



A.N.D.F.H.G. Inc. News Sheet

Issue 92 – Oct. 2017

ELECTED COMMITTEE 2017-2018

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VICE PRESIDENT	Ivan Randall
SECRETARY	Suzanne Smith
TREASURER	Suzanne Smith

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	Helen Stein
	Ian Cowley
	Margaret Flaiban

APPOINTMENTS

LIBRARIAN	Margaret Flaiban	FAMILY TREE MAKER CONVENER	Peter Applebee
DOCUMENT SCANNER	Sharon Norman	LEGACY USERS GROUP CONVENER	Shirley Bulley
		AUDITOR	Shirley Bulley

Oct. Calendar

Thursday, 5 October
10:00am - 4.00pm
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Monday, 9 October
7:00pm - 8.30pm
Legacy Users Group Meeting

Thursday, 12 October
10:00am - 4.00pm
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Saturday, 14 October
1:00pm - 4.00pm
Committee Meeting - Research Day

Thursday, 19 October
10:00am - 4.00pm
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Saturday, 21 October
1:30pm - 3.30pm
Family Tree Maker User Group Meeting

Thursday, 26 October
10:00am - 4.00pm
Mid-Week Research Open Day

Saturday, 28 October
1:00pm - 4.00pm
James Jay - Open Book Howden
The Self- Publishing Journey

From the Committee

Hello Members,

This month's newsletter has a real Colonial feel with Scottish and Irish sites for you to check out and perhaps a link to your own family history research. Those of you who have Irish connections (and we all know that is quite difficult in some places) the book on *The Kerry Girls* and the Earl Grey Scheme leads to some fascinating reading. What hardships and sacrifices those girls endured is a testament to their tenacity and survival skills. Don't you just love the bonnets!

We have included a great story of John McDonald who lived to be six months off his 100th birthday. Born in Nottinghamshire England and emigrating in 1852 to Tasmania with his wife Ann, he carved out a living in Launceston and by the sounds of it, was a happy and healthy man until his death in 1924.

The Georgian period in England was quite turbulent especially during George IV's reign (*12 August 1762 – 26 June 1830*). The link to "Tracing London Convicts in Britain and Australia 1780-1925" is helpful if you are missing a twig on one of your branches. It also leads to some interesting reading. If you have any interesting bits of information about your family tree, we would love to print them in your newsletter for other members to read.

We only have a couple of more months to go before we break up for Christmas, so if you would like to 'dig' a little more on your family trees, our volunteers are on hand to help you – just make a booking on any Thursday.

Thank You.

Disclaimer

The Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group Inc. does not accept any responsibility for the opinions or the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter

John McDonald (1824-1924)

Researched by Shirley Bulley

John McDonald was born in July 1824 in Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottingham, England to William McDonald and Ann Harpham and baptized on 23rd July, 1824. He passed away on the 29th January, 1924 in Launceston Tasmania, six months before he turned 100 years old. Incidentally he is in the 1841 UK Census as a Male Servant, living with his parents and siblings. John's father William McDonald is shown as a 'Surveyor of the Roads' living close to his father John McDonald, a Farmer at the age of 92!

John McDonald's Launceston obituary has some interesting facts.

Death of Centenarian Mr. John McDonald, Launceston:

Within six months of attaining his hundredth birthday, Mr. John McDonald (named after his grandfather) passed away at his residence in Wellington Road, Launceston, on Tuesday. His grandfather lived to be 103 years of age. It was not until recently that Mr. McDonald's health began to fail. Hitherto he had lived an active life, in spite of his great age, and frequently came into the city in connection with his business as a dealer. In a comparatively recent interview with an "Examiner" representative Mr. McDonald declared that he had never felt better, and added that he had enjoyed practically uninterrupted good health.

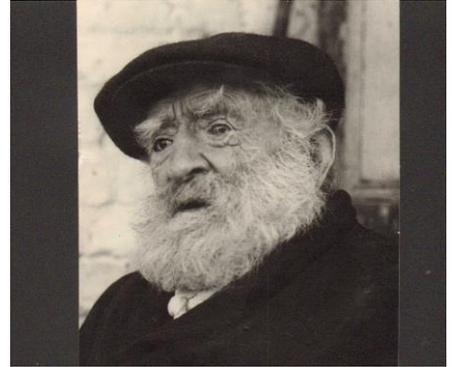


Born at Mansfield Woodhouse in Nottinghamshire, England, the late Mr. McDonald was 99½ years old. He has lived under five English Sovereigns, and one of his earliest recollections was an amusing incident on the occasion when the garden of his native village gave a "tea" on the village green, celebrating the Coronation of the late Queen Victoria on the 28th day of June 1838, just over a year after she succeeded to the throne at the age of 18.

