

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 79 (2013)  
**Heft:** [6]

**Artikel:** Oldest photo of Swiss living in New Zealand  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943782>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 19.08.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**



## Visit to the Maritime Museum in San Diego

### Euterpe Star of India

A little over a year ago, on our way home from a well deserved Swiss holiday, we stopped over in America to visit friends and family. While in San Diego, we visited the Maritime Museum and came across a very interesting, old sailing ship – the Star of India. I was absolutely fascinated reading about the voyages she made across the world, especially since her main destination was New Zealand. From all the photographs and diary entries they exhibited, it must have been an incredibly hard and boring journey to immigrate in those days.

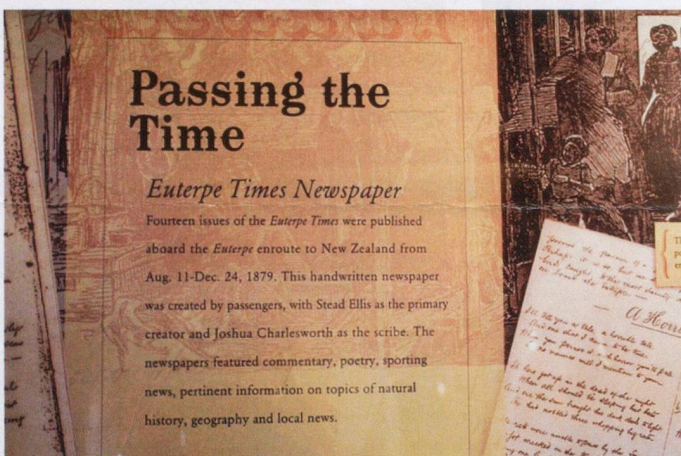
The Star of India is the world's oldest still active sailing ship. She began her life on the Isle of Man in 1863 and used to be called Euterpe. In 1871, she was purchased by the Shaw Savill Line of London and embarked on a quarter century of hauling emigrants to New Zealand, sometimes also touching Australia. She made 21 journeys from Hamburg and London to New Zealand. Her fastest trip took 100 days (one way!), the longest taking 143 days. It was rugged voyaging, with the ship battling through terrific gales.

The life aboard was especially hard on the emigrants cooped up in her tween deck, fed a terribly poor diet and subject to sea sickness and a lot of other illnesses (and rat infestations!). It is astonishing that their death rate was so low. They were a tough lot and most went on to prosper in New Zealand. Thousands of New Zealanders today are descended from the handful of gritty pioneers who braved the high seas on the Euterpe from 1872 – 1897.

- Chief cabin fare: 52-78 Pounds (1 pig, 1 sheep & 12 hens per passenger)
- Second class: 25 Pounds (soup, ham, fish, barley & cheese)
- Steerage Berth: 16-20 Pounds (left overs...)

Who knows, maybe one of your ancestors arrived in New Zealand on the Euterpe?

By Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg



Passing the Time / Handwritten newspaper aboard the vessel

Photo by: Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg



Sleeping quarters directly over the cannons!

Photo by: Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg

### Oldest photo of Swiss living in New Zealand



This is the oldest photo we could find of Swiss living in New Zealand. It's been taken in 1932 at a Swiss Ball in Kaponga. Ida Bernold is "Helvetia" in a play they performed in Taranaki. This photo was published in the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" on 31st July 1977 along with a double page article on Swiss in New Zealand to celebrate the 25th Jubilee of the Taranaki Swiss Club.

"Schweizerball" Swiss Ball in Kaponga in 1932 – „Neue Zürcher Zeitung“ July 1977