



**EDWARD YOUD OF WRAXALL
DROWNED OFF CHERBOURG 1880**

PENNANT REPRINTS N^o 5

WRAXALL

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EDWARD YOUND OF WRAXALL

DROWNED OFF CHERBOURG 1880

Edward Youd the youngest son of William and Harriet Youd of Wraxall was drowned off Rock Rozel on the coast of France on 3rd March 1880. He is commemorated on a grave stone in the churchyard of All Saints, Wraxall. (Also mentioned on the stone are his mother who died 20 Mar 1875 aged 57, his brother James aged 22 years and his father who died 18 March 1895 aged 75).

I wondered, when I first saw the stone, what Edward was doing to be drowned in the English Channel. After 60 years I had time to discover the circumstances of his death. The purpose of this article is to explain how it was done.

A visit to St Catherine's House in London and an examination of the Marine Death Registers showed that Edward was serving on the Edward P Bouverie when he died. Other entries revealed that Edward was not alone and that eleven others

died at the same time. It was deduced from this that the vessel had most probably been wrecked and that Edward had not fallen overboard.

The deduction was proved right when his death certificate was obtained and revealed that Edward Youd Apprentice was drowned when the vessel was wrecked on 3rd March 1880.

A visit was made to the Public Record Office (PRO) at Kew to examine papers relating to seamen apprentices, where under ref BT156/46 it was found that Edward Youd when aged 17 was bound apprentice to Cummins and Co of Bristol on 4th August 1877 for a period of four years.

A register of effects of sailors that died at sea is indexed under ref BT 150/20 f 32. It was found that Edward was drowned at a place called Rozel on 3 Mar 1880. This information had been sent to the Board of Trade with a note to the effect that his account was in credit to the sum of £11.16.3.

Lloyd's List was the next source to be consulted and three entries summarised below were found, all emanating from Cherbourg:

4/5 Mar 1880 - A British barque out of Bristol foundered after striking a rock at Rozel. Crew supposed drowned. The barque was the Edward P Bouverie with a cargo of sugar.

9 Mar 1880 - The Edward P Bouverie (Captain Evans) from Samarang and Lisbon previously reported wrecked 21 miles SW of this port. Dismasted and disabled prior to stranding, four bodies and thousands of empty baskets and many bundles of rattan have come ashore.

3 Apr 1880 - The wreck had been sold and nothing of the cargo saved.

More information was found about the events leading to the wreck in the abstract of returns of Sea Casualties made to the Board of Trade 1879-1883. These showed that on 3 March 1880 the Edward P Bouverie of 941 tons and A1 at Lloyds was carrying a cargo of sugar to Havre from Samarang in Java when she was driven ashore by a force 6 wind from ENE at Rozel Point. The crew of 19 lost their lives.

To obtain more background information it was decided to look at newspaper reports and by consulting Palmers Index to the Times newspaper two letters were found that had been published concerning the wreck.

The first of these from Mr H P Vereker the British Consul in Cherbourg was dated 23 March 1880. In it he stated that all 19 bodies had been recovered and after religious ceremonies had been decently buried in his presence in the cemetery at Surtainville. Identification and indications had been taken from the bodies before they had been buried in marked and individual graves.

The second letter was dated 3 April 1880. It was from Cummins and Co of Bristol who expressed their thanks to Mr Vereker for his work at Surtainville.

It is assumed from these documents that when the Edward P Bouverie entered the English Channel to sail to Havre the weather conditions were such that the Captain could not fix his position and he was unable to round the Cherbourg Peninsula. He would have been driven south west by the prevailing winds to run aground on Rock Rozel opposite Jersey where all 19 members of the crew were drowned.

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