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Tasmanian database 1803-1827 created by Garry Wilson

This was one of a number of datasets compiled by the late Garry Adrian Wilson who died at the age of 63 on 3 July 2013 in Sydney, a few days after suffering a massive stroke from which he did not regain consciousness. At the time Garry had been the Editor of BDA for seven months and had said that if he died at any time in the future, his datasets would become the property of BDA.

The Tasmanian database 1803-1827 was his main work and was based on many years of dedicated archival research in record repositories in Hobart, Sydney and elsewhere, as well as on extensive consultation with genealogists and historians interested in Tasmania and Norfolk Island. It was created from a series of supporting datasets derived from his own transcripts of important original records: victualling lists and musters and well as secondary databases aiming to create a complete record of the settler population of Norfolk Island (1788-c1814) and Tasmania (1803-c1827). Much of the early settler population of Norfolk Island was transferred to Van Diemens Land (Tasmania around 1805-1813).

This database is centred on transcripts of original victualling lists through which rations were supplied to the early settlers of Norfolk Island surviving for the years 1792-1796 and for Port Phillip Bay (Sorrento, Victoria) and the Derwent (Hobart, Tasmania) surviving for 1803-1804. Both have been added to BDA as primary source datasets (in the case of the Norfolk Island Victualling Book an identical version previously transcribed by BDA volunteers has been used).

The great value of these victualling lists is that they encompassed the whole settler population, including convicts, free civilians, soldiers, marines, women and children. Garry's next step was the creation of a series of Tasmanian muster transcript datasets. He used these to create two biographical databases. The first has been labelled 'Tasmanian Victualling Book 1805, analysis by Garry Wilson'. This linked all those settlers listed in Tasmania in 1805 to their records in later musters and baptism, marriage and burial records, and later records of civil registration and other sources.

The second and much larger database has been labelled 'Tasmanian Database 1803-1827, analysis by Garry Wilson'. He aimed to use post 1804 convict and immigration records as well and church registers, civil registration and other biographical records (both manuscript and published) to create a database of free

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and convict colonists and some Aboriginal people who were born in Tasmania or arrived in this period.

Many people arrived first in Sydney, then went to Norfolk Island and later moved to Tasmania. There were many others who travelled between the two colonies and their movements have been documented where they could be identified. The dataset appears to contain some people who may not have lived in Tasmania but may have been related to someone there, including parents, children and siblings.

The following Wilson datasets have now been made available on BDA:

-) **Tasmanian Victualling Book 1803-1804 (original source):** A transcript of the 1803-1804 victualling list recording all colonists in the settlements at Port Phillip Bay (Sorrento, Victoria) and the Derwent (Hobart, Tasmania) up to 1 January 1805 (source: 'Persons victualled on full allowance at Port Phillip from 17 October 1803 to 31 December 1804 at Hobart Town River Derwent', TNA CO201/43 pp 30-39 AJCP reel 21, published in *Historical Records of Australia* ser 3, vol 1 pp 107-109). The victualling list published in Historical Records of Australia included the names of free persons, but not the names of convicts. The manuscript original on CO201/43 (with convict names included) copied by the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP), can be viewed online in the 'Records of the Colonial Office (as filmed by the AJCP)' in Trove's 'Diaries, Letters & Archives' section on <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
-) **Tasmanian victualling book 1803-1804, analysis by Garry Wilson:** A compilation of the record of an individual victualled during 1803-1804 and later records of the person in musters, birth, death, marriage and other records to create a biographical profile.
-) **Tasmanian musters 1814-1822:** Transcripts of Tasmanian musters for the years 1814, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1822 and a list of signatories to a petition for a Tasmanian Criminal Court in 1815. Together they comprise a total number of 13,024 entries, including many people cross-indexed. The 1814 general muster and 1818 convict muster are archival estrays held in Sydney and have not previously been published (source for 1814 and 1818 musters: Tas Papers 198, microfilm CY 957, Selected Tasmanian Papers, 1821-1877, bequeathed by D.S. Mitchell, 1907, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales). The other musters are from the same sources as versions published in Irene Schaffer (ed). *Land musters, stock returns and lists, Van Diemen's Land 1803-1822*. Hobart: St David's Park Publishing, 1991. The manuscript petition for a Criminal Court dated 15 September 1815 listing many free and emancipist colonists is held in London (ref TNA CO201/78 ff 406-411).

