

## Biographical roadmap Admiral Sir Harry Burrard Neale [BN]

This document is an attempt to create a 'roadmap' of Admiral Sir Harry Burrard Neale's life and times that will provide some starting points and, hopefully, prompt some thinking that will help us to develop a public engagement programme that is intriguing, entertaining, provocative and memorable. The aim of this programme will be to further raise and reinforce the profile of Burrard Neale to Lymington and New Forest residents and visitors and put him, and indeed Lymington itself, in a broad historical context. The roadmap is not definitive but presents a starting point for further exploration.

Whilst BN Naval Career demonstrates an upward trajectory through the ranks from Midshipman to Admiral, this is not an unusual career path for one of his class and connection during this period. Within this career you can trace his activity in the Atlantic, off the French coast - aimed at maintaining the flow of trade and/or keeping the French in Port and unable to invade England and in the Mediterranean. His career has none of the glamour or controversy linked to Nelson.

It would appear that he was the 'sailors friend' a man of sensibility [see story of St Fiorenzo sailor being reunited with his parents]<sup>1</sup>, well connected to the Royal Family from George III to Victoria, and well regarded by them.<sup>2</sup>

Politically the Burrard family had controlled the [Pocket] Borough of Lymington for generations. As an MP [four times] it is likely that inclination and certainly his naval career, meant that, as was common at the time, BN was seldom in the House. He was, not unsurprisingly, against the changes proposed in what became the 1832 Reform Act. Patronage had to give way to accountability but BN held the seat. It would not be unsurprising, and we could speculate, that his attitude to slavery was somewhat equivocal, in the light of the family connection to Jamaica trade<sup>3</sup>, but he did support the Act to stop the trade<sup>4</sup>.

Research demonstrates that BN was a well regarded New Forest man, engaged with Lymington and Boldre [founded a school] with a successful naval career and good connections. What is most interesting, and sadly there is no accessible archive that lets us understand what he felt about the times he lived in, are indeed those times. At his death some 207 subscribers donated £1,482 towards the erection of the monument. Interestingly apx 23% of these subscribers were women donating apx 21% of the total.<sup>5</sup> Amongst this list are the spouses and children of a head of household but a significant number clearly donated on their own initiative. This includes the Queen Dowager [£50] at one end of the scale to Mrs Charles Salter who donated 2/6d for herself and 6d for each of her three sons at the other [total 4s - the smallest subscription]. This raises a question as to the role that women played in the Life of Lymington. What were their day to day activities, how were they connected, what did they think about world affairs - were they, like their

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<sup>1</sup> Annals of Walhampton

<sup>2</sup> Letters of George III and Memoir of Admiral Sir Harry Burrard Neale taken from an *original handwritten document by Mrs Cuthbert Orlebar and dated 1869*.

<sup>3</sup> Notes Deborah Hodson

<sup>4</sup> History of Parliament - Brian Murphy

<sup>5</sup> Annals of Walhampton

some of their metropolitan sisters, engaged in advocating for the cessation of the slave trade, were any of them playing a significant part in the businesses of their spouses as did the women related to the Lunar Men,<sup>6</sup> were they interested in the radical ideas circulating or afraid of them, which of them had read Mary Wollstonecraft?<sup>7</sup> The role of women will have been important and should not be ignored, especially the life of Grace, his wife. This period was a time of change and upheaval, political, social and economic. In considering how to engage a wider public with BN it is this history which provides some rich material/themes to explore and which has some resonance to today.

A list of possible ideas for theme/ ideas to pursue is set out below. Clearly this list is neither complete nor should be regarded as a 'to do' list. It is, rather, a starting point for discussion/development to be added to and subtracted from as we go and as those more immersed in the life of Burrard Neale and the Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries add to this thinking. What we need to consider is how each of these themes links to BN and Lymington.

#### Life in the Navy - then and now -

- Role of the Navy in trade and international relations
- Day to day conditions [conditions on board - see Mutiny at Spithead - concerned food, shortened leave, share of prize money i.e. industrial relations].
- The navy in the New Forest - New Forest home to a significant number of Admirals [Cornwallis, Peyton and Mann in Milford and others across the Forest]- although currently no trace of any relationship between them. Also Ship Building at Bucklers Hard, Beaulieu - including sizeable ships for the Navy. None of the ships 'Burrard Neale' sailed in were built in the New Forest.

