**Henry Sargeant, 1798–1868**

Sargeant was a marine painter working in Portsmouth in the mid-19th century. His birth is generally given as in 1798, which is probably correct, and it took place in Batley, Hants. By about 1836 held the appointment of Marine Painter to HRH the Duchess of Kent (Queen Victoria’s mother) according to inscriptions on locally published prints after his work. One issued by J. Miller of Portsmouth, presumably late in that year or shortly afterwards, is an impressive lithograph of ‘H.M. Brig Serpent (Commander R.J. Warren) dismasted whilst lying at Anchor at Spithead by a Tremendous Hurricane on Tuesday the 29th of Novr 1836’.

Sargeant’s prime business, however, seems to have been as a glazier employing several men, both his work and home premises being at 85 High Street, Portsmouth, according to Robson’s Hampshire directory for 1839. This lists him as both ‘Marine Painter and Glazier’ and the 1841 census notes him there as aged 40 with his wife and probably his sister, both called Sarah (and stated as 35 and 26), and his six children ranging from 14 to 2 years old: four were boys, with two girls as the fourth and last. At the 1861 census he was still there with his wife but only his eldest son, Arthur (24), at home, and is listed as a ‘Painter employing 3 men 1 boy’. His age is more specifically stated as 63 and his wife, born in Hythe, Hants, as 62.

Sargeant’s artistic output appears to have been largely local coastal and yachting views in oil, some exhibited in the Portsmouth area. The ‘Fine Art and Industrial Exhibition’ at Gosport in 1860 included two of his works lent by a Mr Harding, ‘Pilot Boat – Old Agenoria’ and ‘Pilot Boat – New Agenoria’, while a Mr Dashwood contributed his ‘Schooner Yacht America’ (*Portsmouth Times and Naval Gazette*, 15 Sept. 1860). At the similar follow-up exhibition in 1861, held at the Queen’s Rooms, Portsea, the *Portsmouth Times* (19 Oct.) noted that ‘Captain Parnell exhibits a very nice picture by Mr. Sargeant, a local artist of some repute, illustrative of a yacht race.’

The National Maritime Museum also has a signed oil showing the yacht *America* outsailing the Marquess of Anglesey’s *Pearl* in informal but reported circumstances in the Solent (not in a race) on 14 August 1851. Some uncertainty is introduced by there also appearing to be a marine painter called Sargeant working in a similar style, but showing later shipping, in the 1880s. There is also a landscape view of ‘Taunton, looking towards the Quantock Hills’ in the Somerset Museum of Rural Life, attributed to a ‘Sargeant’ with working dates stated as c.1835–41. This is so different in subject terms that it is hard to take a view on whether it might be by the Portsmouth man given lack of comparable examples.

Sargeant appears to have died on Portsea Island in the first quarter of 1868, with a stated age of 71. ‘In his 71st year’, which this can sometime mean, also matches a birth date of 1798.

*Summarized from Art UK discussion of Sargeant’s ‘The Yacht* America *outsailing the* Pearl, *15 August 1851’ (NMM)*

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