In 1850 the SS Great Britain was sold to become a passenger liner, travelling to Australia from Liverpool. She carried thousands of passengers, many of whom hoped to start a new life in Australia.

During the Crimean War (1855-6) and the Indian Rebellion of 1857, the SS Great Britain served as a troop ship for the British Army.

In 1882 the SS Great Britain was sold again, this time to become a sail only ship carrying cargo to and from California, USA.

Whilst on a voyage to Panama, severe weather conditions badly damaged the SS Great Britain. Repairs would have been very costly, so she was turned into a floating warehouse in Port Stanley, Falkland Islands. She was finally abandoned and left to rust in Sparrow Cove, a small isolated area in the Falklands.

She remained abandoned in the Falkland Islands until 1970, when the ship was salvaged and towed triumphantly back to Bristol.

The SS Great Britain sailed around the world 32 times, that is more than 1,000,000 miles at sea!