#### Relationship with America

- War of Independence 1775 - themes trade, taxes, representation
- American War 1812 - 14
- Monarchy

#### Revolution and Radicalism

- Impact of revolutionary/radical ideas in England - mutiny at the Nore - [nb however HBN role in quelling the mutiny created stronger links to Royal Family and raised his profile in the City of London]
- Radicals and non conformists in England driving the Industrial Revolution throughout this period.
- Impact of French Revolution on relationships with France
- Revolutionary wars/Napoleon - themes empire, alliances, political expediency, trade.

#### Parliamentary Franchise

- Role of Parliament, Changing role of Monarchy - George III - Victoria - in Britain and Europe
- Development of Political Parties
- Beginning of movement and change in the franchise which by 1918 resulted in Women getting the vote for the first time
- Changing role of MPs - patronage to accountability

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<sup>6</sup> The Lunar men - Jenny Uglow 2002

<sup>7</sup> Mary Wollstonecraft - Vindication of the Rights of Women 1792

### Slavery

- Abolition of trade and slavery. - BN extended family wealth built on the trade - conflict of interest?
- Black sailors in the British Navy and presence of persons of colour in Britain at this period. See Nelson's column plaques on plinth.

### Burrard Neale in Lymington

- Family history and connections - esp Grace Neale
- Civic life [Mayor of Lymington] and philanthropy- gas lighting, school at Boldre
- Lymington - life, business, society
- Lymington people raise the Monument - who were they?

## Key to 'roadmap'

- Red - British Monarchs
- Light Blue - America
- Green France
- Purple - Major actions British Navy
- Orange Spain
- Politics

During the French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic War period Britain saw military action at sea and on land in Europe [Iberia,Belgium, Hanover, French Coast The Channel, the Mediterranean, Denmark, Finland] Caribbean [South America French/Dutch West Indies], and India.

Year	Ship	Notes	Historical Context	Politics/Court
1765		Born. Father Governor Yarmouth Castle IOW - attended Christchurch Grammar School	George III - 1760 onwards	
1775			American War of Independence/Revolutionary War	
1778	HMS Roebuck	Joined Navy aged 13 under Sir Andrew Snape Hammond -		
1780 April		Present at the reduction of Charlestown		
1780/81	HMS Chatham	Captain Douglas [Hammond's nephew]		
1781		Took part in capture of French frigate <i>Magicienne</i> off Boston 2/9/81		
1783	HMS Perseverance	Acting Lieut: returned to England - Perseverance had been on the North America station but after war was laid off and at that time mothballed in Portsmouth.	American War ends	
	HMS Hector	Under Sir John Hamilton		
1785	HMS Europe	Europe based in Jamaica, West Indies - officially thanked for his conduct in saving five men from a wreck during a hurricane. 29 Sept		
1787	HMS Expedition	Promoted to Lieutenant [commander]		
1789			French Revolution	

1790	HMS Southampton	Promoted to Captain Under Richard Godwin Keats (later Admiral and Gov. of Newfoundland) 1790	<i>French Revolutionary wars start 1792</i>	HB MP for Lymington 1790 - 1802 <sup>8</sup>
	HMS Victory	Lord Howes flagship.		
	HMS Orestes	Promoted to Commander and on HMS Orestes, employed in the preventive service (protecting trade against privateers). Spent time in West Indies from 1792 - so protecting slave trade		Applauded the Sierra Leone Company in Parliament on <b>30/5/1791</b> . This was set up by abolitionists inc. Granville Sharp and Thomas Clarkson and effectively led to a colony for former slaves freed by the British during the war with America. This was a first step towards the civilization of Africa and the abolition of the Slave trade. Hostile to the Repeal of the Test Act in Scotland <sup>9</sup>
1791		Succeeded Uncle to Baronetcy		
1793	HMS Nautilus	Appointed Post Captain 1st Feb	<i>Louis XVI Guillotined Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars</i>	
	HMS Aimable 32 Guns	Accompanied Lord Hood to the Mediterranean. Assisted at the 'reduction of Bastia' - Corsica. Captured <i>Moselle</i> French Corvette off Hieres Island. In charge of convoys to the Levant		
		Married Grace Neale - Heiress		
1794		Married Grace Neale - Heiress		
1795		Took Neale into name under Royal License		
1797	HMS St Fiorenzo -	Stationed off Weymouth Hosted Geo III quite a lot at this time. Captured 2 French Frigates <i>La Resistance</i> and <i>La Constance</i> off Brest Navy keeping the French in Harbour <b>Mutiny at Spithead and the Nore</b>	<b>Battle Cape St Vincent Atlantic Battle of Camperdown NL</b>	
			<i>French Revolution Ends</i>	Royal Family and sundry nobility 'partook of a

