

## Thomas Sinclair's Journal of a Voyage to Western Australia in 1863

1863

### Journal

Friday

Aug 14<sup>th</sup> We<sup>1</sup> left the Hillock<sup>2</sup> Dunrossness Shetland For Fremantle W. Australia. By the Maria - Paket<sup>3</sup> all in good health. Wind S.S.E. pleasant run to Ler.<sup>4</sup> through the course of the passage Jessie James & their Mother were a little sea-sick. We were accompanied to Lerwick by James Mainland & Margt. Sinclair<sup>5</sup> Lodged with Miss M. Johnson. We were very busy Friday afternoon & Saturday rigging out for the passage. We were at the Free Church on Sabbath morning & at the Secedars Chaple<sup>6</sup> in the afternoon.

Munday 17<sup>th</sup>. Collected our luggage & packed up the same & addressed it for Aberdeen. Were on the pier to go on board the Steamboat. When by Daniel Sinclair we received a letter from the Commissioner of G.E.<sup>7</sup> to proceed by to London by Granton. We went on board the St. Boat at 7 O.Cl P.M. Was underway about 2 hours after. Wind Westerly Heavy Swell in the sea through(?) strong wind & rain on Saturday & Sunday from S. to E. I was in the Ladies' Cabin attending my family all the passage to Aberdeen. I had a very fatiguing nig[ht] on Monday night – with my own family & other passengers who were all sick.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> were a few hour[s at] Kirkwell. was at Wick a few hours the same day. On morning of Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> about 2 A.M. came into Aberdeen Key. here I was on shore a short time. We left Ab. for Granton at 9 A.M. ~~P.M~~ Weather pleasant at ½ past 2 Ocl. P.M. arrived at [G]ranton Key. I arranged with the Clerk of the Steam Navigation Company for our passage to London, & went on board the Leith boat at 3 O.Cl. We loosed ¼ after 2 O.Cl. had fine weather all that day & night.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> about 8 or 9 O.Cl. A.M. Wind blew very hard & continued so all that day & night Wind Free we were sailing & steaming.  
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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Sinclair, wife Mary (nee Mainland) and children Jessie, Laurence, Margaret, Mary and James.

<sup>2</sup> The family croft, occupied by Thomas's parents George and Margaret Sinclair.

<sup>3</sup> One of the packet ships that carried local mail, goods and passengers.

<sup>4</sup> Lerwick, capital of Shetland.

<sup>5</sup> James (brother of Mary) and Margaret (sister of Thomas) continued to live at Hillock after Thomas emigrated.

<sup>6</sup> The Scottish Secession Church.

<sup>7</sup> Possibly one of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.

## Journal

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> got up to (?)

Gravesend about 9 O.C1. A.M. here we thought it advis= able to ~~to~~ land in stead of going to L<sup>8</sup>. I paid our Boat- man for landing 6/- & a porter who assisted us with lug 2/-. We were on our own expenses while we lay here. We vict= ualled ourselves or bought our own Victuals and paid 4/- daily for our beds & other small service. here I wrote 5 letters to our friends at home, & got one From our sister Janet<sup>9</sup> at Edin. Here I found the first what it was to want the association of Christian brethren and Friends – especially on Sabbath 23<sup>rd</sup>. here I bought a quantity more of outfitting for the Voyage also some bread and a little of other stores.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> at 1 O.C1. P.M. we went on bord the Tartar<sup>10</sup>, paid 10 sh for getting off. On our comming on board I several Carpenters at work fitting up the ship for the passengers. This afternoon we were appointed by an officer to berths 7 & 8 the one bed directly above the other. We were served in bedding for both beds.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> lay in port all day. Carpenters preparing the vessel for sea on the evening of 26<sup>th</sup> all emigrants were Mustered on board.

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> about 6 O.C1 A.M. let off [fr]om our Mooring and was taken in tug to the mouth of the [Tham?]es. this morning I wrote a letter to Chas. Eunson<sup>11</sup> & R. [?]neison.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Wind light all day [l]ittle progress made in the ship's course.

