

USS SHARK

# Florida Keys Sea Heritage Journal

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## Woodcutters and Charcoal Burners - Forgotten Pioneers

By John Viele.  
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For over one hundred years, a handful of forgotten men labored in the dense, mosquito-infested woods of the lower and middle Keys to keep the housewives of Key West supplied with wood and charcoal for their stoves. The majority of these woodcutters and charcoal burners were black Bahamian immigrants, who usually lived alone or with one or two other woodmen in crude driftwood shacks.

As the population of Key West grew, the supply of suitable stovewood on the island was soon exhausted. One of the first suppliers of wood to Key West was Henry Geiger of Boca Chica. Henry employed a 63-year old black man named Robert Allen to cut the wood which he sold for \$3.50 a cord in Key West in the 1850s.

The best-burning wood was buttonwood, a dense, hard wood from trees that grow near the shoreline on most of the Keys. A Keys traveler in the late 1800s reported that, "A log of buttonwood,



*A Charcoal Kiln on Sugarloaf Key in May 1939 that was approximately 25 feet in diameter and 12 feet high with a yield over 200 sacks of charcoal. Photo credit: Stetson Kennedy.*

when set on fire at one end, will burn to ashes before the fire goes out and generate an intense heat." Buttonwood was also used to make charcoal and, according to some sources, makes the best charcoal of any wood in the world.

The first charcoal burner for which there is any record was a man by the name of George Wilson, who was the sole inhabitant of Big Pine Key at the time of the 1870 census. Unlike most of his successors, George was a white man. The 1870 census also listed two woodcutters, both located on Sugarloaf Key.

As might be expected because of the growing Key West population,

the 1880 census showed a significant increase in lower Keys charcoal burners and woodcutters. There were 13 charcoal burners, all but three of whom were black men, and six white woodcutters. The 1900 census reported only seven charcoal burners and no woodcutters, but ten years later there were 24 "woodmen" living between Cudjoe Key and No Name Key and nine men who were both spongers and charcoal burners in the middle Keys.

The process of making charcoal was a long, arduous, and lonely one. While buttonwood was the

(Continued on page 3)

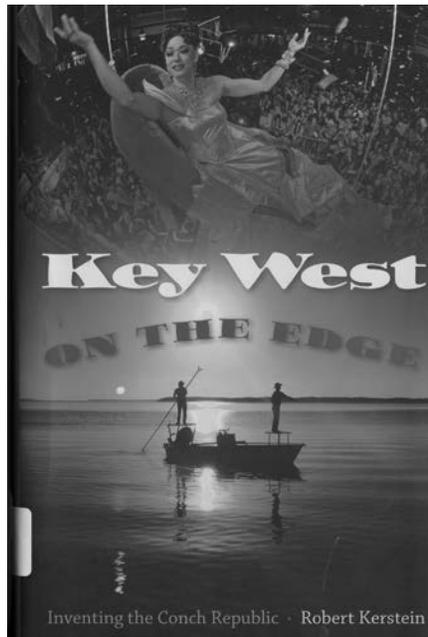
## Key West on the Edge Inventing the Conch Republic By Robert Kerstein

This excellent new book describes how Key West invented an economy based on mass tourism after major cutbacks in the once-thriving military which had been the driving force in Key West life from 1940 to 1970. After years of research and countless interviews with everyone that would talk to him, Dr. Robert Kerstein documents how the changes occurred without destroying the things that make Key West unique.

The first part of the book covers the history of the Island up to the closing of the Naval Station in 1974. Kerstein documents in detail the failed attempt during the Great Depression by the Federal Government to create the “Bermuda of America”.

He accurately explains the challenges of the major recession of the 1970s and the oil embargo with resulting gasoline shortages and price increases. At the same time, Key West’s thriving shrimp industry began its steady decline and disappeared by the late 1980s.

Despite all the obstacles, the tourist industry was growing when the adverse publicity from the Mariel Boatlift destroyed the business in 1980. The next blow came when the Federal Government created the roadblock at Florida City with traffic delays that killed travel from South Florida to the Keys. Key West countered with the Conch Republic and received national



publicity, which helped make the Florida Keys one of the top tourist destinations in the country. These and many other stories are in this fine book.

A must read for anyone interested in Key West history and economy. Solares Hill wrote “The best book on our town since Joy Williams’ classic on our place, ‘The Florida Keys: A History and Guide,’ now in its 10th edition.”

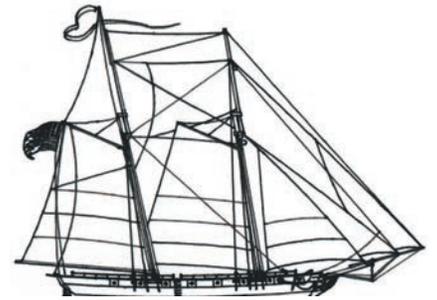
The book was published by The University Presses of Florida and is available at all book sellers. Shop through this Amazon link <http://amzn.to/O8GVcg> to benefit the Monroe CountyLibrary.

We plan to have Dr. Kerstein speak to the Society members during our winter lecture series.

### New Members

Cori Convertito, Key West; Fred Covan, Key West; Premiere Racing,

Marblehead, MA; Captain Curtis William Erling White, Key West.



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Editor: 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 or visit our web site [Keywestmaritime.org](http://Keywestmaritime.org).

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*A Charcoal Burners' Shack on Sugarloaf Key in May 1939. Photo credit: Stetson Kennedy.*

(Charcoal from Page 1)

preferred wood, other trees such as the red mangrove could be used.

After locating a thick stand of suitable trees, the charcoal burner cut them down, trimmed the branches, and “stood up” a kiln in a cleared area. He constructed the kiln by stacking the logs in a tent-like structure, leaving a small opening at the top. He set up the large logs first followed by successively-smaller limbs. Next, he covered the entire structure with a thick layer of grass or seaweed followed by a layer of sand or dirt.

From a separately-started fire, the burner picked up glowing coals and dropped them into the kiln through the opening in the top. He closed the opening with more wood, grass and sand, thus forcing the heat to spread throughout the interior. The kiln had to be tended day and night to keep it burning slowly and evenly and to prevent the fire from breaking through at any point. The burner maintained control by strategic placement of more sand or dirt.

Depending on the size of the kiln, it would take from three to

ten days to reduce the wood to charcoal. During that period, the charcoal burner, if he did not have a helper, or did not live near by, had to remain at the site, catching short cat naps on the ground or in a crude shelter.

After the charcoal had cooled, the charcoal burner packed it in sacks and loaded it aboard small sloops for transport to Key West. A cord of buttonwood would yield about ten sacks, and a typical sloop could carry about 150 sacks.

Some idea of the extent of this trade can be gained from the narrative of a Keys cruise made in 1885. The author reported passing, in one day, eight sloops outbound from Key West, all engaged “in the stovewood and charcoal trade with the Island City.”

Charcoal burning did not completely die out with the advent of gas and electric stoves in Key West. Many Key Westers, particularly those of Cuban ancestry, enjoyed the flavor that buttonwood charcoal imparted to roasted meat, and at least one Key West coffee mill used the charcoal to give a distinct flavor to its Cuban coffee.

