

# On Blockade Duty in Florida Waters

EXCERPTS FROM A UNION NAVAL OFFICER'S DIARY

*Edited by* WILLIAM J. SCHELLINGS

*When the United States Gunboat "Sagamore" was commissioned on November 23, 1861 a young Connecticut doctor, Walter Keeler Scofield, was assigned to her as medical officer with the rank of assistant surgeon. On the first day of this duty he began to keep a diary, or, as he called it, a daily journal. He faithfully made entries almost daily until April 9, 1864.*

*During most of that time the "Sagamore" was on blockade duty in Florida waters. At times the gunboat was also sent on raids such as those on Tampa, Symrna, and the salt works at St. Andrews Bay. The accounts cover two distinct subjects. The young doctor made good use of his time to continue his medical studies in preparation for an examination he was to take. He filled his notebooks with comments on his studies and thereby revealed quite a bit of the medical lore of the day. About one half of the content describes life in a blockading squadron with numerous references to places, events and people along the Florida coast that came under his observation.*

*The diary is written in long hand, mostly with pencil. It is in the form of brief notes rather than a complete account. The short statements are usually not punctuated, but are separated by a longer space. He evidently intended to use the notes for a fuller account of the experiences and observations.*

*Dr. Scofield's account of his Florida experiences is contained in ten small notebooks. It was until recently in possession of his son, Edward C. Scofield of Stamford, Connecticut. Miss Mary Higgins, a retired school teacher and a friend of Mr. Scofield, winters in Miami. Miss Higgins brought the diary to the attention of Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau of the History Department of the University of Miami and secured from Mr. Scofield permission to make a copy of those portions relating to Florida. The excerpts here printed are taken from that typescript also prepared by the editor. A copy of the typescript is deposited in the library of the University of Miami. Mr. Scofield also authorized the printing of any material relating to Florida. The original notes have since been given by Mr. Scofield to the Library of Yale University. The Yale Library has also graciously approved the use of the material for this printing.*

*This, then, is not a complete reproduction of Assistant Surgeon Scofield's notes. It consists rather of those items which refer to Florida. These selections are printed without alteration. For the sake of clarity a dash (—) has been inserted to indicate definite breaks that might have been marked with periods.*

*Deletions are indicated by the usual three periods . . . when they occur within a sentence or four periods . . . when they come at the end of the sentence. Scarcely any footnotes seem necessary as all of the pertinent names and places will be sufficiently familiar to students of Florida history.*

Sunday Dec 29 [1861]. Pilot comes out 5 miles to take over reefs and sand Banks into Key West — Odd [old] Light House on screws bored in quicksand — Sunday on island — ringing of bells — beautiful view — coconut trees — ships at anchor, 6 gunboats — Mail yacht fr Havana with Oranges — Watched with glasses for hours at persons on island dreped [dressed] for summer & negroes & slaves —

Monday Dec 30. Went on shore first time from "Sagamore" at coal dock [of] Capt. Giger — Appearance of town — . . . thin, sallow men and women, jolly fat slaves — post office, Drug store, stores, Billiards, Hotel —

Tuesday Dec 31. Walk all over island to Light House on shore . . . — railroad 200 negroes at work — Custom House by Sen. Mallory not finished — low wide house — hurricanes — Verdue [verdure] astonished a Northerner in mid-winter — Afraid of gale — Advice of pilot not go out in Gulf this day — . . . .

Jan 2d 1862. Under weigh by pilot — . . . over sand bar  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms (15[feet]) draw  $10\frac{1}{2}$  feet water — buoys — too many prevent pilots from making too much money. No wrecks now not make any money —  $\frac{1}{2}$  inhabitants left town — some to confed army & others to Bahama islands — . . . .

Jany 4th 1862. Sighted Santa Rosa Island at 12 M. Immense sand banks & brush 40 miles in length — . . . . Light House to right of Fort McRay — Fort Pickens to right of lighthouse which is fronted by a land battery. Stars and Stripes on Fort Pickens — Fort Barrancas opposite Billy Welson's Zouaves encampment on Santa Rosa . . . .

Friday Jan'y 10th 1862. Made land at 10 A. M. Cape St Blas & lighthouse thereon — reached the blockading vessels in sight at 12M. . . . intention of going next day up the bay. . . . 15 ft or more of water and several thousand bales of cotton at Apalachicola — Plenty of oysters and game farther up the bay . . . .

Thursday Jan 16/62. . . . Mr Fales & Lt Bigelow went ashore on the island near the planter's or the pilot's house . . . not a sign of a human being —

Friday Jan 17/62. Went a mile and a half farther up the harbor opposite the planter's house . . . Rebel steamers (two) seen in the distance by the black smoke — also two sails probably small sloops on the lookout — The "Sagamore" controls three of the passages to the town of Apalachicola — the fourth pass is rather shoal water . . . Animals seen on St. Vincent's island — all the windows broken out of the planter's house — abandoned sand battery and earthwork — . . . .