Saterday 29<sup>th</sup> brought up to ancor with [con]trary wind.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Fine morning [li]ght wind in favour Weighed ancor & hoisted al[l] Sail, shortly after this was done the pilot from Graves end left the ship. about 7 or 8 O.C1 P.M. the wind commenced to blow unfavourable Some Sail was imme= diately taken off the ship. about 10 O.C1. I had gone to sleep. between 11 & 12 O. was awakened again {end of page 2}

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<sup>8</sup> London.

<sup>9</sup> Janet Mainland, Mary's sister.

<sup>10</sup> The *Tartar* was the ship that was commissioned to take them and other emigrants to Western Australia.

<sup>11</sup> Charles Eunson, who was married to Mary's sister Elizabeth Mainland They emigrated to New Zealand.

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Again by the pitching of the Vessel & the claps of the canvas, weather came on very quick<sup>12</sup>, the Sailors had all been call=  
= at ½ past 11 about ½ past 12 a Sea Struck us on the Starboard which give the Vessel such a crash, that for the time I thought She might have been struck a rock - every thing in that was loose between decks was tossing & driving about the Tins were making a great noice, & Still a greater noice & more exciting to be heard amongst the passengers Shrieks & Cries in every birth & corner many thought the hour of dissalation was come – some were shooting for absent friends Some swearing the ship was gone, and many who had ~~the~~ profained the Sabbath night by swearing & abshing<sup>13</sup> lang. was then found Praying – I do say that to people who had not experienced any thing of the Sea before, the see=  
=ing was perplexing. Mary asked me if I considered that the Ship was foundering I could not at the moment say what position we were in. I could not but reflect that it appeared to me we had not Sufficient Salt on board to to preserve us those so far corrupted by sin (as I had been eye & ear wittness to) I thought the mercy of God had sea=  
=sed to flow on us as a crew, that his Judgments were poss ably breaking out. I have cause/reason to bless God that during this time I was kept very cool. & with the Pact kept [?]king ; unworthy thought I am Jesus had by his suffering by his blod mahsemed(?) my soul; and that he had a Manten(mansion?) prepared for me & mine. & that soon we might be called to inherit the rest he had prepared for us – Shortly af=  
=ter I found that the Vessel had received no dam =age Several Seas were brakking into our waist but nothing was displaced. About 3 or 4 O.Cl. when my birthmates were cooled of their excitement I came on deck saw that every thing were in its place the Vessel was then lying too under a close reefed Fore & Maintopsail We were in that position la=  
=bouring in a heavy cross sea till the Sun was  
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<sup>12</sup> Storm in the English Channel, also described in Janet Millett, *An Australian Parsonage*, Stanford, London, 1872, pp 8-9. She and her husband were cabin passengers on the *Tartar*.

<sup>13</sup> ‘Abshing’ may be ‘obscene’.

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Was setting when more sail was then got on the ship  
I have here to remark that during the Sabbath day  
I had been very bad in health, from a severe pain  
in my Stomach & Bowels so bad was I, that I could not  
attend Divine Service; which was held by High Church  
Minister<sup>14</sup> – Towards night mostly all sail was again  
made wind & Sea calmed very suddenly –

Tuesday Sept 1<sup>st</sup>

Nothing particular regarding the weather – Only  
all this time (the wind being against us) the pro=  
=gress was very little – On this night owing to foul wind  
the ship was brought to Ancor. When the tide made  
in the Morning Sail was again made & the Vessel was  
brought into Dover. There we lay all that day &  
shipped pilot. that put us clere of the sands, the  
pilot left us on Thursday Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> all the time wind  
& weather very unsteady. Flying from N.W., S.W. blow  
=ing so hard, as occasionally to bring us under reffed Topsl  
About this time I had to take a little medicine from  
the Doctor my stomach to help my Digissive powers. And  
at this time Laurence got a very sore throat. He also got  
some smearing & some things to take which proved effect[tive]  
James required two powders for the regulation of his bo[wel]  
little Mary kept in good health. Jessie & Mother sea  
sick oft times. Margaret very dillicate. Many of the  
passengers on board Seasick. Thursday staid off  
on the coast of France. Friday Sept 4 A Cabin  
passenger delivered of a man child. Many of the em  
=grants on the doctor's list. Washing on deck from 8 to 12 A.[M.]

