

**Welsh Wreck Web Research Project
(North Cardigan Bay)
On-line research into the Wrecking of:
Clarissa (Schooner)**



Two masted Schooner built at Aberaeron in 1856

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Report Title: **Welsh Wreck Web Research Project
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*Clarissa (Schooner)***

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1.0 Abstract

Since 2001 the Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit (MADU) has developed a database of vessels known to have wrecked around the coast of Wales.

This project is to discover information relating to the history of the schooner Clarissa built at Aberystwyth Wales in 1854 (MADU Ref#260).

The Clarissa was a cargo schooner which sailed between the U.K, Ireland, Europe, Canary Islands, Azores, Baltic, Mediterranean, Black Sea, East Coast of Canada and the Caribbean.

On Jul 30 1886, the Clarissa while sailing from London to Douglas I.O.M sprung a leak in a storm and sank near the Cardigan Bay Lightship. The crew of 4 took to the lifeboat and were picked up by the SS Mersey which was sailing from Newport to Liverpool.

However due to weather condition on Jul 31 the SS Mersey ran aground just off South Stack Anglesey Wales and the crew of the Clarissa were again forced to take to their lifeboat and eventually reached shore. The crew of the SS Mersey were also forced to abandon and the SS Mersey was wrecked.

The picture shown on Page 1 is a painting of the Aeron Belle which was built at Aberaeron in 1856 and is probably a good representation of how the Clarissa looked and was rigged.

The research has been conducted from information gathered from MADU and on-line sites as I do not reside in the U.K.

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2.4 Contributors

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2.5 Abbreviations

MADU	Malvern Archaeological Diving Unit
MNL	Mercantile Navy List
LR	Lloyds' Registry

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3.0 Introduction

The schooner Clarissa was chosen as:

- it covered a period of sea history from the mid 19th century.
- it was a similar ship and time to other ships I had researched from the MADU Wreck list.
- I live overseas online information would be my priority research tool and similar to my previous research a ship from this period should be reasonably well documented online.

The following topics form the basis of the research:

- What were the vessel's specifications?
- What historical information is available relating to the vessel?
- Has any salvage, etc. been carried out?
- Have there been any previous reports produced relating to the vessel?

4.0 Background

Prior to starting this research the only known data available to me was from the MADU Master Wrecksite Database Listing (Table 1) supplied by Mr Ian Cundy.

Table 1: Extract from MADU Master Wrecksite Database

MADU Ref #	Date Wrecked	Name	Location 1	Location 2	Details	Vessel Type	Matls	Ref.
260	30/07/1886	Clarissa	Cardigan	Near Cardigan Bay Lightship	Wrecked	Schooner	wood	rl

On Jul 30 1886, the schooner Clarissa sank near the Cardigan Bay Lightship after damaged occurred during a storm. The crew abandoned the Clarissa and were picked up by the SS Mersey. However the SS Mersey ran aground and the crew of the Clarissa and Mersey had to take to lifeboats.

