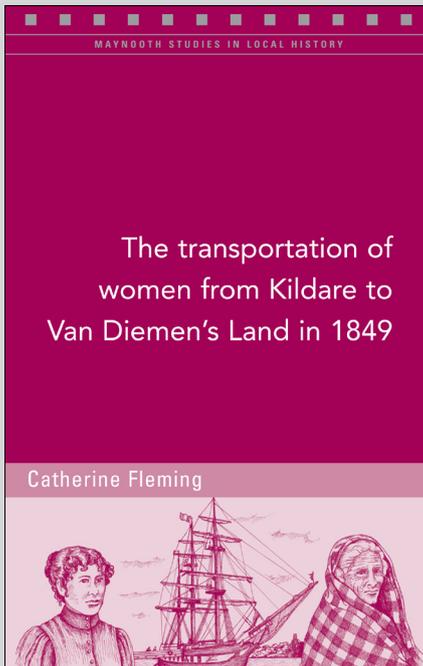




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## The transportation of women from Kildare to Van Diemen's land in 1849

by Catherine Fleming

This is the story of several women from Kildare who made the arduous journey to Van Diemen's Land, now known as Tasmania, as the Great Famine raged. Many of these convicts were first-time offenders and contradicted their stereotype as fallen women and hardened criminals. This book follows their history from their convictions and sentencing in courts at Naas, Athy, Kildare and Maynooth, to their arrival at their new home in the penal colony at Hobart following a long and dangerous journey.

### Women featured in the book include:

- **Elizabeth Curry** from Naas, aged 13 when convicted and sentenced to transportation for stealing just 7s.;
- **Eliza Guilfoyle**, a 19-year-old from Kildare convicted of setting fire to an out-house of a widow living on Barrack Street in Athy, which spread to four other houses;
- **Ann Daly**, aged 22, who set fire to two houses, one near Kildare at Stramillion and another at Grangewall;
- **Catherine Colligan**, a mother from Kildare charged with the murder of an elderly widow, Margaret Foran, and transported away from her child.

The first section of this book looks at Kildare during the Famine; the second focuses on the crimes and convictions of Kildare women of all ages; and the third deals with the journey from Ireland to Van Diemen's Land on board the *Australasia*, a convict ship which sailed from Dun Laoghaire in 1849, and the life that awaited them when they arrived. For many of these young women transportation, despite its hardships, presented the opportunity to make a new life, emancipated from the poverty and economic deprivation of a famine-ridden Ireland.

### BOOK LAUNCH

This book will be launched by Professor Philip Nolan, President of NUI Maynooth, at 7 p.m. on Friday 7 September in Renehan Hall, South Campus, NUI Maynooth, Co. Kildare. All are welcome.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Catherine Fleming**, a native of Athlone, has been living in Celbridge since 1981. A primary school teacher, she has worked in Scoil Na Mainistreach for the past thirty years.

For further information, or to arrange an interview with Catherine Fleming, please contact Meghan Donaldson, Four Courts Press at (01) 453 4668 or via email at [meghan.donaldson@fourcourtspress.ie](mailto:meghan.donaldson@fourcourtspress.ie).