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The Elder Transcripts

WRECK OF THE LENNIE

(JANUARY 1890 - DIGBY COURIER)

The schooner, "Lennie," was wrecked just above Sandy Cove last Friday. The schooner was from Yarmouth. Captain Porter and William Atcheson were drowned. The schooner had a cargo of molasses. It was blowing heavily and thick fog. Captain Porter judged himself off Meteghan instead of Digby Neck. After striking some of the crew got on shore and a rope was carried from the bowsprit to the rocks. It was while endeavoring to get on shore by the rope, that Captain Porter was washed off and drowned. William Atcheson got on shore, but was swept back by the waves. Captain Porter was about 60 years of age, and his body must have been carried out to sea. Atcheson's body was found Monday after, much bruised, and entirely without clothing, but capable of recognition. If they would have stayed on board until the tide receded somewhat they would have survived. The wreck was subsequently boarded by Capt. Eldridge, who brought on shore the chronometer and ship's papers. In a short time the Lennie went to pieces and both vessel and cargo were broken up and destroyed.

Young Atcheson's body was brought to Digby Monday night by Coroner Daley, who had been requested to take charge of the remains. He was met here by a brother of the deceased, who conveyed the body to Yarmouth. Atcheson was 20 years old.

Mr. E. J. Robinson who was mate of the ill fated schooner Lennie told his story on the fate of the schooner:

" The Lennie sailed from Antigua on the 30th of November with a cargo of 100 puncheons molasses, bound for this port (Yarmouth). On Christmas night she sighted a light, when she lay to until daybreak the next morning, when the light was found to be that of Machias, Seal Island. The course was then shaped for Yarmouth. In the afternoon the wind, which had been S.E. Changed to N.W., and increased to a gale during the night. An effort was made to get into Westport, but without success. At 10:30 P.M hove her head to SW and lay to under two-reefed foresail, but could not keep her off, as she drifted towards land, and at 6:15 A.M Friday found her near breakers. Fifteen minutes later she struck the rocks. As her bow surged over the rocks, the mate and two seamen got out of the jibboom and succeeded in springing on a cliff, but one of them; Atcheson, fell off and was drowned. The other men remained on the quarter deck and a line was got to the 2 men on shore, Capt. Porter in attempting to get ashore by this line fell off and was drowned. Another and a stronger line was then secured between the vessel and the shore, and with the aid of a small line fastened around their bodies, the two men were drawn safely to land. In fifteen minutes from the time the vessel struck she was in pieces and nothing was visible except a portion of the poop. Of course the men saved nothing but what they had on. Day was dawning when they got ashore. The weather was intensely cold, but they succeeded in reaching, in an almost exhausted condition, the nearest house, that of Squires Eldridge, Sandy Cove, about 2 miles distant from the wreck. The survivor's of the crew arrived from Yarmouth by Saturday's train from Digby. The Lennie was owned by George Crosby, Esq., of Ohio, and was insured for \$2,500.00. Her captain was Charles W. Porter, of Ohio, a brother-in-law of the owner. He leaves a wife and family. His life was insured for \$1000.00 in the Mutual Relief Society".

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