

USS SHARK

# Florida Keys Sea Heritage Journal

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## Richter Perky

### The Bats Didn't Come to Sugarloaf

By John Viele.  
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Island Navigator in 1993

Perky, a place that faded into obscurity over 50 years ago, still occasionally appears on maps of the Florida Keys. Located on Sugarloaf Key near the present-day site of the Sugarloaf Lodge resort, it was once the vacation retreat of the largest private land owner in the Florida Keys. It was also the scene of failed efforts to revive artificial-cultivation of sponges, to eradicate mosquitoes with bats, and to develop a luxury fishing resort.

In the mid-1930s, Perky was the home of Fred Johnson who was the settlement's postmaster, general superintendent, and sheriff. This is the story of Perky, the Johnson family, and life on Sugarloaf Key in the 1930s.

In 1925, a wealthy Florida real estate salesman, Richter C. Perky, purchased the Chase brothers' sponge-farming property eventually owned some 23,000 acres in the Keys, more than any other individual or company except the Florida East Coast Railroad. Sugarloaf Key was to be a vacation retreat from his home office in Miami. He also planned to try



*Fred Johnson and the Bat Tower. Photo credit: Pat Parks.*

his hand at artificial cultivation of sponges.

When Perky first acquired the Sugarloaf property, the only means

of reaching it was by small boat or train from Miami or Key West.

However, construction of the first  
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William Hackley. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

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. For the last few years the Journal has published William R. Hackley's Diary for the 1850s. Following is part of the Diary for 1830:

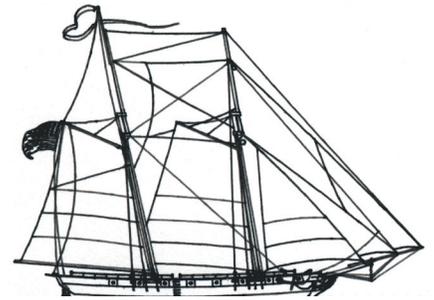
Tuesday, October 26, 1830. Rose about sunrise and read a portion of the "Acts of The Apostles" Commenced reading a "Treatise on the Law of Nisi Tuesday, October 26, 1830. Rose about sunrise and read a portion of the "Acts of The Apostles" Commenced reading a "Treatise on the Law of Nisi Prius" by Anthony Hammond, Esq., of the Inner Temple. Captain John Walton and Ede Van Evour

appointed arbitrators in the case of the Brig **Halcyon** brought in an award of 56 ½ per cent on the gross amount of the brig and cargo. Captain Pardon C. Greene the agent for the brig would not accept it and they on a recommendation brought in another award of 56 per cent on the brig and cargo, valued at \$40,000 which when the duties paid on the residue of the cargo would bring the owners in debt more than \$70,000 being in fact more than 100 per cent on the vessel and cargo. The case is probably one of bribery for as to Van Evour, he has never had any character since I have known him and the wording of the award is sufficient to show what

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#### New Members

Gail C. Conway, Key West; Randall Hoffman, Key West; Paul Justin, Rock Hill, South Carolina; Buck Weaver, Swampscott, MA.



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Editor: Tom Hambright

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overseas highway from Miami to Key West had begun and, by 1927, its narrow roadway and wooden bridges had reached Sugarloaf Key. Unfortunately for Perky, the road ran along the southern shore of Sugarloaf, three miles south of his place.

In 1928, Perky hired Fred Johnson of Key West to be caretaker and general superintendent of construction for his Sugarloaf property. This was the beginning of a relationship between the two men which, over the next 12 years, ripened into mutual respect and warm friendship.

Work now began in earnest to create a private vacation and fishing retreat for Mr. Perky and his wealthy friends. One of Fred Johnson's first jobs was to clear a rough trail for automobile access to the overseas highway on the southern shoreline. Subsequently, Perky advanced \$15,000 to Monroe County to fill and grade the road which is today called Sugarloaf Boulevard.

The biggest drawback to Perky's vacation paradise was the mosquito population. Fred Johnson said it was so bad at times that you could rake the mosquitoes off your arms in piles.

During trips to Texas in connection with his oil well interests, Perky heard of towers built to house bats which would devour all the mosquitoes in the surrounding area. After investigating and becoming convinced of the feasibility of the idea, he directed Fred Johnson to build a bat tower at Sugarloaf.

In five months, with three workers, Fred completed the 50-foot-high tower. He then installed and activated the bait which was supposed to attract bats to the tower. However, despite the awful stench that arose from the bait, no bats came

and the mosquitoes remained.

Many other projects were underway at what, in 1929, officially became Perky, Florida with its own post office. Under Fred Johnson's supervision, a generating plant; two, 35-foot water towers; and a large residence for Mr. Perky were built to provide all modern conveniences and accommodations.

Much of the facilities and equipment from the Chase brothers' sponge-growing days remained, and Perky was hopeful that he could succeed where they had failed. With his influence, he was able to get the Florida legislature to pass an act granting him the same exclusive rights given the Chase brothers to grow and harvest sponges in the Sugarloaf Sounds.

Fred Johnson began planting sponges using the same methods as in the earlier effort. Natural sponges were cut into small pieces about the size of an egg, wired to concrete disks, and tossed into the shallow waters of the sounds. Fred soon discovered that the railroad embankments had so restricted water flow in and out of the southern portion of the upper sound that it was devoid of marine life and sponges would not grow there. To correct the problem, Fred, with the aid of a dragline barge and dynamite, dredged a canal from the sound out to open water. The same canal is used today by boaters from Sugarloaf Shores to get to Hawk Channel and the reef.

As in the Chase brothers days, local spongers refused to recognize anyone's exclusive rights to sponge gathering in the Sugarloaf Sounds. Signs were posted, intruders were warned, and Fred Johnson was appointed a deputy sheriff with authority to arrest poachers...but still they came. In 1930, Fred finally arrested one and took him to Key West. There, a justice of

the peace freed the sponger and declared the 1929 legislative act to be unconstitutional.

It was a difficult situation for Fred. His wife and children still lived in Key West and he came down to be with them on weekends. However, as Perky's representative and enforcer of his sponge rights, he was not well received by the local spongers.

The following year, 1931, the State's Internal Improvement Board canceled the lease which gave Perky exclusive access to the sounds and a judge dismissed Perky's petition to bar local spongers from using the sounds. Perky appealed the decision to the State Supreme Court but three years passed before a ruling in his favor was handed down. In the meantime, sponge planting was halted and never again resumed. Once again, no artificially-cultivated sponges were ever harvested, except by the poachers.

Even in the 1930s, Sugarloaf Key was an isolated, sparsely-populated place. Mr. Perky spent most of his time at his home and office in Miami, only coming to Sugarloaf for short periods of relaxation and fishing. The only year-round residents at Perky were Fred Johnson, until his family joined him in 1936, and a black couple remembered as Jim and Maggie.

The liveliest place on the Key was Pirates Cove, a fishing resort on the eastern shore a short distance south of the railroad bridge with accommodations for 70 guests. The only other residents of the island were the railroad section foreman and his crew, one or two farmers, and a black man who made charcoal.

During Fred's first years at Perky, his wife Mary, and the

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children remained in Key West. Fred went home on weekends, but during school vacations his family came to Perky. Fred remodeled and enlarged the home of the former owner, Charles Chase, to accommodate his family which, by 1932 had grown to five children. The two story, stilt house had a large screened porch surrounding the upper story. A unique feature was a double-door entrance to the porch where mosquitoes were to be scraped or sprayed off before entering.

