

# Timeline of Laura Jernegan's Voyage



Congress approves the Homestead Act, which gives free farms to settlers and sets off Westward expansion.

The Civil War ends after four years when the Confederacy surrenders to the Union.



The Transcontinental Railroad is completed on May 10th, joining the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory.



The Great Fire destroys much of Chicago.

1862

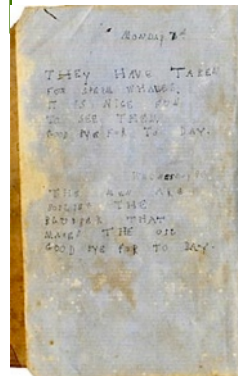
Laura Jernegan is born on June 29th in Edgartown, Massachusetts.



1865

1868

Laura begins writing her journal on board *The Roman*.



1869

Captain Jared Jernegan, Laura's father, and her uncle Captain Nathan Jernegan meet for a "gam" at an agreed upon spot in the ocean.

1870

Helen, Laura and Prescott Jernegan stay in Honolulu while Captain Jernegan sails to the Arctic to continue hunting whales.



1871

Helen, Laura and Prescott return to New Bedford; later this year *The Roman* is crushed in the ice in the Arctic.