



## **CHARLES HOLMES**

### **Burial Record Tasks:**

The CHARLES HOLMES was a comparatively large, ocean-going ship. Built in Rockland, Maine, USA, in 1851, its service life included many transatlantic voyages to New York, New Orleans and Mobile as well as voyages into the Indian Ocean to Bombay. It would set out with a 'general cargo' and often return with cargoes of sugar and cotton. It was driven ashore near Aberbach/Abermawr after setting out from Liverpool on another transatlantic voyage.

### ***Source to Locate:***

*The burial records of the parishes of Granston and Llanwnda*

### **Questions:**

How many bodies from the wreck were recovered by local people and given burial within the two churchyards?

On what dates were they buried? And what were the names of vicars performing the ceremonies?

**Census Records Task:**

***Source to Locate:***

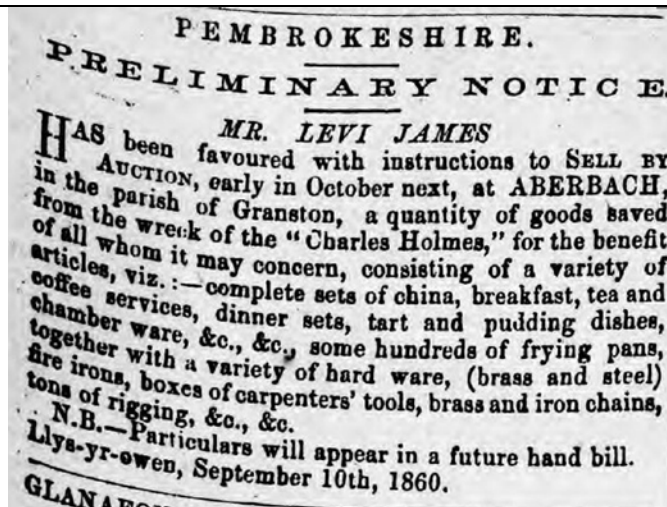
*1861 Census for the parish of St Nicholas.*

**Questions:**

Where did the vicar of Granston live? Who were the members of his family and household? List their names and ages below.

***Source to Locate:***

*1871 Census for parish of St Nicholas*



**Questions:**

The auctioneer who sold the cargo from the CHARLES HOLMES also lived within the parish of St Nicholas. How old was he? Who were the members of his family and household? List their names and ages below.

**Shipping Records Task:**

The CHARLES HOLMES was a Liverpool registered vessel and these registers are in the Merseyside Maritime Museum at Liverpool.

However, there are other Pembrokeshire vessels which were lost in the storm, for example, the JOHN SAINT BARBE.

***Source to Locate:***

*Port of Cardigan Shipping Register 1855 - 1950, 3 in 1859*

**Questions:**

Where was the schooner JOHN SAINT BARBE built?

Who owned the schooner at time of loss? What was the family relationship between two of the owners?

What was the maritime trade of the third owner?

Where would you find more information about the earlier owners of the schooner?



## **ABEONA**

### Shipping Register Task:

The ABEONA was a small sailing smack. During the storm it was wrecked on a reef just outside harbour arm which now protects Goodwick ferry terminal.

### *Source to Locate:*

*Port of Cardigan Shipping Register 1850-1855, entries '2 in 1852' and '7 in 1852'*

### Questions:

Where was the smack built and by whom?

Who was smack's master?

Who purchased the smack on 12 August 1852? What was the business of the new owners?

One member of the new family of owners was also a seafarer. What was his name?

Who provided the notification to the Customs Officer in charge of compiling the Port of Cardigan Shipping Register that the ABEONA has been lost? What was the location given?

**Burial Records Task:**

The shipping register entries should have provided you with names of another mariner (besides the master) who may have been amongst the crew who were lost with the smack.

***Source to Locate:***

*Fishguard Parish burial register*

**Question:**

Can the local burial register confirm whether any of the bodies of the crew were recovered and laid to rest in the local churchyard?

**Census Records Task:**

Fishguard has a long history of seafaring. The census of 1861 (2 years after the Great Storm) reveals the local people who either made their living from regulating shipping coming into the harbour or from various trades associated with building, repairing and provisioning ships.

***Source to Locate:***

*1861 Census for Fishguard*

**Questions:**

The Customs Officer would have played a part in securing cargos and other wreckage washed ashore in the storm. What was his name and how old was he?

Where did he live and who lived in the house with him? What were their ages?

What other ship-related occupations can you find listed amongst the other inhabitants of Fishguard?

*List as many names, places of residence and professions as you can find in the remaining time available.*



## MATHILDIS

### Burial Record Tasks

The MATHILDIS was a schooner which was built at with Newquay, and traded to and from the port for most of its service life. It was wrecked near Dinas Head during the storm.

