

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.



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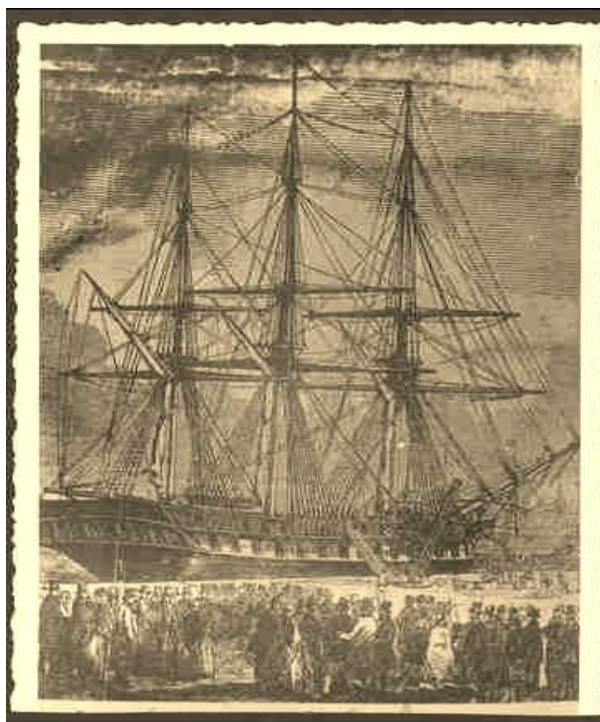
In July 1829, the *Gilmore* sailed from the St Katherine Docks in London, picking up more passengers in Gravesend (where heavy winds slowed her) and Plymouth. There were further delays at Capetown; the captain, Geary, had married one of the passengers and was in no hurry to leave. But Peel was in a hurry. 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
EDGECUMBE, 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
STEWARD, 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



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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.



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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

