

Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Art

## Xanthus Smith diary

Extracted on Jul-07-2025 11:42:52

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closed. They sleep in berths placed around the sides men women and children all together. They find their own victuals and bedding the same as the second cabin passengers. The victuals they cook by a fire found by the ship which by law has to be put out at six oclock in the evening. It is in a long grate just before the caboose or kitchen in which are cooked the victuals of the first cabin. It tickled me very much to see them roasting on blocks of wood before the fire watching their pots and pans or trying to balance on the wet deck when the sea was high as they passed backwards and forwards from it to the hatchway with a bowl of hot soup. As you may suppose the housekeeping was none of the cleanest and Mr Benson being up very early in the morning to see his hog discovered that many of the saucepans served double duty that is cook the meals in daytime and keep watch under the bed at night Mr. B. caught one person in the act of emptying one over the side of the vessel. This Mr. Benson was the owner of an enormous hog, which was on board weighing 1600 pounds He was taking it over to London to exhibit during the "Worlds Fair" It was exhibited at his pleasure gardens at Camden for some time. He had a great deal of anxiety as to whether he would get it safe over the sea, and he had to consult the ships physician as it was very much bound up

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One day when I was standing on the quarter deck I heard a great shouting "Wilson the pig is dying Wilson the pig is dying" I was very much frightened for I thought it was Mr. Benson's hog but it turned out to be a poor little pig which had got loose and drank salt water that threw it in to a fit. Wilson tried to cure it by cutting off its tail swearing as usual all the while but it did no good.

Lilly and I frequently visited the sailors who occupied a place in the front or bow of the vessel called the forecastle. This is divided in to two parts each of which contains one half of the men. These halves are called watches and every four hours they change about They are a very rough jolly set and all the time either jawing or making fun of one another. It is worth while to see them at mess. Each one has a tin pan a quart mug and a small butcher knife this latter serving for everything They all fare alike on mush molasses and sea biscuit. There is always a large hunk of beef boiled and set away so who ever likes goes and takes a whack at it The mug is filled with tea They are a pretty sight when done as they let the molasses run into their beards and spill their victuals. They always wipe their knives and hands on their pantaloons. We have heard of places being so greasy that you would stick fast but this beat that for it was too greasy to let you stick.

bad the she is but should amond the side was never and shildren all tracher They had there willing and bedding the same as the second cabin par be satist at sis which in the woring . It is in It just before the orborse on hitchen about of the pinet ratio . So taked no or esting being sectored partice leging is belowed in the new tech when the second high as they particle back amount and parameter former is the the backstang with an bank of het second many empore the house helping and none of the Construction being up very early in the over ing to see to his hog decovered its to many of the secretary double duty dat in och the ments in day like and with under all lace at night the Burnghrout ice the cost of cosp bying one over all is note of the cospect, This divertiment out the conserve per commenced by scheck, one we board insighting are presented. He was tailing it inco " Souther to exhibit during its " Workled Pair" String Solution of his placence gardement Comber for source time . The bad a great deal of mariety as to whether Fit and over the stag and he had to warall the ships physician as it was very much bound up

the day alow I are showing on the parts in such I have a good thanking a think the good appendix such a good appendix they have a such index the appendix the such that have the main decode with the the such as the such that have the such as the weather that the such as a first pile the such that have the such as the such as a such as a such as the such a such as the such as a such as a such as the such a such as the such as a such as a such as the such a such as the such as a such as a such as the such as the such as a a such as a a such as a such a Xanthus Smith diary Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers Approved by Smithsonian Staff Extracted Jul-07-2025 11:42:52



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