Saturday Jan 18/62. . . . Boat ashore . . . 17 in all in 2d cutter — Extensive sand beach hard near waters edge & deep soft farther up — fort made in the sand supported by wooden fence inside where several guns might have been placed — also several remains of barracks that had been burned, probably when the enemy retreated. Also four embrasures of sand & sod & dirt to the left . . . . Went thru the garden into the house & found it all deserted apparently in great haste, water remaining in pans — went up stairs in right hand chamber & sought for books papers tools & whatever of value — Medical stores in reception room of right side of the house — trophies of saws nails cooking utensils & mirror — . . . Wrung a hens neck and brought her away from the henpen — The rooster escaped into the woods in the rear it being dusk — stream of water in the rear of considerable length running along by the house — . . . [Found] Letter of Captain of 4th Regt of Volunteers of Florida . . . .

Saturday Jan 25/62. . . . Oystering in the afternoon on the bar about two miles away from the "Sagamore" & same distance from Apalachicola. Small sloop watching operations. Oysters plentiful — Immense bed of them . . . Got a launch load 10 or 15 bushels in three hours . . . .

Sunday — Jan 26/62 — . . . Dislike of officers and crew to leaving the oyster grounds of Apalachicola & the island with its game & plenty of fresh Beef, Veal, Mutton, fowls etc — Sent to Commodore saying it was not necessary to supply us with fresh meats from the supply ships if we only had free permission to take food by foraging on St. Vincents Island . . . .

Tuesday Jan 28/62. Went farther up the channel at East Pass — . . . Regret the exchange of St Vincent's island for this place. No oyster bed found as yet . . . .

Saturday Feb 1/62. . . . Visited the Light house and the habitation for man on poles — entrance to Light House 4 feet above level of ground — perhaps high tides prevalent — The lens and lamp taken away and several of the 16 large plate glass lights smashed — . . . Human skeleton found nearly perfect underneath the house . . . .

Tuesday Feb 4/62. Ashore at crooked river mouth . . . deep water — four or five feet — Appearance of many deserted small negro quarters a little back from the shore — light seen on this shore two nights before . . . .

Thursday Feb 6/62. Chase of a rebel sloop from Apalachicola — fired two shells from the Parrott gun . . . Chase continued to the anchorage ground — . . . The 1st cutter went ashore on the mainland at 2 PM — . . . Found several small houses which were probably deserted this morning. Found a large herd of cattle and gained knowledge of several sloops in course of construction. Proposals for an expedition at 3 A M to-morrow to destroy the sloops by fire . . . .

Friday Feb 7/62. Expedition of launch 1st & 2d cutters & crews to the house — destroyed a capsized boat — foraged 5 or 6 bushels of good sweet potatoes — killed 3 fowls one for Cap & other two for ward room . . . Paper from Tallahassee *Floridian* & *Sentinel* dated Jan 25/62 — Account of Cedar Keys capture burning of vessels cargoes depot & capture 16 prisoners & Lieut Meeks — Use of salt in Apalachicola — . . . Hopes of the Confederates — the great debt of Florida . . . .

Saturday Feb 8/62. . . . The "Marion" received 3 runaway negroes & one negress who gave information of value regarding the defenses of Apalachicola — Schooner "Phoenix" ready to start destined to go out of East Pass — determination to catch her . . .

Monday Feb 10/62. . . . plenty of beef for foraging parties —

Tuesday Feb 11/62. Meat proved unsavory not fattened & run wild no chance of being in any other condition than tough . . .

Saturday Feb 15/62. . . . large numbers of cattle deer wild turkey &c [etc.] according to the pilot who willingly surrendered himself to the "Mohawk" — By trade a fisherman along these shores — Contrabands two in number — one escaped from centre of Georgia & travelled here on foot mostly —

Monday Feb 24/62. Mr Fales & Williams ashore two miles up Crooked River — found and visited two plantations. one belongs to J G Gontz. Captured one hive of honey and the bees also . . . —

Friday Feb 28/62. A number of armed men seen on the Florida shore — light of last evening meant for a decoy. fired a shell nearly to the shore which was answered by three rifle shots . . . .

Monday March 10/62. Launch 1st & 2d cutters gone on shore to try the effects of the howitzer upon the houses — 1st time firing no effect — second time made several holes with canister —

Tuesday March 11/62. Launch 1st & 2d cutters on an expedition. Went 14 miles towards Apalachicola, within about a mile of the town during a fog in hopes of securing a schooner. The fog lifted showing the town of Apalachicola and four steamers, two of them having steam up ready for chase probably — Saw light House at West Pass also St George's island — Quickly put about when the situation was discovered. Only trophies obtained was a steer and several bushels of oysters . . . .

Monday Mch 31. . . . Had three contrabands on board who made their escape down Apalachicola river 150 miles in a small boat. They report the evacuation of the town consequent upon our reconnoitring expedition two weeks since. Vertification by the negroes that a trap was laid for us by the rebels kindling a fire on the Florida shore opposite the anchorage of the "Sagamore" hoping to catch some of our boats on shore — Their great fright of our shells when exploding near them — Apalachicolians have fled up to Richo's bluff 90 miles up the river, taking all their effects . . . .

