

Some research suggestions on convicts and Irish immigrants

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In May 2013 I attended the National Famine Commemorations in Kilrush, County Clare. One of the events I attended was the lecture and readings of Evelyn Conlon introducing, at that time, her forthcoming novel based on the lives of the Famine orphan girls who were shipped to Australia during the period 1848 to 1850, the girls were taken from Workhouses throughout all 32 counties in Ireland.

<http://www.irishfaminememorial.org/en/orphans/>

Evelyn stated many times during the lecture/readings that she was not a family historian, but an author of novels based on elements of fact.

The audience appeared to me to be thirsty for Australian information on Irish people leaving as convicts or those who immigrated, many did not know about the great indexing and books available on these subjects, at the time I thought I would write something about the conversations that evening in Kilrush. I typed so many pages and was nowhere near finished, it was starting to seem like a never ending story, so I put it aside because it needed serious editing.

In August 2015 we will be travelling to the UK and of course Clare in Ireland and once again I was reminded about my unfinished story. I feel embarrassed; there was no reason why I should not have finished this. What I have written is only a snapshot of the type of information available, it is certainly not an exhaustive list, my hope is that it might give some researchers clues on where to go to find more information.

That night in 2013, in what was previously the building of St Senan's Church of Ireland in Kilrush, questions were being asked and somehow we strayed into the subject of what was available about Irish convicts and immigrants to Australia. It was incorrectly stated by a member of the audience that convict ships stopped going to Australia in 1820 or thereabouts because the Australian Government did not want convicts.

There was no Australian Government in the 1820's, we were a British Colony – the Australian Government website link, <http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/european-discovery-and-colonisation> gives a brief explanation of events with many other web links. There are countless books written on this subject, the internet has hundreds of thousands of references to this theme.

The last convict ship to come to Australia left England in late 1867 and arrived in Western Australia in 1868. There are many sources where Australian convict records can be viewed free of charge, below are just a few of those resources, you will find scores of websites.

Australian states were not defined at the beginning of settlement http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_evolution_of_Australia the pictures in this link give a visual view of changes to boundaries which becomes important when researchers are trying to find records

State Library of Queensland

<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/family-history>

There are many links to choose from, eg Convict ancestry, Convicts: further research, Convict database, Immigration indexes just to name a few, this is a really good site.

Ireland-Australia transportation database

<http://www.nationalarchives.ie/topics/transportation/search01.html>

To mark the Australian Bicentenary in 1988, Taoiseach presented microfilms of the most important of these records to the Government and People of Australia as a gift from the Government and People of Ireland.

Convict Records

<http://www.convictrecords.com.au/> - Try this site, it will allow you to search convict records transported between 1787-1867. Information available includes name of convict, known aliases, place convicted, port of departure, date of departure, port of arrival, and the source of the data. Public contributions welcome

The Dead Persons Society (Western Australia)

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/index.html> has a list of Convict Ships 1787 to 1868 compiled by Charles Bateson, the list is regarded as the definitive guide to Australia's period of transportation. You will find information on this site about the voyages to New South Wales, Norfolk Island, Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. It ranges from the life on board for both crew and convict, right through to records of deaths, numbers of convicts and the length of each voyage.

The Female Factory Parramatta (NSW) (1821 – 1847) was the first dropping off point for female convicts if they had not received an assignment to work as servants, it was also used as a gaol when convict woman reoffended, eg being drunk, out of the area of their ticket of leave etc. <http://www.parragirls.org.au/> - this site also has information on the Parramatta Mental Asylum, the Roman Catholic Orphan School and the Parramatta Girls Home

Go to State Records NSW Finding Aids <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/guides-and-finding-aids> eg

Archives in Brief 2 – Convict records <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/guides-and-finding-aids/archives-in-brief/archives-in-brief-2>

Archives in Brief 100 is a chart step by step help in finding a convict <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/guides-and-finding-aids/files/archives-in-brief-100-how-to-find-a-convict-pdf>

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/guides-and-finding-aids/archives-in-brief/archives-in-brief-59> Children Care & Protection - children did not necessarily have to be an orphan to be in orphan schools. This "Archives-in-Brief 59, explains what the system was at the time and the organisations involved.

