



# Welsh Wreck Web Research Project (North Cardigan Bay)

On-line research into the wreck of the yacht

*Phoebe,*

also referred to as the

*Hebe*

## LLLOYD'S LIST.

No. 6880.]

LONDON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1833.

*Milford, 5th Sept.*

“ A Vessel supposed to be the *Hebe* Yacht, of Dublin, was wreck'd near Aberystwith in the Gale on Saturday. A body has been picked up, with ‘ Elizabeth Ann Hargraves’ marked on the linen.”

Report Title: *Welsh Wreck Web Research Project (North Cardigan Bay)*

On-line and practical research into the loss of the yacht 'Phoebe' or 'Hebe', lost in September, 1833. Note that both names are used in various newspapers, with the Dublin newspapers referring to the yacht as 'Phoebe'. As Dublin was her home port, 'Phoebe' may be the correct name, but 'Hebe' is used in Richard Larne's 'Shipwreck Index of the British Isles'. The Illustrated Marine Encyclopaedia defines a yacht as 'An elegantly appointed pleasure-vessel (sailing-vessel or steamer), variously rigged, but the greater number as fore- and after-schooner or cutter.'

Compiled by: Chris Holden  
33, Meadowcroft, Higher Kinnerton, Chester CH4 9AY  
holden03@globalnet.co.uk  
01244 660579 / 07812 408215

On behalf of: Nautical Archaeology Society  
Fort Cumberland Fort Cumberland Road Portsmouth PO4 9LD  
Tel: +44 (0)23 9281 8419  
E-mail: nas@nauticalarchaeologysociety.org  
Web Site: www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org

Managed by: Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit  
17 Hornyold Road Malvern Worcestershire WR14 1QQ Tel: +44 (0)1684 574774  
E-mail: MADUdiving@gmail.com Web Site: www.madu.org.uk

Date & time created: 17 March 2021 12:38 PM

Report Ref: **Leave blank**

### 1.0 Abstract

The Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit (MADU) currently has a database of 453 shipwrecks in the north end of Cardigan Bay in north west Wales. These wrecks date from 1590 to 1993 and very few have been investigated in any depth!

The author of this report is an amateur diver who has visited many of the shipwrecks around the Welsh coast between Barmouth and the Dee Estuary. He wrote and published 'The Essential Underwater Guide to North Wales, Volumes One and Two', and co-wrote 'Life and Death on the Royal Charter'.

He is also the licensee of the submarine 'Resurgam', a historic vessel that lies on the seabed off Rhyl after being lost in 1880.

**2.0 Index**

	Page		
1.0 Abstract	2		
2.0 Index	3		
2.1 Table of Contents	3		
2.2 Contributors	3		
2.3 Abbreviations	3		
3.0 Introduction	4		
4.0 Background	4		
5.0 Research Methodology	4		
Details.	4		
Location	4		
Overview	4		
Charts	6 & 7		
Newspaper Reports.	8		
7.0 Analysis	15		
8.0 Conclusions & Recommendations	15		
References	15		

**2.2 Contributors**

Chris Holden.

**2.3 Abbreviations used in this report:**

MADU Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit

NAS Nautical Archaeology Society

CPH Chris Holden

### 3.0 Introduction

Mr. Hargrave, the owner of a pleasure-yacht named 'Hebe' or 'Phoebe', had crossed the Irish Sea from Dublin to visit Wales, along with his wife and children. However, a dreadful gale during the last days of August, 1833, created wrecks and loss of life all around the coast of Wales, including that of the yacht, and the lives of all aboard her.

### 4.0 Background.

The author is keen to identify the wrecks that he has visited on Sarn Badrig (St. Patrick's Causeway), and the 'Hebe' / 'Phoebe' may have come to grief there.

Note that the spelling of the town of Porthmadog varies in the early newspapers, so it may appear as 'Port Madoc' or 'Portmadoc'. 'Tudwal' also appears as 'Tudwall' or 'Tudwel'. Aberystwyth appears as 'Aberystwith'.

Caernarfon appears as 'Carnarvon' or 'Caernarvon'.

Wherever possible, the spellings in the published newspapers have been used.

### 5.0 Research Methodology.

Equipment and sources used:

Richard Larne's Shipwreck Index of the British Isles. West Coast and Wales.

Gwynedd Archives Record Office, Caernarfon.

Denbighshire Records Office, Ruthin.

British Library on-line newspaper records.

National Library of Wales on-line records.

Lloyd's List records.

### 6.0 Details.

Vessel Name: 'Hebe' or 'Phoebe'. Type: Yacht or Cutter.

Registered Weight: 'About 15 tons' or 'About 25 tons';

Propulsion: Sail. (Possibly a steam-yacht, as Richard Larne describes her as 'Yacht (s.s.)')

Construction Materials: Wooden hull.

This must have been a substantial vessel, as it appears to have had accommodation for the owner, his wife and children, a crew of three, a manservant and a maid-servant.

