



# THE 1805 DISPATCHES

Issue 21.02  
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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 1805 CLUB

[www.1805club.org](http://www.1805club.org)

## EDITORIAL

In October 2020, 30 years after The 1805 Club's foundation, Covid-19 forced us to postpone the celebration of the unique achievements of its first generation. The virus continues to prevent many other planned live events. However, Council have been taking important steps to modernise the Club in a fairly substantial manner, shaping it for its second generation, in order to match developments in charity law and take advantage of the opportunities presented by digital technology. The Club's charitable aims and objectives remain unchanged. After years of exemplary service, our chairman Bill White and secretary John Curtis are standing down from Council, but both will continue to provide the Club with their expertise. It is a matter of sadness that we will not be able to thank them in person, given that our AGM will be on Zoom. We look forward to a return to more normal days, and the resumption of the Club's warm-hearted events.

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## THE VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

By Our Chairman, G W (Bill) White

I will be relinquishing the Club's Chairmanship at the AGM later this year. However, I shall remain a member, and will be available to consult if required on any matter on which I might have knowledge about events since the Club was founded in 1990. I think Stephen Howarth is the only one of us with a longer Club background. I have much enjoyed the involvement I have had with The 1805 Club since 1993, when I picked up a leaflet about the Club at the NMM at Greenwich.

You may not know that I joined the Royal Navy as a 16-year-old Cadet at the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth in 1951. I had come from my Grammar School and was suddenly exposed to the full force of the Naval Discipline Act, which pronounced that:

*"Anyone contravening these regulations shall suffer death or such lesser punishment as shall be determined by their Lords Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom".*

First-term Cadets joining the College were told by their seniors that the worst performing of them would be hanged at the yardarm in front of the College at the end of each month, in order to encourage the others. That none suffered this fate was commonly believed to have been only because the Admiralty accountants failed to provide the College with a budget for the cost of the consequent funerals.

Nevertheless, death is always a hazard in a fighting service, and having avoided the noose, I became crushed into submission by the sheer scale of the history of the organisation I had joined and its achievements. Britain has a maritime history going back over 1000 years, with the Royal Navy, as the navy of the British state, having evolved over 500 years from the time of King Henry VIII to the present day. To have been enveloped in the culture of such an organisation was something with which no other potential employer could possibly compete.

The Service is undoubtedly the most internationally significant maritime institution ever to have existed. It has been involved over centuries not only in naval warfare with extraordinary success, but also in improving navigational accuracy for seafarers, exploration, surveying, and the protection of maritime trade on which the world economy depended and still depends.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to have both served in the Royal Navy and progressed to a leadership position in The 1805 Club. I wish you all fair winds and prosperous voyages.



Detail from:

**FOUR SCENES OF TRAFALGAR. 7.00 PM**

Auguste Ballin (1842- ?)

With thanks to Rick Cosby at Maritime Prints [www.maritimeprints.com](http://www.maritimeprints.com)



# The Last Casualty of a War Between the United Kingdom and the United States



tender sympathy prompted the kindest attentions to their son while living and also honouring him, when dead.”

Dale is thought to be the last casualty of the War of 1812. The battle took place after a peace treaty was signed in Europe in December 1814, but the news had not reached North America. The War of 1812 was the last armed conflict between the UK and US and the two countries later became firm allies.



Here the mayor of St George is seen with the wreath from The 1805 Club.

From *The Royal Gazette of Bermuda Feb 22 2021:*

“The last casualty of a 19th century war between the United Kingdom and the United States was remembered today.

A ceremony to commemorate Midshipman Richard Dale of the US Navy was held at St Peter’s Church, St George, where the young officer, aged 20 when he died in the Olde Towne, is buried.

Richard Spurling, chairman of the Friends of St Peter’s Church, which organises the annual event, said Mr Dale arrived in Bermuda on the captured USS *President* on January 29, 1815 and died on February 22. Mr Spurling added: “He had his leg amputated and quite possibly ultimately died of gangrene. Here, he was lovingly taken care of by the residents of St George’s for which his father, Commodore Richard Dale of the US Navy, remained eternally grateful and arranged for the tombstone in St Peter’s Churchyard that reads: ‘This stone records the tribute of his parents’ gratitude to those inhabitants of St George’s whose generous and

It was the 13th annual commemorative service organised by the Friends of St Peter’s Church. The ceremony was held in St Peter’s because of bad weather, rather than at the Bank of Butterfield on King’s Square, a former hotel where Dale died. David Frith, the St George Town Crier and a Pipe Major, led a march to the graveside at St Peter’s for a wreath-laying ceremony. Alan Purcell, the acting US Consul General, Rena Lalgie, the Governor, and George Dowling III, the Mayor of St George, laid wreaths. Sea Cadets from *TS Admiral Somers* were also on parade for the ceremony.

Tom Slawson, the priest in charge at St Peter’s, said: “We commemorate the young Midshipman as one of the last known American casualties of the battles of the sea of the war between the UK and US, begun in 1812. We give thanks to God that the enmity of those times have been supplanted by long-lasting and mutual relations.”

