

ADM101/73/9

Waverley 1847

134 Females

Surgeon Superintendent: Dr Philip Fowes?

21st June 1847 to 4th November

134 Irish female convicts and 33 of their children were embarked on board the "Waverley" in Kingston Harbour on the 14th July 1847, and on the following day forty of the ladies were sent on board (by the authorities at Dublin Castle) for a passage to Van Diemen's Land. The ship proceeded to sea on the eighteenth of the same month, and had a favourable passage of ninety eight days, reaching her destination (Hobart Town) on the 25th of November following.

The prisoners generally, and all other persons, on embarking appeared in tolerable health, with the exception of several of the convicts being infirm and feeble from age, and some of the young children delicate and emaciated, apparently a want of proper nourishment.

A few days after leaving Ireland bowel complaints of an ordinary character, occurrence, yielding readily to treatment, with the exception of a case of dysentery which proven very obstinate and continued on the list 5 or 6 weeks. This patient had been frequently the subject of a similar complaint while in gaol, her health had evidently suffered much from disease and intemperance. She however ultimately recovered and landed in safety.

After being at sea nearly two months the weather became less favourable and during the latter part of the voyage, the people suffered a good deal from the effects of repeated gales of wind.

The bowel complaints now became more frequent and advanced the character of dysentery, attended with symptoms of malignancy that in many instances proved fatal.

The total number of cases put on the sick list was 44, the greater part of which were cases of dysentery and diarrhoea. There were however a great many other bowel complaints of a slight character, that soon got better, by the means employed, and therefore did not require to be placed on the list.

The whole of the cases that proved fatal were fully detailed in this journal, and such as those sent to hospital on arrival in the colonies, the latter ceased with the exception of two being convalescent.

In addition to the diseases above alluded to, 3 or 4 cases of scorbutus occurred towards the end of the journey. They were however very slight, the symptoms more the approach of that disease than the disease itself. They were all landed with the other prisoners and speedily got well after being a short time on shore.

The cases of Hydrocephalied? Occurrence to a child 6 months old. The symptoms at first were very obscure and scarcely attracted the attention of the child's mother. The disease had accompanied towards the end with conclusions in one of which the child expired.