

How Good Of An Historian Are You?

In this exercise students will answer set questions and draw some of their own conclusions based on primary source material. Using newspaper articles, personal letters, a passenger list, and photographs students will work just as historians do from these primary documents to unravel the history of the Bride Ship *Tynemouth*.

What is the difference between primary source and secondary source?

Primary source - source created by people who actually saw or participated in an event and recorded that event or their reactions to it immediately after the event.

Example: a diary, letter, map, photograph, news paper

Secondary source - source created by someone either not present when the event took place or removed by time from the event.

Example: text book, encyclopedia

Directions: Remember to think like a Historian!

Review the documents and answer the following questions (remember that you may not be able to answer all the questions):

1. What type of document is it?
2. What is the date of the document?
3. Who created the document?
4. Why was the document created?
5. Do you believe the document is an accurate representation of what was happening? Why do you believe that?
6. Do you think that outside events could influence what a person might write or record about an event?
7. Do you think that outside events could influence the way that they are interpreting the document?
8. Dose the document represent a typical viewpoint or did the writers have a unique perspective for the time period? What insights or blind spots come along with this point of view?
9. What questions are left unanswered by the document? If you could ask the author of the document a question, what would you ask?
10. What can these documents tell you about your topic? Is it the best source for answers to these questions, or would other documents be better?
11. What can you concluded about the Bride Ship Tynemouth and the young immigrant women/girls who arrived in Victoria from these documents?
 - a. Where did they come from?
 - b. What age were they?

- c. Who were they? (hint look at the passenger list closely, clues can be found in a documents such as this)
- d. What became of them (where did they live, did they marry or find work?) and what were conditions like for them in Victoria?
- e. Was the “Bride Ship” female immigration project a success?

Materials:

Clippings :

- “Arrival of the Tynemouth” from Victoria Press September 18th, 1862.
- Assisted Female Immigration Advertisement from the Victoria Colonist April 14th, 1869.
- Advertisement for Governesses form the Victoria Press, October 3, 1862
- “Columbia Immigration” Society from the Victoria Colonist June 9th, 1862.
- “Bridal Feast” from the Victoria Colonist January 16th, 1863.

Photo Links:

- Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Nesbitt (nee Jane Anne Saunders) BC Archives call number A-02366
- Mrs. William Lawson (nee Louise MacDonald) BC Archives call number C-085889

Edmund Hope Verney Letters:

From *Vancouver Island Letters of Edmund Hope Verney, 1862-65* Edited by Allen Pritchard UBC Press Vancouver 1996

Lieutenant Edmund Hope Verney, served as commander of the gunboat HMS *Grappler* on Vancouver Island between 1862-1865. During this period he wrote regularly to his father, Sir Harry Verney, at Claydon House in Bunkinhamshire. Since the mail steamer left only at intervals of about every two weeks, he often wrote his letter in dated installments every few days like journals. He wrote about colonial society and politics, the coastal scenery and climate, and ecclesiastical and civic affairs in Victoria including the preparations and arrival of the Bride Ships.

Passenger List:

Women sponsored by the Columbia Emigration Society & the Female Middle-Class Emigration Society aboard HMS *Tynmouth*.

Photographs:

Photo of Mrs. William Lawson

http://www.bcarehives.gov.bc.ca/sn-34DBB54/cgibin/text2html/.visual/img_txt/dir_116/c_08589.txt

Photo of Mrs. Samuel Nesbitt

http://www.bcarehives.gov.bc.ca/sn-34DBB54/cgibin/text2html/.visual/img_txt/dir_101/a_02366.txt

Teachers Notes:

This activity is designed in such a way that you may use all or only some of documents. Included are a few notes to assist you in the review and instruction of the activity.

- Students can compare the description of the Sophia Shaw wedding in both the clipping “Bridal Feast” and the January 17th letter.
- Students should note that Verney’s name appears in some of the clippings.
- The ad for governesses can tell a lot about the women who were aboard the bride ship; such as their education, social standing, and possible economic level prior to coming to the colony
- The passenger list holds clues too, suggesting that several of the girls/women were related (sisters, mother and daughters?) as well as provides some insight into why, according to one of the Verney letters Mr. Scott was not well liked. (Reverend Scott)
- What can you tell from the photographs? Note how young Louse MacDonald was.

Encourage students to compare the documents, clippings, and photographs. Each can provide insight into the whole story when used together as a source. These documents are like pieces to a puzzle. The more pieces you have the more clear the picture becomes.

HMS TYNMOUTH

PASSENGER LIST:

WOMEN SPONSORED BY THE COLUMBIA EMIGRATION SOCIETY
&
THE FEMALE MIDDLE-CLASS EMIGRATION SOCIETY

*Women under the charge of Reverend William Richard Scott
Chaperoned by Mrs. James Robb*

Catherine A. Abington

Emily B. Abington

Harriet Barnett

Sarah Baylis

Emily Berry

Mary Butter

Mary L. Chase

Matilda E. Coats

Emily H. Cooper

Margaret Crawle

Frances Curtis (Mrs.)

Isabel Curtis

Marry Devilly

S. Maria Duren

Amelia Eggington

Eliza Jane Evans

Mary Evans

Margaret Faussett

Jane Fisher

Minnie Gillan

Sophia Growing

Mary Ann Hack

Mary Hales

Theresa Hirsch

Mary Hodges

Georgina J. Holmes

Helen Holmes

Julia Louisa Hurst

Ann Joyce

Mary King

Sarah Lovegrove

Georgina Macdonald

Louise Macdonald

Mary Macdonald

Sydney Macdonald

Ella Magowen

Augusta Jane Morris

Emily Ann Morris

Jane Eliza Victoria Ogilvie

Sophia Picken

Emma Quinn
Mary Renes
Catherine A. Rendrick
Eliza Reynolds (and son)
Jane Anne Saunders
Jane Sentzenich

Sophia Shaw
Emma Hellen Tammage
Charlotte Townsend
Louisa Townsend
Bertha R. Wilson
Florence M.B. Wilson