

**J is for Joy** William (1803-1865) & John (1805-1859) Joy , brothers born in Southtown, Great Yarmouth. They were prominent **maritime artists** members of the celebrated Norwich School of Painters. They caught the attention of **Captain George Manby**, the barrack master, stationed at Great Yarmouth who afforded them a studio in 1818, two years later they displayed their work.

William enjoyed painting harrowing seas with storm tossed vessels, John tended to paint in water colours his work being less dramatic than his brothers.

Manby commissioned the brothers to paint the scenes of ships in distress with the intention of gaining recognition and parliamentary backing for his lifesaving invention, **The Manby Mortar**.



***Saving a crew near Yarmouth Pier*** (thought to be 1830-1832)

Displayed in The Wreck & Rescue Gallery at The Time & Tide Museum, Gt Yarmouth

William was introduced to London society by introductory letters that Manby himself wrote. Manby commenting that;

***"Joy is now well on the road to fame and fortune, and will do honour not only to his native town but also to his country".***

In 1832 the Joy brothers moved to Portsmouth to further their career & paint the fishing boats in the port, for the British Government.

Art historians consider that most of their paintings were painted individually and although often not signing their work the distinctive word **JOY** is painted on the side of a boat.

They became known amongst nautical society for their accurate depiction of a vessels sails & rigging but the powerful scene setting of William Joy's stormy scenes are the most poignant legacy. Evocative and atmospheric the paintings show the power and unforgiving nature of the sea. They remind us of the risk that seafarers found themselves in & the number of lives sadly lost at sea.

Many examples of their work can be found in the Norfolk Museums Collection.

**Why not make your own curious collection of J objects from your home.**

#A-Z

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