Fig 1: Reported Location of Clarissa Wreckage, Jul 30 1886

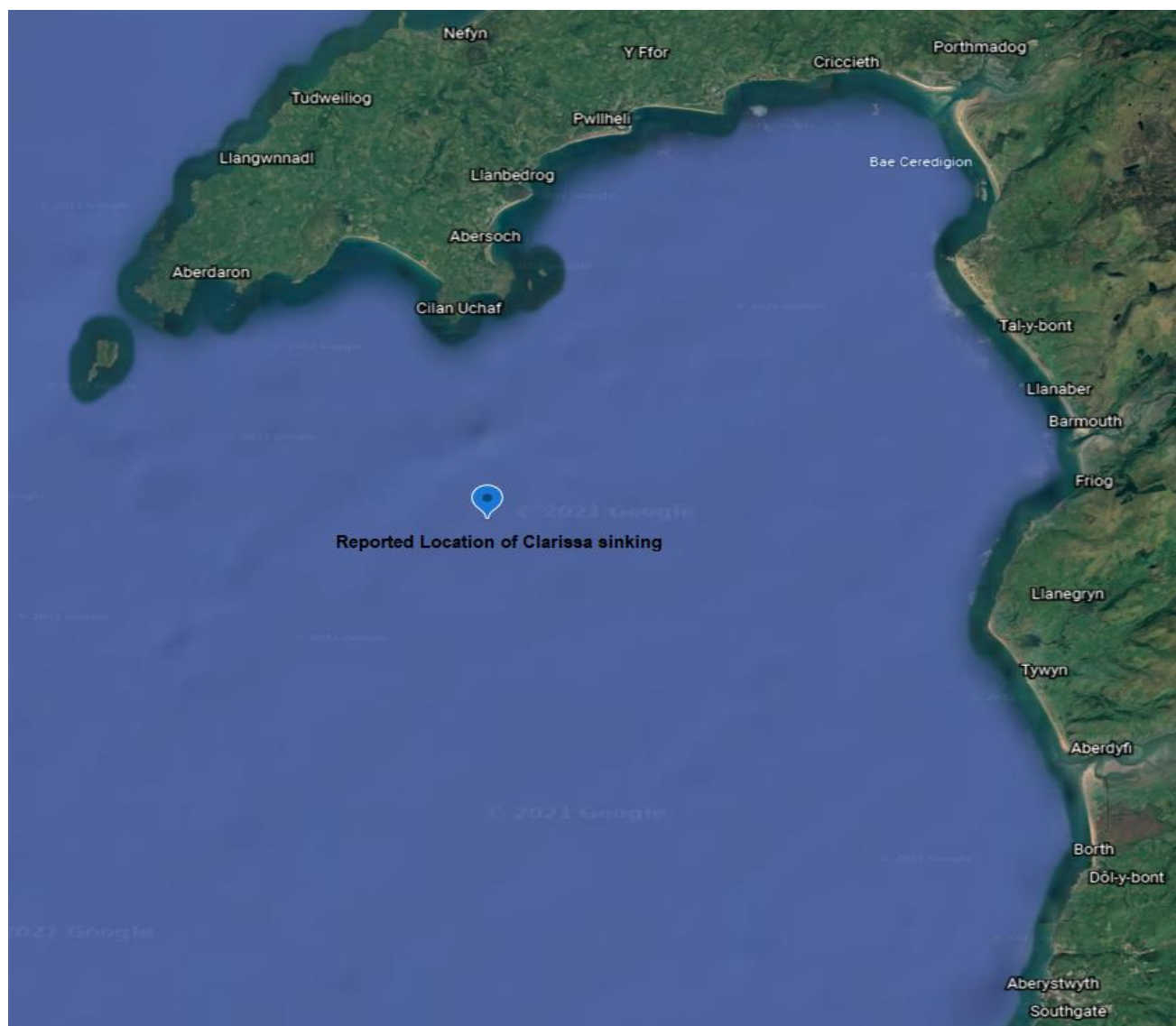


Fig 2: Reported Location of SS Mersey Wreckage, Jul 31 1886



5.0 Research Methodology

Computer System

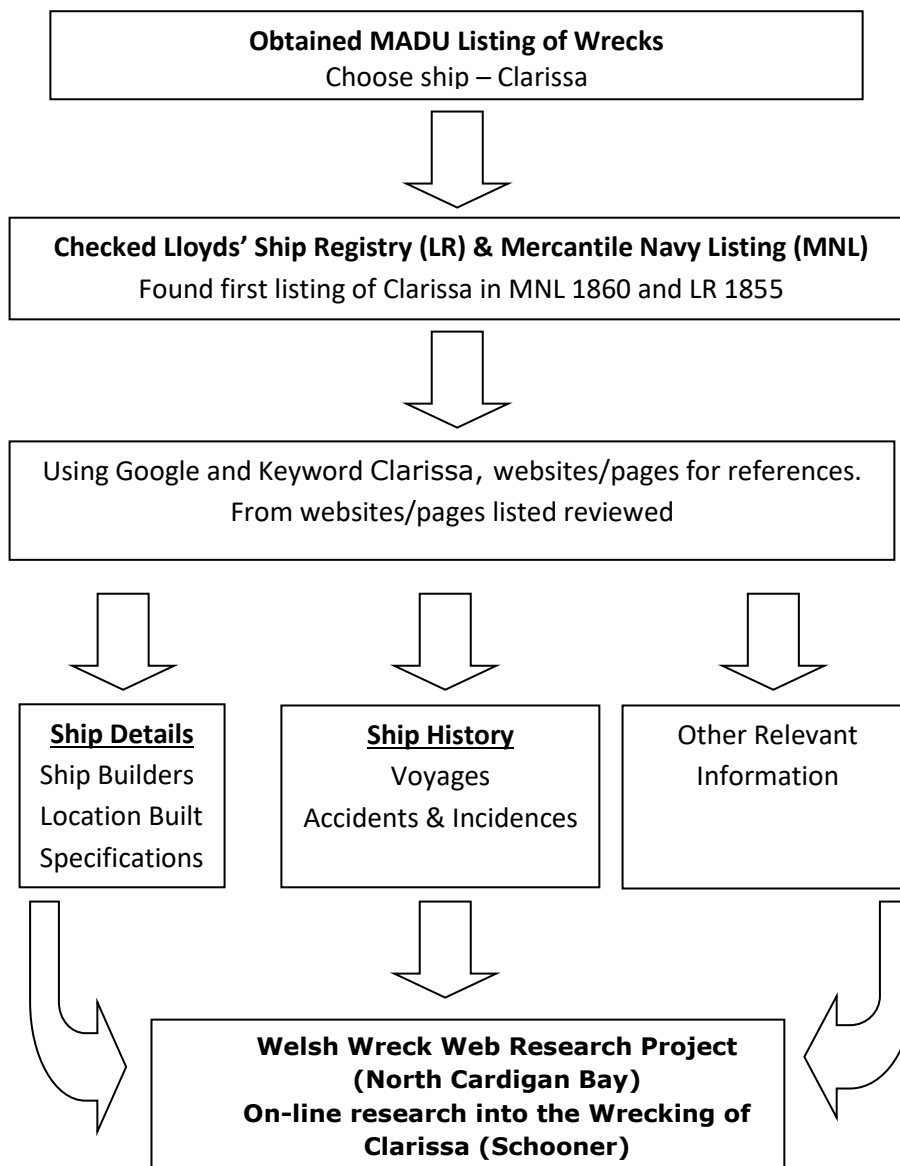
Acer Desktop 64 bit OS; 8 GB Memory, wireless connection.

Windows 10Pro

Microsoft Office 2007

Search engines used: Google Chrome

Methodology



See Section 9 for list of websites viewed

6.0 Results

Table 2: Clarissa (Schooner) Specification and History

Vessel	Name/s	Clarissa
	Type	Sailing Ship – Schooner ACD Pt 1B
		General Cargo
Built	Date	Laid Down: N/A
		Launched: N/A
		Delivered: 1854
		Cost: N/A
	Builder	John Evans Aberystwyth Wales
Construction	Materials	Wood
	Decks	1
	Bulkheads	N/A
	Others	rigged with a standing bowsprit, square stern, carvel built, with a woman full figurehead, wooden framework and planking, partly fastened with iron bolts
Propulsion	Type	Sail
	Details	2 masts
Dimensions	Length	81 ft 4 in
	Beam	16 ft 6 in
	Draught	10 ft 4 in
Tonnage	Gross	96 grt
	Net	N/A
Owners	1855	Thomas Jones, Aberystwyth
Registry	Port	Aberystwyth Wales, Wales
	Flag	GBR
	Number	3220
	Code	H.S.K.P
History	Routes	U.K, Ireland, Europe, Canary Islands, Azores, Baltic, Mediterranean, Black Sea, East Coast of Canada, Caribbean
	Cargo	Raw materials, grains, food products
Wrecked	Date	30/07/1886
	From	London
	To	Douglas, Isle of Man
	Captain	J. Jones
	Crew	4
	Cargo	Bagged cement
	Location	Near the Cardigan Bay Lightship
	Cause	Developed a leak
	Loss of life	0
Outcome	Sank	

