

THE PRISON'S MOST REGULAR INMATE?

NAME INC ALIASES:

Annie Pilet

NATIVE PLACE:

County Galway,
Ireland

RELIGION:

Roman Catholic

OFFENCE:

Drunk

SENTENCE:

Numerous
sentences

Annie Pilet had a long criminal record for drunkenness, theft, obscene language and vagrancy.

Her physical description in the prison register was that she was 5ft 0in in height, slight build, dark complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, with a scar over the left eye, mole on the right cheek and a short pug nose.

Sometimes she used the aliases Annie Mahon, Annie Jackson, Margaret Jackson or Mary Jackson. Her life can be reliably followed in newspaper and police reports.

The effects of Annie's alcoholism can be gauged from one newspaper report which notes that it was her fifth appearance in six months.

Another refers to 42 previous convictions. With no work and no Welfare System it is not surprising that, as a woman on her own, Annie resorted, from time to time to petty theft and prostitution.

Annie died in Dunedin Public Hospital on 11 December 1899 aged 38, of acute pneumonia and alcoholism. The newspaper of the day noted "One of the most notorious female inebriates who make work for J.P.s in Dunedin died in hospital on Monday morning. As a "special pleader" for clemency Annie Pilet was unsurpassed, and many a time a soft hearted Justice yielded weakly to her insistent appeals for another chance."

