

## The Frazier family: introduction

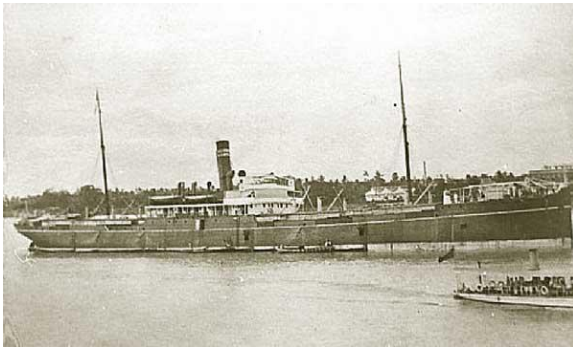
To understand why a solicitor in land-locked Birmingham would want to join the Royal Navy Voluntary Reserve in WW1, one only has to view the Frazier family tree to see that they had a long maritime tradition. Rowland's great grandfather, John was a master mariner before he became a superannuated coast guard in later life. Grandfather, James, was a fisherman and master mariner on the brig 'Bideford' registered in the 1843 Lloyd's Register of shipping. Although Rowland's father George became a factor for soap before moving to Birmingham to set up a grocery business his brother James (Rowland and Gordon's Uncle Jack) became Captain of the clipper 'Pacific' and a maritime record breaker, setting a new record for the fastest crossing from Barrow to Valparaiso, Chile in 68 days via Cape Horn in March 1871.



*SS Waterloo*



*SS Dunkeld*



*SS Uganda*

Still in the age of sail, Jack went on to command the *SS Waterloo* and later the *SS Dunkeld* on a voyage to Australia.

On going into steam, Jack had command of several vessels including the *SS Uganda* at the time of the Boer War, from 1899 to 1902, transporting horses from Buenos Aires to Cape Town for the use of the British Army. After the Boer War, Jack commanded the *SS Uganda* and several other vessels transporting live cattle as deck cargo from America to Liverpool and other British ports at a time when the development of refrigeration began to render the transportation of frozen meat more profitable. One of the last ships he captained was the *SS Roseneath* of Cardiff about 1910.