

THE BOTELER DIARY – COAST GUARDS AND WEATHER

© Copyright Diane Shaw & Lyme Regis Museum

Diary summarised by Diane Shaw, LRM Research Team, July 2012. Version No 1.0

This report is based on a bound, type-written version of a diary given to Cyril Wanklyn by a Mrs Bacchus in 1923 and subsequently donated to the museum in 1943. Date, and by whom, of transcription from original diary to typed version is not known. (The document used for these notes was a photocopy which showed that the original had been corrected or expanded by hand, possibly by Wanklyn?)

Three summaries have been made, one showing the day-to-day life of the couple, one focusing on Henry's Coast Guard work and notes on the weather, and the third looking at food and health of the family

First part of diary written by Henry Boteler in 1827 (June 25 – Oct 21), and the second and third parts by his wife after their marriage in 1829 (Dec 1-15, 1829 & April 21- Sept 17, 1830). There would appear to be other missing volumes.

Captain Boteler RN arrived to take up a position with the Coast Guard in the first week of July 1827, stationed in Lyme Regis.

People

Captain William Bowles became the Comptroller General of the Coast Guard in 1822. Captain Frankland and his brother **may** be Captain Edward Augustus Frankland, born 1794 at Yarlington, Somerset who became a Rear-Admiral who was buried in the English Cemetery in Florence in 1862, and Captain Charles Colville Frankland born 1797 in Bath and who died in Bath in 1876. I can find no proof that this is correct.

NB.R.C. before boat names means "Revenue Cutter"

July 1827

Sun 1st "Set out for Lyme Regis, Dorsetshire at 7.20 a.m. in the Umpire Exeter coach [from London]."

Mon 2nd "Arrived at Charmouth at 5 a.m. after a pleasant journey and fine night????"

Tue 3rd "Capt. Frankland and brother arrived at Lyme at 2.30 p.m. Dined with him..."

Wed 4th "Slept at Charmouth. Capt. Frankland rode to Chideock, his brother with us, on Riding Officers Horse."

Thur 5th "At Charmouth, rode to Beer and looked down upon Branscombe. Hired a horse for 5s. Capt. F and brother went on to Sidmouth."

Fri 6th "Breakfasted at Charmouth. Took up my quarters at Mr Edicotes (Hiscott's?) boarding house, Lyme. Walked to Exmouth (Axmouth?) by the cliff which proved most delightfully romantic and grand. Many parts very difficult. Inspected the men 1.30 p.m. This place is much troubled with agues from the Seaton marshes and the river Ax. Returned at 6.0 p.m. and visited the Cobb. Recd. A letter addressed to Capt. Frankland from Compt General."

Sat 7th "Found another letter from Lt. Hale Chideock. Visited and inspected the Lyme Cobb men in their exercises. R Cutter Rose and Eagle arrived, latter anchored for Capt. Frankland. In the evening walked to Chideock, found the coast wild and driving and difficult to pace. Returned later at midnight."

Sun 8th "Fine weather. Lt Com. R. C. Rose and Michael Becchin joined Beer from Harwich. Letter from Compt. General with four certificates enclosed. Wrote memo to require Lt. Hale

and Mr Aldridge to attend Court of Enquiry on Wm. (William) Fielden at the station. Rose at anchor, Eagle in sight. Received report of Revenue Cutters."

Mon 9th "Capt. Bowyer arrived in the Nimble R.C. from Exeter to preside at Court of Enquiry. Detained a launch from Portland belonging to Weymouth for not producing a licence. 3.30 received a letter from I.C. Exmouth with enclosures, charged 2/11. Visited Charmouth with Capt Frankland and Bowyer. Wrote to I.C. about the launch. "Two Brothers" Thomas Russell owner."

Tue 10th "Fine weather Received a Bill to pay for Capt. Frankland at Seaton. Attended the Court of Enquiry on William Fielder Rock man of Lyme Cobb. In the evening Capt. Frankland sailed in the Rose R.C. Bowyer in the Nimble. Capt. Spencer C B on board. Wrote 4 letters to Compt. Genl. Received one from L.H."

Wed 11th "Received 2 letters from Mr?? Abbotsbury (sic). Went in a boat to Axminster* and there inspected the Axminster* (Axmouth?) men in their exercise. Walked home by 6.0 p.m."

Thur 12th "Fine weather, received 2 letters from I.C. Weymouth and Ryde. Wrote to Frankland, Lt. Moor of R.C. Hawk called, sent a memo relative to the "Integrity". Walked the beach."

Fri 13th "Fine morning. Embarked in the Hawk at 8 a.m. to visit the Eastern stations. The land from Golden Cap very barren. The shore very bald from Bridport. And fine beach to Abbotsbury. The Defence R.C. Lt. Perkin called at Abbots. And Bridport. Recd. A letter from C. Genl. No 72.

granting travelling allowance."

Sun 15th "Fine weather. At 8 p.m., visited Charmouth, returned at 10 p.m., fine night. Copied several letters and made extracts fm others."

Mon 16th "Sent weekly report of Cruizing. Fine weather. 1 o'clock we embarked on bd. The Eagle R.C. to visit the Western Stations Arrived at Beer at 5 p.m. and Branscombe at 6. Inspected the new buildings, returned at midnight. 3 boats off pr. Beer. Recd. A parcel lanch (?) from C. Genl. 2s 10d.

Tue 17th "Fine weather. The Eagle in the offing. Wrote to the Collector Exeter about the slowness of the Branscombe buildings. Purchased a horse for £20 of Mr Haskins 14 hands 1 inch high and 3 year old... Drew in the morning for £50 and wrote to him. A letter to C. Genl. Acknowledging receipt of monthly Journal. Visited Charmouth, Sharpe better, returned 8.30. Then returned at 11 p.m. Mr Aldridge reports the Mary of Beer having sailed with 4 men on a fish⁹ ? trip. "(fish⁹ crossed out & smuggling written in the margin)

Wed 18th "Fine weather. &.30 a.m. walked to Axminster (Axmouth?). Inspected Journals at 9.30. 11.30 a.m. inspected men and took boat to Branscombe at 1. Saw Journals and walked with Mr. Martin to Beer. Took beech (boat?) to Axr thence to Lyme 5 p.m. Recd. A letter from I.C. Weyh. Of the sailing of Integrity. Letter from G.Gl. relative to Cruise. Com. Gen. party at Banister (Crossed out and Bennets inserted). Fire to the Eastward near Bridport. "Mary' Beer sailed"

Thur 19th "Discovered my Horses sight not good. Two letters from C. Genl. 71 and 74. Wrote No. 1 C.T. relative to the removal of Heath and Wood ceasing to receive pay." 32 casks swept up by Beer"

Fri 20th "Fine morning. Conferred with Mr Aldrich who report^d having delivered to C. House 32 casks of foreign spirits taken up at 3.30 p.m. on the 18th Ju. 11 a.m. went off in a boat to Golden Cap. Surf very high returned at six. Recd. No 74 from C. Genl. Conferred with Comr. of Seaton R.C. Mr Slacked (? Stocker) C.O. on leave 10 days. 11 p.m. visited the Western end of Lyme Cobb conferred with Thomas of Axminster returned at 2 a.m. fine night." "Fire on the 18 Bridport 10 houses burnt."

Sat 21st "Fine morning. Wrote a letter to C Genl. Reporting seizure of 22 casks beer. Rode to Chideock Bridport and Burton. Returned at 6.30 p.m. Burton Watch House very bad. Men at Bridport badly quartered. Letter from J. Poynter. 2 letters from C. Genl. Relative to removal of William Fielder and to reprimand him as boatman only." "Cold and stormy evening."

Sun 22nd Strong winds with incessant hard rains and thick wr. At 2 p.m. proceeded to the Watch House and before all the crewe (sic) reprimanded William Fielder, Boatman by C. Gen^{Ls} order 76 July 20th. Collector called to request all stores be removed from the Watch House in order to have it rebuilt. Recd. A note from Captn. Frankland yesterday by Collector, Mr Chambers. Gave riding officer 3 days leave of absence. 3.30 No 77 C. Genl. Relative to the building Lyme Cob (sic) Watch House. 6 p.m. Collector Exeter on the Branscombe buildings 1s 2d. Dined at Boarding Table at 9.30 p.m. With the Riding Officer visited Golden Cap and Charmouth, returned 2 a.m.”

