

The Minquas Cannon



National Registry of Surviving Cannons
12 pound, Bronze Dahlgren Boat Howitzer, Heavy
United States Navy Yard Foundry, Washington D.C
Reg. 39, Inspector: John A Dahlgren, FDY#CA Year: 1855
Weight: 761

Service: USS Stonewall, Pilot Tender, East Gulf Coast Squadron

The first Stonewall was a Southern pilot boat captured by Union screw gunboat Tahoma on, or sometime shortly before, February 24, 1863. She was placed in service as a tender to Tahoma pending legal proceedings against her at Key West. She was condemned there and formally purchased by the Navy from the Key West prize court on July 24, 1863. She operated between Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor, Florida for over 1 1/2 years, serving as a tender for the various Union warships assigned in turn to Tampa Bay. The highlight of her career came on January 24, 1864 when she captured Southern sloop Josephine of Tampa bound for Havana with seven bales of cotton.

In October 1864, Stonewall was transferred to blockade duty, still as a tender, between St. Marks and Cedar Keys, Florida, and she served in that area through the end of the Civil War. She was inactivated in late May 1865 and was sold at auction at Key West on June 28 1865 to I. Silvery.

Your donation will also fund a plaque at the Veterans' Memorial honoring Downingtown native Pinkerton Vaughn (1841-1866). Pinkerton Vaughn was a Sergeant in the United States Marines Corps who received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during the American Civil War. He served aboard the U.S.S. Mississippi during its abandonment. He stayed on ship till all the crew was safely ashore. And gave his commander invaluable assistance. He remained with the ship until it was fired so it wouldn't fall into enemy hands. He stayed through heavy shell fire until he was ordered to save himself anyway he saw fit.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

If you would like to donate to the Cannon Restoration Fund, please fill out the form below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Make checks payable to Borough of Downingtown and mail form and payment to:

Borough of Downingtown Historic Commission
4 W. Lancaster Avenue
Downingtown, PA 19335

For more info, email <mailto:dtownhistoric@gmail.com>