

# EMPEROR



*Ship, 543 tons Old Measure, Owner: Somes Brothers.*

*Master: Captain Day, Surgeon Superintendent: Dr O'Neill*

*London, July 27, 1848 to Port Jackson November 4, 1848 – 101 days at sea*

## SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO *EMPEROR* & HER PASSENGERS

*By early November immigrants had reached Maitland from the *Earl Grey* and the *Emperor* and the majority seemed to find employment fairly quickly. The *Mercury* reported on November 11th that only three families from the *Agincourt* remained in the Depot, and two from the *Emperor*. One of the *Emperor* families was the cause of great concern. ...we are sorry to find the Immigration Board in Sydney has committed a grave oversight in allowing one family to leave Sydney, while the mother Mrs Shelton, and her son James, aged 11 years, were suffering from typhus fever. It was observed when they arrived on Thursday that Mrs Shelton and her son were very ill, and on their arrival at the Depot had to be assisted in, and immediately placed in bed. Dr Wilton was sent for and found them both labouring under typhus fever, although in its mildest, and least dangerous form. The best arrangements were made that could be provided on the spur of the moment, and yesterday Dr Wilton was authorised to make in the Depot whatever arrangements he thought necessary for the isolation and treatment of Mrs Shelton and her son, apart from the remaining immigrants. Yesterday Mrs Shelton was rather better, but her son, a fine boy, was worse.*

*From Tulle, November 1995, page 27.*

## REMARKS ON THE VOYAGE FROM THE SHIP'S DEPOSIT JOURNAL, 1849

*The *Emperor* is defective as a transport for Emigrants to this colony owing to its narrowness and the want of sufficiently large side Scuttles and ports. A number of the seamen were lodged in the fore part of the Poop during the voyage which is obviously an objectionable arrangement.*

*The 'tween decks of the vessel were in a dirty state on her arrival and there was every appearance of defective discipline.*



*The Immigrants expressed themselves as fully satisfied with the quality of provisions and water, and with the quantity issued to them.*

*The married couples and unmarried males were generally of agreeable description, but of the single females several were of bad character. On this point full particulars will be found in a Report of the Immigrants to be forwarded to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.*

*An unmarried man named Frederick Gamble was placed in the Lunatic Asylum at Tarban Creek from which place he has been discharged as cured.*

*The principal diseases as reported by the Surgeon Superintendent are Diarrhea and (Chacheche) diseases.*

*Great freedom of intercourse seems to have existed between the emigrants and the Mates and the seamen.*

*On grounds which are stated in the Report of the Board, His Excellency the Governor has directed the disallowance of a portion of the Surgeon Superintendent's gratuity and the whole of that of the Chief Mate. The Master was acquitted of responsibility in respect of the matters that occasioned the disallowances.*

*Francis Merewether, Agent for Immigration*

*Immigration Office, Sydney*

*January 29th, 1849*



## REMARKS.

N. B.—Under this head it would be desirable to receive as much information respecting the Food and the People as was given in the former: a general description of the Food to be given as far as regards the quantity for the consumption of Passengers, and of the quality of the Accommodations afforded to them. If the People have been victimized by the Ship, the quantity and quality of the Food and their health also be mentioned: as well as any complaints that may have been made by the Passengers on any of the above points. It would be desirable to know in which the Surgeon Superintendent appears to have discharged his duties, and the condition and quality of the Emigrants and the crew, with the general state of their health during the Voyage, and on Arrival, and the diseases which had been most prevalent among them, and it would be useful to add any general remarks that may present themselves on the Conduct of the People and the arrangements made on board.

The "Emperor" is defective as a transport for Emigrants to this Colony owing to the narrowness and the want of sufficiently large outside berths and stowage places. The number of the Seamen were lodged in the fore part of the Deck during the Voyage which is obviously an objectionable arrangement.

The "Queen" decks of the "Kessel" were in a dirty state on her arrival, and was every appearance of defective discipline.

The Immigrants expressed themselves fully satisfied with the quality of the provisions and water and with the quantity issued to them.

The married couples and unmarried males were generally of a good description but of the single females several were of bad character. A full and particular list will be found in a Report of the Surgeon Superintendent and accompanying Papers which His Excellency the Governor has ordered to be forwarded to the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.

An unmarried named Frederick Gamble was placed in the "Queen" deck at Suban Creek from which place he has been discharged as a criminal.

The principal diseases, as reported by the Surgeon Superintendent, were "Dysentery and Cholera" diseases.

Great freedom of intercourse appears to have existed between the natives and the immigrants.

On grounds which are stated in the Report of the Board, where His Excellency the Governor has directed the disallowance of a portion of the charges of freight and the whole of that of the Chief Mate. His Excellency was requested to inspect the matters which occasioned these disallowances.

Immigration Office,

Sydney, 29 January 1849

W. P. M.

J. Dennis & Co  
Agent for Immigration