

# The COBBOLD Family History Trust

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## COSTUMES OF THE NAVY

This album, just a little over 8" square is a treasure. It contains 15 original watercolours of naval uniforms painted in 1834 by Richard Cobbold (1797-1877). The style is mildly naïve which adds charm and some of the pictures have background interest. It appears that the album is wholly original as each watercolour is signed and captioned by Richard Cobbold himself and the interleaving paper is watermarked 1832.

The work was executed only six years after his arrival at Wortham but his previous connections with the social life of Ipswich which frequently included members of the armed forces probably explains the initially surprising subject matter. Officers had always been sought after attendees at his mother's Valentine Balls. This is certainly amongst his early work as his illustrations for 'The History of Margaret Catchpole' and his records of his flock in Wortham are at least ten years later.

A naval historian is assessing the illustrations but an early emerging point of interest is that they depict uniforms during the short reign of William IV (1830-37) when it seems officers wore scarlet at neck and wrist; this being changed to white early in Queen Victoria's reign.

The ranks included in the album are listed and the illustration is of Flag Officers.

## COSTUMES OF THE NAVY by RICHARD COBBOLD

Flag Officers  
Captains  
Lieutenants  
Midshipmen  
Royal Marines Field Officers  
Captain, Flag Officer and Commander  
Undress  
Royal Marine Artillery Officers  
Pursers and Captains Clerk  
Masters  
Volunteers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Class and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class  
Physicians and Master of the Fleet  
Royal Marines (Subalterns) 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant  
carrying Divisional Colours  
Mates  
Surgeons  
Gunner and boatswain

