



British Isles

"Marion Family" Periodical



Australia

Editorial

The interest generated by the "reunion" at Edithburgh in July this year has resulted in some actions taken by some of the descendants. Most notable is the web site generously placed on the world wide web by Matthews descendant Noel and his wife Beverley. This site is at <www.users.on.net/esmarion> and already there is some most interesting information and images that can be accessed there.

A copy of this periodical is available on the web site, but it is also available in paper form for those who can not access the web or prefer a permanent copy for filing. While photographs and other images can be seen in colour on the web, the paper copies can only be seen in black and white because of the prohibitive costs of producing colour photocopies.

The photographs in this issue show the descendants who attended at Edithburgh, the second photograph allowing each to be identified. When communicating with the editor it would be appreciated if you could identify yourself in the photograph.

The excellent article by Beverley Matthews is ideal for the periodical, and it is hoped others can send in something similar - a handwritten letter for example.

The diary of Arthur Poole will continue over a number of issues and shows insight into the voyage and aftermath. We are indebted to his brother's descendants for a copy of this diary. From information in this diary the route of the voyage is enclosed.

John Keynes

The Descendants

The photographs on the next page show the descendants who attended the 150th Anniversary celebrations at Edithburgh in July. As many of those attending were not known to each other and as it is hoped that many will contribute articles on their ancestors to this periodical, it would be helpful if they could identify themselves by number from the photographs. For the record your editor is number 30.

I would like to receive articles or letters giving some background to the place where an ancestor came from, the conditions encouraging him/her to emigrate, any family lore about the journey and the aftermath in South Australia, and perhaps information on later generations as to what employment they gained, who became farmers, miners, etc and something on the present generation. The success of this periodical and the web site depends on all of us. Who wants to start with an Irish ancestor? I believe the potato famine occurred in that era. And don't forget to identify yourself or the descendant of the ancestor by number!

From Beverley Matthews

Beverley and husband Noel have kindly placed a dedicated web site on the world wide web specifically for *Marion* matters. They were at the reunion and Beverley provided the following article.

We are beginning to think that if the Marion had resulted in loss of lives, then the population of SA would have been considerably smaller.

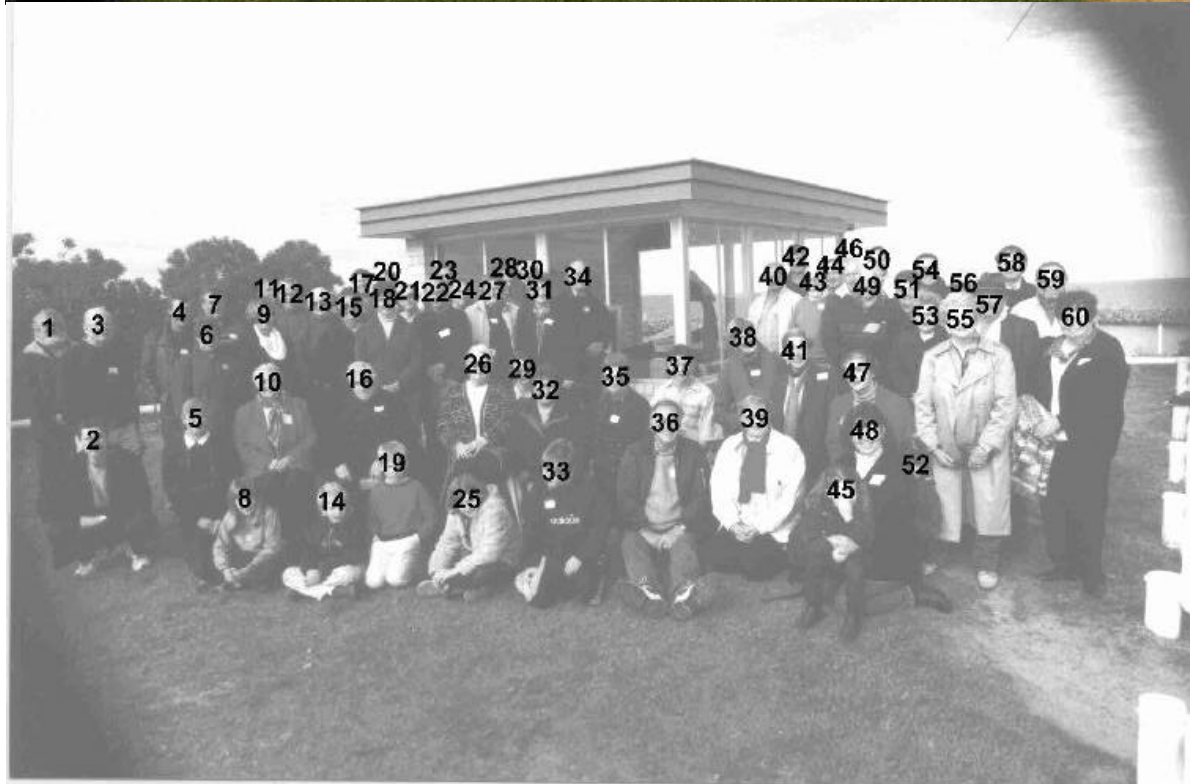
A few days after the commemoration Noel went to our local Probus meeting. When he mentioned that we had been to Edithburgh and why, one of the people there responded,