Saturday Sept 5<sup>th</sup> rain & lightning  
from W. on Friday Night Maintop Sail & flying gib  
Fore. And on Sunday Sept 4<sup>th</sup> other sails bent.  
Service by the R.C. Priest<sup>15</sup> in the fore noon & by the  
Minister in the afternoon. Wind came on to blow  
Very

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<sup>14</sup> Reverend Edward Millett. See Millett, *An Australian Parsonage*.

<sup>15</sup> Father Matthew Gibney. See 'Matthew Gibney (1835-1925)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/gibney-matthew-6305>, accessed 4 April 2026.

### Journal

Sunday Sept 6<sup>th</sup> very hard towards sunset, by Midnight maintopsail blown clene off. Vessel hove to under mis-  
=sen topsail. Munday 7<sup>th</sup> 4 A.M., manchild  
born in the 2<sup>nd</sup> cabin. Vessel lay to all day, about  
20 persons on the doctor's list, one young woman not ex-  
=pected to live. Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Weather Stormy & wind  
foul. Jessie fell downstairs was a little shaken, but  
not much hurt. this afternoon we got out of the E.Channel.  
Wednesday Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. Wind N. by E. fine  
Steady day all day. Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> leading wind  
Ship going 7 ½ Notes. Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Wind right aft  
Course SW./half W. Second general washing day on deck  
Second time of access to the chests. Fine weather carring  
Stunsails all day. Pas the first half of the Bay of  
Biskay to day. Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Brisk wind from  
S. to W. Stunsails & royals taken off. Course SW. by  
W. Weather dry 4<sup>th</sup> Pig died of the 15 we once had on bord<sup>16</sup>  
Sick girl much recovered, or a great reprieve for the time  
being but at 1 p.m. wind blew more. Sky more beclouded.  
Before preceeding any further, I would go back to remark,  
that from the time we left Gravesend on to the 8 or 9<sup>th</sup>  
Inst. I never saw the weather so unsettled & stormy  
[a]t any previous priot<sup>17</sup> of my life – during the 4 or 5 Summers  
months. & I do feel assured that no open vessel could  
lived through the channel that we have passed through  
I was told by some of the sailors, that the month of Sept.  
is a more favourable month to be in the English  
Channel than Aug is = Ship going at the rate of 8 ½ Notes  
course S.W. half S. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Fine, free  
wind. Ship going 8 ½ to 9 notes Course SW. by S. I  
had this day to call the doctor to the Surgery about  
12 Noon for Jessie being in extreme pain, having had  
no opperation<sup>18</sup> for nearly 2 week (which thing I did not know)  
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<sup>16</sup> Pigs were frequently taken on voyages like this as a source of fresh meat.

<sup>17</sup> priot = period?

<sup>18</sup> 'no opperation' = constipated.

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Sunday Sept 13<sup>th</sup>

She had to undergo the painfull process of opper=  
=ation or Injection<sup>19</sup>. I had previous to this given 2 light  
doses of Castor Oil. After injection was used She got im=  
=mediate opporation & sudden relief. – James not  
not well for some days, being a little Flucid(?). the  
sick girl much better, three more of the Swine dead.  
Service by the Rom. Catholic Priest.

Munday 14<sup>th</sup> Fine steady weather  
Ships Spead decreased – wind right aft. Jessie much  
better, James not well taking medicine. All the rest of  
the family, & Henry<sup>20</sup> in good health. At 4 or 5 P.M  
some very bright Lightning – with heavy fals of rain  
at this the Vessel was being snugged Lightnings  
flashing momantry, till after Midnight. A Squall  
of Wind was expected, but did not burst out Ships  
course S.W. half S. to day I observed a strong current  
direct against us.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Fine morning  
Ship Searing course. Current appearing still strong right  
a head. Fine day from Morn to Night. All our Family in  
good except James not yet well. Cloths washing from  
4 to 8 A.M. Sick girl came on deck for a short time

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Fine morning a light  
wind all day Ship broken 3 Points off course. Stearing S.  
about 5 O. P.M. Saw a quirlwind<sup>21</sup> pass us about 12 yds o[ff]  
-art from our Taffal<sup>22</sup>, very Showers of rain fell immedi  
=ately after 2 quirlwinds were seen to pass the ship  
in the las watch of the night, one of which lightly  
touched the vessel without doing any injury  
Married people & Single men's bedding were brought  
on deck for airing on the Forenoon of being third time.  
2 pigs alive on board. All our Family in good  
health. nothing particular accoring on board.  
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<sup>19</sup> 'injection' = enema?

