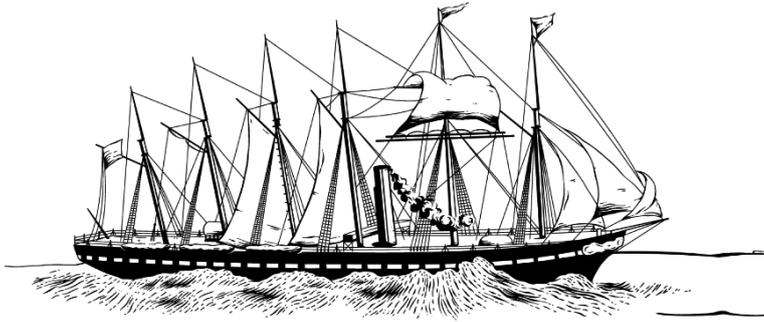


Passenger Diaries

Rachel Henning



Departed: Liverpool, United Kingdom on 17 February 1861

Arrived: Melbourne, Australia on 3 May 1861

Rachel Henning travelled on her own in first class. She was going to Australia to join her brother and sister who had made their own journeys on the SS Great Britain in 1853. Rachel enjoyed her journey and in her diary she writes about her fellow passengers and how she kept herself busy. She also records the various things that were happening onboard, including games played, babies born and her own explorations of the ship, including the engine room.

Learn more about Rachel and her journey using Global Stories:

https://globalstories.ssgreatbritain.org/_traveller/7138



7th March 1861

We descended about half a dozen of the very narrowest and steepest ladders it was ever my lot to meet with, and as everything came off black and oily, neither our hands nor our dresses were improved thereby, and as to our hoops, the less said the better. They were sorely in the way, and I doubt if they will ever regain their shape. At last, we got to the bottom of the ship, and there were the great engines working away with that quiet rise and fall which gives you such an idea of irresistible strength.

Having scrambled up the ladders again and got rather dirtier than we were before, we proceeded to visit the livestock. The poor cow was lying down and looking rather dismal. She got much knocked about in the gale as she is too large for her stall, being a quadruped of huge dimensions. The sheep looked stupid and dismal, and the fowls smelt. Altogether, I do not advise passengers in general to visit the animals they mean to eat.

21st March 1861

One day passes so like another that there really is very little to write about. They pass pleasantly enough too, working in the ladies saloon all the morning, and laughing and talking at the same time in general. The same in the afternoon, varied by a little reading and an occasional excursion into the saloon to hear some music, or play chess, or write my journal. Then on deck from dinner to tea, reading and talking when it is hot, and walking up and down in the cool of the evening. These moonlight evenings are most lovely, and we have had one or two beautiful sunsets, but the weather has been rather cloudy since we have got into the tropics. Then after tea there are all sorts of games. I play whist, cribbage, chess, backgammon by turns and so the time passes quickly enough.