With the failure of the bat tower experiment, mosquitoes continued to make life miserable at Perky at times. Fred did what he could by digging drainage ditches, putting oil-soaked sponges in ponds he could not drain, and lighting smudge fires, but with little effect. While the adults suffered, the children were not particularly bothered. Fred Jr. recalled, "I would have them all over me but I just brushed them off." A favorite pastime of the children was to press their hands against the porch screen. The mosquitoes would gather so quickly and thickly on the outside that images of their hands would remain when they withdrew them.

In 1936, Mary and the children moved to Perky to stay year round. The children were delighted; to them Perky was a fishing, swimming and boating paradise. However, to their mother, it was an isolated outpost of civilization, devoid of all adult female companionship.

Even Mary's husband's company was limited, particularly when Mr. Perky was in residence. If he had a group of guests, as he often did, Fred had to take them out fishing and look after their needs. If Perky was alone, he usually slept all day and then expected Fred, who had

worked all day, to sit up and talk with him into the wee hours of the morning. But Fred did not complain. He was a hard-working, totally-loyal employee even to the extent that he told his children they could not sell spiny lobster they caught because, "they belonged to Mr. Perky."

On long weekends, the Johnson family drove to Key West in Mr. Perky's Model A Ford to stock up on groceries. The 20-mile trip on the first overseas roadway, over the narrow wooden bridges, and around the blind curve on Saddlebunch Key known as "deadman's curve," took about an hour. When the traffic was heavy, they might meet as many as five or six other cars along the way.

Despite its isolation, life on Perky was not uncivilized. A power plant supplied electricity for lights and for pumping water up into the two 35-foot-high water towers. Two large cisterns stored all the fresh water needed by the few residents.

Even telephone service became available. The only telephone line in the Keys outside of Key West belonged to the U.S. Coast Guard for communicating with the lighthouses. In order to get on the line, Perky donated a right-of-way across his property on Sugarloaf for the line connecting to the underwater cable to American Shoals Lighthouse. Fred Johnson recalled that he used to ring up American Shoals when there was a big prize fight on and place the receiver next to his radio so the lighthouse keepers could listen to the blow-by-blow.

As postmaster for Perky, one of Fred's duties was to get the mail off the train. There was a flag stop where Sugarloaf Lodge is today. The train would stop if there were passengers waiting to board or wanting to get off, but it would

not stop for the mail transfer. An ingenious method was used.

The outgoing mail bag was suspended from an overhanging arm alongside the track. As the train approached, a long pole on a pivot with a hook caught the bag, swung it aboard, and, in the process, pulled it free of the quick-release attachment. Simultaneously, the mailman kicked the Perky mail bag out of the car onto the platform.

Three of the Johnson children, Fred Jr., Betty, and Buddy, were of school age when the family moved to Perky. A one-room, two-outhouse school was located on the eastern side of Big Pine Key, a short distance north of the railroad. A single teacher taught grades one through six to a student body of about a dozen pupils.

The school bus picked the Johnson children about 7:30 in the morning and did not arrive home again until 5:00 in the evening. The driver was Mizpah Saunders. When Mizpah was a young girl, her father, Robert Watson, had homesteaded on Big Pine Key in the area known today as Watson's Hammock.

Mary Johnson always felt uneasy during the long day her children were away at school. She worried about the narrow bridges, some with missing guard rails, and the possibility that the bus might have a flat tire or a blowout and plunge into the water.

Mizpah was also concerned but about a different problem. The children liked to hang out the windows to look for birds and animals and she was afraid they would be hit by an overhanging tree branch or a passing car. She told them that one day the bus rolled over a rattlesnake and the snake was thrown up into the bus through an open window. After that, the windows stayed rolled up.

After school and on the

weekends, fishing was the children's favorite sport. Using lobster for bait, they would fish off the end of the long stone dock their father had built. The older children were allowed to go out in a skiff kept in the "back" sound. Their father had also enclosed a large shallow water area at the shore end of the dock and made a small beach. Here the children could swim without their mother being concerned.

The Johnsons kept a cow, chickens, and ducks and each child had his own pet duckling. They were fascinated by the wild animals and birds in the area, but were cautioned not to wander into the bushes because of the rattlesnakes. Sometimes raccoons would fall asleep in the date palms by the house after gorging themselves on dates. In the morning the children would poke them out of the tree with a long stick, catch them in a sheet and keep them as pets. On very hot days they would climb to the top of the lookout tower (built to spot sponge poachers) to catch a little breeze and laze in the shade.

The 1930s depression greatly reduced Perky's land sales and his cash flow. With the opening of the new overseas highway (using the railroad right of way and bridges) in 1938, Perky decided to convert his 365-acre private retreat into a luxury fishing resort. Under Fred Johnson's supervision, the existing buildings were remodeled and new buildings were added to provide sleeping, dining, and recreational facilities.

In March of 1939, Perky Lodge opened to the public. The brochure boasted that the lobby, dining room and tap room were paneled in "pecky" cypress and that every room had innerspring mattresses and hot and cold running water.

However, the days of Perky Lodge were numbered. The following year, with Fred Johnson at his bedside in Miami, Richter C. Perky died, as Fred said, "land poor." The trustees of the estate had no money to pay Fred



The cover of Dr. Campbell's book. Photo credit: Monroe County Public Library.

his back wages, then five or six months in arrears, Fred reluctantly left his home and job of fourteen years and took a position at the Navy yard in Key West. Mary Johnson had a somewhat different attitude towards the change. As she put it, "My happiest moment was the day Fred left Perky."

With the death of its founder, Perky quickly faded into obscurity. In 1943, two of the largest buildings, Perky's and Johnson's former residences were destroyed by fire. The bat tower, now designated a historic

landmark, still stands, a curious reminder of a futile experiment and a forgotten time.

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(Hackley from page 2)

the principles of the others must necessarily be. They are consulting about bringing in another award as the second one was refused. Every one disinterested person on the Key is against such barefaced villainy and if the award is accepted the character of the Key must be damaged without repair. Played whist until about ten. The wind still from the northeast and blows fresh.

Wednesday 27 October. Rose before dawn and read the "Acts." After breakfast cleaned the brass on my gun case with lime juice and salt they had been burned black by the bilge water on the way out which was removed instantaneously by the mixture. The other part of the house I occupy has been rented by a Mrs. Bills who has with her, her mother and child. I immediately went down and spoke to Colonel Oliver O'Hara as he is about renting a house to let me have a room in it which he has promised to do. I felt quite unwell all morning until I took a dose of Rhubarb Wine which made me feel much better. Read Hammond. Colonel Oliver O'Hara and Captain John Jackson of the Revenue Cutter **Marion** dined with us today. After dinner read a portion of Dugald Stewart's philosophy which I commenced two mornings hence. There was a dance at the house tonight and as I do not partake of such amusements at this place. I sat in my room reading until I went to bed. The kept the fiddle a going until two this morning. The wind still to the north east and blowing fresh. Weather clear and pleasant.