<sup>20</sup> Henry Mainland, Mary's brother.

<sup>21</sup> 'quirlwind' = whirlwind

<sup>22</sup> Taffrail, handrail at the stern.

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Thursday Sept 17<sup>th</sup>

Fine brisk wind all day ship going from 7 to 8 notes course S. by W. 3 points off course. Single girl's bed on deck for airing this day. – Some showers towards the after =noon. Of the married men a watch appointed for on deck or hatchway. There being 18 married men we were divided into three watches, that way each man had some watch in the night. A general examination of beds & births by the Doctor & Capt & no fault found with any party except the young men, charged for not scrapping well their decks. Family all well My W. from 4 to 8 A.M.

~~Wind steering~~ Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Fine dry morning Fair Wind Steering S.W. by S. going about 6 notes, general washing on deck 4 to 8 A.M. at 9 Married people's beds sent up for airing at 7 Ocl A.M. Land seen by (?) of the poop about 9 am I saw the same myself by naked eye of the deck - Proved to be the Islands of Madera.<sup>23</sup> good health by this time enjoyed by all parties on board. Flour cakes Baking all day, at this time a ruel made only to bake 2 in the week Namely Tuesdays & Fridays.<sup>24</sup> Weather very warm & wind very light all day Ship only running at the rate of 2 ½ notes. Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>

My watch from 4 to 8 A.M. Very fine morning Ship going only about 2 notes in brest of the aforesaid Islands of A Madera Clere sky & burning Sun all all day, & no Wind – today for the first time (on this passage) so light was the wind that for 5 or 6 hours the Ship was without Stearage. – About 4 or 5 P.M. we began to get a little wind which us past the Island on the E. we expected some of the inhabitants off with fruit or fish or something, but none came I suppose we were too far off & on the wrong side of the Island. If we has passed them on the left perhaps the Inhabits might have spoken us  
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<sup>23</sup> Madeira Archipelago.

<sup>24</sup> Ship's biscuit.

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Saturday Sept 19<sup>th</sup> These Islands being the first land we had seen since we left the Channel I would have liked very much to have seen some land people & to have had something to eat off the Shore. there were some many longing hearts while we were passing this Island, for my own part (?) I confess many old things were brought to my ~~ama~~ ~~met~~ remembrance Some of which were rather ~~we~~ too powerfull for me either to reason or argue down I had repeatedly to fly from the suggestions of thought and place some powerfull agent between thought & self – My W<sup>a</sup> from 8 to 12 P.M. light brese in favour of the Ship.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>

Fine morning Ship going course Wind light. Land seen till 6 P.M. A brese sprung up in favour toward night – all Protestants called on the poop to Divine Service after breakfast. along with the parts of the Service, a Sermon read by the Minister his own premeditation. Discourse on Lazzarous' Death & the Merical of his Resurrection. Poorly expounded. I thought the discourse was. Our Family all attended the Service except Jessie who was not well. I felt this day a great dissapointment for the absence of a good Scottish Mi<sup>n</sup> of ~~of~~ Calv<sup>n</sup> doctrine. After we ad come from Ser<sup>v</sup> between decks Mary was taken very ill with a fainting fit that lasted several hours, & continued very weak all the day. The Doctor did not prescribe any Medicine for her that day. I declined from my watch on deck this night.

day Munday 21<sup>st</sup> Steady sailling all day Ship going from 6 to 7 ½ notes. We were having at this time very steady fine Weather. Some Fish seen playing about the vessel, But none caught, no sutiable Material on board to fish with. Mary put on the

List

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List for an allowance of porter<sup>25</sup>, at the same time received a little of barks<sup>26</sup>, She continues very weak, but not sufficient to fainting. James is getting better, all the other Children & Myself well. Married people & young men's beds on deck from 10 OCl. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>

