



Descendants of the Lacemakers of Calais

# NELSON



***Barque, 603 tons Old Measure, 128'4" x 26'5"***

***Built 1844 on the Clyde at Dumbarton by Denny & Rankin***

***Owner Potter and Co, Glasgow***

***Master: Captain William Harrison Lamond; Surgeon Superintendent: John Denniston MD***

***Plymouth 10 July 1848 to Port Henry Geelong 11 November 1848. 95 days at sea***

The *Nelson*, Clyde-built in the Dumbarton shipyards in 1844, was owned by Potter & Co of Glasgow and certified A1 for ten years by Lloyds. She was towed from Gravesend on a sunny day in the high sixties, with a west-sou'westerly wind. After four days in Plymouth Harbour taking on more emigrants and provisions, she set sail for Port Phillip. The mild weather and westerly wind helped to ease the trauma of the first days at sea.

The *Nelson* carried 250 emigrants on her second voyage to Melbourne, many of them agricultural workers. They co-operated with the authorities and each other to make life as tolerable as possible on board. There were no complaints about their treatment. Provisions were adequate, water kept sweet for the whole voyage, sleeping quarters were sufficiently roomy, and all praised their treatment by the Surgeon and the Master.

Soon after leaving Plymouth, a young woman was found to have a venereal disease, contracted on shore, and the other girls refused to eat with her or to use the same facilities. The Surgeon Superintendent, concerned at her forward behaviour towards the crew, was forced to place her under a curfew. A more rigorous inspection by the health officer at the port of embarkation would have detected her illness.

One single girl was pregnant, but her quiet, modest demeanor [sic] and her stated intention to join her mother in the Colony, so contrasted with the behaviour of the other girl that her condition was more acceptable than was usual at that time.

From *The Somerset Years*, Florence Chuk. Pennard Hill Publications, Ballarat 1987, p102

On 10 October 1870, *Nelson* hit rocks and sank near the Seven Stones at the entrance to the English Channel while on a voyage from Aguilas to the Tyne.