

Surgeon's Journal of Female Convict Ship *Angelina* 1844
 J.E. Ring MD Surgeon RN
 170 female convicts and 18 children embarked at Woolwich on a voyage to
 Van Diemen's Land departing 28 April 1844 and arriving 24 August 1844
 (3 female convicts and 2 infants died at sea)

ADM 101/2/9

Daily Sick List of the "*Angelina*" Convict Ship ADM 101/2/9/2,3,4 refer to FCRC database
 APPENDIX No. 11, and Art. No. 32 of the Surgeon's Instructions.

**MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL of His Majesty's Female Convict Ship *Angelina*
 between the 3rd of April and the 31st of Aug^t 1844 during which time the said ship has
 been employed in the Convict Service.**

Nature of Disease	No. of Cases	Men's Names, Ages, Qualities, Time when and where taken Ill	The History, Symptoms, Treatment, and daily Progress of the Disease or Hurt
Scrofula with Marasmus ADM101/2/9/5,6	1	Mary Lovitt* Æt 2 taken ill at sea May 4 th Died June 2 nd 1844 [* <i>Maria Lovatt's child</i>]	A convict's child, of an exceedingly delicate and emaciated appearance, with a sallow face, anxious expression of countenance, tumid abdomen & enlargement of the glands of the neck. These symptoms had been in existence for some weeks previous to embarkation.
Scrofula with Marasmus		Mary Lovitt's case continued	From this time this child began to suffer from diarrhoea, the evacuations being very offensive. Nightly accessions of Fever came on rapid and irregular, pulse constant, thirst, hot, dry skin and extreme debility. The treatment in this case consisted of small doses of calomel, for the purposes of dislodging and correcting the foul secretions. The warm bath, with the Dovers powder at night, to allay the general morbid irritability of the system. Only temporary relief was afforded by these remedies, for the little patient rapidly sunk, and died, on the 2 nd of June 1844
Rheumatismus ADM101/2/9/7	2	Mary Stewart Æt 52 taken ill at sea May 5 th Sent to the Colonial Hospital Hobartown Aug ^t 27 th 1844	This woman had passed a depraved and abandoned life, from the effects of which her impaired constitution is now suffering. She complains of severe pains in the back and in almost all the joints, but especially in the right knee, which is much swollen and gives her considerable torment at night. She also suffers from languor and general debility. Her treatment consisted of counter irritants, opiates and the warm bath, followed by a generous diet with wine, which was attended with much advantage. The pains however having continued to trouble her, more or less

Rheumatismus ADM101/2/9/8		Mary Stewart's case continued	throughout the entire voyage. Upon our arrival at Van diemens Land she was sent to the Colonial Hospital on the 27 th of August 1844.
Pneumonia ADM101/2/9/8,9	3	Ann Grimshaw Æt 32 placed in the Sick List, May 19 th 1844 Ann Grimshaw's case continued 11 A.M. May 20 th May 21 st	This woman was of a melancholic temperament, pale features, and delicate formation, like the last case, this patient's constitution was much impaired by early abandoned habits. Without any known cause she was attacked with a violent heat all over her body which was followed by a pungent pain in the left side, reaching as far down as the extremity of the os sacrum and a high asthenical fever set in, with a full tense, and accelerated pulse. Upon a close examination I felt satisfied that there existed considerable inflammation of the lower lobe of the left lung. The patient was immediately bled from the arm to ʒxx, which was repeated to ʒx at 8 P.M. and a <i>powder of Cal c Ant.</i> was given. Passed a bad night, pain somewhat less. Cupping was resorted to on the diseased side, and the powder ordered three times a day. Slept well, pain considerably diminished. Pulse soft 84 – Skin moist, urine of a darker colour, contains a mucus cloud with a tendency to precipitation. The powders are repeated and an enema directed.
Pneumonia ADM101/2/9/10	3	Ann Grimshaw's case continued	From this day the patient rapidly recovered, and under a good diet with tonics rapidly gained strength . She was discharged from the Sick List on the 10 th of June 1844.
Aneurism ADM101/2/9/10,11	4	Harriet Johnson Æt 35 Convict At sea June 1 st Died June 24 th 1844 June 1	This woman of a very delicate appearance had been subject for some time past, to palpitation and irregularity in the Heart's action. Those symptoms now having become more urgent she was removed into the Hospital. The countenance is pale and anxious, pulse 98, full and bounding, complains of a sense of oppression in the pit of the stomach, and the slightest exertion produces faintness. The digestive organs are not impaired, and the bowels are regular. Upon examination, the size of the chest was not at all altered, but notwithstanding the difficulty of stethoscope enquiry on board ship, I was enabled to distinguish the bellows sound in the region of the sternum.

