

**Passage read by descendants of Moses and Judith Montefiore at the very end of their seder each year since the note was written:**

**Monday evening the 26 November 1827 on board the Leonidas, Captain John Anderson about 60 miles South East of Malta.**

Since Friday last we had encountered continual gales of wind with a heavy sea. Our ship leaky the pumps being kept constantly at work. The gale of yesterday was allowed by the oldest seaman onboard to have been horrific, attended by a most dangerous short sea moving mountains high. At about ten o'clock the wind began to abate, after midnight the sea became less agitated. This morning the sky again reformed its most threatening aspect, dawn clouds arising in all directions, captain and seamen foretelling a repetition of the late dreadful weather. At this awful pause a little before noon I threw into the sea a small piece of last year's Passover cake laid by on the evening of the Hagadah supplicating the Almighty to protect us and to avert the coming tempest, likewise to tranquillise the still troubled ocean.

**Between 7 and 8 o'clock in the evening.**

It is with warmest gratitude I humbly acknowledge and bear witness to the Almighty's kind imposition on our behalf. The clouds which appeared to everyone on board so dreadfully threatening during the morning, have as it were by a miracle, dispersed, and instead of pouring their fury upon us the sea also became every hour more and more tranquil.

May I for ever bear witness and for ever bear in remembrance this merciful interposition of God and annually while I live repeat this fact to those I may have the happiness of being surrounded by on the evening of Hagada.

Moses Montefiore

**¼ before 8 in the evening**

The sea is smooth; Moon and Mars smiling on us, Captain Anderson this moment entered the cabin and said, "I have not seen a finer night out of the heavens for many and many a year."

That the ship is pretty steady this writing can attest. Witness Judith

**Diary entry by Moses Montefiore written during a great storm - as given to Philip Walker by William Cohen whose great great great great grandfather Joseph Cohen was the first cousin of Moses Montefiore's wife Judith. Moses and Judith Montefiore died childless and have no direct descendants.**