

Belfast (Port Fairy) Gazette
Tuesday March 6 1888

Shipping Disasters

Recently we were favored with the perusal of an ancient document published by the Government about 30 years ago, which gave a tabulated statement of all the shipping disasters on the Victorian Coast, including Portland, Warrnambool, Port Fairy, Apollo Bay and King's Island [*sic*], from the year 1835 up to 1858. Of late some writers have referred to wrecks on the Western coast, most of which were incorrect as regards dates and other particulars. The following official information will be useful as a record, and we feel sure will be preserved by numbers of our readers who take a special interest in shipping matters.

In addition we have supplied from private notes particulars of other shipping disasters at this port from 1858 up till the year 1876.

It is worthy of note that since the river Moyne was made navigable for ocean going vessels, there has not been a wreck at Port Fairy, and several craft have taken shelter here during severe gales. The following is the official record: -

ON THE COAST OF VICTORIA

April 1835 - Barque Isabella, 380 tons, from Launceston, wrecked at Cape Nelson, near Portland Bay.

August 1839 - Schooner Minerva, 110 tons, from Portland to Launceston, six miles north of Portland. Got off again and repaired.

December 1839 - Barque Children, 280 tons, Launceston to Adelaide, at Bold Projection. Total wreck.

December 1842 - Schooner Paul Pry, 50 tons, Launceston to Melbourne, at Cape Schank. Capsized in a squall and sank.

December 1848 - Brig Elizabeth, 200 tons, Melbourne to Launceston, at Cape Schank. Total wreck.

October 1850 - Schooner Captain Cook, 74 tons, River Mersey to Adelaide, at Cape Grant. Total wreck.

August 1851 - Barque Marie, 450 tons, Adelaide to Sydney, at Cape Bridgewater. Total wreck.

August 1852 - Schooner Elizabeth, 80 tons, Melbourne to Adelaide, near Cape Otway. Total wreck.

March 1853 - Barque Merope, 311 tons, Portland to Swan River, 15 miles east of Portland. Total wreck.

May 1853 - Steamer Monumental City, 300 tons, Melbourne to Sydney, at Gabo Island. Total wreck.

June 24, 1853 - Ship Earl of Charlemont, 839 tons, Liverpool to Melbourne, with emigrants. Total wreck at Barwon Heads.

June 1854 - Brig Jenny, 214 tons, Bristol to Melbourne, ten miles west of Cape Otway, drifted ashore in a calm, and became a total wreck.

December 29 1855 - Ship Schomberg, 2500 tons, Liverpool to Melbourne, at Curdie's Inlet. Total wreck.

November 10, 1856 - Ship Flying Arrow, 1100 tons, bound for Melbourne. Dismasted at sea; anchored off King's Island, and afterwards towed to Hobson's Bay.

August 24, 1857 - Steamer Champion, 300 tons, Melbourne to Port Fairy, Collision with steamer Ladybird, off Cape Otway and sank in a few minutes, many lives having been lost. Weather clear, casualty at night.

August 1857 - Brig River Chief, 145 tons, Melbourne to Western Port, near Western Port. Total wreck.

February 13, 1858 - Ship Eli Lafond, China to Melbourne, near Western Port. Total wreck.

February 1858 - Brig John Scott, 450 tons, Adelaide to Melbourne, near Bold Projection. Total wreck.

April 1858 - Schooner Sophia, 58 tons, Melbourne to Wilson's Promontory, at Wilson's Promontory. Total wreck.

August 7, 1858 - Brigantine John *[word unreadable in original article]* 150 tons, River Mersey to Melbourne, near Western Port. Total wreck.

August 9, 1858 - Brig Gertrude, 185 tons, from Auckland, near Cape Wallington.

August 18, 1858 - Brigantine Bristol, New Zealand to Melbourne, near Cape Schank. Afterwards rescued by steamer Stormbird and towed to Port Albert.

AT APOLLO BAY

October, 1850 - Schooner Margaret, 50 tons, Geelong to Apollo Bay. Got off again.

October, 1850 - Cutter William, 36 tons, Geelong to Apollo Bay. Got off again.

November, 1856 - Brig Christian, 140 tons. Total wreck.

November, 1856 - Brig Elinora, 156 tons, Melbourne to Apollo Bay. Total wreck.

November, 1857 - Brig Anala, 103 tons, Melbourne to Apollo Bay. Got off again.

November, 1857 - Schooner Highlander, 94 tons, Melbourne to Apollo Bay. Got off again.

March 24, 1858 - Barque Grange, 300 tons, Melbourne to Singapore. Total wreck.

AT KING'S ISLAND

1835 - Ship Neva, Cork to Harbarton *[sic]*, 300 female convicts, on Navarino Rock, only 50 females saved, Captain and part of crew saved. Total wreck.

1843 - Barque Rebecca, 400 tons, from Sydney, near New Year's Island. Got off again.

August 4, 1845 - Ship Catarique, 900 tons, Liverpool to Melbourne, Fitzmaurice Bay, broke up in a few hours. A number of lives lost.

September 1845 - Barque Isabella, Calcutta to Melbourne, Fitzmaurice Bay. Total wreck.

August, 1853 - Steamer City Of Melbourne, 180 tons, Melbourne to Launceston. Got off again.

May 21, 1854 - Ship Brahmin, 650 tons, for Sydney, near New Year's Island.

October, 1854 - Schooner Waterwitch, 140 tons, Melbourne to Singapore. Total wreck.

June 25, 1855 - Brig Maypo, 168 tons, Melbourne to Launceston. Total wreck.

June 25, 1855 - Ship Whistler, 1500 tons, Melbourne to India. Total wreck.

AT PORTLAND BAY

November, 1844 - Schooner Elizabeth, 58 tons, Melbourne to Adelaide. Total wreck.

November 1844 - Schooner Sally Anne, 52 tons, Melbourne to Portland. Total wreck.

November, 1846 - Brig Elizabeth, 230 tons, laden with whale oil and wool. Total wreck.

November, 1846 - Schooner Will Witch, 63 tons. Got off again.

May, 1852 - Schooner Brothers, 63 tons. Got off again.

May, 1852 - Schooner Mary Jane, 81 tons. Total wreck.

July, 1852 - Schooner Margaret *[word unreadable in original article]*, 103 tons. Total wreck.

September, 1853 - Schooner Henry, 46 tons. Total wreck.

December, 1853 - Ship New Zealander, 1309 tons. Burnt at anchor, and afterwards drifted on shore.

October, 1854 - Barque Nestor, 485 tons. Ran on beach, having sprung a leak. Total wreck.

March, 1853 - Barque Australasia, 435 tons, laden with wool for London. Total wreck.

March, 1855 - Ship Constant, 525 tons. Total wreck.

AT WARRNAMBOOL

November, 1847 - Schooner Clarence, 64 tons. Got off again.

September, 1850 - Schooner Enterprise, 57 tons. Total wreck.

December 29, 1852 - Schooner Liliat, 89 tons.

July 11, 1853 - Schooner Freedom, 165 tons. Got off but drove on the beach again and became a total wreck.

November 9, 1853 - Barque Archer, 237 tons. Got off again.

September 25, 1856 - Schooner Helen, 69 tons. Got off again.

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