-) **Tasmanian muster of children 1827:** This lists 1403 children (974 in the Hobart district, 429 in the Port Dalrymple district). It includes the full name of child, ages in years and months, residence (in Hobart it names the street), if parents are living, character of one parent, religion, whether at school or not, whether the child can read and write or not and religion. BDA has cross indexed the parents and siblings (when mentioned by name) and linked family groups resulting in 1965 individual entries (source: Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, Hobart, ref CSO 1/918). The list reflected moves to expand the colony's education system to provide for growing numbers of children. A newspaper reported in January 1827 that *'a notice has been sent by the Civil Authorities, through the District Chaplains, to their respective Schoolmasters, requiring a return of the number of children at present under their care, and the state of their education with a view doubtless to increasing their now trifling salaries'* and in June 1827 that *'the Orphan School, so long talked of, and so much needed, is now really to be established at New Norfolk, and on a more substantial footing, if possible, than those of the elder Colony. Returns of all the Orphan children in the Island have been ordered - active preparations, we understand, are being made - and a Gentleman absolutely nominated to take charge of the Establishment'*. (source: *Colonial Times and Tasmanian Advertiser*, Hobart, 26 January 1827 p 3, 22 Jun 1827 p 2).
-) **Tasmanian database 1803-1827, analysis by Garry Wilson:** A compilation of records of each individual from the 1803-1804 victualling list, convict indents, musters, birth, marriage, death and other records to create biographical profiles. It contains 42,000 records of colonists and Aboriginal people who were born in Tasmania or arrived in this period, or who were related to them. This database mostly duplicates and supersedes his earlier database 'Tasmanian victualling book 1805, analysis by Garry Wilson'.

Initially conceived as a similar but separate database to BDA, it has now been incorporated within it. For the time being the 1805 and 1803-1827 datasets have been included separately, but as most of the data within 1805 is repeated in 1803-1827, the two will eventually be merged on receipt of comments and feedback from BDA users.

Garry Wilson's work should be treated as an unfinished work in progress, as a secondary source which can be used as a guide to the creation of standard BDA biographical profiles made up of linked original sources. The Tasmanian database 1803-1827 includes his own research enquiries and many of his editorial comments. Some of these comments reflect his ongoing search for a more complete and accurate picture of each individual's history, rigorously examining the research of others against the benchmark of the original sources.

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BDA subscribers and users are urged to check the original Tasmanian sources in the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office in Hobart (TAHO, many of them digitized online at www.linc.tas.gov.au) or in the Mitchell Library, Sydney.

BDA welcomes feedback, information, suggestions and corrections. These will be used to add new datasets, to correct transcription or linking errors and to link as yet unlinked records from original source transcripts of Tasmanian and Norfolk Island records on BDA.

An evolving and improving body of Norfolk Island and Tasmanian biographical records will be an ongoing tribute to Garry Wilson's and the research of his many contemporaries and predecessors in this field.

Each subscription to BDA will contribute towards the development of an advanced search facility on this website. This will vastly enhance the utility of BDA as a research resource for genealogy and for local, regional and thematic history.

Secondary sources used by Garry Wilson

Following is a selection of sources used by Garry Wilson in compiling his databases:

ADB:

Australian Dictionary of Biography

AUS-NI:

AUS-NORFOLK-IS Mailing List (Rootsweb, an Ancestry community)

<http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/intl/AUS/AUS-NORFOLK-IS.html>

Baxter:

Carol J. Baxter, *Convicts to NSW 1788-1812 : complete listings from the transportation records / compiled and edited by Carol J. Baxter for Society of Australian Genealogists*. [electronic resource: CDROM] Sydney: Society of Australian Genealogists, 2002.

[Baxter can also refer to various publications edited by Carol J Baxter, mainly musters originally published by the Australian Biographical and Genealogical Record which are all now included on Biographical Database of Australia].

