

JOURNALS AND DIARIES
IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE
USS CONSTITUTION MUSEUM

This catalog documents journals, diaries, and logbooks in the collections of the USS Constitution Museum Foundation's collections. In the winter and spring of 2002-2003, the journals and logbooks in the collections were inventoried and cataloged with the aim of creating an alternate means of accessing these primary documents of the ship's history.

The records presented here are created from the data collected in examining each artifact, and are intended to be used as a reference to allow these documents to illustrate particular points of the ship's history, and to allow access to these documents beyond the collections records in the main museum database.

Each journal or diary was reviewed with attention paid to special features of each journal such as charts, maps, rosters, comments on events, and, in the case of journals not from *Constitution*, references to her. Records related to the creators or events in each journal were referenced, when possible, to the journal record, so as to facilitate use of these documents in illustrating an individual's or an event's relevance to the ship.

Entries are organized by accession number, an impartial number that would not allow any one attribute of the journal to overshadow another in searching. Indexes allow finding specific journals by date range, personal names, or ship name. Titles of the documents are not indexed, as some items have proper titles, others have only running titles, and still others have no discernible titles at all.

Date Index.

Ranges of dates as per entries in documents.

Listed by first date of journal or logbook.

December 1, 1798 to February 15, 1800	#259.1
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May 28, 1843 to October 28, 1843	#1805.1
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July 1, 1859 to September 27, 1859; 1861	#1766.1
January 16, 1878 to May 12, 1879	#1727.1

Name Index: Persons and Ships.

Ranks indicated as in document.

Ship names other than *Constitution* (not listed) in *Italics*.

Badger, O.C. Captain.	#1727.1
Baker, Francis. Midshipman.	#1665.1
Cobb, Edward. Commodore's Clerk.	#235.1
<i>Columbus</i> . Ship-of-the-Line.	#133.1
<i>Congress</i> . Frigate.	#1137.1
Craven, T.T. Commander.	#1766.1
<i>Cumberland</i> . Frigate.	#133.1
<i>Dale</i> . Sloop-of-War.	#1805.1
<i>Danube</i> . Brig.	#1042.1
<i>Ester</i> . Brig.	#1042.1
<i>Fairfield</i> . Sloop-of-War.	#1783.3
<i>Falmouth</i> . Sloop-of-war.	#133.1
Fleming, William. Marine.	#363.1
<i>H.N. Gambrill</i> . Slave Schooner.	#235.1
<i>Independence</i> . Ship-of-the-Line.	#133.1, #1137.1
<i>Java</i> . Frigate.	#133.1
Jordan, John N. Cadet Midshipman.	#1727.1
<i>Lexington</i> . Sloop.	#1042.1
MacDonough, Thomas. Commander.	#1783.1, #126.1

Mayo, Issac. Midshipman.	#1488.1
Morris, Charles.	#1137.1
<i>New York</i> . Frigate.	#259.3
<i>North Carolina</i> . Ship-of-the-Line.	#1783.3
Patterson, Daniel Todd. Commander.	#1627.1
<i>Peacock</i> . Sloop-of-war.	#133.1
Percival, J. Captain.	#1805.1
<i>Plymouth</i> . Sloop-of-War.	#1766.1
<i>Potomac</i> . Frigate.	#133.1
<i>Sara</i> . Brig.	#1042.1
St. Medard, Dr. Pierre. Surgeon.	#259.3
Stevens, Benjamin.	#1601.1
Stockton, Philip Augustus. Midshipman.	#1627.1, #126.1
<i>Sultana</i> . Brig.	#1042.1
Thomas, Nathaniel Winslow. Midshipman.	#1766.1
[La]Vallette, Elie Augustus Frederick. First Lieutenant.	#1783.3
<i>Vermont</i> . Ship-of-the-Line.	#133.1
<i>Virginia</i> . Ship-of-the-Line.	#133.1
Wade, John. Master Boat builder.	#133.1

Accession #126.1

October 29, 1824 to December 31, 1826

*P. A. Stockton U.S. Navy U.S. Ship Constitution of 44 Guns
Thos. McDonough Esq. Com. New York October 28th 1824.*

Created by Midshipman Philip Augustus Stockton, attached to *Constitution* on June 23, 1824.

This Midshipman's logbook was kept by Philip Stockton on board *Constitution* during time in the Mediterranean squadron. The logbook is fully bound in thin suede decorated with shallow tooling. Stockton has titled his logbook in ink within a center panel of the tooled decoration. The entries are in the Midshipman's format of tables and descriptive paragraphs.