Table 3: SS Mersey Specification and History

Vessel	Name/s	Mersey
	Type	Steamship
		Coaster General Cargo
Built	Date	Date Launched: 12/1884
		Date Completed: 02/1885
	Builder	W.A. Stevens
		Birkenhead
Construction	Materials	Iron
	Decks	Q 28t; B 50t; F 12t; H 5t
	Bulkheads	4
Propulsion/Drive	Type	Steam
	Details	Single screw
Engine	Details	1 x 2 cyl. Compound steam engine
		21, 42 x 30in
		H.P: 80
		W.A. Stevens
	Boilers	1
Dimensions	Length	159 ft 2 ins
	Beam	23 ft 7 ins
	Draught	10 ft 3 ins
Tonnage	Gross	342 grt
	Net	149 nrt
Owner	First	S.S. Mersey Co. Ltd. - J. J. Croxton, Liverpool
Registry	Port	Liverpool
	Flag	GBR
	Number	91181
	Code	N/A
History	Routes	Coastal U.K.
	Cargo	General
Final Voyage	From	Newport Wales
	To	Liverpool
	Captain	W. H. Ball
	Crew	10
	Passengers	4
	Cargo	Coal
	Date	31/07/1886
	Location	South Stack Anglesey, Wales
	Cause	Struck a rock and grounded, bad weather
	Loss of life	0
	Outcome	Wrecked

7.0 Analysis

- The Clarissa was built and launched in 1854 at Aberaeron Wales and registered at Aberystwyth (Appendix A, B, C).
- The schooner Clarissa conducted voyages between, U.K, Ireland, Europe, Canary Islands, Azores, Baltic, Mediterranean, Black Sea, East Coast of Canada and the Caribbean. Voyages to the east Coast of Canada and vice versa were made via the Azores.
- In Nov 1862, the Clarissa arrived at Holyhead from Trinidad for repairs after running aground on a reef in the Caribbean (Appendix D).
- In Jan 1864, the Clarissa put in at Dartmouth to report the sinking of the Alfred (Gloucester) while sailing from St Michael's Azores for London (Appendix E).
- In Jan 1879, the Clarissa was forced to put in at Falmouth due to damage sustained while sailing from St John's Newfoundland Canada for Teignmouth Devon (Appendix F).
- In Dec 1879, the Clarissa put in at Queenstown sailing from Brindisi Italy for Liverpool to report a ship in distress (Appendix G).
- On Jul 30 1886, while sailing from London to Douglas I.O.M, the Clarissa was damaged during a storm near the Cardigan Bay Lightship and sank. The 4 man crew were saved by the SS Mersey which was sailing from Newport Wales to Liverpool (Appendix H).
- On Jul 31 1886, the SS Mersey with the 4 crew members of the Clarissa onboard struck a rock off South Stack Anglesey Wales. The crew members of the Clarissa and the SS Mersey were forced to abandon the SS Mersey (Appendix I).

From newspaper articles the Clarissa was recorded:

1855

Jan 27: Arrived Bristol from Aberystwyth Wales.
 Feb 09: Arrived Milford Wales from Newport Wales for Liverpool.
 Mar 05: Sailed Liverpool for Tralee Ireland.
 Jun 05: Arrived Newcastle from Boulogne France.
 Jun 19: Arrived Penzance Cornwall from Newcastle.
 Jun 26: Sailed Penzance Cornwall for Port Talbot Wales.
 Jul 05-14: Sailed Newport Wales for Liverpool.
 Sep 05: Arrived Poole Dorset from Southampton.
 Sep 15: Sailed Poole Dorset.
 Oct 15: Sailed Liverpool for Malta.
 Dec 11: Sailed Palermo Italy for Falmouth Cornwall.

1856

Mar 21: Arrived Barrow Cumbria from Dublin.
 May 07: Arrived Helvoet Netherlands from Porthcawl Wales.
 Jul 22: Arrived Malta from Swansea Wales.
 Aug 07-26: Sailed Malta for Gibraltar.
 Aug 26: Cleared for Gibraltar.
 Sep 02: Arrived Lisbon Portugal from Malta.
 Oct 15: Arrived Swansea Wales from Lisbon Portugal.

1857

Jun 17: Arrived Cork Ireland from Newcastle, 63 tons fire brick and clay, 30 casks soda, 13 hhds, 10 tierces lamp black.
 Jul 10: Arrived Aberystwyth Wales.
 Jul 25: Arrived Bristol from Aberystwyth Wales.
 Aug 09: Arrived Dieppe France from Newport Wales.
 Aug 26: Arrived Poole Dorset from Dieppe France.
 Nov 07: Arrived Queenstown Ireland from Labrador Canada, 1097 quintals dry cod.

Nov 25: Arrived St Helier Jersey from Labrador Canada.

1858

Mar 04-Apr 13: Sailed Liverpool for Leghorn Italy.
 Apr 28: Sailed Leghorn Italy for Galatz Romania.
 May 13: arr Constantinople Turkey.
 Jun 02-Aug 06: Sailed Galatz Romania for Falmouth Cornwall.
 Jun 14-17: arr/dep Constantinople Turkey.
 Aug 21: Sailed Falmouth Cornwall for Antwerp Belgium.
 Sep 21: Arrived Hull from Antwerp Belgium.
 Oct 26: Sailed Newcastle for Gibraltar, 48 tons coal.
 Dec 21: Arrived St Michael's Azores from Gibraltar.

1859

Jan 03-20: Sailed St Michael's Azores for Liverpool.
 Mar 31-May 02: Sailed Liverpool for Leghorn Italy.
 Jun 13-Jul 19: Sailed Leghorn Italy for London.
 Jul 12: arr Penzance Cornwall.
 Oct 08: Sailed Swansea Wales for Canary Islands.
 Dec 01: Arrived Portsmouth from St Michael's Azores for Hull.
 Dec 22: Arrived Deal Kent sailing Hull for St Michael's Azores.

1860

Jan 30: Arrived Hull from St Michael's Azores.
 Feb 09-19: Sailed Hull for St Michael's Azores.
 Mar 17: Arrived Hull from St Michael's Azores.
 Jul 21: Arrived London from Naples Italy, cargo chalk stones stairs.
 Sep 03-19: Sailed Cardiff for Valencia Spain.
 Oct 03: Sailed Valencia Spain for Denia Spain.
 Dec 10: Arrived London from Malaga Spain.

1861

Jan 13-Feb 08: Sailed London for Madeira Canary Islands.
 Feb 13-24: Sailed Madeira Canary Islands for St Michael's Azores.
 Mar 31: Arrived Bristol from St Michael's Azores, oranges.
 Apr 22: Sailed Bristol for Messina Sicily.
 Jun 05: Sailed Messina Sicily for Gioja Italy.
 Jul 23: Arrived Clyde Scotland from Gioja Italy.
 Aug 15-16: Put in at Porthdinllaen Wales sailing from Glasgow for Ferrol Spain, pig iron.
 Aug 16: dep Porthdinllaen Wales for Ferrol Spain.
 Sep 15: Arrived Swansea Wales from Ferrol Spain.
 Oct 01-25: Sailed Swansea Wales for Tenerife Canary Islands.
 Nov 02-19: Sailed Tenerife Canary Islands for Terceira Azores.
 Dec 11: Arrived London from Terceira Azores.
 Dec 21: Sailed London for Terceira Azores.

1862

Feb 07: Arrived London from Terceira Azores.
 Apr 11-Jul 06: Sailed London for St Helena.
 Aug 29: Arrived Trinidad from St Helena.
 Sep 15: Reported at Barbados.
 Sep 19: Sailed Trinidad for Clyde Scotland.
 Nov 04: Put in at Holyhead Wales due to damage (Appendix D).
 Nov 12-15: Sailed Holyhead Wales for Clyde Scotland after repairs.

1863

May 11: Arrived Whitehaven Cumbria from Swansea Wales.
 May 18-24: Sailed Whitehaven Cumbria for Cardiff.

Jun 16: Sailed Cardiff for Genoa Italy.
 Sep 04-28: Sailed Genoa Italy for London.
 Nov 05: Sailed London for Canary Islands.
 Dec 18: Arrived St Michael's Azores from Canary Islands.

1864

Jan 17: Arrived Dartmouth Devon from St Michael's Azores reporting loss of Alfred (of Gloucester or Bideford) (Appendix E).
 Jan 17-21: Sailed Dartmouth Devon for London.
 Mar 11-May 02: Sailed London for Nassau Bahamas, general cargo.
 Mar 13: arr Cowes I.O.W.
 Jul 15: Sailed London for Almeria Spain.
 Aug 29: Sailed Almeria Spain for Denia Spain.
 Oct 15: Arrived London from Denia Spain.

1865

Jan 10: Sailed Tenerife Canary Islands for St Michael's Azores.
 Feb 23-Mar 17: Sailed St Michael's Azores for Bristol.
 May 30: Arrived Smyrna Turkey from Cardiff.
 Aug 14: Arrived Falmouth Cornwall from Smyrna Turkey.
 Aug 20: Sailed Falmouth Cornwall for Barnstaple Somerset.
 Nov 07: Sailed Milford Wales for Valencia Spain.
 Dec 29: Sailed Valencia Spain for London.

1866

Feb 03: Arrived Bristol from Valencia and Burianna Spain.
 Feb 15: Arrived Cardiff from Bristol.
 May 31: Sailed Leghorn Italy for San Remo Italy.
 Jun 29: Arrived Gibraltar and cleared for Hamburg Germany.
 Jul 27: Put in at Plymouth Devon from Leghorn Italy via Gibraltar for Hamburg Germany.
 Jul 28: dep for Hamburg Germany.
 Aug 04: Arrived Hamburg Germany from Plymouth.
 Sep 03: Sailed Hamburg Germany for Ceara Portugal.

1867

Jan 29: Put in at Plymouth Devon from Terceira Azores for Antwerp Belgium.
 Feb 04: Arrived Hamburg Germany from Ceara Portugal via Plymouth.
 Mar 22-May 28: Sailed Hamburg Germany for St John's Newfoundland Canada.
 Apr 01: sighted off South Foreland.
 Jul 17: Arrived Figueira Portugal from Vianna Portugal.
 Jul 28: Arrived Villarreal Spain from Figueira Portugal.
 Aug 03: Sailed Villarreal Spain for Pomaron Portugal.
 Aug 11-Sep 06: Sailed Villarreal Spain for Harwich.

1868

Jan 03: Sailed Swansea Wales for Tenerife.
 Feb 08: Arrived St Michael's Azores from Tenerife.
 Mar 18: Arrived Bristol from St Michael's Azores, cargo oranges.
 Mar 24: Sailed Bristol for Cardiff.
 Aug 01: Sailed from Aberystwyth Wales.
 Aug 28: Sailed Barcelona for Messina Sicily.
 Oct 03: Sailed Cephalonia Greece for Rotterdam Netherlands.

1869

Apr 08: Arrived Messina Sicily from Swansea Wales.
 Apr 16: Sailed Messina Sicily for Castellamare Sicily.
 Jul 08: Arrived Falmouth Cornwall from Kalamata Greece.

