

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTES

"I'm totally in awe of the potential of the Government Gazette project ... the accessibility, ease of use ... having done the hard slog through many original volumes"

Greg Slattery, historian

Government Gazettes contain a vast amount of historical and genealogical information. However they are a largely untapped resource. The few complete runs that are available are usually only found in major libraries. And even for researchers who do have access to these the sheer size and extent of the Gazettes is daunting.

NOW that is all changing. Archive CD Books Australia has commenced publication of 19th Century Government Gazettes for various Australian states on CD-ROM—in an accessible, affordable form on CD-ROM, with the bonus that the entire text is now easily searched.

Archive CD Books Australia CDs "unlock" a vast body of immensely useful research material. They may well contain information on members of your family or locality that is to be found nowhere else. And they will certainly give any researcher an insight into the 19th century world in which they lived. And they just make for fascinating browsing!

A resource for all

- **Local historians**—search every reference to your locality
- **Family historians**—search every reference to members of your family and where they lived. Tens of thousands of ordinary people are listed.
- **Social historians**—search every reference in areas of interest.
- **Libraries**—a major resource for your collections
- **Societies**—a major resource for your members

MARVELLOUS RESOURCE

Dear Editor I had the privilege of being picked as 'Letter of the Month' in November last and would like to thank you sincerely for my prize, the *New South Wales Government Gazette 1865*. I always knew they were a fabulous source of information but hadn't had the chance to investigate until I received my prize. It was so much more than I had expected and I have spent many hours sitting at the computer just searching. I have found where a site for a town was picked, when suburbs were formed, the alignment of streets, who got assorted Government appointments, searched intestacies by name, letters not claimed (can I claim one now?), lists of deceased persons of whom creditors have to prove a claim and so much more.

My greatest thrill was to find a list of 'Insolvent Estates'. Like all family historians I started to go through all the names (not expecting to find any) and who jumped off the page but my great-grandfather, Thomas Reynolds BOTTRELL. Now we know why he left the district of Sofala/Sunny Corner NSW and took his whole family to Elsmore NSW near Inverell in 1871. A family query, solved at last.

I can't express how much information is available on this one CD that allows so much more 'flesh to the bones' to be added to any family history, not just names and dates.

Again, I thank Archive CD Books Australia for my *New South Wales Government Gazette 1865* CD and you for a great magazine full of variety for family history readers.

Tricia EVANS, NSW Australia

Letter to *Australian Family Tree Connections* magazine, April 2005

Standing order pricing

Up to 50% discount is available to libraries, societies or others placing standing orders for partial or complete series of 19th Century Government Gazettes and/or other Australian series from the Archive CD Books Project. Series list and details on web site.

This combined with a progressive publishing schedule over the coming months and years will enable any library, society or individual to acquire these progressively as they are published with moderate outlay.

Searching the Text

The gazettes are all published as high quality scanned images or facsimiles of the original. The entire text is now searchable—names, places or any subject or word you care to look for.

Government Gazettes on searchable CDs

Archive CD Books Australia has commenced publication of 19th century Government gazettes for all states. To publish all years for all states, even for the 19th Century only, is a huge task and will take some years

Available or due by Dec 2006—with many more in the pipeline

- New South Wales - 1832,34,35,36,37,38,39,42,43,50,55,65,75
- Queensland - 1859-60,61,62,64,65,68,69,72,80,90
- South Australia - 1849,51,52,54,55,67,86
- Tasmania - 1844,61,70,80
- Victoria - 1851,58,59,60,61,63,64,65,74,78,87,88,90
- Western Australia - to commence early 2007

Police and Education Gazettes

The immensely useful Police Gazettes are also being published for most state. Currently available or due by the end of 2006:

- New South Wales - 1866-1874, 1881-1885,1890-1910
- Queensland - 1864-1896, 1904-1905
- South Australia - 1881-1900
- Victoria - 1855, 1864-1865, 1868-1876, 1886-1888

Some Education Gazettes have also been published.

To keep informed of new releases, updates to the publishing schedule and special offers subscribe to the FREE Archive CD Books Australia email newsletter. See web site.

All gazettes are fully searchable

See web site for the most up to date list of Government, Police and Education Gazettes as well as more articles on Gazettes



ARCHIVE CD BOOKS AUSTRALIA
www.archivecdbooks.com.au



NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT GAZETTES

Background

Every Australian colony published regular gazettes to communicate legislation, regulations and information to the public service in particular and the community in general. The original gazettes covered all government departments but as certain very large and widely dispersed departments such as education and police grew in size, they often produced their own versions. However, the so-called *Government Gazette* published *By Authority* continued to be the medium by which legislation and regulations were announced.

All colonial governments were modeled on a traditional British colonial template and therefore it is not surprising that every Australian colony has gazettes with very much the same content taking their initiative from the gazettes published by the British Government in London, Edinburgh and Belfast (formerly Dublin). *The London Gazette* commenced publication in 1665.

Indeed government gazettes are published by governments worldwide as a means of communication to officials and the general public. Such gazettes are useful not only to monitor the actions of the government, but also as far as family historians are concerned, they are primary source documents that have been largely overlooked by many researchers. The use of technology by *Archive CD Books* to reproduce early directories in a searchable CD format will greatly improve their accessibility to all researchers, as often their indexes are ineffectual when attempting to locate individual names.

New South Wales Government Gazette

The first New South Wales Government Gazette was published 7 March 1832. It was established by the Government as a means of communication between government officials within and throughout the colony. It is a rich source of information about individuals and places

An important family and local history resource

Just some of the information to be found in the gazettes

- Convict notices
 - Licence of departures (notice of licence –permission- for inter colony movement)
 - Records of convicts & ex-convicts moving from NSW to other colonies inc. NZ
 - Records of 'ticket of leave being confiscated & circumstances behind it e.g. Drunkenness, adultery etc.
 - Notice of convict absconders: details of ship, details of convict i.e. Name, alias, physical description, escape details, convict history (useful if convict convicted under several names)
- Government appointments
- Land transactions
- Legal notices
- Deserters and missing people
- Ecclesiastical notices
- Land ownership details of deceased persons
- Next of kin notices
- Insolvency notices
- Bankrupt notices
- Impoundments



NEW SOUTH WALES

Government Gazette.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

- Straying cattle notices—branding details and name of pound keeper
- Defence—Notice of deserters: physical features, clothes, details of desertion, post
- Professional:
 - Lists of legally qualified medical practitioners etc.
 - Lists of licences: mining,
 - Lists of road toll stations auctioned out: how much they were worth, who bought the tolling rights
- Postal services contracted out: who won the contract, which area they covered, how often they did postal runs, wage
- Supplement
- Unclaimed letters
- Impounded letters: insufficient postage
- Private notices
- Requests for information
- Searches for people (e.g. English sisters looking for ex-convict brother)
- Relevance to social history
- Government information
- Notice of Acts
- Government institutions and positions
- Notice of activities and events
- Statistics:
 - Lists of rations for government institutions: prisons, asylums etc. Including items, amount for different people: e.g. men, women, children
 - Rates of passengers (families of convicts from England)
 - Health: no. of births, deaths, cause of death, epidemics

Importance for social history

Generally the gazettes allow us to put our research into its historical and social context using a contemporary record

- Convict system
- Government institutions
- Activities of the day
- Government regulations & Acts

Indexing

The Society of Australian Genealogists is finalising an index to the NSW gazettes for the period 1832-62. This 1 million + index of all names is due for publication later in 2005 as volume of the AGCI. This will complement the Archive CD Books Australia Gazette Digitisation project.