A few charcoal burners continued to build their kilns even into the post-World War II years. One of the last of them was Bertram Cash, a black man who came to the Keys from the Bahamas when he was 17. Bertram burned his last kiln on Cudjoe Key in 1960, having made charcoal for 40 years.

Today, those with the energy and the interest to fight their way through some of the dense buttonwood growths in undeveloped sections of the lower and middle Keys, may come upon a large circular area of barren ground, a reminder of the lonely, back-breaking, mosquito-infested days of the charcoal burners.

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

# The House That George Adderley Built

By John Viele.

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Island Navigator in 1993

Around 1905, two men, a world apart in race, culture, and economic condition, began separate construction projects in the Florida Keys. One was the wealthy oil magnate, Henry Flagler, the other was a hard-working, thrifty black Bahamian immigrant named George Adderley. Thirty years later, Flagler's Overseas Railroad came to an end in the Labor Day hurricane of 1935. Ninety years later, Adderley's house, survivor of five hurricanes, still stands.

The Adderley house is the oldest house in the Florida Keys outside of Key West. It endures as a monument to the forgotten African-American pioneers who settled in the Keys in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Most of them came from the Bahamas to escape the harsh economic conditions there and start new lives in a familiar island environment. The majority found work as field hands on the pineapple plantations in the upper Keys. Smaller numbers farmed small plots, fished, gathered sponges, and made charcoal in the middle and lower Keys.

George Adderley, born on the island of New Providence in the Bahamas, came to the Keys in 1890 at the age of 20. He found work as a farm laborer, became a U.S. citizen, and married. George could read but not write. His wife, Olivia, could neither read nor write. But they were both hard workers and saved their money. By 1903, they had put

aside \$100, enough to purchase 32 acres of wooded hardwood hammock on the northern shore of Key Vaca next to Rachel Key. Soon thereafter, George began building a house in the typical Bahamian style he was familiar with.

At the time the Adderleys settled on their property, there were only about a dozen families on Key Vaca, more than half of them black Bahamians. Two years later, as railroad construction began, hundreds of railroad workers flooded onto the island and the boom town of Marathon sprang into existence overnight. But the little black community around Rachel Key, which numbered 23 inhabitants in 1910, kept to itself. George, like his neighbors, with one exception, was now an independent sponger and charcoal burner. This same independent spirit led the residents to balk when railroad officials asked them to sign a release for a right-of-way. They demanded a station of their own before they would sign, and they got one. Once a week they could hang out a red flag at the little station named "Vaca" and the locomotive engineer would have to brake to a halt.

Despite the long hours and exhausting nature of his work, George found time to study his bible, learned to write, and taught Olivia how to read and write. With no living children of their own, the couple adopted a teenage girl, Louisa Smith, who helped with the chores and kept Olivia company during George's long absences on sponging trips.

George and his wife lived in their little house until Olivia died in 1950,

a period of some 40 years. Very little is known of their life. Sometime before 1920, George's brother John and his family emigrated from the Bahamas and settled nearby. With the addition of John's family, there were six Adderleys in the vicinity and the settlement came to be called Adderley Town.

As the years passed, George took more and more interest in his religion and became an Episcopal lay preacher. For a time, he conducted services and morning prayers in his house. His congregation grew and, sometime in the 1940s, they constructed a small wood church complete with three pews, an altar, and a podium. At its high point, Adderley Town was comprised of George's house, four wood-frame houses, and the church.

After his wife died, George, his eyesight failing, sold his property for \$5,000, and moved to a boarding house in Key West. He died in 1958 at age 88, the last of the rugged African-American pioneers of the Keys.

## THE HOUSE

George built his house sometime between 1903, when he purchased the property, and 1906, when railroad surveyors marked it on a map.

He used a construction material known as "tabby" which is a type of concrete made by mixing lime and water with shells, gravel, or stones. He made the lime by burning shells and coral rock. This construction material and the style of the house is typical of the Bahamas and can



*Adderly House. Photo credit: Crane Point Museum.*

be traced back through the Caribbean to materials and architecture used in Africa.

It is very likely that George made the original roof out of thatch palm. Sometime after the arrival of the railroad, he may have replaced it with tin. Nothing is known of the interior layout, however, based on similar houses in the Bahamas, it probably did not have more than two rooms. Typically, there would have been a separate cookhouse, an outhouse, and a kitchen garden. The family would have obtained fresh water from a nearby sinkhole well and from rainwater runoff from the roof into barrels.

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*years. He is the author of three books on the history of the Keys published by Pineapple Press of Sarasota: "The Florida Keys – A History of the Pioneers," "The Florida Keys, Vol. 2 – True Stories of the Perilous Straits," and "The Florida Keys, Vol. 3 – The Wreckers."*

The Adderly House is part of the Crane Point Museum at Mile Marker 50.5 Bayside 5550 Overseas Highway Marathon, FL 33050.

The following is quoted from the Crane Point Museum site.

“Explore the many trails that exist on the 63-acre property and enjoy the natural Florida Keys hardwood hammock. The Trails include a visit to the

Hammock Loop, here you’ll learn to identify the hammock trees. Also, Creature Feature is a changing exhibit featuring hermit crabs, lizards, snakes, and insects. You can also observe a real beehive on the deck. The Butterfly Garden is a joy to see and many fragrant flowers are in this meadow. Next, the Adderley House, the oldest house outside of Key West. Continue to the end of the nature trail by seeing the Crane House. Francis and Mary Crane, for whom Crane Point is named, lived in this house in 1954. And, the last place you’ll find is The Point, a beautiful view of Florida Bay. The complete trail is 1.5 miles. For those people that do not want to walk, we have a trolley which will take you on the tour, free of charge, with a volunteer who is well educated about the Crane Point Hammock.”

# Hackley 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.*

With this part of the Diary from February to June 1831 when he leaves to visit the north we will have published all of Hackley's surviving Diary. He kept a diary after he move to Illinois but it is not of interest to the Keys.

I am going to miss visiting with Hackley and his family and of course it was nice to have him to fill out Journals. TH

Monday, February 21. Rose before the sun and went down to the wharf determined to go up the reef and prepared for the jaunt. After dinner went out fishing with Major James Glassell in his barge, had bad sport. After tea the Schooner **Evan T. Ellicott** arrived from St. Marks and by her I received two letter written by my Mother near 12 months ago. Mr. Alderman came up to see me.

Tuesday, February 22. Rose before the sun and wrote to Father to go by the Schooner **Evan T. Ellicott**. After breakfast down to the wharf. I will not study until I return. After dinner finished the first volume of Smith. After tea went around to Mrs. Ellen Mallory's to drink wine with Dr. Henry S. Waterhouse. The **Sloop-of-War Erie** came in just at sunset and fired a salute of 25 guns, it was a beautiful sight to see the smoke wreathed round the masts and sails.

