**Schooner Princess Helena**

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| **Vessel Name** | **Official Number** | | **Signal letters** | **Rig /Type** | **Where built** | | **Builder** | | **Year built** | | | **Year end** | | **reg tons** | |
| **PRINCESS HELENA** | 44957 | | VBJD | Schooner | | Arbroath | | J & J Hall | | 1863 | | | 1874 | | 94 |
| **OWNERS/ MANAGERS/REGISTRATION DETAILS** | | **Notes** | | | | | | | | | **MASTERS** | | | | | |
| 1864 John Tregaskis, Par 1866 w.Thompson, Leith 1874 Robert Robson Sunderland | | 82.5 x 20.6 x 10' Launched 21st January 1863 registered in Leith in 7th July 1863. On 7th December 1874. The Lifeboat Society's boat at Ayr was the means, of saving the crew of five men of the schooner Princess Helena, of Fowey, which foundered on the rocks behind the south pier, during a gale of wind from the N. W., while attempting to make the harbour. The crew were in great danger, for when the lifeboat reached her, the sea, which was very heavy, was making a clean breach over it. She was lost off Ayr Harbour December 1874. She had been bound for Glasgow with a cargo of ore. | | | | | | | | | Duncan 1864 J. Jenkins 1874 | | | | | |

**All reports say she was registered in fowey but Lloyds does not record that. John Trevaskis may have been a share holder**

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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Name** | **Official number** | **Flag** | **IMO** | | PRINCESS HELENA | 44957 | GBR |  | | **Year built** | **Date launched** | **Date completed** | | | 1863 | 21/01/1863 |  | | | **Vessel type** | **Vessel description** | | | | Coaster General Cargo | Wood Sailing Vessel  Schooner | | | | **Builder** | | **Yard** | **Yard no** | | J & J Hall, Arbroath | |  |  | |  | | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Tonnage** | **Length** | **Breadth** | **Depth** | **Draft** | | / 100 nrt / | 82.5 ft | 20.6 ft | 10.0 ft |  | | **Engine builder** | , | | | | | **Engine detail** | | | | | |  | | | | | |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **First owner** | **First port of register** | **Registration date** | | William Thomson, Leith | Leith | 07/02/1863 | | **Other names** | | | |  | | | | **Subsequent owner and registration history** | | | | c1871 William Thomson, Montrose 187x ??, Fowey - reg Fowey? | | | | **Vessel history** | | | | c1871 --grt 94nrt | | | | **Remarks** | | | |  | | | | **End year** | **Fate / Status** | | | 1874 | Wrecked 07/12/1874 | | | **Disposal Detail** | | | | Struck rock beside the pierhead when entering Ayr Harbour in a gale (Fowey for Glasgow with ore); crew of five saved by lifeboat 4/1/1875 broke up in a gale | | | |

Report :-7 December 1874,

PRINCESS HELENA, 11 yrs old, of Fowey, wooden schooner, 93 tons, 5 crew, Master J. Jenkins, Owner J. Tregaskes, departed Fowey for Bowling, carrying iron ore, wind NNW9, stranded, mouth of Ayr Harbour. She was driven towards this coast, and in attempting to take the harbour here struck the ground outside, and was carried by the wind and heavy sea against the South pierhead, the sea making a clean breach over her. The crew were saved by the Ayr lifeboat. The vessel is now striking heavily, and as the storm is increasing she will probably become a total wreck before morning.

22nd Dec., the hull of the schooner PRINCESS HELENA was sold

**Site Name** Princess Helena: Ayr Harbour Entrance, Firth Of Clyde

**Classification** [Schooner (19th Century)](https://canmore.org.uk/thesaurus?term=SCHOONER)

**Alternative Name(s)** 'Mouth Of Ayr Harbour'; 'behind [the] South Pier [at] Ayr'; South Breakwater; Outer Clyde Estuary; Princess Helena

**Canmore ID** 256418

**Site Number** NS32SW 8043

**NGR** NS 329 227

**NGR Description** NS c. 329 227

**Permalink** [http://canmore.org.uk/site/256418](https://canmore.org.uk/site/256418)A picture containing text

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7 December 1874, PRINCESS HELENA, 11 yrs old, of Fowey, wooden schooner, 93 tons, 5 crew, Master J. Jenkins, Owner J. Tregaskes, departed Fowey for Bowling, carrying iron ore, wind NNW9, stranded, mouth of Ayr Harbour.

Source: PP Abstracts Returns of Wrecks and Casualties on Coasts of the UK 1874 - 75 (1875 [C.1341] LXX.501).

Ayr, 7th Dec., the PRINCESS HELENA (schr.), of Leith, late of Fowey, Jenkins, from Fowey to Glasgow, was driven towards this coast, and in attempting to take the harbour here struck the ground outside, and was carried by the wind and heavy sea against the South pierhead, the sea making a clean breach over her. The crew were saved by the Ayr lifeboat. The vessel is now striking heavily, and as the storm is increasing she will probably become a total wreck before morning.

Source: Shipping Intelligence, LL, No. 18,919, London, Wednesday December 9 1874.

Ayr, 8th Dec., the PRINCESS HELENA, of Leith, reported, yesterday, continued to beat heavily against the pierhead, and throughout the night gradually drifted to the south of the harbour, where she sank and now lies. Her decks were completely swept and hatches washed off, but it is impossible to say whether or not her bottom is holed. Where she lies now she does not interrupt the passage to and from the harbour, as she is not in the channel.

Source: Shipping Intelligence, LL, No. 18,920, London, Thursday December 10 1874.

Ayr, 22nd Dec., the hull of the schooner PRINCESS HELENA was sold, [Record received incomplete].

NMRS, MS/829/69 (no. 2517).

(Classified as schooner: no cargo specified, but date of loss cited as 7 December 1874). Princess Helena: this vessel foundered behind the south pier at Ayr, and [was] expected [to become a] wreck. 'Sold for 13 [sic.]. Late Fowey reg.'

Registration: Leith.

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/256418/princess-helena-ayr-harbour-entrance-firth-of-clyde>

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