

This document was kindly supplied to me by Ingrid Myers, a relative of John Gorman, in Dec 1997.

(John Gorman being one of the pensioner guards on board)

2nd July

John went from London to Gravesend by rail, thence by ferry to **Fort Tilbury**.

5th July

Set sail

8th July

Cast anchor opposite near the **Isle of Wight** at **Ryde** and facing **Portsea** and alongside of the Prince Regent. We take 110 convicts on board here.

9th July

Cast anchor again opposite **Cowes** where we took in 30 boys. On the road from Ryde to Cowes had a most beautiful view of Her Majesty's Marine Residence and from here we cast anchor I had a very full view of Cowes Castle and also of the Town which is situated on the side of a Hill so that the Houses rise in beautiful precision above the other surmounted by beautiful Green fields.

11 th July

Anchored at **Portland**. Portland is an Island celebrated for its stone the property of the Duke of Portland. On the Island the convicts are making a very fine breakwater, the place itself is quite barren and the only inhabitants are the convicts, and those who superintend them, immediately opposite where we cast anchor we had a fine view of the little seaport town of **Weymouth** and not far from it on the side of the Hill a very beautiful equestrian statue of George 3rd cut out of solid rock.

12th July

A beautiful morning and a fine breeze at 7am took on board 60 convicts and immediately set sail for Plymouth.

15th July

Plymouth. Received on board 13 convicts which completes our number 302.

17th July

Boat from the Victually(*sic*) Office came alongside with Fresh Beef, vegetables and other items for the voyage, water etc. Several of the convicts got inebriated which caused the sentries to silence twice, we have on board several young women, daughters of some of the pensioners and when we first came on board, the Surgeon Superintendent Dr. Gibson kindly allowed to have a deck cabin, but I am sorry to say that Rumour speak of one in particular *laisonmal* proper and observations daily confirms, the frequency of wanting to draw attraction, although truly, in what respect they think that they should be "the observed of all observers", I cannot for a moment imagine, certainly they boast of nature's fair proportion as to stature but as to physiognomy when both eyes are strabismized, which caused a truly ludicrous appearance crowned withall with, should it continue for a "lunatico inquirendo" while this evening the Doctor having sent the prisoners below for the night and seeing everything secure, went on the poop for a few minutes prior to retiring to rest when accidentally (parely so) looking over the side, found the fair Diana's had lowered the window, by which means if any plan had been concocted, any young man. who wished to revel in the arms of a "PuceIIa" of Voltaire, could do so by walking along the chains, the Entree been free, but to sie the words of the Doctor, he twighed a more, and immediately descended to their Cabin and calling for the Carpenter, nail'd up the window and so put an end to the fair Excursionists Campaign en Battaile L'Amour.

20th July

Occasional showers, prayers for the prisoners.

21 st July

Set sail, cleared the Breakwater at 9 am. **Falmouth Bay** 7 pm and had a view of Pendennis Castle. Strict orders from the Doctor, not to allow the seamen to speak to the convicts, and also soldiers, and the Sentry not strictly enforcing this order his Betts to be taken off, and brought before the Doctor.

22nd july

at 4am found the Lizard, still in view dis. 15 miles . Lost sight of land at 12 am.

27th July

Boys attended school, one of the convicts Actg as Schoolmaster.

28th July

Sunday, all dressed in full Regimentals, Devine Service at 10.30 am for all hand, they been summoned to assemble by the Tolling of the Bell. The sailors were all very clean and assembled on the poop, together with the officers of the ship, Captain. The Doctor was wearing his uniform as a Surgeon of the Royal Navy. The detachment not on duty formed up in front of the poop, under Arms, whilst the Watch who were loaded, formed up on the Quarter deck in rear of the Captain which was rigged with the Ensign serving for Pulpit and Reading Desk, the assistant Surgeon officiating as parson (Dr

Barry). The convicts having on clean shirts, assembled behind the Barricade and those forming the choir were permitted to arrange themselves on the Quarter Deck, having the Fiddler to keep them in intonation. The service was opened by singing the Morning Hymn, and very well indeed they sang in unison, after which we had some (Collects and a few verses from the Old Testament. after which the pseudo parson gave his explanation of the miracle of the leper: interleaving; with occasional prosy quotations and quoting the Glorious Lambton one of the Saints of the fruit of the Glorious Reformation who was converted from his evil ways, by the fruits of the spirit of the Holy Ghost. The whole been concluded by offering up a prayer for the parliament to imbue them with grace, that they might have the further grace to know in what greater extent Almighty God may direct them to persecute his faithful shepherds and their would be stricken flocks, if his all powerful hands intercept not their Damnable Work.