Thursday 28 October. Rose before dawn and read the "Acts." The arbitrators in the case of the Brig **Halcyon** have brought in (as I understand) a third award in which they give the salvoes fifty-six and a quarter per cent on the net

proceeds of the Brig and cargo. Which amounts to the same as the above mentioned per cent and each party to pay his share of the duties. Yesterday morning I prepared some charcoal for my teeth, after it was powdered and sifted I mixed it up into a paste with the juice of a lime and this morning on making use of it I find it to answer perfectly the lime supplying the place of the more deleterious acids usually put into the patented tooth powders. The Sloop **Capital**, Captain Walker, arrived this morning and I read the Norfolk Herald to the 13th by her. In the paper of the 8th is a proclamation of the President declaring the opening of British West Indian ports to Americans on the basis of reciprocal duties and also a notice of a revolution having taken place at Brussels where at the time of the latest intelligence the populace and soldiery were in arms and frequent skirmishes were continually taking place. Sat in my room and read the papers until near 10. The wind still in the northeast and flows fresh.

Friday 29 October. Rose with the dawn and read the papers. The British Brig **Allergo** which was wrecked sometime since sailed today having undergone complete repairs under the direction of the English vice-council who is also the agent for Lloyds. Broke a gap in my knife which took me some time to obliterate and afterward Captain John Jackson came in which made it so late that the time I had set aside for reading the "Acts" had elapsed so I read Hammond. After dinner read Stewart. In the evening Captain Jackson called again and sat sometime. A man by the name of Willis who lives on Key Vacas came down today and brought a load of sugar cane which are the finest I have ever seen. One of the finest and that not the largest which

I purchased of him measured in circumference seven inches and in length ten feet and there were twenty-six ripe joints on it besides several which had been cutoff in severing it from the roots. The other stalks of cane tho not so large generally ran uncommonly fine, much better indeed than any I have seen brought over from Cuba. If a man of any energy were to turn his attention to the cultivation of the Keys he could not fail in a short time and indeed the more I see and hear and the better I become acquainted with the Territory of Florida the better I am pleased with it. Played whist until after nine. The wind still continues from the northward and eastward but more moderately.

Saturday October 30. This day twelve months ago I began keeping a diary with the intention of noting in it the manner in which my time was passed and also for the purpose of noting any circumstance which might occur to me or within the sphere of my knowledge which might appear worthy of record but I had not the most distant idea of any improvement in the way in which it has happened to me in my handwriting which has been so much improved by it that I am in great hopes that by the end of another year I shall be enabled to write a handsome hand. In the month of August immediately proceeding the time at which I commence this diary I had in accordance with the reiterated requests of my parents and many friends left off chewing tobacco which habit I had indulged in for 13 years (having commence when I was but of the age of ten years) and I am determined never to get into the habit again. And I have since then left off the smoking of segars and the use of all ardent spirits and but seldom drink wine or use any stimulating condiments in my food by following which

regimen I have reduced my weight from two hundred pounds to one hundred and fifty by which means I feel a great deal better and more fit for study than I used to when I was so fat. I always felt heavy and lazy and was unable to pay the required attention to my studies. Read the Constitution of the United States twice and laws of Congress relating to the Territory of Florida. Wrote a short letter to Mother and read Hammond. After dinner read a chapter in Stewart. Played whist until half past nine. During the night a pretty severe wind came up which lasted about an hour, the wind during the day moderated but still comes from the same quarter and the rain also comes from the northeast.

Sunday October 31. Rose a little after sunrise and read the "Acts." I am now reading the "Acts" for the second time to try and ground myself in them tho from the method or rather the want of it in the arrangement of the several heads they are very difficult of understanding and also to refer to. Read Hammond. Drew up a declaration in assumpsit in the case of Fielding A. Browne & Company vs. J.R. Western as I did not like the one as wrote some days since. I inserted two counts in one for goods sold and delivered and the other for money lent. In the afternoon walked out to get some soap stick of a vine that grows in the West Indies and which the inhabitants make use of to clean their teeth and it gets very soft by use and at the same time is tough and does not come to pieces in the mouth. Continued my walk to the lighthouse and set a about an hour when I returned. After tea Oliver O'Hara came in and we had a long talk on matters and things. Went to bed about ten. The wind from the northeast but moderate. Weather pleasant.

Monday November 1, 1830. Key West. Rose before the sun. Read the "Acts." Marshal Lackland M. Stone arrived this morning. The court met at 10 A.M. pursuant to the law and the Judge not being present it was adjourned according to his instructions left with the clerk until the third Monday in this month which is the fifteenth. Filed the declaration in the case of F.A. Browne & Company vs. J.R. Western. Read Hammond. Took a bath found the water rather cool but still pleasant after the first shock was over. After dinner read Stewart and after tea Oliver O'Hara came in and we played a few games of whist. I went to bed before ten but could not get to sleep for sometime for the noise made by some cats under my window. I got up and loaded one of my pistols to shoot it. Wind northeast, weather pleasant.

Tuesday November 2. Rose before the sun and read the "Acts." Read Hammond. After dinner went with Captain James J. Board in his boat around to the Southern Beach after sea groupers got a few and had a pleasant sail. After tea played whist until near ten. The wind from the north northeast light, weather pleasant.

Wednesday November 3. Rose before the sun, read the "Acts." I felt quite unwell when I arose and took a dose of Rhubarb Wine. Read Hammond. The dose I took this morning operated three times. After dinner read Stewart after tea played whist until near ten at which hour I went to bed. The wind from the northwest and the weather cool and pleasant.

Thursday November 4. Rose before the sun and read a portion of the "Acts." A smack that arrived this morning from Havana brought the Judge James Webb and the Collector of Custom Algernon S. Thurston. The Judge has been 20

days since he left Pensacola for Havana where he has been waiting a week for a opportunity of crossing over. William Fenton Braden of Tallahassee (of rather Rockhaven one of the towns laid off two or three years since on the St. Marks river) came on from Virginia with the Collector and waits here an opportunity of some vessel for St. Marks. Made a catch for a latch to one of my doors. During the night the wind hove to about north northeast and blows a pretty breeze. Read Hammond. Bought of Asa Tift a leather cap for \$2.00. The Judge held a court today but some dispute arising who should be embraced by the term "householder" he adjourned until tomorrow. I heard nothing of his intentions and therefore was not present. After dinner played whist until near ten. Wind northeast tolerably fresh.

Friday November 5. Rose before the sun and read the "Acts." The Judge decided that under the laws of the territory there are no qualifications necessary for a grand juror though there are for a petite. I do not think the decision was a correct one. The grand jury was organized and P.C. Greene chosen foreman. The court was adjourned until tomorrow at ten o'clock. On my return to my room I felt so unwell that I was compelled to lie down for sometime. After dinner read Stewart. After tea played whist. George E. Weaver and William G. Porter have for several evenings past beat Oliver O'Hara and myself. Played until near ten. The wind still to the north and weather pleasant.

Saturday November 6. Rose about the hour the sun did. Read a portion of the "Acts." At ten attended court. One case of indictment against R.W. Cussans for keeping a disorderly

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(Hackley from page 7)

house was tried but the juries at this place necessarily composed of men of no character and indeed it is impossible to get any jury here who will decide according to their oath, the greater part of the persons who call themselves householders being drunken and vagabond sailors who have built themselves palmetto huts on the Keys and who are usually drunk from the time of their arrival on the Key until their departure when all their money is gone and it will be a long time before any case can be decided by a jury justly and according to law and it appears to me that it would be much more conducive to public justice if this court did not possess all of the powers of a Superior Court of Florida but was merely clothed with the powers of a Court of Admiralty. Read Hammond. After dinner I went down to the wharf and found Dr. Henry S. Waterhouse attempting to sail his boat which in consequence of his ignorance he was unable to effect and as there was at that time a good breeze from the northeast. I got into his boat and took a sail with him for about an hour when I returned to my room and read Stewart. The wind variable and at night came out of the northeast and caused the air to be quite cool.