Fine weather wind in our favour, but very light, we running only at the rate of 2 or 3 notes. My watch from 12 to 4 AM. Mary seems better, James on the Doctor's list. All others of the Family in good health. To day some complaints made by the Emigrants for short allowance of stores. One Dick Lamprall<sup>27</sup> a cokney appointed hach constable. Washing from 4 to 8 AM. weather at this time very hot, wind very light.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Same sort of weather, nothing strange accoring. fair wind every day. Saw a Ship this afternoon appearantly stearing the same course. She was not vissiable the following morning. James & his mother some better. My turn Scrubbing & Hollistoning<sup>28</sup> the decks; this duty we were called on to perform every 4<sup>th</sup> day we having in our apartment 4 watches; be it observed (this scrubbing was between decks) My watch on deck from 4 to 8 AM

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>

Steady fine weather, light wind in our favour. Some fish to be seem but none caught. Capt. & Doctor inspected between decks, births bunks; a glass of rum given to each of the 3(?) scrubbers & doctor's boy. Officers well pleased with the State they found the decks in. A Single girl tried for having on mens cloths the preceeding night. Sentancened 2 days imprisonment in the hospittle, but in her bed every night. I was offered some medicine for James which I refused to take Suggesting that no man could keep his stomach and bowels in good order in the climate that we were presently in, & on the provisions that he was receiving; which with the exception of a little milk, was nothing different from my own  
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<sup>25</sup> Porter = fermented beer

<sup>26</sup> Barks might be Willow or Cinchona, given e.g as anti-malarial.

<sup>27</sup> Richard Lamprall (28), travelling with wife and two children.

<sup>28</sup> Holystoning, scrubbing with sandstone blocks.

The Doctor did not seem satisfied with my refusal of his prescription, suppose the words were not expressed I could understand from his mode that I should in future be the child's Physician myself. (which by the good Providence of God I was; As I never again had need to apply to the doctor for him.<sup>29</sup> My watch from 8 to 12 pm. Wind almost calm during that hours. Moon bright sky clear

Friday Sept 25

Wind fair to light. washing from 4 to 8. Family in good health in the fore noon. Mary slipped down the leather<sup>30</sup> & received a sore shake & shortly after she found that she had sprained her foot, which very rapidly got on to swell & pain, after a few hours were elapsed we applied to the Doctor who prescribed bathing in hot salt water: which in course of one hour granted considerable relief & with no other application the foot soon recovered.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>

My watch from 12 to 4 A.M. Fine breeze in favour: Ship going about 6 knots. I found not quite well & I retired from W. at 3 O'Clock. Turned out of bed again about 7 O'Clock, when I ascended on the maindeck to bathe the 3 children. I had succeeded in bathing three of the children when a cry was given a man overboard was shot;<sup>31</sup> as many of the people (at the time were on deck) their was an exceeding burst of alarm the screams were very loud & very numerous both from on deck & from below. The doctor was seen on deck & exerted himself manfully to quiet the tumult by clearing the deck of all the females which with some help he succeeded in doing in very short time. For my own part I had enough to do with my own family, after conducting my family below. I immediately ascended to the Maindeck & running to the poop for there I saw a boat in launching. the boat was in lowering<sup>32</sup> when  
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<sup>29</sup> Thomas clashes with the ship's doctor about treatment, blames the diet.

<sup>30</sup> Mary sprains her ankle slipping down the 'leather' (ladder?).

<sup>31</sup> Man overboard.

<sup>32</sup> Lowering?

I reached the Taffel I was determined on going in the boat; but found I was not required as the crew were then selected. The sailors soon plied their oars & the boat bounded on his course over the topping billows. The lost man was then about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of mile from the ship. The Vessel having then been broached to the wind & canvas & yards clapping chiming & rattling like Thunder at which time the maintop sail & Stunsail boom on the port side had been carried off. My eyes & attention alike both were fixed on the boats & the drowning man who I then could perceive, & at sometimes as I thought I could see him 18in or 2 feet above the watter. It was about 5 minutes after the boat left before she saw the man having Steered a course to windward of the man I observed soon as the saw him by their bearing more away, & shipping a straight course for the object of pursuit. I then thought the worst part though the boat had a strong wind & a rough sea to contend with –(and as afterwards saw from the hurry they had left the ship in they had omitted to plug the boat. For what was still worse without a bucket or any thing to bell out the water. However by much exertion with the help of one of their hats they managed to keep her up. The sailors kepted dexterous in their efforts & without excitement, & after the allapes of 20 minutes or little more from the time the man had slipped overboard the boat was again along side & the lost man in her. Not without much exertion & risk too (for the boat filled with water along side) both man & boat was again restored to the deck of the Vessel from which they had been withdrawn so much for the preservation & (?) at to the accerance The man John Simson for that was his name was / employed brushing out side of the Bulworks at the Mainchains, was landing at the mainshet when a shake of the sail or stroke of the Sea dis-aroamed him of his preper & so he slipped, after he had fallen in the ship sallied & struck him on the head & shoulders how-ever he song out to the man at the wheel who immediately  
 Threw

