

**THE LIFE AND SERVICES  
OF COMMODORE  
JOSIAH TATTNALL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649004423

The life and services of Commodore Josiah Tattnell by Charles C. Jones

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**CHARLES C. JONES**

**THE LIFE AND SERVICES  
OF COMMODORE  
JOSIAH TATNALL**



1848



THE  
LIFE AND SERVICES  
OF  
COMMODORE JOSIAH TATNALL;  
BY  
CHARLES C. JONES, JR.

---

*MIDE HONOUR IS MY LIFE; BOTH GROW IN ONE*  
Blak. & Sch. II.

---

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

SAVANNAH:  
MORNING NEWS STEAM PRINTING HOUSE.  
1878.

E467

T251

---

Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1878, by  
JOHN R. F. TATTNALL,  
In the office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

---

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

## PREFATORY NOTE.

---

The following memoir has been written in compliance with a request preferred by the nearest relatives of the deceased. In its preparation I have been greatly assisted by John R. F. Tattall, Esq.,—the Commodore's only surviving son,—who cherishes the memory of his noble father with a filial reverence and devotion rarely equaled and never excelled.

In grouping the services, and presenting an estimate of the life and character of this accomplished gentleman, thorough officer, and chivalrous seaman, I have endeavored, whenever practicable, to repeat his own utterances, and to convey an impression of his acts and conduct in the language of those who were eye-witnesses of the events which called for their expression. Thus will the reader be possessed of the first and best sources of information, and in them find warrant for deductions the surest, and apprehension the most reliable.

Rich is the legacy bequeathed by men of pure patriotism, unsullied honor, and exalted action. Dear to all is a life devoted to the service of country, to the cultivation and exhibition of the heroic virtues, and to the pursuit of duty under circumstances the most trying. Precious is the memory of him of whom we speak. No braver or more loyal son was ever cradled on the breast of this commonwealth. None more honorable or capable has she ever committed to the general keeping. During an active service of more than fifty years, never did he omit an opportunity to advance his professional reputation, fail in the exhibition of supreme devotion to the best interests of Flag and Country, falter in the display of the most conspicuous gallantry, or lose sight of his well-avowed allegiance to all that was knightly and of highest repute.

In his old age, bearing the scars of battle, and bowed by the weight of nearly four-score years, in the home of his childhood he laid him down to rest.

He sleeps in the kindly embrace of the mother earth whose soft bosom his infant feet first pressed; and those grand live-oaks at Bonaventure which sheltered him in youth, attired in sober green and with pendant moss swaying solemnly in the evening air, bend as aged, heartfelt mourners over his hallowed grave.

CHARLES C. JONES, JR.

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA, May 1st, 1878.



## CONTENTS.

### CHAPTER FIRST.

Ancestry. Birth. School days in England.	
Page	1

### CHAPTER SECOND.

Return to Georgia. Resides at Savannah, and commences the Study of Medicine. Receives a Midshipman's Warrant in the United States Navy and reports at Washington. Ordered to the <i>Constellation</i> . Tribute to Commodore Hall. Accident in the Potomac. The <i>Constellation</i> covers the batteries being erected on Craney island. First engagement with the enemy. Assists in the capture of the <i>Centipede</i> . Ordered to Lake Erie. Resigns from the Navy and goes to Washington. Restored to the Navy. Participates in the battle of Bladensburg.	
Page	6

### CHAPTER THIRD.

Ordered to the Brig <i>Espervier</i> . With Commodore Decatur in the Mediterranean. Exchanges into the <i>Constellation</i> . Narrow escape. Transferred to the <i>Ontario</i> . Enjoys his cruise in the Mediterranean. Examples of his generosity. Advanced to the grade of Lieutenant and ordered to the <i>Macedonian</i> . Cruise in the Pacific. Duel with an officer of Lord Cochrane's fleet. Acts as second to Midshipman Pinckney. Tattnall's conduct in the affair. Challenge to English naval officers. His courage, and nice sense of honor, both personal and national. Returns to the United States.	
Page	20

### CHAPTER FOURTH.

Marries. Studies Mathematics at Partridge's Military School. As First Lieutenant of the Schooner <i>Jackal</i> , engaged in the suppression of Piracy in the West Indies. Ordered to the Frigate <i>Constitution</i> . Second cruise in the Mediterranean. Returns to the United States in the Frigate <i>Brandywine</i> . Assigned to the Corvette <i>Eric</i> . Admiral Semmes' account of Lieutenant Tattnall's cutting out of the <i>Federal</i> . Tattnall's letter on the subject. Confronts Commodore Daniels. Surveys the Tortugas and selects a site for a fort. His services complimented by the President and the Navy Department. Letter detailing the incidents of the survey and the preparation of his official report.	
Page	28

## CHAPTER FIFTH.

In command of the *Grampus*. Saves an American vessel, and renders valuable service to British shipping. Captures the *Montezuma*. His account of that capture. Cholera on board the *Grampus*. Relieves an American ship detained in Mexican waters. Complimented by merchants and Insurance Companies. Assigned to special service in command of the Barque *Pioneer*. Escorts Santa Anna to Vera Cruz. His conduct upon the arrival of the President in that city. Promoted to the grade of Commander, and placed in charge of the Boston Navy Yard. In command of the Corvette *Fairfield*, and again in the Mediterranean. Official difficulty with Commodore Morgan. Assigned to the command of the Corvette *Saratoga*. Official letter describing the disaster encountered by that ship. Congratulatory letters from Brother-Officers.

Page - - - - - 38

## CHAPTER SIXTH.

In command of the *Saratoga* on the African Station. War declared between the United States and Mexico. Assigned to the Gun-Boat *Spitfire*. In command of the *Mosquito Division*. Covers disembarkation of the army under General Scott. Shells Vera Cruz and the Castle of St. Juan d'Ulloa. Engages the Castle, and bombards the city on the 23d. Commander Tattnall's letter describing the action. Reduction of Tuspan. Admiral Buchanan's narrative of the affair. Commander Tattnall wounded. Captain Whittle's account. Complimented with a sword, for his gallantry, by the State of Georgia.

Page - - - - - 53

## CHAPTER SEVENTH.

Again in command of the Boston Navy Yard. Promoted to the grade of Captain and assigned to the command of the Steam Frigate *Saranac*. Detailed for special service in Cuban waters. Prudent and efficient conduct of affairs while in command of that station. In charge of the Pensacola Navy Yard. Yellow-fever epidemic. Threatened with violence. Ordered to the command of the Frigate *Independence*. Defective equipment of this vessel. On duty at the Pacific Station. Charges, preferred by Commodore Mervine, dismissed by the Navy Department. Promoted to the grade of Rear Flag Officer and ordered to the command of the naval forces in the East India and China seas. The *Pachatan* his flag-ship. Movements and services while on this Station. Treaty concluded with Japan.

Page - - - - - 67