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"I didn't know about that, my ancestors were on the Marion - we would have gone if we had known.

Meanwhile, I (Beverley) was struck by a name when reading the passenger list. My uncle, who was a publisher, had died a few weeks ago and amongst the books he published was "Stagg of Terowie - A diary of a

Colonial teenager".

Re-reading the foreword, sure enough the boy's father was William Stagg and came to SA in 1851. I rang the family at Terowie and yes - that was their ancestor on the Marion and the family is still living on the property that he built. They did hear about the commemoration after the event, when - wait for

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it - one of their neighbours showed them a newspaper with it mentioned. Yes, you guessed, the neighbour was also a descendant of another passenger. The Staggs have sent away to the museum for the books etc.

Noel's gr-grandfather, George, was eleven when he came with his parents and family. One of his older sisters married another Marion survivor, Samuel Burfitt, after a shipboard romance. The families had lost touch a couple of generations ago. I have now been in touch with their descendants, one of whom lives around the corner from us at Encounter Bay. SA is such a small place.

Diary of a Marion Emigrant

Notable descendants at the 150th Anniversary 'reunion' were three sisters, Robin Ross, Trish Arrowsmith and Anne McMurray, all of Sydney, descendant relatives of William Thomas and Arthur POOLE, emigrants on the *Marion*. Arthur was 20 years old at the time and kept a diary during the voyage and to the great satisfaction of those at the reunion, much of it had survived to the present day and copies transcribed by Dr. Kerr CHATFIELD were made available to some at the reunion. While some of the diary was unreadable, enough remained for the approximate route to be defined and the attached map shows the likely route from information in the diary. The diary entries are given below and the dates are matched to the map. Comments by the editor are included with the diary entries where appropriate. No corrections to spellings or grammar have been made to the transcription. Where words were indecipherable, a series of dots is substituted. Where passages are missing, a suitable notation is made.

An Email was received from another descendant relative, Allan POOLE from Sydney, who saw a reference to the reunion. He mentioned that Arthur was killed in a mining accident the year following his arrival. He also stated that William Thomas settled in Sydney, became a member of the Legislative Council, remaining in Parliament for 5 years and later was elected Mayor of South Sydney in 1895.

A Short Account of the voyage from London to Adelaide in the *Marion*, 1851:

15 Mar: We left the Emigrant Depot Deptford at 9 a.m. and by 10 a.m. were on board one of the Dublin Company Steam boats bound for Plymouth, running very hard all day, we went on very well until we got to Chatham, there they took on Board about 50

.....soldiers with their Wives and children. We had no room to spare before they came, but afterwards we were Packed like Pigs in a Railway truck laying head and tail anyhow. Some singing others laughing, one fellow swearing because the man that sat behind him throwed in his neck what he should have carried on Deck.

[Ed.] Deptford is on the River Thames in Greater London. No doubt the steam-boat took them down the Thames and around the coast into Kent to the port of Chatham to Plymouth.

16 Mar: A little more comfortable today the weather being fine we spent the day on deck, arrived at Plymouth about 7 p.m. Went to the depot for the night.

17-18 Mar: These 2 days were spent looking around Plymouth.

19 Mar: Breakfast over orders were given to get ready to go on board of the *Marion*. Where we arrived about 3 p.m. by means of a Steamtender.

20-23 Mar: All confusion on board as may be expected for the 2 or 3 first.....we expect to sail tomorrow.