## LEARN ABOUT THE GEORGIAN ERA WITH THE HISTORIC MARKER DATA BASE

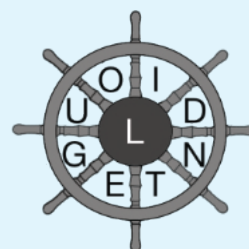
While the COVID pandemic restricts some travel, we can still visit far-away places virtually. One way is through the online Historic Marker Data Base at [www.hmdb.org](http://www.hmdb.org). The HMDB is a unique resource for travelers and students of history, offering a photo-filled collection of approximately 145,000 historic markers from all over the world. Graves, monuments, and statues are not allowed – only official, permanent markers. Every entry in the data base is placed by website users, making the data base a crowd-sourced product.

This is an exciting resource, which members of The 1805 Club can learn more about in the spring edition of *The Kedge Anchor* magazine, currently under preparation. Anyone who is not a member – just do it!



Arches overlooking Valetta Harbour, with the plaque inset.

## SHIP’S WORD WHEEL



Take a ten-minute break and find as many words as possible, using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the hub letter and at least 3, only once. No plurals (if only made with by adding an ‘s’ or ‘es’), no foreign words not in common usage in English, nor proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found.

Answers on page 4

Never forget that there is a whole treasure trove of interesting stuff frequently updated on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/The1805Club/>



## The Battle of Cape St Vincent (1797)

The third episode in the Mariner's Mirror Podcast special series on the Battle of Cape St Vincent, broadcast on 14 February 2021, offers a Spanish perspective on this most extraordinary battle provided by Dr. Agustín Guimerá and Dr. Pablo Ortega-del-Cerro, both from the Spanish National Research Centre in Madrid. Dr Guimerá, a member and Vice President of The 1805 Club, offers an analysis of the battle from the Spanish perspective. Dr Ortega-del-Cerro reads out an extract from the logbook of the Principe de Asturias, the flagship of Vice-Admiral Moreno, and certainly the best Spanish accounts of the battle. Both contributions are presented in English and then repeated in Spanish.

If you want to enjoy it, go to: [MM Podcast 14Feb](#)



## Nelson Was In Favour Of Inoculation

On 25 Feb 2021 RMG posted on their website:

'A letter from Admiral Lord Nelson to his lover Emma Hamilton written soon after the birth of their daughter sheds light on early attitudes to vaccination.

Admiral Lord Nelson's tacit support for vaccination has been revealed in a letter found at Royal Museums Greenwich. In the letter, Nelson encourages his lover Emma Hamilton to consider 'inoculating' their six-month-old daughter Horatia against smallpox.

"Yesterday, the subject turned on the cow-pox," Nelson says in the letter kept in the collections of the National Maritime Museum.

"A gentleman declared, that his child was inoculated with the cow-pox; and afterwards remained in a house where a child has the small-pox the natural way, and did *not* catch it," he writes.

The letter, dated 31 July 1801, was written just three years after Edward Jenner had published the first edition of his work *An Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolae Vaccinae*.

For more information, go to: [RMG Nelson and Inoculation](#)



## Changing the Club

In the spring edition of *The Kedge Anchor* we will be announcing the proposal, to be put before the AGM in May, to change the legal status of The 1805 Club.



## The Long And Short Of It

As was heard on "Have I Got News for You", BBC2 on 16 March, some tourists have been complaining about the lack of headroom on visiting HMS Victory. Yet they've been to Trafalgar Square and are amazed how tall Nelson is.



The copy deadline for the autumn

***Kedge Anchor* is  
21 September 2021**

Please never hesitate to offer articles for publication in *KA*, whoever you are.

## ORNC Nelson Room

The Nelson Room at the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich, is to be refurbished and consideration is being given as to whether The 1805 Club can be involved in this work in some way.



## Nelson's Wedding Anniversary

11 March 2021, marked the 234th anniversary of the marriage at Montpelier House, in the parish of St John Figtree on the island of Nevis, of Captain Horatio Nelson Royal Navy, Captain of His Majesty's Ship *BOREAS*, to Mrs Frances Nisbet, widow of an island physician. The union was conducted by the bride's uncle, the island President John Richardson Herbert, and was witnessed by HRH Prince William Royal Navy, Captain of His Majesty's Ship *PEGASUS*.

The good news associated with this is that the work on the conservation of the Church Register of St John Figtree, Nevis, that records this historic event has been able to recommence.



## Do You Have Naval Ancestors?

We are interesting in hearing from anyone, member or not, worldwide, if they have ancestors in one of the world's navies in the Georgian era (1714-1837). We would like information on who they were, their rank, where they served, which theatre of war if applicable, any actions in which they took part, what happened to them, etc.

Any information provided will be added, with your permission, to our vast resource of naval history that is gradually being collated into a form that will eventually be accessible to researchers online.

Do not let your ancestors be forgotten!



