Elsmore, Morse and Dorrington Families that Migrated to New Zealand 1876

Edwin Elsmore was the 6th child of Joseph Elsmore but 4th son and youngest child also Joseph Elsmore and Elizabeth Aston. Have no idea when Edwin added the Edward to his christian name.

The Elsmore's lived in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire England. Edwin found work as a Collier in the Coal Mines in the area, as Coal mining was one of the main occupations for the area. Coal was one of the chief industries in the Forest of Dean Gloucestershire England. Times where tough for the dwellers in the Forest of Dean, mines were closing down. Families where migrating to other parts of United Kingdom and the World, for work. This was the age of The Industrial Revolution.

Edwin Edward Elsmore and Mary lost 2 daughters, Sarah aged 18 months and Mary Jane stillborn, while still living in the Forest of Dean.

Edwin Edward Elsmore, wife Mary and children arrived in Nelson, New Zealand on board the New Zealand Shipping Company sailing ship the *Howrah* sailed from London 29th July 1876, arrived at Nelson, New Zealand 9th November 1876. Captain W. R. Greeves was the captain of the Howrah. Settled at Big Bush (Grovetown) Marlborough, New Zealand 1876.

Edwin, Mary, Samuel, Henry Edwin, John and Elizabeth Elsmore, they were assisted migrants, paid for my The New Zealand Government. They travelled from Nelson to the Port of Marlborough to settle at the *Big Bush* on a bush farm. Edwin took up the job of Farm Labourer.

Edwin and family had to be at the Emigrants Depot in London by the 25th July 1876, dinner that night consisted of Bullocks Hearts and Potatoes (rations for ten people of ordinary quantity) quoted George H. Baylis a fellow passenger on the Howarth in his diary.

They all had to pass a medical examination from the doctor and the Emigrant Agent, by showing their chests and hands. Those that passed and were allowed, had freedom of movement to closing time of 8 o'clock. Amazing that Edwin and Mary Elsmore 's daughter Lucy Morse passed the medical examination on account of her head injury.

Their first night at the Depot was described in most pathetic terms by Baylis's diary. The immigrants were not looking forward for their new start. Dinner (lunch) at 1pm and was of Boiled Beef and Potatoes of a very poor standard. Tea was at 4.30pm and was Tea, Bread and Butter, which was good and plentiful.

They went to bed at the Depot at 10pm, which had double decker bunks. The bunks were about 2ft wide, in rows of about 25. Still at the Emigrants Depot for 2 days before embarking at 3pm from Brunswick Pier, on the streamer to Gravesend to board the sailing ship the Howrah and assigned their berths before tea at 6pm. The passengers had a little fun and singing before retiring to their bunks for the night.

There was on board the Howrah, 286 immigrants, 200 bound for Nelson, Marlborough and Westland provinces and the rest 86 for the Wellington province. They lay at Gravesend for 2 days waiting for the pilot to come aboard, which he did on the 29th July 1876 and the Howrah set sail with the streamer tug alongside at 3.55pm. It was reported the band played *The Girl I Left Behind Me* as the ship left Gravesend, London, England. The Emigrant Agent having left the boat just before the ship's departure. Cast

off from the streamer tug on the 30th July 1876, but the Howrah lay becalmed for hours off Hastings, Sussex Coast line.

Their meals on board ship never varied much from breakfast of oat porridge, coffee and biscuits, Their dinners (lunches) of Boiled Beef and Potatoes or rice and tea. Their evening meal was Pork and Pea Soup with Sour Bread or meat pie and plum pudding. They where given flour to make cakes of all sorts, plum, fat and plain. They mostly saved their pork till it got cold, then it described as very nice.

This how their meals would be, on a Sunday evening they had Australian meat, on a Monday evening Salted beef, Tuesday salted Pork, Wednesday Australian meat, Thursday Salted beef, Friday Australia meat and Saturday would be Pork. The passengers loved the Pork best. The Australian meat they didn't care for at all. They called it stewed (Australian meat could have been Kangaroo).