Several hand drawn charts are tipped in:

"Syracuse" at December 22, 1824

"Straits of Messina" at February 9, 1825

"The Harbour of Messina" at May 30, 1825

"The Bay of Malaga" at November 20, 1825

"The Bay of Algiers in Barbary" at May 24, 1826

"Harbour of Ausa" at June 18, 1826

Related USSC Museum accessions include: #1627, described below.

Accession #133.1

May 25, 1827 to July 19, 1832

United States Navy Yard, Charlestown.

Created by Master Boat builder John Wade of the Charlestown Navy Yard.

This record book was kept by John Wade, Master Boat Builder, of the Charlestown Navy Yard for the years 1827 to 1832. It contains daily entries regarding the number of men assigned to projects, with monthly charts of workers time and wages, and projects. At rear of volume are six pages of drafts of letters, estimates, and requests for materials. These include a list of materials for boats for *Constitution* and other ships, and reports of estimates for materials for each.

While not kept aboard *Constitution*, the volume details the workings of the boat shop in a major Navy Yard of the period, including times and amounts of labor and materials for boats in use.

Entry for November 29, 1827 notes that: "All hands employed Eating & Drinking &c. Thanksgiving day."

Constitution references include:

July 9, 1828: "Employed this day taking up and stowing the Constitution boats."

September 8, 1828: "Commenced repairing the boats belonging to Constitution."

September 25, 1828 to October 2, 1828: "... on Constitution."

December 20, 1828 to February 18, 1829: "... cutters for the Constitution Frigate."

February 18, 1829 to April 13, 1829: "... quarter boat for Constitution." "... stern boat." "... gunwale boat."

May 5, 1829 to June 30, 1829: "... Constitution quarter boat."

June 30, 1829: "The boats for the Constitution are complete with the exception of the launch which only requires caulking and a set of oars for each boat. Old boats belong to her before} launch 3 cutters & gig new{ 2 cutters 2 do. Stern boat Quarter do.

July 1 to July 23 1829: "... Constitution oars"

July 24 to August 1 1829: "... Constitution Launch."

September 9, 1829 to December 14, 1829: "Commenced this day on a 32 & 29 foot cutter to replace those taken for the Constitution, from the Vermont."

Over the time the volume documents, *Constitution* returns from 2 Mediterranean cruises: that of May 1821 to April 1824, and that of October 1824 to July 4, 1828.

References to other ships:

Falmouth, Sloop of war

Java, Frigate

Vermont, Ship-of-the-Line

Cumberland, Frigate

Columbus, Ship-of-the-Line

Independence, Ship-of-the-Line

Potomac, Frigate

Peacock, Sloop of war

Virginia, Ship-of-the-Line

Related items:

Accession #1567 "statement of repairs on Constitution, 1820 - 1821"

Accession #1783 three logbooks from Med. cruise 1824 -1828 by 1st Lieut. Vallette

Accession #1729 watercolor of USSC in Med. by Nicholas Cammillieri, 1824.

Accession #235.1

December 22, 1852 to June 2, 1855

Private Journal of the U.S. Frigate Constitution's Cruise. On the Coast of Africa from December 22, 1852 to June 2, 1855.

Created by Edward Cobb.

A personal journal kept by Commodore's Clerk Edward Cobb. Includes records of the capture of the slave trade schooner *H.N. Gambrill*, with a transcript of the lengthy statement by the boarding officer.

Contains an appendix entitled *Abstract of the Cruise of the United States Frigate Constitution In the Mediterranean and on the Coast of Africa from March 2, 1853 to June 2, 1855*, which consists of four double-page spreads divided into columns labeled: Sailed from, Month, Day, Arrived at, Nation, Month, Day, Distance per Log, Days at Sea, Days in Port, and Remarks. These tables cover the entire cruise, which originated from New York and visited, among many others, Tangiers, Monrovia, and Havana before returning to Portsmouth.

Accession #259.1

December 1, 1798 to February 15, 1800

*Log Book of the United States Frigate Constitution from
December 1, 1798 to February 15, 1800.*

Created by the captain and officers of the Frigate *Constitution*. This volume is the principle Logbook kept on board *Constitution* during her first cruises. Entries follow the standards set down in the Naval Regulations, the page layout almost exactly that as listed in the appendices of the regulations.