Please visit the website of The 1805 Club, where you will find all you want to know about us and where there are links to over sixty organisations, museums and societies, together with links to academic opportunities for study courses.

And don't miss the 'On This Day' feature that follows the calendar but is also available, through a link, for the whole year - handy for when you are planning celebrations!

<https://www.1805club.org>

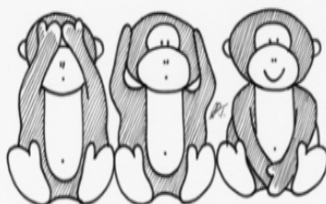


If you are a student or budding author seeking an opportunity to get your research published, The 1805 Club are always looking for interesting original and relevant articles for inclusion in *The Kedge Anchor*, our twice-yearly magazine, whether or not you are a member.  
 Contact the Editor.

### ANYONE FANCY A BEER?

Mementos of the 2010 events commemorating the bicentenary of Collingwood's death. Initiated by The 1805 Club and magnificently expanded by Newcastle City Council and others, the celebrations ran for 9 months. "Admiral's Ale" (5% ABV) was made around this time in Nelson's honour by the St Austell Brewery in Cornwall, with a label that captures something of his exuberance. "Collingwood 2010 Festival Ale" (4.1% ABV) was made for the occasion by Wylam Brewery, a few miles outside Newcastle. The Collingwood label shows his Tyneside statue in silhouette against fireworks, and could indicate his more modest character, living his outstanding career in Nelson's shadow.

(Photos courtesy of Stephen Howarth – How on earth can anyone keep bottles of beer unopened for more than ten years? (Ed.)



One out of three wise brass monkeys.

### SHIP'S WORD WHEEL ANSWERS

1 00 = Amazing  
 85 = Excellent,  
 60 = Good,  
 untill, untold, untie,  
 tolu, tulle, tute, untel, untill, untold,  
 tiled, tingie, tingled, toil, toiled, told,  
 'oldie, outtime, outline, telos, tide, tile,  
 'nodule, toil, ogled, oiled, olde, oliden,  
 'lungi, lute, luted, lutein, luting, lution,  
 'lunge, lunge, lunge, lunge, lunge,  
 'lot, lout, lounden, 'gunoi, 'gunoi,  
 'lodg, lodg, 'login, 'loin, lone, longed,  
 'lino, lino, linte, lion, lode, loden,  
 'lign, ligit, liden, lile, line, lised, limg,  
 'legion, legit, lent, lentigo, lento,  
 'indole, 'indulge, 'indult, 'intet, intel,  
 'doli, 'doli, 'dun, 'dun, 'dun, 'dun,  
 'giture, 'giture, 'giture, 'giture, 'giture,  
 'gint, 'gint, 'gint, 'gint, 'gint, 'gint,  
 'gald, 'gald, 'gald, 'gald, 'gald, 'gald,  
 'dole, 'dole, 'dole, 'dole, 'dole, 'dole,  
 'dilent, dilute, dingie, diol, dole, doline,  
 'dell, dentil, diel,  
 LONCITUDE, deli, denti, diel

### NAVAL TERMS THAT HAVE 'COME ASHORE'

**Brass monkeys** – Brass storage tracks for cannon balls were called monkeys and when the weather was cold it was not unusual for the iron balls to contract and fall through the holes, from which the expression **to freeze the balls of a brass monkey** has a much milder source than is usually believed.

### The Newsletter for Anyone Interested in The 1805 Club

**PURPOSE.** The purpose of this newsletter is to support and advance the Club's objectives. The newsletter provides anyone who is interested with brief items of news about the Club and its activities, in the hope that it can help the club attract wider interest in naval history and new members. Much of the content will be a précis of articles that will appear in *The Kedge Anchor*, the six-monthly Club magazine.

### EDITORIAL POLICY.

The editor has full editorial responsibility for the newsletter. Views expressed in the newsletter are those of individual authors, unless claimed by the editor. Articles which appear do not express the official position of The 1805 Club on any subject unless specifically noted as such. Content of contributions to the newsletter may be edited for grammar, space allocation, or to better serve the purpose of the newsletter. Contributors wishing to be alerted to editorial decisions should notify the editor at the time that their contribution is submitted. Otherwise the submission will be published within the scope of the editorial policy.

### ISSUE AND COPY DATES

The proposed issue dates for *The 1805 Dispatches* are:

February, April, June, August, October and December.

Anyone wishing to contribute an article or news item to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter should do so by the beginning of the month preceding the issue in which it is to be inserted. Any articles that are not time-specific can be submitted at any time, with a note advising him of that fact.

All copy is welcome, but not all copy may be used!

### THE 1805 CLUB

The 1805 Club was founded in 1990 and broadly:

- Promotes and engages in the preservation of monuments and memorials relating to the Royal Navy and seafaring people of the later sailing-navy era; and
- Promotes research into and education about the Royal Navy, merchant maritime service and other state navies of the same era; and
- Organises relevant cultural, historical and social events.

The Club is charity No. 1071871, registered in England and Wales.

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