



Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW Division)
RAILWAY RESOURCE CENTRE
RESOURCE GUIDE GRH-02

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NSW RAILWAY EMPLOYEE HISTORY

COPYRIGHT WARNING

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INTRODUCTION

The available personal history material of retired railway employees is distributed in various Archives and Libraries around Sydney including the State Records Office, State Reference Library, Mitchell Library and our own Resource Centre

NOTE. The material in this Guide has been sighted and checked by ARHS Research Centre staff [except where noted]. The Resource Centre is collecting copies of this material for the convenience of readers. When available the location within the collection is shown.

Throughout this Guide-

ARHS RRC is used for the Society's Railway Resource Centre,
SRONSW is used for the State Records Office of New South Wales, and
SRANSW is used for State Rail Authority of New South Wales.

1. PERSONAL HISTORY CARDS.

These cards are the main source of information for employees in the service in and after 1910.

History Cards for employees born prior to 1900, and who were still employed in 1910 when the railway superannuation scheme was introduced, are **held by SRONSW** in their Werrington Repository.

History Cards for all employees born after 1900 are held **by SRANSW**. These cards were created up to 1990.

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NOTE: Details of the usual information shown on these cards and the latest procedures for accessing them are shown in the latest information sheets from SRONSW and SRANSW – see Appendix 1. [No cards or copies of the cards are available at ARHSRRC.]

2. SPONSORED IMMIGRANTS

2.1. 1853. Immigrants for the SYDNEY RAILWAY COMPANY.

Microfilm reel copies of the Immigrant Shipping lists for the three ships carrying the 500 workers who were contracted in Britain to build the Sydney to Parramatta Line and arrived in 1853 are held by SRONSW at both repositories.

3.

4. 1855 TO 1857. GOVERNMENT RETURNS OF THE COLONY. [BLUE BOOKS]-SALARIED STAFF

These returns are the equivalent of a 'Year Book' and cover many subjects relating to NSW. This includes the Civil Establishment of staff paid by the various government departments including the salaried staff of the Railways. The salaried railway staff are listed for the calendar years 1855 to 1857 in the 'Public Works Railways etc' section

Copies of these books are held by SRONSW at both Kingswood and Rocks repositories.

Microfilm Reel copies: Reference: CGS 1286

1855 SR Reel No.19. Page 424 'Surveyors of the Railways'

1856 SR Reel No.21. Page 564-569 'Chief Commissioner, Surveyors to Draftsmen'

1857 SR Reel No.22. Page 420-425 'Chief Commissioner, Engineer-in-Chief to Draftsmen'

The Civil Officers Lists from the complete books have been separately copied and are available in the two SRONSW Reading Rooms on Reel No. 91.

The 'Blue Books' are also available at SRONSW on microfiche. Refer to SR Fiche Nos. 586-613.

The State Reference Library has these Blue Books

The Mitchell Library has these Blue Books in book form copy. Reference: Q.351.2/N.

5. 1858. LIST OF ALL EMPLOYEES.

By direction of the Legislative Assembly a full list of all Railway employees between 2nd December 1854 and 31st March 1858 was provided and printed in the Votes and Proceedings of the Assembly for 1858 in Volume 3, page 801-4.

6. 1858 TO 1890. GOVERNMENT PUBLIC SERVICE LISTS. –SALARIED STAFF.

After responsible Government for New South Wales was granted, the Civil Establishment Lists in the 'Blue Books' were continued from 1858 as 'Public Service Lists'. [Sometimes also called 'Blue Books'] They are 'a list of the officers permanently employed by the Government of NSW'. They were published annually until 1894. [There was no publication for 1895.]

Publication continued from 1896 with a revised format deleting Railway Employees because the NSW Railways became a separated organisation. The Railway Construction Branch continued within the Public Works Department and was included in the lists until the Branch was transferred to the Department of Railways in 1916.

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SRONSW has microfiches of the Lists available for 1858 to 1870 and bound copies from 1871 onwards at The Rocks. [at both repositories. ?] Reference CGS 1236, ? The location of the railway information for each year is detailed in Appendix No. 2 attached.

The State Reference Library [SRL] in the Family History Section has a microfiche copy of the above SRONSW microfiche collection. Reference 10/NQ 929.3944/8 SET M/F.807-819. A similar set is held in the General Section of the SRL reference 10/NQ 929.3944/8 SET [Microfiches.807-819].

