

USS SHARK

Florida Keys

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FORT FORGOTTEN: Vanishing Key West History !

By Tom Perera

Valentine's day of 2008 was a sad day in the history of Fort Zachary Taylor in Key West. On that day, thousands of Civil War artifacts, guns and models were removed from the fort and trucked to Tallahassee because the fort had disintegrated so badly that it was not deemed safe to leave them in the fort.

Fort Taylor was excavated in the 1960s by Howard England who found that it contained the greatest collection of Civil War artifacts in America. Mr. England began conserving and protecting these artifacts using his own money but he died early and all of the artifacts were allowed to rust in damp and hidden rooms in the fort where they were never seen by the public.

Major allocations of money were repeatedly requested to preserve and repair the fort but they were all turned down and recent hurricane damage made continued storage of the artifacts unwise. The fort has been widely known as "Fort Forgotten" because it has received so little funding over the years. In fact, the Fort Taylor State Historic Park has received so little funding that volunteers do most of the



A truck leaves Fort Taylor carrying artifacts past a sign that forbids the removal of artifacts from the fort. Photo credit: the Author.

maintenance work.

I was lucky enough to notice the removal of the artifacts on my daily jogs through the fort and I was able to photograph all of the thousands of items before and during their loading onto the big flatbed trucks. These photographs are the first that have ever been seen by the public. I think it is important to carefully track these artifacts so that their return to the fort can be ensured

after the fort is improved enough to hold them.

Unfortunately although the funds to conserve the artifacts have been allocated, the funds to return them to Key West have not! Current Florida Department of Parks and Recreation plans are to require that a formal request be submitted in order for each item to be returned and it is hoped that this will be done

(Continued on page 12)

SOCIETY NEWS AND NOTES

By Tom Hambright
afford

For the past 18 years we have tried to publish new stories about Keys history and articles about the Keys that are not in local records. The following article from John Eckersall of England is such an article. It is sailing instructions for the HMS Loo on the voyage, which resulted in the ship wrecking on the Florida Reef, now misnamed Looe for the ship. The first part of history is telling the story the second part is being able find the article in the future. To help with the second part we now have a web site www.keywestmaritime.org. We have some of the Journals on the site and working on the rest.

—
Lords Letter – to Captain Utting at Spithead Onboard HMS “Loo” – 12th July 1743

To carry Governor Clinton to New York and then attend on South Carolina.

By Hand

Whereas We have appointed His Majesty’s Ship under your command to carry the Hon. George Clinton Esq to his Government in New York and then to attend on the Colony of South Carolina. You are hereby required and directed to make all possible dispatch in getting her completed in all respects for the sea, and you are to receive onboard the said Mr Clinton, with his family and Equipage, and give them passage to New York, victualling them as your Ship’s Company during their continuance on board, and allowing the Governor all such accommodation as the ship will

And whereas the ship under your command is only ordered to be victualled to four months, and to have two months French Brandy instead of two months Beer, and the Commissioners of Victualling having a large quantity of Brandy in store at Guernsey, in the Charge of Mr Michael Dobree, a merchant in that Island, you are in your way down the Channel, to call off of Guernsey without going into that Port, and send the enclosed letter with your Purser on shore to the said Mr Dobree, and receive from him such a quantity of Brandy as you think necessary for the use of your Ship’s Company, and can conveniently receive on board, which when you have done, you are to proceed directly to New York, without touching at the Madieras and there land the Governor, with his Family and Equipages, and having so done, you are to proceed on to South Carolina.

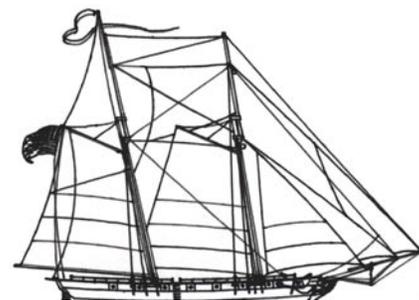
And whereas His Majesty’s Ships, the Rye, Flamborough and Spy Sloop are stationed at South Carolina, you are to take them under your Command, their Captains being directed to follow and observe your orders.

When you arrive at South Carolina, you are to communicate these our instructions to the Governor and Council of that Province, and consult and advise with them from time to time, in what manner the Ships under your command may be best employed in the guarding of the Coast and securing the Trade of that Colony from any attempts of the Enemy, and to govern yourself

New Members

Philippine Burbach Cudjoe Key; Pete Harrigan, Delray Beach; Mark Moss, Key West; Dave Oatway, Key West; Nancy Perkins, Key

West; Robert Sawyer, Key West; Judy Stahle, Bradenton; Vic Taylor, Steamboat Springs, CO; Mike Trovato, Hyannis, MA.



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Production: Tom Hambright

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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accordingly as shall be agreed on, giving your best endeavours to take, or destroy all such ships or vessels of the Enemy, as shall come upon the coast of the said Colony.

And whereas it has been represented to us, that the Coast of North Carolina is very much infested with Spanish Privateers who have even landed in the Country and carried off Hogs and Cattle, to the great terror of the inhabitants of these parts, you are, when you see proper occasions, to extend your cruise as far as Cape Hatteras, or to Order one of the ships under your Command to do so, for the better protection of the trade of His Majesty's Subjects in those parts, and you are to acquaint the Governor of North Carolina with this part of our Instructions.

And whereas it has been represented to us, that the Town of St Augustin depends much of what comes by sea for provisions, and would be greatly distressed, if His Majesty's Ships stationed at Carolina would sometimes cruise off that port, to prevent provisions being carried to that place by sea, you are to have a particular regard to that service as far as may be consistent with the other necessary services on which you may be employed.

An whereas we have directed the Captains of His Majesty's Ships attending on Virginia, to hold a constant correspondence with you, you are, whenever you shall find the Enemy's to be too strong for you, to send immediate advice thereof to the Captains of the said ships, whom, we have directed to repair to your assistance, and you are to endeavour to jointly take or destroy them. And if the Captains of the said ships shall at any time send you a notice of the enemy being too strong for them, you are with all possible diligence to proceed to their assistance, communicating in the first place

the intelligence you have received to the Governor and Council of South Carolina, and receiving their concurrence for your so doing, and when the service is preformed you are to return to your station.

