



## Edward Towle

**Born** 1820 • **Died** 10th December 1904

**Age at time of voyage** 34

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**Male** • **English**

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**Birthplace** Derbyshire

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### Biography

**From Derbyshire to Geelong. Edward and his brother Benjamin travelled to Australia in 1852 to seek their fortune in the gold fields.**

Edward and Benjamin Towle travelled in the Fore Saloon or Second-Class cabin on the 1852 voyage. The sons of a mill owner from Borrowash in Derbyshire, they were travelling to Australia to make their fortunes through manual labour. The brothers had a cousin in Geelong, Thomas Towle, who had emigrated in the early 1840s and owned a successful linen drapery business.

Despite complaining of the drunkenness of other passengers, Edward wrote in letters of their party as being 'quite notorious and the envy of the whole ship'. The captain also described them as 'the noisiest set of beggars he ever met with in his life' after one evening of champagne drinking.

During the voyage Edward assembled a group of men to join him in digging for gold once they reached Australia. Despite the camaraderie on board, though, once faced with the harsh reality of hard physical work, the group began to fall out and disperse.

Edward and Benjamin tried several different lines of work, from mining to retail, before Benjamin's death in 1853. Edward visited Java and Singapore, then returned home to England in 1858.