

**EIGHT MONTHS WITH  
DR. LEICHHARDT IN  
THE YEARS 1846-47**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649419265

Eight Months with Dr. Leichhardt in the Years 1846-47 by John F. Mann

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JOHN F. MANN**

**EIGHT MONTHS WITH  
DR. LEICHHARDT IN  
THE YEARS 1846-47**





*original  
1848*

# EIGHT MONTHS

WITH

<sup>Ludwig</sup> DR. LEICHHARDT, <sup>1815-1848</sup>

IN THE

YEARS 1846-47.

BY

JOHN F. <sup>wederich</sup> MANN, <sup>1819</sup>

3



Sydney:  
TURNER AND HENDERSON,  
1848.  
Cm



## TO THE PUBLIC.

---

SOME explanation is due from me for only now, after the lapse of forty-one years, placing this narrative before the public.

With the exception of Dr. Leichhardt's letter to his friend, Mr. Lynd, dated from Mr. Russell's station, Darling Downs, 1st August, 1847, which appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of the 24th of the same month, and a very fair account published by Mr. Bunce at Melbourne in 1859, no authentic report has as yet been recorded of this journey.

As the whole party were, soon after starting, so thoroughly prostrated by malarial fever as to be quite incapacitated from proceeding, no information of any importance beyond that already known had to be reported, and as the Doctor had written in favourable terms of his companions, I was content to let the subject rest.

I was not aware, however, that while Dr. Leichhardt had written thus favourably of his companions to his friends in Sydney, that he had written in quite the opposite strain to his friends in Germany.

In the *Sydney Morning Herald* of the 24th January, 1866, there appeared a letter copied from the *South Australian Register*, January 16th, in which the Doctor, in a letter to his brother-in-law, attributes the whole of his misfortunes to the bad conduct of his companions. To this I at once replied, and again let the matter drop.

A writer in the *Athenæum*, December 10th, 1881, in allusion to the probable fate of Dr. Leichhardt, adopts the adverse account, and in unmeasured terms attributes the failure of this expedition to the bad conduct of the members of the party.

For the sake of my children, myself, and the memory of my former companions, I now publish a true version of this journey in as brief a form as possible. As the country we then traversed has long since been occupied and is well-known, I have expunged all descriptive details—either botanical or geological—adhering solely to simple facts; and I leave my readers to form their own opinion.

JOHN F. MANN.

"KEREKUPUNU," NEUTRAL BAY,  
December, 1887.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37



## EIGHT MONTHS WITH DR. LEICHHARDT,

IN THE YEARS 1846-47.

BY JOHN F. MANN.

THE name of Ludwig Leichhardt will ever stand high on the list of the intrepid explorers of this country. A glance now at the map of Queensland will show the magnitude of the journey so successfully undertaken by him in 1845. At that time nothing was known of the country between Darling Downs and the Gulf of Carpentaria. This vast tract, now occupied by settlers with their flocks and herds, gold and other mines, sugar plantations, and studded with thriving villages and towns united by rail and coach roads, was then a *terra incognita*. One settlement alone existed beyond Brisbane, this was Port Essington, at the extreme northern part of this territory, where a small detachment of the Royal Marines was established by the Imperial Government. To this *ultima thule* Dr. Leichhardt directed his steps when he left Jimbour, Darling Downs, about the latter end of September, 1844.

His return to Sydney on the 29th March, 1846, after an absence of eighteen months, took every one by surprise. He had long been given up as lost; many were the surmises as to his probable fate—he and his companions had been murdered by the natives, starved, died of fever of some sort, or carried away by floods—dirges had been chanted, and poems written to his memory. His sudden and unexpected re-appearance at once put an end to all these gloomy feelings.

It is not my object now to dwell upon the events of this, his first journey. I must refer those interested, to Dr. Leichhardt's own published account; my desire is to give a concise record of a so-called second journey, in which I was associated with him, and the causes which led to its failure.

