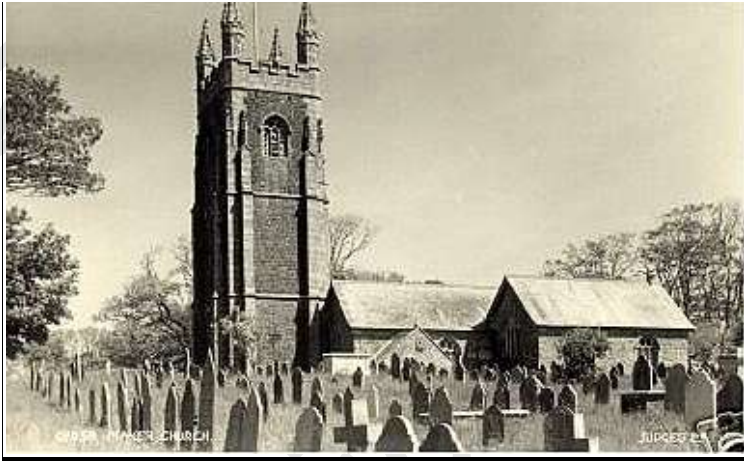


## The Signal Tower, Maker Heights, Rame Peninsula.

### Church of St Mary and St Julian, Maker With Rame



Maker Church is first mentioned in 1121 when associated with Plympton Priory. The present structure is typical of 15<sup>th</sup> century Cornish church building styles.

In 1776 a combined French Spanish fleet had anchored in Cawsand Bay, without invading, but the strategic importance of Maker Heights as a base from which to bombard both the Docks, Stonehouse and Plymouth was more fully recognised.

*The Times*, February 9th, 1795:

*" ... A Telegraph Signal-house has just been completed on Maker Heights, close to the Tower, which at present repeats the signals to Plymouth ..."*

In 1795 a chain of 74 stations around England had been established to convey intelligence. In the case of Maker, to relay details of marine traffic in the English Channel and other threatening information.

For each tower, a Lieutenant was appointed, who is allowed 7s 6d a day exclusive of his half-pay. One midshipman at 2s per day and the pay of a fourth rate. Two seamen at 2s per day. A house adjoining the signal tower is allowed to lodge them, with coals and candles .

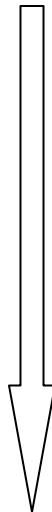
A broadsheet showing the signals made from Maker Tower is in the church. The original being in Plymouth Library. Shown are three masts, one upright and two a little above horizontal. On these, by a combination of flags, whiffs (narrow pennants) and balls a variety of information is given, eg "A fleet of 50 sail coming up-channel".

The messages from the Maker Tower were relayed to Mount Wise














The structure of the signals arms can be seen in the diagrams below.

**This table confirms the signal's meanings:**

Maker Church	The Fleet bearing away to Eastward or to the Westward	One sail from the Eastward or from the Westward
Five sail from the East or from the West	Six sail from the East or from the West	Nine sail from the East or from the West
Exceeding nine sail to the Eastward or the Westward	The whiff out if they stand in xxx Ships engage East or West	The ball out if they stand off the shore Ships engage East or West
The enemy fleet to the Eastward or to the Westward	Ships a far distance, a whiff and a ball, but if fleet, two balls May not come in, the red flag hoisted.	Ship in Distress



THE SIGNALS  
for his Majesty's Navy from Maker Church at  
PLYMOUTH.

<p><i>Maker Church.</i></p> 		<p><i>The Fleet leaving the Fleet leaving away to the Eastward to the Westward.</i></p> 		<p><i>One ship from the Eastward One ship to the Westward.</i></p> 	
<p><i>Two ships from the Eastward Two ships to the Westward.</i></p> 		<p><i>Three ships from the Eastward Three ships to the Westward.</i></p> 		<p><i>Four ships from the Eastward Four ships to the Westward.</i></p> 	
<p><i>Exceeding Nine ships from the Eastward to the Westward.</i></p> 		<p><i>The Whiff out of the Mast or nothing there.</i></p> <p><i>Ships Engage East Ships Engage West.</i></p> 		<p><i>The Bell out of the Mast or off the Mast.</i></p> <p><i>Ships Engage East Ships Engage West.</i></p> 	
<p><i>The Enemies Fleet to the Eastward.</i></p> 		<p><i>The Enemies Fleet to the Westward.</i></p> 		<p><i>Ships a force out of the Mast or Bell out of the Mast two Bells.</i></p> <p><i>May not come on, the Red Flag hoisted.</i></p> 	
<p><i>A Ship in Danger.</i></p> 					

## Newspaper cuttings:

PLYMOUTH, AUG. 25.

Came in his Majesty's ship Marlborough, of 74 guns, Capt. BERKLEY, from Portsmouth; and his Majesty's ship Eurydice, of 24 guns, Capt. COLE, from Torbay.

The fleet under the command of Earl HOWE, as also the Stately, of 64 guns, with the Newfoundland trade, were in sight from Maker Heights late last evening, in the South-west quarter, but at a great distance from the land. During the night, both fleets increased their distance so much from the shore, that they were quite out of sight from this place in the morning.

*The Times*, Wednesday, Aug 28, 1793

### Ship News.

PLYMOUTH, MAY 7.—Vice Admiral Young has appointed the *Cheerly* gun brig, 14 guns, as look-out cruiser for this port, to look out from the Start to the Deathman's Point, and report every morning, by signals to the telegraph on the *Maker Heights*, what ships are in sight, for the information of the Port Admiral. Last night there was the hottest press that has been known in this port, taking all hands that appeared useful. It was conducted with so much secrecy that the boats started at once, and several hindous were taken before one o'clock this morning. Came in from the fleet off Brest, the *Neptune*, 98 guns, Capt. T. Withams; the late the gallant Admiral Lord Gardner all well last Sunday night. The enemy, as usual, at single anchor, in the outer road, ready for a start.

