

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

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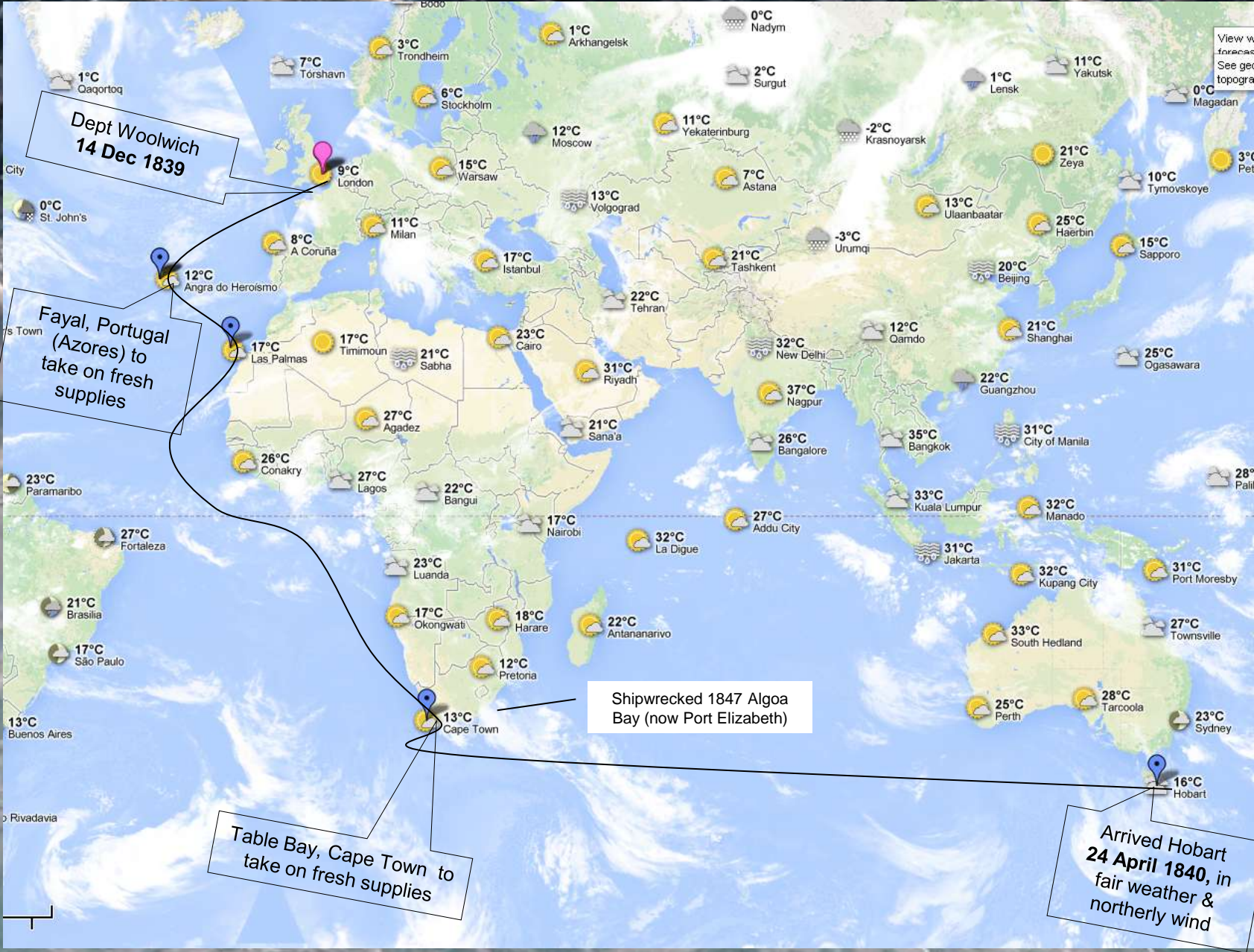
'Gilbert Henderson'

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



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

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	<i>Woolwich</i>	For Van Diemen's Land.		For New South Wales.	
		Cabin Passengers.	Steerage Passengers.	Cabin Passengers.	Steerage Passengers.
When sailed	<i>14th December</i>				
State of health	<i>Good</i>	<i>Six In-Hospital Surgeon Superintendent</i>			
Master	<i>Twiddie</i>	<i>D. Clarke Surgeon Inspector of Hospitals</i>			
Owners	<i>Henderson</i>	<i>Mr. W. Henderson</i>			
Tons	<i>377</i>	<i>Capt. Phillips late of the 4th Regt</i>			
Guns	<i>6</i>	<i>Mr. W. Henderson</i>			
Port of Registry	<i>London</i>	<i>Mr. W. Henderson</i>			
Build	<i>British</i>				
Crew	<i>30</i>				
Convicts	Male <i>—</i> Female <i>—</i>	<i>W. B. Clarke</i>			
Cargo	<i>Govt Stores</i>				
Time when boarded					
Bearings and distance of the Light-house	<i>S. 101st 12 Miles</i>				
Wind	<i>Northerly</i>				
Weather	<i>Fine</i>				
Pilot's name	<i>Laurence</i>				
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



