

General Remarks from the Journal of Edward Caldwell, Surgeon
Superintendent, Female Convict Ship "East London".

April 13th 1843 having received all the necessary stores on board the Crew mustered the Ship left Deptford at 11:30 AM and anchored off Gravesend, wind NE weather fine

April 14th weighed anchor 4 AM and stood towards the Nore passed Isle of Sheppey, the morning cloudy 9AM change of Wind blowing hard from N by S discharged the Pilot and anchored in the Downs - April 15th Weather dark cloudy, and unsettled the Wind being contrary the Ship cannot proceed. Barometer 2990 Thermometer 50 Wind NW

April 16th Weather more moderate Wind E by S Weighed anchor at 4am Barometer 3000 Thermometer 50 having passed Dungeness and Beachy Heads 6pm the Owers lights in sight Wind at E Course W by N

April 17th passed the Isle of Wight in the night and Portland bearing N this morning the Wind E by N 5pm the Start in sight, weather cloudy

April 18th nearly calm all the night the tide and the current has drifted the Ship off the land 6 pm the Start lighthouse bearing North Barometer 3030

Wednesday April 19th 1843 the weather hazy, the land near the Lizard to be seen on the Starboard bow, a heavy swell of the Sea Weather dark cloudy and hazy, passed Mounts Bay Barometer falling to 2978

April 20th Wind fresh at NW Course N by W in the Irish Channel Latitude 51.25 7pm within sight of the Saltees on the Coast of Wexford

April 21st light Winds from SW clouds gathering with rain standing along the coast of Wicklow; The bank of Arklow towards Dublin bay 3pm anchored in Kingstown(a word written above -unclear)

Saturday April 22nd Major Collingham the Inspector of Prisons visited the Ship today, and expressed himself pleased with every arrangement made for the reception of Prisoners.

Monday April 24th Waited on Major Collingham at his office Dublin Castle to arrange about receiving the Prisoners from Grange Gorman

Tuesday April 25th dark cloudy morning with heavy rain the Barometer fallen to 29.60 Visited the penitentiary of Grange Gorman and inspected 60 female convicts with nine Children already for embarkation. I had the assistance of Dr Harty and Surgeon Read, the Inspecting Physician and Surgeon of the Depot.

April 30th the weather having continued boisterous with heavy rains. I have received Stoves to be used daily between decks in order to avoid damp & to secure the health of those about to embark.

Tuesday May 2nd the Weather is more favourable today Wind variable 2pm received 60 female prisoners and nine children. The remainder about to be embarked have not yet arrived from the prisons of the respective counties in which they were tried.

Wednesday May 3rd I have arranged all those embarked into proper messes, and appointed proper mess women, with a sufficient number of cooks nurses and servants for the hospital.

May 5th the remainder of the females having arrived at the penitentiary, having inspected them with Dr Harty & Surgeon Read found them all fit to embark with 41 children except

Mary Healy whose case is detailed No 1 of this journal, whose character has been very bad, whilst an inmate of this prison as a confirmed malinger having examined her chest having felt satisfied with the sounds of the chest we concurred in opinion that this female might derive great advantage from the Sea Voyage and advancing into a more temperate climate.

Monday May 8th morning cloudy, Wind S everything necessary for the Voyage being ready Major Collingham came on board with the Lord Lieutenant's Warrant to discharge the Ship in order to proceed upon her Voyage. The agent for Transports came subsequently. Mustered the Crew of the Ship. Wrote to the Comptroller for victualling HM Navy and to the Inspector General `? a. a

Wednesday May 10th 1843 6am weighed anchor Wind S.E.1/2 E. morning cloudy tacked repeatedly today to get clear of the land. Thursday May 11th Weather mild & hazy Wind S by E prescribed for 15 patients today chiefly from Sea Sickness 8pm the night looks dark and heavy Wind W by S heavy rain Barometer falling.

Saturday May 13th Weather cloudy and unsettled Wind W. Ship off St David's Head endeavouring to make Cape Clear. the women and children suffering much from Sea Sickness, breakers on the lee quarter Sea high.

Monday May 15th Wind high at SW Barometer 2945 the day being dry over head had all bedding removed on deck Latitude 5058 Tuesday May 16th dark weather & heavy sea Wind W.N.W. Latitude 4919 Mary Harrowhile No 95 from the County of Tipperary was delivered of a female child both doing well, supplied clothing

Thursday May 18th Wind S.W. less violent Barometer 3062 7pm Catherine Carroll having been accused of levity of conduct towards one of the men made an attempt to destroy life by hanging. She was immediately released before life was exhaust. She is doing well.

Friday May 19th high Winds constant rain Barometer 2950 this day the last of the fresh beef was served out and a piece? of Salt Beef marked AH containing 38 pieces one Barrel of Pork marked A1 58 pieces. the convicts all supplied with an abundance of Water. May 23rd Wind continued high to W.S.W. with heavy rain. I have directed my principal attention to the dry scrape of the decks bed places bedding and clothes, distributed bags and towels to each female.

