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NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF IRELAND

Irish convict transportation records, 1787-1868

Reels M2125-229

**National Archives of Ireland
Dublin Castle
Dame Street
Dublin 2 Ireland**

**National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales**

Filmed: 1987

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HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1786 the Irish Parliament, following the lead of the English Parliament, passed a law providing for 'the more expeditious and effectual transportation of felons ... to some of his Majesty's plantations or settlements in America, or to some other place or places not in Europe'.

The first convict transport to sail directly from Ireland to Sydney was the *Queen*, which in 1791 carried 148 convicts to Sydney. Between 1791 and 1867 about 40,000 Irish convicts were sent to the eastern Australian colonies. Roughly a quarter of them were women. The bulk of those transported had been convicted of larceny. Less common offences were forgery, embezzlement, fraud, highway robbery, assault, housebreaking and arson. About 600 of the transported convicts were political prisoners. The largest group arrived in New South Wales in 1798-1806, following the United Irishmen uprisings against British rule. The leaders of the brief Young Ireland uprising of 1848 were convicted and sent to Van Diemen's Land. In 1867 62 Fenians (members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood) were convicted of treason-felony and mutinous conduct and were transported to Western Australia. They sailed on the *Hougoumont*, the last convict transport to come to Australia.

The Irish Government was headed by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who was based in Dublin Castle, and the Chief Secretary for Ireland, who was a member of the British Cabinet. Although the Irish Parliament was abolished by the Acts of Union in 1800, the administration of government in Ireland did not change greatly after 1800. The Chief Secretary's Office, which was headed by an under-secretary, dealt with the clerks of courts throughout Ireland and organised the transport of convicts to port towns, their confinement while they were awaiting transportation, and the chartering of convict transports. It also corresponded with the Home Office in London on general matters relating to transportations. Petitions from convicts, their families and friends were usually addressed to the Lord Lieutenant and the correspondence was handled by the Convict Department within the Chief Secretary's Office. The name of the office was changed to the Government Prisons Office in 1850.

Most of the early records of Irish transportation were held in the Public Record Office of Ireland and were destroyed when the Four Courts in Dublin were bombarded in 1922. Other records which survived were held in the State Paper Office in Dublin Castle. The State Paper Office and the Public Record Office merged to form the National Archives of Ireland in 1988. In 1991 it moved to its current address, Bishop Street, Dublin DO8 DF85.

The microfilm of the Irish convict transportation records was a Bicentennial gift from the Irish Government to the Australian Government. The film was presented by the Irish Prime Minister, Charles Haughey, to the Australian Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, at the National Library on 12 July 1988.

Reference: Rena Lohan. Sources in the National Archives for research into the transportation of Irish convicts to Australia (1791-1853), *Journal of the Irish Society for Archives*, spring 1996.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF IRELAND

Irish convict transportation records, 1787-1868

Reel M2125

GPO TR Transportation registers, 1836-57

Each register is divided into sections for male and female convicts sentenced to transportation, which are then arranged alphabetically by county. They record the name of the convicts, their crime (in general terms such as larceny or horse stealing), the length of their sentences, when tried, before whom they were tried, and remarks. The later registers also show where the convicts were tried and the prisons to which they were removed.

TR 1	1836
TR 2	1837-38
TR 3	1839-40

Reel M2126

TR 4	1841-42
TR5	1843-45
TR 6	1845-47

Reel M2127

TR 7	1847-48
TR 8	1848-49
TR 9	1849-50

Reel M2128

TR 10	1850-51
TR 11	1851-52
TR 12	1852-53

Reel M2129

TR 13	1852-54
TR 14	1855-56
TR 5	1856-57

Reel M2130

PPC Prisoners' petitions and cases, 1787-1835

The petitions were usually addressed to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and occasionally to the Chief Secretary for Ireland. In addition to petitions from prisoners who were either awaiting trial or who had been sentenced, there are letters and memorials written on behalf of prisoners by their spouses and other family members, employers, priests and ministers. In addition, there is correspondence between staff of the Chief Secretary's Office and prison governors, clerks of courts, sheriffs and other legal officials, police officers, military officers, and government officials. After 1835 the petitions and papers can be found in the convict reference files (CRF).