			Sedatives especially <i>digitalis</i> , was given with temporary advantage. She continued in this state until the 26 th when she was found dead by the woman who slept next to her at 2 A.M.
Enteritis ADM101/2/9/11,12, 13	5	Ann Grainger Convict Æt 17 At sea June 15 th Died July 6 1844 June 16 th June 17 th	<p>This young woman had been in the enjoyment of good health up to this time, was attacked with severe griping paroxysmal pains about the navel, pulse hard, small and incompressible, countenance pale and indicating great distress. Bowels have been costive for several days. She was at once bled to ζxxx, placed in a warm bath, which was followed by warm fomentations and a bolus of Calomel with <i>ext. Hyoscamus</i> was given. The pain is somewhat abated this morning, passed a restless night, bowels partially opened, cannot bear the slightest pressure. ζxij of blood was obtained by cupping, the bolus was repeated, the warm fomentations were continued and at night a blister was applied over the umbilicus.</p> <p>This morning there is a great improvement and from this time the patient rapidly got better until the 5th of July when she left the Hospital and imprudently exposed herself to the cold upon deck. She was almost immediately seized with violent pain about the navel and the disease returned with the greatest severity. Cupping, the warm bath, opiated were promptly adopted but after a few hours of intense suffering gangrene set in and the patient sunk fast. She died at 11 A.M. on the 6th of July</p>
Syphilis et Phthisis Pulmonalis confirmata ADM101/2/9/13,14	6	Mary Ford Æt 17 At sea 27 June Died July 15 th 1844	<p>My attention was called to this case by the patient's depression of spirits, and the declining state of her general health, for she made no complaint and kept out of my way as much as possible.</p> <p>I found that she was suffering from secondary syphilis of longstanding, which she managed to conceal from the medical men of the prison. She had extensive ulceration about the anus and vagina, with a copious foul discharge. She also suffered from a short cough, difficulty of breathing and tightness in the chest, which was narrow and contracted. She was of a weak, scrophulus habit, and it was evident that the Lungs were diseased. She was at once removed to the Hospital, & placed in a warm bath. The black wash was ordered for the sores with blue pill morning</p>

			and night, mild expectorants with opium were also prescribed. But little advantage was derived from treatment in this case. The girl's constitution was quite exhausted and she sunk into a low, lethargic state, refused her food and could only with the greatest difficulty be persuaded to take her medicines. She rapidly wasted away and died on the 15 th of July at 2 P.M.
Pneumonia ADM101/2/9/14,15, 16	7	Emma Cato Æt 22 Convict At sea June 27 th cured July 9 th 1844	<p>June 27</p> <p>June 28th</p> <p>This woman had been nurse in the Hospital from the time of sailing until within two days back, when she was turned out of that situation for theft, and general bad conduct. She had been a common prostitute and has therefore led a most depraved life. Her temper is violent and unmanageable, and ever since her dismissal from the Hospital she has given way to its influence. I mention this circumstance, as I am persuaded that her present illness has been brought on by it. At 8 A.M. this morning she was attacked with inflammation of the Lungs. She had suffered slightly she states in the night but the pain is now most urgent, the respiration is entirely abdominal. Pulse oppressed but full. Cough moist with expectoration of rust coloured mucus, ardent fever with a general dryness of the whole surface of the body. Venæsection was performed at once to ʒxx and repeated in three hours, full doses of <i>Ant. Potas. Tart</i> with Calomel were ordered with warm fomentations to the chest, and in the evening an opiate was given, when she felt relieved and slept. At 2½ A.M. I was called out of bed to see the patient, who was screaming with the violence of the pain. She was cupped, warm fomentations were again applied and another opiate given, at 6 A.M. the pain subsided, a blister was then applied to the sternum. This case of pneumonia was stopped in the first stage by continuing the use of the <i>Ant. pot. tart.</i> but the patient's convalescence was protracted, and required great care. She was permitted to leave the Hospital on the 29th of July.</p>
Scrofula with infantile remittent fever ADM101/2/9/17,18	8	Mary Savage* Convict's child Æt 1½ years At sea	This poor weakly child was suffering from <i>Tabes mesenterica</i> when brought on board the ship, and from her appearance I did not expect that she could live any length of time.

