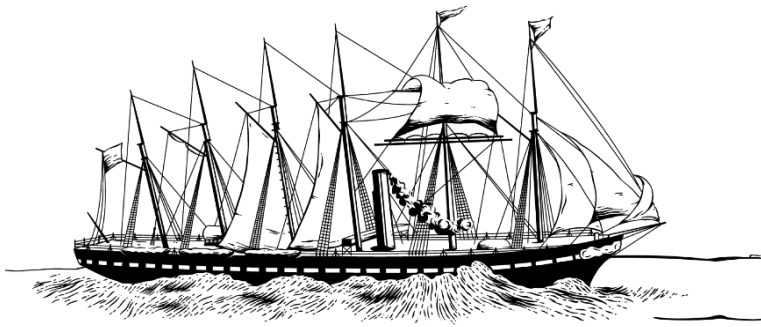




# Passenger Diaries

## Susan Mary Crompton



Departed: Melbourne,  
Australia on 15 May 1866

Arrived: Liverpool, United  
Kingdom on 20 July 1866

Susan Mary Crompton began her married life on board the *SS Great Britain*. The voyage from Melbourne to Liverpool in 1866 was the start of a honeymoon visit to England with her new husband Joseph. Mary was thrilled by the adventure of being on a ship. She loved watching the sea, and made friends with everyone on board, from the captain to the smallest children. Mary was always busy - as well as writing a detailed diary describing her experiences on board, she organised concerts and other entertainments with her fellow passengers. She rarely found time to be bored, even though the journey to England lasted sixty-six days.

Learn more about Susan and her journey using Global Stories:  
[https://globalstories.ssgreatbritain.org/\\_traveller/15907](https://globalstories.ssgreatbritain.org/_traveller/15907)



18<sup>th</sup> May 1866

*We came on board with Sidney [her brother] late on the afternoon. We had some difficulty for there were numbers of boats crowding round the staircase and the men were roaring at one another and pushing about till I thought we should all be in the water. Sidney bid us goodbye. I did not like his going. I am afraid I had a good cry but Joe is very kind and he soon made me feel happy again. He is very good to me, he comes every now and then to see if I am happy.*

19<sup>th</sup> May 1866

*They keep a magnificent table on board everything is very nice except the bread, butter, tea and coffee; we have rolls at breakfast which are very well made. I never saw such a place as this for eating, people seem to do very little else.*

24<sup>th</sup> June 1866

*We are beginning to see the rats, one came into my cabin the other night as I was going to bed, I jumped onto the berth and waited till Joe came down, then he and one of the stewards had a grand rat hunt but the gentleman escaped through a hole. Mrs Fenwick was wakened by one biting her toenails, and Jane Cumming has had a new stocking eaten by another.*

1<sup>st</sup> July 1866

*Another little baby this morning, Mrs Austin's poor baby died about 10 o'clock, she has been very ill all this week and early this morning she was seized with convulsions which continued until she died: she was a nice little thing of five months old, with long curly brown hair, I never saw a child with so much at her age. A woman belonging to the second cabin had twins.*

