

PLUGGED IN

FUN FOR KIDS

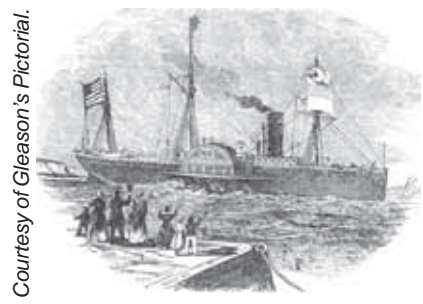
A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE MUSEUM EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND ART.

This Month's Theme: Shipwrecks

SHIPWRECKED OFF SANTA BARBARA!

By Robert Schwemmer, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Santa Barbara Maritime Museum

Did you know that just 20 miles from the city of Santa Barbara, there were once more than 450 shipwreck survivors stranded on Middle Anacapa Island? Before they were rescued, these cast-



Courtesy of Gleason's Pictorial.

Winfield Scott

aways were forced to live on the beach for eight days during the winter month of December. Some considered the island to be not much more than a rock in the Pacific! This shipwreck occurred in 1853 during the California Gold Rush, when Santa Barbara was only a small town. The sidewheel steamer,

Winfield Scott was heading southbound, en-route from San Francisco to Panama, when it ran aground in the fog on Anacapa Island. This famous sidewheel steamer is named after an American general of the Mexican-American War.

WHO WERE THE SURVIVORS?

The ship's cargo, destined for the East Coast, included mail and gold bullion from the mines of California's Mother Lode. One passenger, Mr. Asa Cyrus Call, recalls the events leading up to the loss. "I embarked on the steamer *Winfield Scott* last Thursday and at 12 o'clock we left Valley's Street Wharf for Panama. We had fine weather till Friday evening, when it became foggy."



Asa Cyrus Call

Courtesy of the John Call family.

Passenger Edward Bosqui recalls what happened next:

"At midnight I was suddenly awakened from a sound sleep by a terrible jar and crashing of timbers. Tumbling out of my berth, I was confronted by the horror-stricken visage of my toothless and baldheaded stateroom companion, who had no time to secure his wig and false teeth and was groping about to find them. Leaving him paralyzed with fear, I hurried out on deck, where my attention was fixed on a wall of towering cliffs, the tops of which were hidden by the fog and darkness and appeared about to fall and crush us. All around was the loud booming of angry breakers surging about invisible rocks."

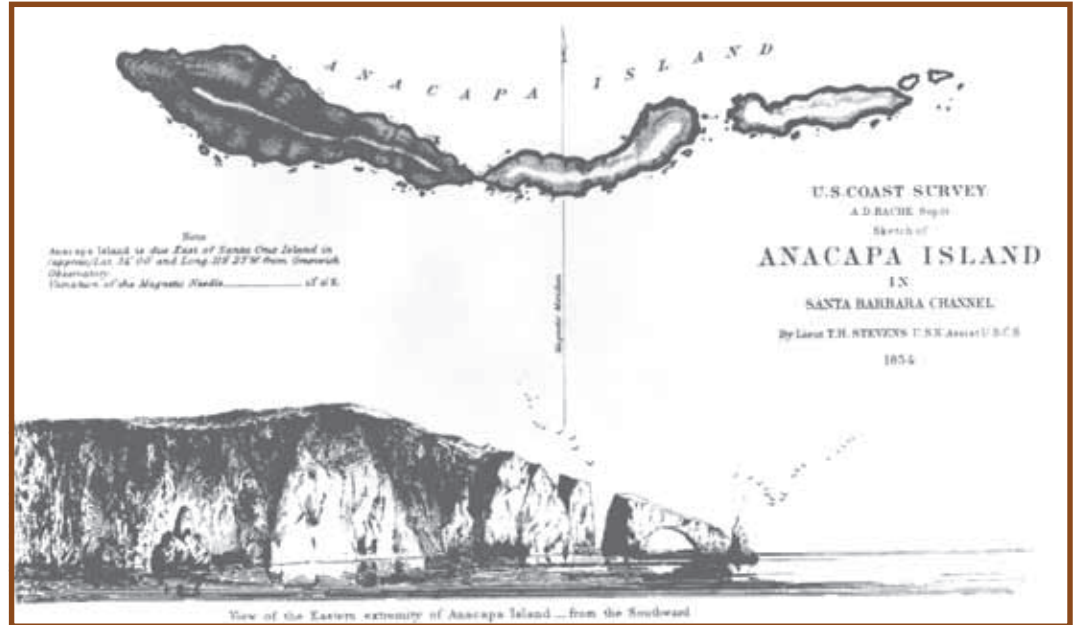
Fortunately, everyone on the *Winfield Scott* survived the stranding. The passengers and crewmembers were later picked up by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's steamer, *California*. Today, the submerged remains of the *Winfield Scott* and over a hundred other shipwrecks lay on the beaches and seafloor of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Channel Islands National Park. The sanctuary and park include the five northern islands of Santa Barbara, Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel. These two agencies protect these historic shipwrecks for present and future generations to visit and enjoy.

