

**Laura Elizabeth Provence Townsend [5D26]**

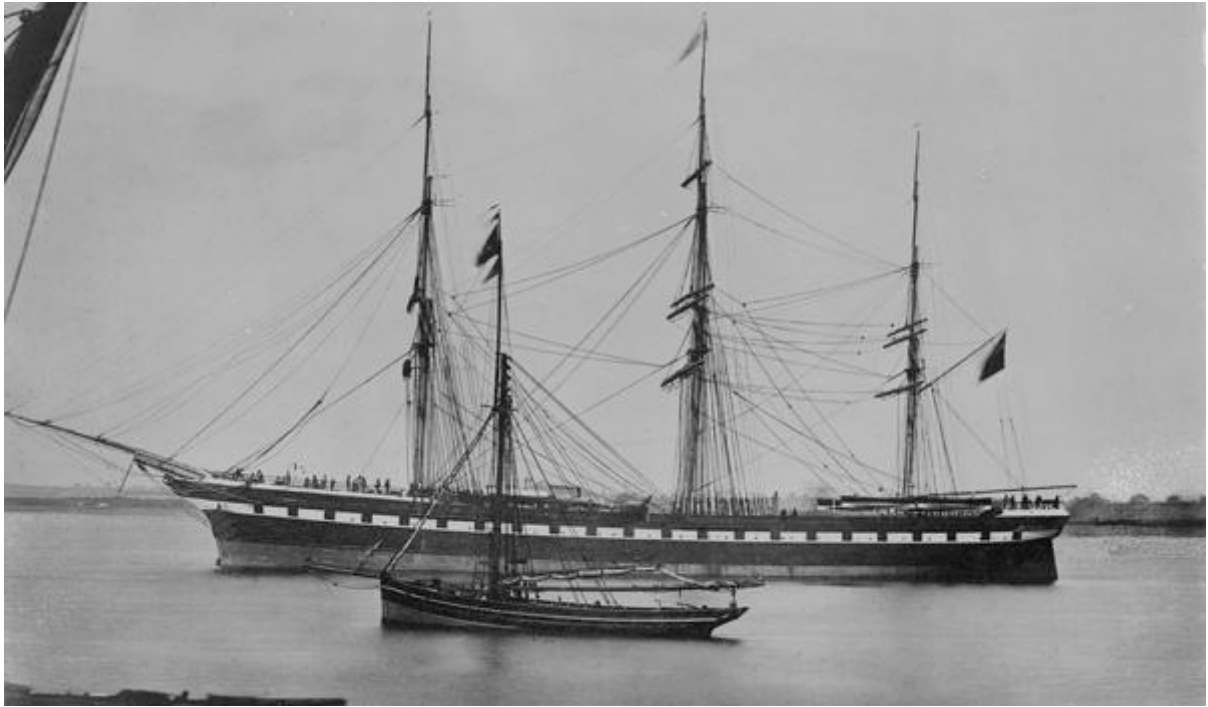
**Laura aged about 20**



**Bernard Bourdillon**



**SS Sobroan**



**St Georges, Emu Bay 1885**



**Laura and Bernard in Tasmania**



**Laura later in life**



**Sir Bernard Henry Bourdillon GCMG**



## Obituaries Sir Bernard Bourdillon

### SIR BERNARD BOURDILLON

Dr. D. A. Bannerman writes:—

From 1941, until his retirement, most of Sir Bernard Bourdillon's spare time was devoted to bird watching. He brought a remarkable gift of observation to his new-found subject, in which, as he himself wrote in a "Foreword" to the sixth volume of the "Birds of Tropical West Africa" (now in the press), he found so much pleasure and relaxation. He was a member of the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves and was elected a member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1942. On his retirement from the Coast he took up the study of bird life in this country, spending part of April, 1946, on Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, under the guidance of Mr. R. M. Lockley. A visit to Madeira in the winter of 1947 enabled him to become familiar with the bird-life of that beautiful island. He went to Jersey this year full of enthusiasm for the study of its sea birds. At the time of his death Bourdillon was serving on the Council of the Zoological Society of London and had acted as chairman of the Garden and Whipsnade Committee, where his wise counsel proved invaluable.

### SIR BERNARD BOURDILLON

Dr. Ernest Muir, Hon. Medical Adviser, British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, writes:—

No account of Sir Bernard Bourdillon's crowded life would be complete without some reference to his unstinted work on behalf of lepers. In Nigeria, with an estimated 400,000 sufferers from leprosy, this disease is a major problem, and Sir Bernard, during his Governorship there, took a deep interest in its relief and control. On his initiative the Colonial Government started the Nigerian Leprosy Service to take over much of the existing anti-leprosy work and extend and finance the activities of various missionary organizations in cooperation with the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association. On his retirement from the Colonial Service in 1943, he became first treasurer, and later succeeded Sir William Peel as chairman of B.E.L.R.A. and, in spite of indifferent health, spent much time and effort in furthering the objects of the association and the cause of the unfortunate victims of this disease.