

[Cammie 1/4/70]

R E M I N I S C I N C E S

of

JAMES ODDIE ESQ. J.P.

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From a lecturette delivered by Mr. Oddie before the Australian Historical Record Society, and reported by Mr. W. Coulthard, Recording Secretary of the Society.

Mr. Jas. Oddie accompanied by his wife and child first arrived in Victoria on the 28th. of June, 1849, having journeyed^{ed} from England in the immigrant ship "Larpen^t," which carried 220 passengers in all. The ship entered Port Phillip Heads in the early morning when the sun was shedding his beautiful rays o'er land and sea, presenting a never to be forgotten sight. At half past two the anchor was dropped off Port Henry near Geelong - the ship being dispatched under the auspices of the Rev. Dr. Lang of Sydney and consigned to Dr. Thompson of Geelong - and shortly afterwards they were surrounded by the boats of the settlers who were anxious to make their arrival as pleasant as possible. In his first trip ashore, Mr. Oddie had a narrow escape from drowning owing to the "shifting" of the cargo belonging to a stone mason therein. It took him some nine days to get all his belongings ashore and he^{finally} left the ship on the 2nd July and commenced his eventful colonial career.

During the voyage from England thirteen of the passengers died from fever. Immediately after landing, his child died, then he himself was stricken down for three weeks, and then his wife died. Dr. Thompson having undertaken to place the immigrants in occupations as well suited to their capabilities as possible, Mr. Oddie who informed the Doctor that he was familiar with cattle and sheep got his first situation in Miss Newcomb's "Immigrant's Home" as "Generally Useful."

Then the Wesleyan Minister came along, and seeing so many sick, he turned his house into a Hospital, and Mr. Oddie realising that the outside of a horse was a good thing for the inside