

Kay F Gassan and Judith A Grimes, *Tall Ships on the River: Flying Cloud – Queensland Voyages 1862-1870*, Wiseowl Research Publishers, Maryborough QLD 2010 137pp ISBN: 9780980812602 (pbk) – available from the authors at www.twowiseowls.com.au/

This publication covers the seven voyages to Queensland that the Flying Cloud made between 1862 and 1870 and unfortunately none of my ancestors travelled on it. However, if you did have an ancestor who arrived on the Flying Cloud, then this book is definitely for you.

It is part of a series *Tall Ships on the River* and previous ships include the Ariadne, David McIver, Montmorency, Prince Consort and the voyages of the Maulesden and Shenir. See the above website for more details.

The Foreword is by the Hon P de Jersey AC, Chief Justice of Queensland whose great great grandfather with his wife and family immigrated to Queensland on board the Flying Cloud in 1865.

The Preface outlines a history of the Flying Cloud from her launch in 1851 till her final days in 1875 when after being severely damaged in a storm, she caught fire while under repairs and was then considered beyond repair. The Flying Cloud's time in America is discussed as well as her time in Australia as an emigrant ship to Queensland.

Chapters include:

1. The Flying Cloud and her voyages (includes maiden voyage to Queensland 10 Jan 1863)
2. Arrival 19 February 1864
3. Arrival 10 March 1865
4. Arrival 29 April 1866
5. Arrival 7 February 1868
6. Arrival 30 April 1869
7. Arrival 30 August 1870

There are also five appendices including:

1. Definitions of terms used for passengers
2. Duties of the Matron
3. Definition of a Land Order
4. The Black Ball Line
5. James Baines and Thomas Mackay

There are some annoying typos and errors that an editor should have picked up and these detract unfortunately from the book's overall usefulness as a resource book on immigration to Queensland.

However the detail in each of the chapters is of interest in that not only do we learn who the passengers were, but also what each of the voyages were like. Sources used include a variety of records from Queensland State Archives, newspapers and where known, information from descendants of the Flying Cloud's passengers. Where passenger lists no longer exist, lists have been recreated using records such as land orders which are explained in one of the appendices.

The book also includes a wide range of photographs of Flying Cloud passengers, their homes, descendants and even their gravestones. I would have also liked to have seen a list of illustrations

and an acknowledgement of where the illustrations and photographs were from. I am sure anyone finding a reference to one of their ancestors in this book will want to follow it up and the only way to do that is to contact the authors. This may not be an option twenty or how every many years in the future.

The coverage for each voyage is uneven with some voyages having quite a lot of information and others such as the 1868 voyage only having two pages mostly consisting of a partial passenger list and crew list. It could have been supplemented with additional material from newspapers or Colonial Secretary's correspondence from the Queensland State Archives.

There are Endnotes and an Index. I would also have liked to see a Bibliography of sources used as not all of the sources used in the book are listed as endnotes. The Index is only of people's names and does not include places or subjects which would have increased its value to other researchers, not just those whose ancestors arrived on the Flying Cloud.

It is obvious that a lot of work has gone into this publication and it provides substantial information on a very dynamic decade in Queensland's history. I'm sure many people will find something of interest to them and I will give the last word to the house sparrow which features on the back cover. My first question was why a sparrow but it appears that these birds arrived in Moreton Bay, Queensland on board the 1869 voyage of the Flying Cloud along with other European birds. A great trivia fact probably not known by many!

Shauna Hicks

Shauna Hicks History Enterprises
www.shaunahicks.com.au