

1. Original place in Wales where the Williams may have been from.

Based on the information at hand we know the location names and dates where the seven Williams children are born in the early 1800's as per the Williams Family Bible. The 'Long House' (**Ty-hir**) at **Meurnyn** keeps on coming up and the only "Meurnyn" now known in Wales is a large rock scree slope in the **Abergwyngregyn "Aber" Valley** next to which archaeological diggings have found a few "Ty-hir" (long houses). The Aber Valley use to have a water mill owned by William Williams and the Griffith's at different times (very common Welsh names). Four of the seven children were born at "Meurnyn" including the eldest William I Williams.

Another possibility is whoever wrote Meurnyn in English possibly spelt it wrong in the Williams family bible where it is spelt Meurnyn. Given the family bible is written in English and William II Williams could only speak Welsh and Maori and a little English that may explain it when they wrote down the children's Welsh birth place. Marshfield (**Welsh: Maerun**) is an electoral ward (population 4,245 increasing to 6,270 at the 2011 census) and smaller village community and parish on the fringe of the city of Newport in Southern Wales just north of Cardiff.



Figure 60: Abergwyngregyn "Aber" Valley, North Wales where the Williams may have been from.

It seems the family possibly spent at least from 1829 to 1839 (ten years) in Abergwyngregyn "Aber" Valley, in North Wales. Then Edward (their 4th son) was born in 24 November 1839 in Pontypridd, Glamorganshire in South East Wales and died at **Llanelly, Carmarthenshire** in South East Wales near Swansea at the age of one and a half years on 22 April 1841. **The Williams family two months later all went to NZ** departing from London on 22 June 1841.

There were a number of Williams and Griffith's recorded in the small Aber Valley (both families at various times in the 1700's and 1800's owned the water mill there). In the early 1800's there were 80 very small farms in the Aber Valley.

Just outside the village of Abergwyngregyn "Aber" there is **Groes Fawr ("the Big Cross")**, where William II was said to be born in 1829. The exact location has been lost however the Big

Cross was very prominent in local prehistory lore so the current day village locals have planted a large plantation of trees on the side of the Aber Valley in the shape of a cross.



Figure 61: Water Mill, Meuryn, Aber Valley, North Wales owned by the Griffiths & Williams

The original Aber Valley Mill had been around from before 1668, when it was run as a corn mill by the Rev. William **Griffith**, The Rector of Aber and his partners. Much later in 1851 it was refurbished operated by Mr. Owen **Williams** 39 a miller by trade who we find living in Tyn Y Felin in the parish of Llandegai along with wife Margaret 42 and four children Jane 12, Owen 10, Margaret 8 and the youngest David who is just 6 years old and at school.

The village of Abergwyngregyn "Aber" in the Aber Valley is only about 15km north of where a Mr. William Williams below (possibly William II Williams?) who was in the NZ Armed Constabulary said he was born. William II Williams was conscripted in March 1860 for a three year term so it is possible he re-enlisted in 1863 to keep his militia wages and free land grants the NZ government was providing to troops.

Armed Constabulary/Militia	Militia
Name	WILLIAMS, William
Place of birth	Port Elley
Tribe/County/Country	Caernarvon, North Wales
Year of birth	1835 <i>(this date does not align with the family bible date of 1829 - maybe he wanted to appear younger?)</i>
Regiment no.	1112
Militia/Volunteers	1st Forest Rangers
Service commenced	11.12.1863
Service ended	16.8.1864
Record ID	15630

'Llanelli' or 'Llanelly' Carmarthenshire North Wales - The spelling 'Llanelly' is an anglicised form which was used in government and official documents until 1965. This is evident in the name of the local historic building, 'Llanelly House' in North Wales. It can also lead to confusion with another village and parish, Llanelly, which is in south-east Wales near Abergavenny "Aber".

