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133 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

A minimal amount of correction has been done to spelling and formatting.

The original diary has not been sighted.

COPY OF

DIARY OF THOMAS & EVELINA FROST (aged 25 and 23) FELLOW

PASSENGERS OF

FREDERICK AND ALATHEA BUTTON AND SON WILLIE (aged 2) ON

SAILING SHIP “ORONTES”

EMBARKED:	PLYMOUTH	18th MAY, 1882
DISEMBARKED:	SYDNEY	24th AUGUST, 1882

After a voyage lasting 99 days

CAPTAIN	:	Mr Bain
First Mate	:	Mr Middleton
Second Mate	:	Mr Strong
Third Mate:	:	Mr Oxford
Surgeon	:	Mr Lisborn
Matron	:	Miss Chicken

The STATE ARCHIVES OFFICE, Globe Street, Sydney, confirms the arrival of the "ORONTES" on the 19th August, 1882, and lists the passengers' names, etc.

These records show that Christina Frost (aged 1) died on the voyage, in addition to the other children mentioned by name in the diary.

The Frosts had at least two other daughters - Clara (5) and Florence (3).

May 13, 1882: Mr F. Button, wife and family started from Ecclesfield this morning en route for New South Wales, Australia.

I left home this morning with my family for Sheffield at 6 a.m. to catch the train for Sheffield. We got there and went to the Midland Station to catch a train at 9.45 for Plymouth. We saw 2 men ploughing with 4 bullocks and some engines working ploughs in the fields. Had to stop at Exeter 25 minutes. We arrived at Plymouth at 10 minutes to 9. Took a bus to depot. Cost us 6 pence each. Got there at 9.30

Had our supper at 10 and then vent to bed but I did not have much rest for I was tired of riding, a beautiful night and there were a great many emigrants there before us.

May 14, 1882 (Sunday): A beautiful morning. Bell rung to call up at 6.30. We washed ourselves for breakfast at 8. After breakfast we went into the yard a little while, then we had our luggage examined, then the bell rang for dinner at 1 o'clock.

After dinner we went out of the barracks into a little park but we had to be back again at 5 for the river was full of small boats running up and down.

Went to bed at 9, was a nice night.

Monday, May 15, 1882: Bell run to call us up at 6 and it was a nice morning. Had breakfast at 8. Went into the yard. The sailors are all alive with their boats running up and down the river. Had dinner at 1. After that bought a straw hat and guernsey.

Bell rung for tea at 5. There was singing after tea by emigrants. We enjoyed it very well.

Went to bed at 9 p.m.

Tuesday, 16 May, 1882: Got up this morning at 5.30 ready for bell ringing at 6 for us to come down. Had breakfast at 8 then went into the yard for a bit for it was a nice morning and the sailors are all alive again.

We had to get things out of our boxes to last us 3 weeks.

Bell rung for dinner at 1. Say a man in a fit after dinner.

Got our landing(?) bags in the afternoon to put our things in then we got our tins to drink out off then knives, forks, spoons. Then had tea at 6. After tea the luggage went on a steamer to the ship ORONTES.

Bought a chair to sit on deck. Went to bed at 9.30.

Wednesday, May 17, 1882: Got up this morning at 5.30. Had a wash then went out for it was a sunshiny morning. The sea was calm with not a bit of wind. 7 men went away to get our beds ready for us on ship.

We had breakfast at 8 then went out into the yard to enjoy ourselves. There are between 355 and 400 of us.

Put 5 pound in the Bank to go to Sydney as I thought it would be safer.

Had our dinner at 1 o'clock. After dinner marked tin cans, forks with my name. Had our tea at 5, then the chaplain of the depot gave an address and the room was full.

Went to bed in good time tonight.

Thursday, May 18, 1882: We were up in good time this morning to have breakfast for we had to go on board this morning. We are all in good spirits. We went in a little steamer to the ship ORONTES about 10 o'clock. We got to the ship. As soon an we got on we had our dinner. The sailors began to draw the anchors and they were singing all the time. When they had them drawn we were pulled out by the steamer into the open sea. Then it left us. Then there was waving of handkerchiefs and shouting while we could see them.

While we were going there were ships on all sides for the Duke of Edinburgh was opening a new light house. We passed close by it. There were cannons fired from 2 men of war ships. We could see nothing for half an hour for smoke. It was nice sailing in the afternoon for there was a good wind in our favour.

Friday, May 19, 1882: It was a very nice morning and the sea is very calm. We had our breakfast at 8. I will send you word how many miles we go as the Captain puts it up every day at 12 o'clock. Every day I was very sick. It was a nice sailing day. Distance 208 miles.