Mon 23rd “Cloudy weather. Directed the stores to be removed in order to rebuild the Watch House. Called on Mr Chambers, Collector 9.30. Rode to Bridport and Burton, walked fm thence and back again to Abbotsbury. Examined the Burton Crewe in their exercise – very fatiguing heavy walk. Returned home at 6.30 p.m. William Fielder drunk and insolent to [space] Boat^m. Recd a letter in the night from Mr Martin C.O. Branscombe with enclosure: From Mr. Harper, contractor etc.

Tue 24th “Cloudy with rain. Wrote No 105 to C. Genl and enclosed Mr. Harper’s letter, gave Wm. Fielder a certificate of discharge to St. Osyth Stone Point Colchester. Captain Moriaty and Spencer called, Mrs S and little boy. Had my horse shod, all four. Dined at 5 with Capt. Moriaty who was well.

Wed 25th “Cloudy wh. At 10 rode to Beer thro Seaton 1 p.m. Mr Aldridge accompanied in a boat and back to Branscombe, inspected the buildings at 2 p.m. conferred with Mr Broadbridge R.O... Recd. Two letters from C. Genl. Circular No. 39 and one for Mr Stocker C.O. At 10 visited the Watch House and Black Vein (sic).”

Thur 26th “ Cloudy morning.2 “At 12 thick weather, called on Sir J Talbot and presented two letters if introduction from Adm. I and J Harvey. Called on Mrs Bollmar (Ballmar). 3.30 p.m. visited Chideock returned at 5, heavy squalls with rain and thick foggy weather. Rec. R.916 for Hopkins John of Branscombe.”

Fri 27th “Fine wh. discovered my horse had been severely kicked, sent for a farrier. ‘Mary Galley’ arrived at Beer yesterday morning 10.30 Walked to Axmouth at noon thence to Seaton, took Riding Officer’s horse to Beer 1 p.m. and Branscombe at 2 p.m. walked from Seaton home at 5.30. Recd. No. 78 C.G’s granting 7 days more leave to Mr Stocker C.O. The afternoon foggy with drizzling rain.

Sat 28th “Cloudy morning, made up a parcel for the Sigl.men Beer hand directed to Mr Martin Branscombe. Communicated with the Comr. of the Nimble who told me Capt. Bowyer wished to see me, wrote to him and related a report in circulation that the ‘Mary Gally’ of Beer had landed her cargo to the Westward. Mariner of the Eagle reported her arrival. Commander came at 5 p.m., walked to Chideock and Charmouth and returned at 11 p.m., fine night.

Sun 29th “Fine weather. Recd. A letter from Capt. Bowyer expressing a desire to see me on some information. Two letters from Comdr. Genl. No 79 desiring an estimate for reducing a boat and other cancelling R.916 John Hopkins Eagle off the Cobb. Capt. Spencer embarked for Ports^h. No news. Daw seen passing through. Home very late.

Mon 30th “Fine wh. at 1, Mr Place drove me and Mrs place to Chideock at 3.30 p.m., returned at 5.30 p.m.” “Capt. Spencer offered his horse”

Tue 31st “Fine wr. Rode Capt. Spencer’s horse to Burton at 9 a.m. and Riding officer’s to Abbotsbury and back. Inspected the whole of that crew in exercise. Returned at 6.30 having visited Bridport and Chideock. Recd Rover and my traps by Sylvia R.C.”

August 1827

Wed 1st “Fine weather. Comr. Of Tartar called at [space]. 3.30 recd. A letter G.M. 36 from C. Genl. Including a list of dismissals.” “Wrote to C.G. No 107 enclosing an estimate for reducing 8 oared galley to 6 oared. Fine night engaged in making up monthly pay lists and journals. Wrote to Capt. Bowyer to appoint a meeting at Colyford. Wrote to Tom, Navel Club about my saddle.”

Thur 2nd “Fine wr. Recd. Bridport, Abbotsbury and Chideock Journals. Sent 2 sick reports and monthly return of stores by Bridport, Mon. At noon visited Charmouth. Dined at Sir I (J)

Talbot's Col. And Mrs McDonald there. At midnight accompanied the watchman and visited the Western Guard. Returned at 2.30 a.m." "Lymington Letter from Mr. Stocker 9d. Returned on the 7th inst."

Fri 3rd "Cloudy morning and thick with rain. Wrote No. 108 enclosing 5 sick reports. Sent monthly journals per coach 2d. and No 7 Beer seizure. At 11 rode to Branscombe, Beer and Seaton. Examined with Mr. Martin C.O. every past pass &c of his guard at 3 p.m. Retd. At 6.30 p.m. recd. 2 letters from C. Genl. No. 80 circular No G. M. 40. Squally wr. rain."

Sat 4th "Cloudy wr. with occasional rain. Called on Places, Adderley and Moriarty, visited the watch house. Discharged Thomson who had charge of my horse and hired Jno. Brown a lad from Sun 5th at 4/- per week. Dined at boarding table at 7.0 walked to Colyford to meet a Beer man by the appointment of Capt. Bowyer at 9 p.m. who acquainted me that much smuggling was going on thro the misconduct and negligence of my men that Mr Aldrich and his crew frequently to a late hour were drinking at the smugglers houses – several houses. say 20, sold cider and foreign spirits without licence. Tuesday or Wednesday fortnight a landing was effected (?) at the East end of Charton Bay recommends the Beer Galley always being in the sinking ground whenever the smugglers galleys proceed to sea, to prevent them getting their tubs in , that one or two men from Beer are removed to the Lyme Cobb crew. Desired him to meet me at 9 p.m. Sunday, bringing a written account of all his information. Returned with the Riding Officer, who met me by order at the 4th mile stone, at 11 30 p.m. Fine night. D. light."

Sunday 5th "Cloudy wr. At 8.30 conferred with the Comr. Morgan of the Sprightly R.C. John Brown commenced his duty, fine wr. called on Mrs Spencer 3.30. Recd. 2 letters from Compt. Genl. And Colr. Of Exeter former 80 enclosing 5 Sick tickets the other to say the alteration of the bay window at Branscombe is recd. and ordered. Walked out in the evening very fine moonlight, no news and nothing off Beer."

Mon 6th "Fine wr. At 5 walked to Chideock 7.50 p.m. Retd. At 11.0 p.m. Fine night sent weekly returns of Cruizers.

Tue 7th "Fine wr. wrote a memo relative to dispatching a boat to the Beer Sinking Ground. Mr Stocker returned from leave dined at boarding table 6.0. Proceeded to Colyford to meet an informer W.M. Cox who gave me a written account of all he related in Saturday's meeting. Fine D. light night, returned at 11.30 p.m. Riding O in Co."

Wed 8th "Fine wr. At 10 rode to Beer, dispatched a letter to Capt. Bowyer relative to my intention of arresting Wm. Smith and RT Bartlett smugglers who had deserted from His Majesty's Navy. Mr Aldrich first accompanied me in a boat to Axmt. Where we took Wm. Smith and on our return found R.T. Bartlett in custody of the Chief boatman. Gave Mr Aldrich orders to detain them and remove them on bd. The first Cutter that may arrive till further orders. Returned at 6.0 p.m. Recd. A letter 7d from I.C. Exmth. Appointing to meet me at Sidmouth Monday, 13th inst. Two removals 924 125 recd. A letter from R.C. Exmouth by Riding Officer."

Thur 9th "Fine morning, Nimble and Tarter in the offing, went on board the former, mustered her crew 18 in No. and examined the two prisoners she recd. On board in the morning at Beer. Tarter in the Cobb. Sent my letter No. 111 August 8th to C. Genl. Informing him of the detention etc of Wm. Smith and Rt. Bartlett deserted smuggler also No 947 John Budden. Dined at boarding table, Cmr of Tarter called."

