

Sultana's Commanding Officer: Lieutenant John Inglis



Lieutenant Inglis Assumes His First Command Aboard Sultana at Age 25

The schooner Sultana was commanded by Lieutenant John Inglis. Born in Philadelphia in 1743, Mr. Inglis did not enjoy school as a young boy. Legend has it that he made a life-sized dummy of his hated headmaster and trained his dog to remove its wig. When the trick was actually performed for the headmaster, Inglis was expelled!

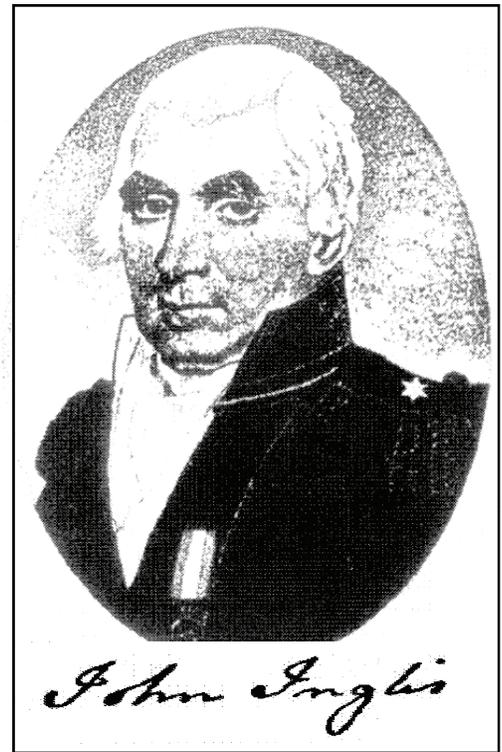
John Inglis first joined the Royal Navy at age fourteen. In 1758, he was put under the command of Captain John Elliot on the H.M.S. *Hussar*. Captain Elliot would turn out to be the major influence in Inglis' naval career, serving as his teacher, advisor and friend for the next fifty years of his life.

Inglis served on several ships in the Seven Years War, which pitted the English navy against the French and Spanish. He was involved in many battles, several of which involved the capture of enemy French ships. During the Seven Years War, on October 22, 1761, Inglis was commissioned a 4th Lieutenant in the Royal Navy.

From 1768 to 1772, John Inglis commanded His Majesty's schooner Sultana, the smallest vessel in the Royal Navy's fleet of revenue cutters. During these years he and his crew boarded hundreds of colonial ships while enforcing British taxes on English colonists in North America. While Sultana was stationed in the Potomac River, Lieutenant Inglis and Master David Bruce were invited to dine with George Washington at Mt. Vernon.

During the Revolutionary War in 1778, John Inglis was commanding His Majesty's sloop *Senegal* when he was captured by several French ships of war. He was taken to court, where the Royal Navy found that he had acted wisely in the face of a superior force by turning his ship over to the French navy. Amazingly, Inglis later recaptured the *Senegal* in 1780 while battling the French off the coast of Africa.

In the latter years of his life, John Inglis was promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral, one of the highest ranking positions in the Royal Navy. He died in 1807 at the age of 63. He had served in two of the most important wars the world had ever seen, been involved in several battles and captured many ships, and served his country admirably. His legacy lives on with the reconstruction of the modern schooner Sultana.



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Below is a copy of a letter from Lieutenant John Inglis to family friend Gilbert Elliot dated July 17, 1768 - one day before he was to take command of His Majesty's schooner Sultana. Mr. Elliot had helped Lieutenant Inglis receive his promotion by writing a letter of recommendation on his behalf to an admiral in the Royal Navy. At the time, John Inglis was 25 years old and clearly excited about his first command.

I take the earliest opportunity of returning you my most sincere Thanks for the trouble & kindness you have taken in procuring me the command of a schooner, to which I had the Honour of being appointed yesterday. I have the pleasure of informing you that the greatest regard was observed to your recommendation by Admiral Hawke on whom I did myself the honour of waiting in consequence of your recommendation, & he was pleased to tell me that he upon receiving your letter had intended me for the Sultana which is the vessel I am appointed to, & she is to be Stationed on the coast of Nova Scotia which is intirely to my wishes.



She is at Deptford at present, I have seen her and think she is the best vessel employ'd that way, as she is strong and vastly pretty. you may be assured that I have a thorough sense of your kindness in this affair & that no effort of mine will be spared to do the strictest honour to the station you have put me in. In case you have any commands for me, or anything that you want to send to your brother which you would choose might go by the way of Nova Scotia you'll be pleased to inform me & believe me dear Sir your much obliged humble servant Jno Inglis.

*"I have seen her and think she is the best vessel employ'd that way,
as she is strong and vastly pretty."*

Lieutenant John Inglis July 17, 1768



Writing to Persuade: Help Lt. Inglis Recruit His Crew!



NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: Imagine that you are trying to recruit crew members for His Majesty's schooner Sultana, which will be sailing from England to North America under the command of Lieutenant John Inglis. Your job is to convince twenty four people to work on board the ship. In the space below, write a promotional piece that might convince crew members to join the vessel's work force. Include at least three positive aspects of working on an English naval ship. Fill in the box with an illustration that might help to further persuade someone to come aboard. Use the persuasive organizer provided to help structure your paragraph.

illustration



Persuasive Organizer



NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: Prior to writing your recruitment article, fill out this Persuasive Organizer to help structure your paragraph.