Sunday November 7. Rose with the sun and read the "Acts" and afterwards Hammond. After dinner read Stewart. The weather has been hot all day and the winds light and variable till about 8 P.M. when the wind came out of the northwest and blew quite fresh.

Monday November 8. Rose about half past five, before the sun made his appearance and read the "Acts." The cargo of the Brig **Halcyon** was sold this morning at auction the coffee averaged around 8 3/4 cents and the sugars white 10

cents, brown 7 cents. The segars 11 dollars a thousand. In my opinion everything brought its full value and indeed cargoes of wrecked generally sell for their full values here or at least much better than one could suppose. The brig was libeled this morning by Oliver O'Hara agent for some persons in the Havana, who hold a Bottomry bond on her. There was no court today on account of the sale. Read Hammond, after dinner read Stewart. After tea played whist until near 10. Windy and cool.

Tuesday November 9. Rose before dawn and read the "Acts." The court met at 10 pursuant to adjournment and several indictments for assault and battery were tried and Norman Sherwood was arraigned for the murder of John Wilson on the 4 day of July last. He was remanded and the court adjourned until tomorrow at 11. Read Hammond, after dinner read Stewart. About sunset the Schooner **Mary Ann** came down, her cruise being up she has been advertised for sale for some time. After tea played whist until near 10 when I went to bed. The wind from the northwest and so cool at night as to be disagreeable.

Wednesday November 10. Rose at sunrise and read the "Acts" until ten when I went to court where I remained until one at which time it was adjourned the only case tried was an indictment against Abraham Butcher for keeping a disorderly house the case was defended in forma pauperis by Messes P.B. Prior and Braden. Braden spoke for some time and shows the sine qua non of a lawyer--impudence. I suspect that he will do quite well in the profession. Myself and Judge Henry W. Fontaine were appointed to defend Juan Manuel Moreno a Spaniard indicated for an assault

with intent to commit murder but the U.S. Army entered a noli prosequi. Read upon my return to my room portion of Hammond on nisi prius. The jury brought in a verdict of guilty in the case of Butcher and the Judge fined him \$25 which in preference to going to jail, he paid. I am in hopes it will have a salutary effect as heretofore it has been found impossible to punish men of that character on this Key. Some log wood that was made use of as dunnage in storing the cargo of the Brig **Halcyon** was sold this morning and also the provision of the brig. The logwood brought \$17 per ton. After dinner read Stewart. After tea played whist until half past nine, Algernon S. Thurston came in and I got him to take my hand. Wind about north and weather pleasant.

Thursday, November 11. Rose before the sun and read "Acts" until 10 when I went up to the courthouse and remained until one the Judge granted a recess until 3. The Judge appointed myself, Braden and Pascal B. Prior to defend James Fearn and Charles Green indicated for receiving stolen goods knowingly and for keeping a disorderly house. Green told me he would pay for my defending him. Charles E. Hawkins was arraigned today for the murder of William. A. McRea on the 24 day of May 1828. The Jurors were sworn in voir dire and with but two exceptions and made up and expressed opinions in the case there is not the most distant possibility of trying him in this district. A motion was made by the attorneys for the prisoner (Fontaine, Thurston and Braden) to dismiss him on the last day of the present term under the 12th section of the act of 1828 relating to crimes and misdemeanors which was set for argument on Thursday next. Thomas Green was arraigned for perjury and was remanded until 3

when the case came on and he was found not guilty. Rathbone, captain of one of the fishing smacks from Mystic, died this morning. The Revenue Cutter **Pulaski**, Captain Joseph Swiler, arrived this morning. The court adjourned at half-past four until 10 tomorrow. Played whist until 10. The weather all day has been very sultry and scarce any wind until 7 p.m. it commenced raining and continued for more than an hour.

Friday, November 12. Rose before the sun and studied the case of James Fearn and Charles Green until 10 when I went up to the courthouse. The case of the Territory vs Theodore Owens was the first called. Owens was acquitted. The prosecuting attorney entered a noli prosequi in both indictments against Charles Green. In the case of James Fearn for receiving stolen goods knowingly was tried and the jury brought in a verdict of guilty. This was the first case of the kind I have ever defended and in this I did not speak more than ten or fifteen minutes. The court ordered him to be committed till tomorrow and it being near two adjourned. Captain Henry A. Barclay breakfasted with us this morning. He arrived yesterday on the Revenue Cutter **Pulaski**. After dinner studied the case of Fearn with the intention of making a motion in arrestor judgment. After tea played whist until 9 when Algernon Thurston came in and took my place at the table. During last night the wind came out of the west quite fresh and all day was hauling to the northward and at night was northwest and so cold that I put a blanket on my bed and found it quite comfortable.

Saturday, November 13. Rose before the sun and studied the case of James Fearn. At 10 went to the courthouse and made a motion in the arrest of judgment on the

grounds that the indictment was not specific enough the motion was sustained. The case of James Fearn for running a disorderly house came on for trial and he was found guilty and fined \$20 and costs. I spoke again for a short time in this case. The court adjourned at 12 o'clock until Monday at 10. Returned to my room and dressed and read Hammond. After dinner read Stewart. After tea played whist. Captain Joshua Appleby sailed this morning early for the reef. Wind northwest and so cold that I was forced to use a blanket.

Sunday, November 14. Rose with the sun. After breakfast read Chitty and Bills and wrote to Father and Sister to go by the Sloop **John Denison**. Afterwards studying a case which will come next week. Obtained from William G. Porter the original letter from P.C. Greene acknowledging the debt due McLasky, Hagan & Company of Mobile, a power of attorney from the same to P & S and a certified account current between their house and Pardon C. Greene. After dinner took a nap and on awaking discovered a sloop to be beating up the harbor. On her arrival she proved to be the **Spermaceti** of Stoning, Captain Hiram Cleft, that had come out to remain as a regular wrecker on the Florida Reef. Robert B. Stannard and Dr. B.B. Strobel and family consisting of his wife and child and her sister came as passengers. After tea walked about and to bed about 9. Wind northeast and very cool.

Monday, November 15. Rose with the sun and studied a case of bill of exchange till 10. Went up to the courthouse. the case of the United States vs. Matthew Furlong came up today. Henry W. Fontaine asked me to assist him in the case which I did and spoke a few minutes. The Judge was taken so

unwell on the bench that when the jury retired he had to go upstairs and lie down and could not come down to take their indictment but directed that it be sealed up and the court adjourned till 10 tomorrow. The Schooners **Thistle** and the **Florida** came down this forenoon. I received this morning per the Sloop **Spermaceti** a letter from Sister. Broke open the one I wrote yesterday and acknowledge the receipt of it. A schooner, the **Glide** of Bath, arrived this morning with merchandise. Just before sunset the Schooner **Mobile** arrived from Charleston. After tea played whist till 10. The wind northeast and weather cool.

