

BDA Source Description Pages

<https://www.bda-online.org.au>**Passengers to Sydney & Port Phillip : Entitlement Certificates for Bounty Immigrants 1838-1842**

The bounty immigration scheme had been adopted in New South Wales in the 1830s to supplement existing government assisted immigration programs. The bounty system, though regulated by government, involved more significant funding of immigration by the colonial private sector in return for tax credits. Employers and employer groups funding the selection and conveyance of the immigrants (mainly at this period from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales) were required by colonial regulations to keep records of the immigrants who arrived. The government and bounty systems were revised and expanded in 1837. Melbourne in the Port Phillip District were added as a new destination in 1839.

From 1838 extremely detailed information has survived for immigrants arriving at Sydney, based on answers and documents they provided to immigration agents and government officials to establish their identity and suitability as immigrants. These included age, birthplace, names and occupation of parents, literacy, names and ages of children and names of respectable persons who had recommended the immigrant for an assisted or bounty passage.

This dataset contains 38,378 primary entries and, with cross referenced people added, has a total of 38,746 entries. It extracts details recorded for immigrants landing at Sydney 1838-1842 and at Melbourne / Port Phillip 1839-1841 (with less biographical detail recorded by Port Phillip authorities, lacking in particular names of parents).

Building on earlier work by earlier volunteers, John Ross transcribed a large amount of additional material in 2019-2022, including details of 1842 immigrants not otherwise available online.

Entitlement Certificates of persons on bounty ships 1838-1842.

Entries record the names of the shipping agent, master and medical superintendent; and for each immigrant, name, age, calling, religion, education, native place, parents and bounty paid.

State Archives NSW refs: 4/4827 to 4/4891.

Persons on bounty ships arriving at Port Phillip

Entries record the name of the shipping agent, master and ship surgeon; for each immigrant: name, age, calling, religion, education, native place and bounty paid.

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State Archives NSW refs: 4/4813 & 4/4814.

Information Page written by Michael Flynn 2019, amended 2023.

Historical resources available from the BDA Shop

<https://www.bda-online.org.au/shop>

For other Passenger Lists included in the BDA see

<https://www.bda-online.org.au/sources/passengers>

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