Now&Then 67 - April 2014

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New Director for State Records

Geoff Hinchcliffe has been appointed as the new Director of State Records.

Geoff comes to State Records with broad senior operations experience in both the public and private sectors. For the past three years Geoff has worked in a senior capacity at the State Library of NSW, with a key role in the Library's digitisation program.

Geoff starts with State Records in late April 2014.

Easter/Anzac Day Opening Days

Below are our reading room opening days for the Easter and Anzac Day long weekend period:

Day/Date	Status
Friday 18 April (Good Friday)	Closed
Saturday 19 April (Easter Saturday)	Closed
Monday 21 April (Easter Monday)	Closed
Tuesday 22 April	Open
Wednesday 23 April	Open
Thursday 24 April	Open
Friday 25 April (ANZAC DAY)	Closed
Saturday 26 April	Closed
Monday 28 April	Open

Online News

We have recently added these digital images of records to *Archives Investigator* (AI).

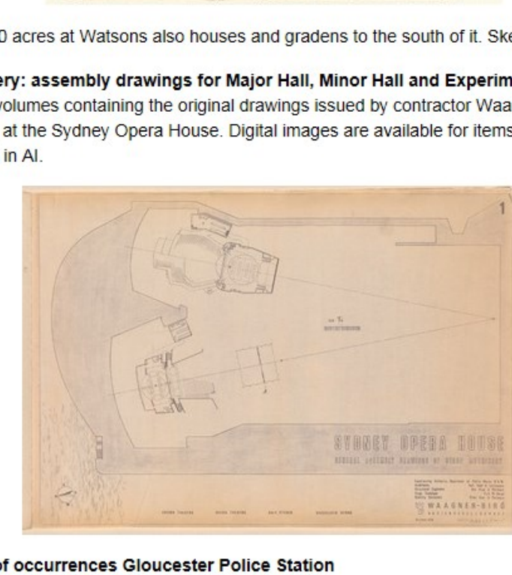
- **NRS 13886, Sketch Books [Surveyor General], 1828-1890**

  A project to digitise all 29 volumes in NRS 13886, Sketch Books, is currently under way. So far we have completed five volumes. You can view a selection of images in AI listed under the item details for Volume one.

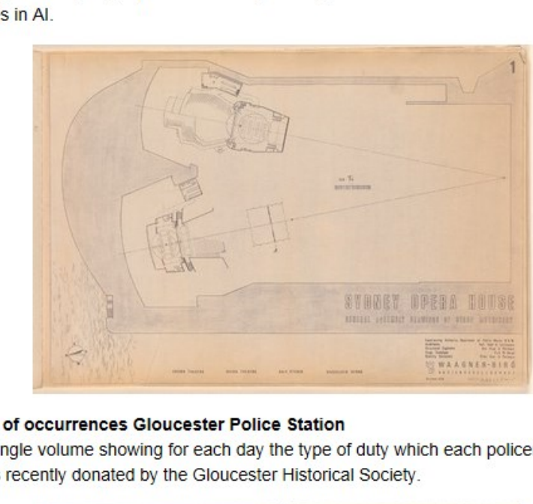
  We are progessively adding the images so not all those listed in AI have been uploaded yet. We will keep you posted on what volumes have been completed. For more information on the records of the Surveyor General see Archives in Brief 63 - The Surveyor General's cartographic and other records.

[100] [Laings 20 acres at Watsons also houses and gradens to the south of it. Sketch book 1 folio 25]

- **NRS 12800 Stage machinery: assembly drawings for Major Hall, Minor Hall and Experimental Theatre [Sydney Opera House]** This series consists of two volumes containing the original drawings issued by contractor Waagner-Biro Akitiengesellschaft for the building of stage machinery at the Sydney Opera House. Digital images are available for items listed from the bottom of page 2 to page 4 of the item list for the series in AI.



- **NRS 20427 Diary of duty of occurrences Gloucester Police Station** This series consists of a single volume showing for each day the type of duty which each policeman, and where relevant, his horse was engaged. The volume was recently donated by the Gloucester Historical Society.



Researching patient records from mental health facilities

We have recently increased the amount of time we require to search hospital records for people tracing patients in former mental health facilities. You will now need to allow for ten days from our receiving your request and your permission letter to being able to advise you of any relevant records.

A brief recap of the procedures for accessing patient records from mental health facilities is below but for more detailed information see Archives in Brief 85.

