

Western Australian Biographical Index

WABI The Western Australian Biographical Index

The Western Australian Biographical Index was initiated in 1974 as a record of people living in WA 1829 – 1914. It comprises entries submitted by the public of family trees and histories. These are held in the Genealogical Enquiry Area and are the basis material for the series of Dictionaries of Western Australians. The first three volumes were published in 1979 with assistance of funding for researchers and a typist as a contribution to the Sesquicentennial Year.

- Early Settlers 1829 – 1850 compiled by Pamela Statham
- Bond 1850 – 1868 (*Convicts from UK*) by Rica Erickson
- Free 1850 – 1868 by Rica Erickson.

Many volunteers assisted in compiling additional material for these works and continued to work for the publication in 1984-5 of the fourth in the series.

- The Challenging Years 1869 – 1888 in 2 parts.

The Perth Building Society generously agreed to type this material as well as a total revision of the earlier volumes.

- The New Dictionary of Western Australian pre 1827 – 1888, A – Z and also a supplement
- The Golden Years 1889 – 1914

This is to be PBS' contribution to the Bicentennial Year of 1988.

Notes on WABI Card Files

Information on WABI Card Files in the Biographical section in most instances is derived from family entries received from the public. This is indicated by a red dot in top left corner.

Other WABI card files indicate some of the sources of additional information. They include:

- i Almanacs & Directories
- ii Employers of T/L men (*convicts out on parole – many self employed*)
- iii References to Convict Records
- iv Passengers arrival and departure listed in newspapers 1869 – 1888
- v Police in WA (*Mollie Bentley's notes*)
- vi C/E births, deaths & marriages 1850 – 1868
- vii York Census 1859
- viii Biographical Research Data. (*Sources in BL & other Institutions*)
- ix Eastern Goldfields cemetery records
- x Lists of contributors to WABI with addresses.

The colour symbols in top right corner indicate the period in the Dictionary series

Red = Vol 1

Blue or purple = Vol 3

Green = Vol 4

Pencil = later period

Notes in green or underlined in green have been added since publication of the information on the card.

The black stroke across bottom right indicates incomplete notes or received too late for publication.

Notes on WABI Lever Arch Files in Genealogical Enquiry Area.

- 1 Convict Series
- 2 Index of biographical entries
- 3 Passenger Lists of ships from UK 1850 – 1888. Ships listed alphabetically and chronologically.
- 4 Passenger Lists of ships plying to and from Eastern Australia, 1850 – 1888. Transcribed from Perth Gazette & Inquirer. Also arrivals at SA from WA during some years of 1850s from SA Register.
- 5 Fremantle RC Indexes to BP 1850 – 1896 & 1850 – 1980s (*Xerox copies*).
- 6 Perth RC Transcriptions of baptisms 1844 – 1896.
- 7 Perth RC Transcriptions marriages 1849 – 1869.
- 8 Newspaper records of births, deaths & marriages 1850 – 1888.
- 9 Extracts from Registrar General's records of births, deaths & marriages.
- 10 Various cemetery records, and notes on births, deaths & marriages of various denominations and districts listed alphabetically according to districts.
- 11 Extracts from SDUR files 1850 – 1868.
- 12 Extracts from CSO files, 1880 – 1887 re poor relief etc.

Notes on WABI Boxes in BL Stack

Box 1

- a Family Trees – cross indexed in Lever Arch files
- b Military Discharge Papers (*John McCall & Robert Lynch*) Xerox copies
- c Notes on Nurses (*by V. Hobbs*)
- d Notes on Part Aboriginal families (*by Lois Tilbrook*)
- e Bulky packets of correspondence with notes on family connections

Box 2

Church & Parish Records (*see also lists in Lever Arch files*)

C/E Albany marriages 1886 – 1889

R/C Albany bp. 1853 – 1870 (*Xerox Copy of BL microfilm*)

R/C Fremantle bp. 1850 – 1896; m 1851 – 1985 (*transcriptions*)

R/C Geraldton b, d & m (*various transcriptions*)

R/C Perth marriages 1851 – 1869 (*Xerox copies of original in Latin*)

R/C York bp 1869 – 1911

Box 3

Church & Parish Records etc.

Wesleyan: Guildford; bp 1856 – 1972; marriages 1883 – 1896

Wesleyan: Perth; bp 1870 – 1891;

Wesleyan: List of ministers in WA

Avon Valley (*Toodyay, Northam, York, Beverley etc*) b, d, m. (*from Jan Young*)

Monumental Inscriptions of Western Australia (*by B.J. Croker*)

Historic Churchyards & Burial Grounds (*by Ray Oldham*)

Other projected volumes for the Bicentennial Year are

- Dictionary of Non European Immigrants 1829 – 1900 (*compiled by Anne Atkinson*) and
- Dictionaries of Aboriginal biographies
 - of South West 1829 – 1840, by Sylvia Hallam & Lois Tilbrook
 - of Albany Region 1826 – 1898, by Neville Green
 - of New Norcia Region 1846 – 1906, by Lois Tilbrook & Robert Reece.