

Raymond Hill

From: Maeve O'Rourke [maeveorourke@gmail.com]
Sent: 04 April 2012 09:54
To: Raymond Hill
Subject: Fwd: Email 6: Criminal Convictions
Attachments: Court Committals-2.xlsx; Newspapers_Court_Committals.pdf; JS_CCC_Infanticide_Cases.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

From: James Smith <james.smith.2@bc.edu>
Date: 2 April 2012 17:26
Subject: Email 6: Criminal Convictions
To: "Nuala.NiMhuircheartaigh@dfa.ie" <Nuala.NiMhuircheartaigh@dfa.ie>
Cc: Claire McGettrick <clairemcgettrick@gmail.com>, "katherine.odonnell@ucd.ie O'Donnell" <katherine.odonnell@ucd.ie>, Maeve O'Rourke <maeveorourke@gmail.com>, Mari Steed <msteed@wacphila.org>, James Smith <james.smith.2@bc.edu>

Dear Nuala,

Moving on from Charitable Commissioner to additional evidence of the Irish Court system's use of Magdalene Laundries as an alternative to imposing prison sentences.

You will recall that JFM has long contended that Judges/Courts used Magdalene Laundries in this way, especially in cases involving concealment of a birth and/or infanticide cases resulting in some women being referred to the Laundries after receiving a suspended sentence while others were referred to the Laundries "On Probation" (See JFM's "Narrative of State Interaction" Ch. 6, a & b, pg. 17-20 and Appendices 6.a.i-6.b.ii).

My colleague Claire McGettrick has done extensive new research looking at national and local newspapers and has discovered additional evidence whereby the Courts used Magdalene Laundries/Convents as places of confinement for women in trouble with the law. I attach an Excel spread sheet noting such cases, indicating the woman's name, the institution to which she was sent (the majority being sent to the Good Shepherd's, Limerick), the length of her suggested sentence, the Newspaper source for the information, and some brief notes from said newspaper articles. You will note that there are at least 33 cases of women sent to Magdalene Laundries in this manner. Just as important there are 5 cases where the woman before the court refused to be sent to the Magdalene Laundry, and some of these women stated a preference for a prison sentence rather than confinement in a Magdalene institution. There are also three women listed who might be included in the 52 cases I already submitted (appendix 6.a.i).

Claire also compiled into a single .pdf copies of the relevant newspaper articles documenting all of these court committals.

Finally, I am attaching my own research notes for the 52 Catholic women sent to various Magdalene Laundries (also includes the Henrietta Street Convent [appendix 6.a.ii] and Bethany Home [appendix 6.a.ii] cases). This will assist you weeding out any double counting. I would, however, point out that this .pdf contains the identifying information for the women, whereas in my book and in the appendices I only use the women's initials. Again therefore, I would ask that you please protect and not share these particular documents beyond yourself and the Senator. Thanks.

Best,

2545

jim

James Smith
Associate Professor
Assistant Chair/Dir. of Undergraduate Studies
English Department & Irish Studies Program
Boston College
617-552-1596
smithbt@bc.edu

<http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/english/faculty/facalpha/smith.html>

2546