

The *Isabella* listed as having wicklow convict

The *Isabella* was the next convict ship to leave Ireland for New South Wales after the [Nautilus](#) in September 1839.

Henry Mahon received his appointed as Surgeon Superintendent on the *Isabella* in January 1840.

The embarkation of 119 convicts, 25 children and 32 free emigrants, in all 176 took place at Kingstown harbour in February. Most of the convict women were aged in their twenties, however there were nine who were in their forties. The youngest women were 17 years of age and oldest was Bridget Ryan who was 60 years old. They were mostly housemaids, nursemaids and servants and came from various parts of Ireland - Wexford, Mayo, Longford, Galway, Monaghan, Kerry, Cork, Waterford, Wicklow, Tyrone, Leitrim, Carlow and Londonderry. Their crimes ranged from petty crimes such as stealing a handkerchief or pick pocketing to man robbery, arson and street robbery. Many had former convictions.

The *Isabella* departed Kingstown on 5th March under moderate winds and cloudy weather. For most of the women on board this would be their last sight of Ireland for ever. They passed by the Tuskar Light house on the 9th March 1840 and were off Madeira on the 19th March with light westerly winds and rain. By Sunday 22nd March they were near Palma Island and they passed Tenerife on 25th March. They crossed the line on 16th April.

Requiring fresh supplies, the surgeon decided to put into Simons Bay at the Cape of Good Hope and on 31st May he recorded that they were working into Simons Bay. They had very fine weather with light westerly winds while at the Cape and they remained there until the 10 June. They spoke the *Andromache* while there.

The total distance from Ireland to New South Wales was 14,244 miles.

The *Monitor* reported on [5th August](#) - *On Monday morning last, at ten o'clock, the female convicts and free settlers were landed from the Isabella. These women have arrived from Dublin under the superintendence of Mr. Mahon who speaks in high terms of their exemplary conduct during the voyage; and we are bound to add, from the clean, healthy, and respectable appearance they presented on landing, that they reflect not less credit on Dr. Mahon than on themselves, being the most orderly in their deportment, as well as the most becomingly attired body of female convicts we ever saw arrive from Ireland. Some time after their landing, the Rev. Mr. Edmonstone arrived, and delivered a most moving and appropriate address to the Protestant portion of the females; and shortly afterwards, Dr. Polding addressed the Catholics, and admonished them as to their future conduct and prospects in life. The women seemed much affected and shed many tears. After the clergymen had concluded, Captain McLean addressed them. Such of them as had been applied for, were then forwarded to their respective assignees, the remainder will probably be forwarded to Parramatta, there to await assignment. Much credit is due to the commander and owners of this ship, as well as to the surgeon for the manner in which she was found and kept during the voyage, for, owing to the good quality of the provisions, the discipline maintained, and the cleanliness of the ship, few cases of illness occurred during the voyage, and not a single death. On being asked if they had any complaints to make of their treatment on board or against the officers or crew, they with one voice exclaimed they had cause for gratitude and with tears called down blessings on the doctor and officers of the ship. The free females who have arrived by this vessel, have also received most excellent character from the captain and surgeon for exemplary conduct during the voyage.*

The printed convict indents include information such as name, age, education, marital status, family, native place, religion, where and when convicted, former convictions, sentence, physical description and occasional information about Certificates of Freedom. There is no information in the indents as to where and to whom the women were assigned.

