

BDA Source Description Pages

<http://www.bda-online.org.au>**Unassisted Passenger Arrivals – Sydney – 1842-1857**

This is a major addition to the BDA Database. It comes with the kind permission of the compilers, Aileen Trinder & Pat Fearnley (Pastkeys)

PO Box 116 Rockdale NSW 2216 Australia.

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The original notes appear below, followed by BDA editing.

UNASSISTED ARRIVALS TO SYDNEY (NSW) - INTRODUCTION***Historical Background***

Compilation of this index was commenced in February 1989 by Aileen Trinder and Pat Fearnley of Pastkeys.

The limitations of the affordable software available at that time governed the amount of data that could be entered in a record to enable the publication on a single line of print, all that was possible then. Accordingly, we decided on a layout to incorporate the full name in one field with the surname in block capitals followed by any first name or initial and then the title and any other unnamed family members; ie SMITH J Mr, Mrs, 4Chn. If members of the family were individually named, they were entered separately with a cross-reference to all of the family in the Remarks. This limitation at times also necessitated the abbreviation of the departure ports if several were mentioned in the original records although we always tried to keep the main departure port as recorded in the records.

The index for the period 1842-1855 in this format was published in 1994 on microfiche. When it was decided to publish all of the Pastkeys indexes on CD-ROM, it was also decided to extend the period covered in the *Unassisted Arrivals Index* by adding over 30,000 additional records to include the 1856 arrivals making a total number of 166,851 entries. This field-searchable version being published as the *Unassisted Arrivals to Sydney (NSW)* now has over 25,000 records added to include the 1857 arrivals and now contains 191,892 entries. It would have been impossibly time-consuming to re-check all of the original records for the earlier period to replace any abbreviated entries that we had made that were recorded in full in the originals. Of course, many original records were abbreviated also and this was another reason why we couldn't just replace all abbreviated entries.

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The first CD-ROM publication of the index for the period 1842-1856 was midway through 2006. This publication was in the form of PDF files and searchable with Adobe Reader. The current publication of the index covers the period 1842-1857 and this publication enables quick searches on most of the individual data fields and offers far more flexibility to researchers.

The compilers have, during the course of the project, which has taken many years, been meticulous in checking and re-checking entries multiple times, to ensure the utmost accuracy, but the sheer numbers of names, and the at times almost unreadable handwriting in the records, may mean that an occasional item has been misinterpreted. We have tried to make allowance for this by listing all possible variants, but no responsibility is accepted for any errors. Spelling errors or apparent errors in the original record have not been corrected and names are reproduced exactly if unambiguous in the record. We recommend that researchers always check the original record.

Each entry in the index has been designated a status of master, crew or passenger with the crew members only being listed from 1854 onwards.

Often it was found that the departure port stated in the original record was interstate only, whereas the Sydney Morning Herald indicated that the voyage originated overseas. Where this was the case, the additional information is shown in the Remarks column.

Source Material

This index for Sydney arrivals has been compiled from three State Records New South Wales sources [see detailed list]:

- | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Colonial Secretary; NRS 1291, Reports of Vessels Arrived 1842-56 [Reels 1269-1283] |
| • Immigration; NRS 5326, Passengers Arriving at Sydney 1846 [X26; Reel 2457] |
| • Shipping Master's Office; NRS 13278, Passengers Arriving, 1854-57 [Reels 399-405] |

All passengers named in these records (including persons such as those mentioned in health reports, listed as having died on board, or who, as in one instance, signed a petition complaining about conditions on board) have been included and cross-checked with passengers named in the shipping intelligence columns of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. The passenger lists from the SMH have themselves, from 1844, been compared with the lists published in *The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List*, a weekly publication reproducing shipping information from the Sydney Morning Herald as, on occasion, the passenger lists of the two papers differed. All variations among each of these sources have been noted in the index – where minor, in the remarks column only and, where substantially different, as a separate entry. For ease

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of searching, if the SMH has provided a full forename where the original record had only an initial, the full name has been placed in the index and not in the remarks column or a note has been made in the remarks. If there was only a surname listed in the original records and no title was noted, we recorded these surnames with 'Unknown' in place of a forename.