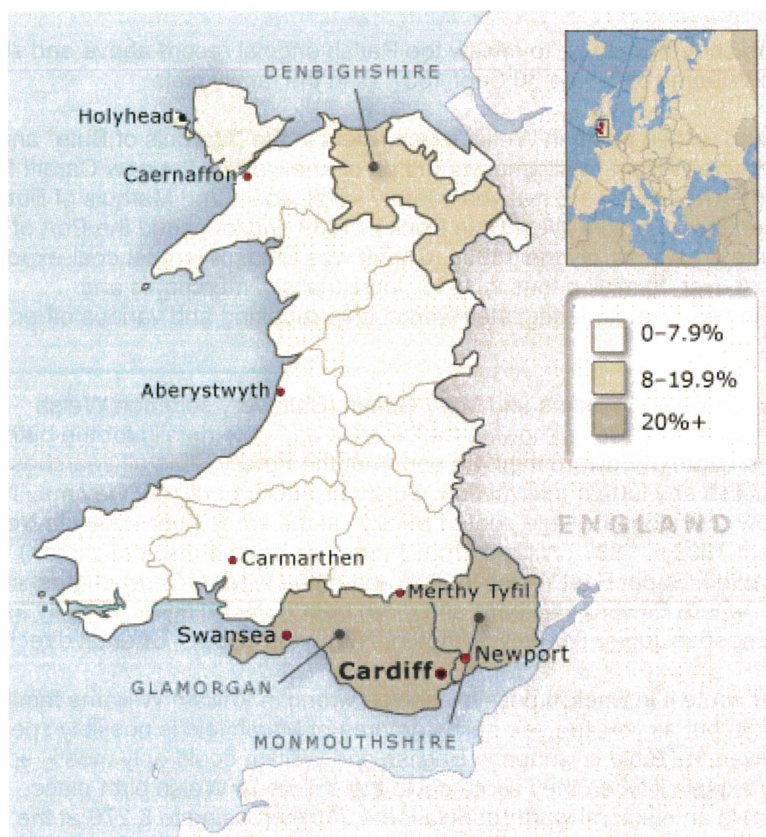


Figure 62: Proportion of Welsh migrants to New Zealand by Welsh county of birth, 1853-70

The above map shows that the vast majority of Welsh people who came to New Zealand between 1853 and 1870 were born in the southern counties of Monmouthshire and Glamorgan or north-western Wales Denbighshire close to where the Aber Valley is on the coast 15km north of Caernaffon city. Source: Sample of death registers, 'Peopling' project, Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Wellington.

Groes Fawr where William II born 1829- there are three known options where this could have been: **1)** The Aber Valley, North Wales (see above), **2)** Groes-Fawr in Denbighshire, North Wales (see map above) were a number of other small nucleated settlements developed at a cross-roads as in case of the 18th-century or earlier stone cottages at Groes-fawr, or around a mill, as in the case of the cluster of 18th/19th-century cottages, farm and houses at Pentre'r-felin. Other scattered cottages sprung up along the main roadways during the 18th and 20th centuries, as along the road between Gellifor and Hendrerwydd, and along road between Llandyrnog and Llangynhafal or, **3)** The Groes Fawr valley is situated in Blaencaron, an upland parcel in the upper Teifi valley, 5km east of Tregaron in SE Wales. It is an area uniquely rich in well preserved archaeological remains at the junction between the main upland plateau of central Wales and the more lowland area of the Teifi valley to the west. Here, between 325-435m above sea level, are found a high number and diversity of archaeological farming sites.

One Welsh parish record which does align with the family bible is:

Name: Mary Ann Williams
Event Type: Baptism

Event Date: 1837

Event Place: Swansea St. Mary, Glamorgan, Wales

Parents; **William and Mary Williams**

Occupation: Mail coach man

Source "Wales, Glamorgan Parish Registers, 1558-1900," index, FamilySearch
(<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/VFZV-FQB> :

The only way to confirm the above would be to review the Parish original record above and see if the exact day of Mary Ann Williams birth was 30 Sept 1837 as in the family bible.

In the family bible has a hand written poem in Welsh which refers to the "Marquis of Bute" and how he assisted Cardiff. Maybe William I Williams worked on or knew about the new Cardiff Port area in 1839 before the family headed to NZ two years later? - FYI: John, 2nd Marquis of Bute, Cardiff financed and opened the 19.5 acre West Bute Dock in 1839 and launched the Port of Cardiff on its rise to maritime greatness. By the 1890s, Cardiff was Britain's largest coal-exporting port, with exports peaking at over 10 million tons in 1913. Industrialists, merchants and speculators then invested in heavy engineering, steelworks, ship-repairing and various other trades in Cardiff.