<sup>8</sup> History of Parliament 1790 - 1820- Brian Murphy

<sup>9</sup> History of Parliament - Brian Murphy

			<b>Battle of the Nile - Mediterranean</b>	public breakfast given by HBN in Honour of Nelson's victory on the Nile' Neale's accompanied King on Visit to Weymouth
1799		Keeping French in harbor - captures a French letter of marque from Cape François laden with sugar coffee and indigo	<i>Coup d'état - Napoleon takes control establishing military dictatorship</i>	
1801	HMS Centaur 74 guns HMS Royal Charlotte yacht			HBN Groom of the Bedchamber 1801 - 12 Windsor and 1812 - 20 Grace became Lady in Waiting to Queen Charlotte Neale's accompanied King on Visit to Weymouth GIII visited Lymington and dined at Walhampton <sup>10</sup>
1802			<i>Napoleon appointed Consul for Life</i>	
1803			<i>Britain declares War on France France prepares to invade England Fleet keeps Channel clear Spain declares war on Britain</i>	Lieut Col Lymington Voluntary Infantry 1803 - 5
1804	HMS Royal Sovereign	Lord Commissioner Admiralty [May-June] - resigned quite quickly [months] returned to sea		Neale's accompanied King on Visit to Weymouth
1805	HMS London - 98 Guns	Under Sir John Warren <i>The City of Vancouver holds a telescope that was presented to Admiral Sir Harry by Admiral Nelson in 1805, on the occasion of Sir Harry assuming command of HMS London. [It was presented to the city in 1943 by a Canadian Burrard descendent.] www.burrard-neale.org.uk P Stone</i>	<i>Empire proclaimed - Napoleon declares himself Emperor Battle of Trafalgar</i>	
1806		Battle and captured/struck French <i>Marengo</i> and <i>Belle Isle</i> The French a nuisance to the British in the British East Indies - Lord of Admiralty to 1807		HBN MP for Lymington 1806-7
1807			<b>Britain blockades all French Ports</b>	Supported Prime Minister Grenville who

<sup>10</sup> Annals of Walhampton Ch X

			<b>Navy polices the slave trade in the Atlantic, system of punitive fines for trade in place.</b>	succeeded in getting the <b>Abolition of the Slave Trade</b> passed in 1807. <i>Then the records state Neale was adverse to the abolition of ST.</i> <sup>11</sup>
1808		Captain of Channel Fleet under Lord Gambler - present at the abortive attack on the French at the Basque roads	<b>British Army to Portugal start of Iberian Campaign</b> - Note after Battle of Vimeira HBN and Sir Hew Dalrymple blamed for letting the beaten French escape with their arms on British Transports - HBN then sidelined after enquiry <sup>12</sup> and received no further promotions.	
1809		Present at destruction of French Fleet at Aix Road. Later lead blockading squadron at Rochefort	<b>Wellington in to Spain from Portugal</b>	Correspondence between Geo III and family {Princess Amelia} notes [ in detail] Grace Neale's illness and their concern. HBN described as being v anxious but still had time to make a bathing machine comfortable for Princess Amelia at Weymouth
1810		Rear Admiral		
1811	HMS Boyne	Flag in these - Commanded Squadron off the coast of France	<b>Regency</b> <b>Restoration of Bourbon Monarchy</b> <b>Louis VIII</b>	
1812			<b>United States declares War on Britain</b>	HBN MP for Lymington - 1812 -1823 listed as a Treasury supporter <sup>13</sup>
1813	HMS Ville de Paris -			Riding Forester New Forest 1813 - 20
1814		Apt: Vice Admiral	<b>Napoleon Abdicates</b> <b>UK/US Treaty of Ghent</b>	
1815		KCB	<b>Battle of Waterloo - Napoleon exiled to St Helena</b>	
1816				Presented petition of his constituents against the imposition of Property tax. HBN the voted with the Government. However voted against them on Admiralty salaries
1819				Supported ministerial measures against