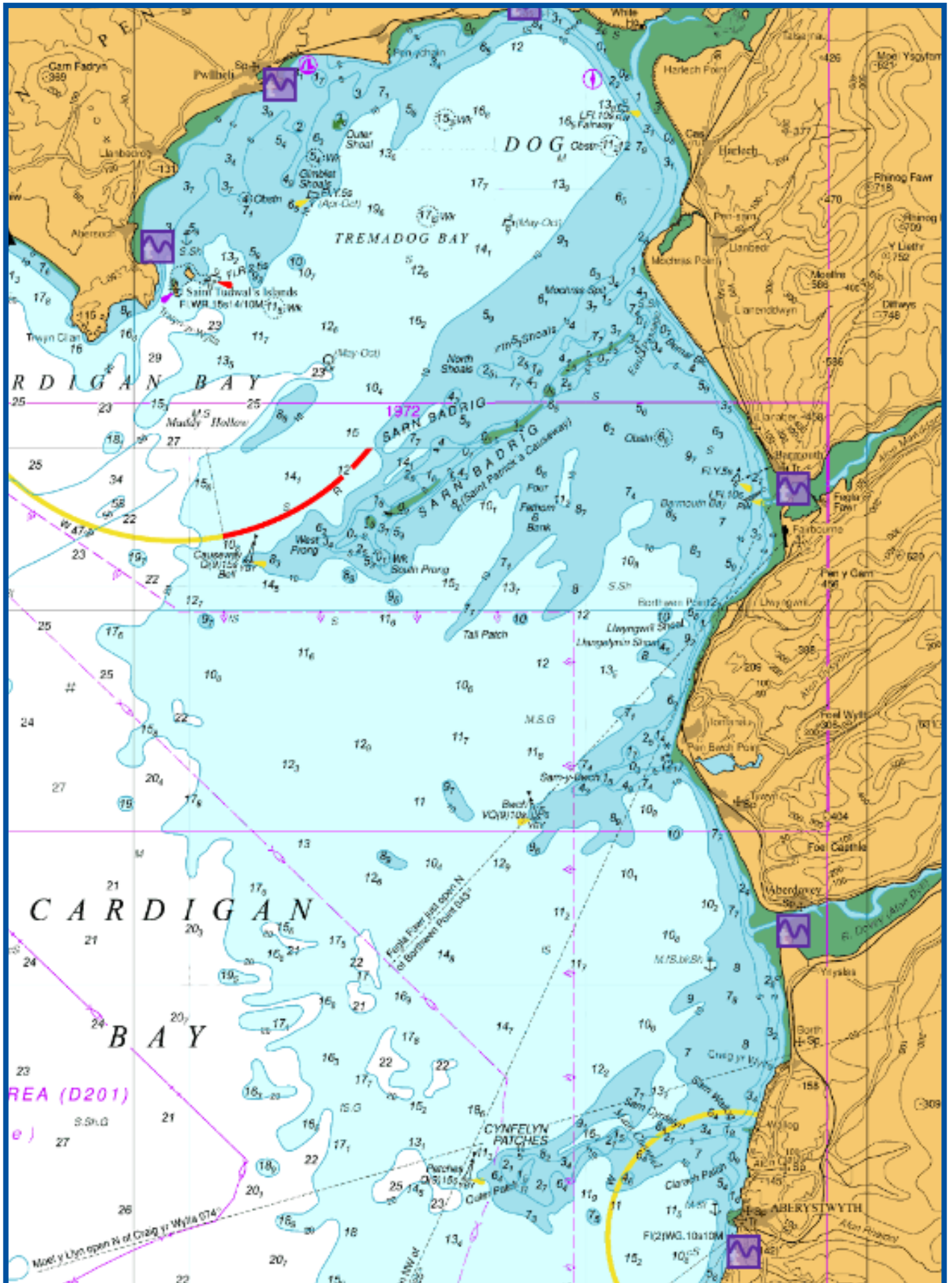
### Location.

From reading the contradictory evidence in the newspaper reports, the author has not been able to pinpoint the most likely site of the wreck. A newspaper report says she was lost on the 'Causeway of Sarn Cantref Gwaelod', but does this refer to 'The Patches' reef, near Aberystwyth, Sarn-y-Bwlch further north, or could the 'Shipbreaking Causeway' of Sarn Badrig have been responsible for the disaster?