Wednesday Apr 2/62. . . . Preparations for a night expedition up the Apalachicola river, composed of the "Sagamore's" launch and two cutters, also the "Mercidita's" launch and two cutters — Signal for starting at 9 P M . . . . Stillness reigns aboard the "Sag" —

Thursday Apr 3/62. Departure of Capt Drake & Commander Steelwagon to take possession of Apalachicola in the two gigs — Hoist the Stars and Stripes and demand an unconditional surrender — . . . arrival of one sloop in charge of Mast. mate of "Mercidita" . . . No people at town excepting a few slaves — Several more sloops & schooners supposed to be coming — No steamer within fourteen miles of the mouth of the river . . .

Friday Apr 4/62. . . . Capture of several vessels — brought one schooner down with forty bales of cotton . . . . Burnt four vessels schooners sloops after many ineffectual attempts to get them out of the river . . . Consternation of the inhabitants — steam mill whistle — large town wide streets stores warehouses . . .

Wednesday Apr 16/62. Expedition launch & 1st cutter up to Eastern plantation & found it a mere sham — a few negro huts — Found the six hives of honey at Ghent's plantation removed and the following inscription written upon the door of the house with a coal. "I hope to God you will get yanked for Trespassing on an honest man's property" Then just below was written "The battle is not always to the strong nor the race to the swift"— Found four bales of cotton floated up on shore worth 100 dollars each . . .

Wednesday Apr 23/62. . . . Expedition on shore at 9 P M to discover the meaning of a light on shore — Found the fire a mile back from the shore after wading thru swamps and moras[s] nearly up to the neck — Found a man named “Yenks” [Jenks ?] a Swiss by birth and his son Rufus nine years of age — Williams . . . aimed a pistol at his head . . . and requested his presence on board the “Sagamore” — He told a long story of the times about his part of the country — Owns 300 cattle and the plantation opposite our anchorage. Explanation of fire to be to call his cattle together by making new pasture to spring up on the burnt spaces. The father & son slept on the berth deck during the night — Our movements watched by men on shore —

Thursday Apr 24/62. Father & son returned ashore at 5½ A M today. Promises to be down next Thursday and bring some papers . . . .

Teusday Apr 29/62. Two boats after a sloop of 17 tons ashore four miles up the bay. . . . Trapped five men and a boy by getting between them and their boat on St George’s Island—a portuguese Italian and Irishmen — guarded in expression of their sentiments — Election at Apalachicola next Monday — Let them go again — Thousands of pigs and one bear on St George’s Island . . . .

Sunday May 4/61 [62]. . . . Arrival of two men one woman and her five small children from Apalachicola — Received permission to proceed up Crooked River in search of a doctor as the woman needed one. No Physician at present in Apalachicola — Great destitution prevails in that town. Inhabitants live on oysters and fish. No accomodations on board the “Sagamore” for the woman — First sight of a woman since the first of January — . . . No guns, ammuniton or cotton in the wharhouses. [warehouses] . . . .

May 6/62. . . . Desertion to the enemy of Leonard an Englishman and a disrated boatswains mate of the “Sagamore”. Took a revolver with six charges but no sustenance. Wretched exchange of the good rations and ease of ship life for ekeing out a living among the rebels— . . . Living on mainland infested with mosquitos vermin reptiles &c. Homeless and starving course before him now. . . . May be taken as a spy by the rebels as he is dressed in sailor’s clothing.

Wednesday May 7/62. . . . Remarkably genial salubrity of the Florida climate. 2d cutter Mr Fales ashore at Cat Point — Found David Leonard waiting for the boat at Yents [?] plantation. He was soaked in mud in water as if wading through quagmire trying to desert. . . . Communications with

Italian refugees at Cat Point — Some say a sufficiency to eat and some say not — Eat pickled oysters — no salted fish because no trade and salt is \$5.00 by the bushel. Two refugees came . . . to get permission to proceed up Crooked river after something to eat — Condemns the secession ordinance in toto. Reports also that New Orleans is taken and a great fight has taken place in Virginia. . . .

Monday May 19/62. Five months out of Boston. Made four mince pies— . . . Party ashore cleaning out the Light keeper's house for a smoking and lounging saloon — Expedients of unemployed minds and bodies to kill time —

Teusday May 20/62. 2nd cutter ashore . . . with a crew of men, probably ten men — Went inside Crooked river and Mr Lewis fired at a duck when in an instant a whole volley from a company of rebels in ambush was fired at our men in the boat. The bullets whistled by the heads and bodies of every man — the officers and four of the men jumped swum to the opposite side of the river and run for the woods, the balls all the time whistling around them. Six of the crew remained by the boat but jumped out and seizing the boat by the keel swum out with the cutter being protected by cutter's sides from the balls of the enemy — The rebels cursed our men calling them yankees &c — Cutter came off with six men in rowing as fast as they were able to with the flag union down. Our 1st cutter was sent to aid them and launch also, found all the lost ones on shore — the "Sagamore" fired constant volleys of shot and shell from her armament. Eben Ames . . . was shot through the arm. . . . A sail appeared at the mouth of Crooked river and was fired at by our cannon. It proved to be the sloop with the two Italians who were on board a short time since— . . . They had Barret Gunners mate lying on his back in the sloop shot thru the lower third of the thigh. . . Mr Fleming received a ball through the seat of his pants between his legs without injuring him . . . .

