

# Cruise of the Alaska.

The U. S. Steamer Alaska (2<sup>nd</sup> rate) 1170 tons new measurement went into Commission at Charleston Navy Yard Boston Mass. December 7<sup>th</sup> 1869. Commander Homer G. Blake Commanding. Lieut. Commander John Rowland Executive Officer. Lieut. Commander Colby M. Chester Navigator. Lieut. Alfred L. Snow. Ensigns Brown. Chippis. Horse. Wadham. Paymaster Frank Clark. Surgeon S. H. Clark. Assistant Surgeon S. W. Latta. 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Engineer W. H. King (in charge). 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Engineer Frank Cooper. 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. of Marines James B. Bruce. Mate S. Sullivan. Albert Callender. W. H. Jennings. Jesse W. Foster. Paymaster Clerk D. D. Brinner. Captain Clerk J. Reynolds. Gunner George House. Boatswain W. J. Bond. Sailmaker W. H. Howell. Soly Carpenter B. Murphy. Master at Arms James Cravat. Yeoman Ed. Hallstadt. Apothecary Bellmona. Paymaster Yeoman Edward G. Cronin. The Alaska has 6 9<sup>in</sup> Broadside guns 1 11<sup>in</sup> Midship Pivot Gun 1 80<sup>th</sup> Rifle on the Forecastle. 2 20<sup>th</sup> Rifled Howitzers on the Poop and 2 17<sup>th</sup> Boat Howitzers.

Dec 27<sup>th</sup> 1869 The Marine guard Consisting of 1 Lieut. 1 Ordly Sergt 1 Sergt 2 Corp 2 Music and 30 Privats came on board at 2.30 P.M. and received their hammocks. The crew came on board the same evening. There is no Ship Cook the Ship galley is not in cooking order. the consequence is we have nothing to eat.

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1870 ed new ship going into commission is a sight. Between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 300 men pushed together in a place not large enough for half that number. nobody knows where he belongs. Our Marine Officer wants every thing done in Barracks style. he punishes the slightest offences with extra duty. we leave to day for the Compass grounds to get Compasses adjusted

Jan 6<sup>th</sup> Returned to the Navy Yard to get the galley repaired and to take 4 additional guns on board.

Jan 8<sup>th</sup> Paymaster Clark detached and Paymaster Torbert with Clerk Wright and Witer Barnholdt joined  
Jan 11<sup>th</sup> Took the additional 4 guns on board.  
.. 18<sup>th</sup> We started for our trial trip at 9 A.M.  
.. 19<sup>th</sup> Fire broke out on the berth deck at about 10 A.M. The fire broke out between the boiler and the