Occasionally, in the course of cross-checking with the newspapers, we noticed other lists of names; for example, passengers who placed an advertisement thanking the captain for a safe voyage, or passengers and crew involved in shipwrecks, and where these names were not otherwise in either the State Records NSW reels or the shipping arrivals column, we included them; but it would have been impossibly time-consuming to seek out these advertisements and include them as a matter of course.

For the 1857 records alone, we have also included in the remarks whether the people were cabin or steerage passengers, if that was noted in the records. If an occupation has been noted in the records, we have included that information in the remarks. While transcribing the 1857 year, we found two pages that had been missed in the microfilming of the originals and transcriptions of these have been included with a direct reference to the original register. Digital scans of these two pages are available from State Records NSW; also, one of the pages has been included in the illustrations on the CD. Many of the ships arriving in Sydney in 1857 and particularly those from Melbourne during the NSW goldrush carried miners. From mid- to late April 1857 onwards, some of these ships no longer listed the crew.

For full details of the sources and location of this source material, see the original CD, available in some libraries and the State Records New South Wales website www.records.nsw.gov.au

Ships from German Ports

We particularly wish to draw to the attention of any users of the index seeking arrivals of German immigrants the extreme difficulty we had transcribing the handwriting of those ships. Although we consulted interpreters, there is no guarantee that the names are correct and for this reason we have included a list of ships from German ports and strongly recommend that, if looking for a German passenger, searchers check for themselves each ship listing. Abbreviations are: (M): Master, (S): Ship, SR: State Records New South Wales, R: Reel, HO: Health Officer's, SMH: *Sydney Morning Herald* and SGT: *The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List*.

Foreign or Special Characters

The names of some of the passengers on ships from foreign ports were sometimes written using foreign characters such as the umlaut. These names were indexed using

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English alphabet standard characters so all searches need to be made using these standard characters.

Names - Transcription and Spelling Problems

It was often difficult to transcribe particular letters and ones that were easily confused included: T, F and J; I and J; L and S; B and R; s and f; a and ei; and u and n. Also, many names were obviously incorrectly spelt but have been transcribed as they appear in the records.

Abbreviations

SR/SRNSW	State Records New South Wales
C	Crew
M	Master
P	Passenger
SGT	The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List
SMH	Sydney Morning Herald
SMO	Shipping Master's Office

Chapman Codes have been used in the Remarks column for some of the earlier entries as an indication of the native place noted for that individual in the original record.

UNASSISTED ARRIVALS TO SYDNEY (NSW) - SOURCES

Sources - Details

The reel numbers given in the records are those of the State Records New South Wales. In the *Reports of Vessels Arrived* series for the period 1842-53, they are also available at State Records in photocopy form. See also the CD for the [Missing Ships List](#).

Colonial Secretary; NRS 1291, Reports of Vessels Arrived 1842-56 [no 1857 records]

