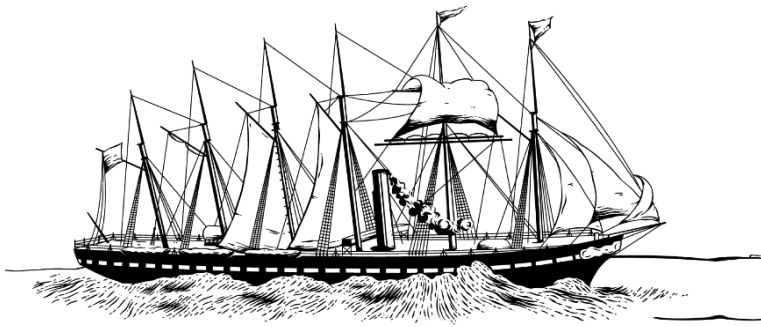


# Passenger Diaries Herman Zumstein



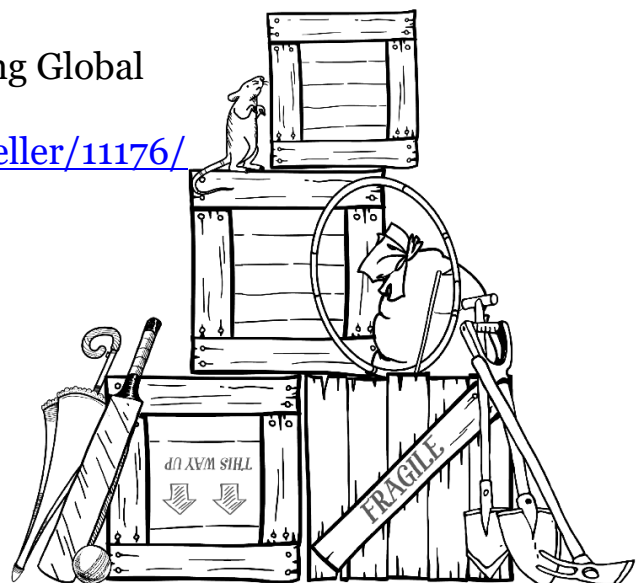
Departed: Melbourne,  
Australia on 4 May 1863

Arrived: Liverpool, United  
Kingdom on 3 July 1863

Businessman Herman Zumstein was born in Switzerland but had emigrated to Australia in the 1850s. He was travelling first class on the SS Great Britain in 1863 because he was on his way to Switzerland to visit family. The journey was a challenging one for Herman as the ship experienced bad weather as it travelled around Cape Horn and in the Atlantic Ocean. He also spent a lot of the journey looking after his friend Pernel who was severely seasick.

Learn more about Herman and his journey using Global  
Stories:

<https://globalstories.ssgreatbritain.org/traveller/11176/>



10<sup>th</sup> May 1863

*Got up with a nasty cold. Heavy gale from the west, rain and spray. Divine service in the cuddy. Confined within the whole day on account of the weather. All hands psalms and hymns the livelong day. The whole ship and all over plunging and rolling like mad. Not a dry place on the whole ship. In short, everybody moping about as uncomfortably and listlessly as possible.*

25<sup>th</sup> May 1863

*Had a very nasty job this morning. We prepared a bed for old Pernel in the hospital, dressed him & three holding and lifting him first got him down to the new berth. On taking him thro' the Saloon the children screamed with fright at the sight of the haggard, half dead old man in his red night cap being carried along by 3 men. Once in the hospital I helped to undress him & with the help of the hospital steward to wash 3 weeks of filth off him with a sponge and hot water; then dressed him again & leaving him much more*

*comfortable & sleeping well nearly the whole day. Awful bilious headache in the afternoon. Went to bed to sleep it off. In the even got up again & all hand clubbed together to celebrate the Queen's birthday & passing the Horn in a loyal and jolly style. Some afterwards turned in in good time. Others kept the fun going all night. What with drinking, singing and skylarking the "Great Britain" was pretty noisy all night thro'.*

3<sup>rd</sup> June 1863

*Calm and beautiful weather. Took in all sail & got up steam. Numbers of albatrosses, Cape hens and Cape pigeons following the ship. Whilst porpoise kept tumbling in & out of the water, seemingly enjoying the sport very much. These fellows can swim amazingly fast. – Lanterns on deck all night & sundry games & dancing carried on until 10pm.*

