

BDA Source Description Pages

<http://www.bda-online.org.au>**Australian Biographical & Genealogical Record (ABGR)
– Biographical Detail Forms (BDF)**

The Australian Biographical & Genealogical Record was established in the early days of computing in 1982 with the aim of creating a biographical database of every person born in or arriving in Australia from 1788 to 1899. It was the direct ancestor of this website.

Contributors to the ABGR Project were asked to fill in a Biographical Detail Form (BDF) with basic information about individuals, including names, dates of birth, marriage and death, ship and year of arrival, parents and children of those persons. Over 52,000 forms were submitted. All have been indexed and added to BDA. Many people contributed forms for a number of their own ancestors, often based on years of research. Other contributors volunteered to research every person arriving on a specific ship. For example Michael Flynn contributed BDFs for many of the convicts arriving on the ship *Ganges* in 1797.

The original BDF forms are housed in the Manuscripts collection of the Society of Australian Genealogists in Sydney. The entries on BDA give a source reference number to the files in that collection. Each form is bundled with others submitted by the same contributor and as a result they often form a group of the contributor's ancestry or family.

Many contributors submitted further details which were edited for publication in a series of biographical dictionaries (Australian Biographical & Genealogical Record Series 1, Series 2, 1985-1992).

The contents of those published biographies are now on BDA in two separate Datasets. See [Australian Biographical & Genealogical Record \(ABGR\) Series 1 – 1788-1841](#) and [Australian Biographical & Genealogical Record \(ABGR\) Series 2 – 1842-1899](#).

For more information on these publications see:

<http://www.sag.org.au/collections/our-manuscript-collection.html?task=view&id=79>

For more on the background to ABGR see [About Us / 2. History](#).

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<http://www.bda-online.org.au>

For other 'Indexes and Lists' included in the BDA see

<http://www.bda-online.org.au/sources/indexes-lists>

Historical resources available from the BDA Shop

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