
THESES, SIS/LIBRARY
R.G. MENZIES BUILDING NO.2
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200 Australia

Telephone: +61 2 6125 4631
Facsimile: +61 2 6125 4063
Email: library.theses@anu.edu.au

USE OF THESES

**This copy is supplied for purposes
of private study and research only.
Passages from the thesis may not be
copied or closely paraphrased without the
written consent of the author.**

Corrigenda and Addenda

Vol. 1

p.52, 11th line from bottom: Arles is not a civil parish, but a village

p.176, 1.17: Fig. 6.2 should be 6.6

p.187, n.6: author's name is Breandan Mac Cnaimshi

p.194, 1.14: Power Law should be Poor Law

p.203 et seq. the newspaper here should be the *Londonderry Sentinel*

p.206, 1.17: the village is spelt St. Johnston

**Aspects of Irish Assisted
Emigration to
New South Wales, 1848-1870**

by

Richard E. Reid

A thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

at the Australian National University

March 1992

I certify that this thesis does not include, without acknowledgement, any material previously submitted for a degree or a diploma in any university; and that, to the best of my knowledge, it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made in the text.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard E. Reid".

Richard Reid

Canberra,
March 1992

Acknowledgements

In preparing this thesis for submission I owe an enormous debt to my supervisors, Professor Oliver MacDonagh and Dr. Allan Martin. Without their untiring assistance, swift correction of drafts and constant encouragement I doubt I would have made it to the final full stop.

I would also like to extend special thanks for their interest and help to Professor Patrick O'Farrell, Dr. David Fitzpatrick and Professor Eric Richards. Many years ago Professor O'Farrell steered me away from the study of Irish nationalism in Australia towards the basic question of "who were the Irish immigrants"? This study of a segment of Irish emigration to Australia is the result. Dr. Fitzpatrick has given me generously of his time and unrivalled knowledge of Irish emigration. Professor Richards showed that necessary scepticism towards my wilder generalisations which forced me to probe as deeply as I was able into the meaning of the relevant archival sources.

Two people to whom I owe much are Steve Harrison and Norma Chin. As a comparative computer illiterate both my Irish immigrant data base, and the quantitative statistical material which it was able to generate, would have been impossible without Steve's willingness to help whenever required. At the eleventh hour Norma Chin worked hard to make sure the final manuscript was as well presented as possible. Whatever errors remain are my own.

In researching this topic I have over the years received help from hundreds of Australian genealogists. Many have shared with me the fruits of their painstaking work in shipping lists, land title deeds and the basic records of an ancestor's birth and death. They have my thanks and best wishes in a search which I know will absorb most of them for the rest of their lives.

One person to whom I owe more than I can ever repay is the late Dr. Naiose Cleary of Corofin, County Clare. I was always welcome in his home and he made me as enthusiastic as himself about the historical experiences of the people of his native place. To him the past was real and from him I began to acquire some understanding of the emigrant landscape of mid-nineteenth century Clare.

Lastly I thank my wife and children. They have lived with this project off and on for ten years. I only hope they can put up with the prospect of more of the same now that my interest in the subject is thoroughly aroused.

Contents

Volume 1

	Introduction	1
1	"He wrote to a friend of his to write to the head Commissioners about us ...": Obtaining an assisted passage to N.S.W., 1848-1870	10
2	"Farewell, Farewell, Farewell my Children": The Journey of the Irish Assisted Emigrants to Sydney, 1848-1870	32
3	"At No Port is More Regard paid ... to the Immigrants' Welfare": The Arrival and Dispersal of the Irish Assisted Immigrants at Sydney, 1848-1870	67
4	The General Characteristics of the Irish Assisted Emigrants to Sydney, 1848-1870	100
5	"I met With Adam Chidle": Emigration from Clonoulty, County Tipperary, to New South Wales, 1848-1870	123
6	"The Removal of Mendacity from One Soil to Another": Destitute Irish who Received an Assisted Passage to New South Wales, 1848-1870	149
7	"Who Will not Give his Mite in so Good, so Holy, so, Blessed a Cause": The Donegal relief Committee of New South Wales and Assisted Emigration from County Donegal to Sydney, 1859-1864	186
8	"Fair Isle of the West — Land of Affection and Endearing Family Ties": The New South Wales Remittance Regulations and the Irish, 1848-1870	211
	Conclusion	236
	Bibliography of sources	238

Volume 2

Volume 2 contains all Figures, Documents and Maps referred to in the text.

Chapter 1	1
Chapter 2	15
Chapter 3	47
Chapter 4	66
Chapter 5	121
Chapter 6	150
Chapter 7	160
Chapter 8	166

Abstract

Contrary to popular mythology only 12% of the Irish who went to the Australian colonies in the 19th century did so as convicts. From the late 1830s it was government assisted emigration which gave Australia its Irish population. This study deals with key aspects of the emigration of approximately 44,188 Irish who went as assisted emigrants to Sydney between 1848 and 1870.

The distinguishing feature of the assisted passage was its organisation by a government agency in Britain — the Land and Emigration Commissioners. Their procedures tried to ensure that only those from the rural labouring and skilled artisan classes within certain ages were selected. From the moment the emigrants left Ireland until they reached the colony their welfare was the responsibility of the Commissioners and, on arrival, the local immigration authorities helped them during their first days in the colony. In general the Irish who went on government ships to Sydney were well cared for.

Young, single adult male labourers and female domestic servants made up the bulk of the emigrants. The evidence from one key Tipperary parish suggests that in the main these people were drawn from the poorer, but not the poorest, sections of rural society. While the personal financial outlay required generally prevented the poverty stricken from obtaining an assisted passage special schemes in the late 1840s and early 1850s brought some destitute Irish to Sydney.

The emigrants were from every county in Ireland but by far the greatest number came from west Munster and southwest Ulster. Until the mid-1850s most were selected upon application from Ireland to the Commissioners but, from then on, an ever increasing proportion were sponsored for a passage by friends and relatives in New South Wales.

For ease of reading this thesis has been presented in two volumes. Volume 1 consists of the text and bibliography. Volume 2 contains all Figures, Documents and Maps referred to in the text.