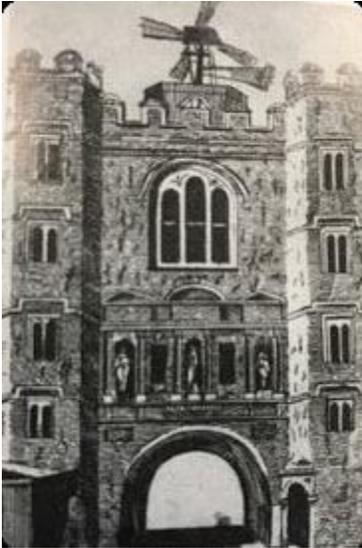


# Newgate and Fleet Prisons

By Jeannette Holland Austin



New Gate Prison, London

After one discovers the immigrant in his family on passenger lists and land records, the next step is to visit the records in the country of embarkation. It is not too complicated because church attendance was required and baptisms, christenings, marriages and mortuary records were kept in the local parish.

In London, for example, one should research all parish registers, regardless, in order to have a better understanding the family seat. Each surname should be written down, with its data and carefully identified. In working with the names, each person is a suspect as being a family member.

Cataloging this information is best done on a family group sheet. This practice will assist in sorting out the children of each generation and ascertaining what happened to them.

Studying the history of the family seat will provide a keener reasoning and

rationalization of that era. It is important to know the politics of the ruling monarchy, such as when Henry VIII converted the church to Anglican. The catholic records prior to that era are probably located at the Vatican. Did you know that Pope Clemente II? was in Avon, France and that he did not expose himself publically or hear complaints when Europe was suffering from the Black Plague. One of my ancestors, Sir Thomas de Hollande had secretly married Joan Plantagent, the Fair Maid of Kent, the granddaughter of King Edward I.

Afterwards, Thomas, a Knight of the Royal Garter, was sent to fight in the war in France. When he returned, he discovered that King Edward had given Joan in marriage to the Earl of Salisbury. The Catholic Church ruled over such matters, so Thomas presented his petition to the pope. The brief notation which I found was that the petition was not heard by the Pope until several years later. This is because of the plague.

Thomas won. He returned to England and his wife was returned to him. These are the sort of things to consider and question for the purpose of seeking more clues. As a climatic to this event, Thomas and Joan had six children, and Thomas died on the battlefield of France. He could have been slain or died of the plague, as this was also common among the knights.

The story continues with a rich history. Joan married again, this time to her first cousin, Edward III (the Black Prince) and by him had one son, Richard II. Richard II was unpopular and a weak ruler, and the Holland step-brothers were his loyal defenders.

The history of this family continues in the Chancery Records and Church Records for several hundred years. But let us not forget that a rather large population of the peasant class were imprisoned at Fleet's Prison. The prisons had wardens, gate-keepers and these appointments were recorded in local records.

The Chancery Courts and other local records should turn up some names of

prisoners. When James Oglethorpe was sent to colonize Georgia, the trustees, who were very selective upon whom to send to colonize, interviewed applicants from prisons as well as other areas.

Other congregations were invited into the colony and they "brought their records with them." The Saltzburg records (from Austria) are intact in Effingham County, Georgia. Hence, know the history and you will know where to search!