

Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

A True Inventorye...

Transcription of a document contained within Manorial Records at the National Library of
Wales, Document Ref: Penrice and Margam 5278

County: Glamorgan
Community: Margam
Site Name: ANNE FRANCIS
NPRN: 300035
NGR: SS781805
Investigators: Anna Skarzynska, Archive and Library Team
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The document is transcribed as written from the 16th century Secretary Script. The insertion of a question mark highlights where characters were not decipherable.

A true Inventorie of all such goods as weare cast to land on both sides the river of Avan on the grainge of ?Lanwigelith parcell of the Lordshippe of Havodporth in the County of Glamorgan in the night of the xxvijth of December last 1583 which came to the Lands of Edward Mansell knight

First cast Iron peecs named minions each wayinge 1280 2

Item one other cast Iron peece wayinge 1800	1
Item cast Iron peecs each wayinge 700 ¾	2
Item one cast Iron peece wayinge 620	1
Item ffowlers	4
Item chambers	2
Item a Ladle	1
Item calivers	5
Item flasks	2
Item Anchors	2
Item a steele Targett	1
Item one little broken anchore for a Cocke	1
Item one Cable abouts 90 fathome longe	1
Item one other cable abouts 82 fathome longe	1
Item one hawser	1
Item two lesser ropes	2
Item peecs of the maine sayle torne & spoyled	
Item small ropes therby	
Item one stremour of Balter	1
Item three peeaces of the main mast	3
Item a small mast containinge 30 foote	1

Item two sayle yards	2
Item a Cocke boate	1
Item a pipe half full of ?socket brech...	
Item a barell with some tarre	
Item one glasse bottle	
Item two emptie spruse cofers lockes brok[en]	2
Item one other emptie cofer of Oke locks broken	1
Item Cloves	3 li. dimi'
Item two boxes of marmelade wayinge	2 li.
Item two peece of Callicowe	22 ells q' dimi' q
Item a silver whissell with a peece of a chaine wayinge	4 ounces
Item Spainishe silver	12 – 16 – 00
Item v. or vj emptye Caskes	
Item two ship Cards	2
Item a Walkinge staffe	

Source:

National Library of Wales, Document Reference: Penrice and Margam 5278

Glossary of Terms

Minions :- a small cannon, typical 3-in bore firing a 5 pound cannon ball

Wayinge: - weighing

Ffowlers :- a wrought iron cannon derived whose name is derived from German gun manufacturer Vögler

Chambers :- fowlers cannons were typically breech loading and used a separate powder chamber in which the powder and ball were loaded. The main body of the cannon was a tube.

Calivers :- a type of shoulder arms with a typical a barrel length of between 39 and 44 inches giving it an overall length of about 55 inches. Its weight was around 10-12 pounds and it had a calibre of approximately .76 to .80.

Flaskes: - a small canister containing a charge of gun powder or priming powder

Targett: - a shield

Cocke: - the ship's small boat

Fathome: - or fathom, a unit of measure equal to 6 feet

Hawser: - a heavy rope with a circumference greater than 5 inches often used for warping and anchoring

Pipe half full of socke brech:- a small wooden cask for wine, in this case being used as a bread bin (socke brech – soaked bread?)

Stremour of Balter: - ?flag denoting a traveller or wanderer, pilgrimage

Calicowe: - Calico, a plain-woven textile made from unbleached cotton originating in the region around Calcutta in 11th century. It was traded with Europe most from the 17th century onwards

Ship card:- the wind rose from the beneath the compass needle showing the directions

Site Description:

Archaeological finds in the vicinity include a pewter plate with the mark of Tudor Rose and the initials ER (Edward Roe), a boatswain's call and a knife case. The finds have been accessioned to the collections of the National Museum of Wales.

The ANNE FRANCIS was a ship of around 80 tons and owned by Kings Lynn merchant, Francis Shaxton. The ANN FRANCIS was one of a fleet of 8 vessels owned by Francis Shaxton and his business partners. The vessel had left Kings Lynn on 2 October 1583. It is believed that it was carried 50 tons of wheat to Spain (Cadiz?). It appears likely that it reached its destination and then returned in ballast with payment of some £400 in silver bullion. The ANN FRANCIS went ashore near the mouth of Afon on the night of 28 December 1583. Amongst the first in authority on the scene were George Williams, agent for the Earl of Pembroke and Anthony Mansel, brother of Sir Edward Mansel of Margam. They found 'upwards of 100 persons arrayed with weapons, staves, swords, daggers, javelins, pike forks... and by means of great menacing and insolent behaviour committed sundry outrageous misdemeanours...' Three to four hours had passed before Williams and Mansel arrived and much of value was probably spirited away into the countryside. Williams apprehended an individual carrying away 'diverse species' as well as 'a tinny cup, a tinny spoon and 40 nutmegs'. The Mansel family compiled an inventory of other recovered items. Ordnance from the ship included six cannon or minions, weighing 1280 cwt, 1800 cwt, 700 3/4 cwt and 620 cwt, 4 smaller fowler cannons and 5 handguns. Items relating to working of these guns included power ladles and flasks. Items relating to working the vessel include pieces of the main sail, 2 long cables (90 and 82 fathoms long) with 2 anchors, plus parts of the mainmast and other smaller spars. The ship's boat with its broken anchor was also taken in charge. More personal items included a silver whistle on a chain weighing 4 ounces, 2 boxes of marmalade, a walking staff, and cloves (perhaps to flavour onboard cooking or as personal trade goods). Two spruce and 1 oak coffers were recovered with their locks broken. Nevertheless, £12 16s of Spanish silver was collected up. The recovered material was impounded and a dispute between Mansel and the Earl of Pembroke ensued. Six men were arrested and sent to London for trial. Three refused to appear for questioning and escaped. Sir Edward Mansel was ordered to re-arrest these three. The dispute was settled in the Star Chamber in favour of the Earl. However, by March, Francis Shaxton had heard of his loss and was able to successfully back claim the 6 pieces of ordnance, the 2 best anchors, the 2 best cables, the 4 fowlers and half the money recovered from the 6 arrested men.

Sources include:

Blundell, J, A Tudor Wreck near Aberavon in Glamorgan, Wrecks Collection, RCAHMW

National Library of Wales, Document Ref; Penrice and Margam, 5768

Receiver of Wreck Droits Database August 2007 RCIM6/2/5

Williams, N J, 1951, Francis Shaxton and the Elizabethan Port Books, *in* The English Historical Review, Vol 66, number 260 (July), pg387-395