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Saturday 26 September

Threw over a life boy which soon after caught by the man the Vessel was Immediately brouched to the wind, when some of the Stunsails were broke. Soon after the man was re=stored to his ~~m~~ station the ship was filled upon & Canvas Spread; and warmed the heart of every person on bord.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> My wach from 4 to 8 A.M.

d ry weather, brisk Wind free. As I understand we are for some days into the trade winds – Ships speed 190 miles in the 24 hours. Called on the poop to Divine Service at 10-30 A.M the Priest having service at the same ~~time~~ hour in thes young women’s appartment. Our Family all attended worship – (It was so different from the mode of the Scotish Church that I could not enjoy the Service. One part of the Service was the reading of a Sermon or Lecture on the Parrable, put by our Lord con=cerning the profesy(?) of the Israelites in the way between Jerusalem & Jorden, & for the reseption he met with from the three passengers on record – the discourse was handled very weakly to my opinion) I would have put myself a good deal about at that time to have hard the discourse preached by ~~M~~ the Revd Sutter or the Revd J. Profit<sup>33</sup> or various other men whom I have heard preach Indeed when I came off the Poop I felt much dissapointed & so I felt all the night Short after we came down Mary became so bad that she had to go to bed & lay all night. Today I (worried?) much for home & for my friends & for my Christian brethren & most of all for my parents I tried to take hold of the Incouraging & precious pro=misses that was held to me by the word of God; But they seemed to keep far from my grasp. Jesus indeed appeared to me precious. Yet I could hardly be either cheered or refreshed: But seemed to be in a Desert of drought. I went to ~~du~~ Wach at 8 PM. reflecting on ~~my~~ the opportunities which I once possessed of the means of Grace; How lightly I often had valued the blessings I had enjoyed & now how sweet they appeared to me when as I thought they had forsaken me leaving me to grope in the  
dark

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<sup>33</sup> Rev. Profit had provided a reference for Thomas on his emigration application.

Munday Sept 28<sup>th</sup>

Same track of weather wind aft ship making good way nothing particular to note of this day Sholls of flying fish has been seen for some days, one fled on deck in the Night 4 or 5 inches in length. Mary very bad all day & never off her bed, had to take some medicine from the doctor.

Tuesday 29. My wach from 12 to 4 A.M.

Wind inclining Eastward, ship made 190 Miles las 24 hours. Mary & all the family able to be on deck to day; washing in the morning towards the afternoon Wind inclining Southward. About 10 or 11 AM. the Cannadien Islands<sup>34</sup> seen by the naked eye from the Poop bearing S.E. by E. Previous to this the last ~~Fam~~ two pigs on board had died so much for Tuesday.

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> Light wind ship 2 points off course weather showrey & varriable heavy squals of wind, ac =compained with Showers from 11 am. to 5 pm. Ship Searing N.W. by W. no dammage sustained by the Squales. Mary some better, all others of the family well my wach from 8 to 12 PM. Wind inclinging W. Ship warred abut 10-00 Stabbourd Tack Fine night Wind rain & Lightning ceased, by 12 Ship going course again TopgallionSails & Royals Set.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Oct / 64

Washing from 4 to 8 AM beds on deck by 9. Fine brese Ship go =ing 6 notes Poart tack My turn scrubbing decks from 10 to 12 A M. general inspection inspection between decks by the Capt & Doc at 8 PM Ship going 8 notes. At Noon we were in 10 degrees of the Line. All our Family on deck to day.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Steady wind ship going from 7 to 8 notes, Port tack. A ship seen in the morning in head stearing the same course. We passed a Brig inothe Foer noon, & a Barque in the Afternoon homeward bound Washing from 4 to 8 AM & in the Head this & every day at any hour My wach from 12 to 4 AM. – not called. all the Family in good health.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> My wach from 4 to 8 AM clere Sky slight wind Ship going 2 to 3 notes  
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<sup>34</sup> Possibly Canaria or Canary.

