

OFFICIAL RECORDS  
OF THE  
UNION AND CONFEDERATE NAVIES  
IN THE  
WAR OF THE REBELLION.

---

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
The Hon. WILLIAM H. MOODY, Secretary of the Navy,  
BY  
MR. CHARLES W. STEWART,  
*Superintendent Library and Naval War Records.*

---

BY AUTHORITY OF AN ACT OF CONGRESS APPROVED JULY 31, 1894.

---

**SERIES I—VOLUME 17.**

GULF BLOCKADING SQUADRON  
FROM DECEMBER 16, 1861, TO FEBRUARY 21, 1862.

EAST GULF BLOCKADING SQUADRON  
FROM FEBRUARY 22, 1862, TO JULY 17, 1865.

**BEHREND CAMPUS  
LIBRARY**

WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1903.

Severely wounded, 3. Roswell C. Lewis, seaman; rifle ball through chest and left lung. Neil McDonald, seaman; hand. John McCann, ordinary seaman; arm.

Slightly wounded, 3. Franklin E. Ford, acting master's mate; gunshot wound of hip. Levi K. Green, captain of forecandle; shoulder. Timothy Sullivan, coal heaver; leg.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WALTER K. SCOFIELD,  
*Assistant Surgeon.*

EARL ENGLISH,  
*Lieutenant-Commander.*

---

Report of Volunteer Acting Master's Mate Crane, U. S. Navy, regarding the capture of the schooner Charm in Indian River.

OFF INDIAN RIVER, FLORIDA, *March 4, 1863.*

SIR: Since my last from Jupiter Inlet, dated February 8, I beg leave to report that on the 12th ultimo I succeeded in finding a lot of articles pertaining to the light-house at that place, together with 58 sacks of salt, chest of tools, sails, etc.

In obedience to your instructions, dated January 4, I proceeded up the river on the 20th February. I deemed it prudent to move at night exclusively, to prevent observation and alarm. On the morning of the 22d laid by in the narrows of Indian River, and explored a lagoon eastward, discovering several places where cotton had been stowed, and at the eastern end also a perfect ship yard, with a trail leading to the beach. From this point we had a full view of the blockading bark, your steamer, etc.; could easily see boats leaving either vessel. This point has been used as one of observation.

On the morning of the 23d reached a cove some 5 miles above the mouth of St. Sebastian River, on the eastern side, and about 2 o'clock p. m. discovered a schooner bearing down and apparently filled with men. From their numbers and general careless manner upon the deck I at once arrived at the conclusion that they were rebels designing to act on the offensive. Allowing them to run well down, and stripping the disguise from my boat, determined to attack them, whatever their numbers, at my own time and place, running under foresail, keeping the eastern side, and at sunset reaching the narrows, where I knew they must bring up, and lowering all sail, having quite a current in our favor. The moon was high and shone very clear. Keeping out of view as much as possible until she set was important, as the darkness would favor our disparity of numbers. At or near midnight the masts of the schooner were visible, and could easily hear the crew hauling her over the oyster bars. At this juncture I placed a man in our stern, with instructions to push us for her with all his force. In a few minutes we were alongside, mounted her deck, and demanded a surrender, which was instantly complied with. Securing their arms, correspondence, etc., I found 12 men on board of the vessel, she being entirely empty, and proved to be the *Charm*, Captain Titus, from Nassau, New Providence. Ordering the sails hoisted, we found on our bow a vessel some distance from us. I determined to run her down at all hazards, and came near doing so, when we were informed it was a sloop loaded with cotton, and no one on board. Placing 2

men on her—reducing my party to 5—ran down for the inlet, distant some 18 miles, reaching there on the morning of the 27th, being seventy-two hours on our feet and with very little refreshment.

On the morning of the 28th, finding our steamer gone, and quite exhausted, hailed the bark *Gem of the Sea* and asked assistance. At the request of Captain Baxter, I reported to him and turned over the provisions, schooner, and cotton sloop to him, who quite urgently advised my remaining until the arrival of our steamer; our condition made rest desirable.

To the inflexible firmness of my party am I indebted for the successful result, all of which is respectfully submitted.

I am, your obedient servant,

HENRY A. CRANE,  
*Volunteer Acting Master's Mate.*

Lieutenant-Commander EARL ENGLISH,  
*Commanding U. S. Gunboat Sagamore.*

**Report of Lieutenant-Commander English, U. S. Navy, regarding capture of the British schooner Charm.**

U. S. GUNBOAT SAGAMORE,  
*Off Indian River, Florida, March 4, 1863.*

SIR: I have the honor to report to the Department that on the night of the 23d ultimo a detached expedition of six men under charge of Acting Master's Mate Henry A. Crane, belonging to this vessel, captured in Indian River, at a place called the Narrows, some 20 miles above the mouth of the inlet, the English schooner *Charm*; she was bound to Nassau, New Providence, with a cargo of cotton. Had on board at the time of capture the master of schooner and crew of 4 persons; likewise 7 passengers, most, if not all, armed. The passengers, with two exceptions, expressed themselves endeavoring to escape the late rebel conscript act.

Upon their arrival at the mouth of the inlet the prisoners were delivered over to the U. S. bark *Gem of the Sea* for safe-keeping, and assistance was rendered by her boats in getting the schooner over the bar.

