

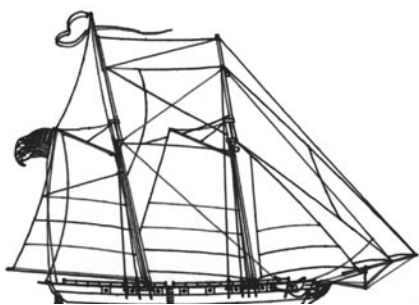
Florida Keys

Sea Heritage Journal

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USS SHARK



 OFFICIAL QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE KEY WEST MARITIME HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lt. Perry and the US Schooner Shark in Pirate Waters

By John Viele
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The young naval lieutenant who took formal possession of the island of Key West for the United States on March 25, 1822 went on to become one of the most distinguished naval officers of his time. His full name was Matthew Calbraith Perry and, at the time, he was actually a Lieutenant Commandant (equivalent to a Lieutenant Commander in today's Navy). He commanded the U.S. Schooner **Shark** attached to the West Indies Squadron, better known as the Antipiracy Squadron

Born in 1794, in Newport, Rhode Island, Perry was one of six naval officers all from the same family. His father, Captain Christopher Perry, served in privateers and Continental Navy ships during the Revolutionary War and the Quasi War with France. His older brother, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, commanded the squadron that defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. Three other brothers were naval officers. One commanded a ship at the Battle of Plattsburg; the other two brothers died while still in the naval service.

In 1809, when Perry was fifteen, his father arranged his appointment



Lt. Matthew Perry. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

as a midshipman. After a brief period of training aboard a receiving ship, Perry reported aboard the U.S. Schooner **Revenge** commanded by his brother, Oliver Hazard Perry. During the War of 1812, he served aboard the frigates **President** and **United States** and was slightly wounded by an exploding gun while his ship was chasing a British

frigate. Shortly before the end of the war, he married. Appointed First Lieutenant of a Navy brig, he made a cruise to the Mediterranean, but arrived too late to take part in the war against the Dey of Algiers. During a four-year peacetime furlough, he commanded his father-

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SOCIETY NEWS AND NOTES

By Tom & Lynda Hambright

In the Florida Keys Sea Heritage Journal of Fall 2004 we printed information on the fish kill of 1878 at Fort Jefferson. Since then we have found the following articles about the excess water in South Florida and the fish kill around Key West. Some of us believe this is more proof that the fish kill was caused by fresh water run-off from the Everglades. Some scientists are not sure that this was the cause or only cause. The following three items are from the Key West newspaper "Key of the Gulf" of October 26, 1878.

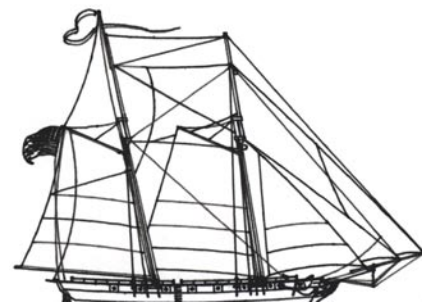
"Mr. John G. Webb of Sarasota, has written a very interesting letter in the "Sunland Tribune" of the 12th inst., giving a detailed account of a boat party from Fort Bassinger on the Kissimmee River to Fort Myers. They sailed directly over the prairies to the head of the Caloosahatchie, and thence down to Fort Myers. They describe the country as being submerged some five feet under water, with little or no prospect of its subsiding before Christmas. Mr. Webb suggests that an expedition be fitted out in this city, to go to Shark River into

Lake Okeechobee, and from thence to the Caloosahatchie River and down to the Gulf. We believe it can be accomplished. Will some of our young men, who love real sport, try it? We Hope so."

"Smack fishing for the present is entirely destroyed owing to the poisonous water along the Gulf Coast. It is more than six weeks since, that a single smack has been able to carry any live fish to Cuba."

"From Tortugas. By the arrival of the U.S. Schnr. **Matchless**, Capt. Russell, we learn that the poisoned water has reached that fortification, and its adjacent islands. The dead fish are so numerous around the place, that the commanding officer is compelled to employ police parties to carry them off by the cart loads and bury them. Large number of fish are daily seen to die all around the fortification, and even the conchs and other shell-fish are reported dead.

It is believed that the late winds from the N. and E. have driven the dead fish and poisonous water far out into the Gulf. Tortugas is not less than 100 miles from the nearest Mainland."



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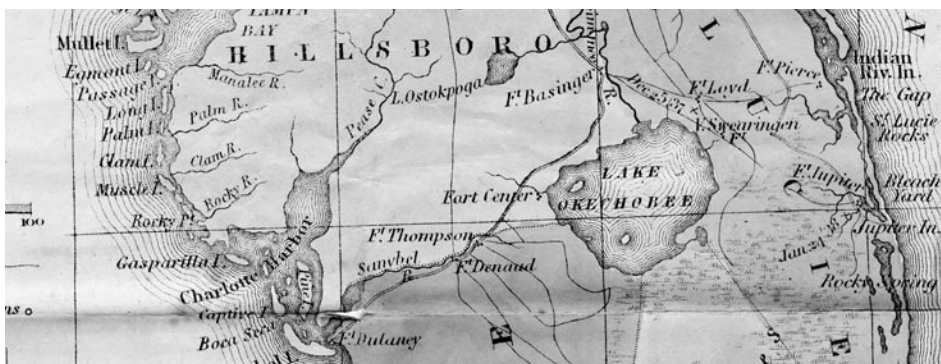
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Letters and articles are welcome. Please write to: Editor, Florida Keys Sea Heritage Journal, KWMHS, P.O. Box 695, Key West, FL 33041.

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1857 map of Florida showing the area of the trip. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

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Commodore Rodgers Inspects Thompson's Island

by John Viele

In August 1823, the Antipiracy Squadron, based at Key West (then called Thompson's Island), was hit by an epidemic of yellow fever. Commodore Porter, who had contracted the disease on two previous occasions, was one of the victims. By the end of August, there were forty cases, and before the end of September, forty-eight deaths. Porter reported the situation to the Secretary of the Navy and, without waiting for orders, headed north with most of the squadron.

Unaware that Porter had already left the island, the Secretary ordered Commodore John Rodgers, president of the Navy Board of Commissioners (comparable to today's Chief of Naval Operations) to proceed to Key West to examine the situation and determine the advisability of continuing to use the island as a naval base.

Rodgers sailed to Key West aboard the U.S. Schooner **Shark**, (the same schooner commanded by Lieutenant Commandant Matthew Perry when he took possession of Key West for the United States in 1822). In the following letter, from the Rodgers family papers, Commodore Rodgers reports his findings to the Secretary of the Navy two days after his arrival:

U.S. Schooner **Shark**

Thompson's Island

Oct. 25th 1823

Sir

I have the honor to inform you of my arrival here on the 23rd instant.

I have found matters on the Island in rather an unpropitious State – yet far from being so bad as might have been expected.