Aug 01: Arrived Cronstadt (St Petersburg) Russia from Kalamata Greece via Falmouth Cornwall.
 Aug 20-Sep 24: Sailed Cronstadt (St Petersburg) Russia for London.
 Nov 16: Arrived Canary Islands from London.
 Dec 02: Arrived St Michael's Azores from Canary Islands.
 Dec 06-22: Sailed St Michael's Azores for London.

1870

Jan 28-Mar 13: Sailed London for Tenerife Canary Islands.
 Jan 31: arr Portland Dorset due to weather.
 Apr 12: Arrived London from Tenerife Canary Islands.
 May 13-Jun 05: Sailed London for Tenerife Canary Islands.
 Jun 07-Jul 08: Sailed Tenerife Canary Islands for Harbour Grace Newfoundland Canada.
 Jul 16: Sailed Harbour Grace Newfoundland Canada for Labrador Canada.
 Oct 19: Arrived Lisbon Portugal from Newfoundland Canada.
 Oct 25-Nov 12: Sailed Lisbon Portugal for Genoa Italy.
 Dec 11: Arrived Leghorn Italy from Genoa Italy.

1871

Jan 11: Sailed Leghorn Italy for Dublin.
 Jan 28: arr/dep Gibraltar.
 Mar 12-30: Sailed Dublin for Bordeaux France.
 Mar 19: arr at Milford Wales and put in due to weather.
 May 08: Arrived Leith Scotland from Bordeaux France.
 May 20-30: Sailed Leith Scotland for Stettin Poland.
 May 27: arr Swinemunde Poland.
 June 07-26: Sailed Stettin Poland for Rouen/Havre France.
 Jun 10: dep Swinemunde Poland.
 July 08: Sailed Rouen France for Liverpool.
 Jul 20: Arrived Sharpness Gloucester from Rouen France.
 Aug 14: Sailed Sharpness Gloucester for Tralee Ireland.
 Sep 18: Arrived Swansea Wales from Tralee Ireland.
 Oct 03-Nov 08: Sailed Swansea Wales for Messina Sicily.
 Oct 07: arr Milford Wales.
 Dec 04: Sailed Messina Sicily for London.

1872

Jan 12: Arrived London from Messina Sicily.
 Feb 08: Arrived Swansea Wales from London.
 Mar 09-Apr 08: Sailed Swansea Wales for Naples Italy, cargo coal.
 Apr 13: Sailed Naples Italy for UK.
 May 26: dep Gallipoli Italy.
 Jun 19: Arrived Falmouth Cornwall from Gallipoli Italy, cargo oil.
 Jul 11: Sailed Falmouth Cornwall for Liverpool.
 Aug 14-Sep 17: Sailed Liverpool for Harbour Grace Newfoundland Canada.
 Oct 18: Arrived Harbour Grace Newfoundland Canada from Cow Bay Nova Scotia.
 Nov 06-Dec 04: Sailed Harbour Grace Newfoundland Canada for Vianna Spain.
 Dec 23: Sailed Vianna Spain for St Michael's Azores.

1873

Jan 18: Arrived St Michael's Azores from Vianna Spain.
 Jan 23-Feb 26: Sailed St Michael's Azores for London.
 Mar 13: Sailed London for Drogheda Ireland.
 Jun 06-20: Sailed Aberystwyth Wales for Cadiz Spain via Swansea Wales.
 Jun 24-Jul 31: Sailed Cadiz Spain for St John's Newfoundland Canada.
 Sep 25: Arrived Lisbon Portugal from Newfoundland Canada.
 Oct 12-Nov 03: Sailed Lisbon Portugal for Sharpness Gloucester, cargo 650qrs wheat.
 Nov 25-Dec 02: Sailed Sharpness Gloucester for Swansea Wales.

1874

Jan 22-Feb 12: Sailed Swansea Wales for Tenerife Canary Islands.
 Mar 08: Arrived St Michael's Azores from Tenerife Canary Islands.
 Apr 01: Arrived Villarreal Spain from St Michael's Azores via Pomaron Portugal.
 Apr 08-May 04: Sailed Villarreal Spain for Runcorn Cheshire.
 May 15: Sailed Runcorn Cheshire for Liverpool.
 Jun 02: Sailed Liverpool for Limerick Ireland.
 Jun 05: Arrived Holyhead Wales from Limerick Ireland.
 Jun 16: Arrived Tarbert Ireland from Liverpool.
 Jul 11: Arrived Cadiz Spain from Limerick Ireland.
 Jul 16-Aug 21: Sailed Cadiz Spain for Newfoundland Canada.
 Oct 23: Arrived Alicante Spain from Labrador Canada.

1875

Jan 07: Arrived London from Villa Nova de Portimao Portugal.
 Feb 20: Sailed London for Madeira Canary Islands.
 Mar 25: Sailed Madeira Canary Islands for Mazagan Morocco.
 April 30: Arrived Queenstown Ireland from Mazagan Morocco.
 Jul 28: Arrived Cadiz Spain from Plymouth Devon.
 Sep 07: Arrived St John's Newfoundland Canada from Cadiz Spain.

1876

Jan 16: Arrived Malta from Catalina Morocco and Gibraltar.
 Feb 11-17: Sailed Malta for Patras Greece.
 Feb 19: Sailed Patras for Dragomestre Greece.
 Apr 14: Arrived Gibraltar from Dragomestre Greece.

1877

Jun 05: Arrived Falmouth Cornwall from Larache Morocco, cargo beans.
 Jun 23: Passed Deal Kent from Larache Morocco.
 Jul 13-Aug 26: Sailed London for St John's Newfoundland Canada.
 Oct 20: Arrived Lisbon Portugal from Labrador Canada & Newfoundland Canada.
 Oct 21-Nov 18: Sailed Lisbon Portugal for Genoa Italy.
 Dec 12: Sailed Genoa Italy for Casablanca Morocco.