And whereas the Captains of His Majesty's Ships – stationed in America, have of late years taken a very unwarrantable liberty of lying in port with their ships, for the greatest part of the time they have remained abroad, to the dishonour of His Majesty's Service in the difference of the Colonies for where protection they are appointed, and We being determined not to suffer any such neglect for the future, so hereby strictly Charge and Direct you to keep constantly at sea, when the weather will permit, and cruise in proper stations for meeting with the Enemies Ships or Privateer, and for protecting the trade of His Majesty's Subjects and guarding the said Colony of Carolina from any attempts of the Enemy.

You are not to fail to transmit to us, once in every two months an exact copy of your journal, that it may be seen what care and diligence you have used in putting our Instructions in execution, and to Order the Captains of His Majesty's Ships under your command to do the same.

When the ships of your command are in want of provisions, you are to apply to the Contractor of the victualling at Carolina, for the same, to never to leave the said Colony defenceless by going elsewhere to victual, and you are to take on board no more provisions at a time, than are necessary for the service on which you are employed.

You are not to hoist the Union Flag on board the ship you command, on account of the Governor being on board, or on any other preference whatever.

In the case of the death of any of the officers of the ships under your command you are to appoint such officer persons to act in their rooms, as by the quality of their employment ought to succeed therein.

When you shall receive our orders to return to Great Britain, you are to take in no more provisions than shall be sufficient to complete what you may have on board to three months of all species at whole allowance, upon the penalty of making good what damage, His Majesty may otherwise received thereby.

You are, as you pass through the Channel, to examine such ships and vessels as you shall meet with passing from Great Britain or Ireland to France, which you shall reasonably suspect to have wool on board, and upon discovering any with that commodity in them, to send them into the nearest port, and deliver them into the care of the Collector of the Customs, in order the their being prosecuted according to the law.

You are by all opportunities to transmit to Our Secretary for our information, an account of your proceedings, and of the condition of the ships under your command as to the number of men, and all other particulars, and in case of inability by sickness or otherwise, to be careful to leave these our instructions with the next Commanding Officer. Given this 12th July 1743

By Hand

In pursuance of the Directions of their Excellencies, the Lords Justices signified to us in a letter from Mr Weston, their Excellencies Secretary, of yesterdays date.

You are hereby required and directed to repair with His Majesty's Ship under your command to the Hope, to remain there fourteen days, pursuant to an order.

The Steamer Dixie and the Hurricane of 1935

Most accounts of the 1935 Hurricane cover the death and destruction of this force 5 hurricane, but there were survivors. One of the remarkable stories was the Steamship Dixie that was caught in the fury of the storm and suffered major damage, but none of the crew or passengers suffered serious injury. Following is the report submitted to Director, Bureau of Navigation and Steamboat Inspection by the inspectors reporting the damage to the ship.

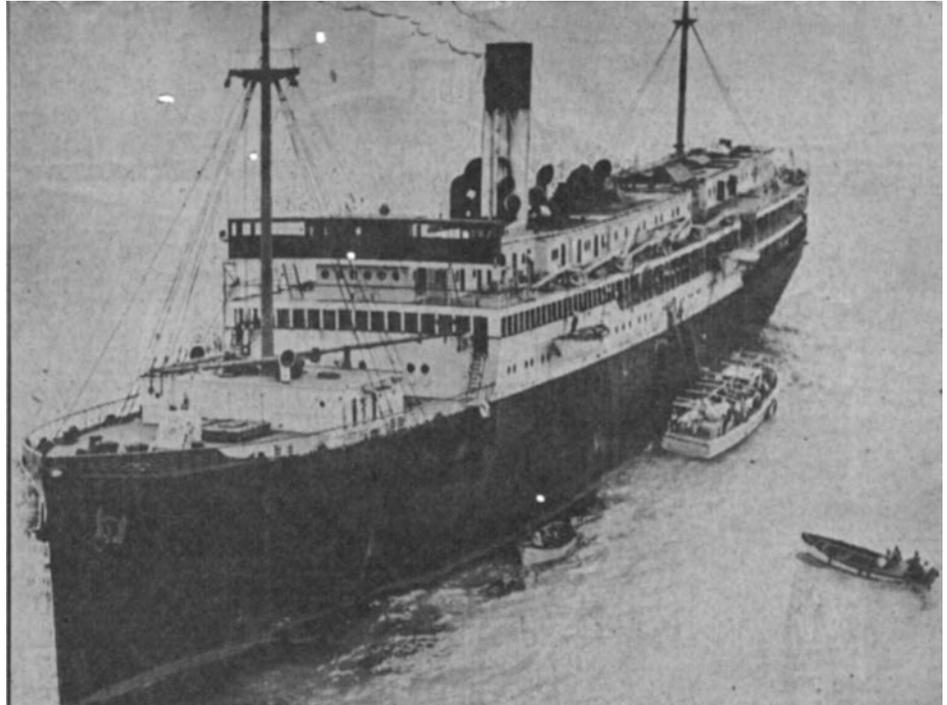
September 9, 1935

Director, Bureau of Navigation
and Steamboat Inspection,
Department of Commerce,
Washington, D. C.

Pursuant to your instructions of September 5th, via telephone, I proceeded to Miami, Florida, accompanied by John H. Nolan, U.S. Local Inspector of Boilers, leaving Jacksonville, 9:30 P.M. Sept. 5th, arriving Miami, 7 A.M. September 6th, there boarded the U.S.C.G. Cutter CARRABASSA at 11:30 A.M. to proceed to the SS DIXIE stranded on French reef, arriving there and boarding the SS DIXIE at 4:30 P.M.

The S.S. DIXIE is a combination passenger and freight vessel of 8188 gross tons owned by the Southern Pacific Company, 165 Broadway, New York, built in Kearney, N.J., 1927 and employed as a coastwise trading between New York and New Orleans, La., and commanded by Eniar W. Sundstrom, Master and Mr. George Gale as Chief Engineer.

