



Woodbury, 1837

a.k.a. *Levi Woodbury*

Levi Woodbury (1798-1851)

Levi Woodbury was appointed to be the 13th Secretary of the Treasury by President Andrew Jackson in 1834. His term in office began on 1 July 1834. He continued in office under President Martin Van Buren. His term in office ended on 3 March 1841.

Builder: L.H. Duncan, Baltimore, Maryland

Length:

Beam:

Draft:

Displacement: 120-tons

Rig: Schooner

Commissioned: 1837

Decommissioned: 1847

Disposition: Sold

Complement: 22

Armament: 4 x 12-pdrs., 1 x 6-pdr.

Cutter History:

Woodbury was a 120-ton schooner built by L. H. Duncan of Baltimore, Maryland at a cost of \$11,250. Revenue Captain H. D. Hunter was designated to superintend her construction. She was launched on 27 March 1837.

By 1845, she was manned by a crew of 15 men, four boys, and three officers and was armed with four 12-pounders and one 6-pounder. One Revenue officer noted that she was ". . . the dullest sailer I was ever confined to. . ."

She was ordered to New Orleans, Louisiana, and transported Army officers from Pensacola, Florida to Sabine, Texas, prior to arriving at New Orleans. On 28 March 1838 she was ordered to protect U.S. vessels from Mexican privateers. She was then ordered to cooperate with naval forces "in connection with the difficulties between Texas and Mexico."

On 1 October 1838 she was placed under Naval orders and transported dispatches to Mexico and delivered Commodore Alexander J. Dallas, USN, to Pensacola. She was detained by a French naval warship in 1838. During their detainment, the crew witnessed the French naval bombardment of the Castle of St. Juan de Uloa and that castle's subsequent surrender. She was released by the French and got underway for New Orleans on 29 November 1838. The illegal detainment caused a diplomatic incident.

After refitting at New Orleans, she resumed her patrols in the Gulf of Mexico. She also continued to run dispatches during the war with Mexico.

Woodbury was sold at auction by Van Winkle & Kobbe, New York for \$500 on 1 June 1847, along with her sister cutter *Van Buren*.

Sources:

William R. Wells, II, GMCM, USCG (Ret.). Bill Wells is a long-time researcher and historian of the history of the Coast Guard and the Revenue Cutter Service. Most of the information posted above, including details of the cutters history, armament and list of commanding officers, came from his research and reference work.

Donald Canney. *U.S. Coast Guard and Revenue Cutters, 1790-1935*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1995.

U.S. Coast Guard. *Record of Movements: Vessels of the United States Coast Guard: 1790 - December 31, 1933*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1934; 1989 (reprint).