Saturday, May 20, 1882: It was a nice sunshining morning with a very nice wind in our favour. Miles 82.

Sunday, 21 May, 1882: It was a nice morning again. We had not so much wind. Saw lots of popers pigs today. Miles 74.

Monday, 22 May, 1882: It was a very dull morning and we made very good progress. There were 2 very heavy showers and the sea was very rough. Miles 66.

Tuesday, May 23, 1882: It was a very nice morning but we are making very little progress in the morning, but we went a little better in the afternoon. The sea was calm. Miles 96.

Wednesday, May 24, 1882: It is very thick this morning, and the sea is very rough but we went a little better today as the wind is in our favour. It was very showerey all day. Miles 154.

Thursday, May 25, 1882: It is a very nice morning and the sea is very calm with scarcely any wind. Plenty of porpoises. They were close by the ship. Miles 60.

Friday, May 26, 1882: Very nice morning and we are going very well as the wind is in our favour. Miles 126.

Saturday, May 27, 1882: We have very bad sailing during the night for the sea has been very calm and kept so all day. Miles 23.

Sunday, May 28, 1882: It is very hot this morning as the sun is shining beautifully and the sea is like a sheet of glass but we have a nice wind behind us, there are two services today, one at 10 and the other at 4, both by the Captain. Miles 116.

Monday, 29 May, 1882: It was a very pleasant morning and the sea is very calm but we have the wind in our favour all day. There is singing on board tonight by the Englis and Scotch and Irish, and we enjoyed it very much. Miles 114.

Tuesday, May 30, 1882: It is very hot this morning and the sea is very calm. They are laying on the decks all ways. They are singing tonight again. Miles 86.

Wednesday, 31 May, 1882: It is a very nice morning and the sea is very calm. We passed the port of Santo Island at 5.15. It looked beautiful. It is a great height above the sea. We are about 1 mile from it.

A concert in given tonight for the young women. There were 2 fiddles, a banjo, a triangle and 2 nicknacks, a trombone and a triangle. It was very good.

We passed Madeira Island at 8 o'clock tonight where all Gilbey's winds come from. It was a great sight above the sea and the revolving light in the lighthouse looked very nice. Miles 79.

Thursday, June 1, 1882: A nice morning with the sun shining and the sea calm but we have a nice breeze in our favour. We have a concert tonight for married people and single men by the same lot of emigrants and we enjoyed it very much. Miles 189.

June 2, Friday, 1882: A nice morning like it was yesterday and the sea very calm. We passed the Canary Islands at 9 a.m. and it is a great height above the sea and we are not very far off it. The sailors tell us that the canaries come from this island.

We passed an American ship at 3p.m. in the afternoon that had been wrecked. When we saw it they got some boats ready for lowering and the first mate and some of the sailors would have gone to it if there had been any thing on it: when we got to it the Captain said she had been wrecked 12 months, as the decks were green. The Captain said she was loaded with wood as the water ran right over her decks. She was a 3 mast ship and her mast was split very much. Miles 74.

Saturday, June 3, 1882: A nice morning with plenty of sunshine and a calm sea. There is very little wind. We passed another island today but I could not get to know the name of it. Miles 56.

Sunday, June 4, 1882: A nice morning with the sun shining and a nice calm sea. We had a nice breeze in our favour all day. There wore 2 services on board today, the Captain preached the two of them and a great many were there. They are Church of England. They sing the hymns out of the sailors' hymn books. Miles 124.

Monday, June 5, 1882: A sunshining morning with a good wind in our favour and a very nice calm sea. There is dancing and singing tonight by the emigrants and we enjoyed it very much. There is a lot of star fish to be seen in the water. Miles 160.

Tuesday, June 6, 1882: A nice morning like it was yesterday with a calm sea and a good wind in our favour. There was a slight shower before dinner then it was fine again.

We are in the tropics today and they say it will be very hot while we get out of them. Miles 195.

Wednesday, June 7, 1882: A beautiful morning and it kept so all day but there is a little wind in our favour so we went very well. Saw plenty of flying fish and men of war fish. The men of war fish are like an herring and they fly about 20 yards and then they are in the water again. The men of war fish are on the top of the water and they look well. Miles 168.

Thursday, June 8, 1882: A nice morning agian with a calm sea and we had a nice wind in our favour all day. Saw some flying fish and men of war fish.