Fri 10th "Fine wr. Tartar in sight. Blowing strong...1.0 rode to Axmouth 2.30 returned at 4.30 wrote No 112 stating further particulars relative to the deserters, Wm. Smith and Rt. Bartlett. Recd No 82 from C.Genl. ordering the reduction of an 8 oar'd galley. And when finished to be reported. Wrote to Tom to be sent to-morrow wh. affidavit. Recd. A letter in the evening to say the owner of Wm. Smith's vessel would pay 100£ for his release. Comr. Of Tartar called."

Sat 11th "Fresh wind with occasional showers. Comr. of Tartar called to say he had remained on shore for the night being too unwell to go on bd. Chief mate of the Sprightly called with a note to offer to take me to Exmouth. 9 a.m. rode to Bridport 11.30 a.m. Burton 12.30 Abbotsbury, 1.30 p.m. returned at 5.0. Took an affidavit before Dr. Carpenter."

Sun 12th "Fine and showery. Sent a letter to Tom wh affidavit, wrote to Adm. T. Harvey dated the 13th inst. No. 113 13th to Compt. Genl. About the removal of R.C. Widdicombe letter to Frankland 13thRcd. No. 83 and Circular No. 42. Dined at boarding table, evening rain sent memo relative to Broadsword exercise."

Mon 13th "Cloudy wr. inclinable to rain. Took Capt. Norris' horse to Colyford for Sidmouth arrived at Sidford at 10.30 and Sidmouth 11.30. Capt. Bowyer came soon after 12.0. remained wh. him till 3.0 returned home at 7.20. p.m. exceedingly wet. Dined at house Rcd. [space] agreed to purchase the horse 25 guineas." Saddle arrived. Lt Scriven respecting seizure one cask of spirits on the 11th August 7.30."

Tue 14th "Cloudy wh. rain at intervals 11.0. rode pony to Charmouth 12.0 a.m. Returned at 2.p.m. Dined at Boarding table. Stormy and constant rain, letter No.114 to C.Genl. relative to seizure of one cask of spirits at Abbotsbury. Turned my horse into Mr Pigeon's field, 5/- per week."

Wed 15th "Fine wr. 9 a.m. rode to Abbotsbury Bridport and Burton. Examined the spit where cask of spirit was taken at Abbotsbury fm. Northman. Paid Capt. Norris £26/5/- for mare. Wrote No. 115 August 15" John Buddins certificate. Investigated the seizure made by Mrs (?) Seivens crew. No blame attached to Fry but bad judgment of purchase. 1 Extra man."

Thur 16th "Cloudy Wr. Wrote No116 August 16th relative to Broad sword exercise. No person in this distr. Communicated wt. Comr. of Nimble. C. Mate of Hawk sent his tokens wh. a letter to Mr. Aldrich. Rode to Axmouth 3.0 then ret'd. At 5.30 p.m. Evening at Capt. Halsted's recd – 9d- a letter from Ryde I.C. one no 84 August 14 fm. C. Genl."

Fri 17th "Cloudy wh. rain Comr. Of Tartar called. Wrote to Sparshott and Tom – for to-morrow's post also Browning with affidavit. Heavy storms of rain 7.0 p.m. walked to Colyford for information ret'd. At 11.30 p.m. Riding Officer meeting me at the Lyme Turnpike. Dined at boarding table."

Sat 18th "Rain Cloudy wr. sent Sparshott's Tom's and Browning's letters. Dr Carpenter called 11.30 rode to Beer boat to Branscombe 5.50 Ret'd. 7.30 p.m. Recd a letter wh. bills enclosed from Richard, heavy showers Beer people in great trouble about the two smugglers retaken. Comr. Nimble called Lyme Comr. Sprightly Beer."

Sun 19th Cloudy and sultry. Wrote to James Poynter of Deal. Recd. Gn. No 43 August 18th relative to Sig^r. Balls. Detained Wm Hicks and Rt Webb for having 2 lbs tea in their possession. Dined at boarding table, rain. Capt. Spencer arrived in Arrow King's Cutter from Portsmouth.

Mon 20th "Rainy wr. Magistrates discharged the 2 men taken yesterday. Wrote to the C. G. about them No.117 August 31st (21st) Comr. of Nimble called to take me to Weymouth rode to Axmouth 1.0 p.m. 3.30. 6.0 p.m. made arrangements for straw etc for horses, heavy rain."

Tue 21st Sent No 117 August 21 C.G. and James Poynder (? Poynter), Deal. 9.0 rode to Abbotsbury Burton and Bridport 2.30 rtd. 6.0 p.m. wet through recd. Letter from Mr Aldrich C.O. stating the sailing of the Black-eyed Maid 21st gave information to Mr. Ward to be forwarded to Mr Seivens.

Wed 22nd "Cloudy wr. wrote 2 memos. For Mr Seivens and Ward Pt. Patrollers. Borrowed one bushel of oats fm. Mr Underhill, Cups. 2.0 walked to Chideock 4.0 p.m. ret'd. 7.0 p.m. Inspected the erection of the Watch House there. Recd. Buddens nomination on N947 Letter from Wm. Cox Seaton, Beer 9d on subject relative to the revenue."

Thur 23rd "Fine morning. Comr. Of Nimble breakfasted with me. Arrived from regatta at Weymouth beat the Tartar and others. Wrote to Mr Hale directing the watchman to be wholly for the use of the service. Recd. Mrs Sotwells Bill £6.1.2d due to-morrow for 24th August. Nimble sailed for Beer and Exmouth, rode to Beer, Branscombe and Seaton. Recd. A note from Capt. Sparshott."

Fri 24th "Fine wr. Rode to Whitmarsh (? Whitchurch) and Charmouth, ordered hay of James Mills, farmer 20 cwt. Recd. A letter G.M. 44 enclosing dismissals letter fm. Mr Ward C.O. Bridport." "Letter fm. Mr. Seivens C.O."

Sat 25th "Fine wr. recd. A letter and note from Mr. Martin C.O. detailing a seizure of 22 half ankers and 4 flaggons of foreign spirits Aug. 24, Friday Mr Martin C.O. called Comr. of Hawk

R.C. and recd. a letter from Mr Seivens reporting capture of I. Northern smugglers." "Wrote 118 reporting seizure at Beer of 26 casks of foreign spirits sent on 26th August, Sunday." Sun 26th "Very fine morning. Wrote 119 acknowledging the receipt of 7 copies of acts. Comr. of Nimble called embarked on board. Nimble at 10 a.m. Branscombe at Noon and arrived at Exmouth 2.30 p.m. Church with Capt. And Mrs Bowyer dined with them and slept at Globe."

Mon 27th "Fine wr. walked to Topsham. Spent a pleasant day with Patch's. %30 p.m. walked to Exmouth spent the evening with the Bowyers very kind rcd. a letter forwarded by Riding Officer through Mr. Stocker C.O. Lyme Cobb, 3d."

Tue 28th "Very fine wr. slept at Globe and breakfasted with Bowyer at 10.30 accompanied him to Buley (Budleigh) Salterton and Sidmouth 1.30 p.m. embarked wh. him on bd. The Nimble R.C. landed him at Weston Bay, called at Beer 3.30 p.m. arrived at Lyme 5.30 p.m. recd. G.M. relative to verdigris etc. etc. No news, pilot missing fm. Beer. Dined at home, drank tea with boarding family. Tartar off the Cobb, Nimble sailed to Eastward, fine night, signed the journals 9.30 p.m."

Wed 29th "Fine wr. Wrote No 120 August 30th and memo to the stations 29th August !2 rode and called on Sir I (J?) Talbot, Chideock 3.30 p.m. rtd. At 5.0 p.m. fine evg."

Thur 30th "Fine morning, wrote R924 sent 120 abd letter to Sparshott 10.0 rode to Beer boat to Branscombe 4.30 p.m. re^d. at 7.0 received No 86 August 29th relative to the seizure of tea and owing to having detained the men not advisable to prosecute them. Letter from Adml. J .H."

Fri 31st "Fine wr. rode to Burton walked to Abbotsbury 3.0 p.m. Back to Burton returned at 4 7.0 p.m. letter from Billy Cox Beer, visited Bridport and Chideock. [Concord sailed from Beer.]"