1878

Jan 19: Arrived Falmouth Cornwall from Dar-el-Beida Algeria, cargo beans.
 Feb-Mar: Waited for cargo in Liverpool.
 Apr 05: Sailed Port Dinorwic Wales for London.
 Jun 01-Jul 24: Sailed London for Halifax Nova Scotia Canada.
 Jun 05: arr Portland Dorset.
 Aug 24: Arrived St John's Newfoundland Canada from Sydney N.B Canada.
 Sep 29: Arrived St John's Newfoundland Canada from Sydney N.B Canada.
 Nov 07: Arrived St John's Newfoundland Canada from Sydney N.B Canada.
 Dec 17: Sailed St John's Newfoundland Canada for Teignmouth Devon.

1879

Jan 12: Put in at Falmouth Cornwall due to damage (appendix F).
 Apr 21: Sailed Cardiff for Cadiz Spain.
 Jul 01: Arrived St John's Newfoundland Canada from Cadiz Spain.
 Sep 06: Sailed Lisbon Portugal for Messina Sicily.
 Sep 23: Arrived Messina Sicily from Newfoundland Canada.
 Sep 06: dep Lisbon Portugal.
 Oct 21: Arrived Gallipoli Italy from Messina Sicily.
 Oct 27: Sailed Gallipoli Italy for Brindisi Italy.
 Nov 07-Dec 29: Sailed Brindisi Italy for Liverpool via Falmouth Cornwall.
 Dec 20: arr Queenstown Ireland from Brindisi Italy, oil.
 Reported sighting of ship in distress enroute (Appendix G).

1880

Oct 01: Arrived Newport Wales from Nantes France.
 Oct 13: Sailed Newport Wales for Gijon Spain.

1881

Mar 14: Arrived London from Runcorn Cheshire.
 Mar 22: Passed Deal Kent from London for Runcorn Cheshire.
 Jun 04: Arrived Dysart Scotland.
 Jun 11: Arrived Treport France from Dysart Scotland.
 Jul 03: Arrived Liverpool from Treport France.
 Jul 18: Sailed Westonpoint Cheshire for Fisherrow Scotland.
 Sep 22: Arrived Liverpool from St Valery France.
 Oct 10: Sailed Runcorn Cheshire for Great Yarmouth Norfolk.
 Dec 07: Sailed Great Yarmouth Norfolk for Limerick Ireland.
 Dec 15: put in at Falmouth Cornwall.

1882

Jan 27: Arrived Briton Ferry/Neath Wales from Limerick Ireland.
 Feb 20-Mar 04: Sailed Briton Ferry/Neath Wales for Charlestown Cornwall.
 May 08-30: Sailed Porthmadog Wales for Hamburg Germany.
 Jun 21-24: Sailed Hamburg Germany for Sunderland.
 Jul 08: Sailed Sunderland for Plymouth Devon.

1883

Apr 17: Arrived Antwerp Belgium from Aberdovey Wales.
 Apr 26: Sailed Antwerp Belgium for Workington Cumbria.
 May 06: Arrived Milford Wales from Antwerp Belgium for Workington Cumbria.
 Jun 19: Arrived St Valery France from Swansea Wales.
 Jun 15: arr Treport France.
 Jun 23-Jul 11: Sailed St Valery France for Liverpool.
 Jul 21: Sailed Westonpoint Cheshire for Runcorn Cheshire.
 Sep 21: Arrived Antwerp Belgium from Aberystwyth Wales.
 Oct 05: Sailed Antwerp Belgium for London.
 Oct 24: Sailed London for Pembroke Wales.

1884

Jan 16: Sailed Aberdovey Wales for Sligo Ireland.
 May 10: Sailed Beaumaris Wales for Galway Ireland.

1885

Mar 17: Arrived Wexford Ireland from Plymouth Devon, manure.
 Mar 24: Sailed Wexford Ireland for Porthmadog Wales, ballast.
 May 13: Arrived Lowestoft Suffolk from Porthmadog Wales, slates.
 Sep 07: Sailed Lerwick Shetlands for Firth of Forth Scotland.
 Dec 16: Arrived Belfast from Teignmouth Devon, pipe clay.

1886

Jul 30: Sank in Cardigan Bay during bad weather sailing from London for Douglas I.O.M (Appendix H). Crew of 4 were picked up by the SS Mersey which ran aground off South Stack Anglesey Wales and was wrecked. The crew of the Clarissa and Mersey were force to abandon the grounded SS Mersey which wrecked (Appendix I).

8.0 Conclusions & Recommendations

The project took approximately 4 working days with half of that time spent on on-line research.

Having read the report sufficient information has been collated to compile a comprehensive history of the schooner Clarissa.

From the information gathered the schooner Clarissa was a busy vessel sailing between the U.K, Europe, Mediterranean, Black Sea, East Coast of Canada and the Caribbean. Cargoes carried were probably raw materials, grains, salt and foods.

Many different WebPages were viewed ranging from large organisations e.g. Lloyd's Registry Listings to smaller WebPages such as local history or people with a given interest in a subject. The quantity and quality of the WebPages appeared depended on the targeted audiences and the amount of work undertaken. Some of the historical and interest in a subject WebPages were extremely useful. Newspaper archives were also very helpful in giving an overall picture of the operation of the ship and filling in information gaps.

Much of the data collated between websites checked out with some discrepancies observed.

A few WebPages viewed led to pay to view pages. However in most cases the information was obtained from other sources.

From the research conducted, setting a goal and how to reach that goal should be mapped out first. As Clarissa is a common name, searches using Clarissa with the captains' name and filtering the newspapers viewed reduced the number of entries considerably but still allowed for a comprehensive history to be constructed. Careful use of specific words in search engines is very important.