Vessel left New Orleans 6:12 P.M. August 31st and grounded



The S.S. Dixie aground on the Florida Reef. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

September 2nd at 8:14 P.M. on French reef, approximately fifty four miles South of Miami. Vessel on leaving New Orleans, had onboard two hundred thirty one (231) passengers and one hundred twenty two (122) officers and crew.

Immediately on boarding the vessel, Deck and Engine room logs were examined and accurate copies made thereof; copies of which are herewith attached.

The Master reports prior to entering the Straits of Florida, his last storm warnings regarding the location and direction of the storm was to the effect, the same was about the central part of Cuba covering a small area and traveling Westerly and therefore considered it safe to enter the Straits as his vessel was far ahead of the storm. But at or about 2:30 P.M., September 2nd, wind increased to Hurricane force and mountainous seas and about 5: P.M. vessel apparently was in

the center of the Hurricane, at that time, the Barometer had dropped to 27.70 lowest point needle could reach and needle resting on point.

Prior to that time considerable trouble was experienced with steering gear and it was impossible to keep vessel on course on account of high winds tremendous seas.

Considerable damage was done all lifeboats on Starboard side. #1 life boat and davits were completely carried away and washed overboard ripping the davits clear of deck. #12 lifeboat was carried away and motor boat was lost. All other life boats on Starboard side were ripped clear out of chocks and smashed against the house, doing considerable damage to boats. Skylights, upper deck windows and bridge windows were smashed due to tremendous sea, cabins, galley, smoking room were flooded, wrecking furniture and doing considerable damage to passenger wearing apparel.



Captain Eniar W. Sundstrom. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

Rails and stanchions were ripped free, smashed, twisted and torn as if they were paper.

Wireless antenna was carried away. A temporary antenna was carried away and with assistance of wireless Engineer aboard, a second temporary antenna was so constructed that messages could be sent.

Hatches forming the continuation of A deck were ripped and torn free and bodily lifted on their hinges by the wind against the steel house thereby bending the hatches and thereby indicating the tremendous intensity of the storm.

Well secured heavy ice box and dough mixer in the galley were torn adrift and ran amuck in the galley and bake shop doing great damage therein.

The fire room floor plates and frames are set up about two inches causing boiler casings of after boilers to open up about three quarters of an inch (3/4"). Indications in the Engine

room showing possible setting up of Propelling machinery. Main and auxiliary condenser and all sea suction pulled and filled with coral, sand and debris due to vessel grounding. Temporary sea suction arranged to provide circulating water for refrigerating plant and distillers.

All cargo holds show more or less water in them but so far pumps have been able to take care of this leakage without great effort.

Stern frame is apparently completely carries away, rudder and post twisted to port side. Wheel apparently not damaged so far according to divers report.

Salvage operations underway.

If fair weather conditions prevail, vessel in no immediate danger.

Sketch showing reef and vessel's location attached herewith as sheet #4.

Summary

From all indications vessel was struck by the storm without sufficient warnings to seek a safe harbor and due to the terrific intensity of the storm became unmanageable, therefore grounding on French Reef. The appearance of the vessel is sufficient proof of the terrific force of storms and seas and it is a miracle she is not a complete and total wreck and no lives were lost or serious injury done to any of the passengers or crew.

Numerous small fires broke out in different parts of vessel due to short circuits caused by heavy seas, but each and everyone were quickly discovered and brought under control.

After grounding, passengers were provided with life preservers and assembled in music room which was the safest and most desirable place due to flooding of cabins and other passenger quarters on the vessel. The Master and Officers went among the passenger assuring them to remain calm and that there was no danger of the vessel sinking, that help was enroute and he had life boats on the port side lowered and ready for use in any emergency.

From all reports obtainable in Miami and Coast Guard Cutters in attendance, passengers were removed quietly, efficiently and with safety and had nothing but the highest praise for the Officers and crew of this vessel.

It is our opinion also from every indication, that the Master, Officers and crew should deserve nothing but the highest traditions of the sea.

John F. Oettl
U.S. Traveling Inspector

John H. Nolan
U.S. Local Inspector of Boilers

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 part of March to May 1856.

Saturday, March 22. Rained nearly all night. I rose about 6 and bathed and went to the Post Office. Received a Treasury Warrant for \$80.00 for fees for the last 6 months of 1855. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.32, thermometer 78, wind north northwest 4, clouds 7. Latter part of the night a regular northern but moderating at 8. The USS **Fulton** went out for Havana early yesterday. I got my third volume of Livingston Law magazine and Law Register from New Orleans where I sent them to be bound. Very badly done and exorbitant price \$1.56 per volume which I paid Kerr. Attended the sale of materials of the bark **Mariner** in the forenoon and bought a few things. After dinner Coste and J.T. Lowe came in and gave me a statement of facts in wrecking the **Mariner**.

Sunday, March 23. Rose at 6. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.57, thermometer 71, wind north northeast 4, clouds 5, wind from the northwest all night quite fresh and cool. Wrote up the libel against the bark **Mariner's** materials but did not finish it. Read papers. Quite cool all night used two blankets and counterpane.

Monday, March 24. Rose at 6. Weather cool all night. At 7:40 A.M. barometer 29.62, thermometer 68.5, wind east 1, clear but slightly hazy. The steamer **Vanderbilt** does not take off today as her engineer has left her and Smith has sent to Havana for one. Filed the libel of Edgar A. Coste et. als vs. cargo and materials of the ship **Mariner**.

Tuesday, March 25. Rose at 4:30 and walked to the Salt Pond and returned home and bathed. At 8 barometer 29.55, thermometer 74, wind northwest 1, clouds 3. Mailed an answer to the Treasurer of the U.S., a letter to Mr. Philip Williams enclosing Shaws claim for bounty lands, a letter from Matilda to Pene and one from Charlotte to Mother to which I put a short P.S. The steamer **Isabel** got in about 4 P.M. and remained about an hour. The steamer **Vanderbilt** got off about 6 P.M. Read papers.

