

William Bryan

Ship: 312 Tons

Captain: Alexander McLean

Surgeon Superintendent: Henry Weeks

Sailed Plymouth 19th November 1840 - arrived New Plymouth 30th March 1841

William Bryan was the first of the New Zealand (Plymouth) Company's ships to arrive at the settlement of New Plymouth. This pioneer vessel left Plymouth Sound, England on November 19th 1840 and anchored in Cloudy Bay, Cooks Strait on March 19th (20th in the NZC records) 1841. From here Mr Cutfield, who was in charge of the expedition, hired a cutter to take him to Wellington where he visited Colonel Wakefield. At his request, Mr Cutfield was given a Pilot to guide them to the Taranaki settlement. After receiving orders to make ready to proceed to Taranaki on March 25th, *William Bryan* set sail three days later on March 28th and arrived on March 30th. Mr (Dicky) Barrett had arranged for the building of houses to accommodate the new arrivals and they commenced, almost immediately, to move their belongings to the site of the new town - *New Plymouth*.

Ages of children as written in the New Zealand Company records are not precise and are given as ranges.

<i>Name</i>		<i>Age</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Occupation</i>
<i>Cabin & Intermediate Passengers</i>				
Aubrey	Alexander	18		Esquire
Aubrey	Frederick William	19		Esquire
Chilman	Richard	24		Agent
	Agnes	26		
Cutfield	George	40		Esquire (See above)
King	Thomas	20		Agent
Weekes	Henry	25		Surgeon
<i>Steerage Passengers</i>				
Baily	Enoch	38		Carpenter
Bray	Thomas	31		Agricultural Labourer
	Mrs	32		
	Boy	7 to 14		
	Boy	7 to 14		
	Girl	7 to 14		
	Boy	1 to 7		
	Girl	1 to 7		
Brown	Mary	18		
Climo	James	20		
	Mrs	19		
Cowling	William	28		Quarryman
Crocker	John	35		Shipwright
	Mrs	35		
	Girl	7 to 14		
	Girl	1 to 7		
	Girl	10 months		
Curtis	Samuel	26		Mason
	Mrs	28		
Dawe	Arthur	45		Agricultural Labourer
Edgecumbe	William	29		Labourer
	Mrs	37		
	Girl	7 to 14		
	Boy	1 to 7		
	Boy	7 months		
Faull	Richard	35		Miner

	Mrs	34	
	Boy	7 to 14	
	Girl	7 to 14	
	Girl	7 to 14	
	Boy	1 to 7	
	Girl	1 to 7	
French	John	28	Agricultural Labourer
	Mrs	24	
	Girl	10 months	
Gilbert	Henry	29	Agricultural Labourer
Harper	Henry	27	Miner
	Mrs	24	
	Boy	1-7	
	Girl	1-7	
	Girl	11 months	
Harris	Edwin	32	Painter
	Mrs	30	
	Boy	1 to 7	
	Girl	1 to 7	
	Girl	10 months	
Harrison	Valentine	40	Carpenter
	W	35	
	Thomas	19	
	Boy	1 to 7	
	Boy	9 months	
Henwood	William	21	Millwright & Smith
Hicks	John	22	Mason
Hoskin	Peter	27	Sawyer
Inch	Paul	31	Shoemaker
	Mrs	33	
	Girl	7 to 14	
	Girl	7 to 14	
	Boy	1 to 7	
James	John	27	Blacksmith
Jury	Jesse	37	Sawyer
	Mrs	32	
	Boy	14 to 15	
	Boy	7 to 14	
	Boy	7 to 14	
	Boy	1 to 7	
	Girl	1 to 7	
	Henry Justin	10 months	
Lye	John	40	Agricultural Labourer
	Mrs	38	
	Ann	19	
	Mary	17	
	William	16	Agricultural Labourer
	Edward	7 to 14	
	John	7 to 14	
	Girl	7 to 14	
	Girl	7 to 14	

Marshall	William	37	Cornwall	Agricultural Labourer
	Mary	36		
	Mary	18		
	William	6		
	Samuel	4		
	Edward	2		
Medland	Edwin	24		Plumber
Nairne	John	43		Gardener
	Mrs	44		
	Elizabeth	21		
	Francis Edward	19		Gardener
	Boy	7 to 14		
	Boy	7 to 14		
Pearn	Jonathan	34		Carpenter
	Mrs	36		
	Boy	7 to 14		
	Boy	1 to 7		
	Girl	1 to 7		
	Infant	4 months		
Pepperell	Nicholas	41		Agricultural Labourer
	Mrs	38		
	John	17		Agricultural Labourer
	Boy	14 to 15		
	Girl	7 to 14		
	Boy	1 to 7		
	Boy	1 to 7		
	Boy	1 month		
Phillips	Ann	36		Widow
	Boy	7 to 14		
	Boy	7 to 14		
	Girl	7 to 14		
Phillips	Ann (Jnr)	17		
	Richard	15		Agricultural Labourer
Putt	Richard	47		Agricultural Labourer
	Mrs	49		
	Ann	23		Straw Plaiter
	Catherine	20		
	John	17		Agricultural Labourer
	Boy	14 to 15		
	Girl	7 to 14		
	Reed	Nathaniel	28	
Revell	Samuel	45		Agricultural Labourer
	Mrs	32		
	Mary Ann	21		
	Boy	7 to 14		
	Boy	7 to 14		
	Girl	7 to 14		
	Boy	1 to 7		
	Boy	10 months		
Rowe	Richard	27		Agricultural Labourer
Shaw	James	21		Carpenter