The sailors had been employed a month today and they made a straw horse and they called it the dead horse. The sailors get 3 pound for the first month and then they only get one shilling a month. After they pulled it round the decks twice and then they put it up by auction. It got to 1 pound but they did not knock it down. They pulled it round the ship again and then they pulled it and the rider about 10 yards above the sea and then the rider lighted 2 candles. They would have lighted it but the Captain said that there was too much wind so they cut the rope and let it drop into the sea. Then they gave cheers for Captain, doctor and rider and sailors. It was very pleasing to see them. Miles 150.

Friday, June 9, 1882: A grand morning with a little sunshine and a side wind. Say some flying fish and some polies. They are like a pidgeon but they are all white.

A concert for single women and 3 sharks seen in the afternoon. Miles 152.

Saturday, June 10, 1882: A nice morning again and it is very warm. A smooth sea and a side wind. Saw plenty of men of war fish and flying fish today. A flying fish flew on board today and one of the sailors caught it. Miles 153.

Sunday, June 11, 1882: A great morning again and the sun is very hot. We have 2 services on board today, both preached by the Captain and there was singing at night by the emigrants. Miles 144.

Monday, June 12, 1882: It is a very nice morning and the sun is very hot. There have been some very heavy showers during the night but we are going very well. Say lots of flying fish. Miles 142.

Tuesday, June 13, 1982: A nice morning again with a little sunshine but we had a nice breeze in our favour. There was a child died this morning at 1.20 and they buried it at 9.45. It belonged to a man called Vosh. It was 18 months old. They stitched it up in canvas and the Captain read the burial service over it then they let it down over the side of the ship into the sea.

There was a heavy shower at dinner time. Miles 176.

Wednesday, June 14, 1882: A nice morning with a good breeze in our favour. Saw a sailing in the afternoon but we were a long way off it. Miles 144.

Thursday, 15 June, 1882: It in a great morning with a very nice calm sea but we are going very well. Saw 4 sailing ships in the morning and they were in sight all the day. Saw lots of fish during the day. Miles 161.

Friday, June 16, 1882: Very nice morning with a calm sea and a grand wind in our favour.

We passed St Pauls Island at 9 o'clock this morning. It is a barren island. Saw a black fish. They are about as big as a whale and they eat the flying fish.

Saw Leonard and 3 more on the poop for throwing water about.

We crossed the lines at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Miles 210.

Saturday, June 17, 1882: It is very dull this morning with a side wind, lots of polies and there was a woman confined of a son during the night. This is the 2 since we left.

There was a nice shower after dinner. Miles 148.

Sunday, June 18, 1882: A beautiful morning and the sun is very hot. There were 2 services on board, both preached by the Captain, and a good many attended. Then there was singing at night. Miles 109.

Monday, June 19, 1882: It is a very nice morning and the sun is very hot. The sea in nice and calm. Saw 2 sailing ships during the day. We were not very far off one of them. It set off from Cardiff 2 weeks before us and was going to Queenstown. The other 2 we could just see them.

A concert was held on board at night and there was some good singing and dancing. Miles 124.

Tuesday, June 20, 1882: It is very showery this morning and the sea is very rough and there keeps being squalls of wind. Saw 3 sailing ships in the morning. It was fine in the afternoon. Saw a steamer and 2 more sailing ships in the afternoon. There was a little singing at night. Miles 110.

Wednesday, June 21, 1882: It is very showery this morning and continued so all day. The sea was very rough and it was thick all day. Saw a sailing ship in the afternoon. Miles 74.

Thursday, June 22, 1882: It is very fine this morning but the wind is against us so we are not making much progress. Saw a ship this afternoon and there was singing at night. Miles 69.

Friday, June 23, 1882: It is fine again this morning but the wind is dead against us. Saw a sailing ship this morning. It was going the same way as us but it was a great way off us.

A woman was confined named Burgess this morning, of a daughter. She was going very well tonight. Miles 40.

Saturday, June 24, 1882: It is a beautiful morning and the sun is very hot but we have a nice wind in our favour so we are going very well. Saw a sailing ship in the afternoon.

They gave all the children figs in the afternoon.

The clouds look most lovely tonight at sun set. Saw comet. Miles 152.

Sunday, June 25, 1882: It is a nice morning again and the sun is very hot but we have the wind in our favour so we are going very well. The Captain preached 2 sermons again today and a good many attended. Then saw a sailing ship and some fish in the afternoon. Miles 137.

Monday, June 26, 1882: A nice morning again and the sun shining and the sea very calm but the wind is against us. Saw 2 sailing ships in the afternoon and there was singing at night, by sailors. Miles 55.