DIVING BACK INTO HISTORY

Archaeologist and sport divers frequently visit the shipwreck sites. Shipwrecks are like time capsules, teaching us about the people who once worked and traveled on these ships long ago. Scientists and historians have the chance to learn more about historic ship building techniques, as well as the types of cargoes onboard and the many places these ships once visited. These underwater sites are like photographic snapshots of past historical events, frozen in time. Shipwrecks also act as artificial reefs, providing homes and feeding grounds for many species of marine life.

Diver and archaeologist Mark Norder inspects the wooden hull remains of the *Winfield Scott*.

Photo courtesy of Robert Schwemmer.



James Whistler Engraving of Anacapa Island

Photo courtesy of Robert Schwemmer.

Santa Barbara Maritime Museum

For those of you who want to learn more about the historical events and people associated with our Central Coast shipwrecks (but don't want to get wet), the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum is a great place to begin your research. Historic artifacts from shipwrecks and the stories of shipwrecked survivors are available for you to discover. In a few months, more exhibits featuring shipwrecks will be unveiled, including first-person accounts from *Winfield Scott* survivors. Among the new shipwreck exhibits to come, there will also be an exciting interactive display featuring an underwater diorama of the shipwreck *Cuba*.



Viewing the shipwreck exhibit at the Maritime Museum.

Courtesy of Julie Campbell.



Now You Are The Historian – What Have You Learned From the Historic Record?

Paddlewheel Puzzle by Robert Schwemmer, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Santa Barbara Maritime Museum and Mike Fujii, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum

Across

8. What famous sidewheel steamer is named after the American general of the Mexican-American War?

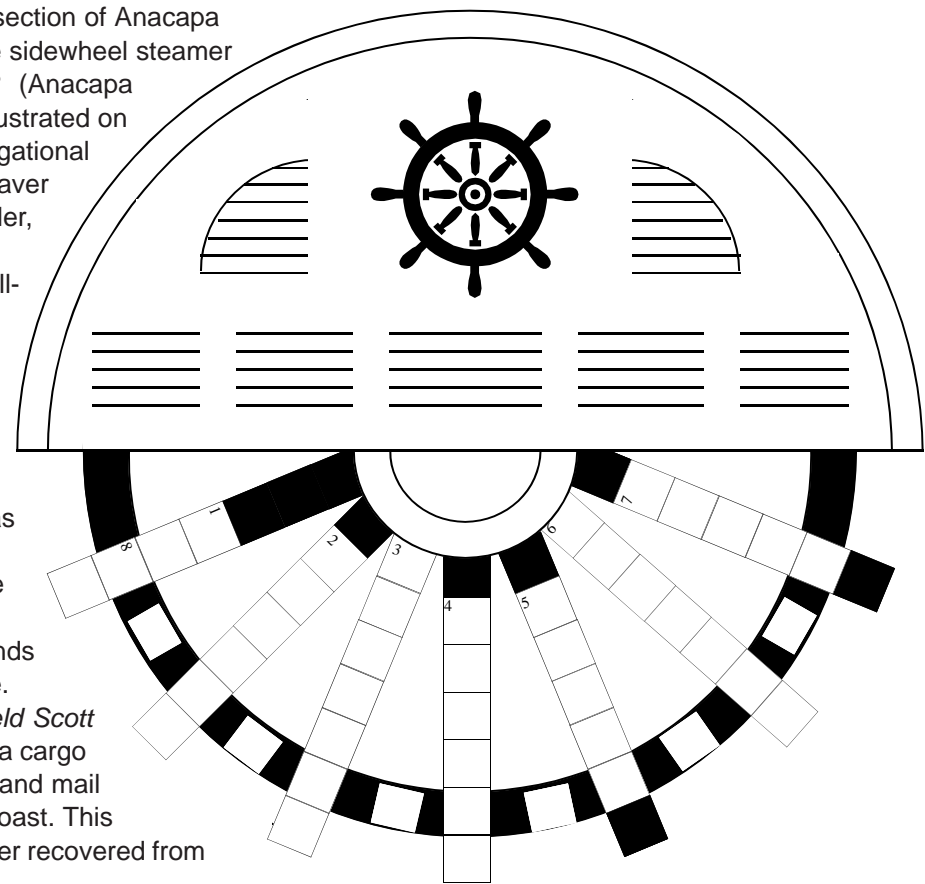
Down

- When the *Winfield Scott* wrecked in 1853, Santa Barbara was only a small _____.
- For eight days, over 450 shipwreck survivors were stranded on Anacapa _____.
- The _____ Mail Steamship Company owned the steamers *California* and *Winfield Scott*.
- On which section of Anacapa Island did the sidewheel steamer run aground? (Anacapa Island was illustrated on an 1854 navigational chart by engraver James Whistler, who later became a well-known artist).

5. Shipwrecks are not only important historic sites, but also act as artificial _____, which provide homes and feeding grounds for marine life.

6. The *Winfield Scott* was carrying a cargo of gold _____ and mail to the East Coast. This cargo was later recovered from the wreck.

7. Archaeologists and _____ divers frequently visit shipwreck sites.



Puzzle Answers:
 Across: 8. *Winfield Scott*; Down: 1. town, 2. island, 3. Pacific, 4. middle, 5. reefs, 6. bullion, 7. sport

Important Website Links

- Santa Barbara Maritime Museum: www.sbm.org
- Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary: www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov
- Cultural History: www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/cultres.htm
- Shipwrecks: www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/shipwreck/shiphome.html

"Plugged In" is sponsored by

SANTA BARBARA BANK & TRUST

Next Issue: March 31

GET connected connected

GET CONNECTED WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE MUSEUM EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE:

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
805-966-7107; www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov

Santa Barbara Mission Museum
805-682-4149

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation
805-965-0093; www.sbihp.org

Ganna Walska Lotusland
805-969-3767; www.lotusland.org

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
805-682-4726; www.sbbg.org

Channel Islands National Park
805-658-5730; www.nps.gov/chis

Santa Barbara Maritime Museum
805-962-8404
www.sbm.org

Santa Barbara Museum of Art
805-963-4364
www.sbmuseum.org

Santa Barbara Historical Society
805-966-1601

Goleta Valley Historical Society
805-964-4407; www.goletahistory.org

Karples Manuscript Library Museum
805-962-5322

Carriage and Western Art Museum of Santa Barbara
805-962-2353; www.carriagemuseum.org

University Art Museum, UCSB
805-893-2951
www.uam.ucsb.edu

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
www.sbnature.org; 805-682-4711;

Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens
805-962-5339
www.santabarbarazoo.org

Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum
805-966-5373; www.sbcaf.org

Art From Scrap
805-884-0459
www.artfromscrap.org

South Coast Railroad Museum
805-964-3540; www.goletadepot.org