Wednesday, March 26. Rose at 4:15 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8:20 A.M. barometer 29.49, thermometer 75, wind northwest 3, clouds 9. Read papers. P.M. Walked to the Fort with Matilda.

Thursday, March 27. Rose at 6 and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.47.5, thermometer 75, wind northwest 3, clouds 4. The **Governor Anderson** went to sea for New York. Gave Captain Wilson the music from the Musical World to have bound for me. Took tea and spent the evening at Alexander Patterson's.

Friday, March 28. Rose at 5 and went to market, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.58.5, thermometer 75, wind north northwest 5, clouds 6. The steamer **Star of the West** got in about 1 A.M. and got off about 10 A.M. Drew up and filed a claim for duties in the case of Barker vs. Cargo and materials of the ship **Mariner** and tried the case. Wrote to the Solicitor of the Treasury informing him that I had filed the claim. Made my return to the Tax Collector: lot \$800.00, furniture \$200.00, cash in hand \$150.00, value of watches \$110.00, totals \$1260.00.

Saturday, March 29. Rose at 4 about went to market and got some turtle and walked across the Key by the Lighthouse Road and up the beach to my usual turning place and home by the Fort. At 8:30 A.M. barometer 29.66, thermometer 68, wind northeast by north 3, clouds 2 with hazy. Read papers. In the afternoon walked with my wife to South Beach and round by the Fort.

Sunday, March 30. Rose at 4:30 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.61, thermometer 71, wind east northeast 2, very hazy. The ship **Albus** is on shore on American Shoals. The steamer **Florida** was the first to board her and they have agreed to get her off for \$1,500. The ship is loaded with ice. The schooner **Dart** went out yesterday morning at 3 A.M. and is not back yet. Read papers and P.M. Read Household Words.

Monday, March 31. Rose at 4:30 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.60, thermometer 76, wind south southeast 3, clouds 4. Read papers and Household Words. Judge William Marvin filed his decree in the case of the ship **Mariner** on Saturday giving 40 per cent on the gross sales to the sloops **Texas** and **Dolphin** and 50 per cent to several boats saving copper and to the schooner **Relampago**.

Tuesday, April 1. Rose at 4:30 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.62.5, thermometer 78, wind east northeast 2, clouds 2.. About 7:30 a thick fog passed over the town and lasted about 20 minutes. Read Household Words.

Wednesday, April 2. Rose at 4:30 and went to market and afterwards walked to the Salt Ponds. There

was no water in the tub or well so I could not bathe. At 8 barometer 29.62.5, thermometer 78.5, Wind east 2, clouds 3. There is a ship, the **James Guthrie**, of Portsmouth, Va., ashore at Tortugas loaded with spars and bilged. The sloop **Plume** came up and brought the news. Read Household Words. After tea went with Matilda to Philip Fontanes' and sat till near 10.

Thursday, April 3. Rose at 4:30 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.56.5, thermometer 76.55, wind east southeast 2, clouds 8. The case of the ship **Albus** was tried on Tuesday and \$2,500.00 decreed, she went to sea yesterday noon. Went to a fruit auction at Bowne and Curry's Wharf and bought 50 grapefruits and 100 sapadillos. P.M. Siesta and read Household Words.

Friday, April 4. Rose at 4:30 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.50, thermometer 80, wind east northeast 1, clouds 4. Read Household Words. The pilot boats **Dart** and **Champion** went off about 12 to a ship, they were told by a bark with which they spoke, that was ashore on the Dog Rocks. The wind came out from the northwest about 4 p.m. with heavy clouds, by 9 p.m. it was calm.

Saturday, April 5. Rose at 4:30 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.56, thermometer 79, wind northwest 4, clouds 7. Read Household Words. After tea Matilda and I went to Charles Tift's.

Sunday, April 6. Rose at 4:45 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.52, thermometer 78, wind northeast 3, clouds 2. The steamer **Florida** got in at 10 A.M. The steamer **Isabel** got in at 6 P.M.

Monday, April 7. Rose at 4:

30 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.46, thermometer 73, wind northeast 1, clouds 1 with a slight haze. Got papers from Post Office. Got letter from Mother, P. Williams and Potter, also got a letter from the State Department sending U.S. Register and circular from Auditor and opinion of the Attorney General on the enlistment question. Senator Stephen Mallory came in the steamer **Isabel**. Wrote to J. Livingston and sent him a certificate of registry from the Post Office for the \$5.00, I sent on the 23rd of February 1856 and the magazine not having been received. Wrote to O.R. Potter about G.W. Ferguson and gave him notice of dissolution of the partnership of Benner and Boye. I answered a letter from the Auditor of the Post Office Department and a letter from the Assistant Secretary of State and mailed them. Spent the evening at Alexander Patterson's.

Tuesday, April 8. Rose at 4:30 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.49.5, thermometer 73.5, wind west 1, clouds 2. Wrote to H.E. Hooker Esq. Secretary of the New York Western Fruit Growing Society for a copy of the proceeding of their last meeting enclosing 10 post office stamps, to G. Routledge 18 Beckkman Street, New York for Stonnehenge and Poultry Yard and Fish and Fishing and the Highlands of Scotland and to Otis C. Clapp Rochester for Homeopathic books enclosing \$1.00 in gold and enclosing to G. Rottledge \$2.50 in gold. Read papers. P.M. Commenced reading Chapman's Principe.

Wednesday, April 9. Rose at 5:30 having over slept myself. Bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.57, wind north northwest 3, clouds 2. Read papers and Law Register. Took

tea and spent the evening at Philip Fontane's. Senator Stephen Mallory called while I was there.

Thursday, April 10. Rose at 4:30 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.57, thermometer 75, wind northeast, clouds 2. Wrote to Mother and mailed my letters. The USS **Fulton** came in about 8 A.M. The steamer **Isabel** got in about 4 P.M. and the **Fulton** went to sea at 5 P.M. The steamer **Florida** went to sea at 5:30. Mrs. Charles Tift children went on her on a visit to a sister in Mississippi. The steamer **Isabel** went to sea at 6 P.M. William Wall went in her as did Senator Stephen Mallory and Dr. Walton.