State Records holds patient records from a number of State-run mental health facilities including Gladesville Hospital, Callan Park Hospital, Parramatta Hospital for the Insane, Kenmore Hospital, Bloomfield Hospital, Newcastle Psychiatric Hospital and Darlinghurst Reception House. Typically patient records held at State Records can include:

- admission files
- case papers
- medical case books
- admission registers
- registers of discharges removals and deaths, and
- admission cards

It is important to remember that these records may be incomplete.

Patient records are closed to public access for 110 years under Access Direction No. 7 to protect sensitive personal and health information. To obtain permission to access any surviving patient records less than 110 years old you can either contact the NSW Ministry of Health, for hospitals no longer in operation, or the Hospital itself if still in operation. Hospitals still in operation include Cumberland Hospital [formerly Parramatta Hospital for the Insane] and Bloomfield Hospital. Generally you will be asked to complete an application and provide proof of your relationship to the patient.

Contact details for the Ministry of Health:

NSW Ministry of Health
Locked Mail Bag 961
North SYDNEY NSW 2059
Attention: Facilities and Records Unit
Phone: (02) 9391 9071

Once you have received permission from the Ministry, you can contact State Records' staff. Please provide as much information as you can, including the name of the patient, the dates they were a patient (if they died at the hospital the date of death can be crucial to a successful outcome). Staff will conduct a search of the hospital's records and advise you if there are any records. Please allow for **TEN** working days for staff to check records.

If records are located you can make arrangements to view them in the reading room or for pay for photocopies to be posted to you.

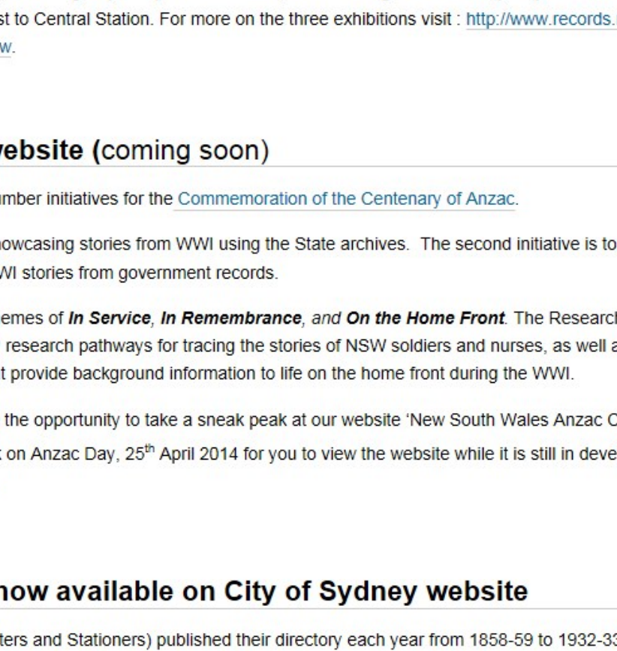
Recently received records

- **NRS 17513, Primary Application Packets - PA numbers 2-14157**

  Primary Application Packets **2-14157** have recently been transferred from Land & Property Information. We will soon be listing these additions in AI. In the mean time please contact us if you have any questions regarding these records.

  Primary Application Packets contain a variety of records including registered deeds, grants, and original purchase records, examiner's and surveyor's reports, lists of investigations and searches made by the Registrar General to validify title, copies of plans, conveyances, mortgage papers, copies of wills and associated papers regarding title to property, solicitor's correspondence, memoranda of agreements, papers associated with the lodgement of caveats, valuation of the land, submissions from parties claiming an interest in the land, lists of notifications to adjoining property owners, and details of certificates of title issued. For more information on Primary Application Records, see Archives in Brief 108.

Royal Express to Central: the 1954 Royal Tour



The imminent visit to Sydney by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and baby George, coincides with three exhibitions about the 60th anniversary of the tour by Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh in 1954. State Records has material in three exhibitions reflecting on different aspects of the 1954 tour, including *Royal Express to Central*, now showing at Western Sydney Records Centre, which retraces the day trip taken by the Queen from Bathurst to Central Station. For more on the three exhibitions visit : http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/news/royal-express-to-central-the-1954-royal-tour-of-nsw.

Anzac Centenary website (coming soon)

State Records is involved in a number initiatives for the Commemoration of the Centenary of Anzac.

Our first initiative is a website showcasing stories from WWI using the State archives. The second initiative is to develop a research guide to help family historians retrieve their WWI stories from government records.

