

Australia
John Kent

Subj: RE: JKM
Date: 10/4/2006 9:14:52 P.M. Eastern Standard Time
From: denisem@powerup.com.au
To: JeddyVeronica@aol.com

Hi Jim,

The ship to Australia from California was the "**ORPHEUS**" left San Fran June 20th 1852. I have a few names from the sketchy info here but there were another 140 passengers (unnamed at this end). They may well have been steerage passengers, who often times were not recorded on arrival. We have so far found about 8 on this ship - a couple who weren't named in the newspaper piece with the few names, so as these two were from Somerset, I guess there may well be more. Also a letter written by one of the passengers before they sailed named names, so we gathered a couple more. Finger's crossed.

The other ship worth checking was the "**ROCKLAND**" which left New York in April 20th (or close to) 1853. This is the ship which has dozens of names of Somerset Co men and boys. However, as I said the names were often misspelt - it was from a New York Times shipping notice that we gleamed these names, not the actual shipping list, so transcriptions could have been done in error by the newspaper, as well as the one taking the names down as they boarded. there is no acknowledgement here in official records which we can access that the Rockland even arrived - it is one of those which slipped thru the indexing, or the information was lost. So if not for the NY Times, we wouldn't have a clue who was on board, although now we have letters and a journal mentioning the voyage. That was sheer luck tho.

We have had to wade thru names like PEGO listed on the shipping list for Rockland. His name in fact was TEAGUE (a Somerset man) - we have letters showing TEEGO. Francis Teague has eluded us for a couple of years, but sorting thru various things, letters etc we have him now. The name was known as TEGO at times in USA, so from TEGO we got PEGO (transcription error I guess) to TEEGO to TEAGUE. Deduction! But it took 2 years until once clue linked to another. And other names on the Rockland are spelt incorrectly.

If you are able to gather the complete shipping lists at all, that would be great - often they tell more than just names - you find friends travelling together, in fact often times, the unexpected - a brother or cousin.

No, the ships I believe did not round the horn to California and then come across the Pacific on the one voyage anyway - not certainly in the gold rush times. From New York they travelled down the Atlantic and across the Indian Ocean and mostly into Melbourne. From San Fran they travelled straight usually to Sydney, sometimes via Hawaii, Fiji, or some of the Pacific Islands and often times New Zealand.

I just love your website - it is attractive, clear and easy to get around. It's very impressive Jim, congratulations. Is this your occupation by chance?

At the moment all I can tell you is that the name MORRISON is mentioned in one of the letters as being 'cabin mates' on the Rockland with the letter author. THERE IS NO MORRISON listed on the Rockland but D Morris is. Morrison was from Bloomfield which made my eyes jump out of their sockets! So you can see why I feel it important to get the shipping list of the Rockland. Do any of these names fit in your tree?

Swift Richard B. of Bloomfield.
Allen, could be Freeman, Francis, Franklin or Daniel - all came
Reed of Madison,
Longley of Norridgewock - could be Langley
Edwards of Skowhegan.
Dinsmore
Bates
Davis
Conealy

These men bar Franklin and Dan Allen were cabin mates and all from Somerset Co. except for Conealy.

Now I think I've wrote early "Morrison" was in the northeast, I apologise, I should have said the reference was