30th July

Directly opposite St Michaels in the Western Islands and off **Cape St Vincent (Spain)** of Historic Memorie. At midnight passed the Island of Madeira.

31st July

Alongside the Deserters, the last of the **Madeira Islands**, in one of which is Porto Santo, these Islands are covered with Figs. Whilst on watch from 7 to 8 am, on the prison door of the Main Hatch, was necessitated to report a prisoner for fighting and the punishment awarded was 12 hours confinement, this was in a box about 5'9" in height and although there is a seat in it, yet when the door is shut, if the seat is let down and the individual seated it is impossible to get up and necessarily get so cramped, that the punishment must be bad. Well! after he was released, a Boy took his place for striking another boy with a pannican and using very offensive Language, he was kept in all night.

1st August.

A delightful day wind very light altho we have been in the NE Trades for 4 days but I am afraid we shall lose them soon. At 7.30 am order to parade to witness the sentence of corporal punishment carried out into effect against the boy confined last night the preparations were first a grating against the Bulwark tied, underneath which was another for the culprit to stand upon, the Guard fell in and fixed Bayonets, the remainder of the men without arms. The Boatswain having the Cat in a Handkerchief, The prisoner having taken off his jacket and undone his braces, his trousers down, his hands were tired and then the Doctor read his Crimes, which was first for striking one of his comrades with a tin pot and when remonstrated, told the party he might B-- himself. Two of the convicts, Jackson and Campbell interceded with the Doctor for him- and he forgave him the 2 dozen lashes Awarded. The Boy seems a very, determined Character, but on the whole seemed rather frightened.

3rd August

Devine Service the same routine as last Sunday. The convicts have got on white trousers.

10th August

Devine service only for the prisoners, saw the first of the "Minden Times", the editorial introduction speaks not well of those that have the conducting of it, solicits contributions.

12th August

Two prisoners put in Irons, one hand cuffed.

13th August

A prisoner flogged 3 dozen.

17th August

Had another perusal of the Minden Times, the (first?) is one about a detached cottage to let, alluding to the recent confinement of a man and his wife, in the Sentry Box, the former for striking her and the latter for drinking his Grog, where she would have remained only for a prisoner who would not work, and for Insubordination was placed in Irons, and after all in spite of the orders given not to walk about, would do so, and consequently the Doctor put the handcuffs on, and so was placed in confinement, so liberating the incarcerated, this was on the 13th.

20th August

About 6.30 had a visit from his Oceanic Majesty¹, when his Royal Barber commenced operations first on the Butcher, and then on two others, but the Ceremony was not what I have seen owing to the prisoners we have on board, the ceremony was concluded by the Captain ordering grog for the sailors, after which the Detachment partook of his generosity, when the Fiddler struck up, the Ball been opened by Mr Maddox (matelot) and Miss Jemima Flufham, another gentleman decorated in womans attire which caused great merriment, after which Maddox favored us with a Song "Her Majesty's Favorite Monkey".

22nd. August

Expect soon to see Crux Australis. The children have slight eruption of the skin, but they are dying fast. The prisoners are served out with Wine mixed with their Lime Juice - The hospital assistant Convict Ogle, placed in confinement. Obligated to go and sleep on deck, thro the Infernal Rats, dancing a Polka over me, which is anything but agreeable, particularly where they promenade between the Blankets. Oh, how pleasant to feel their icy feet and perhaps a nibble.

¹ Crossing the equator

24th. August

Two Hymns sung by four of the convict boys.