Out of about 140 persons on the Island, Officers, seamen and marines, 59 are sick, principally



Commodore John Rodgers. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

with intermittant [sic] fevers, only one case out of the whole assuming, at this time, a malignant Type. They are however all in a very low state, and I have engaged two vessels which I found here by accident to Transport them to Norfolk at \$10 per head – the three Surgeons who came with me and Surgeon Williamson recommending their removal to a northern climate as absolutely necessary to the restoration of their health. The men still remaining after the sick are sent away will be sufficient for all the present exigencies of the service and I have no reason to think that any further evil consequences are to be apprehended, as such cases of fever as have occurred within the last twenty days have assumed a much milder Type than previous to that date. I have just returned from visiting all the sick – at both Hospitals – It appears they had taken up an impression that they could not recover in this climate, and on being told of my intentions to send them home, every countenance appeared to beam with joy. Most of those who have had yellow fever have relapsed into intermittant [sic].

With the two vessels in which I

send the sick, I shall send Doctors Williamson & Hoffman, leaving Surgeons Mates Conway, Van Brunt & Boyce who will be quite sufficient for any exigencies likely to occur. I would however recommend your sending out a surgeon and one or two mates as soon as convenient to relieve those gentlemen.

Be assured you have nothing to apprehend from further disastrous consequences, as I shall take care to place everything in the best possible state before I depart.

All the large vessels I find have gone home except the **Spark** and **Grampus**. The former is, I am told, cruising on the South side of Cuba and the latter in the Gulf of Mexico and may probably return here soon.

Neither of the schooners which were at Washington when I left have arrived, neither had the **Ferret**, Lt. Duncan, yet made her appearance. The **Porpoise**, Lt. Ramage, was the only vessel of war found here on my arrival, the **Wild Cat** and **Jackall** arrived yesterday.

By the first opportunity, I will write you more fully – excuse this hasty scrawl and believe me

With great Respect

To the Honbl.

Your Obdt. Servt.

Hackley's Diary

William Hackley practiced law in Key West from 1829 to 1857. He kept a diary for part of the time he was in Key West. Here is the diary for December 1855 and part of January 1856.

Saturday, December 1. Rose at 4:20 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 8:30 a.m. barometer 29.49, thermometer 77, wind east southeast 4, clouds 9. The brig **Sampson** for New York is ashore on one of the heads off the South Beach near the bend, she was bound in. Paid William C. Dennis for hire of Negro woman to date, he making allowance for her sickness \$12.00, also paid for a cord of wood \$5.00. The **Sampson** got out about noon. Commenced raining about 6 p.m. and rained till 11. The chimney at the Jail got on fire about 9 p.m. and the alarm was given.

Sunday, December 2. Rose at 4:30 and walked to the Salt Pond and returned by way of the duck ponds and in Mead's Pond I saw two large ducks within an easy shot. A large flock flew over my head when I was returning from the Salt Pond and opposite the field. Returned home and bathed. At 8:40 a.m. barometer 29.41.5, thermometer 77, wind southwest 2, clouds 1. H.H. Raymond and John Geiger came up about 10 and put down the facts of the wrecking of the ship **Lavinia Adams** which occupied me until near 1. Afternoon walked to South Beach with Matilda.

Monday, December 3. Rose at 5 and went to the duck ponds and home by the Barracks, saw nothing. Writing up the Libel on the case of the ship **Lavinia Adams** all morning. At 3 p.m. barometer 29.42, thermometer 79, wind east northeast 3, clouds 4. Returned ½ dozen

mens sockets to Robert Campbell. Bought from J.B. Browne three quires of recording paper for \$1.38. Tift employed me to defend the brig **Sampson**.

Tuesday, December 4. When the alarm struck it was raining and lay till it was light enough to see then bathed. The **Florida** came in about 7 and Lucy Mills and Miss Bright her companion came in her. I went on board and took them up to the house. Raining all morning. At 10 a.m. barometer 29.46, thermometer 75, wind east northeast 4, clouds 8. Filed the Libel of H.H. Raymond and others against the ship **Lavinia Adams**. The case is set for Monday. Went to the Courthouse where Judge Thomas F. King was presiding, no business done. Raining all day, a real rainy day. Senator Stephen Mallory came in the **Florida**.

Wednesday, December 5. Rose at 4:30 and went to the market and the streets were so wet that I walked on the piazza and bathed. At 9:35 a.m. barometer 29.53, thermometer 75, wind east northeast 1, clouds 9. Raining again. Went up to court and dismissed the case of the State of Florida vs. J.P. Smith upon payment of costs. Raining nearly the whole day.

Thursday, December 6. Rose at 4:50 and found it raining heavily and did not take a bathe there being no water in the tub and two much rain to fill it. About 6 went to market and got a fish. At 9:15 a.m. barometer 29.59, thermometer 77, wind east northeast 2, clouds 8. Clouds all day with rain. The steamer **Isabel** came in yesterday about dark.

Friday, December 7. Rose at 5:30 and with the roads to wet to walk went to the market and got turtle. I got letters and papers. Returned home and bathed. At 10:20 a.m.

barometer 29.62, thermometer 75, wind northeast 3, clouds 2. Had a talk with Welch about his interfering with Tifts retaining me for Captain Murray of the brig **Sampson** and as he puts it upon his legal right. I proposed to submit it to Judge William Marvin, to which he agreed. The case of Antony Pent vs. Cargo of the ship **Concordra** still being augured. I was in court a short time after dinner. Got a letter from George R. Potter offering me \$50.00 per annum to be his correspondent which I accept and filled up his list of traders.

Saturday, December 8. Rose at 5 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 9 a.m. barometer 29.59, thermometer 75, wind east southeast 3, clouds 4. At the Circuit Court all day when we re-augured the case of Ogden et al. vs John Geiger and Davis. Spent the evening at Alexander Patterson's. Paid Powell \$10.00 for tuning the piano. Washed my eyes with coconut water which makes them very sore and a copious flow of gummy water.

Sunday, December 9. Rose at 4:30 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 9:45 a.m. barometer 29.47, thermometer 77, wind south 4, clouds 3. There were two rain squalls during the night. Wrote to Mr. Knox relative to a suit of Williamson Lyavasie and Company vs. R. Pent. Wrote to Mother in Charlotte's letter. At 4 p.m. barometer 29.37, thermometer 83, wind south 2, clouds 7. Rain about 9 p.m. and wind southwest.

Monday, December 10. Rose at 6 and bathed. Got a dray and sent down Lucy Willis's baggage. Commenced to rain at 7:30 and they had to go down in the rain and could not get a carriage. The **Florida** got

off at 8:30 and did not see Miss Bright after she got on board. At 9:30 a.m. barometer 29.41, thermometer 76, wind northwest 3, clouds 6 but the sun visible at intervals. The case of the ship **Lavaina Adams** continued till Wednesday. Filed a claim for duties also a consortship and crew libel. Wrote to the Secretary of Interior for blanks. Also wrote to Luther Lucking for the Cultivator Almanac (bound) for 1856 and Cultivator for one year. Lucy gave me a letter, I wrote to Byrd, to take to the boat and there we were in such a hurry I forgot to give it to her and will send it by the steamer **Isabel**. Wind freshened toward night.

