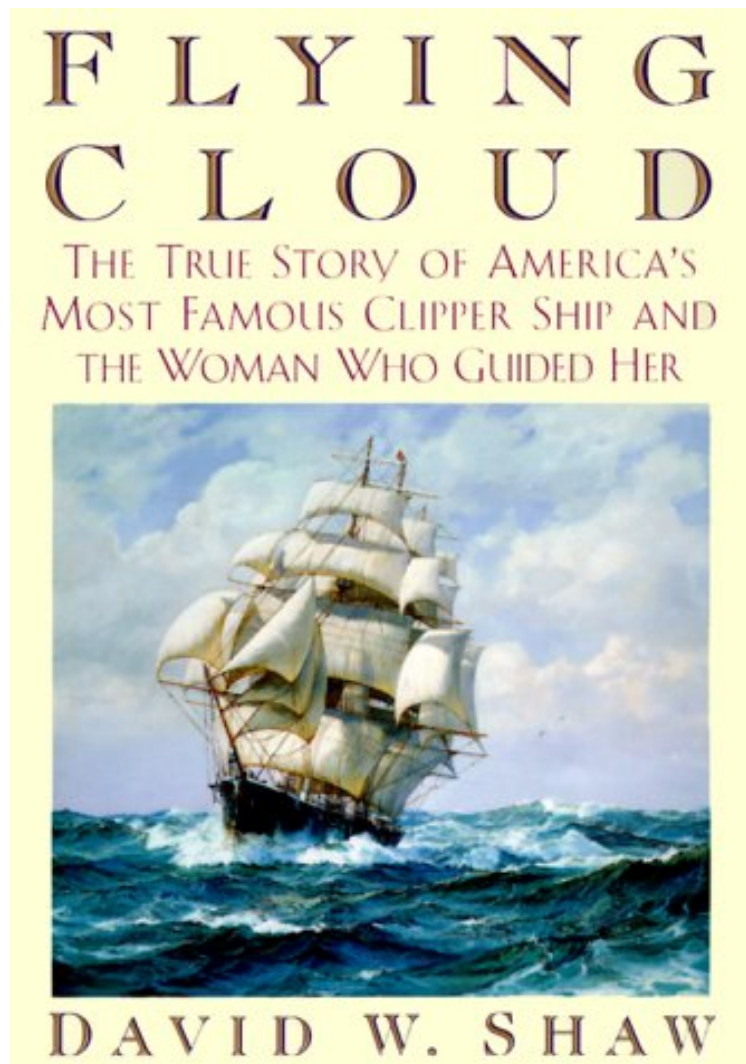


(Read free ebook) Flying Cloud: The True Story of America's Most Famous Clipper Ship and the Woman who Guided Her

Flying Cloud: The True Story of America's Most Famous Clipper Ship and the Woman who Guided Her

David W. Shaw

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#598000 in Books William Morrow 2000-06-20 2000-06-20Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 1.01 x 6.13l, #File Name: 0688167934304 pages | File size: 76.Mb

David W. Shaw : Flying Cloud: The True Story of America's Most Famous Clipper Ship and the Woman who Guided Her before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flying Cloud: The True Story of America's Most Famous Clipper Ship and the Woman who Guided Her:

16 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Informative, hardly "The True Story", but still a good readBy Walter O. KoenigThe good aspects of this book are that is quite informative and easyto read. Nautical terms are clearly defined and easy tounderstand. Several charts explain the Profile, Deck, Spar Plan,Sailing Plan, Points of Sail,