26th. August

In the evening a squall between the Doctor and Captain respecting the convicts occupying all parts of the ship. "In fact" says the Capt. You Doctor have had the Command, what with your Tailors, Carpenters and ? there is no moving about, even the Guard have not a place to smoke, I endeavored to make the wives and families of the Guard comfortable when they first came on board but in that I was balked, for my part I can live anywhere, in the Main Top, or the Masthead, Take my Cabin my Cuddy², Sir, but I must and will have a place kept clear for my men to work the ship, you allow Sir, that would not be permitted in a Common Tap Room. since you have been on board have you acted according to your Instructions, certainly not, and a long list of other things followed which ended by the Doctor leaving the Capt. the undisputed possession of the poop, the whole been caused by one of the Guard going up the weather side.

5th September.

The wind dying away and not going our Course, we are not off the **Cap de bon Esperance**³ and really I know not why the Spaniards should have given it such a name for it is invariably bad weather off it, and whence the application of Good.

6th. September

One of the Detachment (Walsh) broke his wife's box open, for the purpose of throwing her clothes overboard, but was stopped, made a prisoner of and placed in confinement, and his wife removed and placed with the single women. Mrs Gaunts daughter found a letter addressed to Amelia McLoughlin by a convict, with whom she is keeping company and they intend to get married on arrival. So much for the visiated Taste, oh! how delectable a convicted Felon for a son-in-law.

7th. September

Expect to be in Swan River in 7 weeks.

12th September

Mrs Foran released, intends to appeal for false imprisonment.

13th September

Devine Service between Decks for the prisoners

14th September

We are now 11 weeks on board, 8 from Plymouth and 34 days since we passed the Line, and **not yet passed the Cape**, to a certainty we are in the Latitude of it, but not the Long. We have to run a little further to the South and then we commence to do our Easting.

30th September

Passed the **Island of St Paul's** distance 13 miles, had a view of it. This Island is celebrated for its hot springs and for fish. For those who fish immediately put them in the hot spring and they are soon ready for use.

2nd October.

Hoisted our Whip White and red denoting a Convict ship. One of the Convicts has written on his back "Stolen goods bought and sold here", it having appeared that he had record goods that were stolen, and disposed of them. Another prisoner put in Irons, for not answering his name at the evening muster.

3rd October

The Doctor had an examination of the Convict Boys kits to find out some stolen goods found several Articles.

5th October

Devine Service between the decks for the prisoners and in the Cuddy for the sailors.

6th October

The Doctor had the prison entirely cleaned out, also the convicts water Breakers, mess kids, bowls etc, made the Boys scrub their hammocks. Spoke to the Sergt Major respecting the words made use of by the Surgeon Superintendent when the former was expostulating with him respecting the convicts occupying our side of the Deck, which the latter would not accede to but told the Sergt Major, you may comment upon it but the Sergt Major would insist, and did have a clear gangway. This mor'g Carey and Preston went to the Head pump for water to wash the lower Deck with, when the convicts employed in pumping refused to give it (they turned away, which they should not have done but have taken water and if they resisted knock them down or make prisoners of them. Went to the Sergt Major who reported the circumstance to the Doctor without satisfaction but he (the Sergt Major) ordered the men to get water from the pump on the poop and not to go amongst those Damn'd Convicts, not fit for ears polite but I am thinking many of them will often think of the Guard, who show'd them such leniency, (Even giving them some of their Tobacco) on board the Minden when they fall into the hands of others, placed in authority over them, which system of treatment has been so fully exposed by His Lordship of Birmingham, that comment from me is superfluous.

11th October

² cuddy – small cabin, esp under the poop

³ cape of good hope

Yesterday evening 3 of the convict Boys Handcuffd for fighting, and one had Irons put on Him. Another was put in the Sentry Box all night but released in the mor'g.

13th October

The Doctor very busy giving out the Disembarkation Clothing to the Convicts consisting of 1 Blue Shirt, Fustian⁴ Trousers Jacket and Waistcoat, Blue Cloth Cap 2 Handks. 1 pr shoes 1 pr stockings.

