



British Isles

"Marion Family" Periodical



Australia

Editorial

Arthur Poole in his shipboard diary complained about short rations to the captain and surgeon. From very limited information, the first article examines this complaint and the surgeon's performance. I hope your conclusion is the same as mine.

The Liddicoat article involves 5 direct descendants, cousins to each other.

John Keynes, Editor

tended to the sick, and were in control of discipline and the moral tone on board. The surgeon-superintendent became, in effect, a sanitary inspector, medical officer, emigration official and moral guardian.....regulations supervised by surgeons enforced hours of dining, rising, exercising, and retiring. Days were set aside for compulsory bathing, washing of clothes, and the changing of linen under-clothing, Bedding was aired daily in fine weather. Inspections by the surgeon-superintendent of berths, bedding, and cleanliness routines were assisted by the matron and sanitary constables. The latter were volunteers who, under the surgeon's supervision, coordinated meals, supervised the cleaning of mess tables, berths, and WCs, and organised the daily scrubbing, airing and disinfecting of the sleeping and eating areas between decks."

There is little doubt that looking after the well-being of almost 350 emigrants on the *Marion*, ranging from robust labourers in their prime to babies and pregnant women, required constant, competent attention to not only health matters but also management aspects described above for which the surgeon had responsibility.

The performance of the surgeon was rigorously assessed at the end of each voyage and the results sent back to the CLEC. Failure to perform adequately would almost certainly prevent further employment in that capacity. Conversely, good performance would place the surgeon on a preferred list for further assignments on government-assisted voyages.

The surgeon-superintendent on the *Marion* was Joseph C Sanger and the CLEC must have judged his performance as satisfactory as he was on the preferred list, and by 1866 had undertaken twenty government-assisted voyages. His gratuity on the *Marion* was 12 shil-

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George C Sanger, Surgeon-Superintendent

Historians who have studied the emigration of the mid-19th Century from the British Isles to Australia found wide variations in the reported performances of the ship's captains and their medical officers. The latter were known as surgeon-superintendents and were of marked influence on the comfort and well being of the emigrants. There were reports of outstanding and competent performance as well as reports of drunkenness, incompetence and dishonesty of the surgeon. There were instances where special ceremonies were conducted at the end of a voyage with gifts of appreciation given to the surgeon. Poor performance was reported back to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners and usually ensured that that surgeon was not offered further positions on emigrant ships under the control of the commissioners.

The duties and responsibilities of the surgeon were extremely comprehensive and defined by the CLEC (Colonial Land and Emigration Commission) regulations. Historian Dr Robin Haines, in one of her many works about emigration from the British Isles to South Australia in mid-19th Century, wrote "...As well as supervising the cleaning and sanitary regime on board, surgeons oversaw the distribution and cooking of rations, at-

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lings a head according to the ship's papers [State Records at 222 Marion Road, Netley, GRG35/48 - Crown Lands and Immigrant Ships' Papers 1850-1852], and in 1866 it was one pound a head. Obviously the CLEC thought well of him. Haines found a Surgeon's Report which included "...[Sanger] *had been highly recommended following his calm control of the situation when the "Marion", upon which he was surgeon-superintendent, was wrecked...*"

In the December 2001 issue of this periodical, the diary of Arthur Poole had this to say about the on-board food rations from the start of the voyage on the 24th March to his entry on the 26th June: "... *We found out today that we were not getting our proper weight of per beef as allowed by the scale of rations Made a calculation and found that from the commencement of the voyage to the present date, we were 624 lb short. We complained of it to the Doctor and Captain and demanded our proper weight in future and also whole of what was due to us from the commencement of the voyage. They (the Doctor or Surgeon Superintt and Captain) said we should have our "proper Weight" in future but could say nothing about the back rations. We told them they would have to say something about it for we were determined to have it or expose them when we reached Adelaide. So at last they found all their talk and threats of no use, they yielded to our demands...*"

So how does this reflect on the integrity of the surgeon? How much credence can be placed on Arthur Poole's diary entry?

Having read neither the surgeon's nor the agent's reports on the voyage, a balanced assessment of this complaint can not be made. But information in Dr Haine's works may be relevant to the distribution of rations.

There is no doubt that the responsibility for rations rested with the surgeon. However with his many tasks and responsibilities, with patient sickness as his top priority, he would need to delegate many of the responsibilities. Having a ship's cook and appointed galley assistants from the emigrants, the distribution of rations on a daily, meal by meal basis, must have been highly variable and mainly delegated to the cook. The surgeon would have had great difficulty in keeping track of the rations and was unlikely to have detailed knowledge of consumption. When some irregularity was pointed out to him, he could take corrective action.

The surgeon would have been aware of a report from the surgeon of a previous govern-

ment assisted emigrant voyage where that surgeon identified a health problem where many emigrants, leaving homes where their diet of meat was severely restricted due to low wages, were suddenly presented with relatively high meat consumption on board ship. Perhaps Sanger deliberately reduced the ration of beef to avoid this risk.