Reel	Dates		Photocopy	Original
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1269	1842	Jan - 27 Jun	COD 43	4/5221
1269	1842	30 Jun - Dec	COD 44	4/5222
1270	1843	Jan - Jun	COD 45	4/5223
1270	1843	Jul - Dec	COD 46	4/5224
1271	1844	Jan - Jun	COD 47	4/5225
1271	1844	Jul - Dec	COD 48	4/5226
1272	1845	Jan - Apr	COD 49	4/5227
1272	1845	May - Jun	COD 50	4/5227
1272	1845	Jul - Aug	COD 50	4/5228
1272	1845	Sep - Dec	COD 51	4/5228
1273	1846	Jan - Apr*	COD 52	4/5229
1273	1846	May - Jun*	COD 53	4/5229
1273	1846	Jul - Aug	COD 53	4/5230
1273	1846	Sep - Dec	COD 54	4/5230
1274	1847	Jan - Mar	COD 55	4/5231
1274	1847	Apr - Jun	COD 56	4/5231
1274	1847	Jul - Sep	COD 57	4/5232
1274	1847	Oct - Dec	COD 58	4/5232
1275	1848	Jan - Mar	COD 59A & B	4/5233
1275	1848	Apr - Jun	COD 60A & B	4/5233
1275	1848	Jul - Sep	COD 61	4/5234
1275	1848	Oct - Dec	COD 62	4/5234
1276	1849	Jan - Mar	COD 63	4/5235
1276	1849	Apr - Jun	COD 64	4/5235
1276	1849	Jul - Sep	COD 65	4/5236

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1276	1849	Oct - Dec	COD 66	4/5236
1277	1850	Jan - Mar	COD 91	4/5237
1277	1850	Apr - Jun	COD 92	4/5237
1277	1850	Jul - Sep	COD 93	4/5238
1277	1850	Oct - Dec	COD 94	4/5238
1278	1851	Jan - Mar	COD 95	4/5239
1278	1851	Apr - Jun	COD 96	4/5239
1278	1851	Jul - Sep	COD 97	4/5240
1278	1851	Oct - Dec	COD 98	4/5240
1279	1852	Jan - Mar	COD 99	4/5241
1279	1852	Apr - Jun	COD 100	4/5241
1279	1852	Jul - Sep	COD 101	4/5242
1279	1852	Oct - Dec	COD 102	4/5242
1280	1853	Jan - Mar	COD 103	4/5243
1280	1853	Apr - Jun	COD 104	4/5243
1280	1853	Jul - Sep	COD 105	4/5244
1280	1853	Oct - Dec	COD 106	4/5244
1281	1854	Jan - Jun		4/5245
1281	1854	Jul - Dec		4/5246
1282	1856	Jan - Mar		4/5247A
1282	1856	Apr - Jun		4/5247B
1283	1856	Jul - Sep		4/5248A
1283	1856	Oct - Dec		4/5248B

* Bound in wrong order (ie. Jan, 1 Feb, 4 May - June, 1 Feb - 1 May)

Shipping

Master's Office; NRS 13278, Passengers Arriving 1854-57

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Reel	Dates		Original (Kingswood)
399	1854	Jan - Jun	X90
400	1854	Jul - Dec	X91
401	1855	Jan - Jun	X92
402	1855	Jul - Dec	X93
403	1856	Jan - Jun	X94
404	1856	Jul - Dec	X95
404	1857	Jan - Jun	X96
405	1857	Jul - Dec *	X97

*N.B.	<i>Dunbar</i> wrecked 20 August 1857. List of passengers and crew lost in 2/642A, photocopy COD 393. Printed list of passengers and crew in Mitchell Library at 656.597 (Copy at SRNSW at Reference Desk)
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Immigration; NRS 5326, Passengers Arriving At Sydney 1846

Sources - Location

Microfilm reels of two of the State Records New South Wales series – *Colonial Secretary; NRS 1291, Reports of Vessels Arrived 1842-56 [Reels 1269-1283]* and *Shipping Master's Office; NRS 13278, Passengers Arriving, 1854-57 [Reels 399-405]* – are included in the SRNSW Archives Resources Kit (formerly called Genealogical Research Kit) and this kit is available at State Records' Regional Repositories as well as at State Community Access Points. It is also available at many libraries, both metropolitan and country and interstate.