September 1827

Sat 1st "Fine wr. Made some calls, Maltbag and Black eyed Maid returned to Beer supposed to have sunk their cargoes. [Moon (?) Light fine. Maltbag and black eyed Maid returned. Supposed to have moored cargo. Mary returned at 1.0 p.m.]

12.0 visited and mustered the Nimble's crew 17 on board – 2 smugglers – Letter private fm. Sparshott. Mary Galley returned to Beer at 1.p.m. and covered French vessel supposed to have towed her over. Recd. Bridport, beer and Branscombe Journals."

Sun 2nd "Fine wr. Recd. Lyme, Axmh. And Charmouth Journals. Conferred with Mr Stocker C.O. 1 o.c. rode to Charmouth, returned at 3.p.m. recd. Abbotsbury Journal and return of cruizers Letter from Mr Seivens stating that Scr. Hoskins remanded for a month in consequence if an informality on the part of the magistrates. [Recd. No 87 C.G. Sept 1st Dined with Capt. Spencer C.B.] [Letter from Com. Poynter Wrote Nos C.Gl. 123, 124 and 125 dated Sept 3rd made up month^y journals.]"

Mon 3rd "Sent Nos 123, 124 and 125 Sept 3rd to C. Genl. Also per post monthly journals. Sent weekly return of cruizers, fine morning wrote district order relative to exercise and firing at a mark. 10. Rode to Beer inspected at 2.0 p.m. the Beer and Branscombe crews in exercise and firing at a mark. 17 Balls hit it. Capt. Norris and I dined together drunk too much wine, slept on sofa till 12.0!!!"

[Boat, 2 men and 2 tubs seized at Seaton by Mr. Aldrich.]

Tue 4th "Fine wr. Comr. Of Sprightly called at 9.30 a.m. embarked at 10.0 a.m. to muster his crew 18 in no. returned at 11.30 or 12 a.m. wrote a memo about the conveyance of letters along the shore, wrote 126 Sept. 6th to C. Genl. Relative to the Pilot Galley in reply to his of 87 Sept. 1st. Heard from Mr. Stone who defended Northouse that he was convicted but remanded in consequence of the magistrates omitting to offer their respective signatures to the information. Dined at home, Captain J Halsted tea'd with me. [Letter from Billy Cox]"

Wed 5th "Cloudy wr. 12.0 rode to Humble farm and inspected the whole of the Lyme Cobb Crew at their exercise and firing at a mark 45 balls through it! Returned at 5.0 conferred wh. Messers. Martin and Aldrich Customs officers. Recd. Nos. 88 89 fm. C. Genl. Sept 4th."

Thur 6th "Fine wr. 10.0 tried the life apparatus fired the Masters and the line at 45°, 6 oz. 172 and 178 yards 7oz. 30° 191 yards. Capt. Spencer tried his life-boat, visited Charmouth 2.0 p.m. returned at 5.0 recd. 90, 91 circular 47 Sept. 5th also a parcel pr. Coach containing M^y. journals 2s. 2d. wrote to I.C. Ex^h. to send Smith and Bartlett on bd. A King's ship at Plymouth Enclosed to Comr. of Nimble in Sprightly R.C. Beer. Dined at boarding table, wrote 127 and 128 Sept. 7th, C.G." [Sent 2 No.7 to each 18 No. station Sept 8th sick Certificates to Mr Seivens by Patroller.] [Recd. a tun of hay fm. Mr. Jn. Mills. Repairing a stable.]

Fri 7th "Fine wr. Sent Nos. 127, 128 Sept. 7th 10. Rode to Chideock and Shencombe inspected at 1.0 p.m. the Bridport and Chideock crews in their exercise and firing at a mark 13 balls hit. Fine wr. returned at 5.0 recd. a letter fm. Collr. and Compr. Weymouth 2s 4d which had been addressed to the Board and sent by C.G. to me wh. his minute to report upon to Sepr. 8th No 129 Mr Aldrich seized a boat 2 men wh. 2 casks between the Ax. And Seton (sic) reported enclosing his Sepr. 8th 1.30 wrote 131 to (Sepr. 8th 0 to acknowledge receipt of 7 Sig^l. Books per coach 2s. 8d. wrote to Sparshott about Jas Northover, dined at home, Hawke off Bridport. Mr Aldrich C. O. Beer called. Mr. Stocker to Bridport." [R.C. in Beer The boat off Tubs in 2 No 7's returned with one from Burton not required.] [Sent memo to R. Cutter to receive 2/3 two smugglers at Beer.]

Sat 8th "Fine wr. Comr of Nimble No Tartar called. Sent Nos. 129, 130 and 131 to C.G. Coll^r of Lyme called. Capt. Norris breakfasted wh. me. Seizure made at Weymouth by C. O. and Eagle 83 Tubs and 3 men. Supplied the stations wh. 6 Sig^l. Book and order 2. Embarked on bd. The Tartar R.C. to muster her crew. Retd. At 4.30 p.m. dined at boarding table. Recd. a letter from Billy Cox 5d. No news, d – him!! Invitation from Sir J. Talbot answered, wrote to Ambrose Poynter for to-morrows post declining to visit Topsham. Abbotsbury business preventing me the pleasure. Fine night [Wrote to Cox. Dated Sept. 9th. Wrote to Sparshott enclosing letter from Lt. Long to Sir F. Manning." *[Sir Ambrose Poynter was an English architect. He was one of the founding members of the Institute of British Architects.]*

Sun 9th "Blowing hard with occasional rain from S.W. Sent letters to Sparshott morning enclosed one from Lt. Long, R.N. Wrote to Lady Talbot and letter to Poynter. Heavy rain, read a letter written by Wm. Collard to the Treasury with an order from C. Genl. To report upon etc Mr. Aldrich reports the sailing of the Cato with 3 Beer men abd. on a smuggling trip. Dined at Boarding Table." [Sent Memo to Comr. Sprightly to allow prisoners to have access to legal council (sic).]

Mon 10th "Thick rainy weather. Sent report of cruizers enclosed Collard's letter to Mr. Hale C.O. Chideock. Memo etc to Abbotsbury Rode to Axmouth. Constant and heavy rain. Letter from Mr. Aldrich reporting tub of impure spirits floating off Beer mouth at 9 a.m. Took mare in Poole's stable."

Tue 11th "Squally with heavy rain fm. S.W. rode to Charmouth 1 p.m. letter fm. Mr. Aldrich reporting another cask of impure spirits appears to have been 10 months in the water letter fm. C.G. 92 "not sufficient ground for prosecuting the Pilot" wrote to Mr. Seivens, went in a car to Sir J. Talbot, heavy rain."

Wed 12 "Squally wr. rain. Hale (hail?) also. Called on Collr and Comtr. Discovered an omission in not forwarding the Collector of Weymouth's letter with my report upon it 8th Sept. 127. Sent a note of thanks to Mr. Place for his stable. 11.0 rode to Beer walked to Branscombe 4.0. Retd. 7 p.m. Wrote Nos. 132, and 133 Sept. 13 for to-morrow's post. Rcd. 2 letters 1fm. Billy-Con 5d and 1 fm. Mrs. Patch Dined at home invite to Halsted's too tired. Invite fm. Major Brice, reprimanded Wilson Signalman Beer."

Thur 13th "Fine wr. 9 rode to Mr. Davies' beyond Burton walked to Abbotsbury 1.30 p.m. Bridport 4.30 p.m. Met Mr. Hale at Chideock 6.0 p.m. 2 letters fm. Comp Gl. No 48 G.M. Sept 8th 1827 49 G.M. Septm. 1827 Note fm. Mr. Aldrich requesting a mast and yard. Returned at 7.0 p.m. to dinner. Sent nos. 132 and 133 6d. (Chas.) Harvey joined Beer from Ire^d. recd. Pay to 31st ultimo." [R.W. gave 2 oz. of nitre to horses.]