The handwritten text is neatly entered in letter-press printed tables, most likely copied in with care from other, more immediate sources.

Accession #259.3

September 1, 1802 to December 9, 1803

Journal of the Physical Transactions on Board of the United States Frigate New York. from Sept. 1. 1802 to Dec. 9. 1803. also. a paper reciting certain cases of sickness on board the New York. plus suggestions as to sick. also. an estimate of Medicines for the New York. also. a report of sick for February 1803. also. a copy book of communications of the course orders of the New York from the surgeon Dr. St. Medard.

Created by Dr. Pierre St. Medard, a USN Surgeon who was attached to *Constitution* in December of 1798. These journals are from his later appointment on the Frigate *New York*.

The first section of this volume, unpagged, contains an alphabetical patient index consisting of columns for patients' names, rank, age, date of admittance, page (of volume upon which the patient first appears), disease, time and place of discharge, page (of volume upon which the patient last appears) date of death, and page (of volume upon which the patient dies.)

The second section of the volume is numbered in the upper left hand corner of each two - page spread, so that each leaf contains on the recto the right hand portion of the previous two-page spread and on the verso the first portion of the next two-page spread. Each two-page spread contains a chart consisting of columns for patients' names, rank, age, date of entry, diseases and symptoms, prescriptions, time when dismissed, time when removed, time and date of death, and remarks. The chart columns are broken by headings for the date. Each spread is headed by the year and a running title.

Contains in spread 68 a loose folded sheet entitled *An abstract Report of the Diseases of which have prevailed on Board of the United States Frigate New York For the Month of February 1803.*

Related USSC Museum accessions:

#259.1: Logbook of the United States Frigate Constitution from December 1, 1798 to February 15, 1800

#259.4: Handwritten notebook of Dr. Pierre St. Medard.

#259.7: Handwritten copybook of Dr. Pierre St. Medard.

#259.8: Handwritten estimate of medicine and instruments furnished for the USF. New York from the papers of Dr. Pierre St. Medard.

#1303.1a,b: Portrait of Dr. Pierre St. Medard.

#1303.2: Dressing Table owned by Dr. Pierre St. Medard.

Elsewhere related:

Naval Surgeon: Life and Death at sea in the age of sail, by J. Worth Estes. Canton, MA: Science history publications, 1998.

Accession #363.1

September 22, 1824 to July 5, 1828

A Journal of Cruise in the U. S. Frigate Constitution For the years 1824, '25 and '26, '27 and '28.

Created by William Fleming.

A personal journal kept by William Fleming, a Marine, on board *Constitution* for the duration of the Mediterranean cruise of 1824-1828.

Accession #832.3

July 5, 1837 to August 9, 1838

Cruise of the United States Ship Constitution William Boerum Esquire Commander. Bearing the Broad Pendant of Commodore J. D. Elliott.

Created by William Boerum, who was attached to the *Constitution* as a Lieutenant on July 31, 1835; promoted to commander Feb. 9, 1837.

This large Logbook is from *Constitution* during the years 1837 and 1838, during Commodore Elliott's "collecting cruise" in the Mediterranean. It is a duplicate ship's logbook, containing only official records and accounts of the ship's movements and business. Various entries are signed and initialed by officers of the ship. The volume has suffered many losses and clippings, and was rebound and had new leaves inserted.

Accession #1042.1

March 27, 1825 to May 8, 1828

An abstract of a passage from Boston to Canton China in the Brig Danube...

Created by Isaac Bradford (1793 - 1854).

Logbook kept by Issac Bradford on board the Brigs *Danube* and *Sultana*, on various cruises from Boston to China, Tunis, Rio Janeiro, and the Mediterranean. Contains daily entries as to weather, currents, coordinates, and headings.

Contains a meeting between the Brig *Sultanta* and *Constitution* in Smyrna Harbor on November 13, 1827. *Constitution* noted as getting underway on November 15, 1827.

Other ships noted include the Sloop *Lexington*, Brig *Sara*, and Brig *Ester*.

Accession #1137.1

June 16, 1815 to September 15, 1815

Remarks made on board the United States Frigate Congress.

Created by unknown officer, signed intermittently by Captain Charles Morris (1784-1856).

Logbook kept aboard USF *Congress*, consisting of printed tables into which sailing data and remarks were written. Log concerns a cruise in the English Channel to the Low Countries, and on to the Mediterranean.