Enclosed I send a correct list of the officers and crew of this vessel entitled to share in the prize.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EARL ENGLISH,  
*Lieutenant-Commander.*

Hon. GIDEON WELLES,  
*Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.*

**Report of Acting Volunteer Lieutenant Baxter, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. bark Gem of the Sea, claiming prize for that vessel.**

U. S. BARK GEM OF THE SEA,  
*At Anchor off Indian River Inlet, March 6, 1863.*

SIR: I last had the honor of addressing you under date of February 14, per U. S. S. *Huntsville*, giving you a detail of my proceedings

with the U. S. bark *Gem of the Sea* to that date, and to my regret had nothing to report of much interest.

I now have the gratification to inform you that on the morning of the 28th day of February we discovered a man on shore at Indian River Inlet waving a white flag; on sending one of our boats into the inlet in charge of Acting Master P. F. Coffin, it proved to be one of Acting Master's Mate Henry A. Crane's party. He informed Mr. Coffin that Mr. Crane and the balance of his party were at the head of the inlet and required assistance, as they had in charge a schooner and sloop with 21 bales of cotton and 12 prisoners on board, which they captured 18 miles up the Indian River from the inlet.

Mr. Coffin went immediately to their assistance and took charge of the prisoners and brought them on board of our ship. Our boats were unable to go into the inlet again that day on account of the heavy sea on the bar.

The following morning, March 1, I went into the inlet, where I found Mr. Crane and party, with their prizes aground on the inner bar. The U. S. gunboat *Sagamore* being absent from this station, Mr. Crane turned the prizes and prisoners over to me, as he was anxious to proceed on his expedition.

I sent Mr. Coffin with a crew of 11 men into the inlet, with orders to take charge of the prizes and get them over the bar if possible, and advised Mr. Crane and his party to remain here until Captain English returned, as he left here with the *Sagamore* on the morning of the 27th of February, and went up the coast and was expected here momentarily.

Captain English returned here with the U. S. gunboat *Sagamore* on the morning of the 3d of March, and has taken charge of the prizes captured in Indian River during his absence by Mr. Henry A. Crane and his party, claiming them as prizes to the gunboat *Sagamore*, after we had worked at them day and night for six days, getting them over the shoals and bars in the river, which act is discouraging to the officers and crew of this ship.

I therefore beg most respectfully to say that in my opinion the *Sagamore* has no claim on them as they were captured during her absence from this station, and turned over to the U. S. bark *Gem of the Sea* by Mr. H. A. Crane two days previous to the *Sagamore's* arrival off here. I also respectfully beg to say that in my opinion the *Gem of the Sea* is entitled to the credit of the capture of the above prizes instead of the *Sagamore*, although Mr. Crane and his party were not regularly transferred to the *Gem of the Sea*; still I deemed them as a portion of her crew, in the absence of the *Sagamore*, as we had them to look after and to furnish with provisions the greater part of the time for the last two months; nor do I think they could have remained in Indian River during the absence of the *Sagamore* without the protection of the *Gem of the Sea*, which vessel has not been absent from this station since the 30th of December last.

I think the blockade running at this station is about broken up for the present; there has not a vessel run in at either of the inlets without being captured since we came on this station, and but two have got out; they were two small sloops having on board, each of them, 13 bales of cotton and a few passengers.

Those sloops ran out at this inlet while we went to Juniper Inlet to furnish Mr. Crane and his party with provisions. I am informed

that there is but one vessel at Sand Point, and she draws too much water to come down the river before it rises.

I herewith enclose a copy of Acting Master's Mate Henry A. Crane's report of the capture of the above vessels.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. B. BAXTER,

*Acting Volunteer Lieutenant, U. S. Navy, Commanding.*

SENIOR OFFICER,

*Comdg. East Gulf Blockdg. Squadron, Key West, Fla.*

Report of Lieutenant-Commander English, U. S. Navy, regarding the capture of the schooner *Florence Nightingale* in Mesquito Inlet.

U. S. GUNBOAT SAGAMORE,

*Key West, Fla., March 17, 1863.*

SIR: I have to report that the schooner *Florence Nightingale*, which arrived in at this port this morning as a prize to the U. S. gunboat *Octorara*, is the same vessel that was attacked in Mosquito Inlet, Fla., on the 2d instant, by the boats belonging to this vessel, and was set on fire by the enemy; they resisted, firing upon the boats, killing one man and wounding several before any shots were fired from the party under Acting Master's Mate J. A. Slamm, who had charge of the expedition; they also hoisted the rebel flag. Acting Master's Mates Slamm, Fleming, Ford, and Sidell can testify to the above, likewise the boats' crews composing the expedition.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EARL ENGLISH,

*Lieutenant-Commander.*

Acting Rear-Admiral THEODORUS BAILEY,

*Commanding East Gulf Blockading Squadron.*

*Letter from Acting Rear-Admiral Bailey, U. S. Navy, to the U. S. district attorney at Key West, Fla., regarding the prize schooner Stonewall.*

U. S. FLAGSHIP ST. LAWRENCE,

*Key West, Fla., February 24, 1863.*

SIR: The *Tahoma* brought in this morning a schooner, prize, named the *Stonewall*, of about 50 tons. I am in want of her to attach to the *Tahoma* as a tender.

Will you make the proper motion to the court for an order to deliver her to me for naval purposes, after an appraisal, etc.?

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

THEODORUS BAILEY,

*Actg. Rear-Admiral, Comdg. Eastern Gulf Bldgd. Squadron.*

T. J. BOYNTON,

*U. S. District Attorney, Key West, Fla.*