

The Biographical Telegraph

Newsletter No 1: July 2016



Biographical
Database of Australia (BDA)

On 14 March 2016 **Biographical Database of Australia** (BDA) celebrated its 10th birthday as a non-profit organisation run by volunteers aiming to create an online database of deceased Australians linked to form biographical profiles.

This is the first issue of *The Biographical Telegraph* which will provide regular updates on BDA as it continues to expand.

=====

Latest update of datasets - new records

In case you missed it, in February 2016 BDA released its third major batch of datasets since going online in 2013. The new datasets are listed below (see a more detailed description on the BDA website **Sources** page):

- **Land & Stock returns** taken with the Census of NSW 1828. This records details of owners and lessors of land in NSW, including, for example, John Macarthur's Elizabeth Farm, Parramatta (850 acres) with 24 horses: 24 cattle and 40 sheep.
- Biographical profiles of soldiers and officers in regiments stationed in NSW, Tasmania, Moreton Bay, Melville Island and Norfolk Island during the periods listed below:
 - **46th Regiment (South Devonshire) 1814-1818 - 1184 profiles**
 - **48th Regiment (Northamptonshire) 1817-1824 - 1163 profiles**
 - **3rd Regiment (Bufs) 1822-1827 : 667 profiles**
 - **40th Regiment of Foot (2nd Somersetshire) 1824-1829 : 914 profiles**
 - **NSW Corps Casualty List 1799-1817 - 972 profiles**
- **Land Grants NSW 1792-1809** giving details of 2753 grants and leases, 1265 (45%) of which are linked to biographical profiles already on BDA.
- **University Graduates in Australian Universities 1856-1900** giving name, degree, institution and year, providing a comprehensive listing of Australian graduates in the 19th century.
- A small number of **Births & Deaths recorded in Norfolk Island and Sydney Hospital 1802, 1803 & 1811.**
- **Camperdown CofE Cemetery Monumental Inscriptions**, Sydney NSW, transcribed in 1970 from 416 surviving headstones dating from 1849+ mentioning 1,326 individuals.
- **Dictionary of Australian Biography by Percival Serle (1949)**: full text from the two volumes of all biographies from all states, fully cross indexed.

Next update of datasets - spring 2016

BDA Update 4 is scheduled to go online with the following datasets in Spring 2016:

- **39th Regiment pay lists 1826-1833** (NSW, including Moreton Bay).
- **Royal Veteran Company pay lists NSW 1810-1814.**
- **Certificates of Freedom NSW 1823-1869.**
- **Tickets of Leave NSW 1849-1875.**
- **Assisted Immigrants to NSW, Port Phillip & Moreton Bay 1839-1896** giving details of 191,934 immigrants to Sydney and Newcastle (1844-1896), Moreton Bay Qld (1844-1896) & Port Phillip (Vic) 1839-1851. The arrivals included 978 children aged under six. An additional 2,132 passengers died on the voyages (580 infants and the oldest aged 76).
- **General Post Office - Unclaimed Letters NSW 1836-1852.**
- **Camperdown CofE Cemetery (Sydney NSW) Interment Register 1849-1853.**
- **Railway Passes NSW 1880-1892** index with some data extracted.

Subscribe to BDA

A team of BDA volunteers has been working on transcribing and indexing many more church registers, convict, military, cemetery and other records for updates 5 and 6. A new advanced search function is being developed for implementation later in 2016.

BDA needs your support. If you have never subscribed or if you are a lapsed subscriber, it costs just \$30 to join to obtain full access to BDA for one year. Among records online are entries for these First and Second Fleeters to Sydney 1788 and 1790:

- Thomas Rudd (c1779-1825) & Mary Wade (1779-1859) ancestors of former PM Kevin Rudd,
- Owen Cavanough (c1762-1841) ancestor of current PM Malcolm Turnbull,
- Richard Morgan (c1761-1837) ancestor of singer Helen Reddy,
- Joshua Peck (c1755-1825) ancestor of writer Kathy Lette,
- Matthew Everingham (1768-1817) ancestor of former politicians Doug Everingham, Paul Everingham & Ernie Bridge.

Please encourage your local genealogical society, historical society or government library to subscribe to BDA at www.bda-online.org.au

1788-1820 Pioneer Association

Were you ever a member of the **1788-1820 Pioneer Association**, founded in 1968 by descendants of immigrants and convicts who arrived in NSW and VDL during those years. The records of the Association, now wound up, including its extensive hard copy library and archives, are now managed by BDA. Biographical details based on the research of descendants will be added to BDA in future updates.

Biographical snippets

An endless variety of immigrants sailed for Australia in the 19th century. Some had unusual names, among them Stewart Smithrumerdge (per *Intrinsic* in 1841); Isabella Bultitude; Rev Orlando Knee; Goo Gan; Scipio Vanderport; Robert Silly; Theophilus Quested; Horace Ximenes; Buxo Khan

The ship *John Fielden* (1853) contained no less than 39 Ryans, including 5 Marys and 4 Johannas.

The following children were named after the immigrant ships on which they were born on the outward voyage:

- Beulah H M Schulze, born on the *Beulah* in 1849
- Agricola Steele, born on the *Agricola* in 1853
- Agenora [sic] R Nicholls, born on the *Agenoria* in 1849)
- Bussorah Goodwin, born on the *Bussorah Merchant* in 1853
- Castilian Allen, born on the *Castilian* in 1858
- Cressy Barrett, born on the *Cressy* in 1856
- Ellenborough Donnelly, born on the *Ellenborough* in 1854
- Empire Lambert, born on the *Empire* in 1853.

The ticket of leave of convict Charles Herrington (or Henington, per *Ocean* 1823) tells us it was awarded in 1838 after he volunteered to join the expedition to settle Melville Island in what is now the Northern Territory. It describes his tattoo as: 'mermaid T.H.C.H.S.H. anchor heart and cross on right arm'.

Welsh convict William Jones (*York* 1831) had even more elaborate tattoos: 'Cross, man, woman, child, on breast, woman above anchor, WS or J on lower part, aged 19, March 25, 1829, and a number of other letters on left arm, man, woman, love and liberty on upper part, Jane Jones, woman, fish, crown, cross, and other marks on right'.

Bookshop

Our on-line bookshop lists nearly 1000 secondhand volumes for sale, many rare at reasonable prices.



BDA is a unique resource
for historians and genealogists.

www.bda-online.org.au