

Welsh Wreck Web Research Project
(North Cardigan Bay)
On-line research into the wreck of the:
Sarah Vessel
From Liverpool to Demerara



Painting of the rescue by Frances Williams

Report compiled by:

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Report Title:

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1.0 Abstract

Since 2000 the Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit (MADU) has developed a database of vessels known to have wrecked around the coast of Wales.

The "www Research Project" is about protecting and discovering information about the ships, the circumstances of their loss, details of the owners and crew, the cargo carried and their history. The report would be access on the MADU data base of wrecks of North Wales. Thus, between 2001 and 2009 MADU held various licences under the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) to dive and work on the Welsh designated wreck site known as the Diamond.

The project currently has 535 vessels on its database that have been involved in maritime incidents, and 67 researchers, based in many parts of the world, are investigating 232 of them.

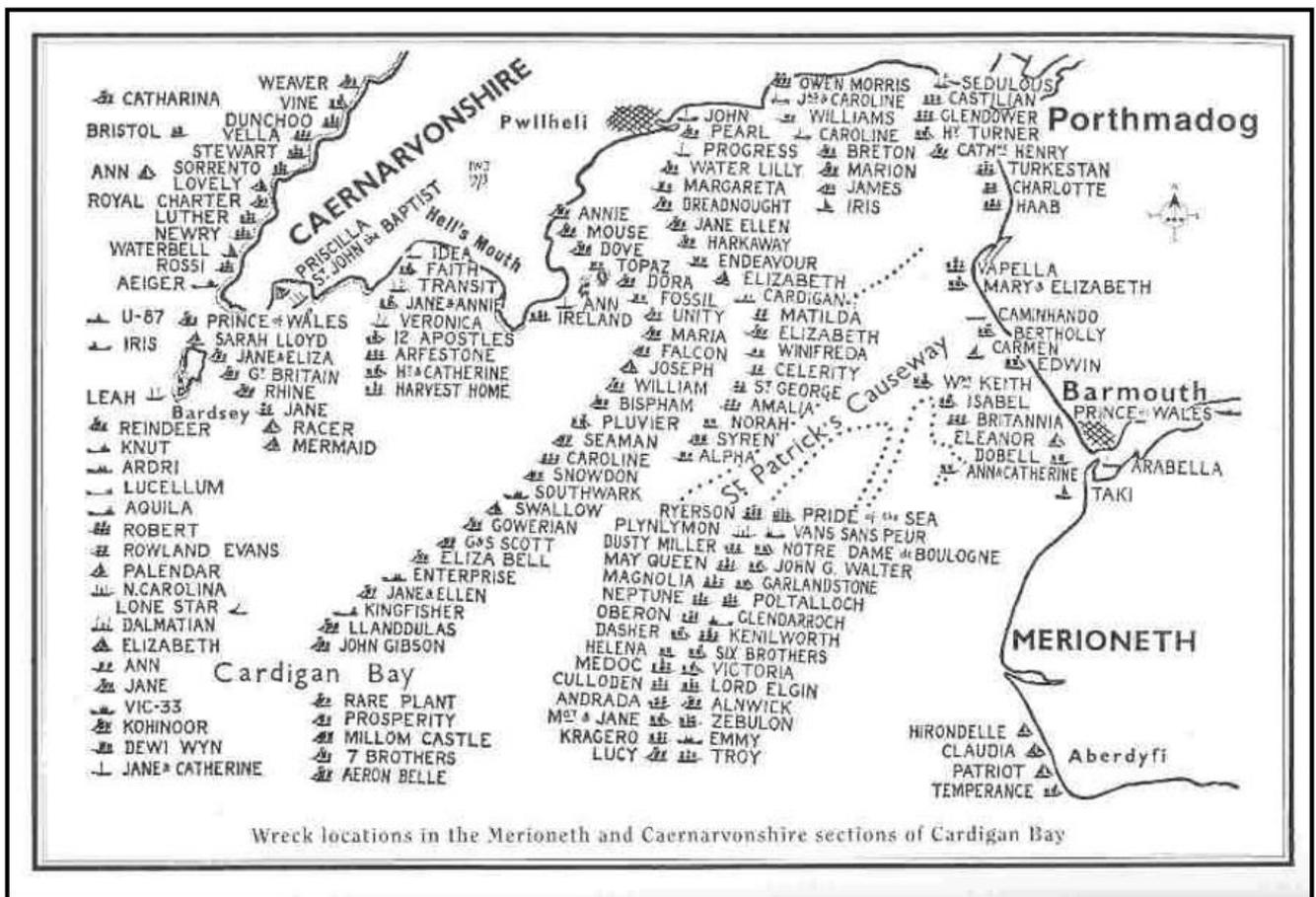


Figure 1. The above map is taken from "Shipwrecks of North Wales" by Ivor Wynne Jones, and shows around 38% of the wrecks on MADU's database.