The passengers spent their days fishing and catching Cape Pigeons that followed the Howrah as they rounded The Cape Of Good Hope. They helped to cover for poor supply of rations for the passengers provisions. They rounded The Cape Of Good Hope on the 6th October 1876.

The passengers had to make their own merriment while on board ship, as the Howrah struck all types of weather on it's journey to the new colony. Ranging from becalm to hurricane storms, and the ship's doctor, his assistant and First Mate were all called upon by the passengers and crew alike. They would amuse themselves with games of Draughts, Crib, Whisk, Dominoes and ship board concerts, even had raffles as well. Also foot racing on the poop deck between the sexes. They had a ships newspaper to read that came out once a week called The Howrah Times or the Bible that was presented to them when they first came aboard by the Captain Greeves.

Socialising was frowned upon, the single women, single men and the married passengers and also with the crew. Anyone caught, was taken in front of Captain Greeves and reprimanded most severe. Captain Greeves was not very popular as he would cancel most entertainment, especially when the weather was very hot and humid, upon coming up to The Cape of Good Hope off the coast of Africa.

Every Sunday, the passengers in their Sunday best and the ships crew stood on the deck for Sunday services. If you had done something wrong, you could be sure of a visit to the Captain's Cabin, no matter if you were crew or passenger, it didn't matter to him he would bring down his iron fist and wrath. The passengers were regularly put through their paces for Fire Drills, with the sounding of five bells.

On Sunday 3rd September 1876, on a calm sea, weather fine and the usual Sunday muster and prayers on the poop deck, little did they (passengers and crew) alike know what a magnificent sight they would witness that night in the form of a Partial Eclipse of the Moon. Captain Greeves was kept busy with the emigrants, lending his telescope and glasses for their observations. So it was a late night to their bunks for all. This helped restore his disapproval from the passengers to full approval.

Bedtime was always strictly enforced and complied to at 11pm and in stormy weather much earlier. Life on the Howrah had few restrictions, only in the ships galley (kitchen) and the mixing with various passengers, which was quickly defused by the constables appointed by Captain Greeves. Anything serious the captain settled it. Passengers complained of belongings going missing, also small amounts of money. All incidents checked out and dealt with by the constables and passed on to Captain Greeves, who dealt with the culprit or culprits with severe punishment.

The Howrah passed many sailing ships on the journey out to New Zealand, who were on route to various ports of the world. Each communicated by flag signals and lanterns.

There was a mixture of ethic races on board boat English, Irish, Dutch etc. and all bound for New Zealand. There was the usual sickness on the boat, along with births and a few deaths. Also a few accidents which were treated by the ships medical team.

Land was at last sighted on the 9th November 1876 at 7am just off the Northern coast of the South Island (Cape Farewell). The view they saw disappointed most, as it appeared most inhospitable. It's view got better as the Howrah sailed further up the coast for about sixty miles to a bay called Blind Bay, where they dropped anchor at 7.30pm. The bay is opposite the city of Nelson.

With uneasy feelings about their prospects, they couldn't take in that there is a city between the hills. After many months at sea, land was a new experience for them. From the time they set sail from Brunswick Pier, London, England on the streamer, out to board the Howrah at Gravesend, England and to their arrival at Blind Bay, Nelson, New Zealand took some 16,032 miles, they had been at sea 110 days.

The passengers who were disembarking for Nelson had to spend four days waiting for the streamer to arrive to take them off. It arrived at 6pm, with Nelson passengers off first and then the people for Marlborough next. No food provisions were given out, they had to make do. The passengers including our ELSMORE, Morse and Dorrington tribe who were all bound for the Marlborough Province were placed on the streamer *Wallace* which sailed on the 10th November 1876 from Nelson, sailed up the Opawa River in Blenheim, Marlborough, New Zealand.

How the early settlers survived in the early days of the Big Bush

Life was tough and rough in the Big Bush, they had to clear the land for settling, plant crops and raise cattle and sheep to survive and feed their large families. Wild pork, venison and rabbits were also a regular and abundant part of most families' diet in those times and were, in fact, a necessary factor in balancing lean household budgets.