The exact location of where William I Williams and Mary Griffith (Both very common Welsh names) came from is uncertain and despite knowing the location and date details for the births of their six children and for the death of Edward their 4th son from the Family Bible all searches have not been able to establish any further information. Current evidence outlines they may have been originally from the now abandoned village spot of Meurnyn in the small Aber Valley in North Wales where they lived from 1809 to 1837 (William I may have then been a mail coachman). They then moved to Pontypridd, South East Wales in 1839 and onto Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, South East Wales in 1841 (where Edward was born and died) before departing as a family as non paying immigrants from London in June 1841 to Wellington, NZ on the Clipper Oriental direct.

Another possibility whoever wrote it in English possibly spelt it wrong in William Williams family bible where it is spelt Meurnyn but as you can see below an area of Marshfield is possibly spelt Maerun today in Welsh. Given the Bible is written in English and William could only mostly speak Welsh and Maori that may explain it when they wrote down the children's Welsh birth place. Marshfield (Welsh: Maerun) is an electoral ward (population 4,245 increasing to 6,270 at the 2011 census) and smaller village community and parish on the fringe of the city of Newport in Southern Wales.

2. **William I Williams (Wales to NZ) 1 Jan 1809 - 10 Nov 1841**

Married: Mary Griffith on 2nd Feb 1827 in Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, Wales? We don't have any marriage certificate and there are many Williams and Griffiths but this marriage date best aligns with the birth of their first child in 1829 and the location of the births of their 7 children below as outlined in the Family Bible held by Karen Williams Reeve Williams daughter) in 1995. Mary's 2nd marriage was to Robert Rose in 1844 New Zealand

Notes:

- Married for 13 years in Wales - Apparently Mary was a "servant girl in a red coat that William spotted on a snowy day".
- Family Bible (see above) outlines 7 children: William II (Born 12 Oct 1829 at **Groes Fawr ("the Big Cross")**, Meurnyn Wales died 1914 Manaia, Taranaki, NZ), Thomas (Born 20 July 1831 in the **Cowes Inn, Tn-delarch**), Amy (born 29 March 1833 in the **Long House "Ty-hir"**, Meurnyn) Daniel (born Feb 1835 at **Ty-hir Meurnyn**), Mary Ann (born 30 Sept 1837 at **Ty-hir Meurnyn**), Edward (born 24 Nov 1839 at Pontypridd, Glamorganshire (SE Wales) - died 1 yr on 22nd July 1841 in **Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, SE Wales**) and Cativor (son born 22 May 1841 and died 10 weeks old on 27 July 1841 at sea just off England on the way to NZ)
- William I Williams lied to the NZ immigration company about his age as men under 30 were preferred (he is listed as a 30 year old but was 32). Perhaps he knew he was dying of TB and a no upfront fee one way passage by the NZ

Plymouth immigrant company was the best way to ensure the survival of the family as NZ had a shortage of early pioneer women.

- In 1841, William I Williams sailed with his wife Mary Griffith and seven children from Wales on the emigrant ship 'SS Oriental' to New Zealand.
- The ships surgeon noted 11 days into the voyage William I could no longer do cooking on the ship due to TB. Tragically, the youngest child died early during the sea voyage aged 10 weeks.
- **William I is recorded to have died of tuberculosis within 14 days of arriving in Wellington.** The family had wanted to land at New Plymouth but William was so sick they offloaded the family at Wellington (the first stop). NZ deaths were not required to be registered until 1848 so there is no documentation or known grave in Wellington. Subsequently - Alfred Williams advised Barbara Williams that William I Williams actually died on the ship 6 weeks before it arrived in NZ and was buried at sea. Some of the ship Captains were paid as to how many immigrants were on board and so the ship records probably said he was a passenger who arrived. The family lived at Petone, Wellington. This makes sense as if his father was dead at sea then it would have been easier to send William II onto NP with a fellow passenger while his mother sorted the rest of the family out in Wellington.
- **Mary James (nee Griffiths)** born 1810 in Marshfield Monmouthshire, Wales married 1st William I Williams 18 Dec 1830 in Llanvetherine, Monmouthshire, Wales and 2nd Robert Rose in 1844 in NZ. Mary had a disastrous beginning in Wellington as William died however it was said she brought up the children well. In 1861 all the family except for William II went to Sydney and the Ballarat gold rush. Thomas (her other son) lived in Upper Hut with William II before going to Australia. Mary had no children with Mr Rose and died Jun. 8, 1900, in Raywood, Victoria, Australia.



