Slavery Submerged: Archaeology of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in the Florida Keys

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IN MEMORY AND RECOGNITION OF THE COURAGE, PAIN AND SUFFERING OF ENSLAVED AFRICAN PEOPLE.

"SPEAK HER NAME AND GENTLY TOUCH THE SOULS OF OUR ANCESTORS."

Dedicated November 15, 1992
The British government schr. Nimble, which chased the Spanish slave vessel ashore at Carysfort Reef, on arriving at Key West, demanded the slaves brought there by the wrecking sloop Surprise, but the Collector refused to give them up until he could be instructed on the subject by our government, and the Nimble sailed for Havana without them about the 28th ult. We understand that a good deal of excitement was produced at Key West by the correspondence which took place between the British commander and the Collector. When the Spanish crew cables of the wreck 300 of the slave fired upon by the rudder, they were $10,000 worth slave brig, was possession of by Spanish crew having forcible possession, carried her to Santa Cruz, in the island of Cuba, where they landed and the Thorn permitted to depart. She arrived here on the 24th inst. They placed also 146 slaves on board the American smack Florida, and she will also by force to Santa Cruz, and the spasm also returned here on the 24th instant. The British officer succeeded in securing 120 slaves, 1 slave dead, and brought them here to the sloop Surprise where they are raised by the collector. The armament and sails, and a few packages of dry goods from the Guerrero, will be sold here in a few days. The Nimble lost her false keel and rudder, but is perfectly tight. She threw her guns and shot them heated, and substituting the Guerrerio's rudder for her own, came in here on the 24th where she still is, settling the claims for salvage, about which there seems some difficulty.

We have no American, nor Mexican men of war in port, nor any property from wrecks, which are now quite out of fashion. The English ship James Mitchell, (now the American ship Florida), capt. Church, is aloft, and cleared for New Orleans, to sail in a few days. She has cost her purchasers, P. C. Greene & Co., about $7,000 and is worth, with all her disadvantages of paper, about $15,000.

Key West continues healthy, but are dull as idleness can make us.

[Key West, if not placed under better regulations than it has heretofore been, had better be shovelled into the sea. We fear that it will prove an unprofitable and voidous part of the territory of the United States.]

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Africans at Key West.

Message from the President of the United States, relative to the disposition of the Africans landed at Key West from a stranded Spanish vessel.

April 30, 1824.

Read, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Washington:

[printed by order of Senate]

1824.
Shipped the PCable 9 Cents to in 2 1/2 yrs. Carry port 1 1/2 miles. S&6% N Black Paraskreek S%8.
CLYSTÈRES

Les instruments pour les laveurs.

Hippocrates recommandait le lavement dans les nombreuses affections, et l’on trouve diverses formules de laveurs pour diverses affections, disants, enflammés, etc.
Figure 50.
Lip thickness: considerably thicker than glass in neck
Lip formation: added glass, location not always clear
Lip shape: down-tooled
String rim shape: down-tooled
Dated examples: 1819, 1827, 1834, 1836, 1840
Eau de Cologne
De Jean Marie Farina,
ancien distillateur à Cologne

[Text in French, not translated]
What can we say?

- The wreck was a sailing ship.
- Artifact collection dates to early 19th Century.
- The ship was a total loss — essential gear on bottom.
- Copper sheeting.
- 12 lb. cannon shot, but no cannons.
- No anchors.
- Musket shot.
- Mix of cultures.
- Nothing definitive found (i.e. no name).
- Additional wreckage is buried and unseen.
Chapter Fourteen

The Ivory Wreck

The hundreds of cannon that throughout the centuries have been strewn on the reefs of the Florida Keys are no one’s secret. They have been found, lost, forgotten, and refound by generation after generation of fishermen. Occasionally a few cannon have been raised and logged ashore, but it was not until Florida waters were invaded by skin-divers that the wrecks which the cannon guarded were sought out and explored.

Driving up the Overseas Highway with our six skin-divers bumping along happily in the back of a rented truck, we thought we were on our way from Key West to Key Largo to search for wrecks. We had returned from our training trip in the Tortugas and now we planned to investigate that anchor on the Elbow which a year before had nearly made us lose our boat. We had not reckoned on the long arm of coincidence, on the whims of hurricanes, or on the magnetism of Bill Thompson’s personality.

Bill and his wife Ethel operated the cool and attractive tourist cottages in Marathon where we stopped for the night. Ingenious and hospitable, they had successfully weathered hurricanes and all the vicissitudes of pioneering on the Keys. When we told Bill our plans for treasure hunting at Key Largo he looked surprised.

“Why go to Key Largo?” he asked. “There should be plenty
Web Resources:

Artifact and document database:
floridaslavetradecenter.org

3-D Model Gallery:
sketchfab.com/mfmaritimemuseum