

Notes on

PEARLING

PEARL SHELL

TUAMOTUS

From: Davies, John, A History of the Tahitian Mission (MS in possession of Colin Newbury).

Chapter IV, page 6 - June 17th (1807) a ship called the General Wellesly, Capt. Dalrymple, came in, she was from Port Jackson and bound for India. No letters or anything for the miss., as the Capt. said it was not known when they left Port Jackson that they should come to Tahiti.

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Page 7 - The 27th. The General Wellesly sailed for the Paumotus with Mr Elder on board. He went at the request of the Capt. and by consent of the miss. to act as an interpreter &c and the ship was to return to Tahiti after visiting some of those low islands: ~~through all the north of~~

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Page 7 - Augst. 3. the General Wellesly returned having visited several of the Paumotu islands. (20)

Footnote (20) - At the request of the miss. Mr Elder had kept a journal of the voyage. Capt. Dalrymple was in quest of pearls in which (he) had but an indifferent success. He went in search of Arutua island where the Margaret Capt. Buyers had been wrecked, but could not find it at first, but after visiting other islands particularly Rairoa (which they supposed had been by mistake called Oanaa or Prince of Wales' island) where they got some

Pearl Shell. Davies' Diary, cont'd.

natives to guide them to Arutua. They visited Taaroa and Taapoto, where there were many inhabitants, 300 or 400 on Taaroa they thought Cook had mistaken the names, and given Tlookia and Oura for those two islands. The people of Taaroa were at first very shy, but when Mr E(lder) ventured to go ashore among them, they soon stripped him of his jacket, but while they were disputing who should have it, he took the opportunity of getting into the boat, they stripped also the Tahitian boy who was with him, but afterwards let him go. Those people then appeared very savage, and very little could be understood of their language. (D.)

The footnote is by Davies himself.

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Earlier entries in the diary refer to the arrival of Tuamotuan refugees from wars in the Tuamotus, and their hospitable reception by Pomare.

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* also the next chapter (vi), p. 1

PEARLING INDUSTRY

HRNZ I:422-3 - James Elder informs Marsden that "in the year 1807 the ship General Wellesley, Captain Dalrymple, touched at Otaheita, in which island this deponent was then resident, when Capn. Dalrymple requested deponent to go with him as interpreter in a cruise to the Palazeers and other islands, to ascertain what quantity of beech le mar and pearl shells could be obtained. To this requisition deponent gave his consent, and went with Capn. Dalrymple accordingly. Was six weeks among the islands, and minutely explored nine of them, ...". Goes on to detail the wanton firing on the natives of the Prince of Wales's Island by Capt. Dalrymple.

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- (1) TMS III has 'General Wellesley' an. June 17, 1806 (also in Ellis' L.M.S., p. 187). She dep. for Pulo Penang from PJ 24.4.07.
- (2) From deposition of James Elder re escape of John Hoare (HRA VI: 543) 'General Wellesley' was in Tahiti c. Aug., 1807.

PEARLING INDUSTRY: TUAMOTUS

REFERENCES

- (1) There is a lot of material in Correspondence relative to the Society Islands 1822-43.
- (2) Piracy and ill-treatment of Europeans at the Pearl Islands, Bora Bora. (H. Nott to Rev. S. Marsden, Oct. 11, 1832) [Marsden Papers, vol.5, p.120] ML A1996.
- (3) "A Journal of a Voyage in the brig Spy, of Salem (1832-1834), John B. Knights, Master"; in Snow, Capt. Elliott, introd., "The Sea, the Ship and the Sailor", Salem, Mass., Marine Research Society, 1925, pp.168-207. ~~Is this the same as Marine Research Society of Salem, Publication 7 (1925), quoted by Riesenberg as having a list of Europeans in the Caroline Islands in 1933 (p.204)? Is it then worth photocasting?~~

TUAMOTU PEARLING TRADE

Hugh Cumings MS in ML gives the best account of the Tuamotu Pearling Trade.

Pp.27-8 for account of the English lad who was made a chief on Anaa.

P.41: sugar planted by 3 Europeans on Tahiti.

Pp.43-44: beachcombers on Tahiti.

P.49: discovers island (low, coral) in $22^{\circ}23'S$; $140^{\circ}10'W$. Lagoon island, about 300 miles from the Gambiers. About 9 miles in circumference.

P.59: discovered Maturamoa, Tenanao and Tenararoa.

Maturamoa $21^{\circ}25'S$; $136^{\circ}40'W$. Largest about 20 miles in circumference.

Carysfoot Island $21^{\circ}00'S$; $138^{\circ}26'W$.

Accounts of native navigation and canoes.

P.63: wind bound party. P.71: another wind bound party.

P.64: the seizing of Capt. Walker's brig from Sydney (the inside story).

P.70: the Paliseer Islands are 4 in number, situated in $15^{\circ}38'$; $146^{\circ}30'$.

Account read to p.100.