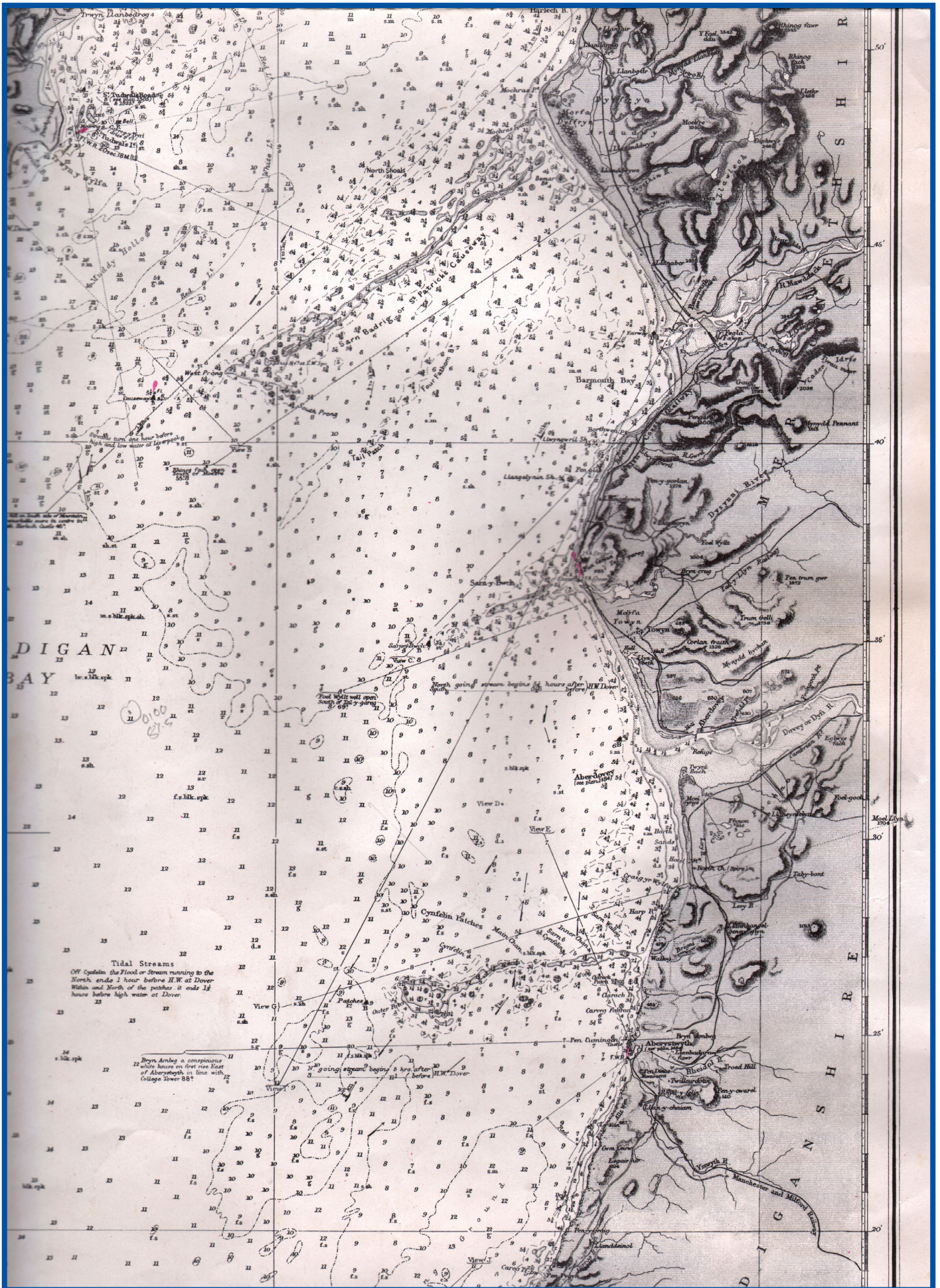
### Overview.

The shallow reefs of Cardigan Bay extend many miles offshore to create a major hazard to passing vessels. The pleasure-yacht 'Phoebe' or 'Hebe' fell prey to these traps in September 1833, with the loss of all aboard.

Vessel	Name/s	Hebe or Phoebe
	Type	Yacht
Built - Date	Laid down	
	Launched	
	Builder	
	Where built.	
Construction	Materials	Wood
	Decks	
	Bulkheads	
Propulsion	Type	Sail
	Details	
Engine	Type / size	Possibly a steam-yacht, as Richard Larne describes her as 'Yacht (s.s).'
	Horsepower	
	Boilers	
Drive	Type	
	Number	
Dimensions	Length	ft ins / metres
	Beam	ft ins / metres
	Draught	ft ins / metres
Tonnage	Gross	
	Net	
Owner	First	Name. .
		Address /
	Last	Name. John Hargrave
		Address. Talbot Street, Dublin.
Registry	Port	Dublin
	Flag	British
	Number	
History	Routes	
	Cargo	Pleasure yacht.
Final Voyage	From	South Wales
	To	Dublin
	Captain	John Hargrave.
	Crew	Three seamen, man-servant and maid-servant.
	Passengers	Mrs Hargrave and four or five children.
	Cargo	
Wrecking	Date	September 1833.
	Location	Cardigan Bay.
	Cause	Bad weather.
Loss of life	Numbers	Owner, wife and four or five children, plus five others.
Outcome		Reported as sunk in Cardigan Bay



The yacht 'Phoebe' (or 'Hebe'), lost in September, 1833, with all aboard.



