

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

CAPTAIN HENRY M. DENHAM

Sketches and paintings, 1852-60

Reel M465

**Captain H.M. Denham
8 Carlyle Square
Chelsea, London SW3**

**National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales**

Filmed: 1963

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Sir Henry Mangles Denham (1800-1887) was born at Sherborne in Dorset and entered the Royal Navy in 1809 as a volunteer. From 1815 to 1827 he served on HMS *Shamrock* surveying the English Channel and the coasts of Ireland. In 1830 he was given command of HMS *Linnet* in which he surveyed the Bristol Channel, the coast of Wales and the entrance to the River Mersey. From 1842 to 1845 he carried out surveys of the north-west coast of England on the paddle steamer *Lucifer* and from 1845 to 1848 he commanded HMS *Avon* which surveyed the coast of Guinea and the Bight of Benin in West Africa. He was promoted to the rank of captain in 1846.

In 1851 Denham was given command of HMS *Herald* and instructed to carry out a lengthy survey of the south-west Pacific. The ship was accompanied by a tender, HMS *Torch*, commanded by Lieutenant William Chimmo. The survey encompassed Lord Howe Island, Norfolk Island, New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Fiji and the Solomon Islands. From 1857 to 1860 the *Herald* remained in Australian waters, carrying out surveys of the east and southern coasts and also Shark Bay in Western Australia. The ship returned to England via the Torres Strait and the Dutch East Indies.

On his return to England, Denham was employed supervising the drawing of fair copies of his surveys. He was promoted to Rear-Admiral in 1864 and placed on the retired list in 1866. He was knighted in 1867. He died in London. His wife Isabella, whom he married in 1826, had died in 1865.

James Glen Wilson (1827-1863) was born in Ireland. Nothing is known of his early life, but a number of his paintings of Belfast in 1850-52 have survived. In March 1852 he was appointed as 'artist borne as clerk' on HMS *Herald*. His chief responsibility was drawing coastal profiles, 120 of which are held in the Hydrographic Department, but he also produced landscapes, portraits and images of plants, insects and fishes. Some of his works were painted from sketches by John MacDonald, the assistant surgeon on the *Herald*. In January 1859 Wilson was discharged at his request. He married Margaret Moore at Parramatta and was appointed a surveyor in the New South Wales Department of Lands. In his first year he worked on surveys on the south coast. He was then transferred to Molong, where he died three years later.

Reference: Andrew David. *The voyage of HMS Herald to Australia and the South-West Pacific 1852-1861 under the command of Captain Henry Mangles Denham*, Melbourne, Melbourne University Press, 1995.

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Paintings, drawings, maps and photographs produced during the surveying voyage of HMS *Herald*, 1852-60.

At the time of filming, the works were not numbered nor were they arranged by date, medium or format. The list below corresponds with the order of the images on the reel. Most of the works have captions, sometimes very precise. Many of the captions are in the hand of the artist James Glen Wilson, while others (in faint pencil) are in the hand of Captain Denham. The list indicates if the signature of Wilson and the date appears on a work, but it should be noted that nearly all of the unsigned works are also by Wilson.

Bure Kalou and sacred tree at Toko Toko near Rewa, Viti Levu, Dec. 1855. Framed watercolour, 18cm x 23cm.

Sydney, when approaching the anchorage. Framed wash drawing, 13cm x 55cm.

Thakombau Vu-Ni-Valu, King of Mbau, Fiji, his wife and daughter. Three watercolours on one mount, framed, 15cm x 20cm.

Small photograph of J. Glen Wilson.

Photograph of Capt. Henry M. Denham and officers of HMS *Herald*, 1860. Framed daguerrotype, 17cm x 22cm.

J. Glen Wilson. Conway Reef (Cevaira) showing the wreck of the American whaler *Logan*, 8 Jan. 1856. Ink drawing, 18cm x 30cm.

HMS *Herald* and *Torch* leaving Madeira, 9 July 1852.

Funchal, Madeira, eastern extremity of the island.

J. Glen Wilson. Map of Raoul or Sunday Island, 1854. 15cm x 19cm.

'A Vale mai Gau', 1855. Wash drawing, 17cm x 17cm.

J. Glen Wilson. Blocks of coral in the lagoon or salt water lake at the Isle of Pines, 1853. 16cm x 27cm.

Ratu Vakaruru, Fiji. Wash drawing, 40cm x 26cm.

J.G. Wilson. Creeping plants at Lord Howe Island, 1853. Ink drawing.

Lord Howe Island. Trees and ferns.

J. Macdonald. Ko mai Naitasiri, Fijian chief, 1856. Wash drawing. 31cm x 24cm.

HMS *Herald* in a gale, Bay of Biscay, 16 June 1852.

J. Glen Wilson. Madeira peasants.

The palanquin at Madeira, 1852.

J. Glen Wilson. Madeira boats, 29 June 1852.

Ko mai Naitasiri. Wash drawing, 17cm x 13cm.

Two Fijian warriors. Two portraits on one mount.