Contains references to ships, official persons, places and dates. Much of the cruise covered in the logbook is spent sailing with the Mediterranean squadron, with often references to *Independence*. Contains a short account of men lost overboard (August 12, 1815) and a drawn profile of the "Islands of Galita" (August 22, 1815).

Accession #1488.1

November 5, 1809 to July 2, 1819

Private journal at sea from 1809 to 1819.

Created by Issac Mayo (1791-1861), who would become Commodore of the African Squadron onboard *Constitution* in the 1850's.

This volume is a personal journal kept by Issac Mayo early in his naval career. Describes daily events onboard ships and reproduces tables of headings for various passages.

Accession #1601.1

November 13, 1843 to January 14, 1846

Cruise on the Constitution

Created by Benjamin Stevens.

This volume is a personal journal kept by Benjamin Stevens onboard *Constitution* during her world cruise in the 1840's. The text only covers 58 pages, about a quarter of the volume. The remainder is blank. Major cities, ports, and countries are headed in the text, but the narrative is untitled and unsigned.

Accession #1627.1

January 1, 1827 to July 9, 1828

Journal of a cruise on board of the United States Frigate Constitution. Dan. T. Patterson. Esq. Commander. By Midshipman Philip A. Stockton.

Created by Midshipman Philip Augustus Stockton, attached to *Constitution* on June 23, 1824.

Handwritten logbook kept by Midshipman Philip Stockton onboard *Constitution* during time in the Mediterranean squadron including passage back to Boston. Remnants of thick grey paper dust - cover has a decorative title in ink. The entries are in the form of tables and descriptive paragraphs.

Contains a pencil and ink drawing and diagram entitled "Method of shipping a temporary rudder" tipped in to first page.

Contains a large hand drawn ink and watercolor chart of the Northeastern Mediterranean tipped in to title page. Chart covers approximately from Sardina to Crete, East to West, and from Crete to the Southern Adriatic, North to South, and includes tracks of voyages marked with significant dates.

Contains a leaf entitled *List of Officers on board the U.S.F. Constitution April 1st 1828* tipped in at April 1, 1828.

Contains hand drawn ink and watercolor charts tipped in at various spots:

"Milo" at April 9, 1827

"Gulf of Smyrna" at April 19th, 1827

“Port Leon” at May 13, 1827

“The Port of Naploi di Romania” at May 28, 1827

“Salamis” and “Attica” at July 20th, 1827

“Island of Boros” at July 26, 1827

“Island of Miconi” at November 18, 1827

“Island of Lyra” at November 19, 1827

“The Harbour of Valete in Malta” at December 4, 1827

“Malta” at December 5, 1827

“Bay of Tunis” at December 10, 1827

“Port Mahon” at December 19, 1827

“Gibraltar Bay” at May 10, 1828

Related USSC Museum accessions include: #126.1, described above.

Accession #1665.1

November 1, 1850 to January 20, 1851

Journal of a cruise in the U.S.S. Constitution. (Continued.)

Created by Francis Baker, a Midshipman attached to *Constitution* October 24, 1848.

A logbook kept by Francis Baker, Midshipman, while onboard *Constitution* during a Mediterranean cruise in the early 1850's. Contains daily charts of winds, courses, and the like, with daily remarks as to weather and crew activities.

Contains several appendices consisting of lists of anchors, sails, armorment, and boats. Contains watch, quarter, station, fire, and cleaning bills. Vibrant orange and red marbled endpapers.

Accession #1727.1

January 16, 1878 to May 12, 1879

Journal of a Cruise of the U.S.S. Constitution. 3rd rate. 2 guns. Commanded by Captain O.C. Badger, U.S.N. By Cadetmidn. John N. Jordan.

Created by John N. Jordan, a Cadet Midshipman who was assigned to *Constitution* on January 9, 1878.

A logbook kept by Cadet Midshipman John N. Jordan onboard *Constitution* during a "cruise on special service," which was to transport exhibit materials to the 1878 Paris Exposition. The daily entries are as for midshipmen's logs, detailing the sailing and crew statistics onboard under sail. Includes descriptions of running aground, crew discipline, and deaths while underway.

Accession #1766.1

July 1, 1859 to September 27, 1859; 1861

Journal of a Cruise in the U.S. Practice Ship Plymouth. T.T. Craven Esq. Commanding. 1859 N.W. Thomas.

Created by N.W. (Nathaniel Winslow) Thomas, a Midshipman.