Wednesday, February 23. Rose at daybreak and went on board, Captain Thomas Rooke got under way and hove for Captain William Bunce. A squall came up from



*William Hackley. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.*

the northwest. It lasted but a few moments and a little after sunrise we got out of the harbor with the wind northwest and fresh. At ½ past 12 came to anchor at Key Vacas. At 3 P.M. went on shore to try and kill a deer by moonlight a method which Captain Rooke has tried with success. We took different stands but did not see a deer. At 10 P.M. we got on board.

Thursday, February 24. Got under way a little before sunrise. Wind northwest and beat up to Indian Key and came to anchor about 4 P.M. We stretched out in the Gulf out of sight of land and in going in the Captain caught two fish that would weight around 70 pounds. They were 7 foot long, with an upper bill projecting out one foot, they were nearly black but in dying exhibited a change of color and had on the back a fin 28 inches long and 24 broad which gave them a beautiful appearance in the water and two pectoral fins of 24 inches length and ¾ broad. The natives of the Bahamas call this a Pike, it is a very good fish.

Friday, February 25. Got under

way at daylight with the wind northeast and stood out to the reef and stood out to the reef and stood back to the harbor and came to anchor. The Sloop **John Denison** came in and I received a letter from Mother and papers. Captain William Barker went down to Key West with a load of cotton from the British Brig **Marcelly** of Grenack, Captain Monroe, who got on shore on the bar at Bear Cut on the 15th instant from New Orleans bound to Glasgow with 991 bales of cotton. She is a total loss and the cotton is all landed on the beach. After breakfast went on shore on Lignum Vitae Key where Captain Rooke has built a house for the purpose of obtaining preemption right. It is about 3 miles from Indian Key and is about 3 miles in circumference and is heavily timbered and a fine soil. In one place when a well was dug a quantity of stiff red clay was found. A quantity of Lignum Vitae grows on the key from whence it derives its name. Captain Bunce went shore for the purpose of going down to Duck Key. Wrote a note to F.A. Browne.

Saturday, February 26. Rose just after daylight and after an early breakfast went up to Lignum Vitae Key. The men went to work thatching the house and I took a walk through the woods. I found the land very good and very difficult to be cleared. The house is made of post set in the ground and poles nailed across and palmetto leaves tied to them which forms a tight roof and lasts about five years. Got back on board about dark.

Sunday, February 27. Rose about daybreak and after breakfast went to Lignum Vitae Key to look at some traps I set last night for raccoons,

they took none and we hunted the woods with the same success. Got on board at ½ past 12, read Roccus and remained on board all evening as I dislike Indian Key so much that unless I have business I am determined not to go on shore.

Monday, February 28. Rose at daybreak, after breakfast went up to Lignum Vitae Key and took all hands to finish the house which was done and it makes a much more pleasant one than I had supposed possible. The leaves look rather rough on the outside but within they present a pretty appearance. About 2 P.M. Mr. Burton and two men took the boat and went to look for stone crabs I accompanied him and waded for more than an hour up to my knees in the water. The crab lives in a hole generally under some stones from which they are very difficult to be taken. They are nearly round with very large claws and are much larger than the common crab and much more delicate eating. Got on board after sunset. Wind blowing fresh from northeast and about ½ past 7 it began to rain but very little fell. Captain Rooke left one of his men to prepare the ground for planting during his absence to fill his water at the Cape.

Tuesday, March 1. Florida Reef. Rose at daybreak, the wind blowing so fresh from the northeast that we do not like to undertake to beat up to the Cape and therefore did not get under way. Last night there were seven wrecking vessels out of 12 which are now on the reef in the harbor and at anchor. Read the "Peace Campaigns of a Cornet."

Wednesday, March 2. Rose at daybreak and got under way to beat up the reef with wind east northeast. Made one or two tacks when we found that the wind was so fresh and the sea so high that it was needless to attempt to get up and so we ran back and came to anchor at Indian

Key. Read "Hungarian Tales." After dinner took a sail with the Captain up to Lignum Vitae Key.

Thursday, March 3. Got under way at daybreak with a single reefed mainsail, foresail with the bonnet off, and standing jib. The wind variable in squalls from about north northeast and a heavy sea even inside of the reef. About 9 A.M. discovered a ship on shore which proved to be the **Amulet**, of Duxgery, G. Wisdom, Mate, from Boston to New Orleans, - at Pickles Reef in 8 feet of water and she draws 13. On our arrival we found six sloops and one schooner at anchor and we came to about half a mile from the ship in a position in some degree sheltered by the rocks but even then the schooner rolled heavily. The ship lay on her bilge and the breakers were white all around her and now and then I could see a sea break on her stern and fly in foam all over her. One of the sloops was anchored at a ¼ mile and had a warp to the ship by means of which by hauling the boats through the midst of the breakers the cargo was transferring on board of the wrecking vessels. Captain Rooke went on board but there were enough without him. We went in about sunset and anchored in Tavernier Creek. While at anchor on the reef the **Revenue Cutter Marion** passed on her way to Charleston..

Friday, March 4. Got under way at ¼ past 4 A.M. and beat out to the reef, the ships in the same position. Bore up and stood for the Cape and at ¼ before 3 P.M. came to anchor off the mouth of the Miami River. Captains Barker and Monroe came on board and Captain Rooke agreed to take a load of cotton to Key West for \$2 per bale. Mr. Burton and myself went up the river to procure water, saw some ducks but killed none. I left

the boat and walked down the river for a short distance. The land has the appearance of being very rich, being a black mold, the grass being more than waist high.

Saturday, March 5. Got under way at 5 A.M. and beat up to Bear Cut where the cotton was landed from the Brig. The Schooners **William Ross** and **Pizzarro** and Sloop **Energy** are here to take a load. The Brig has been burnt to obtain the copper and gear. Her stem and a stern part now alone remains to show the spot she struck, about half a mile from the shore. Took my gun and walked about 5 miles up the beach, on my return killed one partridge. I could have shot several but had none but duck shot with me.

Sunday, March 6. Rose at daylight all hands employed in loading the schooner. I had so little success yesterday that I do not feel inclined to try the gun again. Read "Anne of Girestein" and tried to fish, caught a catfish and in disengaging it from the hook it stuck one of its fins in my finger which gave a great deal of pain for several hours.

Monday, March 7. Rose at daylight, all hands loading the schooner. I went on shore and walked up the beach and gathered some Hicaco plumes. Returned on board about 12. Read Roccus. After dinner it became cloudy and rained a little. At night the mosquitoes were so numerous as to make a bar useful.

Tuesday, March 8. Rose at daylight, the Captain and myself went to the brig, on our way discovered the whole of the rigging and gear of the brig, got some of it and at 12 got under way with a light wind from south southwest. There was a heavy fog in the morning.

(Continued on page 8)

(Hackley from page 7)

Came to anchor under Key Biscayne about sundown.

Wednesday, March 9. Rose at daylight and took in 33 bales of cotton making 246 in all and the bales are piled four tiers on deck. After dinner took a walk up the beach.