PPC 15 – 390	1787-1800
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Reel M2131

PPC 391 – 751	1800-2
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Reel M2132

PPC 753 – 1025	1802-4
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Reel M2133

PPC 1026 – 1328	1804-16
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Reel M2134

PPC 1331 – 1647	1816-22
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Reel M2135

PPC 1648 – 1892	1822-23
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Reel M2136

PPC 1895 – 2144 1823-24

Reel M2137

PPC 2148 – 2420 1823-24

Reel M2138

PPC 2426 – 2818 1824-26

Reel M2139

PPC 2827 – 3189 1826-27

Reel M2140

PPC 3190 – 3515 1827-30

Reel M2141

PPC 3517 – 3784 1830-35 and undated

Reel M2142

PPC 3785 – 4024 Undated

Reel M2143

PPC 4027 – 4249 c. 1811-26

Reel M2144**SPP State prisoners' petitions, 1796-99**

The State prisoners had taken part, or were alleged to have taken part, in the United Irishmen uprising against British rule in 1798. The petitions were addressed to the Lord Lieutenant (Lord Camden, Lord Cornwallis), the Chief Secretary for Ireland (Thomas Pelham, Lord Castlereagh) and occasionally to the under-secretary of the Chief Secretary's Office (Edward Cooke). Many of the petitions were written by prisoners awaiting trial or under sentence of transportation. The

remainder were written on their behalf by members of their families, friends, neighbours, and military officers. Some of these petitions have multiple signatures. There are also some letters dealing with administrative matters relating to the convicts and their transportation to the penal colonies.

SPP 1-168 1796-98

Reel M2145

SPP 169 – 365 1798-99

Reel M2146

SPP 366 – 535 1799

Reel M2147

SPP 536 – 701 1799

Reel M2148

SPP 702 – 850 1799

Reel M2149

SPP 851 – 884 1799

Reel M2150

CRF Convict reference files, 1836-68

The convict reference files continue on from the prisoners' petitions and cases (PPC). They contain similar material: petitions to the Lord Lieutenant from convicts or members of their families, information about the convicts, copies of affidavits and judgments, and correspondence between officials of the Chief Secretary's Office and judges, magistrates, prison governors, sheriffs, clerks of courts, military officers and members of the public. Many of the letters are addressed to the under-secretary of the Office: Thomas Drummond, Sir Thomas Redington and Thomas Larcom. The files are arranged alphabetically by year.

A number of files that had become separated from the main series were filmed on reel M2229.

