

Biography of  
**Commander Young Appleby RN**

(Retired Commander, 1840. Full pay 12 years, half pay 43 years)  
from the British Naval Biographical Dictionary, 1849

Young Appleby entered the Navy, 18 Nov, 1792, as Boatswain's Servant, on board the Alfred 74, Capt. John Bazeley. After sharing in Lord Howe's action, 1 June 1794, he joined the Blenheim 98, Capt. Thos. Lenox Frederick, and while under that officer was present in Hotham's skirmish with the French fleet, 13 July, 1795, and lost a leg in the battle fought off Cape St. Vincent, 14 Feb. 1797. He then became attached in succession to the Cambridge 80, flag-ship of Sir Rich. King, Harlem 64, Capt. Geo. Burlton, Cambridge again, bearing the flag of Sir Thos. Pasley, Romulus 36, Capt. John Culverhouse, and Royal William, flag-ship of Admiral Milbanke. Obtaining a commission, dated 4 Dec. 1799, he next served from Aug. 1800, to April, 1802,, in the Actaeon 44, Capt. Philip Hire, attached to the Impress service at Liverpool, and, from 20 June, 1803, until 27 Oct 1806, had command of a Signal station on the coast of Dorsetshire. On one occasion, when in a boat belonging to the Actaeon, with only three men, he entered a vessel having 200 sailors on board, of whom he brought away 17, and drove 30 over the sides. During his semaphoric command, Mr. Appleby volunteered, on another occasion, to attack at noonday, with only 27 fencibles, a French privateer carrying 14 guns and about 80 men. He was admitted to the out-pension of Greenwich Hospital 22 Sept. 1806, and, on 7 Jan. 1840, accepted the rank he now holds.

Commander Appleby married, 4 Nov. 1803, and has issue one son.

Further information:

Young married Margaret Frew on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1803 at All Saints, Swanage, Dorset. His son was James Peacock Appleby, born 30<sup>th</sup> June 1810 and baptised 12<sup>th</sup> August 1810 at Zoar Chapel, High Street, Strood, Kent. Young, Margaret, James and a Margaret Peacock aged 86, are living in the-then quite affluent Olive Street in Bishopwearmouth (Sunderland), County Durham in 1841. Young is aged 58, a Commander of the Royal Navy and his son is aged 30 and a shipowner. A baptism record for Young has not yet been found but the 1841 census shows none of the family were born in County Durham and Margaret Peacock was born in Scotland. Young died 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1849 and was buried at St Michael's, Bishopwearmouth, two days later.

This Appleby family's legacy seems to have been short-lived, however. James' first wife died in 1865, he became bankrupt and was held in Durham Gaol in 1866, he married again in 1870 and died four years later. His only child (from his first wife), Margaret Young Appleby, was working as a nurse in Liverpool Workhouse in 1881 and later married Thomas Goodwin, a house painter. Their youngest son, George Ernest, was blind in his left eye from birth.