

## The 18th and 19th Centuries

Research into the National Archives at Kew has shown that many Deddington men served in the navy as well as in the army. An overview of military activity in these two centuries shows that they would have been busy.

The Royal Navy was constantly fighting the French (Napoleonic Wars) culminating in The Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The American War of Independence (1812-15) followed. There was then a period of quiet known as 'Pax Britannica' which lasted until 1895 during which time no major battles occurred; the navy was used to bombard shore installations, such as those in the Baltic and Black Sea during the Crimean War in 1854 and 1855, to fight pirates, to hunt down slave ships and to assist the army when sailors and marines were jointly landed as naval brigades.

The Army, of course, was successful at Waterloo in 1815; after which they were somewhat pre-occupied with two Afghan wars (no great change there), two Sikh Wars in India and the Indian Mutiny, two Opium wars in China, campaigns in Egypt and Sudan (General Gordon's death at Khartoum), the Crimean War and two Zulu Wars in South Africa - to name but a few.

### Extracts from Royal Hospital, Chelsea, Records

**John DAY** Born c1780 in Clifton. Served in 17<sup>th</sup> Dragoons (Light) and Oxfordshire Dragoons 1797-1821.

**William DRAKE** Born 1759 in Deddington. Son of James and Elizabeth. Served in Portsmouth Marines, 43<sup>rd</sup> Foot Regiment and 25<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment 1777-1796.

**Thomas Cox EGGLESTON** Born 1773 in Deddington. Mother was Frances. Served in 3<sup>rd</sup> Foot Guards 1794-1802.

**William FINOMER** [possibly **FENEMORE**] Born c1782 in Deddington. Son of Thomas and Mary. Served in 10<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment 1807-23. [He appears on the 1851 census as a Private aged 74 living at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea; so there is a five year disparity between the dates of birth.]

**George GIBBS** Born c1782 in Deddington. Served in 16<sup>th</sup> Dragoons (Light) 1808-10.

**Samuel GIBBS** Born 1783 in Deddington. Son of Samuel and Ann. Served in 30<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment and the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Veteran Battalion 1812-18.

**John JILLICKS** [possibly **GILKES**] Born c1785 in Deddington. Served in 9<sup>th</sup> Dragoons 1804-15.

**Joseph JOHNSON** alias **JOHNSTON** Born c1770 in Deddington. Served in 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Veteran Battalion 1790-1814.

**John PARSLEY** Born c1761 in Deddington. Served in 46<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment and the 55<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment 1798-1809.

**James SESSIONS** Born c1799 in Deddington. Served in 9<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment 1823-43. [He appears in the 1851 census living with his wife Susannah at Castle End and is described as 'out Pensioner Chel(sea)' i.e. an army pensioner not living at Chelsea. In the 1861 census he is living in South Molton, Devon.]

**John SESSIONS** Born 1806 in Deddington. Son of Richard and Mary. Served in 9<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment 1823-46. [Appears in the 1861 census living in Jersey and in the 1871 census living in London described as 'Pensioner'.]

**Mathew VINCENT** Born c1795 in Clifton. Served in 2<sup>nd</sup> Foot Guards 1814-16 (book p.1)

**William WELCH** Born 1800 in Deddington. Son of William and Ann. Served in 2<sup>nd</sup> Foot Regiment 1821-34.

**Richard WELSH** Born 1758 in Deddington. Son of Richard and Ann. Served in 35<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment 1800-13.

### **Extracts from Admiralty, Royal Marines, Records**

**Notes:** All joined at Chatham unless otherwise noted.

Comments in [ ] are information taken from [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

**Benjamin GIBBS** Born Deddington 1869. Joined 1885. Invalided out in 1895. [He was the son of Joseph and Mary, both born in Deddington. In the 1881 census the family had moved to London. In 1891 census he is listed as 'born Deddington. Soldier on Furlough'.]

**William CROSS** Born Deddington 1828. Son of Thomas and Ann. Joined 1853. Invalided out in 1857. [In the 1851 census he is listed as living in New Street as a mason's labourer.]

**William FRENCH** Born Deddington 1832. Son of William and Elizabeth. Joined 1855. Discharged 1867.

**Thomas KIPPIN** Born Deddington c1838. Joined in Woolwich 1858. Invalided out in 1868.

**Thomas MORRELL** Born Deddington c1779. Joined 104<sup>th</sup> Company in Portsmouth 1799. No discharge date given.

**Charles PAYNTON** Born Deddington c1835. Joined 1854. Invalided out in 1869. [He appears on the 1841 census living in New Street, Deddington, and on the 1851 census in Tabernacle Square, occupation agricultural labourer, with his mother Susannah and brother George. In the 1861 census he is listed as a 'Private, RMDI' on board *HMS Cressy* (an 80 gun, screw propelled, 3<sup>rd</sup> rate, ship of the line) in the Mediterranean. He may have died aged 39 in the Medway district.]

**Benjamin TUSTAIN** Born Clifton c1833. Joined 1854. Invalided out in 1856.

**Note:** Comments in [ ] are based on information taken from [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

### **Extracts from Royal Navy Register of Seamen's Services (1874-94)**

<b>Arthur Gordon KINCH</b> Probationary Midshipman	
<b>John BLABY</b>	<b>Thomas James SMITH</b>
<b>William James COURSE</b>	<b>Denis SYKES</b>
<b>William Frederick PAINE</b>	<b>Frank WHETTON</b>
<b>Thomas QUARTERMAN</b>	<b>John WILLIAMS</b>

**Acknowledgement:** All of the above information was researched by Jon Malings of Co Wexford, Ireland, whose forebears lived in Deddington.

### From other sources

**Matthew BISHOP** (168?-1766). He served in both the navy and the army in the early 18th Century. His story is on page 1 of the book. The following information can now be added to it:

‘He died as a Lieutenant in Captain James Graham’s Company in Colonel Parker’s Regiment of Invalids quartered in the Island of Guernsey. His will was proved in June 1766 which would put him in his early eighties. Even at the end of his life when writing his will he referred to himself as “Matthew Bishop of Deddington in Oxfordshire”. He was survived by his wife Elizabeth and their three children John, Elijah and Dinah.’

Source: Brian Carter, author *Matthew Bishop of Deddington in Oxfordshire*

**William KNIBBS** (1777-1853) Troop Sergeant Major.

The Oxfordshire Yeomanry, Queen’s Own Oxfordshire Hussars. He was born in Middle Barton then lived in Deddington with the trade of a sadler. He enrolled when the first troops were formed in 1798 and had achieved the rank of Troop Sergeant Major by the time of his death in 1853 at the age of 75. Several other members of his family are reputed to have enrolled but no records are held.

Source: Knibbs family website [www.knibbs-family.org/](http://www.knibbs-family.org/)