Figure 63: Mary Williams (nee Griffith) 1900 and Amy's 1914 grave Raywood, VIC, Australia

- **1) William II Williams** (12 year old the eldest son direct line) as per the SS Oriental's passenger register remained on the Oriental and went from Wellington onto New Plymouth. There he was looked after by Mr Charles Armitage Brown who was also a passenger on the Oriental from England. William II's family did not follow him and it may have been some time before he knew about his father's death and returned to Wellington.



Figure 64: William II Williams was possibly born this house Groes Fawr ("the Big Cross"), Maerun, New Port, Wales 1829

Groes Fawr Cottage (above) is based on the corner of Church Lane and Marshfield Road in Marshfield (Welsh: Maerun) a parish on the fringe of the city of Newport in Southern Wales north of Cardiff. It may have been written down incorrectly as Meuryn in the family bible.

The other alternative location as outlined previously above is a village in the Aber Valley called Meuryn in North Wales which has a large Groes Fawr in its history.

- **2) Thomas Williams** also took his two daughters (Marie Ann and Selina) to Sydney in 1861. Unknown grave.
- **3) Mary Anne Williams** Unknown grave.
- **4) Daniel Williams** is reported in the paper to have boarded a ship in Wellington on 14th Nov 1853 for Geelong Victoria. Unknown grave.
- **5) Amy Williams** Born in Marshfield near Cardiff on 29 March 1833. Married John Cail in NZ 13 Aug 1851 and had 12 children. He was a policeman in Wellington for 3 years. they sailed on the Arion on 25 Aug 1853 for Melbourne for the gold rush and were earlier arrivals and we able to get a covered wagon to Ballarat. Amy realizing that food was in great demand in Ballarat, decided to conduct a grocery store in a large tent, while her husband John dug for gold. Amy was the more successful. With many miners unable to pay for their gold digging licences, great unrest broke out, so strong was the feeling that a revolt flared up led by Peter Lalor, an Irishman. After the rebellion, in which miners fared badly, Peter Lalor became a hunted man. However he had made friends who found in him a 'Champion'. One of his friends was Amy, who hid him in her large tent, by cutting down the ropes in the pretence of leaving the gold fields, because of this, Lalor was able to make his escape. (Peter Lalor later became a Member of Parliament, representing Ballarat West). As food was still in short supply in

Ballarat area, John and Amy brought land at Mount Rowan. On 22 acres of land, they grew produce which found a ready demand in that area. When land was thrown open for selection north of Bendigo, John and Amy selected 304 acres of land at Kamarooka in August 1873. Amy was one of the few of the early settlers, who had a sewing machine. She was hence in great demand, sewing for people with her little machine, which was turned with one hand. Amy died July 15, 1914 in Melbourne. They have many descendants in Australia with Amy's and John's children being:

- Agnes Amy Cail Caldwell (1852 - 1928)*
- George Henry Cail (1854 - 1918)*
- Daniel Thomas Cail (1856 - 1896)*
- Aaron Benjamin Cail (1858 - 1858)*
- Rachel Hester Cail Mountjoy (1859 - 1926)*
- William John Cail (1861 - 1911)*
- Mary Ann Maria Cail Allpress (1864 - 1934)*
- Robert Nelson Cail (1866 - 1913)*
- Charles James Cail (1869 - 1920)*
- Margaret Susan Cail Affleck (1872 - 1955)*
- Alice Maud Cail Henderson (1873 - 1945)*
- Walter Benjamin Cail (1875 - 1913)*
- **6) Edward Williams** (born 24 Nov 1839 at Pontypridd, Glamorganshire (SE Wales) - died 1 yr on 22nd July 1841 in **Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, SE Wales.**
- **7) Cativor Williams** (son born 22 May 1841 and died 10 weeks old on 27 July 1841 at sea on the Oriental just off England on the way to NZ).