Tuesday, June 27, 1882: It is a nice morning and the sun is very hot again. The sailors are pulling up the sails this morning to put new ones up.

Mrs Button that came with us was confined of a daughter this afternoon. She came from Ecclesfield.

There was singing and dancing at night. Miles 58.

Mrs. Button, confined Tuesday, June 27, 1882, on the high sea.

Wednesday, June 28, 1882: It is a nice morning and the sun is very hot. The sea is like a sheet of glass but we are not making much progress as there is no wind. The sailors put 4 new sails up today. We are enjoying ourselves very well with the sailors singing at night. Miles 6.

Thursday, June 29, 1882: It is a nice sunshining morning with the sea calm. We have a little more wind today so we are moving a little. Saw 2 sailing ships this morning. It was very nice to see the sun set tonight as the clouds looked beautiful. Miles 36.

Friday, June 30, 1882: It is a nice morning and the sea is very calm. We passed close by a sailing ship this morning. It was not an big as ours but it was a nice sized vessel. It was moving. We sailed very well all day. There was singing tonight by the sailors. Miles 112.

Saturday, July lst, 1882: It is a very pleasant morning and we are going very well as the sea is calm. Saw 3 ships in the morning and passed close by one at dinner time. Her name was ANNA OF HAMBURG and bound for Sydney with second class passengers on board. She had been 58 days out when we passed her.

It thundered and lightninged tonight. It looks different on sea than it does on land. The water was like a fire many a time. Miles 165.

Sunday, July 2, 1882: A nice morning and there is a good wind. The sea is a little rough but we are going very well. There was some very heavy rain during the night.

Saw a whale sending the water up this morning.

There were two services again today by the Captain. It lightened tonight but not so bad as it did last night. Miles 156.

Monday, July 3, 1882: It is very dull this morning but it got brightened by about 10 o'clock and then we had a little sunshine but the wind was not so much in our favour as it was yesterday but we are going very well.

Saw 2 whales In the afternoon and they were very large ones.

There was singing tonight. Miles 140.

Tuesday, 4 July, 1882: It is a very nice morning but we have the wind against us. We have got out of the warm weather now so they are expecting a little rough. Saw a sailing ship this morning and they spoke to her from our ship with flags. They changed flags 5 times. Her name was STRATEO from Plymouth to Brisbane in Australia with emigrants on her, 39 days out.

It is dark here at 6 o'clock. Miles 117.

Wednesday, 5 July, 1882: It is very rough this morning and the sea in very rough and has been so all night. Saw the ship again that we saw yesterday.

They gave prizes to children this afternoon that went to school and some of the books were very good.

Saw the Milky Walk in the stars tonight which you never see at home.

They were singing tonight, by sailors. Miles 110.

Thursday, July 6, 1882: It is a very nice morning and the sun is very warm.

Saw 3 whales and they were very big ones. The sea is like a sheet of glass and we are not making much progress. Miles 44.

Friday, July 7, 1882: A nice morning again and there in more wind than there was yesterday. The sea is a little rough.

We got our boxes today. It is 5 weeks since we got them before. We are going well. Miles 157.

Saturday, July 8, 1882: A beautiful morning and the wind in in our favour so we are going very well. Saw a sailing ship this morning but it was a great way off us but they spoke from her and from our ship with flags.

Saw a molly hawk. They are as big as a goose, and they have very long wings and a white breast. Miles 207.

Sunday, July 9, 1882: It in a nice morning and the sun is very hot with a nice calm sea but we are not going very fast today.

There was preaching at 10 and 4 by the Captain and a good many were at them. Miles 144.

Monday, July 10, 1882: It is a nice morning again. There are plenty of birds to be seen. Saw some cape hens. They have a white breast and black spotted wings and they are very nice, saw a sailing ship but it was a long way off us. Miles 138.

Tuesday, July 11, 1882: The sea is very rough and the waves are as high as mountains and there are plenty of cape hens to be seen. Saw a sailing ship but we were not far off. It was going the same way an us but it was not so big. We are going very well but we are rocking very much as the things are falling all over the ship, if they are not tied.Miles 218.

Wednesday, July 12, 1882: It is very dull this morning but the sea in not so rough as it was yesterday. There are lots of birds to be seen. Saw 2 black birds but I could not get to know their names. We could see the island De Ducaunlia (?) and it was a great height but it was a good way off us. Miles 162.

Thursday, July 13, 1882: It is very rough this morning and the sea is very heavy as there are waves coming over both sides of the ship and the waves are very high.

A child died this morning at 4.10 and they buried it at 12 noon. It was Mrs Baker's daughter of Hopland Common.

