

**NEW JERSEY
DELAWARE
PENNSYLVANIA
SHIPWRECK
ACCOUNTS**

1705 to 1950

Including

Delaware Bay & Delaware River

Over 1400 Named Wrecks

by

Joan Charles

York, were drove a Shore on Long Reach [Beach ?], off Egg Harbor.

The above was abstracted from the Philadelphia Papers, and happened in consequence of a Gale of Wind on the 11th of October.

December 15, 1783 - Boston Gazette

New York, December 4 - Last Thursday night a schooner from Virginia foundered near Sandy Hook and every soul on board perished.

December 23, 1783 - New Lloyd's List

The *Mercury*, Herpin, from Dunkirk to Philadelphia, was lost in a furious Gale of Wind the Night of 19th of September last on Cape May; the Captain, Mate, and All of the Crew, except seven men, drowned.

January 7, 1784 - Pennsylvania Journal and Weekly Advertiser

Philadelphia, January 7 - The Schooner *Merchant*, Captain Harr, from Port au Prince for this port, having met with very violent weather in the West Indies, in which he lost his mate, and one man overboard, was last week in a gale of wind drove ashore at Cape Henlopen. The Captain, people and part of the cargo saved, but the vessel is lost.

January 14, 1784 - Pennsylvania Journal and Weekly Advertiser

Philadelphia, January 14 - Brig *Betsy* from West Indies run ashore in foggy weather, on a bar laying between Morris Listen's [or Litten's] and Reedy Island, on the Jersey shore where she is lost. The people with difficulty saved their lives. [Note: weather is bad, high water inland due to thaw of ice.]

January 29, 1784 - Pennsylvania Packet (Summary)

Report dated January 24 of ships ashore at New York and New Jersey with frostbitten crews.

February 11, 1784 - Pennsylvania Journal and Weekly Advertiser

Philadelphia, February 11 - By accounts from Lewes-Town the 31st ult. we learn that there was a great deal of floating ice in the bay and off at sea; that the ships *Andrew*, Captain Robinson from London then lay at the sheafs in the ice; that Captain Honeywell of the snow *Industry*, being ashore at Lewes-Town, the snow was carried to sea by the large bodies of ice and he supposed the mate would stand for Carolina; brig *Franklin*, Captain M'Comb from Jamaica was drifting in the ice about three miles at sea; that the ship *Brilliant*, Captain Watkins, a light transport, 5 months from Stade bound for New York, for the German troops, was at anchor about a quarter mile North of the Hen and Chickens, in 7 fathoms of water and in danger of being forced ashore; the brig _____, late Captain Battel(?), for Osend (?), and the ship *Maria Joanna*, Captain Peter Caren Buncks from Amsterdam, both lay at anchor off Lewes-Town. And later accounts from thence mention the arrival of the ship *Maria*, Captain Kelly, from Amsterdam; a sloop from Bermuda, and the brig *Alexander*, Captain Gilpin from Cape Francois, all for this port.

Lloyd's Register *Brilliant*, ship; 360 tons; built in 1760

February 21, 1784 - Philadelphia Packet

Yesterday morning arrived here from Lewistown, James Bryson (for Post Office) who collects letters from ships. He reports that on February 9th - 11 ships returned to sea (to avoid running ashore). February 12, brig *Alexander*, Gilpin, ashore on bar near mouth of Lewistown Creek. February 13 N.N.E. gales - ship *Minerva*, Cole, got on shore 2 1/2 miles southward of the lighthouse.

February 27, 1784 - New Lloyd's List, London

The *Three Crowns*, Hellenquist, from Bristol to Philadelphia, is totally lost near Egg Harbour; ten of the crew and one Passenger drowned.

March 9, 1784 - New Lloyd's List, London

A Brig from Amsterdam, a Ship from Jamaica, and the *Richard*, Dennison, from N. Carolina, arrived at Sandy Hook, and since supposed to be lost.

March 20, 1784 - Pennsylvania Journal and Weekly Advertiser and March 23, 1784, Pennsylvania Packet

On the night of the 10th instant, the ship *Maria Johanna*, Captain Pieter Yallings Bonk, from Amsterdam, in a gale of wind was drove ashore on the inside of Cape Henlopen, where she soon beat to pieces, and all on board, 21 in number except 2 men (a merchant and his clerk) who drifted ashore on a piece of plank, perished.

April 30, 1784 - New Lloyd's List, London

The *Charming Nancy*, Pinkham, from Philadelphia to the West Indies, run on Shore in a Gale of Wind at Cape May Road; the Vessel is wrecked, a great part of the Cargo is saved.

September 13, 1785 - Alexandria Gazette

Philadelphia - report of ship *Faithful Steward*, Conolly McCaufland, master, from Londonderry bound to Philadelphia with 249 passengers of respectability, who had with them property to a very considerable amount. On September 1 crashed on Mohoba Bank near Indian River about 4 leagues South of Cape Henlopen - 100 yards off shore, finally beat to pieces. Only 69 persons saved.