A chart based on soundings taken between 1835 and 1895. Depths in Fathoms.

*Examples of Cutter-Yachts for sale in 1830.***Hampshire Advertiser. Saturday, 16 October, 1830.**

## CUTTER YACHT, R.Y.C.

TO BE SOLD, a beautiful R.Y.C. YACHT, of thirty-six tons, now lying off the Custom House, at Southampton. She is a remarkably good sea boat, very stiff under canvas, and as fast a sailer as any vessel of her class. The cabin and berths are fitted up in the best style throughout with Spanish mahogany. She is amply found in all her stores, and has two handsome boats belonging to her.

For all particulars, apply to Mr. C. Brooks, Yacht Agent. Auctioneer, Estate Agent, and Land Surveyor, Above Bar, Southampton.

## CUTTER YACHT, R.Y.C.

TO BE SOLD, very cheap, by Mr. CHARLES BROOKS. A CUTTER YACHT, 45 tons, belonging to the R.Y.C. fitted in a very superior manner, and well found with all stores ballast, &c. &c.

For particulars, apply (post-paid) to Mr. Charles Brooks, Yacht Agent and Auctioneer, Southampton.

## CUTTER YACHT, R.Y.C.

FOR SALE, by Mr. CHAS. BROOKS, a well-equipped, newly-built, and fast-sailing CUTTER YACHT, upwards of Thirty-two Tons, built April, 1828, of the best Oak, under the superintendence of a man of first-rate abilities. Coppered to the Bends, and has an Inventory superior to most other yachts, being abundantly found with everything of the best quality, and possesses every accommodation and comfort for a Family wishing to live on board. She has a large Main Cabin six feet high, handsomely decorated in satin wood and mahogany, with Folding Doors, and Three State Rooms with Beds, Water Closet, &c. She has also all the new and old Yacht Club Signal Flags. &c. a new fifteen-foot Boat, and all other Yacht Requisites, none of which will be withheld, the Owner giving up sailing. She will be sold considerably under her real value.

All particulars may be known on application (post-paid.) to Mr. C Brooks, Yacht Agent and Auctioneer, Above-Bar, Southampton.

## CUTTER YACHT, R. Y. C.

TO BE SOLD, BY MR. CHARLES BROOKS, a YACHT, R.Y.C., about 42 tons, six feet under the beam in the Cabin, with four or six Bed Berths, warranted in the best possible condition, full of the best timber, coppered up to the bends, and copper fastened. She is a remarkably good, easy, and dry sea boat, and particularly lively in a heavy sea. Her copper is new. She contains every requisite for immediate equipment for sea, in Sails, Spars, and Rigging, all new, and Furniture in a plain way, about 30 Tons of Iron Ballast, and a good inventory, and is parted with for no fault.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Charles Brooks, Yacht Agent and Auctioneer, Above Bar, Southampton.



**Newspaper Reports.****North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality. 3rd September 1833.**

STORM AND SHIPWRECK. On Friday morning this coast was visited by a tremendous gale from the north, accompanied by heavy showers at intervals. The storm continued throughout the whole of Friday, and although on Saturday the wind was rather more moderate, it was not till Sunday that the vessels which had been driven into our straits by stress of weather could resume their course. The following are the only details of the melancholy results of the storm which we have yet learned, but we much fear that our next will contain still more heavy intelligence. On Friday, about 11 a.m., a strange sloop, since ascertained, as we are informed, to have been the 'Swift', of Strangford, David Quayle, Master, bound from Strangford to Liverpool, with wheat, was seen beating about in the mouth of the Menai Straits, without any cloth set, and completely at the mercy of the sea. At half past eleven she disappeared from the view of the spectators on shore, having struck on the Dutchman's Bank, and almost instantly sank. A Liverpool pilot boat, which had been driven here by stress of weather, was passing at the time, within hail, and the men observed the Swift's crew clinging to the mast, but could render them no assistance, the surf running so tremendously on the bank here there was not above two feet of water — all hands perished. Yesterday morning, a whole side of a sloop was found drifted on the Lavan Sands, and we are informed that the remainder of the wreck has come ashore between the Round Table and Red Wharf, Anglesey.

We have heard, but we cannot vouch for the authenticity of the statement, that a brig from Pwllheli has been wrecked off Porthdinllain, and all hands perished, as also a sloop from Carnarvon utterly lost in the mouth of the Dee. Several vessels of various descriptions have taken shelter off Beaumaris during the storm.

**Dublin Morning Register - Friday 06 September 1833**

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE. We have this day heard a rumour, which we fear true, of the loss of the 'Phoebe' yacht, of Dublin, off the coast of Wales, during the late gales, with her owner, Mr. Hargrave, his lady, and four children on board. The body of Mrs. Hargrave, it is said, has been washed on shore, near Aberystwith. These are as the only particulars which have reached us. — Evening Packet.

