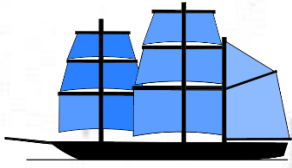


ANDROMACHE



Barque, 468 tons Old Measure, 119'2" long; 29'7" wide at her broadest point and 6'8" 'tween decks

Built 1828 at Scarborough, owned by Tebbut & Co of London

Master: Michael Passmore, Surgeon Superintendent: James McKechnie

London July 8, 1848 to Port Henry, Geelong, November 8, 1848 – 131 days at sea

Since her passage to the Colony in 1841, the *Andromache* had suffered some damage at sea. She was reclassified as A1 for seven years after total repairs in 1845, with some general repairs being made early in 1848.

On July 8 the *Andromache* was towed down the Thames to begin another voyage to Port Phillip. Strong, squally westerly to south-westerly winds buffeted the little barque as she sailed out into the Strait of Dover, and consideration for his cargo of landlubbers made the Master put into Deal to await calmer weather. Hard squalls on the 9th kept the *Andromache* sheltering in port, but a change on the 10th to freshening northerlies and mild weather sent her on her way. At Plymouth, passengers enjoyed several days of summer warmth; just 68° and a balmy southerly breeze—and, as they left the harbour, they waved farewells to fellow-adventurers on the emigrant vessel *North Britain*, as she too set sail for Quebec.

The *Andromache* was said to be suitable for use as an emigrant vessel, being high between decks. With 190 steerage passengers, she was free from overcrowding. A rule-of-thumb estimate allowed 2 tons (200 cubic feet) of space to every emigrant, or a ratio of 1:2, emigrants to tonnage. The living-space on *the Andromache* was nearer to 250 cubic feet for each passenger.

Discipline and cleanliness during the voyage were good, and the emigrants were kindly and considerate towards each other. No Matron was appointed on leaving London, but the Surgeon decided that one was needed, and chose Susan Knighton, 'a steady and prudent Female', to care for the single girls. Altogether, it was a reasonably pleasant voyage. There

were three births at sea, and only three deaths; although owing to the lengthy voyage of nearly 120 days medical comforts ran short before reaching the Colony.

In spite of the arrival of several immigrant ships within a few weeks of each other, wages remained steady. The current labour shortage ensured that all immigrants were employed within a few days, with the exception of two married couples, each with six children. One couple were said to be lacemakers from France, compelled to flee their homeland during the Revolution of February 1848.

The Somerset Years, Chuk, Florence. Pennard Hill Publications, Victoria 1987, pp101