Tuesday, December 11. Rose about 6 and walked to South Beach and home by the Fort. Did not bathe the weather being rather cold. At 8:40 a.m. barometer 29.62, thermometer 66, wind north 5, clouds 1. Major William H. Chase arrived last night in the steamer **Isabel**. Senator Stephen Mallory did not go through ready as the weather was very bad and he suffers much for sea sickness. Judge William Marvin came in and asked me to go out and show him his land he purchased of Adam Gordon. Went up to the house and got my gun and went round and showed him his corners. Went by the duck ponds but saw nothing to shoot. Got 4/8ths of a Havana Lottery Ticket from William Pinkney for \$4.28, draws today. Dined at Alexander Patterson's.

Wednesday, December 12. Rose about sunrise and walked over to South Beach and home by the Fort with Hatty and Lotty. Met Mr. Ackmead, to whom I was introduced as few days since by Captain Welch, and he walked with us. His health is not good and he amuses himself by making a collection of Algae. Returned home and did not bathe. At 8:30 a.m. barometer 29.70, thermometer 66, wind north northeast 4, clouds 9. The case of the ship **Lavinia Adams** postponed until Friday. The weather

having been so bad that divers could not go under the ship. Read Intelligence and Law magazine.

Thursday, December 13. Rose at 5 and walked on the beach and got caught in a rain on my way back, rained but little. Returned home and bathed. At 8:45 a.m. barometer 29.71, thermometer 69, wind north northwest 4, clouds 7. The brigantine **Isabella** from Apalachicola for New York has been on shore at Bahia Honda and lightened by the schooner **Relampage** and came in about 2 p.m. yesterday consigned to J.W. Porter. Read paper and Law magazine. p.m. Read Putnam's magazine.

Friday, December 14. Rose at 5 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 8:30 a.m. barometer 29.62, thermometer 71, wind north northeast 3, clouds 3. A heavy shower fell just before day. Read papers. The divers have not finished with the ship **Laviana Adams** and the case was postponed till tomorrow. Captain Murray came up and I read over the libel to him and he took it to compare with his logbook. Read Law magazine. p.m. Read Putnam's magazine and walked with family.

Saturday, December 15. Rose at 5:45 but it had rained during the night and again just as I got to the front gate and I did not walk. Bathed. At 8:30 a.m. barometer 29.57, thermometer 74, wind east southeast 3, clouds 4. Tried the case of H.H. Raymond vs. the ship **Lavinia Adams**. The ships **Creole** and **Malabar** from New Orleans for Europe came in about noon. They had been in a collision off Carysford Reef and both somewhat injured about their heads and head gear.

Sunday, December 16. Rose at 5:15 and walked on the beach,

returned home and bathed. At 9:15 a.m. barometer 29.57, thermometer 77, wind east southeast 2, clouds 0, Drew up a petition for salvage on 633 bags of salt saved by the schooner **Dart** from the ship **Lavinia Adams** and the answer of Captain Murray to the libel of Simon Frow et al vs. brig **Sampson** and cargo. Read papers. p.m. Commenced reading Huc's "Travels Through China" belonging to James C. Clapp, who left first volume in my office.

Monday, December 17. Rose at 5:45 and walked round by the Fort and home by Simonton's Road, returned home and bathed. At 8 a.m. barometer 29.55, thermometer 78, wind southeast 2, clouds 4. Filed a petition for salvage for the schooner **Dart** for salt. Tried the case of the brig **Sampson** and afterwards the case of the brig **Isabella**, Senator Stephen Mallory for libellants, Stephenson for the respondent. J.W. Porter being the consignee.

Tuesday, December 18. Rose at 5:40 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 8 a.m. barometer 29.52, thermometer 80, wind south southeast 2, clouds 6. Read paper. The steamer **Vanderbilt** got in about 8.

Wednesday, December 19. Rose at 5 and walked to the Salt Pond, returned home and bathed. At 8 a.m. barometer 29.55, thermometer 80, wind calm, clouds 7. Read papers and Law magazine. p.m. Read Huc's "Travels Through China."

Thursday, December 20. Rose at 5:30 and walked to the Salt Pond, returned home and bathed. At 8:30 a.m. barometer 29.60, thermometer 79, wind northeast 3, clouds 1. Judge William Marvin read his decree in the case of the ship **Lavinia Adams** giving 34 per cent upon \$39,000 being the estimated value of ship and cargo. The Judge

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(Hackley from page 5)

also gave his decree in the case of cotton from the ship **Concordia** 50% on the net sales and to Pent et, als 8 per cent on the salvage as a second party for scuttling the ship so as to put out the fire by which the cotton was preserved so as the first party could save it. Read paper. p.m. Read Huc's "Travels Through China."

Friday, December 21. Rose at 5 and walked to the Salt Pond, returned home and bathed. At 8:30 a.m. barometer 29.53, thermometer 73, wind northeast 4, clouds 1. The steamer **Isabel** got in about 10 a.m. Lizzie came in her and I took her up home. Rachel was on board as was General Bailey of Virginia who is in bad health and is on his way to Havana. Got a letter from the Attorney General respecting filibustering in Nicaragua. Also received a Certificate of Membership in the CAA from the Knickerbocker magazine. The barque **May** of London which has been ashore on Loo Key came in. I brought a large green parrot from the Stewart for which I paid \$15.00. Borrowed \$50.00 of William Pinkney. The steamer **Isabel** went out about went out about 8.

Saturday, December 22. Rose at 5 and walked to the Salt Pond, returned home and bathed. At 8:50 a.m. barometer 29.47, thermometer 76, wind southeast 4, clouds 6. Paid \$15.00 for Lizzies' passage. Gave William Von Pisher who sails for Charleston today in the brig **Huntress** an order for a large cage for the parrot. Paid Fernando Moreno for a barrel of flour \$12.08. Wrote to the Attorney General. p.m. Read Huc's "Travels Through China."

Sunday, December 23. Rose at 5 when finding it was raining I walked up and down the piazza for 1 and ½

hours after which bathed. At 9 a.m. barometer 29.52, thermometer 78, wind southeast 2, clouds 5. About 9 Captain J.P. Smith asked me to take a trip up to the American Shoal where there was a ship on shore. All the wreckers inport having started. Got off about half-past 10 and the wind being southeast and a good breeze the wreckers beat the steamer and we did not get there until all of them had sent their boats aboard and we passed close to the ship which is **Ashburton** of Newburyport with 1,600 bales of cotton from New Orleans. She is ashore in 12 foot of water and she is drawing 15 feet. Welch who went with us, Charles Tift and the clerk of the ship went onboard but the Captain had given up the ship to sloop **Vineyard**, sloop **Parallel**, schooner **Florida** and schooner **Libby Sheppard** and as it was evident that she would have to be lightened and the steamboat could not get employed. Left Welch onboard and left for town where we arrived about 5 p.m. having had a pleasant trip. Matilda and I went to Alexander Patterson's after tea.

