

--- Extracts from his journal, commencing from the time he left England for Hobart Town, V.D.L. -----

The full journal is available at <http://www.hagger.org/documents/WilliamWittjournal.htm>

Friday, Oct<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>, 1836. Left home, took boat for Gravesend, reached there in the evening; came on board the "Royal George".

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>. Set sail from Gravesend, came as far as the lower hope, five miles from Gravesend, here we anchored, again it has been a day of great confusion, some of the passengers playing, others singing songs: we had a good prayer meeting this evening, with our two Missionaries, Rev<sup>d</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Weatherstone, and Rev<sup>d</sup> W. Blyth, and their wives; were a little disturbed by some on board.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>. Capt<sup>n</sup> Richards came on board this morning, weighed anchor, came as far as Whitstable Bay, cast anchor for the night, our [little Alice](#) had a fit, but soon got better.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>. Set sail from Whitstable, came off Margate, cast anchor, wind against us, this day we had the unexpected pleasure of seeing our friend, Mr C Gloyen, who, came on board, and staid with us a short time.

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Oct<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Still off Margate, wind strong & boisterouse, the baby and Harriet very unwell; Captn Howell, came on board to see us, prayed, and left a short text with us, - "Look to Jesus."

Oct<sup>r</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>. Sunday, had service on board; a most lovely morning, but a fog came in, which hid our Native land from our view; and perhaps for ever, the will of the Lord, be done.

Oct<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our dear babe still very unwell, had two fits to day.

Oct<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>. It has been a day of trouble, little Alice very bad has had more fits, put her into a warm sea water bath, and a blister put upon the back of her neck. Rev<sup>d</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Weatherstone preached to day, it was a good time to our souls.

Oct<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup>. Had a good time at Class, today, we meet in the Missionaries Cabin, as often as possible for prayer &c; feel we stand in need of Divine support on board Ship, surrounded by ungodly men.

Oct<sup>r</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>. Fresh troubles to day; my dear Harriet miscarried at 8 o'clock, but through mercy I hope she will do well, our little Alice, much better.

Oct<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>th</sup>. In sight of Madeira, passed it in the evening, a little sport among the passengers, shooting at Birds &c. my dear Wife a little better.

Nov<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>. Our dear babe has had six strong fits to day, many of our fellow passengers are very kind, by their attentions to us in our afflictions.

Nov<sup>r</sup> 2. The babe a little better, had one fit to day, and another blister on the back of her neck, and the Mother still very unwell.

Nov<sup>r</sup> 5. My mind has been deeply afflicted to day, our child not expected to live, but the Lord, is our child not expected to live, but the Lord, is our support under all troubles

Nov<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>. This morning at 4 o'clock, the dear babe had another severe fit, which lasted till 9 o'clock, put her into a warm sea water bath, to all appearance she cannot last out much longer; may the Lord prepare our minds for all the dispensations of His Providence.

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Nov<sup>r</sup> 12. This morning our dear little sufferer has had four more fits, very strong.

Nov<sup>r</sup> 13. Our dear babe much worse to day, was in a fit from half past 10 O'clock to two in the afternoon, expected every moment to be her last; it has been a day of great trial, but the Lord is good, who will not put more upon us, than we are able to bear.

Nov<sup>r</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>. This morning at half past twelve o'clock, our Sister [Sarah Blanch](#), was confined with a fine [Boy](#); Neptune came on board to day which caused a little fun on Deck, water flying about in all directions, but we kept below; this evening we had a blessed season, whilst, commemorating the dying love of our Saviour, in the Missionaries Cabin.

Nov<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. This has been a good day to my soul, had service on the Quarter Deck, the Bell tolling, to call the sailors together; Mr Lyth, preached.

Dec<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>. To day my dear Harriet, proposed, that we should set apart, a few moments every day, to pray together in secret, especially for our babe, for its restoration to health, or, for resignation to the Divine will.

Dec<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>. This day the Lord has given me strength, to take up my cross, in leading our Class for the first time in my life, it was a refreshing season; O for more faith, that we may live, His name to glorify.

Dec<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>. In sight of the Cape of good Hope, anchored in Table Bay about seven O'clock in the evening.

Dec<sup>r</sup> 21<sup>st</sup>. Went on shore this morning, felt truly grateful for another opportunity of setting our feet on land, again; we visited the three Vineyards, at Constantia, the Settlers showed us great kindness.

Dec<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>. Set sail from the Cape, this day, to proceed on our voyage to Hobart Town, V.D.L. .

Dec<sup>r</sup> 31<sup>st</sup>. Becalmed, part of the day, but in the evening worse than a Storm; it being the last day of the year some had assembled themselves together, below, to drink and sing; the Captain speaking about the noise, put Mr Hector in a passion, who came up and struck the Captain, all was now confusion, the watch was called and ordered to put Mr H. in his own cabin; the

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cause of this sad disturbance, was, strong drink; a very sad way this, in closing the year, when will men be wise, to think of their latter end?

Jan<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>. 1837. Sunday, We have been permitted to see the commencement of a new year, may our future lives show forth His praise.

Jan<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>. A strong gale all day, the sea running mountains high; but through mercy, the Ship is keep -ing her right course.

Jan<sup>y</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>. Praise God, who, hath brought us through the Storm, in safety, with a very little damage to the Ship; had a good time at Class to day; and our dear little Alice, getting on nicely.

Feb<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>. Fine weather, good sailing, the last Class meeting we expect to have on board, it was a good time to all of us.

Feb<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>. Much rain, wind moderate, shortened sail at night, being not far from land.

Feb<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>. Praise God; this day brought us in sight of land, all in high spirits.

Feb<sup>y</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>. Sunday, the Pilot came on board this morning about seven o'clock, the scenery coming up the river Derwent was most beautiful, and to hear the Anchor let go, to pronounce the voyage ended, we did well to

thank God, and take courage, trusting in Him who has brought us so far on our journey through life. – The Rev<sup>d</sup> W<sup>m</sup>Butters came on board, to take Messrs Weatherstone and Lyth, with their Wives, to the Mission House, when I was introduced to him by them, and he kindly offered to find a bed for us among the friends, after taking tea at the Mission House; we went into the Chapel, we all felt it good to be there, especially at the Holy sacrament, among a united people, and my prayer is, that their God should be my God. -----

Voyage ended. 122 days

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Feb<sup>y</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>. 1837 Mr Mortimer has kindly let us have a little Cottage, near his house, to put our goods in, until we get settled in Hobart Town.

Feb<sup>y</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>. This day by the blessing of God we begin the world afresh, with £10. – in a foreign land, six -teen Thousands miles from our native land, and beloved friends; the Lord bless our little, [sic] and increase our faith.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. My brother in law, [John Blanch](#), opened his shop to day, and by me putting in the Goods I brought out, I am to receive a small share of the profits.