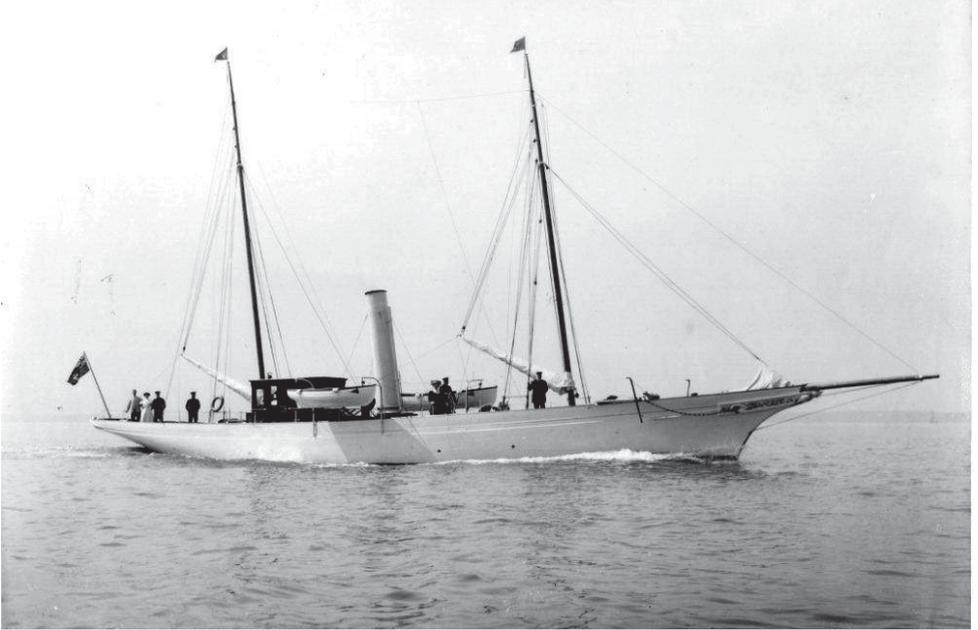

Steam Yacht Amazon

Compiled by the editor



Amazon in 1910 - note no forward deck cabin helm is at deck level just in front of the Funnel

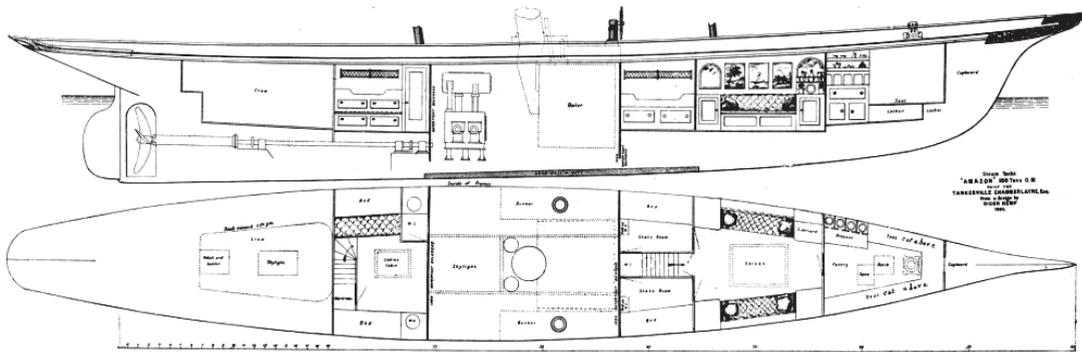
Several people have sent me information about Amazon so with this and a bit of search work here are the results.

AMAZON is a 102ft 52-ton schooner built at Southampton in 1885 and designed by Dixon Kemp. A record of her sea trials can be found in Kemp's book, first published in 1885, *Yacht Architecture: A Treatise On The Laws Which Govern The Resistance Of Bodies Moving In Water, Propulsion By Steam And Sail; Yacht Designing; And Yacht Building.*

Amazon is a carvel-built yacht constructed from the finest materials available: teak and

pitch pine on oak frames, with alternate wrought-iron strap floor reinforcement, bronze fastenings, lead keel and copper sheathing.