and Wind and Water Currents. Diagrams also explain how a full-rigged ship is tacked (turned) and follow the course of the ship during its maiden voyage, which was most interesting around Cape Horn. Several photographs reproduce a painting and engraving of the "Flying Cloud", its builder Donald McKay, and Captain Creesy. Unfortunately no photo of Mrs. Creesy is reproduced. Still the charts, diagrams and photographs are very helpful. Another good aspect of the book is that Shaw provides quite a lot of information regarding the "Flying Cloud", which is why I bought the book.... Information is also given on how much water was carried, that it was for drinking and not bathing, and what type of provisioning was loaded. Shaw writes about the nature of the cargo and that the value of the shipping costs equalled "Flying Cloud's" building costs. We are informed about the contents of the Medicine Cabinet, about the livestock taken aboard, about Celestial Navigation, the fact that fresh foods iced lasted for over a month, and much more. Here the book is very strong. The book is really about Captain Creesy's wife, Eleanor, who was the navigator on the journey described, and who worked as a partner with her husband. Shaw tries very hard to show what an intelligent and unusual person she was for her time, or really any time at all, and what an excellent navigator she was. She is portrayed as a kind, sensitive, concerned and brave person, popular with both passengers and crew alike, devoted to her husband and the ship. I can imagine that it must have been difficult to recreate her persona, from the doubtless scant sources. Shaw brings this off fairly well. The worst aspect of this book is that it is not the "True Story" of the Flying Cloud. All dialogues, and fortunately there are not too many, are invented, and are times rather tedious. For example, tender moments between Captain Creesy and his wife are not credible, and are also written, as most of the other dialogues, in an unmistakable Twentieth Century Style. This greatly distracts from the Story. Other dialogues, such as that of the Captain and the first Mate, Thomas Austin, are also much too obviously contrived, as are those between the passengers, which are just plain unbelievable. Shaw should not have titled the Book "The True Story", or he should have not included dialogues. It seems that Mr. Shaw had difficulties with these sections as the style shifts markedly between these and the maritime portions of the book, where he is much more knowledgeable and obviously more comfortable. For the reader these shifts are distracting.... Also Shaw would have done well to work with an Editor to correct the many stylistic flaws, especially in the dialogues. Had he done so, the book would have been great, instead of just a good read, and could have become a classic book in an often overlooked area of American History. I still recommend this book for leisurely reading. It's enjoyable to read and informative.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Read

By plantdude I have had a love affair with Flying Cloud since I was a school boy. (No, I wasn't around to ride on it! lol) But I never knew about the captain's wife being the navigator. Since I now have 3 granddaughters (11, 9, 7), I think it will be an adventure for them to learn about this "remarkable for her time" woman who succeeded (and excelled) at a profession that was normally performed only by men. Indeed, most sailors considered it bad luck for there to be a woman on board a ship, captain's wife or not. While presenting a very detailed, technical (at least for this "lubber"), and factual history from "birth" to "death" of this amazing vessel, it often reads like a historical fiction novel, due to the author fleshing out the Captain and Mrs Creesy, the passengers, the officers and some of the crew. I think "my girls" will find Ellen Creesy's accomplishments to be an inspiration as they grow into young women in this country where anyone can still achieve great accomplishments, and succeed at what you put your mind to.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Flying Cloud was part of my past

By Steve When I was in my mid teens, a long time ago, I joined the Sea Scout Ship "Flying Cloud". This action has had an impact on my entire life. While a Sea Scout we were walking distance from an on the water maritime museum. Birthed the museum was a 300 foot full rigged ship. These and other things became a part of me. Reading "Flying Cloud", the story was fiction based upon fact. It gave me and anyone that would take the time to read it, an incite to the hardships that the common sailor faced on a daily basis. The story went deep into the living conditions or lack there of, of a sailor man. It was a gripping story and told of the courage of both the ships officers and crew. Working on a yard 100 feet or more above the deck with fierce winds, ice and snow, to make repairs to broken gear for hours on end without food or drink, "Flying Cloud" makes for a great read.

Flying Cloud is the riveting and thoroughly researched tale of a truly unforgettable sea voyage during the days of the California gold rush. In 1851, navigator Eleanor Creesy set sail on the maiden voyage of the clipper ship Flying Cloud, traveling from New York to San Francisco in only eighty-nine days. This swift passage set a world record that went unbroken for more than a century. Upon arrival in San Francisco, Flying Cloud became an enduring symbol of a young nation's daring frontier spirit. Illustrated with original maps and charts as well as historical photographs, Shaw's compelling narrative captures the drama of this thrilling adventure. In a position almost unheard of for a woman in the mid-nineteenth century, Eleanor Creesy served as the ship's navigator. With only the sun, planets, and stars to guide her, she brought Flying Cloud safely around Cape Horn at the height of a winter blizzard, faced storms, dodged shoals, and found her way through calms to make the swift passage possible. Along with her husband, Josiah, the ship's captain, she sailed the mighty three-masted clipper through sixteen thousand miles of the fiercest, most unpredictable oceans in the world. Shaw vividly re-creates nineteenth-century seafaring conditions and customs, for both the crew and the passengers who entrusted their fate to an untested ship. Including excerpts from letters and diaries of passengers, Shaw recounts Flying Cloud's victory in the face of adversity—including sabotage, insubordination, and

severe damage to the clipper's mainmast that might have sunk her with all hands lost. But the ship triumphed and would ultimately sail the world. *Flying Cloud* brings to life, for the first time, the glory of one of America's most important seafaring tales and one woman's incredible achievements.