Friday, April 11. Rose at 5 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 7:20 A.M. barometer 29.60, thermometer 77, wind northeast 3, clouds 1 with hazy. The schooner **Dart** came down from the reef. The ship **Pocahontas** is on shore on Sombero Reef loaded with salt. The Captain hesitated to employ the wreckers and consented only on the grounds that they would go to New Orleans. He said he was here about 15 years ago. Read papers.

Saturday, April 12. Rose at 4:30 and went down town to go shooting with Alexander Patterson and Charles Johnston. Waited till 7 for Patterson who did not come and went home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.64, thermometer 77, wind east northeast 4, hazy. Bought two pairs of shoes from Ferguson who has just opened a shoe store. Paid for bird seed Mr. Howel got for me in Havana 25 pounds for \$2.05. Paid White for two gallons of lard oil \$2.50.

Sunday, April 13. Rose at 4:30 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M.

(Continued on page 8)

(Hackley from page 7)
barometer 29.66, thermometer 75, wind east northeast 2, clouds 4. The Home Squadron was off the harbor yesterday and the USS **Fulton** came in the other four ships stood off. The Commodore plans to come in about the 1st of June. The ship **Pocahontus** got off on Saturday Cunningham and Curry went to New Orleans in her. The steamer **Corwin** got in with ship **James Guthrie** from the Tortugas and Captain Cravin came to me to file a claim for compensating to men and officers of the **Corwin** and also for coal and injury to engine in towing the ship. Read papers. P.M. Siesta and read Harper's magazine.

Monday, April 14. Rose at 4 and went to the market and to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.65, thermometer 79, wind east southeast 2, clouds 3. Hatty coughed badly till near midnight and vomited what supper she ate, very sour. Gave her three globs of Cham. For two days she has been taking Nux. Annie also has a cold today is taking Bella and is better. The **Florida** came in from Cozumel and brought plantains, bananas, potatoes etc. Anduze was not home having gone to the Sisal plot. Drew up and filed a libel for John Geiger against the materials of the ship **Francis of Portland** which wrecked on the Dog Rocks. Two ships were hove to near the wreck and have taken most of the movable things off her. Bought a copy of the New Testament and Psalms from Bailey, agent for the Bible Society, for \$1.00. Paid my taxes \$3.90. Down to the sale of fruit from the Florida at Bowne and Curry's Wharf. I bought some plantains and bananas. After tea Matilda and I went to Mary Ann Porter's

Tuesday, April 15. Rose at 4:15 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8

A.M. barometer 29.59, thermometer 78, wind east southeast 3, clouds 4 with some hazy. Hatty is better. Charlotte has pains in her stomach and vomited, gave her Cham. Read Household Words. P.M. Siesta and read Household Words. The CSS **Walker** came in at night.

Wednesday, April 16. Rose at 4:30 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.57, thermometer 80, wind east southeast 3, clouds 2 with hazy. Tried the case of John H. Geiger vs. materials of the ship **Francis of Portland**. Drew up the petition of Lt Gravin for remuneration in the case of the ship **James Guthrie**. The Judge gave 65 per cent salvage to John Geiger on the net of the sales of \$780.75 in the case of the Materials of the ship **Francis**. The bark **Kate** with 2,300 boxes of sugar came in last night leaking. She has been ashore on Looe Key and got off unaided.

Thursday, April 17. Rose at 4:30 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.57, thermometer 79.5, wind southeast 3, clouds 2 with hazy. Read Household Words. After tea Matilda and I went to Alexander Patterson's.

Friday, April 18. Rose at 4:20 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.50, thermometer 81, wind east by north 2, clouds 4 with hazy. A nice shower fell at half past 11 A.M. and all this evening a nice breeze from northwest. Went to the Fort with Matilda, she and all the children have bad colds.

Saturday, April 19. Rose at 4:20 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.46, thermometer 81, wind east by south 2, clouds 9. Tried the case of Winthrop Sawyer vs. ship **James Guthrie** and cargo. Filed my claim for Lt. Gravin. P.M.

Siesta. Walked to South Beach and home by the Fort with Matilda and children.

Sunday, April 20. When I woke it was raining and had been for some time with the wind west northwest. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.30, thermometer 75, wind west by north 3, clouds 9. Read Household Words. Charlottes cold is very bad and the others better. The wind has in the last two days backed from south to west blowing a good breeze.

Monday, April 21. Rose at 4:20 and walked to the salt ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.37, wind north by west 4, clouds 5. All night blew a fresh breeze from the northwest by west to north northwest. Could not sleep in the piazza last night the wind made the curtains flaps so much slept with Matilda and babe and was awakened frequently during the night. The steamer **Isabel** got in about 5 P.M. Got my quarterly salary. Matilda got a letter from Penn. News came that Julius Tift died in New York City on the 18th of this month. When the news was given to his wife she screamed for hours and it was not until near 11 that she was so much calmed that Matilda could leave her. She is left without anything.

Tuesday, April 22. Rose at 5 and went to the Post Office and got papers. Got Coast Survey report for 1853 and 1854 from Coast Survey Office send by Mr. Cutts and Law Register of 1854 and 1856 from Livingston and Celebrated Americans from the same. Package weighed 5 pounds and 11 ounces but as the law allows packages of four pounds only to be sent by mail I paid for the \$.64. At 10 A.M. barometer 29.46, thermometer 72 (at 5 A.M. 68 at home), wind northwest ½, clouds and hazy 6. Mrs. Julius Tift composed, her children at the house. Received

from Clerk District Court for the ship **Francis** \$33.83. The steamer **Vanderbilt** arrived about half past ten having been off the bar since 5 A.M. waiting for a pilot J.P. Smith having been turned out. Smith is in command of the **Jasper** chartered to the government.