Miles 235.

Friday, July 14, 1882: It is very rough again this morning and the waves are rough and as high an they were yesterday with water coming over both sides of the ship.

We had another confinement this afternoon. Her name was Garret. She came from London. She had a son.

We went 280 miles but 13 of them was out of our course. Miles 268.

Saturday, July 15, 1882: We have a change in the weather this morning but we have a nice breeze in our favour so we are going very well. There are lots of sea birds to be seen today. Miles 250.

Sunday, July 16, 1882: A very nice morning with a little sunshine and the sea calmer than it was yesterday but we are going very well. We had services down in our hatch this morning by the Captain and a good many of the people were there.

The doctor was preaching to the single girls in their place, both of them going together. Miles 257.

Monday, July 17, 1882: It is rather dull this morning but the sea is very calm and we are going very well.

There was a child fell down the stairs into the hatch at dinner time. It did not break any bones but it hurt its head. They called it Scoby. Say lots of cape hens and a few black birds. It was very dark tonight. Miles 233.

Tuesday, July 18, 1882: A dull morning but it brightened up by dinner time.

There was a woman called Vosh confined at 2.30 this morning of two daughters. It was their child that was buried first, and she is doing well.

Lots of birds to be seen today.

There was a woman called Cooper confined today between 9 and 10 tonight. Three in one day. Miles 232.

Wednesday, July 19, 1882: It is a very nice morning with a wind in our favour and we are going very well.

There was one of the twins died at 11.30 this morning and there are lots of different birds to be seen.

We rounded the Cape of Good Hope in good time and saw shcools of popers pigs in the afternoon. Miles 229.

Thursday, July 20, 1882: A nice morning with a clear sky and very little wind. There was a man threw a piece of wood at some birds and hit it and it fell into the water dead and a woman called Cottril had a very bad fit.

Just after dinner our little girl died after a short illness at 5.15 as if she was asleep and she was sensible up to the last. A woman in our mess washed her and took her to the surgery and we got to see her at 7 at night and she looked very nice. She took the measles and she never got shut of them. She broke out with sea biles and never got shut of them, then she took dropsy. Miles 192.

Friday, July 21, 1882: A nice morning but it is very cold. They buried our child at 8 this morning and there was a good many to see her. They said she was the finest child on ship. There is burial service on sea just like there is on land. The Captain read it. They put the Union Jack flag and lower them over the side into the water done up in canvas. Miles 225.

Saturday, July 22, 1882: It is very cold and chilly this morning and it has been rough all night. The water is coming over both sides of the ship in all ways. It both snows and rains and hails. We cannot keep out very long before we are cold. Miles 295.

Sunday, July 23, 1882: It is very cold and rough again this morning. The water is still coming over but we are going very well as we have a good wind. Miles 294.

Monday, July 24, 1882: A nice morning but is very cold and rough. There was a shower of rain before breakfast and then it was fine again, the wind dropping in the afternoon. We did not go very far in the evening. There were lots of birds to be seen. Miles 261.

Tuesday, July 25, 1882: It is a very nice morning and the sea is very calm and we are only going very slowly as there is not much wind. A lot of birds to be seen. Miles 160.

Wednesday, July 26, 1882: It is very rough and stormy this morning and there are hail stones as big as marbles. The water is coming over ship and we could not keep out very long before we were cold for it was a very cold, rough day. Miles 285.

Thursday, July 27, 1882: A very nice morning but it is very cold. We had a few hail showers and then a little sunshine. The sun is out. Plenty of birds. Miles 254.

Friday, July 28, 1882: A cold morning. We keep having a few hail stones and a little sun. There are some mutton birds and a few others to be seen as well. Miles 312.

Saturday, July 29, 1882: Very rough this morning and very cold as there are hail showers and the stones are very big ones. We are going very well as the wind is at our back. Miles 286.

Sunday, July 30, 1882: It is very nice this morning but very cold as there are hail showers. We had a squall of wind and a rough sea between 3 and 4 o'clock this morning. It tore a jib sail and 2 of the biggest sails on the ship the sailors told us that cost 40 pounds each, and it blew a stay sail clean away. The first mate said he never saw anything like it all the time he has been at sea. It was all over in 30 minutes. We all ran out on deck in all directions to see what was the matter. One woman got under her bunk, others began to put their clothes ready to go One man ran on deck with his wife's drawers and did not find it out til he felt the cold wind, so there was something going off for a time. Miles 227.

Monday, July 31, 1882: It is very cold and rough and has been so all night and sea very heavy. I was sick all day so I did not see very much. I was in bed all afternoon. Miles 279.

