

Extracts from the Buffalo ship board diary of Young Bingham Hutchinson, 1836-1837 (PRG 1013/1)

Thursday 28th. Light airs and fine. Steering N. by S. The whole of the crew and passengers assembled to witness the celebration of three weddings on board, previous to which parts of the Morning Service of Prayer, and parts of the prayers to be used at sea were offered up by the Rev. C. B. Howard. After the ceremony the married couples and bridesmaids were regaled in the cabin by His Excellency. The first number of the 'Buffalo Telegraph' appeared. The wedding parties were regaled with wine on the quarter-deck, after which followed singing and dancing. Wind freshened during the evening against us. Shortened sail.

The first woman to be involved with the press in South Australia could be said to be Miss Mary Hindmarsh who edited a hand produced news sheet on board the *Buffalo*, during the journey to South Australia. This was titled the *Buffalo telegraph*, unfortunately no copies have survived.

Sunday 28th. Heavy rain; wind West. Course South mustered the crew and emigrants and read the Articles of War (by the Governor); lowered the topsails in squalls. Took in one reef. Noon, miles run  $89 + 2697 = 2786$ . people very busy catching water in various vessels, water being scarcer yesterday than Brandy of wine; that is to say that I could get brandy or wine to drink more easier than water. In second reef of topsails; down royal yards.

Tuesday 3rd. Moderate and cloudy. Strangways and I went ashore to Mr. Gouger's (Col. Sec) tent, and were sworn in Justices of the peace, Took a walk and saw three kangaroos.

Wednesday 4th. Attended at Mr. Gouger's tent to swear in High Constable and Constables, and elect a clerk to the Bench of Magistrates. Dined with Mr. Gouger, and at sunset went down to the beach to go on board, but the surf being high, and the boat unable to take us all, we returned and Strangways and I slept on the ground in a tent belonging to Mr. Brown's servants: six women slept in another tent.

Tuesday 12th. Fine. Boat started for the bar: cart and ourselves started for the Fishery at Granite Island. At 10 three of the boats crew returned and informed us that Sir John Jeffcott, Captain Blenkinshop, Geo: Wright and Henry Brooks were drowned by the filling of the boat on the bar.

Wednesday 27th. A few drops of rain. Bought 250bricks. Signed requisition to Colonial Commissioners respecting Encounter Bay: attended resident magistrates' court. Called at Government House. Corobbery.