The **1828 Census for NSW** is noteworthy, this Census includes convicts, those who came to Australia as a free person and those who were born in the colony.

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/images/documents-1/1828-census-hardcopy-version/view> This is a hard copy of the census, and can be saved as a download.

The Colonial Secretary's Correspondence

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/colonial-secretary/index-to-the-colonial-secretarys-papers-1788-1825/colonial-secretary-papers-1788-1825>

The correspondence included "Letters from Government officials and private individuals, convicts; copies of agreements; despatches; general orders; instructions; ordinary regulations; proclamations; memoranda; reports and returns. Letters received from establishments at Bathurst, Moreton Bay, Newcastle, Port Macquarie and Van Diemen's."

Colonial Secretary's Correspondence example

HINDS, William. Private, 102nd Regiment

1811 Sep 11 Wife and two daughters left behind on the embarkation of the Regiment (Reel 6043; 4/1726 p.163b)

FINLAY, Margaret. Per "John Bull", 1821

1823 Sep 3 Re permission to marry at Parramatta (Reel 6011; 4/3509 p.181)

1824 Mar 31 Of Emu Plains; sentenced to 12 months at the Factory for refusing to work. On return of fines and punishments inflicted by the Bench of Evan (Reel 6023; 4/6671 p.67)

1825 Sep 5,8 Re permission to marry Patrick Duffey in the Roman Catholic Church; also listed as Furley (Reel 6064, 4/1787 p.130; Reel 6015, 4/3515 pp.316-7)

1825 Nov 7,19 Re permission to marry William Sikens at Parramatta; listed as Finland (Reel 6064, 4/1788 p.105; Reel 6016, 4/3516 p.4)

HIPKIN, William alias LACK. Per "Shipley", 1817

1820 Oct 2,4 Re permission to marry Mary Irwin at Liverpool; appears as Sack (Reel 6007; 4/3502 p.301)

1823 Oct 28 In Sydney Gaol. Petition of his wife Mary Irwin to accompany him to Port Macquarie; as Lack (Fiche 3234; 4/1870 p.9)

1823 Oct 31 On lists of prisoners transported to Port Macquarie per "Sally" (Reel 6019; 4/3864 pp.86, 446-7)

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/census.html> this is another example of the Perth *Dead Persons' Society* site it lists Census and Muster returns for Convicts. Where the information is available the PRO (UK) reference is given.

Musters give information on who the convict was assigned to. Convicts are usually listed by their name plus the name of the ship which brought them to Australia.

http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/services/family_history/ - State Libraries provide a great service to their researchers, this is the NSW State Library – try the one in the state you are research.

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives> - New South Wales – click the *Quick Links* link on the homepage to go to the “Fact Sheets” about the various records which are available through The State Records Authority of New South Wales

<http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx> - Queensland

<http://www.linc.tas.gov.au/tasmaniasheritage> - Tasmania (was Van Diemen’s Land)

Convicts were not sent by convict ships direct to South Australia, this does not mean that ex convicts did not live in this state. The South Australians sentenced to transportation in the first eleven years of that settlement (1837-1848) can be located at State Record In fact South Australia - Check out Graham Jaunay’s website Adelaide Proformat for explanation - <http://www.jaunay.com/convicts.html>

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/research-topics/convicts/sentenced-beyond-the-seas/sentenced-beyond-the-seas> this is a State Records NSW project to digitise the earliest convict records.

IMMIGRATION

Some came as convicts, others came as Assisted Immigrants, whilst many came as Bounty Immigrants, there were Unassisted Immigrants and of course there are those who paid their own fare. Paying passengers were not always recorded as well as convicts and anyone arriving via the various immigration schemes. Websites of State Archives in the various states should be consulted.

