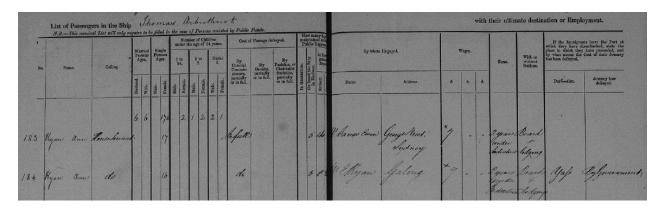
Ann Ryan Per *Thomas Arbuthnot* to Sydney 3 February 1850

Ann Ryan is noted on the shipping list as a house servant who could read and write and had no relatives in the colony. She was one of 13 young women on the *Thomas Arbuthnot* who gave her native place as Scarriff, County Clare and one of the 16 from the Scarriff Poor Law Union Workhouse. The Scarriff (sometimes spelt Scariff) Poor Law Union was formally declared on 25 July 1839 and covered an area of 170 square miles. Its operation was overseen by an elected Board of 26 Guardians who represented its 10 electoral divisions listed below (figures in brackets indicate numbers of Guardians if more than one):

County Clare: Feakle (4), Killaloe (3), Killuran (2), Kilnoe (2), Orgunnella (2), Scariff (4). County Galway: Clonrush 92), Woodford (2). Counties Clare and Galway: Mountshannon.¹

Along with the other immigrant orphan women on the Thomas Arbuthnot Ann Ryan spent 5 days on the ship before going to the Hyde Park Barracks where she spend eight days before heading off with a party of 108 young Irish orphans from the *Thomas Arbuthnot* with the Surgeon of the ship, Charles Edward Strutt. He accompanied them and looked after them on their way to Yass and Gundagai where they gained employment.² Ann initially went to the Emigration Depot in Yass from where she was employed by 'Mr E. Ryan' at Galong for 2 years, being paid £7 the first year and £8 the second year [see below].³





Edward or 'Ned' Ryan had been convicted for his part in the destruction of a military infirmary in Ballagh, County Tipperary on the night of 7 September 1815. Ned and thirteen others were transported on the *Surrey* arriving in the colony in December 1816. Another man was hanged. Ned worked for surveyor James Meehan and after he obtained his ticket of leave he squatted at *Illalong* near Binalong. He eventually took up land at in the district including at Galong when he build a castellated house, known as 'Galong Castle' [the image shows section of the old house].⁴

¹ Scarriff Workhouse from Peter Higginbotham's brilliant website: http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Scariff/

² Richard Reid & Cheryl Mongan, 'A decent set of girls': the Irish Famine orphans of the 'Thomas Arbuthnot' 1849-1850, Yass Heritage Project, Yass, 1996.

³ 'List of Passengers in the ship *Thomas Arbuthnot* with their destination and employment'. Ship Return, report on the immigrants, Mitchell Library A1256, CY2056.

⁴ For the full story see <u>http://www.shamrockinthebush.org.au/history.htm</u> written by Cheryl Mongan.

Ann Ryan married John Howcroft, from Manchester, England who had arrived as a convict on the *Captain Cook* in 1833. The ceremony was performed at St Clement's, Galong on 24 July 1852 and the couple produced 2 children by 1853. Ann died and was buried at Galong Cemetery on 8 October 1855 [see memorial at Galong below]

In Memory of Ann Ryan who arrived in Sydney on the Thomas Arbuthnot on 3 February 1850, and was hired by Edward 'Ned' Ryan of Galong House; and all the female workhouse orphans of the Great Irish Famine who rest in unmarked graves across Australia. Ann Ryan, wife of John Howecroft and mother of Ann and Mary, born c1834, Scarriff, Co Clare, Ireland buried at Galong 8 October 1855.

This story is a work in progress