
Foundation Documents – transcript – D4781/1 (L)

The Java Ship

Voyage to South Australia 1839

1839

Journal of a voyage on the “Java” to South Australia

1839

Monday October 28th

Left Plymouth Sound half past four o'clock pm. Wind NE

40 miles west of Scilly 8 o'clock am.

October 30th

Passing the skirts of the Bay of Biscay, 600 miles long.

October 31st

Becalmed 1 1/2 days very warm, Rudder band gave way 10 at night, made a sad noise. Had dancing in the evening on the quarter deck.

November 2nd

NE Fresh Gale driving on in style, all recovered from sickness.

Sunday November 3rd

NW Strong Gale all night, driving before wind.

November 4th

Fine weather, heavy sea, little wind – (child died) An owl lighted in the rigging, starlings, lark and bluebirds caught.

November 5th

SW stiff breeze 10 (?) degrees hotter than last Sunday.

November 6th

NW fine, thermometer 2 degrees below summer heat.

November 7th

Coats, neck cloth, 2 stockings off.

November 8th

Rain, stormy petrel showed approaching storm.

November 9th

Vivid lightening (squalls) heavy sea, ship labouring a good deal, lost our breakfast 2 mornings. Teapot and cups rolled off the table.

November 10th

NE very fine, passed Maderia.

November 11th

Passed Canary Islands – caught the Trade Winds - *child died* with hoping cough very warm.

From the 12th to the 21st

NE Trades, nothing particular occurred except woman confined (Doctor Ward's, child died – twins died child died) passed the Island St Antonia.

November 22nd

Mr Bernard, Gentleman passenger died 7am committed to the deep 5 pm. The carpenter only bored holes in the foot of the coffin, which when thrown overboard, went off erect, never sank.

November 23rd

Appearance of a squall, heavy showers,

November 24th

Calm, thunder and lightening, heavy rain Ther: fell to 80 caught plenty of water from the awning, filled 10 barrels of 180 gallons each very warm, shirt and pantaloons only *child died*

November 25th

Caught the SE Trades *child dies*

Mr Watson, gentleman passenger died leaving a wife and three children... (margin note): Mr Watson was in the habit of spitting blood and nothing but a milk diet prevented it. Previous to his leaving England he paid 250(pounds) for his passage with a written agreement signed by the owners and Captain that he should be supplied with a quart of milk per day. This he had for a week or two when it was cut off, that the calf might be reared. He soon flagged)... bound to Bathurst having purchased Land there previous to leaving England. When the coffin was thrown overboard, owing to the 5 18 lb shot which ran to the foot, the lid flew open, the coffin with the body went off erect under water and did not sink. Ship in sight going west, the first we have seen since the 10th.

November 26th

Fine and squally. His day while at dinner a large ship bore on us, an alarm was given to get letters ready for England. She turned out to be a Dutchman homeward bound. Several vessels seen ahead. We are all covered with a rash that prevents fever. We are in the best

part of the ship having free air from the Cabin windows which are kept open at night. The Captain is very careful when the squalls come to avoid them and recover his course again.

November 27th

Crossed the line, Neptune came on board 7 pm which was announced by a tar barrel sent out to sea on fire, and by buckets of water thrown from the Tops.

November 28th

This morning 9am Neptune with his wife was drawn on his Car by 2 men dressed in sheep skins which resembled donkies attended by a band of music. The shaving commenced, no respect to persons was paid, those that resented were treated very bad, had the razor with teeth like a saw applied and bedaubed with Tar all over, blind folded, made to take pills of sheep dung, and bitter draughts, bled, and thrown into a large Cistern of water; they came after me three times but I kept the door locked. A French Gentleman was served so bad that he ran to the Captain which put an end to such a foolish custom. – A wife to Mr Carbins of St Anns died*

November 29th

SE Ther: 82 (degrees) no nourishing food on Board for the Sick.

November 30th

Doctor Ward's wife brought to our Cabin very weak. We found them very pleasant companions. The intermediate Cabins are insufferably hot, full of cockroaches which destroys the Clothes. *child died*

December 1st

--Ship ahead, 2nd ship to Leeward which we saw last evening.

December 5th

child died

December 6th

child died

December 8th

child died

December 9th

child died

December 11th

child died

December 12th

child died

December 13th

In latitude of the Cape, but far west, lost the Trades, got a fine wind to work up the longitude.

December 14th

N Ther: 71 (degrees) rather cold more pleasant than tropical heat. Several whales passed us spouting water.

December 16th

Spoke with a Dutchman bound to Batavia, very cold 1500 miles Longitude to make up for the Cape, being far West,

December 17th

SW Squally and cold.

December 19th

E wind ahead

December 20th

SW fine, several albatross killed.