The source I have found most beneficial to my Irish research are those indexes compiled by http://www.pastkeys.com.au/index.php?_a=page&id=indexes There are 9 indexes on 7 CDs with another CD due for sale in March 2015 on Employment and Dispersal Lists Assistant Immigrants 1848 - 1854 arriving Moreton Bay, Port Phillip, Sydney and Twofold Bay.

One of my favourites from this website is the **NSW Immigration Deposits Combined Index 1851 – 1900**. I used this index when it was first released on microfiche many years ago, I have found it a wonderful source of information especially the depositor’s name, plus the ship’s name.

I then look at the ship’s log in the online indexes for State Records NSW and browse the actual ship’s log name list, usually organised as families, single females, single males, this allows me to look for extended family members travelling on the same ship, I often pick up extra clues. <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/guides-and-finding-aids/nrs-lists/nrs-5316>

The Deposit Journals Index has been completely revised and expanded since it was first published on microfiche, it is now a field-searchable database listing depositors and immigrants.

The new version combines the two indexes - the NSW Immigration Deposit Index 1853-1900 and the Immigration Deposit Regulations Supplementary Index - and it has many new features. It contains 71,211 records. Many early immigrants established in the Colony, including former convicts, sponsored relatives and employees and, in a majority of entries, details such as location, parish, townland or address in the county or country of origin, age, ship, etc. are specified and families are grouped. These records provide that vital link between family and extended family, often cousins, uncles etc with different surnames.

21/02/2015 **NSW Immigration Deposits Combined Index 1853-1900 - Search Program - Search Results Report**
 Search Criteria - Immigrant: HINCHEY.

Depositor	Immigrant	Age	Ship	Type	No	Date	Series	SRNSW Ref	Reel	Record No
Remarks:										
HINCHEY Mary	HINCHEY Annie	27		Dep	1044	26/02/1884	IDJ	4/4596	2675	55943
Occupation; Location, Clare, Ireland										
HINCHEY Michael	HINCHEY Bridget	20	<i>Wallasea</i>	Dep	3051	23/12/1864	IDJ	4/4586	2671	34537
Occupation; Location, Clare, Ireland; Referee; CPS, Wollongong; Info: Outfit money to be paid as follows: £3 to Honora, £3 to Bridget Hinchey; in case of death, or absence, outfit money to be returned to the Depositor; Ship [Arr 27/9/1865; & sister, Honor, on Ship List]. With 65/2208 8/8/65										
HINCHEY Michael	HINCHEY Honora	23	<i>Wallasea</i>	Dep	3051	23/12/1864	IDJ	4/4586	2671	45883
Occupation; Location, Clare, Ireland; Referee; CPS, Wollongong; Info: Outfit money to be paid as follows: £3 to Honora, £3 to Bridget Hinchey; in case of death, or absence, outfit money to be returned to the Depositor; Ship [Arr 27/9/1865; Honor, & sister, Bridget, on Ship List]. With 65/2208 8/8/65										
HINCHEY Bridget	HINCHEY John	26	<i>Alfred</i>	Dep	2697	16/05/1859	IDJ	4/4580	2669	53066
Occupation; Location, Tipperary, Ireland; Referee; Ship [Arr 6/1/1860; John HINCHEY on Ship List]										

<http://members.pcuq.org.au/~ppmay/> this website has the list of Irish convicts to Australia from 1788 to 1849 – there are many other web links on this site.

A sample of books

Farewell My Children Irish Assisted Emigration to Australia 1848 – 1870 – Richard E Reid

..... Tells the story of these emigrants as they left their Irish homes to sail to Sydney, a journey mirrored by those who left for Melbourne, Adelaide, Hobart or Moreton Bay (Brisbane). Who were these emigrants, what propelled them out of Ireland, what were their first experiences of Australia as they battled for employment? Orphan girls fled the destitution and disease of Irish workhouses during the Great Famine.

