

## *Waverly (1842)*

Samuel Mackay, Surgeon

Journal between 4 August 1842 and 21 December

### **GENERAL REMARKS**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of August and the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1842 one hundred and forty nine convicts with forty of their children were embarked in a clean and healthy state on board the *Waverly* convict ship from the Depot at Grange Gowan Lane Dublin; and with the exception of the eleven cases detailed in this journal they continued in a healthy state during the voyage.

The only reasons which \*I can assign for the healthiness of the Prisoners are the following, viz

The Prison Water Closets and Berths were always kept clean, dry, and thoroughly ventilated - We were also extremely fortunate in having fine weather during the voyage, which enabled us to admit the whole of the Prisoners, and their children, on Deck every day, from 9 o'clock in the morning till six o'clock in the evening; at which period I invariably mustered the Prisoners, and sent them to Prison.

The strictest attention was at all times paid to cleanliness not only in their persons, but in their clothes, and I am happy to add that the whole of the convicts with their children were landed in a clean and healthy state with two in addition to the number which were embarked. The only case of death which took place in the Ship, was John Reilly aged three years and six months and he was so obstinate I could not get him to take medicine. He died of Dysentery on the 17<sup>th</sup> December two days after our arrival in the River Derwent.

### **SICK LIST**

[doesn't characterise the women as the surgeon of the *Sir Robert Seppings* does for instance: just cuts to the chase:]

**Medical and Surgical Journal of Her Majesty's Convict Ship *Waverly* between the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1842 and the 21<sup>st</sup> December during which time the said ship has been employed in a voyage from Dublin to Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land**

Nature of Disease	No. of Case	Men's Names, Ages, Qualities, Time when and where taken ill, and how disposed of.	The History, Symptoms, Treatment, and Daily Progress of the Disease or Hurt.
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<b>Constipation</b>	4	Jane Patterson aged 20	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 1842 was admitted into the Hospital complaining of acute pain in the abdomen, accompanied with nausea vomiting and constipated bowels. Pulse small, and frequent, clean skin cool ...
<b>Labour</b>	5	Esther Fry aged 36	on the 6 <sup>th</sup> October 1842 was admitted into the Hospital and at 1.30 p.m. was safely delivered of female infant 7 <sup>th</sup> October Esther Fry and her Infant continue to do well 9 <sup>th</sup> October Esther Fry complains of constipated Bowels her Infant is doing well, although the mother has no milk we have accustomed the child to take oatmeal gruel 10 <sup>th</sup> October Esther Fry had several stools from the medicine - she, and her Infant, are quite well this morning - she continues to recover her strength rapidly from this date, until the 27 <sup>th</sup> of October, when she was discharged from the Hospital. On account of her Infant I issued preserved meat, soup, sago, and wine until our arrival at Hobart Town
<b>Contusion</b>	6	Margaret Briggs aged 30	on the 17 <sup>th</sup> October 1842 received a severe contusion on the back, and loins, by falling down the ladder, which leads up from the Prison, to the Water Closet. At 9 A.M. she complained of considerable difficulty of breathing, accompanied by making a full inspiration Bowels constipated. [prescribes medicine she's discharged 21 October]
Labour	7	Catharine Murphy aged 26	on the 26 <sup>th</sup> October 1842 was admitted into the Hospital and at 3 PM gave birth to a fine healthy Boy. Afterbirth came away almost immediately. 26 <sup>th</sup> October complains this morning of slight after pains, and pains in the loins,, no stool for the last twenty four hours - [prescribes medicine] 28 <sup>th</sup> October several loose stools - says she has no pain this morning, the

			<p>infant is doing very well -  29<sup>th</sup> October Catherine Murphy and her Infant continue to do well.  30<sup>th</sup> October Catherine Murphy and her Infant continued to do well from this day until the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, when they were discharged but in order to enable her to suckle her child, I continued to give Preserved soup, till we arrived at Hobart Town.</p>
			<p>[two women treated after being scalded by boiling water</p>
<b>Dysentery</b>	11	John Reilly age 3 years and three months, son of Sally Raferty Convict	<p>on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 1842. This child was so obstinate I could not get him to take medicine he therefore fell a victim to the [ ] on the tenth day. He died at 7.30 am on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 1842 two days after our arrival at Hobart Town</p>