At the age of 27, accompanied by his wife Ann and two children, Mr. McDonald sailed from Newcastle with half a crown in his pocket on the 12,000 miles voyage to Australia on board the '*Australasia*'. Three months and one week late- he disembarked in what was then known as Hobart Town. Soon afterwards he came to reside in Launceston, and had lived in the same house ever since-for nearly 60 years. Launceston was then. a "nice little place." Ticket-of-leave men were then numerous, and convict settlements were located at Oatlands, Franklin Village (Hobart being then in the course of construction) Port Arthur, Macquarie Harbour, and another in the midlands. In those days executions were carried out in Patterson Street before the public, and he remembered (although he did not actually attend) the execution of Dalton and Kelly the bushrangers, who shot Simeon Lord at Avoca; and of Tierney, who killed this woman who kept a boarding house in York-street opposite where the old Baptist Tabernacle now stands. The treadmill was another means of punishment for various offences. He remembered such a mill worked by sentenced men - on the present Courthouse site. The mill ground flour, and was sold subsequently, with Mr. McDonald attending the sale. The Olympic Theatre then stood in Cameron Street, opposite the present Post Office; others, respectively, near the St. Andrew's Church site and behind the present Exchange Hotel in York-street. The Post Office was where the Taxation Office stands today and close by was the old Watch house, the door of which he purchased 50 years ago, and still has. Mr. McDonald has six sons and four daughters living. One daughter (Mrs. Salisbury) was drowned through the sinking of steam launch '*Alice*', caused by a collision with the S.S. Togo.

Mr E A McDonald, the well-known Australian cricketer, now in Lancashire, England, is a grandson.

John McDonald married Ann Turner (1828-1883) in the June quarter of 1848 in the parish of Sculcoates in Hull, East Yorkshire. The 1851 Census shows that Ann is also a Nottinghamshire girl, so we are not sure why they are living in Yorkshire. The passenger list shows John's occupation as a Groom and Gardener, aged 27 and could read and write. His religion is Protestant. The family left London on the '*Australasia*' in August 1852 via Plymouth bound for Hobart Town, VDL (Van Deimens Land, now Tasmania) with his wife, Ann, and two children (his son Richard born 1849 and Agnes born 1852, she only being one month old. They were classed as "bounty passengers" under the auspice of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners. Bounty immigrants were free immigrants whose passage was paid by the Colonial Government under the 'bounty scheme'. Under this scheme, an incentive or reward (i.e. bounty) was paid to recruiting agents in Britain to find suitable skilled labour and trades people, then ship them out to the colony which urgently needed the working class people to do the manual labour in this new and untouched land. Bounties were paid to the ships' masters for the safe delivery of their passengers under the scheme. The typical bounty was £19 (approximately \$38.00) for an adult and £5 pounds for a child.



The ship "*Australasia*" has some historical significance due to its voyage in 1849 with the transportation of 200 female convicts from Dublin. It was one of the Sunderland (Durham) built ships known as being "excellent frigate built vessels, fast and seaworthy". Extreme gale force winds caused the loss of the ship in March 1855, in Portland Bay, Victoria. According to local accounts at the time of wrecking, the vessel was originally wrecked stern up onto the beach. However it later turned broadside to the beach and broke up. Local press reports severely criticized the Colonial Government for the lack of proper port facilities - "A south-easterly gale caused the barque to part one of its cables while anchored in Portland Bay. The second anchor dragged, and the vessel grounded on a reef and soon began to break up. The ship was loading a cargo of wool at the time." he ship (or "barque") – was a type of sailing vessel with three masts, and had the fore and mainmasts rigged square and only the mizzen (the aft-most mast) rigged fore-and-aft. The *Australasia* was of wood construction, 117 feet long, 28 feet wide and 19 feet deep.

Sources : <http://freepages.family.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tcowley/Ships.htm#Australasia>

Maori Registration

Recently one of our members has been researching in New Zealand and found that his family had a link to a Maori clan. Registration on the Maori births did not begin until 1913 but here is the official link if anyone has connections and is interested in having a look.