CRF 1836 A1 – D29

Reel M2151

CRF 1836 D35 – K15

Reel M2152

CRF 1836 K17 - N20

Reel M2153

CRF 1836 O1 – Y1

CRF 1836 Misc. 1 - 116

Reel M2154

CRF 1837 A2 – D172

Reel M2155

CRF 1837 D173 – L75

Reel M2156

CRF 1837 L76 – P45

Reel M2157

CRF 1837 P47 – W75

CRF 1837 Misc. 2 – 44

CRF 1838 A5 – C45

Reel M2158

CRF 1838 C48 – G46

Reel M2159

CRF 1838 G48 – O6

Reel M2160

CRF1838 P4 – W70

CRF 1838 Misc. 2 – 20

CRF 1839 A6 – C11

Reel M2161

CRF 1839 C12 – H32

Reel M2162

CRF 1839 H36 – M111

Reel M2163

CRF 1839 M112 – W51

CRF 1839 Misc. 1-31

Reel M2164

CRF 1840 A4 – D68

Reel M2165

CRF 1840 E1 – M21

Reel M2166

CRF 1840 M23 – S8

Reel M2167

CRF 1840 S9 – W31

CRF 1840 Misc. 1 – 20

CRF 1841 A1 – C96

Reel M2168

CRF 1841 D4 – K55

Reel M2169

CRF 1841 K56 – S42

Reel M2170

CRF 1841 S46 – W28

CRF 1841 Misc. 1 -15

CRF 1842 A1 – C70

Reel M2171

CRF 1842 C72 – H22

Reel M2172

CRF 1842 H28 – M13

Reel M2173

CRF 1842 M14 – R10

Reel M2174

CRF 1842 R12 – W37

CRF 1842 Misc. 1 – 11

CRF 1843 A1 – C31

Reel M2175

CRF 1843 C43 – L1

Reel M2176

CRF 1843 L2 – N6

Reel M2177

CRF 1843 O2 – W31

CRF 1843 Misc. 1 – 23

CRF 1844 A7 – B4

Reel M2178

CRF 1844 B21 – H34

Reel M2179

CRF 1844 J3 – N2

Reel M2180

CRF 1844 N5 – Y1

CRF 1844 Misc. 1 – 31

CRF 1845 A1 – B15

Reel M2181

CRF 1845 B18 – H17

Reel M2182

CRF 1845 H18 – M35

Reel M2183

CRF 1845 M37 – R37

Reel M2184

CRF 1845 R40 – W11
CRF 1845 Misc. 1 – 19
CRF 1846 A2 – C43

Reel M2185

CRF 1846 C44 – L8

Reel M2186

CRF 1846 L9 – S15

Reel M2187

CRF 1846 S19 – W20
CRF 1846 Misc. 1 – 4
CRF 1847 A4 – C59

Reel M2188

CRF 1847 C66 – L18

Reel M2189

CRF 1847 L19 – P7

Reel M2190

CRF 1847 P8 – Y1
CRF 1847 Misc. 1 – 66

Reel M2191

CRF 1848 A1 – D16

Reel M2192

CRF 1848 D20 – H50

Reel M2193

CRF 1848 H54 – Mc50

Reel M2194

CRF 1848 Mc55 – W37

Reel M2195

CRF 1848 W2 – W3

CRF 1848 Misc. 1

CRF 1849 A1 – F14

Reel M2196

CRF 1849 F15 – Mc17

Reel M2197

CRF 1849 Mc23 – W25

CRF 1849 Misc. 2

Reel M2198

CRF 1850 A1 – C100

Reel M2199

CRF 1850 C101 – G22

Reel M2200

CRF 1850 G23 – L17

Reel M2201

CRF 1850 L18 – Mc46

Reel M2202

CRF 1850 Mc47 – T12

Reel M2203

CRF 1850 T14 – W38

CRF 1850 Misc. 2-10

CRF 1851 A3 – C34

Reel M2204

CRF 1851 C38 – G14

Reel M2205

CRF 1851 C15 – M12

Reel M2206

CRF 1851 M12 – R31

Reel M2207

CRF 1851 R36 – W35

CRF 1851 Misc. 1 – 3

CRF 1852 B1 – C40

Reel M2208

CRF 1852 C44 – M15

Reel M2209

CRF 1852 M18 – S4

Reel M2210

CRF 1852 S5 – W21

CRF 1852 Misc. 1 – 8

CRF 1853 A1 – C53

Reel M2211

CRF 1853 C60 – H30

Reel M2212

CRF 1853 H31 – R20

Reel M2213

CRF 1853 R30 – W12

CRF 1853 Misc. 6 – 70

CRF 1854 A1 – D1

Reel M2214

CRF 1854 D29 – M27

Reel M2215

CRF 1854 M29 – W16

CRF 1854 Misc. 2 – 42

CRF 1855 A1 – B32

Reel M2216

CRF 1855 B34 – C69

Reel M2217

CRF 1855 C71 – H14

Reel M2218

CRF 1855 H16 – Mc 4

Reel M2219

CRF 1855 Mc6 – S36

Reel M2220

CRF 1855 S39 – W31

CRF 1855 Misc. 1 – 65

CRF 1856 A1 – C2/50

Reel M2221

CRF 1856 C2/51 – F1

Reel M2222

CRF 1856 F2 – Mc30

Reel M2223

CRF 1856 Mc35 – T8

Reel M2224

CRF 1856 T10 – W24

CRF 1856 Misc. 7 – 118

Reel M2225

CRF 1866 C43 – H19

CRF 1867 A2 – W13

CRF 1868 M4

FP Fenian photographs, 1867

FP 126, 134, 427,499

Photographs of four Fenian convicts: Patrick Doran, Patrick Downey, John Philips and John Walsh. Each photograph is accompanied by a form giving their age at conviction, literacy, religion, marital status, trade, place of birth, where living at time of conviction, and physical description. Details of their conviction and sentence are missing, except for Walsh, who was convicted of treason and felony in February 1867.

