

The Story Of William & Emma Lingard.

William was born at Enfield in Middlesex England, in the year of Our Lord 1842, and was one of 7 brothers and sisters.

William and his brothers were mainly Gunsmiths, while his father William Lingard Snr was a Foreman of Lochs, as where they lived in Enfield, was the place for making the famous Enfield Rifle, and the water from the Lochs was needed for the foundry.

When William was 21 years old, he married Emma Risley born 1844, from Edmonton, which was only a couple of miles away from his village and they eventually got married at Tottenham on 21st September 1865. After a couple of years, they noticed an advertisement in the local paper,

**==== WORKERS REQUIRED TO HELP BUILD THE CITY OF BRISBANE
IN AUSTRALIA – FREE PASSAGE ====**

so they decided to make the voyage with some friends who William worked with by the name of Skerman, and start a new life where things might be better.

They signed the passenger list on Her Majesty's Ship the "Netherby", and left London on 16th March 1866 bound for Brisbane. Australia with 452 emigrants and 52 crew under the command of Captain Owen Owens...

Everything went well on board the ship, until they rounded the Southern coast of Australia, and began to approach the Bass Strait.

Overcast conditions prevented the master from taking observations of the sun for several days, and about 7:30 pm on July 17th 1866, the lookout suddenly called "breakers ahead". Within three minutes the vessel had sailed onto the rocks some 35 miles south of Cape Wickham, thus giving her name to a small promontory south of what was later named Currie Harbour on King Island.

<http://www.kingisland.net.au/~maritime/netherby.htm>

Unlike the ill-fated Catarina, 21 years earlier, the Netherby ended up close inshore, and canted over to shoreward, sheltering those on deck from the seas which also appear to have been much more kindly on this occasion. One of the crew managed to get ashore with a line, by which a heavier line was passed to him. One of the boats was hauled to and fro along it to ferry all hands to the beach quite safely.

Provisions and gear were then recovered, and tents were made from sails hung from framework cut from small trees in the vicinity. The castaways were provisioned on a pannikin of flour and a packet of cocoa per day. Two days after the wreck, one of the female passengers successfully gave birth to twins, bringing the total number of castaways to 506. Chief Petty Officer Parry and eight of the crew set off northward to find habitation, and five days later met up with superintendent Hickmott of the Cape Wickham Lighthouse.

After they had recovered from their ordeal, Parry and the four strongest men set off for Melbourne in the lighthouse's boat. They landed near Anglesea on the Victorian coast, having been taken westward by the currents from their intended landfall at Port Phillip Heads. They eventually caught up with an old shepherd, who had earlier mistaken them for bushrangers, who then led them to Roadnight's Station.

From here, Parry rode a horse 35 miles to Geelong, from where news of the wreck finally reached Melbourne.

The Victorian Government immediately provisioned its steamers "Victoria" and "Pharos" and sent them to recover the castaways. They were all picked up successfully and housed at the Exhibition Building, while subscriptions were raised to provide them with new clothes and transport to their final destination.

At this point, a lot of the castaways decided that the journey to Brisbane was going to be too long and too hard, so most of them decided to stay within Victoria. Quite a few decided to take up land in northwestern Victoria near Lake Hindmarsh to found the township of Netherby. William Lingard decided he would give the Goldfields a go, so with his wife Emma, they set out on their own and ended up at a town named Gordon's near Ballarat in Victoria. The name of the town has now been changed to Gordon. After making enough money, they decided to head up along the Goulburn River. Eventually they ended up at Mooropna (near Tatura) in Victoria with seven children in tow, all of which had been born at different towns along the way, such as Gordon, Black Mountain, Yarrawonga, Echuca, Kerang, Koondrook and Rutherglen. He then set about establishing Lingard's Sawmill which is located just north of Hurricane Bend on the river at the bottom end of McIlroy Rd, which over recent years, has been sold off and developed into a new subdivision.

Emma died 13th May 1913.

William died 29th Oct 1914.

They are both buried at Coburg General Cemetery
C of E. Compartment. Lot No.623.

**My name is Larry Lingard-Davis, and I am his
Great Grandson**

**(Oh, and I would just like to say that, my birthday is Oct 29th
the same date that William died.)**

