

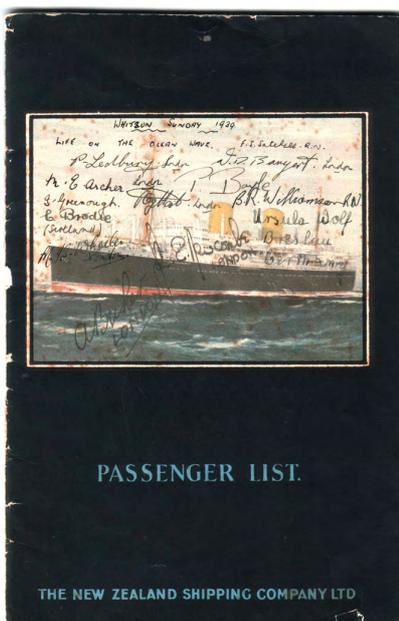
R.M.V. "RANGITIKI"

Autographed in 1939

by David Ransom

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I have recently purchased a New Zealand Shipping Company passenger list for the voyage of the *Rangitiki*. It is actually a duplicate of one that I already have, but what makes this one particularly interesting is that it has been signed by many members of the crew and passengers, as a souvenir for the final voyage of the ship's registered nurse, Farnham Stanley Satchell, also known as Stan, or just "Doc".



There are many interesting signatures including that of Ursula Wolf from Breslau, then part of Germany, now known as Wroclaw, Poland, who was travelling to New Zealand from the UK with another

Miss Wolf, just a few months before the start of the Second World War.

One signature in particular caught my eye, it is written over the top of a photograph of Pitcairn Island. At first I couldn't make out what it said. It is not an obvious capital letter at the start. I tried looking up Dellah, then Bellah, in all the Christians listed in Paul J Lareau's amazing 300 page book *The HMS Bounty Genealogies* with no luck. Also, if Christian was her

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married name then she would be listed in the book by her maiden name.

Fortunately I have a digital file of an earlier edition of his book. This meant that I could let the computer search for me! I put in the search term “ellah”, being the letters that I could read, and up popped Nellah Young who was born in 1903.



PITCAIRN ISLAND.

I don't know why Nellah was the only Pitcairner to sign the listing, perhaps the Doctor was able to help her at a previous call of the *Rangitiki*?

I have reproduced some of the information concerning Nellah below from Paul's book.

NELLAH YOUNG, born 8th October 1903, Pitcairn. She married JOSEPH VIVIENE CHRISTIAN, born 6th October 1904, Pitcairn, (son of SIDNEY ELLIOT ATKINS CHRISTIAN and ETHEL VIRGINIA YOUNG). She had three children: LOWELL KENNETH CHRISTIAN, born 1st April 1923,

Pitcairn; EVELYN EGLANTINE CHRISTIAN, born 16th November 1929, Pitcairn; and TOMLIN HICK CHRISTIAN, born 20th March 1933, Pitcairn.

Nellah was the daughter of CHARLES CARLETON VIEDER YOUNG, born 20th April 1850, Pitcairn. Her mother was ALICE HELENA CHRISTIAN, born 26th October 1866, Pitcairn, (daughter of ALPHONSO DOWNS CHRISTIAN and SARAH McCOY). Charles was among the first wave of returnees from Norfolk to Pitcairn in 1859. He served as Pitcairn Magistrate in 1890-91. He travelled to England in 1915. In 1934-35, at the time of Shapiro's visit, he was seriously ill with gangrene of the foot. He was named after the Captain of the whaler, *Nauticon*, Charles Vieder, who spent some time on Pitcairn with his parents, and was present at his birth. Captain Vieder's wife, Susan, was asked to name the child.

Charles was the son of ALBINA McCOY, born 11th November 1828, Pitcairn. She married MOSES YOUNG, 9th July 1848, in Pitcairn, born 30th September 1829, Pitcairn, (son of EDWARD YOUNG and POLLY CHRISTIAN). Edward (born 1797), Pitcairn. Edward's mother was Maimiti and his father was Bounty Midshipman Edward Young. Polly (born 1814) was the daughter of Thursday October Christian (born October 1790).

