

A paper version of this presentation will be available on this web site in due course

Voyage of the *'Gilbert Henderson'*

Female Convict Transport

Sailed from Woolwich - 14 Dec 1839

Arr. VDL, Hobart - 24 April 1840

Presentation to Female Convict Research Centre autumn seminar 2014

Dr Raelene Mibus

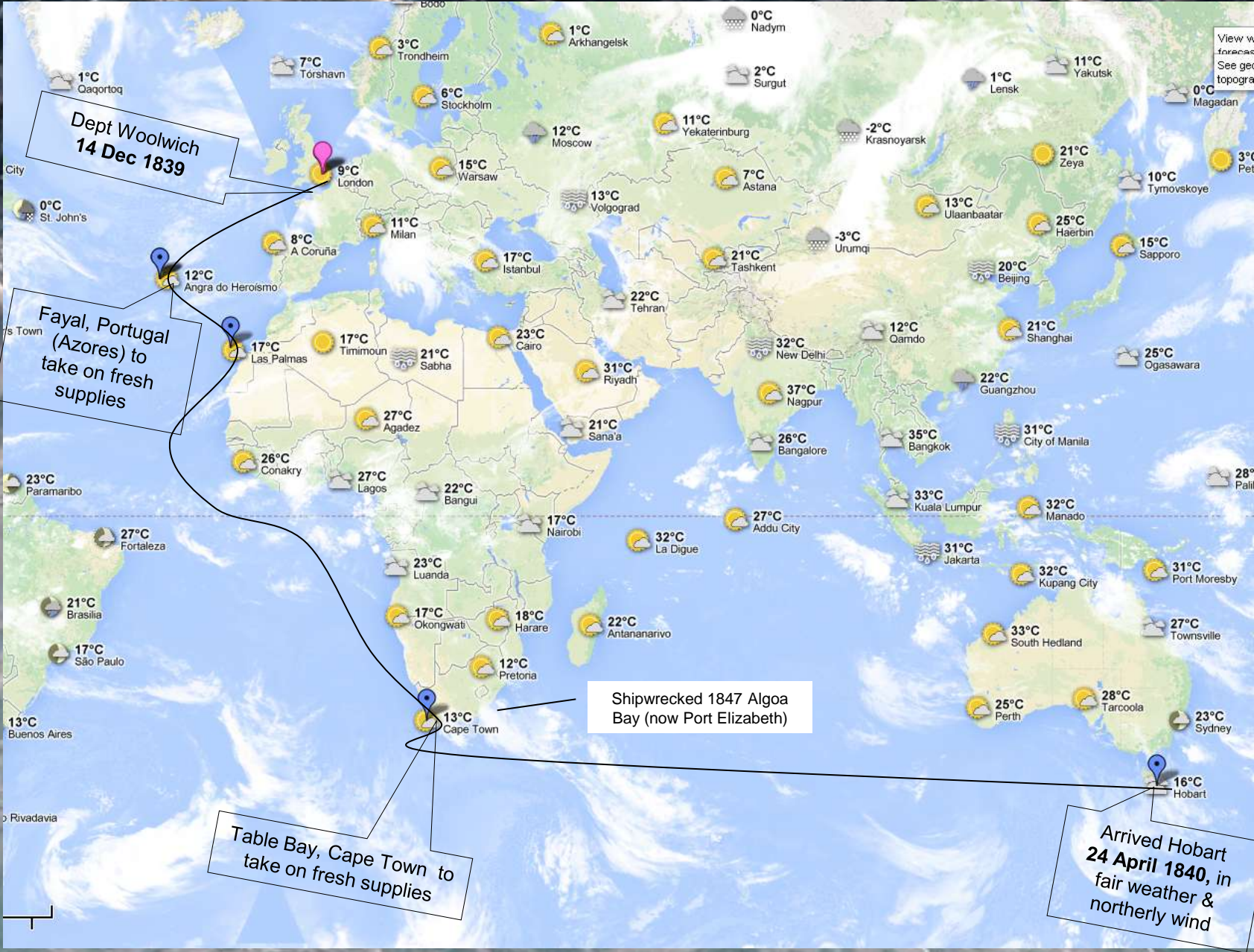
'Gilbert Henderson'

Bateson:

- Bark rig, 517 tons, built in Sunderland, 1837,
- Captain: James Tweedie
- Surgeon Superintendent: Sir John Hamett
- passage in 132 days

