

**Warrnambool Standard**  
**June 14 1890**

## **The Mahogany Ship**

**To the Editor of the Warrnambool Standard**

Sir, - Having read an article in the *Age* of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., taken from the Warrnambool *Standard* of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst., touching the traditional Spanish or Portuguese wreck near Lady Bay, wherein Mr. R. Bennett states he remembers the Port Fairy herdsman, "Sandy Allan" breaking up an old wreck about 1869, or 70, but does not remember the name of the wreck, and possibly it was the Spanish vessel.

Although I cannot throw much light on the traditional ship, happily I can put Mr. Bennett right with regard to the schooner that Sandy Allan broke up. Her name was the *Eliza*, and I saw Allan breaking her up to get the timber for firewood, in the year 1871, just after the termination of the Franco-Prussian war. I am able to fix the exact year as at the time I used to ride along the beach to Port Fairy school, and [word unreadable in original article] to pass the wreck almost every day, and saw Allan removing the timbers. She was easily distinguishable from the other wrecks in the vicinity from Mills' reef to the old jetty, as "part of her lower mast was standing" up to the time Allan broke her up.

She was over 8 miles from the spot where I notice the *Age* search was made by a party of Warrnambool gentlemen for the wreck which, in my opinion, no one but the late Captain J. B. Mills saw. What makes me incline to this view is the fact that my father, the late Peter Mills, who came to Port Fairy in the year 1838, never saw the wreck, although I have repeatedly heard him relate how his uncle, the late Captain Mills, once stood on her deck, that he tried to cut a piece of her timber off with his knife, that the timber was that hard that he could not cut it, and that it was somewhere near Warrnambool.

If not already done I would suggest that Captain Mills's oldest son, Mr. John D. Mills, at present manager of the Bank of Victoria at Stawell, be written to, asking if he can throw any light on the traditional wreck which his late father undoubtedly saw. Captain Mills's wife resides with her son at Stawell, and should be able to give some information, as without any doubt, Captain Mills would tell her all about the wreck in question. Trusting the Warrnambool gentlemen may be successful in their efforts to find the real wreck, which undoubtedly did exist in the early days of the colony,

I am, Yours truly,  
P.A. MILLS

Sandringham, June 12, 18