

Bark Lanta Packet's Log Book

Thursday October 27th 1857

Begins with moderate breeze and fair weather employed in getting ready for sea at 8 1/2 P.M. discovered the ship to be on fire in the fore hold on the starboard side but with a few buckets of water extinguished it and set a watch over the hold put 5 men in irons on suspicion (previous to the occurrence in the fore part sundown put Taylor Hopkins in irons) their names were John Smith Joseph Miller George A. Mattie ^{George A. King} and William Tanner. Middle part quiet latter part strong gale weather at 10 P.M. let go the starboard anchor under foot

Wednesday October 28th

Begins with strong gale weather employed in harbour let at sundown more moderate hove up the starboard anchor and cast it and overhauled a range of masts before took William Tanner out of irons after finding that he was not guilty latter part at 6 P.M. took our anchor and went to sea with the wind at the S.E. stowed the anchors and unbent the cables

Lat by Oct 18. 50 S. Long by Oct 08. 40 W.

Thursday October 29th

Begins with strong breeze and clear weather from the S.E. ship heading to the S.S.W. employed in ship's day took Joseph Miller out of irons after being convinced that he was not a party concerned in the transaction of the fire middle part put Henry Williams on irons on suspicion of setting the ship on fire on the 26th of October and at about 1 P.M. he

made a confession that he and 2 others of the crew did come to set the ship on fire and drew lots for it to see who should fire the pile and it fell on George A. Mattie and declined and then the other two drew lots and it fell on George Chamberlain and he fired the pile so put him in irons latter part employed in ship's day

Lat by Oct 16. 30 S. Long by Oct 0. 18 W.

Friday October 30th

Begins with strong breeze and haze weather from the S.E. ship heading to the S.S.W. employed in various jobs a pertained to see if Capt. Taylor in confinement George A. Mattie George A. King Henry Williams John Smith & Joseph Miller on suspicion of having been confederate in an attempt to destroy this Bark Lanta Packet on the 26th of the present month after a partial examination found Joseph Miller and George A. King innocent of any knowledge of the matter and they were immediately liberated at 2.30 P.M. Henry Williams sent for the Captain as he wished to see him very much the Capt went immediately to him in the storeroom where he was confined and asked his wish he then said that he was one of three persons who had planned to set fire to the ship himself Henry Williams George A. Mattie and Henry Chamberlain that they drew lots the lot fell on Mattie and he refused then he the sage Williams drew lots with Chamberlain that the lot fell upon Chamberlain that he the sage Henry Williams agreed the fore hatch for Chamberlain to descend and fire the pile