

## ADMIRAL THOMAS REVELL SHIVERS



*An Armed Sloop*

Admiral Thomas Revell **Shivers**, born 1751, died in Wickham 1 June 1827, aged 76, and was buried in St Nicholas churchyard 8 June 1827. In 1778, **Lieutenant Thomas Shivers** commanded the armed Sloop, *Penguin*, stationed at Newfoundland. His ship was wrecked on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1778. **Shivers** was summoned to attend a court martial held by **Admiral Robert Linzee**, (also buried in St Nicholas churchyard). In view of the fact that **Shivers'** career prospered healthily and he later served under **Linzee**, he must have been found not guilty of the negligent loss of his ship.



*Rear Admiral Linzee*

**Shivers** was promoted to the rank of Commander in 1788; and at the termination of hostilities with the United States of America, sent to the Leeward Islands in the sloop *Espion*. He received his post commission Sept 21 1790. At the outbreak of war with the French Republic, the now Captain **Shivers** was appointed to the *Ariadne*, of 24 guns, in which he proceeded to the Mediterranean where he was present at the evacuation of Toulon. From that ship he was removed to the *Aleide*, 74 guns, the flag of Rear Admiral **Linzee**. In 1798, **Shivers** transferred his command to *HMS Standard* of 64 guns.



February 1799 saw **Shivers** in command of *HMS Defiance*, 74 guns. He joined Lord Keith just in time for the abortive “Bruix Expedition”, where the British tried and failed to stop the French Fleet combining with the Spanish Fleet and then attempting to regain command of the Mediterranean. The whole business was bungled due to weaknesses in the British command structure. However, although the enemy fleets met off Cartagena, they did not successfully combine and the French element sailed off to Brest, closely followed by Lord Keith’s squadron which blockaded them in port.



*Admiral Lord Keith*

**Shivers** was advanced to the rank of Rear Admiral April 28 1808, Vice Admiral Aug 12 1812 and Admiral May 27 1825.

(For information about **Admiral Robert Linzee**, closely associated with **Shivers** – click **HERE**)

## **ADMIRAL THOMAS REVELL SHIVERS LIVED IN WICKHAM**



*Wickham Hall*

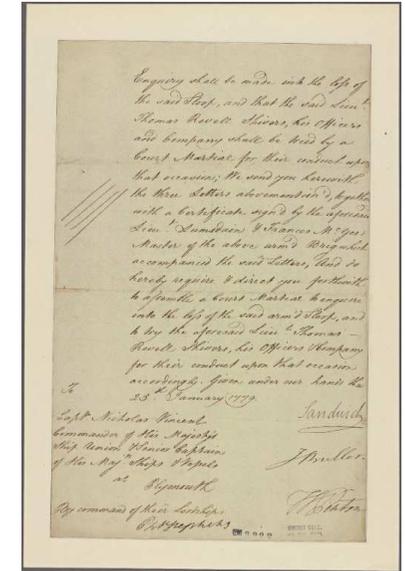
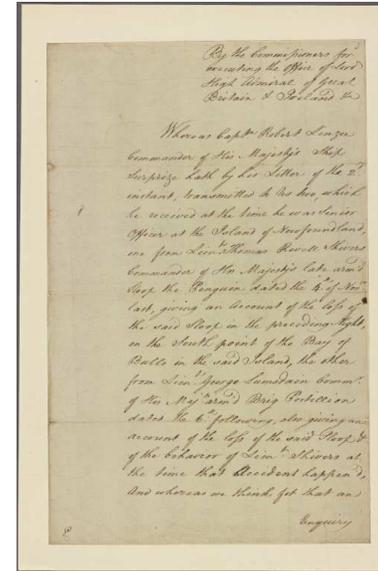
**Admiral Thomas Revell Shivers** lived in a house called Wickham Hall in Wickham, along with Commander Thomas Dorsett-Birchall, for a time. Mary Shivers, Thomas’ widow, was a landowner according to the Tithe Map of the time, and lived in Havelock House in Wickham.



*Wentworth & Havelock*

## THOMAS' COURT MARTIAL

In the days of sail, it was mandatory to hold a court martial of any commander who lost his ship, no matter what the circumstances. So it was with Thomas Revall Shivers, and below is a transcription of a letter directing **ROBERT LINZEE** to hold a court martial on **Lieut. Thomas Revell Shivers** for the loss of the sloop *Penguin* on the coast of Newfoundland, Nov. 3, 1778; transmitting a letter from Lieut. George Lumsdain relative to the affair.



*By the Commissioners for  
Executing the Office of Lord  
High Admiral of Great  
Britain & Ireland etc*

*Whereas Capt Robert Linzee Commander of His Majesty's Ship Surprize hath by his letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> instant, transmitted to us here, which he received at the time he was Senior Officer at the Island of Newfoundland, and(?) from Lieutenant Thomas Revall Shivers Commander of His Majesty's late armed Sloop the Penguin dated the 4<sup>th</sup> Nov. last, giving an account of the loss of the said Sloop in the preceding night on the south point of the Bay of Balls in the said island, the other from Lieutenant George Lumsdain Commander of His Majesty's Brig Portillion dated the 6<sup>th</sup> following, also giving an account of the loss of the said Sloop and the behaviour of Lieutenant Shivers at the time that the accident happened, and whereas we think fit that an enquiry shall be made with the loss of the*

*said Sloop and that the said Lieutenant Thomas Revall Shivers, her Officers and Company shall be tried by a Court Martial for their conduct upon that occasion; We send you herewith the three letters above mentioned, together with a Certificate, signed by the aforesaid Lieutenant Lumsdain and Francis McGee, Master of the above armed Brig which accompanied the said letters, and do hereby require and direct you forthwith to assemble a Court Martial to enquire into the loss of the said armed Sloop by the aforesaid Lieutenant Thomas Revall Shivers, his Officers and Company for their conduct upon that occasion accordingly. Given under our hands the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1779.*

*To  
Capt Nicholas Vincent  
Commander of His Majesty's  
Ship Union & Senior Captain  
Of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels  
At Plymouth  
By command of their Lordships*

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