Monday, December 24. Rose at 5 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 9 a.m. barometer 29.60, thermometer 81, wind calm, clouds 7. The steamer **Vanderbilt** got off about 8 a.m. Borrowed \$50.00 of William Pinkney. Bought a silver napkin ring for Matilda \$3.50. Paid Alexander Patterson for subscription to Harpers, Putnam, Ladies Book and Knickerbocker magazines for 1856. Gave John White \$3.00 for Life Illustrated and Water Cure Journal for two years which has a club of 20 subscribers to those works. The steamer **Star of the West** got in about 1 and with only 80 passengers and she got off about 9. After tea Matilda and I went down town and bought at Robert P. Cambell's some presents for our own and for

Alexander Patterson's children.

Tuesday, December 25. Christmas Day. Rose at 5 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 9:30 a.m. barometer 29.57, thermometer 80.5, wind south southeast 4, clouds 3. Wrote to the Solicitor of the Treasury sending a copy of Judge William Marvin's opinion delivered yesterday disallowing charge for Inspector of Customs. Paid William Pinkney for Lottery Ticket \$4.25. Dined at Alexander Patterson's. Philip Fontane and family, Captain and Mrs. Crocker of the Ship **Malabar** and Captain Merrill of **Lady Arbella** also dined with us. At night went over to Fontane's where there was a dance by the Maskers. Fontane was quite sick and went to bed early. The **Ashburton** came in about sundown.

Wednesday, December 26. Rose at 5 and walked, returned home and bathed. At 8:30 a.m. barometer 29.60, thermometer 81, winds south 1, clouds 7. Read papers. Dined at Alexander Patterson's. Finished volume one of Huc's "Travels in China" and sent it over to James C. Clapp's. About 11 wind came on suddenly from the northwest but before night got to the north northeast and cloudy.

Thursday, December 27. When I woke at 5 it was raining and I lay in bed until 6:15 when I rose and bathed. At 8:30 a.m. barometer 29.70, thermometer 76, wind north northeast 5, clouds 10, with light showers. Cloth clothes comfortable.

Friday, December 28. When the alarm struck it was raining and I did not up until 6 when I rose and bathed. At 8:45 a.m. barometer 29.62, thermometer 77.5, wind east northeast 3, clouds 10. Took down a statement of the facts relating to the wrecking of the **Ashburton** by which to prepare the Libel. Argued

the claim made by Daniel Davis for a share of the salvage earned by the schooner **Champion** and sloop **Gazelle** in the brig **Sampson** as having been consorted with then in the ship **Lavinia Adams** and that the consortship had not expired at the time **Sampson** was wrecked. I have a large sty on my left eye. Hatty quite sick with pain in her face whether caused by a toothache or not cannot say. Used Golbulbs for her and self both easier.

Saturday, December 29. Rose at 5 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 8:30 a.m. barometer 29.46, thermometer 79, wind south southeast 2, clouds 4. My sty nearly well. Drew up and filed the Libel in the case of the **Ashburton**. They have discovered that the ship **Lavinia Adams** is so much injured that the Captain is afraid to go to New Orleans in her and will not pay the salvage they contemplate hauling the ship up on the bank and waiting until the Captain can return from Boston where he will go on the steamer **Northern Lights** on the 4th. Gave Feilding my old Silver watch.

Sunday, December 30. Rose at 5 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 8 a.m. barometer 29.50, thermometer 80, wind south 5, clouds 1. A hard shower fell in the night. Peter Crusoe came up with Captain Pierce of the ship **Creole** and Captain Crocker of the ship **Malabar** and I found for them the act of Congress relating to the enticing and secreting of seamen. Crusoe issued a warrant on their affidavits against Stickney, master of the schooner **John Roalff** of Tampa, for taking two of the **Creole's** men and two belonging to the **Malabar** and refusing to give them up when boarded by Captain Crocker and the mate of the **Creole** with the city marshall. Crusoe allowed him to give bond for his

appearance tomorrow.

Monday, December 31. Rose at 5 and walked to the Salt Pond, returned home and bathed. Wind south 1, clouds 4. The sty on my left eye is enterirely well all the swelling going down in 48 hours after taking the first doze of Pubsatilla. Hatty pretty well today and gave her no more remedy. Captain Walton of the ship **Ashburton** having complained of his crew having refused duty and they were arrested and brought before Judge William Marvin. The men behaved badly but the officers were also to blame and the evidence was not such as to induce me to ask for a committal so the men were sent back on the ship with a warning by the Judge as to their future behavior. Captain and Mrs. Crocker and Captain Merrill with Sarah and Alexander Patterson took tea and spent the evening with us. Mr. Baker, U.S.C.S., came in after tea.

Tuesday, January 1, 1856. Rose at 4:40 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 a.m. barometer 29.57, thermometer 81.5, wind southeast 2, clouds 3. Read paper and Law magazine. Dined at Philip Fontane's, he has not been out of his room since Christmas Day. Took tea also and went home about 8. The children went home about 5.

Wednesday, January 2. Rose at 5 and walked more than half way to the Salt Ponds and a shower came up and I returned, several light showers before I got home and bathed. At 8 a.m. barometer 29.52, thermometer 81.5, wind southeast 2, clouds 3. A boat from Tampa with dispatches for Commanding Officer of this port. The **Miami** brings news that the Indians made an attack on the on a party of U.S. Troops from Fort Myers and killed and wounded several. The report was brought

here a few days since by an oyster boat from Charlotte Harbour but was not believed. Read papers and Law magazine.

Thursday, January 3. Rose at 5 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 a.m. barometer 29.53, thermometer 82, wind southeast 2, clouds 3. A large number of Kingfish were brought in today but the weather is so hot that I did not buy one. Went up to the Courthouse where the complaint of Captain Pierce and Crocker against Stickney master of the schooner **John Roaleffs** was compromised. Stickney will pay all expenses and \$75.00 for hire of men in the place of the men he took, amounting to \$145.00, I got \$20.00 as did Samuel Douglas attorney for Stickney.

Friday, January 4. Rose at 6 having been awake since 5 but during the night it rained heavily and the roads are too wet to walk on. Rose and bathed. At 9 a.m. barometer 29.55, thermometer 81, wind northeast 1, clouds 3. Drucilla Williams asked me to speak to Captain Merrill to take her son Franklin Phillips to sea. I spoke to him and he says he wishes to see the boy. Taxing the cost in case of the brig **Sampson**. The schooner **Florida** got in about 4. Lucy Willis wrote Matilda and sent two pair of earrings and a wood box to the children. She says that she was very much frightened by the gale. Matilda also got a letter from Pene.

Saturday, January 5. Rose at 6 and bathed the weather very cloudy all night and about 7 commenced raining the northwest and it is so dark now in the office that I can scarcely see to write. At 9:25 a.m. barometer 29.43, thermometer 80, wind northwest by west, clouds 10. Rained nearly all day.

Sunday, January 6. Rose at 6 and

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(Hackley from page 7)

walked across to South Beach and round by the Fort. Did not bathe the bath house being so open and the wind blowing fresh. At 9 a.m. barometer 29.53, thermometer 65.5 (at home 62), wind north by east 7, clouds 10. The steamer **Isabel** got in about 10. Got letters and papers nothing from Mother. Afternoon walked to the Fort with the children.