Tuesday, August 1, 1882: A very nice morning with the sea calmer than what it has been for the last 3 or 4 days. The sailors are putting on a new big sail in the place of the one that was torn on Sunday. There are a few birds and they are very large. Miles 237.

Wednesday, August 2, 1882: A beautiful morning with the sun shining bright and a very calm sea. Plenty of mutton birds to be seen. The sailors put the other big sail up today. Miles 233.

Thursday, August 3, 1882: A grand day again with the sun shining bright. The sea very calm with a very nice breeze in our favour. Plenty of birds of different kinds to be seen. Miles 227.

Friday, August 4, 1882: A little brighter by dinner time. Plenty of molly hawks to be seen. There are some about the size of a sparrow and they are white. The second mate says they are whale birds and there in a dead whale not far off. Miles 219.

Saturday, August 5, 1882: It in a nice warm morning and the sun is shining very brightly but we are only going very slowly. The sea is very calm. Plenty of birds in sight. Miles 171.

Sunday, August 6, 1882: A nice morning with the sun shining bright, a very nice calm sea, the wind in our favour. We had service in our hatch this morning by the Captain and they gave spice to the children this afternoon and it was a nice night. Miles 254.

Monday, August 7, 1882: A nice morning again but it is not so warm as it was yesterday. It looks very much like rain but it kept fine all day. We have the wind against us today. Miles 220

Tuesday, August 8, 1882: A beautiful morning with the sun shining bright and a very nice calm sea with the wind against us so we are making very little progress.

A woman named Fortescue in a fit and she was very bad. She was a long while in it before she came out then they took her into hospital. Miles 130.

Wednesday, August 9, 1882: A nice morning and the sea calm. There was a man caught a molly hawk this afternoon and they are very big birds. The woman that was in fit yesterday is very ill today. The wind in dead against us so we are not going today. Miles 52.

Thursday, August 10, 1882: A most lovely morning and the sun very bright. The sea like a sheet of glass. We are at about a stand still with no wind. The water was thick with porpers pigs this morning. Miles 35.

Friday, August 11, 1882: A nice morning again and kept so till about 5 o'clock when there was a slight shower of rain and then was fine again. The woman named Fortescue is very low today. Miles 105.

Saturday, August 12, 1882: A nice morning, the sun is very warm with very little wind so we are not going very fast. Miles 113.

Sunday, August 13, 1882: A very nice morning but not so warm as it was yesterday as there is a little more wind and in our favour and we are sailing a little better than what we have done for the last 3 or 4 days. We had service down in the hatch this morning preached by the Captain, a good many were there. Miles 173.

Monday, August 14, 1882: A very nice morning with a very nice breeze in our favour so we are going very well. The sea is a little rougher than what it has been for a few days. There was singing down the hatch tonight and they sang very good songs. Miles 217.

Tuesday, August 15, 1882: It is very rough this morning but we have the wind in our favour. We saw 2 sailing ships in good time this morning. One passed close by us. It is 5 weeks since we saw the last ship. The sailors are getting the anchor chains ready for dropping this morning.We are going very well tonight. Miles 211.

Wednesday, August 16, 1882: A rather dull morning but there is a nice wind with the sea very rough and we are going very well. I got up this morning at 5 to look at the light from the light house on Cape Otway Island and it looked very well. Saw land at 8.30 but it was a long way off us and could see Wilson's Promontory at one o'clock and went a little way off it at 4. They say this is the highest rock in the sea. There was a steamer passed it about 6 and could see the light when it got dusk, that is, on the island. Saw the 7 islands that are called the 7 sisters just before dusk so we had land and islands to draw our attention today. Miles 186.

Thursday, August 17, 1882: A nice morning with the sun shining bright. The sea is very calm and the wind in our favour so we are going very well. Saw a sailing ship called

GETERSBURG at 8 this morning from St Johns 150 days out bound for Sydney. Signalled all well. Got the women's boxes up at 9. Passed a ship at 11 and saw another at 1 and passed it at 5 in the afternoon. Miles 148.

Friday, August 18, 1882: A most lovely morning with the sun shining bright and plenty to see to draw our attention . We came up to Cape Howe and Cape ? with lighthouses on them in good time. There were 6 houses on them. We signalled to them from the ship to tell them who we were and they signalled back again to say they had seen us, then they wired into Sydney, and they would know in the afternoon we were not very far off them. 10 o'clock passed Green Cape and signalled all well. There are a few houses on this. There was a woman called Potts confined of a daughter this afternoon. We passed Montague Island with a light house on it at 7.30 tonight and it was a great sight to look at it as it was moonlight. We saw rocks like the Wharnscliffe Craggs and we saw men working horses and carts, the first since we left home, and saw cattle for the first time since we left Plymouth. This is the outskirts of New South Wales. Miles 131.

