

Guide to the Logs of His Majesty's Ships Phaeton, Tees, and Conqueror, 1817-1819

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Title Statement

Guide to the Logs of His Majesty's Ships Phaeton, Tees, and Conqueror, 1817-1819

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

C0309

Date

1817-1819

Language

English

Abstract

Log books from three early 19th-century British Naval ships.

Creators

Rennie, George, Stanfell, Francis, and Wallis, James

Physical Characteristics

0.25 linear feet

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions on personal use. Permission to publish material from the Logs of His Majesty's Ships Phaeton, Tees, and Conqueror must be obtained from the Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries.

Acquisition Information

Purchased by SCRC in 2016.

Processing Information

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Historical note

The British Navy in the post-Napoleonic era was the most powerful navy in the world. As the Royal Navy notes in the historical timeline on its website, "for the century after the Battle of Waterloo the United Kingdom was supreme upon the world's oceans" ('1815-1914 Historic Periods: Maintaining Naval Supremacy'). His Majesty's Ships Phaeton and Conqueror, built in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, both took part in engagements during the Napoleonic Wars (according to the British National Archives, the Conqueror was at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805), while the Tees was completed in 1817, two years after Napoleon surrendered and was exiled to St. Helena ('Trafalgar Ancestors'). At the time the logs were kept, HMS Phaeton was captained by Francis Stanfell, the HMS Tees was captained by George Rennie, and the HMS Conqueror was captained by James Wallis. According to the logs and to the dealer's notes that came with them, the three ships were in the waters around St. Helena and the African coast during the years 1817-1819, and their mission was to disrupt the transatlantic slave trade. As noted by the British National Archives in a background document on abolition, the slave trade in the United Kingdom was abolished in 1807, and "under an 1817 treaty with Spain to abolish the slave trade, naval ships and other officials of both nations could seize any Spanish or British ships believed to be involved in the illegal trade in slaves" ('Abolition'). In spite of these efforts, the actual practice of slavery in Britain's colonies was not outlawed until 1833.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of three logbooks of ships in the British Royal Navy dating from 1817-1819. The entries for the Phaeton and the Tees record the date, ship's course, distance traveled, wind direction, latitude and longitude, bearings, and general remarks, while the entries for the Conqueror only record date, wind direction and general remarks.

Index Terms

Corporate Names:

Great Britain. Royal Navy.

Geographical Names:

Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha.

Subjects:

Regency--Great Britain.

Slave trade.

Warships.

Document Types:

Logbooks.

Bibliography

[The National Archives, 'Abolition,' accessed September 6, 2017.](#)

[The National Archives, 'Trafalgar Ancestors,' Nelson, Trafalgar, and Those Who Served, accessed September 6, 2017.](#)

[Royal Navy, '1815-1914 Historic Periods: Maintaining Naval Supremacy,' Royal Navy History, accessed September 6, 2017](#)

Arrangement

The three logs are bound together in a single volume. The log for HMS Phaeton is on pages 1-141, the log for HMS Tees is on pages 142-188, and the log for HMS Conqueror is on pages 189-256.