

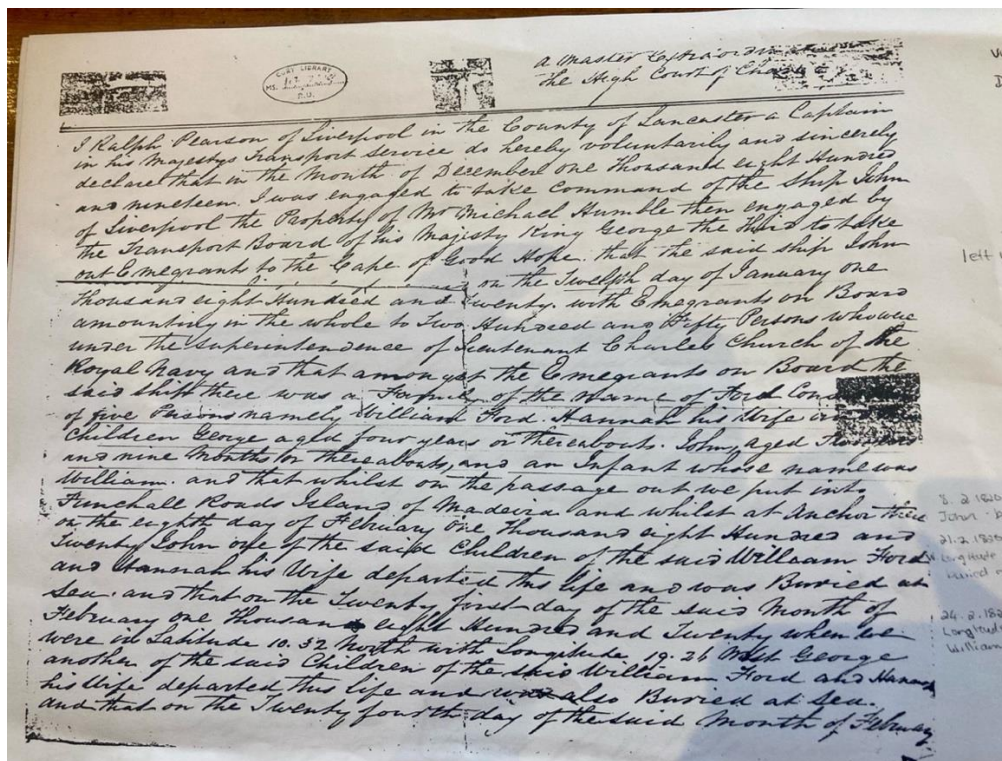
Loss of Ford children at sea: Extract from Log of *John* en route to Cape Town in 1820

supplied by Dave Hawkins

Editor's Note: Thanks also to Darian Keeton and Lynne Ford.

1820 Settler Samuel Liversage of Staffordshire led a joint-stock party that 'included a high proportion of young children' (Nash, MD, 1987, p 87). William Ford, farmer, 30, and his wife Hannah, 27, sailed on the *John* and lost all three of their children to measles: George, 5; John, 3; and William, 1 year. William and Hannah went on to have another three children, who survived. After William's death at Radway Green near Grahamstown Hannah married Benjamin Keeton of Hope Farm, where still today there is a portrait of Hannah (Ford) Keeton. Of her 18 children, only three Fords and six (of 12) Keetons survived. The Fords and Keetons have been associated with, or farmed, Hope Farm, Glendower and Lombard's Post since the 1820s.

(See following article on LAHS visit to Hope Farm, April 2024)



Transcript of above Ship's Log:

I, Ralph Pearson of Liverpool, in the county of Lancaster, a Captain in his Majesty's Transport Service, do voluntarily and sincerely declare, that in the month of December, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, I was engaged to take command of the ship, *John*, of Liverpool, the property of Mr Michael Humble, then

engaged by the transport board of his majesty King George the Third, to take out emigrants to the Cape of Good Hope. That the said ship, John, on the 12th day of January one thousand eight hundred and twenty, with emigrants on board amounting in the whole to two hundred and fifty persons, who were under the superintendence of Lieutenant Charles Church of the Royal Navy and that amongst the emigrants on board the said ship there was a family of the name of Ford consisting of five persons namely William Ford, his wife Hannah, and his children, George aged four or thereabouts, John aged two years and nine months and an infant whose name was William. And that whilst on the passage out we put into Funchall Roads Island of Madeira and whilst at anchor there on the eighth day of February one thousand eight hundred and twenty, John, one of the said children of the said William Ford and Hannah his wife departed this life and was buried at sea and that on the twenty first day of the said month of February when we were in latitude 10.32 North with longitude 19.21 West, George, another of the said children of the said William Ford and Hannah his wife departed this life and was also buried at sea. And on the twenty fourth day of the said month of February one thousand eight hundred and twenty when we were in latitude 10.32 North with longitude 19.21 West, George, another of the said children of the said William Ford and his wife Hannah, departed this life and was also buried at sea. And that on the twenty fourth day of the said month of February one thousand eight hundred and twenty, when we were in latitude 5.0 North with longitude 18.9 West, William the infant son of the said Willam Ford and Hannah his wife also departed this life and was buried at sea. And i do hereby sincerely declare that the anexed extracts marked with the letter A from the log book of the proceedings of his Majesty's hired transport ship, John, are true and just copies of the entries made in such log book of the deaths of the said three children of the said William Ford and Hannah his wife as aforesaid and that the said log book has been in my custody and care since the time the said ship arrived in England from the said voyage to the Cape of Good Hope and that the said log book is now in my possession and i make this solemn declaration concieniously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of an act made and passed in the sixth year of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth instituted an act to repeal an act of the present session of parliament instituted an act for the more effectual abolition of oaths and affirmations taken and made in various departments of the state and to substitute declarations in lieu thereof and for the more intire suppression of voluntary and extrajudicial oaths and affidavits and to make other provisions for the abolition of unnecessary oaths.

Declared at Liverpool
In the county of Lancaster
This fourteenth day of
November one
Thousand eight hundred
and forty three
Signed Ralph Pearson



Darian Keeton at Hope Farm with the portrait of his great-great grandmother Hannah nee Robinson (Ford, widow) Keeton, who lost nine of her 18 children.
(Photo: Claire Keeton)