

That army of assisted emigrants: free men and women coming to Australia, 1788-1914

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The 1831 £20 loan scheme to emigrant mechanics, the NSW Remittance Regulations of the 1850s and free passages for female domestic servants to Queensland in the 1880s are just some of the astonishing numbers of Australian 'assisted emigration' schemes available until the outbreak of WWI. Having been accepted for the passage, emigrants could be assured of a relatively well-ordered voyage on a ship supervised by government employees. On arrival different levels of support were offered to the new arrivals to ease their transition into colonial society. This presentation covers this extraordinary form of emigration and offers suggestions about linking this big national story to an emigrant ancestor. It is a double session presented by Richard Reid, Perry McIntyre and Liz Rushen.