

BDA Source Description Pages<http://www.bda-online.org.au>**Australian Biographical & Genealogical Record (ABGR)
Series 1 – 1788-1841****Foreword**

This volume is the tenth publication from the Australian Biographical and Genealogical Record since 1985. It is the fourth volume containing biographical and genealogical data compiled by family historians. More than 6000 men and women are the subjects of the biographies contributed to these four volumes: some 1500 for the 1788-1841 time period (Series 1) and the balance for the period 1842-1899 (Series 2) and nearly 1700 photographs of the subjects have been published. It is estimated that over 80,000 persons are named in the biographies: parents; spouses; spouse's parents and children. In addition, where known, years of birth and death of sons and daughters and daughter's married names are recorded.

These four volumes were never intended to be restricted to "the famous and infamous". In addition the biographies of some of "the others" have been included: the ordinary men and women who have made their contributions in many different ways to the development of Australia since 1788. In the words of Dr Cable some were "local worthies previously not documented", most had large families and now have many descendants interested in their forbears. I believe that the lives of the subjects included provide a good cross-section of our distinctive Australian community and are representative of "the Australian experience" since 1788. An important feature of these volumes is that nearly 30% of the biographies are accompanied by photographs, the majority of which have not been published before.

The volumes complement important scholarly works such as the Australian Dictionary of Biography. The biographies in the ABGR series have not been selected for inclusion as is the case with the ADB. In most instances a descendant has contributed information uncovered in research, personally undertaken. A small number of subjects also appear in the ADB but submission of additional information rather than repetition of data published in the ADB was encouraged.

The ABGR Committee wish to record their appreciation to contributors for their support and sponsorship of these volumes and for the in-depth research undertaken to gather the data included in the biographies. Very little of this information had been published previously and it is unlikely to have been brought together in another published work. The contributors who have participated accepted the challenge to submit their research findings for publication in a disciplined and concise format. The meticulous care taken by the editors: Kenneth Cable and Jane Marchant for the three volumes of Series 2 and John Spurway and Allison Allen for this Series 1 volume with its Series 2 supplement together with the careful data entry of all four volumes by Allison Allen, deserve the warmest appreciation of all who will use them.

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When the ABGR Project was conceived by Malcolm Sainty ten years ago, it was anticipated that there would be support from the Australian Bicentennial Authority for a project of this size and importance. This was not forthcoming and priority had to be given by the Project Committee to initiatives that would generate funds for the Project's continuation. By 1989 it became clear that the original plans for the Series 1 (1788-1841) publication programme had to be scaled down to a level that funds would permit.

The publication of the Muster Series was commenced in 1985. The five invaluable volumes in the Series were thoroughly researched competently edited and prepared for publication by Carol Baxter as follows:

Musters and Lists New South Wales and Norfolk Island 1800-1802 (pub. 1988).

Musters of New South Wales and Norfolk Island 1805-1806 (Pub. 1989).

General Musters of New South Wales, Norfolk Island & Van Diemen's Land 1811 (pub. 1987).

General Muster of New South Wales 1814 (pub. 1987).

General Muster and Land & Stock Muster of NSW 1822 (pub. 1988).

In addition, the late Professor Noel Butlin generously made available to the ABGR his edited General Return of Convicts in New South Wales 1837 which was also published in 1987.

Acknowledgement has been made in each of the published volumes of the various sponsors who have assisted the Project over the past ten years. Their generous support has been of inestimable value. The voluntary efforts of a number of persons have also been acknowledged in the Project's Newsletters. Some volunteers have continued their assistance until 1992 and I again extend grateful thanks, particularly to Mrs Betty Somers, Mrs Janet Robinson, Mrs Jenny Priestley, Mrs Marian Mackay and Mrs Angela Lind for their interest and support over the years.

Many thousands of biographical detail forms submitted by family historians have been registered by the Project. Although many proposed biographies were not proceeded with by the contributors in the published Series volumes, all records of the Project will be permanently retained by the Society of Australian Genealogists and will be available to Society members for research purposes in the future. All the property of the Project, including the stock of publications and accumulated funds, was transferred to the Society in 1991.

