

Significant People – The Hood Family – Hartlepool Museums

This is a supporting document for the video about The Hood Family by Hartlepool Museums.

The video can be found here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wlx4_26t0M0

Images used

1. John Wilson Carmichael (1799-1868), West Hartlepool from the sea, 1856, Hartlepool Museums Service
2. John Wilson Carmichael (1799-1868), Shipping off West Hartlepool, 1867, Hartlepool Museums Service
3. J. S. Holmes (active 1850-1867), The Lighthouse, Hartlepool, 1859, Hartlepool Museums Service
4. James Webb (1835-1895), Seascape, 1875, Hartlepool Museums Service
5. John Wilson Carmichael (1799-1868), West Hartlepool, 1858, Hartlepool Museums Service
6. W. Taylor, Wrecks off Hartlepool on the 11th February, 1861, Hartlepool Museums Service
7. Unknown, Seaton Lifeboat 'Tees' 1849, Bowes Museum
8. James Clark (1858-1943), The Bombardment of the Hartlepool's, 1915, Hartlepool Museums Service
9. Photograph, Henry Hood wearing cork life-jacket, 1883, Hartlepool Museums Service
10. Front of Albert Medal of the Second Class, presented by Queen Victoria to Henry Hood, Hartlepool Museum Service
11. Back of Albert Medal of the Second Class, presented by Queen Victoria to Henry Hood, Hartlepool Museum Service
12. Photograph, Henry Hood and his wife Mary Alison Brownbridge
13. Photograph, Naming of John Lawson Lifeboat, 1888, Hartlepool History Then and Now
14. Silver Watch presented to Henry Hood on his retirement
15. Photograph, Henry Hood and his wife Mary Alison Brownbridge
16. Photograph, Henry Hood wearing cork life-jacket, 1883, Hartlepool Museums Service

Images 1,2,3,4,5,8 can be viewed by searching on www.artuk.org

Image 7 can be viewed <http://hhtandn.org/relatedimages/9106/lifeboat-tees-and-jessie-stevens>

Images 9, 11, 12, 13 can be viewed at <http://hhtandn.org/person/14/hood,-henry>

Video Transcript

In this video we are going to look at some significant people in Hartlepool. Hartlepool is a town next to the North Sea and people have relied on the sea for lots of different things. There were lots of fishing boats to catch fish for food, ships sailed here with lots of things to buy and trade. New docks and a harbour were built to make it safer for the ships coming in and so we could start to build ships ourselves. This was really important in the history of our town because people moved here to get jobs. A whole new town built up around the docks, it had houses, shops, banks and Christ Church which is now Hartlepool Art Gallery, the new town was called West Hartlepool.

However, we can get some very stormy weather in Hartlepool, like this storm from 1861. Can you see all ships in trouble, the men pulling on ropes to try and pull the ships to shore and the people trying to salvage (that means save) the items that have been washed overboard and ended up on the beach? You can see why it was so important to have lifeboats in case the ships got caught in a storm. The first lifeboat in Seaton Carew was in 1823 (that's almost a 100 years ago!) the man in charge was William Hood, he was born in Seaton Carew and when he stopped working on the lifeboats after 32 years him and his crew had saved over 188 lives! It was a hard job, the lifeboats didn't have engines, the boats were pulled to the sea by horses and then the men used to row with oars into the very stormy sea to try and rescue people struggling in their boats and ships.

William's son Robert took over as Coxswain in 1855, here he is in this painting, he also received medals for his bravery and saved many lives. In 1867 his younger brother Henry Hood took over and was now in charge of the lifeboat at Seaton Carew. This is a photograph of Henry himself, can you see the cork life-jacket he's wearing and the medals? This is the medal close up, he got it from Queen Victoria herself! On the back of the medal it says "Presented in the name of Her Majesty to Mr Henry Hood, Coxswain of the lifeboat at Seaton Carew for gallantry (that means bravery) at the wreck of the Norwegian schooner 'Atlas' from Longscar rocks on the 11th March 1883."

This is Henry with his wife Mary Allison Brownbridge wearing his medals and this is a photograph from 1888 of Henry and his crew standing in front of a new lifeboat, look at the medals they all have! Henry retired and stopped working on the lifeboats in 1898 after 31 years, he and his crew had saved 88 lives. His crew, friends and family all gave a little bit of money to get Henry a present on his last day at work they gave him this silver watch, a gold chain and £30. Henry's medal and silver watch were given to his niece when Henry died in 1913, almost 100 years later in 2010 they were found in the attic of the family home, they were donated to the Museum of Hartlepool so we can learn all about Henry, Robert and William Hood, a family of brave lifeboat men. They were very significant people, leading their lifeboat crews to save the lives of over 300 people caught up in storms off the Hartlepool coast.

Curriculum Guide for Teacher's Pack

Additional Activities

RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution)

Activity sheets and posters

Includes colouring sheets of modern lifeboats, 'spot the dangers', history of lifeboats poster and lots more.

<https://rnli.org/youth-education/education-resources/activity-sheets-and-posters>

Science

Weather - Storm in a glass - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVW5OOExQxM>