<sup>11</sup> Brian Murphy - History of Parliament 1790 - 1820

<sup>12</sup> Marquess of Anglesea - Life and Letters of Henry William Paget

<sup>13</sup> Murphy above

				sedition <sup>14</sup>
1820			<b>George III dies</b> <b>George IV</b>	Walked in GIII Funeral procession
1820			<i>Napoleon dies</i>	
1822		CGB - check		
1823		Commander in Chief Mediterranean Fleet		Anti Slavery Society Formed
1824		Praised for having forced the Dey of Algiers to observe the treaty of 1816 though not until the squadron was actually in position for opening fire!	<i>Charles X</i>	
1830		Admiral	<b>George IV dies</b> <b>William IV</b> <i>French Uprisings</i> <i>Charles X abdicates</i> <i>Orleanists in power till 1848</i>	
1831				HBN against Reform Act [Burrard family had controlled the seat for generations] report of Town Hall Meeting <sup>15</sup>
1832		Offered C in C of Portsmouth Dockyard - offer withdrawn as he was MP <sup>16</sup> the 'Gas Lamp Monument', adjacent to the Royal Lymington Yacht Club – commemorates the fact that Sir Harry paid for the lamp standards for the first gas street lighting of the town, in 1832. Note that the lamps to go on the standards were give by his brother Rev Geo. Burrard. www.BN .etc	<b>1832 Reform Act -</b>	HBN MP for Lymington 1832 -34 First time that HB-N had had to face an election John Stewart stood for Parliament in Lymington was a slave owner. HBN a personal friend of William IV and his brother Duke of York <sup>17</sup>
1833				<b>Abolition of Slavery</b> Act effective from '34
1834				
1835				
1836				

<sup>14</sup> Murphy above.

<sup>15</sup> Hampshire Advertiser May 1831

<sup>16</sup> Correspondence with Sir James Graham quoted at length in Annals Ch 10

<sup>17</sup> Annals Ch 11



1837			<b>William IV dies</b> <b>Victoria</b>	
1838				
1839				
1840	<b>Burrard Neale Dies Brighton 7th February aged 75</b> <b>25th Feb - public meeting in Lymington agreed to open a subscription for a monument.</b> Annals of Walhampton [Ch XI] provides detailed description of this and a list of subscribers. Stone laid September 15th 1840 attended by 2000 and completed in 1842. <b>HBN succeeded by his Brother George.</b> George was Chaplain in Ordinary to George III, George IV, William IV and Victoria - he died in 1856. He was Mayor of Lymington 5 times between 1792 - 1826. He married Elizabeth Anne Coppell - daughter of William Coppell of Jamaica. The family were significantly involved with the save trade <b>Grace survived till 1865</b>			

**Sources** - with thanks to Jude James for his generous sharing of scholarship and research materials

#### Primary Sources

**Annals of Walhampton** - Sidney Burrard 1874

**Transcript of memoirs** of Admiral Sir Harry Burrard Neale taken from an *original handwritten document by Mrs Cuthbert Orlebar and dated 1869* - transcription Made by Geraldine Beech, November-December 2014, from scanned images supplied by Peter Stone by e-mail dated 6 November 2014.  
Correspondence of George III

See also **Parliamentary Papers from 1714 onwards** <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/parliamentary-archives/explore-guides-to-documentary-archive-/archives-electronic/parliamentary-papers/> for information to access these.

#### Secondary Sources

History of Parliament 1790 - 1820 - Brian Murphy

Robert Peel Biography - D Hurd

Royal Naval Biography 1832 Vol John Marshall -

Extract - Nicholas Plumley - unpublished history of the Burrard family at Walhampton

#### Jude James - Notes and transcripts

Reform 1832 - Lymington Chronology and Outline and correspondence Sir Harry B-N to various constituents

Poster Lymington June 1831 - against HBN Candidature, for Parliament

Notes on John Blakiston and family - candidate for Lymington 1832 Bibliography supporting research into Donors to the Monument

#### On Line

<http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/houseofcommons/reformacts/overview/reformact1832/>  
<http://www.parliament.uk/slavetrade>

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hants/vol4/pp639-649> - British History on Line