

SHIPWRECKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981



Fact Sheet No. 1

Kadina – Angas Inlet Ships' Graveyard (possibly)

The three-masted ship *Kadina*, formerly *Jeannie W. Paine*, was built in 1853 in Phippsburg, Maine, USA. The wooden vessel measured 149.0 feet (45.5m) in length, 31.0 feet (9.5m) breadth, 21.7 feet (6.6m) depth and 661 gross tons.

In 1865 the vessel was registered in Port Adelaide by Henry Simpson and Elder & Smith. It was renamed *Kadina* and became part of the Black Diamond Line of vessels transporting coal from Newcastle to the smelters at Wallaroo.

In 1876 it was converted to a coal hulk after being dragged ashore at Wallaroo, and declared a total wreck.

During the night of 19-20 April 1879, while moored in the North Arm and with no-one on board, *Kadina* caught fire and was badly damaged. Attempts to scuttle the burning hulk were unsuccessful – the dry wood burnt so fast that the holes that carpenters made rose above the waterline too quickly to be of use. The vessel was eventually towed ashore and allowed to burn out.

The wreck was dismantled in 1879, first by a working party of newly arrived British immigrants and then, when

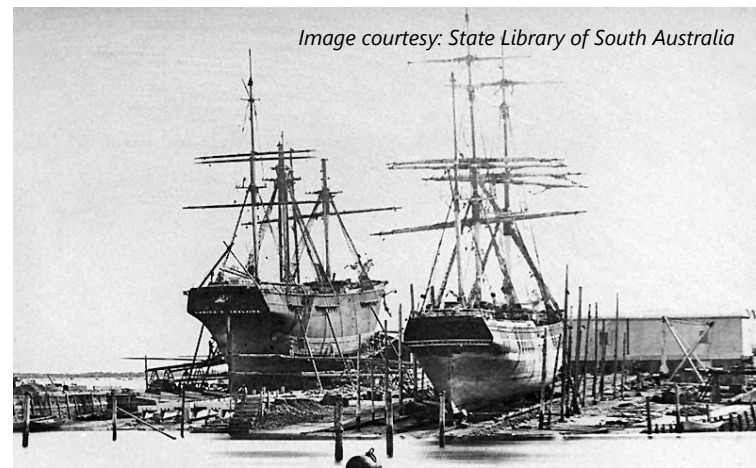


Image courtesy: State Library of South Australia

Kadina (left) and barque Contest at Fletcher's Slip, Port Adelaide, 1895

the work proved not cost-effective, by explosives. On 6 June 1879 three charges of dynamite broke the ship apart and the working party then collected any valuable items.

The exact site of the salvage activities has not been determined. However the remains of a large wooden vessel in Angas Inlet (only a short distance from the original opening into the North Arm) have yet to be identified. It is feasible that this wreckage may be the remains of *Kadina*.



Image courtesy: N. Richards

Remains of a timber vessel, possibly Kadina, at Angas Inlet, Torrens Island

More information

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