

The Whiteboys of Galway – As per the Ship Eliza 1832

The story of Patrick Finn

Patrick Finn was born about 1802 in County Galway, townland unknown. He was a part of Buachaillí Bána a secret Irish agrarian organization in 18th-century Ireland, which used violent tactics to defend tenant farmer land rights for subsistence farming. Their name derives from the white smocks the members wore in their nightly raids. This was during a period where many tenants were in arrears and there was a lot of unrest.

In March 1832, at the Galway Assizes, there were 26 Galway men convicted of Whiteboy activity. Patrick Finn was one of those men convicted for Whiteboy activities; he was just 22 years old.



Ref: The Pilot 1832 April

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Reading that report on the trial on the Pilot Newspaper ¹ article it must have been a very emotional time for the convicted men and their families as they left the court house, “where they were heavily ironed, placed upon carts, and marched off, escorted by a strong party of the Enniskillen dragoons, a detachment of the 67 b regiment, with the cavalry and infantry police. The unfortunate prisoners seemed to feel the unhappy situation they brought themselves to, by a violation of the laws of their country. The procession moved slowly by the square and the cries and yells of the wives children, and brothers of the prisoners were really heart rending: women with infants in their arms taking the last embrace of their misguided and unhappy husbands, while they returned them by kisses, blessings. Orders being given that every person should be kept from the carts, the convicts were quickly conveyed off amidst the crises, yells, and moaning of a vast assemblage of county people”.

Transportation to Australia

Many of the prisoners of the ship Eliza that departed May 10th 1832 to New South Wales, were petty Criminals convicted of stealing, and petty theft, however, there were also twenty-six men from Galway who had been convicted of White Boy crimes. They were transferred to Cork from Galway. In Cork they were held in the Hulk moored at Cobh. From there they departed Ireland never to return. It must have been very difficult for parents, wives and children to see their fathers / sons transported to Australia known they would probably never see them again.

Once the men arrived in Australia they were sent to work in various areas. A record from Ancestry, Convict Indents, states Patrick Finn was 22 years old, single, Ploughman, reaps and sows from County Galway²

New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842 for Patrick Finn																
Annotated Printed Indentures > 1832																
32-1030	01	Edmond Naughton	30	R & W	Roman Catholic	Widower	3	1	County Galway	Ploughman, reaps, sows	Whiteboy	Galway	30 March, 1832	03	Life	None
32-1030	07	Patrick Finn	22	None	Roman Catholic	Single	...	...	County Galway	Ploughman, reaps, sows	Whiteboy	Galway	30 March, 1832	07	Life	None
32-1030	08	James M'Donogh	30	R & W	Roman Catholic	Single	County Clare	Plasterer 2 years, soldier officer's servant.....	Stealing trunk and money	Galway	24 March, 1831	08	7 Years	None
32-1061	09	John														

Ref: Ancestry access 4.4.21

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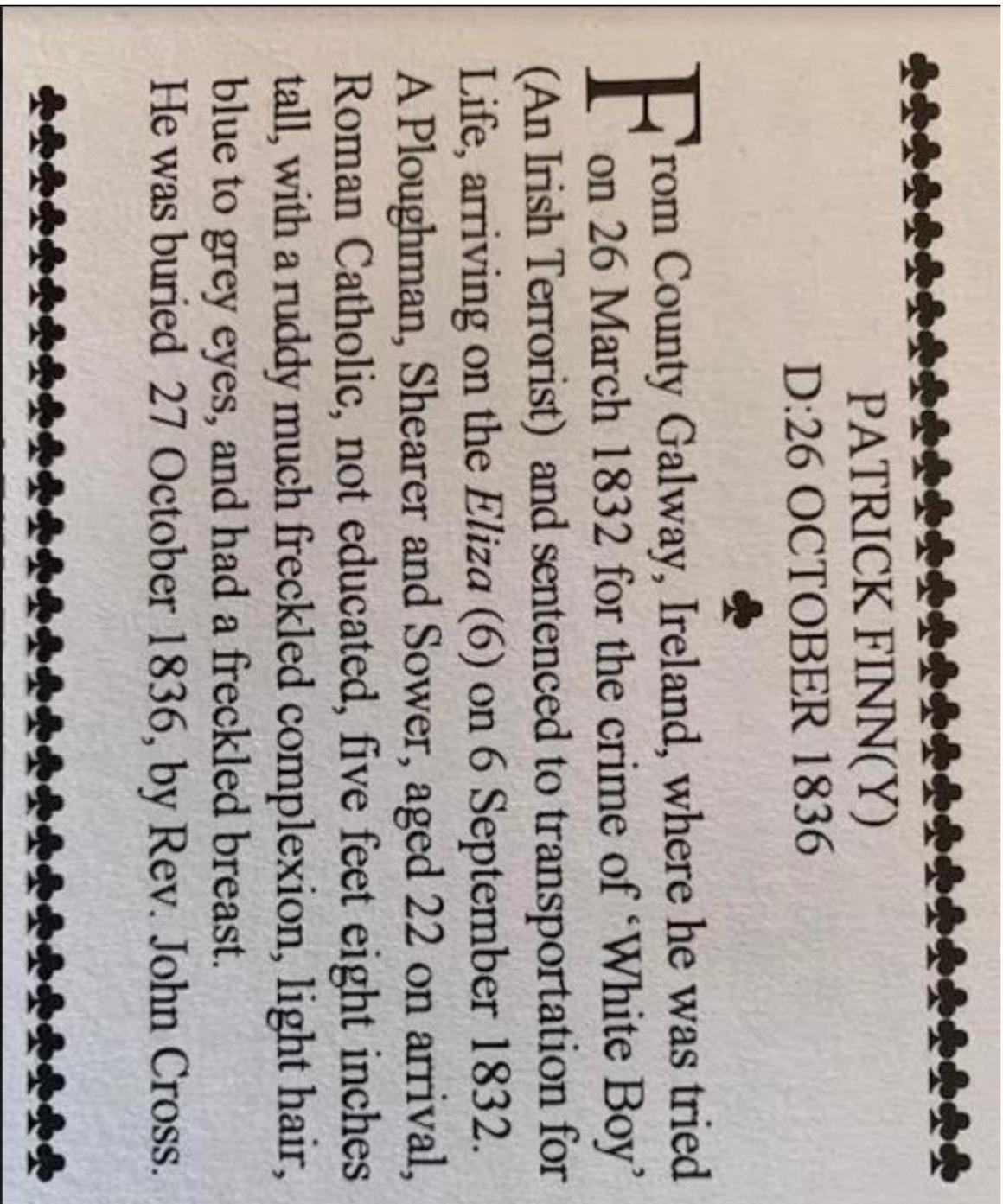
Name:	Patrick Finn
Age:	22
Date of Conviction:	26 Mar 1832
Place of Conviction:	Galway
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1810
Vessel:	Eliza (6)
Port of Arrival:	Sydney Cove
Date of Arrival:	6 Sep 1832
Ticket of Leave:	No
	: Search for Tickets of Leave
Pardon:	No
	: Search for Tickets of Leave
Certificate of Freedom:	No
	: Search for Tickets of Leave