14th October

Sighted land from the Main Yard Arm at 10.30am. Saw land from the Forecastle at 12, distance about 20 miles. 4pm abreast of "**Rottenest**" Island upon which is a Light House covered with green with occasional sandy patches and the N.E. appears by Telescope observation a complete bed for Breakers, saving here and there. The color of the water has changed to a dirty Green. Hoisted our Ensign and Union Jack at the fore for a pilot, at 8pm got the pilot and Harbour Master on board. Rounded **Arthur's Head**⁵ at 12 midnight cast anchor opposite **Freemantle** thus completing a passage of 86 days from Plymouth, having during our run met with many contrary winds, yet withall a finer passage I think never was made by any vessel even the Sailors acknowledged it was more like a pleasure party altho travelling over the vast expanse of waters.

15th October

Had a view of a portion of the Town which appears to be built upon a Sandy Soil, but all we see is the Light House, a Small Barracks at the foot of the same for the pensioners, a Jail, and a large Barracks not yet finished capable of holding 100 Families. Visited by the Comptroller General of prisons, Capt. Henderson.

16th October

Sent 100 prisoners on shore fresh provisions Beef, potatoes, pumpkin.

18th October

Squally with occasional heavy rain, about half past 3 o'clock the vessel struck very heavy against the Ground, which caused great uneasiness, immediately sent the 2nd Mate on Shore for the pilot and on his arrival we broke ground, but not until we had struck 3 distinct times. Sent 114 prisoners on shore.

21st October

Sent on board the John Panther- 80 men and the remainder on shore, also a quantity of ship Stores for the use of the Prisoners from us going to King George's Sound⁶, sent on shore some more of the Guard, ordered to hold myself in readiness, packed everything up. Went on shore at 5 pm. Streets very sandy, the Town very regularly laid out but very few Inhabitants. Rooms that we live in large but the floor all broke up.

25th October

Had a walk around the Town, the formation very regular and I have not the least doubt, in a few years, that it may be a flourishing place, that is if they can properly improve the Anchorage at Gauge Roads, which I believe is almost impossible, it being so exposed to the Ocean and Westerly Winds, and in Winter not at all safe in consequence of the N.W: Gales. The main street of Fremantle runs N. S. intersected with small streets forming from the Beach to the banks of the "Swan", at the South end is a Tunnel cut through a cliff which brings you out to a small Barracks occupied by a small body of our party, from which you have a delightful view of the sea and the vessels riding at Anchor, in the distance is an Island to which all persons sentenced to Transportation in the Colony are sent and where they work in chains Europeans and Aborigines, of the latter I believe there are a great number. There are several Stores, and Public Houses and Butcher Shops but the whole is complete sand, unless pressed with hard flinty stones, great friends to the Cordwainers who do not forget to charge enormously for Boots and Shoes. Wood we get from the Bush and Coal the children collect from the Sea Shore, which fall out of the Baskets carried to the Boats to be conveyed to the Shipping.

26th October

Sunday. Went to Chapel, the Chapel is very small, the congregation about 25 persons, the clergyman is a Spaniard, speaks English with difficulty.

4th November.

We called at North Fremantle. It is a village formed by pensioners who have rec'd from the Government a grant of an Acre of land and a Rush Hut built by the prisoners to live in. Then we proceeded cheerily on the road. The scenery on the banks of the Swan is very picturesque and in many places well worthy of the pencil of a Stanfield Bold and beautifully interspersed with woodland scenery. We passed through a Channel which saves a round of nearly three miles and at the top of the same is called Cape Horns, on which a solitary Hut, from that we launched into a large expansive Bay, having water sufficient for a 74 Gun Ship to ride in. After proceeding some few miles to "Mount Eliza" open'd in view, and the mouth of the "Canon River" over which there is a Suspension Bridge, shortly after the "Steam Mill", came in sight of Perth, delightfully situated on the left bank of the River open'd to our view, and what made

⁴ Fustian – a stout twilled cotton fabric

⁵ Limestone outcrop at the mouth of the Swan river at Fremantle

⁶ Albany see Governor Grey's Half-yearly report 1851