Her builder and owner, Tankerville Chamberlayne, personally supervised her construction by his own Arrow Yard on the River Itchen. The yard was created by the Chamberlayne family to look after their famous cutter Arrow (1822) which raced competitively for more than 70 years. Amazon's engine and boiler were supplied by Day, Summers and Company.



Amazon:- 91ft LWL, 15ft beam, 9ft draught;
 Engine 10" + 20" x 16" compound,
 Boiler Scotch marine twin furnace coal fired.-grate area 29 sqft

Note the line drawing above and the early photo below show no deckhouses at all, helm is just in front of the Funnel in photo below.

Amazon was used for summer cruising and regattas. She was built specifically in time for the Royal Fleet Review of 1897 that marked Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. And was sold shortly after to a prominent French Yachtsman and based at St Malo now named Armoricain. In 1900 she returned to British ownership but by World War I with her coal-fired compound engine she was deemed too old fashioned to participate in the war.

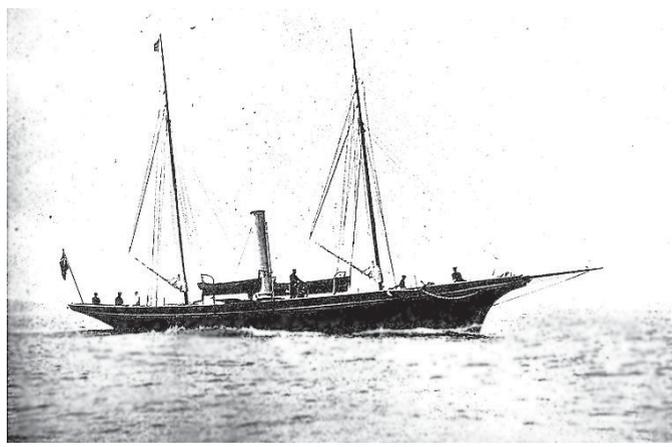
She remained a pleasure cruiser in south coast ports until World War II, but was converted to diesel in 1937.

After the war, she became a houseboat stationed at Cubitt's Yacht Basin in Chiswick, London. By late 1960's, all the machinery had been removed, however the hull was still intact and,

according to the sale particulars, she was in fair condition advertised as:-

'Houseboat...beautifully fitted ex-steam yacht...constructed from Burma teak, sheathed in copper, the hull is practically maintenance-free... contact the sole agent.

The boat was subsequently bought in 1968 for £2,000 by actor Arthur Lowe, who encouraged by his surveyor's positive





The recent photo above shows Amazon now with a forward deckhouse but none in the stern

report, made her ready for sea again in 1971 by installing a Perkins diesel engine which gave the vessel a speed of 9.8 knots. The maiden voyage after the restoration was from Teddington to the River Medway, a journey of about 80 miles, and many of the Dad's Army cast were on board.

Until Lowe's death in 1982 she was moored at St Katharine Docks' Yacht Haven near Tower Bridge, London, (also Ocean Village Southampton). The boat passed to his son, Stephen, and moved to Scotland. In 1997, she was laid up in Inverness when she was bought by her current anonymous owners.

After a minor refit, she was sailed to the Mediterranean to work as a private cruising vessel. In 2009, she crossed the Atlantic and cruised the Caribbean and in 2011 she

cruised the Canadian waterways. While much of the internal machinery has been replaced, it has been estimated that 80 per cent of Amazon's hull is of original construction; the fact that this 126-year-old vessel could cross the Atlantic is testament to the quality of the original build.

In September 2011, she docked at Waterford having made a trans Atlantic passage from Newfoundland to Ireland, Amazon was then based in the Channels Isles for a short time and took part in the Queen's Jubilee pageant 2012; and since then has returned to the Mediterranean. ■

Source:- P Smith, Durham.

Daily Mail Tuesday 17th Jan 2012 Answers to Correspondents. Sent by Gary Doherty