We are 200 miles from Sydney as the crow flies. They put this up at dinner time.

Saturday, August 19, 1882: It in very thick this morning with heavy showers and we cannot see very far in front of us. We passed Jervis Bay and Islands and lighthouse at 7 this morning and signalled to them with flags from our ship to tell them all well. We are sailing very well.

A ship called SAXON OF ADELAIDE sailed close by at 10 in the forenoon. The Captain did not put up the miles today so we are expecting getting there in good time tonight.

The pilot came on board to take charge of the ship at 5.15 on a tug steamer, Captain Cook steamer, called COMMODORE hooked on to us and pulled us in to Watson Bay. Dropped anchor at 6.45. The light house on Sydney Heads, the lights around the bay look well at night as they are right around the ship.

Sunday, August 20, 1882: A beautiful morning with all hearts full of joy as there is a grand sight to look at. Boats are running up and down in all directions and friends are coming to see their friends who have come on the boat.

Got fresh meat, potatoes and other vegetables. This is the first we got fresh vegetables since we left Plymouth.

They say that it is the finest harbour in the world.

We get 1 pint of fresh milk for every child every day while we are anchored out so we are not doing too badly.

Monday, August 21, 1882: A nice morning but we are a little down as we, the married couples, have got orders to go into quarantine to get all their clothes washed that are dirty.

The single women and men had to stop on ship.

If there has been sickness on board ships, they have to go in there to wash their clothes. We had a few cases of measles.

We get new bread very morning while we are here. Fresh beef, mutton and greens with the nicest parsnips, carrots, swedes and other vegetables, radishes, lettuce, parsley and other things.

Tuesday, August 22, 1882: A nice morning and just right for the women to wash and dry their clothes. There is plenty of water. We got up early and got ours all done and dried by dinner time.

There are some of the prettiest flowers growing in the bush that they cannot grow in gardens at home.

We have to do our own cooking outside. We can make a fire in any place we like.

We got orders at 8.30 tonight to get ready for going back on ship again in they had passed the ship again and the people who had not got their clothes done had to leave them.

We had some heavy showers at 8 tonight. We enjoyed ourselves on the sands and rocks.

Wednesday, 23 August, 1882: A nice morning, nice and warm after the heavy showers at night. We had our breakfast early for we had to go on the ship again. We left quarantine at 9am and got to the ship at 10. Some of the married people took some of the flowers out to the ship. The young women went off the ship this afternoon into the depot and we had to have called over tonight and where we were born and if we could read and what Church we went to and if mother and father were alive and if we had any relatives in the colony and what trade we were.

Thursday, August 24, 1882: A nice morning and we are all in good spirits for we are expecting going off the ship today, so you may know how pleased we are, so you may know how glad we are after so long at sea.

We had to go before the Commissioners this morning who asked us if we were well treated on the voyage. After that the sailors began to load our luggage at 2, we went on after it at 4, we got to the landing place at 4.30.

I will now give you the things we got on different days:

Sunday:	Boiled rice
	Preserved potatoes
	Tinned meat
	Tea, Coffee, Bread (morning and night)
Monday:	New bread
	Tea and Coffee,
	Plum pudding (make ourselves)
Tuesday:	New bread
	Tea and Coffee
	Salt pork

Pea soup
Currant cake (make it ourselves)

Wednesday: New bread
Tea and Coffee
Flour, currants, parsnips, suet
Boiled rice
Preserved potatoes and Tinned Meat

Thursday: New bread
Tea, Coffee
Plum dumplings, cheese
Salt beet, preserved carrots

Friday: New bread
Tea and Coffee
Boiled rice
Tinned meat
Preserved potatoes
Currant cake (make ourselves)

Saturday: New bread
Pea soup
Tea and Coffee
Pickles,
Salt pork
Jam and Marmalade
Flour, currants, raisins, suet.

Condensed milk - one tin for each child a week.

Medical comforts - the doctor allowed the women that were suckling children 1 gill of stout every day.

Women that were sick, he would allow them a bottle now and then. He also gave wine out know and again.

On Sundays there is also plenty of sago, tapioco that sick people want on board.

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, August 19, 1882 gives a list of imports on "ORONTES".

