

## Thomas Peel's Ships

Thomas Peel set sail for the newly founded Swan River Colony, Western Australia, in 1829 with three ships: the *Gilmore*, the *Rockingham* and the *Hooghly*. These three ships were loaded with general cargo consisting of farming implements, cattle, horses, and other farm animals, building material and a number of settlers with furniture and other household goods.

Unfortunately not a lot of details are recorded of some of the vessels of this period, not even in the "Bible of Ships", which is the Lloyds registry of ships. This lack of detail is for a number of reasons, one of which is where the ship in question was built – if it was not built in Britain the details may be difficult to trace because of lack of documentation. It is also most unlikely any photographs exist, but some paintings may have been made of some of these early vessels.

### The *Gilmore*

Built: 1824 in Calcutta  
Tonnage: 550 tons  
Captain: William Thomas Geary  
Arrived: 15th December 1829  
Broken up: After 1860-62



The *Gilmore* was built in Calcutta (Kolkata) in 1824. She was a full rigged ship sheathed in copper, weighed about 550 tons, and may have been an opium trader. She was acquired to take 182 settlers to the Swan River colony. This was her first voyage since being lengthened and re-commissioned earlier in 1829. Yet her departure was delayed due to bad weather and a mutiny by the crew, as they found the distance too long.

In July 1829, the *Gilmore* sailed from the St Katherine Docks in London, picking up more passengers in Gravesend (where heavy winds slowed her) and Plymouth. There were further delays at Capetown; the captain, Geary, had married one of the passengers and was in no hurry to leave. But Peel was in a hurry. He would be given a land grant for the south east area of Perth, between the Swan and Canning Rivers, if he arrived before the 1st November 1829. However he didn't, arriving instead on the 15th December of that year. Thus, he was given 250,000 acres of land between Cockburn Sound and the Peel Inlet.



The passengers on the *Gilmore* finally came ashore at the end of December, at Clarence (Woodman's Point). They lived on the beach there for the first winter, in which about 30 settlers died.

In Lloyd's Register for Ships for 1837, the *Gilmore* was by then owned by Duncan, Gibb and Co. of Liverpool, and then travelled between London and Bombay (Mumbai). She was sold to R Barry and Co. of London, where she was sent trading to New South Wales and India. The *Gilmore* was doubled and re-sheathed in 1841, with large repairs done in both 1843 and 1848. In 1852, she was bought by a Farquharson, who sold her to Bryant and Co. and she then traded between London and India. Between 1860 and 1862, the *Gilmore* disappeared from the lists; it was probably at this time that she was broken up.

### The *Hooghly*

Built: 1819 in Calcutta  
Tonnage: 550 tons  
Captain: Peter John Reeves  
Arrived: 13th February 1830  
Broken Up: After 1856



The *Hooghly* was built in Calcutta (Kolkata) in 1819, and was probably named after the *Hooghly* River. She was constructed from teak, was 466 tons and was owned by Buckley and Co. She was lengthened for the Australian migrant trade, with her tonnage being increased to 550 tons. The *Hooghly* was chartered for Thomas Peel's voyage to the Swan River Colony, taking 173 passengers and their possessions. Her crew included Captain Reeves and the mate George Bayly, whose journal for this voyage, and others, survives. The *Hooghly* arrived on 13th February 1830 at Clarence. This was her only visit to West Australia, but at the time she was the largest ship to have visited the colony. She left Perth in March 1830 bound for London via Singapore, with a number of steerage passengers.

The *Hooghly* made four voyages to Sydney as a convict transport in 1825, 1827, 1831 and 1834; and she carried migrants to South Australia, with six voyages between 1836 and 1856. She also sailed from Cork, in Ireland, to Jackson Bay, in New South Wales, with Irish migrants. One voyage was also from London, leaving on the 19th February 1839, to Port Adelaide, arriving on the 17th July 1839, with 290 migrants. She sailed again from Plymouth in the UK, bound for Adelaide in South Australia. She arrived on the 25th July 1840. In 1842 she sailed from Calcutta to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) with a cargo of prisoners and horses. The captain was former mate George Bayly. The *Hooghly's* last recorded voyage to Australia was on the 3rd July 1856, when she left Plymouth bound for Adelaide. She arrived on the 24th October. It is not known when she was broken up.