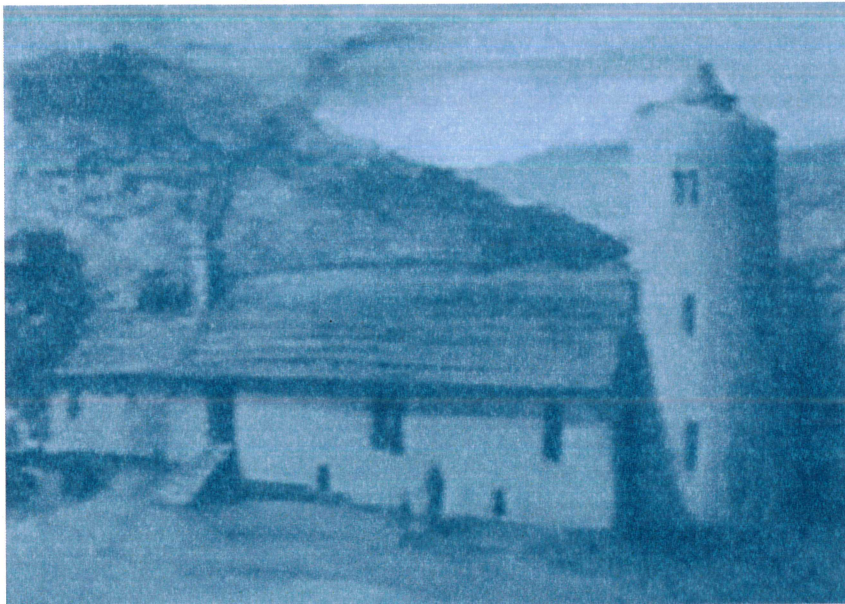


Figure 65: Long House (Ty-hir), Meuryn, Aber - possibly where Amy Williams was born 1833

(Ty Hir means Ty = House, Home or Dwelling. Hir = Long, Tall or Lengthy house). It would usually have been the house for the Manor or Llys farm. Above - photo of Twr Llywelyn, The tower, belonging to the house once known as Garth Celyn and now known as Pen y Bryn. The tower is still standing to this day but the house has been upgraded.

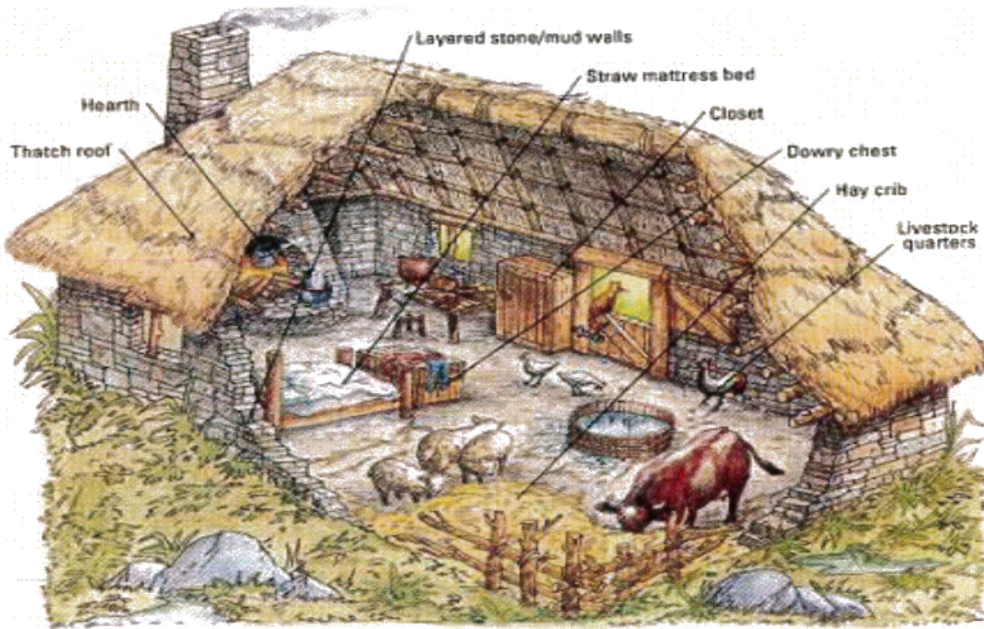


Figure 66: Artist archaeologist impression of a small Ty-hir at Meuryn, Aber Valley.