Wednesday, April 23. Rose at 4:20 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.50, thermometer 75, wind south southeast 3, clouds 7. Read papers. At 2 P.M. Captain Israel Vogdes with his company of 40 men left for Fort Myers in the **J.J. Taylor**. Dr. Richard Simpson went with him. Mrs. Julius Tift went to Asa Tift's house this morning. She will stay with him until she goes north and home. John Geiger has sold the **Lonja** to Manuel Farina for a Negro boy valued at \$600 and \$800 with payments in six, 12, 18 and 24 months. Drew up a bill of sale for the boy.

Thursday, April 24. Rose at 4:10 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.52, thermometer 79, wind east by north 2, clouds 2. Drew up a deed from John Geiger to Farina and a mortgage from Farina to Geiger and four notes for \$200.00 each and all of which were executed and Farina took his deed leaving Geiger's papers until he calls for them. Farina paid me \$10.00 for his papers. Annie quite sick with some fever.

Friday, April 25. I was awakened at 3 A.M. by the noise of the steamer **Orizaba's** wheels, lay until 3:40 when I arose and went to the market and bought some turtle and fish then walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8:30 A.M. barometer 29.53, thermometer 81, wind east northeast 2, clouds 3. Gave Annie Aconite last night which has reduced her fever but she still has some fever. The steamer

Orizaba has but four passengers the route through the lakes being stopped by the Costa Ricans who have the advantage over Walker, he being without money and his men sick. The steamer **Isabel** came in about 3:30 P.M. The **Orizaba** was all day getting in her coal and left at night. After tea Matilda and I went to Philip Fontane's.

Saturday, April 26. Rose at 4:35 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.57, thermometer 87, wind east southeast 4, clouds 2. The steamer **Vanderbilt** got off at 7:30 A.M. her regular day for sailing. Read papers. The steamer **Corwin** sailed for New York about 5 P.M.

Sunday, April 27. Rose at 4 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.62, thermometer 81, wind east southeast 4, clouds 1. Loaned Alexander Patterson my large gold pin. Charles Tift came down from the reef in the boat. The ship cannot be got off. Seven pumps worked six hours on Saturday made no impression on the water. At night my throat having been a little sore all day feared that it was the influenza and put wet bandages on chest and throat. The children are all better of their colds.

Monday, April 28. Rose at 4 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.50, thermometer 77.5, wind east northeast 4, clouds 1. Read papers.

Tuesday, April 29. Rose at 4 and went to the market and then walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 7:30 A.M. barometer 29.50, thermometer 78, wind east southeast 3, clouds 3 with some hazy. Read papers. The barque **Alma** with a load of molasses of St. John's New Brunswick which has been ashore

on Pickles Reef and relived by the schooner **Dart** and sloop **Dolphin** came in about 2 P.M. Siesta.

Wednesday, April 30. Rose at 4 and went to the market then walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 7:30 A.M. barometer 29.50, thermometer 80.5, wind southeast 3, clouds and haze. Preparing authorities from which to draw exceptions in the case of Ogden et als vs. D. Davis et als. After dinner Charles Johnson and Edgar Coste came up and gave me the facts in the case of the barque **Alma**. Commenced the libel. After tea went to Philip Fontane's.

Thursday, May 1. Rose at 4 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned and bathed. At 7:30 A.M. barometer 29.53, thermometer 82, wind east southeast 2, clouds 3. Drew and filed the libel in the case of the barque **Alma** and a claim for duties on behalf of the United States in the case. The propeller **Dispatch** came in about 7 A.M. being seven days from Norfolk. Mr. McChesney was at the house in the morning and he says that he can put the piano in fine order and that it is a splendid instrument. He will give Hatty and Charlotte lessons on the piano for \$25.00 per quarter and we have concluded to try one quarter. Commenced reading Kane's "Arctic Expedition." Read paper.

Friday, May 2. Rose at 4 and went to the market then walked round by the Fort but the tide was so high that I crossed the Key at Simonton's Road. At 7:45 A.M. barometer 29.51, thermometer 83, wind east southeast 3, clouds 4. The brig **Tavianier** got in from New York. Tried the case of C.M. Johnson vs. barque **Alma** and the judge decreed from the bench \$4,000.00 salvage. Mr. McChesney at work on the piano and I remained at home till late and then went down to get a
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piece of cloth to replace some of the old strips on the piano. A box with some things for the children from their grandmother came in on the **Tavanier**. Went to Alexander Patterson's after tea where Matilda and Charlotte played.

Saturday, May 3. Rose at 4:30 and went to market and being late did not walk, returned home and bathed. Read Kane till breakfast. At 7:30 A.M. barometer 29.47, thermometer 83, wind southeast 1, clouds 3. Samuel Douglas prepared the Bill of Exception in the case of Ogden vs. Davis and brought it around for me to see. Read paper and Law Register.

Sunday, May 4. Rose at 4 and walked by the Barracks across the island and across the South Beach and by the Fort home and bathed. At 7:30 A.M. barometer 29:45, thermometer 83, calm with squall clouds all round. Read papers. Finished Kane's "Arctic Expedition."

Monday, May 5. Rose at 4 and went to market and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.47, thermometer 83.5, wind southeast 2, clouds 3. A small steamboat the **Planter** from Savannah to Mobile came in about noon. Read Law Register. P.M. Siesta and read paper.

Tuesday, May 6. Rose at 5:15 and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.53, thermometer 83.5, wind east southeast 3, clouds 3. The **Planter** went out early this morning. Bought \$5.00 worth of ice tickets. The steamer **Jasper** came in about 8 A.M. she is chartered by the U.S. Quartermaster Department and is commanded by J.P. Smith. She has been put in first rate order. She went out at 6 P.M. bound to Miami. Filed an answer for Antonio Acchs (Axe) in the case of H. Williams vs.

a boat. The case of Stephen Case vs. C. Curtis was called and the morning occupied in arguing a plea to the jurisdiction. The steamer **Isabel** got in late (7 P.M.).