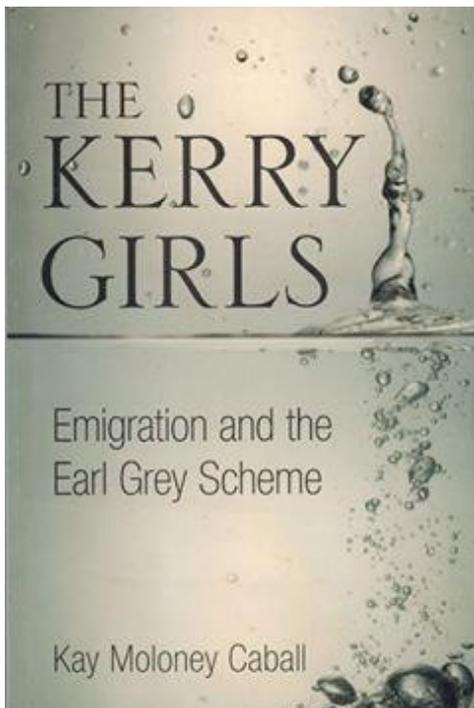
<https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/abouttherecords>

Irish Female Orphan Emigration

Interesting article from an Irish website, perhaps some of you would have these women in your family trees.

"The orphan girls were all disposed of, and sent away as fast as they could be disposed of...

Matron Mrs Eliza Capps, Select Committee on Irish Female Immigration, 1858"



"Readers of Joseph Robins' *Lost Children* will be familiar with the story of Irish female orphan adolescents who were sent from the workhouses of Ireland to the Australian colonies at the time of the Great Famine. Between 1848 and 1850 over 4,000 young women between the ages of fourteen and twenty arrived in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, some of them street-wise kids from Dublin, Belfast and Cork, others from famine ravaged rural districts around Skibbereen, Ballina, Roscrea and Loughrea. Their emigration was the brain-child of Earl Grey, secretary of state for the colonies, and primarily designed to meet an Australian demand for domestic servants and marriageable young women. Grey's own Irish connections may also have prompted him to do something, however small, for famine-stricken Ireland.

Closely regulated

Unlike the Irish who fled from the Irish holocaust in 'coffin' ships to North America the death-rate among orphan girls to Australia was very low—less than 1 per cent. Their emigration was closely regulated and watched over by government institutions such as the Irish Poor Law Commission in Dublin, the Colonial Land and Emigration Commission in London, and by immigration authorities in the Australian colonies. Behind it lay the experience of many years of convict transportation and bounty emigration, a tradition that had lowered the death rate to minimal levels by 1848. The experience of the Irish who emigrated to the Antipodes in the nineteenth century was very different from those who emigrated to North America. Australian historians, but perhaps not the readers of *History Ireland*, will know of the unfavourable reception given these orphan girls in the various Australian colonies. Such was the clamour of opposition to their immigration that Earl Grey's scheme was short-lived. It came to a premature end scarcely two years after it began.

The orphan girls became caught up in a political contest between imperial and Australian interests; Australian money was being used to finance the immigration of Irish paupers. No doubt, also, the fact that the immigration scheme was perceived as Earl Grey's, a secretary of state who was attempting to renew convict transportation, contributed to the hostile reaction to the orphans in Australia. But there was more involved than this. Other issues quickly came to the surface as well. Anti-Irish, anti-Catholic, and anti-female prejudice reared its head in a number of quarters. Just as in recent times certain sections of the Australian community thought Asian migrants were overwhelming them (Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party comes to mind) those in 1850 saw themselves being overwhelmed by Irish female orphans.

Condemned as 'workhouse incapables'

The young women were condemned in the colonial press, and by upper and middle-class opinion, as immoral, useless and untrained domestic servants, a drain upon the public purse, a financial liability, who, being blindly devoted to their religion, threatened to bring about a Popish ascendancy in New South Wales and Victoria. These were improper women, 'workhouse incapables' who were not carefully chosen migrants and were ill-suited to the needs of the Australian colonies. In the newspapers the orphans became the butt of prejudice and scorn. They were 'Irish orphans, workhouse sweepings' in the eyes of the South Australian Register; they were 'hordes of useless trollops, thrust upon an unwilling community', according to the Melbourne Argus. And in March 1850, the conservative Sydney Morning Herald complained, 'instead of a few hundreds, the girls are coming out by thousands. Instead of mere orphans, we are being inundated with Irish paupers'. The most strident criticism came from the Melbourne Argus reflecting the sectarian colour of local city politics:

