

**Journal of Her Majesty's Hired Convict Ship  
"Robert Small"  
between 5th April 1853 and 13th September 1853.**

**GENERAL REMARKS**

My present state of health renders it advisable that I complete my remarks as soon as possible; not merely from any apprehension I may entertain of an unfavourable termination of my complaint (although I am by no means free from such apprehension), but because I wish to have this journal prepared for transmission to England by the first possibly opportunity.

It is well however that the observations I feel called upon to make can be condensed into a small space, because I do not feel capable of prolonged exertion, and the intense anxiety of mind under which I laboured during the whole voyage to Swan River will readily account for this.

Having already given a detailed statement of every death that occurred, it only remains for me to relate what I conceive to be the origins of the sickness that prevailed on board; and then to point out the cause why such a frightful source of Pestilence did not produce diseases of all, but universal mortality.

Both these matters have been mentioned in the daily journal I forwarded to the Comptroller of the Transport Services, and as the remarks therein stated were made at the time, they will probably express my opinion better than I shall be able to do here, because all men are apt to think lightly of the perils they have passed, as well as of the preservatives from those perils, be they ever so wonderful; yet this is by no means the case with me in the present instance; for to the last hour of my life I shall never forget that the offensive matter which constituted four fifths of the Ballast of the "Robert Small" Convict Ship, was the cause of most of the diseases that prevailed on board of her; and that the Chloride of Zinc prevented those diseases from spreading to a frightful extent, and most probably from terminating in a sweeping pestilence.

It may be asked, why the Chloride of Zinc did not prevent the diseases altogether as the Ship was washed and deodorised with that fluid immediately before she left Deptford? My answer to this question is easy, because I am enabled to state that it was physically impossible the ship could have been treated thus while she was at Deptford, unless it can be imagined that one hundred and fifty or two hundred tons of fine sand, and the most offensive vegetable matter, could have been removed from her hold, and again brought back into it; for unless this stuff was removed, she could not have been deodorised, and if it had been removed, it must have been brought back again or else it could not have been found in her hold when she was cleaned out at Rio de Janeiro and that it was found there, and to the extent and in the state I have mentioned has been certified by her Senior Naval Officer, and admitted by the Master; consequently it is useless to enlarge upon this subject; as arguments in favour of points which are as manifest as the sun at noon day, are unnecessary, therefore I shall conclude by giving my own opinion, the truth of which I am as satisfied of, as I am of my existence, namely that the astonishing effects of this deodorising and disinfecting fluid have been the means of saving many lives, and further that without it or some substance equally effective (which I believe does not exist) neither myself, not those who were in attendance upon the sick, could perform our duties towards those unhappy persons whose bodies sent forth such an intolerable odour that it would have been impossible to have come near them, or even to have allowed them to remain either in the Prison or Hospital.

I should have remarked before that the number of names in the sick list does not form a third of those who were under Medical treatment from time to time; the reason of this is as follows: - It is always advisable in a Convict Ship, especially when diseases are numerous, to keep the sick list down, as it is termed, with a view of deceiving the general body as regards the healthiness or unhealthiness of the Ship; and more effectually to do this it is often necessary to keep the names of some off the list who ought to be there, and to register those of others who have little or nothing the matter with them, but this arrangement does not in any way interfere with the treatment of either the one class or the other.

Harvey Morris  
Surgeon Superintendent.

**Daily Sick Book on board the Convict Ship "Robert Small" between 5<sup>th</sup> April 1853 and 13<sup>th</sup> September 1853.**

Date on Sick List	Name	Age	Quality	Disease or Wound	How disposed	Case History No
April 27	Patrick Owens	44	Pensioner	Asthma	D D April 30	1
May 6	John Conroy	43	Pensioner	Retention of Urine	D D May 11	2
May 6	James Bryan	23	Convict	Dysentery	D Cured July 10	
May 7	Ellen Flynn	3 mths	Pensioner's child	Marasmus	D Convl July 13	
May 9	Maria Rickey	24	Pensioner's wife	Parturition	D Cured May 20	
May 12	James Murphy	24	Convict	Diarrhoea	D Cured May 20	
May 13	John Donnegan	23	Convict	Herpes	D Cured July 1	
May 13	Patrick Donnellan	23	Convict	Phthisis	D D May 31	3
May 13	Thomas Beadle	25	Convict	Abscess on Left Lung	D D May 21	4
May 24	Patrick Jordan	24	Convict	Paralysis	Sent to Hospital August 20	
May 27	Daniel Flynn	22	Convict	Dysentery	Sent to Hospital August 20	
May 27	James Kellmurry	22	Convict	Diarrhoea	D Cured June 10	
June 1	Patrick Cullen	38	Convict	Bursting of Blood vessel	D D in 5 mins May 24	5
June 1	Michael Meehan	32	Convict	Fever	D D June 12	6
June 1	John Reilly	55	Convict	Diarrhoea	D Cured June 20	
June 2	Michael Teague	20	Convict	Diarrhoea	D Cured June 10	
June 2	Michael Darcey	27	Convict	Dyspnæa	D Relieved July 1	
June 2	Michael Crolly	30	Convict	Marasmus	D Relieved July 10	
June 3	William Burke	23	Convict	Dysentery	D D August 17	11
June 3	John Halloran	40	Convict	Diarrhoea	D Cured June 14	
June 3	Daniel McDonald	23	Convict	Cynanche Tonsillaris	D Cured June 14	
June 7	James Martin	27	Convict	Herpes	D Cured July 1	
June 9	Ann Fay	25	Pensioner's wife	Parturition	D Cured June 20	
June 10	William Crawley	36	Convict	Diarrhoea	D Cured July 1	
June 11	Cornelius Callaghan	33	Pensioner	Ague	D Cured June 14	
June 11	Margaret Ward	6 mths	Pensioner's child	Diarrhoea	D Relieved July 10	
June 11	John Ward		Pensioner	Phthisis	Sent to Hospital August 20	
June 12	Jno Cunningham	22	Convict	Diarrhoea	D Cured July 1	
June 12	Francis Cunniffe	23	Convict	Pneumonia	D Cured June 28	
June 14	John Dea	24	Convict	Fever	D D June 23	7
June 17	John Cunniffe	21	Convict	Hydrothorax	Sent to Hospital August 20	
June 17	James Hughes	24	Convict	Pneumonia	D Cured July 1	
June 17	James Davan	29	Convict	Diarrhoea	D Cured June 23	
June 17	George Gibson	42	Pensioner	Bright's Disease	D D June 24	8