Although no information on the status of the wreck of the Clarissa was found, the wreck of the S.S. Mersey is reported to be broken up with some section of wreckage inshore and other lying in 21m of water. The propeller and shaft are some 90m to the northwest of the main concentration of wreckage. The full character and extent of archaeological remains associated with the loss of this vessel is presently unknown.

9.0 References

9.1 Online WebPages

The following websites and pages have been used in the compilation of this report:

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

Keyword: Clarissa, Clarissa Richards, Clarissa Jones, Clarissa Owens, Clarissa Morris

<https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/272527?term=Clarissa>

<https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/271882?term=Mersey>

<https://www.crewlist.org.uk/data/viewimages?data/viewimages>

<https://www.crewlist.org.uk/data/vesselsalpha?shipsearch=CLARISSA&SearchType=Exact&submit=search>

<https://www.google.co.uk/>

<https://hec.lrfoundation.org.uk/archive-library/lloyds-register-of-ships-online>

http://shippingandshipbuilding.uk/view.php?a1PageSize=20&year_built=&builder=&a1Order=Sorter_year_built&a1Dir=ASC&ref=201436&vessel=MERSEY

<https://newspapers.library.wales/>

<https://www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?294670>

<https://www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?66964>

9.2 Personal Correspondences

I would like to thank Mr Ian Cundy for supplying the initial information and other information with regards to the research project.

9.3 Publications

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

Appendices:

Appendix A: Appropriation Book Aug 1855, Clarissa

Official Number.	Name of Ship.	Tonnage.	Whether Steam or Sailing Ship.	Port of Registry.	Date of Registry.	Occasion of Appropriation.	Date of Appropriation.
3216	Maid	48	"	"	13 Jan ^r 1855	"	"
3217	Yuccorn	317	"	"	10 - - 1853	"	"
3218	Dream	414	"	"	23 Apr ^r 1855	"	"
3219	Sir Hector	21	"	Shanghai	20 Apr ^r 1851	"	"
3220	Clarissa	93	"	Abrystrwith	29 Nov ^r 1854	"	"
3221	Margaret & Martha	66	"	Liverpool	11 Feb ^r 1847	"	"
3222	Clyde	126	"	Windsor	19 May 1852	"	"

Appendix B: Lloyd's Registry 1857, Clarissa

No.	Ships.	Masters.	Tons.	BUILD.		Owners.	Port belonging to.	Destined Voyage.	Classification	
				Where.	When.				No. Years first assigned.	Character for Hull & Stow
526	Clarence Stm r.&YM.50	D. Turner	426	Londn	1836	G.St.NCo	London	Lon. Leith	6	AE 1
7	— Stm (Iron)	C Wisemn	214	Bknhd	1851	Clarence Riv. Co.	Sydney	Liv. Sydney	—	A 2
8	Clarendon Bk r.&YM.54	Scobey	450	Londn	1827	Hyde & C	London	Lon S Leone	12	AE 1
9	Claret Sw	Swan	145	Sndrld	1835	Perkins & Drp. 54	London	Lon.	11	AE 1
530	Clarinda Sw	Harrison	235	Sndrld	1847	J. Craven	Scarbro	Shl. Baltic	8	A 1
1	— pt I. B. Sw	J. Hobbs	281	Sndrld	1850	J. Douglas	Sndrind	Stl. Hall Pitt	8	A 1
2	— Bk	W. Moffat	318	Sndrld	1828	Milne & C.	Aberdn	Lon. S Amer	10	AE 1
3	Clarissa Sw	Casson	320	Sndrld	1845	Butcher & S rprs. 53	Yarm'th	Yar.	8	A 1
4	— Z. 53 pt I. B. Sr	T Richrds	93	Abryst	1855	T. Jones	Abryst	Abs.	12	A 1
5	Claro pt I. B. Bk	A. Wilson	348	Sndrld	1850	W. Hay	SndrInd	Sld. India	10	A 1

Appendix C: Mercantile Navy List 1860, Clarissa

Cla to Cle		Cle to Cly		Cly to Col		Col to Com	
Off. No.	Name of Vessel and Port.	Off. No.	Name of Vessel and Port.	Off. No.	Name of Vessel and Port.	Off. No.	Name of Vessel and Port.
3555	Claribel, Miramichi	15292	Clipper, Dartmouth	11971	Colgain, London	7855	Comet, Liverpool
13765	Clarinda, Aberdeen	772	Clipper, Exeter	35071	Colima, Liverpool	37423	Comet, Liverpool, N. S.
36419	Clarinda, Pr. Edw. Island	25947	Clipper, Falmouth	21334	Colima, Workington	10724	Comet, London
26632	Clarinda, Scarborough	10033	Clipper, Hull	7493	Colin Campbell, Digby, N. S.	24830	Comet, London
26236	Clarinda, Shields	18002	Clipper, Kirkaldy	25089	Colina and Jemima, Grnck.	24937	Comet, London
3220	Clarissa, Aberystwith	9989	Clipper, London	7381	Colinda, Sunderland	33302	Comet, London
22050	Clarissa, Inverness	23860	Clipper, Peel	13791	Colingsburg, Newcastle	37656	Comet, Parrsborough, N. S.
8295	Clarissa, Sunderland	12112	Clipper, Strangford	32279	Collaroy, Sydney	41761	Comet, Prince Edward Isl.
32591	Clarissa, Sydney	14300	Clipper, Waterford	40120	Collector, Antigua	41768	Comet, Prince Edward Isl.
39525	Clarita, Nassau. N. P.	20169	Clipper, Yarmouth	38296	Collector, Arichat, C. B.	10057	Comet, Pwllheli
						23112	Comet, Onehec

Appendix D: Newspaper Report on Clarissa, Nov 1862

HOLYHEAD, 4th Nov.
 The **CLARISSA** Jones, arrived here to-day from Trinidad, is leaky, having been on a coral reef in the West Indies, and lost two anchors and chain and cable in endeavouring to get off; she afterwards experienced stormy weather on the passage, losing sails, &c.