Thursday June 5th/62. . . . Left the inner anchorage at daylight. Rusticating at Light House and in the Light keeper's house — Written account of the Crooked river affair to Jennie — Caught only a hundred mullet —

Friday June 6/62. . . . Arrival of the Portuguese with his sister-in-law and her three children from Crooked river — they report the rebels preparing two iron clad gunboats to come down and attack us some dark night. . . . Iron on side of the two steamers reported to be two inches in thickness — Gave the fugitives tea, sugar, cakes and ship's bread to take to Apalachicola with them . . . . The Portuguese had been in Tallahassee jail for a week

or two. The rebels threaten to hang the friendly Portuguese who brought the wounded man Barrett off to the ship on the 20th of May last, if they can catch him . . . .

Monday June 9/62. . . . sighted the "Connecticut" on her homeward trip. . . . Sent off twenty bales of cotton care of McBride to be sold in New York . . . . — We are to proceed to Key West as soon as the "Young Rover" is supplied with coal. . . .

Thursday June 12/62. . . . About 50 steamers schooners and prizes in this port. . . . [Key West]

June 16/62. . . . Went ashore at 3 P M for a stroll till six — . . . No fruit on island after June 20 . . . Long walk — No pilot permitted after June 15 without a license.

June 21/62. . . . Diarrhoea cured among us by Key West rain water —

June 27/62. Off Havana at 7 A M — Watching the ships coming out of the harbor. Boarded two American vessels and one Spanish schooner from whom was learned that no Confederate flag was flying in Havana. . . . Started at about 9 A M for Tampa via Tortugas. . . .

June 29/62. Arrived at Egmont Key . . . Went ashore with Drs Lewis and Flint to see a girl six years of age with dysentery at the Light Keeper's house. . . . Not very encouraging prospect. Alligator five feet in length tied by neck to a tree. . . .

June 30/62. Under way at 5 A M to run 20 miles from Egmont Key to town of Tampa. . . . proceeded to three miles or less of the town. Departure of a flag of truce . . . Unconditional surrender to be demanded of the citizens. Men to be seen occasionally at the town. Returning the 2d cutter threw up one oar as a signal the rebels would not surrender — Lieut Bigelow raising his hat, 'Good day sir' to officer in rebel boat . . . no reply by the rebels — Lieut Bigelow 'I am sent by the Commander of the "Sagamore" and "Ethan Allan" to demand surrender of town unconditionally and all the ammunition' — Rebel replied "Have you any written communication — We have no such thing in the book as surrender", and turned away for the shore. They were given time to leave the town until 6 P M when the "Sagamore" opened on the town with the 11 inch and the rifle. After the third shot from us they replied from one of their three batteries firing solid shot which fell short two hundred yards or more. Fired twenty shots this P M. They fired nineteen shots from three guns — They are believed to have seven or more cannon. Firing stopped on both sides at sunset. . . .

July 1st 1862. Steamed in two hundred yards nearer and opened fire from the Parrott and the XI inch — Fired every fifteen minutes for two hours and rapid firing after until twenty shots were fired in all. Charges worth from \$10 to \$15 each — One went in the fort one or two away back in the woods, most of them falling short. No reply elicited from the battery silenced. . . . Stopped before 12 M. Made preparations to return when a large new secession flag was hoisted which was aggravating. Fired four shots at that one of which went in the rear we know not where as it did not explode as the others did, and threw up no dirt. Sketch of Tampa. Pretty, quiet place . . . .

July 7th 1862. Musquitos very thick great pests . . . .

July 8/62. . . . Excursion ashore to helpless refugees, half starving — . . . Return of Mr Fales from Coos' house up Manatee river, two quarts honey and some milk. . . . Taking refugees to Key West proposed by Act. Mast. Crowles—

July 11/62. . . . Boat decoyed ashore between here and Cedar Keys, officer shot and three men killed. 50 men at Tampa when we bombarded, now there are 200. . . .

July 14, 1862. . . . Arrival of "Rhode Island" at 5 P M . . . No stores to be had—. . . Received a small mail from headquarters at Pensacola — some of the men received letters dated February . . . .

July 16/62. Gophers five in number brought on board by the negroes for gopher soup . . . . Sent for by the negroes to go ashore and "see dem women. Some of dem am sick." Sometime today. . . . Went ashore at 4 P M . . . View from top of light house extensive — Men on shore setting out green potato tops near light house expecting them to sprout & grow. Dread of Negroes and white refugees of an attack by the rebels. Return of the boat that started for Point Harrison saying that rebels were concealed & watching us on Mullet Key . . . .

July 17/62. White refugee came on board at 3 A M saying they thought a force of rebels was watching them. Sent 2d cutter ashore immediately with an armed crew but finding nothing they proceeded to find the launch and both boats went up to Koon's plantation near Point Harrison — Arrived at 2 P M today finding nothing — brought us a watermelon and 2 qts. Milk. . . .