Monday, January 7. Rose about 6 and bathed the water was cold. Went to the market. At 8:40 a.m. barometer 29.57, thermometer 67, wind about northeast 1, clouds 6. Acknowledged receipt of ten volumes of State at Large to the Secretary of State. Wrote to the Secretary of Treasurer acknowledging receipt of my quarterly salary. Wrote a registered letter to the editor of the American Law Register enclosing \$3.00 and asking for the June issue that was lost, also to the editor of the Water Cure Journal for August issue that was lost. Taxed the bills of the brig **Sampson**.

Tuesday, January 8. Rose at 6 and walked across the island and a short way up the beach, returned home and bathed. At 8:15 a.m. barometer 29.50, thermometer 60, wind northeast 3, clouds 1. The steamer **Northern Light** came in and coaled and went out about 8 p.m. Made out my semi-annual accounts with the United States.

Wednesday, January 9. Rose at 5 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 8:30 a.m. barometer 29.46.5, thermometer 71.5, wind northeast 1, clouds 1. Made copies of my accounts and swore to them before Winer Bethel, Justice of the Peace, and enclosed them to the Secretary of the Interior. Paid Walburg with a Treasury Warrant of \$50.00 for the watch

I bought of him p.m. Read Huc's "Travels in China" and President's message.

Thursday, January 10. Rose at 5 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 8:30 a.m. barometer 29.55, thermometer 72, wind north northeast 3, clouds 1. I saw the Southern Cross this morning, it culminates about 6 a.m. This is the first time I have noticed it in the morning in June it was visible in the evening. Wrote to Campbell and Company at Number 8 Dock Street, Philadelphia enclosing \$1.00 for a year's subscription to the Rainbow (monthly). Renewed my subscription to Nichols Journal for \$1.00. Received of the clerk \$184.00 my fee in the case of the brig **Sampson**. The steamer **Isabella** got in about 5 p.m.

Friday, January 11. Rose at 5:20 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 8:40 a.m. barometer 29.56, thermometer 70.5, wind north 3, clouds 2. Last night the mate of the ship **Mary Hale** came in the ships boat. The ship is ashore on the Cay Sal Banks and all the islands boats and several other boats have gone over to wreck her. Drew up claims for bounty land for Francis Watlington who was pilot of the schooner **Madison** during the Seminole War.

Saturday, January 12. Rose at 6 the weather threatening rain which came in a heavy squall from the southwest about 7 and fell calm as soon as it rain. At 9 a.m. barometer 29.47, thermometer 74, wind south southeast 1, clouds 8. Rained at intervals nearly all day. A moderate wind came out of the northwest about 5.

Sunday, January 13. Rose at 6 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 8:35 a.m. barometer 29.57, thermometer 71.5, wind northwest 2, clouds 2, weather

pleasant. Read papers. In the afternoon walked down to the Fort with Matilda and the children. The USS **Fulton** came in about 4 p.m.

Monday, January 14. Rose at 5:45 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 9:25 a.m. barometer 29.53, thermometer 67, wind east northeast 3, clouds 2. By news from the Miami River which arrived last night we learn that the Indians murdered two men and wounded another and the settlers have come all into the fort. I suppose there will be another Indian War costing more than the whole state is worth. The Sloop of War **Cyane**, Fairfax commander, came in about 9 a.m. and about 2 p.m. the brigantine **Cumia** arrived. The **Cumia** which had been ashore this morning on Pelican Shoal and got off by the schooners **Libby Sheppard** and **Dart** for a compromised fee of \$2,000.00. Tried the case of the bark **Mary**.

Tuesday, January 15. Rose at 6 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 9:30 a.m. barometer 29.39, thermometer 66.5, wind north northeast 7, clouds 10, with a light drizzle, very ugly weather. Several travelers came down from the Miami River last night and corroborate the Indian news. There were 10 Indians in the party. Yesterday read claims for duty in case of the bark **Mary**. The case of the ship **Ashburton** set for today is postponed by consent on account of the absence of the wreckers at the Cay Sal Banks. No particular date agreed upon for trial. Raining all day and cold and raw. At 3:30 p.m. barometer 29.27, thermometer 66.

Wednesday, January 16. Rose at 6 clouds 10 with light rain and did not bathe. At 8:45 a.m. barometer 29.33, thermometer 67, wind north 3, clouds 7. Got up home two barrels of Scotch coal from A.F. Tift. Read

paper and Law magazine.

Thursday, January 17. Woke at 5 but laid in bed to keep warm until 6 when I rose and made a fire in the furnace. At 9 a.m. barometer 29.52, thermometer 65, wind north northeast 4, clouds 7. Read Law magazine and finished Huc's "Travels in China." Sat by the furnace until near 9. Weather cool and cloudy.

Friday, January 18. Rose at 6, thermometer 57. At 9 a.m. barometer 29.51.5, thermometer 61, wind north northeast 2, clouds 1. Read Law magazine. p.m. Read "Household Word." Sent Huc's "Travels in China" home by Hatty.

Saturday, January 19. Woke at 5 and rose at 5:30 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 9 a.m. barometer 29.36, thermometer 67, wind south 2, clouds 6. Left off a nit shirt I have worn for two days. The schooners **Florida** and **Champion** came in from the wreck of the ship **Mary Hale** with cotton yesterday afternoon. Read Law magazine. p.m. Read Household Words. At 4 p.m. barometer 29.26, thermometer 77, wind south by west 5, clouds 8.

Sunday, January 20. Rained very hard during the night accompanied with thunder and lightning, the roads were so wet that I did not go to walk. Rose about 6 and bathed. At 9 a.m. barometer 29.36, thermometer 73.1, wind southwest 3, clouds 5. Read Household Words. Wind came out of the northwest about 4 p.m. but moderate. The steamer **Vanderbilt** came in about 4:30.

Monday, January 21. Rose at 5:30 having been awake since 4 and walked on South Beach, returned home and bathed. At 9:15 a.m. barometer 29.57, thermometer 69, wind northwest 3, clouds 6. John Smith brought me a hat and would charge nothing, he says that when he thinks I have been paid for my

services he will let me pay for what he gets me. Bought a barrel of apples for \$4.62. The steamer **Isabel** got in about 5 p.m. got a letter from Mother and papers.

Tuesday, January 22. Rose at 6, thermometer in bedroom 60 and did not walk or bathe. The USS **Fulton** went to Havana last night. Got more papers this morning but some papers are missing. At 9 a.m. barometer 29.68, thermometer 62.5, wind north northeast 4, clouds 8. Read Law magazine and papers. At 9 p.m. thermometer exposed 53.

Wednesday, January 23. Rose at 6 and walked round by the Fort and beach cross the island by the Long Road and home by the Barracks. At 6 a.m. thermometer that had been in the front piazza all night was 54. At 8:45 barometer 29.60, thermometer 58, wind north northeast 4, clouds 10. Went home about 10 and set by a stove, that I put up, for the rest of the day.

