

BDA Source Description Pages

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Convict Death Register NSW 1828-1879

The Convict Death Register is a series of volumes recording details of convicts who died in New South Wales between 1828 and 1879. Most of those whose deaths were recorded were still under sentence when they died. Some pardoned or time-expired convicts were included, but the majority were not. The register was maintained by the Principal Superintendent of Convicts until 1855, and subsequently the Inspector General of Police. It includes some serving convicts who died in what is now Queensland when Moreton Bay was a penal settlement and a few convicts in what is now Victoria, most or all in Melbourne.

New South Wales State Archives holds the original, titled 'Convict Death Register 1828-1879' ref: NRS 12213, 4/4549, as well as a microfiche copy (SR Fiche 749-751), a microfilm copy (SR Reel 690) and a photocopy (COD16).

The original registers have been digitized online by Ancestry.com.au.

This BDA dataset containing 6,960 entries has been adapted and edited from a transcript of the original first published by Lesley Uebel in about 2001 as 'Convict Deaths 1828-1879' in a CD titled 'The Port Jackson convicts anthology indexed by Lesley Uebel'.

The original register usually records name, ship of arrival, age, date of burial, location and occasionally other details of employer, circumstances of death and difficulties in identifying the convict. Editorial comments by Lesley Uebel appear occasionally. The convict's age is not always recorded. The names appearing in the employer field are more often than not the name of a clergyman or magistrate reporting the death.

The late Ms Uebel's index was done independently of the indexes for this dataset by Ancestry and State Archives New South Wales. It has been added to BDA with permission. Many of the deaths have been linked by BDA to a convict's biographical report.

Information Page written by Michael Flynn 2021.

For of all Convict records included in the BDA see:

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

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