

## BDA Source Description Pages

<http://www.bda-online.org.au>**Convicts Direct to Victoria 1844-1849 Appendices**

Between 1844 and 1849 nine shiploads of 'exiles' landed at Geelong and Melbourne to begin new lives in the Port Phillip District, soon to be known as the Colony of Victoria. The 1,727 mostly young men and boys classed as exiles were English prisoners from Pentonville, Millbank and Parkhurst Prisons, London, given pardons granting them freedom in the colonies on the condition that they could never return to the United Kingdom. The scheme was initiated by British Home Secretary Lord Stanley.

The exiles were the subject of Dr Colleen Ruth Wood's PhD thesis, titled 'Great Britain's exiles to Port Phillip, 1844-1849: Lord Stanley's experiment' (School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, University of Melbourne, 2014). We thank Dr Wood who has kindly given permission to BDA to add biographical data on the exiles from the thesis appendices. The thesis, including references and appendices, can be viewed on the university's website at:

<https://minerva-access.unimelb.edu.au/handle/11343/51010>

The exiles were not strictly convicts because the courts had not actually sentenced them to transportation. In his book *The Convict Ships 1787-1868* Charles Bateson records 13 ships carrying exiles in this category and also notes that some of the convicts were landed at Geelong, with most landed at Melbourne.

There are 2,253 exiles named in the thesis (some appear several times in various tables) and with secondary persons mentioned the dataset contains 3,181 entries.

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