Thursday, January 24. Rose at 5:30 and built a fire in the stove, thermometer in piazza 53. At 8:45 a.m. barometer 29.61, thermometer 56.5, wind north northeast 4, clouds 4. The steamer **Star of the West** came in last night and left about midnight. Hatty's Guinea pigs had three young ones last night but they all died from the cold. As soon as I had written the above I went home and took my gun and walked up to the point opposite Stock Island when finding the wind too cold I turned back crossed the upper dam and went over to the South Beach and home. Saw nothing to shoot but there were several persons with large strings of fish which had been stupefied by the cold weather. After dinner made an awning for the southeast end of the piazza and put it up. After tea Matilda and I went to Mary Ann Porter's.

Friday, January 25. Rose at 5:

30 and made up a fire in the stove and walked to the beach, returned home and bathed, very cold. At 10 a.m. barometer 29.58, thermometer 58, wind northeast 3, clouds 8. Wrote to P. Williams, Washington, enclosing Francis Watlington's claim for bounty lands. I also ask him to see what was wanting to perfect William H. Shaw's claim, also to the Solicitor of the Treasury making a report of the state of the docket dated 2nd of January I had forgotten to make the report in the last mail. Wrote to Luther Tucker and Company, Albany, to know why they did not send me the Cultivator and Almanac. Also wrote to Mother. Got Walberg to write for Robert's portable sewing machine to cost \$10.00. The steamer **Vanderbilt** went to sea about 6 a.m. the weather having been so bad that she could not go yesterday. The steamer **Isabel** got in about 4:30 p.m. and stopped but a short time. The boats in trolling for Kingfish caught a number of Bluefish which are in very good order. Walked with Matilda and children on the beach.

Saturday, January 26. Rose at 5:30 and walked on the beach but there being a slight drizzle and raw kept my umbrella up the whole time. Returned home and bathed. At 9:30 a.m. barometer 29.46, thermometer 69, wind east by north 4, clouds 7. Yesterday had a tooth filled by a Mr. Walton, a dentist, who came in the steamer **Vanderbilt**. Read papers. In the afternoon John Geiger came in to give me the facts from which to draw a libel against 115 bales of cotton and some of the materials of the ship **Mary Hale** wrecked on Cay Sal Banks.

Sunday, January 27. Rose at 5:30 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 9 a.m. barometer 29.40, thermometer 74, wind south 3, clouds 2. The Sloop of War Cyane went out last night.

Hearth AND Home

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COCOA-NUT TREES AT KEY WEST, FLORIDA.

Hearth and Home

The illustration and article appeared in "Hearth and Home" of August 12, 1871.

The reader does not need to be told that the scene presented above is a Southern one. Every part glows with the light of a tropical sun; and every thing in the picture – its peculiar architecture, its every accessory even to the old woman at her domestic occupation – tells unmistakably of Southern life. Then there are the grand Cocoa-nut Palms – those could be found nowhere except in the extreme South. Through what a wonderful range of climate our territory runs, and what a difference in vegetation of the extreme portions, when we compare the pine and firs of the far North with the Cocoa-nut Palms and Bananas of Key West! The picture is by one of our artist, now upon a Southern tour, and gives a most lifelike bit of the scenery of that strange coral key. The peculiar vegetation of Key West is noticed a long distance from shore. The writer was some years ago upon a voyage to Texas in a steamer which was obliged to call at Key West for coal. It was a torrid July day as we sat upon the deck watching the wonderful vegetation becoming gradually more distinct, as we approached the shore. At last we were able to make out the cocoa-nut palms and their cluster of fruit. All ready to jump ashore to make a closer inspection of these to us novel trees, we were met by the warning that yellow fever was prevailing in the town, and that we had better remain on board. But what was yellow fever compared with a sight of real, growing, bearing cocoa-nut-

trees? We took the risk. The town was in that death-like silence which holds all tropical places during the hours near mid-day. Scarcely a soul stirred, but we pushed on with the enthusiasm of one who finds himself for the first time surrounded by a new vegetation. In after years cocoa-nut trees were no rarity, but the sight of the first group, which might readily have been the one so well reproduced by our artist, made us forget the fearful heat and Yellow-Jack. The trees are numerous upon the Key, there being from a single one to a small grove in the yard of almost every house. It has been stated that these trees grow spontaneously, but our artist writes that all have been planted. A large share of the vegetation of Key West and other Florida keys has undoubtedly sprung from seeds floated there by the ocean currents, and it would not be at all surprising had the cocoa-nut obtained a foothold in the same manner, as the nut is admirably adapted to a long sea voyage, and it is known that the coral island of the Pacific have been stocked by this method of seed distribution. The tree grows from fifty to sixty feet high, and even taller in some countries, and its gigantic leaves, fifteen feet or more in length, have a wonderful feathery appearance, as they are moved by the breeze. The quantity of fruit produced by a single tree is enormous; some twenty or more are borne in a cluster, and the bearing continues all the year round, so that fruit may be gathered at any time in any stage of maturity. We can but briefly mention here the various

purposes which the cocoa-nut tree serves. In some tropical countries it furnishes almost every necessary of life. The trunk afford material for constructing houses, and the leaves serve to cover them. The outer husk of the fruit furnishes a fiber from which coarse fabrics, cordage, etc., are made, and which is largely imported under the name of coir. The hard shell of the nut proper is worked into various domestic utensils. The white kernel furnishes an oil for burning or for cooking. The "milk" contained within the kernel is an agreeable beverage, and the kernel, before it becomes hard, an important article of food. The young, undeveloped leaves are cooked and eaten the same as cabbage. Before the envelop of the flower opens, it affords, by proper beating and cutting, a juice which when fermented is "toddy," and from this a strong arrack may be distilled; from the same juice jaggery, or palm sugar, may be obtained by evaporation. The kernel of the nut as brought to the North is eaten by children, and is used in some forms of confectionery and cookery, but those who have only seen the fruit in this condition can have but little idea of the delicious character of the contents of a freshly-plucked and not too ripe cocoa-nut.

Scott DeWolfe of DeWolfe & Wood Rare & Used Books of Alfred Maine donated this copy of "Hearth and Home" to the Monroe County Library. We have little information about the magazine but it gives an interesting view of the backyards of "old" Key West.

(Perry from page 1)

in-law's merchant ships on voyages to Europe.

In 1819, he learned that the corvette USS **Cayne** was slated to escort the first group of emancipated slaves to Africa under the auspices of the American Colonization Society. Perry was sympathetic to the Society's aim to establish a colony of freed slaves in Africa, and applied for the position of First Lieutenant. On this cruise which lasted almost a year, Perry was instrumental in selecting a site for the colony which later came to be called Liberia. While **Cayen** was still on the African coast, Congress passed a law outlawing the slave trade. As a result, in addition to nursing the new colony, the ship began to cruise in search of slavers. Perry also persuaded his captain to institute measures to safeguard the crew from yellow fever and scurvy which were partially successful.

After he had been home in New York for six months, Perry learned that the armed schooner U.S. **Shark** had been ordered to carry the Reverend Eli Ayres, U.S. Commissioner to the new colony, to Africa. Intrigued by his previous visit, Perry was anxious to return to the African coast. He applied for command of *Shark*, was selected, and sailed for Africa in July 1821.