July 28/62. Musquitos last night were excessively troublesome, obliging most of us to go without sleep during the night—Supposed to have been brought off by the bathers last evening. . . . Contrabands came off with fish

and to get stores for the week, supplied by the government. All hands turned out of berths by misquitos & slept on deck — Breeze sprung up at 2 A M and stiffened the limbs of the sleepers, forcing them to go below.

July 30th/62. Misquitos abundant. Arrival of Mr Clay from the mainland. 3 gophers & nothing else.

Friday August 1st 1862. Contrabands six in number arrived this morning in the boat that "Charles" went to the mainland with, having gone there to forage — Got 200 lbs sugar but no fruit or provisions &c . . . . schooner ran the blockade night before last laden with sugar bound to Nassau. Arrival of a schooner from Key West to take all the white folks on Egmont Key to Key West. Chartered [chartered] by the husbands at Key West who are working on the coal depot. . . .

Saturday August 2d. Contrabands off with fish — White refugees brought beef fresh and sweet potatoes from the mainland. Arrival of the "Tahoma" bringing us a large mail and come to relieve us . . . .

Aug. 3d. . . . White refugee "Clay" off this morning for pay for beef, though he is furnished with a ration or a part of it. . . .

Aug 18/62. [St Andrews Bay] . . . 2 male 2 female & one child contraband came off to us this morning in a boat they had stolen at St Andrews. Their owners came down this P M to claim them under a flag of truce but did not succeed. Tent built for the contrabands on Hurricane Island — More contrabands in the woods on their way to us. Rebel salt works in full operation. . . .

August 19th, 1862. Rec'd Tuscaloosa Ala. papers of July 20th with report of commencement of bombardment of Tampa. White man, Mr White came down to communicate with Mast. Mate Moore. . . .

August 20/62. . . . Mrs King came on board after one of her slaves but did not get him. Professes to be union now but threatened to boil the Yankees in the salt kettle a few days ago . . . .

Aug 22/62. . . . Shipped "Jack" and "Ananias" 2 contrabands in the naval service — . . .

Aug 26/62. . . . Expedition to within three miles of St Andrews alarmed the citizens of that town — Saw the large salt works.

Sept 4/62. Laying outside all day — Quiet contrabands — troublesome mess arrangements —

Sept 11/62. Started at 7 A M for St Andrews — arrived there at 9:30 A.M. Sent a flag of truce ashore to say to the authorities —“We mean to destroy all your salt works but will not enter your homes or molest any other property.” Work of demolishing kettles commenced at 10 A.M. Launch with the howitzer 2d cutter 1st cutter and gig ashore — Rebounding of the sledge hammers in the attempts to destroy the kettles of cast iron turned upside down. . . . Salt nicely crystallized in cubical crystals. Destroyed 30 salt kettles during the day. Insulting remarks of some of the secesh bystanders. Went up into East Bay and anchored in there at night — Caught one sailing yacht. Light seen burning further up the bay, the people busy probably in carrying off the salt pans.

Sept 12/62. Work of destroying wrought iron boilers commenced — Much hard labor performed during the morning — Came off at 2 P.M. Many pans had been removed during the night. Spoils brought off of hammers axes spades old iron and a young pig. . . . Anchored off St. Andrews town at 3 P.M. Sent a boat ashore to communicate with the authorities— . . . Gave up the sail boat to Judge Mim. The rebels promise to erect no more salt works. Rec'd a letter unsealed to transmit by mail to N. Jersey. . . .

Sept 18/62. Enroute to West Pass Apalachicola to assist in preventing a rebel ram from coming down Apalachicola river and escaping . . . .

Sept 19/62. . . . Steamer “Conn.” on her homeward trip. The “Conn” will not stop at Key West where the Yellow Fever prevails with much malignancy. . . .

Sept 24/62. Steamed up to buoy two miles nearer Apalachicola — Loading with sand to protect the boilers — Lumber from Floyd's house . . . — 36 cows killed during the stay of the “J L Davis” at this place . . . .

Oct 14/62. . . . Contraband arrived. Reports 86 bales cotton on schooner four miles up the river, also that the rebels were fortifying Apalachicola . . . .

Oct 16/62. Flag of truce from town after surgeons to dress stump of man who had his arm blown off at Apalachicola. Drs Stevens & Draper went up under flag of truce. Started at sundown for Key West . . . .

Oct 22/62. En route to Indian River on East Coast of Florida —

Oct 23/62. Steamed until noon when a sail was seen bearing S. E. Chase put to her. Sloop with cargo of salt, calico gunpowder taken as a prize — Anchored at night in near a Florida Key in 12 ft water. Wrecker inside waiting for prey. . . .

Oct 26/62. Started at daylight for Jupiter Inlet. Arrived there at sundown. Sent launch & 2d cutter but they could not be got across the bar. . . .

Oct 27/62. Went ashore and up through Jupiter Inlet but found no vessels — Obtained 50 pumpkins 1 chicken 4 bushels salt 2 muskets & 1 chair. . . .