The website is divided into the themes of ***In Service*, *In Remembrance*,** *and* ***On the Home Front***. The Research Guide, which is also incorporated into the website, will help identify research pathways for tracing the stories of NSW soldiers and nurses, as well as highlighting a number of resources from our collection that provide background information to life on the home front during the WWI.

Now&Then subscribers will have the opportunity to take a sneak peak at our website 'New South Wales Anzac Centenary – Records of NSW and World War 1'. We will send a link on Anzac Day, 25th April 2014 for you to view the website while it is still in development. Our major launch is planned for the 4th August 2014.

Sands Directories now available on City of Sydney website

The firm of John Sands Ltd (Printers and Stationers) published their directory each year from 1858-59 to 1932-33 (except for 1872, 1874, 1878 and 1881). The household and business information it contains has become a fundamental source for research into Sydney history, especially family history.

Until now the directory has usually been accessed through a microfiche edition made by WF Pascoe Ltd which is available at many public libraries.

The City of Sydney has now obtained a complete digital edition of the directory from WF Pascoe, scanned from the microfiche, and is making it available for public access through their website. This is the first time a complete set of Sands Sydney Suburban & Country Commercial Directory has been made available online.

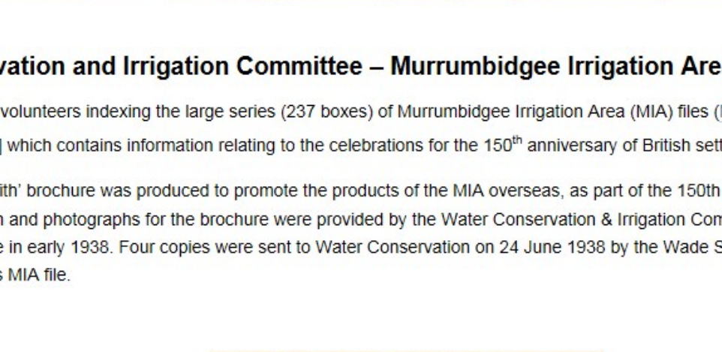
This complete digital directory offers researchers easier and more convenient access. It includes search capability not available when using the microfiche. It's an important addition to the range of archival source material the City of Sydney makes available online through their Archives program.*

* This article is from the City of Sydney website

Treasures found in the records

An Unexpected Discovery in the Archives

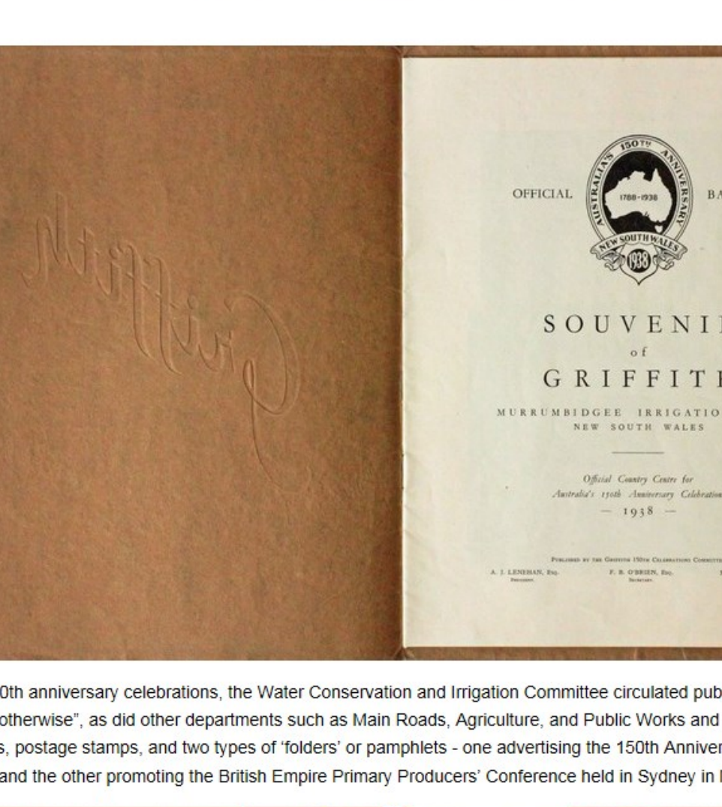
A smallpox vaccine specimen dating back to 1841 was found in the collection. Read the story here, as well as an article published online on the find in the *Medical Journal of Australia* on Monday 10 March 2014.