Stan, whose passenger list this was, filled in the Log page at the back of the booklet so I have reproduced it here. The journey seemed rather eventful to me as it included a stowaway being found two days out from London, and sadly a burial at sea the day before arriving at Pitcairn Island. However he sums up the voyage of 11,925 miles as follows: "Uneventful passage. Lovely weather. Disappointing accommodation for many people. Socially a grand time, with many goodbyes."

Pitcairn and Norfolk Islands Society

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LOG. R.M.S. RANGITIKI From PLYMOUTH To WELLINGTON

LONDON

DATE	DIST.	LAT.	LONG.	REMARKS	DATE	DIST.	LAT.	LONG.	REMARKS		
1	26.5.39	113	50° 43 N.	0° 30. E	Proximity Rough. Cold. Breeze	21	15.6.39	361	05° 56. S.	105° 36. W.	Swell sea breeze
2	24.5.39	288	49° 22. N.	6° 12. W.	Calm. Fresh. Wind	22	16.6.39	365	13° 55 S.	111° 03. W.	Slight swell. Wind
3	28.5.39	366	46° 17 N.	14° 05 W.	STOWAWAY. Mid Sea. Warm.	23	18.6.39	362	17° 60. S.	116° 24. W.	SWELLING AT SEA. Westerly breeze. Overcast
4	29.5.39	356	42° 21. N.	21° 21. W.	Mid Sea. Good.	24	18.6.39	355	20° 50. S.	121° 44 W.	Breeze. Cloudy. Sea
5	30.5.39	357	40° 52. N.	28° 20. W.	Swell. Slight Breeze	25	19.6.39	334	23° 19 S.	127. 09. W.	More clear. Blue
6	31.5.39	343	38° 14. N.	34° 19. W.	Rain. Wind. Clear	26	20.6.39	359	26° 12. S.	132. 24. W.	Light breeze. Swell
7	1.6.39	348	35° 14. N.	41° 16. W.	Swell. Hot.	27	21.6.39	354	29° 10° S.	138° 16. W.	Overcast. Rain
8	2.6.39	245	32° 17. N.	47° 12. W.	Mid Sea. Very Hot.	28	22.6.39	342	31° 45° S.	144° 09. W.	Wind. Sea churning
9	3.6.39	355	28° 27. N.	52° 32. W.	Sea Swell. Slowly	29	23.6.39	327	33° 39 S.	150° 00. W.	Light Sea. Swell
10	4.6.39	363	25° 29 N.	58° 34 W.	Calm. Warm.	30	24.6.39	302	36° 06 S.	155° 39. W.	Clear. Windy. Swell
11	5.6.39	355	21° 48 N.	63° 30. W.	Swell. Hot	31	25.6.39	345	39° 56 S.	162° 28. W.	Light Sea. Breeze
12	6.6.39	362	19° 47° N.	68° 14. W.	HISPANOIA ISLANDS Calm. Very Hot	32	26.6.39	358	39° 55 S.	169° 42. W.	Calm Sea. Cold. Breeze
13	7.6.39	373	14° 15 N.	73° 33. W.	Swell. Very Hot.	33	27.6.39	366	41° 08 S.	177° 56. W.	Mid Breeze Swell.
14	8.6.39	370	10° 43. N.	78° 44 W.	Arrived Colon CANAL	34	28.6.39	160	60° 05.	Arrival at Wellington	
15	9.6.39	1166	half Colon	AND.	Arrived Colton. CANAL						
16	10.6.39	275	5° 16 N.	81° 59. W.	Slight Breeze. Swell				Voyage of 11. 925 miles		
17	11.6.39	223	11° 28 N.	85° 44 W.	Slight Sea. Gusty Breeze				Unsettling passage, lovely weather		
18	12.6.39	354	20.00. 15	90° 32. W.	ARRIVED EQUATOR LINE				Disappointing accommodation. for many people.		
19	13.6.39	366	5° 02 S.	90° 40 W.	Light Sea. Gentle Breeze				Sailed at good time, and very good bye.		
20	14.6.39	318	5° 53 S.	100° 2° W.	Mid Swell. Clear.				Would prefer the hardships of sea again		

6 hours. 33 mins. time taken for transit 50 miles through the Panama Canal.

The full passenger list for this voyage is included on my website which has been set up to raise money for Cancer Research. At the time of writing, March 2014, over £200 has been raised. Please visit the site (link below) and consider making a small donation yourself for this good cause.

Weblink:

<http://www.nzsc.co.uk>