

THE GOOD SHIP NEPTUNE

Surely few ships have brought as many free pioneers to Wollongong as the *Neptune* in 1844. This ship, from Deptford & Cork, departed from Cork on 26 October 1843 and arrived in Sydney on 11 February 1844 carrying a number of families and persons who were destined to become well known in Illawarra.

Robert and Elizabeth Fishlock came with their family of four. Robert and Elizabeth were both engaged on arrival by **Thomas Evans** of Illawarra as farm servants. They were to receive £ 15 (\$30) per year with 20 lbs [pounds weight: about 10 kgs] of beef or mutton, the same weight of flour, 3 lbs of sugar and 6 ounces [170 grams] of tea thrown in. Robert was the son of **Roger and Mary Fishlock** of Devizes, Wiltshire while Elizabeth was the daughter of **William and Anne Amber**. Their son, young Michael Fishlock was engaged on arrival by William Senior of Illawarra to act as a farm servant for twelve calendar months at £ 5 per annum, together with board, washing and lodging.

William and Elizabeth George were also on board. William was a 26 year old native of London, the son of Willima and Hester. He is described in one part of the shipping records as a blacksmith and ironfounder by trade though elsewhere in the same records he is shown as a stonemason engaged by **Captain Towns**. His wife was also a native of London, a "straw bonnet maker". 27, the daughter of **James and Mary Greatwood**.

Another arrival was **William Dumbrell** a 28 year old carpenter, native of Lewis, Sussex engaged by **Captain Towns**. He was the son of Richard and Jane Dumbrell.

Lindsay tells us that **Captain Towns** was attempting to make lime at Shellharbour, for this he would have needed kilns, and it is possible these men were employed in that project. We find a few more builders employed by him such as "**George Knight**, carpenter, Wife and Family. Gone to work for Captain Towns at Wollongong - also settled on a clearing lease." Young Joseph Knight is shown as "Gone with his father to Wollongong". The Knights arrived with their mixed family, Joseph, George, Sarah and Kate Knight by George's first wife, and Eliza and William Gregory by Rebecca's first husband. Rebecca was a nurse, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Dearling. George, a native of Petworth in Sussex, was the son of Joseph and Anne Knight. Rebecca's sister Harriett and one Elizabeth Ann Couch came out under George's protection. Elizabeth Couch leaves our story

here but Harriett, after a stint in Sydney with an Ann Patten and perhaps other employers, married as his second wife, William Dumbrell - a shipboard romance perhaps?

Robert Carnell, variously described as a bricklayer or stonemason, had come out engaged to Captain Towns. Robert was a native of Chillhampton? Devon and the son of Thomas and Ann Carnell who were both living when Robert, Elizabeth and family sailed. Elizabeth, a native of Butterly, Devonshire was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Eldon??

The name Carnell is not well known to us in Illawarra to-day but Robert and Elizabeth were having children in the Kiama and Gerringong area between 1845 and 1853. Mrs Bessie Nurse of Raymond Terrace, a great grand daughter of **Michael and Cecelia Hindmarsh** tells me that the Anglican churches of St John's Raymond Terrace and St Barnabas, Booral as well as *The Gables*, the home he built at Booral, are memorials to his work. Did he leave his mark on *Alne Bank* also?

Captain Robert Towns (Captain of the ship *Brothers*) was a son-in-law of D'Arcy Wentworth, having married D'Arcy's daughter Sophia in 1833.(1) Sophia was a half sister to William Charles Wentworth. Robert appears to have been living on the Wentworth's Shellharbour Estate in the 1840s. He later went on to become the founder of Townsville.

Further information on most of these people may be learnt by consulting Archives Office Reels 2135 and 2451, which contain respectively the "Immigration Agents List" and the "Immigration Board List" for the *Neptune*. The latter reel is a most comprehensive source of information concerning the immigrants. A further source of material is *Illawarra Pioneers Pre-1900*. (2)

Acknowledgements

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(1) Carol Liston: *SARAH WENTWORTH - MISTRESS OF VAUCLUSE* Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales, Glebe NSW. 1988. ISBN 0 94975334 3

(2) *Illawarra Pioneers Pre-1900*. Illawarra Family History Group, Wollongong, New South Wales. 1988. ISBN 0-9589400-7-X