

Warrnambool Standard
June 18 1890

The Mahogany Ship

To the Editor of the Warrnambool Standard

SIR, - Reading Mr. Bennett's letter in the Standard, June 7, on the ancient wreck, Mr. Bennett states he used to ride along the beach 44 years past. Say that was the year '46 that was the last year I saw the wreck. Several of her timbers were visible, some of them 12 or 15 inches above the surface of the sand, and some three feet above the sea level.

If Mr. Bennett was so often, in those days, riding on the hummocks and beach, strange he should miss such an object. A wreck on the beach is the first thing that draws the attention of the person. Mr. Bennett states, as far as he could ascertain, that Allen and Temple broke up a very old wreck in about the same place as the search was made on the 5th of June. It is well known that I am no stranger to the neighborhood of the ancient wreck. Let me state that east of Mill's Reef, and for miles east of Gorman's Lane, there never was a wreck torn up or demolished to the knowledge or memory of the white man. There were several wrecks on the beach west of Mill's reef, strewed along the beach up to the old *Thistle*, and several portions of wreckage on Mill's Reef in the early part of the forties, but we all knew how and where they came from. If Messrs. Connors, Doherty and Joyce ever saw the wreck she will be all the easier discovered, as I know the oldest colonist of the three did not land in the colony until well up in the fifties. The said parties should call on the promoters of the search and give the gentlemen all the information in their power. On the third of this month I visited the neighbourhood of the ancient wreck. Captain Mill's bearings are as near as possible, according to my memory. On the scene of the wreck ... *[remainder of sentence unreadable in original article]*

The Captain's brother, the undaunted Charles Mills', could go to the said wreck in the dark of the night. I would advise all parties willing to spend a few hours in search of the relic, to keep well within the bearings. The expense of a five eight iron rod, five feet long, would be no great burden to visitors, for the purpose of boring in the sand. Who knows who might not be the lucky person to strike the hull? What an honour for the first that strikes the relic. His name will be on record while the world is a world. When founded she will be, I would bet my life to a shilling, not more than eighteen inches below the surface. I would suggest, if there was a reward, say £10, for the discovery, it might be the means of bringing her to the surface. The residents of Warrnambool could soon raise the cash.

I am, &c.,
W. DONNELLY.

Laang, June 11th 1890