William Lyons Age 3 years fell down the Main ladder received a fracture of the forearm caused by the carelessness of his Mother Mary Lyons No 91 May 28th Wind N.E. the bedding dry and well aired supplied the eldest 5 boys and 12 girls with suitable clothing.

Alice Fitzsimons a woman of delicate constitution and nervous temperament complained of vagus Headache, pains of the back and loins. June 1st weather moist Wind West I have great difficulty in inducing the women to keep the deck dry having detected those persons washing below today. Fitzsimons has been removed to the Hospital. June 4th 9pm anchored in Funchal Roads Madeira weather has been variable with squalls, Wrote to the Vice Consul for a supply of water to enable us to proceed on her Voyage. June 5th received 15 tons of Water purchased for the use of those confined in the Hospital my own expense. Vegetable sufficient to last for a fortnight. June 6th Wind E.N.E. having obtained 15 tons of Water on board sailed from Madeira. June 12th Latitude 2009N Thermometer 68. I have given lemon juice and sugar since the Ship arrived Madeira to be discontinued, except to those the most

deserving, the others having declined taking the allowances prescribed by the printed Instructions. June 14th morning cloudy Thermometer 76 Barometer 3010 Latitude 1308 The island of San Antonio one of the largest of the Cape de Verde Islands laying East. served out the usual supply of Lemonade, no increase in the Sick List. June 16th Thermometer 80 Barometer 3005 Latitude 17N four cases now in the Hospital. Fitzsimons and Healy convalescent. I have the Windsails in constant use in fore main and after hatchways.

Monday July 3rd Barometer 3010 Thermometer 76 three Patients have been admitted into the Hospital, served out a moderate supply of preserved Meat and Rice with a small quantity of Port Wine. Mary Healy was seized with rigors, complains today with pains of the Chest increased Diarrhoea and abdominal tenderness. In order to afford amusement and occupation to the females I distributed to each a Supply of printed Calico for the purpose of keeping the Mind employed and black worsted for the purpose of Knitting.

July 5th distributed a change of body linen and Calico Jackets to each female Latitude 1 23N the Children all attended to daily at their Schools. Many complaints against Bridget Carey for using improper language having suffered from Scrofula and Diarrhoea since her embarkation I have not put her into confinement. Monday July 10th Sky dark with rain Barometer 3015 Thermometer 73 Latitude 13 7 S I have order 15 Pints of Oatmeal to be supplied to the Children and older woman checquing their allowance of Salt Meat and substituting preserved Meat & Rice July 12th Thermometer 73 Latitude 7 28S Eliza Higgins No 120 was delivered of a female Child after 4 hours labour. The Ship continues healthy. Catherine Brady Age one year in a state of great exhaustion extremities oedematous, unable to take any sustenance, the mother being unable to attend to it it was received into the Hospital. July 14th Higgins Child died of Convulsions. Catherine Brady of Atrophy Anasarca. Mary Healy died in a very advanced state of Phthisis Pulmonalis and Diarrhoea July 1st Latitude 2132S Joanna Wilmott was received into the Hospital with Diarrhoea today having suffered from general ill health since she left her prison at Limerick last May1st. July 18th Latitude 2230 S I direct my attention to keeping the decks berths well ventilated, full use of Chloride of Lime July 19th Catherine Murray attempted to destroy life by hanging at 9pm I released her immediately and restored her. July 21st died Joanna Willmot from Diarrhoea Case No 10 in this Journal having suffered from Sea Sickness in the early part of the Voyage was placed upon the Sick List on the 15th day of June I removed her infant from her and placed it under the care of another nurse. She suffered laterly from Convulsions, some advantage was derived from Opium combined with Camphor. Enemata Mercurial Ointment Camphorad rubbed over the abdomen Blisters ? Lat 27.58 S

July 31st Latitude 35.12 S, the health of the Convicts has been tolerably good having a good Supply of Water, Wind S.E. being ten degrees westward? Longitude of the Cape of Good Hope I thought it advisable to proceed on our destination without delay as several days would be lost in bearing into the Cape as the Wind is N.W. Made all sail for Hobart Town, Bridget Carey age 40 having suffered from Scrofula and Diarrhoea laterally Anasarca Ascetis. She suffered from Sea Sickness, loss of appetite and great debility. Augt 2nd Latitude 34.55 S, died John Fitzgerald alias Farrell Age 4 months from debility Marasmus and Anasarca. he

was much reduced from the time of embarkation caused by the illness of his Mother being unable to supply its natural food this Child was very much reduced. August 3rd Latitude 3411 S died Catherine Murray Age 40 years who had been in the Hospital under treatment since the 19th with Diarrhoea. She was represented to have had a dissolute kind of life and to have been in a constant state of intoxication before conviction, in a fit of delirium she attempted to destroy herself by hanging.

August 4th Latitude 3414, died Mary Spillane age 70 an infirm old woman, without disease, chiefly from debility, laterally became oedematous, in the early part of the Voyage I received her into the Hospital from whence she was discharged June 10th

August 15th Latitude 38 S, died Mary Wolfe alias Wilmott Age 13 months this Child suffered from Marasmus from want of proper support, Abdomen tumid extremities cold and oedematous, for the last week lay in a torpid state, Convulsions for the last 24 hours.