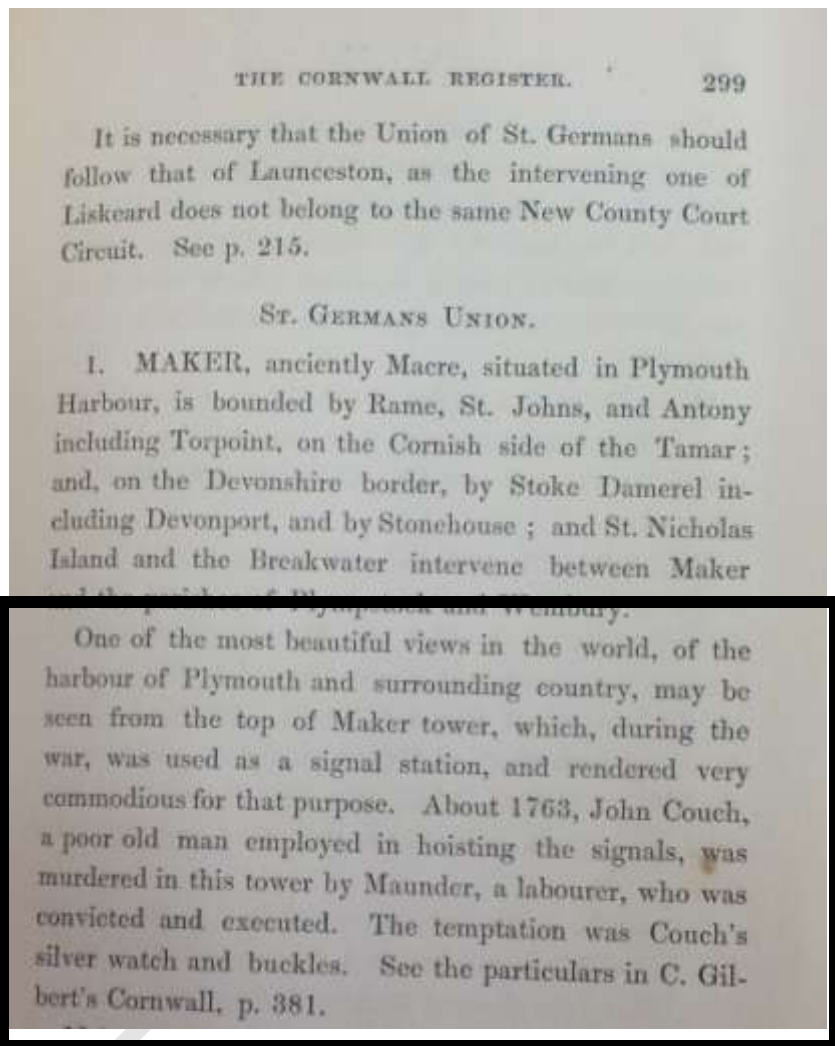
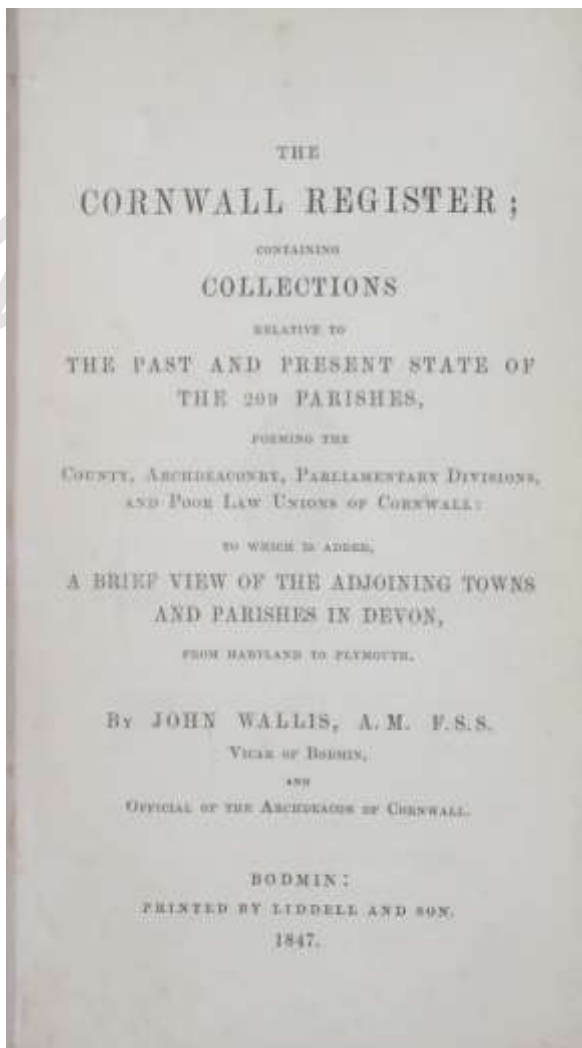
### Ship News .

*The Morning Post* Friday, May 10, 1805

Item inserted December 2013

### Murder at Maker Tower

From 'The Cornwall Register' a collection of historical narratives by John Wallis, Vicar of Bodmin 1847



**Refs:**

Naval Chronology Vol II page 339

Rev White Papers this website see Archive/Rev White Papers

<http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-61699-church-of-st-mary-and-st-julian-maker-wit>

*The Times*, February 9th, 1795

The Cornwall Register' a collection of historical narratives by John Wallis, Vicar of Bodmin 1847

