

carnatic

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Liverpool to New Orleans on the *Carnatic*

(20 Feb 1848 - 20 Apr 1848)

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A Compilation of General Voyage Notes

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"BELOVED SAINTS. -- The ship Carnatic, Captain McKenzie, obtained its clearance papers on the 18th of February ultimo, and embarked on the morning of the 20th, containing a company of 120 Saints, nearly 100 of whom were adults. This company went out under the superintendence of Elder Franklin D. Richards, assisted by Elders C. H. Wheelock and Andrew Cahoon. This company of Saints was made up upon a short notice, and went off with cheerful hopes and buoyant feelings. Not an unkind whisper, or distant murmur, has come to our knowledge. . . ."

MS, 10:5 (March 1, 1848), p.74

"THIRTY-THIRD COMPANY, -- Carnatic, 120 Saints. The ship Carnatic, Captain McKenzie, obtained its clearance papers on the eighteenth of February, 1848, and sailed on the morning of the 20th, with a company of one hundred and twenty Saints on board, nearly one hundred of whom were adults. This company which was made up upon short notice of Saints 'with cheerful hopes and buoyant feelings,' went out under the superintendence of Elder Franklin D. Richards, assisted by Cyrus H. Wheelock, and Andrew Cahoon, Samuel W. Richards, another American elder, who returned with the Carnatic, acted as clerk for the company.

For thirteen days the Carnatic was tossed violently about in the Channel and Irish Sea, during which time nearly all the emigrants suffered more or less from seasickness. On Sunday, February 27th, the vessel was beating off Milford, and it was proposed by the captain, if the weather did not change, to put into Haven the next day, but she succeeded in clearing the cape and standing out to sea. Several times she ran so close upon the rocks and shoals, that the captain ordered put on all the sail she could bear, which made her roll and wallow in the seas with apparent madness; but the threatened danger was thereby avoided. This was the roughest part of the entire voyage. As soon as the elements and the seasickness would permit the emigrants were organized into such divisions as equalized the labor of cleaning, building fires, receiving water, maintaining watch, etc., among the men each day of the week. Regular hours were also appointed for prayer and meetings held on the Sabbath, when the sacrament was also administered. When the captain saw how diligent the Saints were in observing good orders, he laid aside the rigid formality of ship rules, and granted them every comfort and convenience which the vessel afforded. When warmer latitudes were reached, he also prepared shower baths and other baths which conduced much to the health and comfort of the company.

On the sixteenth of March, the Carnatic passed between the Azores and mainland, and entered into the region of trade wind influence. About this time one of the passengers known as Father James Young, began to fail daily, notwithstanding the diligent attention paid to him. After being anointed and prayed for he received immediate relief, but was soon afterwards seized with renewed attacks, being distressed also with cramps, and he finally passed away on the evening of the thirtieth. After being neatly laid out, his body was enclosed in a new piece of strong canvass; a great weight of coal, also enclosed in canvass, was attached to the feet, and at forty minutes past six o'clock, on the morning of the thirty-first, the remains were consigned to a watery grave, in latitude 19 degrees 10' north, and longitude 58 degrees 40' west. The water was so still that the corpse was seen as it sank to a great depth.

On Sunday, April 2nd, the ship passed into the Caribbean Sea, between the islands of Antigua and Guadaloupe. She passed Cape San Antonio (island of Cuba), on the thirteenth, and on the seventeenth, in the afternoon, Elder Richards and others with the aid of glasses, first saw Balize, a village at the mouth of the Mississippi River, inhabited by pilots and their families. On the nineteenth of April the company arrived safe and well at New Orleans. So attached had the kindhearted captain become to the Saints which he had brought across the mighty deep, that he parted with them in tears, and the crew bestowed three cheers as the emigrants left the vessel. At New Orleans Elder Lucius N. Scovil, who had been appointed as Church emigration agent at the port, was on hand to receive the company, and no delay was caused by the custom house officers, who allowed the baggage to be landed without opening a single box, barrel or parcel of any kind.

The entire company of emigrants left New Orleans Sunday morning, April 23rd, on board the steamboat Mameluke, and, after a pleasant trip arrived at St. Louis Sunday afternoon, April 30th. As the Saints were counseled not to remain at St. Louis, all who had means to go to Pottawattamie lands, began at once to make preparations to continue the journey farther up the river; and finally a contract was made with Captain Patterson of the steamboat Mustang to take the Carnatic company (as well as other emigrating Saints who had arrived in St. Louis from different parts of the United States), to Winter Quarters, at the rate of about five dollars for each person over twelve years of age, allowing one hundred pounds luggage to each. This company -- which consisted of about one hundred and fifty souls -- sailed from St. Louis about the ninth of May, and arrived at Winter Quarters about the middle of the month.

(Millennial Star, Volume X, page 203.)

On this trip a Sister Kerr, from Scotland, fell overboard on a dark night and was drowned; the body was never recovered. This lady was favorably known to the missionaries of Scotland, to whom she had been very kind and hospitable.

From Winter Quarters a portion of the emigrants who had crossed the Atlantic in the Carnatic as well as those who followed in the Sailor Prince, commenced the journey to the Valley with the regularly organized Church companies which crossed the plains and

mountains that year. (Millennial Star, Volume X, pages 74, 169 and 204. Kirkens' Historie, page 211.)"
Cont., 13:5 (Mar. 1982), pp. 232-33

"Sun. 20. [Feb. 1848] -- The ship Carnatic sailed form Liverpool, England, with 120 Saints, bound for Great Salt Lake Valley, under the direction of Franklin D. Richards. It arrived at New Orleans about April 19th, whence the company proceeded up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Winter Quarters, and thence commenced the journey across the plains."
CC, p.35

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