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, Monday, August 21, 1882 includes in the "Shipping News", Page 4:

"Arrivals, August 19 - "ORONTES" 1318 tons, Capt. Bain from Plymouth May 18 with immigrants. Dalgetty Blackwood & Co., agents."

The same edition then records:- "The ship ORONTES, from Plymouth, with emigrants, came to anchor in Watson's Bay at 7 p.m. on the 19th, having on board 414 souls. Upon visiting her yesterday morning the yellow flag was found to be hoisted, and visitors were precluded from going on board the vessel, although it is pleasing to hear that the only cause for precaution was the prevalence of measles during the voyage. The ORONTES is in command of Captain Bain, whilst Mr C. H. Gibson comes out as surgeon of the ship, and Miss Chicken as matron. Below is appended a viva voce report of the voyage, which was spoken by an officer of the vessel to the reporters below.

“The ORONTES left Plymouth with moderate S.S.E. breeze on Thursday, 18th May; had westerly and S.W. winds to lat. 37 N where we got the N.E. trades which carried us to 9 N lat., got the S.E trades in 6 N, and crossed the Equator June 16 in long. 29° W.; had to tack through the S.E. trades, which were moderate, with heavy southerly sea; lost S.E. trades in 14 S lat light N.N.W. and northerly breezes to lat. 30 S., long. 34° W. Passed the Meridian of the Cape of Good Hope on July 19th; from there had westerly and S.W. breezes. On Sunday, 30th July, the ship encountered a very heavy squall from N.N.W., which burst new foretop mast staysail and new foresail. On the following day experienced very heavy gale from W. and S.W., which blew with hurricane force, with a very high sea running. This occurred in lat. 41 S., long. 81° H. Thence northerly winds to Cape Otway, which was passed at 6.30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 16. Passed Cape Howe at 7 a.m. on the 18th, and anchored in Watson's Bay at 7 p.m. on the 19th. Nine births took place on the passage and four deaths; all the deaths being young children. The proportion of 414 souls being classified as follows:

54 married couples, 103 single men, 76 single women, 62 boys, 46 girls and 19 infants.

It was impossible to interrogate the immigrants as to how they had fared during the voyage, but if healthy, cheerful looking faces are to be accepted as any indication, they have been well cared for. After due precautions have been taken, and the ship has gone through a "cleaning up", the new arrivals will be brought to town for hiring."

IN THE SAME EDITION in "NEWS OF THE DAY", Page 5 (Monday, August 21st) is reported:

"The immigrant ship ORONTES from Plymouth, arrived in Watson's Bay on Saturday evening, and was promptly visited by the medical officer, who elicited sufficient to warrant a brief detention of the vessel. The officers of the ship state that there were a few cases of measles on board, but no diseases of any kind at present. At the same time precautions are deemed necessary, and after cleaning up it is expected that she will be cleared, and brought to anchorage at Neutral Bay in the course of today or tomorrow. Full particulars respecting the voyage and number of immigrants will be found elsewhere."

The "GRAPHIC" Weekly Newspaper dated Saturday, 14th October, 1882, on Page 377 has pictures of the "ORONTES" discharging wounded soldiers from the Egyptian war at Portsmouth. This could well have been the return voyage of the "ORONTES" after discharging its immigrants at Sydney on the 24th August.

On Page 379 the magazine reports: "The ORONTES" arrived at Spithead from Ismailia early in the morning of the 3rd inst., and afterwards steamed into Portsmouth Harbour. She brought home a large number of sick and wounded belonging to the Army, Navy, and Marines. The cleanliness and ventilation on board the "ORONTES" were everything that could be desired. There was no overcrowding, and no smell of antiseptics could be detected. No deaths took place during the passage. There were four cases of bayonet wounds and five cases of amputations. The sickness was mostly confined to cases of dysentery, climatic debility, typhoid and remittent fever, and sunstroke. In the course of the day the military invalids were sent to Netley, and the naval and marine sick and wounded to Haslar Hospital.

On arrival at Portsmouth the men are transferred to a small gunboat, or steam launches, and in them are conveyed to Haslar Jetty. From the Jetty they are brought up, if unable to walk, in a tramcar, which is arranged to carry four cots. On arrival at the Hospital they are taken up to the wards and attended to immediately. The convalescents wait about in the waiting rooms and corridors until they can be seen by the surveying surgeons, who determine whether they are to be taken hospital or allowed to go to their barracks or ships, accordingly an they may be Marines or Blue jackets. From the survey room they go to the receiving rooms, where their cases are made out by the junior surgeons; they then, it well enough, have a bath, and are afterwards sent to their ward."
