

USS MOHICAN 1888



THE OLD NAVY

Gilbert Harrison Purdy is standing and speaking to the other Sailors. Purdy was born on January 29, 1828, at Unionvale, NY. He was 60 years old when the picture was taken. He died on Christmas Eve 1912, in San Diego, CA at the age of 84. At the time of his death, he was the oldest man on the retired list of the Navy. During the Civil War he served as sergeant in Battery K, 4th U.S. Artillery from 1861-1864. He enlisted in the Navy on March 26, 1864 and served as a seaman on several Naval vessels. He left the Navy after the war ended. He re-enlisted in 1875. Purdy served on USS *Olympia* from February 5, 1895 through the end of the Spanish-American War. Purdy was transferred to the retired list on February 7, 1900. Purdy served as captain of the hold on board USS *Mohican* from May 25, 1885 to August 28, 1888.

David Ireland is seated with arms folded. Ireland was born on December 11, 1832 in Cooperstown NJ. He was 55 years old when the picture was taken. He enlisted in the Navy on April 8, 1850. He served on several ships for the next thirteen years including USS *Constellation* and *Pennsylvania*. He was discharged in 1863. He re-enlisted in 1878. He died at the Mare Island Naval Hospital on January 16, 1894, aged 61 years. He served on board the *Mohican* from May 25, 1885 until November 20, 1890, as captain of the forecaste, seaman, and captain of the hold.



John King is seated on a ditty box. King was born in England on April 24, 1834. He was 54 years old when the photograph was taken. He followed the sea in merchant ships for a number of years before enlisting in the Navy, which he first did on April 9, 1875 at the age of 41. He served aboard USS *Vermont* and USS *Tennessee* during his first two enlistments. His third enlistment began on USS *Mohican*, at sea, on October 9, 1887. He served on board the *Mohican* from May 25, 1885, to January 25, 1889, as chief gunner's mate. He was finally discharged on April 2, 1896, and admitted to the Naval Home at Philadelphia. The exact date of his death in 1896 is not known.

John T. Griffith is seated with his hands behind his head. Griffith was born in Albany, NY on December 25, 1826. He was 62 when the picture was taken and was the oldest Sailor of the group. Griffith enlisted in the Navy on July 17, 1854. During the Civil War he served aboard USS *North Carolina*, USS *Morning Light*, and USS *Savannah*. By 1881, he had become a Carpenter's Mate. In 1884, he served aboard USS *Independence* at Mare Island. His last enlistment began on October 18, 1888. He was discharged on December 10, 1889. He served on board the *Mohican* as chief carpenter's mate from June 3 to June 30, 1888. The date of his death is not known.

"The Old Navy", photograph taken by Assistant Surgeon H.W. Whitaker, U.S.N., on board USS *Mohican* at sea in the Pacific, 1888.