- People transport
- Shipwrecked in 1847

- **Embarked:** 185 females, 24 Children



View w
forecast
See get
topogra

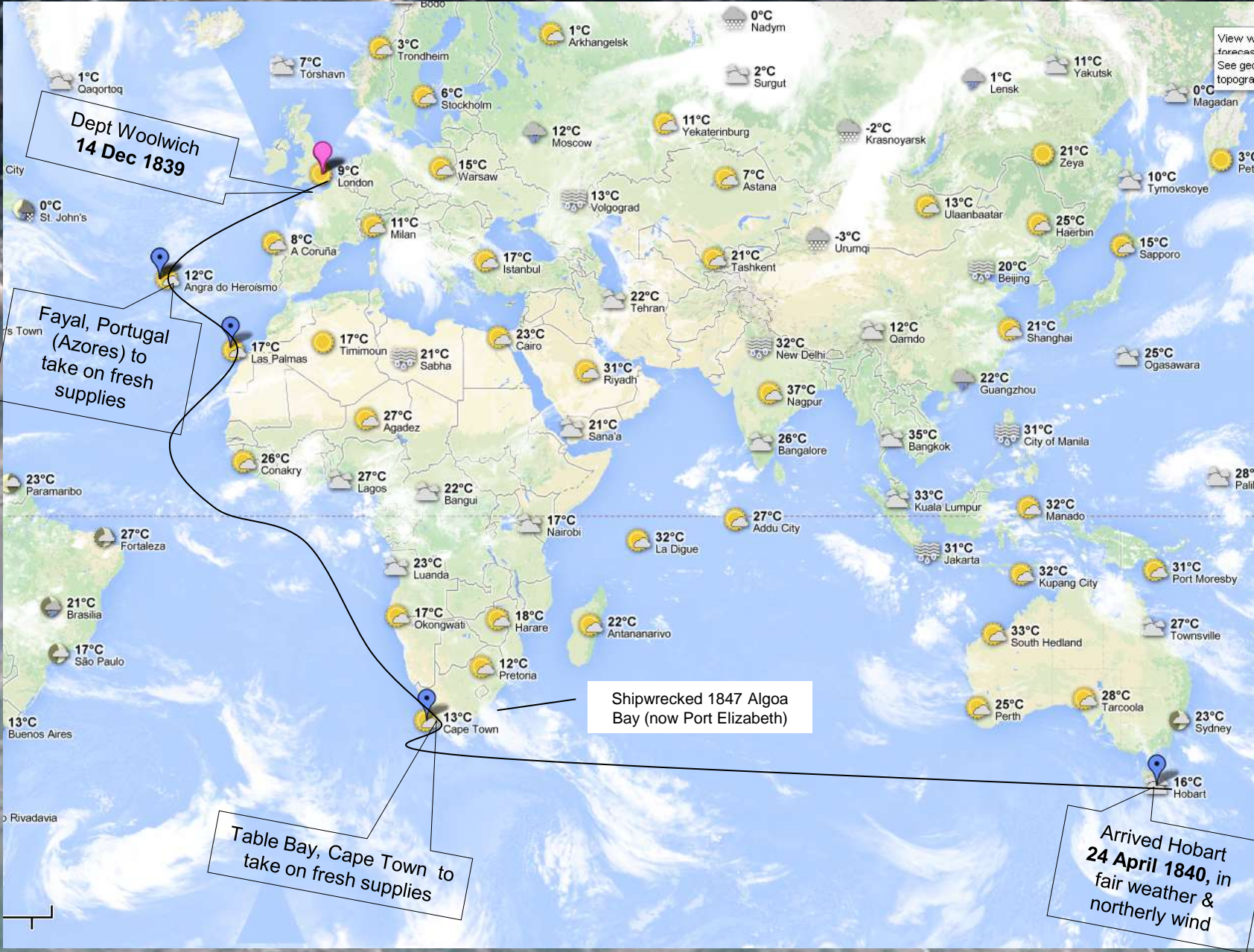
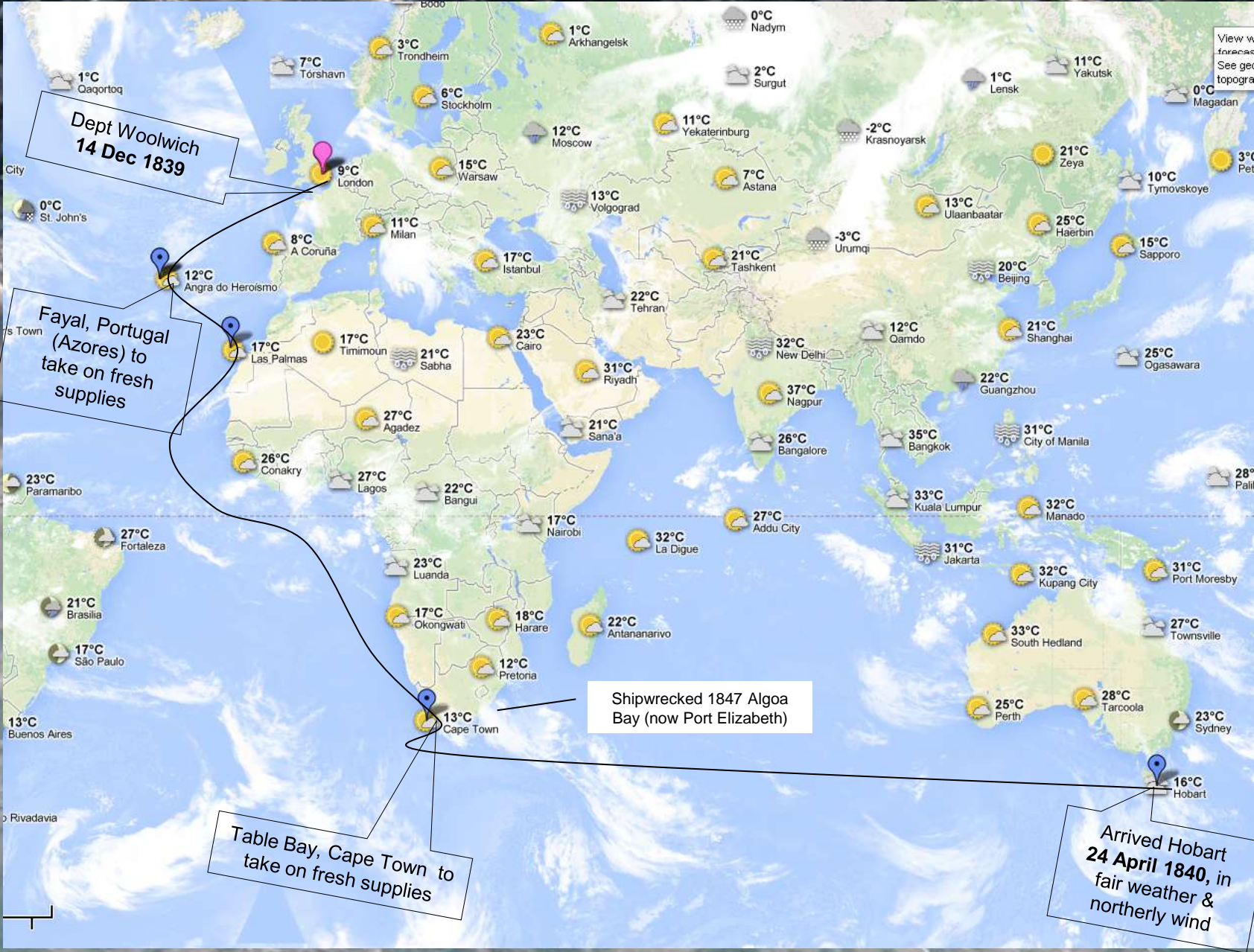
Dept Woolwich
14 Dec 1839

Fayal, Portugal
(Azores) to
take on fresh
supplies

Shipwrecked 1847 Algoa
Bay (now Port Elizabeth)

Table Bay, Cape Town to
take on fresh supplies

Arrived Hobart
24 April 1840, in
fair weather &
northerly wind



Surgeon's journal

Surgeon Superintendent's
medical & surgical journal, 54 pp.:

- Sick list
- Remarks on deaths: 1 adult, 1 infant
- Medical cases - e.g. Eliza Hall, Mary O'Connor
- General remarks - weekly routines, medical practices, conditions at sea

An aerial photograph of a turbulent ocean with white-capped waves, serving as the background for the text.

Personal Account of Voyage

- ca. 25 years after event!
- Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine, 1866
- Midshipman, 'M.'
- 28 crew
- 6 passengers
- Description of daily routine & events

An aerial photograph of a turbulent sea with white-capped waves, serving as the background for the text.

Life on board the '*Gilbert Henderson*'

Routine of order, ship's discipline & cleanliness:

- life in a day
- Sunday observances
- weekly work roster

System of minor government

- monitors
- governesses
- classes
- freedoms
- provisions – coarse stuff, tracts, books, bibles

Punishments

'few and far from severe'

- rations withheld – mildest and most freq.
- sent below
- wooden box
- cropping of the hair



'The benevolent Doctor'

Sir John Hamett

- High ranking naval officer, experienced
- benevolent

Provided well for his charges:

- provisions
- clean, wholesome envt.
- attended the sick
- made allowances consistent with ship's discipline, examples...



'The benevolent Doctor' Sir John Hamett

Examples:

- girl punished & made an example
- interaction between fem. convicts & seamen
- practical joke

Benefits

Arrival in Hobart

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REPORT of the Arrival at the Port of Hobart Town, of the *Barque Gilbert Henderson* 4th April

From whence	For Van Diemen's Land.		For New South Wales.	
	Cabin Passengers.	Steerage Passengers.	Cabin Passengers.	Steerage Passengers.
When sailed	14 th December			
State of health	Good			
Master	T. Widdie			
Owners	Henderson			
Tons	377			
Guns	6			
Port of Registry	London			
Build	British			
Crew	30			
Convicts	Male	Female	W.D. Phillips	
Cargo	Govt Stores			
Time when boarded				
Bearings and distance of the Light-house	S. 101 st 12 Miles			
Wind	Northerly			
Weather	Fine			
Pilot's name	Laurence			
Agent				
Remarks				

- 'fine day, northerly wind'

- 'State welcome' by Gov. Gen.

- processing the fem. convicts:

- Customs officer on board

- Where to next? 'a painful leave-taking'

- Direct assignment

- House of correction

- Transshipped



Hobart from Old Wharf in 1844 by J.S. Prout

Conclusions

- ‘Uneventful’ it was not!
- women well looked after > low death rate
- friendship & learning

‘closest thing to family in their new homeland’

Due to - commanding staff

- improving conditions
- ship’s build