Tuesday, November 16. Rose with the sun and studied a case until court time. The jury found for the plaintiff in the case of Mathew Furlong. The case of the Territory of Florida vs. Norman Sherwood for the murder of John Wilson on the 4 day of July last by shooting with a pistol loaded with buckshot came on today. The prisoner being anxious for trial did not make use of his right of peremptory challenge to the full extent allowed by law. I was requested by the Judge James Webb to take down the evidence in the case and did so. The trial was protracted till near two. I left the courthouse before the jury retired. The jury brought in a verdict of guilty. The Sloop **Brilliant** of Groton, Captain Mason Packer, arrived this morning from New York in ballast she has come out to be a regular wrecking vessel on the Florida Reef. After dinner took a nap and read Stewart. After tea played euchre with Captain Henry A. Barclay against George Weaver and Captain Joseph Swiler. Went to bed about half past nine. Wind north northeast weather cool and pleasant.

(Continued on page 10)

(Hackley from page 9)

Wednesday, November 17. Rose with the sun and studied my case until court time and went up to court. The case of Theodore Owens & Co. vs. Charles M. Johnson came on today verdict for plaintiff. About 12 I heard a vessel was about to sail for Tallahassee during the day. I came down to my room and wrote to Brother and went and prepared a box containing some seeds &c to send to Sister Mary. About 4 the Sloop **Capital** sailed for Charleston and William. G. Porter went in her, by him I send my watch to be repaired and the letters I wrote Sunday. At ½ past seven attended a meeting of the inhabitants of Monroe County convened for the purpose of asking of the next Legislative Council one-third of the sums raised by auction tax in this county for the county purposes and also to remove the necessity of being a householder in order to qualify a man for being a competent juror. Judge James Webb made the motion and drafted the resolutions. There was a good deal of wrangling respecting the resolutions but they carried in form proposed by the Judge. There was a committee of three appointed to draw up a memorial to the council and about 9 the meeting adjourned until Saturday night. Algernon S. Thurston was called to the chair and George Weaver appointed secretary. Wind light from about north by east.

Thursday, November 18. Rose before the sun and read until near 10. The motion for the dismissal of Charles Hawkins came on this morning. The case of F.A. Browne vs. P.C. Greene come on for trial and judgment was given for the defendant. About one came down to my room and wrote my diary. After dinner I did not feel a desire of reading and therefore I walked

about the wharf &c. After tea there was a party formed at Loo which I did not join. Weather pleasant. Wind about northeast light.

Friday November 19. Rose before the sun and read John F. Archbold's "Practices." At ten went up to the courthouse. From 8 to near 10 it rained quite smartly. Made motion for new trial in the case of Ede Van Evour vs. Thomas Eastin which came on yesterday. Several affidavits were filed in consequence of the absence of David C. Pinkham and the jury were discharged there being no more cases for them to try. The appearance docket was called and I made a motion to dismiss the suit of Cottrell, Fitch & Co. vs. Thomas Eastin on the ground of the declaration not having been filed on the first day of the term. Filed a special plea in the case of a recess of the court until 4 when the prisoner is to be brought up to receive sentence. I walked down town and to the wharf. Captain Thomas Rooke will go up to the reef in the morning and I should like much to go up with him but cannot as I am expecting anxiously to hear from Father. At 4 PM went up to the courthouse to hear judgment of death pronounced on Normal Sherwood. The Judge made a most impressive charge and fixed the second Friday in December for the day of execution. The Judge was so affected that he could hardly get thorough the sentence and many of the bystanders also were much affected. The prisoner indeed shed a few tears but was not much moved with the hearing of his doom. He walked back to the jail and I am given to understand expressed but little sorrow saying that he could die only once. Another party was formed at Loo tonight and I went to my room and read "Gil Blas." Wind northeast.

Saturday, November 20. Rose with the sun and read "Gil Blas." At ten went up to the Courthouse.

The motion I made yesterday for a new trial sustained and the new trial granted on the defendant paying the costs. The minutes of the proceedings during the term were read by the clerk and a recess of court was granted until 5 when he will sign the minutes. The light boat for Carysfort Reef got in after dark last night in 18 days from New York. The Schooner **Mobile** sailed this morning for Tallahassee and the Smackee **Franklin** for the same place about noon. After dinner read "Gil Blas." At half past seven attended the town meeting pursuant to adjournment and after a time I got tired of a place where nearly everyone felt in the humor of speaking and consequently were disputing about nothing. I went to my room and read "Gil Blas" by Alain Rene Le Sage till near ten when I went to bed. The wind northeast and weather pleasant.

Sunday, November 21. Rose about sunrise and read "Gil Blas." Captain Thomas Rooke went up to the reef this morning. After breakfast cleaned the brass on my gun case. Read Hammond for a short time when not being in a humor for study I took up a volume of Peter Pindar. After dinner took a nap and walked up to the beach. After tea sat and conversed until half past 8, when I went to bed. Dr. B.B. Strobel, I heard, read a sermon at the courthouse this morning. Wind east northeast, weather pleasant.

Monday, November 22. Rose before the sun and put my dry specimens in a paper book. After breakfast read Hammond and commenced Samuel M. Phillipps' "A Treatise on The Law of Evidence." After dinner read "Gil Blas" and took a walk. After tea went over to the Collector's and sat a short time. During the night we had a smart shower. Wind light

about east, weather pleasant.

Tuesday, November 23. Rose with the sun and read "Gil Blas." After breakfast the court met for the purpose of signing the minutes. I was not present but attended an auction sale of some things which belonged to the Lightship **Caesar**. Some pig iron sold at \$17 per ton and the mooring of the ship at the place laid consisting of about 125 fathoms of inch and quarter chain and two mushroom anchors sold for \$400. They were purchased by George Weaver and if the cost of weighing them is not very great should be a good speculation. Read Hammond. After dinner read and took a walk up to the beach. After tea went to Oliver O'Hara's and played whist for sometime. When the game was changed to a game of chance and I took a hand but bet no more than 6 ½ cents at a time. Played until ten. At 9 this morning the wind changed to the northeast and at night blew pretty fresh, weather pleasant.

Thursday, November 25. Rose with the sun and read Hammond and Phillips. A Negro by the name of Ruby was broth up before Henry W. Fontaine charged with attempting to set fire to Mrs. Mallory's house night before last. When he was broth up Oliver O'Hara rose and observed to the Judge Fontaine that he must object (as the British vice-counsel for a man he claimed to be a subject of the British government) to his setting on the trail as he (O'Hara) had been informed the he (Fontaine) had made up his decision on the case. Fontaine immediately told him in a passion "I hold you in contempt of court" and made out a commitment for him condemning him to four hours imprisonment in the common jail and to pay a fine of five dollars and costs, the extent of what the law allows a justice to fine for contempt. Mr. O'Hara was taken up by writ of habeas corpus before Judge Webb.

who said he could do nothing and he then went peaceably to jail and stayed till released by expiration of the time. He is excessively incensed against Fontaine more especially as he disclaims all intention of offense. He says he is determined to drive Fontaine off the Key, not by any personal attack as his is not worth of such notice from a man of his standing and that is the only thing that saves him from cow skinning but by representing the character in its true light to the governor. Fontaine's character is that of a vain, conceited, ignorant man and is devoted to play never missing an opportunity of gambling even with the most notorious blacklegs and frequently is intoxicated in short no one has any respect for him. Mr. O'Hara is the British vice-counsel here and also the agent for the insurance company at Lloyds and is a man who is respected as much as any other on the Key and I think it the greatest outrage on the feelings of a gentlemen that I have heard of in a long time and it is looked on as such by Mr. O'Hara. After dinner read Stewart and took a walk. Just at dark George Weaver and myself went over to Fontaine's office where the cook was, having been brought up before Fontaine on a charge of using impertinent language to a daughter of a next door neighbor, of the name of Rigby, and on certification he ordered him to be whipped. Weaver asked to see the affidavit and was refused positively and some words passed. I also had some words and Captain James J. Board went up to Fontaine and cursed him making some of the expressions that a man with the least spark of courage must have resented but the honorable Judge thinking that "the better part of valor is discretion" pocketed the insult and walked off. He seems to have gotten up this morning in an unfortunate

humor. Mr. O'Hara is determined to petition the Legislative Council for his dismissal. After tea played whist till ten. Judge James Webb and several other gentlemen came in they formed another party. The Revenue Cutter **Pulaski** sailed at dark for Havana. Wind northeast and cool. I slept under a blanket.