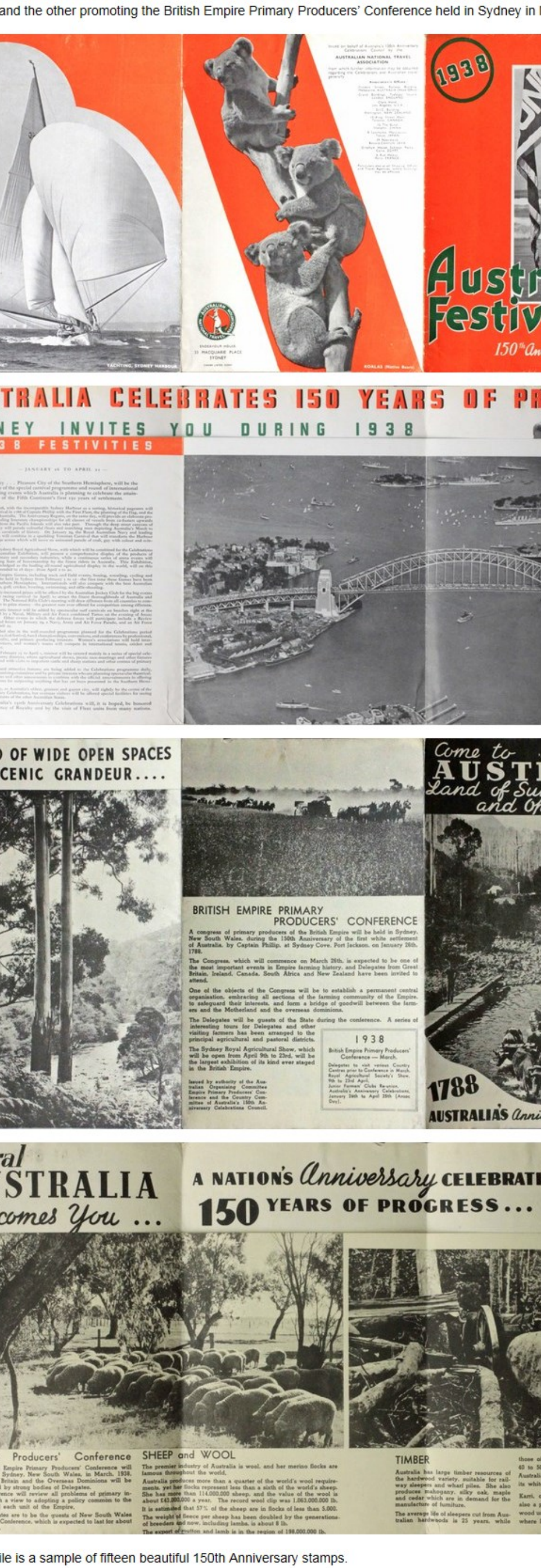
Water Conservation and Irrigation Committee – Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area files

Recently our team of volunteers indexing the large series (237 boxes) of Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA) files (NRS 14511), came across MIA file 37/4762 [18/4111] which contains information relating to the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of British settlement in Australia.

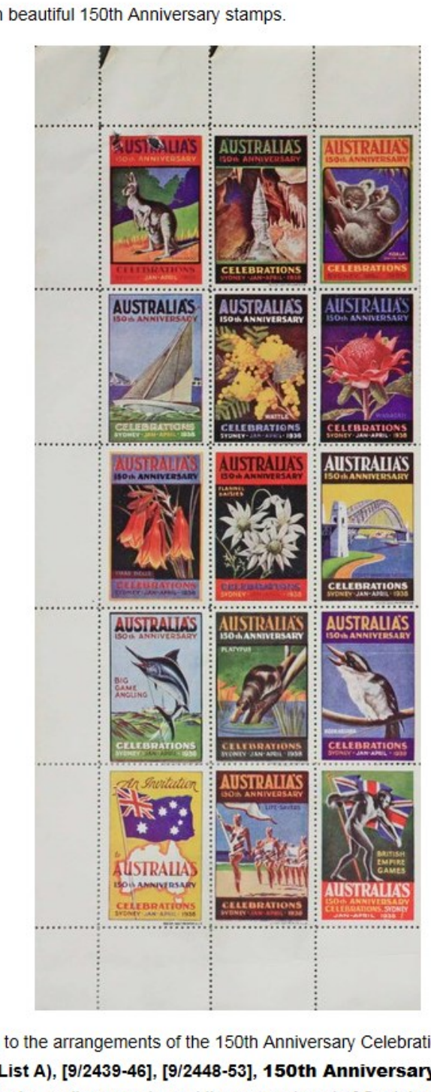
The 'Souvenir of Griffith' brochure was produced to promote the products of the MIA overseas, as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations in 1938. The information and photographs for the brochure were provided by the Water Conservation & Irrigation Commission and were published by the Griffith Committee in early 1938. Four copies were sent to Water Conservation on 24 June 1938 by the Wade Shire Clerk - two examples of which are kept on this MIA file.



