

Community voices – transcript

Benjamin Boyce

Extract from a letter dated 22 July 1842 by Benjamin Boyce to his parents in Lincolnshire, detailing his trip to Australia and his experiences in jumping ship upon landing at Port Adelaide.

i hope the nxt letter you send me you will put all the perticklers of all in quiren freinds for i hope plesse god i shal cum home and see you all sum time for i ham a bout to sattle no in south a strialla for i do not intend to ever be a sailor aney more if I can a void it when i cum to Freiston if ever i do i shal cum probley as a pasenger and bring you my intended wife wich i hope the next letter i send you you will hear of my marrige and bean cumfortuble for the young whouman that i am a keep ing cumpney with she and her Farther and Mother and to sisters and 1 Brother left london in the ship morfitⁱ with me to cum out to south a strialla for to sattle there wich we all a rived there safe when i forst went on bord the morfit i did not now whear she was a going to but i soon found out that she was a going to take emegrants out to south a strilla and I verry soon got a quaintedy with the young wouman that i am a bout to take for my wife but i av no call to tel you a bout me giting a quanted with the youngh whemen for at that time i did not care ho it was but i ad not bean long in the ship be fore i was taken verry hill and then i ad to giv hup all my games with the young whemen there eust to be dancing and sining on bord the ship every night we uest to be very cumfertuble on bord the ship all the pasege ought to south a strilla and i got ferily well just be fore we got there and got a quantid with my youngh wouman a gain so that when we dropt anker in oldfast bayⁱⁱ i packed up all my close that i culd leveng my bed and amock and chist on bord and the rest of my close my intended wifes farther brought them on shore for me unnown to aney oun on bord the ship wich i intended to run a whay the forst opertunity that i culd git to leve the ship i was on bord the ship for a weake after the emmegrants went on shore and the mait would not a lou me to go in the bote because sum oun ad told him that i intendid to run a whay the ship lay a bout too miles from the shor and if i cold not get a shore no other way i and a nother youngh man was a going to ty too of the foore aches to gather and cum on shore on them but after i ad bean on bord three days after the emegrants ad been on shore i maniged to git down in the bote and the mait did not notis me been in the bote when she left the ship so i got a shore that day and returned back to the ship a gain when i went on bord the mait says Boyce caut you of i thout you was a going to run a whay i a medently says no sor i cant see aney gud to run a whay in such a desert place as this i think i ad better stick to my ship sor and after that e a loud me to go in the bote every day wich i did for three or four days when going on bord of crismas day with our captine and sum more gentele men our captine gave us all a very gud carituar and e thout that we all semed very cumfertuble that all is cru would stick to him but the next morning i put on too shirts and too pare of trouses and all that i culd take with me and got down in the boat wich was lodid with bred that morning and a whay puld six of us a shore just be foore we got on shore i sais to oun of my ship mates bill i am a going to cut it this morning are you sais he and so am i and so is my chume sais bill but how to let him now that we av startid i do not now for e is on shore with the sekend mate a tring to get the longbote of o damit sais i niver mind that i ave got a shiling gud says e i ave got sixpence thats right says i that will just buy a glas a brandy a pees for us and as soon as we got to the shore we tooke three or fouer biskets and shoke ands with the rest of our botes cru and then went on the beech to look for our other cumpanyoun wich was a going to join us as soon as we got on the top of sum very hi sand hills we becond to our outher cumpanyoun and e soon sais us and e sais to the sekend mate i must go to shit for i do not feal very well in my inside i think the plum puding yesterday do not agree with me and so instead of us a going to the publick houce we cut of in to the wild bush near thear thear was no wite people nothink but the natives of that cuntrey and thay go a bout naked and perfect wild tha av killed a fue wite pepole but tha are a giting more natourlised then thay was then we went in to the ills a monst the vandemans that ad been transported and got thear liberty and came to south a strilla but it was crismas time and thay was all drunk and we culd git nothink to do thear so we all three agreed to go under the rocks and liv upon fish till the ship went a whay for we dare not go in to town for fear of bean caught again for our captine ofread too pounds reward for each of us til the ship went a whay we went and lev uppon nothink but fish for a munth and just for a munth we dare not be seen by ane oun and then as soon as the

ship sailed we washed our selve and then went into town and the furst once we came to caled and they pited us and gave us sum tea wich we ad a most forgot the tast of it and all the bred that they ad got in the ouce and made us quiet welcome and then we went on to the town whear i very soon found out my youngh wouman and my close and i found them allright and then i clened myself and not be fore time i then ingaged to go to live at a dary whear i ad 20 cows to milk every morning for three munths and then i left and went to mow hay for my self and send it in to town for at that time yough mite go and cut a lode of hay in ourn day which it was a selling at four and five pounds a lode and i ad nothink to pay for it for i ust to cut it on guverment land for at that time thear was not much land survade at was all guverment land exceptine just the town wich the sitty we call it now but at that time thear was no more hoses in the sitty then thear was at freiston scrane end.

ⁱ The *Moffat*

ⁱⁱ Holdfast Bay, South Australia, some seven miles from the new town of Adelaide