Dictionary of Western Australians 1829-1914 compiled by Rica Erickson

Vol 1 Early Settlers with supplement

Vol 2 Bond 1850-1868 with supplement compiled by Rica Erickson

Craig James, 2832 – Unm, lab. semi lit. RC, conv, Antrim 1849, assault, 7 yrs; arr. “Phoebe Dunbar” 31.8.1853 (2571) TL 1.5.1854, CP 3.2.1855

Moore Michael, 1840 – M. ship smith, lit. RC, conv, Dublin 1865, treason, 10 yrs; arr. “Hougoumont” 10.01.1868 (9826) free pardon 15.5.1869 Fremantle. Left for Sydney 21.9.1869

Vol 3 Free 1850-1868 (companion volume to the above)

Vol 4 Part 1 A-K 1868 – 1888 and Part 2 L-Z 1868-1888

Rica Erickson acted as editor and as a substantial contributor to ***The Brand On His Coat***, a collection of biographies of some of the 9,500 convicts transported to Western Australia between 1850 and 1868.

A Cargo Of Women : Susannah Watson and the Convicts Of The Princess Royal, author Babette Smith traces the chequered story of one hundred women transported together in 1829 on the ship Princess Royal

Notorious Strumpets and Dangerous Girls by Phillip Tardif tells the story of the 1600 Convict Women sent to Van Diemen's Land from 1803 to 1829

The Fatal Shore A History of the transportation of convicts to Australia 1787-1868

a drift of DERWENT DUCKS by Trudy Mae Cowley is a study of the 200 female Irish convicts who were transported to Van Diemen's Land from Ireland in 1849 on the Australasia

General Return of Convicts in New South Wales 1837 Edited by N.G. Butlin, C.W. Cromwell, K.L. Suthern

eg **Ely George** 20 on the ship the Waterloo 1836 Tried at Tipperary, Master Richard Cox Williams River, the same name and details has the Master as Hyde Park Barracks Sydney

The Founders of Australia – A biographical Dictionary of the First Fleet by Mollie Gillen

The Second Fleet – Britain's Grim Convict Armada of 1790 by Michael Flynn

there are other books along this line eg Third Fleets etc

CD

Casey's Charity - The Account Book 1794 – 1847 (published by Manchester & Lancashire FHS <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/>) 13,000 names - Casey's Charity was established by the Will of John Casey, an Irish linen merchant who lived for many years in Manchester but retired to Chester where he died on 13 September 1793. He left a sum of £540, to which a further £300 was added in 1795 on the death of his son), the interest from which was to be applied to the relief of the poor Catholics of Manchester.

The account book, which covers 1794 to 1847, lists the recipients of payments from the fund and the sums given. In a few cases, a street address is given but mostly the information is limited to names only. Many of these names, as might be expected, appear to refer to Irish men and women. A few Italian surnames also appear. In addition to images of the transcribed account book, this CDROM contains a complete surname/forename index.

<http://familysearch.org> - choose search, choose catalogue, choose title, copy and paste this title into the title search in the website ***Index of O'Kief, Coshe Mang, Slieve Lougher, and Upper Blackwater in Ireland*** – films can be ordered through the Family History Centres of the LDS Church - these films are the what, when and where for the 16 volumes on counties Cork and Kerry covering genealogy indexes,

history indexes, church records. The films are not easy to read. There are 30,000 pages and 3 million personal names indexed in each volume

AND not to forget one of the great Australian websites <http://trove.nla.gov.au/> over 405, 325, 438 Australian and online resources, books, images, historic newspapers, maps, music, archives and more (it grows by the week). I recommend that you use the “advance search” you have more control over the years you are researching, best to do a block of years at a time. Read <http://help.nla.gov.au/trove/using-trove/finding-things> there are tips which will help you significantly in targeting what is of interest to you. **All free**