posed of; they were almost given away. There was quite a clamoring for the boat and nets, the idea being prevalent that they would catch fish anywhere if they were only in the water. My father was not disposed to put them up for sale; he preferred to let the poor fishermen have them for a small trifile, just enough to have it said they were bought or sold. Both the nets and boat were kept as long as they would hang together.

Arrangements were made for my uncle and a friend of my father's to take the luggage to Liverpool in a pilot boat to save expense; they offering their services free of charge, my brother and I to accompany them; father, mother and the rest of the family to take train the day following by way of Chester. The day we left Connah's Quay our neighbors and friends to the number of at least 300 assembled on the beach to witness our departure, most of whom shed tears and watched us as long as the boat could be seen. I remember quite well the time, and that I never shed a tear; for I knew that we were doing the will of the Lord. On the following day, when my father and family left, the whole village, almost to the last man, followed them to Queen's Ferry, a distance of two miles, to take a final leave of them, and many followed them to Liverpool. [Millenial Star, April 21, 1884, pp 241-244]

To many emigrants the crowded life on a ship for weeks on end was a shock.

Even under British law, which allowed three adult passen-
gers for each five tons of registered tonnage, that provision was not a generous space allocation. A 1,000-ton vessel, for example, could carry 600 adults, a goodly number in confined quarters. Overcrowding also created sanitation problems, such as inadequate toilet and bathing facilities. For this reason emigrants preferred American ships that had two heads, or water closets, on each side of the deck. Even then these enclosures could smell like cesspools. [Donald Q. Cannon; BYU Studies Vol. 27, No. 1, pg.103]

ARRIVING ON SHIP:
When we arrived we boarded the William Tapscott. It was an interesting sight to see the Saints boarding the ship with all kinds of tin utensils tied in bunches and some were carrying their straw mattresses on their heads, while others were loaded down with all kinds of parcels and lunch baskets. Some had old pieces of furniture, such as a tea-caddy or teapot or some old picture of great-grandparents. [Our Pioneer Heritage, Vol. 13, p.269]

THE WILLIAM TAPSCOTT
Ship: 1525 tons: 195’ x 41’ x 21’ Built: 1852 by William Drummond at Bath, Maine

In three voyages the square-rigger William Tapscott transported 2262 Mormon emigrants—the greatest number of any sailing craft. Captain James B. Bell was master during these passages.

11 May 1860 the William Tapscott sailed from Liverpool with 730 Saints from Britain, Scandinavia, and Switzerland on board. Elder Asa Calkin presided over the company. His counselors were Elders William Budge and Carl Widerborg. The voyage was stormy and unpleasant, and adding to the distress smallpox broke out among the Scandinavian Saints. During the thirty-five-day passage there were ten deaths, four births, and nine marriages. When the vessel arrived at the quarantine point in the New York harbor on 15 June, physicians came aboard and vaccinated most of the passengers and crew. It was not until 20 June that the emigrants were permitted ashore.

The William Tapscott was one of the largest full-rigged ships built in Maine during the 1850s. She was a typical “Down Easter”—sturdy, moneymaking, moderately sparred, and designed for carrying capacity.

She was a three-decker with a square stem and billet-head. Among her owners, including her namesake, were such well-known mariners as William Drummond, Gilbert C. Trufant, and George B. Cornish. She hailed from New York. After plying the oceans for about forty years the William Tapscott was lost in the English Channel in the early 1890s.

Monday, May 7th, they boarded the “William Tapscott" a freight ship, which the previous year had brought a large company of emigrating Saints across the Atlantic. Besides the Scandinavian Saints, 85 Swiss and a large company of Welsh and English Saints went on board the same ship bound for America.

Among the English were Elders Asa Calkin, who had presided over the European Mission, and Thomas Williams, both accompanied by their families. When all were on board, the emigrating Saints numbered 730 souls. Asa Calkin was appointed president of the company, with Elders William Budge and Carl Widerborg as counselors. The company was divided into nine districts, each with a district president.
The *William Tapscott* sailed from Liverpool, May 11, 1860. It was a fine ship and a splendid sailer, but, owing to contrary winds, the voyage consumed 35 days. Union and good order prevailed during the whole voyage. Prayer was held every morning and evening, and on Sundays religious services were held on the deck. Owing to cold and a change of diet, considerable sickness prevailed among the emigrants, and ten deaths occurred, most of them among the Scandinavian Saints. Four children were born on board and nine couples married, among whom were Hans Christian Heiselt and Larsine Larsen from the Vendsyssel Conference, Denmark. On the 3rd of June, the smallpox showed itself among the emigrants, seven cases of this disease were reported, none of which, however, proved fatal. On Friday evening, June 15th, the ship arrived at the quarantine dock in New York harbor. The next day two doctors came on board and vaccinated, with but very few exceptions, all of the steerage passengers, a part of the cabin pas-
sengers, and the ship’s crew. This was done to prevent a further outbreak of the disease, though all the sick had nearly recovered by this time. On the 20th, after being detained in quarantine five or six days, the passengers were landed at Castle Garden, New York. The smallpox cases had previously been taken ashore and placed in a hospital.

