

[Page 30 - Shipwreck at Little Lorraine from an article by D.C. Harvey, late Provincial Archivist for Nova Scotia](#)

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in a most surprising manner, so that it is found impossible to extricate it. The people are very particular in dressing the corpses according to their own ideas of propriety, which are, that each must have a shirt, trousers, and jacket, or a chemise, petticoat and gown, as the case may be, with handkerchiefs over the face and feet, and in this array they are interred, without coffins, to wit: which there are neither materials, time nor workmen. These clothes they have some difficulty in procuring in sufficient number, by raking them from among the wreck at the bottom; and in some instances they assured me they were obliged to furnish them from their own houses. Their particularity as to the number and nature of the garments which they considered indispensable for the dress of the defunct was laughable enough: but, of course, I carefully abstained from any such remark that could reach their ears, and encouraged them to the utmost. They were also exceedingly careful that everyone should be duly interred before sunset, being persuaded that the inhabitants would be nightly visited by the spirits of such as remained above ground. "I have entered into all this detail to explain the foundation of my belief, that the fishermen do not, and cannot, pay themselves, in the way some imagine. Can you give me any assurance that they will be indemnified by the province, or in any other way? Might not the unclaimed proceeds of former wrecks be thus appropriated? The service is surely one of public importance, and one that, but for the good will and exertions of these poor fellows, would not be performed at all. Indeed, there should be more done yet, even supposing they succeed in finishing what they have begun. Their time and means do not allow them to excavate the ground to a sufficient depth. Workmen should be dispatched to form barrows over these hasty sepulchres, or the foxes, and other ravenous creatures, will get at them, and probably tear out the corpses piecemeal. There is a monument at Little Lorraine "to the memory of the Irish emigrants who lost their lives when the ship Asterisk with 500 souls on board bound from Liverpool to Quebec were wrecked on Lorraine Head April 22, 1816. only two surviving." We have not found no other record of the Asterisk and wonder whether the Astraea was the wreck intended here. It seems unlikely that a wreck such as the Astraea, in which local fishermen played so important a role, would not be remembered. The coin shown was taken from the wreck of the Asterisk/Astraea • it is dated 1826- which places the wreck at least 10 years later than the monument. Father Dolhanty told us fishermen say you can see the imprint of the ship against the cliff. Home Cooking Licensed Highland Restaurant and Motel Open 7 AM to 12 PM for Full Course Meals Daily INVERNESS Telephone: 258-9909 Levi LeBlanc Limited BUILDING SUPPLIES HARDWARE • PAINIS Phone: 235-2022 Margaree, Nova Scotia A Member of the BOLD Organization