The length of a voyage such as the *Marion's* was quite variable and could well extend beyond the typical of say 100 days. A prudent surgeon would ensure that the too-liberal consumption of rations in the early stages did not occur to the detriment of supplies at the end of the voyage. This had happened on other voyages.

While Arthur Poole's complaint cannot be discarded altogether, it seems that not enough is known about the conditions at the time for a sound judgement to be made. From what we do know, I believe the surgeon comes through well.

My grandfather, Samuel James Keynes (Caines), was born in early June on board ship. Though long in the past and with limited information, I have formed an impression of George Sanger and feel a sense of gratitude that during pregnancy, birth and babyhood, the family had his support during that most stressful time.

Liddicoats

Five descendants of John and Gertrude Liddicoat, *Marion* emigrants from Cornwall, have been identified since the celebration at Edithburgh last year. They are Jean Hutchings, Jeanette Ireland, Leon Hale, Brian Harris and Max Liddicoat. Their lineage can be seen and compared in the chart shown in the box on opposite page. For the pedantically inclined, Jeanette, Leon and Brian are third cousins to each other (they all have common g-g-grandparents). Jean is a first cousin, once removed, to Jeanette, a second cousin to Max, and a second cousin, once removed, to Leon and Brian. Whew!!!!

John Liddicoat was the son of John Robert Liddicoat, a farm labourer at a place called Peteth in Cornwall, and was born there in 1829 [I have not been able to identify Peteth as a parish or village in Cornwall - Ed.]. Gertrude was the daughter of Richard Hockin, a miner in Cornwall, was born in 1830, and before marriage to John was a serving maid in Cubert, Cornwall. The couple married in the "Established Church" at Cubert in 1851. In July that year they joined

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John Robert LIDDICOAT
 John LIDDICOAT, b. 1829, d. 1907
 +Gertrude HOCKIN, b. 1830, m. 1851, d. 1907
 Elizabeth Jane LIDDICOAT, b. 1852
 +William H. DINGLE, b. circa 1850, m. 1870
 John LIDDICOAT, b. 1854
 +Mary BLIGHT, b. circa 1854, m. 1873
 Gertrude LIDDICOAT, b. 1856, d. 1856
 Gertrude LIDDICOAT, b. 1857
 +Joseph H. MITCHELL, b. circa 1850, m. 1873
 Thomas Henry LIDDICOAT, b. 1860
 +Mary Ann ROBERTS, b. circa 1864, m. 1882
 James Henry LIDDICOAT, b. 1883
 +Ada SHIPARD, b. circa 1884, m. 1908
 Elsie Elizabeth LIDDICOAT, b. 1884
 +Alexander MCDONALD, b. circa 1875, m. 1904
 Keturah LIDDICOAT, b. 1886, d. 1887
 Mabel Ellen LIDDICOAT, b. 1887
 +Colin MCINTYRE, b. circa 1883, m. 1912
 Frances Rose LIDDICOAT, b. 1888
 +James Frederick RICHARDSON, b. circa 1876, m. 1913
 Ruby Gertrude Jane LIDDICOAT, b. 1890
 Stanley Thomas LIDDICOAT, b. 1891
Maxwell Stanley LIDDICOAT
 Purly Ann LIDDICOAT, b. 1893
 +Hugh MCDONALD, b. circa 1885, m. 1914
 Coosey Eveline LIDDICOAT, b. 1894
 Cecil Nicholas John LIDDICOAT, b. 1896
 William Douglas LIDDICOAT, b. 1898
 Richard Leonard LIDDICOAT, b. 1900
 Edith Irena LIDDICOAT, b. 1901
 Lila Minnie LIDDICOAT, b. 1903, d. 1904
 Phillip Roy LIDDICOAT, b. 1905
Harriet LIDDICOAT, b. 1862
 +Henry William HUTCHINGS, b. circa 1859, m. 1882
 William John HUTCHINGS, b. after 1882
 Florence May HUTCHINGS, b. 1884
 Laura Lucina HUTCHINGS, b. 1886
 Harold Henry HUTCHINGS, b. 1888
 Frederick Clarence HUTCHINGS, b. 1890
 Gertrude Elizabeth HUTCHINGS, b. 1892
 Amy Olive HUTCHINGS, b. 1893
 Amelia Isabella HUTCHINGS, b. 1895
 Robert Richard HUTCHINGS, b. 1896
 +Miriam DURDIN, m. 1934
 Donald Harry HUTCHINGS
 Harriet Ann HUTCHINGS
 Robert Charles HUTCHINGS
 Harold John HUTCHINGS
 Alan David HUTCHINGS
Miriam Jean HUTCHINGS
 Nellie Evelyn HUTCHINGS, b. 1898
 +James Alfred HARRIS, m. 1916
 Zeta Mary HARRIS, b. 1916
 Leslie James HARRIS
 +Delrene KOOP
Brian John HARRIS
 Ian Alfred HARRIS
 Ada Marjorie HUTCHINGS, b. 1900
 Effie Mary HUTCHINGS, b. 1904
 Emily Ann LIDDICOAT, b. 1863
 +Richard JAMES, b. circa 1854, m. 1880
 Florence JAMES, b. 1885
 +Alfred PETHERICK, m. 1902
 Rex PETHERICK
 +Yvonne PETERS
Jeanette PETHERICK
 +Gavin IRELAND
 Flencina LIDDICOAT, b. 1865
 Richard LIDDICOAT, b. 1867
Robert LIDDICOAT, b. 1869
 +Mary Isabel HUTCHINGS, b. circa 1872, m. 1891
 Gertrude Isabella LIDDICOAT, b. 1892
 +Robert George MCDONALD, b. circa 1885, m. 1910
 Florence May LIDDICOAT, b. 1897
 +William Henry HALE, b. circa 1890, m. 1914
 ? HALE
Leon Stewart HALE
 Gladys Pretoria LIDDICOAT, b. 1900
 Robert Alfred LIDDICOAT, b. 1904
 Jack LIDDICOAT, b. 1906
 Rebecca LIDDICOAT, b. 1870
 +William Henry Morrison (--?--), b. circa 1873, m. 1901
 Kittoriah LIDDICOAT, b. 1873
 William James LIDDICOAT, b. 1875
 +Mary Louisa HARMAN, b. circa 1874, m. 1908