**Dublin Morning Register - Saturday 07 September 1833.**

WRECK OF THE 'PHOEBE' YACHT. The family whose melancholy fate was noticed yesterday, is that of Mr. Hargrave, the architect, of Talbot-street. That gentleman, with his wife and five children, perished off the Welch coast in the gale of Friday last. They were cruising in his pleasure yacht, the 'Phoebe', when the storm came on, which, ere its termination, consigned them to a watery grave.

**Roscommon & Leitrim Gazette - Saturday 07 September, 1833.**

MELANCHOLY CATASTROPHE! Late last Friday night, as the pleasure yacht 'Phoebe', of Dublin, was off Milford Haven, she capsized, when all on board, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Hargrave, of this city, with five or six children and three seamen, all met with watery grave. Mr. Hargrave was on a visit to some property in the south of Ireland, in the yacht, when a heavy gale came and drove her to Milford, where the lamentable accident occurred. His eldest daughter

and some the family who were not board are in the greatest distress from this most melancholy event.— Dublin Times.

We heard, with extreme regret, that a respectable fellow citizen, Mr. Hargrave, of Talbot-street, with his wife, and several of their children, were drowned off the coast of Wales, during the recent gales. We have not ascertained the particulars of this melancholy event; but have learned that the bodies of Mrs. and Miss Emma Hargrave were washed on shore near Aberystwith. It was stated that Mr. Hargrave was returning to Dublin his pleasure yacht, the 'Phoebe', and that the first intimation of the catastrophe was the discovery of the body of Miss E. Hargrave.— Freeman's Journal.

### **The Cambrian. 7th September 1833.**

THE WEATHER. On Friday afternoon last it came on to blow a fresh gale from S. W. with heavy rain. The wind suddenly shifted to W.N.W. and N.W. about seven in the evening, and continued to blow heavily throughout the night and following day from that quarter. A pleasure yacht, about 25 tons, called the 'Hebe', sailed from Milford on Thursday, belonging to a Mr. Hargrave, who, with his wife and five children (consisting of three fine young women, a son about 12 or 13 years of age, and another daughter younger), were on board, and were seen that evening passing to the northward through Jack's Sound by the Dove, revenue cruiser. We are sorry to learn, by a letter received yesterday by Mr. Pritchard, of the Nelson Hotel, from a commercial gentleman (who with his wife were at the Hotel when Mr. Hargrave and his family were there), that they, with the crew, are all supposed to have been lost in the gale of Friday or Saturday, for it is stated that a vessel was wrecked off the coast near Aberystwith, and a lady washed on shore on Sunday, about nine miles to the westward of that place, with her nightclothes and petticoat on, over which she had a gentleman's frock coat. Her linen was marked "Elizabeth Ann Hargrave", had on a pair of man's stockings marked "John Hargrave", and a wedding-ring on her finger. The body was deposited in Llanrhystyd [SIC – Llanrhystud] Church. A bed was also picked up about three miles to the north of Aberystwith, marked J. A. Hargrave, 1831, 16, Talbot-street (supposed Dublin). A vessel arrived at Milford reports that she saw a sloop go down off Strumble Head (name unknown), and that all hands perished. The sloop 'Little Jane', of Cardigan, was wrecked in St. Bride's Bay, laden with slates. The 'Andrew and Margaret', Quey, from Maryport to Cardiff, was driven on shore near Bideford, on Saturday night — crew saved. The 'Flora', Reece, of Tenby, is on shore near Padstow - crew saved. The 'Caroline', Walters, for Antwerp, was dis-masted, and lost anchor and cable off the North Foreland. On Wednesday morning, the wind having come round to the north-east, blowing strong, an immense fleet of outward-bound vessels sailed from Penarth. The American ship 'Union', bound to Philadelphia, with rail iron and passengers, was obliged to slip both anchors and chains, and went away without them. They have not yet been recovered.

### **North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality. 10th September 1833.**

Captain Edwards, of the 'Jane', on his voyage from Liverpool to Barmouth, discovered about three feet above water, near the Causeway of Sarn Cantref Gwaelod, the yellow mast-head of a vessel, surmounted by a white half moon and a red flag; and on Tuesday, Captain Barrow, of the 'New Dove', Barmouth, visited the spot and brought the flag on shore. He states that beyond question, the small vessel is a gentleman's yacht. On Sunday the remains of a lady, supposed to be from the unfortunate wreck, were washed on shore near Aberystwyth. We

are informed that the face was a little bruised, but otherwise the corpse appeared to be quite fresh. For the substance of the above statement, we are indebted to our Barmouth and Pwllheli correspondents. Since the paragraph has been in type, we have gathered additional particulars. The yacht belonged to an Irish gentleman, a resident in Dublin, whose name was Hargraves, and who with his family, consisting of his lady and, we believe, three children, has lately been on a visit in Carnarvon. They were all on board when the awful catastrophe occurred, and, with anguish we state it, they have all perished. They went from Carnarvon, where the yacht underwent repairs, to Tenby. While they were at the latter place, one of the daughters wrote to a friend in this town, informing her that they intended to leave Tenby on their voyage to Dublin, upon the 20th of August. The remains washed ashore, as mentioned by our correspondents, were those of Mrs. Hargreaves. Her name, J. Hargreaves, and that of the street in which she resided in Dublin, were marked upon her stockings. The tragical events of the last few days have excited consternation and dismay everywhere around us. The language now most current here is that of sympathy, sorrow, and lamentation. Many a heart is heavy, and many an eye is full.—Carnarvon Herald.