Also as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations, the Water Conservation and Irrigation Committee circulated publicity material "in correspondence and otherwise", as did other departments such as Main Roads, Agriculture, and Public Works and Environment. The material included large posters, postage stamps, and two types of 'folders' or pamphlets - one advertising the 150th Anniversary Celebrations in Sydney to international invitees and the other promoting the British Empire Primary Producers' Conference held in Sydney in March 1938.


1938
Australia's Festive Year
150th Anniversary Celebrations
SYDNEY
AUSTRALIA CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF PROGRESS
SYDNEY INVITES YOU DURING 1938
1938 FESTIVITIES
A LAND OF WIDE OPEN SPACES AND SCENIC GRANDEUR....
BRITISH EMPIRE PRIMARY PRODUCERS' CONFERENCE
Come to AUSTRALIA Land of Sunshine and Opportunity
1788
1938
AUSTRALIA'S Anniversary CELEBRATIONS
Rural AUSTRALIA Welcomes You ...
A NATION'S Anniversary CELEBRATIONS 1788
150 YEARS OF PROGRESS... 1938
Empire Producers' Conference
SHEEP and WOOL
TIMBER

Also included in this file is a sample of fifteen beautiful 150th Anniversary stamps.



Similar material can be found in files relating to the arrangements of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations in Sydney, in **NRS 12061 Premier's Department Special Bundles, 1895-1976 (List A), [9/2439-46], [9/2448-53], 150th Anniversary Celebrations**. There is also information about harbour-related activities such as fireworks, replica vessels, and the re-enactment of Captain Arthur Philip landing at Sydney Cove, in **NRS 9794 Maritime Services Board, 1870-1960, [7/7533-36], 150th Anniversary Celebrations (M.S.B.)**.

Archives Outside Blog update

Conservation Tip No. 9 – Sticky Tape

Quick facts about sticky tape: the different types, how they degrade (ie. loses stickiness or goes 'gooey'), how it can damage archives and how to safely remove it from paper.

- Read the post »

What's the bigger picture?

> ...is a bit of a guessing / detective game using photographs from the State Records NSW collection.

This one was too easy!

School...sport

> Swimming lessons, sports carnivals and team sports. Whether you loved it or hated it sport was a perennial companion at school and had a great impact on your school experience.
> See more »

Latest in the Can you date...?

Wollongong lighthouse

Link love in the GLAM sector

- Linking out to interesting posts and activities from other cultural organisations

Flickr update

The latest additions include:

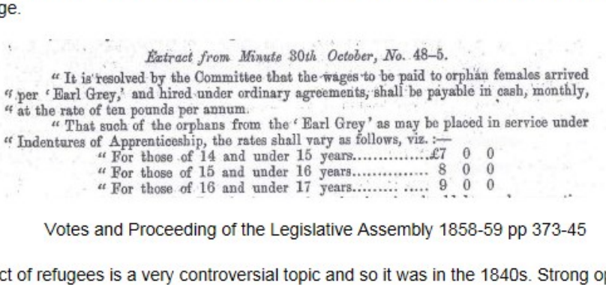
Canberra Girls Grammar School, 1938 Infants at the Canberra Girls Grammar School having their 30 minutes rest period under the shade of the trees in the school ground	Collie Public School, 1927 Collie Public School - part of the teachers evidence to show he could not return to Collie in time to open school
Casino Public School, 1903 Casino Public School - opening of the Casino - Lismore railway	Dixon St, Street, 1900 Views taken during Cleansing Operations, Quarantine Area, Sydney, 1900
Auburn St, Goulburn, n.d Auburn Street, Goulburn (NSW)	Martin Place, Sydney, n.d Martin Place, Sydney (NSW)

If you don't have a Flickr account you can still browse these photos on Flickr, many of which are also available on Photo Investigator.