November 18, 1785 - New Lloyd's List, London

The *Faithful Steward*, McCaufland, from Londonderry to Philadelphia, is totally lost in the Delaware, and 200 People perished.

October 24, 1874 - The Delawarian, Dover

Wrecks of the Olden Time. Fearful Wreck on the Delaware Coast. The recent getting of the Life Saving Stations established on our coast by Francis Vincent, has brought up in people's minds the reminiscence of the most terrible wreck that ever occurred on the Delaware sea-coast, no printed record of which probably exists at the present time. Between eighty and ninety years ago the ship *Faithful Steward* was wrecked on the Roboboth Beach, near where one of the life boat stations recommended by Mr. Vincent has recently been established. She had on board four hundred and sixty souls, only about sixty of whom were saved. They were mostly emigrants seeking a home in this good land of ours. The wreck was witnessed by Miss Milby, afterwards the mother of Nathaniel Wolfe, Esq., who was formerly sheriff of this county, who is now seventy-seven years old. She was a girl in her teens, and her father's farm was close to the site of the wreck. Mr. Wolfe now resides in Philadelphia. The only living witness now in existence who saw this wreck is Mrs. Marshall, the widow of the late respected pilot, William Marshall. She is now ninety-six years old. She was also a girl at the time. This was the greatest loss of life that ever occurred in our state. Four hundred people never were before or since killed at one time in this state. Many of the saved were children, some of whom were taken and raised by the Rodney's and Fisher's, then large landholders and important families in that neighborhood. Old people used to describe with horror the awful sight of the four hundred corpses that strewed the shore. *Breakwater Light*

January 11, 1787 - New York Journal or Weekly Register

The Sloop *Wooster*, William Davidson, commander, from St. Bartholomew to Connecticut, was lost on Cape May, the 12th of December last. Her sails and rigging are saved.

August 10, 1787 - Lloyd's List, London

The *Betsey*, McKeever, from Dublin to New-York, with Bale Goods, etc. was cast away ten Miles Southward of Egg Harbour, and two of the Crew lost, but chief part of Cargo saved.

October 9, 1787 - Salem Mercury, Salem, Massachusetts

Capt. Tinker, in his passage from S. Carolina to New York, in lat. 39.30 N. saw a sloop upset, with a red bottom, white stern, yellow sides, and black wale, burthen between 60 and 70 tons, no person on board.

September 16, 1788 - Lloyd's List, London

The *Santa Rosalia*, Pardenus, from Baltimore to Havannah, is drove on Shore at the Capes of Delaware, and dismast. Part of the Cargo saved.

October 14, 1788 - Federal Gazette & Philadelphia Evening Post

The Brigantine *Fame*, John Hand, master, from Wilmington, North Carolina, bound to Ireland, with naval stores, was cast away on the night of the 30th September, on Island Beach, near Cranberry Inlet, coast of New Jersey: the cargo is safe, and no lives lost.

Wilmington, (N. C.) July 30. A small schooner, bound from this port to Shallotte, commanded by Mr. Phelps, formerly one of the bar pilots, was lost on her passage to that port, some time last week, together with Mr. Phelps and one negroe, the only persons on board.

January 20, 1789 - Lloyd's List, London

The *Fame*, Hand, from No. Carolina to Falmouth, is lost on the Coast of New Jersey.

December 22, 1789 - Lloyd's List, London

The *Pomona*, Hopkins, from Quebec, was lost in the Delaware the 30th of October.

February 9, 1790 - Lloyd's List, London

The *Nymph*, Palmer, from Oporto to New York, was on Shore near Barnagat the latter end of November and expected would be lost.

February 9, 1790 - Lloyd's List, London

The *John*, Stables, of Lancaster, is said to be lost near Philadelphia.

February 12, 1790 - Lloyd's List, London

The *John*, Stables, of Lancaster, from the West Indies to Philadelphia, was lost the 5th of Dec. last, on the Coast of America, Part of the Materials saved.

December 15, 1790 - Pennsylvania Packet & Daily Advertiser

The sloop *Friendship*, Captain Barlow, from Charleston, bound to New York, is ashore on Lewis-Town beach.

April 26, 1791 - Lloyd's List, London

The *Betsey*, Douglas, from London to New York, is stranded at Barnegat, and it is feared will be lost. Captain dead.

May 3, 1791 - Lloyd's List, London

The *Boston and Liverpool Packet*, Laud, from Liverpool to Philadelphia, is on Shore near Barnegat.

February 10, 1792 - Lloyd's List, London

The *Betsey*, Eagleson, is ashore in the Delawar.

April 13, 1792 - Lloyd's List, London

The *Wilkelmina*, Steele, from New London to Dublin, is lost near Cape May. Crew saved.