

## BDA Source Description Pages

<http://www.bda-online.org.au>**Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania)****Land and stock musters and lists 1803, 1804, 1807, 1809**

These documents list persons holding land and stock in the years 1803, 1804, 1807 and 1809 in the new settlements around Hobart and Port Dalrymple, Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania).

They name the owners and renters of land and itemize their crops and stock (farm animals). The more detailed 1807 and 1809 documents record the numbers of wives and children and the number of servants (employees) of each landholder is itemized in 1807. Starting with just four individuals in 1803, a total of 151 settlers are listed for the Hobart, Port Dalrymple and South Esk Districts by 1809.

In a predominantly rural colonial society land and farm animals were the nucleus of a new private sector. Most of the earliest landholders were male free settlers, emancipists and officials from England, but in 1804 two women, Martha Hayes (mistress of Commandant John Bowen and daughter of convict Mary Hayes alias Denight) and recently widowed Sarah Piroelle, were landholders in their own right. In 1809 Saib Sultan (a free immigrant sailor who was probably a Lascar of Indian Muslim origin) at New Norfolk, was also a landholder.

This dataset contains 260 entries with an additional six cross reference entries. It was compiled by the late BDA editor Garry Wilson (1949-2013) as part of his study of the people of colonial Tasmania. These musters and lists are also reproduced in Irene Schaffer (ed) *Land Musters, Stock Returns and Lists: Van Diemen's Land 1803-1822*, St David's Park Publishing, Hobart, 1991.

A muster of landholders in and around Hobart Town in October 1806 has not been included in this collection. Source: (original): not available (copies): Bonwick Transcripts, Manuscripts Section, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales Sydney ML BT Box 2 pp 260-261 and at *HRA* ser 3 vol 1 pp 382-383.

**1803 List of settlers holding stock at Risdon Cove**

'Returns of Government Stock at Risdon Cove / Return of Private Stock'

## BDA Source Description Pages

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Source (original): not available; (copy): Bonwick Transcripts, Manuscripts Section, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales Sydney (ref BT Box 1 pp 101-103).

This document was transcribed by the Australian historian James Bonwick, between 1887 and 1893, probably from a Colonial Office archive held in London. It was one of a series of returns (lists) compiled by the Commandant Lieutenant John Bowen. This one lists stock privately held by Bowen, Surgeon Jacob Mountgarrett and two settlers.

### **1804 Lists of officials and landholders' stock at Hobart and Port Dalrymple**

Details of Hobart officials in 1804 appearing on list 1 and list 2 have been merged for the purposes of this database.

1. 'Return of Live Stock in His Majesty's settlement, Derwent River, Van Diemen's Land, 4th Augt 1804'

Source(original): TNA CO201/35 p 168 reel 17 (copies): Bonwick Transcripts, Manuscripts Section, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales Sydney ML BT Box 4 p 832 and at *HRA* ser 3 vol 1 p 255.

The 4 August 1804 return was appended by the commandant, David Collins, in his dispatch to Governor King dated 31 July 1804 and found its way to England where it was archived in the Colonial Office, Secretary of State Correspondence, Hobart Town 1804'. In the dispatch Collins mentions the return of stock and the reason for its compilation:

'The satisfaction, that I experienced when I saw the Ocean anchor in Sullivan Cove on the 25th Ultó., was considerably lessened on learning that she had had a tempestuous Passage of Thirty two days from Port Phillip, during which by far the greater part of the Stock, which I had left behind me, had either died or been killed. The inclosed Return will shew the number embarked, and, by comparing it with the return of those which were landed, you will perceive the loss which the Settlement has sustained.'

In the same dispatch Collins mentions a return of land cultivated but the document does not appear to have survived:

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that all the Grain, which I have seen, looks and promises extremely well I inclose a Return of the Ground in cultivation, which would have been doubled, had the whole of the Establishment landed here together. The Settlers, who came with me from England, do not hold out much hopes of my drawing any aid from their Exertions. This I speak with one or two Exceptions. I have, however, to observe that as yet they have not had much aid from me. I purpose,

## BDA Source Description Pages

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however, so soon as my Sick recover, to leave them no room to complain on that Head.'

2. 'RETURN of the Officers, Superintendents, and Overseers belonging to the Civil Establishment at Hobart Town, River Derwent, Van Diemen's Land. [July, 1804.]

Source (original): not available; (copies): Bonwick Transcripts, Manuscripts Section, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales Sydney ML BT Box 1 p 306 and at HRA ser 3 vol 1 p 263.

3. Various officials appointed by Governor King to go to Port Dalrymple, October 1804

Source (original): not available (copies): Bonwick Transcripts, Manuscripts Section, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales Sydney ML BT Box 3 p 505.

### **1807 List of Hobart settlers itemizing stock and household members**

1. Return of cultivation by settlers at Hobart Town, 14 July 1807,

Source (original): TNA CO201/44 p 289 reel 22.

This return (microfilmed from the Colonial Office, Secretary of State Correspondence, Port Jackson 1807 in the UK National Archives) lists landholders in and around Hobart specifying acreage, crops stock and number of wives, children and servants

2. Cultivation and stock at Port Dalrymple, 24 April 1807

Source (original): not confirmed (copy): Bonwick Transcripts, Manuscripts Section, Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales Sydney ML BT Box 2 p 5458.

This less detailed return traced only in a Bonwick transcript lists settlers with acreage, garden and stock in and around Port Dalrymple.

### **1809**

'Returns of a general muster held in His Majesty's Settlement on the River Derwent, Van Diemen's Land, with the Number of Acres located to them, the Quantity of Grain cultivated, and the livestock thereon [10 May 1809].

## BDA Source Description Pages

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The original of this document appears in the British Colonial Office's Secretary of State correspondence file for Hobart Town, 1809. It records a muster of landholders in the Derwent Valley region around Hobart mentioning farm localities at or near New Norfolk, Clarence Plains, Risdon, New Town, Sandy Bay, Browns River and Herdsmans Cove.

The muster records the status or occupation of the landholder, total acres held, acreage in wheat, and barley and the number of horses, cattle, sheep, goats and swine (pigs) owned by each landholder. The number of landholders victualed (receiving a public ration) is noted, along with the numbers of spouses and children victualed, providing an important indicator of family structure among the colonists.

Source (original): TNA CO201/52 pp 23-27 reel 26; (copy) *HRA* ser 3 vol 1 pp 422-431.

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These Information Pages written by Michael Flynn

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