Much of their spare time was spent in keeping their kitchens well supplied with fish, shellfish and the abundance of meats hunting wild pig, deer, duck, black swan and lesser game, sacks of native pigeons, the largest pigeon in the world, which were in the bush in their hundreds and were shot with ridiculous ease, and whitebait by the tub full, the surplus being fed to pigs and fowls. Seine netting at the Wairau Bar produced sacks, not bundles, of fish, and bags of fat cockles were gathered on the formerly popular pipibeds there. They would also have to have plenty of wood to chop to keep a good supply on hand for heating and cooking etc. Not much of the bush is now left around the Big Bush (Grovetown) now. When the Big Bush was all stripped of its timber, the tiny settlement had a name change to Grovetown.

At some stage Edwin and Mary Anne separated, Mary Anne Elsmore nee Simmons went off to live with one of her daughters Elizabeth Ridgway. Edwin Edward was left unable to work and was quite destitute and had to rely on 3 of his sons, Henry Edwin, Samuel and John for monetary financial support. As Henry Edwin, Samuel and John had purchased Edwin Edward Elsmore's property at Grovetown for the princely sum of 300 hundred pounds. They were paying monthly instalments of 5 pounds and 10 schillings per month and 50 pounds cash. He had previously been living with Henry Edwin and John Elsmore, but his threats, violence and interference with their families, led them not be able to continue with the arrangements. Henry Edwin and John ELSMORE were willing to contribute to Edwin Edward Elsmore 's support if Samuel Elsmore, Edwin's other son would also help with monetary support as well. It was ultimately agreed that each should pay 8s and 4d per week each, payments to be made monthly. Thomas ELSMORE Edwin's eldest son was this time already in The Mount View Asylum in Wellington, New Zealand.

Edwin Edward Elsmore later died and is buried in Omaka Cemetery. While Mary Anne Elsmore is buried in Masterton Cemetery along side her daughter Elizabeth Ridgway.

Richard Morse was the 2nd son of Joseph MORSE and his first wife Hannah Paine, born 8th September 1850 at St Briavels, Gloucestershire, England. Richard Morse was employed as a servant somewhere in the Forest of Dean. Richard Morse resided with his parents at Hoggins Green, St Briavels, Gloucestershire, England.

Richard Morse while still living in the Forest of Dean met and married Lucy ELSMORE. They were married on the 12 May 1873 at Parkend Chapel, Parkend, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, England by the Officiating Minister: John Joseph Elsworth.

Richard, Lucy and their young infant daughter Amelia Jane Morse known as Mary Jane in the family, left the Forest of Dean in July 1876 on account of Lucy ELSMORE having had a serious accident while working in The Forest of Dean. Lucy's long hair had got caught in machinery belt up to her scalp and she suffered badly from it. It was advised by the doctors of the day that only cure was to take her across the Equator.

They sailed from London, Middlesex, England on the 29th July 1876 on the sailing ship the Howrah along with Lucy Elsmore 's parents and brothers and sisters and a brother in law. All bound for The Marlborough Province in New Zealand. Richard, Lucy and Amelia Jane Morse were assisted immigrants, passage money was paid by the Government of New Zealand of princely sum of 34 pounds 14 shillings and 10 and a half pence. The Howrah arrived in The Province of Nelson on the 9th November 1876.

Tragedy was to strike this family again 10 months after settling in the Big Bush, Marlborough, New Zealand. While one evening while Richard Morse was cleaning his rifle, his young daughter Amelia Jane's stiff petticoat caught the bolt of the gun as she brushed passed her father. Richard Morse died due to the gunshot wound he received. Verdict of Coroner's Jury - Accident.

Lucy died of shock a year later on 25 September 1878. Verdict of Death - Asthenia (Brain Softening) 2 year duration.

Young Amelia Jane Morse was left a orphan and brought up by The Elsmore and Dorrington's, who she described to one of her sons as been - Dragged up.

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