

Captain Schjonemann (1860-1942) and his Brixham Navigation School

Illustrations

1. Lauritz Schjonemann age 12 ½ in Ballum Denmark just before he went to sea (Family collection of Mrs. Ethel Renwick - Captain Schjonemann's granddaughter)
2. The *Harry Emmett*, Lauritz Schjonemann's first ship
By courtesy of the Brixham Museum and Historical Society
Brixham Heritage Museum - www.brixhamheritage.org.uk/visiting/about.php
3. Captain Drew, Master of three ships in which Lauritz Schjonemann's learned his seamanship and navigation (Family collection of Mrs. Ethel Renwick)
4. Lauritz Schjonemann's aged 23, while serving as First Mate on the *Bella Rosa* under Captain Drew (Family collection of Mrs. Ethel Renwick)
5. The *South American* -, the Captain's ship
(Photo by author of a painting that used to hang in the Captain's home)
6. The *South American under sail* – a recent painting based on the original (the author's collection)
7. The Schonermann family - Annie Lauritz & Lavinia (the baby)
(author's collection)
8. The Galveston Hurricane 1900
(Re-drawn from Galveston Hurricane 1900 websites)
9. Key Largo and the Florida Keys
(Redrawn from Key West websites)
10. The houses the Captain bought. 23,22 & 21 St. Peter's Hill, Brixham
(author's photo)
11. The Captain with a student (author's collection)
12. The view today from the Captain's schoolroom (author's photo)
13. The Captain and Mrs Schjonemann Golden Wedding 1933
(author's collection)

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Research documents

Certificate of competency as Only Mate on square rigged ships

Lauritz Peter Born 21 January 1860 Ballum Denmark
Only mate square rigger. Certificate of competency number 012653
Plymouth, 16 February 1883

Board of Trade Certificate of Competency as only Mate

Lauritz Peter Schjonemann Certificate number 012653
Dartmouth 27 March 1883

Letter confirming personal examination

Mr. Schjonemann
Local Marine Board, Plymouth 16 February 1893

Application for renewal of Mate's Certificate

Lauritz Peter Schjonemann, of Ranscombe, Brixham, Devon
Born 21 January 1860 Ballum Denmark
Declaration before magistrate Plymouth, 25 March 1885
'In the Bristol Channel outward Brigantine Hironnelle run down ... by the 'Mary Ann' of Newport. The Hironnelle foundered so quickly that the crew had scarcely time to jump into the boat and save themselves.'

Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council for Trade

Certificate of Competency as Only Mate

Lauritz Peter Schjonemann
1 April 1885

Application to be examined for Certificate of Competency as Master Square rigger

Lauritz Peter Schjonemann
Personal description 5 feet 10 inches Complexion light Hair light Eyes blue
Reference BT110/75/43. Record not digitised and cannot be downloaded.

Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council for Trade

Certificate of Competency as Master

Lauritz Peter Schjonemann, 30 April 1896

The National Archives, Kew. Ship South American (1891-1900).

Official number 99120. When built 1891. Registry closed 1900. The National Archives, reference BT110/75/43. Record not digitised and cannot be downloaded.

The *South American* is launched

Belfast News 6 August 1891
Launched 5 August 1891 Ship building yard of Paul Rodgers and Co at Carrick-Fergus.
Owners G. W. Phillips and Co of Belfast Designed by Paul Rodgers
Mrs McCormick of Belfast performed the launching ceremony
50 ladies and gentlemen watched and were entertained to lunch
The vessel had been designed for the South American trade
- hoping to beat the record for speed
Captain Cally to take command

Note on ship builder Paul Rodgers (1834 – 1901)

Rodgers was apprenticed for six years to Carrickfergus Shipyard in 1852. Carrickfergus is a town in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, on the north shore of Belfast Lough, 11 miles from Belfast. In 1841 Carrickfergus Shipyard had 3 shipwrights; by 1851 there were 23. In 1862 Rodgers was appointed foreman, and in 1870 became owner of the yard. He designed and built ships, his first being the *Accrington Lass* launched in 1874. He used iron, cheaply supplied from Belfast, which produced larger, more durable ships.
www.ulsterhistory.co.uk/rodgers.htm

Findings of a Naval Court held at the British Consulate at Rio Grande du Sol

On 25 and 27 September 1894 to investigate the wreck of the British sailing ship Penpont 256 tons official number 78079 Master L. J. Schjonemann

UK Certificate of British Registry South American 27 October 1891 Belfast

[National Archives www.nationalarchives.gov.uk]

Official number 99120 Signal Letters MJPL Registered in Belfast

Built Carrickfergus by Paul Rodgers and Co

One deck, three masts, Rigged barkonline, Stern elliptic, Built clincher, Head scroll,

Number of bulkheads 2, water ballast tanks none,

Length 166 feet 3 tenths, main breadth 27 feet 5/10, Depth midships to keel 13 feet 0.75/10

Description of vessel - steel

Gross tonnage 386.19 tons deductions for crew space 15.82 tons,

Captain's room, boatswain's store and sail room 14.62 tons

Owner - South American Ship Company Limited of 1 Tomb Street, Belfast

64 /sixty forth shares

Note – register closed 5 July 1899 on transfer to the Port of Liverpool

A list of the crew and passengers on the ship South American of Belfast

L. Schjonemann Master. Burthen 386 tons from the port of Mauritius to Sydney, New South Wales. 21 April 1895. 11 named including L. Schjonemann (no other family members)