The above drawing is of a hendref (winter house). In "The Old Summer Pastures" Sayce fully described the life at the hafod (summer house on the plateau). He stressed the simplicity of the conditions in the often temporary buildings of wood or wattle. These huts were barely furnished with beds of hay or heather, utensils of wood, bags made of skin, baskets of coil and ropes of withies. All these items, if discarded, would not be easily preserved in an acidic soil. Furthermore all the household goods were moved down the valley floor to the hendref houses for the winter.



Figure 67: "Meuryn" was a village at the bottom of the rock scree slope next to Aber Falls

Above - Long houses (Ty-hir) have been found/excavated next to the base of the "Meuryn scree slope" in the photo above. Eighty farms were recorded in the above small Aber valley in the early 1800's. William II Williams was born at "Meuryn" in Wales in 1829 as well as Thomas Williams and Mary Ann Williams as per the family bible.

Three distinct vegetation belts are found in the area between the stone sheep wall below Meuryn and the marshy stream bed. The upper slopes rising steeply behind the excavated abandoned hut group (between 600 and 900 foot contour) are heavily clothed in bracken with some blackthorn and rowan. The gentler lower slopes are light woodland, mainly sessile oak with fully grown ash and birch and few bracken patches. The soil is deeper, the ground drier and more heath like.

CLIPPER SHIP ORIENTAL LONDON TO NZ (1841)

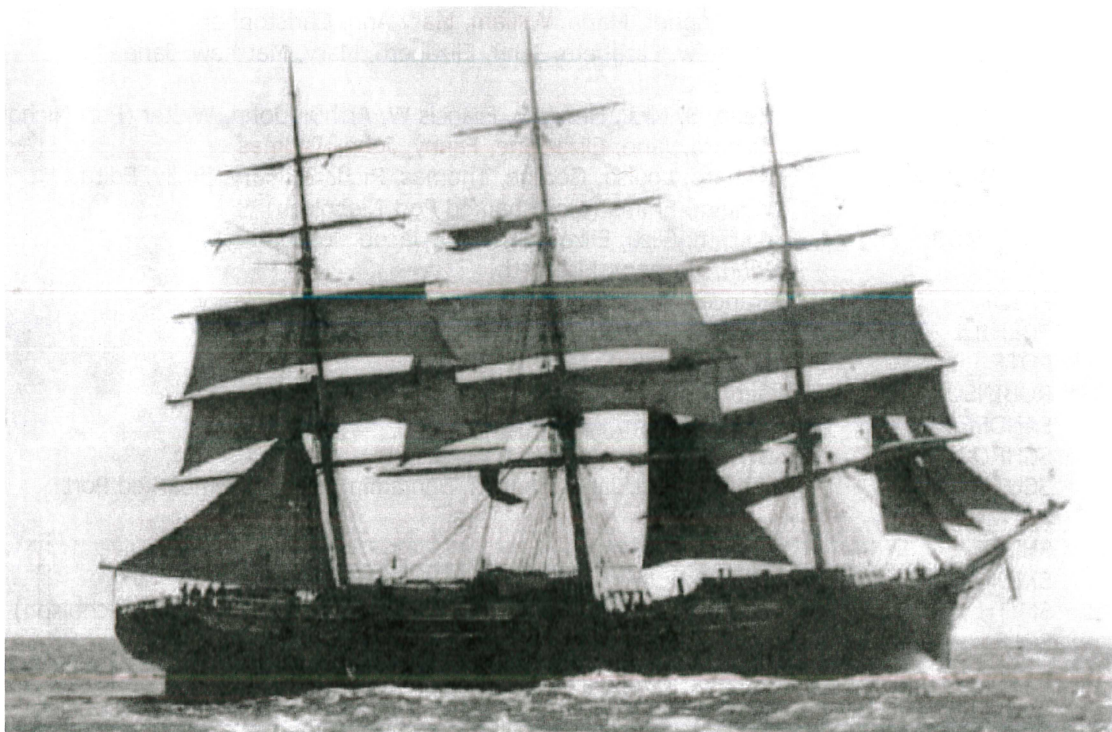


Figure 68: Clipper ORIENTAL - the ship the Williams family came to NZ on in 1841.

