



THE HOTTINGUER

The Hottinguer was a substantial 1035 tonne ship, first – class ship built in New York in 1840. Like most packet ships of the time, she travelled between Liverpool and New York on a regular basis. On 12th January 1850, she was carrying 20 passengers, 28 crew and a full cargo of merchandise, insured between 40,000 to 45,000 dollars.



The Hottinguer's route



The Hottinguer struck Blackwater Bank during an eastward gale. According to a survivor, the ship rammed heavily a few times, and then came to rest. The crew made signals of distress by burning lights and firing rockets and at daylight, they hung flags from the masts.





One of the ship's lifeboat carried few passengers and some of the crew to the banks of Morris Castle. The winds grew so strong that the lifeboats were of no help now, leaving the 3 passengers and crew stuck. The next day, the ship floated off the bank, another ship called '*The Rose*' saw the distress flags and tried to navigate it up the coast. The two captains communicated by writing words on boards, they began to try to ease the *Hottinguer* off the Blackwater Bank . By the 14th the ship began breaking due to strong winds and several rescue attempts were made by '*The Rose*' but in vain. The ship broke that night and only one of the crew was saved.



The Rose was a screw-propeller boat



Sinking of The Hottinguer

Once it was confirmed that the *Hottinguer* was lost, there were concerns on the expensive cargo she carried. It was decided to send a boat with professional divers at the wreck site, to recover whatever was possible. Some of its cargo was driven ashore but most remained underwater.



(This Cover Is a Part of Rudraksh collection)

An exceptional cover, being the only item recorded from this wreck off the Irish coast

Invoice for goods carried on the Hottinguer, with the severely water damaged remains of the original envelope addressed to New York, endorsed "Saved from the wreck of the Hottinguer and stuck to the outside of the invoice by the Liverpool Post Office, tied by a red wax seal impressed with the arms of the Post Office, a further wax seal on the reverse sealing the invoice.