

The memoirs of John Trevan 1834

Wrecks

Trevan included a full account of vessels wrecked and stranded on the coast of the Parish of St Endellion from the year 1800 to 1834 inclusive. Here are details of just some of them ...

1807 Schooner 'Betsy' of Plymouth from Plymouth bound to Wales ... the villain of a Master run the vessel ashore at Crowser ...
the master's son, a lad about 14 years of age, was unfortunately drowned

1807 The 'Polperro' of Looe, for Neath ... made for Port Isaac and got in at low water.
A boat immediately was launched to go to their assistance, which capsized before reaching the vessel, when Thos. Strout of Port Isaac was drowned.

1807 Brig 'Newry' of London ... from Cork ... bound to London laden with butter foundered about 14 miles off Port Isaac in a hurricane when all on board perished.
Upwards of two thousand barrels of butter were taken up by people of this Parish.

1808 Brig 'Myrtle' of Lancaster. Captain Harper from Liverpool bound to London laden with palm oil ... run onshore by night in a tempestuous gale of wind at N.W. to the W. of Port Quin.
Different people as they lay in bed on the different farms near on this melancholy night heard the shrieks of the unfortunate crew, but not knowing at the time from whence the shrieks came, until the morning when the wreck of the vessel was seen scattered along the coast and all on board had perished.

1811 Sloop 'Brothers of Youghall' ... bound to London laden with butter and oats. Run into Port Isaac in tempestuous weather in a greatly distressed state.

1814 Brig 'Betsy' of Liverpool bound to Portsmouth with salt. Foundered. All on board perished.

1815 Sloop 'Concord' of Swansea from that Port, laden with coals for Saint Ives, foundered. All on board, four in number perished.

1816 The Dutch galiot 'Dr. Jacob' of Amsterdam from some part of Spain, laden with wool. Run on shore in a gale into Port Quin bay when all the crew, eight in number, perished.
Great part of the cargo washed onshore at Port Quin. This vessel is said to have had several boxes of dollars on board quantities of these being afterwards taken up.

1821 The French Schooner 'Adolpe' of Nants from Swansea for France, laden with tin plate, iron ... Put into Port Isaac waterlogged ... The vessel, a few days after, had her stern fasts cut adrift by some evil disposed person or persons in consequence of which she beat to pieces against the beach.
The crew greatly enlivened Port Isaac while there by their cheerful good humour and dancing through the streets with the girls.

1821 Sloop 'Theodore' of Youghall Captain Timothy Daisy, from Youghall for Plymouth, laden with potatoes ... seen off Port Isaac in the morning, dismasted, and
with great difficulty was boarded by a boat, but when they got on board were greatly surprised to find no one on deck but heard a violin playing below. The Pats they soon learned were enjoying themselves, it being Saint Patherick's Day, and to whose guidance of course they intrusted the vessel, being quite careless of themselves.

They had intrusted the helm to a boy, the day before and the wind blowing fresh had jibed her and carried away the mast.
The crew was exceedingly dirty having great quantities of lice about them. The captain would put his hand into his bosom and take one out, and address it, saying 'Och! dear Honey I wish you and I were in Dublin,' and then replace it again in his bosom.

1821 The Portuguese schooner 'Courier' of the Azores from Trecaira bound to Maryland USA], laden with oranges ... driven into Port Isaac in bad weather.
This vessel was quite a picture being a beautiful model in part as perfect a model as was ever seen and with a figurehead.

1822 The Dutch ship 'Elizabeth Joanna' of Rotterdam from Batavia Island of Java for Holland, laden with coffee, camphor ... foundered about a quarter of a mile off the points Port Isaac. This beautiful ship got waterlogged on her passage home ...
... the ship went down with two of the poor fatigued dutchmen in her ...

'Harmony' 1824 Sloop In a dismal November evening about eight o' clock the crew of the sloop 'Harmony' of Whalchet [Watchet] came into Port Isaac about half tide, during a gale, in their boat ...
... being attracted by the lights from the houses, as they were drifting up before the cove ...

'Ebenezer' 1833 Captain Radford of Bristol from Saint Vincent for Bristol, laden with sugar, and rum ... the masts were as soon as possible cut away to ease the ship but on the flowing of the next tide she parted and her upperworks went into the cavern inside the above named West quay and the cove completely strewn with the wreck.