The microfilm reel for the source *Immigration; NRS 5326, Passengers Arriving at Sydney 1846 [Reel 2457]* is not included in the SRNSW Archives Resources Kit. The reel can be purchased from State Records. This source is unique for NSW records of unassisted passengers because it contains far greater background detail than is usual in these unassisted passage records. The information for each ship records the name of the vessel, type, tonnage, master, place and date of sailing, length of voyage and

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date of arrival. For each passenger, there are details of name, age, native place, calling and whether settler or visitor.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* newspaper is available on microfilm at State, National and many other libraries and may also be borrowed locally through the inter-library loan system. The SMH up to 1955 has been digitised by the National Library of Australia and is available online at www.trove.nla.gov.au . The shipping lists are located in the shipping intelligence column generally located on page 2.

The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List is available at the State Library New South Wales and the Mitchell Library on microfilm. It has also been digitised by the National Library of Australia from March 1844 to the end of 1855 only and is available at <http://www.nla.gov.au/ferg> located under the letter S.

Ship Lists Missed from Microfilming

Initially when transcribing the shipping lists, the compilers worked from the COD lists which were photocopy prints of the microfilmed lists of the series: *Colonial Secretary; NRS 1291, Reports of Vessels Arrived*. Occasionally, when the COD list was illegible, we were given access to the original register and transcribed directly from that. We found later that there were lists that we had transcribed from the original register that had been missed in the filming. If a search of this index discloses a SRNSW Reel reference for a ship list and you cannot find it on the microfilm or the COD list, it is then possible to view the original register at State Records NSW Western Sydney repository at Kingswood.

While indexing the 1857 year from the only surviving SRNSW series, *Shipping Master's Office; NRS 13278, Passengers Arriving*, the compilers found two pages that were missed from the microfilming of the ship lists and the originals do exist. These lists were the second page of the *Mary Ann* which arrived on 19 March 1857 from London and the first page of the *Orwell* which arrived on 29 September 1857 from Dublin Ireland. The second page of the *Mary Ann* contained the names of nine crew members and those records have been noted with the reference to the original register [X96]. The first page of the *Orwell* contained the names of 59 crew members and passengers and those records have been noted with the reference to that particular register [X97]. Digital images of these missing pages are available from State Records NSW, price quoted on application; although images of both pages of the *Orwell* ship list will be found in the illustrations contained in these Help Notes. The first page of the *Mary Ann* is referenced to the reel number 404 and the second page of the *Orwell* is referenced to the reel number 405.

Shipping Master's Office - Missing Ship List 1854-1857

There are missing shipping lists in the *Reports of Vessels Arrived* series although there is no actual record of these and often the only indication of a ship's arrival in that series

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is the survival of some of the Health Officer's Reports. In the *Shipping Master's Office – Passengers Arriving* series, the missing ship lists are recorded. Passengers for many of these ships have been listed in the *Sydney Morning Herald* or *The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List* and these passengers are included in this index. We have included notation of these missing SMO lists and also compiled a separate list.

Sources - Illustrations

The following illustrations are examples of the original sources used in this index.

Shipping list for the *Jane Goudie* arrived 16 April 1844 from Port Phillip [4/5225, Reel 1271]. The series reference is: *Colonial Secretary; CGS 1291, Reports of Vessels Arrived 1826-April 1859*. Published with permission of State Records NSW.

Also in this series, there were quite often Health Officer's Reports for the vessels. In some cases, only the Health Officer's Report survived. This is the Health Officer's Report for the *Cremona* which departed Dartmouth on 10 Dec 1843 and arrived Sydney on 8 April 1844 [4/5225, Reel 1271]. The series reference is: *Colonial Secretary; CGS 1291, Reports of Vessels Arrived 1826-April 1859*. Published with permission of State Records NSW.

Shipping list for the *Mary Ross* arrived 11 February 1856 from Hamburg via Hobart Town [X94, Reel 403]. The series is: *Shipping Master's Office; NRS 13278, Passengers Arriving, 1854-1922*. Published with permission of State Records NSW.

