

BDA Source Description Pages

<https://www.bda-online.org.au>**Unassisted Passengers to Sydney 1838-1841 and select lists of passengers arriving Sydney and Port Dalrymple 1795-1813**

This dataset includes:

-) A full transcript of records of about 10,500 unassisted free passengers arriving at Sydney from ports in Australia and overseas between 1838 and 1841.
-) A partial list unassisted free passengers arriving at the ports of Sydney and Port Dalrymple 1795, 1799, 1800, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1813.
-) A list of assisted immigrants arriving at Sydney on four ships from England in 1841-1842 (temporarily at this location, to be transferred to an assisted immigrant dataset).

Unassisted free passengers arriving at Sydney from other ports in Australia waters and from overseas ports 1838-1841

This dataset is a full transcript of passenger lists compiled by Sydney port officials assessing the health status of passengers and crew arriving from ports in Australian waters or from overseas ports in the years 1838-1841.

These archival records are located in State Archives New South Wales (SANSW) at NRS 1291 under the title 'Reports of vessels arrived (or Shipping reports) NRS 1291' which covers the years 1826-1859, reference Jul 1826-1853 (4/5198-5244), 1854-Apr 1859 (4/5245-51).

They have been digitized online by Ancestry.com.au within their online collection titled 'Australia, Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1826-1922' and by Findmypast.com.au under their online collection titled 'New South Wales unassisted passenger lists'.

Passenger details for the years 1838-1841 have been transcribed and indexed for this BDA dataset from the SANSW references 4/5213-4/5220. The exact source

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references can be checked by clicking on 'About' in the Source column in the right-hand column in a Biographical Report.

Details transcribed are the name of ship and captain, port and date of arrival, port of departure and date of departure, if available. The names of the passengers are usually given if they were unassisted immigrants paying their own fare, usually with an indication of whether they were cabin passengers with more expensive accommodation, poor ordinary steerage passengers or soldiers and their families. More than 10,500 unassisted immigrants are included from the years 1838-1841 as free immigration peaked before the early 1840s economic depression. .

The ships recorded include large immigrant and convict ships as well as merchant ships arriving from the British Isles and other places around the world, including non-British shipping. The records also include ships arriving from other ports in Australian waters, including from Tasmania, Norfolk Island, New Zealand and other parts of the South Pacific near Australia.

The numbers of any crewmen, convicts, soldiers and assisted immigrants and their children on arriving ships are noted, but their names are not usually given on these records, because they were recorded separately in musters of arriving ships' crews, soldiers and convicts.

This record set is most useful in recording the names and port of origin of unassisted passengers who had paid their own fare. In some cases, only the numbers but not the names, of steerage passengers are given.

Details of the passengers' occupation, titles or status are given in some cases and married couples, family groups are often indicated.

For more information see: <https://mhns.wa.gov.au/collections/state-archives-collection/>

A partial list unassisted or free passengers arriving at the ports of Sydney and Port Dalrymple 1795, 1799, 1800, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1813

This dataset is the beginning of a project to add to the extensive but incomplete indexed transcripts of arriving free unassisted passengers in Australian ports not already included on these BDA datasets:

Arrivals & Departures NSW 1788-1825

Free Passengers to NSW 1826-1837

The records for 1795-1813 newly added to BDA in 2024 are for several hundred free passengers arriving at the ports of Sydney and Port Dalrymple (near Launceston, Tasmania) in the years 1795, 1799, 1800, 1807, 1808, 1809 and 1813. They are not a complete record of all immigrants arriving in these years.

Some of the people travelling from the British Isles to Australia in this period may have received some government contribution towards the cost of their passage. But they travelled under a different system to the public-private partnership that created the system of assisted Immigration to the Australian colonies in the 1820s.

Records used mainly derive from logbooks or correspondence relating to naval vessels or merchant vessels under contract to government transferring passengers from the British Isles to Australia or from Norfolk Island to Tasmania.

This includes records of the transfer of settlers in 1807-1813 from Norfolk Island to Tasmania recorded in the papers of the New South Wales Colonial Secretary (SANSW ref 4/1168B, 4/1169).

Also used are the passenger records of the ship *Sovereign* in 1795 and the naval ships *HMS Buffalo* and *HMS Porpoise* transferring passengers from England to Australia in 1799-1800 are located in UK Archives (ref TNA T1/797).

In future other similar records for other ships transferring passengers to Australia or within Australian waters 1788-1837 will be added to BDA.

A list of assisted immigrants arriving at Sydney 1841-1842 on four ships from England (temporarily at this location, to be transferred at a later date to an assisted immigrant dataset).

This section of the dataset relates to four ships sailing from England to Sydney in with only partially transcribed details of 997 assisted immigrants (the *Lady Clarke* 1841) and the *William Sharples*, *Theresa* and *Earl of Durham* (1842). Full details for the *Lady Clarke* immigrants are already on BDA in the dataset 'Passenger

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Entitlement Certificates for persons on Bounty Ships 1838-1841'. Full details for the *William Sharples, Theresa and Earl of Durham* will be added to this dataset at a future date.

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For more detailed information about the different types of passenger records included in the BDA see:

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

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