

KINGSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS FOR JANUARY 2014

On Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> Bill Scarratt gave us a fascinating talk on the Barque rigged ship "Ladakh" accompanied by slides the first of which was an old photograph of the ship's crew, including Bill's maternal grandfather. Ladakh was not one of the extreme clippers engaged in the Tea Trade but a ship built for cargo carrying voyaging out & back to India. Bill gave us a great deal of basic information about the variety of rigging & different sails carried by ships of the period and of Ladkh in particular, he explained how ships sailed, whenever possible, with the wind abaft the beam; the greatest challenge facing all ships was rounding Cape Horn in the Southern Ocean & some ships spent months trying to tack round it, in more than one case the ship's Master turned completely around & circumnavigated the lower part of the globe to avoid The Cape altogether! The Ladkh was built of iron in 1883 in Woolston, Southampton, for Bates of Liverpool- ship-owners who named their ships after Indian cities, her cargoes included wheat, rice, case-oil, sugar & coal. She spent thirteen & a half years at sea & was sold in 1902 when no longer competitive with the steam ships; Ladkh was finally sunk by a German U-Boat .As always, with Bill, it was an interesting & enthralling talk about the tough breed of men who crewed these ships.

*Personal to him - research  
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