### **Roscommon Journal, and Western Impartial Reporter - Friday 13 September 1833.**

We regret to announce that our city has shared the calamities produced by the late gales, two families of great respectability, Messrs. Hargrave and Roche, have suffered the loss of some their connections, in the stranding the 'Phoebe' yacht on the coast of Wales, and of the 'Earl of Wemyas Leith' smack, off the coast of Norfolk. Cork Herald.

### **Roscommon & Leitrim Gazette - Saturday 14 September 1833**

THE CORK CONSTITUTION. Further Particulars.— In 'The Constitution' of Saturday, we announced the melancholy loss of Mr. and Mrs. Hargrave, of Dublin, off the Welch coast, on board their yacht, Phoebe, but with the particulars we were not then acquainted. This lamented lady and gentleman, accompanied by five of their children — four daughters and one son — had been on an excursion of pleasure to the Isle of Wight, and were their return to Dublin when they were overtaken the storm which was attended with the deplorable and fatal consequences already stated. The following paragraph relative to them we find in a Milford paper (the Cambrian) of the 7th. On Friday afternoon last, it came on blow a gale from the S.W. with heavy rain. The wind suddenly shifted to W.N.W. and N.W. about seven the evening, and continued to blow heavily throughout the night and following day, from that quarter. A pleasure yacht of about 25 tons, called the 'Phoebe', sailed from Milford, Tuesday, belonging to Mr. Hargrave, who, with his wife and five children, consisting of three fine young women, a son about twelve or thirteen years of age, and another daughter younger, were on board, and were seen that evening passing to the northward through Jack's Sound by the Dove, Revenue Cruiser. We are sorry to learn by letter received yesterday by Mr. Pritchard, of the Nelson Hotel, from a commercial gentleman, (who with his wife were at the Hotel when Mr. Hargrave and his family were there), that they, with the crew, are all supposed to have been lost during the gale of Friday or Saturday, for is stated "that a vessel was wrecked off the coast near Aberystwith, and lady washed on shore on Sunday, about nine miles to the westward of that place, with her night-clothes and petticoat on, over which she had gentleman's frock coat. Her linen was marked "Elizabeth Ann Hargrave", had on a pair of man's stockings marked "John Hargrave," and a wedding ring on her finger. The body was deposited in Llanrhystyd Church. A bed was also picked up about three miles

the north of Aberystwith, marked “J. Hargrave, 1831, 16, Talbot-street.” Mr. Hargrave was an Architect in extensive business Dublin. Mrs. Hargrave was an English lady. Both were much esteemed and respected, and their melancholy and unanticipated fate has filled with mourning a large circle of friends and relatives both in the metropolis and here. They had nine children, five of whom, as above mentioned, perished with them. Three others, too young accompany them the excursion, had been left at home under the charge of their elder sister, Miss Hargrave, and thus fortunately escaped the fate of their regretted parents. It is said that besides Mr. and Mrs. Hargrave and children, there were board the yacht three seamen, and man and maid servant — all of whom were engulfed in the same grave.

### **Windsor and Eton Express - Saturday 14 September 1833**

Late last Friday night, as the pleasure yacht ‘Phoebe’, of Dublin, was off Milford Haven, she capsized, when all on board, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Hargrave of this city, with five or six children and three seamen, all met with a watery grave.— Dublin Times.

### **Monmouthshire Merlin. 14th September 1833**

ABERYSTWITH, SEPT.7.— “I am grieved to state that in the dreadful gale on the 29th and 30th ult. a vessel was wrecked off this shore, and I very much fear it is a yacht belonging to a gentleman from Dublin, whom I had the pleasure of knowing. The body of a lady was found in the sea about nine miles from hence on Sunday morning, with her night-clothes and petticoat on, over which she had a gentleman’s frock-coat, her linen was marked ‘Elizabeth Ann Hargrave’, and she had on a pair of men’s stockings, marked ‘John Hargrave’, and a wedding-ring on her finger. There has been a bed and a piece of wax-candle found three miles north of this; the bed is marked either ‘J. A. Hargrave,’ or ‘J. E. A. Hargrave, 1833, No. 16, Talbot-street.’ This is all I have been yet able to learn. I sent to a family here from Dublin to inquire if they knew a family of the name of Hargrave; their answer was they did. He was a very respectable man, by profession an architect, in Talbot-street, Dublin. There can be little doubt that this is the unfortunate family, comprising Mr. Hargrave, his wife, and five children, (consisting of three fine young women, a son of about 12 or 13 years of age, and another daughter younger,) besides the crew. The above lamented sufferers sojourned at Milford and the neighbourhood for upwards of a week, visiting the different creeks with which that harbour abounds, and the result of their visit was an anticipation that that little place would again be visited by themselves and friends at another season. The yacht supposed to be lost was called the ‘Hebe’, of 15 tons, and sailed from Milford to Aberystwith about the 21st ult.”