The Mitchell Library has a hard cover bound set available. Reference Q.351.2/N.

7. 1871 - 1883. LISTS OF ALL RAILWAY EMPLOYEES FOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

These lists were to be prepared by the railway management tri-annually for the Government from 1871 up to 1883. The only years they were prepared were 1870?/1871, 1871?/1872 and 1878. They were published in the Votes & Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly for these three years.

In 1870-71, the names were included in a common list for all Branches of the Public Works Department.

In 1871-72, the list is for Railway Employees [sic].

In 1878-----

The V&P LA Books are available at the State Reference Library. Reference Q.347.9/3

The 1871 list gives Name, Location, Position, and Rate of pay.

The 1872 list shows Name, Date of Appointment, Length of Service, Salary or Pay when appointed and present, Class, and Nature of Duties. This is available in alphabetical order at:

<http://home.iprimus.com.au/bexleyboy/1872/staff.html>

The 1878 list gives Name, Position Date of permanent Appointment and Rate of pay on 8 May 1878.

8. After 1888. TRI-ANNUAL LISTS OF ALL EMPLOYEES IN 'GOVERNMENT GAZETTE'.

The Act No. 35 of 1888 {Section 74 [3]} required the publication in a 'Government Gazette' in June a list of persons employed to 31st December of the previous year commencing June 1888 and then every 3 years thereafter.

Subsequent Acts revising the management of the Railway continued this requirement until XXXX. The list was not always produced as required. Published lists are in 'Supplements to the Government Gazette' available at SRONSW and Mitchell Library. The lists known and held in the ARHS RRC are as follows:

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| Year End 31 Dec | In G G Date | Available ARHS RRC | Available SRONSW |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1887* | ? 1888 | Yes | Yes |
| 1895 | 25 April 1896 | Yes | --- |
| 1902# | 3 June 1903 | Yes | --- |
| 1905 | 6 June 1906 | Yes | --- |
| 1908 | 17 June 1909 | Yes | --- |
| 1914 | 4 June 1915 | Yes | --- |
| 1929 | 13 October 1930 | Yes | --- |
| 1932 | 26 June 1933 | Yes | --- |
| 1935 | 23 June 1936 | Yes | --- |
| 1938 | 27 June 1939 | Yes | --- |

* A list is available of 1897 salaried officers in alphabetical order at

http://home.iprimus.com.au/bexleyboy/arhs/1887_staff.html

A list is available of 1902 all employees in alphabetical order at:

<http://home.iprimus.com.au/bexleyboy/1902/index.html>

9. STAFF TRANSFER, RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS LISTS

Staff appointment, transfer and retirement lists are found in the following:-

9.1. 1888 - 1910- ANNUAL REPORTS of the COMMISSIONER[S]

Act 35 of 1888, Clause 79, required the Commissioners to include in their Annual Reports 'a list of all employees admitted to the service since the former annual report'. Likewise, 'a list of all employees who may have left the Service during the like period was required'. They were to 'give date of employment, positions and rate of pay to which appointed and date and cause of leaving in each case'. This requirement was dropped in the 1906 consolidation Act.

These lists appear only in Annual Reports for 1889 to 1895, and 1902, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1909, and 1910.

ARHSRRC has these Annual Reports.

9.2. QUARTERLY REPORTS OF STAFF CHANGES TO MINISTER.

The Act 35 of 1888, {Clause 44 [4]} required the Commissioners to report quarterly to the Minister 'the appointments and removals of officers with the circumstances attending each case'. These reports were included in the 'Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

The reports found are:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Q.E. 31 st Dec 1888. | V&P.LA 1889 Vol 5 pages 95-119 |
| Q.E. 31 st March 1889. | ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ |
| Q.E. 30 th June 1889. | ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ |

Act 6 of 1901, Clause 43 required similar information.

9.3. RAILWAY STAFF MAGAZINE REPORTS

The internal magazines published by the Railways under various titles including '*The NSW Railway Budget*' [1892-1917], '*NSW Railway & Tramway Magazine*' [1918-1922], '*The Staff*', [1924-1932], contain lists of appointments, transfers and resignations each month. The continuity of this material has not been studied.