Thursday, March 10. Rose at daylight and went fishing before breakfast. At ½ past 10 a squall came up from the northwest and blew for a short time accompanied by rain. At half-past 11 got under way in company with the Schooners **Pizzarro** and **William Ross** and Sloop **Energy** and a smack all loaded from the Brig **Marcelly**. Anchored at 7 P.M. off the Carysfort Reef Lightship.

Friday, March 11. Got under way before daylight and at 1/4 before 12 anchored off Indian Key the Captain went up to get the men he left. The Ship **Amulet** stripped of her rigging and gear lays on the rocks a little to the southward of Tavernier. Mr. Theodore Owens spoke to us, he is bound up to New River. At about 1/4 before 2 got under way and about 7 came to anchor at Key Vacas all in company.

Saturday, March 12. Got under way with a light breeze from the east at 4 A.M. but I did not turn out till day. Captain Joshua Appleby came down in company, arrived at Key West at 5 P.M. The wharf presents a very lively appearance from the number of vessels in port. The Judge called and sat for some time. I subscribed \$10 toward the salary of a preacher who is to be invited to reside at this place. The Judge gave \$2,200 in the case of the Schooner **Toison**. After tea wrote to Mother.

Sunday, March 13. Rose at reveille and read my brief in the case of Oliver O'Hara vs. Brig

**Halcyon** and after breakfast read over the authorities relating to the case. About 12 Captain Thomas Rooke went up the reef and at half-past George Weaver sailed for Charleston in the Sloop **Mary Ann** from St. Marks. He took my letter to Mother.

Monday, March 14. Rose with the sun and prepared for the trial of the case of the **Halcyon** or rather as to the validity of the award. After breakfast attending to the case. At 1 the Court adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow. After dinner read Smith, after tea Tacitus.

Tuesday, March 15. Rose at sunrise, read Hall's Admiralty. After breakfast at the Court House till dinner, the case of the Brig **Marcelly** was tried at 2 P.M. and the court adjourned till Thursday. The Schooner **Delta** arrived from St. Marks, wrote to Father. After dinner read Smith, after tea Tacitus.

Wednesday, March 16. Rose with the sun, read Hall, after dinner read Smith and after tea played backgammon with the Judge until after eight and then read Tacitus till 10.

Thursday, March 17. This being St. Patrick's day the drum and fife paraded the town just after day. Rose before the sun and finished Hall's Admiralty, after breakfast recommenced Maddock's Chancery. After dinner the Judge gave his decree in the case of William Barker vs. 984 bales of cotton the cargo of the Brig **Marcelly**. He gave the salvor \$9,000 or 492 bales at the option of the Captain. In the case of the **Halcyon** the Judge decreed the 56 1/4 per cent given by the arbitrators to be paid to the salvors from which decree on appeal was entered. After tea played whist at F.A. Brown's till near nine and then read Tacitus for about an hour.

Friday, March 18. Rose about sunrise read Spanish. After breakfast

attended for some time the sale of the goods of the Ship **Amulet** sold under orders of the court. After dinner Major James Glassell came for me to take a walk. Read Smith, after tea read Tacitus.

Saturday, March 19. Rose before the sun read Spanish, after breakfast read Maddock. The sale of the goods of the Ship **Amulet** was finished today most of the articles sold for a profit, indeed, scarcely anything is ever sacrificed at a wreck sale. After tea Edward Chandler invited some gentlemen to play cards and I played whist until after ten. The latter part of the morning I had cramp colic lightly.

Sunday March 20. Rose before sunrise and read Spanish, took a dose of salts. After dinner read Maddock and a portion of the Old Testament. At 6 P.M. Oliver O'Hara sailed for Havana for the purpose of obtaining the money to pay salvage on the cargo of the Brig **Marcelly**. A Miss Knight of the Island of Cuba who was a passenger in the **Tioson** also went over. Theodore Ownes returned this morning and brings the news of a brig being on Conch Reef but whether she was given up to the wreckers he did not know.

Monday, March 21. Rose at reveille and read Spanish. The sun crosses the line in bad weather, it blows pretty fresh from north northeast and is dark and chilly. One of the discharged soldiers who was waiting for an opportunity of leaving the Key died last night of bronchitis contracted by falling in the water in a drunken fit and remaining without medical care for some days. Read Maddock. At 10 returned to the Court House to attend the case of the Ship **Amulet**. Mr. Cochran and Mr. John Decatur, a brother of the Commodore, who is the sutler at Little Rock were passengers who gave evidence in the case. At 12 the Court adjourned

till the 23rd.

Tuesday, March 22. The Schooner **Henry of Saco**, which struck on the inside of Sombrero Shoal was brought down by the Sloop **Brilliant**. She had a portion of the materials for building two lighthouses near Mobile and of the mechanics on board. After tea read Tacitus.

Wednesday, March 23. Drew up two deeds from William Bunce to F.A. Browne for two houses. The Judge gave 60 per cent to the salvos of the cargo of the Ship **Amulet** as the case was one of great danger and the labor great, the salvos numerous and the value of the cargo small. After dinner read Smith. After tea played whist with the Judge until 9 and read Tacitus until after 10.

Thursday, March 24. Rose at reveille, read my Spanish, after breakfast read Maddock. The Judge gave \$400 in the case of the Schooner **Henry of Saco**, tried this morning. I did not attend Court.

Friday, March 25. The Schooner **Venus** from Charleston arrived bringing the newspapers and mail which has been due for a long time. John W. Simonton came in her. Wrote to Father via Tallahassee. Reading papers all morning. Hitchcock left in the night for fear of an action instituted against him for the slander of Miss H. Foote, a companion of Mrs. Pinkham, with whom he stated he had sexual intercourse.

Saturday, March 26. Reading newspapers all morning. Yesterday got out two garnishee processes against William Baker at the suit of Oliver O'Hara vs. F. Long one of them from William Freat, Justice of the Peace, for \$28.49, the other for \$84.20, in County Court both on notes given by F. Long to I. Prince. Played piquet with the Judge till nine.

Sunday, March 27. Read the "Water Witch" by James Fenimore Cooper, a most interesting production. Captain Thomas Rooke came down with 54 hogsheads of sugar part of the cargo of the Schooner **Waverly**, L.T. Sellers, Master, from New Iberia, wrecked near Caesar's Creek, vessel total loss.

Monday, March 28. Went down to the wharf and got the log book of the Schooner **Waverly**. Filed a bond in the clerk's office conditioned to perform the duties of a Notary Public and took the oath of office before Dr. Henry S. Waterhouse. I have been a Notary Public in this place for 2 years but have never attended to the duties. All morning employed in drawing up a protest. Edward Chandler is employed by Thomas Rooke and F.A. Browne the agent of Captain Sellers employs me. After tea played piquet with the Judge and read Tacitus.

Tuesday, March 29. Rose at reveille read Spanish. After breakfast read Maddock and copying the protest of Captain Sellers in a book I bought for that purpose. After dinner read Smith, after tea finished the 3rd volume of Tacitus.

Wednesday, March 30 Rose at reveille read my Spanish. After breakfast wrote to W.H. Robertson, of Mobile. Read Maddock. Wrote a decision in the case of Oliver O'Hara vs Long & Co. After dinner played piquet with the Judge.