Gertrude 18 and were living in the Padstow area of Cornwall at the time.

After the grounding the couple were separated. Gertrude with some 70 women and children was taken by long-boat across the St Vincent Gulf to Cape Jervis. This group eventually was taken to Adelaide, although taking some 5 days to reach there by bullock dray. In the meantime, John was taken from the stricken ship by one of several possible means, arriving at Port Adelaide within the next day or two. No doubt the couple were eventually reunited in Adelaide.

Leon Hale advises that Gertrude later found employment as a housemaid on a farm on Yorke Peninsula and that by coincidence, husband John arrived one day and was taken on by the farmer as a labourer. Leon comments "*must have been a happy re-union*".

It would seem that they didn't stay long on the farm at Yorke Peninsula, for in July 1852, Gertrude gave birth to their first child, a daughter Elizabeth Jane at Burra.

During the next ten years, up until 1862, another five children were born. Tragically, one died as a baby. There is some discrepancy as to where the first 3 children were born, Jean Hutchings's records showing the copper mining town of Kapunda, while the Births Registration Index shows births were at Burra.

The following 3 children were born near Burra, some at Hampton, north of the township of Burra and perhaps where John was farming. It seems likely that with his Cornish mining background, he was first attracted to Burra for the copper mining. Leon

advises that during this period John was variously recorded in occupation as miner and farmer.

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the Marion. John was 20 years old and

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John and Gertrude (née Hockin) Liddicoat

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In 1863 a daughter was born at Kadina and another 6 children were born there until 1875. Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta then constituted "The Copper Triangle" and again perhaps the family was attracted to the area because of the mining. Moonta was expanding at that time and in 1875 had a population of 12,000 and became the second largest town in South Australia. In that year, John took up land at Oaklands North, near Kadina. The land was Section 115, Hundred of Tickera, near Alford, north-west of Kadina. He paid one pound per acre. Descendant Jeanette Ire-

land, lives at Kadina, but still has a connection to Alford, being associated with the Alford Primary School.

Leon found that John was a member of "M. V. Oddfellows".

Leon advises that records showed that later he sold his property at Alford and was the owner and occupier of a dwelling at Lot 14 Lindsay terrace, Kadina, until 1900. At about this time John and Gertrude retired to live in Clara Street in Wallaroo.

John died in 1907 and is buried in the Kadina Cemetery in Lot No. 61, Path 36. Gertrude died two months before John and is buried with him in the same plot.

An examination of the descendency chart showed that there were two Liddicoat/Hutchings marriages. Jean Hutchings's grandmother Harriet Liddicoat married Henry William Hutchings, while Harriet's brother Robert Liddicoat, Leon Hale's g-grandfather, married Mary Isabel Hutchings. An obvious thought was whether the two Hutchings were brother and sister. A search of SA births showed Mary Issabella Hutching born 17 Apr 1872 with father William Hutching and mother Issabella Gummow. This seems the correct birth. Unfortunately a search for Henry William Hutchings birth around 1859 failed to reveal a registration and that year appears too early for him to be Harriet's brother.

The photograph of John and Gertrude Liddicoat was supplied by Jean Hutchings, appeared to have been taken at Kadina, and the grizzled beard of John suggests he could have been about 50 years old, c1880.

A pioneering couple, ancestors now to many generations widely spread, but with many representatives still in South Australia to where this mining family came all those years ago.

Articles for future issues of "Marion Family" Periodical will be welcomed.

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