The Logbook of the Timandra



Come aboard a real nineteenth-century emigrant ship

John Parsons

Nelson Literacy Directions

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The Logbook of the *Timandra*



Dear Reader

For thousands of years, people have moved from place to place, in search of a better life for themselves and their families.

Countries such as the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand all have diverse cultures and societies, built upon a history of emigration from other places.

> **... A NASTY HEAD SEA, SHIP PITCHING HEAVILY. ALL THE EMIGRANTS BELOW DECK BEING SEASICK ...**

In this book, we can read first-hand accounts from the captain and passengers of an emigrant ship, the *Timandra*, which carried emigrants from England to New Zealand in 1841.

I hope you enjoy their stories!

John Parsons

My sincere thanks to the following people for their time, information, images and enthusiasm for this book:

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1 Countdown to the Colonisation of New Zealand

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1642

A **New** Land

In 1642, the Māori tribes who lived in Aotearoa had their first contact with Europeans. A Dutch explorer, Abel Tasman, and his two ships, the *Heemskerck* and the *Zeehaen*, anchored near the northern end of the South Island. Things didn't get off to a good start.

The next morning, Māori who lived in the area sent out canoes to investigate the new arrivals. A fight started and several men lost their lives. Tasman sailed away without landing.

A few years later, maps made of his voyage called the new land after a Dutch province: *Nieuw Zeeland*.



Abel Tasman's map of New Zealand and his two ships

AOTEAROA

The Māori name for New Zealand is Aotearoa, which means "land of the long white cloud".



Geography

An Accurate Map



Abel Tasman's hand-drawn map of the north-western tip of the South Island was very accurate.

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1769



Captain James Cook

For over one and a quarter centuries, there was no further recorded contact between the Māori and the Europeans. But in 1769, a naval captain from England, James Cook, returned to the land that was known in English as New Zealand. He and his crew spent many months, and several voyages, exploring the country and making contact with Māori in many areas.

As a result of Cook's explorations, which were big news in Europe and in North America, New Zealand began to be visited by ships from lots of different countries. British, French and American ships hunted whales and seals around its shores. Trading ships also visited, swapping European goods such as blankets, guns and metal tools with food, water, flax and wood traded by local Māori.

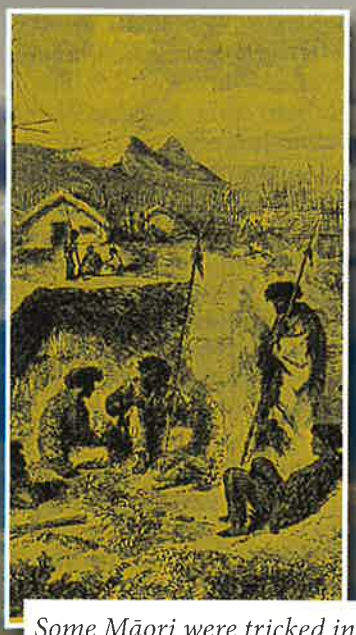
1788



the new settlement of Sydney in Australia

In 1788, the British founded the colony of New South Wales in Australia. At that time, they decided that New South Wales should include all the islands they had visited in the South Pacific, so New Zealand became part of New South Wales. Unfortunately, no one asked the Māori people who were already living there. No one from the settlement of Sydney, New South Wales, showed much enthusiasm for actually going to New Zealand either.

1839



Some Māori were tricked into selling their land cheaply.

For 40 years, sailors, whalers, sealers and traders who visited New Zealand did whatever they pleased. There were some Europeans who settled in New Zealand, but there was a lot of lawlessness and bad behaviour.

In 1839, a group of wealthy English businesspeople realised they could make a lot of money by buying land cheaply off the Māori and selling it to English settlers who wanted to start a new life far from England. They formed a company called the New Zealand Company and started selling off land before they'd even bought it. They even started making plans as if they were the government of New Zealand — something that alarmed the real British government, who felt that they should be in charge.

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1840



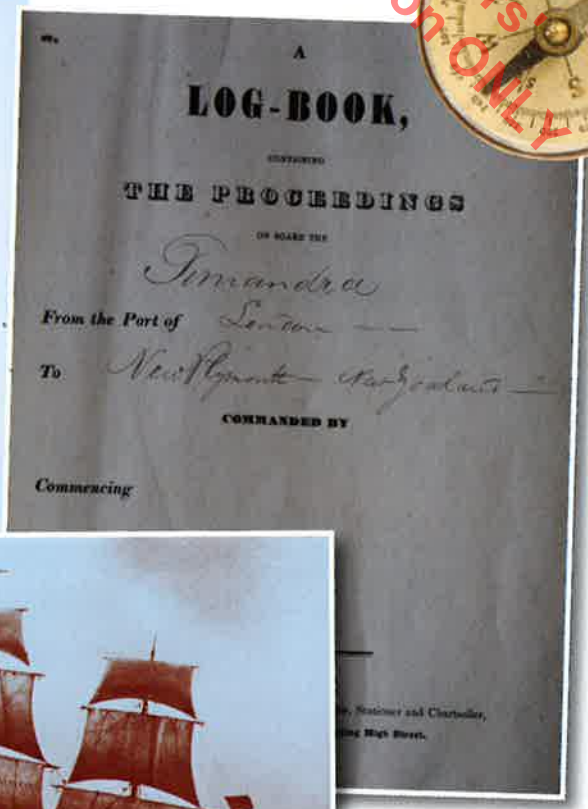
the Treaty of Waitangi, partially burned when the government offices in Auckland caught fire in 1841