Thursday, March 31. Rose at reveille read Spanish, after breakfast Maddock, after dinner Smith. After tea I played 3 games of chess with the Judge for the first time in many years. I had nearly forgotten the name of the pieces.

Friday, April 1. Rose at reveille read Maddock. After dinner played billiards with Lieutenant D.A. Manning and afterwards we took

a walk in the woods and shot my pistols. After tea played piquet with Judge Webb.

Saturday, April 2. Rose at reveille read Maddock. Captain Thomas Rooke got down with the remainder of the sugar and rigging of the Schooner **Waverly**. After dinner read Smith, after tea Tacitus.

Sunday, April 3. Rose at reveille wrote to Sister, read Maddock, Drew up a petition for the sale of the sugar. Read the Bible. Dined with Oliver O'Hara at William Freat's and drank so much wine that I am nearly tipsy.

Monday, April 4. Got an order from the Judge for the sale of sugars. County Court met and adjourned. I feel quite sick and so much so that I cannot read. Obtained judgment for William Freat against Frederick Long for \$28.

Tuesday, April 5. After breakfast attended County Court, compromised the suit of Oliver O'Hara vs. Frederick Long on payment of note without interest. After dinner read Smith. After tea played piquet with the Judge.

Wednesday, April 6. Rose at reveille read Maddock. After dinner read Smith took a walk up the beach of the Key which is the most pleasant on the Key. Read Tacitus. Wind northeast.

Thursday, April 7. Rose at reveille read Maddock. During the night Captain William K. Hoxie came up with the sails and part of the cargo, consisting of salt and 29 casks of wine, of the Ship **Dumfries**, of Baltimore, from Lisbon bound for New Orleans, Joseph Harvey, Master, ship bilged. The ship was built in Portsmouth, Virginia and was launched in 1800 so that she was old enough to die. Captain Pardon Greene engaged me on behalf of Captain for libellant.

(Continued on page 10)

(Hackley from page 9)

After dinner read Smith after tea Tacitus. Wind north northeast, weather warm.

Friday, April 8. Rose at reveille read Maddock. After breakfast got an order from the Judge for the sale of the cargo of the ship tomorrow at 10. Attended the sale of the cargo of the Schooner **Waverly**. A schooner called the **William Ross**, having been seized by the Custom House, William H. Wall employed me to defend her. After dinner finished Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations." After tea read Tacitus. Wind variable from southeast to northwest.

Saturday, April 9. Rose at sunrise read Maddock. Attended the sale of the cargo and material of the Ship **Dumfries**. J.R. Western agreed that Jacob Houseman might pay the amount garnished in his hands \$159.28 which he did and for which I gave him a receipt as attorney. After tea as the mate of the ship is going off in the morning drew up protest of Captain Joseph Harvey for William Freen. Wind northwest fresh. Cool at night.

Sunday, April 10. Rose at Reveille. Wind northeast, weather cold, raw and rainy. Read Maddock and the Holy Bible. After tea read Tacitus. Put a blanket on my bed and found it very comfortable. Wind northeast and weather wet.

Monday, April 11. Rose at reveille. George Weaver returned from Charleston in the Sloop **Mary Ann** and brought me a letter from Mother. Wrote to Father by the Brig **Halcyon** which sailed for Boston this morning. The Sloops **Hyder Aly** and **Splendid** sailed before breakfast for New York. After breakfast, on the wharf. After dinner took tea with Major James Glassell's in company with the Judge. Wind light from the north.

Tuesday, April 12. Court met at

10. Salvage of 50 per cent on the gross amount of sales decreed in the case of Thomas Rooks vs. cargo and material of the Schooner **Waverly**. Court adjourned till 4 P.M. At 4 court met pursuant to adjournment and in the case of William K. Hoxie vs. cargo of the Ship **Dumfries**, the Judge gave 50 per cent after deducting the amount of duties and \$75 dollars paid to two smacks for assistance. The amount of salvage was \$975. In case of the Schooner **Waverly** \$2,055. Oliver O'Hara gave me \$15 for services rendered in the case of O'Hara vs. Long. Finished the 4th volume of Tacitus. Took off blankets from my bed under which I have slept for two nights. Winds northwest, weather pleasant.

Wednesday, April 13. Rose at reveille and employed till near 12 in copying the record of the case of the Schooner **Waverly** so that Joel Yancy might finish that in the case of the Ship **Dumfries** that both captains may be off without further detention. Got everything ready for them by 2 P.M. Yesterday filed in the clerk's office a praecipe in the case of William H. Wall vs. William A. Whitehead trespass on the case, damages \$2,000. Wrote to Mother, to Brother and C.E. Sherman. After tea read Tacitus, Wind northeast blows fresh.

Thursday, April 14. Rose at reveille read Maddock. Captain Joseph Harvey sailed in the Sloop **Signal** for New Orleans and Captain Sellars in the Sloop **John Denison**. Captain C.E. Hawkins also sailed for Charleston. In the case of the Ship **Dumfries** I charged \$30 which I desired Captain Pardon Greene to retain for rest due him in the case of the Schooner **Waverly**. I got \$100 dollars and \$10 for noting the Captain's protest. After tea read the "Barony," a novel by Miss Porter. Wind southeast, blows almost a gale.

Friday, April 15. Rose at reveille read "Barony". Noted a protest of Captain Simeon Coffin of the Schooner **Crusader**, of Portland, who put in here with the smallpox on board on the 9th instant and who has been in quarantine ever since. The captain not having money is obligated to sell a part of his cargo to pay for charges. About 4 P.M. a heavy shower came up from the south southwest but continued a short time during the night a small quantity of water fell. Wind southeast. Weather warm and uncomfortable.

Saturday, April 16. During the morning employed in extending the protest of Captain Simeon Coffin of the Schooner **Crusader**. After dinner played billiards with Lieutenant D.A. Newcomb and employed in copying the record in the case of the **Marcella**. Wind northeast.

Sunday, April 17. Finished the record which I wrote in less time than I ever before wrote as great a number of pages. Read the Bible. Robert B. Stanard returned from Havana on the morning of the 16th. He is in a very low state of health and I fear he will not last long. Fearn died on the 15th, the man whom I defended last November. Took a walk on the beach. Wind northeast.

Monday, April 18. Finished the 1st volume of Maddock. Charlotte cut my hair. Covered two rods with flannel to keep in the inside of my gun barrels, as the deer skin I used made them rust. After tea read Tacitus. Wind east, weather warm.

Tuesday, April 19. Reading Isaac Espinasse. Shortly after breakfast Major James Glassell, Mr. Newcomb and myself went in the major's barge with six oars up to the east end of Key West to try and kill Flamingoes and fish. We saw a good many Flamingoes, they

appeared about the height of a man and their red plumage gave them a very singular appearance. When off Boca Chica we concluded it would be best to go thru and come down outside, we did it and arrived at the wharf about 5 P.M., having gone around the island. Wind light and variable east northeast, weather warm.