Oct 28/62. Captured a schooner from Nassau running for Indian River — took her in tow. Sent our launch & Lt Lawrence's launch & 2d cutter up Indian River eight miles. Inhabitants deserted their houses before our arrival. Shot a hog a pig 2 chickens, secured some oranges but no prize sloops. Under way at sundown for Key West with schooner in tow —

Monday Nov 24. Expedition up Indian River gone all day and not yet returned this 10 P.M.

Tuesday Nov 25/62. Whaleboat returned at 9 AM bringing off some captured ammunition some trifles, one sloop & one schooner captured, no cargo in them, provisions sent up to officers & men of the launch & those towing down the vessels — . . . Went down inside through a creek twenty miles to Jupiter Inlet . . . .

Nov 27/62. Schooner arrived at noon after much hardship & difficulty in towing forty miles through the Everglades . . . .

Nov 28/62 Sloop arrived at noon and with the schooner was towed behind the "Sagamore" to Cape Florida . . . .

Dec 1st 1862. Chased a schooner that came near us to enter Indian River. Prize caught by firing two shells at her — . . . 'Where from'— 'Nassau' — 'Ship Ahoy what ship is that'— ' "By George" of Nassau' 'Where bound' 'Key West' answered the conch captain with perfect sang froid manner — Took them back to Indian River. Cargo 10 bags coffee 150 lbs each 40c per pound 47 gross matches 20 sacks salt — Fishing from ship & on shore. One cow & one steer shot by Mr Fales belonging to secesh judge Russell —

Dec 4th 1862. Left the "By George" at Cape Florida starting for Key West. We then steamed up to Cape Florida and went ashore after cocoanuts — obtained about a hundred. . . .

Jan. 2d 1863. . . . Left Key West at 2 P.M. . . . 8 union refugees on board expecting to go on an expedition on Indian River —

Jan 5 1863. . . . Jupiter Inlet . . . . Captured the sloop "Avenger" inside loaded with gin dry goods soap and coffee. Gin received on board for safe keeping — . . .

Jan 8'63. . . . Captured the prize sloop "Julia" six miles north of Jupiter Inlet — Captain of her one Cummings or Matthews half drunk — Insulting language to our captain by this secessionist — He formerly owned land at Jupiter with one Smith but was ruined by a freshet forming new inlet and thus flooding his corn and potatoes six months ago. . . .

Jan 9th 1863. Started the "Avenger" & "Julia" for Key West inside the reefs. Then we went outside to the ship "Lucinda" of Bath ashore near Ajax Reef. . . . After getting the "Lucinda" out of danger we went inside the reefs to go to the relief of another ship ashore. Steamed up within a few rods and found wreckers taking off the ships tackle, the ship having bilged. . . .

Jan. 13th 1863. Steamed up to Indian Key having left Key West at daylight — Boarded a fishing schooner— . . .

Jan 14th 1863. . . . Lay at anchor all day near Indian Key—Capt. English & Mr Richardson ashore at the wreckers houses. . . . Purchased sponges as large as a half bushel for 50 cents also some 3 dozen eggs. . . .

Jan 21 1863. Bark "Gem of the Sea" at Indian River — Found refugees on shore at the sand point. Lieut. of "Gem of the Sea" Baxter went on expedition up the river absent ten days. 4 bales cotton. . . .

Jan 24/63. Boat 2d cutter went inside also the gig—Nearly swamped coming out in the breakers. One more sea would have filled the boat & would have disposed of its contents to the sharks. No desire to go ashore in any part of Florida held by the rebels —

Jan 25/63. . . . 2d cutter & gig gone inside this afternoon with Col Crane & the man who brought Mrs Hall & children down to the tent or encampment on shore at the entrance of the inlet — Living on pork and fish. When they could get no venison. . . .

Jan. 28th 1863. Sloop discovered in Jupiter Inlet at daylight. . . — Cargo of gin coffee flour and salt. Captain of the prize "Elisabeth" or "Eliza" escaped in the night up the river in a small boat with a case of gin, bag of coffee — Boat sent after him to capture the captain — Sweeden a man we had caught once before while attempting to run a blockade. He made a boast at that time saying the "Sagamore" never would catch him again.

Feb 8th 1863. . . . Boat sent in at 2 P.M. for refugees — . . . Under weigh at 4 P M for Key West— . . . Sea sickness of the refugees — Wife daughter Mr Hall & sons. Contribution by the "Sagamore" to Mr Hall and family \$50. . . .

Feb 18 1863. Steamed four miles to the mouth of Miami river— Sent gig 1st & 2d cutters Capt English in to explore the river. Anchored on grouper fishing ground — Boats went up six miles saw three men & two women living in the wilderness. Got sugar cane cocoanuts, lemons limes, potatoes & fish — . . .

Feb 19th 1863. Found ourselves two miles above Indian River when the fog cleared up — Sent a boat in & brought out Col Crane — Col Crane and party had found and destroyed 158 bags of salt and found four bales of cotton a tierce of sperm oil and light house apparatus . . . .