		<p>June 28th</p> <p>Died</p> <p>July 15th 1844</p> <p>[*<i>Eliza Savage's child</i>]</p>	<p>On the 28th of June symptoms of infantile remittent fever made their appearance, languor and drowsiness in the mornings with extreme restlessness and febrile accession towards evening following by profuse sweating.</p> <p>The appetite was capricious, but the thirst was constant at all times. The little patient wasted gradually away until her countenance at last assumed the aspect of shrivelled old age.</p> <p>She became daily more irritable and her cries for drink very distressing to those about her. The treatment adopted in this case consisted in the first instance of mild purgatives and the simplest farinaceous food.</p> <p>Afterwards small doses of <i>cal. opii</i> were used. A diarrhoea setting in on the 15th June, the case terminated fatally on that day.</p>
<p>Rheumatismus ADM101/2/9/18,19, 20</p>	9	<p>Ann Heaton Æt 21 Convict At Sea June 17th Van diemen's Land Aug^t 27th 1844</p>	<p>This young woman had been in excellent health up to the time of this attack, being of a robust form and florid complexion. She was employed as one of the mess women, and in the performance of that duty she was a good deal exposed to the effects of cold and damp. When I was called to see her she was suffering from rigors which were quickly succeeded by the usual symptoms of pyrexia and acute pain in the knee joints, extending to the ancles, she was unable to move the limbs.</p> <p>The pain increased and soon became very intense accompanied with swelling and redness of the joints.</p> <p>She was immediately bled from the arm to $xxv\bar{3}$, placed in a warm bath a brisk purgative of and <i>jalap</i> given, followed by a mixture of <i>Ant. pot. tart</i> to be taken every hour.</p> <p>The febrile symptoms yielded to this plan of treatment on the third day, but the pains continued to harass the patient.</p> <p>The warm bath was frequently repeated. Blisters, the <i>Ung. Ant. pot. tart.</i> and other counterirritants were employed with partial advantage. But as the woman became very thin and weak a generous diet was ordered for her with quinine. From the 1st of July she slowly mended and was able to move about the decks with assistance.</p>

			Upon our arrival at Hobart Town she was still in such delicate health, that I sent her to the Colonial Hospital there.
Amentia ADM101/2/9/20,21, 22	10	Mary Connor Convict Æt 40 At sea Aug ^t 24 th Colonial Hospital Van Diemen's Land Aug ^t 27 th 1844	This woman had been under medical observation all the voyage. From the time of her embarkation she exhibited the greatest silliness of character, and was a laughing stock to all the women on board. She was noisy and troublesome in her mess where she was constantly causing quarrels. She tried to keep in her berth as much as possible and could with great difficulty be got on deck. In her clothes and person she was excessively dirty, refused to do anything for herself, and when spoken to on the subject by the matron or myself was invariably impudent and abusive. Whenever she had an opportunity she committed petty thefts on those around her. In fact all her actions were marked by a lamentable want of sense or the commonest principles of honesty. The expression of her countenance was quite idiotic. As her general health was good she did not require any medical treatment, but a steady woman was appointed to watch her constantly. From what I had observed of this woman, I considered her, from the commencement of our voyage, as a fit subject for a lunatic asylum, and upon our arrival at van diemens land she was sent to the Colonial Hospital, and afterwards, by a board of medical officers to an establishment for the insane.
Ulcus ADM101/2/9/22,23	11	Eliz ^h Laurence Convict Æt 20 At sea Aug ^t 3 sent to Hospital Aug ^t 27 th 1844 Aug ^t 3 rd	This was a tall fine woman of rather a full habit, brought up in the country. She had suffered slightly from dyspeptic symptoms from the use of salt provisions but they were speedily removed by the use of additional lime juice and better diet. On this day I discovered a foul looking ulcer on the right leg. Small doses of alterative medicines were directed, with poultices and a generous diet. The sore continued unchanged in appearance until the 21 st of Aug ^t when it looked healthy and from that day mended . As it was not quite healed on our arrival in the Derwent, I thought it best to send the patient to the Colonial Hospital.