Spotlight on Irish Orphans

During the 1840's Ireland was in the grip of the Great Famine. Incredible suffering and widespread poverty led in turn to unsustainable overcrowding in the Irish workhouses. Here in the Colony of New South Wales there was an imbalance of the sexes and a solution to this problem needed to be found. From these desperate circumstances the Earl Grey pauper immigration scheme was developed. According to the published work: *BareFoot and Pregnant - Irish Famine Orphans in Australia* by Trevor McClaughlin (an essential reference tool when researching this topic) between 1848 and 1850 over 4000 female orphans aged between 12 and 20 arrived in Australia from Irish workhouses as part of this scheme.

On arrival in the Colony the girls were under the jurisdiction of the government and were indentured to employers for a specified term and wage. The wages varied according to age.



Extract from Minute 30th October, No. 48–5.

"It is resolved by the Committee that the wages to be paid to orphan females arrived "per 'Earl Grey,' and hired under ordinary agreements, shall be payable in cash, monthly, "at the rate of ten pounds per annum.

"That such of the orphans from the 'Earl Grey' as may be placed in service under "Indentures of Apprenticeship, the rates shall vary as follows, viz. :—

"For those of 14 and under 15 years..............£7 0 0
"For those of 15 and under 16 years.............. 8 0 0
"For those of 16 and under 17 years.............. 9 0 0

Votes and Proceeding of the Legislative Assembly 1858-59 pp 373-45

Today immigration and the subject of refugees is a very controversial topic and so it was in the 1840s. Strong opposition to the Earl Grey Immigration Scheme led to its abolition in 1850. The outspoken Captain Hutchinson Hothersall Browne – Immigration Agent was extremely vocal in his criticism of the Irish girls.

A report dated 5 Feb 1855 signed by Captain Browne states…

> "Orphan Immigration having been so distasteful to the inhabitants of this Colony that the Board did not contemplate the arrival of any fresh drafts of that class of immigrant"

Browne in his report continues in his criticism of the girls saying that he has,

> "grave doubts as to their former habits".

In 1858 a group of prominent citizens mounted a petition in defence of the orphan girls highlighting their positive contribution and overall value to the community. Minutes in Evidence were taken by the Select Committee on Irish Female Immigration. These Minutes can be read in the 1858 Legislative Assembly – Votes and Proceedings taken on Tuesday 6 July 1858. A number of individuals including employers, the Archdeacon of Sydney, landholders, merchants, a tobacconist, an auctioneer, a previous Mayor of Sydney, a solicitor, a bookseller were all questioned on their views of the Irish orphans. Jeremiah Moore bookseller George street states,

> "As these poor girls were, for the most, orphans, and, from their peculiar and isolated position, unable to defend themselves, we felt it to be our imperative duty to institute this investigation."

The Irish famine of 1847-48 led these girls to leave their own country and to....

> "seek a home in this favoured land, where they expected to get fair play and a proper remuneration for their industry, denied them in their own country."

James Curtis a undertaker and resident in Sydney states that in recent years he had employed many Irish orphans females and found them,

> " generally very good, respectful in manners, very honest, very willing to learn and ...... I think they will turn out well."

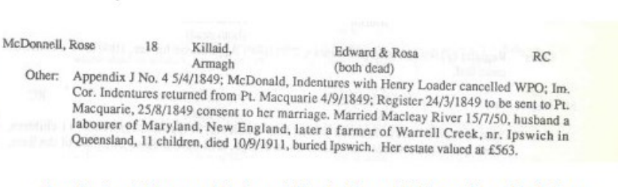
The majority of individuals providing evidence to the Select committee were of course men, one woman a Mrs Capps, Matron of the Hyde Park Barracks for 5 years (during the time when the orphan girls arrived) states,

> "I should be very sorry to say anything against the orphan girls."

Unfortunately it is difficult to determine how the girls themselves felt about their situation when their voice remains noticeably absent from the records. However reading between the lines many of them made the most of the opportunities and work given to them in the Colony, many settled well, married and had large families.

An Example from the records - Rose McDonnell

The first step in conducting your research into an Irish orphan is to consult *BareFoot and Pregnant - Irish Famine Orphans in Australia* by Trevor McClaughlin. McClaughlins' work is arranged firstly by Ship and then alphabetically by name of the orphan on board. He then lists references to records which can be followed. Below is the entry for Rose McDonnell:

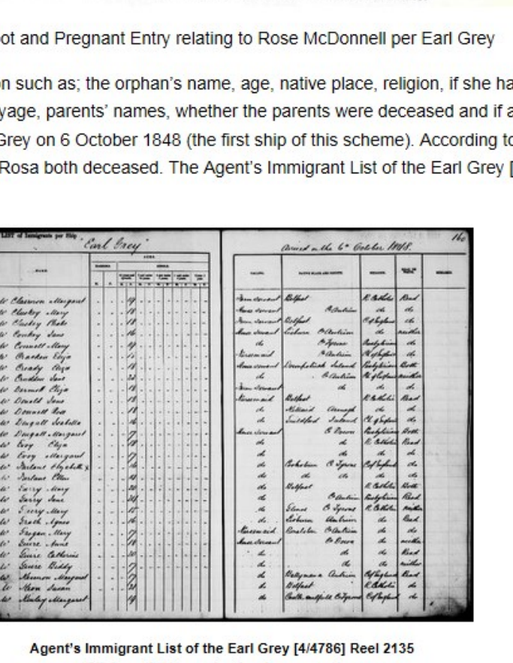


McDonnell, Rose 18 Killaid, Armagh Edward & Rosa (both dead) RC

Other: Appendix J No. 4 5/4/1849; McDonald, Indentures with Henry Loader cancelled WPO; Im. Cor. Indentures returned from Pt. Macquarie 4/9/1849; Register 24/3/1849 to be sent to Pt. Macquarie, 25/8/1849 consent to her marriage. Married Macleay River 15/7/50, husband a labourer of Maryland, New England, later a farmer of Warrell Creek, nr. Ipswich in Queensland, 11 children, died 10/9/1911, buried Ipswich. Her estate valued at £563.

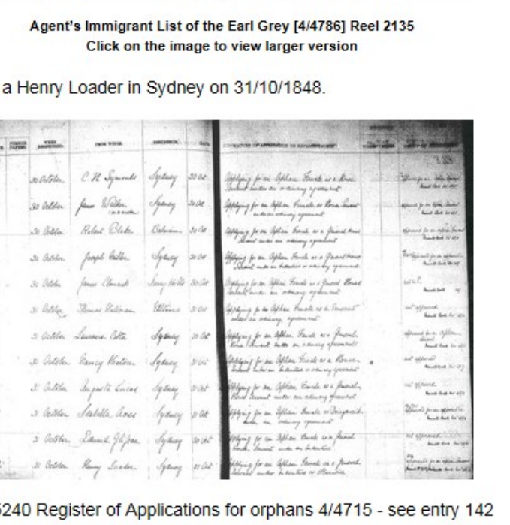
Barefoot and Pregnant Entry relating to Rose McDonnell per Earl Grey

Immigration records provide useful information such as; the orphan's name, age, native place, religion, if she had relations in the colony, any complaints about her treatment during the voyage, parents' names, whether the parents were deceased and if alive their residence. Rose McDonnell arrived in the Colony on the Earl Grey on 6 October 1848 (the first ship of this scheme). According to the passenger list she was 18 and born in Killaid, Armagh, parents Edward and Rosa both deceased. The Agent's Immigrant List of the Earl Grey [4/4786] Reel 2135 can be viewed online.


Earl Grey
Arrived on the 6th October 1848

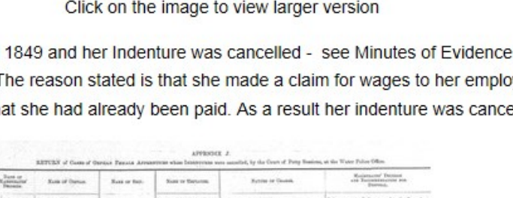
Agent's Immigrant List of the Earl Grey [4/4786] Reel 2135
Click on the image to view larger version

After Rose arrived she was indentured out to a Henry Loader in Sydney on 31/10/1848.



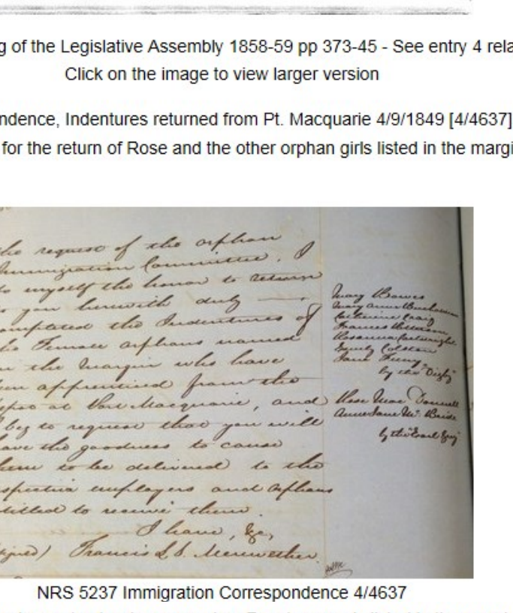
NRS 5240 Register of Applications for orphans 4/4715 - see entry 142
Click on the image to view larger version

Rose obviously ran into trouble on the 5 April 1849 and her Indenture was cancelled - see Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee on Irish Female Immigration no. 4 5/4/1849. The reason stated is that she made a claim for wages to her employer Henry Loader. It was proved by the Court of Petty Sessions – Water Police that she had already been paid. As a result her indenture was cancelled.



