



JAMES HASTWELL JOURNAL 1853

Journal kept by James Hastwell who journeyed with his family from Bristol to Port Adelaide in 1853 in the 'Cotfield'. Capt. Waite. Subsequently it was used as a ledger in his shop.

Ship Cotfield SA Register Dec 1 1853

1853

July 16 The Children still quite well, considerably improved by the journey so far. Great complaint of the delay by the Cotfield. The provisions, although not properly served over at first very satisfactory in quality and quantity.

July 14 Left Kingroad for Lundy by the Pilot. Endured cross wind for four days and anchored again at Lundy

July 22 Went on shore at Lundy with a Mr Lowe and enjoyed myself very well.

July 26? Left with fair wind passage. Felt very sick for a few days. Several bitter squabbles with the ? Provisions good and as much as we can eat. Flying fish, or porpoises and sharks caught ? & caught by the ship company.

August 21 Arrived at St Jago, a singular Portuguese settlement in Cape Verde. Houses without either fireplaces or water closets. The weather very hot. Went on shore at St Jago with Mr Lowe. Was carried from the boat by the natives. The natives extortionate and considered malicious. Waited till after dark and by much supplication came back in the Captain's boat after ? ? a pass. Went again on shore dined with the Doctor and several including Mr Lowe. Walked about several hours from the shops all open being Sunday. Wine all very cheap. Port & Madeira ? Rum & bottle tasted the wine ale new and spirit? Several of the ship's company felt the bad effect by being drunk and fighting sadly. On leaving was much amused at being forcibly taken off my feet to be carried to the boat. The same natives being naked blacks.

August 22 Sold my coat for 1 dollar, 50 oranges, 50 lemons, 12 cocoa nuts, 24 eggs. ? to both Hastwell, Adshead, Armfield and Pastor? Family all quite well.

Journal Commencing

1853 April I & Mary Ann Hastwell having been engaged as traveler for Mr Farmer for 5 years and the same Farmer giving up the business we concluded to emigrate to South Australia, and consequently engaged with Messrs Fobbin and son to proceed in the Cotfield for Weland commanded by Capt. Waite.

June

26 Contracted with the above to proceed on the 22nd of May. Paid 40 pound - half of passage money. Consequently we proceeded packing up and received great professions of regard and kindness from friends Armfield, Easton & Edward Brown who all acted very kind. Spent the time in **suspence** the children mortally suffering from illness till the 20th June when we proceeded to Bristol as engaged to sail from the above place the children still suffer from cough, supposed to be whooping cough.

27 Our dear daughter Mary Anne died from **dentition** and spasmodic cough having been ill 5 weeks. Last 3 days in constant convulsion, died in my arms.

30 Buried our daughter in the **Gideon** ? Bristol by **Mr** ? deeply deplored by us.

July

10 Armfield came to see us before we left. Spent a very happy day with him.

12 Armfield returned to London.

15 Left Bristol for the Colony

16 Arrived at Kingroad, wife and children sea sick.

22 Left King Road, fair wind down channel

24 Arrived at Lundy having felt very sick for a few days

25 Sea still rough **boating about?**

26 Cast anchor at Lundy. Several little squabbles on board. Provisions badly served out but as **per contract**. Went ashore at Lundy with Mr Low and enjoyed myself very well. Wife and children went ashore and **had tea** there.

28 Wheyed anchor 5 am. Spoke to a Plymouth Brig

29 Passed Scilly Islands

30 Sighted 4 sails at a distance

31 Service established on board by a Mr Goodman clergyman.

August

5 Two steamers at a distance

7 Austrian Brig 'Constantinople' to Cork

9 Things stolen

10 Row Captain & Steward

11 Heavy thunder storm

12 Dead calm. Spoke the 'Aphelia', Plymouth to Melbourne ? Madeira

13 Calm. Sighted 8 vessels

14 Wind freshens

15 Get in the Trades. 9 knots

16 Large quantity of small birds

17 Rather rough wind. Crossed the tropic of Cancer

18 Saw flying fish

19 Sighted land off the ? one of the Cape Verde

20 Anchored off St Jargo

21 Went ashore with Mr Low. Found it a barren kind of place. The people uncivilised kind of negroes. Principally governed by the Portuguese. House without either fire places or privies. The natives very anxious to exchange their fruit (oranges, lemons, pines, bananas etc) for any old clothes that they can get.

22 Went ashore again with Low. The shops all open on Sunday. Portuguese mail came into Harbour. Wrote to Father, H & A, Armfield and Easton.