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bmchapman:

Barrie and Margaret Chapman, Australia's redcoat settlers [electronic resource], Eagleby, Qld. Barrie and Margaret Chapman, 1997; online at: <http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~garter1/>

Donohoe:

James Hugh Donohoe. *Tasmania 1803-1820: the people and their families*. Sydney: J. Donohoe? c1988.

James Hugh Donohoe. *Norfolk Island, 1788-1813: the people and their families*. Sydney: J. Donohoe, 1986.

Flynn

Michael Flynn. *The Second Fleet: Britain's Grim Convict Armada of 1790*. Sydney: Library of Australian History, 1993 & 2001.

Gillen:

Mollie Gillen. *The Founders of Australia: a Biographical Dictionary of the First Fleet*. Sydney: Library of Australian History, 1989.

Given:

John W. Given. *The 1789/1790 Lady Juliana convicts (with emphasis on those who settled in Van Diemen's Land)* / Cambridge, Tas.: Hobart Town 1804 First Settlers Association, 2000.

John W. Given. *The 1787/1788 First Fleet Marines at Port Jackson, on Norfolk Island and in Van Diemen's Land* / Cambridge, Tas.: Hobart Town 1804 First Settlers Association, 2001.

IGI:

International Genealogical Index, now better known as Familysearch: <https://familysearch.org/search>

Knopwood:

Robert Knopwood. *The diary of the Reverend Robert Knopwood, 1803-1838 : first chaplain of Van Diemen's Land* / edited by Mary Nicholls. Sandy Bay, Tas: Tasmanian Historical Research Association, 1977.

Lord:

Richard Lord (compiler). *Inscriptions in stone: St. David's burial ground, 1804-1872 : a record of some early history of Hobart Town from the head stones of Van Diemen's Land's first cemetery* / Battery Point, Tas.: St. George's Church, 1976.

Schaffer:

Irene Schaffer. *Norfolk Island embarkations to Van Diemen's Land, 1807-1813*. West Pymble, N.S.W.: I. Schaffer, 1986.

Irene Schaffer (ed). *Land musters, stock returns and lists, Van Diemen's Land 1803-1822*. Hobart: St David's Park Publishing, 1991.

Irene Schaffer. *Hobart Town police district land grants 1813-1824*. New Town, Tas.: I. Schaffer, 1991.

Irene Schaffer. *Lady Juliana convicts who came to Van Diemen's Land*. New Town, Tas.: I. Schaffer, 1994.

Irene Schaffer and Thelma McKay, *Exiled! three times over. Profiles of Norfolk Islanders exiled in Van Diemen's Land, 1807-13*, Hobart: St. David's Park, 1992.

Irene Schaffer's Website:

<http://www.tasfamily.net.au/~schaffer/index.php?file=kop1.php>

Sims:

Peter Sims, *The Norfolk Settlers of Norfolk Island and Van Diemen's Land* (Devonport: 1987).

Smee:

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Dr Craig James Smee: *Convict Families that made Australia*, Privately published in three volumes 1999, 2008, 2009.

Tardif:

Phillip Tardif. *Notorious strumpets and dangerous girls: convict women in Van Diemen's Land, 1803-1829*. North Ryde: Angus & Robertson, 1990. [Electronic resource (CD) 2004].

Tipping:

Marjorie Tipping. *Convicts unbound: the story of the Calcutta convicts and their settlement in Australia*. South Yarra, Vic.: Viking O'Neil, 1988.

Uebel:

Lesley Uebel, *The convicts to Port Jackson 1788-1842* / indexed by Lesley Uebel. [electronic resource: CDRom], Lesley Uebel, 2000.

Lesley Uebel's Claim a Convict website:

<http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/claimaconvict/index.php>

Wright:

Reg Wright, Appendix 1 'Population records, 1788-1814' in *Raymond Nobbs (ed), Norfolk Island and its first settlement, 1788-1814*, North Sydney, Library of Australian History 1988: 186-209.

Reg Wright, *The Forgotten Generation of Norfolk Island and Van Diemen's Land*, North Sydney: Library of Australia History, 1986.

Tasmania and Norfolk Island researchers

Garry Wilson referenced the following individuals who contributed information to his Tasmanian and Norfolk Island projects (this list may not be comprehensive):

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Information Page written by Michael Flynn.

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