

Port Cooper John & Co 11

The magistrate sent 2 police men on board and we was called aft we would not come without they told us what they was going to do with us they told us that we should be put in irons and taken on shore when we went aft they put the irons on to Bill a plymouth chap the captain gave order to put him down the after hatch he intended to take us to Wellington and have us tried for mutiny. Bill sang out for me to come to his assistance I was not long in adding that Bill got away and I got taken the 2 police men the captain and mate and second mate held me pretty tight they lashed me up with a chain Bill had got down in the forecastle and got his irons of came on deck and have them over board he took up a hands pike and told them to let me go or he would heave it at their heads the captain did not know what to do he let me go sent the police on shore telling them he would be frightened of his life to take us to sea with him that he would let us go we packed up got our things on deck the captain went on shore got to men that had been left on shore by a Barque some time before we took the boat and went on shore at port Cooper it was a new settlement then Port Cooper

there was nothing doing on shore but making roads building barracks for the emigrants that was expected from england I got a job on the roads for 4 shillings a day I worked at that till the ships began to come out from england then I got a boat and went to ferrying for a short time it did not pay so I took a big open boat and took

George Henry

fight around to the shore we had a dangerous bar to cross and often the boats would get filled and capsized and have to lose all I had a large boat called the George and Henry and I went to do pretty well with her we took timber or luggage or anything that we could get we got capsized once and lost all of our cloths we had come from pigeon bay with timber and it had been blowing hard all day the timber was stowed so close that we could not get the water out that used to in to her when we got within 5 miles of the bar I met a deck vessel and she was afraid to try to beat over the bar and was surprised to see us bound to attempt it the sea was very heavy at the time when we got on to the bar I found it rather unpleasant the sea ran right in to us but we had to go then when we got in to smooth water she was full and over she went the tide was running in at the time we had a little boat lashed on top of the timber we cut her on to the bottom of the boat and turned the water out and got the paddles and then fished up the fore sheet and managed to tow her in to the river before the tide came down we got her in to shallow water when the tide left we got her upright and got the water out of her we lost all the timber of the thwarts I got a charter one time to go to a place called mutton horn to take a man and wife and 5 children I had never been there but I took the charter I men the course to steer I took in my freight and passengers the people on the wharf said that I was mad to attempt to go to sea and catch a distance that time of year in a boat like that but I was bound to go