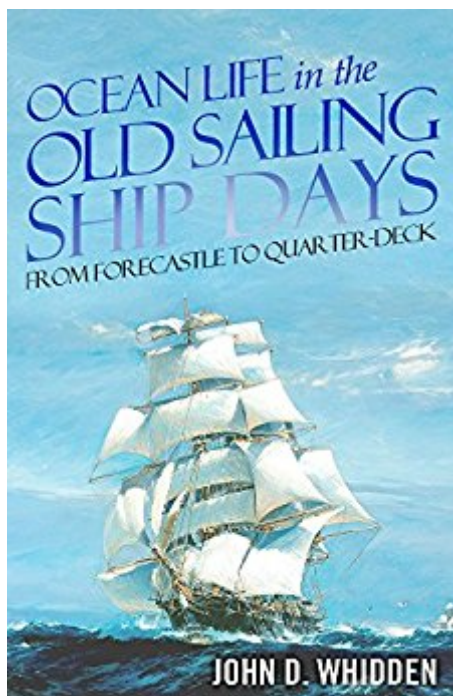


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# Ocean Life In The Old Sailing Ship Days



## Synopsis

John D. Whidden started out at sea in 1834, at the age of twelve, and did not retire until 1870. This is his account of over a quarter-century spent on the high seas. Orphaned at five, nothing held Whidden back from embarking on sea life seven years later. Serving as an apprentice, he quickly proved his worth, and earned himself a mate's position by his early twenties. Graduating to third, second and first office, he ended his career in command of, and having part-ownership of his own vessel. This memoir, *Ocean Life in the Old Sailing Ship Days*, records a series of real events, from his childhood impressions of rough and ready seamen, to his thrilling and brutal experiences of war. His travels saw him spanning the world, with stops at major ports such as Honolulu, Buenos Aires, Calcutta, and Liverpool. His life spans the changes in the shipping industry over the 19th and into the 20th century. During the Civil War, Whidden was heavily involved in profitable island trading in the Bahamas to elude Confederate sailors. However, shortly after the close of the war, in 1870, Whidden left sailing as he found it being overtaken by foreign interests. John D. Whidden (1832-1911) wrote *Ocean Life in the Old Sailing Days* in 1908, partly as a memoir, but also to offer a snippet of the "old sailing ship days" before major changes occurred to its business environment, fundamentally changing its nature. It is a classic account of a different way of life, which will appeal to both sailing enthusiasts and historians alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

You gotta really appreciate the old sailing days to enjoy this book. I was disappointed in how much of a travelogue it was. I expected more technical stuff. Still, the author did make you feel as though you were really on one of the old sailing ships. ("We don't use sheets on our beds, boy!") I recommend it for an interesting read.

Great book, in spite of it's age and apparent simplicity. Written by a fellow who worked the REAL SAILING SHIPS, and sailed London to San Francisco, etc over and over. no engine, no radio, no satellite GPS, no doctors, no helicopter pad on board, etc. just a story about the MEN who carried on international trade for centuries with muscle and brains. Read this one if you have ever sailed or hope to.

A must read for anyone who loves to sail and feels that they were born 200 years too late. I would like to give it a four star rating, but I reserve the that for books you simply can't put down. And a five star is really rare. The book is very well written and takes the reader through an entire career at sea. From a very young Ship's Boy to the retirement of a seasoned Ship's Captain. If you want to travel the world by sea, read this book!

Great read. Recommend to all. Detail of what life was like in the early merchant marine. Extremely well written and edited.

This is an extremely interesting book for those that are interested in the history of commercial sailing and descriptions of the world at large in the 1850's. The Author's experiences traveling the world, even up to and through the US Civil War provide an amazing insight into the day to day life of people engaged in the maritime trade during that period. The book is written in an engaging manner, and did not feel dry or slow at all. A great read, and more than worth it at the price!

Fabulous true life tale of the author who went from ship's boy to captain over the course of a remarkable career at sea on the old sailing ships in the mid 19th century. His experience leading a

Boston-based Yankee merchant vessel as they endeavoured to conduct international business during the Civil War was most interesting. One of my favourite reads this year. I'm so happy to have stumbled across it.

Very nautical Very interesting Very enjoyable Good stories Feels like you are sailing with the author.  
Liked the story about the pies!

Not super exciting, but a fun read and very informative. Having read *Two Years Before the Mast*, I think Richard Henry Dana was very light hearted, or just found the worlds worst ship captains. This book showed many, if not most captains just wanted to make money, not beat to death every one of his sailors, as suggested by Mr. Dana. I learned a lot from this book.

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