

"Amazon" Better known as the "Mary Celeste" 1860-1861

found abandoned at sea on December 5, 1872, 38° 21' N. LAT. 17° 15' W. Lon

Robert Devis made his first trip to sea in this vessel and sailed in her for two years, the following is an account written by him and published in the Nautical Gazette, New York.

January 28, 1914.

I have always been interested in the opinions concerning the history of the "Mary Celeste" because I served my first apprentice ship at sea aboard that vessel. She was, however, the British brig "Amazon" at that time. Furthermore, considering the general interest manifested in the recently published but very doubtful solution of the mystery of the desertion of this ship, it occurred to me it would be of further interest to state a few facts about the origin of this vessel, as I have never seen a published account of them. I know all the facts of her earlier existence, because I helped build the "Amazon" was launched on board and served continuously on board her for two years, in foreign trade all the time.

The "Amazon" (Mary Celeste) was launched at Spinnecross Island N.S. in July 1861, being two years in the process of building. My father Joshua Devis, who built her, was a large owner, she was the first vessel built here, where so many large ships have since been built and started on their cruise around the world.

After lying at anchor a few days, she proceeded to Pine Islands N.S. under command of Capt Robert McKellan, where she loaded with timber and deals for London. We sailed down the Bay of Fundy, but the Capt. being sick, we put into St. John. Here a doctor came aboard and advised our return to Spinnecross Island. The Capt. was landed, and in a couple of days died there. In a few days more we secured another Capt. John M. Parker, of Wabton N.S. who took charge. And with some change in the crew, started on our voyage again, but put into Eastport, Me., for some reason I cannot recall, and on the way out of port ran into some fish wires in the Narrows, and then lay for some days before we finally proceeded on our course across the Atlantic.

we got to London alright this time discharged the cargo and loaded another for Lisbon, Portugal. On our way down the Channel, we ran into an English brig in the Straights of Dover and sunk her quickly, the crew climbing on board with us and all being saved. We put into Dover and larded our shipwreck, repaired some damages and resumed our voyage. This seemed to have been the climax of our mishaps for this time on. All went smoothly.

After two years voyaging between various ports in the Mediterranean, the British Isles and the West Indies, we arrived in Halifax, here there was a complete change in the crew. I among others left, and the mate, W. Thompson became Captain, and sailed her for about three years, when she returned to Halifax. Capt. Thompson then left the "Amazon" and a Captain Murphy took charge. He took her to Glace Bay, to load coal. Anchoring in the harbour, a heavy Gale came on and drove her ashore at the spot where an American company was digging out a dock. They bought the wreck and hauled her off, partially repaired her and took her to the United States. And after further repairs according to requirements, she was placed under the American flag with the name "Mary Celeste". The name is familiar to all readers of the newspapers, and I will not attempt to give any further history. Capt. Robert Lewis
Advocate Harbour N.S. January 7, 1914.

On the afternoon of January 3, 1865 Captain Gellat G. Parker under a clear sky, sailed the "Mary Celeste" onto the Rochelais Banks coral reef Haiti. For full details read the book, "In the Wake of the Mary Celeste," by James Franklin Briggs.

The Painting of the Brig "Amazon"

The first and only Painting, Shows no Name of Artist.

This Painting handed down by descendants of Daniel Cox family

A French artist was stranded in England, The "Amazon" was loading a cargo in London for a French Port, This man spoke for a passage to France to work his passage or pay we don't know.

On the trip to France he found time to paint this picture and did a very good job. He had the chance to study every detail and it should be a very correct copy.

On his arrival in France the artist had finished the painting and gave the picture to the Captain John (Jack) Parker. Some months later the "Amazon" returned to Nova Scotia with a cargo for the Port of Halifax. Capt Parker gave the painting to his friend Mr Daniel Cox then in business at Spencer's Island under the name of Bigelow and Cox, after the passing of Daniel Cox his Daughter Elizabeth had it until she passed away at her home in Suro N.S.

Mr Wilber Cox was appointed Executor of her Estate and among her Furniture and pictures found this Painting of the "Amazon" at this writing the picture would be 101 yrs old Painted in 1862 to 1963

Mrs. Wilber Cox being a half sister of my last wife Emma Cox she sent the painting to me. It seems strange after all these years this Painting should drift back to the Lewis family. Joshua Lewis being the builder of the "Amazon" at Spencer's Island 1861.

This writing is by R. L. Lewis (1953)

Copied by J Lewis

Nov 9 (1963)