Wednesday, April 20. Writing for Oliver O'Hara. Took a sail with the Major Glassell, played billiards with Newcomb. Wind northeast, weather warm.

Thursday, April 21. Read Espinasse. After dinner commenced Locke. After tea read Tacitus. Wind east. Weather warm.

Friday, April 22. Drew up a declaration in the case of William H. Wall vs. William A. Whitehead. Read Espinasse. After dinner went out fishing with Major James Glassell and remained out till 9 P.M., took tea with the Major. Wind southeast, weather warm.

Saturday, April 23. Took my breakfast with Major James Glassell. After breakfast I went fishing with the Major, Lieutenant Manning and Oliver O'Hara, had but little sport, stayed out till 2. After dinner we tried it again with F.A. Browne in the place of Manning who being seasick in the morning declined trying it again. We had fine sport and took 110 fish. Took tea at the Major's. Wind southeast, weather pleasant.

Sunday, April 24. Read Espinasse and the Bible, after dinner took a sail with the Major Glassell in his boat. Oliver O'Hara and several gentlemen went over to Havana in a boat of 11 tons. Wind variable southeast and weather mild.

Monday, April 25. Drew a declaration in the case of Cottrell & Fritch vs. Pardon C. Greene. Hale Childs was tried and committed today before William Freen for

taking two soldiers off sometime in March. I signed his bail bond for \$300.00. After dinner played billiards with Newcomb. Wind north to west variable. Weather pleasant.

Tuesday, April 26. Read Espinasse. P.B. Prior, Deputy Marshall, sailed this morning in a barge. belonging to the United States and left here by the **Sloop-of-War Falmouth** 12 months since, to arrest one of the sons of Old Caldiz, who committed a murder a few days since by shooting a man at Charlotte Harbor. He had a servant and four men with him. After dinner read Locke, after tea Tacitus. Wind variable from southwest to northwest, fresh.

Wednesday, April 27. Read Espinasse, played billiards with Newcomb both before and after dinner. Wrote to sister. After tea played whist at F.A. Browne's. Wind northwest and blows fresh. Slept under a blanket.

Thursday, April 28. Read the "Acts of the Legislative Council of Florida." Drew up some motions for the purpose of obtaining the money arising from the sale of the Brig **Halcyon** through the default of any respondent. After dinner played at billiards with Newcomb. At ½ past nine Captain John Jackson of the **Cutter Marion** came in. The Brig **Enterprise**, Captain Hitchcock, passed though without stopping. Wind variable from northeast to northwest. Weather cool.

Friday, April 29. Employed in preparing notes on my cases for court. Received a few Norfolk papers by the **Cutter Marion**. After dinner played a few games of billiards with Lieutenant Francis Newcomb and afterwards went out with Lieutenant D.A. Manning and Joel Yancey and shot my pistols. Wind light north, weather pleasant.

Saturday, April 30. Preparing

notes for court. Went out fishing with the Major James Glassell, poor sport. Bought of Captain Monroe a spy glass for \$10. The **Pizzarro** and 6 smacks came up from the Tortugas with 440 bales of cotton the cargo and materials of the Brig **Exertion** of Edin, Maine, Captain Thomas, wrecked on the Tortugas on the 27th instant.

Sunday, May 1. Preparing for court which will meet tomorrow. Read the Bible. After dinner went on board the Smack **Mary Ann** and procured some fruit. Heard Oliver O'Hara had arrived at Matanzas on Wednesday last in distress, the boat leaking badly and it blew fresh. Wind light variable from south to north.

Monday, May 2. Court met at 9 and William H. Wall was admitted to take the oaths of citizenship and took the requisite oaths when court adjourned till tomorrow 9 o'clock on account of the election for delegate. I voted for Joseph M. White. At 12 the Schooner **William Ross** was sold and purchased by William H. Wall for \$1,200, no one except David C. Pinkham and J.R. Western bid against him. Last night about 11 o'clock P.V. Garden departed this life. Since the 20th of last month two persons have died at this place, one a Negro girl belonging to D.C. Pinkham and the other a son of Long's of 8 years old. Phillip Fontane, the agent of Captain Thomas, spoke to me to defend the suit which I am to do for \$100. Gadsden obtained a majority of 53 votes over White. At this place White obtained but 17 votes out of total vote cast of 87. After dinner played billiards with Lieutenant Francis Newcomb. Wind light variable north to west. Weather warm.

Tuesday, May 3. At 2 o'clock the

(Continued on page 12)

(Hackley from page 11)  
court met pursuant to adjournment. The Judge delivered an eloquent and able address to the grand jury which occupied near an hour. One case was tried and the court adjourned at one. After dinner drew a power of attorney from Cottrell & Fitch to Phillip J. Fontane and a deed with a condition from D.C. Clapp to Cottrell & Fitch. Took tea at Major Glassell's. Wind light. Weather warm near calm.

Wednesday, May 4. Court met at nine. Several cases were called and orders made. The case of the U.S. vs. Jose M. Caldez for penalty of \$500 was tried and a verdict for the defendant. I appealed on behalf of Algernon Thurston's agent, Robert B. Stanard. Breakfasted with the Major Glassell. Oliver O'Hara arrived at 1 P.M. in the Spanish Schooner **Joseph Caldez**. William Wall sailed for Havana in the William Ross, cleared under a certificate of property from a Notary Public as the Collector of Custom would not give her a register. Received on the 3rd of F.A. Browne \$16 and on the same day of William H. Wall \$32. Paid Tift \$18.60 this morning and took a receipt in full for all demands. Purchased a digest of the laws of Georgia by Watkins for which I paid 75 cents. Captain Thomas and Phillip J. Fontane came to my office and sat till nine. Took a bath found the water very cold. Wind light southeast, weather hot.

Thursday, May 5. Court met at 9 and several cases were tried. Judge Webb decided that if the declaration is not filed on the first day of the appearance term the suit is dismissed. On motion of defendant I proceeded to the first default in the case of Oliver O'Hara vs. the Brig **Halcyon**. The case of the United States vs. Richard W. Cussans was tried, verdict for defendant. Made a

motion for change of venue in the case of Ede Van Evour vs. Thomas Eastin for which I received \$8.00. P.B. Prior returned last night with the man charged with the murder, he had a rough time going over but experienced no difficulty in taking the prisoner. Wind light variable, weather warm. Court adjourned at 2 P.M.

Friday, May 6. Court met at 9 pursuant to adjournment and several cases were called and disposed of. Edward Chandler managed his cases in such a way that Colonel Greene desired to employ him in all his cases. In the case of Pardon C. Greene vs. Richard Fitzpatrick case \$12.00. We obtained a verdict for the whole sum. In the United States vs. Jacob Houseman, the District Attorney dismissed the suit while in process of trial. Wind southeast, weather warm.

Saturday, May 7. Court met at 9 A.M. David C. Pinkham's family being sick he was not ready to try any case. I left the courthouse at 10 and went to my office. Writing all day for Oliver O'Hara, copying the record on the case of the Brig **Marcella**. At night drew up a draft of a will for R.B. Stanard who is very sick and expected to die in a few days. Calm and hot.