Before commencing this account, I will state how I became connected with Dr. Leichhardt in this matter. During the period of suspense which hung over his fate, the late Sir Henry Watson Parker, in course of conversation suggested

that I should undertake a journey in search of him. I at once consulted many of my friends, amongst whom I may mention the late Colonel Gordon, Royal Engineers; Lieutenant Lynd, Barrack Master; Dr. Leichhardt's most intimate friend, Mr. T. W. Cape; Mr. Wall, curator of the Museum, and many others, from each of whom I received much encouragement, and I at once commenced preparations for an expedition. While thus busily engaged, the return of Dr. Leichhardt was announced, thus altering my plans.

It was at the house of our mutual friend, Colonel Gordon, that I met Dr. Leichhardt at dinner: we recognised each other as having met some time previously at Brisbane Water. He was then on a pedestrian botanical tour; I was engaged in making some surveys. After a lengthy conversation about this country and the unknown interior, and having afforded him an explanation as to the use of a Troughton Theodolite, which appeared to interest him much, we parted to meet again at the table of our host.

As Dr. Leichhardt expressed his determination to make a second journey, Colonel Gordon at once suggested that we should unite our forces, to which I readily agreed.

I shall not trouble my readers with an account of my doings during the six months which intervened before Dr. Leichhardt was prepared to start on his second journey; suffice it to say that I saw him continually during that time, and was engaged as circumstances required in assisting in his preparations. He had decided upon taking mules as pack animals in preference to bullocks, consequently it was necessary for him to go by way of Stroud in order to obtain them, as he had purchased them from the A. A. Company, as well as to get his horses, which were awaiting him there.

The Doctor's intention was, to proceed direct to Peak Range, to expend a short time in exploring that locality, and then, by following a westerly course, endeavour to reach Swan river.

Everything being in readiness Dr. Leichhardt, accompanied by Messrs. Hovenden Hely and Daniel Bunce (the latter having only arrived from Melbourne on the previous day), left Sydney for Raymond Terrace *en route* for Stroud by the H.R.S.

Co's. steamer "Thistle," on the night of September 30th, 1846; many friends and admirers assembled and gave hearty cheers as the vessel left the wharf. Messrs. James Perry, Bœcking and Meyer, three other members of the party, left on the following day by the "Cornubia."

The Government having presented the Doctor with ten head of cattle from the Brisbane herd, it was arranged that I should proceed by that route in charge of the heavy luggage, collect the cattle, and so join the Doctor on Darling Downs. Having been furnished by the then Colonial Secretary, the late Sir Edward Deas-Thompson, with an order for these cattle, I embarked on board the steamship "Tamar," Captain Allen, on the night of the 15th October, and arrived at Brisbane on the 19th. Mr. Armstrong, veterinary surgeon, had presented the Doctor with a white mule; this animal I took with me,

On enquiry, I ascertained that the cattle were depasturing at Ipswich, twenty-five miles from Brisbane, and as I learnt that I could obtain similar beasts on the Downs for the same price, namely, £2 10s. per head, I sold them, thus saving the expense of a drover and the risk of losing some of them on the road.

Finding it impossible, after a delay of many days, to obtain a dray for the carriage of the stores, I forwarded everything to Ipswich by the steamer "Experiment." Mr. Pearce, the owner, from whom I had received much assistance, kindly removed the whole free of charge. On the 6th October, in company with Messrs. John Bowie Wilson, M'Connell, and Gideon Scott, I proceeded to that place myself, stopping about midway to dine with Dr. Simpson, the Commissioner for Crown Lands. On the previous day the "Cornubia" arrived in the Bay, having on board Colonel Barney, R.E., Captain Perry, the Deputy Surveyor-General; Captain H. H. Brown, and many others, *en route* for Port Curtis.

At Ipswich, I received a letter from Dr. Leichhardt, dated from "Eton Vale," Darling Downs, the homestead of Mr. Arthur Hodgson, requesting me to call on Major North and make enquiries about some horses he had left in his care, and also to obtain some *rhubarb and magnesia*; these requests were duly attended to, Dr. D'Orsay, whose acquaintance I was fortunate enough to make, kindly supplied me with what medicine he could spare.