

## BDA Source Description Pages

<http://www.bda-online.org.au>**Unclaimed Letters NSW Index 1836-1852**

From time to time, the General Post Office, Sydney, published in the *NSW Government Gazette*, lists of letters it held waiting for collection. Many of these were for people recently arrived where the writer had no street address. As a result many were addressed to the individual naming the ship on which they had left the UK.

The index gives name of the person to whom the letter is addressed, their address or ship and year of departure from the UK, or a military regiment to which they belonged. The date and page number of the notice in the *Government Gazette* and sometimes remarks e.g. Widow of Lieut Campbell 18th Foot, or Late of Bengal Army, or Sydney, gone to California.

The research value of this Index is that it indicates that the person was in NSW and that they had arrived on a particular ship of which no passenger list may have survived.

This practice was started in the early colonial period. Letters sent to Edward Fuller, a convict ancestor of the editor, were advertised in the *Sydney Gazette* as "awaiting collection" from 1814 to 1816. One such letter survives in the Mitchell Library, Sydney addressed to him c/o Mrs Macarthur for whom he worked. It was from his mother who had remarried and moved to a London suburb, thus revealing some new and important details.

Letters not collected were destroyed.

The index contains 2,791 entries, with cross reference entries for other people mentioned, the dataset has 2,816 entries.

**Acknowledgements for the Dataset:**

Pastkeys - Aileen Trinder and Pat Fearnley - for supplying the Index and giving permission for it to be used by BDA.

Malcolm R Sainty AM - General editing of the Dataset & preparation of this source page.

Keith Johnson AM and Michael Flynn MA (Syd.) for editing this source page.

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