

The London Times, 16 April, 1853

The Ticonderoga, Emigrant Vessel

To the Editor of the Times

Sir, - I beg to call your attention to the case of the Ticonderoga, the unfortunate emigrant vessel which sailed from Birkenhead last year with from 800 to 900 Government emigrants to Australia, and of whom no fewer than about 180 died on the passage and in quarantine. Nearly three months have now elapsed since advice was received in this country of the arrival of the vessel, and of the state of the passengers, and of course great anxiety must have been felt to learn the particulars; but your readers will scarcely credit the statement, that till the arrival of the Great Britain, a few days ago, no official advices had been received by the Board of Emigrant Commissioners of the arrival of the vessel, and that up to this hour no list of the passengers who died has yet been received. Thus, though about a fourth part of the number of passengers have been cut off by death, the thousands of anxious relatives are still kept in suspense as to the fate of their friends. I am at all times desirous to exercise leniency in judging of the operations of Government establishments and officials, but I can scarcely conceive a more harrowing case of painful solicitude than must be felt by the sorrowing relatives of this large body of emigrants; neither can we suppose other than great remissness of duty somewhere in connexion (sic) with this lamentable case.

I may add that the agents of the vessel having had no charge of the shipment of the passengers, and the owners being resident in America, there is no other source open for the desired information than the Board of Emigrant Commissioners.

I am, Sir, &c.,

April 14.

Transcribed from copy of extract – J Ruzsicska, 2000