



# Schooner Western Union

PRESERVATION SOCIETY & MARITIME MUSEUM

OFFICIAL FLAGSHIP OF FLORIDA & THE CITY OF KEY WEST



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Thursday, 3 February 2022

Key West Bight Management District Board  
510 Greene Street  
Key West, FL 33040

Subj: 2022-01 KWBB Schooner Western Union Restoration Progress Report

On 9 April 2020 the Schooner Western Union was hauled out and safely placed on the hard at Robbie's Marina on Stock Island.

- A. The Schooner is towards the back of Robbie's marina with its stern facing the water supported by heavy timbers and boat stands. Robbie's management will allow her to remain at Robbie's and be worked on for no charge.
- B. We are trying several combinations of equipment to keep the Schooner regularly washed down with seawater to preserve the vessel's wood. We are developing plans for this next stage of the restoration and meeting with potential shipwrights.
- C. We are researching opportunities for grants and other support. The Exeter, Massachusetts shipwright Harold Burnham has provided us with a detailed breakdown of the restoration plan he developed for us. Early in April 2021, I forwarded the plans to another shipwright Donavan Crosby who opined that the plans looked reasonable and realistic.
- D. In May 2021, I walked one of Harold Burnham's associates around the vessel, looking at dimensions and areas needing replacement.
- E. I continue to exchange emails with Dick Arch in Grand Cayman. The Arch family shipyard fabricated the parts of the Western Union that were assembled in Key West to comply with Jones Act requirements. We will investigate possible options for restoring the Schooner. I also spoke with another Arch descendant Jordan Connor who expressed some interest in helping us.
- F. If I can provide additional information, please let me know.

On behalf of the BOD,

John Dolan-Heitlinger

Copy: Doug Bradshaw, CKW Port and Marina Services Director  
SWUPS Board of Directors