This Logbook was kept by Midshipman Nathaniel Winslow Thomas for a practice cruise on the *Plymouth*, with station bills and other records for later assignments, including hold plans and rigging diagrams for *Constitution*.

Accession #1782.1

October 9, 1848 to June 25, 1852

Jas. G. Maxwell. Midshipman U.S.N.

Created by James G. Maxwell, a Midshipman attached to the *Constitution* on September 28, 1848.

Logbook kept by midshipman James G. Maxwell during Mediterranean squadron cruises. His entries reflect normal logbook concerns.

#1783.1

October 30, 1824 to February 28, 1826

Journal kept on board the U.S. Frigate Constitution Thomas Macdonough Esq. Commander by E.A.F. Vallette 1t. Lieut.

Created by Elie Augustus Frederick [La]Vallette (1790-1862), a first Lieutenant attached to *Constitution* on June 23, 1824.

This Logbook was kept by First Lieutenant Ellie Vallette onboard USF *Constitution* during Mediterranean Cruise (1824-28). In this log, First Lieutenant Ellie Vallette keeps track of general weather patterns, crew activities, and the nature and time of significant events onboard ship. When the ship is sailing, the entries are in the form of a chart with columns for the hour, speed in knots, fathoms of water, course, winds, and Latitude, along with similar entries for crew activities and weather conditions.

The book has a slipcover of sailcloth from *Constitution*, contains a hand-

lettered title page with a watercolor drawing of a woman seated amongst clouds with a globe, chart, and dividers.

In the rear of the book are three pages of watercolor land silhouettes and views, including Cape Carthage, Cape Passaro, and Eatna.

Related USSC accessions include: #1783.2, #1783.3.

Related elsewhere, The William Perkins Library at Duke University holds E.A.F. Vallette's Personal Papers including other journals and diaries.

Accession #1783.2

March 1, 1826 to July 4, 1828

Remarks on board US Frigate Constitution D. T. Patterson Esq. Commander by EAF Vallette, 1st Lieut.

Created by Elie Augustus Frederick [La]Vallette (1790-1862), a first Lieutenant attached to *Constitution* on June 23, 1824.

This log, kept by First Lieutenant Ellie Vallette during the latter half of *Constitution's* 1824 to 1828 Mediterranean Cruise, records general weather patterns, crew activities, and the nature and time of significant events onboard ship. When the ship is sailing, the entries are in the form of a chart with columns for the hour, speed in knots, fathoms of water, course, winds, and Latitude, with similar entries for crew activities and weather conditions, in keeping with standard logbook practices for officers.

Related USSC accessions include: #1783.1, #1783.3.

Related elsewhere, The William Perkins Library at Duke University holds E.A.F. Vallette's Personal Papers including other journals and diaries.

Accession #1783.3

1824 & May 30, 1833 to August 19, 1833

Lieut. Elie A.F. Vallette, U. S. Navy, 1824.

Created by Elie Augustus Frederick [La]Vallette (1790-1862), a first Lieutenant attached to *Constitution* on June 23, 1824.

A record book kept by First Lieutenant Ellie Vallette onboard USF *Constitution*, USS *North Carolina*, and USS *Fairfield*. Contains regulations and policies in use onboard ship, station bills for various manouvers, and a short section of "remarks and occurances" from USS *Fairfield*. Illustrated in watercolor with rigging diagrams, flags, and symbols.

Related USSC accessions include: #1783.1, #1783.2.

Elsewhere, The William Perkins Library at Duke University holds E.A.F. Vallette's Personal Papers including other journals and diaries.

Accession #1805.1

May 28, 1843 to October 28, 1843

&

March 26, 1844 to December 24, 1844

*Journal of a Cruise in the Pacific Ocean on board the U.S.
Sloop of War Dale Thos. A. Dornin Esq. Commander Beginning
May 28th 1843 and ending Oct. 28th 1843.*

bound with:

*Journal of a Cruise in the United States Frigate "Constitution"
Capt. J. Percival commanding.*

Created by Lucius Meade Mason, a Midshpman onboard the *Dale* and the *Constitution*.

These two personal accounts of cruises are bound together in a small volume with a slipcover of tarred sailcloth. The title pages of each account are elaborately drawn and lettered.

Contains two hand drawn charts:

"Cape Town Harbour" at October 9, 1844.

"Passendava Bay and Nos Beh Island" at December 3, 1844.

Created by Jason Miller
during the Winter & Spring of 2002-2003
at the USS Constitution Museum,
Charlestown Navy Yard,
Massachusetts.