

Horatio and his Family

Women loved Nelson and understandably so; he was handsome, masculine, intelligent and heroic; what more could a lady want in a man!

He was like an 18th Century David Beckham, with school girls scribbling his surname in place of theirs and their mothers wishing their husbands had an ounce of the charm and charisma that made Nelson so appealing. It seemed that 'The Nelson Touch' is not just a term that refers to his brilliant war efforts but also a term that extends to his brilliance with charming women.

Although he was married to **Francis Nisbet** for 14 long years it is well documented that he had a scandalous affair with the beautiful **Lady Emma Hamilton**.

Francis Nisbet The Wife

In March 1785 Nelson set sail from the spectacular Island of Nevis in the West Indies. It was in this dazzling setting that he met Francis Nisbet, a widow of the late Doctor Nisbet. After two years, on March 11th 1787 the couple married on the Island of Nevis.

Nelson parted from his wife 14 years later in 1801 and set up home with the Hamilton's at Merton.

Lady Emma Hamilton The Mistress

Yes, it's true; our beloved hero had a naughty side and had an affair with a beautiful woman behind his wife's back. Her name was Lady Emma Hamilton and they first gazed into one another's eyes on his trip to Naples in September 1793. What makes this even more scandalous is that she was also

married to Sir William Hamilton, the British Ambassador in Naples during the **French Revolutionary War**.

Nobody knows precisely when the two started sneaking around out of view of their partners but we can estimate that it was between 1799 and 1800.

Lady Hamilton gave birth to Nelson's child, Horatia, whom they both adored. Their affair caused a great scandal in London and on one occasion the king even turned his back on Nelson at a reception. You can imagine the field day a tabloid newspaper would have today with that kind of story today!