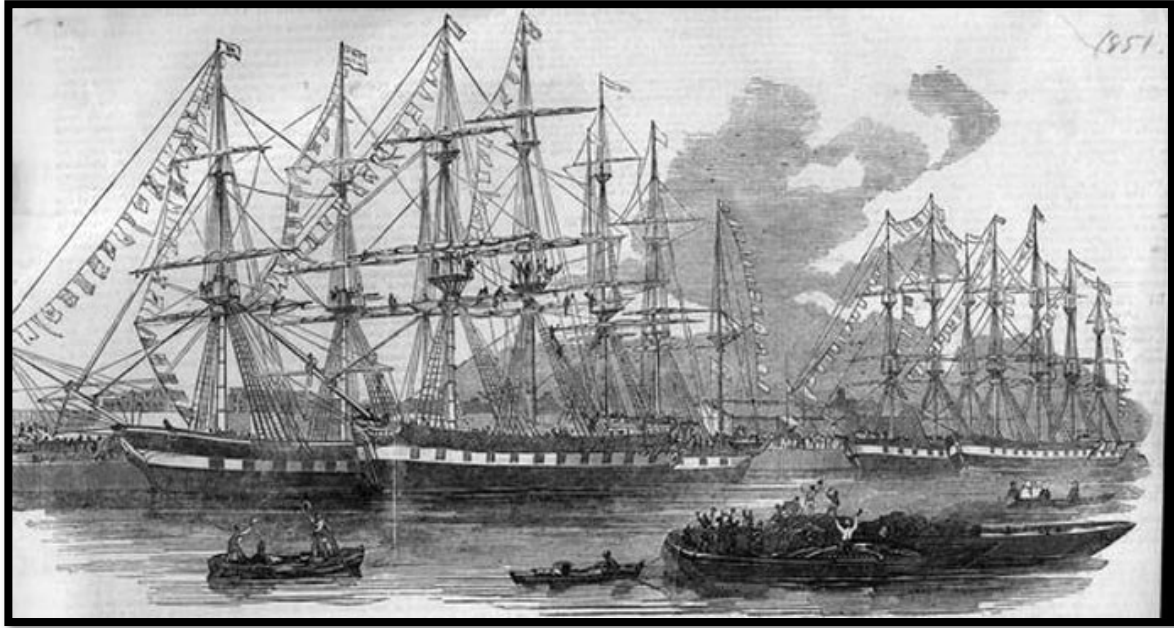


The Lady Nugent

Dr George Roberts R.N. was the Superintendent Surgeon on the Lady Nugent. This overview was mostly compiled from Dr Roberts' shipping notes which were in the ship's journal. Dr Roberts had made a number of previous trips over the high seas and his experiences gave him a valuable insight into the best care for the passengers on the Lady Nugent.

The Lady Nugent was a fully rigged wooden sailing ship with three masts. It was built in 1813 and received a number of modifications over the years. For the journey from Gravesend to Port Jackson in 1838 it weighed 535 tons.



*The Canterbury Association ships
Bangalore, Dominion, Duke of Portland, Lady Nugent, Midlothian and Canterbury in the East India
Docks, London*

Thomas and Eliza Southwell with their two small children (Thomas 3 years and Mary Ann 18 months) embarked on the Lady Nugent at Gravesend on 20th July 1838. Eliza's brother Thomas Cooke and his wife Mary Ann (nee Crouch) with eight children (from 12 months to 17 years) were also making the journey. Another family on board were Alfred Bembrick (13 months) and his parents James and Elizabeth Bainbridge (Bembrick).

On the passenger list Thomas Southwell was listed as a labourer and Eliza as a farm servant. Thomas Cooke was shown as a labourer and rough carpenter while Mary Ann was also a farm servant. James Bainbridge was listed as a sawyer and his wife Elizabeth a farm servant.

The Southwell family and the Cookes had all been in the Salehurst Parish, one of the larger rural parishes in the County of Sussex. The parish had encountered hard times and residents

were encouraged to migrate. Large posters were displayed which offered "Emigration to New South Wales" for married men of good character who belonged to the Battle Union. Emigrants were to be aged no more than fifty years, with any number of children, provided that no more than two were under seven years of age.

In order to assist emigrants to Sydney, New South Wales, the Poor Law Unions of Salehurst agreed to pay adults £2/10/- and children £1/10/- or £1/5/- for their expenses. As such Thomas and Eliza Southwell were paid the sum of £7/10/-. The money was to help provide for clothing and travel to the port of embarkation. The Cooke family, having more children, was paid £16/5/-.

After embarking on 20 July and carefully loading the barque and making preparations for the journey the boat went to sea on 23rd July

1838 and arrived in Sydney on 27 November 1838. The barque carried 47 families, comprising 238 souls. There were 81 adult males, 75 adult females, 73 children between 1 and 11 years, and 9 infants under one year.

The ship was well planned with a good height between decks and numerous scuttles (*openings with a lid in the ship's deck or side*), which allowed for free circulation of air. There was ample accommodation for the number on board and there was sufficient room in the hold for all their luggage. As the luggage was stowed away the between decks were perfectly clear which enabled cleaning and free air ventilation to the sleeping berths.

On proceeding to sea on 23 July 1838, three days after their embarkation on 20 July, the wind was light and favourable. However, the wind picked up and was accompanied by rain, which made the ship very uncomfortable for the first two weeks and caused the women and children to be seasick. The nursing mothers suffered severely. Some also suffered diarrhoea.

After the weather eased the passengers recovered from the seasickness. Three gallons (*13.6 litres*) of soup was then prepared each day from processed meat, with barley or rice. The soup was given to those females and children who most needed it. Nursing mothers were also given a third of a bottle of porter (*a dark style of beer - stout*) daily. Processed milk was given to suckling children until supplies were exhausted when they were given sago and arrowroot which the children resisted. By the end of the voyage the children showed signs of mal-nourishment.

While passing through the tropics some men suffered with fever but all recovered.

There were two deaths during the voyage. One person had suffered with hepatitis for twelve months prior to embarkation. The other death was that of an infant from apoplexia (*stroke*). The child was nine months old and had seemed healthy until the day of its death when it had convulsions.

During the voyage particular care was taken to clean the between decks and keep them dry at all times. In fine weather the decks were scraped dry and swept. In wet or damp weather the decks were rubbed with hot sand after being scraped and airing stoves were used through the

day. Fumigation with chloride of lime was carried out once a week and the decks aired. The bedding was aired every day, when the weather permitted.

After the first fourteen days at sea lemonade was infused daily and an allowance of wine also given every second day.

The Lady Nugent arrived in Sydney on 27 November 1838 with all passengers in excellent health. There were no cases of scurvy.

The following report was printed in the Sydney Morning Herald on 28 November 1838.

“The Lady Nugent which arrived yesterday from England has brought 47 emigrant families, consisting of 238 persons, under the superintendence of an old visitor to these shores, Dr. Roberts, R.N., who has kindly furnished us with the following information:

Description of emigrants per Lady Nugent:

- 1 farm overseer
- 27 agriculturists
- 9 farm servants
- 2 farm rough carpenters
- 2 charcoal burners
- 4 shepherds and sheep-shearers
- 2 grooms and coach-men
- 1 house carpenter
- 1 sawyer
- 1 brick-maker
- 1 quarryman
- 2 bricklayers
- 1 blacksmith
- 2 butchers
- 5 shoemakers
- 3 compositors
- 1 female cook
- 4 dairy-women
- 11 female servants
- 1 dressmaker
- 1 seamstress
- 1 dressmaker and nurserymaid.”