Fri 14th Fine wr. Capt. Norris breakfasted wh. me and left for Taunton afterwards. Paid Pigion (Pidgeon?) for horse at grass. And corn to Sir J. Talbot. Ordered a sack of oats fm. Bonner, Axminster, wh. Tax! Tompson empd. cutting a horses hair etc had the mare's shoes taken off and faced the hoofs. Visited the new Watch House. Ordered a mast and yard to be made for the Beer boat 1.30 rode to Chideock saw Roper, contractor for the new Watch house, spoke to Mr. Collard about his writing to Lords of the Treasury. 3.30 p.m. retd. At 6.p.m. letter 5d fm. Beer Billy-Cox. Wrote No. 134 Sept. 15 to go to-morrow wh. 5 enclosed relative to Wm. Collard. Wrote to Mrs. Place, Adderly and Bosier. Fine wr. visited the Watch House." [Nimble picked up a raft of 108 tubs belong to old Rottenburg (Rattenbury).] [Met Mr. and Mrs. Hale near Chideock in a cart.]

Sat 15th "Fine wr. Pd. Mrs. Estcott (? Hiscott) £5 3s. Physicked the mare, sent No. 134/5 11.30 rcd. A letter fm Riding Officer fm. Mr. Aldrich reporting the sailing of Beer Galley with 4 men sailing on a smuggling trip also of the Nimble having found the Black eyed Maid's buoy and a raft of 108 tubs. Capt. Adderly called, recd. a bridle and cloth fm. Capt. Norris £1.18s. 1.30 rode to Axⁿ. 3.0 retd. 6.0 p.m. Recd. 3 letters fm. C.GI. confidential Sept. 14 circular Sept. 16 and G.M. 50 Sept 16 1827. Letter from Cox, Beer. Wrote to I.C. Ex^m. enclosing Cox's letter."

Sun 16th "Fine wr. Mr. Stocker called and looked over all the papers left for me by Capt. Frankland to ascertain the authority for having 6 extra men at Lyme Cobb. Exercised the mare by Brown. Sent letter and enclosure fm. Billy Cox to Capt Bowyer. 3.0 walked to Chideock. 4.30 p.m. and landed to wd. Of Golden Cap, 6.30 p.m. received R.991 14 Sept. 1827 Richd. Glazon Balbriggan Dublin for Abbots^y. boatman, fair evg. A man belonging to Beer seen yesterday passing thro' Chideock fm. Mail Coach. Mr. Stocker off in the boat. [Five casks taken boat escaped 9 supposed to have been run Abbotsbury.]

Mon 17th "Fine wr. 10 rode Kilmington 12.30 p.m. to attend the examination and conviction of James and Saml. Trott the first sent to gaol and the other on bd. The Sprightly for Plymouth. Retd. at 5. p.m. recd. a letter from Lt Seivens reporting a seizure of 5 casks of foreign spirits fm. a boat unknown on the morning of the 16th instant. Dined at boarding table Mr. Stocker off in the boat.

Tue 18th "Fine wr. Wrote to C. Gl. 135 18th Sept to report the conviction of James Trott and Saml. Trott. No 136 Sept 18th enclosing Lt. Seivens letter of seizure on the 16th of 5 casks etc. Rode to Beer and Seaton. ..recd. No. 93 Sept 17th relative to Widdicut being in debt at the Isle of Wight."

Wed 19th "Fine wr. 7 Rode to Abbotsbury Noon Bridport and Burton conversed wh. Mr Seivens relative to the seizure on the 16th instant retd. At 5. Dined with Capt. Adderley R.N. Billingham in the evening." [(? Bellingham's) – this may be the first mention of his future in-laws.]. Recd. a letter fm. Capt. Bowyer wishing to meet me at Sidmouth Monday next. Mate of Eagle called." [20 brace of birds from Mrs Ballmar.]

Thur 20th Fine wr. Mr Stocker called to give me his letter to accompany my confidential of this date to W.C.GI. Rode to Chideock 2, 4.30 retd.at 6 p.m. Recd. two letters from C. Gl. No 94 and [space] Sept. 19th relative to Wm. Collard and to report particulars of seizure at Abbotsbury on the 16th September. Wrote and sent 137 Sept 20th in circular 49 July 29 1826. Letter from Cox!!!!

Fri 21st "Sent confidential letter with one enclosed fm. Stocker relative to having a Tender and of the present force of the Lyme Guard. Mate of Eagle called, purchased an owl. Sent information of Webby pilot of Axmouth being gone on a Signalling trip. Went off in a boat belonging to Mr Farnal (? Farnall). Called on Adderley. Strong gales from S.W. with occasional rain. Recd. G.M. 52 20th September and forwarded it to the Chief Officer to be entered in their order books. Rain and evening at Halsteads.2 [Letter fm. Mr Broadbridge 2 letters fm. Lt. Seivens relative to the Seizure of the 16th.]

Sat 22nd "Cloudy with rain. Blowing strong from S.W. Wrote to Capt. Bowyer offering to meet him Monday at Sidmouth also Nos 138/ with estimate for shuts for the Lyme Watch House and 139 in reply to enquiries about the seizure of 5 casks at Abbotsbury on the 16th. Both dated the 22 Sept. – 6.30 Sarah launched at Lyme Cobb, 2 rode to Axmouth 4.30 p.m. retd. At 6. p.m. Evening at Spicers." [Strong gales S.W. wh. rain Thunder and Lightning.]

Sun 23rd. "Strong gales, rain S.W. wrote to Capt. Jackson enclosing a copy of the No. of stations and smugglers. Wrote No. 140 Sept 24 reporting the 6 said boats being complete, certified 3 Bills for the same £6.12. – Wrote to Lt. Long enclosing Sir T. Manning's letter. Charmouth rode to. {Wrote to Bowyer} [Recd. a letter from Comp. Genl. With 14/Papers enclosed corrections for Sig. Book.]

Mon 24th "Strong gales S.W. Boatman of the Eagle cal'd to receive money to subsist his boat crew left by the Eagle, gave him one pound 8.0 rode to Abbotsbury, Burton and Bridport. 2 p.m. gave Mr. Seivens 4 reports of seizure and 2 corrections for Sig. Book. Returned at 7 p.m. recd. a report of seizure printed, fm. Mr. Aldrich, Beer, 2 Tubs and boat seized on the 7th instant. [Mr Seivens shooting]

Tue 25th " Strong gales and squally, sent 4 more reports of seizure to Mr. Seivens, issued corrections for Sig. Book gave Mr. Aldrich a Book for entering the sailing and arrival Beer suspicious boats. Sent Bag to Topsham Fm postman Rain and squally. Rode to Beer Head 12, arrived at 4.0 to 4.30 and returned at 6.0. Eagle's men and boats still on shore. Heavy rain with strong gales."

Wed 26th Strong gales. Sent to C.G. a seizure letter (s. 6) from Mr Aldrich C.O. Beer. 10 rode to Branscombe arrived at (space) p.m. thence to Topsham at 6.0 p.m. Evening at Patch's." Rainy wr. [30 or 40 Tubs floating off Abbottsbury Sea too rough to launch a boat.]

Thur 27th "Cloudy and fine at times. Poynter drove me to Exmouth to see Bowyer at 1.30."

Fri 28th "Cloudy wh. rain. At 12 rode to Ex^h. missed Bowyer at 2.P.m. retd at 4.30 p.m."

Sat 29th "Cloudy wr. but occasionally fine at 10. Set out for mu return to Lyme. 2. Branscombe, 3.50 Beer. Lyme 5.30 p.m. Wrote to Bowyer enclosing list of stations and Mrs. Tom's letter. Recd. from Mr. Stocker R.1035, 1036. Mr. Aldrich Lt. Brown R.N. 24th Sept 1827, Nos 97, 25 Sept. 98. 28th Sept. letter wh. Toms fm. Sparshott 27th Mrs. T Hayes (space) Wm. Cox, Beer and three notes fm. Mr. Aldrich, one fm. Lt. Seivens." [Pilot returned wh. 3 men missed her tubs.]

Sun 30th "Fine wr. Stuffed an owl. Seaton to see Mr Tanner, Surgeon relative to Vernir"

October 1827

Mon 1st "Fine wr. rode to Abbotsbury, Burton and Bridport, departed at 8 a.m. 2 p.m. retd. 6 p.m. [6Casks picked up floating by Lyme Cobb.]