No ticket of leave issued³.

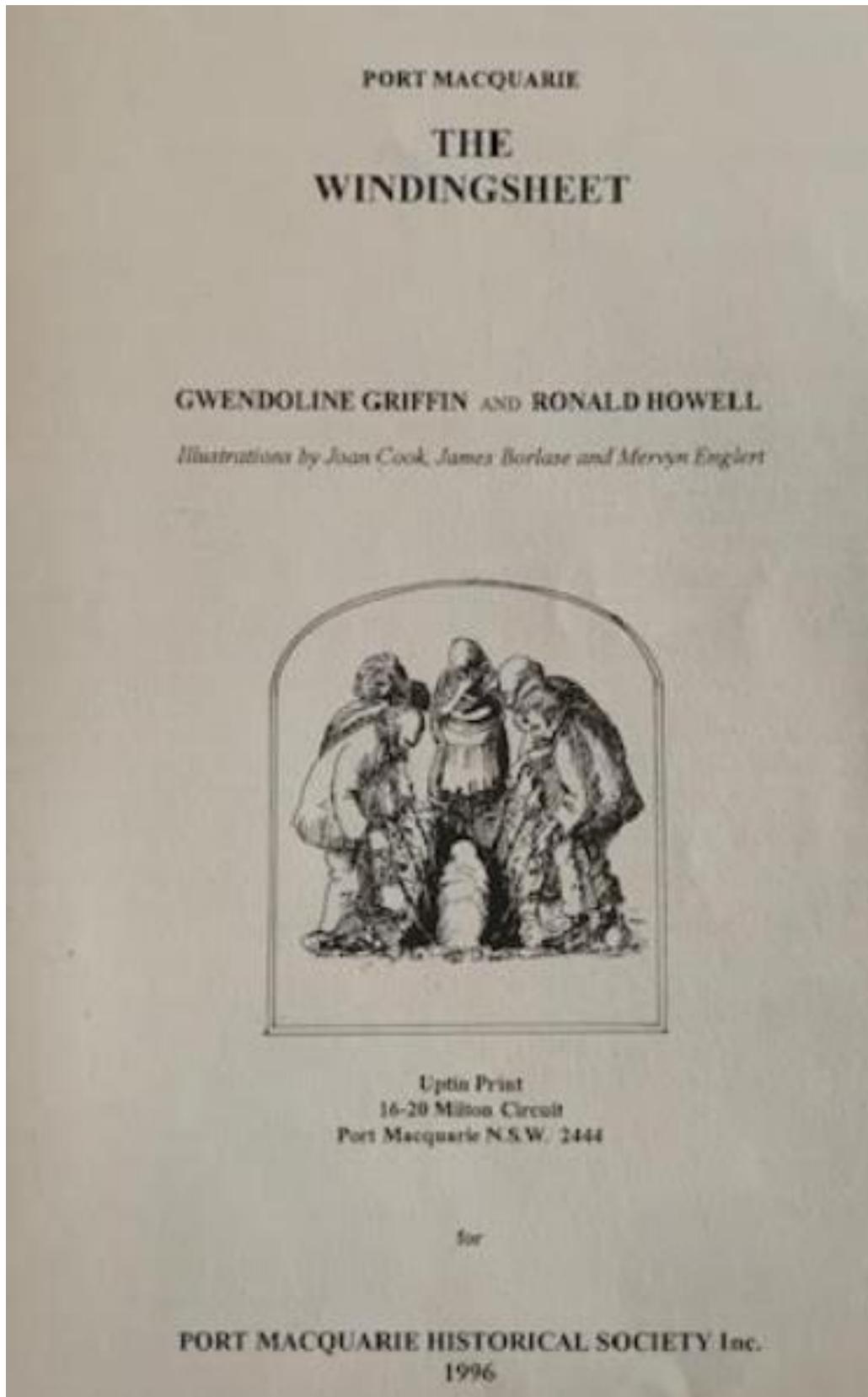
Ref: Ancestry

After some research I discovered Patrick Finn died in 1836, only four years after arriving in Australia. Date of death October 26th 1836 in Port Macquarie. Thanks to Mitch McKay – Heritage Consultant, Port Macquarie Hastings Heritage for providing information and attachments (x 2).

Attachment 5821 has some information about him and the other attachment is the title of the publication it comes from⁴. The cemetery he is buried at was in operation from 1824-1886. While there are more than 1500 people buried in the cemetery there are only 105 graves visible of which only 88 monuments can be seen. Unfortunately, Patrick Finn's is not one of the monuments. While his religion is Roman Catholic he was buried by the Reverend John Cross the Anglican minister



Ref: image provided by Mitch McKay – Heritage Consultant, Port Macquarie Hastings Heritage



Ref: image provided by Mitch McKay – Heritage Consultant, Port Macquarie Hastings Heritage ⁵

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New South Wales, Australia, Convict Death Register, 1826-1879 for Patrick Finn

Images

Name	Ship	Age	Date of Death	District	Remarks
Joyce Wm	Norfolk	24	Feb 27/37	G. H. Sydney	D. Mitchell
Freeman Mark	Andromeda	36	Dec 29/36	do	do
Henry John	Bussell		Jan - /37	Campbell Town	Joyce dead with Bussell - Ballman
Hood Michl	Monaghan	14	April	MacLennan	H. Mitchell
Finn Patrick	Eliza	34	Oct 26/36	Port Macquarie	Sa. H. Mitchell
James J.	Aboriginal	28	Aug 14	G. H. Sydney	D. Mitchell
Prober Eliza	Hamstead	25	Nov 18	do	do
Pauline Chas	My Doctor	20	Oct 23	do	do
Henry Cath	Eliza		26 Oct	Port Macquarie	H. Mitchell

Ref: Ancestry

Name: Patrick Finn

Estimated Birth Year: abt 1802

Age: 34

Date of Death: 26 Oct 1836

District: Port Macquarie

New South Wales, Australia, Convict death register for Patrick Finn 1836 ⁶.

Port Macquarie was founded as a penal settlement

