



Vigilant, 1843

On the alert: watchful.

Builder: William Webb & E., Curis, New York

Length: 56' (bp)

Beam: 18' 5"

Draft: 4'

Displacement: 43 tons

Rig: Schooner

Commissioned: 1843

Decommissioned: N/A

Disposition: Lost at sea, 1844

Complement: Six men and a cook

Armament: 2 brass 4-pdrs (from RC Ewing, 2 June 1843); from items reserved out of the decommissioned RC Jefferson: 5 muskets, 12 pistols, 5 cutlasses, 5 boarding pikes.

History:

Vigilant entered service in 1843 but was lost in a hurricane off Key West in October, 1844. Canney notes that there is some question as to her "ownership" and some records indicate that she was "under an inspector" at the time of her loss.

Wells reports that "Vigilant was commanded by Inspector of Customs, W. B. G. Taylor, a native North Carolinian. He was the first mate aboard RC Louisiana at the capture of *Le Brave* in 1819. He was also the one who turned in Captain Loomis for stealing gold coins and jewelry from the recaptured merchant vessel. Taylor and the other officers were given some of the 'doubloons' to remain quiet. The Collector at New Orleans noted Taylor turned in some of the coins but

suspected not all he got. Taylor also retained his commission in the U.S. Navy and resigned it [in] 1826.”

Sources:

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

William R. Wells, II, USCG (Ret.)

U.S. Coast Guard. *Record of Movements: Vessels of the United States Coast Guard, 1790-December 31, 1933*. Washington, DC: GPO, 1934. Reprinted, 1989.

