



Welsh Wreck Web Research Project
(North Cardigan Bay)
On-line research into the wreck of the:
Beatrice Catherine

Copy of the best picture you can find of the vessel

Title

Report compiled by:

Sarah Harwood

Report Title:

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(North Cardigan Bay)
On-line research into the wreck of the:
*Beatrice Catherine***

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1.0 Abstract

The “www Research Project” is about, discovering by on line research details of ships, on the MADU data base of wrecks of North Wales , the circumstances of their loss ,details of the owners and crew, the cargo carried and their history.

The Beatrice Catherine was wrecked October 1859 in a severe storm (Royal Charter Gale)that affected all of Britain and Ireland. Beatrice Catherine was one of many ships lost in the storm. It was wooden smack built at Bangor in 1845. A passenger and the three crewmembers on board were lost in the incident.

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3.0 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
OS	Ordnance Survey
RCAHMW	Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Wales
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
etc.	

4.0 Summary of Research

Lost Porth Oer 25 Oct 1859

Shipwreck Index of the British Isles: Volume 5

Larn, R. & Larn, B., 2000, Shipwreck Index of the British Isles: Volume 5 – West Coast and Wales. Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

Section 5 - North Wales (EE)

Date of wrecking: 25/10/1859

Location: Caernarfonshire, Lleyn Peninsula, Porthor Bay

Co-ordinates: 52.50.15N 04.43.15W

Ship type: Smack

Construction: Wood

Flag: United Kingdom

Net Tonnage: 34.00

Cargo: Culm

Propulsion: Sail

No. of Crew: 3

No. of crew lost: 3

N. of passengers 1

No. of passengers lost 1

Notes: Stranded and lost with all hands and one passenger in wind conditions NNE force 10.

References: BOT Wk Rtn (Board of Trade Wreck Returns) 1859 Table 19 p25(529)

BOT Hbr Ref (Board of Trade, Harbours of Refuge Inquiries. British Parliamentary Papers) 1859 p122(564)

NLR (Not in Lloyd's Register of Shipping)

Peoples Collection Wales

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/44506>



The BEATRICE CATHERINE was one of the shipping losses during the Royal Charter Gale over the night of 25-26 October 1859. It was wooden smack built at Bangor in 1845. The vessel's registry documentation at Pwllheli provides us with a set of technical specifications:

34 1309/3500 tons burthen. 1 deck, 1 mast, that her length from the inner part of the Main Stem to the fore part of the Stern Post aloft is 46ft, her breadth taken in midships is 13.5ft, her depth in hold at midships is 6ft, that she is a Smack rigged with a standing bowsprit, square sterned, carvel built.

The smack's master, Watkin Williams.

The smack was registered twice at Beaumaris - the first occasion in 1845 and a second time in 1848 (shown in the image).

It was named for one of its owners, Beatrice Catherine Mylton (Myton or Ayton)

History in the list of owners. For example, Edward Ellis of Bangor is likely to have been the smack's builder. He sold his 32 shares to Watkins Williams in October 1848, as recorded in the transactions. David Davies of Porthmadoc bought 16 shares from Edward Ellis on 5 February 1855 and 16 from Watkins Williams on 10 February 1857. He also became the master on 4 March 1851.

The BEATRICE CATHERINE was carrying culm when it was driven ashore at Porthor Bay. The Board of Trade's statistical report of losses for 1859 suggests that a passenger and three crewmembers were drowned.

Sources include:

Board of Trade Wreck Return 1859 Table 19 pg25 (529), House of Commons Parliamentary Papers Online, document 2623

Port of Pwllheli Shipping Register 1840-1851 Gwynedd Archive Service XSR/25, 21 in 1848

<https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/271303/details/beatrice-catherine>

NPRN 271303

The BEATRICE CATHERINE was a wooden smack built at Bangor in 1845. Technical and configuration specifications are given as 34 tons burthen; 46ft length x 13.5ft breadth x 6ft depth in hold; 1 deck, 1 mast, Smack rigged with a standing bowsprit, square sterned, carvel built; official number 10892. The smack's Port of Pwllheli Shipping Register entry appears to confirm that the smack was named for one of its owners - Beatrice Catherine Myton (?Ayton) of Beaumaris. Lloyds Register notes that the vessel had undergone large repairs in 1847, probably by Edward Ellis of Bangor, shipbuilder, who held 32 shares until these were sold to William Watkins in October 1848. At time of loss, ownership had passed to Watkins Williams of Llananiam (?), master mariner (12 shares); William Griffith of Porthinllaen, schoolmaster (4 shares); David Davies of Porthmadoc, mariner and the BEATRICE CATHERINE's master (32 shares); and George Newry Brown of Llanymynach (?), gentleman (16 shares). The smack was carrying culm when it was driven ashore at Porthor Bay during the Royal Charter Gale of 25/26 October 1859 (a north-northeasterly force 10-12). A passenger and the three crewmembers on board were lost in the incident.

Sources include:

Board of Trade Harbours of Refuge Inquiries, Parliamentary papers 1959 pg122 (564)

Board of Trade Wreck Return 1859 Table 19 pg25 (529), House of Commons Papers Online, document 2623

Larn and Larn Shipwreck Database 2002

Lloyds Register of British and Foreign Shipping, 1 July 1858 - 30 June 1859, 82 in B

Lloyds Register of British and Foreign Shipping, 1 July 1859 - 30 June 1860, 80 in B

Port of Pwllheli Shipping Register 1840-1851 Gwynedd Archive Service XSR/25, 21 in 1848

5.0 Specification and life history table

Vessel	Name/s	Beatrice Catherine		
	Type	Smack		
Built	Date	Built 1845		
	Builder			
		Bangor, Gwynedd		
Construction	Materials	Wood		
	Decks	1		
	Bulkheads			
Propulsion	Type	Sail		
	Details	1 Mast standing bowsprit, square sterned, carvel built		
Engine	Details			
	Boilers			
Drive	Type			
	Number			
Dimensions	Length	46 ft	ins	m
	Beam	13.5ft	ins	m
	Draught	6ft	ins	m
Tonnage	Gross			
	Net	34		
Owner	First			
	Last			
	Others			
Registry	Port			
	Flag	United Kingdom		
	Number			
History	Routes			
	Cargo			
Final Voyage	From			
	To			
	Captain			
	Crew	3		
	Passengers	1		
	Cargo	Culm		
Wrecking	Date			
	Location			
	Cause			
	Loss of life	3 Crew 1 Passenger		
	Outcome			