## The *Rockingham*

Built: 1818 in Sunderland  
Tonnage: 427 tons  
Length: 109 feet, 11 inches (33.5m)  
Breadth: 29 feet, 7 inches (9.02m)  
Captain: Haliburton  
Arrived: May 1830  
Wrecked: 24th May 1830



The *Rockingham* was built in Sunderland, England, by Laing in 1818. She had a tonnage of 427 tons. The *Rockingham* had previously travelled to India in 1822-3 under Captain Charles Beach. She was the last of Peel's three ships to arrive, having left London in January 1830, and arrived in mid-May under command of Captain Haliburton. Her late departure was due to bad weather and doubts of the Swan River Colony's viability, which were circulating in England. Upon her arrival, a naval officer guided her through reefs to Cockburn Sound. Peel wished for the settlers and cargo to be brought ashore at once, despite the worsening weather. This meant the *Rockingham* was nearer shore when a huge storm blew up during the night. The ship's capstan broke due to the strain put upon it, her rudder was damaged and the strong winds drove her and four other onto the beach. The 180 settlers were landed in the surf, but all survived. The *Rockingham* was repaired, but after going out to sea for a few days was found to be leaking. She was condemned as unseaworthy, and was wrecked again at Clarence. She brought much needed supplies to the colony, but also brought more mouths to feed. Captain Haliburton took command of the *Orelia* (or *Aurelia*) from Hobart Town, her captain having resigned. Captain Haliburton may have been the man who injured Thomas Peel's right hand in 1830.



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## Passenger List

### The Gilmore

ADRON, Andrew  
ARMSTRONG, Adam and 6 children  
BAILEY, Mr & Mrs and 4 children  
BARWELL, Daniel  
BASKERVILLE, John  
BAXTER  
BEADMAN, William  
BEALE, R.  
BROWN, Thomas & Mrs and 3 children  
CLAP, Arthur  
COOK, Benjamin & Mrs and 1 child  
COOK, Lancelot  
COUSINS, Mr & Mrs and 4 children  
CRANE, Mr B. & Mrs and 3 children  
CRISP, John & Mrs and 6 children  
COCKETT, Charles  
DALTON, William  
DOLLIER, Jas  
DUNNAGE, George and Mrs  
EDGE CUMBE, Mr & Mrs and 4 children  
ELMSLIE, Adam Wallace and 2 children  
FARQUAHAR  
FLAHERTY, Mr & Mrs and 6 children  
FORWARD, Henry  
FULLMAN, Levy  
GAHAN, Townshend  
GAYZE, William  
GRIX, Jas  
HAYMES, Richard  
HOBLEY, Thomas  
HUNTER, Thomas  
INGLIS, William N.  
INKPEN, Jas & Mrs and 5 children  
JACKSON, Chas  
JOHNSTONE  
JONES, Henry  
KEATS, Mr and Mrs

LARKIN, Charles  
LEISHAM, Robert  
LEWIS, Henry  
LIPSCOMBE, Fred  
LYTTLETON, Mr & Mrs and 2 children  
MACKENZIE, George  
MEARES, Captain & Mrs & 4 sons and 4 daughters  
MEARES, Payton Gamble  
MURPHY, George  
PEEL, Thomas  
PEEL  
PENGILLY, Mr & Mrs and 1 child  
PEPPER, George  
PERRY, Joshua  
PETIT, Mr & Mrs and 7 children  
PIERCE, Thomas  
POTTER, Mr & Mrs and 1 child  
POWELL, Richard & Mrs and 3 children  
PRESTON, George  
ROBERTSON, John Gordon  
SMITH, George  
SMITH, John  
SMITHERS, W. H. & Mrs and 5 children  
STAME, Louisa  
STEWART, Peter  
THOMAS, Mr & Mrs and 5 children  
TUOMEY, William  
WALSH, Thomas  
WARD, John  
WATSON, Thomas  
WATTERTON, Edward  
WHOLMAN, John  
WISE, Sarah  
WILSON, Thomas and 2 children





## Passenger List

### The Hooghly

ANDERSON, James and Mrs  
BARNARD, William  
BEARD, William  
BOND, Henry R. & Mrs and 3 children  
BOOTHMAN, Edward  
BOUGLAS, George  
BRIEN, Thomas  
BROUGHTON, Joseph & Mrs and 5 children  
BUTLER, William  
CARPENTER, William  
CLAMP, Mr and Mrs  
COLLIER, Samuel  
COOK, James  
COOPER, James  
COOPER, James  
COOPER, William  
DEVENISH, William & Mrs and 5 children  
DUDLEY, Thomas & Mrs and 3 children  
EDWARDS, Richard & Mrs and 5 children  
FARQUHAR, John & Mrs and 3 children  
FOSTER, William  
FRREMAN, Isaac  
FULLER, Richard  
GOODMAN, James  
GRIFFITH, Dr and Mrs  
HARRISON, Thomas & Mrs and 3 children  
HERD, William & Mrs  
HOOD, Charles  
JOHNSON, Simon  
JONES, Joseph  
JONES, Thomas  
KIRK, Henry  
LAMBERTH, William  
LAWRENCE, James  
LOCKYER, James & Mrs and 2 children  
LOCKYER, Paul & Mrs and 7 children  
MAIN, Richard  
MARTIN, William & Mrs and 1 child  
MEAD, Joseph  
MEREDITH, William & Mrs and 4 children  
McKNOE, Joseph  
MINSON, Robert & Mrs and 1 child  
NEAL, Peter  
NORCOPE, Samuel & Mrs and 3 children  
OAKLEY, Mr & Mrs and 1 child  
OATRIDGE, John  
ORGILL, Mr & Mrs and niece  
PARKER, Mr & Mrs and 3 children  
ROGERS, William  
RUSSELL, William  
SANDERS, William  
SHEPPARD, John & Mrs and 5 children  
SHORTER, Thomas  
SPICE, Saul & Mrs and 6 children  
STRICKLAND, Robert & Mrs and 6 children  
SYRED, Thomas  
SYRED, George  
SYRED, Daniel  
TICHBOW, John & Mrs and 2 children  
VELVICK, John  
VELVICK, Thomas  
VELVICK, William  
WARD, Joel  
WARD, William & Mrs and 3 children  
WATSON, William  
WATTS, James  
WEAVER, John  
WHITE, Alexander T.  
WILKINSON, John  
WOLLAND, John  
WOODWARD, James & Mrs and 7 children



