

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

FREDERICK HOARE

Diaries, 1854-56

Reel M405

**London Metropolitan Archives
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Filmed: 1961

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Frederick Hoare was a builder and decorator and owned house properties in Brixham, Devon. He was in his late 40s when, with two or three fellow townsmen, he decided to make a trip to Australia. He was possibly attracted by stories of gold discoveries. Leaving his wife and three children in England, he sailed to Melbourne on the Red Jacket in 1854. It appears that in the colony he pursued his trade as a builder. He also purchased some land. Hoare intended to stay in Australia much longer, but his wife became ill and he hurried back to England in 1856. She died shortly after his return and he died about three years later.

The diaries were lent for copying to the Middlesex County Record Office by Sir Archer Hoare, the former chairman of the Middlesex County Council. He was a grandson of Frederick Hoare.

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- 1 Diary kept by Frederick Hoare on a voyage from Liverpool to Melbourne on the *Red Jacket*, 4 May – 15 July 1854. (138pp)

The diary entries refer to the position of the ship, the weather, sightings of other ships, complaints about victuals, religious services, an accident to Hoare's companion George Squiers, the monotony of the voyage, dancing, the crossing the Equator rituals, quarrels among passengers, the deaths of the boatswain and passengers, the arrest of the 4th Mate, sightings of whales and flying fish, the speed of the ship crossing the Indian Ocean, sighting of King Island, the arrival at Port Phillip, and reports that some crew members intended to escape.

The volume also contains several pages of notes and sketches made during Hoare's stay in Victoria. They include calculations, expenses for house construction, details of land sales in Melbourne, payments for building work and labour, accounts with George Squiers and Henry Morris at the diggings (1855), and holes sunk at Daisy Hill (Amherst). There are rough sketches of campsites on the road to the goldfields, including Keilor, and at Castlemaine and Daisy Hill.

The entries were written in a leather covered notebook with a clasp, 6x4 inches.

- 2 Diary kept by Frederik Hoare on a voyage from Melbourne to England via Cape Horn on the *New Great Britain*, 14 April-26 July 1856. (40pp)

The entries, which are much briefer, refer to the weather, storms, sightings of Tasmania and the Auckland Islands, sightings of ships, and sharks, barracouta and other fish. Many of the entries are limited to the weather.

The entries were written in a paper covered notebook, 4½ x 7¼ inches.