Feb 20 1863. Brought off five bales of sea island cotton 250 lbs each — \$1250.00 — Secured the two light house lamps pumps four or five lamps with concentric tubes two copper pails and one hundred gallons of sperm oil . . . .

March 8th 1863. At daylight saw a small sloop's mast close to shore several miles below Jupiter — Sent a boat in and captured a small sloop with four bales of cotton — Brought the Captain Patterson & one man on board — Hitched the sloop behind the schooner and proceeded on our way. . . . Boats went in to Miami — Dutchman came out after old newspapers having seen none in a long time. Mr Wood, Babson went inside see the young damsels — Brought off cocoanuts and pigs — . . .

April 2d 1863. Started at 11 A.M. for Bayport — Arrived off the town or hamlet but not in sight of land at 4 P.M. . . . . Six boats started at 7½ P.M. for Bayport — . . . Long talked of expedition will not find much so pilot Mr Ashley says —

April 4th 1863. The "Acilda" was signalled to come to the ship. Capt Lenas came on board and was ordered to proceed to Crystal River immediately. No intelligence from the expedition. . . .

April 5th. . . . Under way standing up to Crystal River where was the "Acilda". She had communicated with the expedition this morning — The boats attempting to enter at Bayport were fired upon from a battery and two rifle pits — Set a sloop load of corn on fire and made the crew prisoners . . . — Rebels set one schooner load of cotton on fire and removed the rest up the river. Our boats were forced to retire with two wounded slightly. . . . The expedition when last seen this morning was in battle array just ready to enter Crystal River. . . . The "Sagamore" under way and proceeded to Cedar Keys. . . .

April 6th. "Fort Henry" signalled the arrival of contraband at 3 P.M. and at 6 P M signalled the arrival of the boats. Mr Fleming & Mr Slamm came alongside at 10½PM. Mr Babson & crew came at 11 PM the other boats remaining with the "Fort Henry". Went into Bayport. . . . Went in sight of the port before entering the harbor for six miles. When the boats reached the fort the rebels opened fire from one rifled 12 pounder and threw a shell a mile astern of all the boats. They fired a shell which splashed in the water just astern of the "St. Lawrence's" launch throwing the water in the boat — Rebel riflemen also opened on the boats from behind cabbage trees and out of rifle pits — About 60 rebel riflemen — One of our shells exploded on the breastworks of the fort killing two rebels . . . . Had the rebels waited a little longer before they opened fire our boats could never have got out of the scrape. Rebels set fire to a large schooner loaded with cotton turpentine & rosin — 150 bales of cotton — Boats received charges of canister grape & balls . . . . Wonderful providential escape of the men and boats on backing out of the scrape. They went up to Crystal River entrance where Acting Master Stearns was killed . . . . Went up to Macassa Bay — captured a sloop load of corn — threw over the corn cutting the bags and set the sloop on fire and burned her. Captured two prisoners on her and then shortly after let them go again. Yulee & Chamberlain keep soldiers one hundred of them —

April 9th 1863. Went ashore at Sea Horse Key. Saw Rebel battery rifle pits and magazine deserted. Went into Light House . . . .

April 16th 1863. [In Key West] . . . . Arrival of "Matanzas" with a Brigadier General on board. . . . .

April 17th. "Matanzas" had 200 officers for negro regiments in New Orleans— . . . .

April 26. Captured the schooner "New Year" with 56 bales cotton and 9 barrels of turpentine — We flew the British ensign though the captain of "New Year" was well aware that we were an Amer. gunboat. . . .

May 23d. . . . Sighted the familiar land of Florida viz a long sand bank and a few scraggy trees in the rear. . . .

June 1st 1863. . . . Anchored down between the two keys at the mouth of Charlotte Harbor. At sundown musquitos began to come off from the shore in great numbers. At 8 P.M. it become intolerable below deck and almost so on deck — Turned in at 12 midnight — Put close head net over and laid in one position and perspiring with sheet and comforter on which were to

keep off the mosquitoes. None got through the head net though troublesome to lay in one position — Did not get to sleep until 3 A.M. Officers slapping and drawing corks and annoying with lights. Alcohol mosquito bars of no avail. . . . Dilapidated looking officers & men next morning. The pests were equal in number to those in Tampa Bay last July.

June 22d. . . . Misquitos very plentiful in the evening, not a moment's peace on deck or below. Slapping & killing them and finally retreating under the mosquito bars. Got under head net and sweat it out with a sheet & coverlid over me. Preferable to mosquito bites, sweating is.

June 25th, 1863. . . . Steamed on . . . course south for another sail . . . . Fired a parrott shell and also a second one . . . — The stranger hoisted the English colors and hove to . . . — Proved to be a prize a large schooner of forty tons containing 150 bales of cotton, 50 of which was sea island also forty barrels of turpentine — Worth probably \$50,000. Brought the seven prisoners on board the "Sagamore" . . . "Frolic" had started from Crystal River for Havana and was trying to make her way back when captured. . . .

June 26th. Searching the prize crew's clothes — Found a thousand dollars worth of gold doubloons spanish — . . .