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The changes between Sept 1892 and Aug 1900 available at;

<http://home.iprimus.com.au/bexleyboy/arhs/staff-home.html>

A list of members of the NSW Railway and Tramway Institute as at 1897 is available at:

<http://home.iprimus.com.au/bexleyboy/arhs/institute.htm>

9.4 EMPLOYEE UNION & PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

The amount of material available from these organisations is probably vast but fragmented. The ARHSRRC has initiated a survey of the material available. This will be included in revisions to this Resource document when available. Unions were formed from 1870's

10. SALARIED STAFF SENIORITY LISTS

Salaried staff unions regularly issued 'Seniority lists' of various sections of the Railway where their members worked. Among those known to have published lists are:

Professional Officers Association
Association of Professional Engineers
Transport Officers Association. In their magazine 'Transport Officer's Gazette'
Association of Railway Professional Officers of Australia

11. WAGES STAFF UNION PAPERS

Wages Staff Trade Unions regularly published Newspapers that contained much information on individual members. Among those who published material are:-

Australian Railways Union This Union published 'The Railroad' and earlier publications under different names from ----

Transport Officer's Gazette? & earlier titles

National Union of Railwaymen

12. RECORDS RELATING TO RAILWAY STAFF IN UNITED KINGDOM

ARHSRRC has 'Was Your Grandfather a Railway Man?' compiled by Tom Richards. This is a directory of records relating to staff employed by railways found by the author in the following Countries:

United Kingdom, Australian States' Canada, Eire, India, New Zealand and United States of America.

Contact addresses and some description of material available are given.

13. GOVERNMENT CENCUS INFORMATION

To be noted. This is based on place of residence at the time of the census!

14. OTHER SOURCES

Many official records give some details of some railway staff. Similarly much secondary material may contain reports of some staff.

APPENDIX 1 – PERSONAL HISTORY CARDS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

EMPLOYEES BORN BEFORE 1900

The State Records Authority holds at their archival repository at Kingswood personal history cards for railway employees with dates of birth prior to 1900, who were still employed in 1910 when the railway superannuation scheme was introduced.

The cards contain the following information: date of birth, date of commencement of duties, position, location, branch, rate of pay and other remarks. Pension and superannuation details, rent paid for railway housing and details of compensation for work related injuries may be included on the card.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of these history cards for private history research you should contact State Records. To assist staff at State Records, please quote the location numbers 11/16552 – 11/16745

Contact details

Western Sydney Reading Room
State Records Authority
143 O'Connell Street
PO Box 516
KINGSWOOD NSW 2747 Ph: (02) 9673 1788 Fax: (02) 9833 4518

EMPLOYEES BORN AFTER 1900

The Finance Branch kept these history cards for superannuation purposes. The cards show all details relating to an individual's employment, eg, name, date of birth and details of service including location, classification and rate of pay. The history cards were created up to 1990.

The following guidelines apply when requesting a copy of a history card:

- All requests must be made in writing
- Information required – the person's name in full, date of birth and work location (if known)
- Individuals/organizations requesting history cards for people still living must have written permission from the person concerned
- A search fee is payable to cover the cost of processing requests for history cards:
 - Request for one card \$30
 - Request for additional cards \$10
 - Cheques (or money orders) should be made payable to State Rail Authority of NSW
 - There are no refunds for cards that are not located

Contact details

Freedom of Information Officer
Corporate Records Unit
State Rail Authority of NSW
PO Box K349
HAYMARKET NSW 1238

APPENDIX 2 - SOME HANDY INTERNET SITES

- Australian family history resources
www.nla.gov.au/oz/genelist.html
- Cyndi's list of genealogical resources www.cyndislist.com
- Family search – Latter Day Saints www.familysearch.org
- Genealogy in the UL and Ireland www.genuki.org.uk
- Genealogy toolbox www.genealogytoolbox.com
- Immigration & passenger lists www.users.on.net/proformat.auspass.html
- NSW Births, Deaths & Marriages www.bdm.nsw.gov.au
- Obituaries in NSW newspapers www.southernx.com.au
- Society of Australian Genealogists www.sag.org.au
- State Library of NSW genealogical links www.sl.nsw.gov.au/links
- State Records Authority of NSW www.records.nsw.gov.au
- International genealogy resources www.worldgenweb.org

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