Friday, November 26. Rose with the sun and read Hammond and Phillips. After dinner read Stewart. After tea played two rubbers of billiards with Captain James J. Board and got beat. The Sloop-of-War **Natchez** in attempting to beat up the harbor got ashore on the point off the lighthouse. Captain Newton sent up for the Collector to send the Lightship down to take out her guns and it was done. Wind northeast fresh and weather pleasant.

Saturday November 27. Rose before the sun and read Hammond. After breakfast went to the wharf and remained there till near 11. The launch of the Sloop-of-war **Natchez** came up for an anchor and cable. The guns were put on the Lightship but she did not float at high water this morning as she got on last night at the top of the tide. The boat got the anchor and cable of the Brig **Halcyon**. After dinner read Stewart. About 4 P.M. the ship got off the bank. My head ached very badly last night and I took a dose of Rhubarb Wine and went to bed. Shortly after Robert Stanard came to my door and told me that Brother was on board of the Schooner **Mayflower** that had just gotten in from St. Marks. I got up and went on board and remained till half past 10. After my return could not get to sleep for some time and about 11 it commenced raining and continued for sometime. Wind north northeast and fresh.

Sunday, November 28. Rose

(Continued on page 12)

(Hackley from page 11)

with the sun and went off to the schooner and brought Brother ashore to breakfast. Afterwards borrowed a horse from Captain Pardon Greene and he rode through the island and down the beach by the light house and I walked with him on his return he stopped at my rooms and Oliver O'Hara came in and sat for some time. It being George Weaver's birthday he gave us some wine and Judge James Webb and Oliver O'Hara dined with us. Gave Brother my bed and took my sea mattress for myself. The mosquitoes were so bad that I could not sleep till near day. Wind variable from southwest to north northwest. The Schooner **Pizzaso** came down from the reef.

Monday, November 29. Rose before the sun and wrote up my diary for yesterday. Brother after breakfast rode out to the salt pans in company with Theodore Owens who invited him to dinner today. Mr. Owens also sent me a written invitation as we are not on the most intimate terms. Brother is very anxious for me to go north with him and I would but James Randolph is in Philadelphia. If he was not I would give up my prospects here and go on. At dinner time Brother had headache and excused himself to Mr. Owens. I did the same and as I had felt so unwell as to take a dose of Rhubarb Wine before breakfast and a dose of salts afterwards. He made Brother promised to dine with him previous to leaving and me to come with him. They expecting us to dine out, so at home sat down without us knowing it and had finished before we went over. The Brig **Enterprise**, Captain Hitchcock, came in and brought David C. Pinkham and his lady. After dinner took a good nap and at night played several games of

whist. Wind north and weather cold.

Tuesday, November 30. Rose with the sun. Captain Wallace of the Schooner **Mayflower** is sick with the bilious fever and the schooner will be detained some days longer. Brother and myself invited to dine with Oliver O'Hara. I shall not read much while Brother remains. Wrote Father to go by the Schooner **Hitchcock**. At 3 PM sat down to an excellent dinner of fish and fowl. The Captain of the **Natchez** and several of her officers were at the table. Nineteen persons sat down after the cloth was removed several kinds of wine were introduced and among them champaign which in a short time produced their usual effect and we had several songs, stories and so forth. Captain Newton sung several songs very well and some of the officers also sung well. At 8 I left the table having drunk, although I was very cautious, more than I ought for I could feel the effects very perceptibly. At half past nine the party broke up. Nearly all were a little intoxicated and several of them very much so. Among the latter number was Brother who was excessively drunk and it was with the greatest difficulty that we could get him to bed. After he had taken several cups of strong coffee he got rather more sober and consented to go to sleep. The wind about east northeast and blows quite fresh and the weather rather cool for my feelings.

Wednesday, December 1. Rose a little after the sun. The Sloop-of-war **Natchez** went out this morning. I took a dose of salts as I feel the effects of the wine drank, slightly. Brother is so sick that he has not risen and complains much of headache. Captain Wallace still sick. About 6 P.M. the Schooner **Thames** from New York for St. Marks came in and one of the passengers a Mr. Buel brought me a letter from Father

of the 2nd ultimo containing an opinion of Gen. Van Renssclair and of Mr. H.H. Storrs on his title to the claim of Florida lands. Sloop **Sara Isabella** arrived from the reef. Wind northeast. Weather pleasant.

Thursday, December 2. Rose before the sun. After breakfast answered the letter from Father last evening. The Sloop **Splendid** of New York came in about 4 P.M. in 10 days from New York. A Spanish schooner arrived from Charlotte harbor brought some oysters and it was near eleven before they were cooked. I had to wait for Brother though I did not want any myself. Wind east northeast fresh. Weather pleasant.

Friday, December 3. Rose with the dawn. After breakfast went up to the court house to look over records. The Brig **Halcyon** was sold by the Marshall and was purchased by Joseph Cottrell for the sum of \$2,725. About 3 P.M. the Lightship got under weigh for her station on the reef. Captain Joseph Swiler of the Revenue Cutter **Pulaski** conveyed her up. Wind southeast. Weather pleasant.

Saturday December 4. Rose with the sun. George Weaver is so sick with a cold that he has to take to his bed. Yesterday in blowing a conch out of its shell (which is done by making a small hole in the upper part of the shell and putting a charge of powder in the fish is blown entirely out and the shell remains sweet) I burnt my right thumb considerably but this morning it is not at all painful. After tea sat and talked until after nine. Went to bed but could not go to sleep until near two. Wind southeast by southwest. Weather pleasant.

Sunday, December 5. Rose before the sun. After breakfast down to the store with Brother. George Weaver better. Nearly every one is sick or complaining of a bad

cold. After dinner took a nap. At 4 P.M. a slight rain came attended by a fresh breeze and about 9 P.M. a heavy squall accompanied by heavy rain for a short time came up from the southwest, wind south southeast fresh. Weather pleasant.

Monday, December 6. Rose about 6. During the night the wind hauled to the west northwest and this morning blows fresh and quite cool. I hear that two days since Norman Sherwood took a dose of poison which was conveyed to him by some one but it was not sufficiently powerful to cause death. He is however sick from the effects of it and I think that if he can obtain the means he will commit suicide before the day appointed for his execution for which I would be sorry as the execution of a felon will I think have a beneficial effect on this community. After tea went down to the warehouse and played whist till near ten. Wind northwest. Weather cool.