2.0 Index

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2.4 Contributors

Ian Cundy

2.5 Abbreviations

A list of any abbreviations used in this report, i.e.

GAT	Gwynedd Archaeology Trust
IJNA	International Journal of Nautical Archaeology
MADU	Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit
NAS	Nautical Archaeology Society

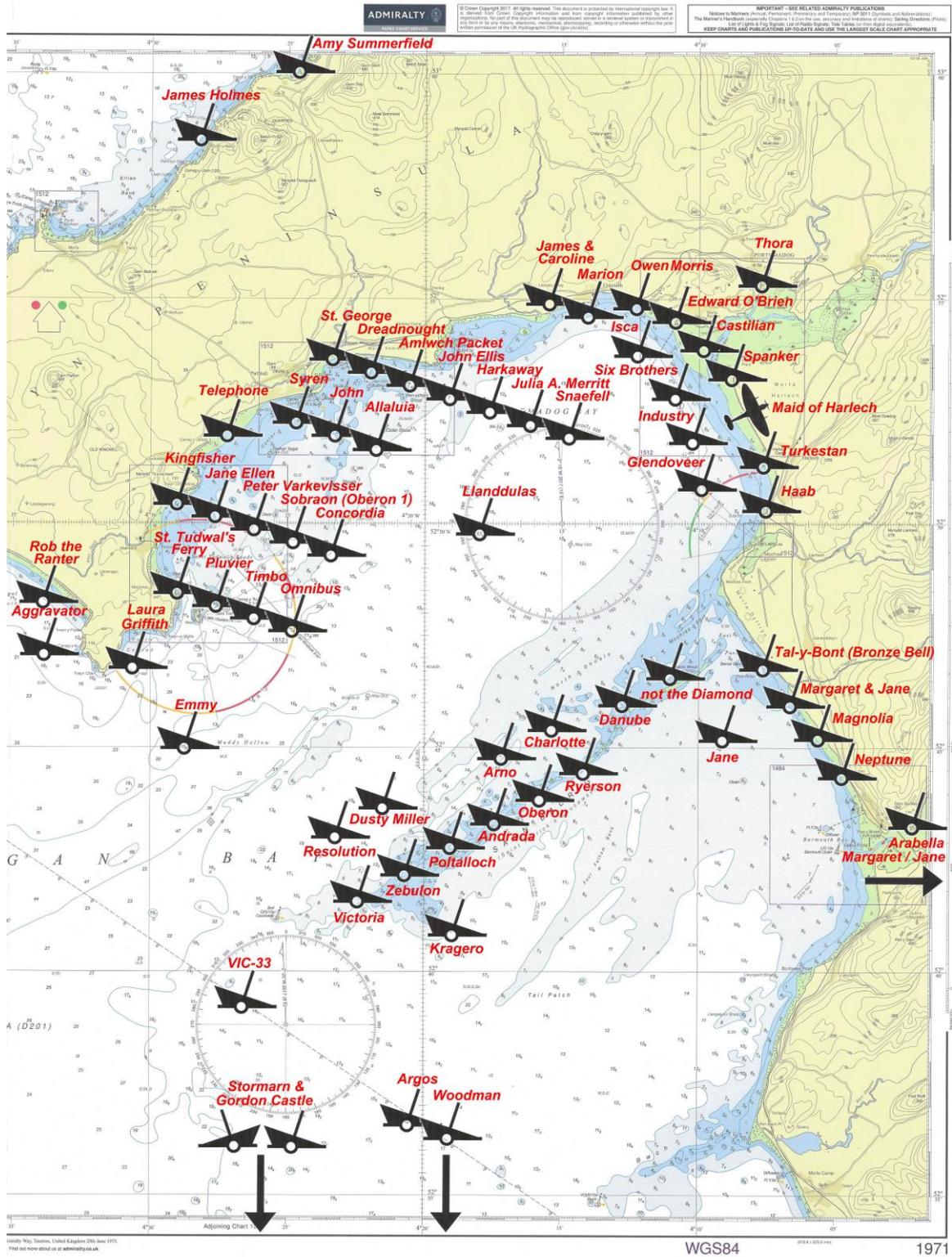
NPRN

National Primary Resource Number

3.0 Introduction

Every ship has its own story behind it. to make a research and gather information is the way to save and protect shipwreck from disappearing for the history and future even if it destroyed. In the report we focus on some questions that give a general idea about Sarah vessel.