ACCOUNTS OF THE VOYAGE

The weather must have made a lot of difference on the journey, because the journals on the same ship just one year earlier record a much different experience than the 1860 group had:

...[W]hen the anchor was weighed at 4 a.m., and every heart rejoiced in bidding adieu to Babylon and setting forth to the land of Zion. The joyous songs of Zion ("Babylon, Oh Babylon, We Bid Thee Farewell") echoed through the ship; and as we got into the channel, the chorus followed, of course, in a good sea-sick style, in which nearly all joined to their heart’s content. . . . The voyage throughout was by far the most pleasant and agreeable that I have ever realized, during the whole of the five times I have crossed these waters. . . . The monotony of the voyage was also enlivened with singing, instrumental music, dancing, games, &c. R.F. Neslen [www.mormontrail.com/trace/journey.htm]

No journals from the 1860 voyage mention such enjoyment. Ence Gott was from Switzerland. Here is his account of the journey across the ocean on the same trip as the Bennetts. He wrote about the conditions aboard the William Tapscott. You can almost detect a German accent in his writing:

We remained in Liverpool a few days to buy a few things on our journey on the ship, we went on a Sailing Vessel Name of William in the neighborhood of seven hundred Mormon Emigrants from England, Switzerland, Denmark, Scotland. Besides 300 others not Mormon mostly Irish, were and Board. As far as I remember we were 50 days on the ocean, We encountered mainly Storms. Our Board was rather poor and the water very bad in the latter end of being on the vessel, the water got to stink very much. I had to do some cooking for about 8 persons. I was most of the time sick; by standing before the hot stove stirring the Rice which however got burned. The Kitchen was always crowded by the folks, and every thing was uncomfortably fixed. I ate very little on board a ship, our main food was Salty Pork, Rice and some Potatoes, no bread but some hard crackers without salt. I did nearly starve and was very sick.

One morning when we heard we were close to Land every ones heart was gladend with joy to behold the blessed Land, Houses and Trees again, I myself was very glad. I always said “Let me take my chances on the land.” When we got to New York In the Castle Gardens or bagage was all examined, on some things duty had to be paid on it. A few persons got the smallpox on the Vessell which cause us a little trouble for us to get landed. I enjoyed a good meal victuals in New York as I did not enjoy one good meal all the across the sea.[journal at LDS Historical Department Archives]

A LETTER FROM ON BOARD THE WILLIAM TAPSCOTT

Thomas Williams wrote a letter to President N.V. Jones while on board the William Tapscott which was printed.

Early photograph of a three-masted ship. Library of Congress.
in the Millenial Star on July 21, 1860. The second part of the letter was written after they arrived in New York.

CORRESPONDENCE
America, New York  
Ship William Tapscott  
June 11, 1860

Dear Brother Jones, Through the tender mercies of our Heavenly Father, I am once more privileged to communicate with you. We experienced a pretty favourable time clear of the Channel, considering the winds we had to contend with. We have, however, had but poor winds the whole of the voyage to aid us in making a fair passage. It has been raining nearly every day since we left Liverpool; consequently, the Saints have not enjoyed the trip across the Atlantic so much as they would, if it had been finer weather. We have been at sea thirty days, and are now about 250 miles off New York. We have had the winds right ahead the last two days, and have made but little progress. We hope, however, if all goes well, to arrive at New York on Thursday next.

Since our departure from Liverpool, there have been four births, five marriages, and ten deaths on board. The deaths have all occurred among the Scandinavian emigrants, with one exception namely brother Keller’s child, from Switzerland.

The smallpox made its appearance among the Scandinavian Saints on Sunday, the 3rd of June. There have been nine cases up to the present time. I sincerely trust it will not spread further among the company. I feel satisfied that the Lord has heard and answered the prayers of his people, and that the disease has been checked to a wonderful extent. Those who took the disease are now doing well, and will in
Inside Castle Gardens where immigrants were processed on their arrival in America. [Peabody Museum]

Photograph of Castle Gardens at the southern tip of Manhattan Island [Library of Congress].