J. Glen Wilson. Marine surveying in the South Pacific, 1858. Watercolour drawing, 16cm x 37cm.

J. Glen Wilson. A fishing party: natives of Angau, Fiji, 1854. Pencil drawing, 18cm x 24cm.

Kindling a fire in Fiji. Pencil drawing, 18cm x 24cm.

J. Glen Wilson. HMS *Herald* ashore in Shark Bay, April 1858. Wash and watercolour drawing, 15cm x 25cm.

J. Glen Wilson. A Fijian woman, 1856. Wash drawing, 14cm x 15cm.

J. Glen Wilson. Fijians resting, 1856. Wash drawing, 17cm x 24cm.

Seated native with bone through his nose and scars on his chest. Mounted watercolour drawing, 25cm x 17cm.

J. Glen Wilson. Fijian village. (untitled)

Volcanic crater of Sunday Island (Rauol), July 1854. Wash drawing.

Unidentified harbour and town.

Lord Howe Island, thinly stratified sandstone. Ink drawing, 11cm x 27cm.

Houses, Lord Howe Island.

Settlement at Lord Howe Island. Pen and ink drawing.

Scenery of Lord Howe Island. Ink drawing.

Sketches of Ball's Pyramid. Ink drawings.

HMS *Herald* and *Torch* at Lord Howe Island, Queen's Birthday [1853]. Ink drawing, 16cm x 24cm.

Ball's Pyramid.

Unidentified woman. Pencil drawing.

Man, woman and child, Aneiteum, New Hebrides. Pencil drawing.

J. Glen Wilson. A remarkable pinnacle of rock in the mountains of Ovalau, Fiji. Wash drawing, 20cm x 27cm.

Photograph of the grave of Fleetwood Denham (d. 1854), Raoul Island, with an attached letter from the Royal New Zealand Navy Headquarters in London to Mrs H.M. Denham, 17 June 1958.

Chart of Sunday Island (Raoul)

Cliff on the north-eastern point of Sunday Island (Raoul). Watercolour drawing, 17cm x 24cm.

F.C. Terry. Cockatoo Island, Sydney.

J. Glen Wilson. Views of pyramid Islet, Bass Strait, 1853. Ink drawing, 17cm x 22cm.

J. Glen Wilson. Sydney Bay, Norfolk Island, 1855. Print.

Portrait of a man with a club.

Sketches of Erronan (Futuna), New Hebrides. Wash and ink drawings.

Village at Isle of Pines, New Caledonia.

Doorway of a magai, Isle of Pines. Wash drawing, 19cm x 15cm.

French fishing station at St Paul's Island, Indian Ocean, 1853. Ink drawing.

J. Glen Wilson. Natural breakwater of the harbour at St Paul's Island, 1853. Ink drawing, 20 x 28cm.

J. Glen Wilson. Sketch from nature, 1859.

J. Glen Wilson. Calm at sea: vessels getting foul of each other, 4 Aug. 1852. Ink and wash drawing.

Sketch of HMS *Herald's* small bower anchor broken in weighing at Lord Howe Island, May 1853.

Outline sketch of the relative position of the new channel entrance of 1833 and that of 1839 projected by Capt. H.M. Denham. (Formby Point, Lancashire)

Fijian spears. Wash drawing, 22cm x 28cm.

The tent tree, Lord Howe Island.

Breadfruit. Pencil drawing, 11cm x 11cm.

Betel nuts, Solomon Islands. 2 drawings on one sheet, 17cm x 19cm.

Breadfruit, Fiji. Wash drawing, 62cm x 25cm.

Ripe seed of the mangrove, Fiji. Watercolour drawing, 22cm x 13cm.

Holothuria, sea slug, sea urchin. 17cm x 28cm.

A vrata helepelee ni Viti. Crustacean resembling a lobster. Watercolour drawing, 10cm x 26cm.

Sketch of a fish.

Fish from Sunday Island and Lord Howe Island. 7 watercolour drawings on one mount.

Fish from Fiji and Lord Howe Island. One wash and 7 watercolour drawings on one mount.

Fish from Middleton Reef. 3 watercolour drawings on one mount.

Fish from Bass Strait, Fiji and Lord Howe Island. One ink and 2 watercolour drawings on one mount.

Fish from Sunday Island and Aneiteum. One ink and two watercolour drawings.

Penguins, albatross, Cape pigeon, St Paul's Island, 1853. 4 ink and watercolour drawings.

Cape Barren goose, Bass Strait. Ink drawing, 11cm x 8cm.

Seagulls, Bass Strait.

Birds' eggs.

Unidentified flowers.

Tent tree at Lord Howe Island. Wash drawing, 17cm x 15cm.

Sketches of baskets. 4 drawings on one sheet, 11cm x 23cm.

Fijian clubs.

Matai ni ivi. Fijian stone adze. Wash drawing, 8cm x 8cm.

Gnaiagh. Hut ornaments, Isle of Pines, New Caledonia, 1853. Wash drawing, 16cm x 11cm.

George Adams, son of John Adams, mutineer on HMS *Bounty*. Pencil drawing.

Pandanus of Fiji. Ink drawing, 17cm x 17cm.

Unidentified trees.

Canoe of New Zealand, 1854. Ink drawing, 20cm x 31cm.