Sunday, May 8. Finished the record for Oliver O'Hara about 12. Drew up a will for Robert B. Stanard. Friday Mrs. Newcomb presented her husband with a daughter. Also on Friday night Richard Fitzpartick arrived from Charleston with some 28 to 30 Negroes in the Schooner Venus. The Sloop **John Denison** arrived about 2 P.M. At 3 P.M. a squall attended with a little rain came up from the west. Wind west by north at night, blows fresh.

Monday, May 9. Filed with the clerk a petition of Archibald Clark of St. Mary's, Georgia, for 80,000 acres at New River in Monroe

County, Florida forwarded to Judge Webb and by him given to me. Court met at 9 A.M. in the case of Thomas Rooke vs. Jacob Houseman was tried and verdict for the defendant for \$10. The venue in the case of J.B. Gaudry vs. Antonio Giraldo was changed to Leon County. Court adjourned at ½ past 1. After dinner wrote answer in the case of William K. Hoxie et al vs. Brig **Exertion**, Captain John Thomas respondent. Wind fresh breeze west northwest. Weather warm.

Tuesday, May 10. The appearance docket was called and the grand jury made no final presentment, when, there being no business the court adjourned until Monday. Wind fresh northwest.

Wednesday, May 11. Read a commission directed to Robert B. Stanard and Theodore Owens and myself to take testimony of witnesses residing at this place in a suit defending at New York the District Court vs. Jacob Houseman respecting the French Brig **Vigilant**. Occupied all day with Colonel Theodore Owens in taking the depositions of Daniel C. Miller and David M. Cole. Wind fresh northeast.

Thursday, May 12. Drew up the answer and claim of William H. Wall in the case of the Schooner **William Ross**. The **Revenue Cutter Alabama**, Captain Porter, came in during the night of the 10th. Lieutenant Graham came in her. Packed up some of my old clothes to send over to Brother for his Negroes. Wrote to Brother and to John Lee Williams, Esquire respecting the petition of Archibald Clarke to New River lands. Wind northeast fresh breeze.

Friday, May 13. Wrote to John R. Campbell to attend to the case of J.B. Gaudry vs. Antonio Giraldo. Took the depositions of W.W. Rigby gave the interrogations to

Richard Fitzpatrick to answer at his leisure. At half past one Robert B. Stanard died. He has been declining for some months. His disease was the consumption to which he has been subject for many years and some other diseases. Took tea and spend the evening at Major James Glassell's. Wind northeast fresh and the night air is disagreeably cold or rather raw and cool.

Saturday, May 14. Reading law. At 5 P.M. we moved with the body of Robert B. Stanard. I as a native of the same state, with several others, acted as mourners. He was buried under some trees about 150 yards east of the lighthouse. The distance we followed the body was near two miles and there not having been any rain for a length of time the road was extremely dusty. All of the ponds on the Key are dry and there is no rain water in the cisterns. Should the rains not commence until the middle of later part of June there is every prospect of the Key being perfectly healthy the next summer. The wind has been from the northeast and weather pleasant and cool.

Sunday, May 15. Wrote my brief in the case of the United States vs. the Schooner **William Ross** and prepared the case for trial. Yesterday at dinner one of my jaw teeth which was badly decayed gave way and a large piece came out which causes a very unpleasant sensation to the tongue the edges of the remaining part being sharp. Wind northeast.

Monday, May 16. Court met pursuant to adjournment. Obtained a decree by default in the case of the Brig **Halcyon**. Neither of the admiralty cases being ready, court adjourned at 12 till the 18th. After dinner in company with Lieutenant D.A. Manning went down to the lighthouse where Pelrona gave me two dozen Cuculio, the fire fly of Cuba, which I intend to take home with me. They have the appearance

of the common beetle called the hominy beator and are of a dirty ash color but at night they are splendid. On my return drank a glass of milk and took my tea and spent the evening at Major Glassell's. During the night I was attacked by severe diarrhea and this morning I feel quite weak and unwell. The wind north nearly calm, weather warm.

Tuesday, May 17. I felt unwell the whole day and found my complaint very troublesome. Dined and supped with F.A. Browne. After dinner packed my books. Weather warm nearly calm.

Wednesday, May 18. At 9 A.M. the court met, the minutes of the term were read by the clerk and signed. The case of the Schooner **William Ross** was laid over to await the arrival of William Wall. The case of William R. Hoxie et al vs. Brig **Exertion** was tried and a 50 per cent on \$12,516, the amount the cargo was valued at or one half of the bales, was decreed as salvage by the court. The captain determined to give half of the bales and the division was commenced this evening. Weather warm, nearly calm.

Thursday, May 19. Took the deposition of Richard Fitzpatrick and copying the record of the case of William K. Hoxie et al vs. Brig **Exertion**. During the night the Schooner **Pizzarro**, Captain William Hoxie, came in with a load of merchandize the cargo of the Brig **William Tell**, of New York, bound to New Orleans commanded by James Riley of African memory. The **William Ross** came in and the case will be tried on the 21. Wind northwest, weather pleasant.

Friday, May 20. The Brig **William Ross** came up this morning. There are two passengers aboard of her. The sale of Robert Stanard's effects commenced this morning at 10 and will not be

finished today. After dinner went out with Major James Glassell fishing. Had good sport. Weather cloudy and warm. At night it commenced raining and during the night we had a tolerable shower.

Saturday, May 21. Last night Oliver O'Hara arrived in the Sloop **John Denison** and at 9 A.M. the court met for the trial of the Schooner **William Ross**. Colonel Pardon C. Greene was not able to attend the court and a recess was granted for the purpose of taking his testimony by consent which was done and at 12 the court met and sat till after seven with the interruption of but about half an hour for the purpose of getting dinner. The testimony of all witnesses was taken in writing. The Judge will make his decision on Tuesday, next at which time the case of the Brig **William Tell** will come on. John Whitehead is the agent and David C. Pinkham the attorney of Captain Riley. Wind northwest weather pleasant.

Sunday, May 22. Last night the Schooner **Wetrus** from Baltimore to St. Marks put in here. Mr. Alderman brought me a letter for Father and I sent a trunk by him to Brother. After dinner took a sail in Major Glassell's barge. Wind northwest, Weather in the evening pleasant.

Monday, May 23. Wrote the deposition of Pardon C. Greene. Wrote to Father to go by the Sloop **John Deninson**. The cotton of the Brig **Exertion** and the sails and material of the brig were sold this morning and the sale of Robert Stanard's effects continued. Frequent showers during the whole day. Wind north light.

Tuesday, May 24. Court met and the Judge read his decree in the case of the William Rose. He decided that the County Courts of

(Continued on page 14)

(Hackley from page 13)

a Territory are not authorized to grant letters of naturalization but decreed that the money for which the Schooner sold be returned to William Wall. The case of the Brig **William Tell** was tried. After dinner the U.S. Schooner **Porpoise**, Captain Percival, came in for the purpose of getting one of the barges as Pirates have been heard of on the coast of Cuba. Wind northwest, weather pleasant.

