

# The Occupants and Residents of “Admiralty House”.

## CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENTS, PEMBROKE DOCKYARD including Their Families.

### INTRODUCTION:

The Pater Dockyard (later known as the Royal Dockyard, Pembroke Dock) was founded in **1814**, although not formally authorized until the Prince Regent signed the necessary Order in Council on 31 October **1815**; it was known as Pater Yard until 1817. The then Mayor of Pembroke had requested the change in deference to the town of Pembroke 'some two miles (3.2 km) distant' to the south east.

The site selected for the dockyard was greenfield land and the closest accommodations were in Pembroke. Office and administration space was provided by the old frigate “*Lapwing*” after she was beached. The Royal Marine garrison was housed in the hulked 74-gun ship, HMS “*Dragon*”, after she was also run aground in **1832**. She was broken up, in **1850**. Many of the workmen commuted by boat from nearby communities until the town of Pembroke Dock was constructed and occupied.

After the end of the First World War **1918**, the dockyard was closed by the then cash-strapped Admiralty as redundant in 1926. The Royal Air Force, however, built its RAF Pembroke Dock on the site during the **1930**'s to house and operate its flying boats, demolishing many of the old existing buildings and structures, at that time, including ship construction slips, to make room for the necessary hangars and other facilities. Currently approximately **35** historical buildings and structures remain within the Dockyard, all hold CAWD Listings, mainly graded II and II\*, (this was only achieved in **1974**), demonstrating the “total lack of concern” for the history contained therein and now mostly lost forever.

The following listings contain factual historical information, obtained from numerous sources, on all of the occupants of Admiralty House, Pater/Pembroke Dock Dockyard. The normal period associated with the appointment to the rank of Captain Superintendents was five (5) years, for various reasons this was not always reached. Many people can name a few Captain Superintendents; hopefully this document and the information contained will demonstrate the importance of the 35 families involved not only with the dockyard but also with the Town. These men originated from all over the country and in some cases from many other countries throughout the world. Many lists of the H.M.S. vessels, constructed and modified at the Yard exist. It should be remembered that without the Royal Naval Dockyard the settlement of Pater, later town of Pembroke Dock would not have ever existed. These men were the controllers of the Dockyard and as such greatly influenced the development of the Town. Many came to greatness before they and their families arrived, others when onto even greater achievements. It should be remembered that their part should never be forgotten like so many of the Dockyard buildings and structures. Almost all of the following men were supported by their families and children (many born locally).

It should be remembered that all of the newly appointed Captain Superintendents were also full Naval Captains in their own right. In the early years of the Dockyard, **pre 1832**, much was made of Guard-ship on-boarding accommodation laying-off the Pater foreshore. The 1<sup>st</sup> Captain Superintendent **Sir. Charles Bullen July 1832-1837, [1769-1853]** Died **2 Jul**, at Greenwich) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain Superintendent was **William Pryce Cumby, C.B., R.N. [Born 1771-1837]** died in post aged **66**, on board his vessel the “*Royal Sovereign*” moored off the Pater Dockyard. William Pryce Cumby was buried in the Park Street South Cemetery. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Captain Superintendent was **Samuel Jackson, C.B., R.N. [Born 1775-1845]** who died at Bognor, Surrey]. He was also Captain of the “*Royal Sovereign*”, off the Pater Dockyard, and was Superintendent. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Census **1841** (see below) there is no record of the Captain Superintendent's accommodation and it is believed that he was on-board his ship. All of the “Captain Superintendents” of the Dockyard [1-35] are addressed and detailed below. All of the early Captain Superintendents either fought or were connected directly with Battle of Trafalgar; they fought the French and the Spanish, and won. All of the Naval vessels constructed and launched from the Dockyard went on to achieve greatness for the Country, around the world and the Empire.

Where possible old newspaper articles have been included in order to illustrate and demonstrate the large and active part each Captain Superintendent played in the development of the area and Town of Pembroke Dock, the country and the World, [most of which has up to now been long forgotten].

The information and facts given throughout are from many various sources, far too many to individually list or biograph. Reference, background and research material is available upon formal request.

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Hopefully by the published following, readers will see how important “Admiralty House”, The Royal Pembroke Dockyard, and its resident actual were. They were the founding fathers of Pater and later Pembroke Dock, they organised the construction and building of ships of the Navy that made Britain what she was and what she became.

**STC reserves the right to modify and update the contents, herein.**

**Can we really let this remain mostly forgotten and derelict?**

In the Service columns, below [following], 2 sets of dates appear these are from many sources Naval & local historian George Mason, 1904; Mrs Peters and others.