The schooner *Shark*, designed along the lines of a Baltimore clipper, was 86 feet long, displaced 200 tons, mounted 12 guns, and was manned by a crew of 70 officers and men. Perry was pleased with her performance, but concerned about the strength of her foremast. He instituted strict measures to preserve the health of the crew. These included eating fresh vegetables and fruit whenever they could be procured; wearing flannel next to the skin when turned

in; minimum shore liberty; keeping everyone busy; and strict discipline, including flogging for major misbehavior such as drunkenness. At the end of a six-month cruise, most of it spent in tropical waters, not a single crewman was lost to yellow fever or scurvy.

The Secretary of the Navy issued orders at the end of 1820 that all naval vessels returning to the United States from the Mediterranean, Africa, or other overseas ports were to proceed via the West Indies to provide protection to American merchantmen from pirates, and to detect and capture pirate vessels and slave ships. On his return, Perry cruised along the north coast of Cuba, sending his boats into bays and up rivers to flush pirates out, but only succeeded in capturing one pirate vessel. He captured this one off Havana and sent her crew of cutthroats to the Governor General of Cuba for disposition. **Shark's** first antipiracy cruise was cut short when, at Kingston, Jamaica, Perry received orders to sail for New York. It was during this cruise, that the crew gave Perry his nickname of "Old Bruin" because his loud, gruff voice sounded like an old grizzly bear when he roared out orders.

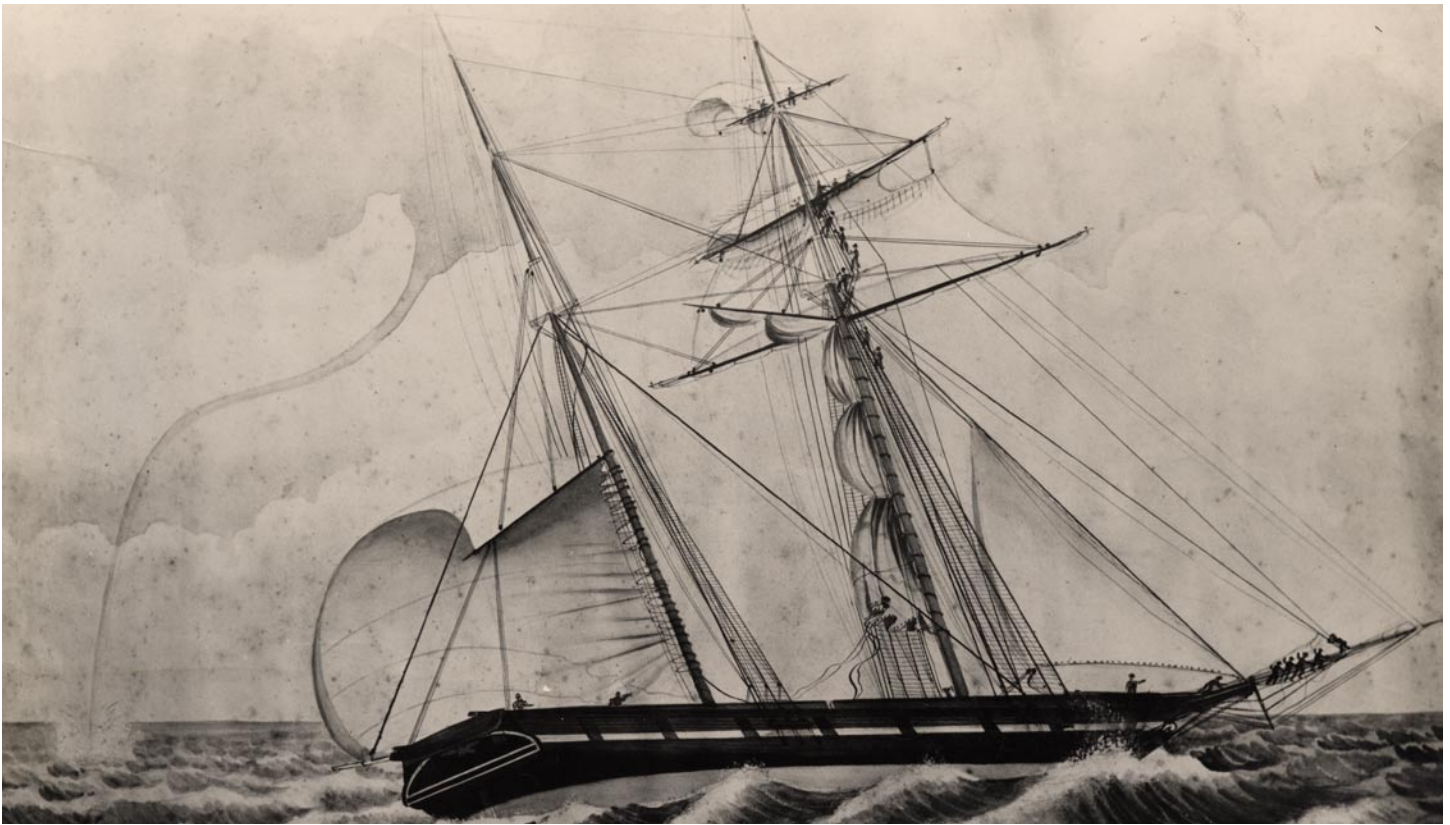
For several years, pirates based along the Cuban and Puerto Rican coasts had been plundering or capturing American merchant vessels and often torturing or killing their crews. Boston insurance companies informed the President that forty-four American vessels had been robbed or captured in 1819 and pleaded with the government to take action. Insurance rates rose one hundred percent.

In 1822, the Navy Department created the West Indies Squadron to deal with the pirate menace. The U.S. Schooner **Shark**, with Perry still in command, was ordered to

join the squadron. The Secretary of the Navy instructed Perry to visit the island of Key West on his way to the Caribbean. He was to survey the island and its harbors, to locate dangers to navigation, and to determine what would be necessary to occupy the island and establish it as a port for commercial vessels. If he found conditions favorable he was to take possession and leave a junior officer and one man to hold it until his return. Perry concluded that conditions were favorable and, on March 25, 1822, held a ceremony to take formal possession of the island. While crewmen hoisted the American flag, **Shark** fired a thirteen-gun salute. Three of the original proprietors, John Warner, John Fleming, and John Whitehead, attended the ceremony and gave their approval as Perry named the island Thompson's Island after the Secretary of the Navy and the harbor Port Rodgers after the Commodore Rodgers, President of the Naval Board. Of course, bestowing these names did no harm to Perry's reputation in naval circles. Perry detailed Midshipman Joseph Moorehead and an ordinary seaman to remain on the island until his return.

In his report to the Secretary of the Navy, Perry stated that the island offered a safe, convenient, and extensive harbor for vessels of war as well as merchant vessels. He also observed, "Heretofore the Florida Keys have been the resort of smugglers, New Providence [Nassau] wreckers, and in fact, a Set of desperadoes who have paid but little regard to either Law or Honesty."

Upon completion of his survey, Perry got underway to cruise in search of slavers and pirates. In May, 1822, off Tampico, Mexico, a lookout sighted a suspicious schooner. **Shark** chased the



Lt. Perry's ship the USS Shark. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

schooner until she ran ashore. Perry sent **Shark's** gig and cutter to investigate, but the crew of the grounded schooner escaped into the woods. On boarding, the boat crews found evidence that the schooner had been captured and looted and there was no sign of her original crewmen. Perry wished to recover the vessel, but she was too hard aground.