Sunday Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup><sup>35</sup>

Notes port tack, washing in the morning on deck I had a bath under the pump in the head at 5-30 AM. Offbeam of the Ship seen in the preceeding afternoon Supposed to be bound to Melborn, that left Gravesend before us, which Ship crossed us, twice in the E. Channel She sailed all the day. Family all well. Weather getting to be very warm, to day clere sky all day Ship going about 4 notes – passed nere to & spoke a ship homeward bound: Bound from Bumbay E. Indies had been 56 days at sea belonging to Ireland bound to London some letters proposed to be written, but we did not bord the Vessel. My wach from 8 to 12 PM Wind variable

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Wind variable for the most part in our favour. Service by the Priest in the Young women's apartment - & Service on the poop by the Minister all the Emigrants mustered for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time by the Doctor Immediately after service. One part of the service was From S. Luke's Gosple Chapter V verse 9. I was not aware of any Introduction divisional-hearts nor application of the subject There was a comparison made & some advice given. I thought I went very hungry away I thought again on the past times of plenty & thought that I might have been better fed in such days of plenty. I reflected again on my ingratitude & the little value I had often put on my spiritual advantages, through means of good under shepherds who had so dilligently endavoured to free me & others – Weather variable towards night.

Munday 5<sup>th</sup> My wach from 12 to 4 am weather very variable during the night waches. Several Vess =els to be seen when the Morning came up some going out & some ~~home w~~ homeward bound amound & others I could desern the same ship that has been (?) for some days. Our family all well many people on bord in bad health through Dessentry. A great cry at this time for Water to drink. From the hot of the Atmosphere, the saltness of the beef, & the sourness of the water – drought was much felt, & every day complained off children very thirsty & very impedent

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<sup>35</sup> Actually Saturday, not Sunday.

Tuesday Oct 6<sup>th</sup>

My wach from 4 to 8 Am. Squally weather with heavy falls of rain general washing all day in consequence of the Rain Water being caught besides what water was used for washing a quantity was saved & barrled up for drinking, the water at saved at this time did not prove good for Inward use, as it was saltish of itself, & mixed with Tar & Paint from off the decks – Course for some days from S to S.E. Weather exceedingly unsettled Wind variable Some Vessels seen daily, some homeward bound & some going out. I saw some Fish playing appearantly like Mackril, our Family all well; but greatly annoyed by the Prickly heat

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

More favourable Weather than on the preceeding days. Many people troubled with the Desentry Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>

Fine day wind In head all day Ship on 2 Tacks to day. All beds on decks today, Saw Several Vessels on different tacks. our family all well to day. I cut myself a pair of duck Trousers My wach fr[om] 12 to 8 AM.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Ship on Port Tack & 5 points off course No squalls nor heavy falls of water. Sun for most part beclouded & so much the better to be clere of the Scorching rays of the Sun. My wach from 8 to 12 pm.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> My wach from 12 to 4 AM. Same Tack Ships's ~~eour~~ Stearing W. by S brisk wind day by day & a clere Horizon for the most part during the night.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> My wach from 4 to 8 AM. same sort of weather & ship on same tack. Called to Divine Service on the Poop. Lecture from Gen. XLII verse 20 latter close of the verse, and their hearts failed them & they were affraid, saying one to another. What is this that God has done to us? These words being the text. The discourse consisted of a lecture on Joseph being carried into Egypt & his being imprisoned there. And his Concerning the Temption of Addultry By the power of Faith

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Same sort of weather Ship's course some more South. Saw a ship homeward bound

At

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Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October

At considerable distance on the lee. Wind stronger to day than it has been for several days previous. Some quarreling again in the Single women's apartment. Captain & Doctor both brought to quail them. My wach from 8 to 12 PM.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>

