

Chapman from Corpusty

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The Ship - James T Foord



The sailing ship that the “Chapman’s from Corpusty”, (Norfolk) sailed on was the James T Foord and the master was Charles H Elliot.

I have had some success in discovering details on this sailing ship “ James T Foord” .

The James T Foord ship was a barque which means it had three masts and each mast had at least three square sails. The ship was built in Qubec, Canada in 1844, by Thomas Hamilton Oliver, ship builder at his ship yards in the Seigniory on Saint Roch on the river Saint Charles.

Her length was 131 feet, breadth 29 feet and depth 22 feet with a weight of 790 tons. The ship was built originally as a whaler and was later converted for passengers and freight. The ship was later sold to Halheads of Liverpool, England. Was rated A3 for five years by Lloyds.

In 1848 the ship sustained some damage and during the repairs was sheathed in yellow metal (copper most likely) this would increase the ships speed.

The wooden three-masted barque ships were the most common type of cargo-carrier in the middle of the 19th century.. The James T Foord was one of these ships and traveled to Australia arriving on the 9th November 1849.

The ship was later to be known as the “ Death ship or the Cholera Ship” due to so many death from cholera during this trip.

The ship made a second trip departing Plymouth on the 29th of December 1850 arriving at Port Philip on the 2nd of May 1851.

I believe this was under Captain Hayles.

On this trip the ship ran aground in Port Philip where it was stranded on a sandbar for some time.

The ship Maitland was called upon to pull the James T Foord off this sandbar when all other efforts failed.

Some of the cargo and passengers were removed onto the lighter Fairy Queen thus lightening the ship.

The Maitland was a steamer with a propeller and after many tries removed the ship and it was found that no damage was done to the James T Foord thus it proceeded then on to it’s intended port.

It was stated by the port authorities that the ship would not have survived for long stranded on this sandbar.

The Maitland

The Maitland was built by Mr Russell at Darling Harbour, Sydney, in 1837.

The ship was specially built for the Hunter River trade – was 103 tons with a 60 horse power engine.

The original engine was replaced by another 60 horse power that was specially built for this ship by Fawcett, Preston & Co at a cost of three thousand pounds.

The ship did regular runs between Sydney and Port Mcquarie during 1842.

I do not know when this ship was dispatched for service in Port Phillip but was used to tow the grounded ship the James T Foord off the sand bar in Port Philip Bay in 1851

James T Foord

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