August 17th died M Gannon alias Mary Gardner Marasmus caused by bad care and bad nurturing in the early part of the Voyage suffered from inflammation of the Chest from which she recovered, laterally from Diarrhoea oedema. 18th died Eliza Read age 13 months, this Child had been reduced to the lowest state of debility. I removed her from the berth of her careless Mother, under my own superintendence in the hospital. August 22nd Latitude

3830 S Longitude 60 E died Margaret Cowan Age 40 years a Woman of weak nervous temperament said to have been addicted to the free use of Spirits and tobacco of careless and filthy habits. Symptoms of hydrothorax oedematous swelling of the lower extremities for three days past She suffered from Diarrhoea; died suddenly from effusion in the Pericardium August 23rd Latitude 3850 South Longitude 64 E, the weather is becoming

severe, high Winds with rain. Thermometer 59 at Noon 55 in the Morning. I have daily a supply of swinging stoves between decks to keep the berths and the decks dry ?there? full ventilation died Alice Brady alias Fitzsimons who suffered from fever in the early part of the Voyage was discharged July 2nd in order to superintend her children. She laboured under great debility and mental depression extremities became oedematous ultimately with Diarrhoea. August 25th a Gale of Wind with rain and sleet died Ann Rae Latitude 3840 S

Longitude 67 42 E this person was received from the Belfast Infirmary convalescent from Erysipelas paralysis of the right hand and arm. She suffered from retention of urine but recovered from the use of the Catheter Tinctura Ferri Chloride Aug 26th died Ellen Eccles Age 6 months this Child was healthy until seized with Symptoms of Pneumonia, requiring

active treatment, it never recovered its strength. Maramus oedematous swelling of the abdomen and extremities with diarrhoea. August 28th a.m. high Winds W.S.W. & E.S.E. Island of St Paul's in Sight Latitude 3847 S Longitude 7747 E. died Ann Gannon from

exhaustion, and Diarrhoea. She bore a bad character, but laterally became more amenable to the regulations, for the health of the prisoners August 29th the Gale of Wind continues unabated Thermometer 53. 50 the high Winds & Sea with the change of temperature, are

very severe upon the women and children. died Catherine Garretty alias Manly having laboured under chronic Liver complaint with Dropsy. She drank freely of ardent Spirits before committal, and had habituated herself to the use of Opium. She suffered from

Convulsions for 24 hours, died Mary Hislop alias Cowan Age 4 months. this Infant belonged to Margaret Cowan deceased, had been treated with great neglect; feet oedematous, lay in a state of exhaustion, Convulsions. August 30th Lat 906 S. Longitude 85 12 E. died Ellinor Curreen Aged 40, of a weak nervous temperament, four children, had led a very intemperate life before embarkation. suffered from Diarrhoea nearly the whole of her passage. I was obliged to find another nurse with suitable regimen for her Infant.

September 1st the Weather continues vey tempestuous. Thermometer varying from 53-56 Latitude 4120 S. Longitude 200 E. died Patrick Healy alias Caudly, the Child of Mary Healy, deceased, Aged 18 months. Suffered all its life from the effects of inattention causing diarrhoea abdominal distension tabes Mesenterica & weakness of the lower extremities, having been unable to walk. Symptoms of Phthisis Pulmonalis, oedematous swellings, Coma and Convulsions. September 4th Latitude 4057 S Longitude 100 00 E. died Michael Curreen Aged 18 months. this Child suffered from the carelessness of his nurses appointed by me. Diarrhoea, Prolapsus Ani &c? oedematous swellings, Convulsions 14th Gale continues Thermometer 49, 53. 9 in the Sick List.

September 6th Latitude 4134 Longitude 109 36 E, Ellinor Coony died this day, of weak nervous temperament, of careless filthy habits. She was so disorderly in complying with the rules laid down to ensure health to those between decks that I was obliged to have her removed into three different for the advantage of a better class of mess woman. She has left three Children. Rose Quinn Age 28 She did(n't?) acknowledge to have secondary Symptoms of Syphilis until after the Ship sailed, for one month had her confined to the Hospital under the effects of Hydrarg. She recovered, subsequently had retention of Urine & sank under Diarrhoea. September 9th Lat 41 44 Long 119.30 E the Gale continues with heavy Squalls & Rain. the Thermometer 48 51. 5 in the Sick List, Mary Farrell D.D. with Phthisis Pulmonalis and Diarrhoea was confined to bed, had been confined one month before embarkation, in the month of June and July suffered from pain of the Chest, Hectic fever, night sweats, Diarrhoea was reduced.

September 10th severe weather Snow Storms Latitude 4210 Longitude 123.06. died Rose Carroll, a person of very irregular habits, from immoderate use of Spirits & Tobacco had been detected in secreting the fat of the Salt Provisions, and punished; had been in the Hospital with secondary Syphilis, within the last week large purple blotches appeared upon the legs showing every indication of Scurvy. her appetite continued good until yesterday, great prostration of Strength and involuntary discharge of Urine & faeces, cold perspirations rc?

Edward Caldwell
Surgeon Superintendent

East London Hobart Town September 28, 1843