Wednesday, May 7. Rose at 4:30 and went to market, returned home and bath. Went to the post office and got papers and the books I sent for on 10th of April. Charlotte got a letter from her grandmother. Alexander Patterson got a letter from Senator Stephen Mallory to send Fielding Patterson, so he can be on the spot whenever he can get an office for him. I advise him to go. At 9 A.M. barometer 29.52, thermometer 83, wind southeast 2, clouds 2. Tried the case of H. Williams against a boat, Antonio Acchs claimant. P.M. Read papers.

Thursday, May 8. Rose at 4:30 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 7:30 A.M. barometer 29.47, thermometer 83.5, wind south southeast 1, clouds 3. Read papers. P.M. Siesta and read papers. After tea Matilda, Hatty and I went to Mrs. Mallory's and sat till after 9.

Friday, May 9. Woke at 3 and rose at 4 and went to market. Walked on the beach and returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.46, thermometer 83, wind south 1, clouds 3. Wrote to Livingston to know why he does not send the Law magazine. Wrote a letter of recommendation for Philip H.W. Fontane and a letter of introduction to Mother. Also one for Fielding Patterson and wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury for blank enrolment accounts. About 2 P.M. the wind came round gradually to the northwest and blows a moderate breeze making it pleasant, it did the same yesterday evening. Gave Fernando Moreno an order to send for a keg of lard by the steamer **Florida**.

Saturday, May 10. Rose at 4:30 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 7:20 A.M.

barometer 29.50, thermometer 82, wind northwest 1, clouds 3. The USS **Fulton** came in yesterday evening from the coast of Honduras and the steamer **Jasper** got in last night from Miami. Drew up a Bill of Divorce of John P. Smith from his wife and he signed it. Loaned Alexander Patterson \$40.00 to enable him to send Fielding to Washington where Senator Stephen Mallory has written for him to come as he can get him some employment of some kind and I think that is the best thing he can do as this is no place for anyone. The steamer **Isabel** got in by 3 P.M. and off by 4. Mrs Stephen Mallory and family, Mrs. Kate Tift and family, Charles Tift, Fielding Patterson and Phil Fontane went in her. The steamer **Jasper** went out about 6 P.M.

Sunday, May 11. Rose at 4 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 7:30 barometer 29.52, thermometer 84, wind northwest 2, clouds 7. Read papers. P.M. Siesta at home.

Monday, May 12. Rose at 4 and went to market. Then walked on the beach and returned home and bathed. At 7:30 A.M. barometer 29.52, wind north northwest 1, clouds 6. The wind has been round the compass since this time yesterday. The steamer **Florida** got off about 4:30 A.M. A Lottery Ticket in the Havana Lottery number 20236 drew \$400.00, one fourth of which I have. The first dollar I have ever drawn in the Havana Lottery. Ticket number 26,099 drew \$60,000. Paid Charles Howe for a half ticket he send for me (number 18,705) \$4.25. Read paper. After tea Matilda and I went to Alexander Patterson's where we heard Mr. McChesney play. Attended the funeral of J.W. Porter's child, Fanny, who died of whooping cough.

Tuesday, May 13. Rose at 4 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 7:15 A.M. barometer 29.52, thermometer 85, wind northwest ½, clouds 6. The Judge gave his decree in the case of Curtis and Williams and decreed that the Court had no jurisdiction. Read papers. P.M. Siesta. Very cloudy all day. Wind variable.

Wednesday, May 14. Rose at 4 and went to market and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 7:45 A.M. barometer 29.50, thermometer 85.5, wind southwest 1, clouds 8. Some little rain fell about 7 A.M. and there is every appearance of a rain in a few hours. Loaned Mr. McChesney a quarter yesterday. Received from the Clerk of District Court my fee in the case of the bark **Alma** amounting to \$140.00. Read paper. Drew up and filed a petition in the name of C. Dunn and other for distribution of the sum of \$127.99 which remains in court of the proceeds of the brig **Horatio** (a slaver). Very cloudy all day, looks like rain.

Thursday, May 15. Rose at 4:30 and walked on the beach, returned and bathed. At 7:30 A.M. barometer 29.46, thermometer 86, calm, clouds 5. Last night at 10 P.M. a heavy squall of wind and rain came up from the south southwest and a nice rain fell. Read paper and Household Words. Pleasant breeze most of the day from west by north.

Friday, May 16. Rose at 3:30 and went to market and walked on the beach. At 7:45 A.M. barometer 29.44, thermometer 83, wind mostly north 3, clouds 4. Very pleasant air. Read Household Words.

Saturday, May 17. Rose at 4 and walked up South Beach across the island by the Salt Ponds and home by the Barracks. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.40, thermometer 84, rain squalls with but little wind from 6 A.M. calm, clouds 6. The Sloop of

War **Cyane** came in yesterday and came to Tift's wharf to get water. The **Governor Anderson** came in last night as did the brig **Augusta Woodward**, which has been on shore on Long Key Bar and got off by the sloop **Texas**. There are a number of vessels in sight this morning. Tift gave me this morning \$100.00 for my lottery prize. He sent it over by the bark **Tropic Bird**, Captain William Von Phister, which left last night for Havana but is still in sight and is owned by Tift and Von Phister. Also in sight are the bark **Balaklava** and the bark **Magnola**. Read Household Words. Mr. McChesney was sick and did not give lessons.

Sunday, May 18. Rose at 4 and walked as yesterday, returned home and bathed. At 7:45 A.M. barometer 29.32, thermometer 83, wind west by south 4, clouds 4. Raining all yesterday forenoon. All the salt is melted. Got the music of the Musical World bound which I sent by Captain Wilson. Cost \$1.00 the cheapest work I have had done for years and well done too. At 4 P.M. barometer 29.24, thermometer 85.5, wind southwest 4, rain. After tea walked with wife and children to the Fort.

Monday, May 19. Rose at 4 and walked as yesterday, returned home and bathed. At 7:35 A.M. barometer 29.22, thermometer 82.5, wind west 4, clouds 6, frequent slight rain squalls passed to the north. Read Household Words. Matilda and children walked after tea.