Tue 2nd [Amitie arrived and sailed wh. 3 Beer men on board.] Fine wr. 11.0 p.m. walked the beech (corrected to beach), Cobb to Charmouth 2.30 a.m. returned at 3.30 a.m. Letter fm. Lt. Hale. 3 tubs picked up floating recd. 7 G.M. 51. Forwarded 6 to stations R.1069 October 1. R. 1070 October 1. Wrote R. 1047 Chas. Vaughan Axmouth. Recd. Abbotsbury and Bridport Journals, 2nd Octr. [3 Tubs picked up floating by Charmouth crew.]

Wed 3rd "Fine morning. Sent Nos. R. 1047 Octr. 2nd 142 October 3rd. S.4.5.6.7. Abbotsbury 21st June, 3rd July 11th August 16th September 1827. Embarked in Farnals boat for the westd and returned at 6.0 p.m. {work or pleasure} Spencer, Halstead and Stocker dined with me. One cask picked up by Lyme boat."

Thu 4th "Fine wr. Sent No. 143 October 4 with one enclosed fm. Mr Aldrich requesting the accommodation of a letter to remove his family. Recd. a letter fm. I.C. Ryde 9d and at night walked the beach to the westward". [3 casks picked up by Lyme Boat.]

Fri 5th "Fine wr. Conferred with the Commanders of Eagle and Nimble mustered the latter's crew. Desired Mr. Peake to show Mr. Stocker to mark Beer smugglers, morning sent 144 October 5th referring to No. 112 August 10 relative to the apprehension of 2 deserters. 1.0 rode to Beer conferred with Messrs. Aldridge and Martin, drank tea at Mr. Billman Kennedy's". [Comr. of Hawke called.]

Sat 6th "Fine wr. Wrote Nos. 145 and 146 October 6th for the 7th post seizure Lyme Cobb Nos 4 and 5 October 3 and 4th. Called on Billingham (? Bellingham) received Lt. Seivens quarterly accounts and demands, bills etc. 1.0 p.m. rode to Chideock 4.0. Rtd. At 7.0 p.m. Received G.M. 53 Sept. 29 R. 1058 5 Octr. Charles Vaughan No. 100 October 5th refusing a cutter, fr. Mr. Aldrich C.O. requesting an additional reward for the apprehension of John

Nias. Wrote to Bowyer, wrote to Mr. Aldrich October 7th to proceed to Hunstanton forthwith with pr. Order C. Genl. 100 Oct. 5th."

Sun 7th "Fine wr. Employed making up the quarters accounts, wrote to Frankland, walked with Billingham R.C. in sight unknown. Called on Mrs Kennedy etc. Evening at Halsteads, blue devils."

Mon 8th "Cloudy wr. with a strong wind from the Southd. Sent weekly reports of cruisers and letters to Frankland ordered Charles Vaughan to proceed to Teignmouth 9.0 to Abbotsbury 12.30 retd. At 7.0 Horse fell much cut, bargained for Mr Davis' horse. Blowing hard with much rain. Mrs Mann's party, danced. Light casks picked up by the Lyme crew in the surf long in the water."

Thur 9th "Blowing hard S.W. rain wrote to Capt. Sparshott about a woman named Mrs. Stewart who arrived yesterday to meet her husband James Stewart. Letter fm. Bowyer, Exmouth. One cask of impure spirits picked up in the surf at Beer."

Wed 10th "Hazy wr. little wind Recd. Chideock Bills. Mr. Aldrich called to report 3 casks picked up by Nos. 2 and 4 at the back of Beer. Rode to Branscombe and Beer to enquire into the particulars of the seizure Wrote Nos. 147 and 148 October 10th."

Thur 11th "Squally wr. occasional rain. Wrote Nos 149, 150, 151, 152, October 11th. Sent Oct. 12. Rode to Chideock Pan Rover hurt by man, enquired into Chideock Bills. Mr Aldrich called Letter from Sparshott relative to Mrs Stewart."

Fri 12th "Fine wr. Wrote dated Oct. 10. Monthly reports in duplicate on the state of smuggling and sent for local quarterly returns and Pd 2d. O be joyful!!!!" [Seaton to be entered in Journal if necessary.]

Sat 13th "Fine wr. wrote No. 153 October 13 enclosing one for Lts. Martin and Aldrich claiming participation of Nimble seizure and sent S. Lyme Cobb No. 6. Rode to Beer 1 p.m. 4 – 6.30 p.m. Sent 6 sand Boats by Eagle Fm Isle of Wight. Comr. Of Eagle called to confer with me." [Recd. C. Gl. 2 Reports on smugglers Letter from Sparshott G.M. Oct. 11 No. 9560.]

Sun 14th "Rainy wr. Comr. Of Nimble called with Nos. 154, 155, 156/Oct. 14th Recd. yesterday from Mr. Aldrich 7 No. 8 Lists of those entitled to share in seizures. Recd a letter from Coll. And Comptr. Exeter requesting estimates to be sent for erecting a wall round the cottages at Branscombe. Rainy evening." [West end of Lyme Cobb.]

Mon 15th "Rainy wr. Sent weekly return of cruises and letters written yesterday. Rode to Charmouth 4. Retd. At 5.30 p.m. Strong gales and squally wr. John Hockey joined as Carpenter." [Oct. 16th Recd. fm. C. Genl. 4/102 Oct. 15 103/15. Victualling Officers Oct. 15.]

Tue 16th "Strong wind with rain" Rcd. A letter from Capt. Jackson. 8.30 rode to Abbotsbury 1.30 p.m. retd. 6. P.m. Recd a letter from C. Genl., newspapers from Tom." [4 Casks picked up at Chideock.]

Wed 17th "Strong gales with rain. Letter from Wilson, Branscombe and Mr. Martin. 2 boats off Sunday nothing done, wrote 157, 158/1 Oct. 17 Sparshott and Jackson, Brother Tom." [Relative to Cruisers Martin sent Oct. 12.1827.]

Thur 18th "Fine wr. sent letter to Sparshott wh. 1 enclosed for Tom. 8.30 rode to Beer met Mr. Martin found the Amitie arrived in the Roads and supposed to have run her cargo to the westward last Fm. Brixham. Recd 104 Oct. 17th directing 8 extra men to be employed till April 5th 1828 gave the necessary directions to Chief Officers dined at Boarding table 4 galleys off fm. Beer. Paid James Mills £5 for hay, called on Mr Dare, Farmer." [Amitie arrived at Beer 3 a.m. sailed 6.0 p.m.]

Fri 19th "Squally wr. rode to Axmouth. Recd. circular 54 Oct. 17th 105, 106 Oct 18th 1827."

Sat 20th "Fine wr. recd. 107/Sick. Certificates, Moving duty certificate Part of my journal requiring a necessary certificate at the end, which I sent next day Oct 21. Letter fm. A tradesman at Weymouth demanding a sum fm C. Wilson, Branscombe forwarded to Mr. Martin. Rain in the evening. Letter fm. Sparshott private." [Seaton to call on Tanner surgeon.]

Sun 21st "Cloudy wr. occasional rain sent No. 159 Oct 21 relative to R.C. Witticombe. Wrote to Capt. Jackson relative to Arm – tender (should this be the Ann?).

There are several volumes of the Diary missing.

On Dec 1st 1829 Henry Boteler married Henrietta Bellingham. Daughter of Mrs Bellingham who lived at High Cliff Lodge, now Little Cliff. The Diary now resumes with Henrietta doing the writing. During the second part of the Diary, Henry and Henrietta are waiting to see if Henry gets a new position. He visits an Uncle who they expect to have influence, and Henrietta anxiously waits for the post for news. The post seems to be expected late in the day and even arrives on Sundays.

Dec 1829

Tues 1st (their wedding day?) [Henry and Henrietta went to stay in Exeter]"

Thurs 3rd "A very unpleasant wet day, cleared towards the evening."

Sat 5th "A very fine morning." (travelling back to Lyme Regis)

Mon 7th Alicia, Henry and Henrietta set off for Bath. Stopped at Ilchester for the night.