An inquest was held on the 3rd inst. at the Red Lion, Llanrhystid, by Dr. Williams, Aberystwith, on the body of Mrs. Hargrave.—Verdict: Found Drowned.”

### **Glamorgan Monmouth and Brecon Gazette and Merthyr Guardian. 14th September 1833**

MELANCHOLY CATASTROPHE. An inquest was held on the 3rd inst., at the Red Lion, Llanrhystid by Dr. Williams, Aberystwyth, and a jury from the above village, upon the body of a female that was discovered floating with the tide near Pygen, on the 2nd inst. She appeared to have been a respectable married lady, about forty years old, of the name of Eliza Ann Hargrave, (which was written on her chemise,) from what place is not known. She had on a very superior pair of half-boots, stockings marked “John Hargrave”, and a gentleman’s brown frock coat. It is reported that she was the wife of a gentleman from Dublin, who, with her seven children, was

cruising in his yacht, and that all were lost during the late gale off this coast. Verdict, Found drowned.- Ibid.

THE LATE GALES. (From our Aberystwyth Correspondent ) “I am grieved to inform you that during the dreadful gale of Friday and Saturday last, a vessel was wrecked off this shore, and I very much fear it is a yacht belonging to a gentleman from Dublin, whom I had the pleasure of knowing. A lady was washed on shore yesterday morning, with her night-clothes and petticoat on, over which she had a gentleman’s frock-coat: her linen was marked “Elizabeth Ann Hargrave”; she had on a pair of men’s stockings, marked “John Hargrave”, and a wedding-ring on her finger. There has been a bed and piece of wax-candle found three miles north of this; the bed is marked either “J. A. Hargrave”, or “J E. A. Hargrave, 1833, No. 16, Talbot street”. This was all I have been yet able to learn. I sent to a family here from Dublin to enquire if they knew a family of the name of Hargrave; their answer was they did. He was a very respectable man, by profession an architect, in Talbot Street, Dublin. There can be little doubt that this is the unfortunate family. The above lamented sufferers sojourned at Milford and neighbourhood for upwards of a week, visiting the different creeks with which that harbour abounds, and the result of their visit was an anticipation that that little place would be again visited by themselves and friends at another season. The yacht supposed to be lost was called the ‘Phoebe,’ of 15 tons, and sailed from Milford to Aberystwyth about the 21st. ult. The family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Hargrave and five children, besides the crew.” Ibid.

#### **North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality. 24th September 1833.**

Loss of the ‘Phoebe’ Yacht. All hopes of raising the yacht ‘Phoebe’, of Dublin, have been abandoned. Nothing has been saved but a trunk containing some silk dresses. The body of Mrs. Hargrave, as we have already stated, was washed ashore near Aberystwyth a very short time after the mournful catastrophe; that of Mr. Hargrave was also found soon afterwards. On Saturday week the body of Master John Hargrave, in his twelfth year, was found on the shore near Avonwen, in Eifionydd [SIC], and next morning that of Miss Louisa Hargrave, in her sixteenth year, was found on the beach at Abereirch. In the course of the same day, the bodies of Miss Alice Hargrave, in her thirteenth year, and of Miss A. D. Hargrave, in her eighth year, were found near Criccieth. They were all placed in suitable coffins, and conveyed to Pwllheli on Monday evening. At ten o’clock the next morning, nearly all the principal inhabitants of the town assembled before the Crown and Anchor Inn, and forming themselves into a procession, followed the two hearses which bore the remains of these lamented young persons to their last earthly abode in the churchyard of Denio [Pwllheli]. The funeral service was read in English with much solemnity by the vicar, the Rev. W. Williams, in the presence of a very large number of spectators. We understand that the body of a sailor supposed to be one of the crew of the ‘Phoebe’, was washed ashore near Criccieth on the 15th, and interred on the following day in the Parish churchyard. On the 17th, also the remains of one of the crew were found enveloped in the sands under Harlech Castle.

