

THE NAVAL QUOTA MEN of 1795-1796



A copy of this poster is to be found in "The Sun Inn", Chipping, and presents some intriguing questions for family and local historians. Why were three men needed for the Navy from Chipping, Dutton and Clayton-le-Dale? What was the "present War"? Who took up the offer of a "handsome Bounty", clothing and ample alcoholic beverages and the opportunity to capture "Rich Spanish Galleons"? A recent lecture given by family historian, Peter Park, at the University of Central Lancashire showed how local records relating to men caught up in great events of European history, in this case, the Napoleonic Wars, have survived and can provide additional, personal information about the individuals who took the King's shilling.

It had been two years since the start of the "present war", before the British fleet faced the French. Despite pressing men and offering bounties to encourage men to join the Royal Navy, there remained a shortage of manpower in the fleet. By an Act of Parliament covering England and Wales, passed on March 5th, 1795, the Prime Minister, William Pitt the Younger, enforced the proposal that each county should supply a quota of men


THREE MEN FOR THE
NAVY.
WANTED
For the Townships of Chipping, Dutton,
And Clayton-le-Dale,
THREE ABLE-BODIED
Seamen or Landmen,

TO serve in his Majesty's NAVY during the present War only: and as the Time for accepting such Volunteers expires on *Wednesday next, the 14th of December,* it is hoped that no True-Born BRITISH TAR will lose so favourable an Opportunity. Such as make an immediate Application will be preferred, and over and above a handsome Bounty, will be entitled to, and receive, Advantages superior to any other Service, viz. The Families and Friends of Volunteers will receive Monthly Pay, and the Volunteers themselves will have a bountiful Supply of CLOATHING, BEEF, GROC, FLIP, and STRONG BEER, also a Certainty of PRIZE-MONEY, as the Men entered for this Service will be sent to Capture

The Rich Spanish Galleons,
 and in Consequence will return loaded with DOLLARS and HONOURS, to spend their Days in PEACE and PLENTY.
H U Z Z A!!!

BOUNTY will be paid by applying to JOHN SWINGLEBURY, of Chipping; THOMAS DEWHURST, of Dutton; and JAMES HIGGS, of Clayton-le-Dale.

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to the Navy.

The idea had been mooted twenty years previously but, by 1795, it was critical that such a system be put in place. The number of sailors required was decided by the number of men paying land tax in England and Wales, so that Cumberland, for instance, had to engage 184 men, whilst Lancashire had to find 508 men and the West Riding of Yorkshire had to provide 609. Later a separate Act was passed to include Scotland.

Detailed arrangements for administering the provisions of the Act were made at County Level, through Justices in the Quarter Session and Justices of the Peace at town level. Townships provided 3 men for the Royal Navy, the inducement to join being a Bounty, the amount of which varied from place to place. Small townships often joined together to fund the bounties offered to the requisite three volunteers, who were not necessarily from that area. The bounties tended to be raised out of the Poor Rate and the amount of the bounty varied and was whatever each township thought fit to offer.

Each man was paid one third of