.com In the early days of the California gold rush, it took more than 200 days for a ship to travel from New York to San Francisco, a voyage of more than 16,000 miles. In 1851, however, a clipper called the *Flying Cloud* made the same journey in only 89 days, a headline-grabbing world record that the *Cloud* itself beat three years later (and that would not then be broken until 1989). The *Flying Cloud*'s achievement was remarkable under any terms. But, writes David W. Shaw, it was all the more unusual because its navigator was a woman, Eleanor Creesy, who had been studying oceanic currents, weather phenomena, and astronomy since her girlhood in Marblehead, Massachusetts. With her husband, ship captain Josiah Perkins Creesy, she logged many thousands of miles on the ocean, traveling around the world carrying passengers and goods. In the wake of their record-setting transit from New York to California, Eleanor and Josiah became instant celebrities. But their fame was short-lived and their story quickly forgotten. Josiah died in 1871, *Flying Cloud* burned to the waterline in 1874, and Eleanor lived far from the sea until her death in 1900. Though spotty in its documentation and full of invented dialog, *Flying Cloud* is a spirited and capable reconstruction of the clipper's voyage, and an interesting glimpse into the days of the tall ships. --Gregory McNamee

From Publishers Weekly On her maiden voyage in 1851, the clipper ship *Flying Cloud*, carrying valuable cargo and 11 passengers, sailed from New York to San Francisco by the only route possible before the construction of the Panama Canal, around the tip of South America. The ship made the 16,000-mile trip in 89 days, 21 hours Aa record time. As astonishing as the speed, however, was the fact that the ship's navigator was the captain's wife, Eleanor Creesy, an experienced pilot who charted the course using the revolutionary new theories about wind directions and ocean currents propounded by Matthew Maury, superintendent of the navy's National Observatory. The subtitle of the book is misleading, however. This is really the story of the collaboration between an extraordinary woman and her husband, Captain Josiah Perkins Creesy. While the captain sailed the ship and dealt with emergencies Asuch as broken masts, storms and disgruntled sailors Ahis wife calmly plotted the course, managed day-to-day life on board and coped with the sometimes rash decisions made by her husband, for whom the safety of his crew and passengers was less important than his desire to set a record and claim the financial reward the ship's owners would pay for speedy delivery of the cargo. Because the author doesn't embellish his sources Athe ship's log, letters, a passenger's diary and archival documents, none of which include much personal detail Athe characters of Eleanor and her husband remain shadowy. Still, Shaw (*Daring the Sea*) presents a vivid picture of life on the high seas with enough drama to interest even those who know nothing about sailing. A glossary of nautical terms helps with the technical details. Photos not seen by PW. (July) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Adult/High School-In 1851, the California Gold Rush was in full swing and huge profits awaited companies transporting goods to San Francisco. The swiftest route from the East Coast was by sea-16,000 miles, around the Horn-and shipbuilders fiercely competed to design bigger and faster clipper ships. The most celebrated one was *Flying Cloud*, whose maiden voyage began at the wrong time of year, survived two partial dismastings, sabotage, and terrible storms-and still set a record time of 89 days. The builder, Donald McKay, was said to have "bred magic into his ships," and *Flying Cloud* seemed to prove it. The captain, Josiah Creesy, was the company's best. Yet to set such a speed record requires one more element: an exceptional navigator. *Flying Cloud*'s was the master not only of traditional navigational skills, but also of the newest scientific theories of oceanography-and had the courage to apply them. She was Eleanor Creesy, Josiah's wife, who also served as the ship's medic. Shaw became intrigued with this exceptional woman and her highly unusual marriage partnership, and through primary sources such as the ship's log, journals, and letters, discovered the details of the ship's first voyage and Eleanor's part in it. Adding his own knowledge of the sea and drawing from other contemporary accounts, he writes a book that takes readers along on the exhilarating journey. Clear diagrams and maps demystify sailing arcana for general readers, while experienced sailors and fans of sea adventures should enjoy this book, too.- Christine C. Menefee, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.