It is downright robbery to withhold our funds from decent eligible well brought up girls, to lavish it upon a set of ignorant creatures, whose knowledge of household duty barely reaches to distinguishing the inside from the outside of a potato, and whose chief employment hitherto, has consisted of some intellectual occupation as occasionally trotting across a bog to fetch back a runaway pig. Our money ought to be expended upon the rosy cheeked girls of England, upon the braw lassies of bonnie Scotland, instead of being wasted upon these coarse, useless creatures who, with their squat, stunted figures, thick waists and clumsy ankles promises but badly for the 'physique' of the future colonists of Victoria. (January 1850)

With opposition such as this the scheme was doomed. Imperial authorities soon gave way to colonial pressure and ceased sending Irish orphan girls to the Australian colonies. So much for their immediate reception but what became of them in the long term during their lives in Australia? We only ever come into contact with the subaltern class in the past by means of biased intermediaries, such as official records. So too with the Irish orphan girls. We meet these young women most frequently at those points where the state intervened in their lives—in a workhouse in Ireland and on board a government chartered ship; or in an immigration depot in Australia, at the drawing up or the cancellation of the indentures of domestic servants, and sometimes in the records of a police magistrate's court. These were the places the written record was set down. But state intervention was felt acutely for only part of these women's lives. The vast majority never appeared in a police magistrate's court. None kept a diary that has survived. There is no collection of their correspondence. How then are we to come close to these women and discover what became of them in the long run? How might their life stories be told?

Casualties

Given the variety of backgrounds these young women came from, their relatively large number and the fact they were dispersed the length and breadth of eastern Australia, it is hardly surprising that their colonial experience should be equally varied. Among the casualties were those who were exploited and abused by their employers and husbands. In the Enniskillen workhouse register, for example, we find 'No 3708 Alice Ball, fourteen years old, orphan, Protestant, not disabled, Enniskillen town her place of residence, admitted 30 August 1848, discharged 3 October 1849'. She and her sister Jane made their way with other Enniskillen orphans to join the Diadem at Plymouth for the voyage to Port Phillip Bay. Less than a year later, in April 1850, sixteen year old Alice, made pregnant by her employer, took her own life by throwing herself into Melbourne's River Yarra.

Sixteen year old Mary Littlewood also suffered from harsh work conditions. Her mistress, Mrs Curtiss, of Sydney's North Shore, hammered her on the face until she was faint with loss of blood. Luckily a neighbour intervened on her behalf. Sent up the country to Scone, Mary again fell foul of her mistress, this time, Elinor McGrath, herself a recent arrival from Ireland. Something of Mary Littlewood's desperation, anger, frustration, rebellion, anomie, (how are we to describe it?) may be seen in the records relating to the cancellation of her indentures. Mary refused 'to obey' Mrs McGrath's 'lawful commands or attend to her duties as a servant'. Locked in, she attempted to burst the locks from the doors of her mistress's home eventually 'tearing the curtains from the windows, seizing the sofa covers or tidies, and attempting to tear them to pieces, at the same time using the most blasphemous expressions against all around her, damning her soul to hell but she would get out of the window and throw herself into the well'. Mary's indentures were cancelled and she was returned to the immigration depot at Maitland where she disappears from the record. Nothing further is known of her.

Seventeen year old Mary Colgan from Skibbereen arrived in Geelong in 1850 and had the misfortune to marry James Walton, a man 'addicted to liquor and using violence to his wife', as a judge was later to put it. At the Ballarat gold diggings in 1857 both were charged with the murder of Edward Howell. Mary got off but James Walton was sentenced to eighteen months hard labour for manslaughter. A few years later, in 1862, still living



in a tent, a long history of domestic violence came to a fatal climax. Mary, thrown into the cold night, beaten and kicked by her drunken husband, suffered a miscarriage. This was the fifth child she had lost because of her husband's beatings. A few days later she too died in the Ballarat District Hospital—'of typhoid fever and enteritis brought on by a miscarriage, occasioned by the ill-treatment of her husband'—according to the jury's verdict at her inquest. James Walton received seven years hard labour for his crime.

source\full article: <http://www.historyireland.com/20th-century-contemporary-.../.../>

Convict Research

Do you have a London convict in your tree ? Have you a missed branch ? There is a new website "Tracing London Convicts in Britain and Australia 1780-1925 which has been put together between English Universities and Tasmania.

This leads to very interesting reading which can be accessed at <https://www.digitalpanopticon.org>.



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Committed in Promoting Family History Research