23 Large shark rum? Mail left

24 Got ready to sail

25 Leave at 2am

26 See St Jargo, a volcanic mountain, beautiful setting sun and a comet.

28 Strong head wind

29 Lost a great deal of canvas- rain

30 Seven ships in sight

31 Spoke the 'Wellington' – London to Calcutta

September

1 School of dolphins

3 Spoke the 'Hope' – Glasgow to Sydney

4 Two whales in sight

5 Spoke the Banner/ Barrier? for Melbourne having started one day to us previous at Bristol

6 Banner/ Barrier? out of sight

7 Case of Porter stolen. Search made through the ship

8 20th ? stolen Capt missed to stop 1 ? by ? gave it up

9 Crossed the line spoke a French Man

10 Shaving the new sailor and drenching? the passengers. Weather hot but not oppressive

- 12 A shark hooked but got away
- 14 Spoke a Frenchman from Valparaiso Havre
- 15 Girl born to Mr Walkers 2nd Cabin
- 16 Three ships in sight.
- 17 Mr Kerr, first mate, overboard. Supposed to commit suicide from the effect of liquor
- 19 Dead calm, large quantity of small birds
- 20 Subscription for Widow Kerr, amount to above 60 pounds
- 22 Sale of Kerr property
- 24 Strong gale
- 25, 26 Gale increase. Shipped tons of water
- 27 Fore top sail carried away
- 28 Sea washing over very much
- 29 Wind ceased
- 30 Favourable breeze. Two ships. Short water commenced

October

- 1 Birds caught, Spoke the ?, London to Calcutta
- 3 Saw about the light below out of oil
- 4 Albatross caught
- 5 Saw about the ? short
- 6 Sea mountains high, fine sight
- 7 Porpoises in sight
- 8 Spinnaker boom broke in a squall
- 9 Beccalmed all night, rolling over very much
- 10 Spoke the Deliah, London to Ceylon
- 11 Fore top sail broke off
- 12 Child born to Miss Williams, named Cotfield Williams
- 13 Sea calm
- 14 Three ships in sight
- 15 More shark fishing birds
- 17 Flock of Whale birds

18 Four ships ahead. Top stunsail boom broke

20 Jib?? another put up ?. Squall carried away jib and top stunsail.

22 Strong gale. Shipped tons of water

23 Sudden change, beautiful weather

25 Ship in sight

26 Sailors get in the hold at night and get drunk. Too drunk to set sail? & put into irons called jim and ned. The passengers formed a watch for their own safety

27 All the butter said to be gone without one week

28 Passed the Island of ? during the night. Running 11 knots

29 Calm

30 Two infants christened

31 ?

November

1 Strong head wind

3 Large bird caught

4 Rain. Meat shark help rations

5 Guy Fawkes kept on board

6 Good weather

7 Fair wind. Rice, butter, peas, potatoes all gone.

8 Harry the steward boy fell overboard and last meat gone

9 Prepared to paint the ship. Contrary wind.

10 Raffled for a telescope and won it

15 Raisins all gone. Much arrogance from the Captain in ??. Many of the passengers speak to him to myself and short provisions. Serving out simply biscuits and water for the last fortnight? Dished up either as biscuit pudding or biscuit soup or otherwise.

26 Sighted Australian land

27 Beccalmed and cross wind. Nearly on rocks

29 Spoke a brig from Adelaide. ? on board and obtained a cask of ? for which the Captain paid 10 guineas upon enquiry found we were 17 miles north ? from the light? ship

30 Arrived in harbour, at the light. Ship cast anchor

December

1 Pilot on board towed into Port.

2 Came to Adelaide with Mr Lowe and took a house with him at 5 Jerningham St as of weekly.

3 Left the ship and hired ? to Adelaide obtained a cart to come for 21 shillings. Taking George England. Things for which he paid 7 shillings.

5 Went to the ship for the other boxes out of hold did such obtain them. Saw the Captain about remuneration for short provisions without success and the compensation ? for time on

6 Again went to the ship. Consulted a solicitor considered it inadvisable to proceed as we could only time? for shore upon the Passenger Act passed in 1852

7 Again went to the ship. Could not obtain the whole ?? with Mr Lowe paid 10 shillings

8 Went to the harbour office. No success

9 Went again, no success

12 Sent for the boxes. Obtained them by the Port Carrier. ? for a situation as warehouseman or otherwise. No success

14 Concluded to hawk goods and mend china and glass and advertised the same for one week. Cost 13 shillings.

18 Saw Mr Burns respecting buying a lot of haberdashery. Obtained them on easy term

26 Amount 5 pounds, 8 shillings 9 pence

30 Paid Burns 3 pounds had goods 7-0-4

1854 January

2 Paid Burns 5 pounds, 9 shillings 1 pence. Out of debt

4 Bought of Burns – 21-13-4. Became very busy. Have plenty of work. Feel somewhat perplexed sometimes, not being used to the new business. (Omitted to observe that having provided the material, I learned the art of shoe making on board the *Cotfield* of a Mr Potts?, an old man fellow passenger. Very kind, charging nothing for the same, this afforded amusement and useful employment)

9 Paid Burns 5 pound.



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