Patrick Doran, Simon Downey and John Walsh were convicted of treason in 1867 and transported to Western Australia on the *Hougoumont*. Patrick Downey, aged 22, may have been the same man as Simon Downey, aged 22, who was tried at Cork in 1867.

FS Free settlers' papers, 1828-52

The papers mostly consist of correspondence of the Chief Secretary's Office relating to requests for free passages for wives and children of convicts who had been transported to Australia. They include letters from the Home Office in London and from prison officers, local landowners, clergy and others who were acting for the applicants. Most of the letters were addressed to the Lord Lieutenant or the under-secretary of the Chief Secretary's Office (William Gregory, Sir William Gossett, Thomas Drummond, Sir Thomas Redington). In addition, there are petitions from the wives of convicts to the Lord Lieutenant and lists compiled by the Home Office of prisoners in Australia who had sought passages for their wives and children.

FS 1828 1-2

FS 1829 1

FS1830 1

FS 1831 1

FS 1832 1 – 26

FS 1833 1

FS 1834 1 – 2

FS 1835 List 1 – 7

FS 1835 1 - 13

FS 1835-36 A1 – A8

Reel M2226

FS 1835-36 A9 – A60
FS 1836 1 – 39

Reel M227

FS 1836 40 – 46
FS 1836 B1 – B24
FS 1836 SC1 – SC5
FS 1836 List 1 – 11
FS 1837 1 – 39
FS 1839 79 - 114

Reel M2228

FS 1839 115-66
FS 1840 1-36
FS 1841 1
FS1842 1
FS 1847 1-4
FS 1848 1
FS 1850 1-4
FS 1852 1-6

Register of convicts on convict ships, 1851-53

The register lists the full name of each convict, when and where they were convicted, and the length of the sentence of transportation.

Blackfriar: sailed from Kingstown for Van Diemen's Land, 23 June 1851.

Bride: sailed from Kingstown for Bermuda, 17 May 1851.

Blenheim: sailed from Queenstown for Van Diemen's Land, 29 July 1851.

Rodney: sailed from Queenstown for Gibraltar, 30 September 1851.

John William Dare: sailed Kingstown for Van Diemen's Land, 28 December 1851.

Lord Dalhousie: sailed from Queenstown for Van Diemen's Land, 30 April 1852.

Martin Luther: sailed from Kingstown for Van Diemen's Land, 6 June 1852.

Lord Auckland: sailed from Queenstown for Van Diemen's Land, 29 September 1852.

Midlothian: sailed from Kingstown for Van Diemen's Land, 17 November 1852.

Rodney: sailed from Queenstown for Van Diemen's Land, 24 November 1852.

Robert Small: sailed from Queenstown for Western Australia, 1 May 1853.

Phoebe Dunbar: sailed from Kingstown for Western Australia, 2 June 1853.

Note: In this period Kingstown (Dún Laoghaire) was the principal port of Dublin. Queenstown (Cobh) in Cork Harbour was a major transatlantic port, as well as a port of embarkation for convicts.

Male convict register, 1842-47

The entries, which are in no apparent order, record the names of the convicts, their county, their crime, the length of their transportation sentences, when and where they were convicted, their age, height, colour of hair and complexion, whether married or single, whether they could read and write, their trade, the date of committal, the date of disposal and the name of the ship. The legibility of the register is very poor.

Reel M2229

CRF Convict reference files, 1836-53

This reel contains the following estrays from the main series of convict reference files:

CRF 1836	B51
CRF 1837	R84, V7
CRF 1838	D22, E4
CRF 1839	G4
CRF 1840	F9, Mc78, Mc122, S30
CRF 1841	B11, C1, D40, H9, Mc3
CRF 1842	B33, E2, E3
CRF 1843	F12, F18, F20, Q1, Q3, Q4, Q8, W11, W16
CRF 1844	K23
CRF 1845	B54, C20, C33, C45, C55, F10, R21, W4
CRF 1846	G17, Mc15, P4, T11, W13, W18
CRF 1847	B29, C29, L8, M11, Mc19, N12, V1
CRF 1848	A7, C31, Y1

CRF 1850	D4, R23, R24, R28
CRF 1852	F1, F7
CRF 1853	D16, H10, Mc4, Q11