Ship on same tack

going S by W. brisk wind all day. Signalised to a French Vessel in the afternoon, homeward bound, was carrying more Sal than we were. – a Single men called to put the young women's beds on the Long-boat. The men refused to comply with the request, was called again by the Doctor, again refused & was called a third time called by ð both Doct & Captain & still refused – returned some sassy speach & short answers to the Capt. Was threatened by the Capt. never to be seen on the Long boat, neither in the Forcastle nor on the same etc Topgallion forecastle. The Cook at the same time cautioned to do them no favour, except in the ordin=  
-ary cooking – doctor threatened not to apply to them, no not if sick.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> My wach from

12 to 4 AM. Strong wind in the wach, but no heavy sea Ship going SW. by S. during this day many people Heady, owing to the great motion of the vessel. I am given to understand that we have crossed the Line to two days ago.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>

Brisk ~~wing~~ wind Ship going from 7(8?) to 9 notes. daily course S.W. by S. Saw a vessel inhead from the Forecastle about 8 or 9 AM. about 11 OCl. could discern her Box=  
=wook. & spoke to her at 1 pm. A Ship belonging to Liverpool bound round ~~the~~ Cape Horn Light Cowlen(?) wind. Some of the sailors, had ralitives on bord of ~~the~~ our ship of the Emigrants. Decks inspected by Capt, & doctor. my wach from 8 to 12 pm. Steady good sailing wind all day  
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Friday Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> my wach from 8 to 12 to 4 A.M. Heavy wind during this wach. Ship going S. by W. Ship going at good rate all day. Sour or rotten bief cooked for the Emigrants. Eaten by some & thrown overbord by others Air very warm. But no Schorching Sun, being for the most part hid.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>

Same sort of good steady dry weather. Sour or rotten meat Served out again to day, eaten by some of the married people many of their messes eaten by the young Irish men. Today we received  $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs soap third time of the same allowance, every Family got the same allowance, if only man & wife.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Steady good weather Course S. by W. – No service by the Minister to day.

Munday 19<sup>th</sup> Same sort of weather. All well on bord. Some Skirmesses among the women

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Same kind of Steady weather Course S. by E. to S. by W. A ship seen to day stearing same course; both close by the wind. general speed, from 7 to 8 notes per hour At 8 p.m. passed the Island Trinidad on the cost of the Bresiles Latitude 22 S. Long. 39 West.<sup>36</sup> We passed the Island about 4 or 5 miles distant on the portside. On the north cost of this Island abundance of Fish to be seen playing. Also a great amount of Sea Fowls.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Weather squally & strong.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Strong wind with occasonal squalls & showers, on the 24<sup>th</sup> course S.E. by E. Wind from N. to N.E. carriage(?) run about 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  notes

~~ing course Head~~ Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Fine morning Ship going course headway 6  $\frac{1}{2}$  notes. Called to Divine Service on the poop at 10-15 AM. Lecture from St. Luke's gospel chapt VIII; from Verse 5 to the 16. At 2 Pm. Ship beat off course Wind S. by E. By 6 Ocl. Stunsails royals & Topgallion Sails taken in. By 8 AM. ship double & threeply(?) reefed, and a very heavy head swell. Second day of head Swell

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<sup>36</sup> These coordinates may not match Trinidad.

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Munday October 26.

Gale lasted till about 10 or 11 am. at which time the wind began to abate & falling back again to E by N. soon mostly all sail was hoisted. By night royals & Stunsails were again set & wind favourable. Progress greatly impaired by a heavy head sea. Speed from 4 ½ to 6 notes. By order of the Doctor we Emigrants passengers had our wach keeping done away with. Weather by this time getting cold during nighttimes & when the Sun is not Shining – Many complaining of sore Throats from the cold. I had a touch of the same myself with Heart burning I caught it one day after heavy sweat =ing between decks & going suddenly on deck with no close on the chest of my body except a cotton shirt with its neck & breast thrown open, had been so done in order to cool the hot that was burning in my skin I caught this cold about Noon. I was advise to apply for the sarynge of my throat But declined.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Nothing particular

to note of this day day

{end of page 18 and the journal}

**Transcribed and Annotated by Michael Robinson**

**7 April 2026**

Transcribed from Esperance Local History Collection AC-2002-8841