Passengers totaled 112 males and 79 females - a total of 191. 3 Births recorded on the voyage

Passenger list of the ORIENTAL

506 tons, William Wilson Commander, Arthur Kemball, Surgeon-Superintendent.
**Sailed from Plymouth UK 22 June 1841 - arrived Wellington 26 Oct and New
Plymouth 7 November 1841**

ASHTON	Mary
BEENLEN	Richard (disembarked Port Nicholson, Wellington)
BISHOP (born)	John, Charlotte, John, Walter, Benjamin, James, Emily, Thirza, Albert
BRETT	George
BROADMORE	George, Alice
BROWN	Chas. Armitage

COOPER Samuel, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Thomas, Mary Ann, Betsy, Frederick (Port
 Nicholson)
 COULLS Daniel
 COULLS Mary
 DAVIES Thomas, Ellenm Thomas, Pascoe
 DISTIN John, John S
 EVA Phillip
 FOREMAN Richard, Susanna, Richard, Stephen
 FOREMAN James, Harriett, Ann, Eliza
 GEORGE William, Ann, Ann Bennett, Georgina, William Henry, Thomas John
 GEORGE William, Jane, Mary, Susan, Matilda
 HANCOCK John, Elizabeth, John
 HEAL Thomas, Susan, Richard, William, Jane, Mary
 HELLIER John, Elizabeth, Thomas, William, Sarah, Elizabeth, Susan, Ann, John
 HENNA John
 HUNTER William, Hannah
 HURLESTONE Christopher, Maria, William, Mary Ann, Christopher
 JONAS Matthew, Elizabeth, John, Elizabeth, Mary, Matthew, Jane
 KEMBALL, Arthur C
 KNOWLES Henry S, Mrs., Henry H, Francis W, Arthur, John, Walter (Port Nicholson)
 LANDER Richard, Jane, Eliza Jane, Fanny, John, Thomas
 LETHBRIDGE Richard, Louisa, George, Thomas, Richard, Mary, Emily, Edith
 LUMSDEN William, Emma (disembarked Port Nicholson)
 PATTIMORE William, Eliza, Elizabeth, Mary, Jacob, Joseph
 PHILP John, Margery, Elizabeth,
 PHILP Frances, Richard, Louisa, Mary Jane, William Henry
 POLHILL Baker (disembarked Port Nicholson)
 POTE Ann, Mary Ann, Jemima
 ROBINSON George, Mary
 SANDERS John, William, William Henry
 SCHRODER G.W. (disembarked Port Nicholson)
 SCUTCHINGS James, Jane, Jane, Charles, Benjamin, Ellen (disembarked Port
 Nicholson)
 SHUTE Thomas William
 SKINNER Thomas K
 SMITH James, Elizabeth, Sarah, Henry, John (disembarked Port Nicholson)
 SOLE David, James, Henry, Thomas, Edward, William
 STAG Jane
 STREET Joseph, Mary, John, Ann, Richard, Joseph, Jacob, Romulus, Caroline
 Oriental (born on voyage)
 TURNER W.D., Mrs. (disembarked Port Nicholson)
 VALLACK James
 VIRTUE G.B. (disembarked Port Nicholson)
 WATTS William, Sophia, Jane, Ann, Matilda, Edward, John, Elizabeth, Henry,
 Hannah, Daniel, Jesse (disembarked Port Nicholson)
**WILLIAMS William I (32 years), Mary (31), William II (12) Thomas (10), Amy (8),
 Daniel (5), Mary Ann (3), Infant (1 month)** (disembarked Port Nicholson, Wellington with
 William II continuing to New Plymouth)
 WILTON Robert, Elizabeth, Elijah, Charles, William, Thomas, Job, Frances
 (disembarked Port Nicholson)