Mon 14th and Tues 15th returned to Lyme via Ilchester. "I did not go down to my cottage till after New Year's day. I intended going a few days sooner but there was a fire in Lyme, so down I would not go. I shall skip my first attempts at housekeeping. They were put to the test as Capt. Jackson came over on a Court of Enquiry. However I got on with mama's assistance very well" [It would appear that Henrietta was only about fifteen at the time of her marriage.]

April 1830

21st "A stormy looking morning. Henry off in the Ann for Bridport, from thence to go on to Abbotsbury how best he can, John gone with the horses to meet him. I am glad of it as the wind is high and it does not look pleasant. Poor old Wood got knocked down the other (day?) at Abbots. Henry is gone to see about it. Wanted to go into town but it rained too hard. Cleared a little toward eve. Asked Miss Rankin to come down with me; tomorrow New moon the tide very high in consequence and a great deal of surf. Met Kate R(ankin) on The Walk, she was in high delight watching the waves beat over the Cobb. Mr Waring joined us." [Catherine Rankin and Henry Waring were later married.] Told Mary not to expect the master after 10 or 11 at the latest. Went to the stables to see if there was any sign of the horses. talked till about 8 when Henry returned. Ann came into Cobb at 1.30 p.m. 'Day' told me he left the Capt. at Abbotsbury. Heard the account of old Wood who was taken off in a cart with two constables to Abbotsbury, not settled yet whether he was in the wrong or nor. Not as stormy as it was."

Thur 22nd "Raining hard and very dull looking. The sea very rough."

Fri 23rd "A very dismal looking morning, raining tremendously....Appears to be clearing off now. Hope we shall be able to get out by and by. No it is all cloudy again, a little clearer towards evening. A very high tide, looking very stormy. Saw the Miss Bamkins (Rankins) get a good ducking. The wind very high and raining tremendously.

Sat 24th "Was not a little frightened at the storm last night, it blew a complete gale, awoke Henry twice to ask if there was any danger. Very glad when daylight appeared. A beautiful tide again this morning. Henry gone to Chideock."

Sun 25th "A beautiful morning. No letters for anybody except public letters. Henry busy with Mr. Curtis answering them."

Mon 26th "Henry off to Abbotsbury in the Ann. A fine day.No sign of the cutter...about 5 'Ann' off Bridport, worked till near 8, watched for Henry, he returned at eight. No letters to day of course."

Tues 27th "Henry at home writing and putting all his accounts to rights. Henry went down the hill to see Caleb (his horse) who is turned out to-day in Mrs Fewtrells field. A letter from his mother which I don't much like, his uncle leaves for Scotland the 3rd of next month, he thinks of setting off for Deal to-morrow night in order to see him before he leaves." "Henry gone out in the Ann to Beer Branscombe and Axmouth, hopes to be home by 11. (Henrietta went out

to see her family) Returned home ½ past ten. No sign of Ann, the sea making a great noise. Got to bed and fell asleep about 12. Woke in half an hour by Henry returning.”
Wed 28th “Busy writing, and /henry settling accounts his business, leaves this even⁹ at 6 for Charmouth.”
Fri 30th “A letter from Henry saying he was in London and was going off to Dover directly.”

May

Sun 2nd “Had a letter from John, Henry succeeded very well with his uncle, he is to go to London To-morrow.”
Tue 4th “A letter from Henry in bad spirits, Capt. Sparshott gave him no hopes of succeeding. All going up to dine at High Cliff, I won’t venture so far. The King better. Mr Brown sent me a note which he recd. from Henry – no news”
Thur 6th “Ah! to-morrow. A letter from Henry saying he would not be home before Saturday or Sunday – Well if he succeeds I shan’t care.”
Fri 7th “A beautiful night”
Sat 8th “John gone over to Charmouth A nasty wet day, John returned after 1. Henry not arrived.”
Sun 9th “John gone to Charmouth, Henry returned about 11, very angry. Nothing settled as yet - Live in hopes.”
Tue 11th “Henry off at ½ past 9 to Abbots^y on b^d the Cutter, Sprightly.
Wed 12th “Henry off to Beer and Branscombe in the Ann. Avery fine calm day.”
Thurs 13th “Henry much annoyed about Caleb (his horse). Looking out for a field for him, propose taking the one at the side of our old house. No letters “No news, good news”, they say. I trust it may prove so.”
Fri 14th “Henry gone out to see about his horse etc. etc.””
Sat 15th “Henry off to Abbotsbury. Ann coming on furiously off Bridport. Henry came up in very good time.”
Sun 16th “A fine day, very warm. No letters. Caleb killed Mr Randolph’s dog in the field, James advices his being taken in and given grass in the stable.”
Mon 17th “Henry went out last night on bd. the Ann. No wind so returned before 2 o’clock. Got as far as Chideock, he is busy to-day building a house for the cock and hens.”
Tue 18th “Henry was to have gone to Abbotsbury to night but the Ann did not come in. I don’t mind.
Wed 19th “Henry gone up to see Capt Bennett about hay, talks of going to Abbotsbury to-night. Did not go.”
Thurs 20th “Henry busy with John at the stables, Got a nasty letter from Capt Bowles. I don’t know what to think. I trust we may succeed. Dined with Mama, Henry left me with them this night as he was going to Beer &c. A fine night for – one comfort- .”
Fri 21st “Henry roused me very early this morning on his return from Beer and Brans^{be}. “No letters. Went up to dine with Mr Stein.” “Turned out a very wet eve. Came home in a chair. A good deal of thunder and lightening (sic).”
Sat 22nd “No letters.”
Sun 23rd “A most dismal looking morning, raining most tremendously. A great deal of thunder and lightening, the former appeared to be particularly near, it was so very loud.....It appears very much inclined to clear.”
Mon 24th “Henry went off about 12 o’clock in the Ann to Abbotsbury &c a fine day, plenty of wind.” “No post today and no letters yesterday. I don’t know what to think of it. They say Capt Halsted wants to get the situation.” “Henry told me he would not be back till late. I hope he will return before dark at any rate.” “the Ann coming on much faster than I expected, I am in great hopes she will be here for dinner. Dressed and shook my handkerchief to Henry, came in about a quarter to five.”
Tue 25th “Looking very showery.”....”A letter for Henry from Sir F Ommanney (Probably Sir Francis Molyneux Ommanney, M.P. for Barnstable who ran a navel agency in London) saying no letters for his uncle had been sent to his house. It looks well.”

Wed 26th "A very showery looking day. Henry out at the stables. No letters very heavy showers 'Ann' in Cobb getting her bottom cleaned."

Thurs 27th "Looking very much the same as yesterday, heavy showers passing. Henry preparing to ride to Beer and Branscombe. If we could but get the letter? How happy I should be. Got a letter from Capt. John saying they expected to be off Lyme Sunday morning."

Fri 28th "Henry off in the 'Ann' to Beer and Branscombe. Henry home in very good time, he went out again in the Cutter, after tea to Abbotsbury. I slept with Mama, he returned about 5 a.m. the next morning."

Sat 29th "It came on a desperate wet evening, raining most tremendously. The poor steam packet will get it. Came home in a chair."

Sun 30th "A very wet morning, no sign of the steam boat. The 'Ann' obliged to take shelter in the Cobb last night. This morning the tide is so low she cannot get out. What is to be done. No one knows, the poor passengers must pass on to Plymouth, they say they could not get them out of the vessel where to try without danger. After dinner went up to High Cliff to look for them, no sign whatever."

Monday 31st "A squally looking day. 'Ann' could not get out last night. They have just come, I saw John walking down the walk. Henry came in with them soon after. They landed at Weymouth yesterday and came on here this morning."

June

Tues 1st "Went to the post, no letters" "Capt. Hall is to be here soon. What a bother."

Wed 2nd "Henry gone out riding with John to Axmouth" "No letters."

Thur 3rd "A very wet morning, with a good deal of thunder and lightening. Henry busy writing. The 'Ann' gone to Exmouth to be surveyed. I tried to get out after dinner but could not, rained so hard all day."

Fri 4th "A fine morning."

Sat 5th "Henry left me at 5 a.m. to meet an Informer near Charmouth, got no good by it."