Sarteen	Edward	22	Wheelwright
	Mrs	21	
	Boy	1 to 7	
	Boy	3 months	
Tucker	Edward	50	Agricultural Labourer
	Jane (nee Kitto)	47	
	Edward Jnr	16 to 17	Agricultural Labourer
	John	12	
	Eliza	9	
	Richard	7	
	George	5	
	Jane	5	
	William	2	

TUCKER family:

The "William Bryan" which arrived in New Plymouth 30th March 1841, included my Great, Great, Great, Great, Great Grandparents Edward Tucker, his wife Jane (Nee Kitto) and children. The family were from Cornwall, England. Edward died at Auckland in 1855. If you have a connection with this family or would like to know more please contact - [Sam Hodder](#).

Great grandson Harold Tucker, a butcher, lived on Queen Street near the base of Pukekohe Hill, with his wife Daisy Toovey. Together they raised eight children, four boys, John, Eric, Paul and Peter, and four girls Marie, Naomi, Joy and Lois. Eric married Dorothy Harnett, youngest daughter of Arthur and Annie Harnett of Ngararatunua, Northland, in May 1959. They lived without any family at Otumoetai, Tauranga.



THE WILLIAM BRYAN.

Excellent arrangements were made for sending out the settlers in batches. Six barques were chartered, and it is most refreshing to read of these well-found craft and the satisfactory provisioning, for in the later stories of the immigrant ships one so often comes upon a well-deserved growl about "old tubs" and "salt horse."

The first barque that left England under the company's scheme was the *William Bryan*, 312 tons, Captain Maclean, which brought out 148 passengers, including 70 children. In his interesting pamphlet, "Taranaki, 1840-1842," Mr. W. H. Skinner gives interesting details connected with the charter of the *William Bryan* and a number of the other ships that brought out Taranaki pioneers. This barque had been engaged in the West Indian trade. She was chartered by her owners, Domett and England, of London, at the rate of £5 2/6 per ton, which works out at just under £1600 for the voyage. In addition, the charterers were to allow the owners £60 a head for victualling the cabin passengers, £40 for intermediate or second cabin passengers, and £18 15/ for the steerage

passengers. The ship was bound to carry a surgeon and the manning was on the scale of five men and one boy to every 100 tons registered. It is interesting to know that the lower deck, where the emigrants lived, was only 105 feet 3 inches long, and the headroom or height of the ceiling from the deck was just over 6 feet at the for'ard end, 5 feet 11 inches at the main hatchway, and 7 feet at the stern post. And that was all the room there was for 148 people, including 70 children.

The *William Bryan* left Plymouth on November 19, 1840. Prior to their departure the emigrants were entertained at a lunch, the Earl of Devon presiding, and at this historic gathering Mr. Gibbon Wakefield, of New Zealand Land Company fame, made the dramatic announcement that the previous day's London "Gazette" contained a proclamation that Captain Hobson had taken possession of New Zealand in the name of the British Government. This reminds us that when the New Zealand Land Company began its preparations for colonisation the country was not even British soil.

After an uneventful passage of four months the *William Bryan* anchored in Port Underwood on March 20, everybody on board being in excellent health, thanks to the good food, and the care taken by the ship's surgeon, Dr. Weeks. The vessel remained, at Port Underwood for a week. An account of the voyage mentions that "the emigrants had dined al fresco for nearly two months on deck, as very little rain fell during the passage." It was at Port Underwood that the newcomers saw their first Maoris, and the tattooed faces struck them as being very strange indeed. It was there also that they heard of the selection of Taranaki as the site of the future settlement. It was out of the way, and there was nothing in the shape of a harbour, so it is not surprising the people began to murmur; they thought their interests were being sacrificed for the sake of those of the New Zealand Land Company. However, the assurance that Taranaki was known as "the Garden of New Zealand" brought some consolation.

Leaving Port Underwood on March 28, the barque two days later anchored off the Sugar Loaves, about a mile and a-half off shore. Next day the passengers were landed on the Moturoa Beach, and by April 6 the ship was cleared of all her cargo and the livestock that had been brought out from the Old Land. Everything had to be boated ashore, and in the early days we hear of many exciting adventures in the surf. Although the passengers and their luggage and the bulk of the food-stuffs were landed on the Moturoa Beach, the sections of the company's storehouse and the agent's residence were rafted along the coast and landed in the bay in front of Mount Eliot (where the railway station now stands). This locality was in the early days known as "Port Eliot," being named after the place of the same name on the Tamar in the Old Country.

Landed in a strange country, among savages, the first settlers felt very desolate after leaving the well-ordered ship, and the women were particularly down-hearted. More than half the passengers were women and children, and the women felt keenly the lack of privacy of those first days ashore. Tents had been run up, and there were also several raupo whares that had been erected for the family of "Dickey" Barrett, and in these the people were quartered. Barrett, an ex-whaler, was a noted character of early Taranaki. He was a powerful, frank sort of fellow, and seems to have been a sort of general cicerone (guide) to the first settlers. In these tents and whares there was no privacy whatever for the Englishwomen, and they used to lie down in their clothes at night, never thinking of undressing. The weather, fortunately, was fine, and eventually matters were straightened out, but it was a rough entry into the new life, and small wonder that some tears were shed, and some of the travellers sighed for the combs and lanes of their own peaceful West Country.