July 18th. At sunrise at Cape Florida found the ship "Joseph Meigs" ashore on the reef near the Beacon letter P. Sent 2d cutter to her . . . . Ship on her beam ends — slooping masts angle of 45 degrees — loaded with army stores ice hay &c. Got a barrel of potatoes & ice. Wreckers at work on her. Went ashore day before yesterday. Capt says if another ship nearby had not seen him strike he would also have been on the reef. . . . 2 boats went ashore and up the river to Miami — Fletchers home — Burned a starch mill belonging to a rebel Lewis — Brought off cocoanuts — about a cart load — also squashes — ½ barrel of starch resembling arrowroot; . . . also side saddle — crockery, books lead pipe &c &c &c . . . Pleasant weather mild equable climate and good health. Who wouldn't be content here ?

July 22d 1863. . . . Found three women three children and seven men all refugees on board the "Pursuit" — Good looking women and children something uncommon in the state of Florida so far as we have seen it. . . .

July 24, 1863. Sighted Cape Canaveral Light House at daylight. . . . Steamed ten miles off to the 'Haulover' — went within three hundred yards of shore. Sent 2d cutter in. . . searched along shore and found eleven barrels

of turpentine ready to be shipped. Barrels of 40 gallons each worth four dollars each 40 X 11 = 440 gallons X \$4 = \$1760.00 . . . . Better than getting fired on and run the risk of finding empty schooners. . . .

July 25th. . . . Mr. Carlisle & Capt Burgess on Board. Said the steamer "Oleander" 306 tons . . . would participate in the attack on Smyrna if Capt English said so. Captain English agreed. All hands up anchor at midnight. Under way for Mosquito Inlet.

July 26th. No service today. Preparations being made on the "Sagamore", side wheel steamer "Oleander", Mortar schooner "Para" and schooner "Beauregard" for a Sunday expedition up to Smyrna. Boats all called away at 10 A.M. in order to be prepared. I was appointed to go on the "Beauregard." Only doctor down here — If I am wounded we will be a helpless party. . . . Five boats in tow os steamer "Oleander" also the schooner "Beauregard". Went over bar and thumped heavily almost stuck. . . . Went up a little beyond the first houses on the outside bluff about a mile and a half in when the "Beauregard" finally grounded and it was concluded to leave her. Surrounded by marsh and bluffs. Steamer went up 800 yards farther to the large white hotel house and began to shell rapidly. . . . "Oleander" shelling all day — Mosquitos numerous and towards night became with the sand flies exceedingly troublesome — Firing into the houses, woods, swamps and everywhere. Wasteful use of ammunition —. . . Shells fired during the evening — flash-smoke-whining noise and explosion. Pacing deck tormented by mosquitos till 11½ P M Handkerchief over face. Ought to have a wire mask and leather gloves. . . . Laid down in cabin by candle light and wrapped overcoat over head but no go but for a short time. Wrapped navy blankets around head but did not succeed in keeping off pests. Went on deck but did not sleep in a chair or in any other way— . . .

July 27th. . . . Glad to see the break of morning and be relieved of our tormentors. Arrival of steamer from the "Sagamore" with two guns and ammunition. . . . Shot a horse and set fire to the thatched buildings on the bluff. burned great black smoke and was soon consumed. Roast pig from shore — Boats left "Oleander" at 2½ AM and went up the river. Got a sloop which got aground and had to wait for the afternoon tide. . . . Saw the gig fired on by the three or four rebels near the three stone pillars. Immediately came back when we recommenced shelling. Long House gutted 30 or 40 shots. Expended 280 shells wastefully. Volunteer party to set fire to the houses. Set the houses on fire after shelling to cover the advance and the twenty sailors got parts of the piano, chairs, mirrors, tables, hens, pigs, papers &c when

they were fired upon by two or three rebels just as they were crossing the creek. Sailors — down went everything and run. No man hurt in this expedition. Sloop got down at high tide, “Beauregard” got off, schooner prize got under way and with the boats proceeded down the river, the expedition being completed without a man being injured so no need of a doctor. . . . Arrived aboard ship at sundown felt refreshed to sniff the ocean air fresh and pure. Don’t wonder men have fevers in such a comfortless place as this. Enough to make anyone sick. Greatest punishment for a blockade runner is to take his vessel and put him ashore in the state of Florida — Swamps mosquitos and sand fleas. . . .

August 9th. . . . Our five prizes in tow on our way for Cape Florida  
. . . .

August 10th. Arrived at entrance to river leading to Miami at 10 A.M. Capt English and Richardson went in and got two barrels of limes,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel of alligator pears — Mr Richardson bought one barrel and half a dozen boxes of coonte at 6 cents the pound for a speculation in Key West where it will sell for 15 cents. . . .

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Following the entry of August 10, Dr. Scofield was detached from duty and returned to his Connecticut home for a time. He later rejoined the East Coast Blockading Squadron. But on his second tour of duty in Florida he was assigned to one of the supply ships. He continued to add a few notes to his journal each day, but few of these entries are pertinent to the purposes of this paper and none have been included.