Sun 6th "A cloudy looking morning. No letters."

Mon 7th "The 'Ann' returned this day."

Tue 8th "Henry at the Custom House this morning, he intended going out in the 'Ann' to-night but it looked cloudy so did not."

Wed 9th "Up very early Mr. Baston and French breakfasted with us. Henry gone with them to survey from Abbotsbury. A very cloudy looking day. Henry returned about 7."

Thur 10th "John and Henry rode over to see Mr Riley. Eagle off, Henry was detained by Mr Knight so we did not get to Mama's till past 8. Henry left me with Mama as he was going off to Abbotsbury, he did not return till 8 or past 8 next morning."

Fri 11th "Henry was very angry with two of his men last night being off their posts – 'Neil' – Paddy – being one of them" "Henry ordered the 'Ann' to go for the officers for Banton and Brit^{tn} to survey the West^d to-morrow. John is to go with him, if fine. Lt. Symonds called to tell us his good fortune in getting a steamer."

Sat 12th "A bad looking morning, a little rain. 'Ann' in Cobb."

Sun 13th "A cloudy looking morning."

Mon 14th "John down to breakfast, after which they both rode off to Branscombe &c to survey. A gloomy looking day. John got the Portsmouth papers and among other news saw Henry's name among the Coast Gd-enough. Very astonished no letter having been written to him or his Uncle." "Quite reconciled to our fate."

Tue 15th "A letter from Sir Hamish saying he was sorry to see Henry was one of the etc etc Coast Gd. The more we think of it the less we feel sorry to give it up."

Wed 16th "A gloomy day, John down to breakfast, Henry and him off to Abbots^y in the Ann. A letter from Capt. Sparshott saying a Capt. Hutchinson was appointed I.C. here. Henry and John returned about 3."

Thur 17th "Henry off very early this morning for Weymouth, expect him back this evening."
"...went to the post, a public letter for Henry saying Capt. Hutchinson would supersede him.
It is at last decided."

Fri 18th "Henry returned about 10 or half past this morning, left Capt. Jackson about 10 the night

Sat 19th "A fine morning."

Mon 21st "...turned out a nasty ene^g."

Tue 22nd "Henry very busy putting his papers to rights, did not go out all day..."

Wed 23rd "Henry busy answering a letter he received from Capt. Hutchinson. Henry not able to go to Abbotsy as intended, the surf too great for landing."

Thurs 24th "Henry expected to go to Abbotsy this morning but it did not look well so was obliged to put it off. Turned out a very wet eve^g, came home nice and wet."

Fri 25th "A very wet morning, not able to get out, cleared about 1 o'clock. Very hot, close day. Very cloudy looking. A good deal of lightening and thunder."

Sat 26th "John went with Henry to Beer to see the (space), did not return till near 5."

Mon 28th "A very gloomy looking day as usual. It looks very unsettled...Henry gone to see his horse shot"

Tue 29th "Henry and John out at Beer etc exercising the men and putting all to rights. A fine day. A beautiful night."

Wed 30th "A lovely morning, Mr Brown and John breakfast with us. All gone to Abbotsbury. The 'Ann' a good way off. Waited till 5, the 'Ann' beaching near Burton. I was looking out for their return, when I saw one of the Cutters boats land opposite our windows, with a very nice looking woman in it. One of the gentleman called who happened to be Lt. Simmmons of the Sprightly and Capt. And Mrs Hall with then. It was fortunate my man was where he was or they would have been in to a certainty, Oh! For my bashfulness."

July

Thur 1st "A very unsettled gloomy looking morning, we thought of going to Humble Green today to watch the men exercise, but there is no chance of it. It is raining already." [Humble Green is along the Undercliff to the West near Charton Bay.]

Fri 2nd "A gloomy windy day, cleared off a little. Henry gone with John and Mr Brown to see about 20 casks found at Chideock. Turned out a wet eve^g, cleared by the time we went home, blowing very hard. Ann in the Cobb

Sat 3rd "Henry busy writing. It looks inclined to clear. The sun makes its appearance every now and then. Intended to visit Mrs Lisle Follett, found it so hot we could not get on. Sent a note to John telling him to come down and see the Coast Gd firing etc."

Sun 4th "Henry very busy putting his papers to rights, to-morrow being his last day as I.C. No letters. A fine clear night home early."

Mon 5th "Capt. Boteler's 3 years ends this day. I hope it is all for the best. Mr Locay came to take charge. A fine warm day"

Tue 6th "Very busy settling the last of the Coast Gd papers. A hot day again..."

Thur 8th "Another gloomy day."

Sun 11th "A miserable wet morning."

Tue 13th "Henry got his mother to write to Lt. (crossed out and Lord written in pencil) Melville applying for a gd. ship (Lord Melville was First lord of the Admiralty at this time).

Thur 15th Henry wrote to his uncle John this morning."

Fri 16th "Another fine day."

Sat 17th "Raining and thick fog."

Sun 18th "A nasty wet morning."

Mon 19th "... heavy showers..."

Sat 24th "A fine morning..."

Sun 25th "A fine morning. Adm^s John and T Harvey down in the list of promotions."

Mon 26th "Only one letter from old Wood, Henry answered it by saying he could not interfere."

Tue 27th "Another very hot day."

Wed 28th "It has been dreadfully hot all day."

Thur 29th "Another hot day, Henry gone to see Capt. Norris... Still very hot, a beautiful night."

Fri 30th "Heard from John to-day he does not say whether the Ad^r is in town or not, he only says that he was at the Levee and that he dined with him Tuesday and Wednesday. Henry is in a great fuss not knowing when to go up. Mr Stein dining with Capt. Hardwick."

Sat 31st "There is very bad news from France. The people quarrelling with their King."

"Henry's mother wants him to set off this evening on the chance of seeing his Uncle. Post, no letters. Henry determined on not going this evening, besides they say the coaches are filled."

August

Sun 1st " Looking rather cloudy, went over to Ax^r. On our return it rained tremendously, came home to Mama's and changed our things and sent a note to Henry. He came up after Post. A letter from Lord Melville at last. A very stupid one. Could not promise anything at present. The gd ships in the gift of the Capts..." "Mr Stein gives a Pic-nic sort of party tomorrow, at least a dinner of cold meat."

Mon 2nd "Another cloudy looking day. Henry went off (to London?)."

Wed 4th "The day very fine."

Wed 11th "Henry home."

Fri 13th "The ground is wet from constant rain."

Sat 14th "A very wet morning, raining very hard, ordered a fire."

Sun 15th "A few showers passing. A letter for Henry from Sir G Hammond" [Another Admiral].

Mon 16th Aug "A fine morning. Henry cross."

Tue 17th Aug "Fine morning, heavy showers passing."

Fri 20th "Went with Henry to see the Horse Bazaar. Came home about 6. Returned to our own sweet cottage again."

No diary entries Sat 21st to Thur 26th.

Fri 27th "Expected (the family down last evening but it turned out so wet, blowing very hard this morning."

Tue 31st "Henry took a ride with Mr Hoskins to see Capt. Charity."

September

Thur 2nd "Asked them all to come down and dine. Mr Brown dined, also Lt. Symons of the Sprightly"

Mon 6th "A showery looking day (planning to go out on the cliffs). Went up to Mama's between the showers but the showers came on so fast and heavy (couldn't go out)." "When Henry returned with Mr Codrington, well wet through."

Tue 7th "Edward came to say goodbye. Mrs Boteler and John down also, busy packing up the fossils to send to the Adml.

Wed 8th "Very well. Mr Stein came to the ball with us. Mrs Symon's. A very nice one, danced plenty and came home about 2."

Tue 14th "A fine morning, propose taking a ride. Got as far as Mama's and had to return it looked so black."

Wed 15th "Too showery for riding. A tremendous night, blowing a storm, did not like coming along the walk at all."

Thu 16th "A fine morning, blowing hard. Black clouds as usual coming on. The 'Commerce' did not sail till this morning."

Fri 17th "Henry out hunting with Mr Stein, returned sooner than I expected being overtaken in a very heavy shower, took shelter and then thought it too late to go on."