

Grace Darling

Who Was Grace Darling?

- Grace Darling was the daughter of a lighthouse keeper.
- She lived on the Farne Islands.
- She lived in a lighthouse.

Why Is She Remembered?

On the 7th September 1838, there was a storm. A boat crashed into the rocks. Grace and her father rowed a boat out to those who were stuck in the water. Her father saved the men whilst Grace stayed on the boat. Grace and her father were awarded a silver medal.



Interesting Fact!

They rescued nine people!

The Shipwreck of 1838

Lighthouse ——— shipwreck ——— storm ——— rowing boat



Grace Darling

Who Was Grace Darling?

Grace Darling was the daughter of a lighthouse keeper. She was born in Northumberland but moved to the Farne Islands when she was very small. On the island, she lived with her family in a lighthouse. In the lighthouse, there lived Grace, her mother, her father, four brothers and four sisters.



Interesting Fact!

She was offered marriage proposals after the event.

Why Is She Remembered?

On the 7th September 1838, in the middle of the night, there was a storm. Grace spotted a shipwreck from the window of the lighthouse and alerted her father. Together, they rowed out in search for any survivors. They returned to the lighthouse and then her father went on one last journey, returning with a further four people. Her bravery was recognised by many and she was given money, letters and gifts. Grace and her father were also awarded the Silver Medal for bravery by the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution).

The Shipwreck of 1838

Lighthouse

This is where Grace and her family lived.



Shipwreck

The boat crashed into a collection of rocks.

Storm

The weather made it difficult for the boat to see the rocks.

Rowing boat

Grace and her father used a rowing boat to rescue the survivors.



Grace Darling

Who Was Grace Darling?

Grace Darling was born in Bamburgh, Northumberland. She was born to William and Thomasin Darling and she was the seventh of nine children. When she was only a few weeks old, her family moved to one of the Farne Islands; Brownsman Island. Here, her father was a lighthouse keeper and they resided in a small cottage next to the lighthouse.



After a short while, due to a number of reasons, the family moved to another of the Farne Islands; Longstone Island. This time they inhabited a new lighthouse. Despite having better living conditions, the island was limited with resources so William would row back to Brownsman Island to stock up. Their lighthouse consisted of a large room at the bottom with a spiral staircase leading to the bedrooms.

Interesting Fact!

The Forefaeshire had been carrying 62 people.

Why Is She Remembered?

In the early hours of 7th September, there was a violent storm.

When looking out of a window, Grace spotted a shipwreck on Big Harcar, which was a nearby rocky island. The ship, named Forfarshire, was upon the rocks and had broken in half. Feeling that the sea was too rough for the lifeboat, Grace and her father used a four-man rowing boat to row for one mile to search for any survivors. Grace stayed on board, keeping the boat steady while her father rescued four men and the lone surviving woman.

Grace stayed at the lighthouse with the survivors, while her father went back to rescue four more people. Grace and her father were commended with a silver medal and she was branded a heroine. She received many gifts, including £50 from Queen Victoria.

The Shipwreck of 1838

Lighthouse

This is where Grace and her family resided.

Shipwreck

The boat crashed into a collection of rocks and split into two almost immediately.

Storm

The weather made it difficult for the boat to see the rocks, the lighthouse was not effective.

Rowing boat

Grace and her father used a rowing boat called a coble to rescue the survivors.

In Britain, the first lighthouse was built at the time when stronger and more weatherproof lighthouses were being invented. The Eddystone rocks were a shipwreck hazard for those sailing through the English Channel and the first lighthouse was an octagonal wooden structure. It was the first tower to be exposed to open sea. It has been rebuilt three times.



Remembering Grace Darling



After Grace's death, she was buried in her hometown. A large cenotaph reminds people of Grace and celebrates her life. Additionally, a monument was placed on the Great Farne Island. A lifeboat was named after her and presented to Holy Island. A museum was also opened in Bamburgh where people can remember her by looking at the boat that was used to rescue the people on that tragic night.

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