#### **Source to Locate:**

*Parish burial records for Dinas*

*Contemporary newspaper accounts suggest that the six crewmembers on board the MATHILDIS were also lost.*

#### **Question:**

Can you find them in the burial records?

### **Census Records Task:**

Dinas was a seafaring community and had a shipyard of its own. The censuses of 1851 and 1861 provide clues to the local people who made their living from the sea.

#### **Source to Locate:**

*1851 Census for the parish of Dinas, 2b*

#### **Questions:**

Which families list a woman as the head of the household? What clue is provided to the reason why the male head of the household was not present when then census was taken?

Who is listed as a retired mariner and how old were they? And what does the census information suggest about their well-being and standard of living?

**Source to Locate:**

*1861 Census for Dinas, District 3, from page 10 onwards*

**Questions:**

*The vicar who was responsible for the parish of Dinas and undertook the burials of the drowned mariners.*

Can you find him in the 1861 census and how old was he at this time?

Where was he born?

Who else was a member of his family and household?



**Shipping Records Task:**

***Source to Locate:***

*Port of Cardigan Shipping Register 1837 - 1850, folio 183*

**Questions:**

There is one feature of the technical description of the vessel which is very appropriate for the vessel's name? What is it?

What are the different professions or occupations listed for the schooner's owners?

What clues to the voyages that the schooner undertook are provided in the listing of changes of master?

Note: Mathildis Burial Records - This page was accidently missed in the digitisation of burial records for Pembrokeshire Archives. The original volume is now too fragile for the Archive Staff to handle, hence why we have included a digital image of the relevant page at the end of these notes.

Anne Price No. 386.	Fisher Fair	February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>rs</sup> 5-0	John Williams Rector.
Margaret Thomas No. 387.	Petyresym	May 26	John Williams Rector.	John Williams Rector.
Unknown. Buried in a Shipwreck during a tempeste yale. Dec <sup>r</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup> . No. 388. 1859	North Cingwyl as supposed.	October 30 <sup>th</sup>	John Williams Rector.	John Williams Rector.
Sarah Edwards 1860 No. 389.	Cwmregluz	October 10 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>rs</sup> 84	John Williams Rector.
Shem John	Cwmregluz	October 7 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>rs</sup> 73.	John Williams Rector.

Two men

buried here.

Group 4

## TRUE BESS

### Shipping Register Tasks

The TRUE BESS was a small wooden sloop which belonged to the port of Milford Haven. It was wrecked on the southern side of St Bride's Bay during the storm.

#### **Source to Locate:**

*Port of Milford Shipping Register 1837-1854, folio 177*

#### **Questions:**

Where was the TRUE BESS built and by whom?

From whom did the sloop's owner receive a substantial loan on 24 December 1854? And how much was the loan for?

Who was the master of the TRUE BESS?

#### **Source to Locate:**

*Port of Milford Shipping Register 1855-1878, folio 16*

#### **Questions:**

Who was the sloop's master at the time of loss? Who was the owner?

Where was the vessel lost?

***Burial Records Task:***

Potter's Electric News, a contemporary newspaper, suggests that the TRUE BESS belonged to 'St Davids'.

***Source to Locate:***

*Parish of St Davids Burial Register.*

**Questions:**

*Thinking back to the names you recorded from the shipping registers.*

Which member of the crew was laid to rest within the churchyard? On what date and by which Vicar?

***Census Record Tasks:***

***Source:***

*1851 Census for the parish of St David's District 12C*

Can you locate the Vicar (**curate**) of St Davids found in the burial record task, where he lived, who he lived with and what ages they were at the time of the census?

To find any census or burial records you will need to go to the computer terminals

**Burial Records :**

*Burial records are a first port of call when trying to identify the crew of a wrecked ship. You can gain information of the date they were buried, the vicar who buried them and often provides the name of the ship involved.*

To access burial records:

- Go to tree icon 'Pembrokeshire Record Office'
- Go to 'Parish Registers'
- Click on the letter of the Parish you are looking for
- Click on the Parish
- Click on 'burials' for the relevant period which will include 1859
- Scroll down the record to find your information.

**Census:**

*Censuses can be useful for developing the story of the community surrounding the wreck site, including information about the ages, family life, status and occupation.*

To access census records:

- Go to tree icon 'Pembrokeshire Record Office'
- Click on 'Ancestry'
- Click on 'Home'
- Click on 'UK Census Collection' (on the right)
- Pick 'Wales Census Collection' (choose date)
- Choose 'Pembrokeshire' (County on the right)
- Choose 'Parish'
- Click on the district (you may have to look through them all!)