December 21st

E ahead Great complaints about provisions, beef thrown overboard, Pork stinking, Doctor Martin very haughty, the supposed ladies in the Cuddy discovered to be bad characters.

December 23rd

Xmas Eve Double allowance of Grog ½ lb Flour 1 oz Raisins ½ oz suet to each.

December 24th

Xmas Day, Puddings Drunkards discovered too many on board breaking out in boils.

December 25th

child dies

December 26th

Strong gale going before the Wind had one roll after dinner away went boxes, pans, kettles everything that was loose.

December 27th

Little Caroline ill with the hopping cough very cold Ther: 60 (degrees)

December 28th

Strong gale and squally rounding the Cape, Gaff cracked in two, Hail showers.

December 29th

NW Squally passed the Cape 100 miles off 12 noon. Mr Axford of Bideford died with inflammation in the lungs, leaving a wife and 4 children and near her confinement again. He has property on board with 300 (pounds) in Cash –

December 30th

Driving on in fine style to our adopted Land. Ther: 75 (degrees) NE by N

December 31st

Row this Evening with the Sailors one who was drunk attempted to stab the 2nd mate. He was seized and when about to be put in irons, the crew rushed in and rescued him. The Captain and 4 mates then took their swords and pistols and at last secured him.

1840 January 1st

New Year's Day. This morning the man received 3 doz lashes. The Captain gave a slice of plum pudding to all the children as a New Year's Gift. *child died*

January 3rd

Wind died away heavy swell plenty of fun with the rolling of the vessel.

N fine breeze, woman confined. *child died* Laura, George and Cyrus very ill with hoping cough.

January 5th

Could get nothing for the children to nourish them.

January 6th

NW Rain, Dear little Caroline died this morning about 5 am committed to the deep 12 o'clock about 400 miles west of Australia, for 12 days she made use of nothing but cold water. 3 days before her death when she could eat something we had nothing to give her but red herring or salt Pork which was poison for the complaint. Medical comforts all done.

From the 7th to the 27th

E 6 children died* 1 woman confined, child stillborn. Scotch woman delivered of Twins –

January 28th

Discovered the Main hinge of the Rudder broken. Rudder supported by the chains. Wind changed with the SE 380 miles further to go *child died*

January 31st

Girl to Bastian of Crowan died aged 11 years.

February 1st

Child to Gahan 1 birth 5 pm made land in fowler's Bay, tacked to the South – wind ahead.

February 3rd

Wind changed in our favour to the SW fine breeze

February 4th

This morning 8 am saw land, all hands rejoiced. Headland entrance to St Vincent's Gulph, tacked, gained three points, tacked every 4 hours –

February 5th

Made Kangaroo Island Midday Vessel hove in sight, overtook us. Proved to be the Regesthran with Emigrants, from London, sailed 3 days before us, got in breast of the Island 6 pm.

February 6th

No sleep all night. Got up 3 o'clock. Beat the Regesthran, went up the Gulph in fine style, anchored in Holdfast Bay opposite Glenelg $\frac{1}{4}$ before 8 am and the Regesthran 20 minutes after us along side, had a shower of rain just after we anchored. We did not go onshore before Saturday afternoon. The Governor came on Board, very disgusted at seeing the starved faces of the children and the laying in women. We were permitted to go on shore on account of the 3 children with the whooping cough, poor little things nearly starved. Had we been a week longer at sea they must have died, George and Laura we had no hope of, but the change of air, with good nourishing food soon got them about again. The rest of the Emigrants were no allowed to come on shore for a week or more, several of the children have died since on shore, but I did not keep the account. I have abridged my Journal to make room for writing and omitted to expose the shameful conduct and treatment of the Doctor, Captain, and 3 officers or mates towards the Emigrants and crew. The Crew left the ship, some are in Jail and the rest in the Mountains – the doctor of the ship Mr Smith has staid behind in love with Miss Watson, he was obliged to keep close, untill the ship sailed. The Captain and the Emigrant's Doctor Martin, took their trial before the Governor, the Doctor is sent back again in the ship without his certificate or money, he intended to settle here, but was not permitted. I did not appear against him. Doctor Ward who was under Martin was treated by him like a dog. The Governor has taken him and Mrs Ward in his house to instruct his children.

Great blame is attached to the Commissioners in London, and Dr Bloomhead for sending so many children (3 to each adult) without a sufficient quality of Food. 6 vessels have arrived since, and not a single Death, with better treatment. The term here is that horried

ship the Java. She certainly was the finest ship that could be selected for Emigrants on account of the Gun Deck having the Port holes constantly open but it appears good food is the principal thing.

28 child deaths plus several others after the Java's arrival.

1 still born child

4 adults --- Messers Bernard, Watson & Axford

Mrs Carbins