- What historical information is available relating to the vessel?
- What was the story leading up to wrecking?
- What caused the wrecking?
- What has happened since the wrecking?
- Has any salvage, etc. been carried out?
- Have there been any previous reports produced relating to the vessel?



4.0 Background

In the Henry Parry book, Sarah was on route from Liverpool to Demerara, and was driven ashore onto rocks during a storm on 07/10/1835 dated to post medieval, on the island of Anglesey, but that all the crew of 14 were saved.

The location of the wreck was just west of the sandy beach at Porth Tre Castell (Cable Bay) and divers have occasionally found items on the seabed here which might have come from the Sarah.

This full-rigged ship bound from Liverpool to Demerara, was caught in a storm in 1835, and driven into Caernarvon Bay ending on the rock two miles east of Abberfraw. Captain Syms and his crew of 14/18 were all safely brought ashore, using the shore-based life-saving apparatus from Holyhead. Several other vessels were wrecked off the coast of North Wales by the gales at that date. One record states that her cargo was salt, another coal and general cargo.

The Rev. James William of Llanfairynghornwy, who was concerned about the loss of life from shipwrecks around Anglesey, founder of the Anglesey the Anglesey Branch of the Royal National Institute for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck, with his wife, Frances. He was in the vicinity and quickly took charge of the lifesaving operation. Under his supervision a rope was got aboard the ship and by means of this all fourteen members of the crew were hauled safely ashore. No sooner had the last man reached safely than the vessel broke up, the tides scattering her wreckage over a wide area. Another vessel the snow Sunbury bound to the Mersey with the cotton from New Orleans was driven ashore in the same locality and within a matter of hours was a total wreck. His wife, Frances, drew the scene with a line running from the mizzen mast to the shore with a sailor on it and, subsequently, painted a picture of it. Her paintings were lithographed and sold to raise funds for life-saving.

Note that this couple were great-grandparents of Kyffin Williams, the renowned Anglesey artist who died in 2006.



Figure 3. Map Reference SH36NE, 53°12.19N, 4°30.14W.

5.0 Research Methodology

The methodology of research is via desk. By the uses of different sites and archives available. First I chose the ships after checking MADU list of wreck.

My information is collecting from:

The British newspaper archive

Lewis Lloyd registration

And some information picked from books.

6.0 Results

Vessel	Name/s	Sarah
	Type	Full-rigged ship
Built	Date	Built in 1820
Construction	Materials	Wooden
Propulsion	Type	Sail
Tonnage	Gross	284 tons
Owner	First	Sir. John Tobin
Registry	Port	Location
	Flag	Nationality
History	Routes	From Liverpool
		To Demerara
	Captain	W. Syms
	Crew	14-18
	Cargo	Salt, coal and general cargo
Wrecking	Date	11 September 1835
	Location	Cardiganshire
	Cause	Storm ran ashore and broke up on the rocks
	Loss of life	0
	Outcome	Total Loss

7.0 Analysis

Many of ships has lost in the Cardigan bay, including Sarah vessel. During the research, I couldn't find more information about the construction, and the technique or any specific part about it. In addition, we didn't find information about the dimensions as the length, draught or beam. Or details about its engine or how it sails in the sea.

So many information need to collect and analyse. This could be done by survey diving or even by geophysics methods that help to understand some missing points and questions need answers. The information in the report are around the history and circumstance which led to lose its direction.

At the end, Sarah vessel is as the other ones who were lost in the same Bay. It's necessary to dive more and discover the mysteries behind the circumstances in the Cardigan Bay that led many ships to lost and disappear.

8.0 Conclusions & Recommendations

This project was a great opportunity for me to engage and get knowledge about maritime history in England. I would to thanks Mrs. Ian Cundy. The project gives me an advance information through online research with the uses of many and different valuable sites and references. I spent many hours trying to find what can help me to gather information about the Sarah vessel, and especially because there is a lot of vessel named Sarah and wrecked in the same bay. But unfortunately, there is lack of information on the internet about it. This is worth reason for more studies and dives into the sites for more interesting discoveries about the ship and the Cardigan Bay itself.

With the online research I learn how to choose scientific information and I had been able to separate it from the fake one, which is the most important skills for scientific research.

A lot of questions need an answers, this can be done with more project and hard work in field or via online research especially during this pandemic, for gather information and let it be available for public as a paving way to engage people in maritime history and archaeology of England.

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