

THE STORY OF AXMOUTH HARBOUR

Nigel Daniel

Historically, only brief narratives have been written about Axmouth Harbour. Generally, they have looked at certain periods or topics; none has presented a comprehensive history of the haven. This book aims to fulfil that ambition, by taking a holistic approach. It references many of those brief accounts, but also contains historical information hitherto unpublished. This includes local shipping during the late medieval period, a time which until now, had slipped into obscurity.

With the benefit of local knowledge, supplementary information has augmented the record, enhancing this chronological account of the harbour. Material has been sourced from both official records and anecdotal accounts. The merits of each have been considered, with the aim of verification where doubt exists.

In ancient times this Devon harbour was of considerable significance. From the Romans, through the Medieval period and into the nineteenth century, mercantile operations continued in varying degrees. However, the haven has struggled against a back drop of challenging conditions. From the mid-1400s, a developing shingle spit has encroached, threatening to close off the once large estuary.

Ultimately, today's small harbour has been transformed, from a once thriving commercial port, to one which now serves leisure and fishing interests. But, against the odds, this small distinctive port survives, and is now celebrated in this magnificent new publication.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nigel Daniel grew up beside this small Devon harbour. Naturally, messing about in boats featured highly from a young age. This translated into a keen interest in navigation and so, a career at sea followed, culminating in almost twenty years as a cable-ship Captain.

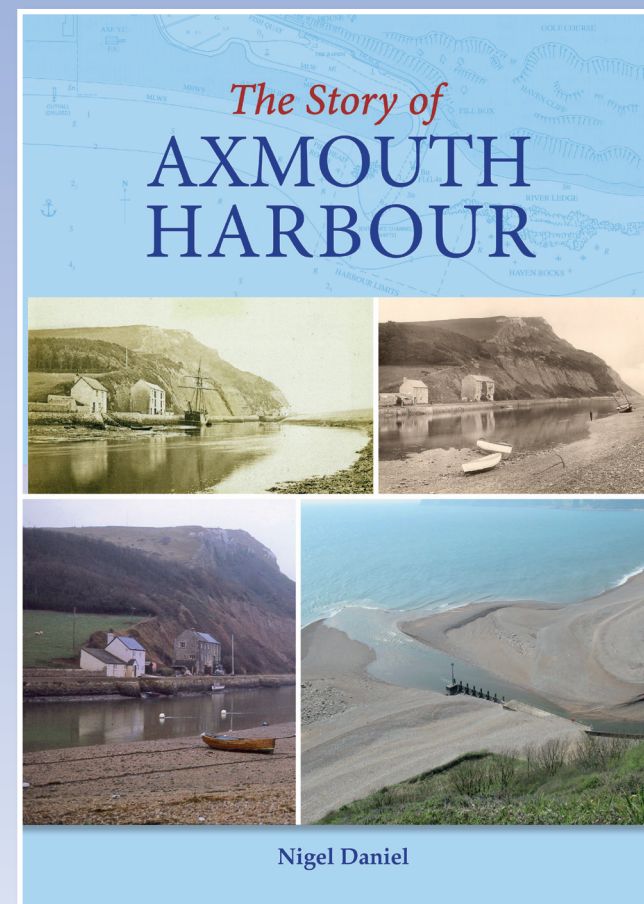
From those early days, a passion for sailing has endured. He has sailed aboard all manner of boats, from a replica clipper, to the author's Axe One Design.

Similarly, an interest in local history prevailed, especially that of Axmouth Harbour. It's been a long-held ambition to publish this book, which following retirement in 2018, has now come to fruition. The author continues to enjoy sailing from Axmouth.

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