

Warrnambool Standard
June 7 1890

The Mahogany Ship

To the Editor of the Warrnambool Standard

SIR, - I read in this morning's issue that a search was made yesterday in the vicinity of Gorman's Lane for this supposed ancient wreck, without any result other than adding the opinion of Messrs. Connors, P. Doherty and P. Joyce (all of whom agreed that the wreck was under water, but differed as to the site) to the same opinion expressed by me in a letter in *Standard*, February 3rd of this year.

In 1869 or 1870 Mr. Alex. Allen, the herdsman of Port Fairy and David Temple, both residents of Belfast east, broke up a very old wreck lying close in under the hummocks far higher up than the numerous wrecks at that time strewn along the shore. The position of this wreck, as far as I have been able to ascertain, must be in the vicinity of where the search was conducted yesterday. Messrs. Allen and Temple pretty well demolished what was left of the hull, and as a reward for their industry, obtained some £15 for the copper bolts they cut out of her. Though all the other wrecks in the vicinity were known by name, no record could be obtained of this one. I believe the Temple family are living somewhere in the Ballarat district. I will endeavour to obtain their address, and communicate with them. Poor old Sandy Allen is dead years since.

I do not wish to damp the ardour of the explorers, as if they don't find the mahogany ship they may find something else; but from the position of this vessel it is evident she was wrecked in very early times. If this was the wreck supposed to contain the doubloons, she was utterly demolished by Messrs. Allen and Temple. I still adhere to my opinion that the sea is encroaching on our coastline, and as I used to ride along the beach forty-four years since, at which time there were numerous wrecks lying high and dry, and the sand hummocks wooded with blackwood and sheokes and covered with a dense sward of grass, I think I can form a pretty good opinion.

Wishing success to the explorer

I am &c.,
RICHARD BENNETT

June 6th