

## Anchors from the *Vizcaya* and the *Cornelius Hargraves*

**Shipwreck Grill, Brielle  
and Captain Bill's Landing,  
Point Pleasant Beach**

Despite currently sitting in different counties (although less than a half mile apart as the bird flies), a single incident on October 30, 1890 links these two anchors: the collision of the 211' schooner *Cornelius Hargraves* and the 287' steamer *Vizcaya* directly east of the Barnegat Inlet.



**The *Vizcaya*.**

Both ships sank within minutes about one-quarter of a mile apart from each other. Some survivors clung to mast tops protruding from the ocean while others were picked up by passing ships and by *Hargraves'* lifeboats. Sixty-nine lives were lost on the *Vizcaya*, including all of the women and children on board.

The vessels' locations on the bottom of the Atlantic are well-known



**The anchor from the *Vizcaya* at the Shipwreck Grill in Brielle.**

courtesy of New Jersey Maritime Museum

**The *Cornelius Hargraves'* anchor at Captain Bill's Landing in Point Pleasant Beach.**

dive spots. Enter attorney, restaurateur, and longtime diver Bill Cleary, owner of the popular Red's Lobster Pot restaurant and Captain Bill's Landing in Point Pleasant Beach and the Shipwreck Grill restaurant in Brielle.

After modeling the Shipwreck Grill's logo from an online image of the *Vizcaya's* anchor, Cleary wondered if he could possibly retrieve the anchor to adorn the front of the restaurant, thus adding it to his already impressive collection of authentic maritime artifacts. Cleary and friends devised a salvage plan, which took almost a year to complete. They eventually set out on Cleary's dive boat *Depth Charge*, and

after freeing the *Vizcaya's* anchor from its chain and other wreckage, the scallop boat *Discovery* aided in hoisting the 2,000-plus-pound anchor to the surface. It took another year to remove the growth and crust that formed on the anchor before it became a permanent fixture at the Shipwreck Grill.

Ten years later, Cleary set his sights on the *Cornelius Hargraves'* anchor, which still lay at the bottom. With help from local marine biologist Chris Wojcik and friends, he eventually recovered and restored that anchor as well, which now sits at Captain Bill's Landing as a pillar of the maritime spirit.

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**The *Cornelius Hargraves*.**

courtesy of New Jersey Maritime Museum

Jill Ocone

courtesy of New Jersey Maritime Museum