June 22	Timothy Foley	25	Convict	Fever	D Cured August 3
June 24	Peter Malady	32	Convict	Dyspepsia	D Cured July 8
June 26	Timothy Collins	26	Convict	Acute Rheumatism	August 15
June 26	Patrick McKenna	20	Convict	Enteritis	D Cured July 6
June 27	Brian English	37	Convict	Constipatio	D Cured July 1
July 1	Edward Halley	34	Convict	Hydrothorax	D D August 4 9
July 3	Thomas McChesney	30	Convict	Catarrh	D Cured July 10
July 3	James Maloney	30	Convict	Hepatitis	D Cured August 1
July 4	John McCarthy	30	Convict	Diarrhoea	D Cured July 12
July 4	Thomas Burns	26	Convict	Headache	D Cured July 8
July 5	Owen Shanahan	24	Convict	Rheumatism	D Cured July 2?
July 5	John Murray	20	Convict	Pneumonia	D Cured August 11
July 6	Patrick Burns	24	Convict	Diarrhoea	D Cured August ??
July 6	Jeremiah Malone	24	Convict	Ophthalmia	D Cured August 2?
July 8	Timothy Hogan	24	Convict	Ophthalmia	D Cured August 7
July 8	Peter McBride	44	Pensioner	Malingering	July 9
July 8	Thomas Donohoe	22	Convict	Constipatio	July 12
July 8	Nicholas Groghan	38	Convict	Dysentery	August 10
July 10	Martin Berry	22	Convict	Diarrhoea	D Cured August ??
July 13	James Farrell	20	Convict	Rheumatism	D Cured July 8
July 13	John Delaney	28	Convict	Pneumonitis	August 11
July 13	John Reilly	55	Convict	Dysentery	D D August ?? 10
July 15	John Connell	28	Convict	Rheumatism	D Cured August ??
July 16	John Broddegan	22	Convict	Epilepsy	D Cured July ??
July 23	John Mara	40	Convict	Dispepsia	July 30
July 27	Michael Darcey	27	Convict	Diarrhoea	August 4
July 28	Martin Berry	22	Convict	Diarrhoea	August 11
July 30	Patrick Stafford	28	Convict	Pneumonia	August 11
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	James Martin	27	Convict	Constipatio	August 1
August 1	James Foley	25	Convict	Rheumatism	D Cured August
August 3	Edward Dolan	23	Convict	Dyspepsia	August 11
August 5	Patrick Dougan	19	Convict	Scurvy	August 28
August 5	Peter McQuade	44	Pensioner	Malingering	August 9
August 8	Peter Connolly	22	Convict	Accident	Sent to Hospital August 26
August 9	Edward Hughes	25	Convict	Diarrhoea	D Cured August 15
August 9	James White	23	Convict	Diarrhoea	D Cured August 14
August 10	Bernard McArdle	21	Convict	Catarrh	D Cured August 15
August 10	Timothy Hogan	24	Convict	Ophthalmia	D Cured August 14

August 11	Michael MacNamara	22	Convict	Diarrhoea	D Cured August 15	
August 11	William Gorman	40	Convict	Constipatio	D Cured August 13	
August 11	John Henessey	22	Convict	Rheumatism	D Cured August 18	
August 11	William Snoddan	19	Convict	Dyspepsia	D Cured August 18	
August 11	John Curren	38	Convict	Acute Rheumatism	Sent to Hospital August 20	
August 11	Michael Crollly	30	Convict	Marasmus	D D August 22	12
August 20	James Arthur	1 day	Pensioner's child	Debility	D D September 7	
August 20	Mary Arthur	40	Pensioner's wife	Parturition	D Cured September 12	13

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