

A RECORD OF VANISHED VESSELS

The Ships of the Famous "California Fleet" of the '50s and '60s—Their Names, Where and When Built and Their Final Ends

By F. C. MATTHEWS

WHO, having any connection with maritime matters, has not frequently heard such expressions as these: "Yes, I remember the ship well; wonder what became of her?"; "She was a beauty and a flyer; so-and-so came out in her one trip; what happened to her? Do you know?" And how often has the interrogated person been able to give a satisfactory reply? So far as we have been able to ascertain after considerable investigation, no attempt has been heretofore made to compile anything pretending to be a complete list or table of the vessels that comprised what was known the world over as the California Fleet and particularly as to what ultimately became of them. Practically all of the clipper ships built in the United States were members of

this fleet and the greater number of vessels in the following list were of either clipper or semi-clipper model. Inasmuch as no ships of this description were built after the 50's and but few ships of any type for this particular trade were launched during the 60's, it has been considered advisable to limit our table to such vessels as were built not later than the year 1860. Some of those named will be recognized as having operated well into the 70's, a few even into the 80's. No effort has been spared to obtain authentic information, hearsay reports not being used until confirmed, and it is believed that the table will be found worth preserving in maritime scrap-books as a matter of historical interest.

The "California Fleet"—Part I

Name	Tons	Built at	Year	Remarks
A. M. Lawrence.....	593	Baltimore	1850	As Br. bk. Wellington condemned and sold at Apia, April, 1878.
Adelaide.....	1693	New York	1854	As Br. sh. of Liverpool lost about 1875.
Alarm.....	1184	Boston	1856	Akyab-Singapore; abandoned, sinking, after striking reef, 1863.
Alboni.....	917	Mystic	1852	Sold 1862, becoming German sh. Elise Ruger.
Alert.....	764	Damariscotta	1851	Sold at Calcutta, 1857.
Alexander.....	592	Medford	1852	As Br. sh. wkcd. in Sts. of Rhio on voy. Liver'l-Singapore, 1863.
Andrew Jackson.....	1679	Mystic	1855	As Br. sh. wrecked in Straits of Gaspar, December, 1868.
Anglo Saxon.....	868	Rockland, Me.	1853	Liver'l-N. Y.; captured by Florida and burned, August, 1863.
Antelope.....	1187	Williamsburg, L.I.	1852	Sold 1863, becoming Br. sh., of Cape Town.
Antelope.....	587	Medford	1851	Bangkok-Hongkong; lost on Paracels Reef, August, 1858.
Aramingo.....	716	New York	1851	Sold 1863, becoming German sh. Matador.
Archer.....	905	Somerset	1852	As American bark, New York-Havre, found'd. February, 1880.
Architect.....	520	Baltimore	1847	Reported lost about 1856.
Arey.....	1129	Frankfort, Me.	1856	Sold 1863; renamed Nautilus, of New York.
Argonaut.....	575	Medford	1849	Sold 1864 and went under Swedish flag.
Asa Eldredge.....	1178	Boston	1856	Burned at Valparaiso 1879; sold; rep'd, became Br. sh. Norfolk.
Aspasia.....	632	Mystic	1856	Sold at London, 1863; reported lost prior to 1870.
Asterion.....	1135	Medford	1854	Lost on reef at Bakers Is. with her guano cargo, Sept., 1863.
Atalanta.....	1288	Baltimore	1852	Sold 1856, becoming Spanish ship Marguerita.
Atalanta.....	867	Amesbury, Mass.	1850	As coasting-bark, foundered off Cape Flattery, December, 1890.
Atmosphere.....	1485	Mystic	1856	Havre-Liverpool, 1871; missing.
Audubon.....	582	Fairhaven, Mass.	1846	Singapore for N. Y., via Batavia; burned at Batavia, 1859.
Audubon.....	900	Chelsea	1859	From San Francisco via Hongkong; wrecked near Manila, 1868.
Aurora.....	1396	Chelsea	1853	Sold 1863 and went under British flag.
B. F. Hoxie.....	1387	Mystic	1855	Mazatlan-Falmouth; capt'd by Florida and burned, June, 1863.
Bald Eagle.....	1708	Boston	1852	Hongkong-San Francisco, October, 1861; missing.
Barreda Brothers.....	770	Boston	1854	Sold 1862, becoming British sh. Earl Canning, of Liverpool.
Belle of the Sea.....	1255	Marblehead	1857	Sold 1864, becoming British sh. Strathpeffer.
Belle of the West.....	936	Dennis, Mass.	1853	As Fiery Cross, of Calcutta, foundered in Bay of Bengal, 1868.
Belvedere.....	1321	Boston	1857	As coasting bark, foundered off Cape Flattery, December, 1886.
Benjamin Howard.....	650	Camden, Me.	1851	Sold 1855, becoming Danish sh.; later went under British flag.
Beverly.....	676	Medford	1852	Sold 1863; renamed Argonaut, of Boston; later bec. Br. ship.
Black Hawk.....	1108	New York	1857	Sold about 1884, going under German flag.
Black Prince.....	1050	Newburyport	1854	San Francisco-Boston; found'd in No. Atlantic, February, 1865.
Black Sea.....	792	Greenport, L. I.	1855	Sold 1862, becoming British sh. Jupiter, of London.
Black Warrior.....	1828	Damariscotta	1853	Sold 1862, becoming British sh. City of Melbourne.
Bonita.....	1127	Boston	1853	Condemned at Algoa Bay, 1857.
Boston Light.....	1164	Boston	1853	Sold 1862, becoming British sh. Tulja, of Bombay.
Bostonian.....	1100	Boston	1854	New York-London; lost on Island of Guernsey, January, 1861.
Brewster.....	985	Newburyport	1855	Sold 1877, becoming Norwegian sh. Fama.
Buena Vista.....	547	Newbury, Mass.	1848	Sold 1877, becoming Norwegian sh. Fama.
Caricoa.....	502	Kensington, Pa.	1851	As coasting bark, broken up at San Francisco.
Caroline Read.....	686	Swansea, Mass.	1848	Sold 1863, going under Italian flag.
Carrier Dove.....	1694	Baltimore	1855	As coasting bark, broken up at San Francisco.
Carrier Pigeon.....	1370	Bath	1852	Liverpool-Tybee, Phila. and S. F.; lost at Tybee, March, 1876.
Celestial.....	860	New York	1850	Boston-S. F.; lost June, 1853, at (since called) Pigeon Pt., Cal.
Celestial Empire.....	1630	Boston	1852	Sold 1858, going under Spanish flag.
				Bremen-N. Y.; abandoned in sinking condition, February, 1878.