Appendix E: Newspaper Report on Clarissa, Jan 1864

DARTMOUTH, Jan. 17.—The Clarissa, Jones, arrived here from St Michael's, reports that during a heavy gale from the south, the Alfr. d, of Gloucester, or Brindewater, Brown, was lost with all hands.
PENZANCE, Jan. 18.—The Elizabeth Ann, (schoon.), of this port, foundered after collision with the Earl of Devon (schooner), which has arrived here with loss of cutwater; crew saved.

Appendix F: Newspaper Report on Clarissa, Jan 1878

FALMOUTH—Jan. 13, Noon: The **Clarissa**, Watkins, from St. John's (N.F.) for Teignmouth (fish), has arrived with decks swept, loss of sails, bulwarks, galley, and boats stove, and vessel making water.

SWANSEA—Jan. 13, 11 5 A.M. (BY TELEGRAPH): The Sarah Ann barque was towed off the Sands on the evening of Jan. 11, and brought in here.—[See "Mumbles" paragraph in S. & M. G. of Jan. 8.]

Appendix G: Newspaper Report on Clarissa, Dec 1879

QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 20, 11 37 A.M.—Arrived **Clarissa**, Jones, from Brindisi (oil), and reports on the 16th inst. boarded ATLANTIC barque, of Krageroe, waterlogged and abandoned, and took two compasses out of her, 46 N, 8 W.

QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 21, 6 P.M.—HURDIS, Dahl, from Baltimore (wheat) for Sunderland, put in to-day with loss of bulwarks and stanchions.

DUBLIN, Dec. 20.—SATELLITE, of Dublin, coal-laden, was the vessel with which the Vildosala (s) was in collision last night (as reported by telegraph). The latter has put back with propeller damaged. The former, which was being towed from sea, carried away bowsprit.

Appendix H: Report on Sinking of Clarissa and S.S. Mersey, Jul 1886**FOUNDERING OF A VESSEL IN
CARDIGAN BAY.****THE CREW OF THE RESCUING STEAMER
MISSING.**

The schooner Clarissa foundered in Cardigan Bay on Friday. The crew were saved by the steamer Mersey, of Liverpool, which vessel, however, afterwards went ashore in a dense fog and was abandoned. The Clarissa's crew were landed at Holyhead, but the steamer's crew of nine hands have not yet turned up.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

The schooner Clarissa, which foundered on Friday night in Cardigan Bay, belonged to Aberystwith, was of 88 tons register, and was bound from London for Douglas, Isle of Man, with a cargo of cement. She had for several days experienced bad weather, and, becoming leaky, the crew of four hands abandoned the vessel and took to their boat, from which they were rescued by the crew of the steamship Mersey, of Liverpool. The Mersey, with her crew of ten hands, then proceeded on her way for Liverpool, to which port she was bound from Newport with coals for the African Mail Steamship Company, and all went well until Saturday morning at two o'clock, when the vessel struck on a reef of rock near the South Stack called Penrhose Point, which was excluded from view by fog and drizzling rain. The four men belonging to the Clarissa at once took to their boat and made for the shore, which they reached with much difficulty. Intelligence of the disaster was at once conveyed to Holyhead, distant about two and a half miles from the wrecked vessel, and the coastguards at once proceeded with the life-saving apparatus to the rescue of the crew. Before the spot was reached, however, they learned that the crew had left the steamer in their boats, and about ten o'clock they succeeded in saving their bags, containing clothes, &c. The Mersey has since become a total wreck. The shipwrecked members of both crews were kindly treated by Captain O. H. Parry, agent for the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society.

Appendix I: S.S. Mersey Lloyd's Register, 1887

1887-88		NAVIRES À VAPEUR.						MER-MET				
1 N ^o de le nav.	2 Registre dans lequel le navire est coté.	3 Nom, Matériaux, Grément, etc. Capitaine et dates d'entrée au service des Armateurs actuels et à bord du navire. Ancien Nom, nombre de ponts, etc.	4 Pavillon. Port d'Armement	5 Ton- nage. Net Total	6 Dimensions.			7 Construit.		8 Nombre des cloisons. Détails sur le lest d'eau.	9 Machines. Détails. Nom du Constructeur.	10 Armateurs ou Directeurs-Gérants.
					Long.	Lar- gour.	Couez.	Où. Par qui.	Quand.			
433 86506	* BT 4.50	Mersey Taylor	I ScS IDL British Liverpool	198 312	141'0"	20'7"	11'6"	Preston W.Allsup&Sons	1882	4 Bhds. Dby 300	2Cy.17" & 34"-30" 70 HP. W.Allsup&Sons,Preston	A.Cook
434 91181	* BT 9.56	Mersey (WRECKED)	I ScS British Liverpool	149 342	159'2"	23'7"	10'3"	Birkenhead W.A.Stevens	1884	4 Bhds.	2Cy.21" & 42"-30" 80 HP. W.A.Stevens,Birkenhead	"Mersey" S.S. Co. (J.J.Crofton.)
435 98015	BT 9.56	Mersey	I Sc British Glasgow	151 227	132'0"	23'1"	10'0"	Port Glasgow Cunliffe&Dunlop	1872		2Cy.16"-22" 20 HP. Cunliffe&Dunlop,P.Glas'w	J.& A.Allan
436 60009	BT 1.56	Mersey	I Pa3 IDL British Liverpool	66 125	106'0"	20'1"	8'6"	Liverpool Bowdler&Chaffer	1868		2Cy.34"-48" 70 HP. Fawcett,Preston&C.,L'pool	London & N.W.Rail. Co.

N.B: S.S. Mersey recorded as Wrecked