Tuesday December 7. Rose before the sun. Last night it was quite cool. After breakfast I was at the store where they were shooting until near twelve. I was verbally summoned by U.S. Marshall P.B. Prior to turn out as one of thirty men to guard the prisoner from the jail to the gallows. I shall not attend as I am unwilling to see a man hung. It was a mistake as to Norman's taking poison. He is perfectly unconcerned and says that it makes no difference to him whether he dies today or ten years hence, he is perfectly hardened and ought to suffer the end of a felon. Wind east northeast. Weather pleasant.

Wednesday, December 8. Rose before the sun. My wrist is very painful so much so that I have procured a bottle of Opodeldoc to rub it with. Some six or eight years since I sprained my wrist and ever since at intervals it has been painful.

It has been some since I felt any inconvenience from it and I was in hope it was quite cured but it is again very painful and I am at a loss to know in what manner I hurt it. Captain Wallace is much better and it is though will recover. Read May's Maxims. During the night it blew hard from southwest accompanied with rain.

Thursday, December 9. Rose much later than usual for the darkness of the morning. Took a dose of salts to try get rid of some small blisters that rise on my feet and legs which itch exceedingly. The Sloop **Splendid** sold for \$1,000 brought by Henry A. Barclay. Read May's Maxims. After dinner read a novel called the "Lost Heir." After tea went down to the store where Robert B. Stannard and some others were playing whist. During the night the wind changed to the northwest and the weather is cold.

Friday December 10. Rose with the sun and after breakfast read the "Lost Heir." At ten o'clock A.M. Norman Sherwood was taken from the jail to the gallows erected near the road out from the court house to the West and, in pursuance of the sentence of the law was hung by the neck until he was dead. He said nothing at the gallows and died stubbornly and did not even change color. Last evening the Revenue Cutter **Pulaski** came in from the reef. After dinner took a walk up the road to procure some of the seed of the Hibiscus. After tea down at the warehouse. Wind northeast. Weather cool.

Saturday, December 11. Rose with the sun. After breakfast read the Prediction. About noon the Sloop **Hyder Aly** of New York, Captain J. Place, who comes out as a regular wrecker for the last two winters arrived from Charleston and reports that the Collector Algernon S. Thurston is removed from office

and that William Whitehead of New York has been appointed to the vacant place.

Sunday, December 12. Rose with the sun. Last night a pilot built schooner the **Henry Clay** of Baltimore, Captain Alexander Thomson, arrived, she has come out for the purpose of wrecking. After breakfast I went down to the store and read some Baltimore papers. In one of them the removal of Thurston is mentioned. Last night a parcel of Thurston enemies got some music and paraded the street huzzaring for Whitehead a mode of procedure which none but the most contemptible class of the community could have been guilty of and yet I have heard that some men calling themselves gentlemen were in the crowd. A brig from Portland to New Orleans put in this morning. Captain Thomas Rooke came down for me to go up to the reef hunting with him. I will here note two recipes I heard today. One is the efficacy of Spirits of Turpentine in the bite of a rattle snake taken internally and applied externally to the wound. The other in the case of an injury sustained by a wound in the foot by nail and inflammation consequent thereon take lye that will bear an egg and immerse the wounded part in it as hot as it can be borne. Wind east. Weather pleasant.

Monday December 13. Rose with the sun and read a few detached portions of Paul Clifford. Walked up to the court house and sat with the Judge for sometime. After tea played a few games of whist, went to bed at ten. Wind east, weather pleasant.

Tuesday, December 14. Rose before the sun. Schooners **Florida** and **Henry Clay** and the Sloop **Hyder Aly** went up to the reef this morning. The Schooner **Mayflower**

(Continued on page 14)

(Hackley from page 13)

will sail tomorrow and I am anxious to go in her with Brother if I can get the money to pay my expenses. I asked Robert Stanard to loan me some this morning but he says that he has little by him and that he cannot tell how his affairs stand until after the arrival of Porter from Charleston, who is expected every moment. I am anxious, as Brother requires someone to attend to him as his situation prevents him from attending to his business. After dinner read Paul Clifford. Wind east southeast. Weather warm.

Wednesday, December 15. Rose with the sun. Weather thick with a drizzling rain. Wind about west southwest. At about 12 the wind hauled to the southeast and it cleared up. Drew up and executed a power of attorney to Henry A. Barclay of Mobile for the space of one year to sell Florida lands. Read May's Maxims. Wind southeast, weather pleasant.

Thursday, December 16. Rose before the sun. Captain Joseph Swiler sailed this morning for Mobile via Tallahassee by him I sent Mr. Willis a Ticklox and hunting cap and wrote him a note. Wrote a letter of instructions to Captain Henry Barclay my agent for the disposal of Florida lands. The Brigantine **Orythia** of New Orleans arrived today, 19 days from Charleston having experienced bad weather on the passage. A Mr. Torry and agent for the underwriters in Boston arrived this morning in a smack from Havana and immediately issued an attachment against all the cargo of the Brig **Halcyon** which now remains on the Key and also the sugars laden on board of the Schooner **Mayflower** by which means Brother is stopped for yet a long time. Wind east northeast fresh.

Friday, December 17. Rose early and looked over some admiralty law as to whether the freight is due after the loading of the goods and before sailing of the vessel on her voyage the goods are seized and detained by another person without any lack of the shipper. The Revenue Cutter **Pulaski** is still at anchor in the North West passage not being able to cross the bar as the tides are neap. The wind is from the northeast and blows fresh and is so cool that I have put on my cloth clothes. The leaves of a young alligator pear (avocado) tree which I am growing in a box are burned by the north wind and look like they have been exposed to a frost. The Marshall was not able to get at the sugar on board of the schooner she having cleared out and her hatches closed she is at liberty to proceed on her voyage tomorrow. Wind northeast, weather cool.

Saturday, December 18. The Schooner **Mayflower** is ready for sea and the Captain desired Brother to go on board which he did but he then decided that the schooner should not sail until tomorrow. The Sloop **John Denison** arrived from Charleston this morning. Mr. Porter and the Misses Reams came as passengers on her. Colonel Pardon Greene went over to Havana yesterday afternoon on one of the Spanish schooners from Charlotte Harbor and Richard Fitzpatrick went over in a smack. Received no letter or papers by the Denison for which I cannot account as she brought the mail and I know that there must be letters for me in Charleston. Wind northeast and blows quite fresh.

Sunday December 19. Rose at daybreak and Brother went on board at sunrise. At half past seven the Schooner **Mayflower** got under weigh with the wind from the northeast but light. She dropped down about 3 miles and came to anchor on account of not being

able to stem the flood tide. Wrote a postscript to the letter I wrote to Father on the 27 of last month to go by the Brig **Enterprize** today. Mr. Porter loaned me the Pearl and the Atlantic Souvenirs for 1830. Reading the Pearl in the forenoon. The Schooner **Durango** from New York to St. Marks came in and I received a letter and some copies of Van Ressler's opinion from Father and brought out by a Mr. Ruan a cousin of Porter's who intends remaining on the Key. Weather nearly cold.