Portion of the shipping list for the *Walter Hood* arrived 7 April 1856 from London [X94, Reel 403]. The series is: *Shipping Master's Office; NRS 13278, Passengers Arriving, 1854-1922*. Published with permission of State Records NSW.

Shipping list for the *Perseverance* arrived 7 February 1846 from Auckland [X26; Reel 2457]. The series reference is: *Immigration; NRS 5326, Passengers Arriving at Sydney 1846*. Published with permission of State Records NSW.

Shipping list for the *Orwell* arr. 29 Sep 1857 from Dublin Ireland. The series is: *Shipping Master's Office; NRS 13278, Passengers Arriving, 1854-1922* [X97 [p1 unfiled, p2 filmed]; Reel 405]. Published with permission of State Records NSW.

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Shipping list for the *Governor General* arr. 2 Apr 1857 from Melbourne. The series is: Shipping Master's Office, NRS 13278, Passengers Arriving 1854-1922. [X96, Reel 404]. Published with permission of State Records NSW.

The Shipping Intelligence column from the *Sydney Morning Herald* on Monday 29 July 1850 p2 listing the arrivals on 27 and 28 July of the ships: *Shamrock* from Launceston; *Santipore* from Port Phillip; *Prince of Wales* from Port Phillip and Circular Head; *Wild Irish Girl* from Adelaide; with named passengers.

The Shipping Intelligence column from the *Sydney Morning Herald* on Wednesday 31 July 1850 p2 listing the arrivals on 30 July of the ships: *Tippoo Saib* from Plymouth; *Nautilus* from Hokianga; *Monarch* from Auckland; *Eagle* from Moreton Bay; with named passengers.

The front page of *The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List* of 23 March 1844.

Arrivals and Departures lists from *The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List* of 23 March 1844 p2.

UNASSISTED ARRIVALS TO SYDNEY (NSW) – OTHER INFORMATION

About the Compilers

The compilers of the index on this CD-ROM publication are Aileen Trinder and Pat Fearnley, the proprietors of Pastkeys (ABN 73 330 585 744), who may be contacted by mail at 5 Garbala Road, Gymea NSW 2227 Australia.

Aileen and Pat met on the first Society of Australian Genealogists Irish Tour in 1984 and shared an interest in their Irish heritage. After their return, they both volunteered to assist on the Australian Biographical Genealogical Record, a Bicentennial Project, where the aim was to record the arrival in Australia of everyone up to 1841. That awakened an interest in indexing immigration records. Over the past twenty three years, they, as Pastkeys, have indexed and published a wide range of genealogical indexes including the following now available on six CD-ROMs in PDF which include images of samples of the original resources and these publications require the installation of Adobe Reader:

•	Immigration Deposit Indexes includes two indexes:
•	Immigration Deposit Journals (NSW) Index 1853-1900

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• Immigration Deposit Regulations Supplementary Index 1856-1857
• Free Railway Passes (NSW) Index 1880-1892
• Convicts & Employers (NSW) Index: 1828, 1832-1833, Jan 1838-Jan 1844
• Deane Index Re-Indexed 1823-1840
• Pastkeys Miscellaneous Indexes includes three indexes:
• Unclaimed Letters (Noting Ship or Regiment) Index 1836-1852
• Unemployed Registers 1860, 1884 Index
• Wages Paid to Orphans Index 1849-1851
• Unassisted Arrivals (NSW) Index 1842-1856 and Ships & Master's to Sydney Index 1842-1856

These indexes had been published as 10 separate sets on microfiche from the publication of the first one, the *Immigration Deposit Journals Index 1853-1900*, in 1988 up to the last but one, the *Free Railway Passes (NSW) Index 1880-1892*, in 2003; although the Unassisted Arrivals and Ships & Masters Indexes were only published in that media for the period 1842-1855 and the addition of the 1856 year is only available in the CD-ROM publication.

