



Convict Connections

# Chained Mail

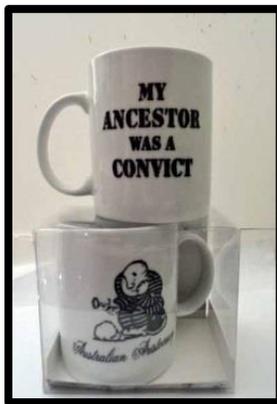


Welcome  
to our new bi-monthly

## “Chained Mail”

which will keep you informed of  
what is happening at our GSQ  
Inc. Interest Group

“Convict Connections”



MUGS \$12.50

### DO YOU KNOW?

- what convicts did when they were set the task of picking oakum?
- who Frank the Poet was?
- what churching of women means?

### ON THE WEB

Have you visited this site?

<https://www.digitalpanopticon.org>

There is so much information on this site as it explores the impact of different punishments on the lives of 100,000 people sentenced at the Old Bailey between 1780 and 1875.

200 years ago... *The Sydney Gazette* 11 Sep 1819 –

*We deem it a subject worthy of notice, which must afford general satisfaction, that the prisoners, landed from the various vessels during the week, appeared to be in a healthy and comparatively happy condition; they spoke of the kindness and humanity they received from the Commanders and Officers in the most grateful terms of praise; who expressed universal satisfaction at their orderly conduct and exemplary good behaviour during the voyage.*

### OUR AUGUST MEETING 2019

Having discussed at our July meeting whether or not Captain Patrick Logan was a tyrant when he was Commandant at the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement, this time we looked at the term of **Ralph Darling** as the Governor of New South Wales.

We put his term of office into a broader context – beginning with the monarch reigning at the time and conditions in England, and then looking at the social, political and economic conditions in the colony.

It is always helpful to look at the background conditions in which your convict was living. Which Governor, or Caretaker, was in charge? Were there new directives concerning the treatment of convicts? Who were powerful players in the colony?

Governor Darling was targeted by the free press. The editor of the *Monitor* was gaoled for two years for seditious libel. The editor of the *Australian* was also gaoled for 6 months – and, for that 6 months, both newspapers were edited from within the Parramatta Gaol!!