Port Macquarie was established in 1821, under the command of Captain Francis Allman, as a place of secondary punishment within the New South Wales convict system. By the mid-1820s the convict population was at its greatest with almost 1,500 men engaged in public works, timber getting and various agricultural enterprises at a number of outstations. The settlement assumed a more permanent form when the military, convicts and civil officials were housed in separate areas.

In 1830 Port Macquarie was officially opened to free settlement and in 1831 a town plan on a grid layout was imposed over the rudimentary street plan of the penal settlement. Port Macquarie was closed as a

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place of secondary punishment in 1832 but while a town open to free settlement it was also a convict depot for specials, the sick, infirmed and insane until 1847.⁷

References:

1. The Pilot 1832 April
2. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2024/images/32082_223773_0003-00061?usePUB=true&_phsrc=evL1111&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=102472
3. Ancestry https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/89075:2024?_phsrc=evL1112&_phstart=successSource&_phtarg=evL1111&gfsn=Patrick&gsln=Finn&ml_rpos=2&queryId=4bee179eca5c5dff96ae6f3575a4650
4. Thanks to Mitch McKay – Heritage Consultant, Port Macquarie Hastings Heritage for providing information and attachments (x 2).
5. Thanks to Mitch McKay – Heritage Consultant, Port Macquarie Hastings Heritage for providing information and attachments (x 2).
6. Ancestry https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1202/images/VRDAUS1828_081193-00057?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&queryId=6835372e8710e8686c82f712f1254382&usePUB=true&_phsrc=evL1103&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&_ga=2.128744396.1576879880.1617356775-1968551262.1604227426&pId=5610
7. Mitch McKay – Heritage Consultant, Port Macquarie Hastings Heritage.

If you believe you could be related to Patrick Finn please contact us.

Contact email: galwayancestors@gmail.com

Facebook page: The Whiteboys of Galway - that travelled on the Eliza Ship 1832 or

Facebook page: Loughrea workhouse

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