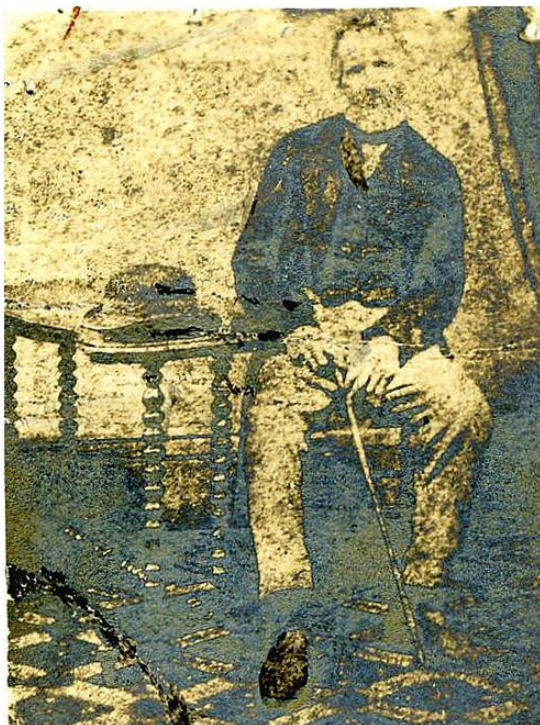


The Life of Richard Ackland, Royal Marine, 1790 - 1872

Richard Ackland was born in Shirwell in 1790 to John and Catherine Ackland and was baptised in Shirwell Church on 26th December 1790. He had two sisters, Catherine and Susan, and two brothers, John and William.



In **1810** he joined the Blue Marines at Plymouth and in **1816** was on HMS Minden¹ at the Battle of Algiers. This mission was to destroy the base of the Corsairs (or Barbary Pirates²). Richard was awarded a Naval Service Medal for service during the Napoleonic Wars and for the Battle of Algiers.

On 14th February 1818, Richard was married at St. Andrew's Church, Plymouth to Catherine Bunsall. In 1831, he left the Royal Marines after 21 years service.

In the **1841 Census**, Richard, age 50, and a Navy Pensioner was recorded as living at Priory Place, Pilton, Barnstaple, with his wife, Catherine, age 40, and 7 children. Also there on census day were his visiting married daughter, Eliza Berry age 20, and her son William Berry 13 months old.

In the **1851 Census** Richard, Catherine and family were again recorded as living at Priory Place, Pilton, Barnstaple, with 5 of his children.

Mary J.	Daughter	16	Wool sorter	born Shirwell, Devon
Catherine	Daughter	15	Lace Mender	born Shirwell, Devon
Philip	Son	13	Labourer	born Shirwell, Devon
James	Son	11	Scholar	born Pilton, Devon
Sarah Ann	Daughter	8		born Pilton, Devon

In the **1861 Census**, Richard and his family were recorded as living at Back Lane, Pilton. He was now 70, his wife was 62 and there were 2 daughters at home

Catherine	Daughter	24	Dressmaker	born Shirwell, Devon
Sarah Ann	Daughter	18	Servant	born Pilton, Devon

In the **1871 Census**, Richard now 80 and his wife now 71 were living at Back Lane, Pilton. Their son Philip Ackland, age 58, and family lived next door. Philip was a mason.

Richard Ackland died in Pilton on 23rd May 1872 at the age of 82.

This story was prepared principally from information provided by Rosemarie Castle based on her family history, national censuses, the National Archives, U.K. Naval Medal and Award Rolls, and church registers.

¹ HMS Minden was a 74-gun Ganges-class third-rate ship of the line.

² The Barbary pirates, sometimes called Barbary corsairs or Ottoman corsairs, were Ottoman pirates and privateers who operated from North Africa, based primarily in the ports of Salé, Rabat, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli.