

# MERCHANTS MEDICINE AND TRAFALGAR

THE HISTORY OF THE HARVEY FAMILY

BY

RICHARD MORRIS



Rolls Park, Chigwell, Essex

*A new comprehensive biography of the family that produced William Harvey (1578–1657) who discovered the circulation of the blood in 1628, and Admiral Sir Eliab Harvey (1758–1830) who commanded the Temeraire at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805*

**T**homas and Joane Harvey's seven sons were born at Folkestone, on the Kent coast, in the last quarter of the sixteenth century. Five sons became successful merchants in the City of London, trading with Turkey and the Levant. The eldest son, William, studied medicine and became the physician whose researches laid the foundation for modern physiology. Another son entered Royal service.

Much of the profit from the merchant business was used to buy land and houses in several counties in southern England, including Essex, Hertfordshire, Surrey, and Dorset. Rolls Park at Chigwell, Essex, became the home of one branch of the family for nearly 300 years. In Georgian times the interior of the house was one of the most richly decorated in England.



William Harvey MD (1578–1657)

Daniel Harvey's daughter, Mary (1629–1704), married a member of an old English family, but not before she had been the subject of a family scandal. However, she was an accomplished musician and appears to have been the first woman in England whose musical compositions were published under her own name.

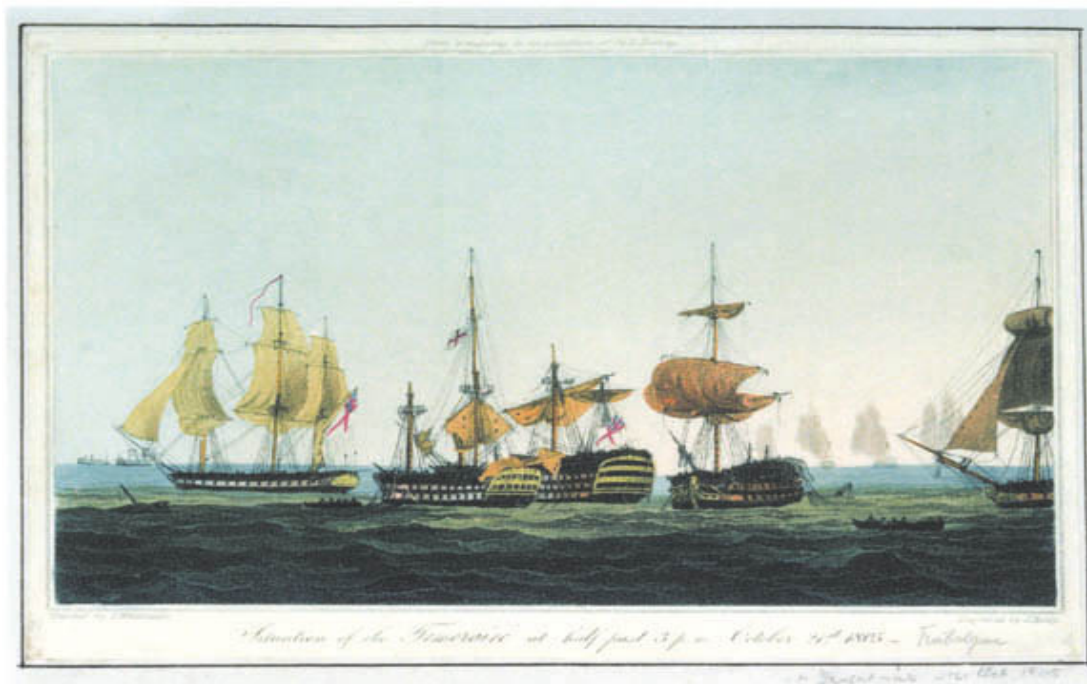
Marriage often brought more wealth to the family, and when William Harvey (1714–1763) married Emma Skynner in 1750, a collection of nearly 100 pictures by masters of the Italian Renaissance period, together with marine pictures by the Van de Veldes, was inherited.



Captain Eliab Harvey (later Admiral Sir Eliab Harvey) (1758–1830)

The Harveys had their tragedies as well as their successes. Richard Morris's researches shed new light on Admiral Harvey's behaviour both as a hero at Trafalgar and in his domestic life at Chigwell. The correspondence and diaries of his wife and eldest daughter, Louisa, provide a fascinating insight into the lives of members of a distinguished family. Louisa was said to have been one of the several mistresses of the Duke of Wellington.

When the male line of the Harveys ended with the death of Admiral Sir Eliab Harvey, in 1830, the landed estates were split up among his six daughters and the collection of fine pictures was also disbursed among them. Many of the pictures can now be seen in public collections in the UK and overseas.



The *Temeraire* at Trafalgar, 21 October 1805

*Merchants, Medicine and Trafalgar* (ISBN 13-978-1-905269-07-5) in hardback (264pp) is extensively illustrated in black and white and colour and has a comprehensive Index. It is available from bookshops, price £17.99, or from the Alderton Press (the imprint of the Loughton & District Historical Society) using the Order Form below:

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