A NOSOLOGICAL SYNOPSIS of the Sick Book kept during the Period of this Journal, ADM101/2/9/23
in conformity with the 30th Article of the Surgeon's Instructions

Diseases Nosologically arranged	Numbers						No of such cases as detailed in the Journal
	Total	Discharged Cured	Sent to the Hospital	Died on Board	Invalided	Remaining	
<u>Pyrexiaë</u>							
Ord. I. Febres. Intermittentes Quotidiana Tertinia Continuæ. Synochus Typhus	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
Ord. II. Phlegmasiæ. Phlogosis Pneumonia Rheumatismus Enteritis	11 5 9 1	11 5 7 -	- - 2 -	- - 1 -	- - - -	- - - -	- 2 2 1
Ord. III. Exanthemata.							
Ord. IV. Hæmorrhagiæ. Hæmoptyyisis Phthisis incipiens Phthisis Confirmata	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Ord. V. Profluvia. Catarrhus Dysenteria	35 -	35 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
<u>Neuroses</u>							
Ord. I. Comata. Apoplexia							
Ord. II Adynamiaë. Dysepsia	7	7	-	-	-	-	-
Ord. III. Spasmi. Asthma Diarrhœa Colica	- 4 -	- 4 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Ord. IV. Vesaniaë. Amentia Mania	1 -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	1 -
<u>Cachexiaë</u>							
Ord. I. Marcores. Tabes							
Ord. II. Intumescentiaë.							
Ord. III. Impetigines. Syphilis Scrophula Icterus	- 4 -	- - -	- 2 -	- 2 -	- - -	- - -	- 2 -
<u>Locales</u>							
Ord. I. Dysæsthesiaë. Amaurosis							
Ord. II. Dysorexiaë.							
Ord. III. Dyscinesie.							

Ord. IV. Apoceneses.							
Ord. V. Epischeses. Ischuria Obstipatio							
Ord. VI. Tumores Aneurismas	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Ord. VII. Ectopiæ. Hernia Prolapsus Contusio	- 1	- -	- -	- 1	- -	- -	- 1
Ord. VIII. Dialyses. Vulnus Ulcus	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
GENERAL TOTAL	85	73	7	7	-	-	11

ADM101/2/9/24,25,26

GENERAL REMARKS

The "*Angelina*" left Woolwich on the 28th of April 1844 with 170 female convicts and 18 children on board. Two of the children were in bad health on embarkation. They became the subjects of *Tabes mesenterica* and died on the voyage. Amongst the women 3 deaths took place. One from Aneurism, which was sudden and unexpected – the second from Phthisis, brought on by a much neglected syphilitic complaint, which the patient managed to conceal until her fading health attracted my attention, and the third from Enteritis. The last, was a fine young woman who was convalescent from the attack and was moving about the Hospital. One cold damp day she came on deck, contrary to my wishes or knowledge, when a relapse took place which proved fatal in a few hours. All those cases are detailed in this Journal. The other cases that appear on the Sick List do not require particular notice, except that the subject of Amentia was sent to the Lunatic establishment at Van Diemen's Land.

The "*Angelina*" put into the port of Santa Cruz in the island of Teneriffe for water and refreshments on the 18th and sailed again on the 21st of May.

We arrived in the Derwent on the 24th of August 1844 and my prisoners were landed on the 31st day of that month.

The voyage may be considered a successful one, for although we had occasional instances of bad language and riotous conduct, yet those unfortunate women, generally speaking, were more manageable than I had calculated upon at sailing.

We had no complaints and the clean appearance and orderly conduct of the women was noticed by the colonial authorities. In a voyage of this description embracing such a variety of climates, the weather presented many aspects, however until we passed the cape of good hope, it was favourable for the most part, but from that time, until our arrival, the weather was cold damp and tempestuous.

The colony of van diemen's land, as well as that of New South Wales, which I had also an opportunity of visiting, was quite healthy, and the colonists were rapidly recovering the effects of the disasters of the last few years.

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