

UNIT NUMBER:

RECOVERY

ORBIT (1845-1852)

AREA OF SERVICE: PACIFIC NORTHWEST

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Brigantine

Construction:

Designer and builder: Built in Dorchester County, State of Maryland in 1845 (A.11/63 fo. 31)

Dimensions:

Draft:

Number of passengers: Number of crew:

Plans:

Power:

Registered:

Speed:

Tonnage: 154 47/95 T



HISTORY:

- 1852, January Purchased by HBC agent in Honolulu for £520 (\$2,500.00) including a cargo of spars, squared timber & other produce and made seaworthy by coppering (A.11/63 fo. 31 & 19 November; D.7/1 fo. 250-250d)
- 1852, March Sent to Queen Charlotte Islands with a party of 5 officers and 42 men under Chief Trader John F. Kennedy to hunt for gold (A.11/73 fo. 332d)
- 1854-1855 Made voyages to Hawaii with full cargoes which included 18,000 feet of lumber and 421,000 shingles (W. Kaye Lamb, pp. 51-52; Spoehr).
- 1857, 19 May Arrived at Victoria from the Sandwich Islands with a small quantity of sugar and molasses and was to be sent back the end of the month with a mixed cargo (B.226/b/13 fo. 114)
- 1858, July Fitted up as a guard ship to be stationed in the Fraser River, manned by a draft of 30 officers and men from the H.M.S. Satellite, to be charged to the public revenue, in order to control the issuing of gold licences to the miners (B.226/b/15 fo. 69d, 84; B.226/b/16 fo. 86d)
- 1859, 25 May Sold to the Government but not yet paid for (A.11/77 fo. 242d)
- 1859, 6 December Mr. Lennard of Lennard & Green of Portland Oregon had recently purchased the brig from the Colony and requested that the Bill of Sale show it as *Orbit* to "facilitate his arrangements with the Collector of Customs". She operated in the Sandwich Island and China trade under Capt. Erskine (B.226/b/18 fos. 15-15d)

MASTERS:

- 1852 William Mitchell, Master; Charles E. Stuart, Supercargo; 1st Mate Harry Bailey Ella; 2nd Mate Robert W. Ellis (B.239/k/3 p. 39)
- 1853, 1854 William Mitchell, Master; Mate Robert W. Ellis (B.239/k/3 p. 60, 84)
- 1855-1858 William Mitchell, Master (Spoehr, p. 91)

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- W. Kaye Lamb, "Early Lumbering on Vancouver Island" *BCHQ* Vol. II No. 1 (Jan. 1938) pp. 51-52.
- Alexander Spoehr, "A 19th Century Chapter in Hawaii's Maritime History: Hudson's Bay Company Merchant Shipping 1829-1859", *The Hawaiian Journal of History*, Vol. 22 (1988)

PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTARY ART:

REFERENCES:

- A.11/63 fo. 31 London Inward Correspondence, 1853-1861
- A.11/73 fo. 332d London Inward Correspondence, 1851-1852
- A.11/77 fo. 242d London Inward Correspondence, 1859-1860
- B.226/b/15 fos. 69d, 84 Correspondence Books, 1853-1863
- B.226/b/16 fo. 86d Correspondence Books, 1853-1863
- B.226/b/18 fos. 15-15d Correspondence Books, 1853-1863
- Search File: "Ships - Recovery"

MICROFILM REELS:

- (158)
- (164)
- (173)
- (1M235)
- (1M235)
- (1M235)

Filename: Recovery JHB 11/95 ; April/99/mhd