Shark's next encounter with pirates took place a few months later when she was cruising in company with the US Schooner **Grampus** along the north coast of Cuba. A suspicious schooner was sighted off Sagua Grande, 80 miles east of Havana, a suspected pirate rendezvous. **Shark** and **Grampus** lowered their boats to investigate. Midshipman Lynch in one of **Shark's** boats described the ensuing battle with the pirates this way:

I was attached to one of the boats directed against the schooner, and as we neared her, the scene became more and more exciting. Besides the

boom of the cannon fired from the schooner and the battery, the lake and the shore around rang with the incessant peal of musketry, and the hurling of the iron and lead around us was dreadful. But as our boat would drop, form after form sink from its place, the louder became the shout, the more vindictive the fury of our men. Ourselves upon the bow, the other boat farther astern, almost simultaneously, we laid the pirate aboard. To grapple the side, spring on the bulwark and leap upon the deck, amid muskets, pikes and brandished knives, was the work of an instant. With courage equal to our own, the pirates rushed forward to repel us and a desperate hand-to-hand conflict ensued.

The musketry had now ceased, and a pistol shot was but occasionally heard, but the clash of steel was incessant, and the silent but deadly thrust became more frequent. The shout of an officer as he cut down the swarthy pirate with whom he was engaged,

was responded to by a wild cry of exultation from the men and animated as by one spirit, we bounded forward with a cheer. A better cause and far more numerous force, could not have withstood our charge. The pirates gave way, slowly at first, but when our leader called out "push home, men! and no quarter!" and the cry "no quarter! no quarter!" was fiercely repeated, they turned and springing to the side, leaped overboard, and endeavored to escape by swimming. Many of our men plunged after them, sword in hand; others jumped to the boats, and pursuing, cut them down, as they overtook them, while another portion, from the deck of the captured vessel, deliberately shot them as they struggled in the water.

On the part of those wretches, not a cry was raised – not a supplication uttered. When too hotly pursued, they turned to grapple where they could, and in silence they received

(Continued on page 14)



Commodore Porter's fleet in Key West harbor. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

(Perry from page 13)

the death wound, and in silence they sunk, their throats gurgling the water which was deeply crimsoned with their blood. . .

When those in the battery saw their fellow-pirates leap overboard, they also took to flight. They were relentlessly pursued, and the scene which had been enacted upon the water was repeated on the land. But few escaped; and destroying what we could not preserve, we gathered their booty, and bore our prize away in triumph.

Only three days passed before another pirate schooner named **Bander de Sangre** (Bloody Banner) was sighted and chased. As *Shark* closed and her crew began firing, the pirate crew abandoned ship, some in boats, others swimming. When they reached the shore, they vanished into the woods and *Shark's* shore party was unable to catch them. Perry and the captain of **Grampus** put prize crews aboard the two schooners they had captured along with three pirate prisoners with orders to deliver them to authorities at a U.S. port.

Shark continued the search for

pirates along the north coast of Cuba between Sagua la Grande and Matanzas, a distance of about eighty nautical miles with hundreds of small islands, bays, inlets, and rivers. A schooner flying a red shirt as a flag was sighted and chased, but, once again, her crew steered her into shore and escaped into the woods. Perry's crewmen kedged her off the shore for use as a "lookout boat." Perry then boarded one of **Shark's** boats and continued to search along the coast more closely. For six days he explored every island, bay, inlet, and river until he reached Matanzas. He reported to Commodore Biddle, then commander of the West Indies Squadron, "My several Expeditions have become acquainted with a system of abominable fraud, rapine, and openly permitted by the Spanish Authorities and encouraged by the most wealthy men on the island. There is not a Fisherman who is not a Pirate, nor a canoe that is not a Pirate Vessel in miniature. The plundered goods are publicly sold at the large Commercial Towns, and the First Merchants become the purchasers."

Shark had now been cruising in tropical waters during the heat

of summer for several months. Crewmen began feeling the debilitating factors of limited rations, little rest, and the burning sun. Some of them developed fevers; the more serious cases were transferred to the larger vessels of the squadron, and then to primitive hospital facilities erected on Key West. Even Perry developed a mild fever and wrote, "This climate makes sad inroads on my naturally strong constitution and I am now laboring under the effects of a severe indisposition, the Consequence of great exposure during our late Boat Expeditions."

Despite Perry's strict measures

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to preserve the health of the crew, several crewmen contracted yellow fever and **Shark** sailed for Key West. Midshipman Lynch, who had fought so bravely in the battle with the pirates, was among those transferred to the hospital at Key West. He wrote, "Our hastily erected and scantily furnished hospitals were soon crowded with the sick, the dying, and the newly dead. . . He alone, who has laid on a crude pallet in the ward of a hospital, crowded with victims of a malignant disease, can realize the horrors of such a state."

Unable to continue the search for pirates effectively **Shark** returned to the U.S. In December, 1822, Captain David Porter relieved Captain Biddle and became the new commodore of the antipiracy squadron. He purchased eight shoal-draft, fast-sailing Chesapeake Bay schooners to catch the small pirate craft that operated in shallow coastal waters. He also obtained five twenty-oared, gun barges which could operate in even shallower coves and rivers. But his most unusual addition to the squadron was a steam-driven sidewheel ferryboat which could be used to tow the barges and catch pirate vessels when they were becalmed. Named *Sea Gull*, she was the first steam vessel in the world to see active naval service.

The newly-formed squadron, including **Shark**, got underway from Hampton Roads on February 15, 1823 and arrived at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, on March 3. Porter detached **Shark** and three of the small schooners to search the south coast of Puerto Rico, the Mexican coast between Veracruz and Tampico, and the northern coast of South America. Perry did not discover any pirate vessels. On the way from Cartagena, Columbia to Jamaica, **Shark's** foremast

sprung (cracked) below the spar deck. Perry was able to purchase a new mast from the British dockyard at Port Royal and his crewmen stepped it and rigged it. With orders detaching **Shark** from the West Indies Squadron, Perry set sail and reached New York on July 8, with the officers and crew all well.

Perry's subsequent naval career covered almost fifty years. During the war with Mexico, he commanded the squadron that captured Vera Cruz. He is considered to be the father of the steam Navy, promoted the shell gun, and encouraged the creation of the Naval Academy. His crowning achievement came when he was given command of the Naval Expedition to open Japan to the western world in 1852 to 1855. Through his skill in diplomacy, he won a treaty without firing a single shot.

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John Viele has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Key West Maritime Historical Society of the Florida Keys for the past 20 years. He is the author of three books on the history of the Keys published by Pineapple Press of Sarasota: "The Florida Keys – A History of the Pioneers," "The Florida Keys, Vol. 2 – True Stories of the Perilous Straits," and "The Florida Keys, Vol.3 –The Wreckers."

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Whitehead Street after the Civil War and before the Great Fire of 1886. Navy Building No. 1 is to the right and John Geiger's (Audubon House) home is to the left of the street with the large cupola. Photo credit: Corey Malcom

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