Tuesday, May 20. Rose at 4 and walked as yesterday, returned home and bathed. At 7:30 A.M. barometer 29.17, thermometer 79, wind west 4, clouds 5 with heavy black clouds on the northwest horizon. Drew up a claim for duties in the case of John L. Lowe and other vs. brig **Augusta Woodward** of Maine. Lawyers Winer Bethel and Ossian B. Hart.

Got a number of books from Robert P. Campbell. Read The "Hunter's Feast" by Mayne Reid. At 4 P.M. barometer 29.14, thermometer 80, wind west 3, clouds 3 with rain about 9 P.M.

Wednesday, May 21. Rose at 4 and went to market then walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 7:15 A.M. barometer 29.20, thermometer 77, wind west 2, clouds 3. Bought at the sale of Julius Tift's furniture, one extension dining table \$16.00, 11 goblets @\$\$.34 total \$3.74, one bureau \$12.25, and one what-not for a dollar, total \$36.00. Judge William Marvin read his decree giving \$1,500.00 salvage. Read the Bush Boy by Mayne Reid. The steamer **Isabel** got in about 10 P.M.

Thursday, May 22. Rose at 4 and walked on the beach, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.26.5, thermometer 79.5, wind west by north 2, clouds 6. Found a turtle nest at the point where Simonton's Road joins the beach and got 110 good eggs and broke more than a dozen. Got a copy of the Army Meteorological Report from the Surgeon General's Office that was requested by Senator Stephen Mallory. Got two papers of seeds one of which was destroyed and the greater part of the other by a rat which had got into the mail bag. Read papers. Paid Joseph Walton postage bill of \$10.36.

Friday, May 23. Rose at 4 and walked on the beach and crossed the island by the Salt Pond plain and home by the barracks then bathed. At 7:30 A.M. barometer 29.36, thermometer 80.5, wind west 2, clouds 4. The steamer **Vanderbilt** got in last night.

Judge Thomas F. King came in her. Wrote to the Solicitor of the Treasury advising him that I had filed a claim for duties in the case of the brig **Augusta Woodward**.

(Fort from page 1)

as soon as possible. If the items are not requested, the State Parks Department intends to distribute them to other forts. Removing these historic items from their home fort and distributing them throughout the state removes important parts of Key West's historic past. Fort Taylor is Key West's most frequently visited attraction and the visitors deserve to see its historic artifacts intact.

The single most important artifact that was removed from the fort was a complete Colt Gatling Gun and carriage that was removed along with a much more recent field artillery gun. This Gatling gun is important enough to be the center piece of any Civil War museum exhibition and must find its way back to Key West..

Of slightly lesser value but immense importance are the extremely detailed models of each of the types of guns and gun emplacements in the fort. These were made by Mr. England who carefully measured and documented each gun emplacement as he uncovered it to allow him to build absolutely accurate models. He also built a very detailed model of the fort's Desalinization Plant and the Shot Tower that was designed to heat cannon balls to red hot temperatures so they would set afire any ships they hit. These models are specific to this fort and must be returned as soon as a dry climate-controlled room can be constructed to house them.

The cannon carriages have rusted badly and are in very poor condition. The conservation laboratory in Tallahassee has large vats where they can be 'conserved', a process that involves

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The priceless Colt Gatling Gun leaves the fort. Photo credit: the Author.



Cannon carriages in very poor condition are destined to be discarded. Photo credit: the Author.



Cannon carriages were loaded on the flat bed trucks along with the wire mesh boxes filled with cannon balls. Photo credit: the Author.



Thousands of Parrot Gun Shells were removed from these boxes and trucked to Tallahassee. Photo credit: the Author.



Thousands of cannon balls that had been stored in vats were taken to Tallahassee. Photo credit: the Author.

(Fort from page 13)

passing electric current through an electrolytic bath to gradually remove the salts from the iron and stop the deterioration. It is hoped that they will be returned to the fort after this process is complete.

It is hard to understand why the artifacts had to be transported to Tallahassee since the numerous large vats that had been specially constructed out of fiberglass and the electrical power supplies necessary to perform the electrolytic conservation of all of Fort Taylor's artifacts were still in the fort and in good condition. There is even a sand blasting machine ready to remove the external rust. All that was needed was to have one person oversee the simple process of running the electric current through the artifacts and maintaining the electrolyte in the tanks.

The fort's cannons remain and they have recently been remounted on metal cannon mounts that were paid for and installed by the citizens group called the Friends of Fort Taylor. Raising the cannons above the ground in this way helps to preserve their metal barrels.

Mr. England discovered and excavated thousands of Civil War projectiles ranging from grape shot through small and large cannon balls and including a great many Parrot Gun shells. Many of these shells still contain gunpowder and the bomb squad was called to scan every shell to determine whether it was safe to transport it to Tallahassee. A Civil War collector was killed this year when a Civil War shell in his collection exploded so considerable attention was given to the potential danger of these shells.

The historic importance of each of these shells is indicated by the fact that cannon balls have values up to



After they were loaded into mesh boxes, the cannon balls were lifted onto flatbed trucks. Photo credit: the Author.

several thousand dollars and single Parrot Gun shells sell for around \$1000. The value of the thousands of shells that were removed from Fort Taylor exceeds one million dollars. It would be a tragedy if these artifacts were separated and distributed to other forts because the historic importance of having them all in the fort where they were found would be lost. It would be like taking the Statue of Liberty in New York City and moving it to Albany because it was not being maintained well enough.

Photographs of these never before seen artifacts accompany this article and are the only images of them ever seen by the public. I want to emphasize that it is up to the concerned citizens and historians of Key West to work to bring these artifacts back to the fort.

Tom Perera is a retired professor who specializes in the history of technology and maintains extensive internet museums at: www.wltp.com

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Dangerous live shells were quarantined in marked boxes for disposal by the bomb squad. Photo credit: the Author.



Cannon balls were lifted on a makeshift cradle and thrown into wire mesh basket. Photo credit: the Author.



Smaller cannon balls were stored in garbage cans and larger ones were stored on the floor.. Photo credit: the Author.

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Fort Taylor in 1969 before Howard England began restoration. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

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