Wednesday, May 25. Commenced raining in the morning and had a smart shower. After breakfast the court met and the Judge decreed \$5,000 as the salvage on the Brig **William Tell**, being rather more than 20%. Wind northwest, weather pleasant.

Thursday, May 26. Occupied in copying the record in the case of the Brig **William Tell** for Joel Yancey who says he cannot get it done on time. Lieutenant Francis B. Newcomb arrived in the transport Schooner **Florida** last night. The U.S. Schooner **Porpoise** sailed about 3 P.M. and this morning the USS **Shark**, Lieutenant Commander Bocrun, came in. Captain Thomas sailed in the Schooner **Rising States**, Captain Collins, for New York and the Sloop **John Denison** sailed for the same port. Wind northeast fresh, cool.

Friday, May 27. Finished the record of the Brig **William Tell**. The goods of the brig were sold to procure the money for the payment of salvage and expenses took place this morning. The captain and several officers of the USS **Shark** dined with the Judge and just before sundown we adjourned to Lieutenant D.A. Manning's quarters where he gave us champagne. After tea I saw more of it brought out at the court house and I retired. I drank several glasses of wine. Wind north

northeast, weather pleasant.

Saturday, May 28. Sauntering about and collecting some moneys. Commenced another copy of the record of the Brig **William Tell**. Wind northeast, weather pleasant.

Sunday, May 29. Judge James Webb and U.S. Marshall Lackland M. Stone sailed for Appalachicola about nine in the Schooner **William Ross**. The Brig **William Tell** sailed on her voyage at 9 A.M. Received of William H. Wall \$136 and his note for \$64 for my fee in the case of the Schooner **William Ross**. Wind northeast, weather clear.

Monday, May 30. Nothing to do, so played billiards with Newcomb down at the store. Took tea at Major Glassell's and played whist until after nine. Wind east northeast, weather clear with a good breeze.

Tuesday, May 31. Played billiards with Newcomb. After dinner it commenced raining and I wrote some of the copy of the record of the Brig **William Tell**. Closed the commission in the case of Sheunberger et al vs. Jacob Houseman et. al. Took tea and played whist at F.A. Browne's. Wind east southeast.

Wednesday, June 1. This month commenced with rain and thick cloudy weather having rained the whole night through and there is every prospect of a continuance for this day. Yesterday the Sloop **Brilliant** brought down the Hermaphrodite Brig **Mary Hart** of New Orleans, Captain Waite, bound to New York with 170 hogsheads and 22 barrels of molasses, consigned to Pardon C. Greene. Played a few games of whist at F.A. Browne's. Wind east southeast, raining all day.

Thursday, June 2. Still cloudy with rain at intervals, Yesterday finished the record of the Brig **William Tell** and as all my books are packed up I have nothing to do

but look out to see if any vessel is coming in which I can take passage and saunter about, a state to which I am very inimical. George E. Weaver and John Whitehead were chosen arbitrators in the case of the Brig **Mary Hart** and valued the brig and cargo at \$4,000 they decreed \$1,000 as salvage. Captain Mason Packer, of the Sloop **Billiard**, spoke to me to engage me as his attorney in all cases in which he is a party and is to give me 2 1/8 percent of the amount of his salvage as my fees. Received of Jacob Houseman \$100 for the execution of the commission from the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of New York. Played billiards with Newcomb. Wind east northeast, weather cloudy.

Friday, June 3. On awakening found that it was raining and the clouds present the aspect of a long continence of wet weather rained at intervals the day through at sunset the sun was viable for a few minutes. Played whist at F.A. Browne's. Wind northeast.

Saturday, June 4. On going up to the Court House to breakfast found the cook sick and returned to F.A. Browne's where I shall take my meals while I remain. Paid Theodore Ownes his share for acting the commission \$40 out of the \$100

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received from Jacob Houseman. Paid Cole for billiards \$8.00. Drew up power of attorney for Major Glassell. After tea George Weaver and myself went over and played whist until near eleven. Weather clear and pleasant.

Wednesday, June 8. The Sloop **Brilliant**, Mason Packer sailed for New York passengers David Pinkham and family and John Whitehead; by the Smack **Fair American** for Charleston, John W. Simonton, Edward Chandler, Dr. Hawkins and Asa C. Tift. Purchased of Oliver O'Hara one piece of linen at \$.88 per yard \$22.00. For one piece of white Bussia Drilling at \$.60 a yard \$21.00 which I paid him. After dinner played at billiards with Newcomb, took tea with him and played two games of whist. Wind light from northeast to northwest.

Thursday, June 9. Nearly calm at sunrise. Afterwards we had breeze from the west. Finished Salamagundi. After dinner took a sail in a boat of Colonel Pardon C. Greene's in company with Oliver O'Hara, J.R. Western and Joel Yancey. After tea went over to Major Glassell's and played a rubber at whist.

Friday, June 10. A schooner called the **Neptune** passed through this port but did not stop. At one Oliver O'Hara and myself got into Dr. B.B. Strobel's boat and went down to Sand Key. On our return when at least two miles from shore the boat was inundated by a swarm of mosquitoes and it being a calm the boat drifted with the tide and we had to endure the biting of the insects "sin media." Wind west southwest.

Saturday, June 11. Sauntering about the store all day. At night went to Major Glassell's found them all taking tea under a large mosquito bar which was hung in

the center of the chamber. After the things were removed we had two parties of whist under it and played until 11. Wind southeast, weather warm.

Sunday, June 12. Wrote a petition to the Secretary of the Treasury for Michael Mabrity the Keeper of the Key West Lighthouse for an increase of his salary to the same sum which the other keepers enjoy. After dinner borrowed Oliver O'Hara's mare and in company with F.A. Browne on Newcomb's horse rode out to the salt pond and saw the pans which are preparing by Richard Fitzpatrick under the direction of a man from the Bahamas. Rode down the beach by the Lighthouse, stopped a few moments and begged a few more Cuculio's. Petrona gave me 10, all that remained alive. Wind south southwest, weather warm.

Monday, June 13. Sauntering about and looking for a vessel to leave this place. The mosquitoes are very bad. Wind calm.

Tuesday, June 14. Drew up a mortgage from Joseph Prince to George Knight of Indian Key. One of the soldiers of the name of Buckley (the fifer) died suddenly in the guard house of apoplexy. Wind calm.

Wednesday, June 15. Drew up a power of attorney from Lieutenant Francis D. Newcomb to his brother Henry K. Newcomb. The Schooner **Wetrus** from St. Marks for Baltimore arrived during the night and before breakfast the two Mr. Newcomb's and myself went on board in the barge. Mrs. Newcomb and family will go in her. Received of F.A. Browne \$29.94 balance due me. Received of Oliver O'Hara for drawing a mortgage from George Knight to Mariateque Knight & Company \$10 and for one from Joseph Prince to George. Knight \$8. Took my trunk on board after dinner in Dr. B.B. Strobel's boat. Wind nearly calm.

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*A Charcoal Marker's site on Sugarloaf Key in May 1939. Photo credit: Stetson Kennedy.*

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