

# RETURN OF PENSIONERS IN 1868

Reference AJCP CO 18/159/163-168

In 1868 with the era of transportation at an end Lieut Colonel Bruce drew up a report covering the years 1850-1868. The report listed the number of pensioners who served on the different convict ships as guards. The list appears on page 131 of 'The Veterans' and itemises the date of arrival, name of ship, strength of each guard, number of women and number and sex of the children. He stated the total number of pensioners who arrived in the Colony between those dates as 1191 and from that number he deducted the following:

130 who had died of natural causes  
18 who had died accidentally  
1 had been shot by a comrade  
6 had suicided  
49 had their pensions expire [Meaning they were what was termed 'Temporary Pensioners' and although they came as part of the convict guard their pensions, unlike those of the other pensioners, ceased on a date predetermined by the War Office.]  
7 had been struck off  
399 had transferred from the Colony [Which is a huge number representing 1/3 of the total number who had arrived.]

This left 581 of the original 1151 to which he added 22 who had been discharged in the Colony or arrived in civil employment giving a total of 603 pensioners in Western Australia on 30th June 1868

**Jeanette Lee**