It is planned that the work on the Passenger Shipping Index 1826-1842 will be continued and completed by Society volunteers in the future. Space will be available at the Society's premises from 1993 for the checking by volunteers of the data entry printouts against the thousands of sheets compiled by Project volunteers at the NSW State Archives. Announcements will be made by the Society on the progress of this index.

The voluntary work over ten years of the Project Committee members has been substantial. Malcolm Sainty as Secretary undertook the greatest burden, the coordination of the week to week activities, the compilation of Newsletters and oversight with me of the publication programme. John Wilson as Treasurer has taken under his control financial matters. Evan Best as President of the Society of Australian Genealogists since 1985, has shared with me overall responsibility for the Project. Until 1990 Graham Lewis gave much sound advice and

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achieved the greater part of the commercial sponsorship and financial support that ensured our survival. Joanna Richards and Kenneth Cable to 1989 and John Spurway more recently have concentrated their efforts on research advice and the editing of the various volumes. To all of them I extend my sincere appreciation for their involvement and unstinting support. The monument to their dedication is the achievement of the ten published works, together with the substantial amount of research data now added to the unique primary records of the Society of Australian Genealogists.

Keith Johnson, Chairman

July 1992

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Acknowledgements

There are a number of people whose assistance in the preparation of this volume I acknowledge with gratitude. Angela Phippen and Glynis Howley, respectively Librarian and Archivist of the Society of Australian Genealogists, assisted with specific research details on behalf of contributors now living overseas. Heather Garnsey, the Society's Executive Officer, welcomed my presence at Richmond Villa outside normal opening hours, thus enabling me to edit in peace.

I am also grateful to Keith Johnson and Malcolm Sainty for the generous provision of office space and reference material at the Library of Australian History, North Sydney. My special thanks go to my assistant, Allison Allen who, as she did for the Series 2 volumes, undertook the massive task of data entry for Series 1 in a most competent manner. I appreciated Allison's unfailing good humour and her valuable suggestions. My gratitude extends also to her husband Hamish for many times delivering completed forms, biographies and proofs between their home and mine.

Thanks are also due to Philip Graham for preparation of work for the typesetting of the volume and to Graham Campbell and Andy Comerford of ACP Colour Graphics who were helpful with design and computer programming.

The Chairman and fellow Committee members join me in expressing thanks to the 372 contributors, family historians all, who have enriched this volume with the fruits of their labours.

John Spurway

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Introduction

In 1988, Australia's Bicentennial year, a senior lecturer in History in an Australian university declared that family history is a study suitable for the "great unwashed" and one which has no contribution to make to historical scholarship. In many ways this volume can be seen as a refutation of that aberrant view. One of my endeavours in the preparation of Series 1 has been to show that the subjects of our biographies, many of them among the "great unwashed" of the first half-century of European settlement in Australia, deserve to be better known. "History from below", a term much in vogue among Australian historians at present, and with good reason, owes much to the study of the lives of ordinary Australians whose stories have seldom been written.

The present volume contains 1501 Series 1 biographies. There follows a Supplement of 134 Series 2 biographies which were not included in the three earlier volumes. In both the Series 1 section and the Supplement, certain conventions have been adopted. Measurements are given in the imperial system, while amounts of money are expressed in £sd. Where known, the religious denomination of a baptism, marriage or funeral service is given, although it might be at variance with the actual practice of the individuals concerned. A subject's cause of death has not been stated in all cases, while burial or cremation details are noted where they are available. Responsibility for the accuracy of the genealogical data and the biographies, as well as correct identification of the photographs, rests with the contributors.

Since Series 1 deals almost entirely with people who immigrated to Australia or who were born here of immigrant parents, details of a subject's birth or baptism often provide a hitherto unknown link between the subject's family in Australia and its origins overseas. It is my hope that our volume will become not only a significant secondary source for Australian family historians, but also a stimulus for further research, both here and abroad. I am confident that the value of this collection in one volume of the research of hundreds of family historians places beyond question the integrity of our discipline in the wider context of historical scholarship.

The "great unwashed", then, are not only those responsible for this volume. They are also its subjects, the people whose lives are often overlooked in the great march of history. To them the work is dedicated.

John Spurway, Editor July 1992

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