Votes and Proceeding of the Legislative Assembly 1858-59 pp 373-45 - See entry 4 relating to Rose
Click on the image to view larger version

McClaughlin also cites Immigration Correspondence, Indentures returned from Pt. Macquarie 4/9/1849 [4/4637]. This record signed Francis L.S. Merewether (Immigration Agent) is a request for the return of Rose and the other orphan girls listed in the margin from the Depot at Port Macquarie upon the completion of their employment.



NRS 5237 Immigration Correspondence 4/4637
Click on the image to view larger version. Rose's name is listed in the margin.

According to McClaughlin, Rose married a labourer from Maryland, New England on 15/7/1850 (less than two years after her arrival in the Colony). Her husband later became a farmer at Warrell Creek. They had 11 children. She died on the 10/9/1911 and was buried at Ipswich. Her estate was valued at £563. Rose's story is just one of many. The Irish orphans girls arrived in the Colony having survived the harsh conditions of the Irish workhouses. Undoubtedly their strength and resilience enabled them to make the most of the difficult circumstances in which they found themselves. The contribution made by the Irish famine orphans to Australia is immeasurable.

List of Records

Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee on Irish Female Immigration – Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, 1858-9, vol.2 pp.373-450. This is a useful source of information about orphans' employment history, reasons for the cancellation of indentures and the controversy surrounding orphan immigration in New South Wales.

NRS 5240 Immigration Agent; Registers and indexes of applications for orphans 1848-51 [4/4715-17; microfilm copy SR Reel 3111] Each entry records the progressive number and date of the application, name and address of the applicant, type of employment offered, and result of the application. Note: Applications have not survived

NRS 5274 Immigration Agent; Wages paid to orphans [4/4676] This shows name of orphan, ship of arrival, amount due to orphan from master or employer, amount paid by master or employer into orphan's account, and amount withdrawn from account and paid to orphan.

NRS 5275 Immigration Agent; Particulars of orphans' monies [9/6173] Included are lists of orphans.

NRS 5276 Immigration Agent; Orphan account book 1850-54 [4/4711]

NRS 5239 Immigration Correspondence 1844-1852 [4/4635-4/4641]

NRS 5247 Immigration Agent Copies of letters sent to miscellaneous persons re migration to New South Wales 1838-57 [4/4634-35, 4/4637-39, 4/4641-43, 4/4646-50, microfilm copy SR Reels 3114-3118; 4/4644] 1857-64 [4/4652, 4/4636, 4/4640, 4/4645 part, 4/4651]

NRS 905 Main series of letters received 1826-1982 [Colonial Secretary] - always try the Colonial Secretary Correspondence records. See Archives in Brief 64 for more information.

Useful website: Irish Famine Memorial Sydney

Upcoming Talks and Tours

Kiama Family History Centre Expo

The Kiama Family History Centre is holding a 25th anniversary expo on 12 April. State Records will have a stall at the expo and Gail Davis will also talk on: Getting to know State Records family history resources.
12 April 10:00am - 4:00pm
Kiama Pavilion
Bong Bong Street, Kiama
Susan Lark
Email: fhc@tpg.com.au

Putting Flesh on a Skeleton

Gail Davis will be presenting a seminar: Putting flesh on the skeleton-How to find more details about your convict using State Records at the 'Larrikins & Leg Irons' - Taree Family History Fair. She will also be hosting a stall.
25 May 10:00am - 4:00pm
Taree RSL and Golf Club
Wingham Road, Taree
Contact: Nancy Matthews
Email: tareefamilyhistoryinc@yahoo.com.au

Stay up-to-date with State Records

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Our Reading Room
143 O'Connell Street, Kingswood
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm & Sat 10am-4pm
(Closed Sun & Public Holidays)

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The State Records Authority of New South Wales
T: +61 2 9673 1788 | F: +61 2 9833 4518 | E: info@records.nsw.gov.au | ABN: 96 588 554 718