

NOTE.

HENRY LANYON (NO.12)

His career is worthy of an extended notice. As a school boy he was taught navigation by Mr. Coombs of Coombs Lane, Truro, and in after life he joined the Royal Navy and was soon promoted to be a Sailing Master, and in that capacity acted under and manoeuvred Nelson's Ship at the Battle of the Nile. He also, under great disadvantages from the removal of the navigation marks and at the same time suffering from the recent loss of a leg from frost bite, which confined him to his quarters. He directed the steering through a relay of men, reaching from his berth to the man at the helm, an officer constantly sending him a report of the banks on each side of the river Chesapeake, and from that information, with the charts resting on his chest, he directed the steering perfectly, and without accident.

The operations following resulted in the capture of Washington in 1812. In the same war it was he who placed the British Flotilla before Detroit when it fell to the arms of England.

In common with the great proportion of the men who made up the Army and Navy of the United Kingdom, during the Napoleonic Wars, when peace was made Henry Lanyon was retired on half pay and lived in Union Place, Truro, Cornwall. His official status was Navigation Master. With him rested the care of and the working of the ship. He was not a man of arms. In his capacity, and the estimation in which he was held at the Admiralty in his profession, when George Prince of Wales and afterwards George IV attended in 1821 the marriage of Nicholas I, Emperor of Russia, said Henry Lanyon was fetched out of retirement as sailing master, to take the Prince's ship to St. Petersburg, and on the way took on board the King of Sweden and other Royal Personages, and for their safe conduct, they made him rare and valuable presents. The King of Sweden's present was a unique gold snuff box, which at the death of his daughter Henrietta, could not be discovered.

He was third son and fourth of the family of Richard Lanyon, and his wife who was Elizabeth Searle of the Parish of Newlyn East. He was born at Polstain in St. Allen, in 1781. Married his first cousin Isabella Lanyon, of Henvor, St. Allen, at said Parish Church, March 13th 1817. He died in Truro in 1862 and is interred in Kenwyn Church Yard, at the East end of the Church. The only member of their family who saw old age was their daughter Henrietta. She erected a stained glass window over the Communion Table in St. Allen Church, to the memory of her parents. Also gave the fine lectern costing £550 to Truro Cathedral, besides a house, used as offices, situated quite close to the Cathedral, and money donations to the building fund for the erection of the said cathedral.

Her name as Hariette Lanyon, the donor, is on the pillar of the lectern. Instead of Hariette it should be Henrietta.

The Writer of these notes, with his wife, at the special request of his cousin, the said Henrietta, attended with her the ceremonies at the opening of the Cathedral and had the honour to be invited at the Royal Breakfast.

Sam Lanyon.

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Gwinear is a Parish and Village with R.S. three miles East from Hale and eight West from Redruth. The church of St. Gwinear or St. Wynar, situated at elevation of 240 ft. above sea level is a