## Passenger List

### The Rockingham

ADAMS, Mr & Mrs and 2 children  
AMBROSE, Mr and Mrs  
BALLS, John  
BARBER, Richard  
BARNES, William  
BATES, Mr & Mrs and 5 children  
BATTRASS, Thomas  
CATO, Mr & Mrs and 5 children  
CLYDE (GLYDE?), Mr and 4 children  
COOK, Mr & Mrs and 3 children  
COOK, Henry  
COOK, Thomas  
COOK, William  
COOMBES, Mrs and 4 children  
COX, Samuel  
CROCKER, Ann  
DENNIS, Robert  
DODDS, Mr & Mrs and 5 children  
EDWARDS, Mr & Mrs and 4 children  
EACOTT, Mr & Mrs and 1 child  
FARRIS (FERRES?), John  
FIELD, Robert  
FLETCHER, Mr & Mrs and 1 child  
FORWARD, James  
GLOVER, Thomas  
GRAHAM, John  
GREENE, Mr & Mrs  
HALL, John  
HODGES, James  
HOOK (COOK?), Mrs Henry  
HURRELL, John  
LACEY, Mr & Mrs and 4 children  
LANGLEY, Dr. Nicholas W.  
LEDGARD, William  
LEEDER, Mr & Mrs and 5 children  
LIGHT, John  
LIGHT, Robert  
LIVINGSTON (SWINSTONE?), Samuel  
LONG, Thomas  
LONG, Zacariah  
MANEY, Margaret (servant to Mrs GREENE)  
MARTIN, Mr & Mrs and 3 children  
MARTIN, William  
MEWS, Mr & Mrs and 4 children  
MORGAN, Diana (servant to Mrs COOMBES)  
MORRIS, Richard  
MORRIS, Thomas  
PALMER, Mr & Mrs and 2 children  
PARSONS, Mr & Mrs and 3 children  
POLLARD, Mr & Mrs and 2 children  
POWIS, Mr & Mrs and 2 sons  
QUIN, Kevin  
RAWLINS, Mr & Mrs and 5 children  
READ, Athold  
READ, Charles  
READ, Emma  
READ, Mark  
READ, Mr and Mrs  
ROBINSON, Mr & Mrs and 1 child  
ROGERS, R. J.C.  
ROSE, Mr & Mrs  
ROWES, Mr & Mrs and 2 sons  
RYAN, Patrick  
SHAW, Edward  
SHEPPARD, Mr & Mrs and 2 children  
SMITH, Benjamin  
SMITH, George  
STONER, John  
TAPPER, Mr & Mrs and 2 children  
TUCKEY, Mr and 2 sons  
WALLER, Richard  
WARE, Titus  
WILLIAMS, A. and 2 children in care  
WILLIAMS, Mr and Mrs



## Timeline

1818

The *Rockingham* built in England

1819

The *Hooghly* built in India

1822-3

The *Rockingham* travels to India

1824

The *Gilmore* is built in India

1825-34

The *Hooghly* takes convicts to Sydney over four voyages

1829

The *Gilmore* is lengthened and re-commissioned

July 1829

The *Gilmore* sets sail from London to the Swan River Colony

c. September/October 1829

The *Hooghly* sets sail for the Swan River

December 1829

The *Gilmore* arrives at Perth

January 1830

The *Rockingham* leaves London for the Swan River

February 1830

The *Hooghly* arrives

March 1830

The *Hooghly* leaves Perth

May 1830

The *Rockingham* arrives at the Swan River Colony, and is wrecked after a storm

1836-56

The *Hooghly* takes migrants to South Australia over six voyages

1837

The *Gilmore* is owned by Duncan, Gibb & Co.





## Timeline cont'd

1839

The *Hooghly* takes Irish settlers to Port Jackson, NSW

1840

The *Hooghly* travels to South Australia

1841

The *Gilmore* is doubled and re-sheathed

1842

The *Hooghly* travels to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania)

1843

Repairs done to the *Gilmore*

1848

The *Gilmore* undergoes repairs

1852

The *Gilmore* is bought by Farquharson

1856

The last recorded voyage of the *Hooghly*: to Adelaide

1860-62

The *Hooghly* is probably broken up