UK Certificate of British Registry South American 15 July 1899 Liverpool

[National Archives www.nationalarchives.gov.uk]

New certificate issued on transfer to Liverpool register

Owners – British and Mexican Shipping Company Limited 29 Hanover Street, Liverpool

64 /sixty forth shares

Note – cancelled vessel wrecked on French Reef, Key West

Register closed 27 November 1900

UK Registry record of sale of shares in South American 5 July 1899

[National Archives www.nationalarchives.gov.uk]

Bill of sale dated 12 June 1899

From South American Ship Company Ltd to British and Mexican Shipping Company Limited
principal place of business - 29 Hanover Street Liverpool

Belfast News (shipping notes) 18 May 1899 and 27 June 1899

South American sold to Russian Buyers for £3,000: but that sale fell through. Then sold for £2,825 to English buyers

Captain Schjonemann, Bob Tricker
Illustration and research paper references

US The Record 1898 – record of American and foreign shipping

903 signal letters 99,120 South American Rig Bkt Nation Br Lth 166.3
Hailing Port Belfast

Bth. 27.5 Dft. 12.5 Tons 386 When '91 Where Carrick - Ferguson Rogers and Co
Owners R.E. Workman (for the South American Ship Company Limited)
Stl. 1 Bh Last survey NY 11 '96

US The Record 1899 – record of American and foreign shipping

819 signal letters 99,120 South American Rig Bkt Nation Br Lth 166.3
Hailing Port Belfast

Bth. 27.5 Dft. 12.5 Tons 386 When '91 Where Carrick - Ferguson Rogers and Co
Owners R.E. Workman (for the South American Ship Company Limited Stl. 1 Bh Last
survey NY 11 '96

Official notice of the liquidation of the South American Ship Co Ltd

16 September 1899. Robert E. Workman Liquidator, 18 Bedford Street, Belfast

US The Record 1900 – record of American and foreign shipping

810 signal letters 99,120 South American Rig Bkt Nation Br Lth 166.3
Hailing Port Liverpool

Bth. 27.5 Dft. 12.5 Tons 375 When '91 Where Carrick - Ferguson Rogers and Co
Owners W. C. Jarvis and Sons Stl. 1 Bh Last survey Lv'pl 7 '99

Copy of handwritten Admiralty Record Books Key West

November 1900 to February 1905 (pages 22-34)

M. T. Reybold versus mahogany cargo of the British Bark South American
This is a claim for salvage of 577 stocks of mahogany and 163 log ends
Litigation in the District Court Key West November and December 1900

Transcription of handwritten Admiralty Record Books Key West

15 pages Transcribed by Mandy Coles 14 September 2012

Census of England and Wales 1911

St Peter's Hill, Brixham, S. Devon

Lauritz Peter Schjonemann, Head, 51, mariner, born Denmark

Lucy Jane Schjonemann, wife, 50, married, born Brixham

Lauritz Peter Schjonemann, 25, single, fisherman trawling, born Brixham

Annie Maria Schjonemann, 4, single, born Brixham

Press cuttings of the voyages of the *South American*

The New York Times 17 March 1895

South American made the run Hong Kong to New York in eighty nine days

Belfast News 21 September 1897

Barquentine *South American* sailed on 18 September from Deal for Mauritius

List of Passengers and crew 21 April 1898 arriving Sydney, New South Wales

South American from Mauritius.

Master L. Schjonemann, with wife and family

Captain Schjonemann, Bob Tricker
Illustration and research paper references

Press cuttings of the Beri-beri saga

Belfast News (shipping intelligence) 11 January 1899
 South American 10 miles SW Cape Reafe Schjonemann Mauritius to Falmouth
Hull Daily Mail 30 March 1899, quoting Lloyd's St. Michael agent
Manchester Evening News 29 April 1899
 Transcribed by Mandy Coles 18 January 2013
Liverpool Mercury 29 September 1899
 Transcribed by Mandy Coles 3 August 2013

Press cuttings of the Florida hurricane and shipwreck

New York Times Miami Florida September 8
New York Times 9 September 1900 [Historian, Monroe County, Florida]
The San Francisco Call 9 September 1900 [University of California]
The Saint Paul globe 9 September 1900 [Minnesota Historical Society]
The St Louis Republic 9 September 1900 [State Historical Society of Missouri]
Omaha daily bee 9 September 1900 [University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries]
Belfast News 13 September 1900

Golden Wedding report in the Herald Express (Torbay)

'My wife is a heroine. She lived aboard my boats. We have been around the world.'
19 August 1933

Obituaries Mrs. Lucy Schjonemann and Captain L. P. Schjonemann

Brixham Lady's bravery recalled – sailed barque when crew were stricken
Passing of a well-known Brixham personality
Western Guardian December 1941 and February 1942

Probate notice Lauritz Peter Schjonemann

Died at 23 St. Peter's Hill, Brixham 24 January 1942 Effects £6,120.7s.3d

Will of Lauritz Peter Schjonemann 20 December 1941

Estate divided equally between his remaining children: daughters Lavinia Howard and Annie Maria Pedrick with £150 to daughter in law Elizabeth Jane Schjonemann

Renwick, Ethel (undated), An Adventurous Life under Sail

'Highlights from the lives of much loved grandparents, Captain L. P. Schjonemann and his wife Lucy'

 Written by the Captain's youngest granddaughter, Mrs. Ethel Renwick