An additional publication also on CD-ROM in PDF is:

• **Passenger Arrivals at Port Phillip and Other Victorian Ports Index 1846**

As the PDF files did not provide a facility to do searches on specific fields or a combination of them or to sort the data found and print or export the individual detail search, it was decided to republish this Unassisted Arrivals Index, the largest one, in the current format adding the transcriptions for an additional year, 1857, from the single surviving State Records NSW series and including the additions from cross-checking with the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List*. The search software is written by Rex and Yvonne Toomey of Ezitree Family History Software and this version will give researchers far more flexibility and enable them to use the data more effectively for their own research.

The first indexing project was undertaken by Aileen and Pat in 1986 when they knew nothing about computers nor owned them. That index was compiled on Apple IIc computers bought especially for that project and one of those computers was eventually upgraded to an Apple IIGS. As the index contained over 67,000 entries and

it was sorted in both Immigrant and Depositor order, it was quite a task. There is a vast difference in the technology used today.

Acknowledgements

State Records New South Wales

We thank Christine Yeats, Gail Davis and so many other officers at State Records NSW who have provided us with so much willing assistance over many years while we have been indexing several of the copyright record series in their resources. Their assistance has been invaluable.

Rex Toomey FSAG and Yvonne Toomey of Ezitree Family History Software

This publication has been possible through Rex's meticulous and invaluable expertise and we are truly grateful to him and proud of what is now available as a result of his many helpful and experienced suggestions to enhance the search facility. He has been ever ready to include any enhancements that were suggested and to solve any search problems that were found. We appreciate all of the time that he has given to enabling this publication to be possible.

Alan Phillips (Gould Genealogy)

We thank Alan for his assistance with the publication of the first edition on CD-ROM of this and our other indexes in PDF and his helpful advice on those publications.

Martin Beckett (formerly of the Original Materials Branch, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, now retired)

Although Martin Beckett hasn't been involved in our indexing of the Unassisted Arrivals, we would like to extend special thanks to him because one day, without knowing us and on hearing us comment that we would like to re-index the Deane Index as a composite one instead of having to search the separate volumes, he advised that it had just been microfilmed and entrusted us with a microfilm each so that we could compile the index at home. We left the Mitchell Library on the same day with these films in our possession. He has been ever ready to provide assistance ever since for which we thank him.

Aileen Trinder & Pat Fearnley

Pastkeys

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BDA Editing

In order to comply with BDA editing criteria a number of changes have been made including changing ship and place names to their correct spelling to allow for advanced

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searching. Other details such as a Military Regiment have been placed in their respective field also allowing for searching.

Because the Database is column based, we had to manipulate a considerable amount of data.

Some entries have been deleted as they were duplicates with different source references which have been combined. This has resulted in a final tally of 192,141 entries.

We acknowledge the work of John Ross of Surry Hills, NSW who spent a lot of time editing various aspects of the Dataset, including adding links between family groups, and marking those arrivals which were not the first arrival of the named person.

A number of ships for a single arrival have two masters noted in different sources e.g. *Acacia* arriving 1 Nov 1853 has both Captain E T Bennett and Captain R S Smith. Both have been cross indexed.

Words in square brackets [xxxx] in the text are an editorial addition.

The Index had a field headed Arrived From in which multiple names were given for many people. Other place names were mentioned in Remarks. It is impossible to work out if the first place mentioned was where the ship started the voyage or where the passenger joined the ship or it could even have been where the passenger was born.

Lizard is sometimes mentioned. It could refer to Lizard Point in Cornwall or Lizard Island off the Queensland coast east of Cooktown.

Belfast often means Port Fairy in Victoria. Port Fairy was originally named such, then for a number of years as Belfast and then reverted to Port Fairy to this day. Liverpool means the city in England. Canterbury could be either England or New Zealand. The Downs means an area of the English Channel near Deal, Kent, south of the entrance to the River Thames, England.

Historical resources available from the BDA Shop

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

For other Passenger records included in the BDA see

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

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