Abstract
For the women of the *Tasmania 2* their departure from Kingstown in September 1845 was an ending of their lives in Ireland and the start of a new life in the penal colonies of Van Diemen’s Land. The women, 139 in total had been sentenced to transportation for various crimes from larceny, stealing, robbery, felony, housebreaking and infanticide to manslaughter. How were they to be ready for this new life in Van Diemen’s Land? How were they to be of benefit to the Colony once they landed? What provisions were put in place to prepare them for their new life in the Colony? The Female Convict Depot at Grangegorman was opened in the 1830s with a view to providing training to the women and provide them with skills which would make them more employable once in VDL. On entering Grangegorman all details relating to the women were recorded in the Gaol Register, along with their occupations. On landing in Hobart in December 1845 the women’s details were again recorded in the Convict Indents and Conduct Book. Where the Grangegorman gaol entries in the main recorded the fact that the women had no occupation, the Indents and Conduct Books recorded an occupation for each woman. How was this possible?

This paper proposes to give an outline of the role played by the Grangegorman Female Convict Depot in preparing the women for a fresh start in VDL, while ending their old way of life in Ireland.

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