese origin, especially relating to the way Chinese surnames appear in official and other records, see Presland, G. ‘Some difficulties in researching Chinese Ancestry’ in From gold to federation: papers from the Fourth Victoria Family History State Conference, ed. Noelle Oke. (Blackburn, Vic., Penfolk Publishing, 2001). SLT 304.894 V66F


Personal stories and family histories


Sang, Ye. The year the dragon came (St. Lucia, Qld., University of Queensland Press, 1996). S 305.8951094 S58Y

Secrets, silences and sources: five Chinese-Australian family histories edited by Sophie Couchman ([Bundoora, Vic.?]: Asian Studies Program, La Trobe University, 2005) SLT 929.2089951 SE2C


Wong Hoy, Kevin. *Yip Hoy and his family: Constructing a family history* (North Melbourne, Vic., Kevin Wong Hoy, 2002). G 994 W846Y

**Journal articles**


King Koi, N. ‘My Chinese family history from 1800s’ in Blending the cultures: congress papers / 7th Australian Congress on Genealogy and Family History; 7-10 July 1994, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia (Indooroopilly, Qld., The Congress, 1994). pp 28.1–28.6. G 994 AU78G


**Resources for researching Chinese family history in China at the State Library of Victoria**

The most comprehensive resource for researching Chinese people in China itself is the *Chinese Biographical Archive*. Available on microfiche in the Genealogy Centre, it provides biographical information on almost 70,000 people. In English, German and Chinese, it also contains some bibliographical references. GMF 170 / Boxes 1 – 3

The key to the *Chinese Biographical Archive* is the three volume *Chinese Biographical Index* which can be found on the shelves of the Genealogy Centre. It is in both English and German. G 929.351 C441M
Another valuable resource for Family Historians is the two volume index to the Chinese Recorder. (The Chinese recorder is held in the Monash University Library): Lodwick, Kathleen L. The Chinese recorder index: a guide to Christian missions in Asia, 1867-1941 (Wilmington, Del., Scholarly Resources Inc., c1986). G 951.035 L82C

**General sources of Chinese Australian history at the State Library of Victoria**


Choi, C. Y. Chinese migration and settlement in Australia (Sydney, Sydney University Press; Portland, Or., distributed by International Scholarly Book Services, 1975). S 325.94 C45C


Fitzgerald, John. Advance Australia fairly: Chinese voices at Federation (Parkville, Vic., History Dept., University of Melbourne, 2002 [i.e. 2003]). SLT 994.032 F57A


Gervasoni, Clare & Wickham, Dorothy (compilers). Castlemaine petitions: petitioners for a Castlemaine municipality and petitioners against the Chinese Residence Licence (Ballarat [Vic.], Ballarat Heritage Services, c1998). G 994.5031 C27G


Groom, Jocelyn. Chinese pioneers of the King Valley (Wangaratta, Vic., Centre for Continuing Education, 2001). SLT 305.89510945 G89C

Hirst, John (ed.). The Chinese on the Australian goldfields (Melbourne, Dept. of History, La Trobe University, c1991). SLTF 994.004951 C44H


James, Ken. Chinese entries in various land and mining records held by the Public Record Office of Victoria (Camberwell [Vic.]: Ken James, [2006]). G 994.5004951 J234C, SLTF 994.5004951 J234C
James, Ken. *Chinese miners and market gardeners of Lyal and Myrtle Creek, Central Victoria* (Camberwell [Vic.]: K. James, 2005). SLTF 994.53004951 J23C


Markus, Andrew. *Fear and hatred: purifying Australia and California, 1850-1901* (Sydney, Hale & Iremonger, 1979). LT 301.451 M34F


McWaters, Vivienne. *Beechworth’s Little Canton: the history of the Spring Creek Chinese camp and its residents* (Beechworth, Vic., V. McWaters, 2002). SLT 994.551 B39M


Rolls, Eric C. *Citizens: flowers and the wide sea; continuing the epic story of China's centuries-old relationship with Australia.* (Queensland, Australia, University of Queensland Press; Portland, Or., Distributed in the USA and Canada by International Specialized Book Services, 1996). Notes: Sequel to *Sojourners*. LT 994.004951 R65C

Rolls, Eric C. *The erratic communication between Australia and China.* (Darwin, Northern Territory Library Service, 1990). LTP 305.8951094 R65E


Ryan, Jan. *Ancestors: Chinese in colonial Australia* (Fremantle, W.A., Fremantle Arts Centre, 1995). SLT 325.25109941 R95A
Welsh, Lionel. **Vermilion and gold: vignettes of Chinese life in Ballarat** (Sandy Bay, Tas., Banyan Press, [1985]). SLT 994.57 W46V

Yong, C. F. **The new gold mountain: the Chinese in Australia, 1901-1921** (Richmond, S. Aust., Raphael Arts, 1977). LT 301.451951 Y8N

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