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LANE PAPERS

Captain Benjamin Lane

Benjamin Lane of Great Yarmouth, U.K., was captain of the brig 'Harriot'. In 1806 the 'Harriot' was captured by the French near Calais and Captain Lane taken prisoner. Later he returned to Yarmouth but died at sea in 1827 or 1828.

L4/1 c 1807 – 1813

Capt. Benjamin Lane's notebook of lessons.

The volume was prepared while Lane was a prisoner of war of the French and apparently occupied himself in studying and teaching other prisoners. It contains French grammar (noted as completed 7 March 1812), exercises on Mr Porney's grammar (noted as completed 29 February 1812), mathematical examples and problems, stocks and shares, chronology, navigational problems (with diagrams and tables), book keeping with examples of business 'waste book', 'balancing journal' and ledger entries for 1807 and 1812-1813 based on supposed voyages and trade dealings.

At the back of the volume is a rough pencil sketch of the 'privateer that chased Captain Lane'. Also entered on blank pages at the end of the volume is a copy of notes concerning Captain Benjamin Lane sent by James Arthur Lane to his daughter Mrs D A Lane, 20 June 1945 and notes by Lt. Col. D A Lane (descendant of James Christmas Lane, younger brother of Benjamin), 18 November 1945.

(octavo volume, leather bound)

L4/2 'View of the brig 'Harriot', Benjamin Lane commander chased onshore near Calais at 6am by his BMS the 'Misqueter' of 18 guns on 30 January 1806'.

Water colour sketch showing two ships sailing; one carrying guns and flying the British blue ensign, and the other unarmed nearer the shore and some of the crew apparently about to land by rowing boat. Harbour and gun battery and houses in the background.

Signed 'B Lane, Great Yarmouth'. Note in corner : Verdun

(water colour, 370mm x 230mm)

L4/3 Copy of notes on Benjamin Lane

(2 pages)