On 6 February 1840, the British and about 40 Māori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi, which gave the British government control over New Zealand in return for protecting Māori lands and rights. Despite this, the New Zealand Company continued buying and selling Māori land. They began advertising in England, telling people that they could have a wonderful new life in New Zealand, and that land was cheap and plentiful. For many poor families in England who had little hope of ever owning their own land, this sounded almost too good to be true. Thousands of people signed up to become emigrants. On voyages lasting for months, they sailed halfway around the world in cramped and unhygienic conditions in order to find a better life for themselves and their children.

2 The Logbook of the *Timandra*

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The New Zealand Company hired sailing ships to take the emigrants from England to their new land. On 7 September 1841, the cargo ship *Timandra* was chosen as one of these ships, and the owners hurried to make her ready for the voyage. The *Timandra* usually carried coal, wool or other goods, but this time her cargo would be people.


A
LOG-BOOK,
THE PROCEEDINGS
Timandra
From the Port of
To
COMMANDED BY
Commencing



the Timandra *(left) and ship captain's logbook (above)*

In this book, the voyage of the *Timandra* is recounted by its senior officer, Captain Skinner. Every day, Captain Skinner wrote in his logbook, diarising the events and progress of the journey. **Captain Skinner's logbook entries are in green.**

A passenger on board, Mr Josiah Flight, also kept a diary. **Josiah's diary entries are in blue.** In Chapter Three, we hear what settlers thought of their new home, from letters they sent to friends and family back in England.

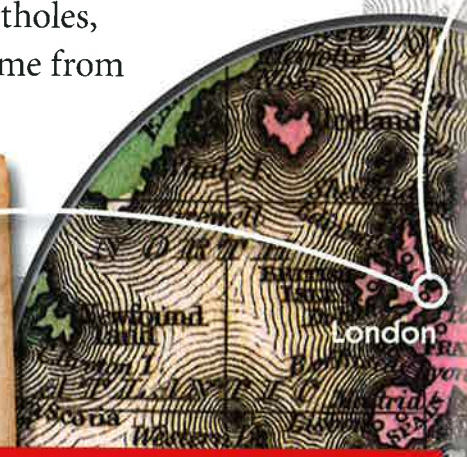
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PREPARING FOR DEPARTURE

In the busy port of London, Captain Skinner hired carpenters to get his ship ready. For two weeks, they built rough, cramped bunks below deck, in the ship's hold. The hold, which was below the waterline, was dark and damp. There were no separate rooms, no portholes, no toilets or bathrooms, and the only fresh air came from the hatches opening onto the deck.

21 September 1841.
Lying in the London docks

This day begins with moderate breezes from the westward and cloudy weather. The carpenters are employed painting the masts and with other jobs about the decks. Received on board fifty water casks of 150 gallons each.



GALLON

A gallon is an old unit of measurement equal to slightly more than 4.5 litres.

The Original Logbook

The logbook of the *Timandra* was one of thousands of blank logbooks that were sold in stationery shops, much like exercise books used today in classrooms. The *Timandra* logbook has heavy, water-stained blue cardboard covers. Inside, it has mottled, yellow paper, filled with entries detailing every day on board the ship. The writing starts out in bold, black ink, but by the time of the last entry, the ink has obviously been watered down to a light grey colour to make it last longer.



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7 October 1841.
Lying in the London docks

This day begins with moderate breezes and cloudy weather. The crew is employed boarding the sails and hauling the ship to another jetty to take on board the anchors and their cables. Took in several of the stores this day.

SHIP'S STORES

The ship's stores consisted of the food that would be taken on the voyage. The chart below shows the amounts of different foods the New Zealand Company allowed Captain Skinner to take on board to feed the emigrants.

Food Stores for 212 Emigrants for Four Months	
Bread 9 100 kilograms	Potatoes 3 930 kilograms
Beef 1 300 kilograms	Tea 80 kilograms
Pork 1 960 kilograms	Coffee 120 kilograms
Preserved meat 1 300 kilograms	Sugar 980 kilograms
Flour 2 290 kilograms	Butter 490 kilograms
Raisins 650 kilograms	Pickled cabbage 430 litres
Suet 240 kilograms	Salt 160 kilograms
Peas 2 090 litres	Mustard 40 kilograms
Rice 1 300 kilograms	



In addition, the captain was allowed to take medical supplies, which consisted of 280 litres of lime juice (to ward off scurvy), 60 kilograms of oatmeal and five kilograms of arrowroot.