24 Mar: All bustle getting ready to weigh anchor and clear out which we did about 7 p.m. with a contrary wind. The passengers (sic) some laughing with delight others crying bitterly. Wm was appointed constable today.

[Ed] William was Arthur's brother.

25-28 Mar: Heavy weather and blowing hard. We have hard work to keep off the Cornish coast the wind being right in our teeth. There is a deal of seasickness on Board.

29 Mar: The wind a little in our favour. Child born this morning.

30 Mar: The wind as yesterday. A child died today.

31 Mar: A fair wind.

1-2 Apr: Fair wind blowing fresh.

3 Apr: Wind fair. A man died this morning, but he was fast declining when he came on board.

4 Apr: Blowing very fresh.

5 Apr: Fair wind. A child died this morning.

6 Apr: Fair wind. A Squall carried away the Fore Top Gallant Mast.

7-8 Apr: Wind fair but little of it.

9 Apr: Wind fair. Saw one of the West-ern Isles today.

[Ed] Was this one of the Canary Islands?

10-12 Apr: Calm and very warm.

13 Apr: Saw a great quantity of whales and Porpoises some of them close to the ship.

14-16 Apr: Calm and hot weather.

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17 Apr: A light Breese got up this morning. Ship running 5 knots per hour.

18 Apr: Got into the N. West Trades last night, saw the Island San Antonia one of the Cape De Verds today.

[Ed] My map shows the island to be probably Santo Antao.

19-24 Apr: Fair wind but light. The weather is very Hot.

25 Apr: The Sun pafsed over us today in 12 degree North Latitude.

26 Apr: Wind changeable.

27 Apr: Signaled a Homeward bound East Indian from Calcutta to London.

28-29 Apr: Calm and Hot not a breeth of Wind.

30 Apr: Calm and very Hot saw a large Turtle drift by us.

1-2 May: Entered the S. East Trade Winds.

3 May: Fine weather 10 p.m. as a man was washing himself his foot slipped, he fell and broke his collarbone on a sharp edge of the pump.

4 May: Crofsted the Equator at 7 a.m. with a fair wind in Long. 26 degrees West.

5-6 May: Fine weather. Wind from the southerd. Ship making a West S. West course. The weather is getting cooler every day This is the place to see and hear thunder and lightning.

7 May: Strong southerly wind the ship heading West by South If the wind continues in this quarter long we shall soon see the coast of S. America. We saw a flock of stormy Petrels the Sailors calls them Mother Carrey Chickens.

8 May: Saw two Homeward bound ships this morning.

9 May: Spoke to Whaler 45 months out

from the United States. Part of the crew came on board to get provisions. There was another increase to the stock last night.

[Ed] 45 months? Surely 4-5 months?

10 May: Saw the coast of Brazil in 10° 34' South Lat. 34° West Long

11 May: Fair wind the ship going knots per hour

12-14 May: Fair wind but light and fine weather.

15 May: Wind from the North West, a thing the sailors say they never saw before in this Lat. 18°S. Long 37°29 West.

16-17 May: Fine weather but foul wind.

18-20 May: Fine weather the wind in our teeth.

21 May: Light wind with squall from the N.W. Saw 2 Homeward bound vessels Lat 21°30 South.

22 May: Blowing hard from the S. West. Ship running from 9 to 10 knot per hour close hauled.

23-26 May: Foul wind the vessel tacking every 4 hours but makes little progress on her voyage.

27-29 May: Calm and fine not a Breath of Wind. Saw a number of birds called Cape Pigeons and are fine looking birds. Lat 25°40 South.

30 May: A light breeze sprung up from the Westerd Signalled a outward bound French East Indiaman.

31 May: Foul wind and child died last night Lat 25°49' S

1 Jun: Fair wind and fair weather. Saw a number of whales also a lot of Cape Hens and Albatrosses. Lat 28 S, Long 17°W

[To be continued]

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

The Editor's address and other details are as follows:

John Keynes

10 Bowey Avenue

Salisbury Heights, S.A. 5109

Telephone: (08) 8258 9999

Email: ramacs@chariot.com.au

This periodical can also be accessed on the world wide web from a web page produced by Beverley Matthews.

If you know of someone who has an interest in the "Marion Family" history and would like to get copies of these periodicals as they are published, invite the person to send name, address and a book of 10 stamps to the editor.