**Monmouthshire Merlin. 28th September 1833.**

THE LATE MR. AND MRS. HARGRAVE, OF DUBLIN.—A few days after the melancholy accident by which this amiable lady and gentleman, with their young and interesting family, were lost near Swansea, an attempt was made, with the assistance of a steamer from Liverpool, to raise the yacht in which they perished, in the hope of thus recovering the bodies of the children, who were supposed to have been asleep in the cabin when the accident occurred. As the masts of the yacht had all the time remained visible above the water, sanguine hopes of success were entertained, but when operations were commenced and the ropes strained, the deck in which some of the grappling were hooked gave way, and the attempt was abandoned. Since then, however, the bodies of four of the little sufferers (three girls and a boy) have been found, but those of Mr. Hargrave and of the eldest of the young ladies on board, are still missing. The body of one of the seamen has also been found near Harlech Castle.

**Chester Chronicle. Friday 22 November 1833.**

Disinterment. The remains of Mrs. Hargrave, the unfortunate lady who was drowned with her family in the late wreck the 'Phoebe' cutter, have been disinterred from Aberystwith churchyard, and conveyed to Pwllheli by sea in the 'Cymera', to be laid in the same grave as her husband and children. Mr. Hargrave was formerly pupil to the late Mr. Harrison, architect, of this city.

**Hebe or Phoebe?**

John Hargrave was the third son of Abraham Hargrave of Cork, whose eldest son was also named Abraham. During the early 1830s, the brothers Abraham (Junior) and John Hargrave are listed as participating in yachting races in Ireland, with the names of both Abraham and John appearing against the yacht 'Giaour', of 18 tons, and Abraham Hargrave's name occasionally against the yacht 'Hebe'.

**Cork Constitution. Tuesday, 28 July, 1829.**

The Giaour, Mr. Abraham Hargrave's boat, led the way in handsome style. Mr. Hargrave won by about three minutes. This is the second cup won by the Giaour in this harbour.

**Cork Constitution. Thursday, 11 August, 1831.**

Fourth Class Yachts for a cup value 20 sovereigns. Giaour. Abraham Hargrave Esq. 18 tons.

The yacht 'Hebe' appears in several reports of races held after September, 1833, so this yacht was still afloat after the tragedy in Cardigan Bay..

**Dublin Evening Packet. Thursday, 7 May, 1835.**

Yachts in Dublin Harbour. 'Giaour', Hargrave. 'Hebe', J. T. Rye.

The newspaper reports name the vessel as either the 'Hebe' or the 'Phoebe', but the author believes that 'Phoebe' is more likely to be correct as the Dublin newspapers refer to the yacht as 'Phoebe', and would have been aware that there was another yacht based at that city named 'Hebe'.

## 7.0 Analysis.

The information given in the contemporary newspaper reports is too vague to accurately pinpoint the final resting-place of the 'Phoebe' (or 'Hebe'), so any additional information would be gratefully received. The reference to Swansea can be discounted, and the report of being lost '*Off Milford*' is also highly doubtful as she '*Sailed from Milford, Tuesday, and was seen that evening passing to the northward through Jack's Sound.*' Jack Sound is in Pembrokeshire, and she was wrecked in a gale on Friday, over two days after passing through that dangerous stretch of water.

One body came ashore at Llanrhystud, south of Aberystwyth, while others drifted much further north to be discovered at Criccieth, Harlech and Abererch, so this would suggest that she cleared St. David's Head before being wrecked. The letter from Aberystwyth supports this, saying '*I am grieved to state that in the dreadful gale on the 29th and 30th ult. a vessel was wrecked off this shore, and I very much fear it is a yacht belonging to a gentleman from Dublin.*'

The reference '*Captain Edwards, of the Jane, on his voyage from Liverpool to Barmouth, discovered about three feet above water, near the Causeway of Sarn Cantref Gwaelod, the yellow mast-head of a vessel*' is interesting, as Cantre'r Gwaelod was reputedly the low-lying land that was protected by Sarn Badrig to the north of Barmouth, Sarn-y-Bwlch between Barmouth and Aberdovey, and Sarn Cynfelin / Sarn Wallog between Borth and Aberystwyth. It is unlikely that a voyage from Liverpool to Barmouth would have taken the 'Jane' as far south as Aberystwyth, so perhaps this report refers to Sarn Badrig.

As mentioned, any information, especially from divers, would be gratefully received.

## 8.0 Conclusions & Recommendations.

With such conflicting information, few conclusions can be reached, other than the fact that the yacht 'Phoebe' or 'Hebe' was found in a sunken state on a reef in Cardigan Bay during late August, 1833, with the loss of all aboard her. A salvage attempt was made in September 1833 to recover the yacht, but this appears to have failed.

## 9.0. References.

Sources include: Lloyd's Register.

*Shipwreck Index of the British Isles. Vol 5* (Richard Larne, Lloyd's Register).

RCAHMW COFLEIN <https://coflein.gov.uk/>

Wrecksite website <https://www.wrecksite.eu/Wrecksite.aspx>

National Library of Wales Welsh newspapers on line <https://newspapers.library.wales/>

The British Newspaper Archive [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/)

Wherever Freights May Offer. Lewis Lloyd.