Monday, December 20. Rose at a quarter to seven and wrote to Mr. Willis and send him one of the pamphlets containing all opinions. The Schooner **Mayflower** lay at anchor inside the reef all night. The Brig **Enterprise** and the Schooner **Delta** got under weight this morning but the wind was so light they could not stem the tide and consequently had to come to anchor. About 11 A.M. the wind freshened from the southwest and both vessels went to sea. At 2 P.M. the Schooner **Milo** of Baltimore, Captain Moore, was brought up from the Tortugas by a smack she having got on the shoal but by the assistance of the smack she got off without discharging any of her cargo which was cotton and belongs to Mr. Henry Bond of

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Tallahassee. Oliver O'Hara desires me to assist Edward Chandler in the case of O'Hara & Company vs. the Brig **Halcyon** and gave me a fee of three doubloons. The British Brig **Two Sisters** of Belfast 19 days from Kingston, Jamaica, put to obtain medical aid for the Captain McLean, who is very unwell. Send Mr. Willis by Mr. Davis the knife James Randolph gave me last winter. Commenced reading Maker's "Livy." Wind south southwest. Weather pleasant.

Tuesday, December 21. Rose before seven and commenced reading Balthazard-Marie Emerigon. George Weaver, to whom Schooner **Milo** is consigned, desired me to attend to the case and answer the libel which was filed this morning. Went up to the clerk's office and procured a view of the libel as the clerk said he felt too unwell to give me a copy. Drew up the answer and copied a part of it. After diner and at night read Livy. Oliver O'Hara today paid me three doubloons. Wind north northwest. Weather cool.

Wednesday, December 22. Rose at seven and finished copying the answer. The wind during the night freshened and this morning it is so cold that I can scarcely write. Read Emerigon. At 11 a.m. the case of Aldridge, et. eal. vs. Schooner **Milo** came on. The Judge ordered \$250 to be paid the salvoes or on failure thereof the Marshall is to sell one-fifth of the cargo and costs of court. Mr. D.C. Pinkham invited me to dine with him on Christmas day. The Schooner **Mobile** and Smack **Franklin** arrived today from St. Marks. After dinner went up to Edward Chandler's office to consult with him respecting steps to be taken in sustaining the libel of Oliver O'Hara vs. Brig **Halcyon**. At 2 p.m. the thermometer was at 58 degrees and the weather was

so cold that immediately after tea I went to bed to keep warm and read a new novel called "Del'orme" until 10. the wind was about north northwest and very cold.

Thursday, December 23. Rose at seven. During the night the wind hauled a little to the eastward and the weather is not quite so cold. Read "Del'orme." Mr. Torrey came to my room this morning to return a book he borrowed of me. He is very inquisitive as to my opinion respecting his case and said he meant to employ me to assist in the prosecution of his claim but he, I believe, wants to see how the case of Mr. O'Hara is decided before he goes to any extra expense. At 3 p.m. a portion of the cargo of the Schooner **Milo** was sold to pay the decree, four bales of Sea Island Cotton sold at 15 cents and some uplands sold for 10 cents per pound. At 4 P.M. attended the funeral of Captain McLean of the British Brig **Two Sister**. Dr. B.B. Strobel read the service of the Episcopalian Church over the grave. Wrote to Mother. The wind north northeast and cool.

Friday, December 24. Rose at seven. During the night we had a light shower and another about 10. Captain Henry A. Barclay got under weigh before breakfast for Mobile. Read Emerigon. Wind during the night changed round east southeast. Wrote a letter to Father and asked him to send me a deed for some Florida Lands. Mr. James Westcott, the Secretary of the Territory, arrived here on his way to Tallahassee. The Sloop Cybile arrived from New York in 11 days brought me letters from Father. Captain James M. Johnson arrived in her. Read Emerigon. At eight Robert Stanard requested me to copy the protest of Captain Moore of the Schooner **Milo** which I did before nine at which time I went to bed. Father sent me the President's messages.

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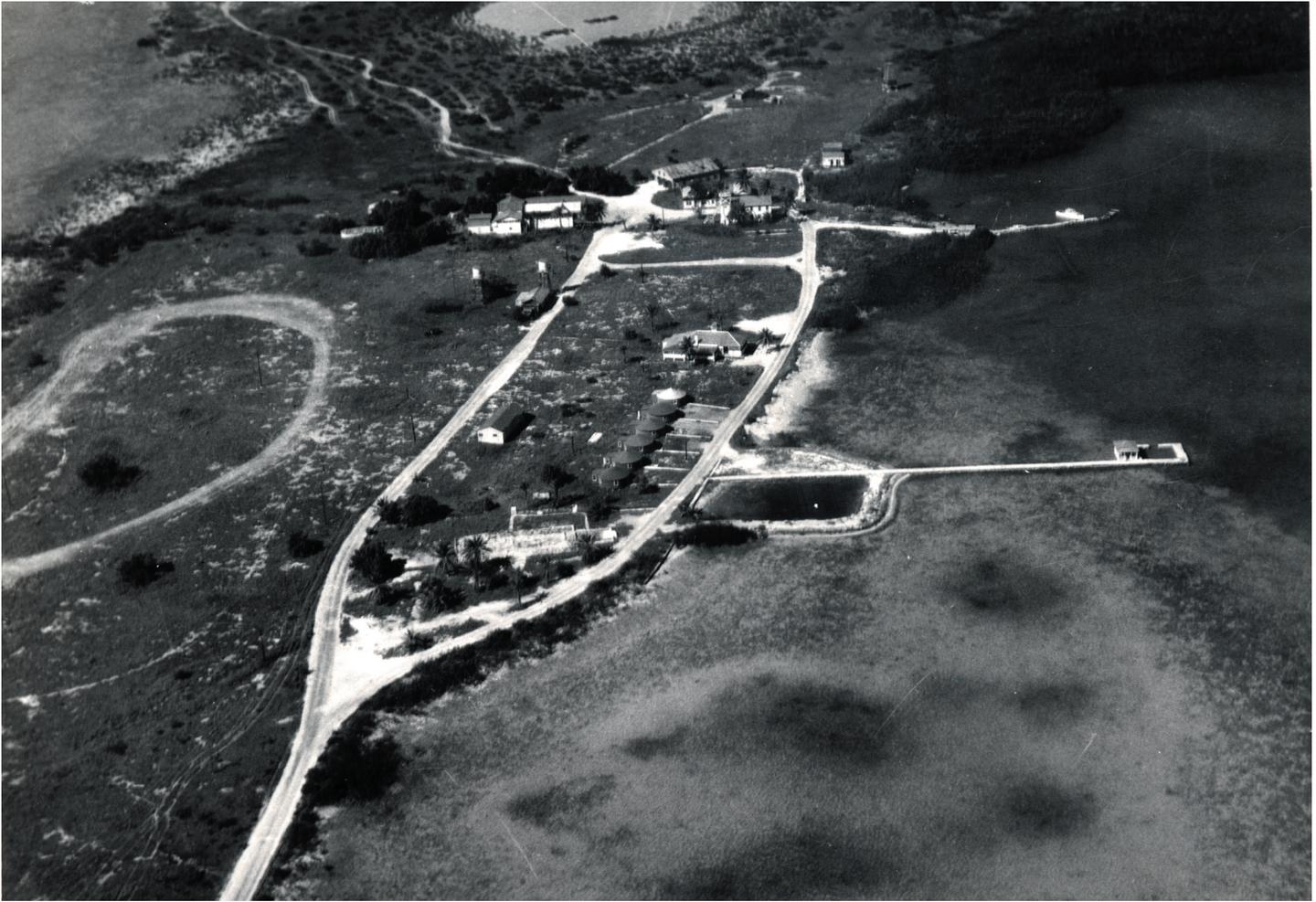
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