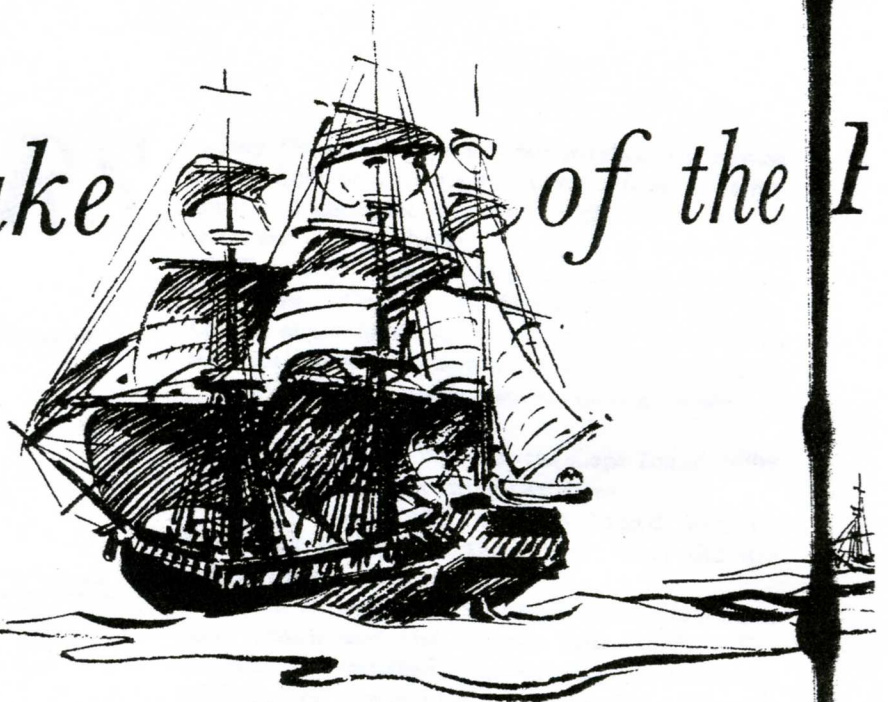


In the Wake of the *Britomart*

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IN our last issue there were references to Francis Lochée, the second Manager of the Western Australian Bank, who held the position for over forty years (1846-89).

He had been trained in law in England, but, having a bad stammer, decided to seek his fortune in other fields. In 1838 he sailed from Portsmouth in the *Britomart*, bound for Swan River.

The other cabin occupants comprised Samuel Waterman Viveash, M.R.C.S., his wife and their family, Mr. and Mrs. Tanner and family and Miss Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Hardy and family, and Messrs. Robert Viveash (brother of the diarist), John Smith, Henry King, George King, Taunton, Breacher and Curtois. The Captain was William Macdonald.

After arriving in Perth, Lochée started a newspaper called *The Inquirer and Commercial News*, but left this upon his appointment as Manager of the Western Australian Bank.

Dr. Viveash kept a diary of the voyage—an extraordinary one, marked not only by nautical hazards, but also by continual disputes, tipsiness, physical violence, threats and charges of mutinous conduct. The leading figures were the eccentric Captain Macdonald, whose opinion of passengers was seldom printable, and Mr. Lochée, who revealed during the voyage the formidable qualities which were later to guide the Western Australian Bank successfully through so many eventful years.

These brief extracts are reproduced with the kind permission of descendants of Dr. Viveash.

June 28th, 1838. Left Southhampton at 9 a.m. and reached Portsmouth at 12.15. Obtained quarters at "King's Head". Attendance bad, owing

to the increased business and bustle of the Queen's (Victoria) coronation. Fireworks good.

June 30th. Went on board the "*Britomart*", taking some luggage. Judging from what we saw on board did not go to bed with very pleasing anticipations of comfort for the future.

July 2nd. Slept on board. Better than we expected.

July 3rd. Went on shore with the Captain of the "*Britomart*"—Macdonald. Returned with the Captain about 4 p.m. We sailed from Spithead about 7-8 o'clock.

July 4th. Afric Tanner tumbled down the skylight.

July 5th. The boy Ricketts had the itch.

July 6th. Ate about 6 prawns and one thin slice of bread and butter. Could not venture down to dinner.

July 7th. The sailors wanted to steer for nearest port, to be put on shore, complaining the Captain doubted their skill; also bad diet of beef particularly. They were supported by the steerage passengers. The Captain not aware that the beef was bad; ordered it to be attended to, but determined to proceed on our voyage.

July 10th. Farcical duel between Breacher and Curtois; port wine being put in pistols. The former a complete butt to the young men on board; much encouraged by the Captain. Passed Lizard Point; obliged to tack three times before it could be effected; not a little fear among the passengers, so near the rocks. I did not fear much, relying very much on the Captain's nautical knowledge.

July 11th. Off Penzance. Last evening the Captain gave us the number of persons on board:—

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"In the Wake of Pioneers"
Extract from diary of Dr Samuel Waterman Viveash,
University of Queensland Library. * Bank Staff Magazine

