

Researching your Family History

Before you begin

Before you begin your family history research using resources of the Northern Territory Archives Service you need to prepare as much as possible to ensure that your visit is as productive as possible. Think about what information you hope to find, and what sort of records you will need to access; this will help you with your research.

Northern Territory Archives Service (NTAS)

NTAS holds records of the Northern Territory Government as well as archives relating to functions that transferred to the NT Government with the granting of Self Government in 1978. The NTAS holds Community Archives which are records donated by individuals and organisations. The NTAS also holds a collection of oral histories.

Before you visit us please check the following:

List of holdings

Use this list to identify record series which may be of use to your research and then ask reference staff for consignment lists to search for particular items within the series. The list of holdings is available on our website at the following address:

<http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/ntas/collection/holdings>

Guides to the NTAS collection

The following topics are covered by short guides to archives in the NTAS:

Mining in the Northern Territory, Pastoral Industry in the Northern Territory, Central Australia, the Territory at War – WWII, Police Service of the Northern Territory, Borroloola Northern Territory, Railways in the Northern Territory, Cyclone Tracy, Government Residents and Administrators of the Northern Territory, Chinese People in the Northern Territory.

These guides may provide useful indicators of which series you should access. You will find them at the following web address: <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/ntas/collection/guides/>

Contact us for up to date lists of records series on the topic of your choice.

Indexes to Probate records of the Northern Territory

Consult our information leaflet on Probates, Wills and Letters of Administrations for more details on these useful family history records.

Oral History Collection

Oral histories provide a rich source of information about the past. Staff at NTAS will show you how to explore oral histories using *Isys* which allows a search of oral histories table of contents and summaries.

Weblinks

See the Northern Territory Archives Service website links for addresses of all the services mentioned in this leaflet including other archives, libraries and research organisations:

<http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/ntas/about/links.html>

Other places to visit before using the Northern Territory Archives Service

NTL The Northern Territory Library has a range of records which will assist you in finding family and the records about them. Some of these may be available also at the Genealogical Society of the NT (GSNT).

The NTL collection includes:

- The Electoral Rolls for the Northern Territory from 1922 to the present. These are useful for finding where someone was located and when they were there. NTL also holds copies of old Northern Territory telephone directories from pre WWII to the present.
- Microfilm copies of the Northern Territory Newspapers from 1873 to the present; see the Debnam Index to search for names appearing in the newspapers from 1873-1914.
- Indexes to Births Deaths and Marriages across the Northern Territory and Australia.
- The Northern Territory Collection includes publications and photographs that may be of interest.

For further information about the guides and indexes and other resources see:

<http://www.ntl.nt.gov.au/ask/guides/genealogy>

GSNT The Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory holds a range of indexes to core family history records. These indexes include the Debnam indexes to newspapers, and to passenger records, and *Digger*.

Digger was compiled by the GSNT. This index is also available at Northern Territory Library.

- CD1 is an index to Deaths in the NT; it can be searched by name and provides the researcher with date, age, place of death and place of burial as available.
- CD2 is an index to Northern Territory Census 1891 and 1901, the Electoral Rolls for the NT covering the period 1884 to 1940, and the Adelaide Almanac and Directory, 1908-1921.

Visit GSNT for further advice. The GSNT reading room is open on Tuesday and Saturday only. To obtain more information about their services and collections phone 8981 7363.

Publications Libraries hold a wide range of publications covering the history of the Northern Territory. Check relevant publications for possible references to the person you are researching, and their bibliographies to see which primary sources were used. These can give excellent clues about which records to look at when you visit Archives.

NAA The National Archives of Australia holds Commonwealth Government archives. For a range of Fact Sheets and guides about archives in their collections see their website at www.naa.gov.au.

- If you are looking for incoming and outgoing passenger records 1898-1934, Port Darwin, see Microfilm of series E1019.
- For defence service records, for immigration records, or records of the Northern Territory Administration 1922-1978 check the National Archives database *Recordsearch* at the following address: <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/recordsearch.aspx>
- If you are researching your own Aboriginal family history, contact the NAA Darwin and ask for a search to be done using the *Bringing Them Home Name Index* to records relating to Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory. Also visit the NAA website and look for a copy of *Tracking Family* which provides information about organisations holding records relevant to Aboriginal families in the Northern Territory.

When you are ready to visit the Northern Territory Archives Service remember to make an appointment. Search room staff will assist you in the use of Northern Territory Archives Service collections.

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Enjoy your research